

Mitigation Bank

Purpose

Wetlands and streams provide valuable functions for our community. Recognizing that increased city growth and infrastructure improvements will result in unavoidable impacts to these aquatic resources, the City of Bellingham (City) is pursuing development of a Mitigation Bank to improve the success of mitigation projects.

Project Summary

The City is proposing up to four bank sites located on a total of approximately 600 acres to implement its Mitigation Bank. These sites are expected to provide approximately 100 credits for purchase by public and private developers.

Project Highlights

1
credit type

The Mitigation Bank is expected to offer a universal credit for wetland, stream and/or buffer impacts. Credit price will be determined at bank opening.

2
types of
credit users

The City anticipates that the credits will be available for purchase by both public and private developers.

100
anticipated
credits

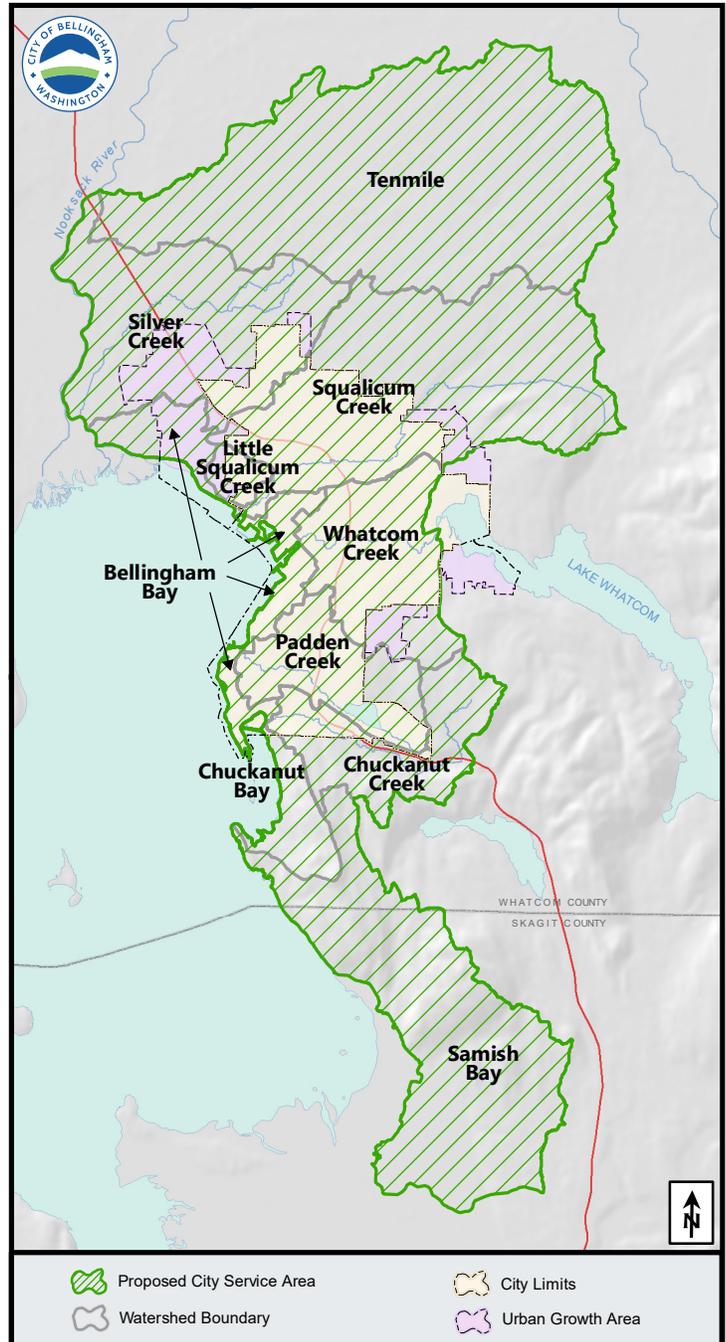
Over the course of its implementation, the Mitigation Bank is expected to provide approximately 100 credits.

9
watersheds

The proposed service area for the bank spans approximately 129 square miles and nine watersheds.

Service Area

The proposed service area for the Mitigation Bank spans approximately 129 square miles and nine watersheds. The service area represents 9% of Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 1. The map below shows the approximate location of the proposed service area.



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Project Background

The City of Bellingham has been actively researching a programmatic approach to mitigation since 2012. The proposed Mitigation Bank sites have been selected based on extensive analysis, including:

- Existing ecological conditions and mitigation opportunities;
- Development patterns, growth projections and project impacts within the City and region; and
- Quantification of anticipated impacts by watershed and resource functions.



Does this mean that wetlands can be impacted more easily?

No, all regulations and permit requirements stay the same. The Mitigation Bank is a resource that can be used to meet mitigation requirements after all efforts to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands, streams, and their buffers have been made.



**For more information, please contact Analiese Burns at acburns@cob.org or 360-778-7968
Or visit cob.org/mitigation-bank**