

Locust Beach Public Meeting

BELLINGHAM



October 7, 2015

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City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation
Design and Development Division



City of Bellingham



Overview

- Background
- Greenway connections
- Property ownership
- Work completed
- Trailhead design
- Park name
- Next steps
- Open discussion

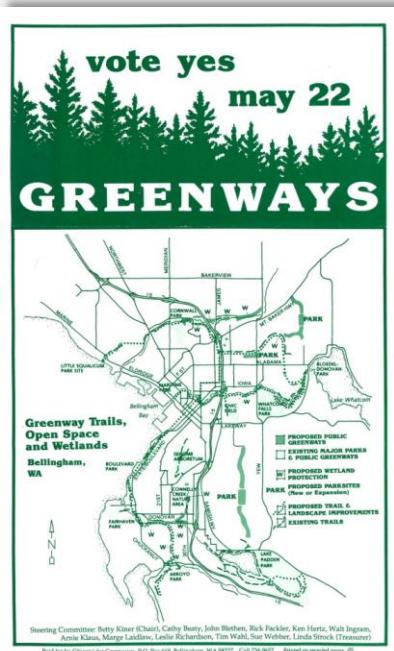


Background – Why This Site?

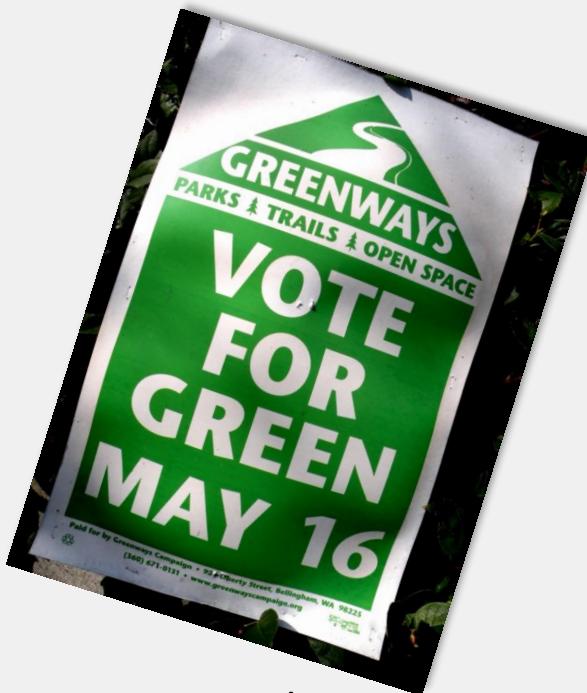
- Public shoreline access
- Public Plans:
 - City's planned Urban Growth Area
 - City's long term planning documents



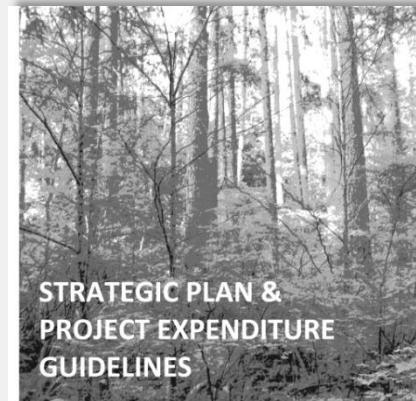
3 popular Greenway levies have provided funding for shoreline access at & around Locust



