

CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST MASTER PLAN

STEERING COMMITTEE KICK-OFF MEETING

JUNE 14, 2021



AGENDA

- Project kickoff – Introductions
- What is a park master plan?
- Group facilitation and decision making
- *Engage Bellingham* steering committee survey results
 - Core elements
 - Boundary
 - Name
- Schedule future meeting dates
- Discuss timeline and meeting topics



WHAT IS A PARK MASTER PLAN?

- Guiding document defining park purpose, uses and goals
- Approval Process: Steering Committee, present options to public and obtain feedback, Parks Board recommendation, City Council approval
- Major amendments require same PRAB/City Council process
- Non-regulatory
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan – Ch. 6 of Comprehensive Plan

BACKGROUND AND GUIDING DOCUMENTS

- 2011: The Chuckanut Community Forest was acquired due to the foreclosure of the 82-acre forested development property by Washington Federal Savings and backed by broad community support. Purchase included GW Funds, PIF and a loan from the GW Endowment Fund.
- 2013/2014: 111 acres rezoned from residential to public.
- 2013: Voters approved the formation of the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District to ensure the entirety of the property is protected in public ownership in perpetuity, with respect for its ecological, recreational, and educational functions and to serve as a fiscal mechanism to repay the City of Bellingham for the Greenways Endowment Fund loan.
- 2014: The Conservation Easement recorded as consideration for repayment of this loan and for the purpose of protecting the natural attributes of the land while providing for recreational, educational and scientific uses.
- 2014: Interlocal Agreement to establish loan terms (approx. 10 years)
- 2017: Baseline Study Documentation Report – an inventory of the property's relevant features and conditions. to be able to properly monitor future uses of the property and assure compliance with the terms and purpose of the Easement.

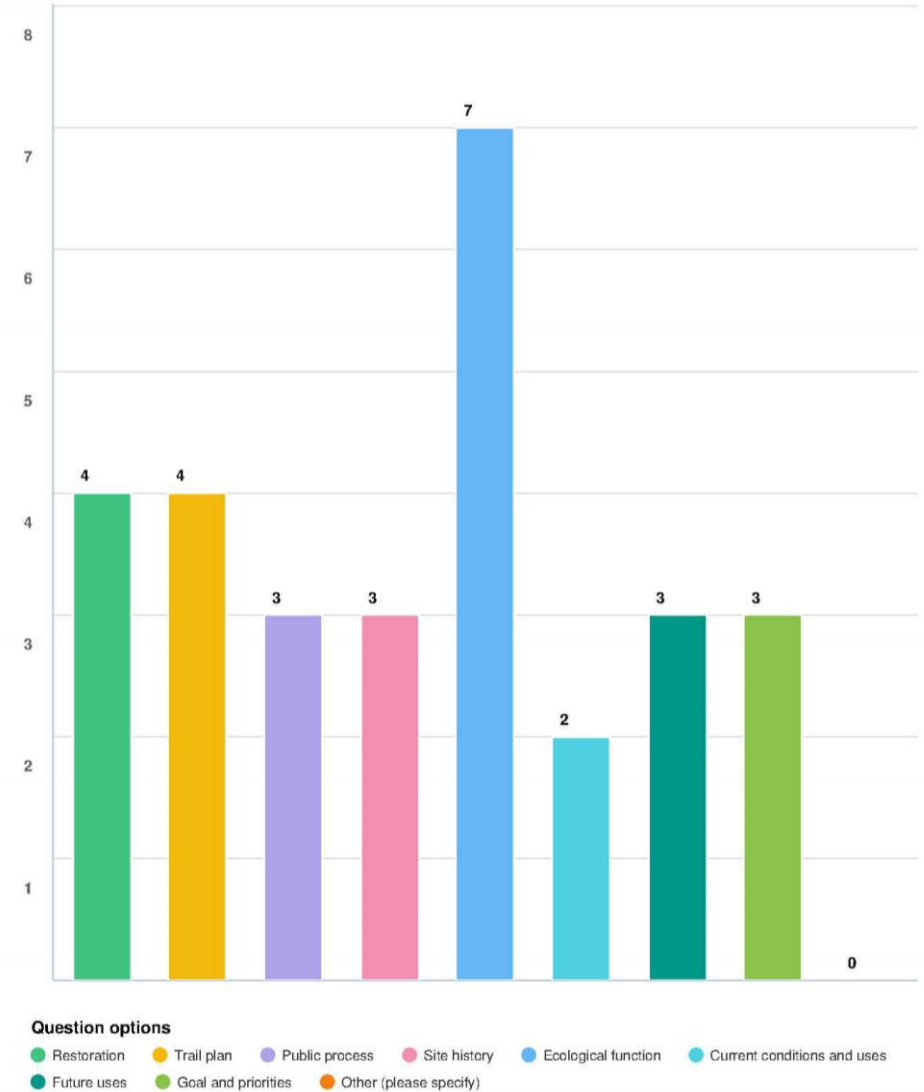
GROUP FACILITATION AND DECISION-MAKING

- Roles
- Consensus-based decision, majority rules
- Laine and Nicole co-facilitators
- Documentation – website, survey results, draft plans, final plan
- Consultant needs

