

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Open House

- Browse the presentation boards
- Participate in the interactive boards
- Talk to a planner
- Grab some food and drink

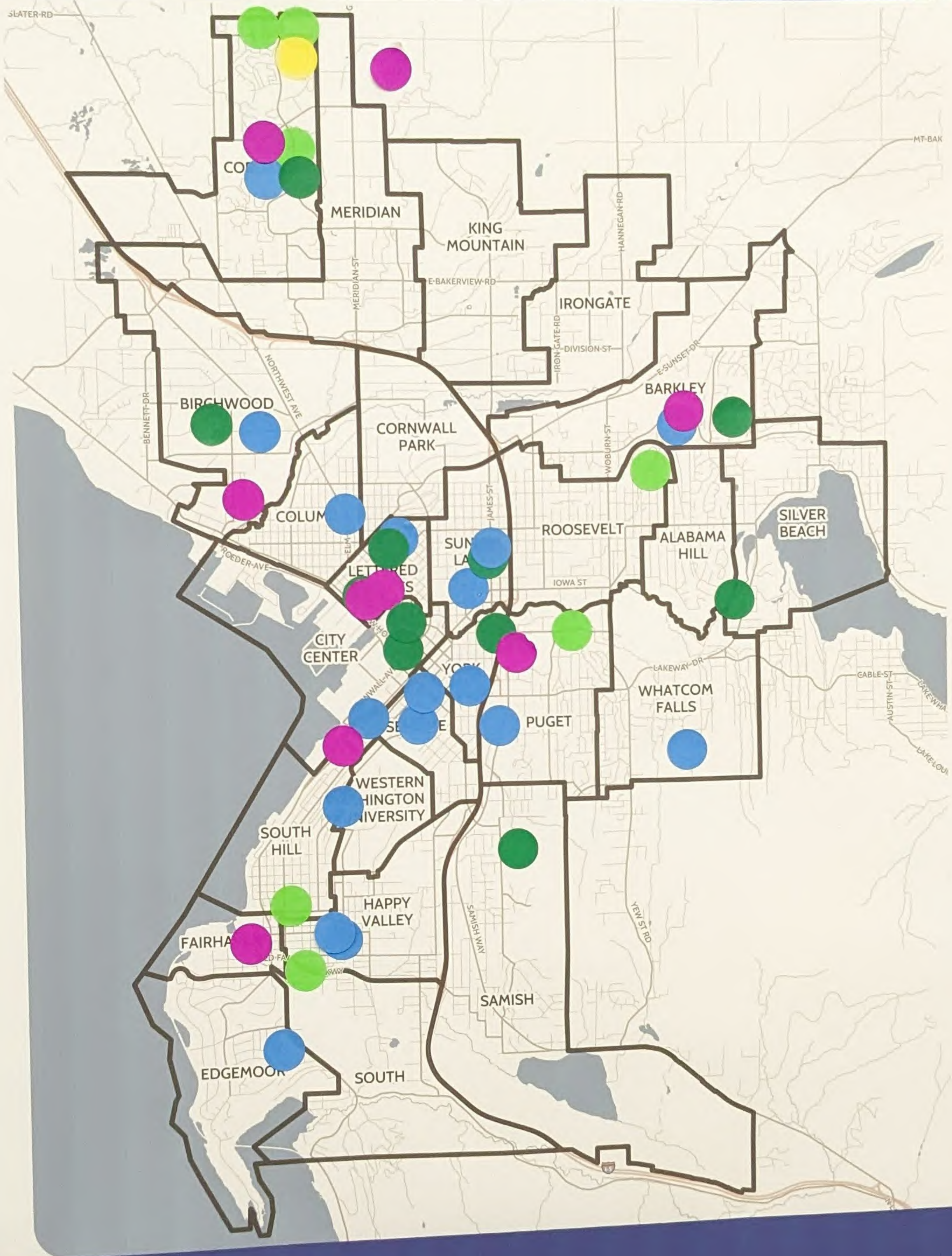
6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Round Table Discussions

At 6 p.m., we will break out into groups to participate in discussions centered around Vibrant, Equitable, and Welcoming Community Planning. There will be three 20-minute discussions, so you will get to discuss each topic in turn.



WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Put a dot in your neighborhood to let us know who we are reaching.



I don't live in Bellingham but I...

Work in Bellingham

Visit Bellingham

UPCOMING EVENTS

In 2024

APRIL Housing Affordability

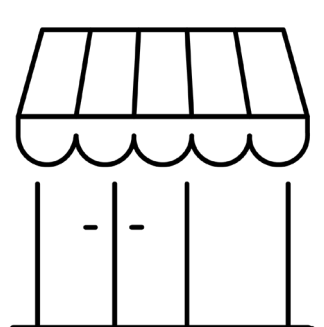
16



Housing affordability was the top issue identified by the community at the start of the Bellingham Plan project. This session will explore where gaps in the housing spectrum exist today and how local government can address those gaps with new housing types, programs, and approaches. The later Housing Types & Neighborhoods session will continue to expand on this topic.

MAY Economic Vitality

15



The Bellingham Plan includes strategies to support a strong and diverse local economy. This session will focus on how remote work, new technology, new businesses and other factors are changing the economic landscape, including the types of jobs and wages available here, and how Bellingham can adapt to maintain a resilient and sustainable workforce.

JUNE Housing types and Neighborhoods

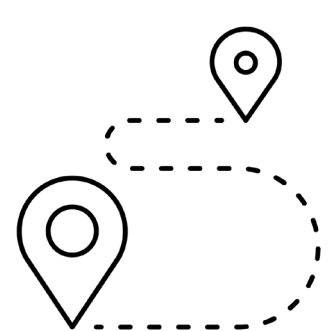
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The Bellingham Plan prioritizes housing for everyone in our community. To support these needs and new state requirements, our housing regulations must adapt and change. This session will delve into what design considerations are most important as we plan for new housing types across all of our unique neighborhoods.

JULY How We Grow

17



Some of the best things about Bellingham are the result of intentional choices made by our community in the past. As we update the Bellingham Plan, we must choose how to balance immediate concerns, such as public safety and housing affordability with long-term goals like developing regional transportation options and adapting to climate change. This session will focus on how themes from previous discussions relate and connect with each other in an overall growth strategy for 2045.



**Did you miss an event?
Scan the QR code at the left to see
information and activities from past events.**

Register for these events →

To learn more visit cob.org/bellinghamplan



PROJECT SCHEDULE

And engagement plan.

2023

2024

2025

July launch

Q2 Adoption

1 Vision & Foundation

We are here

2 Growth Approach

3 Draft Review

4 Legislative Process

Project awareness +
relationship building

Broad engagement:
visioning + values

Listening sessions

Identification of conflicting issues

Focused engagement on identified
issues

Round table discussions

Growth approach comparison

Review of draft
language

Public open houses

Board and
commission feedback

Public comment

Planning Commission
recomendation

City Council adoption



Phase 1
Summary
Report



Bellingham Plan Open House event at Options High School, September 2023

PROJECT SCOPE

Updates to the plan will focus on changes that...

Build upon what is valued today

- » Outdoor recreation and opportunities to explore nature
- » Convenient access to friends and family, a variety of activities, services, and more
- » Small and local businesses
- » Vibrant and unique places
- » Mitigation of climate change contributions/GHG emissions
- » Connections to Bellingham's full range of historic periods

Respond to changed conditions

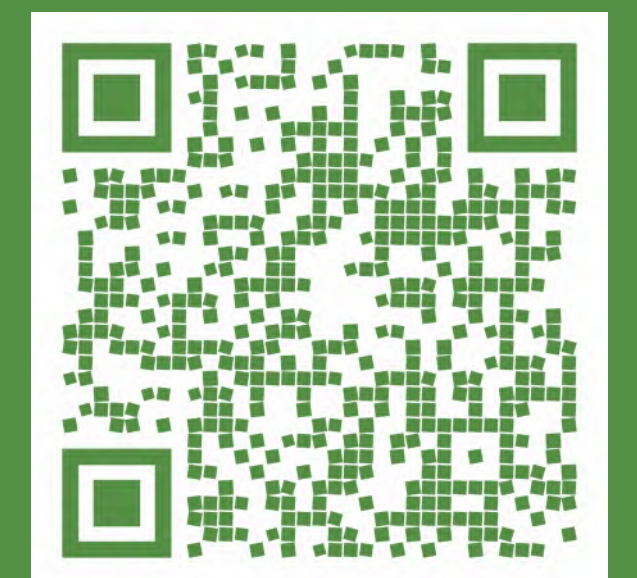
- » Expanded capacity for housing and jobs to meet expected 20-year growth
- » Planning for increased telework to jobs based both in Bellingham and elsewhere
- » Housing affordable to all income bands (HB 1220), especially those aligned with local employment
- » Integrated and comprehensive approach to address gaps in housing and human services
- » Approaches to assist vulnerable populations struggling with mental health and addiction issues
- » Opportunities to connect as a community
- » Climate resilience and adaptation (HB 1181)
- » A range of housing types to support current and future residents' housing needs, including a diversification of middle scale housing with larger units (HB 1110, HB 1337)
- » Land use investment in planned transit network improvements
- » Potential annexation and/or changes to the UGA boundary

Aspire to a brighter future

- » A safe and welcoming environment
- » A diverse community
- » A healthy community, physically and mentally
- » Economic vitality, business diversification, and living-wage jobs
- » An active community that is informed and engaged on a range of city issues
- » Gathering places of varied types and sizes across the city
- » Equitable community planning decisions and impacts

Increase access to the plan

- » Increase legibility of the plan by simplifying documents and improving usability
- » Links between related topics
- » Online interaction in addition to traditional printable format



Watch this short video for more project information!



GROWTH MANAGEMENT

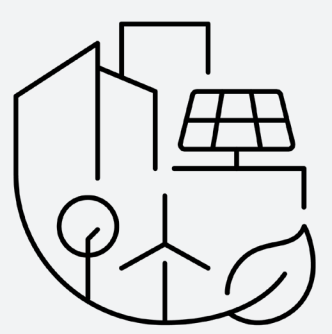
We plan for growth because...

1. People are going to move here.
2. People and jobs are shifting to urban areas all over the world.
3. Bellingham is particularly appealing to many.

When we plan for this growth intentionally:



Natural lands outside the city are protected from increased development, and the required infrastructure and transportation impacts are more efficiently located within the city.



Infrastructure such as transportation and utilities can be designed for that growth rather than overloaded by unplanned sprawl.



Real estate prices are stabilized rather than heightened by increased demand on the existing supply. Displacement of existing residents is limited.



Public benefits like open space or affordable housing can be included.

