

THE BELLINGHAM PLAN



PARKS

Chapter Update Summary | November 2024





NOTE: *The following slides are for informational purposes only. We are not taking any feedback on the Parks Chapter because it is not currently being updated with the Bellingham Plan.*

This chapter's next update is due in 2026, with public engagement starting in 2025. Stay tuned for future engagement opportunities!



What the Community Said

These descriptions summarize the most common opinions we heard relevant to this chapter.

Most of us feel that recreational opportunities, a healthy natural environment, and public open spaces are the top three strengths of Bellingham.

There are all kinds of ways that we like to use public recreation spaces and facilities.

Public parks, recreation opportunities, and open spaces are some of the most important community assets.

We have lots of ideas for how to make our parks, trails, and recreation facilities more accessible and inclusive.

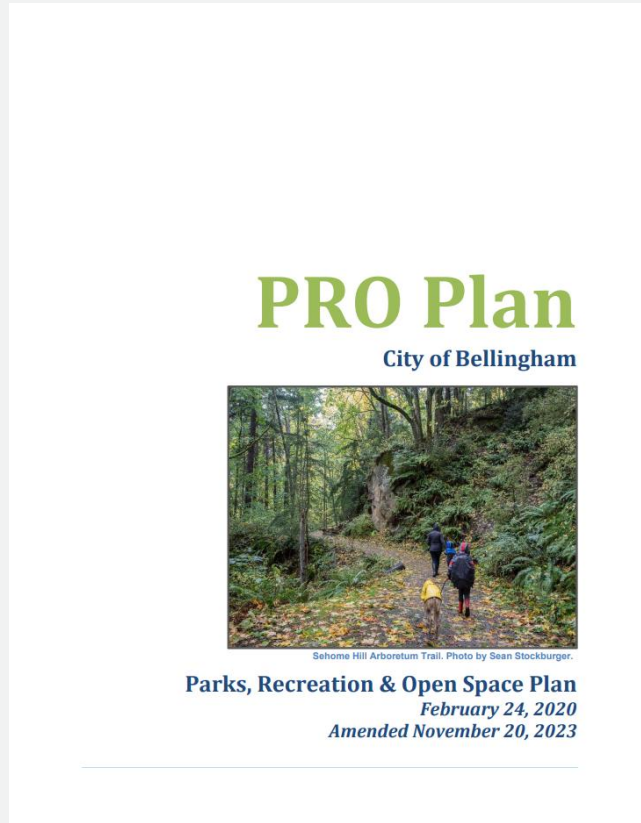
There are all kinds of ways that we like to use public recreation spaces and facilities.





Existing 2020 PRO Plan

The City has an existing Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (PRO Plan), which is part of the City's comprehensive plan, but is updated on a different timeline.



This document guides the preservation and expansion of the park, recreation, and open space system as the community grows.

The PRO Plan is updated every six years, separately from the comprehensive plan. The last complete update of the PRO Plan was in 2020.

The next update is due in 2026, with public engagement in 2025.

After the parks chapter is updated with goals and policies, it will be incorporated into the Bellingham Plan. The more technical/detailed PRO plan will also be adopted by reference.



2020 PRO Plan: Existing Goals

The PRO Plan is organized around eight existing goals with related “objectives.” These concepts will be revised during the 2026 PRO Plan update.

Equity and Inclusion	Provide high-quality facilities and services that are accessible, inclusive and distributed equitably across Bellingham.	Innovate	Develop innovative programs, services and strategies for expanding recreational opportunities and improving accessibility.
Enhance and Expand	Enhance the capacity, quality and variety of use of the existing park and recreation system.	Connect	Connect and unify the community with trail and greenway corridors.
Health Wellness and Community	Create environments that encourage regular active and passive recreation activities to support health, sense of safety, wellness and social connections.	Effective Operations	Manage park land and programs effectively, efficiently and sustainably utilizing quantitative and qualitative measures.
Integrate Nature	Preserve and integrate nature, natural systems and ecological principles throughout the park system.	Recreational Assessment	In 2020, conduct a Community Recreation Needs Assessment



2020 PRO Plan

To review the complete PRO Plan in the existing 2016 Comprehensive Plan, visit:

[2020 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan \(cob.org\)](http://cob.org)