



# Hundred Acre Wood Master Plan

City of Bellingham, Washington

DRAFT - July 2022

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## HUNDRED ACRE WOOD

The City of Bellingham's (City) Hundred Acre Wood Park (Park) is an approximately 111-acre forested park located in south Bellingham, Washington. The Park consists of an 82-acre conservation easement area, known as the Chuckanut Community Forest (Community Forest), a 16.5-acre conservation easement area known as the Interurban Wetland Conservation Easement, and surrounding open space and trails referred to as the Interurban Greenway. Figure 1 depicts the Park boundary.

The Park hosts a web of forested trails that connect surrounding parks and neighborhoods. Neighbors and other park visitors use the Hundred Acre Wood trails for recreation and multi-modal transportation purposes. Additionally, the property has critical ecological functions. Much of the Hundred Acre Wood is covered by native, coniferous forest intermixed with wetlands. Various native plant and wildlife species rely on the area for habitat and use the forested corridor to migrate through the surrounding urban setting.

### Purpose of the Master Plan

The Hundred Acre Wood has seen a variety of uses over time. Past uses and increased visitation in recent years have put pressure on the ecological functions of the area, including the wetlands, native plant species, and resident and migratory wildlife.

This Hundred Acre Wood Master Plan (Plan) will guide future activities within the Park that serve to restore and preserve the natural environment while providing conscientious educational and recreational opportunities to a diverse group of users.

The Plan aligns with the City's 2020 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan). Most notably, Goal 4 of the PRO Plan aims to preserve and integrate nature, natural systems, and ecological principles throughout the City's Park system (City of Bellingham, 2020). This dynamic Plan defines clear priorities and serves as a reference for future improvements and projects planned within the Hundred Acre Wood.

*The City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department acknowledges that the land of the Hundred Acre Wood today is the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Lummi people and the Nooksack people who have lived in the Coast Salish region Since Time Immemorial.*

*The Parks and Recreation Department honors our shared responsibilities to their homeland. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn from indigenous wisdom and ways of creating relationships that will sustain us all on this land for future generations.*

### The core planning goals of the Hundred Acre Wood Master Plan are to:

1. Restore and protect ecological function.
2. Improve user experience and safety.
3. Provide educational opportunities.
4. Plan for climate resiliency.

The Plan is non-regulatory, and the standard permitting process is required for any projects that occurs within the Park boundaries. Major capital improvements within the Park must be approved in the City's budget.

### Planning Process

The City developed the Plan over an approximately year-long master planning period. The planning process combined guidance from the Hundred Acre Wood Steering Committee and the public with the City's long-term goals, as defined in the PRO Plan. Additionally, City staff used existing resources and reports to compile information about the Hundred Acre Wood. Final adoption of the Plan requires Park and Recreation Advisory Board review and City Council approval.

### Contents of the Plan

The contents of this Plan include:

- ◇ **Chapter 2** provides a brief overview of the history of the Hundred Acre Wood, including early indigenous presence, historic land uses, public protection efforts, City acquisition, and the development of the conservation easements.
- ◇ **Chapter 3** describes the existing conditions within the Hundred Acre Wood including both natural and human-made elements.
- ◇ **Chapter 4** summarizes the master planning process, including opportunities for public participation, and highlights key insights from stakeholders.
- ◇ **Chapter 5** describes the vision for the future of the Hundred Acre Wood, including recommended improvements.
- ◇ **Chapter 6** serves as a guide for the implementation of this Plan.
- ◇ **Appendices** provide additional reference and resources.