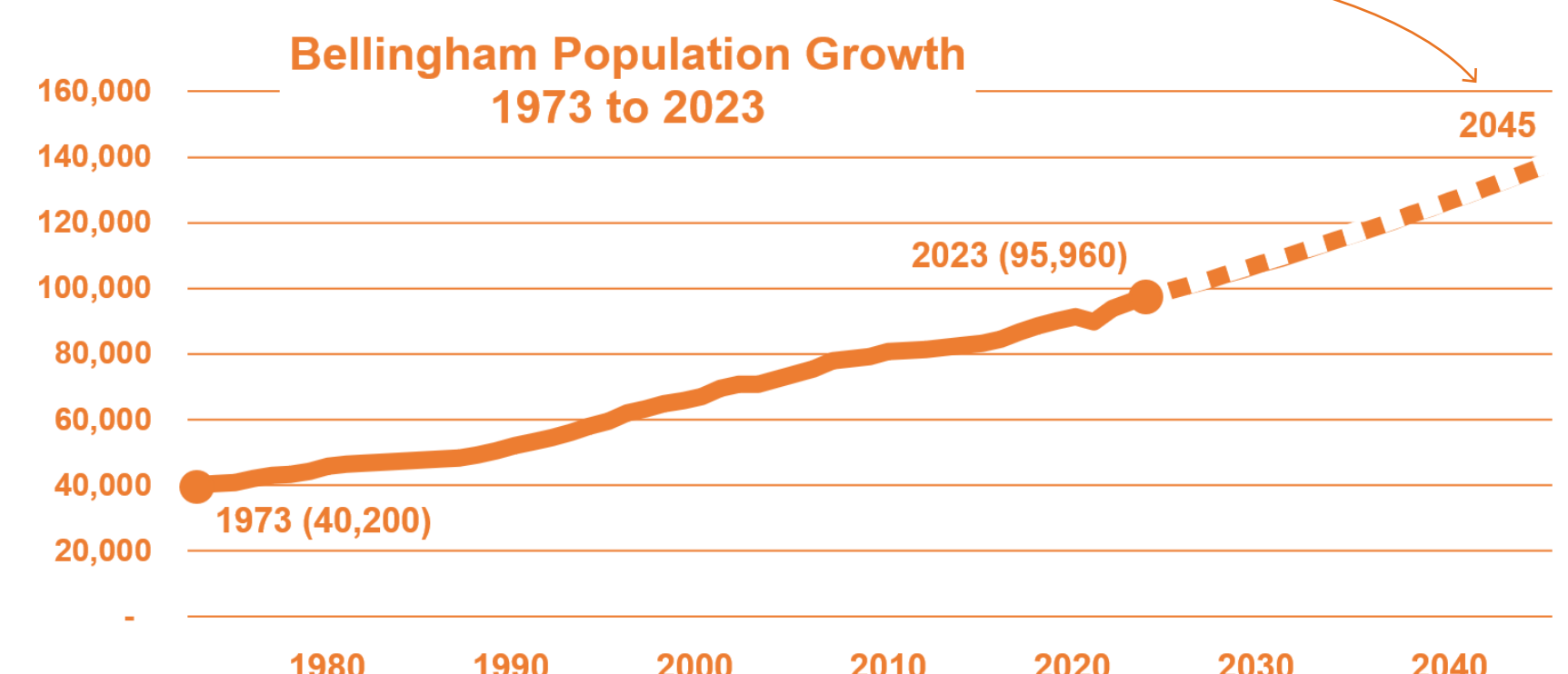
*Let's plan together
to create a vision
for Bellingham's
future*

Therefore, the State requires growth management.

The process includes several steps to guide planning decisions.

- 1 The State (OFM) continually projects population growth over the next 30 years.
- 2 The State distributes the 20-year growth forecast to each county. Whatcom's 2045 forecast is 292,714 people, a similar but slightly increased rate of growth to that seen in the last 20 years.
- 3 The cities within Whatcom County collaborate to distribute this anticipated growth between jurisdictions.
- 4 The Bellingham Plan update will plan for Bellingham's allocated 20-year growth projection.

*This represents
Whatcom's growth
extrapolated to
Bellingham.*



STATE LEGISLATION

Affecting housing affordability and supply.

House Bill 1220

Passed by Washington Legislature in 2021

Amended the GMA to instruct local governments to “plan for **and accommodate**” housing affordable to all income levels.

Changes to local housing elements include planning for sufficient land capacity for housing needs, including all economic segments of the population:

Extremely Low	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Upper
0% - 30%	30% - 50%	50% - 80%	80% - 100%	100 - 120%
Percent of Area Median Income (AMI)*				
<small>* Income categories defined by Commerce utilize Median Family Income</small>				

Planning for moderate density housing options, including but not limited to ADUs, duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, and multi-plex (middle-scale housing).



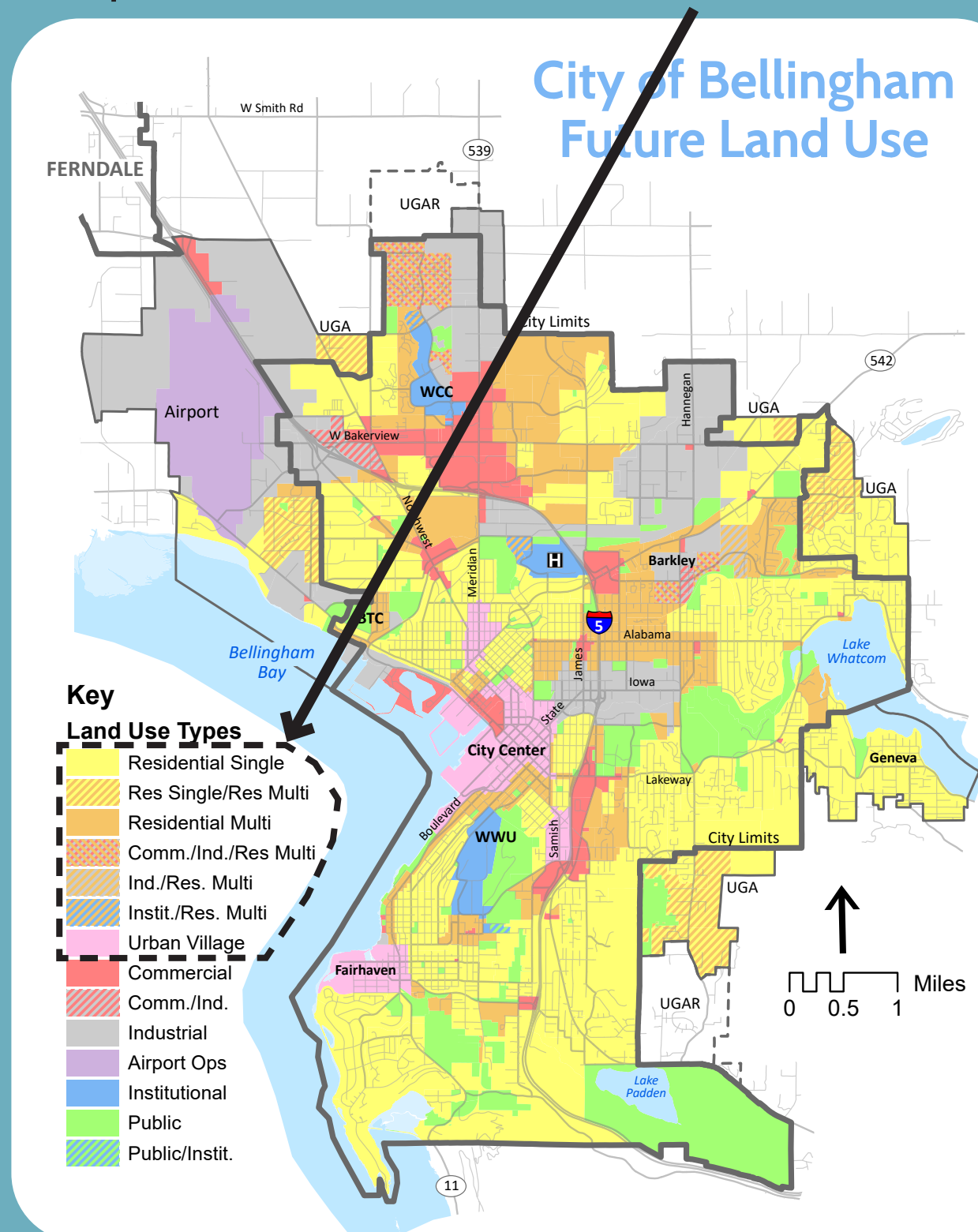
House Bill 1110

Passed by Washington Legislature in 2023

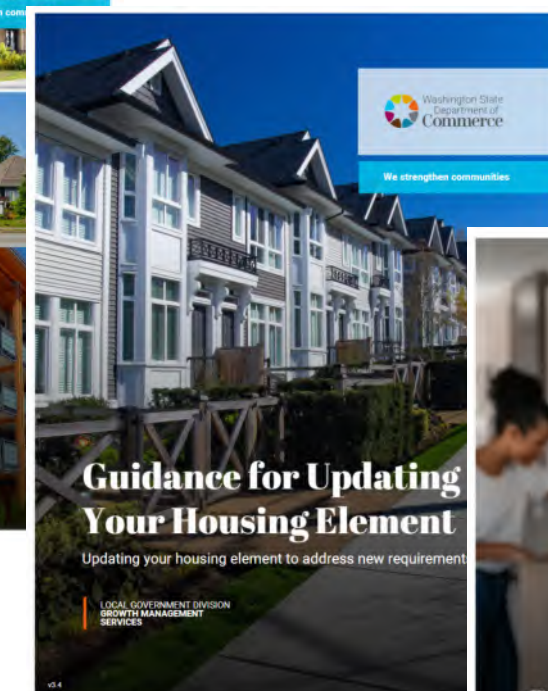
Legalizes middle housing forms in residential neighborhoods.

This bill requires jurisdictions of Bellingham’s size to allow a variety of middle-scale housing types up to four units per lot in all residential zones. Six units per lot must be allowed in some areas, depending on proximity to transit and affordability of the units. Additionally, regulations for these housing forms may not require standards that are more restrictive than those required for detached single-family housing.

Middle housing forms up to 4 or 6 units per lot must be allowed in these areas.



Planning for emergency housing and permanent supportive housing



The WA State Department of Commerce provides guidance to help jurisdictions:

- Establish income-based housing targets.
- Evaluate and update policies and regulations to remove barriers to housing production.
- Ensure adequate capacity and opportunity exist to meet housing needs.
- Identify and address racially disparate impacts like exclusionary zoning that favors single-family detached housing over other housing types.

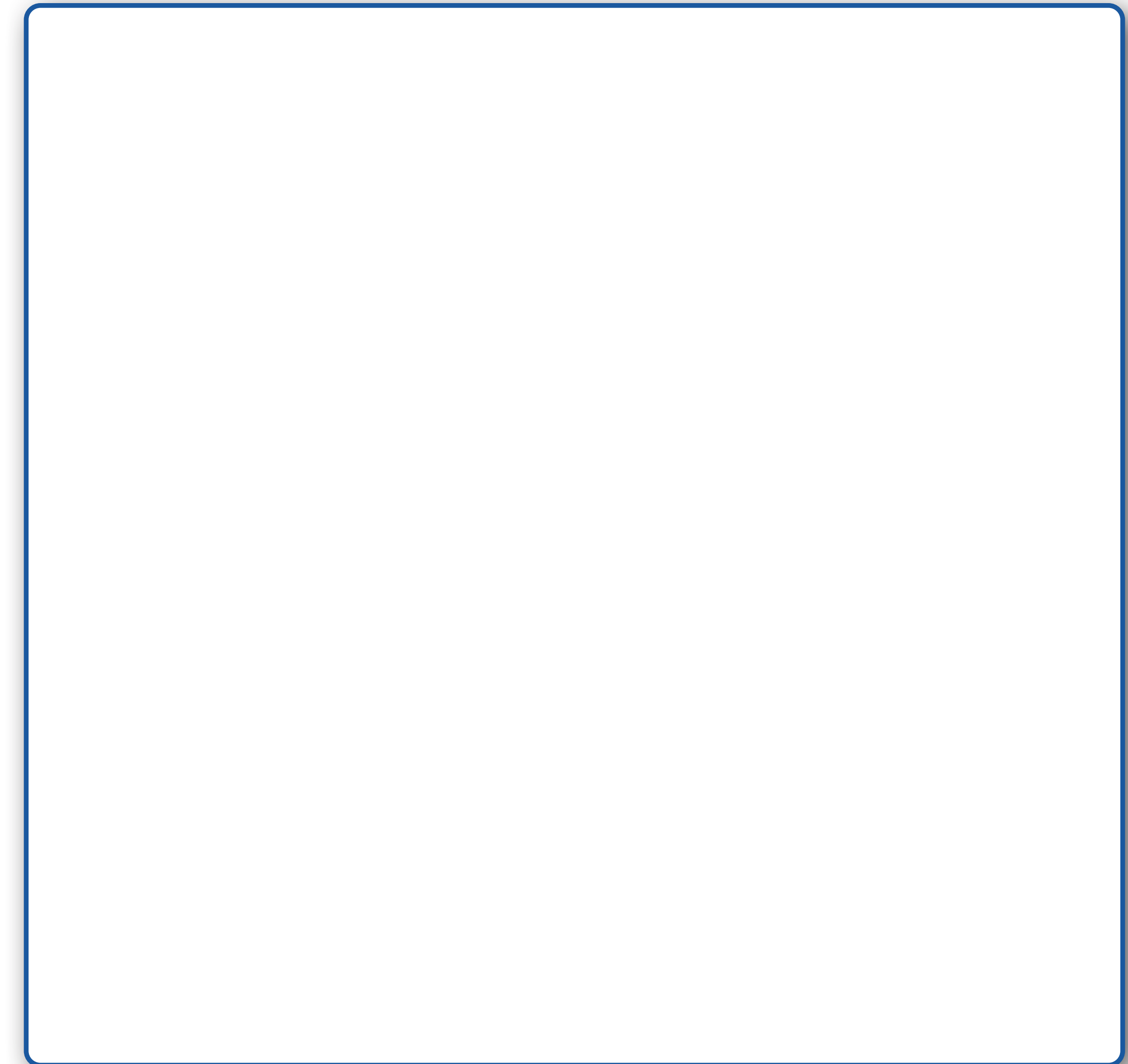
For a full list of recently passed legislation affecting housing supply, stability and subsidies, scan the QR code at right.



PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER...

But we are ALL Bellingham!

Place a dot on the map below or use a sticky note for outside the USA to let us know where you lived before Bellingham.



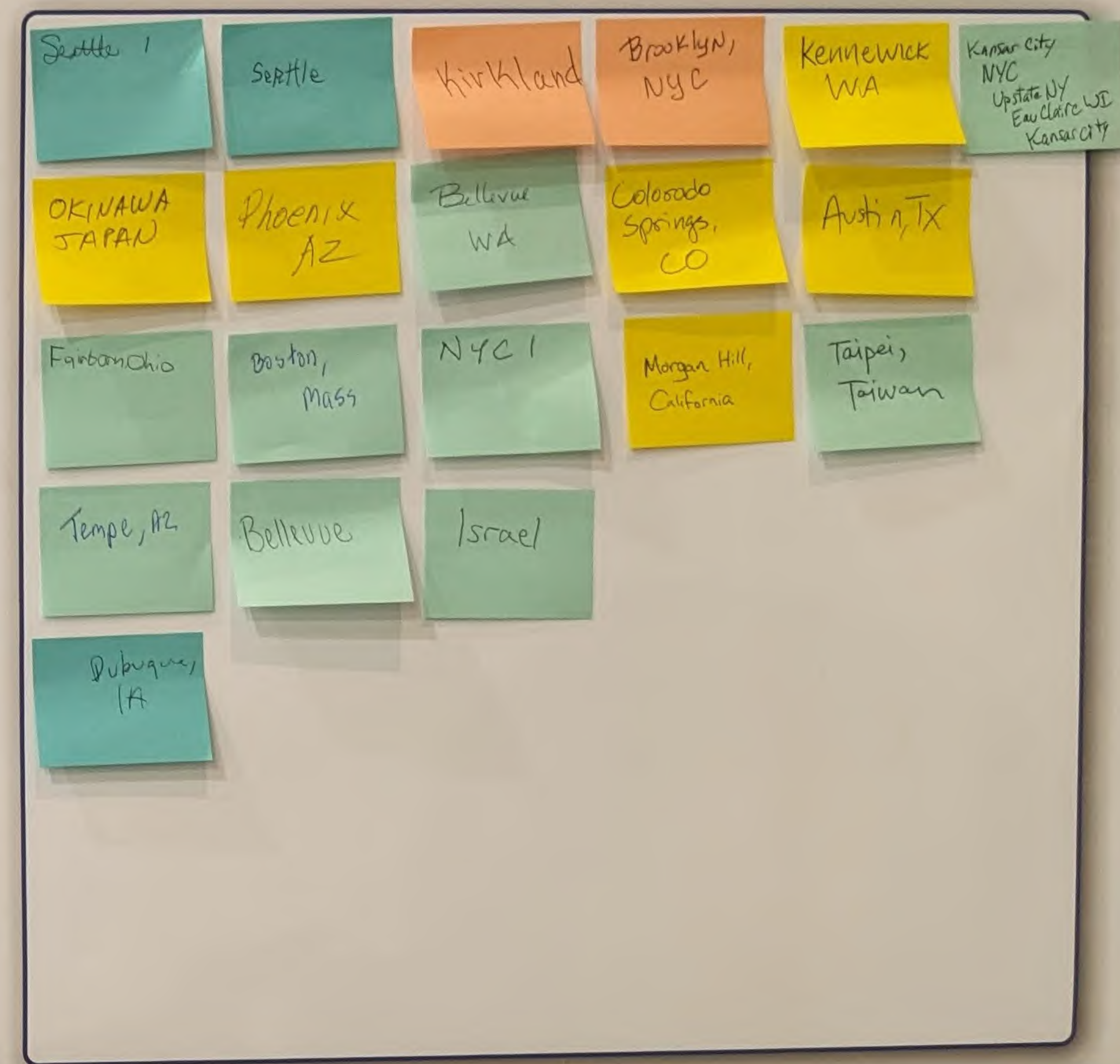
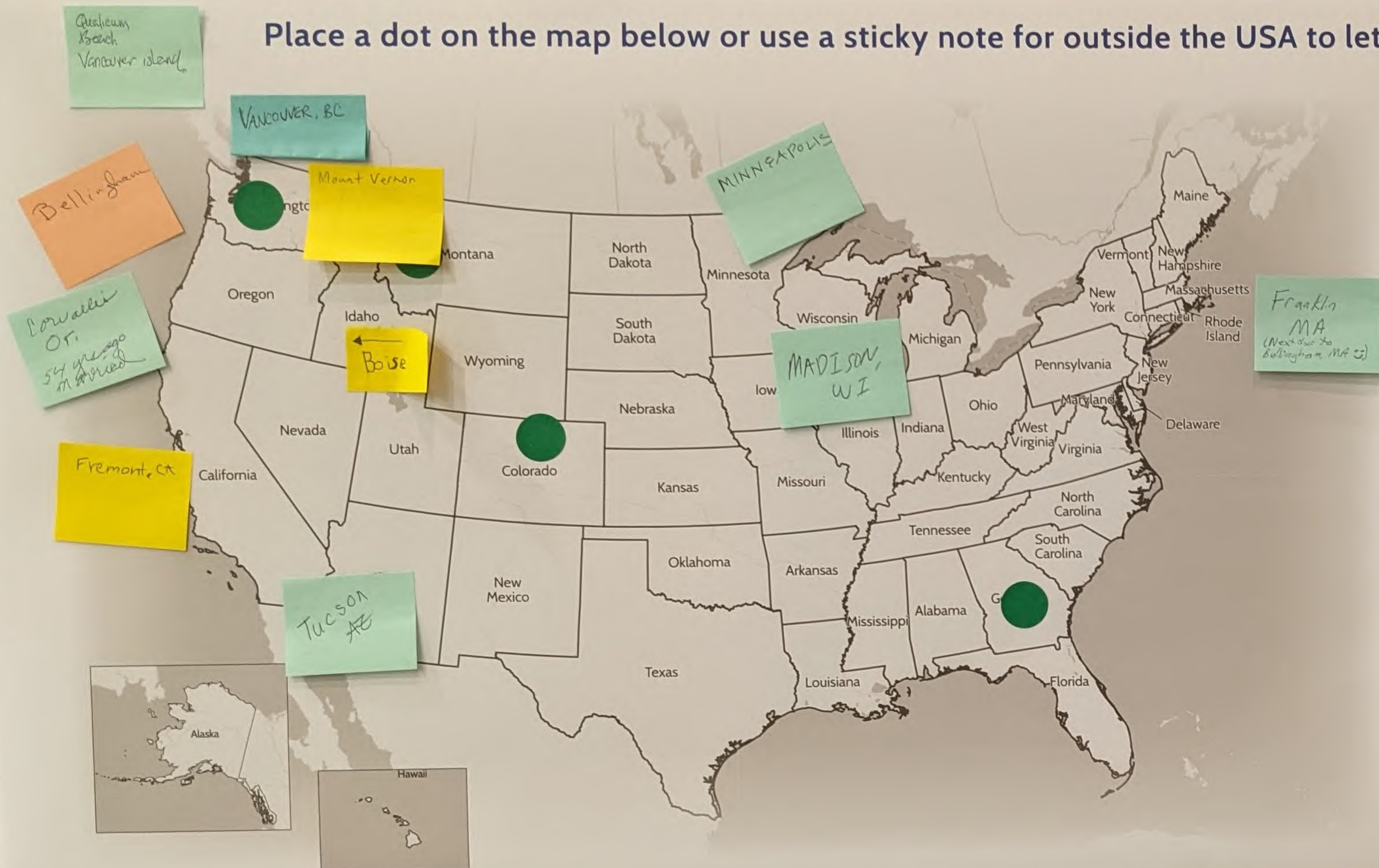
I never left Bellingham

I grew up here, left, then returned

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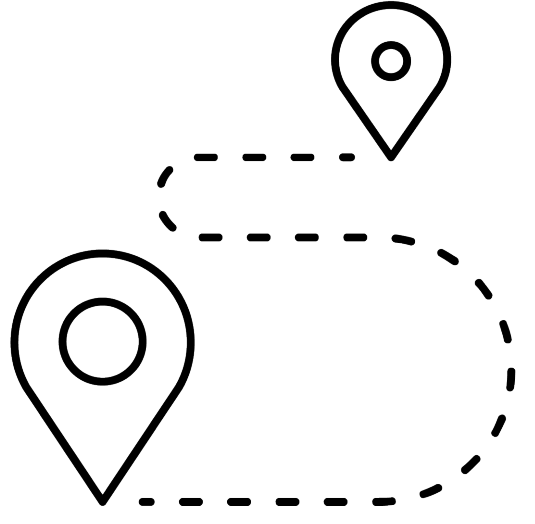
but even with a STEM degree, buying locks hopeless!

Bellingham to Berea, Kentucky and back again

Bellingham to Kirkland and back

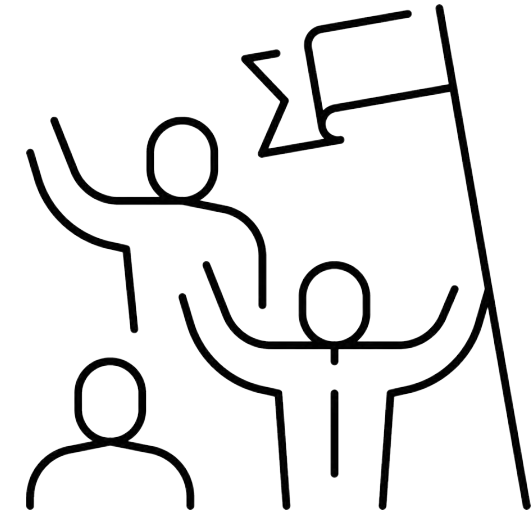
WHAT IS ADEI?

Accessibility, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



ACCESSIBILITY

The design, construction, development, and maintenance of facilities, information and communication technology, programs, and services so that all people, including people with disabilities, can fully and independently use them.



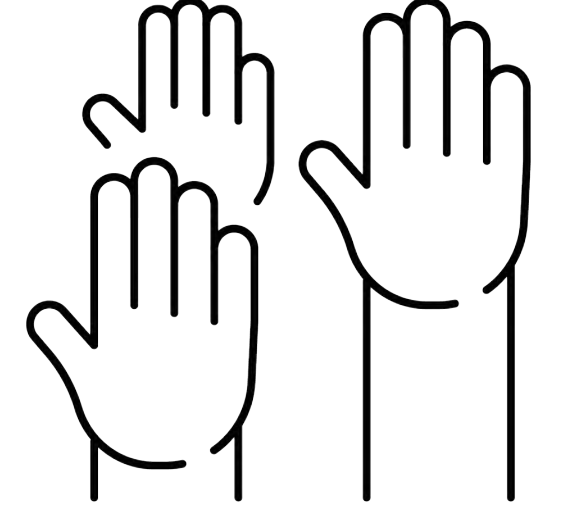
DIVERSITY

An aspect of organizational culture or community characteristics. Involves having people with varying identities, experiences, and backgrounds, including, but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, language, ability, socioeconomic status, national origin, and education.



EQUITY

Equity is the act of developing, strengthening, and supporting fairness in systems, resources, opportunities, and outcomes. Equity requires addressing structural barriers. Creating equity does not mean lowering standards, but ensuring everyone is at the same starting point and is equipped with the right tools to meet the standards.



