



# Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan 2023 Amendments

Planning Commission Public Hearing  
August 17, 2023



## PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN AMENDMENTS

This minor amendment addresses PRO Plan Section 5.5 Trails, and Appendix D, the six-year Capital Facilities Plan.

The PRO Plan is an adopted chapter of the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan.





## ISSUE STATEMENT

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### PRO Plan City of Bellingham



Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan  
February 24, 2020

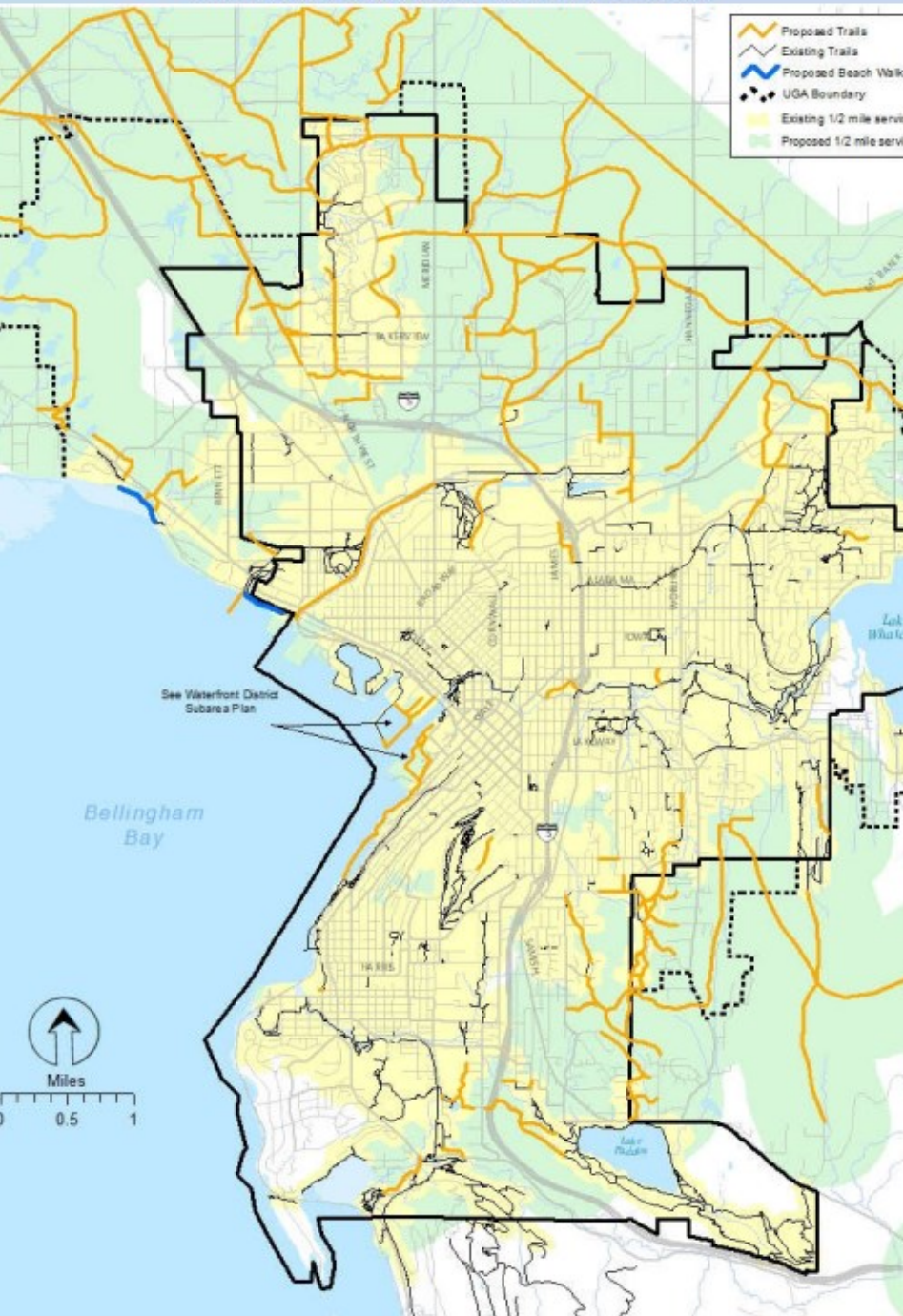
### AMENDMENTS NEEDED

Significant residential development that has occurred since the last PRO Plan update, particularly in the northern portion of the City. Proposed trail changes reflect these developments.