ENGAGE BELLINGHAM SURVEY RESULTS

CORE ELEMENTS

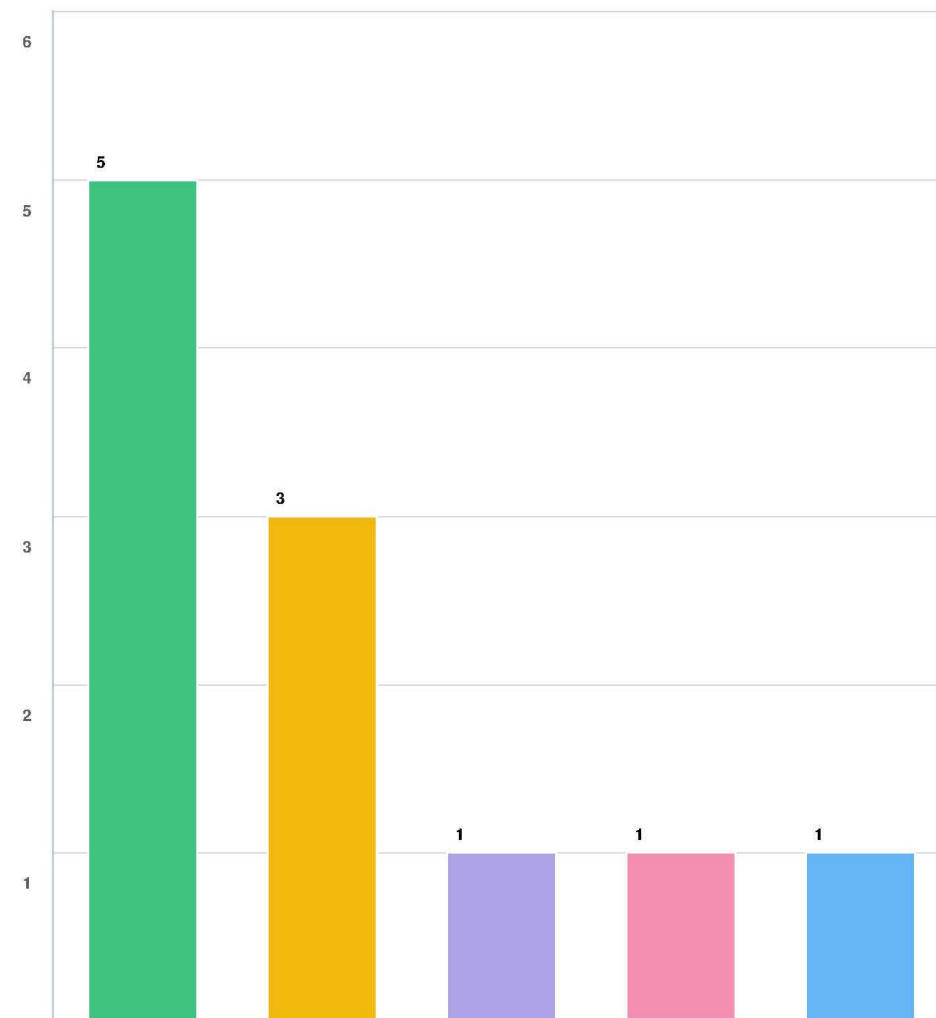
Q4 What do you think are the most important components of the Master Plan? (may select more than one answer)



ENGAGE BELLINGHAM SURVEY RESULTS

BOUNDARY

Q6 What areas should be included in the Master Plan boundary?



