



PROS Plan Open House

Agenda:

- What is the PROS Plan?
- Why are we updating the Plan?
- How to stay involved?

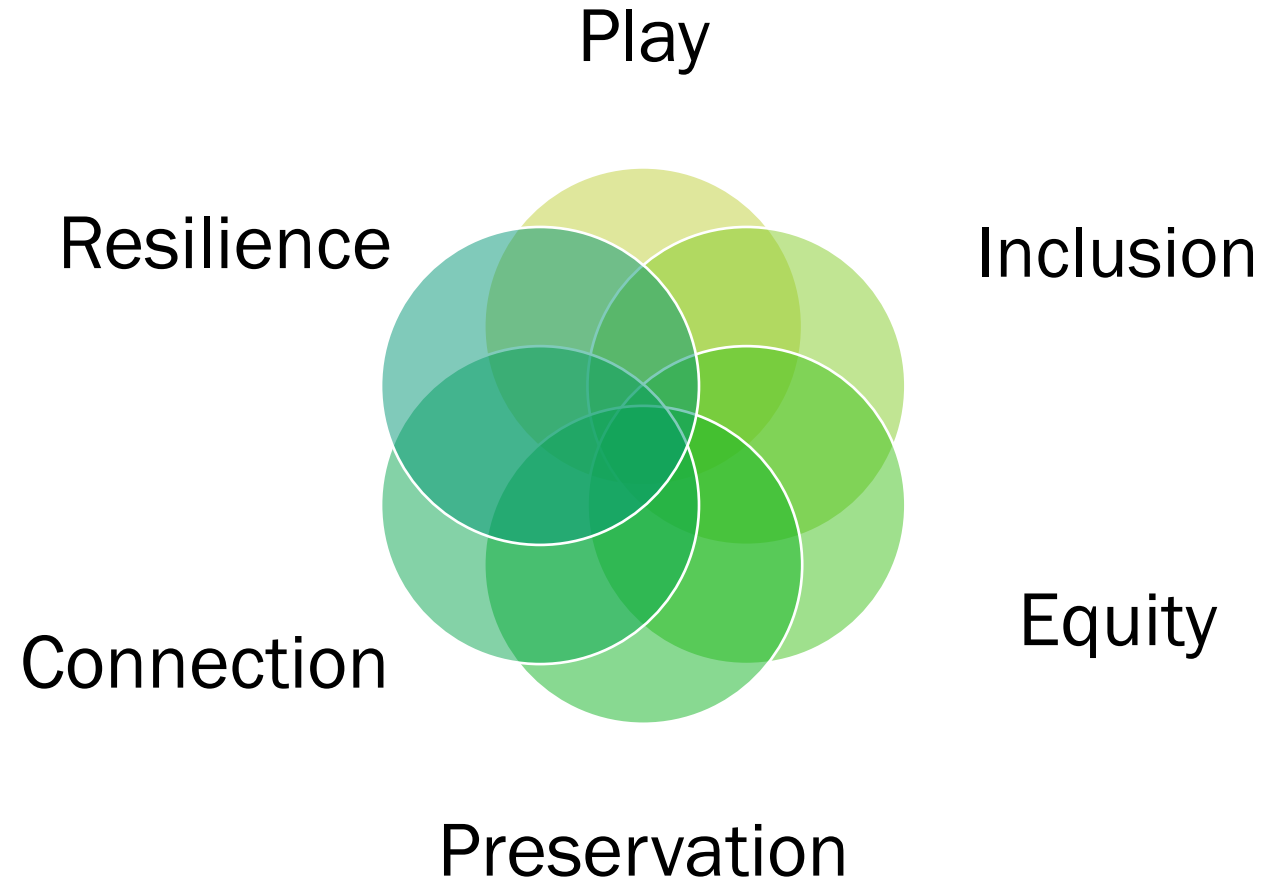
February 2025



What is the PROS Plan?

The Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan is a long-range strategic guide for improving parks, facilities, open space, trails, and recreation programs specific to the Bellingham community.

20-year plan that is updated every six years.



