

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSIDERATIONS

As Bellingham grows, sustainable compact development is needed. Flip to the back of this page to see what types of neighborhoods the community asked for in Phase 1. More of these types of neighborhoods will be encouraged and permitted by the Bellingham Plan, but we need to consider what will change as these neighborhoods grow.

How do we make these types of neighborhoods livable and vibrant? What are some considerations we need to account for?

Write your group's ideas here. Example: "Denser residential neighborhoods may not have enough private outdoor space, so more public parks may be required."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Phase 1 identified several neighborhood types that are not common in Bellingham today but that are popular with residents.

Housing Preference Survey: Preferred Neighborhoods

Similar results came from the statistically valid Housing Preference Survey (1,475 responses from a representative sample of Bellingham's residents). The two neighborhood types that respondents preferred most were small-scale and urban residential. These moderate scale residential areas with some commercial uses mixed in are less common in Bellingham today than some of the other choices:

- Small-scale Residential** (up to 3 stories): Mix of single-family homes, triplexes, townhomes, and other small-scale homes. You may find a corner store, coffee shop or park within walking distance, but expect a drive, bus, or bike ride to larger services. (31% of residents prefer)
- Urban Residential** (up to 5 stories): A mostly residential area with a core of businesses and mixed-use buildings. Housing includes a diverse mix of forms like single-family detached, townhomes, and small apartment or condominium blocks. Walkable, convenient access to transit and services with some car dependency. (27% of residents prefer, and this was the most common preference if residents are unhappy with their current neighborhood)

Write additional neighborhood considerations here.

Think about the pattern of your life today and what it might be in the future.

How do you get from place to place, and what kinds of things do you do close to home vs farther away? Knowing change will happen, what are things to balance to ensure neighborhoods meet the needs of everyone?

What kind of neighborhood Phase 1 activity

An early activity at the September 2023 open house showed significant interest in residential areas with some commercial uses mixed in. The online version of this question produced similar results.

What kind of neighborhood?

Bellingham is home to unique neighborhoods, each with their own distinct character and vibe. As our city grows, what kind of neighborhoods do you want to see more of? Place a dot on your top two or three preferences.

- Urban Core:** A vibrant and convenient hub close to nightlife, restaurants, and shops. Defined by a denser mix of multistory housing above businesses and workplaces. Walkable and close to transit services with less car dependency.
- Urban Pioneer:** A mostly residential area with a core of businesses and mixed-use buildings. Housing units may be attached or detached and consist of existing homes and newer developments. Walkable, convenient access to transit and services with some car dependency.
- Retail Core:** Auto-oriented and conveniently anchored by large retail stores serving residential areas nearby. Residential uses are spread out and separate from commercial activity.
- Neighborhood Residential:** Primarily consisting of housing units on smaller lots; however, you may find a corner store or coffee shop sprinkled throughout, and a neighborhood park or community venue nearby. Expect a quick drive, bus, or bike ride to outside services.
- Lively and Creative:** Characterized by a mix of creative spaces, businesses and other attractions. May include a mix of co-working spaces, re-purposed buildings, art galleries and performing arts venues supported by residential housing types.
- Suburban:** Quieter and more isolated feel with larger, spread-out, residential lots. Access parks, trails, and schools and meet with neighbors for play dates. Farther from city hot-spots, errands and other activities rely on cars.

PLACE DOTS HERE

The Bellingham Plan

City of Bellingham WASHINGTON