The City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans are currently in the process of being updated. Updates to these master plans are being coordinated with the proposed trail network and included in this amendment proposal.

The six year Capital Facilities Plan is an important planning document that helps budget for the coming years and allows for the use of park impact fees on needed public facilities. Updating the reference to the current CFP to the biennial budget replaces the dated Appendix D.

## RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • TRAILS



## 2020 RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN TRAILS MAP (PRO PLAN SECTION 5.5)

### PUBLIC FACILITIES (TRAILS) TO BE BUILT BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS

Public facilities are built by private development to maintain service in newly developed areas

### 2020 PROPOSED TRAILS

Located to improve level of service.

246 Segments

100 Miles

# Recommended Facilities Plan Trails

## 2023 AMENDED MAP

### PUBLIC FACILITIES (TRAILS) TO BE BUILT BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS

Refined to account for new development and environmental constraints

### REGIONAL TRAILS

Coast Millennial Trail

Bay to Baker Trail

Bellingham – Mt. Baker Trail

### INCLUDES BRIDGE CROSSINGS

Chuckanut to Woodstock Farm

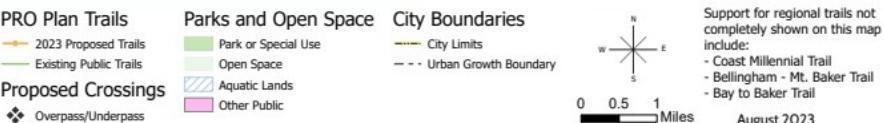
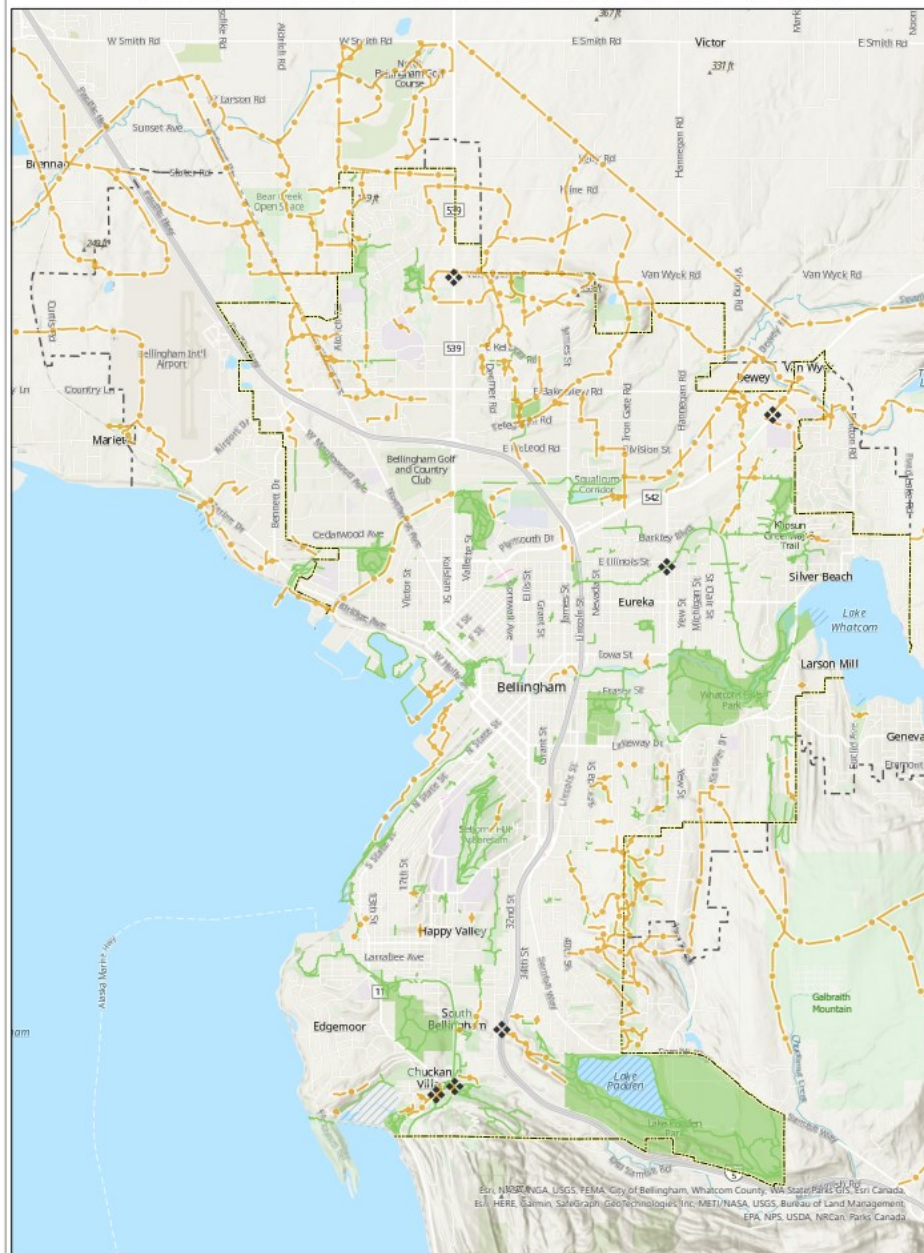
Interurban High Bridge

