OPEN HOUSE AGENDA

- Introduction: What is the PRO Plan?
- Overview of public outreach and key elements
  - Highlights of display materials
  - Next steps
Project Steps

• Public Outreach
  – 3 workshops for staff and public
  – Parks & Rec Board and Greenways Advisory Committee work-sessions
  – 2 field trips
  – Community survey (2,463 responses)

• Parks Enhancement Prioritization Tool presented to City Council

• GIS-based Park Inventory

• Initial drafts published online
New Principles

- Protective
- Connected
- Playful
- Equitable
- Sustainable
- Inclusive
Updated Goals and Objectives

• Citiworks Asset Management:
  – Create maintenance standards
  – Prioritize upgrades using PEP Tool for equity
  – Renovate and expand existing facilities (pickleball, skating)

• Community Recreation Needs Assessment

• Year-round staffing

• Explore enforcement options

• Climate Resiliency

• Long-term financial sustainability
Parks Enhancement Prioritization Tool (PEP Tool)

Goal: Prioritize capital improvements based on safety, condition, socio-economic factors and population served.

Score includes:

• Population within ½ mile
• % Multi-family housing
• Income
Q1: Do you live in the City of Bellingham?

84% Yes
15% No
0.49% Don't know
Q2: What is your age

- 18 and under: 0.4%
- 19-25: 6%
- 26-39: 31%
- 40-55: 33%
- 55 and older: 30%
Q3: In the past month, how many times have you visited a park, trail or other park facility in Bellingham?

- Daily: 27%
- At least once a week: 57%
- At least once a month: 14%
- Never: 2%
Q4: For each of the following Park budget priorities, rate their importance to you

Public Input on Park Budget Priorities

- Building new parks and facilities
- Maintaining and improving existing parks, trails and facilities
- Building new trails
- Protecting open space and habitat
- Offering recreational programming (races, swim lessons, concerts, etc.)

[Bar chart showing public input ratings for each priority]
Q5: On a scale of 1-3, how satisfied are you with Bellingham’s overall park system?

- 4% unsatisfied
- 49% satisfied
- 47% very satisfied
Q6: Which of the following features have you used in a City-managed park, trail or open space in the last year?
Q7: Which features do we need more of in Bellingham’s parks, trails and open spaces?
Q9: Which of the following City-sponsored programs do we need more of in Bellingham?
Open Comments

- **Trails/Trailhead (1432)** – more, connectivity, decrease social trails, garbage cans
- **Bikes (494)** – separate mountain bikes from hiking, speed limits, more trails, bike racks, pro/con for e-bikes on trails
- **Safety (425)** – concerns re homelessness, safe bike trails, pedestrian safety
- **Dogs (362)** – More poop bags, trash cans, pro/con off-leash areas
- **Pool (325)** – Need larger pool with more swim lanes
Open Comments

- **Signage (240)** – Educational signs, way-finding, speed limits
- **Programs (241)** – What programs are available? More bike events, concerts and volunteer programs
- **Restrooms (239)** – Add them to neighborhood parks, year-round access, maintenance
- **Pickleball (184)** – New courts, convert existing courts like Cornwall, covered and lit for year-round play
- **Galbraith (140)** – Way-finding, parking, restrooms
Maintenance Priorities

- Safety: 28%
- Trails: 23%
- Preventative Maintenance: 12%
- Invasive Species: 5%
- Lighting: 4%
- Tree Management: 7%
- Restrooms: 5%
- Signage: 5%
- Playgrounds: 11%
Display Stations

- Principles, Goals and Objectives
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use sites
- Open Space
- Trails

Leave your comments!!!
Next Steps

• Finalize inventory
• Review comments and present final draft in October
• Planning Commission November
• City Council January
• Approval to State RCO due March 1, 2020
Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan Update

Nicole Oliver, Parks Development Manager
Public Open House, September 19, 2019