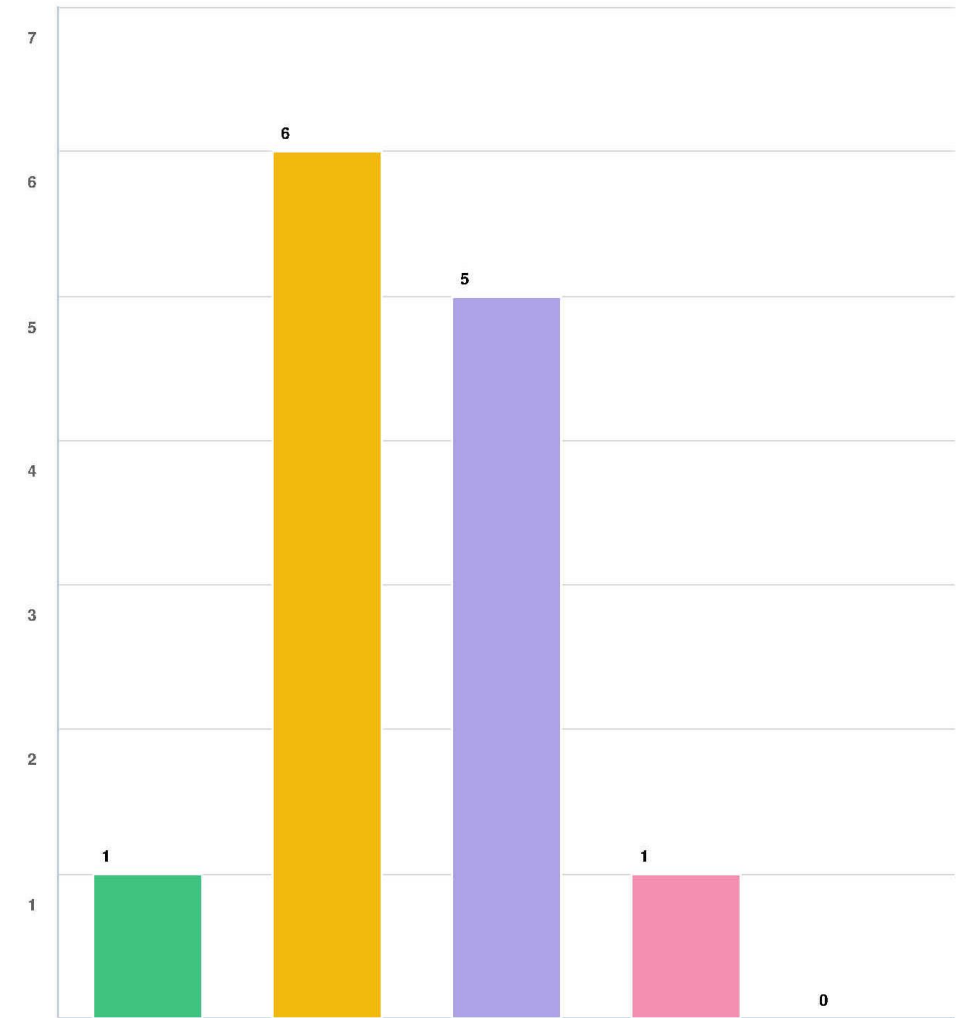
Question options

Chuckanut Community Forest Conservation Easement Area Adjacent contiguous open space parcels
All of Fairhaven Park Hoag's Pond and adjacent open space Other (please specify)

ENGAGE BELLINGHAM SURVEY RESULTS

NAME

Q7 What name(s) do you commonly hear being used to reference the Community Forest?