I-5 at Padden Creek

Railroad trail at Barkley

Mt. Baker Hwy

Meridian at Cordata





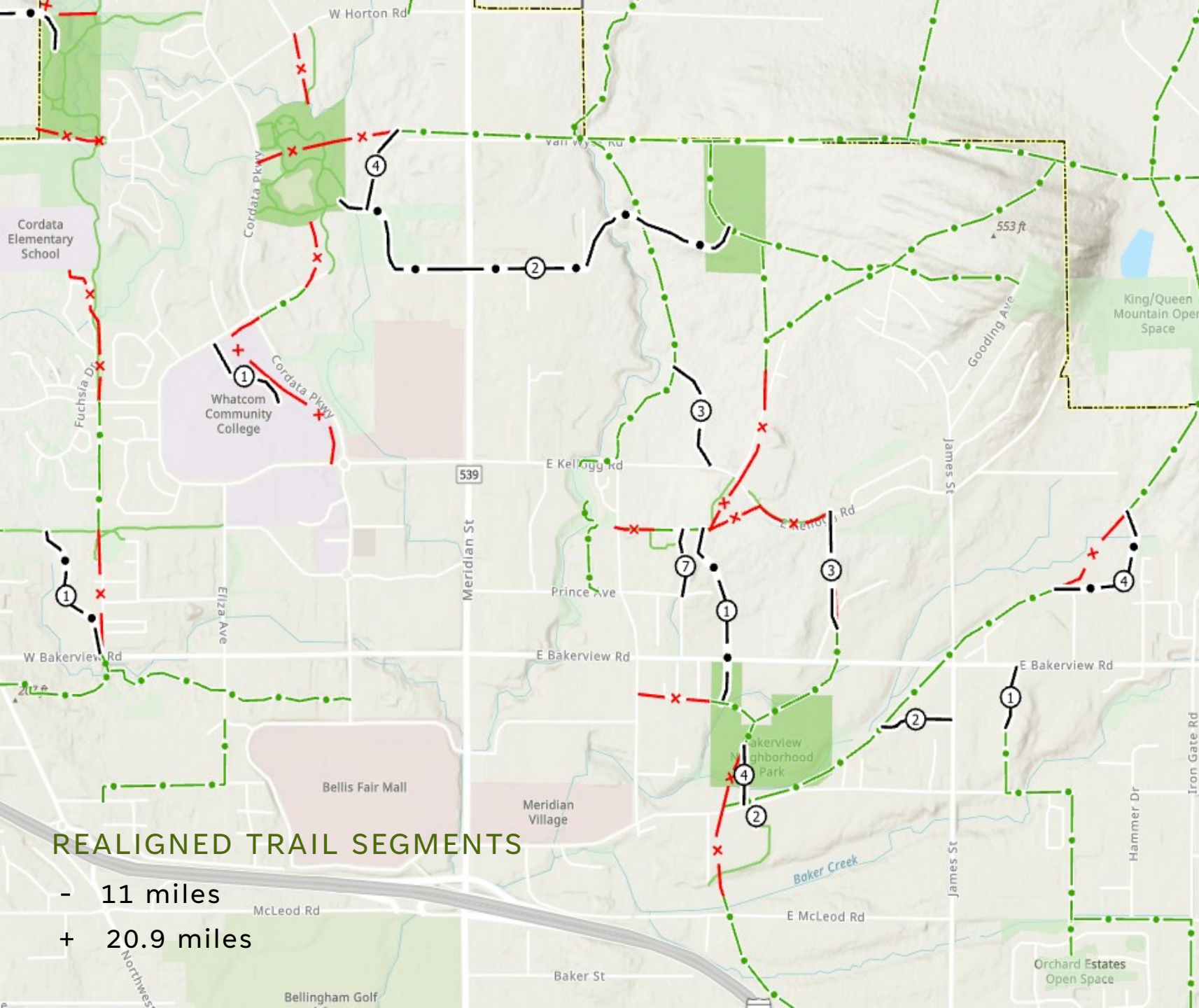
# TRAIL EDITS

## CHANGE CATEGORIES

- 1 Aligned to development plan or property acquisition
- 2 Alignment to reflect Bike or Ped Master Plan
- 3 Aligned to undeveloped property
- 4 Realigned to terrain and critical areas avoidance
- 5 Completes existing trail connection
- 6 Identified in Neighborhood Subarea Plan
- 7 Potential unopened right-of-way trail connection

## REALIGNED TRAIL SEGMENTS

- 11 miles
- + 20.9 miles



# CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN

Projects included in the Capital Facilities Plan are eligible for Park Impact Fee credit

Removes 2019 – 2020 CFP

Updates references to current Capital Facilities Plan

CFP is updated with the budget

## Appendix D-Amended 2023

Capital Facilities Plan (6 Year)

~~See the City's adopted 2019-2020 Parks and Recreation Department 6-year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) on the following pages. Expenditures for 2019-2020 were authorized after budget adoption by the City Council. Expenditures identified for years beyond 2020 are included for information and review of potential future needs. Their inclusion is not a request for approval or budget authorization.~~

The City's adopted Parks and Recreation Department six-year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) is incorporated into the City of Bellingham Biennial Budget. The CFP is a six-year rolling plan that is revised annually to reflect varying conditions. The CFP is authorized yearly through budget adoption by the City Council and establishes priorities by estimating costs, schedule, and funding sources for all facility or infrastructure-related capital projects and acquisitions.

The current Parks and Recreation Department six-year Capital Facilities Plan is found on the City's Budget page (<https://cob.org/gov/budget>) under the Capital Budget and Capital Facilities Plan Chapter of the adopted biennial budget.

