

City of Bellingham

2008

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Amended Comprehensive Plan
Chapter 7

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Available at

<http://www.cob.org/government/departments/parks/index.aspx>

- Phone Survey Results
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 - Public Meeting Summary
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-

Chapter 1: Introduction

As a growing urban area, Bellingham's park system needs to respond to the changing environment of its community.

1.1 Mission Statement

The mission of the Bellingham Department of Parks & Recreation is to "Support a healthy community by promoting high quality parks and recreation services." The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan builds on this mission and outlines the steps to continue to achieve a quality parks system for the future.

1.2 Overall Vision

Throughout this process, some core values and characteristics emerged that set the tone for the overall planning process. These values centered on:

- ***the natural environment*** – a strong recognition of the value of and access to the natural environment as a core component of the Bellingham park system, including trails, open space and the waterfront;
- ***flexibility*** – a need for a flexible system to respond to changing community interests;
- ***extreme or newly emerging sports*** – recognition that Bellingham residents pride themselves on living outside the "recreation box" with strong interests in more extreme or newly emerging sports, such as BMX racing, rugby, rock climbing, bocce ball, disc golf and similar sports;
- ***variety*** – the desire for the system to continue to offer the variety of choices, both within the city and in the region, for recreational activities of all types, for all ages and abilities.

Some specific ideas suggested during the planning process to increase the variety of activities in the system include more spray parks, a wave pool, underwater park, rock climbing or bouldering, and a whitewater kayak course.



Cornwall Park Spray Park 2007

1.3 Previous plans

This plan, prepared in 2008, builds on previous comprehensive planning efforts by updating the 2002 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and the 2006 Comprehensive Plan for Bellingham. The

plan considers parks, recreation and open space land, facilities and programs, collectively referred to in the plan as the “park system”.

Bellingham continues to grow and is a changing community. Greater infill development is occurring within the central part of the city, while new development is expected in the annexing Urban Growth Areas (UGA). New types of recreation are emerging and activities once considered “extreme” are now “mainstream.” The park system is also attracting a greater number of users than ever before and requiring more flexibility of park resources to respond to these trends.

This plan outlines general goals and objectives, specific recommendations and includes an implementation plan to expand and enhance Bellingham’s park system as a vital part of the quality of life for Bellingham’s citizens.

1.4 Objectives & Approach

The specific objectives of this planning effort are to:

- **Community Setting** – Establish the framework within which park, recreation, and open space facilities should be provided, including natural features, wildlife habitat, historical context, land use implications, current recreation trends and demographics.
- **Existing Park System** – Update the existing park system inventory within the Bellingham area. This includes those that are owned and operated by the city or other public agencies, both within the planning area and beyond. The planning area is defined in section 1.6 of this chapter.
- **Needs & Opportunities** – Analyze the needs for future park, recreation, and open space facilities or programs and develop recommendations for meeting those needs.
- **Goals and Objectives** – *Identify the goals to be met and objectives to carry out those goals as the plan is implemented*
- **Level of Service** – Based on the existing park system and the recommendations of the community, establish proposed level of service standards to help guide development of the park system over the next 6 to 14 years.
- **Implementation Plan** – establish the overall estimated cost of achieving the proposed level of service, based on the community’s recommendations, prioritize those recommendations, and develop a plan to implement those recommendations through a 6 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and general strategies to be considered through the year 2022.



Bloedel Donovan Park - Photo by Ellyn Ginsburg

1.5 Public Involvement

Development of this plan included an extensive public process. A Steering Committee was developed to help oversee the process, provide input and evaluate the recommendations. The Committee included representatives from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Greenways Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission, Whatcom County Parks Commission, the Bellingham School District, city staff and citizens at large. A random sample household phone survey, a web-based survey, public workshop and public open house were also conducted to augment and inform the Committee's discussions. Specifically, the public involvement process included the following:

<i>Meeting/Action</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date (2008)</i>
Steering Committee	Overall Vision	January
Public Workshop	Needs & Opportunities	February
Steering Committee	Telephone Survey	February
Telephone and Web Survey	Conducted	February-March
Steering Committee	Level of Service	March
City Council Update	Progress Update	March
Steering Committee	Draft Plan	April
Public Open House	Draft Plan	April
City Council	Work Session	April
Steering Committee	Plan Priorities	April
Steering Committee	Plan approval	May
Park Board	Plan Approval	May
City Council	Preliminary Approval	May
Steering Committee	Plan Approval	June
Planning Commission	Work Session	August
Planning Commission	Public Hearings	July, Aug., Oct.
City Council	Public Hearing	October

1.6 Planning Area Boundary

The planning area for this process includes the Bellingham City Limits and the 2008 Whatcom County adopted Urban Growth Area (UGA). The 2006 City Comprehensive Plan proposed Urban Growth Area Boundary is shown on the maps for reference. The City recognizes the UGA boundary may change and if so, this Chapter of the City's Comprehensive plan will be modified to include those areas.

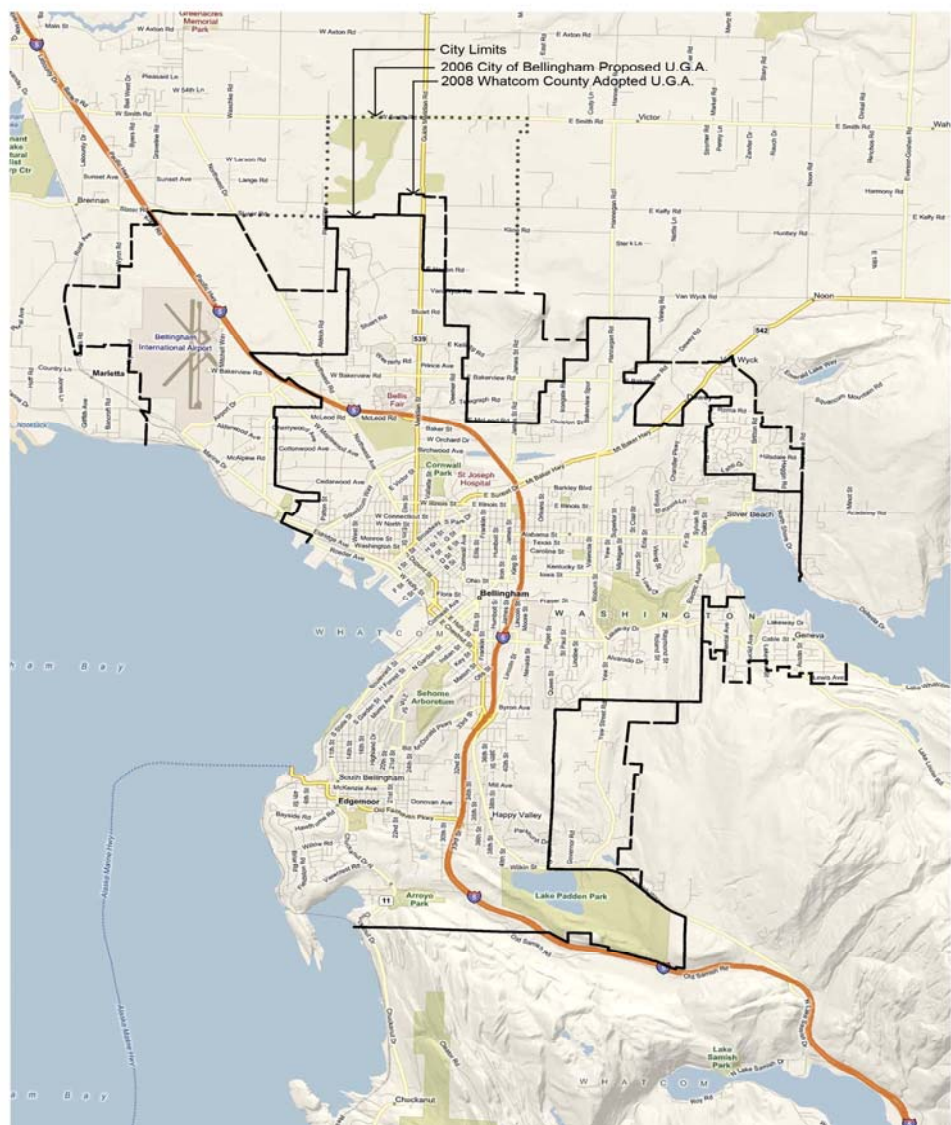
The surrounding regional park, recreation and open space facilities were inventoried and considered, but are not included in any specific calculations within this plan (level-of-service, cost estimates, implementation). Whatcom

County is responsible for planning the area outside of the UGA; however, the planning efforts of each agency must be coordinated. Any areas added to the UGA in the future or areas that may be annexed currently within the UGA will need to address park, recreation and open space needs concurrent with that action. Also, for the purposes of this plan, it is assumed that by the year 2022 all UGA areas will be incorporated into the city so the proposed facilities, population, level-of-service and any other recommendations projected to the year 2022 include both the existing city and the entire UGA. If all of these areas are not annexed, some of the recommendations may not be implemented.

1.7 Plan Documentation

This plan is organized into seven chapters including the community setting, inventory of existing facilities, the demand for new land and facilities, the goals and objectives in fulfilling those demands, recommendations to meet the demand, and finally how to implement the recommendations.

Appendices include park type classifications, public opinion survey results, public meeting summaries, and a detailed table of existing and proposed park system facilities. This plan is organized such that existing facilities and conditions are discussed first, both in terms of the overall community setting (Chapter 2) and existing facilities (Chapter 3). Documentation of the needs and demands from the analysis of existing conditions and the community process are presented next (Chapter 4). Goals and objectives based on the analysis and the need expressed through this process then follow (Chapter 5). The recommendations resulting from the overall planning process are then presented (Chapter 6), with the implementation of those recommendations described at the end of the plan (Chapter 7). Additional information is outlined in the associated Appendices and Supporting Documentation.



Planning Area Boundary

Chapter 2: *Community Setting*

Many of the core characteristics and values that bring residents, businesses and visitors to Bellingham lie in the vast natural resources within and surrounding the city.

2.1 Location, Topography and Temperature

Bellingham is located in northwest Washington on the shore of Bellingham Bay. The south and east boundaries of the urban area about the slopes of Stewart, Lookout, and Chuckanut Mountains, at the edge of the Cascade foothills that frame Mount Baker.

Topography ranges from sea level to about 500 feet above Puget Sound on the hilltops around Bellingham. Elevation increases to 3,050 feet at the top of Stewart Mountain, and eventually to 10,785 at the top of Mount Baker. The landform is generally flat to rolling within the urban growth area, though the plateau edge overlooking Bellingham Bay can drop off abruptly in slopes ranging from 40% to 75%.

Mean temperatures vary from a high of 73 degrees in July to a low of 31 degrees Fahrenheit in January. Average annual precipitation is about 35 inches. Approximately 80% of the precipitation occurs from October through March with less than 6% falling during the summer months.

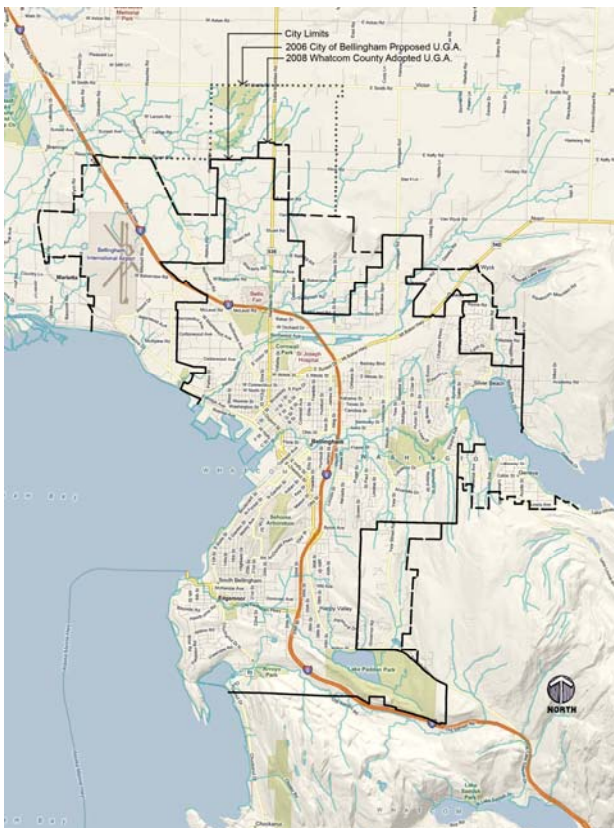
Following is a list of environmental features that are found in and around the Bellingham Urban Area.

2.2 Water

2.2.1 Creeks

Three major creeks and three minor ones drain the Bellingham area. These are:

- *Squalicum Creek* – A major creek that starts in the Nooksack Valley and flows southwest to the mouth of Bellingham Bay.
- *Whatcom Creek* – A major creek that drains from the northwest end of Lake Whatcom west into Bellingham Bay.
- *Padden Creek* – A major creek that drains from the west end of Lake Padden west into Bellingham Bay.



Existing Creeks, Streams & Tributaries

- Little Squalicum Creek - A perennial stream northwest of Squalicum Creek leading into Bellingham Bay.
- Connelly Creek – A perennial stream that drains south from Sehome Hill into Padden Creek.
- Chuckanut Creek – A perennial stream that drains from near Lake Samish west into Chuckanut Bay.

2.2.2 Rivers

The Nooksack River begins at Deming Glacier near Mt. Baker and eventually drains into Bellingham Bay. It passes through the northwest corner of the planning area.

2.2.3 Wetlands

Small wet spots, bogs, peat and muck deposits are common throughout the area, particularly within creek corridors or adjacent to lakes and ponds.

2.2.4 Floodplains

Floodplains are lands subject to high water inundation during heavy storms and/or high tides. The complete shoreline within the planning area is subject to some flooding during high tide. Very small portions of the Little Squalicum, Squalicum, Whatcom, and Padden Creek inlets to Bellingham Bay are also potentially affected by tidal floodwaters or during a 100-year storm, generally defined as the worst storm in an average 100 year period.

There are also numerous, sizable flood prone areas in other areas around Bellingham including:

- wetlands adjacent to Squalicum Creek, Bug Lake, and Sunset Pond,
- wetlands adjacent to Padden Creek and Connelly Creek,
- bogs adjacent to Lost Lake, on DNR property or adjacent to the airport, and
- marsh and tidelands adjacent to Chuckanut Bay and Chuckanut Creek.

Floodplains along all major urban streams are subject to inundation during severe precipitation events. Detention structures on several tributaries have been built and are intended to reduce the risk of downstream flooding in these and other areas.

2.2.5 Lakes

Lakes are defined here as water bodies greater than 20 acres in size or more than 6 feet in depth.

- Lake Whatcom is the largest freshwater lake in Bellingham located on the eastern edge of the urban growth area. The north end of the lake is developed with private residential uses. Public access to the lake within the City/UGA is provided at Bloedel-Donovan Park, North Shore DNR lease property, Euclid Park, and several unimproved street rights of way. Lake Whatcom is the source of drinking water for the area and is subject to land development restrictions and water quality controls.
- Lake Samish located south of the urban growth area, is the second largest freshwater lake. Most of the lake shoreline has been developed for private residential uses. Whatcom County has developed Lake Samish Park with swimming, fishing, and boat access.



- Lake Padden located on the southeastern edge of the City, is the third largest freshwater lake. The entire lake shoreline has been preserved by the city within the boundaries of Lake Padden Park.
- Toad Lake located on the northeastern edge of the urban growth area, is the fourth largest freshwater lake. Washington State Fish & Wildlife has developed a swimming, fishing and boat access on the south end of the lake. The rest has been developed with primarily residential uses.
- Sunset Pond is a freshwater retention pond located on North James Street. The pond shoreline has been preserved by the city within the boundaries of Sunset Pond Park and improved with perimeter walking trails.
- Bug Lake is a freshwater retention pond located on Squaticum Way. The pond shoreline has been preserved by the city with informal walking trails but no on-water access.
- Padden Lagoon is a saltwater estuary at the inlet of Padden Creek into Bellingham Bay. The lagoon shoreline has been partially restored and preserved but with no on-water access.

Most of the other small ponds or lakes in the Bellingham urban growth area have either been developed for private residential use and/or are too small in size to support public access activities.

2.3 Wildlife Habitats

Habitat conservation areas play a critical role in survival of the city's diverse plant and wildlife communities. Habitats encompass a variety of areas including large parcels of contiguous undeveloped land, special areas like streams or wetlands, and structural elements like rocky shorelines or standing dead trees.

The ecological value of an area depends on the quantity, quality, and diversity, of the food, water, and cover that it provides wildlife species. A particular site's value also depends on proximity to other usable habitats, the presence of rare species, and the rarity of the habitat type.

The preservation and restoration of critical habitat areas are key to protecting the biological diversity of the city and region. Critical habitat can be lost or degraded due to urban land use activities. Threats to critical habitat can be reduced with effective land use policies and regulations. In some instances, valuable habitat can also be restored or enhanced through preservation and conservation efforts.