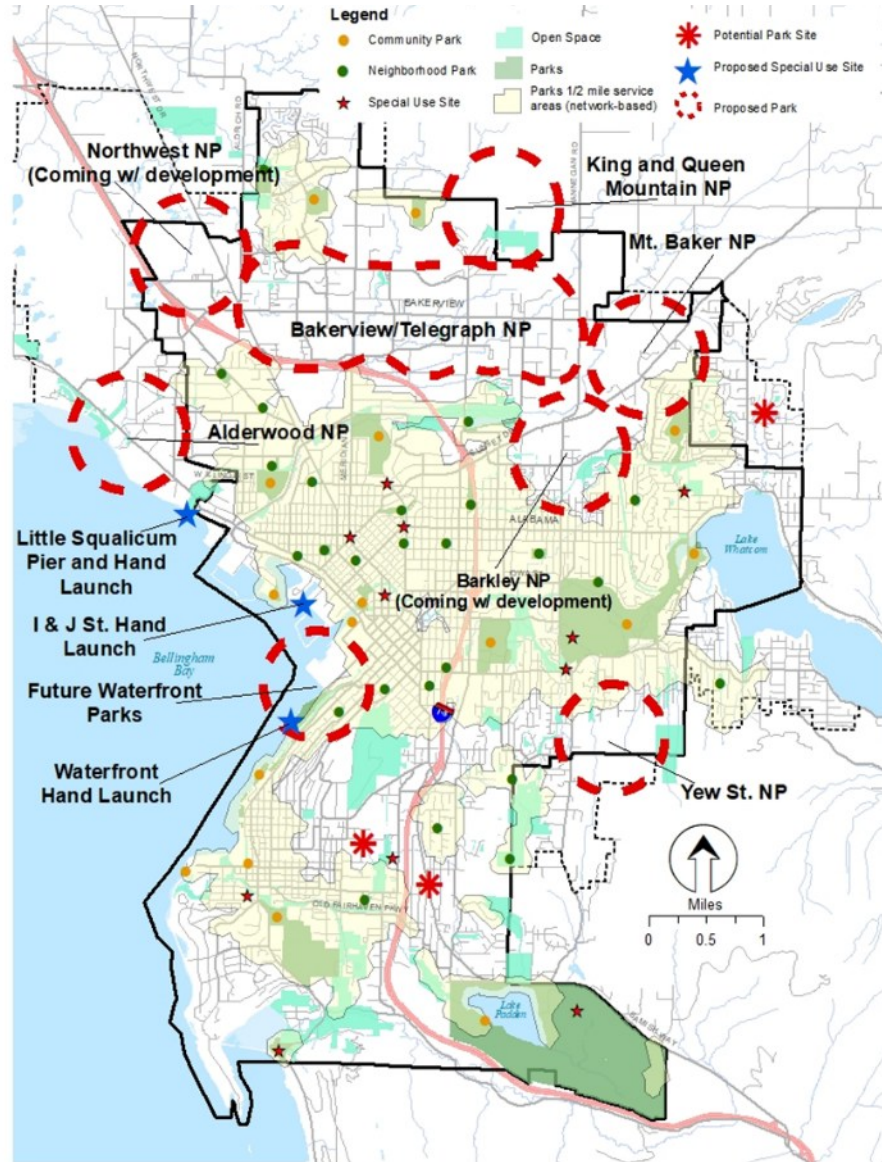
What is the PROS Plan?