1990 Greenway Levy

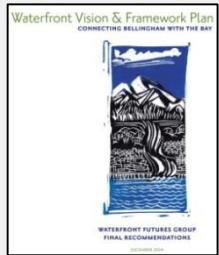


1997 Beyond Greenway Levy



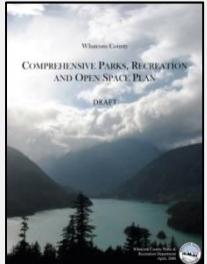
2006 Greenway III Levy

2003-5 BELLINGHAM WATERFRONT FUTURES GROUP

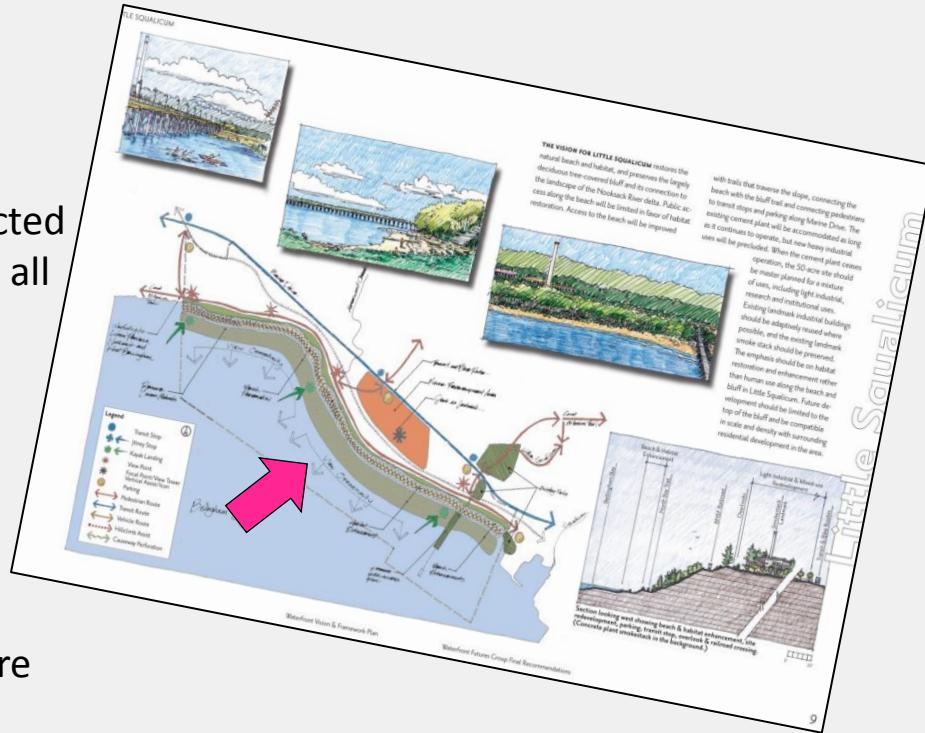


- 2 year citizen-based process
- City Council Res. 2005-04 directed staff to include components in all plan updates
- Access to Locust from east

2007 WHATCOM COUNTY PARKS



- Locust Beach state tidelands are recreational opportunity
- Need for over 2 miles of new marine beach access



Published Plans & Priorities

2008 CITY OF BELLINGHAM PARKS



- “Greenway anchor” at Locust
- “North Bay Beachwalk” to Locust
- “Waterfront integration”

Support for public use & stewardship at Locust began with private efforts



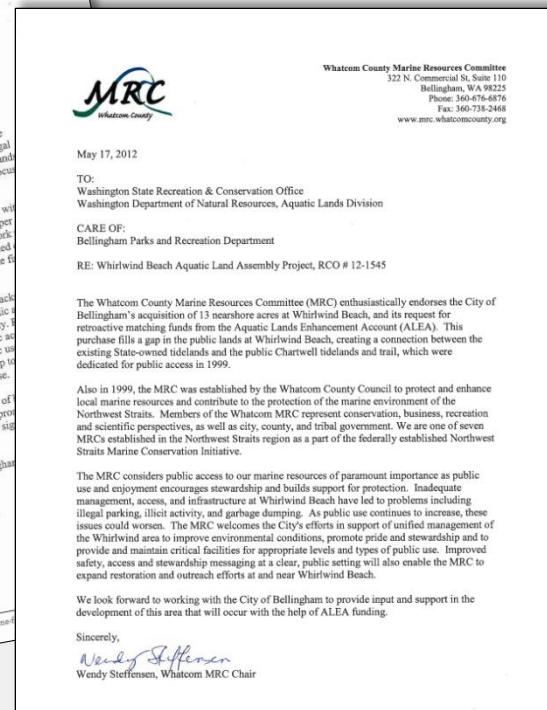
Locust Beach clean-ups & special events have been web-promoted for years

- Chartwell Estates Condominium
- ReSources Inc
- Whatcom County Marine Resources Com
- North Sound Kiteboarding Assn
- North Straits Surfriders