For ease of discussion, wildlife habitats are generally classified as marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial categories. Many wildlife species rely upon most, even all, of these habitat categories for survival. Bellingham has all four categories of wildlife habitat. Each category is described in more detail in *Appendix B*. Unique or threatened species are also included in *Appendix B*.



Photo credit: Melinee Fischer 2007

2.3.1 Marine Habitat

Marine habitats are deepwater areas that extend outward from the upper limit of wave spray on land. In Bellingham, the marine habitat zone extends the complete circumference of Bellingham and Chuckanut Bays. Marine habitats provide critical plant, fish, and wildlife habitat that can be greatly affected by land and water based activities.

The waters of Puget Sound depend on the health of tide flats and the water column for primary production. Eelgrass, kelp, and phytoplankton provide the primary cornerstone for the grazing food chain, and shelter for both invertebrate and vertebrate animal species.

The deeper waters and narrow channel of Rosario Strait and Hales Passage, and Bellingham and Chuckanut Bays produce a unique marine environment rich in nutrients hosting a remarkable diversity of fish and animal life including octopus, ling cod, and wolf eels. Marine habitat includes beach habitat and offshore habitat.

2.3.2 Estuarine Habitat

Estuaries are semi-enclosed bodies of water that are freely connected with the open sea and within which saltwater mixes with freshwater drainage. Estuaries create transitions between marine, freshwater, and terrestrial environments that support a rich and diverse variety of wildlife species.

The estuaries within the Bay may support over 40 types of marine organisms and over 50 types of fish. In addition, some state priority bird species are associated with estuarine habitat include the bald eagle, heron, and osprey.

2.3.3 Freshwater Habitat

Freshwater bodies include lakes, rivers, creeks, wetlands and riparian areas. 87% of all wildlife and fish species are estimated to depend on freshwater habitat during some part of their life cycle for drinking water, foraging, nesting, and/or migratory movements. Freshwater habitat includes:

- Riparian areas
- Wetlands
- Lakes

Freshwater zones support terrestrial and aquatic insects and resident and migratory fish species. Freshwater zones also support a variety of birds and mammals. City streams provide freshwater habitat for various species of fish, including salmon and trout.

A number of fish runs are considered endangered or threatened in Whatcom County including spring chinook, fall chinook, and the sea-run cutthroat trout. Chinook salmon (Puget Sound) and bull trout also are indicated for this area. Chinook and bull trout are state candidates and federal threatened species. Washington Department of Fisheries & Wildlife and various Tribal Governments supplement the original stocks of most of these species with hatchery-raised fish.

2.3.4 Terrestrial Habitat

Terrestrial areas are upland lands located above freshwater, estuarine, and marine water zones. These zones extend from the level lowlands that border Bellingham Bay to the hilltops that surround the city. Ecological communities within this habitat zone include:

- forests,
- grasslands,

- shrub/grass communities, and
- timberline and alpine areas.

2.3.5 Land Use Implications

Marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial habitats contribute to the overall biological diversity of the region and provide a number of additional environmental functions and values of interest to area residents. Many species depend on the constant interaction of all four of these habitat systems for food, cover, nesting, and other survival requirements.

Some plant, fish, and wildlife habitat will be lost as the area population continues to grow. These impacts can be minimized, however, by sensitive development, innovative design concepts, and performance oriented development standards that:

- *Replant* - native vegetation along the shoreline and tidal boundaries, within the estuarine zone, and along drainage corridors,
- *Remove* - artificial shoreline constructions, barriers to the mixing of salt and freshwater, and freshwater impoundment or diversions,
- *Control* - stormwater runoff content and quality that enters the marine estuary system and in the terrestrial watershed in natural impoundment on-site where pollutants can be separated from runoff,
- *Remove* – invasive plant species that displace native materials and habitat,
- *Plant* - native trees and shrubs that support and retain native wildlife species, and
- *Cluster* – park improvements to preserve natural shorelines and contiguous open spaces as common lands.

Mature shoreline trees, snags, and downed logs should be preserved where possible to allow wildlife species to coexist in urban areas.

Intense park activities should be separated from the most sensitive areas by maintaining and enhancing buffers to protect habitat function. Access to select sensitive areas may be provided through low impact trails.

Where appropriate, the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan should identify areas to preserve and enhance through purchase of development rights or title for open space and other low impact park uses.

2.4 Historical Development

Lummi, Nooksack, and Samish Indians lived in and around the Nooksack River and Bellingham Bay area. These tribes fished Puget Sound and the

The most critical and unique habitat areas should be preserved and enhanced. Low impact trail access to habitat areas should be provided in a sensitive manner for no net loss of habitat function.

river. The tribes also exhibited some agricultural and hunting characteristics common to eastern or interior tribes.

Indian encampments consisted of tribal groups that may have numbered more than 250 persons per group in densities of 4-10 persons per square mile. Village sites were located along Bellingham Bay and the Nooksack River.

In 1792, the first western exploration of Puget Sound was accomplished by British explorer Captain George Vancouver. Vancouver charted Bellingham Bay and named it in honor of Sir William Bellingham, Controller of the British Navy.

In 1852, Henry Roeder and Russell Peabody arrived from California and started the Roeder-Peabody-Page sawmill on Whatcom Creek Waterway to process virgin red cedar and Douglas fir.



By 1854, the towns of Whatcom, Sehome, Bellingham, and Fairhaven were settled around Bellingham Bay; the Washington Territorial Legislature established Whatcom County and designated the residence of RV Peabody, near the mouth of Whatcom Creek as the county seat. Whatcom was derived from an Indian term meaning “rough tumbling waters” – a reference to lower Whatcom Falls.

In 1857, gold was discovered on the Fraser River creating an instant stampede through the Whatcom Creek settlement then north to Sumas to the gold fields. On a peak day, 7 steamers and 13 square-rigged sailing ships anchored at the mouth of the Whatcom Creek Waterway. Soon after, the Canadian government required all miners to clear customs in Victoria then travel by steamboat directly up the Fraser River, bypassing the Bellingham area.

The 4 towns developed around Bellingham Bay separated from each other by dense forest.

- *Fairhaven* – was developed in earnest in the 1880s in expectation of becoming the western terminus of the Great Northern

Railway. The central business district housed 135 brick and commercial block buildings including retail stores and fine mansions. The Panic of 1893 dried up investments in Fairhaven.

- *Sehome* – developed in 1858 around a vein of coal that angled into the bay at the bottom of Sehome Hill. Coal tailings were dumped at the



base of the hill and into the bay until the coal vein ran out in 1878. In 1893, Sehome resident and Washington poet laureate Ella Higginson persuaded officials to locate a state normal school (teachers' college) on the hill above the abandoned mine. The school, which evolved into Western Washington University, occupies the former site of the Higginson home.

- *Whatcom* – the earliest settlement, had a neighboring community develop across the creek after 1880 when 25 Kansas families signed an agreement with local promoters, bought stock in a development company, and arrived to found Washington Colony. They built a wharf, sawmill, and a small town on Whatcom Creek. In 1884, confusions over land ownership resulted in the dissolution of the colony in legal challenges. The Whatcom business district continued to develop on pilings and plank roads along the waterfront from Prospect to Broadway Streets. By the 1890s, the railroads arrived and built wharves far out into the bay to service shipping lines.
- *Bellingham* – the smallest of the bay's settlements, began along the base of Sehome Hill at the Pattle coal claim. Although Bellingham proved to be inconsequential and transitory, the other communities chose the name when they decided to overcome rivalry and merge into a single town.

In 1903, the towns of Whatcom, Sehome, Bellingham, and Fairhaven were consolidated into the City of Bellingham. Tideland areas were filled and the Great Northern Railway constructed passenger and freight depots in the Whatcom "Old Town" business district to service the rapidly expanding city. As Bellingham continued to expand the core business district gradually moved onto the hill overlooking Whatcom Creek and Bellingham Bay.

2.5 Population

2.5.1 Population Trends

Bellingham's population was estimated to be 67,171 persons in 2000 and 75,220 in the year 2007, equal to an average annual increase of 1.7% per year over the 7 year period. The unincorporated Urban Growth Area (UGA) for Bellingham's has an estimated 13,618 people for a total UGA population of 88,838 in the year 2007.

<i>2007 City Population</i>	=	75,220
<i>2007 UGA Population</i>	=	13,618
<i>2007 Total Population</i>	=	88,838
<i>2022 Projected Population</i>	=	113,055

2.5.2 Population Projections

According to the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) and Bellingham's Planning Department, the city's population will increase to 113,055 persons by the year 2022 assuming all UGA areas are

incorporated, or by another 24,217 people. This is equal to an annual average increase of 1.9% per year over the 14 year planning period.

2.6 Demographics

The following demographic information was taken from the 2006 United States Census Data for Bellingham. Demographics are important to consider in reviewing various opportunities for specific recreation proposals, such as age characteristics, or in evaluating new trends or interests in recreation programming or facilities, such as ethnic characteristics.

Economic Characteristics		
Census Year	2000	2006
Mean travel time to work in minutes	17.8	15.7
Median household income*	\$ 32,530	\$ 36,862
Median family income*	\$ 47,196	\$ 60,962
Per capita income*	\$ 19,483	\$ 21,848
Families below poverty level	9%	7%

** all income listed is in inflation-adjusted dollars*

Housing Characteristics		
Census Year	2000	2006
Occupied Housing Units	95.0%	92.3%
Vacant housing units	5.0%	7.7%
Owner-occupied housing units	39.1%	45.9%
Renter-occupied housing units	52.0%	54.1%
Unspecified	8.9%	0.0%

Age Characteristics		
Census Year	2000	2006
Median Age	30.4	30.7
Under 5 Years	5%	5%
5 to 19 Years	19%	23%
20 to 34 Years	32%	27%
35 to 64 Years	32%	33%
65 Years and Over	12%	12%

Ethnic Characteristics		
Census Year	2000	2006
White	85.8%	84.8%
Hispanic or Latino	4.6%	6.2%
Black or African American	1.0%	0.8%
Asian	4.2%	5.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.5%	0.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.0%
Two or More Races	2.1%	1.6%
Other	0.6%	0.2%
Language other than English at home	9.8%	19.7%

2.7 Recreation Trends

Similar to the rest of the state, Bellingham has seen a steady increase in organized sports. In Bellingham, that increase has also included new types of organized sports, such as rugby, ultimate frisbee and disc golf. There is also an increased interest in more extreme sports, such as mountain biking, skateboarding, dirt bike jumping, and rock climbing.

A changing socio-economic demographic and an increase in cultural diversity in the Bellingham area have brought new types of interests in recreational activities and programs. It has also brought a greater need for more general recreational activities and financial assistance to residents where needed for recreational program or facility fees.

Similar to trends across the nation, Bellingham residents continue to demand increasingly more off road walking and bicycling trails. As trails increase in popularity and the community around grows, there are increasing conflicts among the various trail users.

Nationally, there is an increased recognition of the importance of recreation and park systems to overall quality of life, especially as related to the growing obesity rate across the nation and in children. The relationship of park systems to quality of life has, for example, included new research and recognition of the healing effect of parks, gardens and other natural areas.

In recent years, park systems have played an increasingly recognized role in:

- promoting economic development*
 - improving quality of life*
 - facilitating healthy lifestyles*
-

Chapter 3: *Existing Facilities*

“Leave all the afternoon for exercise and recreation, which are as necessary as reading, I will rather say more necessary because health is worth more than learning.”

- Thomas Jefferson

There is an extensive network of park, recreation and open space facilities in Bellingham owned by the City and other providers (County, School District, Port, and State). The inventory of existing facilities is organized into those facilities that are within the City/UGA planning area and included in the city’s level of service (with the exception of most school sites) and those that are outside of the planning area. Level-of-service (LOS) is further defined in Chapter 4.

3.1 Within the Planning Area (included in LOS)

The inventory of existing facilities within the planning area is divided into the following park classifications:

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites
- Open Space
- Trails

Each classification is described below, along with a map locating and identifying each facility. A detailed inventory of recreation activities within each facility, organized by ownership and classification, is also included in *Appendix B*. A more detailed description of each park classification type, including approximate size, service area, development, and acquisition guidelines is included in *Appendix A*.

3.1.1 Neighborhood Park (NP)

Neighborhood parks are the basic recreational focus and center of neighborhoods. They should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities focused specifically for those living within walking distance of the service area, generally a ½ mile radius. Neighborhood parks should accommodate a wide variety of age and user groups, including youth, adults, seniors and special needs populations. Creating a sense of place by bringing together the unique character of the site with that of the neighborhood is vital to a successful neighborhood park.



3.1.2 Community Park (CP)

Community parks are larger than neighborhood parks and are intended to serve a broader range of activities and users. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods with more specialized activities, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces or environmental features. They allow for group activities and offer other recreation opportunities, such as programmed sports facilities not generally found at the neighborhood level. Due to their larger size, they are often designed to serve both as a neighborhood park function as well as having expanded and unique activities. The community park service area is approximately a 1 mile radius.



Photo credit: Audrey Dubois-Boutet 2006

3.1.3 Special Use Site (SU)

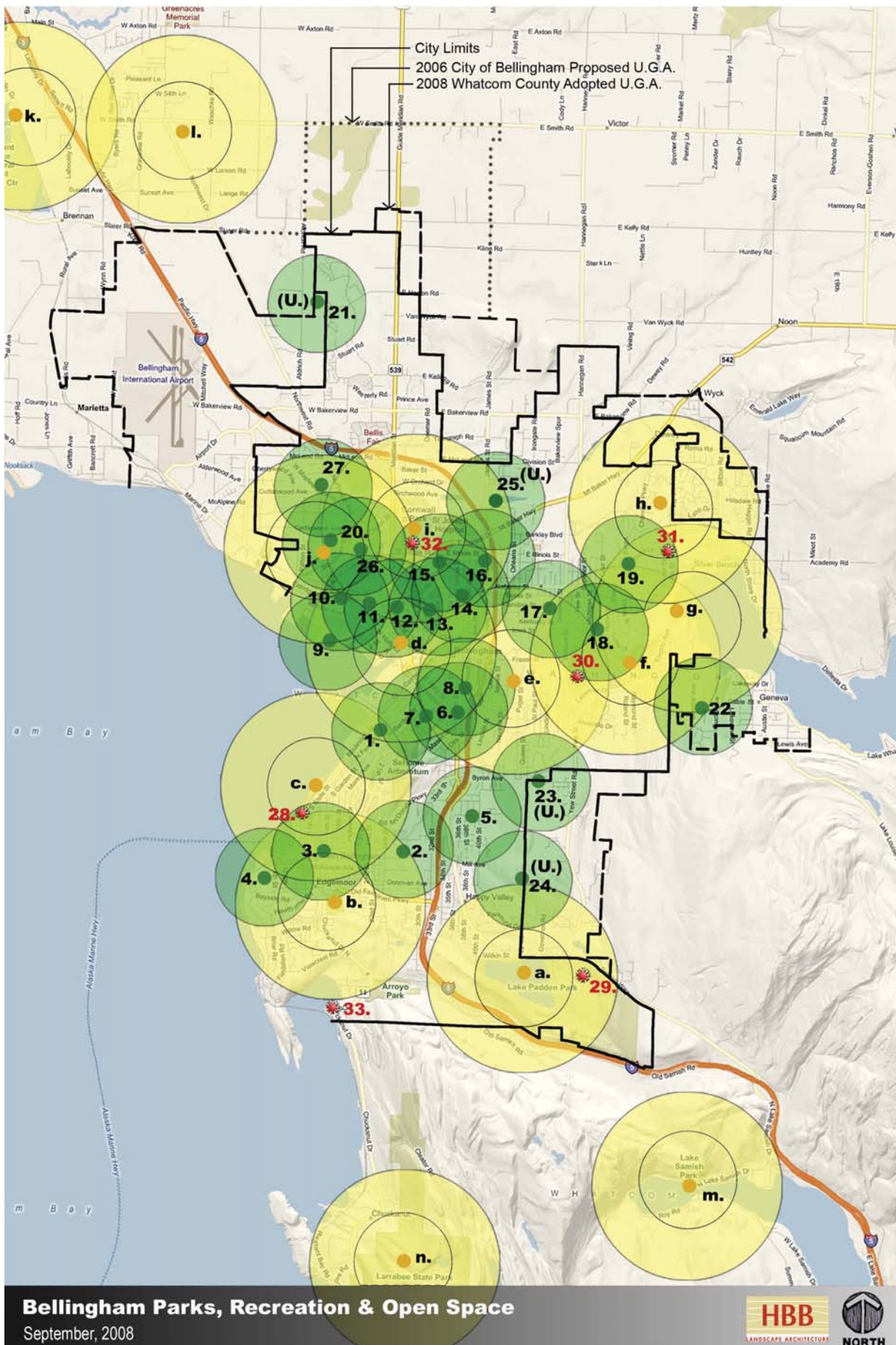
The special use classification covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward a single-purpose use. They often fall into three general categories:

- **Cultural Facilities** – unique resources offering historical, educational, visual/performance art or other similar experiences. These include gardens, art displays, and historic sites.
- **Indoor Facilities** – focused toward indoor uses, such as gymnasiums, community centers, teen/senior centers, aquatic centers, ice arenas, etc.
- **Unique Sites** – generally a single use, and not necessarily of a significance that might draw from a larger regional base. These may include arboretums, cemeteries, plazas, sports stadiums, golf courses, etc. especially when they are not in conjunction with other typical park amenities.



