

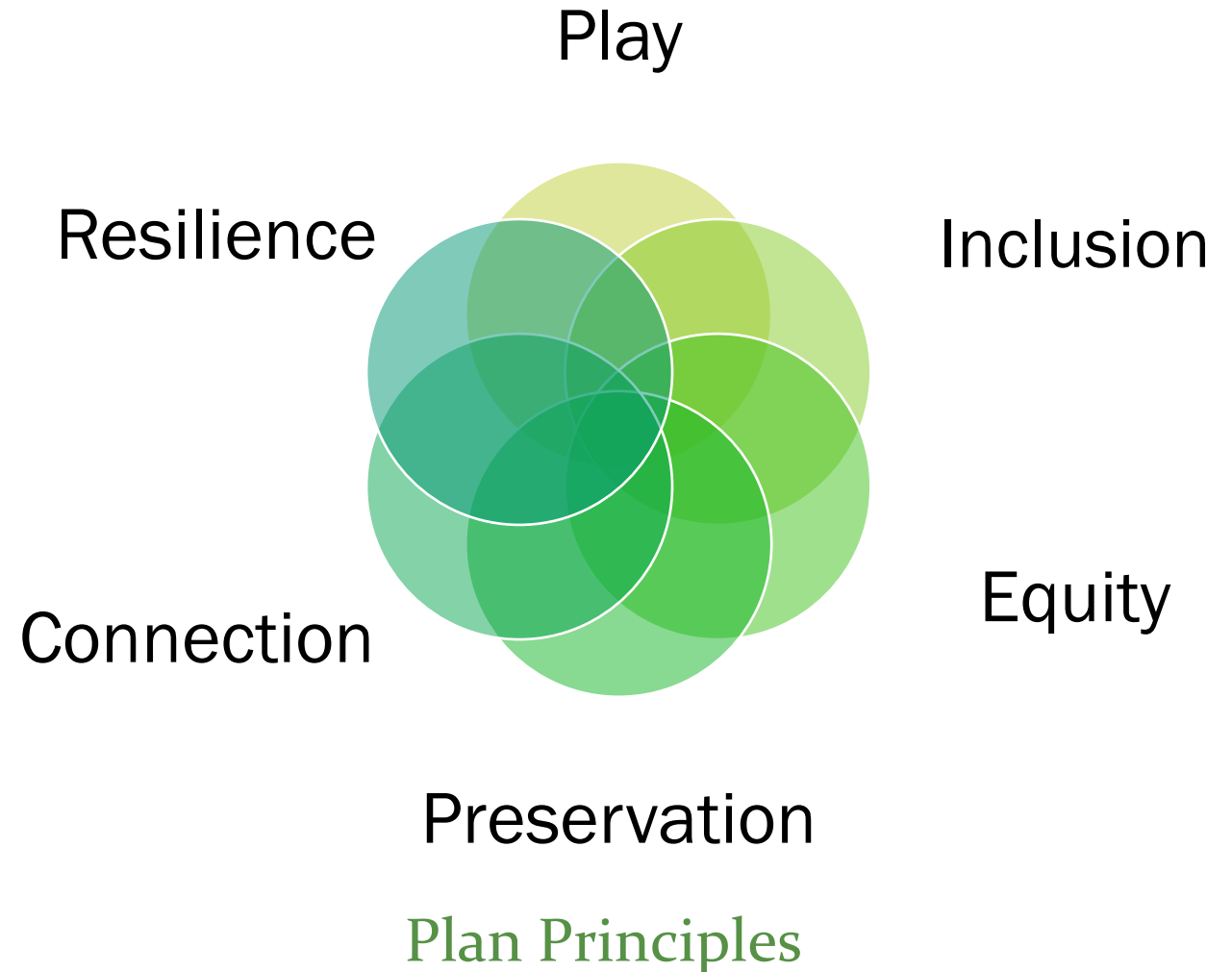
Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan 2026 Update

City Council Parks & Recreation Committee
February 10, 2025



What is the PROS Plan?

The Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan is a 6-year guide for improving parks, open space, trails, and recreation programs specific to the Bellingham community.



What is the PROS Plan?

