

DRAFT - LWMP 2025-2029 Work Plan – July 2024

Program Area 6: Recreation

Objective: Provide access to recreational opportunities that are consistent with water quality and land management goals.

2025-2029 Estimated Investments: \$6.2 million

The Lake Whatcom Management Program (LWMP) provides opportunities for recreation while also supporting watershed stewardship goals.

6.1 Recreational Facilities

Develop or improve recreational facilities to support recreational opportunities while reducing impacts to lake water quality.

6.1.1 Operate and maintain existing recreational amenities (including parking, signage, picnic sites, shelters, information kiosks, trash and dog waste receptacles, and restrooms) and explore options for improving existing facilities and providing these amenities at facilities where they do not currently exist.

6.1.2 Implement Integrated Pest Management strategies in public parks that are low maintenance and nutrient-free.

6.1.3 Infiltrate or treat stormwater following stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs).

6.1.4 Ensure recreational opportunities offered through third-party vendors comply with water quality goals and land use regulations.

6.2 Trails

Manage trails and park roads to reduce impacts to water quality.

6.2.1 Build and maintain trails in accordance with approved plans, appropriate BMPs and regulatory requirements to prevent erosion and ensure runoff is infiltrated and/or treated before reaching a water body.

6.2.2 Identify and remove unauthorized trails, prioritizing the most impactful trails to water quality first.

DRAFT - LWMP 2025-2029 Work Plan – July 2024

6.2.3 Connect trails to other parks, trails, facilities and transportation networks as appropriate.

6.2.4 Provide trailhead amenities such as restrooms, dog waste stations, and information kiosks, where appropriate.

6.2.5 Install directional signs on trails to discourage off-trail usage.

6.3 Public Access

Provide low impact public access opportunities.

6.3.1 Provide public access using existing parks, launches, and trails where appropriate.

6.3.2 Explore ways to improve bike lanes and transit services to recreational facilities.

6.3.3 Maintain and develop access to key viewpoints in the watershed as appropriate.

6.4 Public Information and Stewardship

Provide watershed stewardship information to recreational users.

6.4.1 Educate watershed residents and visitors about recreational practices that protect water quality and those that negatively impact water quality.

6.4.2 Engage recreational user groups (e.g. hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, boaters, etc.) in practices that protect water quality.

Reporting Metrics:

- Miles of user-built trails decommissioned per year
- Number of dog waste stations maintained in the watershed per year
- Estimated number of individuals using parks/trails in the watershed per year
- Number of interpretive/informational exhibits installed or maintained per year