Photo credit: Tore Ofteness 2007

Existing Facilities Plan • Parks and Special Use Sites



- 1 mile radius
- **Community Parks**
- a. Lake Padden Park
- b. Fairhaven Park
- c. Boulevard Park
- d. Maritime Heritage Park
- e. Civic Athletic Complex
- f. Whatcom Falls Park
- g. Bloedel Donovan Park
- h. Northridge Park
- i. Cornwall Park
- j. Squalicum Creek Park
- k. Hovander Park (County)
- l. NW Sports Complex (County)
- m. Lake Samish Park (County)
- n. Larabee State Park (State)

- 1/2 mile radius
- (U.) undeveloped
- **Neighborhood Parks**
- 1. Forest and Cedar Park
- 2. Happy Valley Park
- 3. Fairhaven Village Green
- 4. Marine Park (Port)
- 5. Ridgmont Park
- 6. Franklin Park
- 7. Laurel Park
- 8. Rock Hill Park
- 9. Zuanich Pt. Park (Port)
- 10. Carl Lobe Park
- 11. Elizabeth Park
- 12. Fouts Park
- 13. Cornwall Tot Lot
- 14. Sunnyland Park
- 15. Broadway Park
- 16. Memorial Park
- 17. Roosevelt Park
- 18. St. Clair Park
- 19. Highland Heights Park
- 20. Birchwood Park
- 21. Cordata Park
- 22. Ted Edwards Park (County)
- 23. N. Sammish Crest Park
- 24. S. Sammish Crest Park
- 25. Sunset Pond Park
- 26. Lorraine Ellis Park
- 27. Shuksan Meadows Park

- ★ **Special Use Sites**
- 28. Taylor Dock
- 29. Lake Padden Golf Course
- 30. Bayview Cemetery
- 31. Big Rock Garden
- 32. Cornwall Rose Garden
- 33. Woodstock Farm

3.1.4 Open Space (OS)

A valuable park system includes lands that may not be suitable for some kinds of developed recreational facilities, but which can provide a unique ecological preserve, habitat, cultural and/or historical experience. Often, these areas are those defined as critical or sensitive areas, including:

- Wetlands
- Streams
- Forested sites
- Steep slopes
- Flood zones
- Geologic hazards

Open space sites are generally lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, unique landscapes, and visually aesthetic or buffer functions. One of the major purposes is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities as possible, as well as providing wildlife habitat in urban areas. These may include both individual sites that exhibit natural resources, or lands that are unsuitable for development but that offer other natural resource potential.

Examples include sites with steep slopes, old or second growth forests, wetlands, stream corridors, tidelands, meadows, agricultural lands, shorelines (salt or fresh water), storm water features, and/or watershed or aquifer recharge zones.

Open space areas may be developed with trails, educational exhibits, picnic facilities, and/or other similar activities where the use benefits the community and where public access is appropriate while recognizing the need to balance access to these facilities with the need for preservation.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires local jurisdictions to identify and adopt regulations to protect critical areas. In accordance with the act's requirements, the Bellingham Planning & Community Development Department completed comprehensive inventories and analysis within the city's urban growth area.

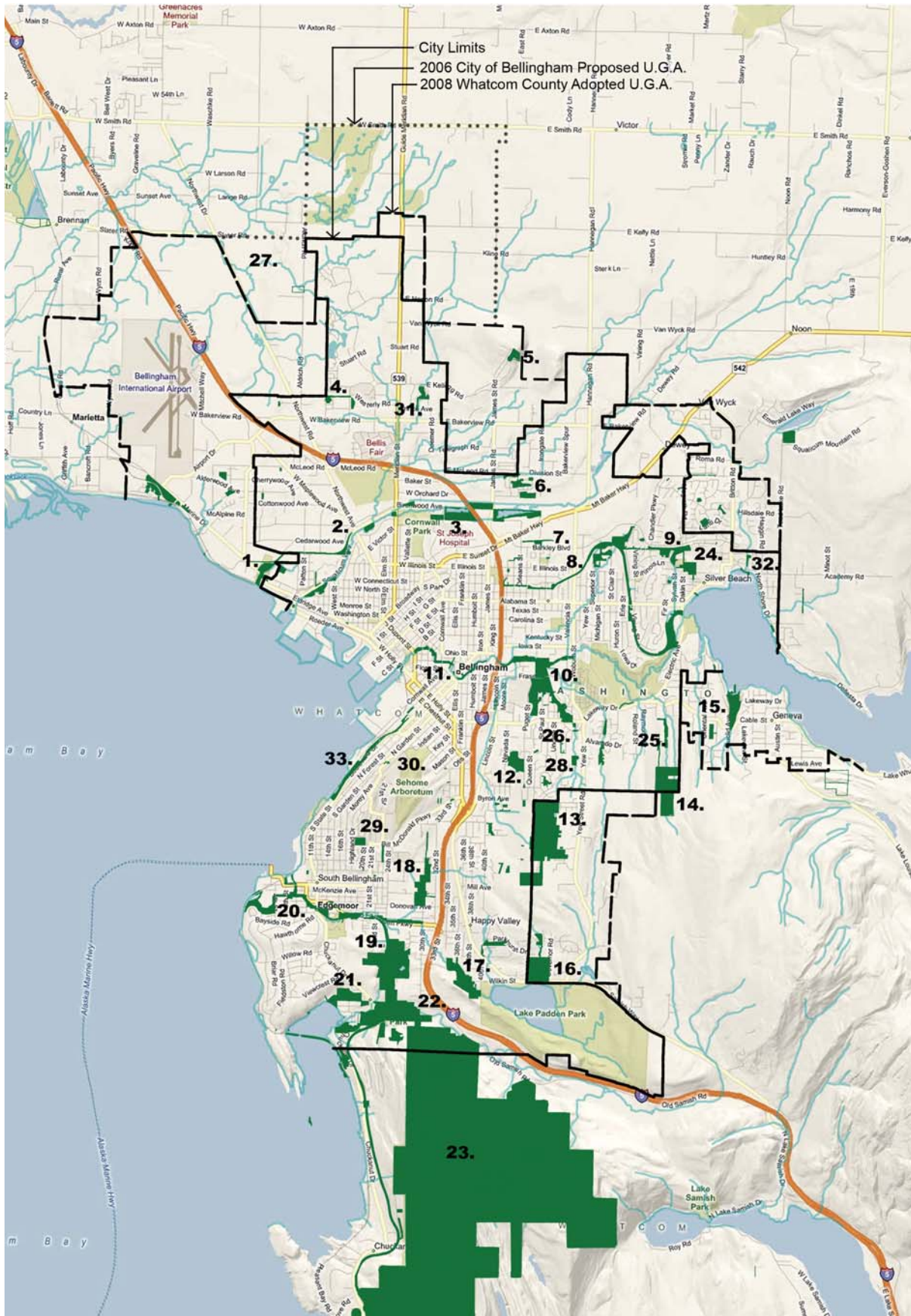
The city has adopted a critical areas ordinance and land use regulations to preserve and protect these areas from development. These ordinances and codes define the parameters within which a site with critical areas may be developed. Critical areas are often encumbered with an easement or covenant to ensure their protection. These preserved critical areas may be either public or private.



Photo credit: Dawn-Marie Hanrahan 2006



Existing Facilities Plan • Open Space



- ### Open Space
1. Little Squalicum Park
 2. Bay to Baker Greenway
 3. Squalicum Creek Greenway
 4. Bakerview Open Space
 5. King Mountain
 6. Orchard Estates Wetlands
 7. Moore-Pacific-Racine Greenway
 8. Railroad Greenway
 9. Klipsun Greenway
 10. Salmon Park Nature Area
 11. Whatcom Creek Greenway
 12. Hawley Open Space
 13. Samish Crest Open Space
 14. Lookout Mountain
 15. Euclid Park
 16. Lake Padden Open Space
 17. Padden Gorge
 18. Connelly Ck. Nature Area
 19. Interurban Greenway
 20. Lower Padden Open Space
 21. Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands
 22. Arroyo Nature Area
 23. Chuckanut Mt./Larabee (County/State)
 24. Big Rock Open Space
 25. Birch St. Open Space
 26. Cemetery Ck. Greenway
 27. Durham Open Space
 28. Lazy E Ranch
 29. Lowell Open Space
 30. Sehome Hill Arboretum
 31. Spring Ck. Nature Area
 32. Silver Beach Open Space
 33. South Bay Greenway

3.1.5 Trails (TR)

While trails may be categorized into many different types, for the purpose of this plan trails are generally limited to off-road trails. Trails within parks are included in individual park development plans. On-road systems (sidewalks and bikeways) are included in the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan.

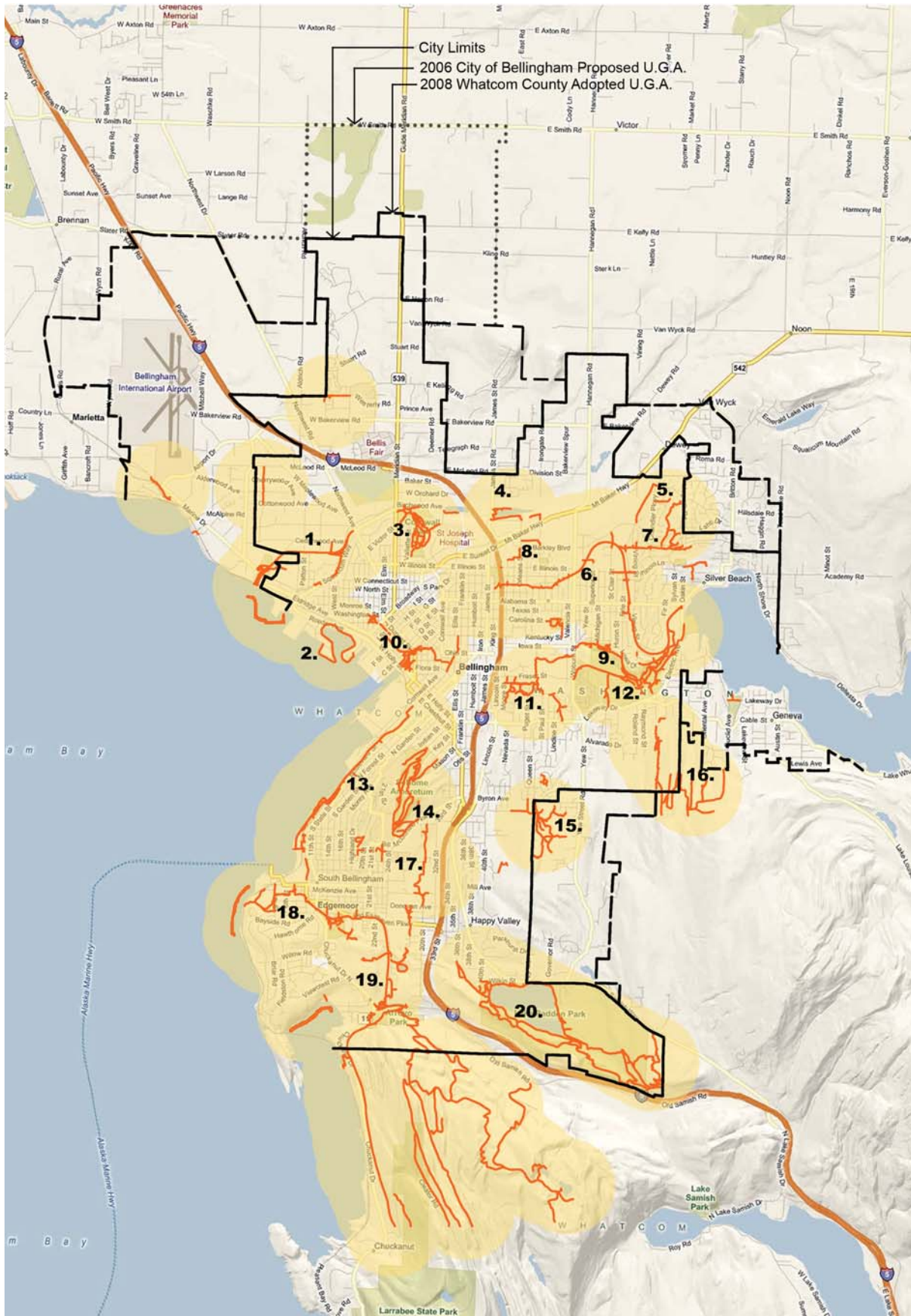
Trails in this context are intended to form a network of connections and linkages in and around the planning area, between neighborhoods, parks, schools, open space, civic facilities and commercial centers.

Trails should be developed for a variety of uses including walking, biking, and horseback riding. Developed trail widths and surfacing may vary depending on the type of use and location. While multi-use trails are generally desirable, not all trails are appropriate for all uses. Narrower trails or trails in sensitive areas may be suitable for walking only. Trails in Bellingham are often located within greenway corridors that preserve native vegetation and serve as wildlife habitat.

Trails may also parallel established vehicular corridors or other transportation systems, but should be separated from them with a physical and/or visual barrier (vegetation, low walls, etc.). Trail corridors may also include picnic areas, educational features or trailhead development located independently or within other types of park facilities.



Existing Facilities Plan • Trails



Trails

1. Bay to Baker Trail
2. Squalicum Harbor Trail (Port)
3. Cornwall Park Trails
4. Sunset Pond Trails
5. Northridge Park Trails
6. Railroad Trail
7. Klipsun Trail
8. Moore-Pacific-Racine Trail
9. Whatcom Creek Trail
10. Old Village Trail
11. Civic Athletic Complex & Salmon Woods Trail
12. Whatcom Falls Park Trails
13. South Bay Trail
14. Sehome Hill Arboretum Trails
15. Samish Crest Trails
16. Lookout Mountain Trails
17. Connelly Creek Nature Area Trails
18. Lower Padden Trails
19. Interurban Trail
20. Lake Padden & Padden Gorge Trails

3.2 Outside the Planning Area and/or not included in LOS

The inventory of existing facilities outside the planning area is listed by ownership. These facilities are not included in the level-of-service calculations, cost estimates or other calculations associated with this plan. They are listed here for reference only and are generally not shown on the maps. They were considered during the overall planning process as facilities were evaluated around the edges of the planning area since service areas for some of these facilities may cross planning boundaries. Ownership of these facilities includes:

- Washington State (WS)
 - Parks Department
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Whatcom County (WC)

Also included in this category are existing school-owned facilities. Since these facilities are available only on a limited basis during non-school hours, they are not included in the city's overall level-of-service calculations. The schools include:

- Bellingham School District (BSD)
- Whatcom Community College (WCC)
- Bellingham Technical College (BTC)
- Western Washington University (WWU)

Chapter 4: *Land and Facility Demand*

A community-based level-of-service is used in this process to more accurately depict local values, interests and populations. It was developed based on the community process outlined in the beginning of this plan.

The level of service standards for a park system can be measured in several ways. Population ratios of land acres per thousand people has been one of the most commonly used standards, but presents a limited evaluation of a park system. A broader approach to level of service standards should also consider the distribution of land and facilities in the community as well as the per capita value of the system, the availability of programs for all populations, demographics of the users, and the quality of the facilities, including maintenance.

Determining a level of service standard for park, recreation, and open space land and facilities can help a community plan and budget for the demands of a growing and changing population. This level of service standard can generally be estimated using population ratios, participation models, or, as was used in this plan, a community-based approach to develop level-of-service standards. Since all three approaches to level of service planning are commonly used, this plan summarizes each and discusses why the community-based approach was used. In all cases, the ratio of land per population is based on the complete system city wide, and can be broken down by the park classification of each individual type of facility. For example, the proposed level of service for neighborhood parks is 1.1 acre per thousand people out of an estimated total of 36 acres of parkland per thousand people city wide by the year 2022.

4.1 Population Ratio

The demand for park, recreation and open space is often estimated using a ratio of a facility to a unit of population, such as 3.1 acres of athletic fields per 1,000 residents. The ratio method is relatively simple to compute and can be compared with national or local park, recreation and open space measurements.

The ratio method is frequently used to estimate land requirements. However, a number of factors may significantly influence the amount of land a community may wish to set aside for park, recreation and open space purposes. Such factors may include the presence of sensitive environments, scenic viewpoints, historical or cultural assets, trailheads, and other features.

This method cannot account for unique age, social or interest characteristics that may affect recreation activity preferences within a community. Nor can the method compensate for climate or environmental features that may cause seasonal or geographical variations in use or the proximity of these facilities to individual neighborhoods.