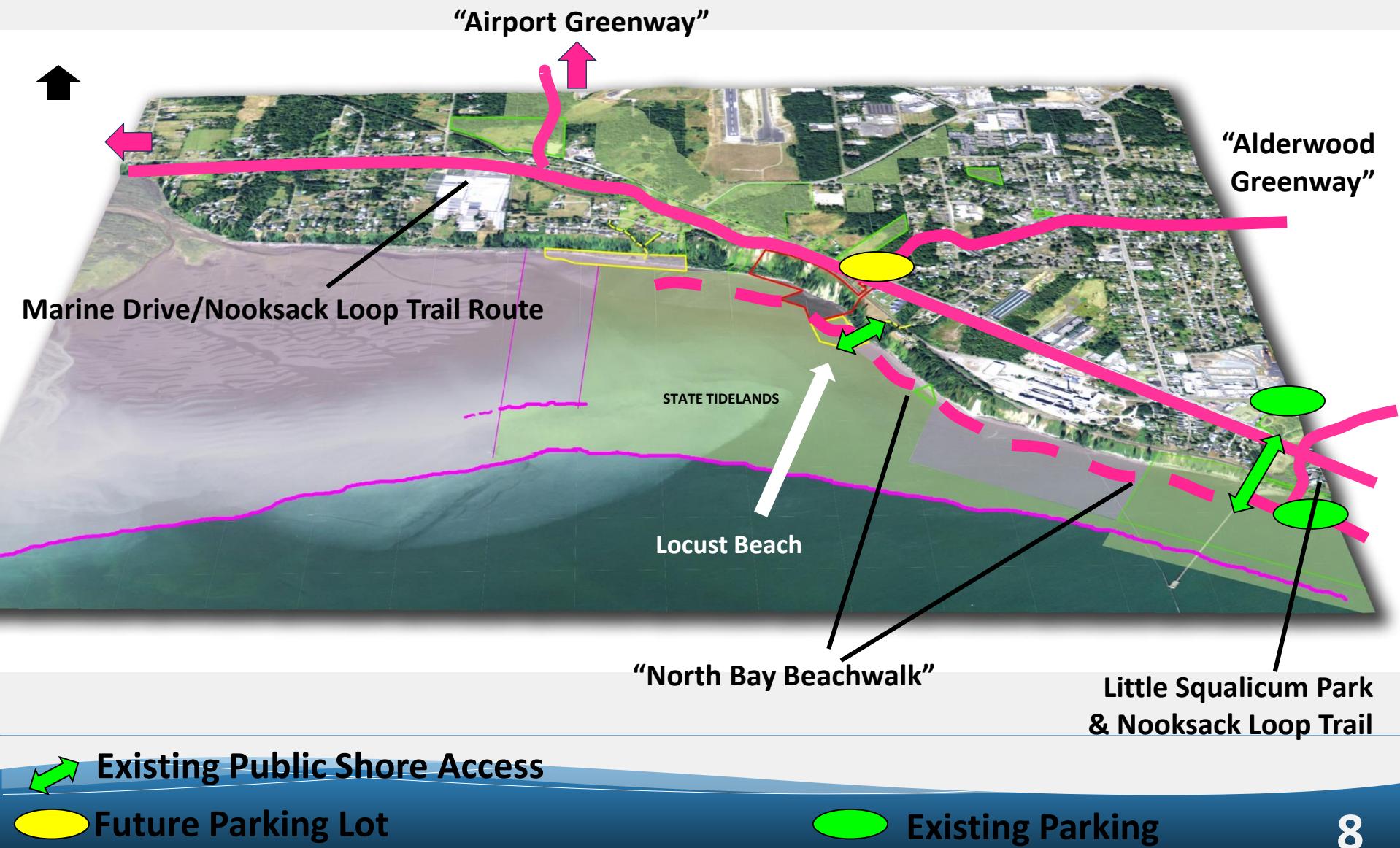
Recent outreach & support generation by Bellingham Parks has included meetings with all these parties & preparations to engage other stake-holders

RECENT LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- Re-Sources of Whatcom County
- North Sound Kite Boarding Association