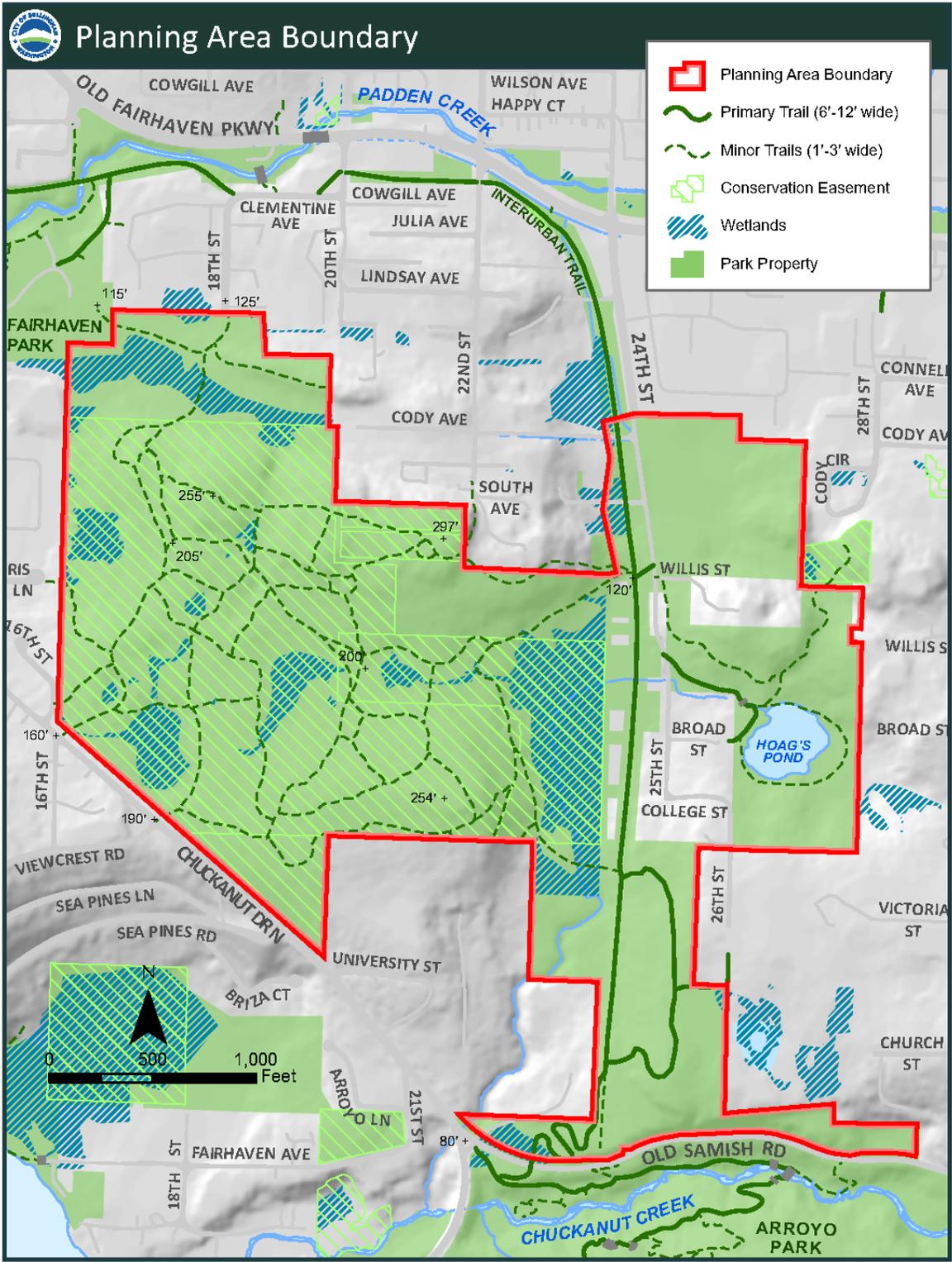


Figure 1. Hundred Acre Wood Park boundary

# CHAPTER 2: BACKGROUND

## Early History

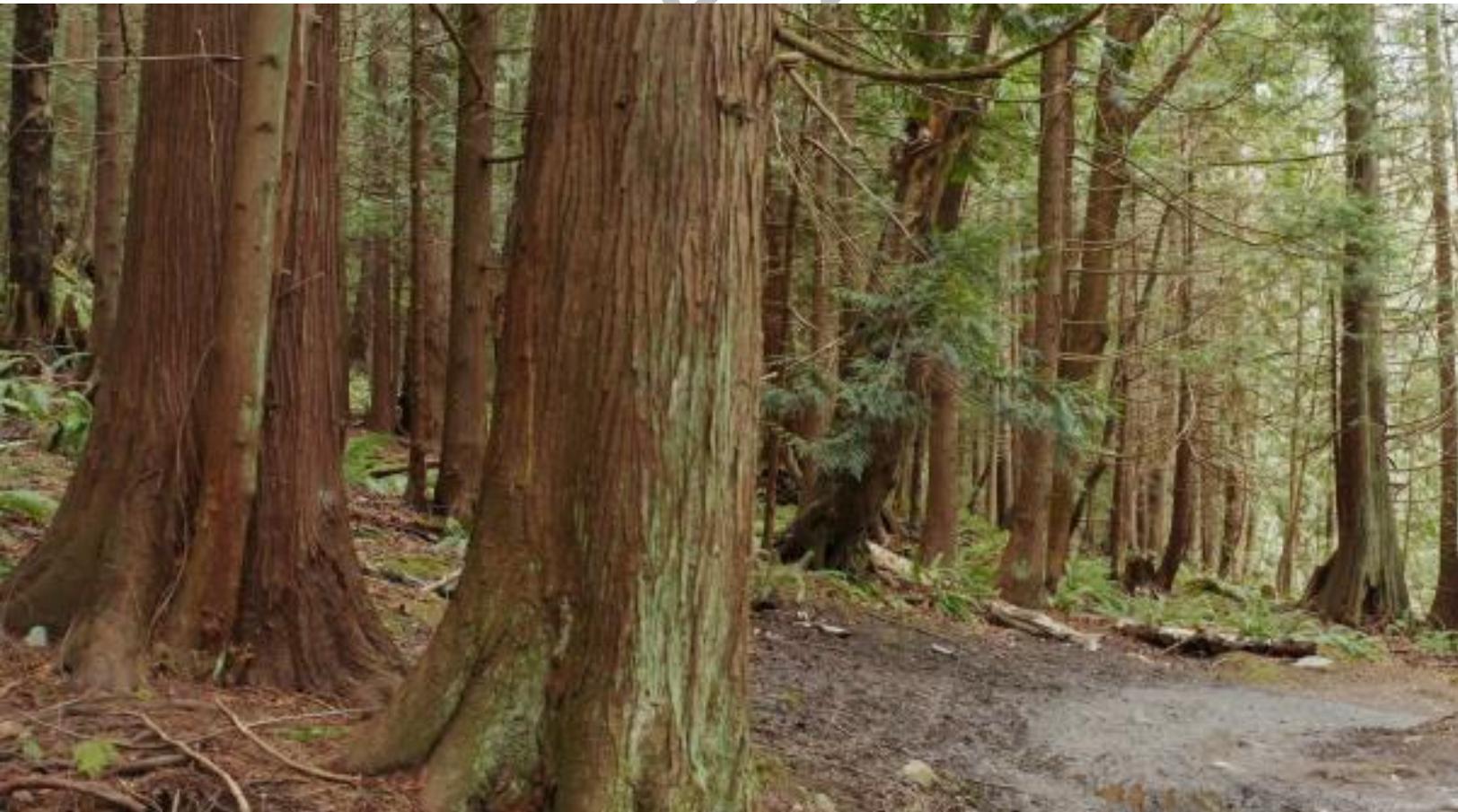
Indigenous groups have inhabited the area adjacent to the Hundred Acre Wood since time immemorial. The Nooksack peoples maintained early indigenous camps around Chuckanut Bay for seafood harvesting, and the Lummi, Samish, and Nuwhaha groups also visited Chuckanut Bay (City of Bellingham, 1997). Considering the Hundred Acre Wood's proximity to Chuckanut Bay, the area was likely explored for food and resources by these native peoples.

## Historic Land Uses

Europeans began the settlement of the region in the 1850s and, shortly after arriving, began logging the local forests. Logging originally occurred within the Hundred Acre Wood area in the 1890s, followed by additional harvests in the 1920s, and 1930s, and concluded in the 1970s or 1980s (City of Bellingham, 1997). Most of the forest is believed to be ninety to one hundred years old, but there is at least one remnant Sitka Spruce in the study area estimated to be 200- 300 years old (Eissinger, 2017).

In addition to logging, there has been gravel extraction in study area. The impacted area was believed to be roughly one acre. One primitive road can also be found extending from Chuckanut Drive to 24<sup>th</sup> Street.

After logging activity concluded, two gravel extraction sites were established in a small section of the Hundred Acre Wood area (City of Bellingham, 1997). A primitive road connecting Chuckanut Drive and



24<sup>th</sup> Street was created around this time to support the logging and gravel extraction operations. Today, the old road is used as a trail and the pits from gravel extraction have been partially naturalized.

### Development Proposals and Public Protection

Between the 1980s and 2011, several proposals were made to develop the Hundred Acre Wood area. These proposals were met by considerable opposition from concerned community members. Ultimately, each development proposal failed to obtain approval following an extensive environmental review. Following the failure of multiple development proposals, project financier Horizon Bank forced foreclosure and sold the parcel to Washington Federal Savings Bank (Washington Federal).

### Acquisition History and Development of the Conservation Easements

The Hundred Acre Wood Park consists of multiple parcels that were acquired by the City over the course of several decades. Key milestones in the development of the Park include:

- ◇ The City acquired the Interurban Greenway parcels between 1991 and 2003 (see Figure 2).
- ◇ Approximately 13 acres around Hoag's Pond, headwaters to Hoag's Creek, were first purchased in 1999. The City continues to acquire additional open space parcels around Hoag's Pond, with recent acquisition of 0.36 acres in 2018 and 0.23 acres in 2022.
- ◇ In 2001, the City and Whatcom Land Trust established a conservation easement to permanently protect 16.5-acres in the southeast corner of the current Park (Auditor File No. 2011203959).
- ◇ In 2011, the City purchased the Chuckanut Community Forest property (82-acres) from Washington Federal for \$8.23 million using a combination of Greenway Levy funds, City Park Impact Fees, and a loan from the Greenway Maintenance Endowment Fund.
- ◇ In 2013, voters approved the formation of the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District (Park District) to protect the 82-acre forest property from future development and manage the repayment of the Greenway Maintenance Endowment Fund loan.
- ◇ In 2014, the City and the Park District established a conservation easement to permanently protect the Chuckanut Community Forest property (Auditor File No. 2140100259). The conservation easement protects the property in perpetuity and ensures that future projects to enhance recreation and education in the Park do not negatively impact conservation values. Existing conditions at the time of recording are found in the [Chuckanut Community Forest Baseline Documentation Report](#) (Eissinger, 2017).
- ◇ In 2014, the City and Park District entered into an Interlocal Agreement. (COB Contract # 2013-0624).
- ◇ In 2014, the City rezoned 111 acres, including the Community Forest parcel, the Whatcom Land Trust parcel, and the surrounding acreage, from Residential Multi, Planned to Public, Open Space.



# CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK CONDITIONS

This chapter describes the existing conditions within the Park at the time the Plan was written. It includes notable features within the Park, current uses, and adjacent land uses.