The most widely used park land and facility ratios have been formulated by the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) using standards that have been developed over time by major park and recreation departments across the country. The NRPA published a comprehensive list of ratios in 1985 that have subsequently been updated. Currently, however, the NRPA recognizes the limitations of this population ratio methodology and recommends a community-based ratio be developed to compensate for these limitations and to reflect the specific conditions and unique nature of each community. The NRPA ratios are presented for comparison purposes only.

4.2 Participation Models

Park, recreation and open space facility requirements can also be determined using participation models: refined, statistical variations of a questionnaire or survey that determines recreational behavior.

Participation models are usually compiled using activity diaries, where a person or household records their participation in specific recreational activities over a measurable period of time. The diary results are compiled to create a statistical profile that can be used to project the park, recreation and open space behavior of comparable persons, households or populations. Participation models can be very accurate predictors of an area's park and recreation facility requirements in terms that are specific and measurable. However, they can fail to determine qualitative issues of an area's demands in addition to a facility's quantitative requirements. For example, an area might provide a mile of walking trail to meet the demands of local residents, but the trail might not be provided in a quality, safe corridor or be accessible to all populations.

*A **Community-Based** approach is recommended to respond to the needs, values and goals specific to Bellingham.*

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) used this methodology to develop land and facility standards from a survey of six age groups (male and female) for the northeast region of the state in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The estimates were developed for each activity demand for the peak season periods and were then converted into a ratio of facility unit per 1,000 residents to allow comparison with similar ratios developed by the NRPA.

As with the NRPA standard, this model has its own limitations. For example, it cannot account for variations in volume of use or quality of a facility that may be influenced by a variety of factors, such as seasonal uses or tourism. Because of this limitation, the state agency (RCO) also recommends a more community-based approach to determining a level-of-service in order to better represent local conditions.

4.3 Community-Based Approach

This plan used a community based approach to determine recommended park system level of service standards. Utilizing this approach allowed the citizens of Bellingham to influence the process through a series of public meetings, focus groups and surveys to evaluate the quality, accessibility, and quantity of the existing system. Land and facility requirements are expressed as a ratio of land or facility to the population (acres per 1,000 people), an overall system dollar value per capita, and the proximity of facilities to the population (service area). The process considers what the community expresses as their interests and needs for a park system. This is combined with an evaluation of demographic characteristics to ensure all populations are included in the overall park system. Proposed improvements were formulated based on community preferences.

The 2008 existing ratio of land to population level-of-service standard is a ratio of the existing park, recreation and open space lands in the system per 1,000 people using existing population estimates. The proposed improvements developed through the community-based process were then added to the existing facilities (accounting for quantity and quality needs) and divided by the projected population for the life of the plan, again expressed per 1,000 people.



For example, the existing supply of open space acres in a jurisdiction of 50,000 people with a proposed population of 100,000 people may be 200 acres, or an existing land ratio level-of-service standard of 2.0 acres per 1,000 people. The public may determine, however, that under present conditions the existing open space does not provide enough variety of experience or preserve enough land for wildlife. In this example, the public would like to add 200 more acres to the existing inventory in order to fulfill this need. With this proposed addition the overall supply would increase to 400 acres and the proposed land ratio level-of-service standard would be 4.0 acres per 1,000 people by the end of the planning period.



In addition to agencies within the service area, the school district within the planning area and other public agencies outside the planning area combine to provide a significant amount of additional land for park, recreation and open space interests. However, as these are either not under “public” agency control and/or not always available (in the case of the school district) or are outside the urban growth area and therefore not part of the city’s purview,

they are not included in the level-of-service calculation. Other major

recreational areas, such as the Mount Baker National Recreation Area, North Cascades National Park, and Mount Baker National Forest, also provide a variety of recreational opportunities on a more regional level.

4.4 Future growth implications

The Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Bellingham Planning Department expect the population of Bellingham and the Urban Growth Area (UGA) will increase from 88,838 people in 2007 to an estimated 113,055 people by the year 2022, an increase of 24,227 people. This forecasted population will create significant requirements for all types of park, recreation and open space lands and facilities within the planning area. This also assumes that all current UGA areas will be incorporated into the city within the planning period.

4.5 Level-of-Service (LOS)

The existing 2008 park acres per thousand and total system cost per capita and the 2022 proposed acres per thousand and cost per capita for 4 different options within the Bellingham planning area were considered as shown below. The Steering Committee, Staff and Planning Commission all recommend adoption of the Base Plan Option which would provide an additional 639 acres of parkland by the year 2022.

The 2008 numbers were derived by quantifying the land and facility improvements for the existing park system. Proposed land and facility quantities were derived by applying average park sizes and facility improvements to the distribution of parks, open space, and trails identified through the community process. Public input on various recreational interests, quality of the park system, and the diversity of uses, was also considered in determining the types of facilities in the proposed park system. Specific recommendations such as the location of each proposed park or trail used to generate the base proposed level of service are described in greater detail in Chapter 6. The values are based on 2008 cost data developed from land sales information, land value data, bid documentation, and other local cost data. Both land and facility improvement costs are included.

The land ratio level-of-service standard is calculated by dividing the total city or UGA acres of land in each park classification by the respective population. The same calculation is used for existing or proposed (existing acres divided by existing population and proposed acres divided by proposed population). UGA Population includes both the city and UGA 2007 estimated populations. A complete inventory of existing land and facilities is included in Appendix B.

The value per capita of the City owned park system is the basis for the City's park impact fee calculation. Cost data used to develop these estimates are defined by each activity type (i.e. cost per acre of land, ballfield or playground) in the Existing Facilities Table in Appendix B. The total value of the existing system is calculated then divided by the existing population. This is done for city-owned facilities only, since that is the basis of the park impact fee. Likewise, the total value of the proposed recommendations is divided by the projected 2022 population to

determine the proposed value per capita level of service standard. While the proposed value is included in this plan, only the existing, city owned value is used in the park impact fee calculation. Refer to the City's Park Impact Fee Ordinance (BMC 19.04) for a more detailed description of how these figures relate to the park impact fee calculation.

The existing City land ratio level of service standard of 43.4 acres per thousand people is arrived at by dividing the total City owned acres of 3261.7 by the 2007 estimated city population of 75,220, divided by 1,000. This reduction from the 2002 land ratio standard of 47.49 acres per thousand is largely due to including only the 234.4 acres of watershed properties that are located within the UGA in the inventory of existing land instead of the 571.3 acres of watershed property used in the 2002 calculation. When the 2007 existing UGA population of 13,618 is added, along with Port and Whatcom County owned park lands located in the planning area, the UGA land ratio standard is 38.3 acres/1000. The 2002 PRO plan recommended extending the level of service acreage ratio that existed for City only residents into the Urban Growth Area, providing the same City level of service of 47.49 acres/1000 for people already living within the Urban Growth Area. The current plan recognizes residents of the unincorporated UGA are already using existing parks and are therefore included in calculating the existing land ratio of 38.3 acres/1000.

The recommended Base Plan Option table above shows that the city wide land ratio standard in the year 2022 is estimated to be 35.8 acres per thousand people if the projected population level of 113,055 is reached, all existing UGA areas are annexed, and all Base Plan Option recommendations are implemented. Over the 14 year planning period, residents should not experience a noticeable reduction in the park level of service. Although the overall land acreage ratio will decrease slightly, land that is acquired for park uses will provide a balance of passive and active

recreational opportunities that is well distributed throughout the community. Generally, all residential areas of the city should be served with neighborhood parks and trails within walking distance (a 1/2 mile radius) and a community park within a 1 mile radius. However, special use sites and open space often reflect unique opportunities and environments and may not be equally distributed by neighborhood throughout

the community. The current value per capita of the entire City owned park system, including both land and facilities, is \$5419 per person. By the year 2022 the value per person, in 2008 dollars, would be \$7135.

2008 Value City Only = \$ 5,419 /Capita

*2022 Value All UGA = \$7135 /Capita Base
PlanOption*

4.6 Conclusions

The proposed recommendations for the base option, if implemented, will gradually result in a slight reduction in the level of service standard for

**LEVEL-OF-SERVICE STANDARDS- PRIORITY PROJECTS OPTION
CITY OF BELLINGHAM**

2007 CITY Population 75,220
 2007 UGA Population 88,838
 2022 UGA Population 113,055

Ownership	Total Land (acres)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Community Park (acres)	Special Use Site (acres)	Open Space/ Trails (acres)	Total Value/Capita Standard
EXISTING PARK SYSTEM ACRES - CITY & UGA						
City of Bellingham	3027.3	78.2	1457.5	304.9	1186.6	\$ 5,419
City Watershed	234.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	234.4	\$ 281
Port of Bellingham (UGA)	10.7	0.0	10.7	0.0	0.0	n/a
Whatcom County (UGA)	131.6	6.7	0.0	1.5	123.4	n/a
TOTAL EXISTING UGA	3404.0	84.9	1468.2	306.4	1544.4	n/a

PROPOSED PARK SYSTEM ADDITION ACRES - CITY & UGA						
City of Bellingham (UGA)	483.5	27.0	64.0	1.0	391.5	\$ 1,058
City Watershed (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
Port of Bellingham (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
Whatcom County (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
TOTAL PROPOSED ADDITIONS UGA	483.5	27.0	64.0	1.0	391.5	\$ 1,058

TOTAL PROPOSED UGA	3887.5	111.9	1532.2	307.4	1935.8	\$ 6,759
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ACRES / 1000 STANDARD - CITY & UGA						
2008 CITY Acres / 1000	43.4	1.0	19.4	4.1	18.9	\$ 5,701
2008 UGA Acres / 1000	38.3	1.0	16.5	3.4	17.4	n/a
2022 UGA Acres / 1000	34.4	1.0	13.6	2.7	17.1	\$ 6,759
NRPA Acres / 1000	34.5	2.0	8.0	n/a	6.0	

SERVICE AREA STANDARD						
Service Area Standard	n/a	1/2 mile	1 mile	n/a	1/2 mile	n/a

**LEVEL-OF-SERVICE STANDARDS - BASE PLAN OPTION
CITY OF BELLINGHAM**

2007 CITY Population 75,220
 2007 UGA Population 88,838
 2022 UGA Population 113,055

Ownership	Total Land (acres)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Community Park (acres)	Special Use Site (acres)	Open Space/ Trails (acres)	Total Value/Capita Standard
EXISTING PARK SYSTEM ACRES - CITY & UGA						
City of Bellingham	3027.3	78.2	1457.5	304.9	1186.6	\$ 5,419
City Watershed	234.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	234.4	\$ 281
Port of Bellingham (UGA)	10.7	0.0	10.7	0.0	0.0	n/a
Whatcom County (UGA)	131.6	6.7	0.0	1.5	123.4	n/a
TOTAL EXISTING UGA	3404.0	84.9	1468.2	306.4	1544.4	n/a

PROPOSED PARK SYSTEM ADDITION ACRES - CITY & UGA						
City of Bellingham (UGA)	639.0	40.5	119.0	1.6	478.0	\$ 1,698
City Watershed (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
Port of Bellingham (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
Whatcom County (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
TOTAL PROPOSED ADDITIONS UGA	639.0	40.5	119.0	1.6	478.0	\$ 1,698

TOTAL PROPOSED UGA	4043.1	125.4	1587.2	308.0	2022.4	\$ 7,399
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ACRES / 1000 STANDARD - CITY & UGA						
2008 CITY Acres / 1000	43.4	1.0	19.4	4.1	18.9	\$ 5,701
2008 UGA Acres / 1000	38.3	1.0	16.5	3.4	17.4	n/a
2022 UGA Acres / 1000	35.8	1.1	14.0	2.7	17.9	\$ 7,399
NRPA Acres / 1000	34.5	2.0	8.0	n/a	6.0	

SERVICE AREA STANDARD						
Service Area Standard	n/a	1/2 mile	1 mile	n/a	1/2 mile	n/a

**LEVEL-OF-SERVICE STANDARDS - EXISTING UGA OPTION
CITY OF BELLINGHAM**

2007 CITY Population 75,220
 2007 UGA Population 88,838
 2022 UGA Population 113,055

Ownership	Total Land (acres)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Community Park (acres)	Special Use Site (acres)	Open Space/ Trails (acres)	Total Value/Capita Standard
EXISTING PARK SYSTEM ACRES - CITY & UGA						
City of Bellingham	3027.3	78.2	1457.5	304.9	1186.6	\$ 5,419
City Watershed	234.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	234.4	\$ 281
Port of Bellingham (UGA)	10.7	0.0	10.7	0.0	0.0	n/a
Whatcom County (UGA)	131.6	6.7	0.0	1.5	123.4	n/a
TOTAL EXISTING UGA	3404.0	84.9	1468.2	306.4	1544.4	n/a

PROPOSED PARK SYSTEM ADDITION ACRES - CITY & UGA						
City of Bellingham (UGA)	929.0	95.0	159.0	1.6	673.4	\$ 1,990
City Watershed (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
Port of Bellingham (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
Whatcom County (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
TOTAL PROPOSED ADDITIONS UGA	929.0	95.0	159.0	1.6	673.4	\$ 1,990

TOTAL PROPOSED UGA	4333.0	179.9	1627.2	308.0	2217.8	\$ 7,691
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ACRES / 1000 STANDARD - CITY & UGA						
2008 CITY Acres / 1000	43.4	1.0	19.4	4.1	18.9	\$ 5,701
2008 UGA Acres / 1000	38.3	1.0	16.5	3.4	17.4	n/a
2022 UGA Acres / 1000	38.3	1.6	14.4	2.7	19.6	\$ 7,691
NRPA Acres / 1000	34.5	2.0	8.0	n/a	6.0	

SERVICE AREA STANDARD						
Service Area Standard	n/a	1/2 mile	1 mile	n/a	1/2 mile	n/a

**LEVEL-OF-SERVICE STANDARDS- EXISTING CITY OPTION
CITY OF BELLINGHAM**

2007 CITY Population 75,220
 2007 UGA Population 88,838
 2022 UGA Population 113,055

Ownership	Total Land (acres)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Community Park (acres)	Special Use Site (acres)	Open Space/ Trails (acres)	Total Value/Capita Standard
EXISTING PARK SYSTEM ACRES - CITY & UGA						
City of Bellingham	3027.3	78.2	1457.5	304.9	1186.6	\$ 5,419
City Watershed	234.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	234.4	\$ 281
Port of Bellingham (UGA)	10.7	0.0	10.7	0.0	0.0	n/a
Whatcom County (UGA)	131.6	6.7	0.0	1.5	123.4	n/a
TOTAL EXISTING UGA	3404.0	84.9	1468.2	306.4	1544.4	n/a

PROPOSED PARK SYSTEM ADDITION ACRES - CITY & UGA						
City of Bellingham (UGA)	1503.8	120.0	159.0	1.6	1223.3	\$ 2,582
City Watershed (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
Port of Bellingham (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
Whatcom County (UGA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	n/a
TOTAL PROPOSED ADDITIONS UGA	1503.8	120.0	159.0	1.6	1223.3	\$ 2,582

TOTAL PROPOSED UGA	4907.9	204.9	1627.2	308.0	2767.7	\$ 8,283
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ACRES / 1000 STANDARD - CITY & UGA						
2008 CITY Acres / 1000	43.4	1.0	19.4	4.1	18.9	\$ 5,701
2008 UGA Acres / 1000	38.3	1.0	16.5	3.4	17.4	n/a
2022 UGA Acres / 1000	43.4	1.8	14.4	2.7	24.5	\$ 8,283
NRPA Acres / 1000	34.5	2.0	8.0	n/a	6.0	

SERVICE AREA STANDARD						
Service Area Standard	n/a	1/2 mile	1 mile	n/a	1/2 mile	n/a

land acreage per 1000 people by the year 2022 partly due to annexation of existing UGA populations. Some acreage that in the previous plan was considered for open space acquisition will be protected under the City's adopted Critical Areas Ordinance. The value per capita is expected to increase, largely due to the demand for more developed trails. The distribution of parks and trails throughout the community will improve to provide neighborhood parks and trails within a ½ mile radius of all residential areas. Since this plan is updated every six years, the growth, cost and budget implications can be monitored and adjusted based on revised community preferences in the year 2014.

Bellingham can use the community input provided during these processes in combination with the population forecast to adequately plan for future growth. If the proposed level-of-service standard is not met, the city may experience a loss of public accessibility and preservation of more sensitive and appealing environmental sites, particularly within the developing urban growth areas. Not implementing the recommendations of this plan could preclude the purchase and development of close-in, suitable lands for active recreation, such as playgrounds, athletic fields, recreation centers, and other land intensive recreational facilities. This may result in crowding of existing recreational facilities, and reduce the availability of organized programs for youth, adults and/or other special need populations, requiring travel to other jurisdictions outside the planning area to meet the demand.

The attached table shows a comparison between the 2002 and 2008 existing and proposed land inventory and acres per 1000 population if the base plan option were implemented.