- Surfrider Foundation, NW Straits Chapter
- Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee



Greenway Connections & Parking



Property Ownership

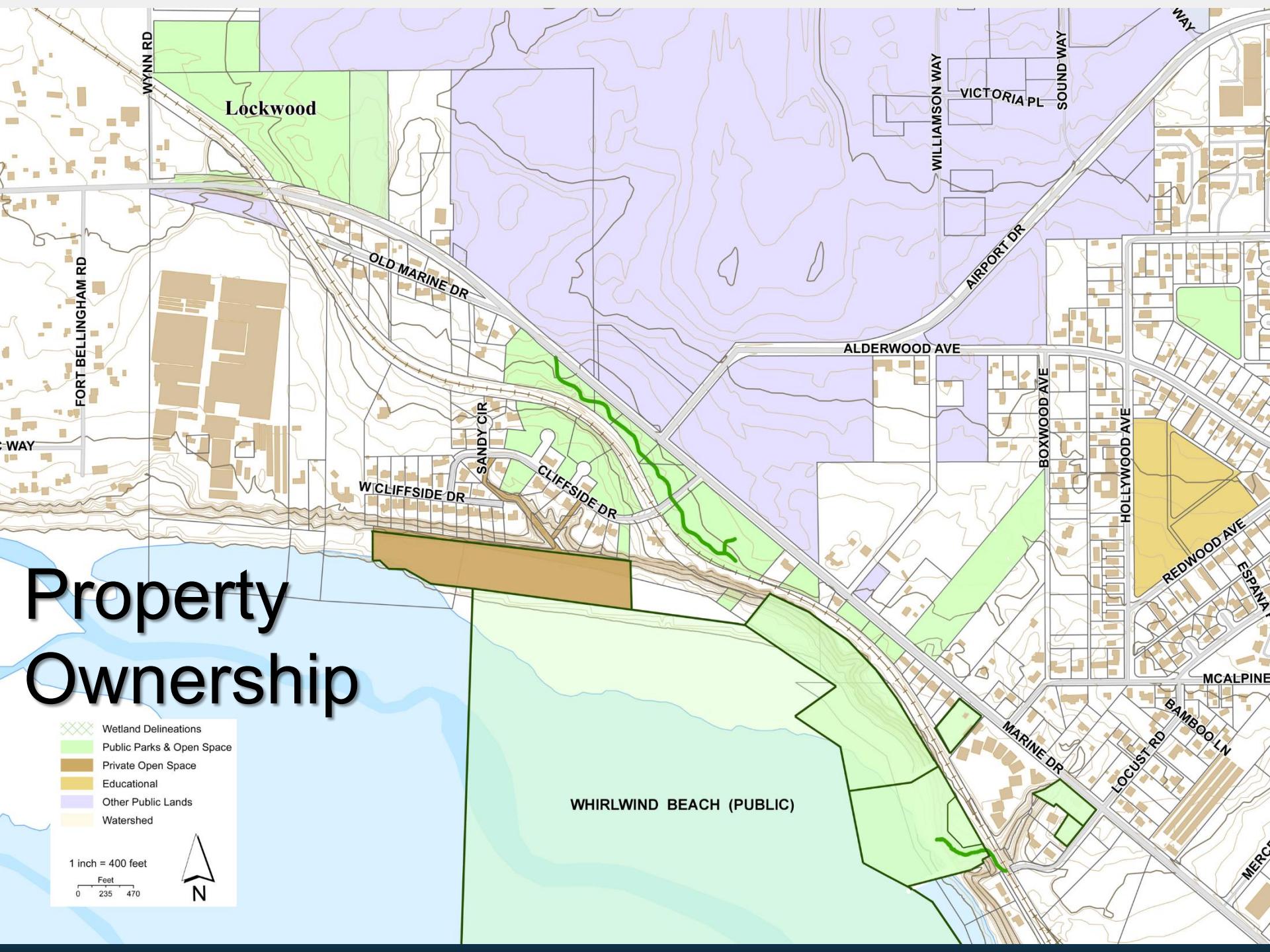
- Wetland Delineations
- Public Parks & Open Space
- Private Open Space
- Educational
- Other Public Lands
- Watershed