## Site Description

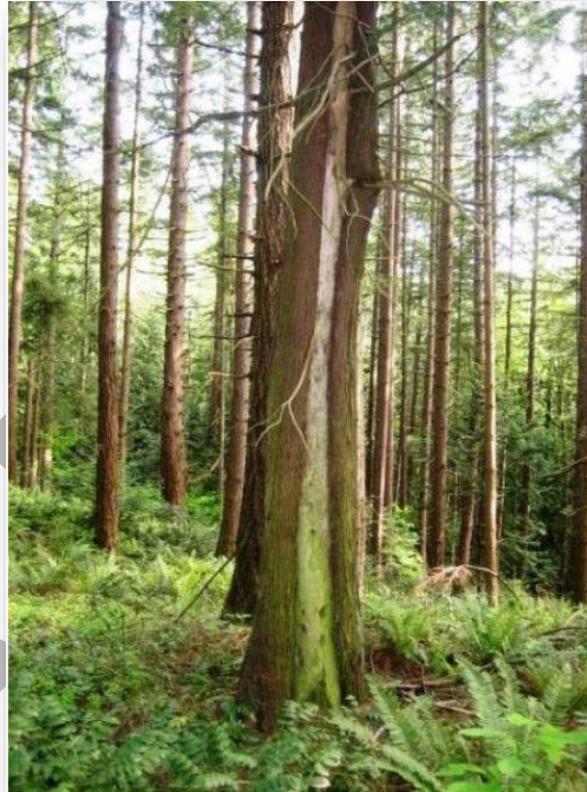
The Hundred Acre Wood consists of approximately 111-acres of forest and open space, including the 82-acre [Chuckanut Community Forest Easement](#)<sup>1</sup>, the 16.5-acre [Interurban Wetland Conservation Easement](#)<sup>2</sup>, Hoag's Pond, and all contiguous forest and open space parcels acquired as part of the Interurban Greenway. Six public access points provide entry to the forest (see Figure 3), including access from the Interurban Trail, Fairhaven Park upper shelter, Chuckanut Drive at 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Chuckanut Drive at Viewcrest Road, the end of 18<sup>th</sup> Street, and the end of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

## Natural Features

A native coniferous and mixed forest covers the property. The forest is categorized as "young forest tall" in the City's Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) canopy and forest structure inventory (See figure 4). The forest lacks a mature understory and is transitioning toward a mature forest. Numerous wetlands, Hoag's pond, and Hoag's Creek are situated across the planning area on an uneven landscape with various grades (See figure 5). The study area drains to two watersheds, lower Padden Creek and Chuckanut Creek. These forest and wetland environments are important headwater areas in these watersheds and provide habitat for native plant and wildlife species. They also serve as an essential habitat corridor for wildlife that relies on the area for migration through an urban setting.

The 2015 Habitat Restoration Technical Assessment (ESA, 2015) describes ecosystem functions and identifies potential for restoration or protection by sub-watersheds. The assessment says the following with regards to forest and associated wetlands in the study area:

*This very large forest block extends north to include a portion of the Padden Creek drainage, but the majority of the block is located within the drainage basin of Hoag's Creek and Chuckanut Creek. The majority of the block is well forested with a large stand of native moderate-aged*



<sup>1</sup> <https://cob.org/wp-content/uploads/Conservation-Easement-12-26-2001-COB-to-WLT.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cob.org/wp-content/uploads/Conservation-Easement-12-26-2001-COB-to-WLT-1.pdf>

*mixed forest, located east of Chuckanut Drive. In addition to high functioning forest, which provides excellent wildlife dispersal, nesting, and roosting habitat, this large block also contains palustrine scrub-shrub and forested wetlands. These wetlands, which help support baseflow in Hoag's and Chuckanut Creeks and provide wildlife habitat, are identified as appropriate for protective actions (Action CHC-WP1). This block also contains a corridor of City owned undeveloped property, which provides a key forested wildlife corridor between the large forested lands of Chuckanut Mountain to the south and the Padden Creek corridor to the north.*

*Block 006 consists primarily of City-owned land, much of it associated with Fairhaven Park, the Chuckanut Community Forest, and the Interurban Trail. However, there are numerous private parcels, many of which are undeveloped and zoned residential. It is recommended that the City holdings should continue to be managed as undeveloped open space, while acquisition or establishment of conservation easements is explored for key private forested parcels along the edges of the block, to help maintain existing functions (Biodiversity and Habitat Maintenance) into the future.*

The native species of plants, animals, fungi and other biota within the forest and wetlands rely heavily on the habitat provided by the Hundred Acre Woods. A list of native and non-native wildlife species that have been observed or are expected to exist in the park is available in the [Chuckanut Community Forest Baseline Documentation Report](#)<sup>3</sup> (Baseline Report) (Eissinger, 2017). The Report provides a baseline record of the relevant conditions and conservation values of the property subject to the [Chuckanut Community Forest Conservation Easement](#) and forms the basis for future monitoring and enforcement of the easement. The report describes allowed uses within in the conservation easements, existing physical, human-made, and biological conditions, as well as site disturbances. Appendix A of this Plan includes a summarized list of the species identified in the Baseline Report.

Section 6.2 of the Baseline Report describes the topography, geology, soils, hydrology, and wetlands within the Hundred Acre Wood (Eissinger, 2017). The City's Urban Forestry Management Plan includes information about the canopy cover, riparian areas, and forest structure and composition (City of Bellingham, TBD; Diamond Head, 2021).

The goals of this master plan, included in Chapter 6, are in line with the stated uses and conditions of the conservation easements. The milestones included with the goals and strategies section will be the means by which Parks and Recreation can adjust if needed to fulfill easement requirements.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://cob.org/project/chuckanut-community-forest-master-plan>

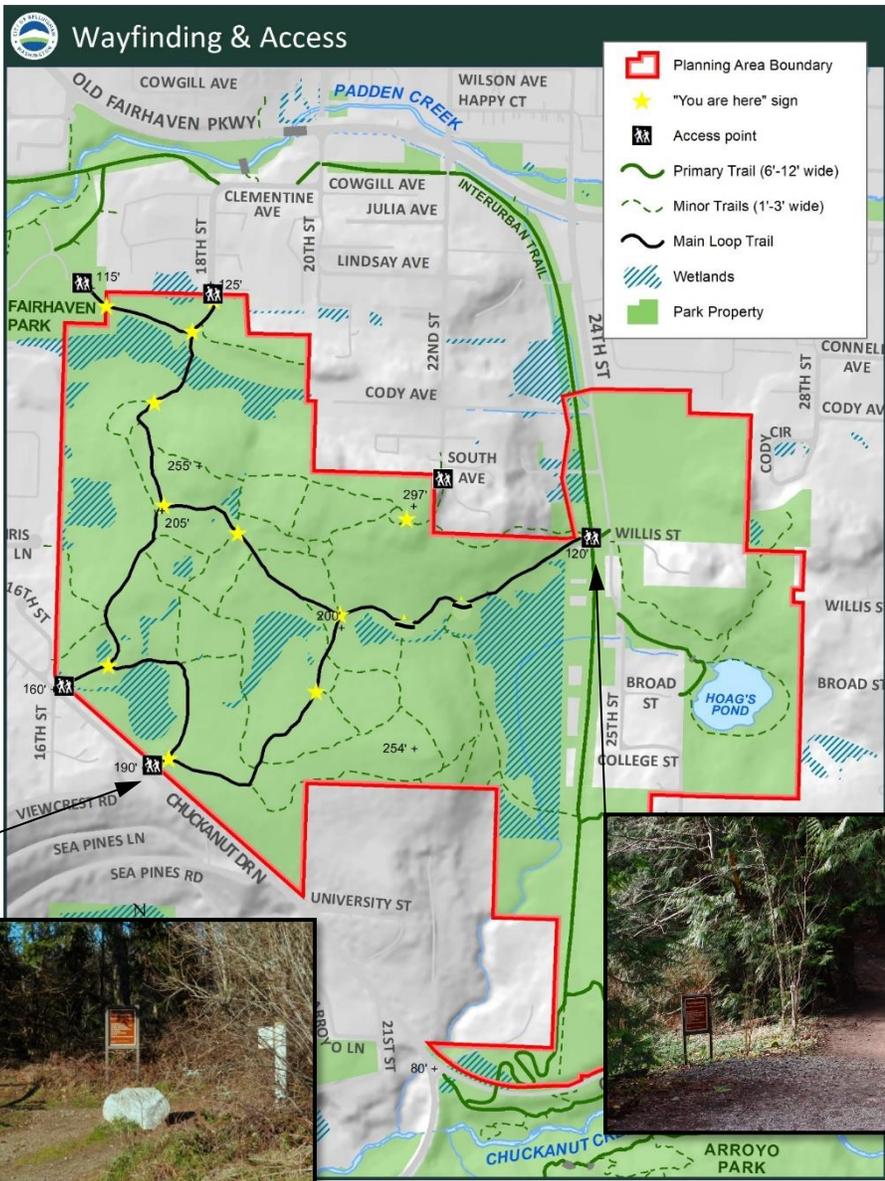


Figure 3 Park access points and wayfinding to be added

### Human-made Features

The Park has been mostly undisturbed following the last logging and gravel extraction activities. Remnants of old roads, borrow pits, several groundwater monitoring wells, old fencing, and scattered signage are some of the only human-made features that remain on the property from historical land uses. There are ten homes and 24<sup>th</sup> Street cuts north to south between the interurban trail and Hoag's pond. These are privately held parcels within the study area that include approximately ten acres.