2008 PRO Plan Update

Comparison 2002-2008 Existing and Proposed Land Inventory

	2002 Plan	2002 Modified*	2008 Plan (Medium-Low Option)	Difference
Existing Acres				
City Park Acres	2718.1	2718.1	3027.3	309.2
Watershed	571.3	234.4	234.4	0
Port of Bellingham	0	10.7	10.7	0
County Parks	0.00	131.60	131.60	0
Total Acres Existing Inventory	3289.4	3094.8	3404	309.2
Proposed Acres				
Open Space	1446.3	1446.3	220	-1226.3
Trails	249.9	249.9	258	8.1
Parks	195.2	195.2	159.5	-35.7
Special Use Facilities	180.3	180.3	1.6	-178.7
Support Facilities	8.2	8.2	0	-8.2
Total Proposed Additions	2,079.90	2,079.90	639.1	-1440.8
Total Acres 2022	5,369.30	5,174.70	4,043.10	-1131.6

Acres/1000 comparison

Existing

City Population	69,260	69,260	75,220	5960
City Acres/1000	47.5	44.7	43.4	-1.28
City UGA Population	81,454	81,454	88,838	7384
City UGA Acres/1000	40.4	38.0	38.3	0.32

Proposed 2022

City UGA Population	113,055	113,055	113,055	0
City UGA acres/1000	47.5	45.8	35.8	-10.0

*Uses consistent watershed, County and Port acres in 2002 and 2008

Chapter 5: *Goals and Objectives*

Our Mission:

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

The mission of the Bellingham Department of Parks & Recreation is to *“Support a healthy community by promoting high quality parks and recreation services.”*

The following goals and objectives are based on an analysis of existing park, recreation, open space and trail conditions and the community input. Goals are broad statements of intent that describe a desired outcome. Objectives, on the other hand, are both measurable and more specific. Objectives should help define when a goal has been met.

5.1 Parks & Recreation

GOAL: Provide a high quality, diversified parks, recreation and open space system that provides for all age and interest groups.

OBJECTIVE #1: *Neighborhood and community parks.*

- a. Provide a system of neighborhood and community parks that are within walking distance of residents.
- b. Provide parks with activities for all age groups and abilities, equally distributed throughout the community.
- c. Add capacity at existing parks by expanding facilities to accommodate increased population.
- d. Work with developers to identify additional park opportunities in redeveloping areas.
- e. Cooperate with other public and private agencies, and with private landowners to set aside land and resources necessary to provide high quality, convenient park and recreation facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development.
- f. Acquire additional shoreline access for waterside trails, waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, boating and other related recreational activities.
- g. Develop athletic facilities that meet the highest quality competitive playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests.
- h. Provide a mix of court and field activities like skateboard, basketball, tennis, volleyball, handball, soccer, baseball, and softball that provide for the largest number of participants.
- i. Develop, where appropriate, a select number of facilities that provide the highest competitive playing standard in conjunction with the Bellingham School District, Western

Parks & Recreation

Develop a high quality, diversified system that provides for all ages and interest groups.

- Washington University, and other public and private agencies.
- j. Develop new or improved multi use facilities to increase flexibility of use for new activities, such as disc golf, cricket, rugby or other new trends as there is a demonstrated need in the community.
- k. Where appropriate and funding is available, incorporate art into park facility features, such as railings, benches, buildings and other park amenities.
- l. Provide operation and maintenance to insure safe, serviceable, and functional parks and facilities.

OBJECTIVE #2: *Special use sites.*

- a. Where appropriate and economically feasible, develop and operate specialized and special interest recreational facilities like aquatic centers, ice arenas, and golf courses for these interests in the general population.
- b. Where appropriate, initiate joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies to provide for special activities like golf, aquatic facilities, marinas, and camping on a regional basis.
- c. Develop indoor community spaces that provide arts and crafts, music, video, classroom instruction, meeting facilities and other spaces for all age groups on a year-round basis.
- d. Maintain and expand multiple use indoor recreational centers that provide aquatic, gymnasiums, physical conditioning, recreational courts, and other athletic spaces for all age groups, skill levels, and community interests on a year-round basis.
- e. Support the continued development and diversification by the Bellingham School District and other organizations of special meeting, assembly, and other community facilities that provide general support to school age populations and the community-at-large at elementary, middle, and high schools within the Bellingham urban growth area.
- f. Develop and operate special indoor and outdoor facilities and programs that enhance and expand music, dance, drama, and other opportunities for the community-at-large.
- g. Develop a mixture of watercraft access opportunities including canoe, kayak, and other non-power boating activities on Lake Whatcom, Lake Padden, and Bellingham Bay.
- h. Provide adequate funding to operate and maintain existing and new special use sites.

5.2 Open Space

GOAL: Provide a high quality, diversified open space system that preserves and enhances significant environmental resources and features to protect threatened species, preserve habitat, retain migration corridors, preserve agricultural lands or natural meadows, and protect water resources.

OBJECTIVES:

Open Space

Develop a high quality, diversified system that preserves and enhances significant environmental resources.

- a. Define and preserve a system of open space corridors and buffers to provide separation between natural areas and urban land uses within the Bellingham developing area.
- b. Provide natural area and open space linkages within the developed area.
- c. Preserve environmentally sensitive areas as natural area linkages, habitat corridors and urban buffers.
- d. Preserve and protect significant environmental features including unique wetlands, woodlands, prairies, meadows, shorelines, waterfronts, wooded hillsides, and other characteristics that support wildlife and reflect Bellingham's resource.
- e. Balance the desire for public access and interpretive education with preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and sites that are especially unique to the Bellingham area where appropriate.
- f. Identify and conserve wildlife habitat including nesting sites, foraging areas, and migration corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces, and the developed urban area.
- g. Preserve and protect habitat sites that support threatened species and urban wildlife.
- h. Preserve unique environmental features or areas in future land developments and increase public use and access. Cooperate with other public and private agencies and with private landowners to set aside unique features or areas as publicly accessible resources.
- i. Provide operation and maintenance resources for forestry management, habitat protection and code enforcement in existing and new open space areas.

Trails

Develop an interconnected system of high quality, accessible multi-use trails and greenway corridors.

5.3 Trails

GOAL: Provide an interconnected system of high quality, accessible multi-use trails and greenway corridors that offer diverse, healthy outdoor experiences within a rich variety of landscapes and natural habitats, accessing significant environmental features, public facilities and developed local neighborhoods and business districts.

OBJECTIVE #1: *Connect and unify the community with trail and greenway corridors.*

- a. Provide a comprehensive system of multipurpose off-road trails using alignments through public landholdings as well as cooperating private properties where appropriate
- b. Link residential neighborhoods to community facilities like parks, special use areas, the waterfront, downtown and other unique or special destinations.
- c. Expand existing trail systems into growing neighborhoods.
- d. Promote links to neighboring communities.
- e. Work with Whatcom County, WADNR, private landowners and other appropriate parties to link and extend trails around Bellingham and with King, Stewart, Lookout, and Chuckanut Mountains.
- f. Provide adequate funding to maintain existing and new trails.

OBJECTIVE #2: *Expand transportation options.*

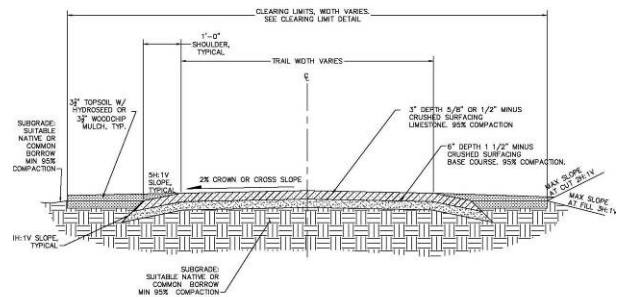
- a. Connect trails with transit stops, bike routes, and sidewalks to create a comprehensive network of non-motorized transportation throughout Bellingham.
- b. Interconnect neighborhoods, schools, employment, and commerce centers with trails throughout the urban growth area.

OBJECTIVE #3: *Provide opportunities for outdoor and local history education.*

- a. Create an outdoor classroom for educational programs.
- b. Utilize interpretive materials to highlight features such as native flora and historic points of interest.

OBJECTIVE #4: *Encourage outdoor recreation for all ages and ability levels.*

- a. Provide trails that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- b. Offer close, easy access to trails (within ½ mile walk from neighborhoods).
- c. Provide a variety of trail experiences and trails that serve multiple uses.



OBJECTIVE #5: *Promote healthy physical and mental well-being.*

- a. Where appropriate, permit multiple uses of trails - walking, running, bicycling, and horseback riding.
- b. Provide adequate opportunity for rest and contemplation.
- c. Site trails to preserve unique scenic bay, mountain and regional views.



OBJECTIVE #6: *Develop standards for trail amenities.*

- a. Develop trail improvements to a design and development standard that facilitates maintenance, security, and other appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles.
- b. Furnish trail systems with appropriate supporting trailhead improvements that include interpretive, directory and mileage signage as well as rules and regulations for trail use.
- c. Provide site furnishings such as benches, bike racks, dog waste stations, trash containers.
- d. Locate trails in conjunction with park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to the trail system

- and to take advantage of access to existing restrooms and drinking water thereby reducing duplication of supporting improvements.
- e. Utilize native vegetation in planted areas where possible.

OBJECTIVE #7: *Preserve functioning natural habitats and corridors.*

- a. Develop trails and greenway corridors that protect natural resources, including plant and animal habitats.
- b. Extend trails along natural area corridors like Squalicum, Whatcom, and Padden Creeks that will provide a high quality, diverse sampling of area environmental resources.

OBJECTIVE #8: *Provide a safe trail environment.*

- a. Provide lighting in high-use areas and where appropriate.
- b. Provide safe parking areas.
- c. Avoid blind corners on trails.
- d. Provide for natural surveillance.
- e. Provide safety education for trail users.
- f. Provide safe crossings of roads, including grade separated crossings of major corridors such as I-5 and Guide Meridian Road.

OBJECTIVE #9: *Facilitate community involvement and stewardship.*

- a. Continue and expand the volunteer work party program.
- b. Continue and expand the Adopt-a-trail program.
- c. Develop inter-local management agreements.
- d. Encourage participation in community trail events.
- e. Expand on existing relationships with schools, business and non-profit organizations.

5.4 Recreational Programs

GOAL: Provide high quality recreational programs and services throughout the community that provide fun, educational, accessible and safe environments for people of all ages and abilities.

Recreational Programs

Develop high quality recreational programs and services that meet all community group needs.

OBJECTIVES:

- a. Support arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care. Provide meeting facilities, daycare, after school, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in the community.
- b. Support basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, baseball, softball, and other instruction and participatory programs for all age, skill level, and income groups in the community.
- c. Assist with programs and exhibits that document

and develop awareness of Bellingham's heritage.

5.5 Design and Access Standards

GOAL: Design and develop facilities that are sustainable, accessible, safe, and easy to maintain, with a consideration of long-term costs and benefits.

OBJECTIVE #1: *Accessibility.*

- a. Design outdoor picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, courts, fields, parking lots, restrooms, and other active and supporting facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income and activity interests.
- b. Design indoor facility spaces, activity rooms, restrooms, parking lots, and other active and supporting spaces and improvements to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income and activity interests.

OBJECTIVE #2: *Maintenance.*

- a. Design and develop facilities that reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.
- b. Where appropriate, use low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements, and retain natural conditions and experiences.
- c. Develop a maintenance management system to estimate and plan for life cycle maintenance and replacement costs.

OBJECTIVE #3: *Security and Safety.*

- a. Implement the provisions and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other design and development standards that will improve park facility safety and security features for park users, department personnel, and the public-at-large.
- b. Develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that will provide proper training and awareness for department personnel.
- c. Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that will protect user groups, department personnel, and the general public-at-large.
- d. Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, park police patrols, and other innovative programs that will increase safety and security awareness and visibility.

Design and Access Standards

Design and develop facilities that are sustainable, accessible, safe and easy to maintain with life-cycle features that account for long term costs and benefits.

5.6 Sustainable Practices

GOAL: Meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. Make decisions today that sustain our activities for the future.

OBJECTIVES:

- a. Promote sustainable landscapes to increase the ecological functions of natural areas. Protect open space and park lands by reducing adverse impacts to the environment during initial development and long term use.
- b. Reduce emissions, pollution, and toxic materials to protect water and other natural resources. Mitigate the use of fossil fuels by reducing energy and vehicle use. Promote multi-modal transportation by developing trails and locating parks on bus routes or within walking distance of homes.
- c. Foster environmental stewardship through education programs and activities. Provide safe and convenient access to public lands, conservation areas, and water. Instill a love of nature and a commitment for caring for our resources through the Park Volunteer program.
- d. Choose durable products to promote human health in a safe environment and consider life-cycle analysis of material options. Incorporate green building technology including nontoxic materials and sustainable development practices. Select local products where feasible. Consider environmental as well as economic impacts.

Sustainable Practices

Make decisions today that sustain our activities for the future.

5.7 Financial Resources and Coordination

GOAL: Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

Financial Resources

Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing and maintaining systems that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

OBJECTIVE #1: *Finance.*

- a. Investigate innovative available methods or the financing of maintenance and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility services.
- b. Consider joint ventures with other public and private agencies such as the Bellingham School District, Whatcom County, Port of Bellingham, regional, state, federal, and other public and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires, where feasible and desirable.

OBJECTIVE #2: *Public and private resource coordination.*

- a. Create a comprehensive, balanced park, recreation, and open space system that integrates Bellingham facilities and services with resources available from Bellingham School District, Whatcom County, Port of Bellingham and other state, federal, and private park and recreational lands and facilities in a manner that will best serve and provide for area residents' interests.
- b. Cooperate with Bellingham School District, Whatcom County, Port of Bellingham and other public and private agencies to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and represent area resident's interests through joint planning and development efforts.

OBJECTIVE #3: *Cost/benefit assessment.*

- a. Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining park and recreational facilities in manners that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private user interests - including the application of growth impact fees where new developments impact existing level-of-service (ELOS) standards.
- b. Develop and operate lifetime recreational programs that serve the broadest needs of the population, recovering program and operating costs with a combination of registration fees, user fees, grants, sponsorships, donations, scholarships, volunteer efforts, and the use of general funding.
- c. Where appropriate, provide recreational programs, like golf and boating facilities, for those interested user groups who are willing to finance the cost through donations, registration fees, volunteer efforts or other means and methods.

5.8 Human Resources

GOAL: Develop, staff, train, and support a professional Parks and Recreation Department that effectively serves the community in the realization of the above listed goals and objectives.

OBJECTIVES:

- a. Employ a diverse, well-trained work force that is knowledgeable, productive, courteous, responsive and motivated to achieve department and citywide goals.
- b. Encourage teamwork through communications, creativity, positive image, risk taking, sharing of resources, and cooperation toward common goals.
- c. Where appropriate, provide staff with education, training, and modern equipment and supplies to increase personal productivity, efficiency, and pride.
- d. Monitor work load and staffing needs to maintain an adequate, efficient work force.

Human Resources

*Support a professional staff
that effectively serves the
community.*

Chapter 6: *Recommendations*

Overall Vision

- *natural environment*
- *flexibility*
- *extreme/new sports*
- *variety*

The following recommendations concerning park, recreation and open space facilities in Bellingham are based on the results of existing conditions and inventories, need analysis (trends, population, level-of-service), workshop planning sessions, and surveys of resident households in Bellingham. The recommendations outline the vision developed for the park system within the Bellingham urban growth area through the year 2022, although this plan is scheduled to be updated in 2014. A detailed list of each proposed facility is included in *Appendix C. The recommendations, proposals and projects outlined in this plan are conceptual and subject to further study, feasibility and funding. It is specifically NOT the intention of this plan or chapter that any recommendation included here limit the city's ability to act on an opportunity that may arise provided the opportunity supports the overall vision, goals or objectives of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department in Bellingham as previously discussed in this plan.* Coordination with other public and/or private participants that may be affected by or interested in the final outcome of any particular project, such as adjacent residents or funding partners, may and generally do affect the final outcome or overall validity of any particular recommendation. As a result, all recommendations presented here are done with the understanding that they will only be implemented as opportunity, funding, and feasibility allow.

Overall Vision

Throughout the process to develop this 2008 plan, several overall concepts emerged reflecting the high value Bellingham residents place on the park system and how they see themselves using parks, recreation and open space facilities in the years ahead. These include:

- ***the natural environment*** – a strong recognition of the value of and access to the natural environment as a core component of the Bellingham park system, including trails, open space and the waterfront;
- ***flexibility*** – a need for a flexible system to respond to changing community interests;



- ***extreme or newly emerging sports*** – recognition that Bellingham residents pride themselves on living outside the “recreation box” with strong interests in more extreme or newly emerging sports, such as rugby, rock climbing, bocce ball, disc golf and similar sports;
- ***variety*** – the desire for the system to continue to offer the variety of choices, both within the city and in the region, for recreational activities of all types, for all ages and abilities. Some specific ideas suggested during the planning process to increase the variety of activities in the system include more spray parks, a wave pool, underwater park, rock climbing or bouldering, and a whitewater kayak course.