INCLUSION

The degree to which organizations meaningfully and intentionally involve employees and community members in work, conversations, and decision-making opportunities. Where all employees and community members feel their viewpoint, ideas, perspectives, and experiences are valued and respected.



Citations/Sources: Adapted from Strategic-Plan-to-Advance-Diversity-Equity-Inclusion-and-Accessibility-in-the-Federal-Workforce-11.23.21.pdf (whitehouse.gov) and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Glossary of Equity (wa.gov).

UNITED STATES LAND USE AND ZONING

Historic Segregation

American communities and government practices have together caused exclusionary practices in the past across the country and here in Bellingham. Washington House Bill 1220 (2021) requires cities like Bellingham to reverse this practice and address “racially disparate impacts” of current policies and practices. This includes the reversal of practices that protect traditionally single family areas over other residential areas, which relates to a racist history and today disproportionately impacts people of color.

Early 1900s:

Various US cities enacted **zoning codes** prohibiting people of color from moving into White neighborhoods. This was ruled unconstitutional in 1917.

1920s - 1940s:

Racially restrictive covenants that disallow any residents of color were widespread. These were deemed unenforceable in 1948 but remain on many deeds today.

A University of Washington project shows over 1400 restricted properties in Bellingham and surrounding area. These covenants are no longer legally enforceable, but represent remnants of an exclusionary history that succeeded in driving most people of color from the city. Areas platted between 1925 and 1948 were often racially restricted.

For example: Squalicum Park Flats (148 properties) – “No persons of any race other than the White or Caucasian race shall use or occupy any building or any lot, except that this conveyance shall not prevent occupancy by domestic servants of a different race,

1957 - 1977

The development of the **Interstate Highway System** sped up suburbanization and often demolished or further segregated BIPOC communities.

1950s - 1970s

Urban renewal projects stemming from the 1949 Housing Act targeted areas of disinvestment that were disproportionately occupied by BIPOC communities. Federal funds were used to rebuild existing neighborhoods, forcing BIPOC families to move away, often replaced by white families due to other segregating policies.



For more detail on this history, see the guidance on HB 1220 implementation provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce (page 50).

1900s 1910s 1920s 1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s ...present

1926 - Present:

Zoning was used across the country to separate uses that are considered incompatible. Single-family zoning was widely used in collaboration with other practices “as an attempt to make the suburbs racially exclusive,” (Commerce HB 1220 Guidance) while industrial and other “incompatible” uses generally located near BIPOC neighborhoods, impacting health and well-being.

1930s - 1970s:

Redlining was a standard practice, with the federal Home Owner’s Loan Corporation deeming neighborhoods to be financially risky (and labeled in red to designate a “hazardous” area) if occupied by residents of color. This has resulted in clear lines of racial segregation in cities across the country that follow the original redlining maps.

A variety of widespread government-sponsored **home loan programs** and processes assist white families in purchasing homes in the newly constructed suburbs while generally excluding families of color from home ownership opportunities. Some well-documented examples include the 1933 Homeowners Refinancing Act and the 1944 GI Bill.

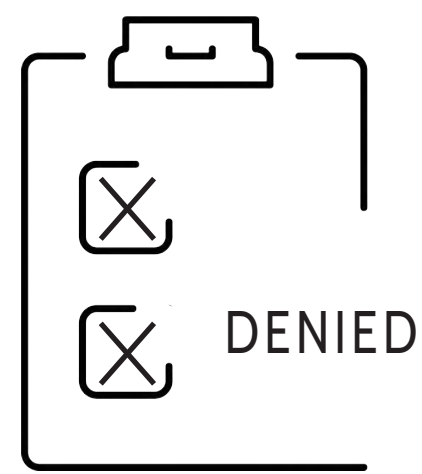
The timeline information on this page was compiled from Washington State Department of Commerce “Guidance to Address Racially Disparate Impacts - Updating your housing element to address new requirements”. Scan the qr code on this page to learn more.

UNITED STATES LAND USE AND ZONING

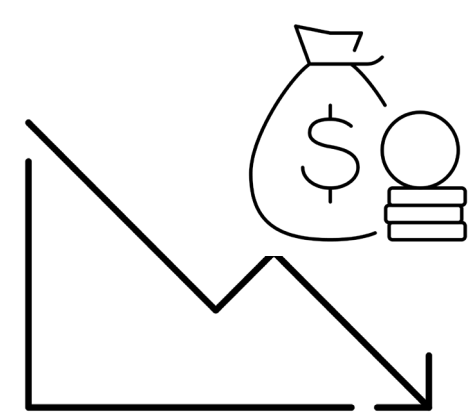
Discrimination practices persist...



Racial steering, where real estate professionals steer buyers of color to certain neighborhoods and away from others, occurs today.



Predatory lending practices disproportionately impact BIPOC communities, with Latino applicants with similar backgrounds twice as likely to be denied for a loan than their white counterparts.



Residents of color are also more likely to have their homes **undervalued in property assessments**, making home loans more difficult to acquire, wealth more challenging to accumulate, and local services like schools more difficult to fund adequately.

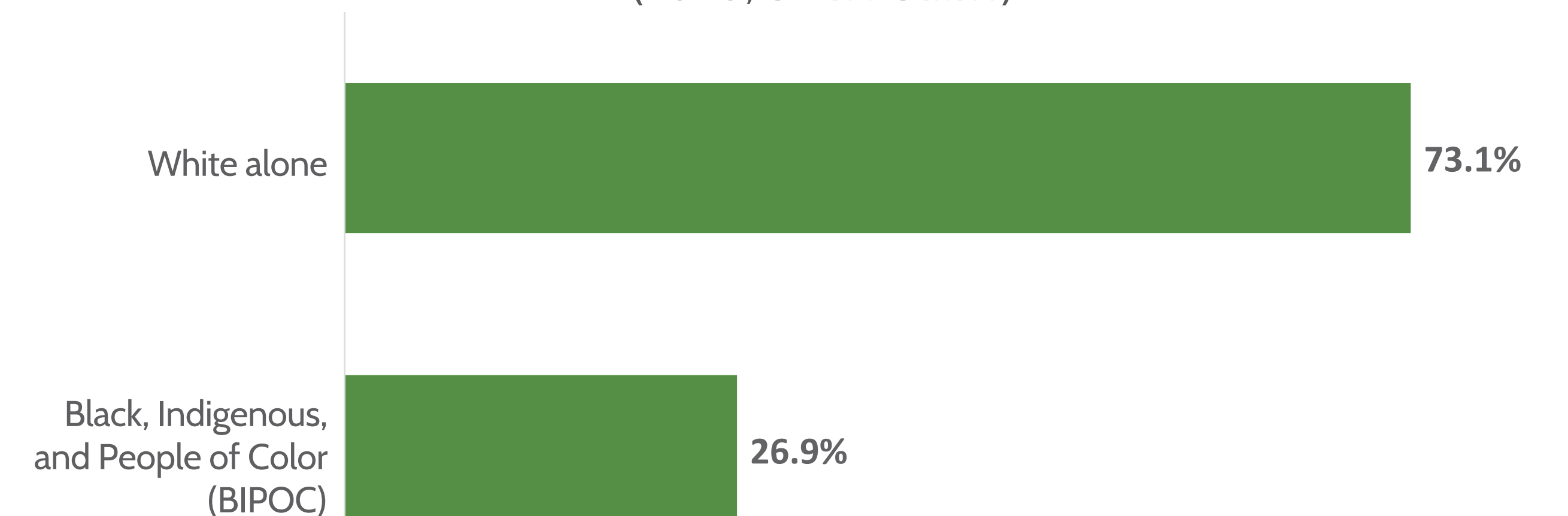
Generational Wealth

These practices led to generations of white families who were able to buy into suburban developments when costs were low. Home values increased, more opportunities like good schools were available, and these families benefited over time through several generations. Families of color did not have these opportunities.

The US homeownership gap between BIPOC households and white households is larger today than it was in 1960, showing the lasting impacts of these and other policies.

Home Ownership in the United States

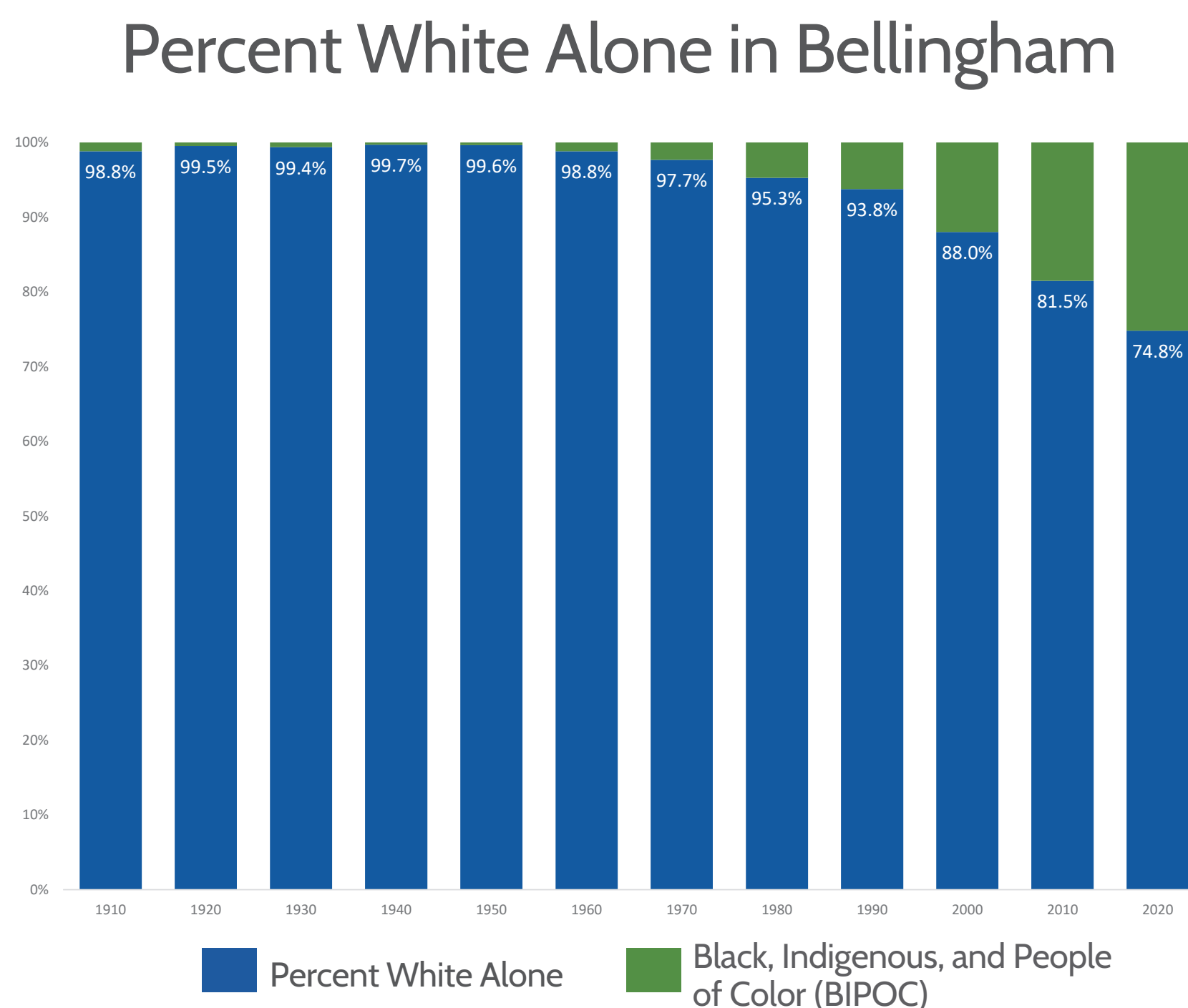
(2020, United States)



Source: 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

BELLINGHAM'S HISTORIC EXCLUSION

Bellingham has a history of forcefully excluding people of color. Despite earlier diversity of residents, these practices left 1970 Bellingham as 97.7% White.