1 inch = 400 feet

Feet
0 235 470



WHIRLWIND BEACH (PUBLIC)





STATE TIDELANDS



Property Ownership

Work Completed:

- Received grant funds
- Hired consultant
- Met with DNR, WDFW
- Met with County staff, County Law Enforcement & Fire Departments
- City staff tour & design charrette
- Adjoining property owner meetings
- Preliminary design concepts
- Site studies, asbestos removal, building demolition

Trailhead Design

- \$550,000 budget
- Design this year
- Construct next year
- Site amenities:
 - Paved parking
 - Restroom
 - Trash receptacles
 - Signs
 - Security lighting



Way finding Sign



Park Sign



Trailhead Sign



Trash Receptacle



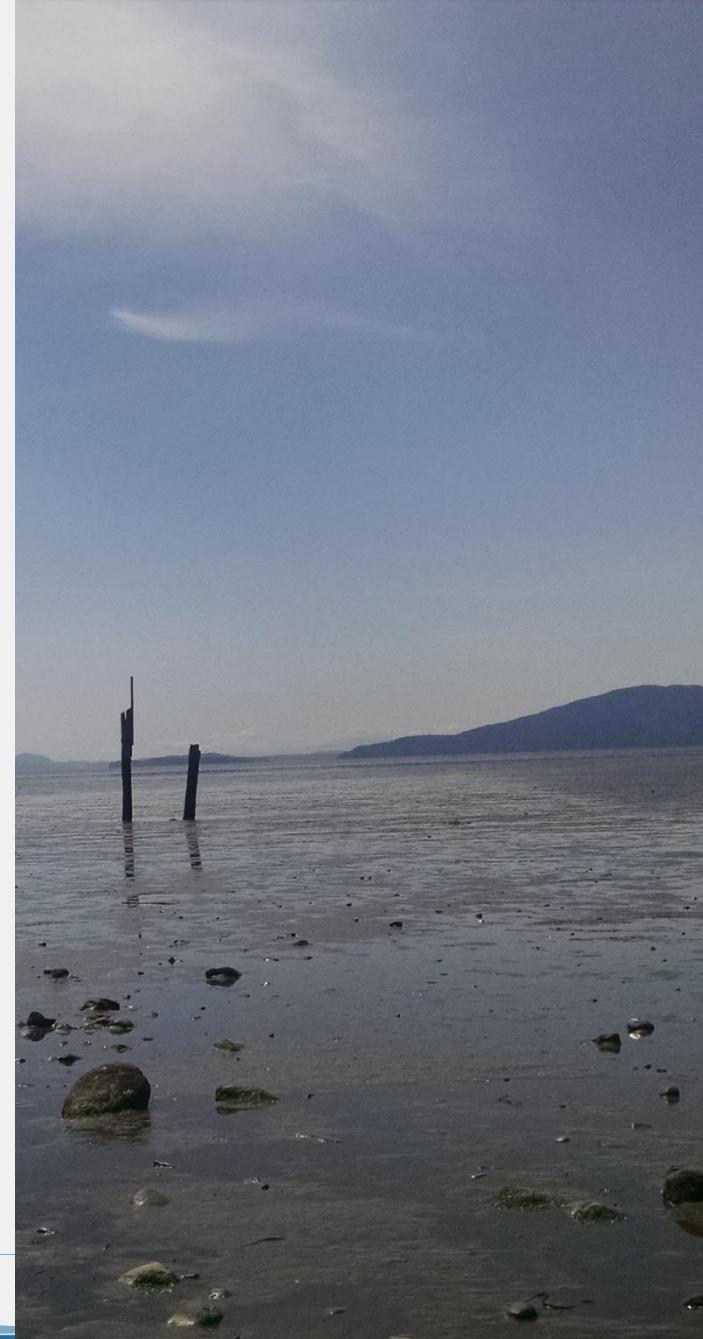
Restroom Building

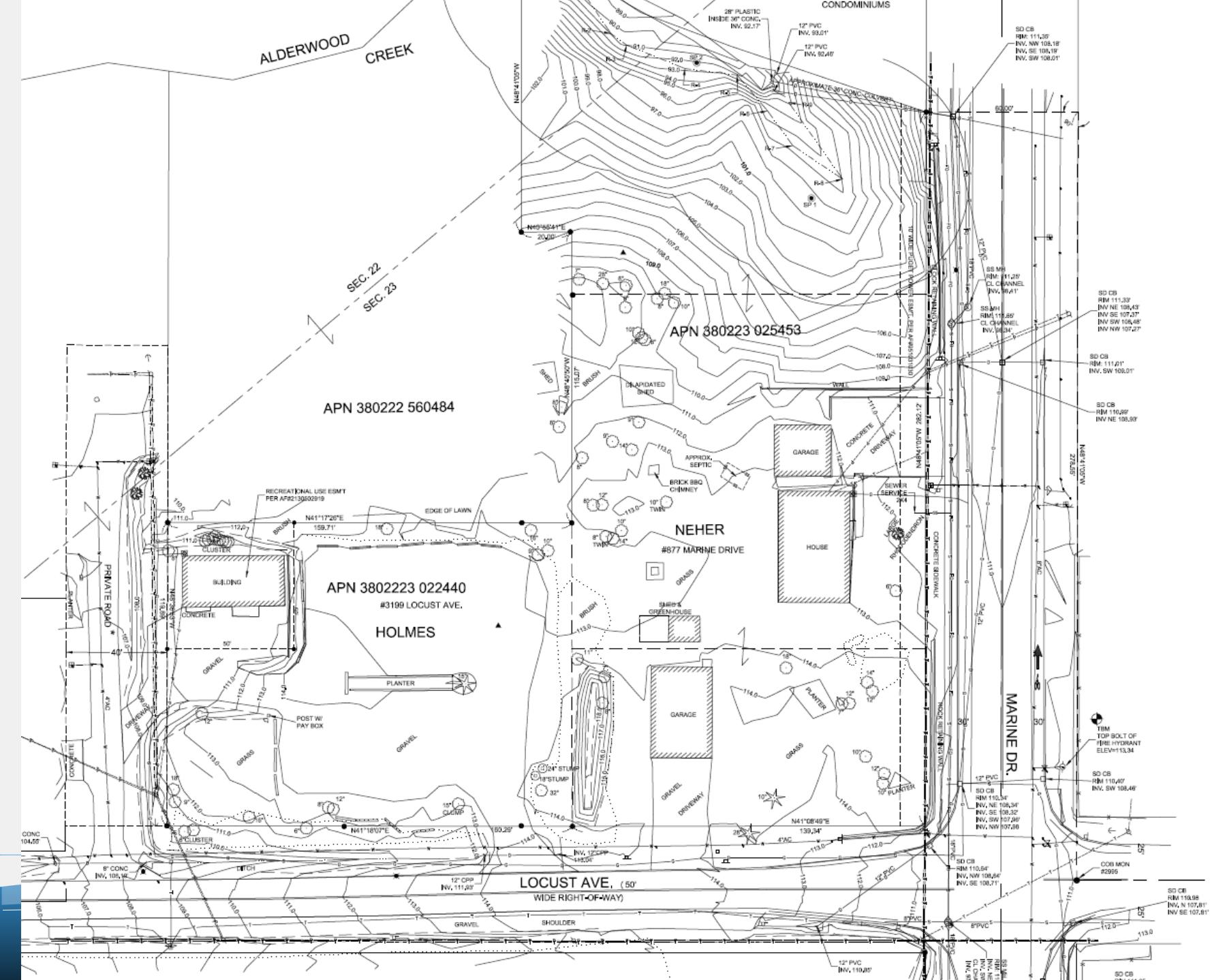




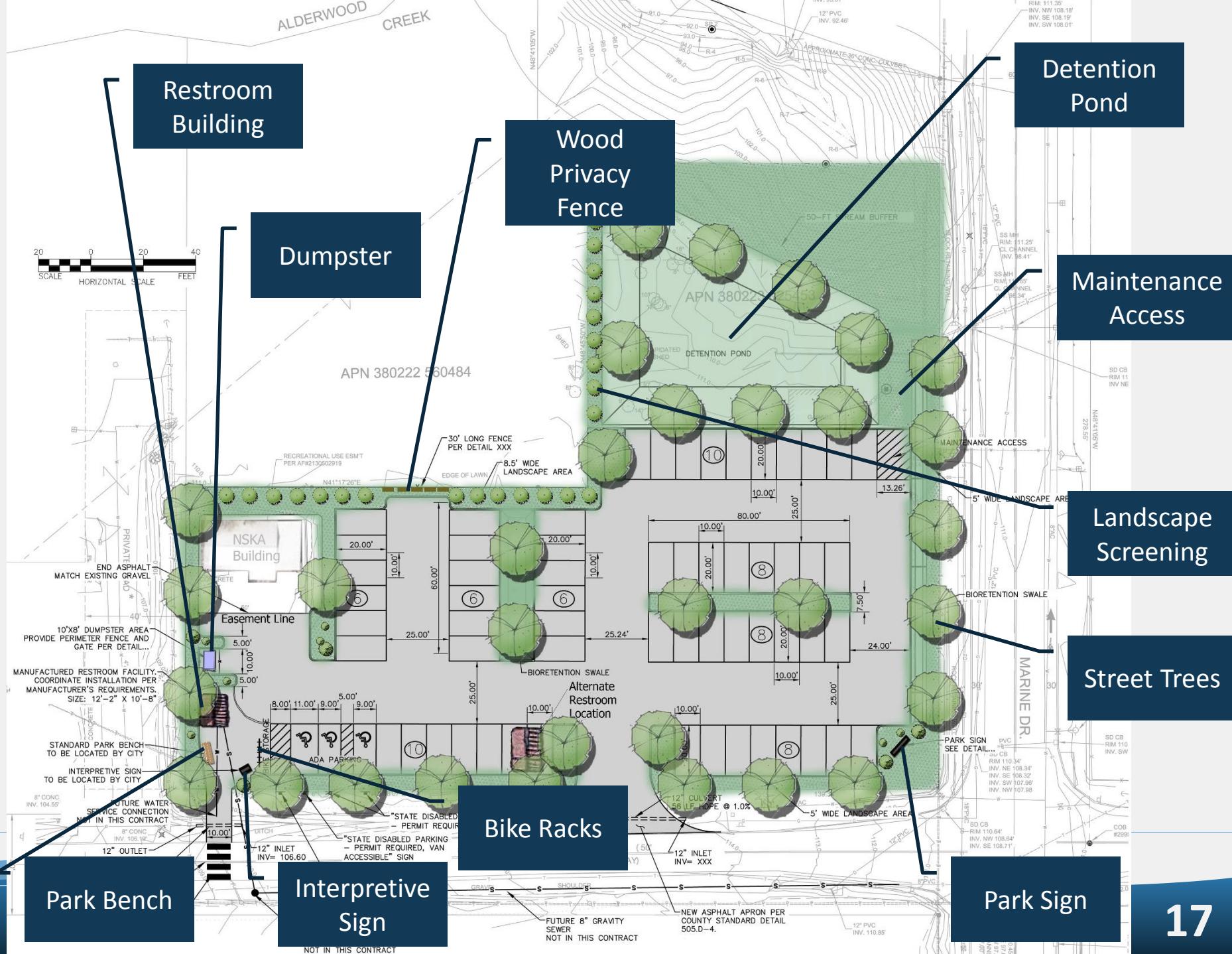
Preliminary Design Overview

- Parking
- Landscaping
- Trash/dumpster
- Pet waste station
- Interpretive Sign
- Park Sign
- Bicycle parking
- Motorcycle parking
- Security Lighting
- Restroom