Remnants of an old road used for logging and gravel extraction on the property have been repurposed as trails. Wildlife and human use have created a web of additional informal trails, as seen in Figure 6. Limited parking exists in two locations along Chuckanut Drive. Recreation Northwest, a Bellingham-

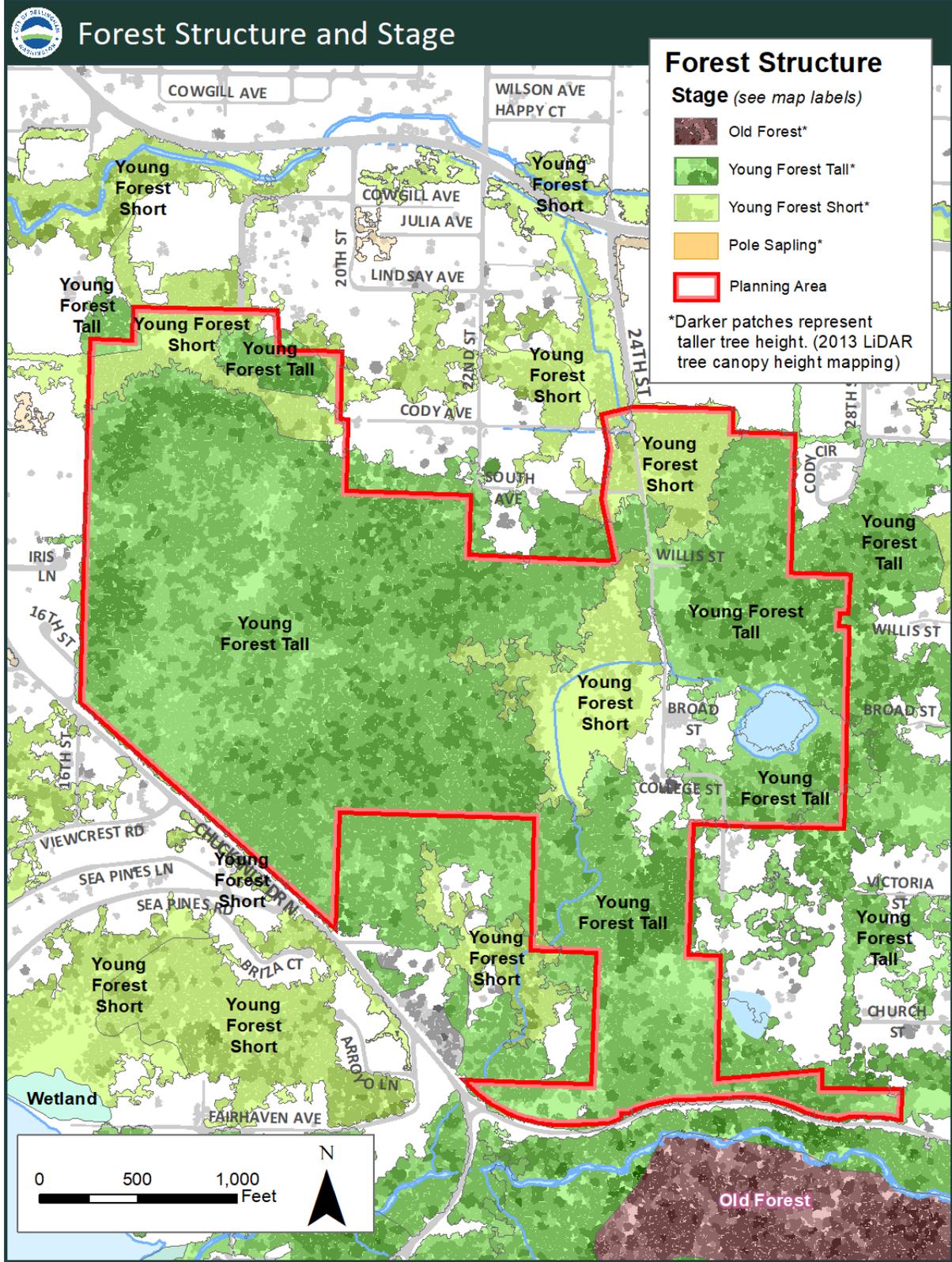
based non-profit organization, established a northwest native plant garden, boardwalk, and outdoor classroom close to the Park's boundary with Fairhaven Park.

### Current Uses

The current use of the Hundred Acre Wood is as a public park and open space. Visitors use the Park's trail network, and the connections to other nearby parks and neighborhoods, for various passive, non-motorized recreational activities, and multi-modal transportation purposes. A public survey conducted during master planning identified walking, recreational biking, dog-walking, wildlife viewing, and running as the top five uses by park visitors (Public Survey, 2021). Several organized groups also use the area for outdoor activities and learning opportunities.

### Adjacent Land Use

The Hundred Acre Wood property connects contiguous forested lands within the urban setting of Bellingham. The northern boundary of the Hundred Acre Wood is bordered mostly by multifamily residential. A connection to Fairhaven Park is located at the northwestern corner of the Park. To the west of the Park are parcels of mostly single-family homes with some multi-family residential. Chuckanut Drive, also known as State Route 11, runs along the southwestern edge of the Park, where there are two small, makeshift parking areas with access to the Park's trail network. A portion of land east of Chuckanut Drive and west of the Interurban Trail at the southern boundary of the Park is zoned for single-family residential with some undeveloped lots. The southern Park boundary extends to Old Samish Road and Arroyo Park, providing a connection to a more natural habitat for wildlife. There are some single and multifamily residential lots inside the Park boundary along the Interurban Trail near Hoag's Pond. This Plan is not applicable to private property. More single and multifamily residential lots are located along the eastern boundary and extend to I-5.



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Figure 4. Canopy and forest structure inventory