6.2 Neighborhood Park (NP)

Neighborhood parks should be developed on a local basis to provide both active and passive recreation for neighborhood residents, children and families. Neighborhood parks should be located within easy walking distance of residential development with a service area of approximately a one-half mile radius. Neighborhood parks may include playgrounds, picnic facilities, trail systems, natural areas, and other amenities as outlined in *Appendix A*, to create an accessible neighborhood service system in the Bellingham urban area.

Neighborhood parks may be sited as independent properties or as portions of other sites that include trail corridors, community parks, multi-use centers or other public facilities.

Specific Recommendations

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for neighborhood parks in Bellingham include:

- Acquire and develop eleven new neighborhood parks to be located in the general vicinity shown on the following map,

General Park Guidelines

- *promote activities for all ages and interests,*
- *provide passive and active recreation,*
- *create flexibility for changing community dynamic,*
- *acquire land prior to development,*
- *partner with local schools,*
- *develop unique features for variety of recreation types,*
- *provide lighting where feasible to improve safety and security of park sites,*
- *respond to specific site context, such as history or neighborhood identity,*
- *utilize sustainable practices.*

- Improve or add restrooms at neighborhood parks where feasible and provide a general guide to restrooms that are available during winter months,
- Develop master plans and/or subsequent improvements for Cordata Park, Elizabeth Park, Franklin Park, North and South Samish Crest Parks, and Sunset Pond Park, and
- Provide more small gathering spaces, especially in the urban area and as infill occurs, potentially accomplished through development regulations and guidelines.

6.3 Community Park (CP)

Community parks provide a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. In general, community parks are larger in size and serve an area of at least a 1 mile radius. Community parks may also provide indoor facilities and competitive athletic courts and fields including soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse, softball, and baseball. Community parks should also consider other amenities as outlined in *Appendix A*. A community park will often serve a neighborhood park function as well, increasing the use of the park and the overall efficiency of the system.



PERSPECTIVE SKETCH:
VIEW LOOKING NORTH EAST TOWARDS THE PROPOSED
RESTROOM AND CONCESSION BUILDING
NO SCALE



Specific Recommendations

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for community parks in Bellingham include:

- Acquire and develop four new community park sites located generally in the areas shown on the following map,
- Provide better control and/or user fees for boat launch sites,
- Replace natural field surfaces with synthetic surfaces to maximize use, where feasible, especially when this can be accomplished jointly with school sites,
- Improve drainage conditions in all areas at Lake Padden Park (off-leash area, trails, lawns, etc.),
- Improve restrooms and allow winter access at selected park sites with a guide to those restrooms available in winter months,
- Implement master plan improvements at Northridge Park and Squalicum Creek Park
- Improve and add off-leash dog areas, perhaps with time-restricted use, in existing or new parks to provide a variety of dog areas (fenced, open, water),
- Provide larger event spaces as enclosed meeting rooms and outdoor shelters suitable for corporate events, family gatherings or reunions, weddings, festivals, charity events.

- Provide some covered activity areas, such as benches, playgrounds or courts for more year round use,
- Improve swimming areas at Lake Padden Park and Bloedel Donovan Park,
- Develop parking and transportation alternatives, such as shuttle routes, safer and more visible bike or trail routes, more convenient public transportation – especially during group events, festivals, the waterfront or other special activities,
- Develop a master plan for Cornwall Park expansion area,
- Develop improvement plans to enhance and add capacity at existing community parks, such as expanding play areas or installing synthetic surfacing on existing fields.

6.4 Special Use Site (SU)

Special use facilities may be acquired or developed to provide special activities for a variety of ages or interests. Special use facilities may include historic or natural interpretive centers, marina and boating activities, golf courses and driving ranges, or similar facilities. Special use sites also include maintenance yards, plant nurseries, and administrative offices necessary to support park, recreation and open space programs and facilities.

A community or recreation center is another type of special use, as are many other types of indoor recreation facilities. Community centers may be developed to provide indoor activities on a year-round basis to Bellingham residents for day and evening use. They may utilize the investments that have already been made in existing municipal, county, and school facilities and programs, by providing space for gymnasiums, physical conditioning, arts and crafts, class and instruction rooms, meeting facilities, teen and senior center, and other resource activities for special populations. Community centers may also incorporate museums, visual or performing arts, interpretive exhibits, and other specialized activities and be developed as stand alone facilities or jointly with administrative or maintenance activities.

Specific Recommendations

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for special use sites in Bellingham include:

- Implement existing master plan for Big Rock Garden,
- Develop master plan for Woodstock Farm to include parking and access plan, maintenance plan, hand-carry boat landing site (no launching) and other improvements as feasible,

Special use sites may be independent properties or portions of other sites that include trail corridors, neighborhood parks, community parks, open spaces or regional facilities.

- Provide additional environmental education opportunities including a bird guide, native plant guide, interpretive signage, natural history, and/or other educational and stewardship related activities or programs to promote the value of the natural environment throughout the park system, distributed primarily in select open space areas or in conjunction with specific unique habitat features,

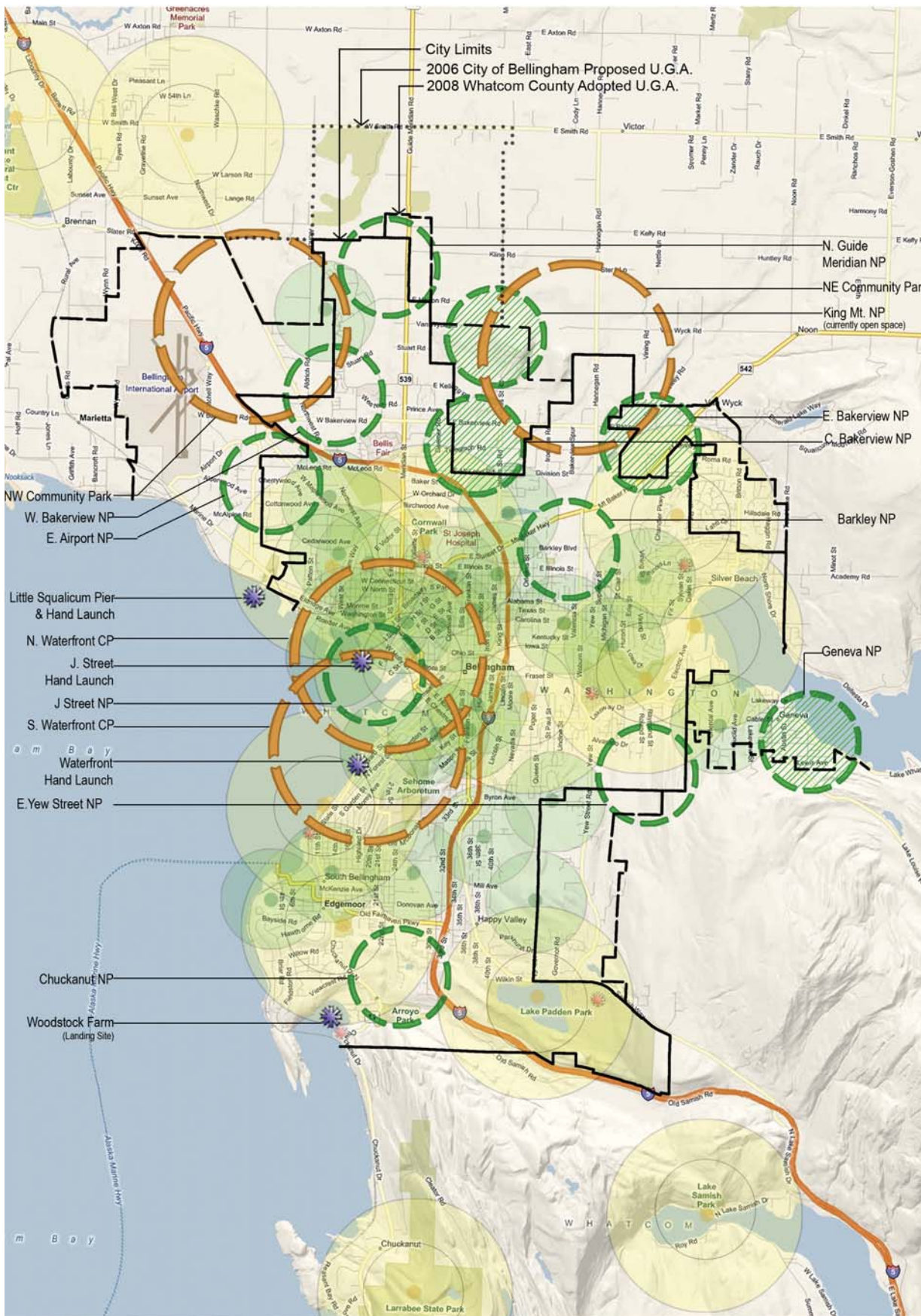


- Support development of the park system improvements at the Waterfront District,
- Coordinate improvements to the existing fish hatchery, primarily to be accomplished through public/private partnerships by other agencies,
- Conduct a feasibility study to determine public support, cost and opportunity of a new centralized community center, administration offices and maintenance/shop area, jointly or as separate facilities,
- Acquire or develop new or improved plaza space at Old Town Train Depot Plaza,

Fountain Plaza, Old Town Territorial Courthouse Plaza and other yet to be identified sites in the urban area,

- Acquire and develop new hand-carry boat launch facility near the end of J Street, possibly in conjunction with a new neighborhood park,
- Acquire and develop new pier, fishing dock and/or hand-carry boat launch facility near the end of Little Squalicum Park on the waterfront.
- Acquire and develop new hand carry boat launch or landing sites in other locations shown on map.

Recommended Facilities Plan • Parks and Special Use Sites



- 1 mile radius
- Existing Community Parks
- 1/2 mile radius
- Existing Neighborhood Parks
- Existing Special Use Sites
- park in UGA boundary
- Proposed Neighborhood Park
- Proposed Community Park
- Proposed Special Use Sites

6.5 Open Space (OS)

Open space areas generally preserve, restore, and may provide access to wetlands, woodlands, foraging and nesting areas, migration corridors, meadows, agricultural lands and other sensitive or unique ecological features. New open space areas should link to existing open spaces to

create wildlife migration corridors, greenways, and open space networks.

These linked areas will visually define and separate developed areas in accordance with the objectives of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). The linked areas should lead to open space anchors. These anchors are larger open space sites that help visually break up development patterns and preserve large tracts of ecologically important areas.

Open space areas may also include trails, and interpretive facilities as outlined in the Park Classification Appendix to increase public awareness and appreciation for significant and visually interesting ecological features. Some supporting services may also be developed, depending on site specific conditions and feasibility, including limited wildlife viewing areas, trailheads, parking lots, and restrooms.

Open space areas may be located on independent properties or include portions of other sites provided for parks, recreation, trail corridors or other public facilities. Open space areas may also be developed on other publicly-owned land subject to public use agreements or easements, or on land acquired for other public purposes including

stormwater management, and wastewater treatment sites.

General Open Space Guidelines

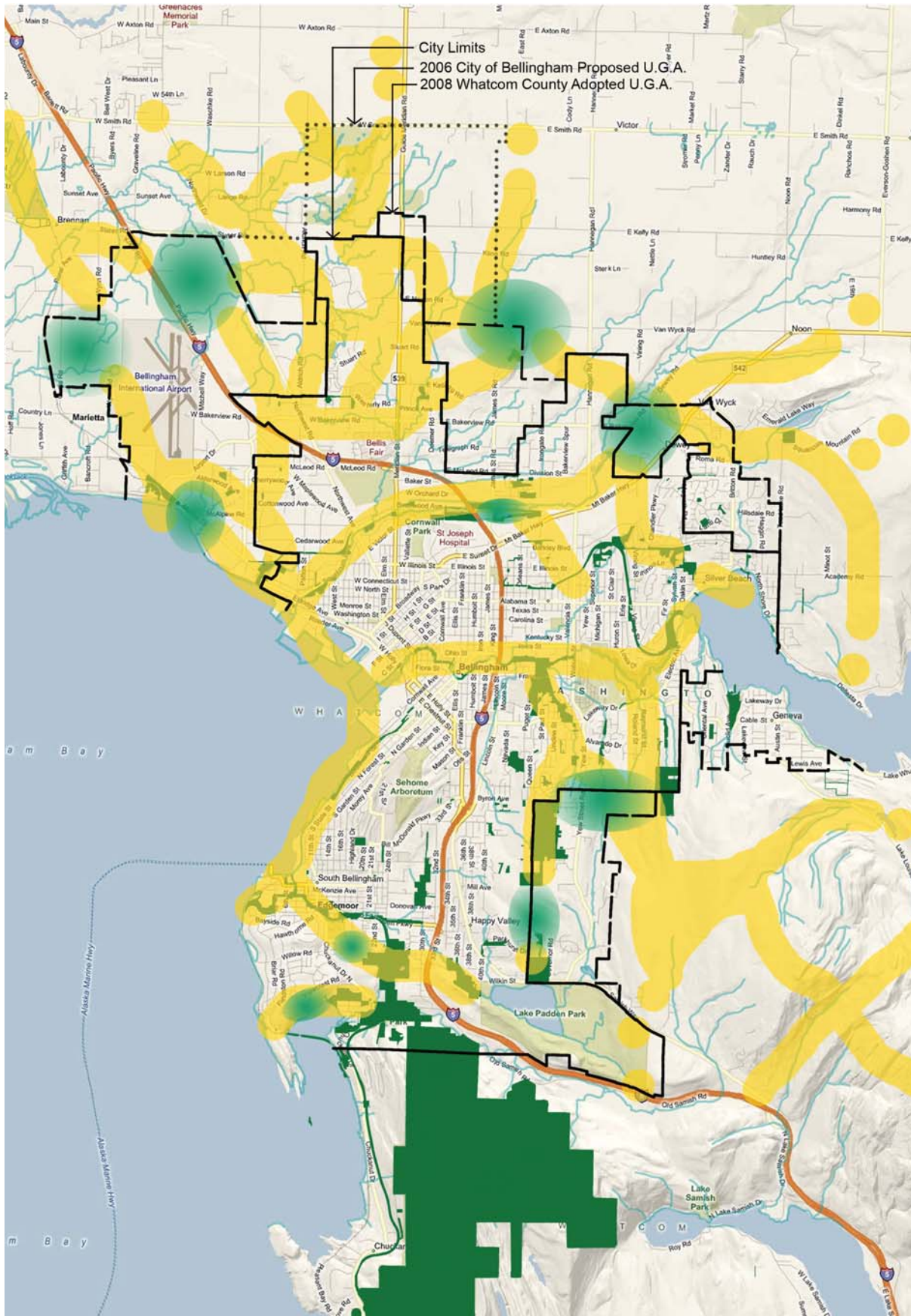
- *preservation may occur through acquisition or easements, development rights and other similar non-fee simple arrangements,*
 - *provisions for public access and interpretive use should be included where appropriate,*
 - *conservation of wildlife migration corridors and critical habitats should be considered, and*
 - *tax incentives, density bonuses, transfer rights and other methods should be encouraged.*
-

Specific Recommendations

As a result of the public process and the need analysis, specific recommendations for open space in Bellingham include:

- Develop inventories and collect data to guide and support open space and conservation efforts,
- Acquire additional greenway corridors as identified in the table and map following this section,
- Acquire additional open space anchors in the general vicinity of the areas identified on the following map,
- Acquire additional salt waterfront land and tidelands whenever possible to expand the network of open space along Bellingham Bay, and
- Acquire additional lakefront and creekfront land whenever possible to provide increased access to all Bellingham water resources.

Recommended Facilities Plan • Open Space



- Existing Open Space
- Stream
- Proposed Open Space Corridor
- Proposed Open Space Anchor

6.6 Trails (TR)

While trails may be categorized into many different types, for the purpose of this plan trails are generally limited to off-road trails. Trails should be developed for a variety of uses including walking, biking, and horseback riding. Developed trail widths and surfacing may vary depending on the type of use and location. While not all trails are appropriate for all uses, multipurpose trails are generally preferred. Multipurpose trails may be developed to link, park and recreational facilities, open spaces, community centers, neighborhoods, commercial and office centers, schools, and other major destinations in the Bellingham area. Generally, multipurpose trails should be developed to provide for one or more modes of non-motorized travel.

Multipurpose trails should be developed within corridors separated from vehicles or other motorized forms of transportation. Multi-purpose trails may be located in separate easements or within parks and greenways. In some instances, when other alternatives are not available, trails may be developed within the right-of-way of vehicular or other transportation corridors, but separated by vegetation or other features.

Multipurpose trails should generally be developed to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) trail standards. The trails may be concrete, asphalt or a fine crushed rock base, provided the material meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and is usable by all age and skill groups. Select trail corridors, including those within the Waterfront District, should be concrete or asphalt to allow for a greater flexibility of use, such as rollerblading, long-boarding and other uses that are not as viable on a softer surface material.

Off-leash dog use should not be allowed on multi-purpose trails but designated only on trails specifically developed for that use. This may be accomplished through physical designations (i.e., only certain trail corridors) or through time limitations (i.e., late evenings or other non-peak times).