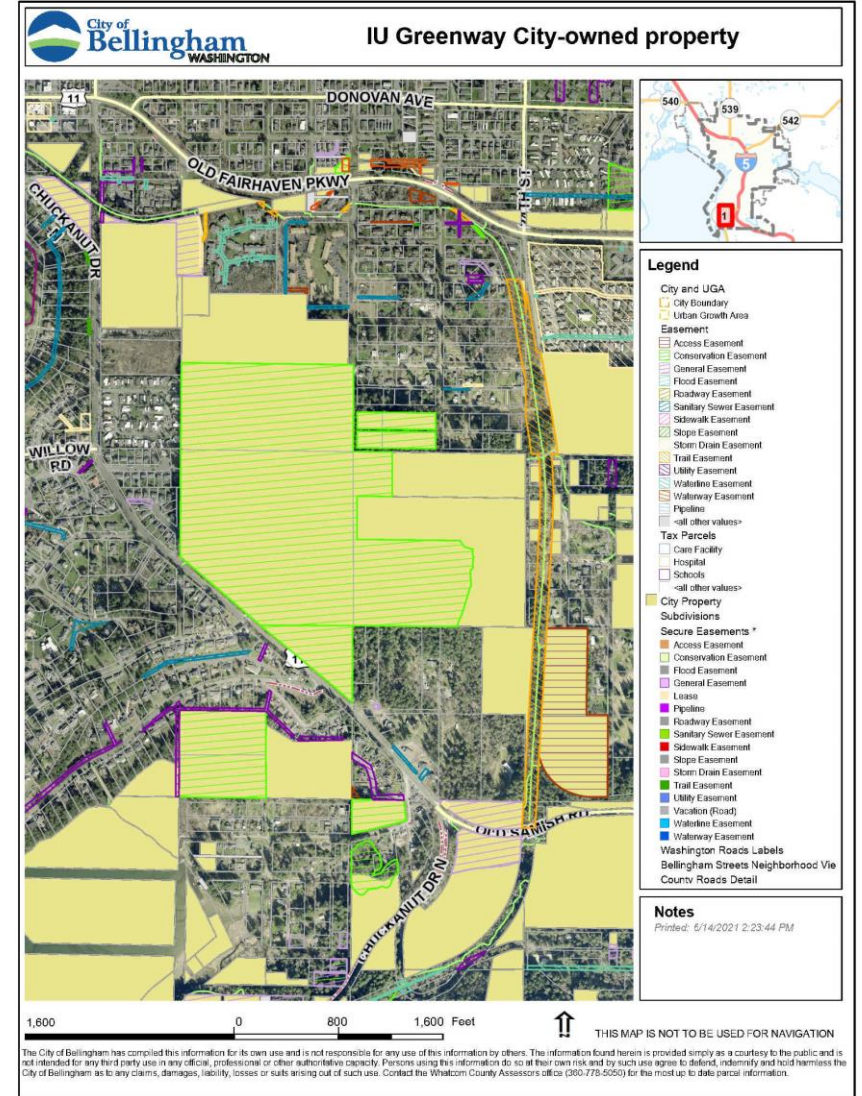
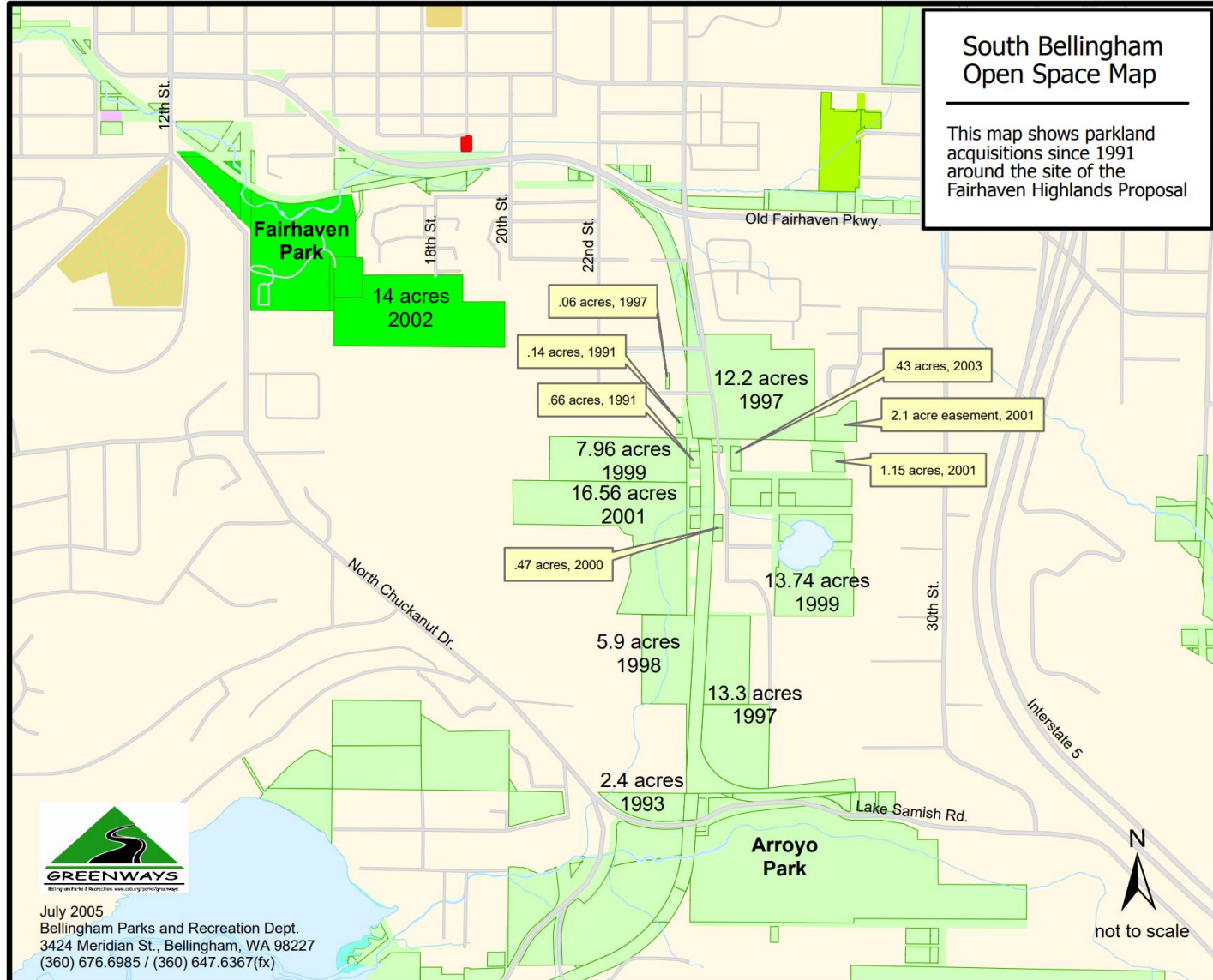