# LiDAR Point Cloud, East – West Cross Section Profiles of Trees and Wetlands in the Study Area

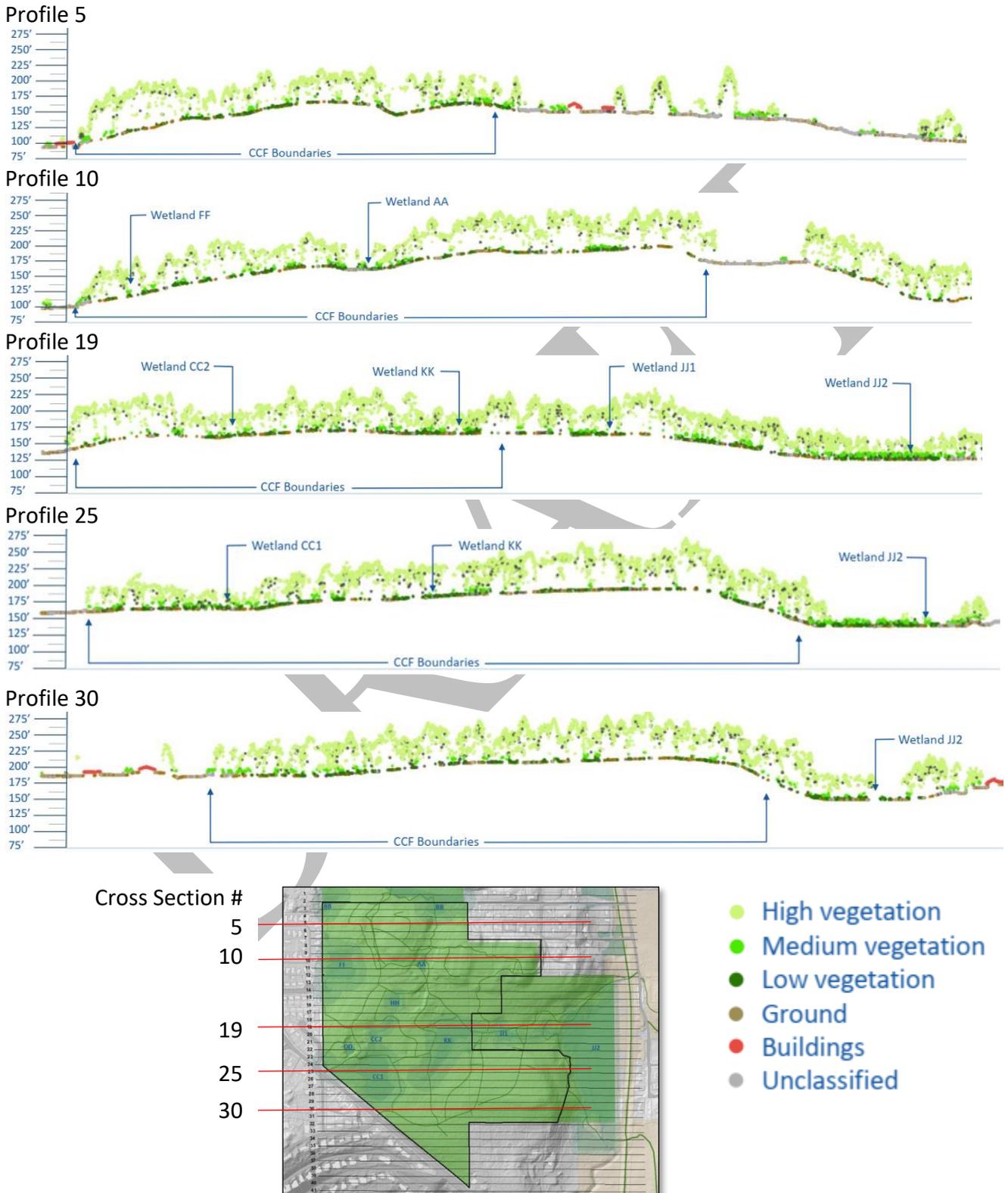


Figure 5 LiDAR Cross sections showing landforms and tree height

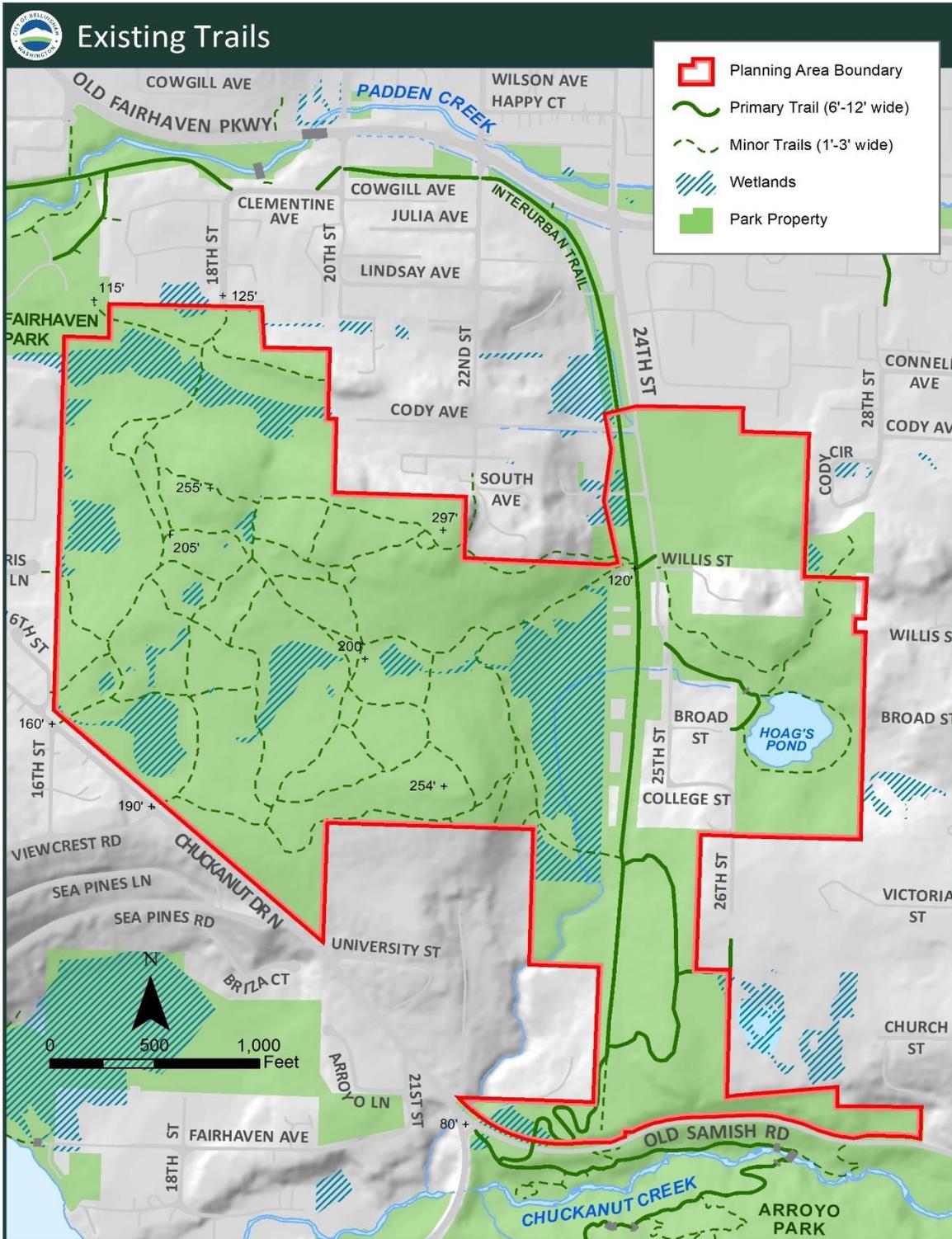


Figure 6. Existing trails within the Hundred Acre Wood.

## CHAPTER 4: PLANNING PROCESS

This Plan sets forth the goals and guides current and future decision-making within the Hundred Acre Wood. The planning process included input from the public and contributions from a steering committee regarding key components. This chapter describes key steps in the planning process and includes a list of relevant reference documents.

### Naming Process

The formal naming process of the Hundred Acre Wood followed the requirements outlined in PAR 01.00.01.

### Steering Committee

A steering committee consisting of representatives from surrounding neighborhoods, Park District board members, City staff, and recreational user groups informed the master planning process. The steering committee met monthly from June 2021-May 2022 to discuss the use of the Park, to evaluate public input, and to decide on key components of the Plan. Steering committee engagement and input played a crucial role in establishing a planning framework and identifying priorities for the Hundred Acre Wood.

### Public Input and Engagement

A variety of opportunities for public input throughout the planning period, including:

- An online community survey (August 5-September 15, 2021)
- Community led on site survey and data gathering (Oct. 9 and 11, 2021)
- A project [website](#) (ongoing)
- Engage Bellingham online updates and engagement (ongoing)
- A live online Open House (March 16, 2022)
- An Open House follow up survey (March 18-April 1, 2022)

The public input informed key components of the master planning process, such as the formal naming of the Hundred Acre Wood, allowed uses, and the goals and strategies included in Chapter 5.

#### Public Survey (Fall 2021)

In fall 2021, the City published a public survey on Engage Bellingham to gather input on the current and future uses of the Hundred Acre Wood, the proposed planning area boundary, and what improvements the community would like to see in the area. The survey was advertised through social media posts, flyers on and off site, and a press release that was sent to residents within 500 feet of the Park.