## REVIEW OF AMENDMENTS

FALL  
2023

City Council Public  
Hearing

8/17

Planning Commission  
Public Hearing

8/9

PRAB Review and  
Recommendation

7/17

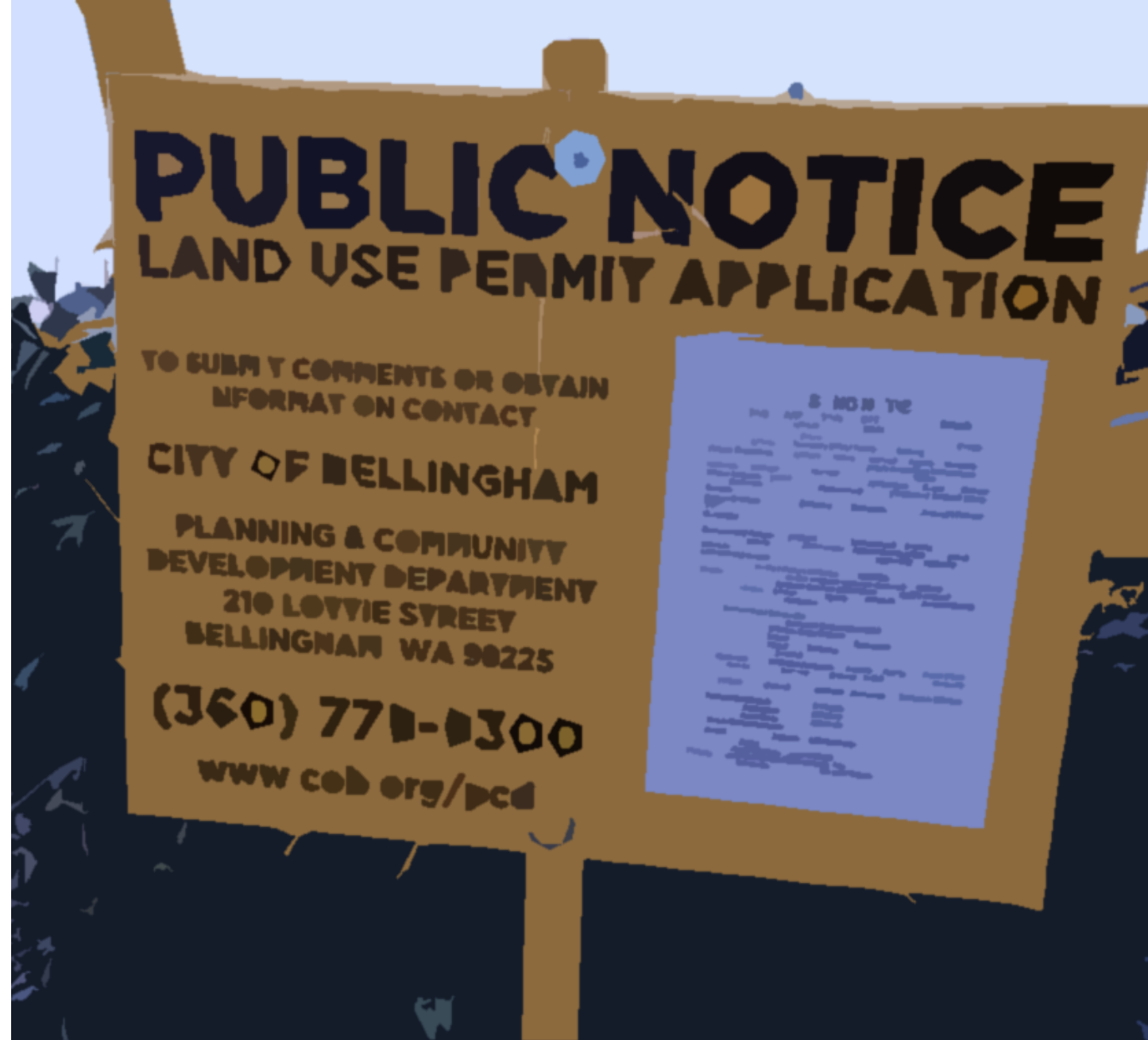
Public Notice published

JUNE

Greenways, PRAB, MNAC

4/24

City Council docketed the  
proposal





A person wearing a white knit hat and a colorful patterned poncho is walking away from the camera on a dirt path in a forest. The path is covered with fallen leaves, and the trees are tall and thin, with some bare branches visible. The lighting is soft and warm, suggesting an autumn setting.

# COMMENTS RECEIVED

## SAMISH CREST TRAILS

Update trails based on GPS trail mapping by Samish Neighborhood Association

## INCLUDE RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Unimproved ROW were added based on neighborhood plans and ROW analysis