1. Growth Management (GMA) Element – Park's Chapter

2. Functional Plan – PROS Plan

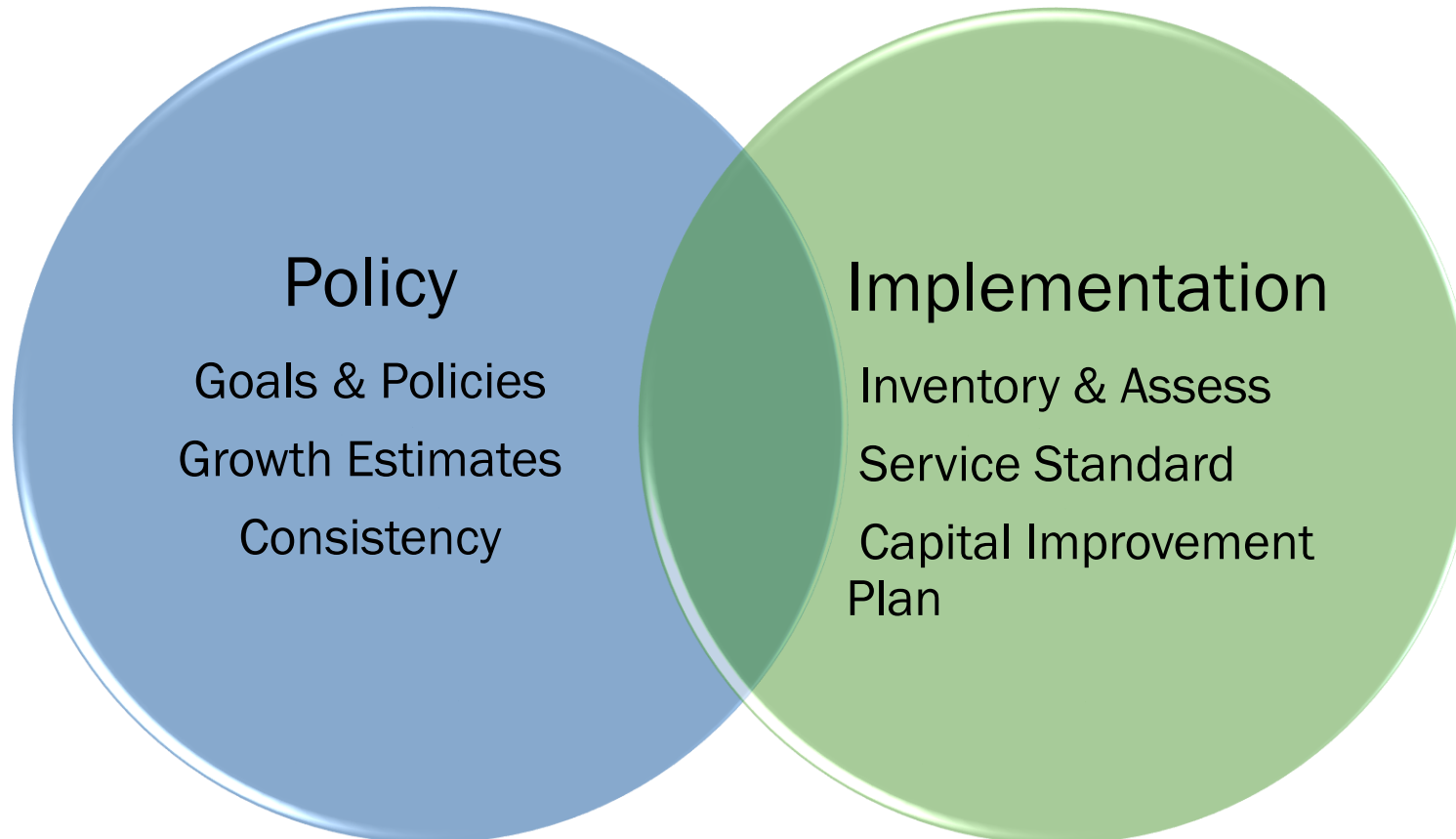
- Development Guide
- Communications Tool
- Funding



Two Integrated Parts

Bellingham Plan

PROS Plan



Required Elements

WA State
Recreation &
Conservation
Office

Growth
Management
Act



Why Update Now?

- WA State Recreation & Conservation Office Grant Funding
 - Required update every six years – last update February 2020
 - Current funding – E Bakerview Park, Boulevard Shoreline Enhancements, Sunset Pond trail loop
- Bellingham Plan Integration
 - Timeline is synchronized
 - Consistency in policies
 - Efficiency in process

Changes Since Last Update (2020)