## HOW DO PARK VISITORS USE THE HUNDRED ACRE WOOD?

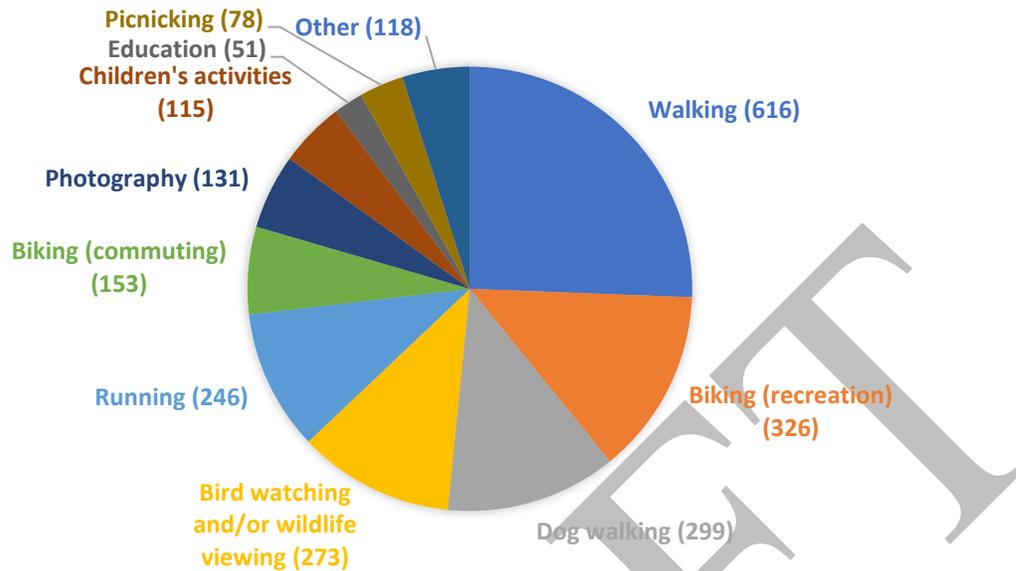


Figure 7. The chart indicates the number of public survey (Fall 2021) respondents (#) who use the Hundred Acre Wood for various activities.

A total of 716 respondents completed the survey. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of respondents visit the planning area, and 64% visit the planning area at least once a week. Respondents reported primarily using the area for walking, dog walking, recreational biking, bird watching, and/or wildlife viewing, and running (see Figure 6).

The majority of respondents agreed:

- With the proposed master plan boundaries (88%)
- That the planning area should be named Hundred Acre Wood (63%)
- That dogs should continue to be only on-leash in the planning area (67%)

Respondents wanted to see the following improvements in the planning area:

- Directional signs (71%)
- Boardwalks and bridges (69%)
- Native plant garden (62%)

### Open House and Follow-Up Survey

Staff members from the Parks Department hosted a live, virtual public Open House on March 16, 2022. The event included a presentation by Parks Department staff followed by a public question and answer session. Verbal comments, comments in the chat, and questions were collected as input for the final Plan. The event was recorded, and the recording was posted on Engage Bellingham for the public to review.

Key themes from the input collected during the Open House include:

- Attendees shared both support for and considerable opposition to limiting bike usage in the Park.
- Several participants noted that various types of trail users seem to get along in the Park.
- Attendees voiced both support for and concerns about the on-leash requirement proposal.
- Participants shared specific feedback on the trail plan.
- Several participants urged the City to move quickly in wetland protection.
- Participants also advocated for wildlife conservation and noted the carbon storage value of the forest within the Park.

A follow-up survey was open to the public from March 18-April 1, 2022. The follow-up survey provided an additional opportunity for the public to respond to the proposed plan elements covered in the Open House.

A total of 670 respondents completed the Open House Follow-Up Survey. Highlights from the survey include:

- Ninety-five percent (95%) of respondents agreed with the name Hundred Acre Wood.
- Approximately 78% of respondents agreed with the dog on-leash requirement and the installation of dog waste stations and signage to remind people of on-leash requirements. Several respondents advocated for locating waste stations at Park access points, but not within the Park. Several respondents commented that they would like an area of the Park to be designated as an off-leash area for dogs.
- Approximately 86% of respondents disagreed with improving the existing trail from Fairhaven Park to the Interurban Trail with limestone and limiting bikes to this trail (with park users walking their bikes on other trails). Several respondents commented that families use this area for biking with their children. Others noted that there are not many reports of trail user conflicts in this Park.

### Relevant Documents

The following documents helped shape the Plan. These documents should be reviewed in the development of specific projects, as applicable.

- Whatcom Land Trust Conservation Easement
- Chuckanut Community Forest Conservation Easement
- Chuckanut Community Forest Baseline Documentation Report, May 8, 2017 (Eissinger, 2017)

- Urban Forestry Management Plan - Canopy and Forest Structure Analysis Summary Report, August 23, 2021 (Diamond Head, 2021)
- State of the Urban Forest Report (Diamond Head, May 2022)
- Habitat Restoration Technical Assessment, November 2015 (ESA, 2015)



# CHAPTER 5: THE FUTURE OF THE HUNDRED ACRE WOOD

This chapter outlines the goals of the Master Plan, their link to the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan through the [PRO Plan](#)<sup>4</sup>, and summarizes strategies to achieve those goals.

## Master Plan Goals

This Plan aims to achieve the following four goals for the Hundred Acre Wood:



### Goal 1: Restore and protect ecological function.

Promote stewardship of the Park, protect and enhance wetlands, improve plant and wildlife habitat, and regenerate natural systems for a range of plant and wildlife species. PRO Plan Goal 4, Preserve and integrate nature, natural systems and ecological principles throughout the park system.



### Goal 2: Improve user experience and safety.

Provide safe, high-quality recreational opportunities to a diverse group of park users. PRO Plan Goal 3, Create environments that encourage regular active and passive recreation activities to support health, sense of safety, wellness and social connections.



### Goal 3: Provide education opportunities.

Support conscientious educational opportunities within the Hundred Acre Wood about its wildlife, vegetation, history, and other assets. PRO Plan Goal 4, Preserve and integrate nature, natural systems and ecological principles throughout the park system.



### Goal 4: Plan for climate resiliency.

Build climate resiliency within and around the Hundred Acre Wood. PRO Plan Goal 4, Preserve and integrate nature, natural systems and ecological principles throughout the park system.

## Strategies

The following strategies aim to fulfill the Master Plan goals.

### Goal 1: Restore and protect ecological function.

#### *Strategy 1.1: Realign and Improve Select Trails*

Realign trails and/or improve trail segments to reduce trail-induced soil erosion, wetland impacts, dangerously steep trail segments, and circumvent muddy areas.

<sup>4</sup> Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, 2020. <https://cob.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-pro-plan.pdf>

### *Strategy 1.2: Remove Select Trails*

Remove select existing trails to restore habitat, enhance wetlands, and promote other ecological functions. Trail removal will also serve to eliminate trail redundancy and reduce visitor confusion. Decommissioning criteria is included in Appendix B.

### *Strategy 1.3: Restore hydrologic connections*

Identify barriers to historic hydrologic flows and reestablish hydrologic connections. Aerate compacted soils in these areas and with culverts, bridges, or boardwalks.

### *Strategy 1.4: Invasive Plant Removal*

Replace invasive plants with suitable native species.

### *Strategy 1.5: Restore Vegetation*

Restore soil structure and native vegetation. Utilize established Park restoration best management practices.

## Goal 1 Milestones:

- Hold at least one volunteer work party per year
- Decommission unsafe trails in Stage 1
- Restore soils and replant impacted areas
- Improve hydrologic connectivity at impacted sites
- Build Boardwalks in Stage 2

## Goal 2: User safety and experience

### *Strategy 2.1: Install wayfinding and signage*

Signage and wayfinding are important to help park users navigate the trails safely. Signage welcomes the public, directs and manages impacts, and educates and informs Park visitors. The following wayfinding and signage improvements aim to improve user safety and experience:

- ◇ Add signage to mark public access points.
- ◇ Install area trail map at primary entrances and key trail intersections. (See Figure 9).
- ◇ Add park rules and dog on-leash requirement signage.