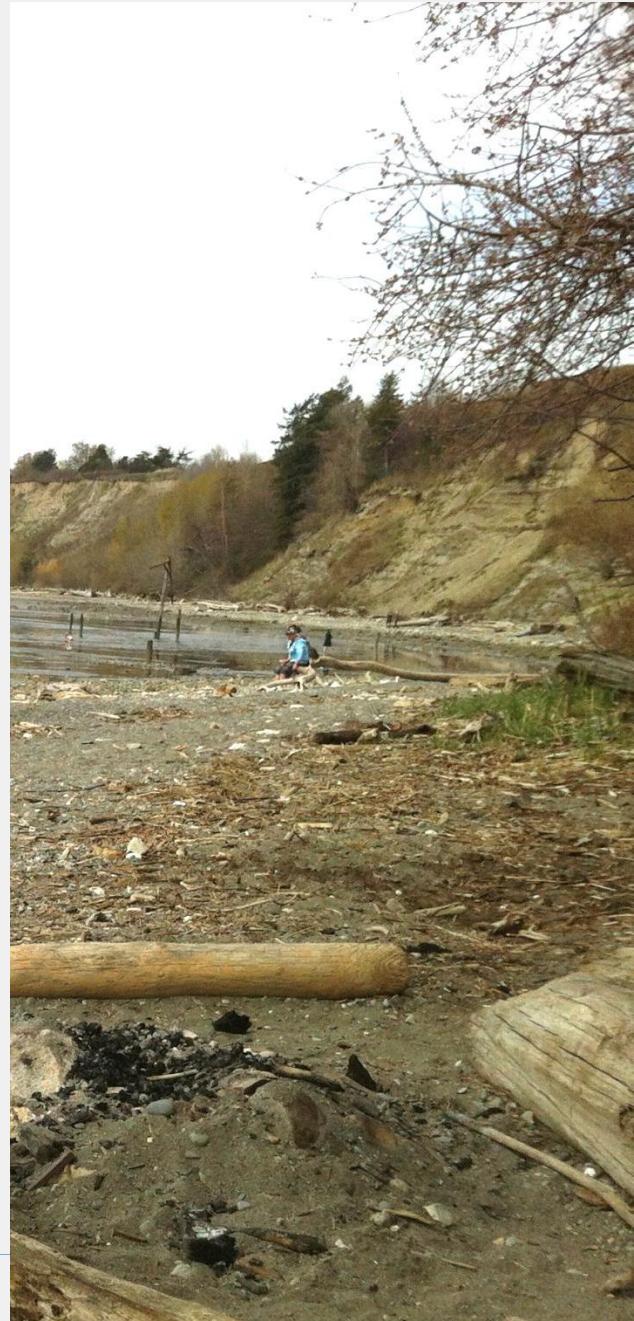






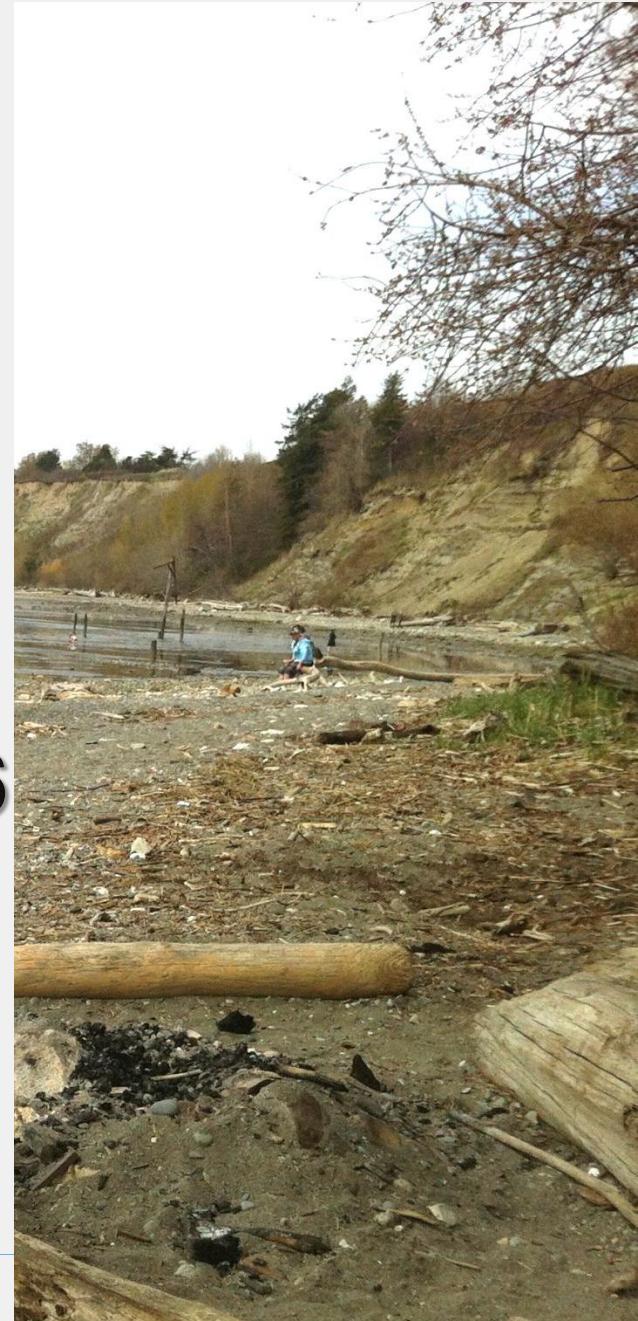
Park Name

- Locust Beach Trailhead?
- Others?



