

FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT STARTING SOON NEAR YOU



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Bellingham will soon begin a forest health project near your property on several parcels collectively known as the North Beaver Creek Preserve. These lands were acquired through the City's Lake Whatcom Land Acquisition and Preservation Program, which protects water quality in Lake Whatcom – the drinking water source for more than 120,000 people.

The 370-acre preserve was historically managed for commercial timber. Trees were planted very densely, causing them to grow tall, thin, and unstable. This dense canopy blocks sunlight and limits understory growth, reducing plant diversity and making the forest more vulnerable to disease, wildfire, and pests. To improve long-term forest health, the City has hired Janicki Logging to complete a selective tree thinning project this summer under the direction of City staff and a forest health specialist.

PROJECT BENEFITS

Carefully thinning overcrowded trees helps reduce the risk of severe wildfire, which protects water quality in Lake Whatcom by preventing erosion, while protecting nearby properties. Thinning also improves forest health, increases species diversity, enhances wildlife habitat, and supports a more resilient forest.

This work helps meet the goals of the recently adopted Lake Whatcom Forest Management Plan that we co-created with Whatcom County and ecological forestry experts.

EXPECTED ACTIVITIES

You may see the following activities this summer on the City's property between Galbraith Tree Farm and Lake Louise Road:

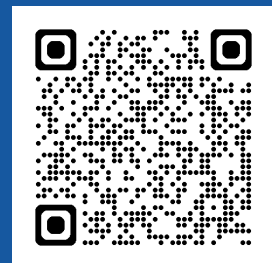
- Flagging harvest area boundaries.
- Marking sensitive habitats (streams, wetlands, steep slopes, mature trees) where thinning will not occur.
- Ground-based thinning of dying and unhealthy trees. The oldest and most robust trees will be left standing. No old-growth trees will be cut.
- All thinning will take place between June 1 and September 30 during the watershed work window to minimize sediment runoff from soil disturbance.

You may also see City field staff performing standard restoration work such as mowing and cutting invasive species, planting native vegetation, and decommissioning unauthorized trails.



CONTACT

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Learn more about our work at
cob.org/lw-property-mgmt



North Beaver Thinning Project