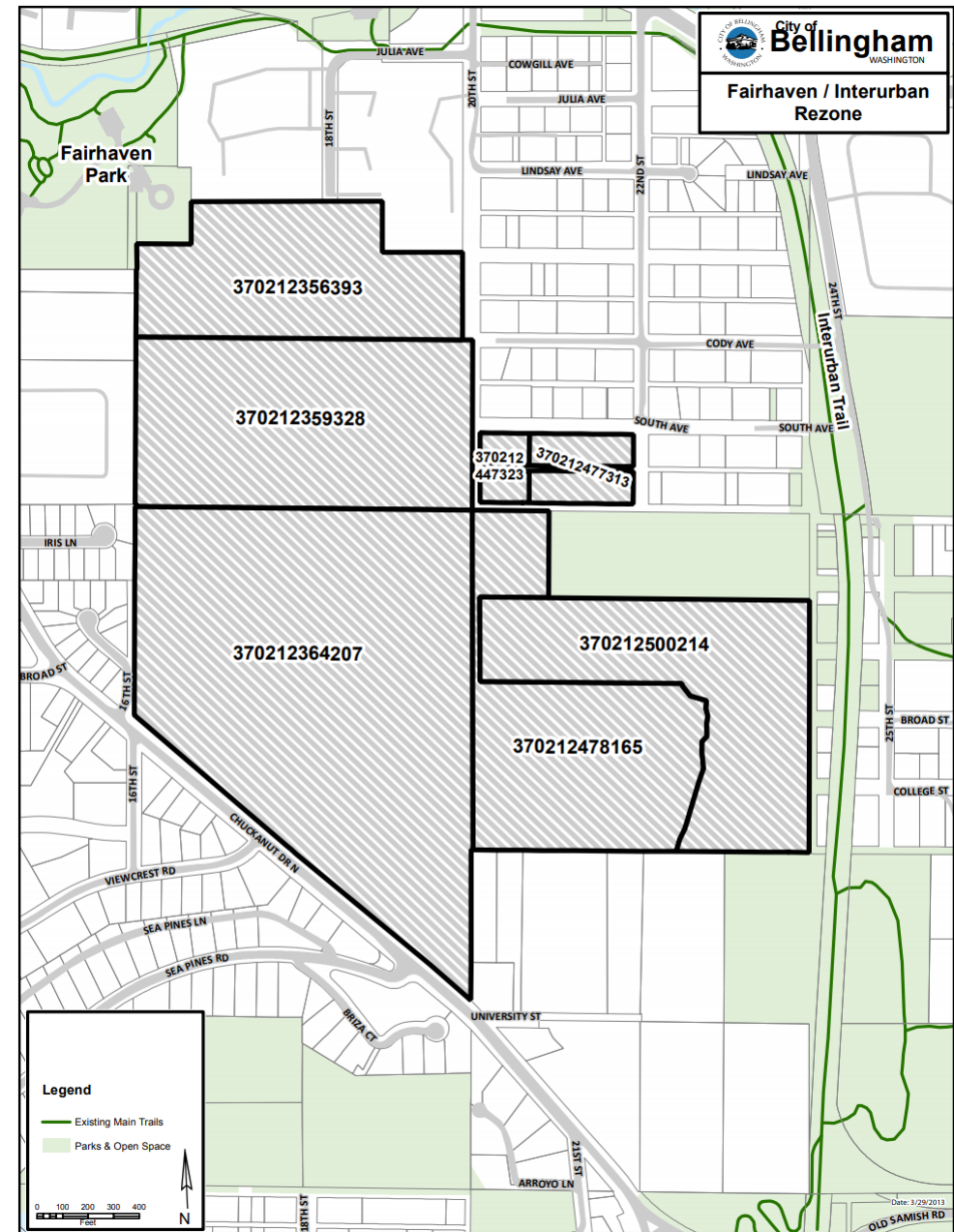
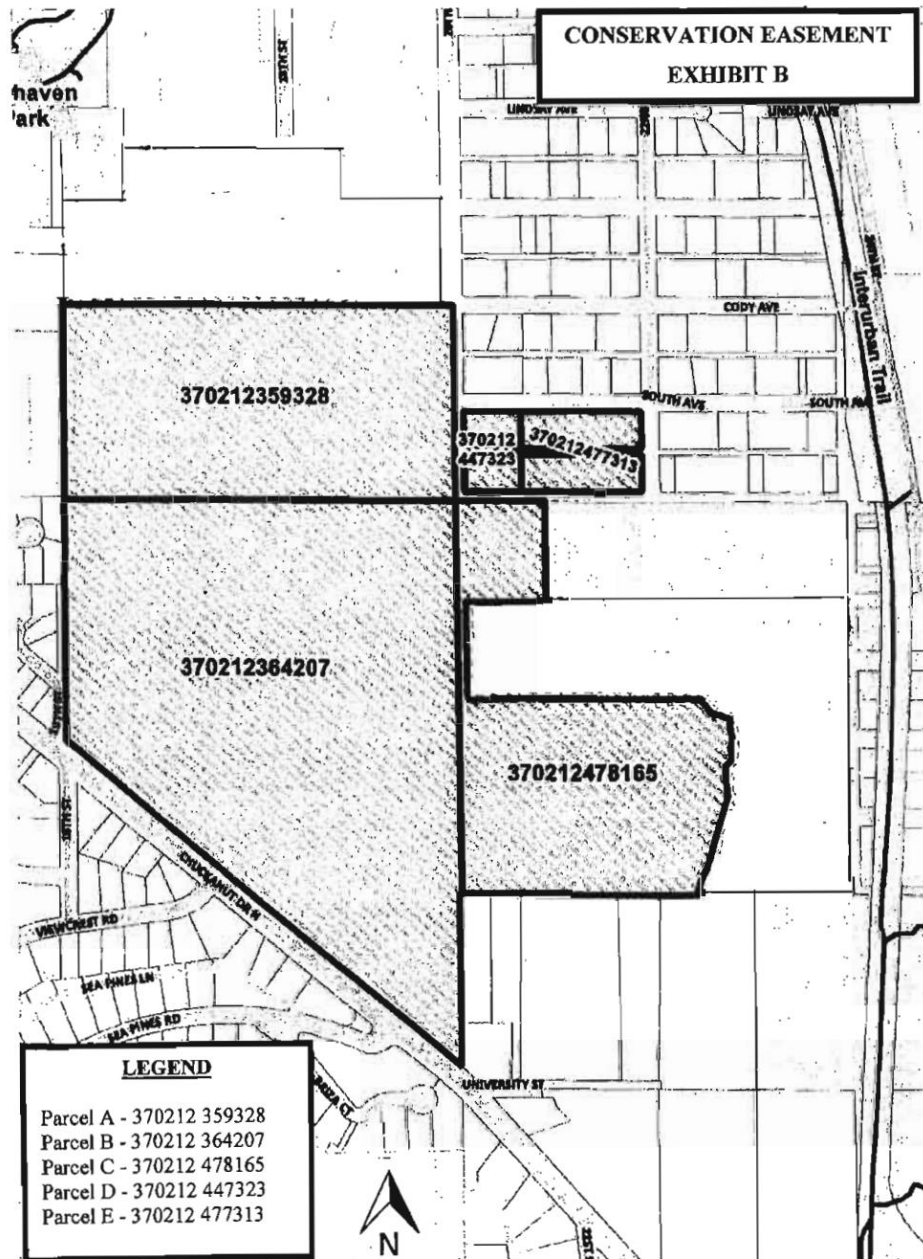
Question options