Next steps

- Complete Design - 2015
- Apply for Permits - 2015
- Bid - Spring 2016
- Construct - Summer 2016
- Continue coordination with County staff & neighborhood



Open discussion/Group Comments:

- Build beach access at property 'A' (925 Marine Drive) for Tsunami escape route
- Don't plan deciduous trees, they are messy. Evergreens are better
- Driveway on Locust is an existing access. Keep the driveway as the main parking lot entrance.
- Consider a "pit" toilet down at the beach. There is human feces down at the beach.
- Consider a portable toilet in the parking lot as an interim solution
- Does the city have access to water service?
- Install an outdoor shower at the new restroom building
- Don't build the restroom. It will be a nuisance of drug and elicit activity
- Are there any plans to improve the intersection at Marine and Locust? Add a stop sign?
- Building the restroom is more important than paving and landscaping. Build the restroom first. Consider a gravel parking area to save costs.
- Parking lot is overdeveloped. Use gravel. Parks doesn't keep up with their landscaping maintenance. Whatcom Creek looks horrible. Save money and build the restroom now. Trash and parties are an issue here. Residents have been doing a lot of the work to keep things clean.

Open discussion/Group Comments:

- Provide ATV access on the trail for the sheriff.
- Will trail be made accessible for all? Why have accessible parking for inaccessible trail?
- Install pet waste stations
- The more value and enjoyment that happens here, the better the area will get
- Get everyone involved in this effort. Get neighbors involved
- Will this development increase activity? City is developing property in the County and law enforcement is a big concern. With expanding the facility, there are issues. Laws aren't enforced now. People are speeding on Marine drive.
- People camp on property and no one is doing anything about it
- Improve the stairs and trail to the beach. City should take responsibility now even though you don't own the property.
- Consider education campaign and recruit beach stewards.
- Trail is becoming a liability with increased use.
- Student population may be bringing in trash and parties. Consider them in the process as neighbors to improve and raise awareness, get involved and do something good.
- Community groups are interested in trail building. City should utilize free help more often.

Open discussion/Group Comments:

- Set up volunteer stewardships with the city now
- Install a gate at the parking area. 90% of issues happen after dark.
- Install a fence at the ravine to deter illegal dumping. People have dumped couches, etc, down the ravine. It's too easy to access.
- Name of park should be "Locust Beach" this is what people reference
- Another name idea is "Nooksack Delta" to raise awareness of environment
- Clarify exactly what will be built next summer
- Sewer service is very important. It's a very critical issue of health and safety. We should be able to overcome paperwork issues with getting sewer approval
- Put a sign at the beach within the Locust ROW
- Plant an impermeable hedge along the private drive between the park and the neighbors
- Use gravel instead of pavement to save money
- Create a design that has a more residential feel to landscaping.
- Use curved landscape areas, not such straight and abrupt lines
- Will trail to beach close?
- Is Chartwell land private?
- Use permeable surfaces in the parking lot. Create softer surfaces
- Install bicycle parking.

Open discussion/Group Comments:

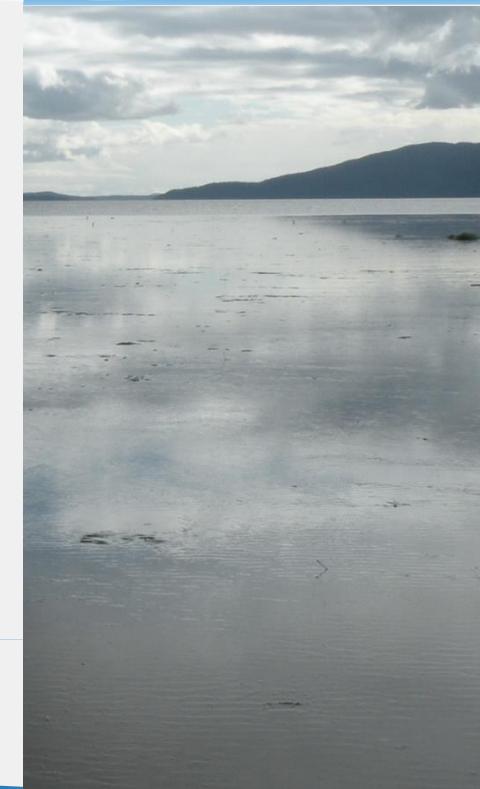
- Create a barrier between the pond and parking lot for children's safety.
- Create a more welcoming gathering area in the parking lot. Consider other paved surface treatments
- Install bike racks that are useable
- Consider solar cell lighting
- Use dimming lights with motion sensors
- Neighbors aren't too sure about parking lot lighting. Will we see lights outside our bedrooms?
- Implement smart technology here to detect vehicles and use. Detect movement, no cameras. Work with the sheriff on this.
- Install security cameras and have staff monitor them
- Create "beachy" theme for fencing using driftwood
- Consider an artist mural on the railroad over pass to deter graffiti
- Communicate with students. Get their involvement and investment in this area
- Don't built a "pit" toilet
- What is needed to build just a shower? Could we just have a water spigot with no sewer hookup?
- Consider building a playground at the parking lot

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