General Trail Guidelines

- *conserve natural features,*
 - *define urban identities,*
 - *link community facilities,*
 - *insure safety/security along trail corridors,*
 - *provide identification, wayfinding and directional signage along routes,*
 - *serve persons with varied abilities,*
 - *promote commuter and other non-motorized transportation methods, and*
 - *serve as an integral planning tool in developing new roadway corridors or neighborhood developments.*
-

Trail corridors may be improved with trailhead services including benches, parking lots, restrooms, drinking water or other facilities as outlined in the Park Classifications Appendix. Where the trail is located in association with another park and recreation improvement or public facility, the trailhead may be improved with picnic, playgrounds and informal lawn areas.

Shoreline trails may be unimproved and may cross over tidelands. Trails may also include boardwalks developed over wetlands, other water bodies or on top of jetty breakwaters to provide access to waterfront activities and viewpoints along lakes, natural areas or Bellingham and Chuckanut Bays.

Multipurpose trail corridors may be independent properties or include portions of other sites provided for parks, open space or other public facilities. Linked with open space areas and greenways, multipurpose trails create a system of corridors to integrate and define the developed portions of the urban area from each other in accordance with the Growth Management Act's (GMA) provisions for urban separators.

Multipurpose trail corridors may also be developed on other public or privately owned lands using public use agreements or easements. They may also be developed on lands owned as portions of a stream corridor, wetland area, or associated buffers.

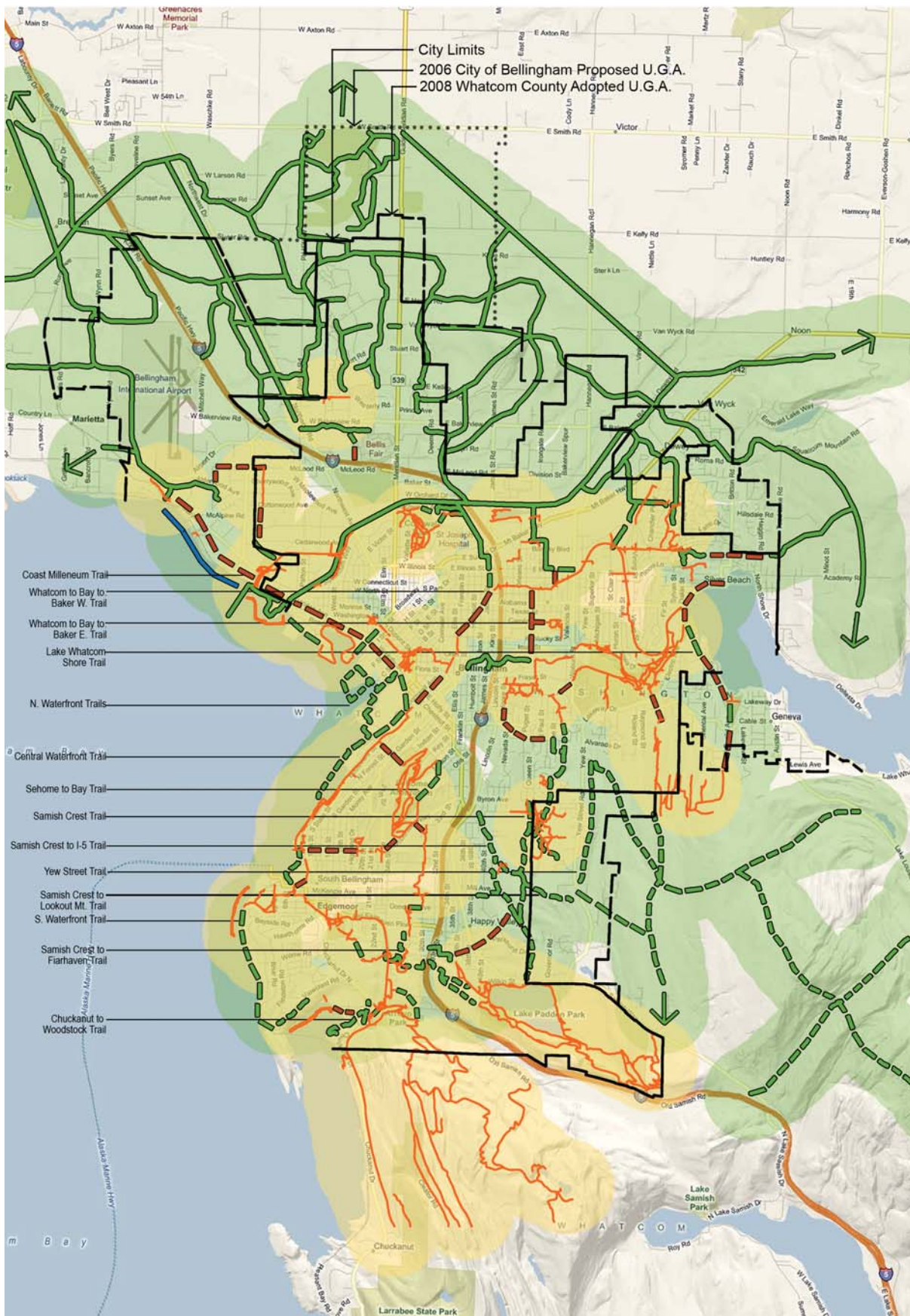
Specific Recommendations

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for multi-purpose trails in Bellingham include:

- Acquire and/or develop new trail connections as shown on the following table and map,
- Conduct a trail surfacing pilot project to explore new trail surface alternatives that balance the natural character of Bellingham's existing trail system with accessibility requirements, long-term maintenance, sustainable development practices and availability of local materials,
- Institute a specific boardwalk and stair replacement program to monitor, maintain, improve and/or replace these features throughout the park system,
- Acquire and/or develop trailheads (parking, signage, restrooms, picnic areas, etc.) at N. Chuckanut area, Whatcom Falls Park, Hoag Pond, Galbraith Mountain area, Euclid Park, Waterfront District area, and Little Squalicum Park,
- Develop neighborhood trail connectors to the regional multiuse trail system in order to provide an off-street trail within ½ mile of every resident in Bellingham,
- Acquire and develop safe multimodal crossings of Guide Meridian and the Interstate 5 corridor in key locations generally located on the following map.



Recommended Facilities Plan • Trails



- Existing Trail
- Existing 1/2 mile radius
- - - Proposed Trail
- Proposed North Bellingham Trails Master Plan
- - - Proposed On-street Connection
- Proposed Beach Walk
- Proposed 1/2 mile radius

Chapter 7: *Implementation*

Priorities and proposed recommendations implemented may change over time based on new interests, feasibility and/or opportunities that may arise.

A Bellingham parks and recreation financial strategy for the next 6 to 14-year period should generate sufficient revenue to maintain existing facilities, provide recreational program services, renovate facilities, and implement priority projects from the proposed recommendations. The following forecasts are based on the average trends in capital facility fund expenditures by the city during recent years. However, it should be noted that priorities shift over time, often responding to new interests, opportunities, and community decision making processes. The City's six year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) is updated annually in part to reflect these types of changes.

The total estimated capital cost of all proposed plan recommendations outlined in the *Chapter 6* base plan option is approximately \$150 million. This includes improvements to existing facilities, as well as additions to serve new growth. Existing revenue sources for park system improvements through the year 2022 could reach over \$150 million with traditional funding sources as estimated with the assumptions shown on the following table. Funds associated with revenues and expenditures shown in this plan are total values and are not adjusted to reflect the differences between improvements to serve new growth and existing facility improvements. This distinction is described in the park impact fee calculation documentation. Detailed costs for proposed recommendations are included in *Appendix C*. The 2008 approved six year Capital Facilities Plan is included in *Appendix E*.

7.1 Revenue and Expenditures

The following table outlines four options for capital revenue sources and projected expenditures through the year 2022 corresponding to the four options included in the level of service discussion in Chapter 4. The recommended Base Plan Option would fund all projects listed in Chapter 6. The Priority Option would fund only the highest priority projects as listed under section 7.2. The Existing UGA Option would retain the same level of acres per 1000 population ratio which currently exists in the UGA, and the Existing City option would maintain the existing City population acres per 1000 population ratio. A detailed description of the projects and costs for each of the options is in Appendix C. A description of the funding sources and assumptions made for each item in the tables is listed on the following pages. As this is a long range strategic plan and not a financing plan, both revenues and expenditures are in estimated 2008 dollars only and do not include inflation, assuming that both expenditures and revenues will increase

over time and that projects will be implemented as funding becomes available rather than through any specific financing system. As each project is scheduled for implementation, costs and revenues will be updated. Project improvements (acquisition or facilities) will be adjusted as needed to match available revenue sources concurrent with the annual Capital Facilities Plan budget process. Also, this plan is updated every 6 years with an updated forecast of revenues and expenditures.

Any potential difference between the total revenue and the actual cost of improvements could be made up through a variety of means including an increase in the park impact fee up to the maximum amount allowable, bonding for specific project improvements, decreasing the level of service, or through the use of additional development agreements requiring land dedications or improvements as a condition of annexation or rezones.

The additional park acres and improvements associated with the recommendations will also require additional maintenance and operations costs. The existing 3026 acres of parks, open space and trails is maintained by 22 full time and 25 seasonal field staff. Using general numbers, in 2008 the ratio of park acreage to maintenance staff is 67.26 acres per full time equivalent staff member. Similarly, using the 2008 total maintenance budget of \$3,685,121, the cost to maintain parkland is \$1217.42 per acre per year and the estimated additional annual overall cost for maintenance and operations by the year 2022 for the Base Option Plan is estimated to be \$777,931 (639 acres x \$1217.42) expressed in 2008 dollars.

An additional 9.5 staff members would be needed to maintain service levels for the Base Option parks and facilities. The estimates are based on a general analysis of the 2008 budget. An increase or decrease in the intensity of maintenance needed based on the type of park or facility would affect the actual costs.

7.1.1 REET 1 and 2

REET is the Real Estate Excise Tax. Of the first and second quarter REET funds, the average annual amount applied towards the park system over the last five years has been approximately \$1.5 million. This amount includes the transfer of sewer funds that have been used for public restrooms.

7.1.2 Subdivision Fund

The remaining balance currently in the Subdivision Fund is \$250,000. This fund has been replaced by the Park Impact Fee and no additional revenue is expected after 2008.

7.1.3 Greenway Levies

Bellingham citizens have approved three levies at a rate of \$0.57 per thousand property valuation. See notes on chart for the assumptions used

4 Options for 2008 PRO Plan - Funding and Expenditures

Note: All figures in millions

Revenue	Priority Projects Option ¹		Base Plan Option ²		Existing UGA Land Ratio Option ²		Existing City Land Ratio Option ³					
REET		14.0		18.0		18.0		21.0				
Subdivision Fund		0.3		0.3		0.3		0.3				
Beyond Greenway Levy		4.1		4.1		4.1		4.1				
Greenway III Levy		33.2		33.2		33.2		33.2				
4th Greenway Levy		0.0		22.0		22.0		22.0				
Grants		10.0		12.0		12.0		14.0				
CAO/SEPA		3.0		4.0		4.0		5.0				
Donations		3.0		4.0		4.0		5.0				
Park Impact Fees ⁴	35%	\$1897 /capita	43.1	43%	\$2330/capita	53.6	63%	\$3414/capita	78.6	80%	\$4335 /capita	99.8
Total		110.7		151.2		176.2		204.4				

Expenditures	Priority Projects Option ⁴				Base Plan Option ⁵			Existing UGA LOS Option ⁶			Existing City LOS Option ⁷					
	Acres	Cost		Total	Acres	Cost		Total	Acres	Cost		Total	Acres	Cost		Total
		Land	Facilities			Land	Facilities			Land	Facilities			Land	Facilities	
Neighborhood Park	27.0	2.4	5.8	8.2	40.5	3.7	11.1	14.8	95.0	8.6	11.1	19.7	120.0	10.8	11.1	21.9
Community Park	64.0	5.8	10.3	16.1	119.0	10.8	27.8	38.6	159.0	14.4	27.8	42.2	159.0	14.4	27.8	42.2
Special Use Site	1.0	0.1	2.0	2.1	1.6	0.1	2.1	2.2	1.6	0.1	2.1	2.2	1.6	0.1	2.1	2.2
Open Space	200.0	18.1	0.0	18.1	220.0	19.9	1.0	20.9	400.0	36.1	1.0	37.1	840.0	75.9	1.0	76.9
Trails	191.5	17.3	31.8	49.1	258.0	23.3	46.2	69.5	273.4	24.7	46.2	70.9	383.3	34.6	46.2	80.8
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0	4.3	4.3
Total	483.5	43.7	49.9	93.6	639.1	57.8	92.5	150.3	929.0	83.9	92.5	176.4	1503.9	135.8	92.5	228.3
Existing Acres/1000 City	43.4				43.4				43.4				43.4			
Existing Acres/1000 UGA	38.3				38.3				38.3				38.3			
Proposed Acres/1000 UGA	34.4				35.8				38.3				43.4			

All Levy amounts assume no levy growth but includes interest earnings on fund balance

- ¹ Assumes no Greenway Levy 4, park impact fee calculated at current 35% of value of total park system with 5% discounted for development prior to annexation and 20% reduction in all other expected revenue.
- ² Assumes 4th Greenway Levy at current rate, PIF adjusted to % of existing value per person as shown with 5% discounted for development prior to annexation. Other revenues are average of high and low amounts.
- ³ Assumes 4th Greenway Levy, park impact fee calculated at approx. the maximum allowable (after discounting other revenues) and revenue from other sources will continue per the average of the last five years. PIF cannot be used to make up the current deficiency of UGA population.
- ⁴ Priority projects as identified in PRO Plan Update.
- ⁵ All PRO Plan Update recommended projects.
- ⁶ All PRO Plan Update projects with additional acreage as shown
- ⁷ All PRO Plan Update projects with additional acreage as shown
- ⁸ If PIF reduced, budget shortfall could be made up through a general bond or levy.

in each option. Included are existing levy balances as well as future revenues, with no growth in valuation assumed for the Priority Option. The three higher options assume voter approval of a fourth levy in 2017 at varying rates.

7.1.4 Grants

The city has received an average of \$1 million annually over the last five years from various sources, including Washington Recreation and Conservation Office grant programs, federal transportation enhancement grants and Department of Ecology grants.

7.1.5 CAO/SEPA/Mitigation

Value of land or improvements as a result of the city's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) or associated mitigation are used by the city to help offset park system improvements. Based on past trends, the city has projected the estimated value of land or improvements as required through development process for protection of wetlands, state environmental protection act or impact mitigation based on historical trends to be approximately \$5 million by the year 2022.

Priorities

Highest priority projects were determined to be those that were currently funded, trails and greenway projects and project centered on the north Bellingham area. Waterfront projects were also a high priority.

7.1.6. Donations

Donations include park system land and improvements received by the city from private individuals as well as other agencies or organizations. Based on historic trends, the city estimates the total value of future donations to be approximately \$5 million over the next 14 years.

7.1.7 Park Impact Fee

In 2006 the city began assessing a park impact fee on new residential units. Future funding from park impact fees is estimated based on future city population projections. The city expects an additional population by the year 2022 of 24,217 new residents. This is the difference between the current and projected urban growth area population. This also assumes that all of the urban growth areas will incorporate into the city during that time frame. In this plan update, the existing park system value is \$5419 per person and currently 35% is assessed by park impact fees. This results in projected revenues of approximately \$46 million by the year 2022, which does not include any potential increase in the fee. It is anticipated, at a minimum, the fee will be adjusted for inflation in land and facility costs.

7.2 Priorities

The funding strategy proposed is based on a major assumption that current funding sources will continue into the future at or near their current

rate. While this may be a reasonable assumption, there is no guarantee of future funding or sources of funding. As such, the community determined the following general priorities for park system improvements in Bellingham. In all cases, the highest priority identified was to complete the currently funded elements and improvements in the north Bellingham area. Beyond that, trail improvements, in general, were identified as a higher priority than parks and recreation or open space elements. A summary of the cost of priority improvements is included in Appendix C.

7.2.1 Parks & Special Use Facilities

The following priorities have been identified and categorized into relative order from highest (priority 1) to lowest (priority 3), though items identified within each category are listed in no particular order.

Priorities Currently Funded

- Cordata Park (improvements)
- Northridge Park (improvements)
- Cornwall Park (expansion)
- Squalicum Creek Park (Phase 2 improvements)

Priority 1

- East Airport Neighborhood Park (Alderwood/Birchwood area)
- Central Bakerview Neighborhood Park
- East Bakerview Neighborhood Park
- Lake Padden Park (improvements)
- Woodstock Farm (improvements)
- North and South Waterfront Community Parks
- Squalicum Creek Park final completion
- Sunset Pond Park expansion and development

Priority 2

- Little Squalicum Pier & Hand Launch
- Renovate existing parks as appropriate to improve capacity and/or generate multi-use functions
- Urban plazas and gathering spaces in downtown areas, generally in combination with new or redevelopment opportunities

Priority 3

- Improvements to North Samish Crest Park
- East Yew St. Neighborhood Park

7.2.2 Open Space

The following priorities have been identified and categorized into relative order from highest to lowest priority, though items identified within each category are listed in no particular order.