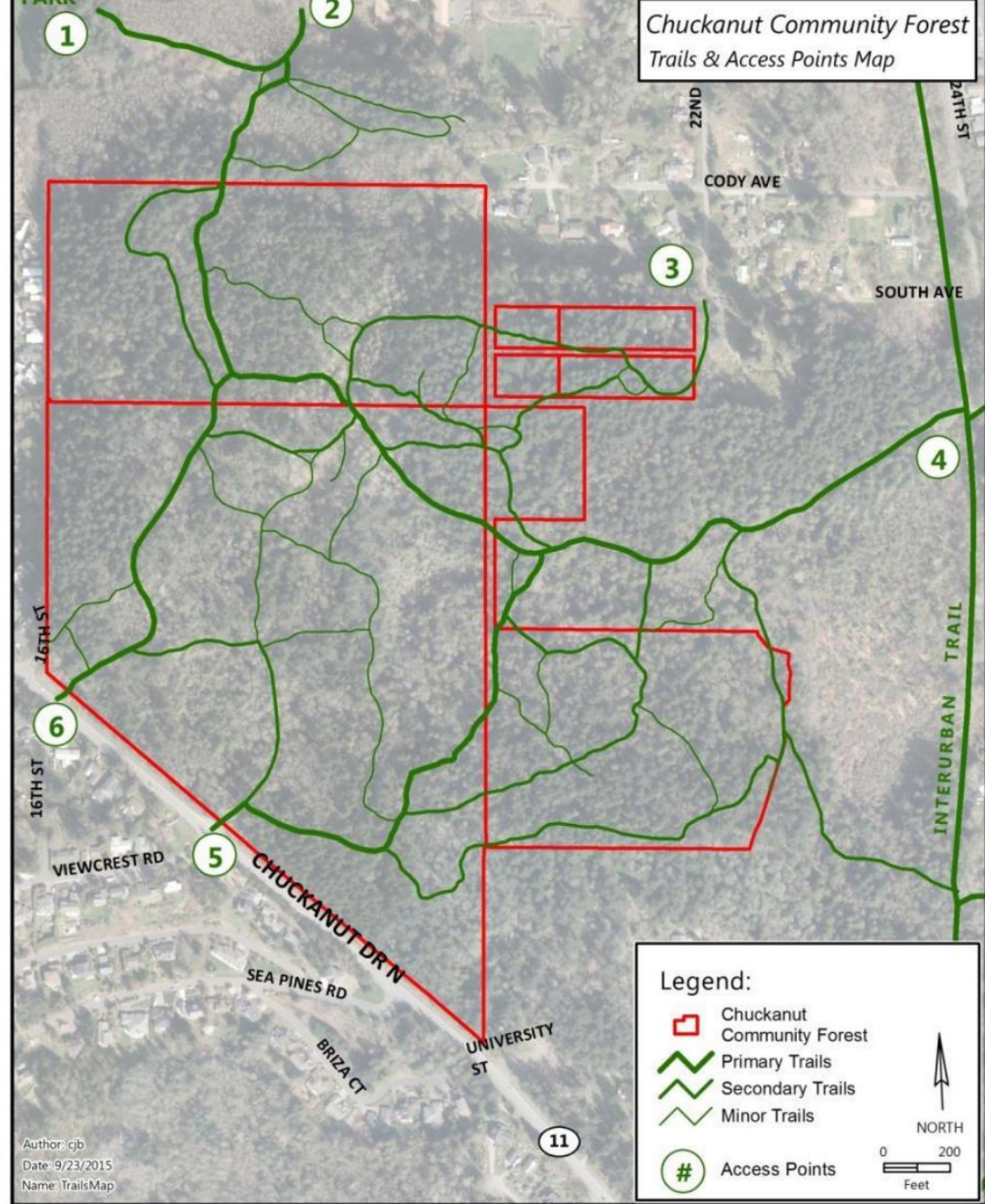
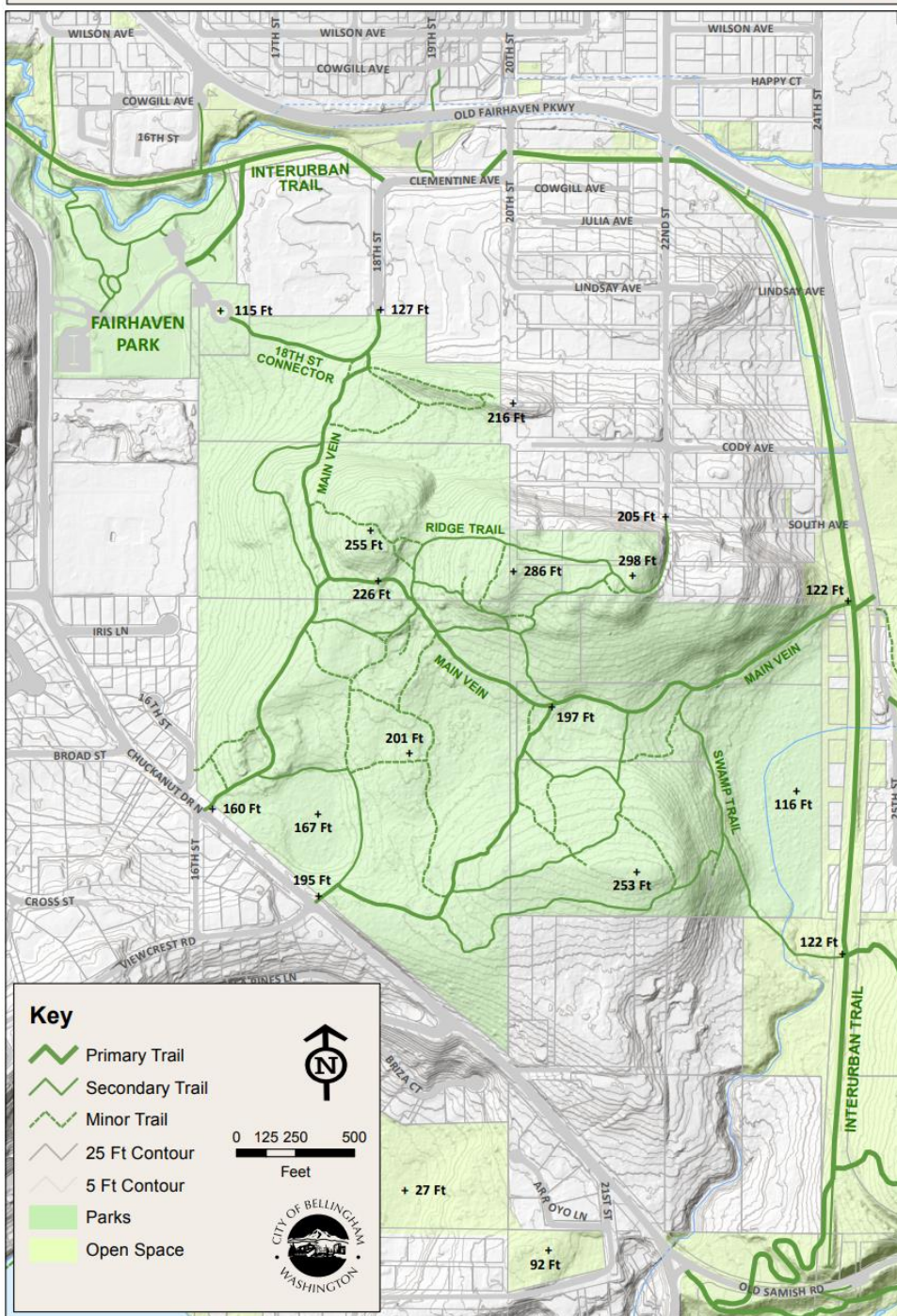
- Fairhaven Park
- Hundred Acre Woods
- Chuckanut Community Forest
- Other (please specify)
- Interurban Greenway