Chapter of the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan

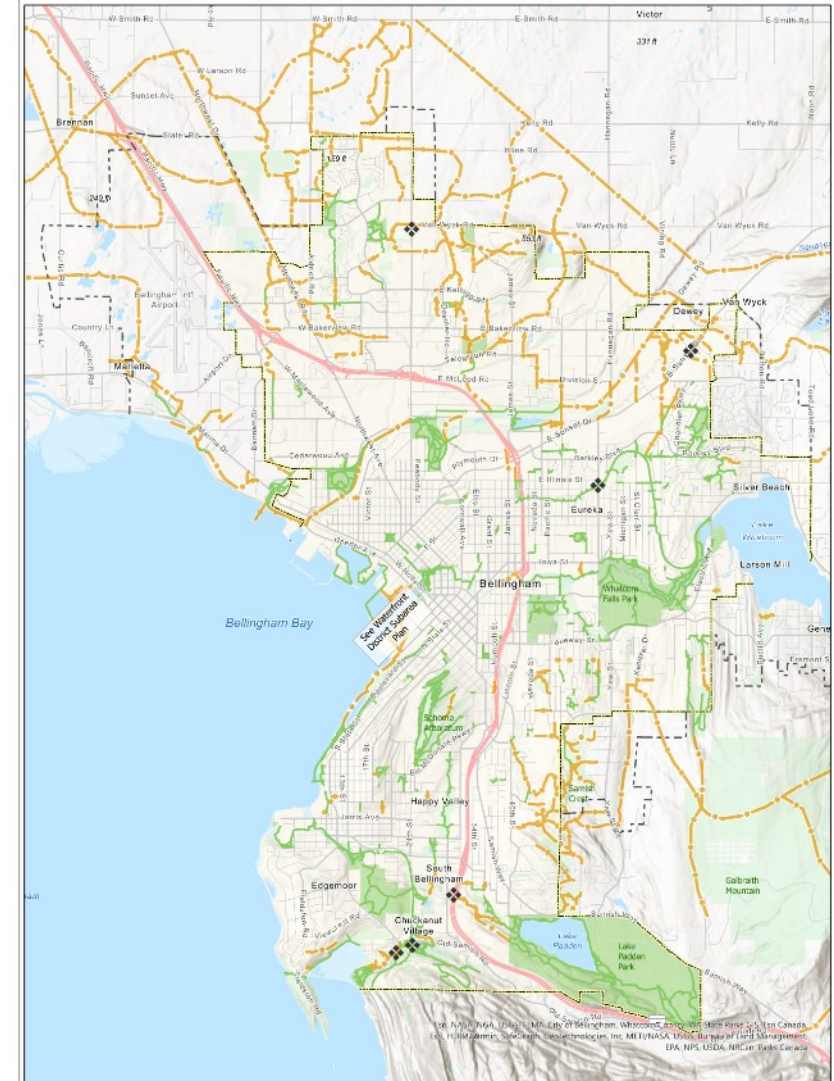
- Intro, goals & objectives
- Community setting
- Existing facilities
- Land and facility demand
- Recommendations
- Implementation
- Appendices – existing and proposed facilities, capital facilities plan, etc.



RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • PARKS AND SPECIAL USE SITES



Recommended Facilities Plan Trails



Support for regional trails not completely shown on this map include:

- Coast Millennial Trail
- Bellingham - Mt. Baker Trail
- Bay to Baker Trail

October 2023

2020 PRO Plan project recommendations

Improve parking and access at Bear Creek Open Space

Develop Julianna Park

Develop Storybrook Park

Renovate Shuksan Meadows Park

Complete Squalicum Cr Park

Acquire and renovate Little Squalicum Pier

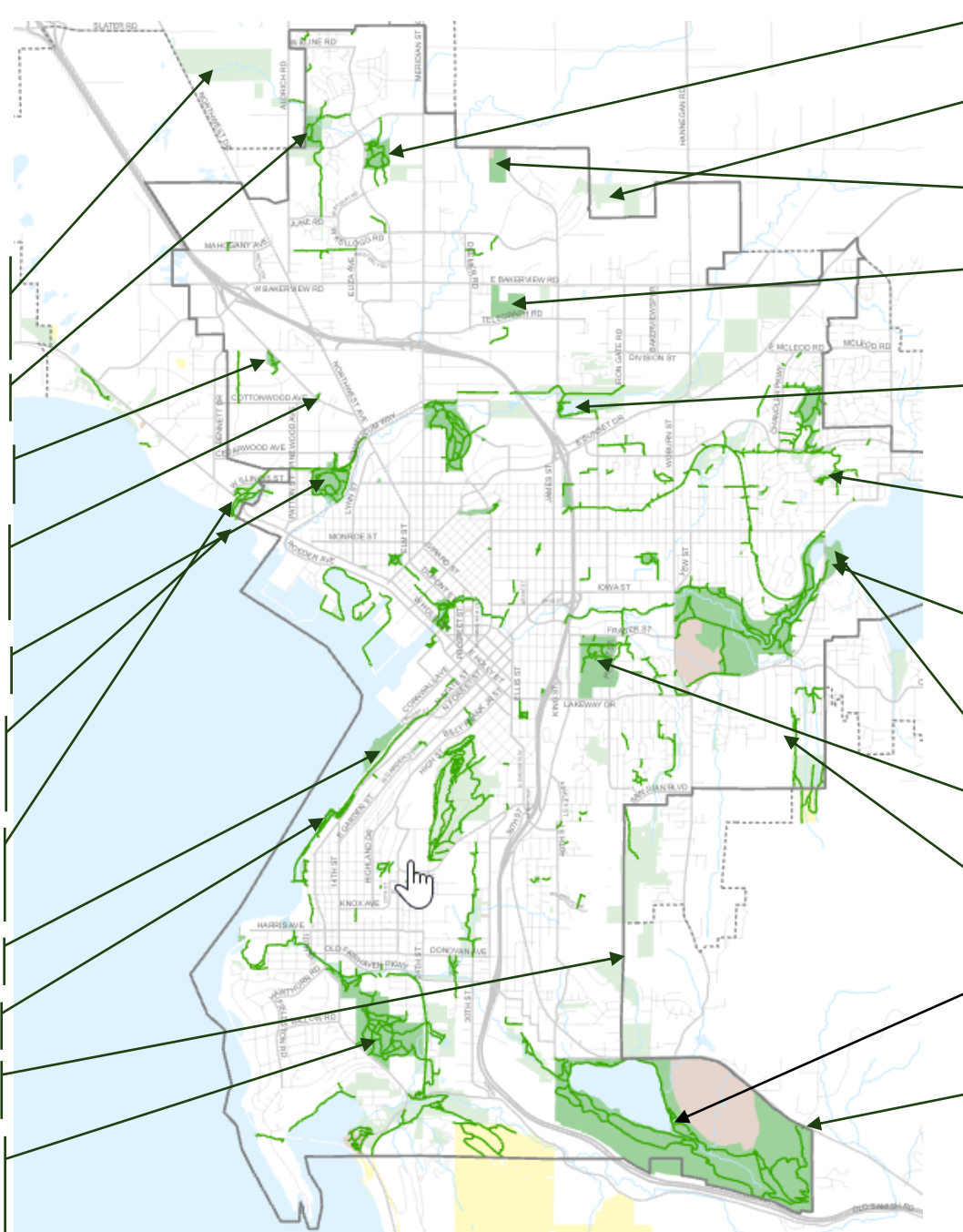
Complete Little Squalicum Estuary restoration

Develop Salish Landing

New restrooms at Blvd Park

Complete Samish Crest corridor

Complete Hundred Acre Wood master plan



Develop Cordata Park phase 2

Develop access to King & Queen Mtn Greenway

Master Plan Van Wyck Park

Acquire neighborhood park in Bakerview corridor

Additional amenities at Sunset Pond Park

Big Rock Garden fencing + irrigation

Replace roof at Bloedel Donovan community building

Collaborate on swim dock donation

Civic Athletic Complex improvements

North Galbraith trailhead parking and access

Improve drainage at Lake Padden multi-use field

Collaborate on Lake Padden Park parking lot donation

Why Update The Plan?



Derby Pond, Whatcom Falls Park
Credit: Nissa Coltran

Why: Changes Since the Last Update (2020)



Greenways 5 Levy (2023) and an updated Strategic Plan



COVID 19 – usage increase



Urban Forestry Plan



Increased operations and development costs



Waterfront Subarea Plan



Transportation and regional connections – Bike & Pedestrian Master Plans

Why: Planning for Growth

Countywide growth 2023-2045 is projected to be between about:

- 57,000 and 86,000 people
- 31,000 and 44,000 housing units
- 24,000 and 38,000 jobs

Bellingham's preliminary proposal accommodates:

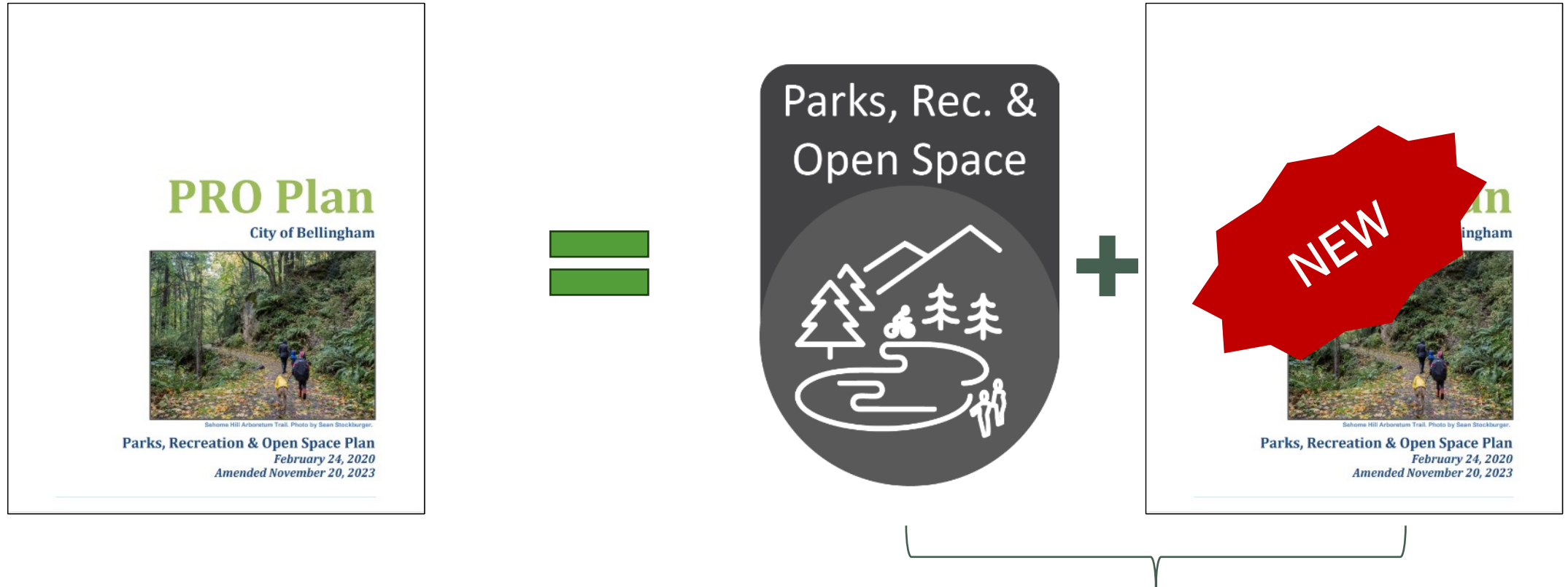
- **30,310 people** (35% to 53% of countywide)
- **18,390 housing units** (42% to 59% of countywide)
- **19,384 jobs** (51% to 80% of countywide)



Assumes annual **Bellingham** growth of about 1,378 people per year

Consistent with 2014-2024 growth of 1,334 people per year.

Why: Bellingham Plan Parks Chapter and PROS Plan



- Parks Chapter and PRO Plan: One document

- Parks Chapter: Goals and policies
- PROS Plan: Separate document, adopted by reference

How to Stay Involved?