Source: 1910 - 2020 Decennial Census.
Note: Starting in the 2000 Decennial Census, participants were allowed to choose more than one race.

Since then, Bellingham has slowly begun to diversify. Bellingham Plan outreach efforts show strong community desires to continue diversifying and becoming more welcoming to those of different backgrounds.



Pre 1770s Coast Salish peoples inhabited Whatcom County for generations until white settlement begins by sea in the late 18th Century and by land in the early 19th.

1850

1855 Point Elliott Treaty removes Native Americans from their ancestral lands. Many rights and compensation promised were not fulfilled.

1860

1860s Many Chinese workers arrive to work in the lumber mills, mines, and other trades.

1870

1880

1885 All Chinese are forcefully expelled from the area.

1890

1900 Early 1900s Many South Asian workers arrive to work in the area.

1907 All South Asians are forcefully expelled from the area.

1910

1920

1929 The state Ku Klux Klan (KKK) convention is held in Bellingham. The Mayor presents the "key to the city" to the KKK leader.

1930

1920s - 1940s Many new housing developments are legally restricted to white residents, significantly limiting housing opportunities for residents of color.

1940

1942 Japanese Internment during WWII results in the removal of at least 33 Japanese Bellingham residents.

1950

1950s Sundowning, where police would pick up Black individuals still in the city after dark and drop them off at the edge of town letting them know they are not welcome, is common in Bellingham.

1960

1960s - 1970s Native American Tribes across the nation organize protests to reestablish their fishing rights as promised in earlier treaties. Lummi fishers are targeted by non-native fishers, often with violence, after they are granted certain fishing rights by the federal government in 1974.

1970

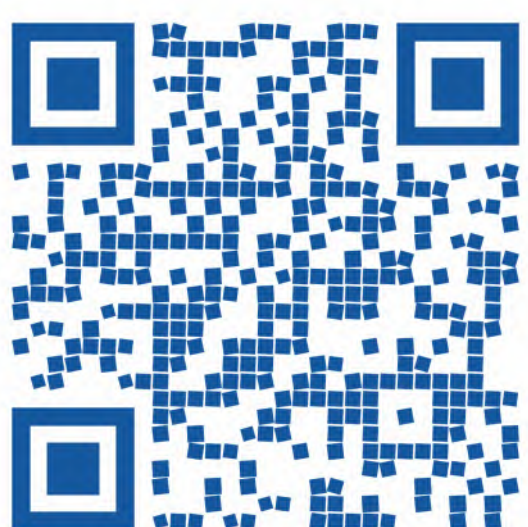
1980

1994 Several instances occur of crosses being burned at nearby migrant workers' camps. This is a symbol of the KKK.

1990

Recent instances of antisemitic, racist, or Islamophobic incidents and threats are also recorded in and around Bellingham.

Present



The timeline information on this page was compiled from the Bellingham Racial History Timeline, a collaborative initiative of WWU faculty, students, and community members. Scan the qr code at the left or visit <https://wp.wvu.edu/timeline> to learn more.



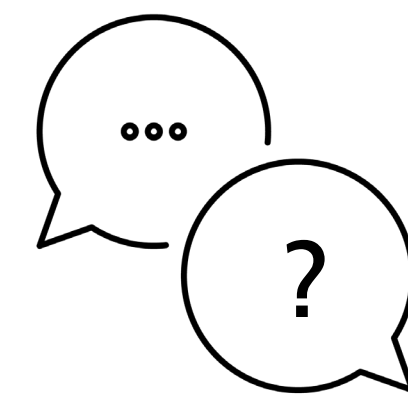
THE CITY'S ROLE IN REVERSING INEQUITIES

Change is inevitable and we see community-wide efforts to adapt to change as opportunities to be more inclusive and welcoming than we have been in the past.

We need to recognize and document past and current practices both intentional and unintentional that create or reinforce inequity for specific groups or classes. For example:



Notification procedures that focus on property owners without acknowledging renters.



Notifications, announcements, documents, and/or meetings provided in English without options for translation to other languages.

City plans, forms, applications, and other documents that include industry jargon or insider terminology without instructions or contextual explanations in everyday, accessible language.



Public meetings conducted in locations without any, or with limited ADA accessibility.



Policies that protect and reinforce established land use patterns over other, more inclusive housing forms. Single-family detached housing, for example, has a history of excluding racially-diverse households.

THE CITY'S ROLE IN REVERSING INEQUITIES

What else could we be doing? Use a sticky note below to let us know.

Examples from Bellingham's 2016 Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies relating to equity:

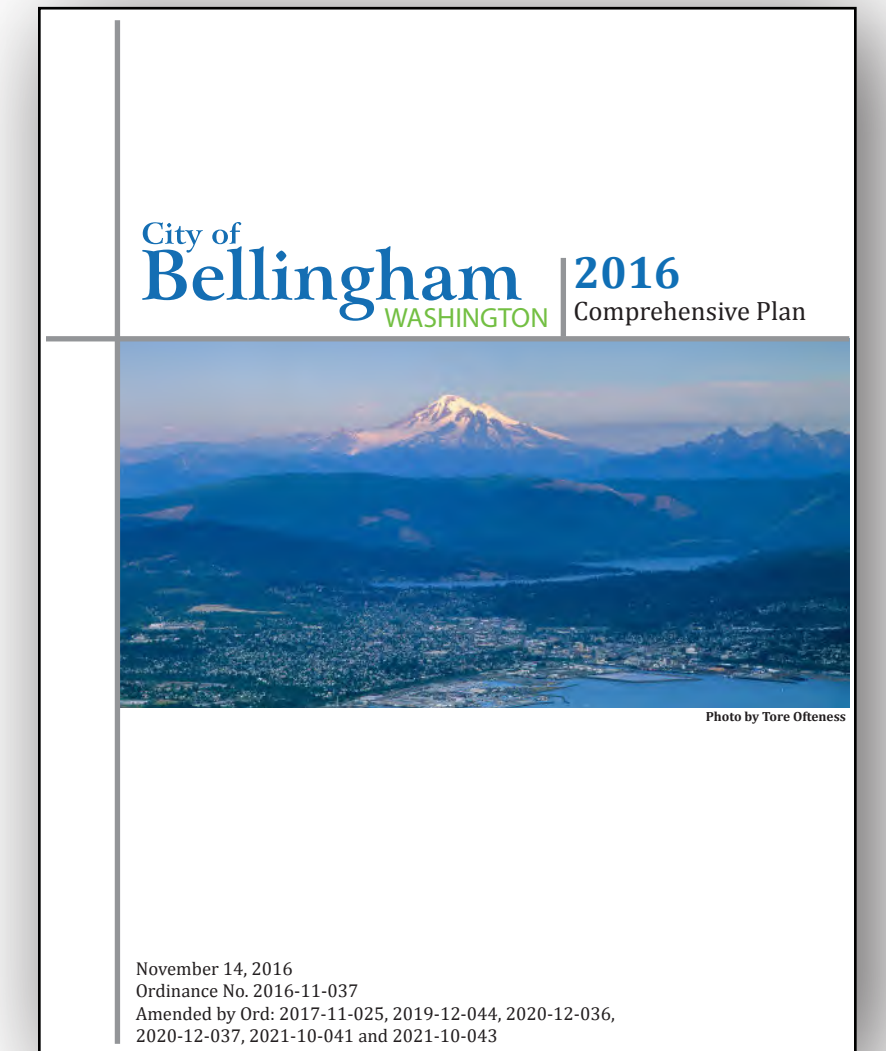
Land Use Chapter – Policy LU-28 – “Consider social equity and health issues in siting such uses as manufacturing and essential public facilities (EPFs) to limit exposure to harmful substances and environments.”

Housing Chapter Policy – H-13 – “Consider the impacts on Citywide housing capacity, affordability and diversity when making land use policy decisions and code amendments.”

Capital Facilities and Utilities Chapter Policy CF-1 O -“Provide, maintain, and upgrade public facilities to meet the primary service needs of the City in a manner which respects social diversity, protects public investments in existing facilities, maximizes the use of existing facilities, and promotes orderly compact urban growth.”

Multi-Modal Transportation Chapter – Policy T-31 – “Provide accessible pedestrian and bicycle facilities for all through equity in public engagement, service delivery, and capital investment.”

Parks Recreation and Open Space Chapter - Objective 5H – “Provide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training opportunities for staff.”



THE CITY'S ROLE IN REVERSING INEQUITIES

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- Vienna Housing Model
- Equity for Seniors + Families to access areas
- Include diverse populations in all aspects of decision and implementation of plans.
- expand the radius of notification
- Repeal zoning Xing I-5
- Affordable cluster-cohousing
- Parking reductions are exclusion to Seniors and families
- Indigenous Placemaking
- Support the creation of a non-profit developer group so that affordable housing can be constructed at lower costs.
- Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (or similar)
- Repeal parking requirements in urban villages (too many parking lots)
- Re-convene IAB and listen to committee
- Support restrictions on excessive rent increases
- Enforce habitability complaints
- Rental Assistance for middle income families
- Loan assistance so tenants can lease to own
- Rental Assistance for cost-burdened Elderly or Apts Residents
- More spaces that collaborate w/ Comm & Recreation leaders
- Increase Diverse Housing
- Allow apartments city-wide
- Stop giving away public funds for housing who real affordable

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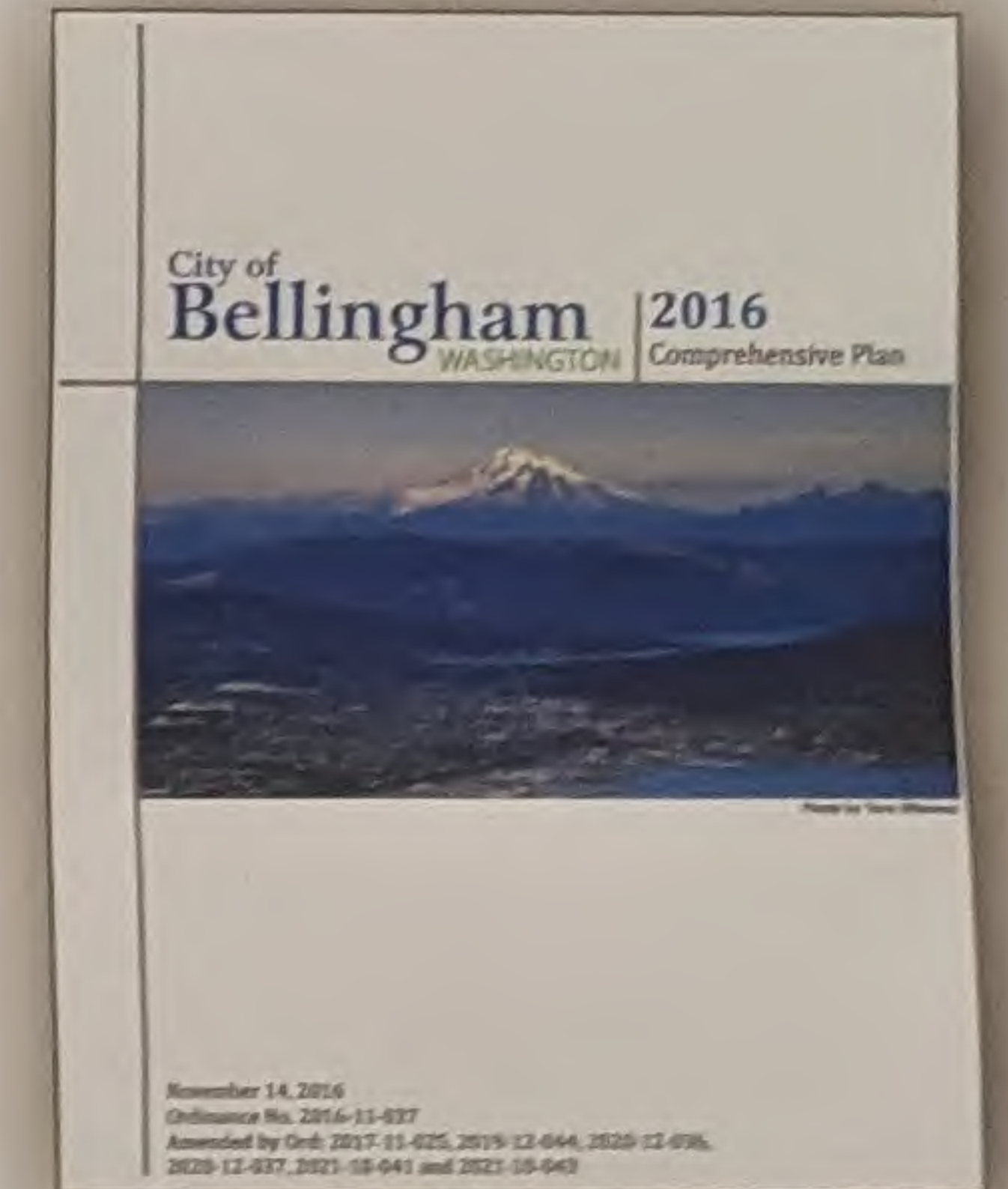
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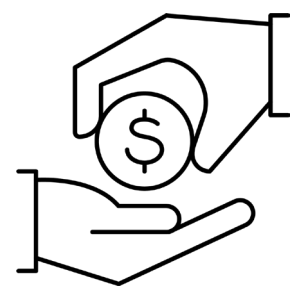
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THE CITY'S ROLE IN REVERSING INEQUITIES