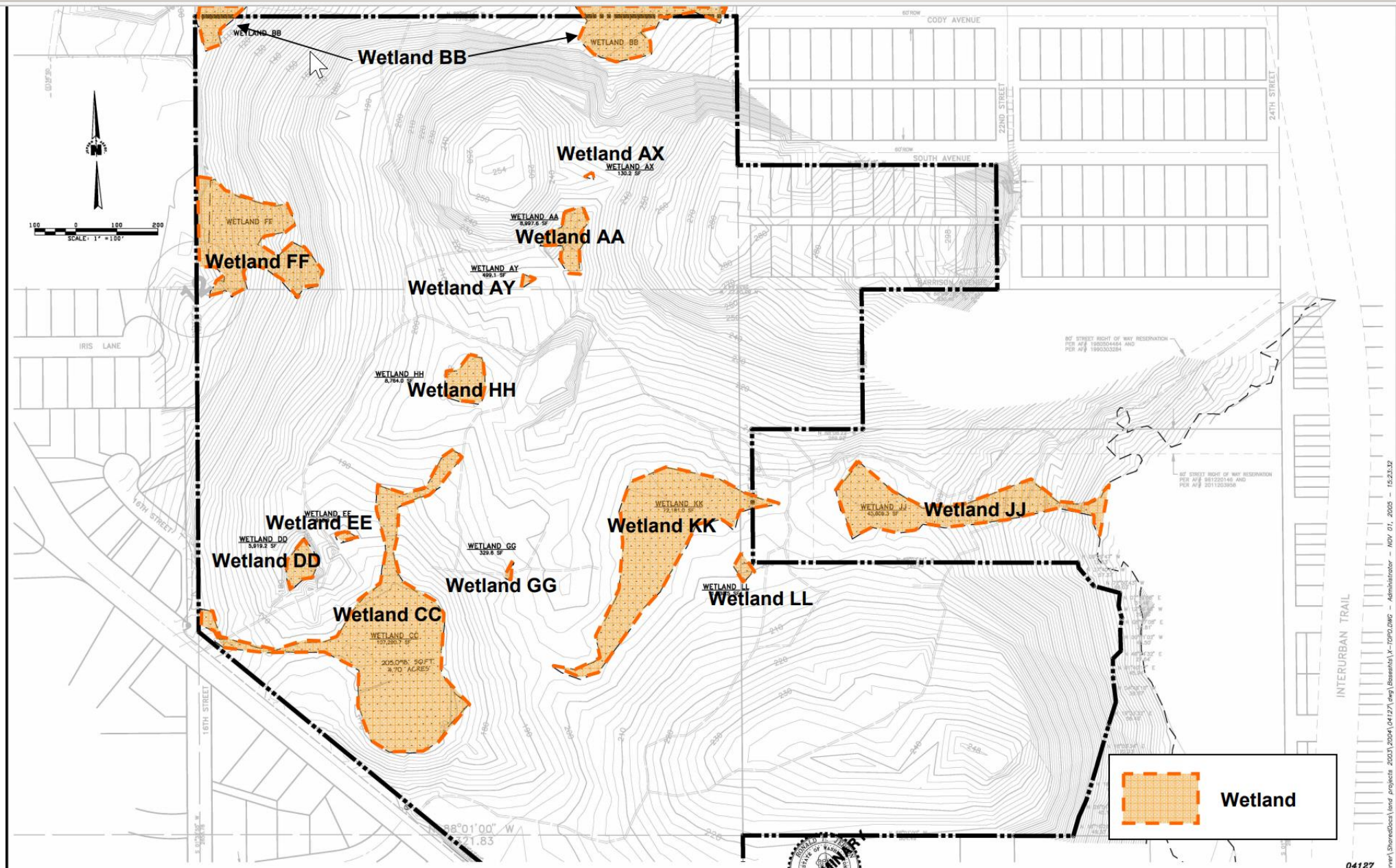
South Bellingham Open Space Map

This map shows parkland acquisitions since 1991 around the site of the Fairhaven Highlands Proposal









DRAFT TIMELINE

June

- Kick-off
- Press Release with public tour/surveys
- Plan outline and framework
- District hosts public hearing on restoration opportunities – June 23

July

- Plan vision, goals and policies
- Restoration opportunities
- Self-guided tours and surveys
- Conduct public event
- District hosts City presentation on urban forest management plan – July 28th

August

- Work on draft plan
- Maps, figures, graphics
- Compile public input

September – October

- Consolidate document
- Public Open House
- Introduce draft document to District
- Update to City Council

November – December

- Legislative review and approval

HOMEWORK

- Read guiding documents on Engage Bellingham site
- Review uses and restrictions in Conservation Easement
- Think about interactive ideas for self-guided tour and surveys
- Evaluate plan outline by next meeting