## SHOW ROAD OVERPASSES

Critical trail connections at highways and busy roads

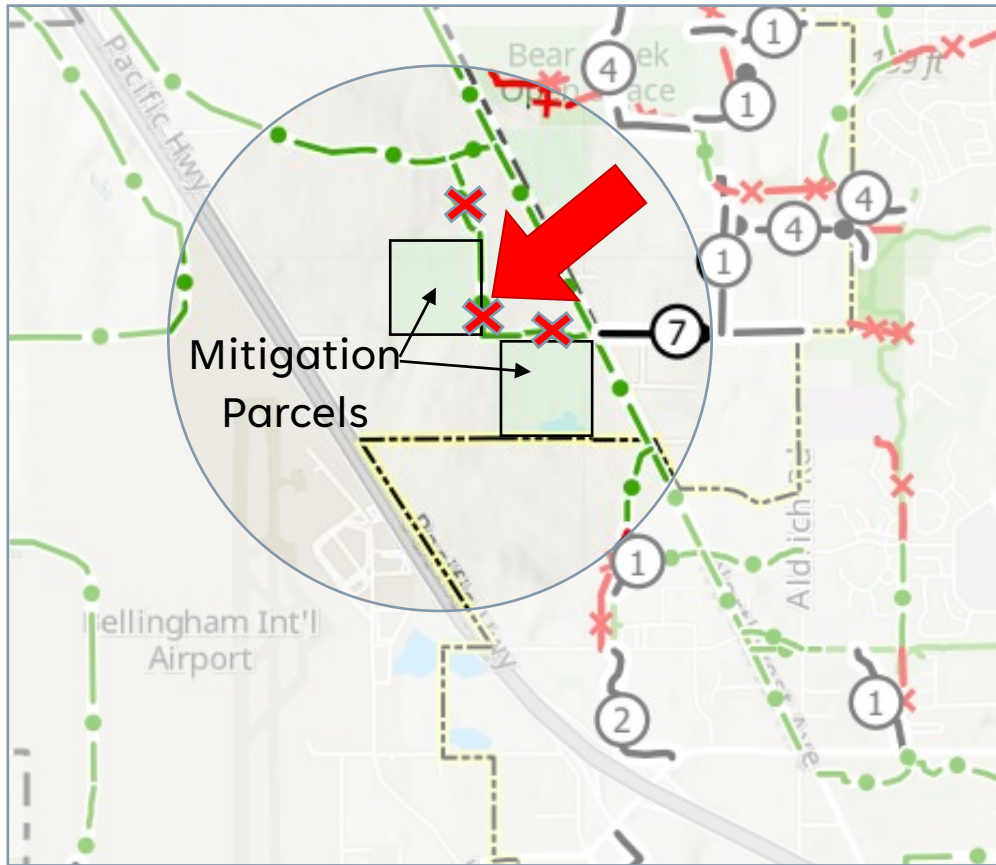
## NOTE REGIONAL TRAILS

Included note to document support for regional trails not fully shown on map

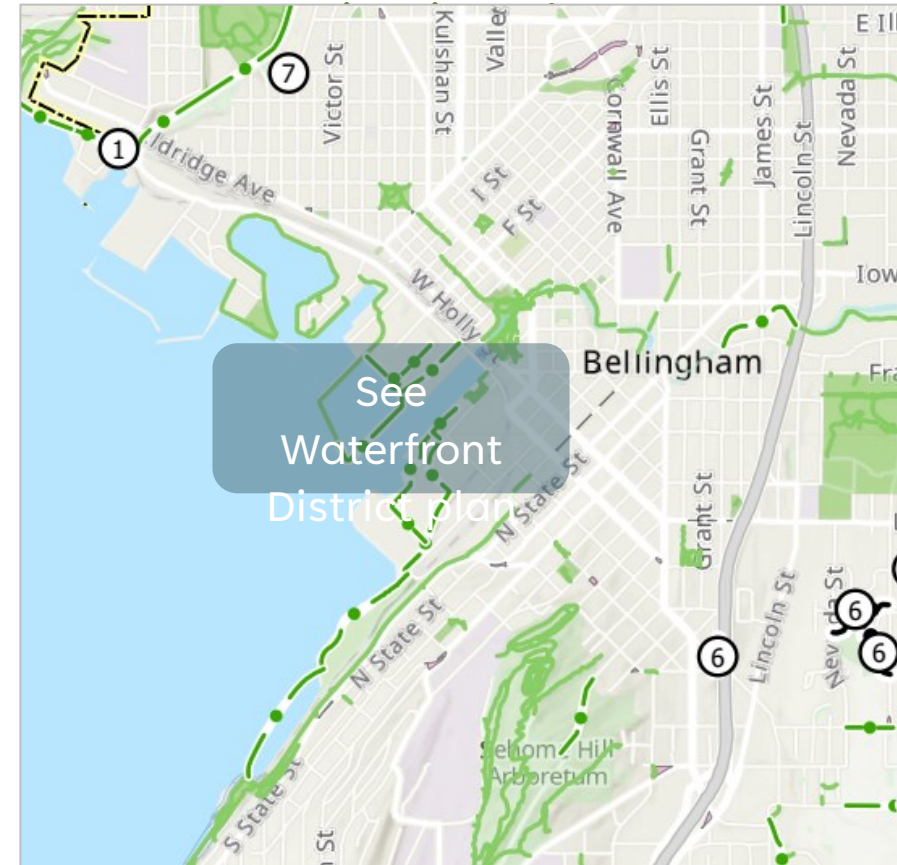
## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Changes that are not yet incorporated  
into Draft Recommended Facilities Plan  
Map

Trail Removal at Mitigation Bank



Add Reference to Waterfront





REVIEW  
CRITERIA  
(BELLINGHAM  
MUNICIPAL  
CODE  
20.20.040)

## CONSISTENT WITH GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT

Updating proposed trails and capital facilities is consistent with the Growth Management Act

## IMPLEMENTS THE PRO PLAN

This amendment implements goals and policies from the Land Use Chapter, Community Design Chapter, PRO Plan Chapter, Capital Facilities Chapter, and the Multimodal Transportation Chapter

## COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Updating the 2020 PRO Plan to include new trail corridors will ultimately contribute to the overall welfare and quality of life of the community and provide value to adjacent property owners and neighborhoods.

## NO IMPACT ON HEALTH/SAFETY

The proposed amendments to the 2020 PRO Plan will not adversely affect public health, safety, or welfare of the community



## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The proposed amendments reflect the current understanding of trail and recreational facility needs. This update is needed to keep pace with significant residential growth in Bellingham since the PRO Plan was drafted in 2019.

Staff recommends the Planning Commission forward a recommendation of approval to the City Council with the map edits presented.





PUBLIC  
HEARING

Parks & Recreation

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