Bellingham is working to improve how services and resources are developed and provided to address the diverse needs of everyone in the community. While there is much work yet to do, here are some recent actions taken by the City to improve accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion:

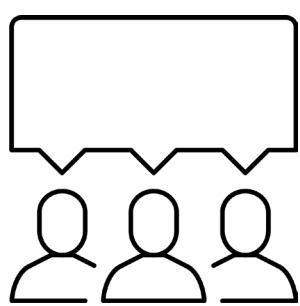


Funding was added to support a **new ADEI Analyst position** to support Citywide ADEI efforts in 2022, and the position was filled the same year.

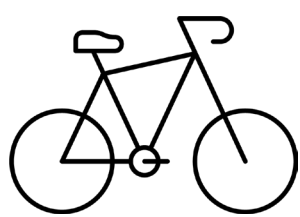
The City's 2023-2024 Budget and Work Plan included an emphasis on streamlining the hiring process to generate qualified groups of **diverse applicants**.



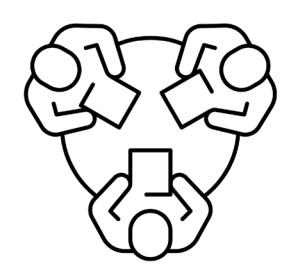
Added funding to reinvigorate and **improve leadership training**, adding specific expertise and content **to support ADEI awareness, best practices, and action**.



Increased use of on-call **language translation services** (ASL, Spanish, etc.) for public meetings, and translation of written communications for important public outreach efforts (the Bellingham Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian master plans, Urban Forest Management Plan, Community Broadband Internet survey).



Striving to provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities for people all ages and abilities by **prioritizing investments in underserved communities**.



The Bellingham Public Library 2023 Action Plan included a strong **focus on practices and programs that are welcoming and inclusive to all** and that provide access to problem-solving and learning resources and opportunities.

What else could we be doing? Use a sticky note below to let us know.

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Handwritten sticky notes on a whiteboard:

- Fund a Queer Community Center
- Also support the creation of a community space for queer diverse residents
- Reduce specialized use of resources to line of comprehensive care
- Create a Citizen Advisory Panel in partnership with the County
- More opportunities for citizen engagement/ input access to city depts
- Immigrant Community Resource Center Advisory board
- THIS
- Transfer Port Properties to local tribes!
- Restart the Immigrant Advisory Board that the city shut down
- Show more diverse people in city media to help be representative
- Multi lingual Signage
- Policies are exclusionary for Seniors and families
- More Cops doesn't = more safety for so many residents
- Service Supported Camps for those want housing
- Density, less need for car ownership
- farm or outdoor programs for senior men
- a unit (not police) that helps explain community resources

DOWNTOWN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

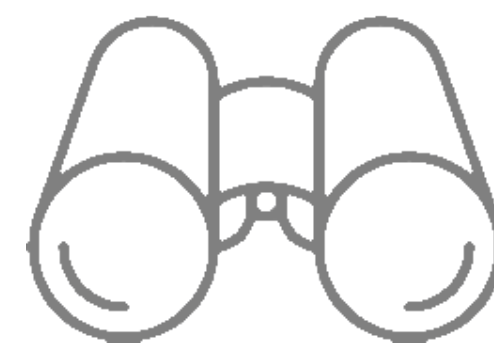
Downtown Bellingham is experiencing the effects of regional and national challenges. The City is addressing these challenges through leading edge programs, creative uses of funding and innovative partnerships.

Addressing the Fentanyl Crisis



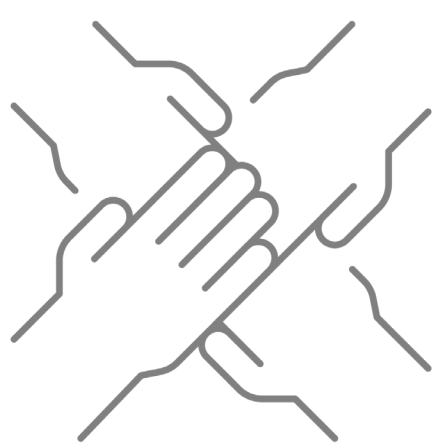
On February 20, 2024, Mayor Kim Lund signed an Executive Order that directs her administration to take immediate actions to address the fentanyl crisis and its negative impacts on the safety and well-being of Bellingham's downtown.

Downtown Safety Patrols



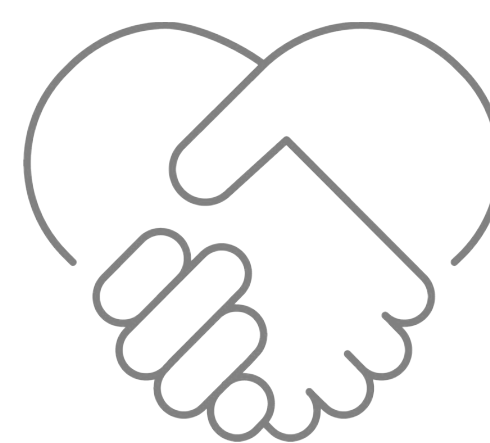
The February 2024 Executive Order directs an increased police presence downtown through additional emphasis patrols and community engagement. The City also hired Risk Solutions Unlimited (RSU), a local private security company, to provide safety patrols within the downtown core, assist in proactively identifying and responding to issues, and act as a hub to other resources.

Innovative Partnerships



In response to complex and interconnected challenges, City leaders have forged unprecedented partnerships, engaging with the public, private and non-profit sectors. This approach recognizes that the safety and vitality of downtown depends on diverse perspectives and collaborative action.

Homeless and Behavioral Health Services



During the pandemic and beyond, we have seen an increase in people who are living unsheltered. The City of Bellingham partners with local organizations and agencies dedicated to serving our community members in need.



With our partners, we are doing more than ever before to support a safe, healthy, thriving downtown.

To read the Mayor's Executive Order and learn more about the steps the City is taking to realize a downtown Bellingham that is vibrant, thriving, welcoming and safe for everyone, scan the QR code to the right.

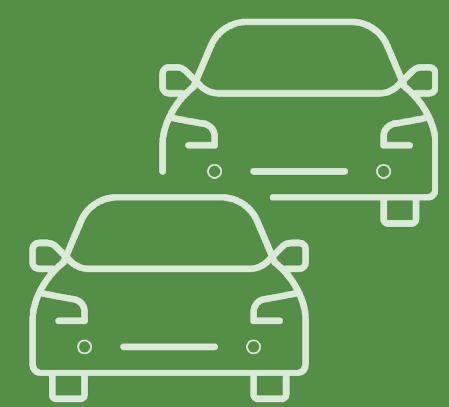


WHAT DOES SAFETY MEAN TO YOU?

Safety is a common theme in our feedback.

At our February 22 Community Vision event, we asked community members, “In what context don’t you feel safe in Bellingham? What causes you to feel that way?”

Of those who responded, the top three safety concerns relate to:



Road Traffic

Walking, biking, driving, etc.



Housing Stability

Security in making rent or mortgage payments.



People you don't know

People who seem dangerous or a general concern for personal safety from strangers.

Other safety concerns relate to:

Job Stability

Security in finding or keeping a good job.



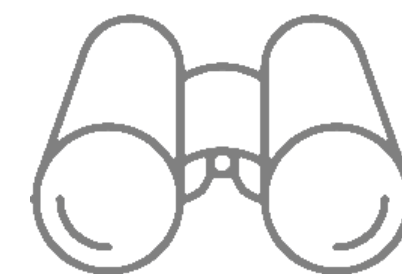
Health

Personal health challenges, access to healthy food, etc.



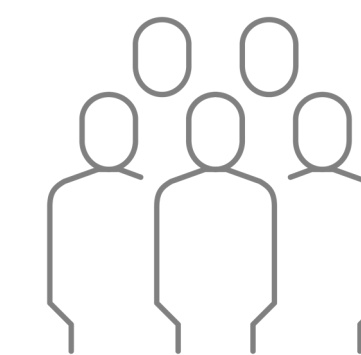
Visibility

Lack of nearby activity, poor lighting, etc.



People You Know

Bullying, harrassment, etc.



Property

Concern for property safety due to theft or damage.



SAFETY IN BELLINGHAM

What would help our community feel safer for all?

Post your thoughts on a sticky note below, or share your safety story and drop it in the box.
(Note: your story can be anonymous, no need to share your identity)

*To participate digitally in this exercise, scan the QR code at the right
You may submit your story anonymously*



SAFETY IN BELLINGHAM

What would help our community feel safer for all?

Post your thoughts on a sticky note below, or share your safety story and drop it in the box.
(Note: your story can be anonymous, no need to share your identity)

Greater housing supply
Structure build

Establish alternative to 911 to address specific non-police needs

CAHOOTS style program

Traffic calming / pedestrian space improvements

Car-free Zones!!

We need more volunteers to help on our community

We have added many curbs to deal with STOPPING DRIVING but NO MORE

People need to better info as to what services are available

What from Resource Information Collaborative

House Homeless eg SATURDAY CITY

Housing Housing Housing

Build more affordable housing (choose density)

Don't presume Be courteous open!

Safe drug consumption services (to limit public drug use/loitering)

Safe use sites e.g. Inside Vancouver

Understand Privilege Power/Authority Positions

community oversight / more affordable housing solutions

Control of growth

a non-police unit trained to help homeless community members and the resources they need

Affordable housing

Public sidewalks

A firm position and consistent action addressing inequity

Safe rentals!

A traffic patrol + penalties for racing, speeding, reckless driving

Test drivers more often with rules of the road, cognitive ability, eye response, etc.

Police presence + responsiveness for law enforcement

Find ways to get involved in the community. Share my social

SAFETY CONCERNS:
IMPROVED TRAFFIC INTERSECTION DESIGNS - INCLUDE DEDICATED RIGHT-HAND TURN LANES
REQUIRE SIBERIAN SNOW REMOVAL TO KEEP PEDESTRIANS FROM FALLING ON STREETS

Feeling that all my friends + neighbors were included - not just those who are "privileged" enough or encouraged to speak up

DRUG USE A LINGERING DRAINAGE TO IMPAIRABLE SAFETY HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

for City leaders to work on their racism and prejudice against poor + low-income residents

To participate digitally in this exercise, scan the QR code at the right
You may submit your story anonymously



SAFETY RESOURCES

If you need support, there are people who can help.

Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS)

24-Hour Helpline: (360) 715-1563

The mission of DVSAS is to support individuals affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual exploitation and to lead the community towards ending these abuses of power. DVSAS offers a 24-Hour Helpline, walk-in advocacy counseling, support during medical exams, 911 safety planning, legal advocacy, support groups, and safe shelter services.