### *Strategy 2.2: Manage pet and other waste.*

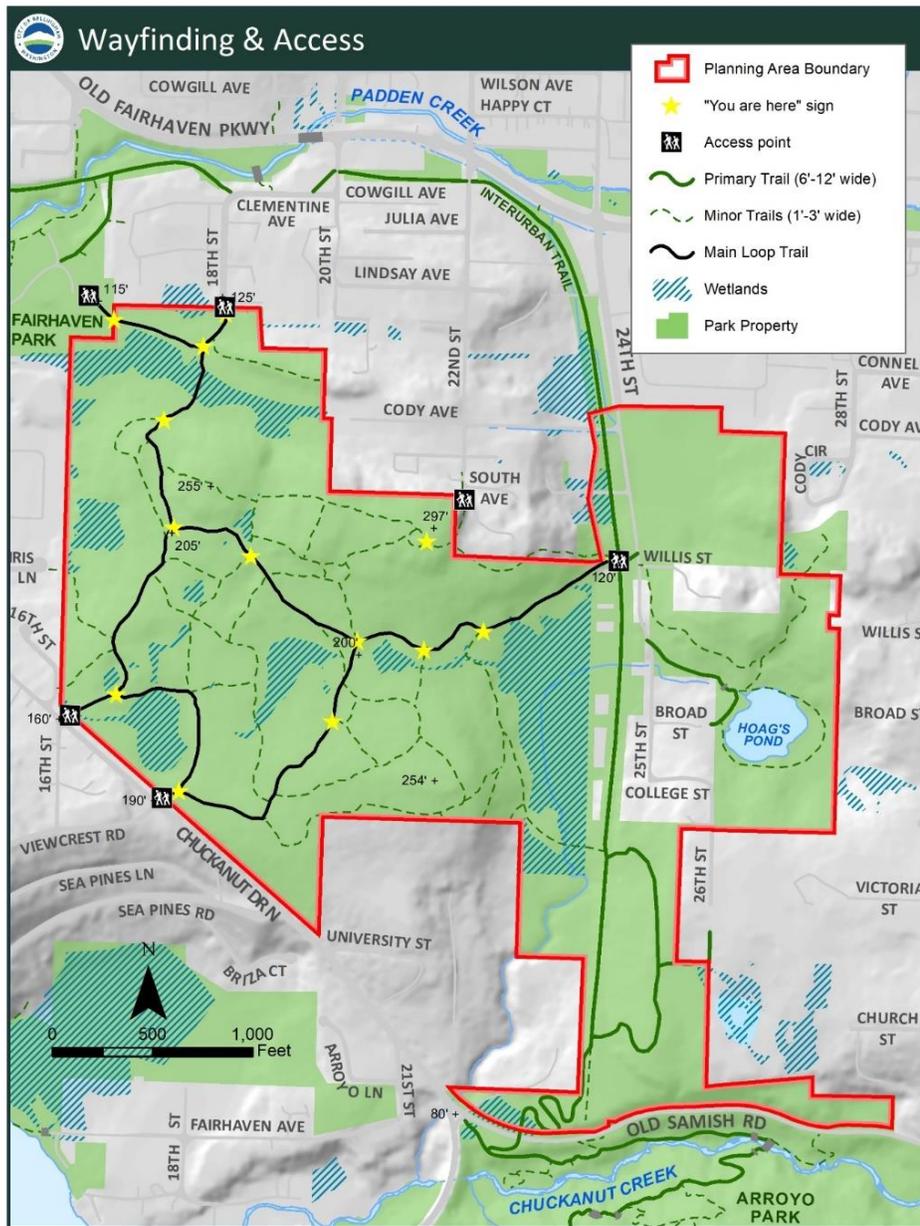
Install garbage cans and pet waste stations at main access points.



Figure 7. A map indicating "You are here."



Figure 8. A wayfinding post with trail names and directional arrows.



revised: 3/16/2022

Figure 9 Wayfinding and Access

*Strategy 2.3: Improve vehicle and bicycle parking*

Improve existing vehicle parking along Chuckanut Drive, provided there are no significant negative impacts on conservation values.

*Strategy 2.4: Benches*

Install benches in key locations along the main loop trail.

Goal 2 Milestones:

- Install wayfinding signs and trail markers
- Improve access to community in Phase 2 of Implementation

Goal 3: Education and Interpretation

*Strategy 3.1: Create an outdoor learning space*

Create an outdoor learning space such as an outdoor classroom. Figures 9 and 10 include initial concepts for learning spaces considering existing conditions within the Park. Figure 13 shows the location of the outdoor classroom.

*Strategy 3.2: Native plant interpretation*

Install native plant identification signage at approved locations within the Park. Figure 10 includes initial concepts for native plant signage.

Goal 3 Milestones:

- Install plant identification signs
- Hold volunteer work parties in the park
- Improve outdoor learning space in Phase 1 of Implementation

## Goal 4. Climate Resiliency

*Strategy 4.1: Promote climate resiliency consistent with the City's PRO Plan.*

- Consistent with Goal 4 of the City's PRO Plan, take action to reduce the impacts of climate change and enhance the natural carbon sequestration functions by restoring denuded areas and encourage bike and pedestrian access to the park.

*Strategy 4.2: Install fire warning signage.*

Add fire warning signage at primary access points during periods of heightened fire risk.

*Strategy 4.3: Consider climate change when making decisions*

Consider climate change when making decisions about improvements, conservation, and restoration efforts. For example, use climate-tolerant native plants in restoration efforts.

Goal 4 Milestones:

- Reforest existing impacted areas
- Install fire signs during times of increased fire risk in accordance with City Fire Department.

# CHAPTER 6: IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The implementation strategy for this Master Plan seeks to guide, identify, and prioritize efforts over time. The implementation strategy is not meant to be prescriptive, but rather, to offer direction in determining next steps. Efforts will be further prioritized according to input from topic-specific studies and other City planning efforts, public input, available funding, and schedule constraints.

## Phased Action Plan

The improvements and other actions identified in this plan will be implemented in two primary phases, described below, and depicted in Figure 11. Priorities will be reassessed periodically to consider new data and input.

Each project will have unique permitting requirements based on critical areas, maintenance versus new trails, and impervious surfaces. The Parks Department will follow relevant regulations and pursue the necessary permits and environmental review for each project, as needed.

Restoration activities will be informed by the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District’s Stewardship Plan (Stewardship Plan). This work is ongoing independent of Phased Action Plan. Annual volunteer work parties will be hosted in order to help expedite trail restoration work and removal of invasive species.

### Phase 1:

- ✓ Improve gravel roadbed between Interurban Trail and Fairhaven Park.
- ✓ Block and remove select trails to be decommissioned.
- ✓ Improve hydrologic connections (through boardwalks and culverts) on select trails.
- ✓ Install wayfinding signage at key locations throughout Park.
- ✓ Improve and/or add signage to primary park access points.
- ✓ Install dog on-leash signage.
- ✓ Install park boundary markers.
- ✓ Install dog waste stations and garbage cans at primary access points.
- ✓ Install native plant interpretation signage and/or area.
- ✓ Improve outdoor learning spaces.

## Phase 2:

- ✓ Improve gravel roadbed between Fairhaven Park and Chuckanut Drive.
- ✓ Block and restore select trails to be decommissioned.
- ✓ Reroute select trails to avoid wetlands.
- ✓ Improve hydrologic connections (through boardwalks and culverts) on select trails.
- ✓ Install other amenities such as benches.
- ✓ Complete restoration projects consistent with the Stewardship Plan and Urban Forestry Management Plan (City of Bellingham, TBD).
- ✓ Improve parking along Chuckanut Drive.

## Trail Implementation Plan

The Hundred Acre Wood Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan) aims to improve park user experience while protecting and enhancing the natural environment within the Park boundaries. It prioritizes the Master Plan goals and considers input from the public and the steering committee. Figure 10 highlights key elements of the Trail Implementation Plan.

Note: Dogs must be kept on a leash within the Hundred Acre Wood. The Park has sensitive wildlife habitat.