Greenways 5 Levy (2023) and an updated Strategic Plan



COVID 19 – usage increase



Urban Forestry Plan



Increased operations and development costs



Better data and tracking



Waterfront Subarea Plan

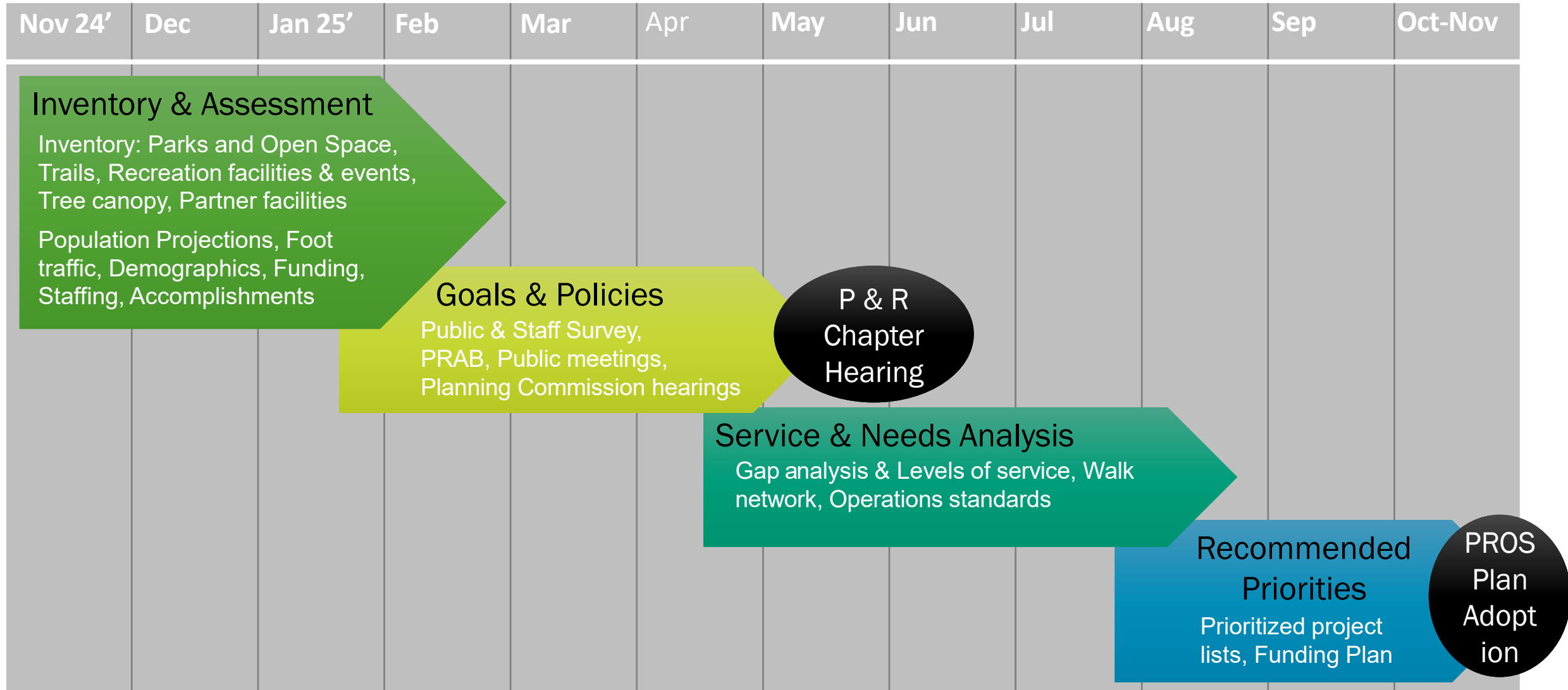


Bellingham has grown and urbanized



Transportation and regional connections – Bike & Pedestrian Master Plans

Update Process Timeline



Public Input and Engagement

- Community Survey – Open Now
- Virtual Open House
- Public Meetings: In-person/virtual
- PRAB & GAC monthly meetings
- MNAC, Neighborhood Associations
- Interest Group Meetings: WMBC, WRA, RecreationNW, Vamos, Mountaineers, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, AIROW Project, etc.
- Hearings: City Council; Planning Commission

Public Outreach and Legislative Review (Phase I & II)

Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Public Survey											Revisions	
PRAB & GAC												
Public Meetings		*		*			*	*				
Stakeholder Events				●	●		●					
Online Outreach												
Planning Commission					*		*					
City Council		*		*				*				*

Community Survey is Open

The survey is guided by the following questions:

- What is your experience and preferences.
- What are our strengths?
- And what are key areas for improvement?
- How do we meet community needs now and into the future?



Community Engagement

- What do you want to learn from the community?
- What sort of feedback would be most helpful in guiding future investments or priorities?
- Are there any hot topics or hot button issues to be aware of?



More to Come