Survivor Advocacy Services at WWU

(360) 650-7982 (please note this is not a 24-hour resource)

WWU Counseling & Wellness Center, Old Main 540

WWU Survivor Advocacy Services is a confidential resource for Western Washington University students who are experiencing or have experienced relationship (domestic, dating, intimate partner) violence or abuse, sexual violence, stalking, and/or sexual harassment. Individual advocacy and survivor support group options are available. Survivor Advocacy Services provides emotional support related to experiences of violence and abuse, safety planning, connections to resources on and off campus (therapy, support groups, etc.) and information and support navigating systems (academic, legal/reporting, medical options).

Tl'ils Ta'á'altha Victims of Crime Program

24-Hour Helpline: (360) 325-3310

Tl'ils Ta'á'altha is a wellness and strength based advocacy program for victims of crime. The mission of the program is to provide relief and support to community members who have suffered physical, emotional, or financial abuse as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or elder abuse; or who have otherwise been victimized. The program aims to empower survivors to make decisions for themselves about their safety and well-being. Services are provided in a non-judgmental, voluntary, non-coercive manner and take place in a safe, trauma-informed environment. Services encourage self-determination, autonomy, and physical and emotional safety. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, or elder abuse contact Tl'ils Ta'á'altha Victims of Crime Program 24/7 at (360) 325-3310.

Teen Dating Violence Hotline

24-Hour Helpline: Call 1-866-331-9474 or Text LOVEIS to 22522

A project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, love is respect offers 24/7 information, support, and advocacy to young people between the ages of 13 and 26 who have questions or concerns about their romantic relationships.

Lummi Victims of Crime (LVOC)

24-Hour Helpline: (360) 312-2015

Walk-ins 8 a.m. —4:30 p.m.: 2665 Kwina Road Bellingham, WA 98226

LVOC is here to help any adult or adolescent who has been affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, assault & battery, survivor of homicide, child abuse and sexual assault. LVOC offers crisis counseling, on-scene advocacy, safety planning, information & referral, legal advocacy, transportation assistance, domestic violence shelter, teen girls groups, therapy referrals, and traditional healing.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

24-Hour Helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

SAMSHA's National Helpline (also known as the Treatment Referral Routing Service) is a confidential, free 24/7 information service in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental and/or substance use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organization.

Citations/Sources:

Bellingham Whatcom County Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence www.dvcommission.org

Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration (SAMHSA) www.samhsa.gov



WHAT IS THE PRO PLAN?

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan for short) fulfills the Recreation and Open Space element of the Bellingham Plan and is updated separately from the rest of the document. Being part of the Comprehensive Plan, it goes through a robust and ongoing public process as required by the Washington State Growth Management Act. The Plan provides goals and policies that lay the groundwork for the acquisition and development of new parks and open space areas, trail systems and recreational facilities. The Plan includes anticipated park facilities and budgeting for the next six years. Keeping this plan up to date is critical to receive state and federal grant funding.

“Support a healthy community by promoting high quality parks and recreation services.”

2020 PRO Plan mission statement

Input for the Bellingham Plan that relates to the PRO plan will be shared with the PRO Plan update team, ensuring consistency and collaboration between the two updates.

PRO Plan Timeline:

2020

Last major update to the PRO Plan.

2023

Amendment to the proposed trails.

2025

The next update to the plan will begin in early 2025.

The public outreach plan will include neighborhood meetings, focus groups, working with the Parks, Recreation Advisory Board and the Greenways Advisory Committee, virtual open houses, and social media campaigns.

2026

An updated Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is due in February 2026.



Photo credit: Ralph Myers

To view the 2020 PRO Plan, follow the QR code below:



ART, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SPACES

Show us on the adjacent map, or use a sticky below to describe art, cultural and community gathering spaces of significance to you.

Where do you feel like you belong? What is missing?

ART, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SPACES

Show us on the adjacent map, or use a sticky below to describe art, cultural and community gathering spaces of significance to you.

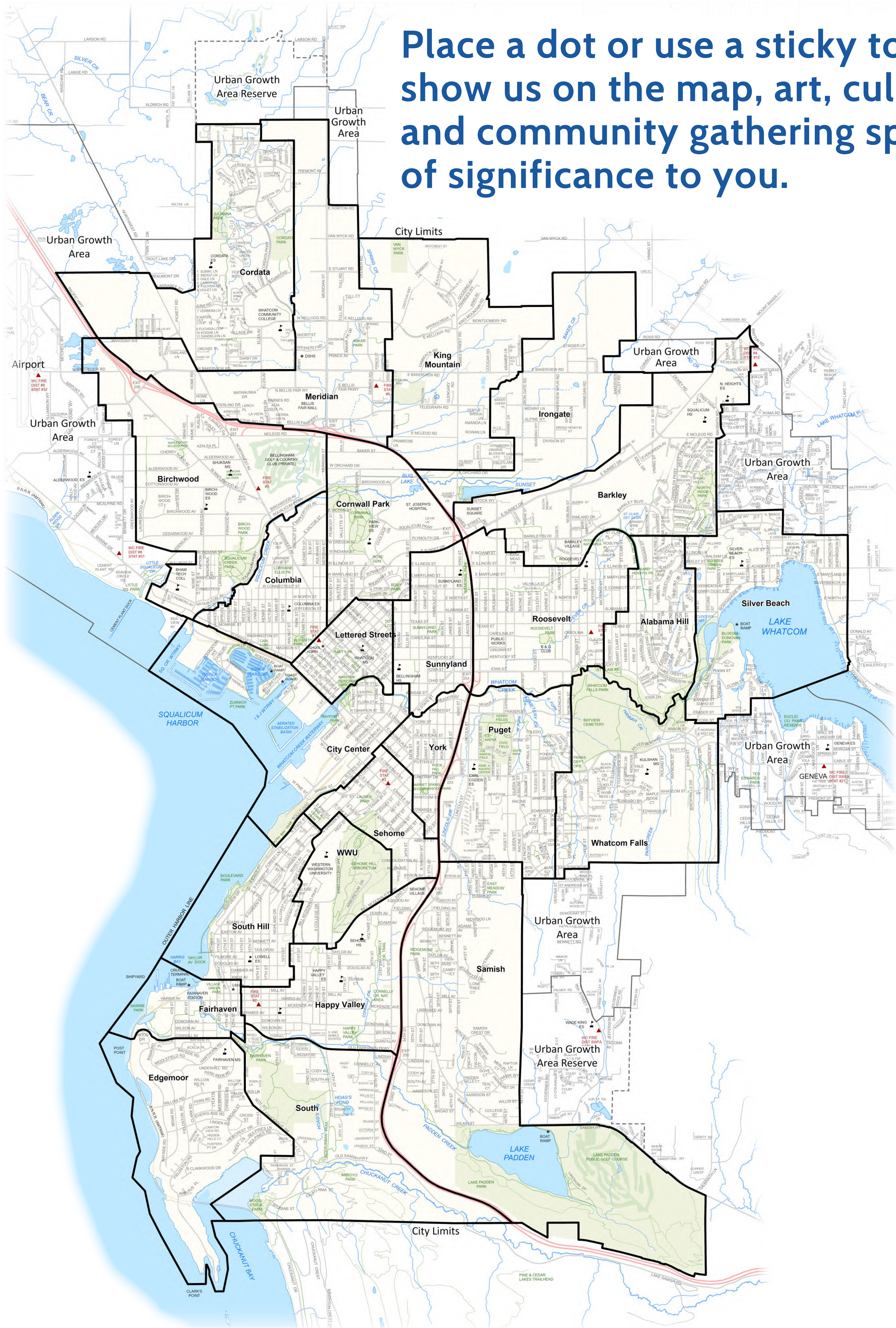
Where do you feel like you belong? What is missing?

Handwritten sticky notes on a whiteboard:

- MST Buf Coop
- Barkley Village
- R.I.P. Studio Coffee House
- Pure Fitness Martial Arts Studio
- More Indoor Rec!
- I love dog parks!
- Love the public library
- 3rd more places where people can gather w/ economic impact to city & history!
- Farmers market Night market pickle ball street fairs
- WLA 2 mixed neighborhood centers
- multi-cultural community resource center - missing
- MISSING: All ages arts venue like Jansen Art Center
- Mindport
- At the Park
- Make parks accessible for seniors and families
- Parks & Public Spaces
- Biking, in the woods, on the trails - where I feel like I belong
- We are using neighborhood meeting spaces
- Immigration resource center needed
- MISSING: Space for Indigenous People
- Have local business should be side-walks when it snows! Community Sport
- Parks
- Fund an LGBTQ community center
- Need a career center/community space for homeless looking for jobs/housing
- As I age I feel less connected - I do go to the Senior Center so maybe
- Blvd Park
- I Love the Pickford
- Would love a downtown tearhouse
- On Trails
- Aquatic Center need: Replace with mixed use center - some pool competition - separate kid pool
- Technical support for seniors
- SENIOR CENTER
- Community Centers Look at Canada + Vancouver
- Caral Cozier School becomes FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY/ RECREATION CENTER
- Bellingham needs a RECREATION CENTER THAT BECOMES INTER-GENERATIONAL
- BELLINGHAM NEEDS A NEW FACILITY - THE CURRENT BUILDING IS VERY LIMITED. COMBINATION SENIOR CENTER AND RECREATION CENTER WILL GREATLY IMPROVE A LOT
- ESTABLISH A LEISURE PARK TO ALLOW MORE INTERACTIONS OF ACTIVITIES, ART, DISPLAYS ETC.