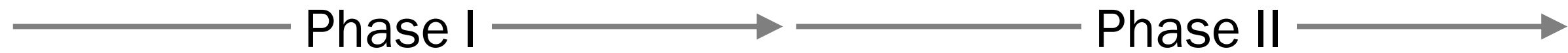
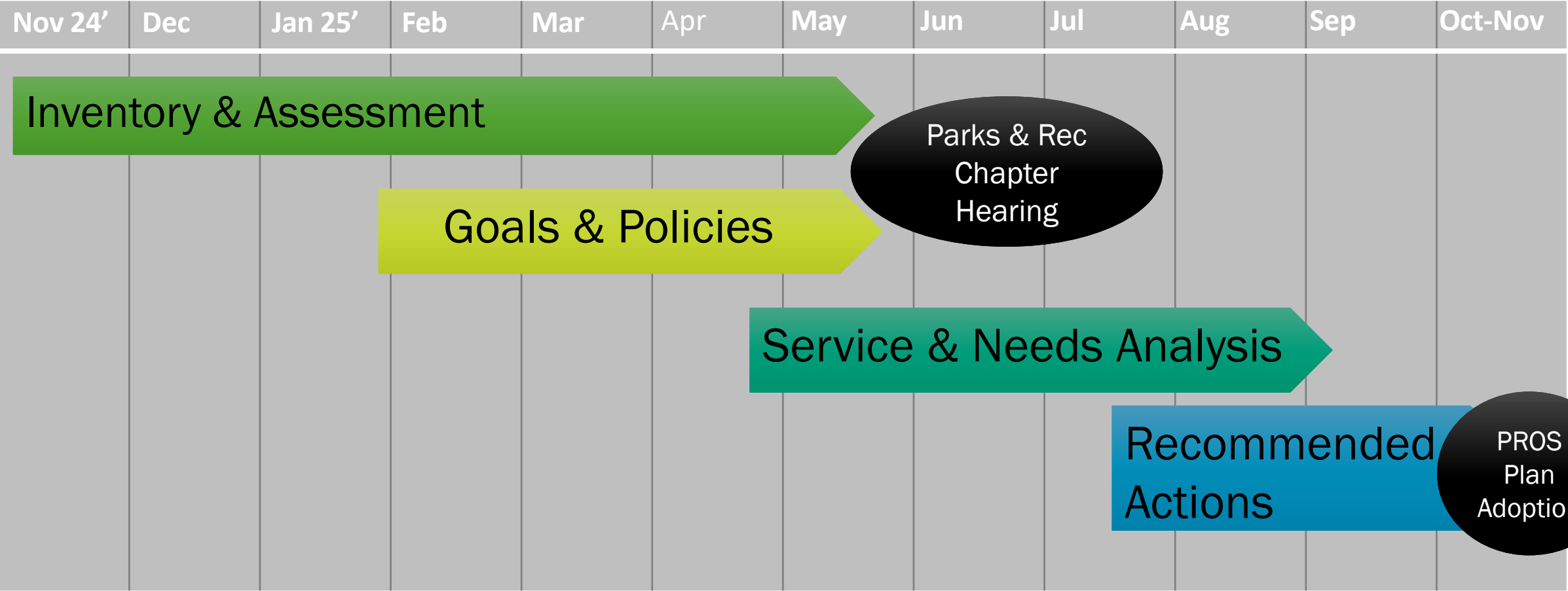
Little Squalicum Park



Public Input Opportunities

- Community Survey – Open now
- Public meetings: In-person
- Advisory Committee monthly meetings
- Virtual open house
- Community events
- Focus group listening sessions
- Hearings: City Council, Planning Commission

Plan Process and Adoption Timeline

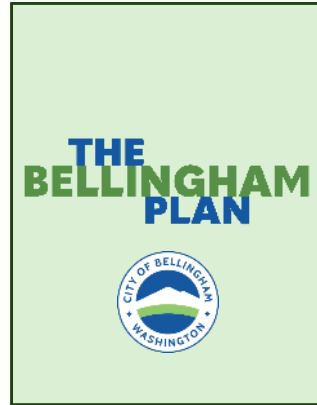


Parks Chapter Timeline (Phase I)

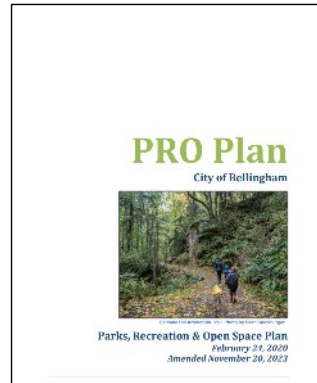


Goals and Policies

Comprehensive
Plan



Implementation
Plan



Goal: An intention or aspirational target

Ex: Connect and unify the community with trail and greenway corridors.

Policy: A broad guide on how goals are to be achieved

Ex: Provide an interconnected trail system so all residents are within a one-half mile of a safe route.



Action: Specific, measurable steps to achieve goals

Ex: Acquire and/or develop new trail connections as shown on the Proposed Trail Facility Map.

PROS Plan: Existing Goals

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

Equity and Inclusion

Provide high-quality facilities and services that are accessible, inclusive and distributed equitably across Bellingham.

Recreational Assessment

In 2020, conduct a Community Recreation Needs Assessment

Enhance and Expand

Enhance the capacity, quality and variety of use of the existing park and recreation system.

Innovation

Develop innovative programs, services and strategies for expanding recreational opportunities and improving accessibility.

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.

Connect

Connect and unify the community with trail and greenway corridors.

PROS Plan Community Survey is Open

The survey is guided by the following questions:

- What are your preferences?
- What is your level of satisfaction?
- How to improve and develop?



https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Parks_Plan

Thank you for attending.
We look forward to hearing from you!