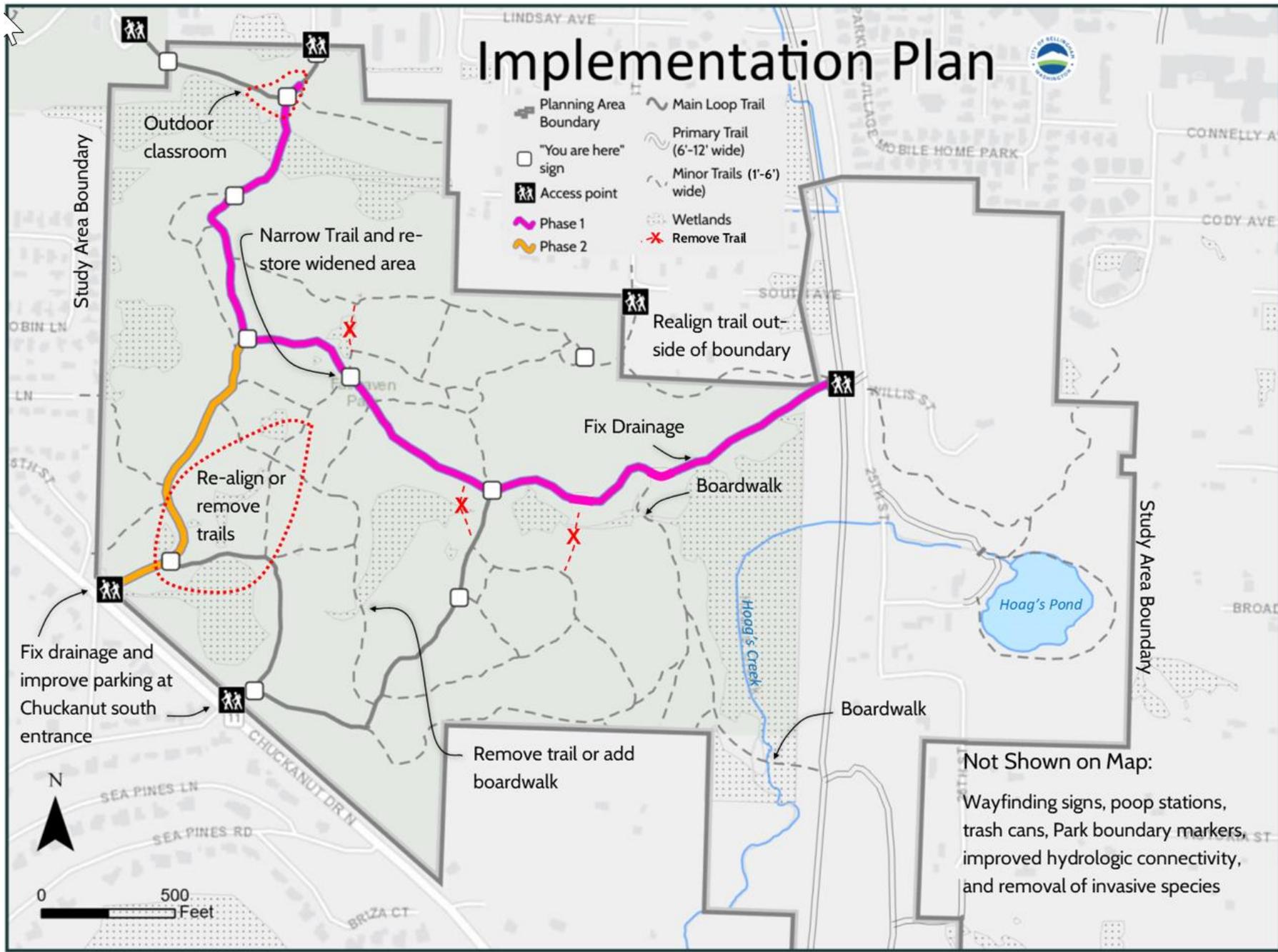
Key elements of the Trail Plan include:

1. Improvement of a primary loop trail using the existing roadbed and trails.
2. Improvement of the multimodal connection between Fairhaven Park, Interurban Trail, and Chuckanut Drive.
3. All trail, boardwalk, or drainage improvements will be completed to adopted Park standards and permitting requirements (Figure 10).



Figure 10 Typical engineered boardwalk to restore wetland areas

Figure 11 Trail Implementation Plan



## REFERENCES

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# APPENDIX A: CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PLANT AND WILDLIFE INVENTORY

The following table includes a summarized list of the plant and wildlife species recorded within the boundaries of the Chuckanut Community Forest Conservation Easement, as reported in the Chuckanut Community Forest Baseline Documentation Report (Eissinger, 2017). See the report for the full inventory.

Table 1. Summarized list of plant and wildlife species recorded in the Chuckanut Community Forest.

Taxa		Species
Plants	<b>Trees</b>	Douglas fir, western hemlock, grand fir, Sitka spruce, western red cedar, western yew, big-leaf maple, red alder, black cottonwood, trembling aspen, western paper birch, bitter cherry, Scouler's willow, Pacific willow, vine maple, mountain ash, black hawthorn, Pacific ninebark
	<b>Shrubs</b>	Red-osier dogwood, Indian plum, salmonberry, red elderberry, black twinberry, thimbleberry, gooseberry, spiraea (hardhack), service berry, snowberry, oceanspray, Oregon grape, Salal, red huckleberry, devils club
	<b>Herbaceous Plants</b>	Orange honeysuckle, sword fern, spiny wood fern, lady fern, deer fern, bracken fern, licorice fern, fringedcup, western trillium, large-leaf avens, Pacific waterleaf, false lily of the valley, vanilla leaf, bleeding heart, piggy-back-plant, western starflower, foam flower, Creeping buttercup, tall buttercup, woodland strawberry, Watson's willowherb, stinging nettle, cut-leaf blackberry, trailing blackberry, cow parsnip, cinquefoil, spearmint, American brooklime, horsetail, Indian pipe, rattlesnake plantain, western coralroot, striped coralroot, Dewey's sedge, Henderson's sedge, slough sedge, managrass, soft rush, slender rush, common duckweed, water parsley, skunk cabbage, bent grass
	<b>Non-native</b>	English hawthorn, Scott's broom, reed canary grass, velvet grass, orchard grass, sweet vernalgrass, tall fescue, red-top, red clover, English plantain, Herb-Robert (stinky bob), hairy cats-ear, common tansy, Canadian thistle, cleavers, Himalayan blackberry, Evergreen blackberry, bloody British ivy, bloody British holly
<b>Birds</b>	Ruffed Grouse, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Barred Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-naped Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Steller's Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Bewick's Wren, Golden-	

	crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Varied Thrush, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak
<b>Mammals</b>	Pacific Water Shrew, Coast Mole, Eastern Cottontail, Townsend's Chipmunk, Eastern Gray Squirrel, Douglas' Squirrel, Coyote, Raccoon, Mule Deer

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# APPENDIX B: TRAIL DECOMMISSIONING CRITERIA

## Hundred Acre Wood Trail Decommissioning Considerations

- ✓ Does the considered trail decommissioning action fulfill recommendations by the public?
- ✓ Does the trail impact a protected wetland, critical habitat and species, or impact hydrologic connectivity?
- ✓ Does the considered decommissioning action support goals and objectives from guiding document such as the City's Comprehensive Plan; Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan; Greenways Program Strategic Plan; Climate Action Plan; Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan; and Neighborhood Plans?
- ✓ Does the trail connect to a destination or point of interest?
- ✓ Is the trail a loop trail or part of a larger loop?
- ✓ Does the trail offer users a unique experience (it is not redundant to another nearby trail)?
- ✓ Will it be possible to maintain the trail over time?
- ✓ Does the trail support the City's conservation and restoration goals (does not negatively impact ecological or hydrologic function within the Hundred Acre Wood)?
- ✓ Is the trail safe?

# APPENDIX C: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CONCEPT



## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

### TERRACED CLASSROOM SEATING



### OUTDOOR STAGE & PRESENTATION SPACE



### ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY



### WAYFINDING



Fairhaven Park | initial concepts

Recreation Northwest  
PREPARED BY COREEN SCHMIDT OCTOBER 31, 2021