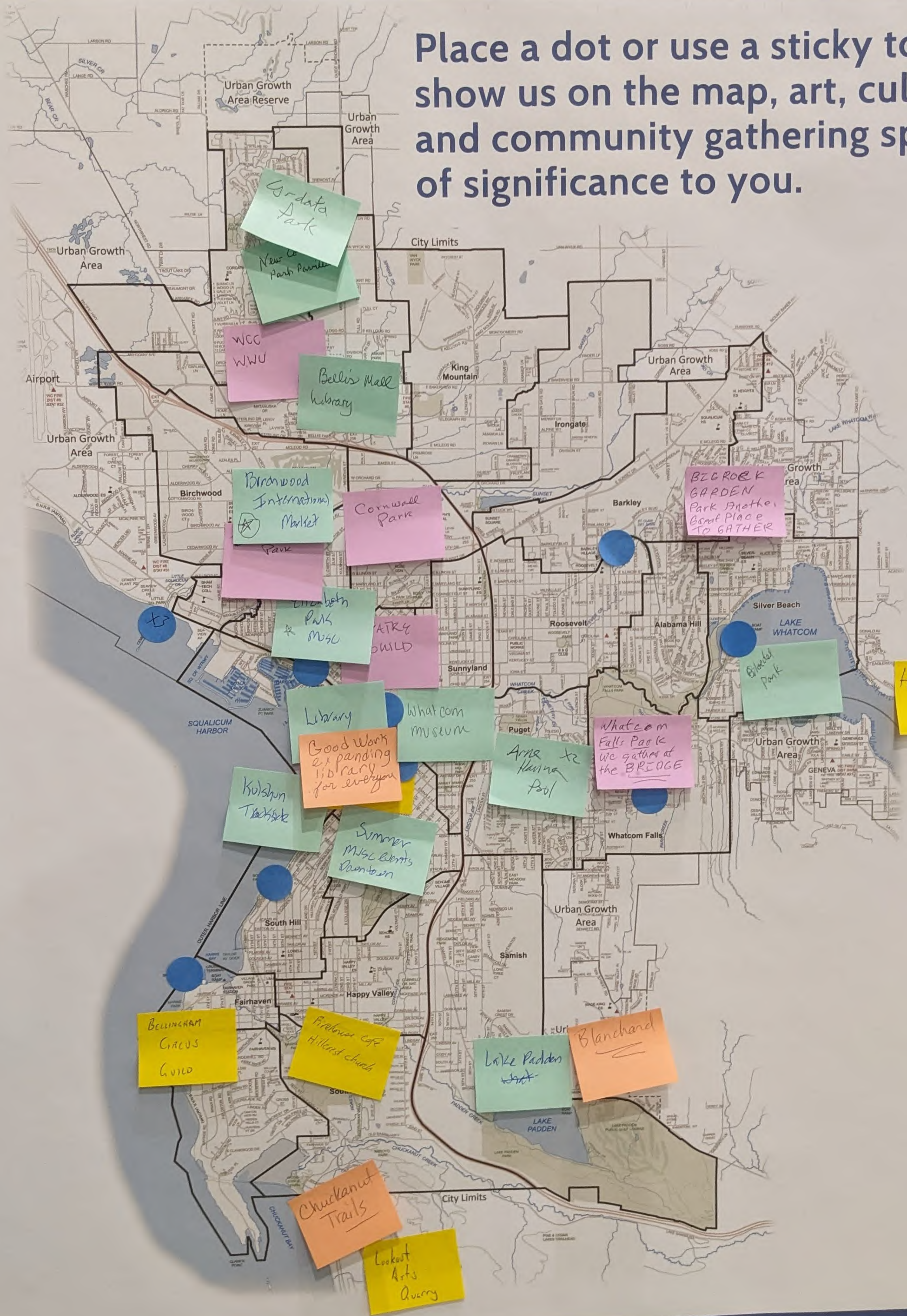
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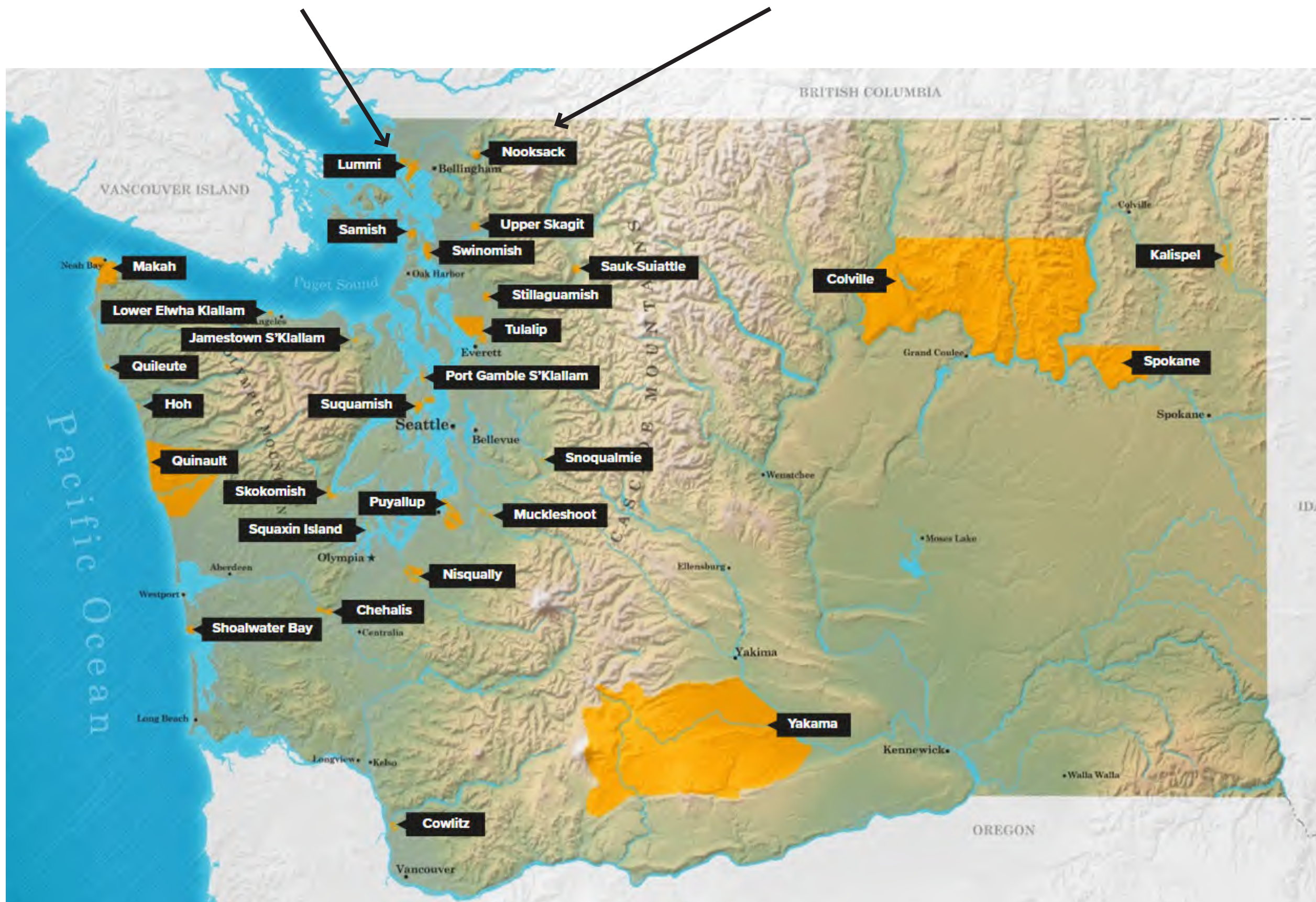
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TRIBES NEAR BELLINGHAM

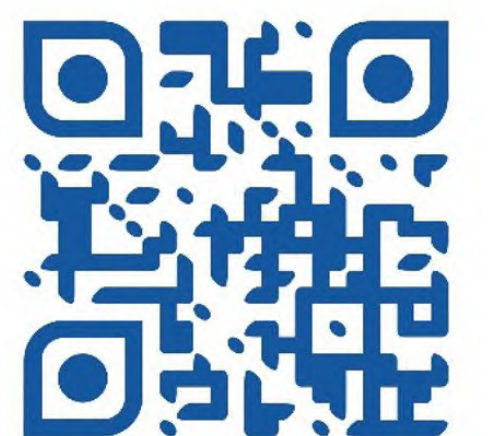
There are 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington State, and two of them are near Bellingham: Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe



Native cultures are important and integral in our state, regional, and local area. There are many ways that you can learn about tribal cultures in Washington. For example, museums, school programs, festivals, songs, dances, and language – just to name a few!

Nooksack Tribe

“The Nooksack Indian Tribe, with approximately 2,000 members, has a 444-acre reservation located near Deming. Fishing in the Nooksack River and saltwater areas is an important source of income and food for many families, as well as being a source of cultural pride and identity. The tribal fisheries program regulates fishing and works to enhance fish runs and protect the environment. The tribe works closely with local, state and federal agencies to review proposed developments, timber harvests and other environmental disturbances, and evaluate their impact on water quality, fisheries and cultural sites.” Visit www.nooksacktribe.org or use the QR code to learn more.



Lummi Nation

“The Lummi Nation is the third largest tribe in Washington with more than 5,000 members and a 13,000-acre reservation. Northwest Indian College is located on the Lummi Reservation. Lummi operates a 206-room hotel with convention and meeting space, a casino and retail outlets.” Visit www.lummi-nsn.gov or use the QR code to learn more.



Source: The Tribes of Washington. (2024). Washington Tribes; Washington Indian Gaming Association. <https://www.washingtontribes.org/the-tribes-of-washington/>

Want to Learn More? Educate Yourself!

Indian Country 101 is a FREE online training that covers the history and context for tribal engagement across the country and specifically focuses on tribes in Washington State.

Search for Indian Country 101 online, or use the QR code at right to get started.



FOOD SYSTEMS IN BELLINGHAM

What can a government do to address food access and availability?

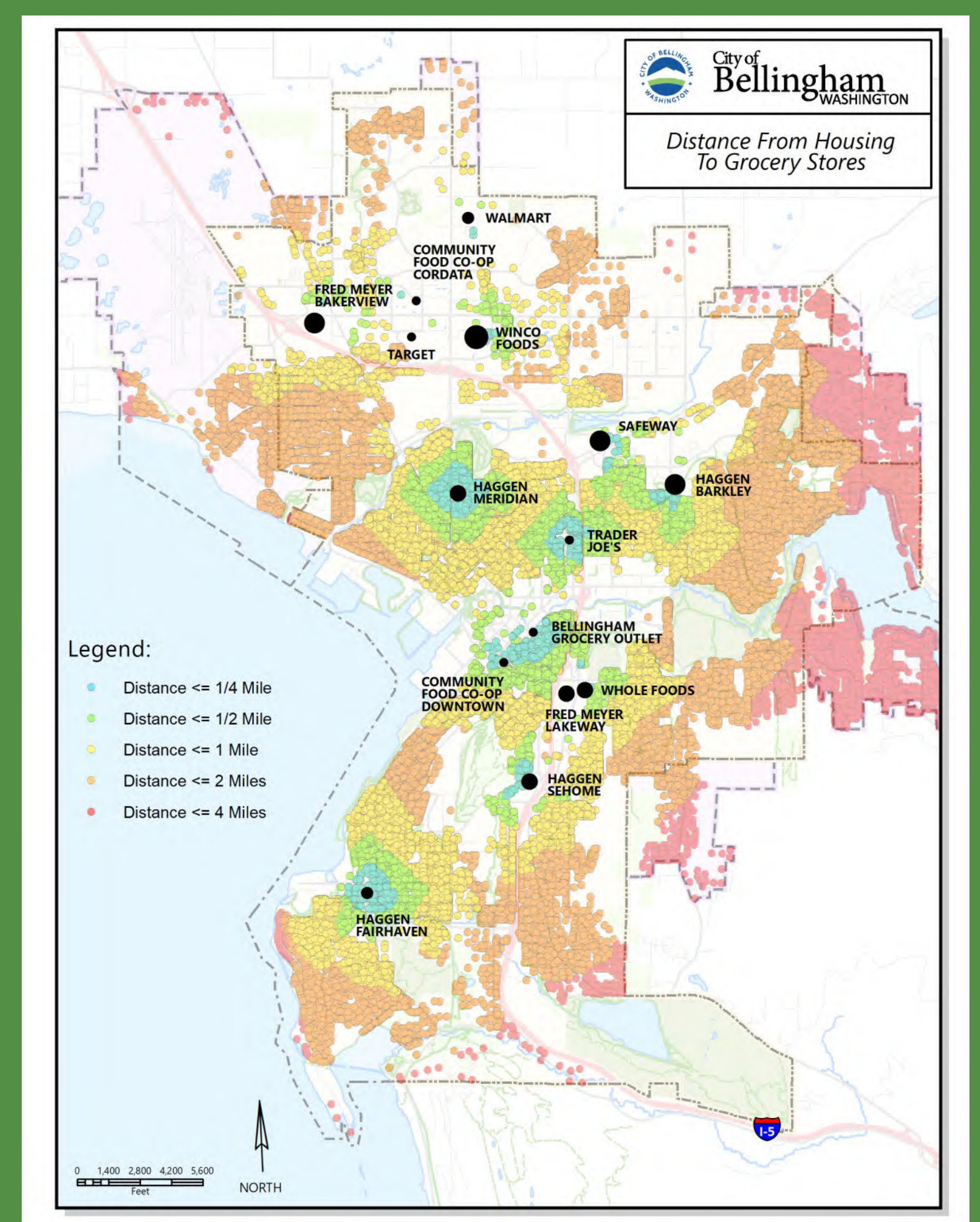
Comprehensive plans can include food-access related goals and policies to improve the food environment. For example, goals, and policies can impact the creation of community gardens, farmers markets, or food retail. Land use regulations can also support locally-grown food.

What about the Bellingham Plan?

The Bellingham Plan already includes a few food-related goals and policies that support a healthy and sustainable food system. This update is an opportunity to consider if new or revised goals and policies are needed, especially to address equity considerations.



“Food access is not simply a health issue but also a community development and equity issue. Access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food is a key component...in a healthy, sustainable community.”
-American Planning Association



Did you know... In 2019, City Council passed an ordinance to limit the use of certain restrictive covenants which prevent the use of property for grocery stores. (see BMC 20.10.027)

Citations/Sources: Source: Hodgson, K. (2012). Planning for Food Access and Community-Based Food Systems: A National Scan and Evaluation of Local Comprehensive and Sustainability Plans. American Planning Association (APA).

FOOD SYSTEMS IN BELLINGHAM

What is your preferred method of accessing healthy foods?
Use a dot to vote on your top 1 or 2 preferences.

Farmers Market		Small neighborhood store	
Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)		Large grocery store	
Direct from farmstand		Community or home garden	

What would make Bellingham’s food system more equitable? Use sticky notes to post your ideas below:



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