Priorities Currently Funded

- Open space corridors associated with funded trail priorities below

Priority 1

- Open space corridors associated with trail priorities below
- Open space anchors in north Bellingham, generally in combination with new community park acquisitions
- Open space anchor between Samish Crest Open Space and Lookout Mountain
- Open space connection between Arroyo Nature Area and the Lower Padden Open Space

7.2.3 Trails

The following priorities have been identified and categorized into relative order from highest to lowest priority, though items identified within each category are listed in no particular order.

Priorities Currently Funded

- Bay to Baker Greenway & Trail (complete missing links)
- Samish Crest Trail corridor
- Chuckanut to Woodstock Trail corridor
- Whatcom Creek Greenway & Trail (complete missing links)

Priority 1

- North/south trail corridor in north Bellingham area
- East/west trail corridor through north Bellingham area
- All waterfront trail connections
- Central Waterfront Trail corridor
- Whatcom Creek to Bay to Baker Trail corridor

Priority 2

- Trail connection from Little Squalicum Park northwest to Alderwood/Airport area
- Trail connection from Cordata Park north to Bear Creek Area

Priority 3

- Samish Crest to Lookout Mt. Trail corridor
- Lake Whatcom to Bay to Baker Trail corridor
- Northridge Park to Bay to Baker Trail connection

7.3 Revenue Source Description

A general description of the different types of revenue resources that may be used to fund park, recreation and open space programs or facilities is presented in Appendix F. Some are restricted to development only while others may be used for operations and maintenance. These are listed in no particular order and with no reference to the feasibility or recommendation of implementing each revenue source. Included are:

General fund **Special revenues**

Debt service funds

- Councilmanic (limited or non-voted) bonds
- Limited general obligation bonds
- Unlimited general obligation bonds

Enterprise funds

Special legislation

Unlimited general obligation bonds

General levy rate referendums

Environmental impact mitigation – subdivision regulations

Growth impact fees

Inter-local agreements

User fees and charges

Special funding sources

- REET (Real Estate Excise Tax)
- Greenway Funds

State grants

- Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP)
- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Capital Projects Fund for Washington Heritage
- Boating Facilities Program
- Washington State Public Works Commission
- Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)
- Non-Highway & Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA)
- Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR)

Federal grants

- NPS (National Park Service) grants
- Transportation Enhancement Grants
- National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP)
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)

Recreation service districts (RCW Chapter 36.69)

Metropolitan park districts (SB 2557)

Special use agreements

Public/private service contracts

Public/private concessions

Public/private joint development ventures

Self-help land leases

Self-help contract agreements

Appendix A: *Park Classifications*

The intent of parks and recreation classifications is to aid in making acquisition and design decisions for park sites, facilities and the organization of recreation space which is responsive to public needs, creates quality recreational experiences and facilities that can be effectively maintained.

Park classifications are primarily based on National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) guidelines and consider types of uses, size and relative service area of each park. The classifications used in Bellingham include:

1. *Parks & Recreation*
 - Neighborhood Parks*
 - Community Parks*
 - Special Use Sites*
2. *Open Space*
3. *Trails*

The guidelines below are for general purposes only. Actual acquisition and/or development of a park site will depend on several factors. These must be considered in connection with classification and guidelines when making planning decisions. These can include any community-based goals or needs for a given area, usually defined through a community process, or site-specific context such as topography, sensitive areas, access, zoning regulations, etc. that may limit the use of a given site.

Park classifications establish several essential elements for park land requirements based generally on the types of recreational uses and services to be provided. The following describes the park classifications for Bellingham, generally modified from the NRPA standards to reflect the Bellingham community preferences. In all cases, the approximate size of each park type shown below is a general parameter only. Actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses. Service areas shown may also vary as physical characteristics, such as topography or major roadways, may reduce the service area if access is limited by these factors. Park lighting and general crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principals should also be considered during the design process to promote safety and security within park settings.

1. Parks & Recreation

Neighborhood Parks

1. General Description: A neighborhood is the basic recreational focus and center of a neighborhood. They should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities geared specifically for those living within the service area. They should also accommodate a wide variety of age and user groups, including children, adults, seniors and special populations. Creating a sense of place by bringing together the unique character of the site with that of the neighborhood is vital to successful neighborhood park design.
2. Approximate Size: 2 to 10 acres.
3. Service Area: 1/2 mile radius.
4. Acquisition Guidelines: Neighborhood parks should be centrally located within the neighborhood it serves. Vehicular access may be provided through arterial roadways or smaller neighborhood streets. Citizens should be able to walk to these parks without having to cross a major arterial street. Some portion of the total acreage should be upland “developable” land of a size sufficient to support the desired uses for that neighborhood.
5. Development Guidelines: Since each neighborhood is unique, neighborhood input should be used to determine the development program for the park. In general, development should provide a balance between active and passive recreation uses and should represent the characteristics and context of the community in which it is located. Where active recreation is provided, it should be intended for primarily informal, unstructured activities, or smaller programmed activities that will not overburden the supporting infrastructure (parking, restroom, etc.). The following activities are intended to serve as a general guideline only:
 - a. *Parking* – generally limited to around 2 – 10 stalls. While the intent is for neighborhood parks to be walkable to most residences in the area it serves, parking may still be needed to support those uses that need greater assistance, such as seniors or those with disabilities. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements should be met in all cases. On street parking may be used to meet these criteria.
 - b. *Site Furnishings* – such as bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, park signage, picnic tables and drinking fountains.

- c. *Restrooms* – may be provided where space and funding allow. This could include permanent, semi-permanent or portable facilities.
- d. *Play Area* – with climbing structures, swings, or other similar elements, designed for a variety of ages and abilities.
- e. *Picnic* – tables, barbeque and/or small group shelters.
- f. *Open grass lawn areas*.
- g. *Sport facilities* – compatible with neighborhood setting and park site constraints, such as:
 - Basketball: half court or full court
 - Volleyball, tennis, bocce ball, pickleball
 - Softball/baseball field (informal or youth)
 - Soccer field (informal or youth)
- h. *Other* – features as needs or site conditions allow that may help create diversity and a unique character to each individual park. These may include public art, skateboard elements, climbing walls, or other similar elements. Where provided, these should generally be smaller in nature to fit the scale and context of the neighborhood park setting.

Community Parks

1. General Description: Community parks are larger in size and are intended to serve a broader range of activities and users. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods with more specialized activities, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces or environmental features. They allow for group activities and offer other recreation opportunities not generally found at a neighborhood level. Due their larger size, they are often designed to serve a neighborhood park function as well and generally include all of the same neighborhood park activities as well as additional unique characteristics described above.
2. Approximate Size: 20 – 60 acres.
3. Service Area: 1 mile radius.
4. Acquisition Guidelines: The quality of the natural resource base or the available land for the uses anticipated should play a defining role in locating potential community park sites. They should be located adjacent to a major arterial or other collector street to provide easy vehicular as well as pedestrian and other multi-modal access. The proximity of other park types should also be considered as the types of activities found in a community park may overlap with other park functions. The service area for these other park types may be used, in part, as justification for or against a community park in a specific area.

Some portion of the total acreage should be “developable” land of a size sufficient to support the desired uses for that park.

5. Development Guidelines: Neighborhood and larger community or city-wide input should be used to determine the development program for a community park. In general, development should provide a balance between active and passive recreation uses and should represent the characteristics and context of the community in which it is located. Where active recreation is provided, it is generally intended for larger programmed activities such as sports league practices, games and/or tournaments. Active recreation, such as sports fields, in community parks may have additional support facilities not found at a neighborhood level, such as bleachers, fencing, dugouts, concessions, synthetic turf and/or lighting. The following activities are in addition to neighborhood park guidelines and are intended to serve as a general guideline only:
 - a. *Parking* – generally larger in size to support more organized activities and larger group events. May be anywhere from 20 – 80 or more stalls depending on the intended uses.
 - b. *Restrooms* – should generally be provided and should provide permanent facilities where feasible. Additional portable facilities may be needed during peak season or for special organized events.
 - c. *Picnic* – larger group shelters that can be programmed and/or rented out for special events.
 - d. *Specialized Uses* – that may not be feasible to provide in every neighborhood park. These may include:
 - Spray park
 - Skateboard park
 - Off leash area
 - Fishing docks or piers
 - Waterfront access
 - Regional trail connections
 - Education/demonstration areas
 - Outdoor stage/amphitheater
 - e. *Concessions/Vendors* – for food, beverage, rentals, etc. as feasible and demand allows.

Regional Parks

1. General Description: Regional parks are generally the largest in size and serve the greatest geographical area, often extending beyond the city or urban growth area limits to include county and/or other adjacent jurisdictions. Their focus is on providing specialized activities, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces or environmental features. They allow for group activities and offer other recreation opportunities not generally found at a community or neighborhood park level. They

may also be designed to serve a community or neighborhood park function as well, but are often of a more specialized nature.

2. Approximate Size: 80 acres or more.
3. Service Area: 5 mile radius or more (as needed).
4. Acquisition Guidelines: Regional park facilities, because they span many jurisdictions, should be acquired jointly with other agency support when feasible, such as county, school district, port authority, preservation groups and/or other adjacent jurisdictions. They should be situated such that sufficient infrastructure could be developed or already exists to support a large number of visitors, including major arterials, buses and other mass transit capabilities. They should also have access to multi-modal connections.
5. Development Guidelines: Regional parks should be developed to maximize their intended uses, whether for sports fields, mountain biking trails, camping, unique natural or environmental features, or extreme sport venues. They may include the same activities as those found in community and neighborhood park guidelines, but are often intended for a more single, specialized use that requires a larger space than can be supported through a typical community or neighborhood park type. Activities provided will depend solely on the type of intended uses for the park and the influence of the community or region as expressed through a public process, so are not listed individually with this section.

Special Use Sites

1. General Description: The special use classification covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward a single-purpose use. They often fall into three general categories:
 - *Cultural Facilities* – unique resources offering historical, educational, visual/performance art or other similar experiences. These include museums, theaters, galleries, libraries and other civic sites.
 - *Indoor Facilities* – geared toward indoor uses, such as gymnasiums, community centers, teen/senior centers, aquatic centers, ice arenas, etc.
 - *Unique Sites* – generally a single use, but smaller than a regional park and not necessarily of a significance that might draw from a larger regional base. These may include arboretums, cemeteries, plazas, sports stadiums, farmer’s markets, marinas, etc. – especially when they are not in conjunction with other typical park amenities.
2. Approximate Size: Varies.
3. Service Area: Varies.
4. Acquisition Guidelines: As specialized, single use facilities, special use parks should be selected based on the function that they are intended to serve. They should be situated such that sufficient infrastructure could

be developed or already exists to support the intended use, including major arterials, buses and other mass transit capabilities as necessary. They should also have access to multi-modal connections.

5. Development Guidelines: Special use parks should be developed to maximize their intended uses. They generally do NOT include the same activities as those found in other park types. Activities provided will depend solely on the type of intended uses for the park and the influence of the community or region as expressed through a public process, so are not listed individually with this section.

2. Open Space

1. General Description: Open space sites are generally lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetic or buffering functions. One of the major purposes is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities as possible, as well as providing wildlife habitat in rapidly urbanizing areas. These may include both individual sites that exhibit natural resources, or lands that are unsuitable for development but that offer other natural resource potential. Examples include sites with steep slopes, old or second growth forests, wetlands, stream corridors, tidelands, shorelines (salt or fresh water), storm water features, and/or watershed or aquifer recharge zones.
2. Approximate Size: Varies.
3. Service Area: Varies.
4. Acquisition Guidelines: The quality of the natural resource should play a defining role in locating potential open space sites and may be quite different than other park classifications. For example, they may not necessarily need good access, vehicular or multi-modal, if they are intended for preservation purposes. Limited access in this case may be more desirable. For the same reason, there is not the same need for “developable” land unless the site is intended for regional trailheads, interpretive facilities, environmental learning center, conference/retreats or other similar auxiliary uses. Therefore, acquisition guidelines are much more flexible to respond to opportunities as they may become available.

Sites that connect to other parks, open space or natural features should be considered, as well as those that provide wildlife corridors through urban or urbanizing areas, though no priority is intended in these guidelines, unless stated other wise in other sections of this plan.

Preservation techniques beyond simple fee acquisition should also be considered, such as preservation easements, dedications, conservation grants or programs, trusts, development regulations and zoning codes. Tax incentives, density bonuses and other “trade-offs” should be

considered to help encourage these types of alternative preservation techniques.

5. Development Guidelines: Because open space sites serve primarily a preservation function, development should be limited. Access, where provided may include trails, minor trailhead and/or educational features. Because of the limited nature of development on these sites, specific activities are not listed individually in this section.

3. Trails

1. General Description: While trails may be categorized into many different types, for the purposed of this plan trails is limited to generally include off-road multi-use trails only. Trails within parks are shown in individual park development plans and on-street non-motorized facilities (sidewalks and bikeways) are included in the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan. Trails in this context are intended to form a network of connections in and around the planning area, between neighborhoods and parks, schools, open space, civic facilities and commercial centers.
2. Approximate Size: Varies (linear); generally 25' – 50' wide.
3. Service Area: 1/2 mile radius.
4. Acquisition Guidelines: Trails should be located within open space or greenway corridors whenever possible. They may also be located adjacent to streams stream corridors or within utility right-of-ways, abandoned railroad corridors or expanded roadway networks where they can be separated from vehicular traffic by landscape or other natural features. Larger areas may be needed at key locations along trail corridors to support trailhead development as outlined below. Trails should be considered an integral part of the transportation network.
5. Development Guidelines: In general, trail development should meet local and state departments of transportation or public works standards, as needed. They should also consider AASHTO guidelines and ADA accessibility requirements. Consideration should be given to the trail surfacing and drainage patterns early in the design process. The following activities may be included with supporting trailhead development, as feasible, and is intended to serve as a general guideline only:
 - a. *Parking* – generally limited to around 2 – 5 stalls unless development is considered a major trailhead location when more parking may be anticipated. On street parking may be used to meet these criteria.
 - b. *Site Furnishings* – such as benches, trash receptacles, wayfinding signage, picnic tables and drinking fountains.
 - c. *Restrooms* – may be provided where space and funding allow. This could include permanent, semi-permanent or portable facilities.
 - d. *Other* – features as needs or site conditions.

Appendix B: *Existing Facilities Tables*

See the attached tables of Existing Facilities, both within and outside the planning as referenced in *Chapter 3* of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan.

Various sources and data are used to calculate existing and proposed land and facility costs including:

- Recent public land acquisition costs
- Real estate digest database of Bellingham area recent vacant land sales
- Professional Real Estate Appraisal services
- Land valuation comparisons-Whatcom County Assessor information
- Public agency bid data including Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Washington State Department of Transportation
- Building Industry Association of Washington construction data
- Means Construction Cost data
- Independent Cost Estimators
- Consultant cost databases
- Contractor information
- Construction trend information

The following abbreviations are used in the tables:

*	Facility not shown on maps in plan
AC	Acre
AQU	Aquatic Land
BSD	Bellingham School District
BTC	Bellingham Technical College
COB	City of Bellingham
CP	Community Park
EA	Each
LF	Linear Foot
NP	Neighborhood Park
N/A	Not Applicable
OS	Open Space
PRI	Private
POB	Port of Bellingham
ROW	Right-of-Way
ROS	Right-of-Way Streetscape
SU	Special Use Site
SF	Square Foot
TR	Trail
X	Facility Exists but is not quantitatively defined
UGA	Urban Growth Area (For purposes of this plan includes both city and UGA areas)
WCC	Whatcom Community College
WWU	Western Washington University
WA	Washington State
WC	Whatcom County
WS	Watershed

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Track/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/ Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Baseball Stadium (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sf)	Informal Playfield/Park (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot (20 stall avg)	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Notes
King Mountain	6.4	OS	COB																				X							Expansive territorial view w/ undeveloped spot to park.	
Lake Padden Open Space	36.7	OS	COB																											Undeveloped acreage north of Lake Padden Park/north of Samish Way	
Lazy E Ranch	2.3	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
Lenora Court Open Space *	0.1	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
Lincoln Creek Open Space*	1.4	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
Little Squalicum Park	22.5	OS	COB	X												X	X					X	X				X			undeveloped park w/ trails, parking lots and beach, incl. County properties managed by	
Lookout Mountain	47.2	OS	COB	4.85																			X				1			Incl. Birch Street (7.1 ac); dirt mountain bike	
Lowell Open Space	3.0	OS	COB	0.28																										Trails, remainder undeveloped	
McLeod Ave/Maplewood Ave. *	0.3	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
Mian Shores LLA Tract*	0.4	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
North Creek Short Plat *	1.3	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
Orchard Estates Wetlands	14.5	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
Padden Gorge	32.8	OS	COB	X																										Trails. Older forest with gorge, rushing seasonally. Salmon bearing stream.	
Padden Lake Hills Open Space *	0.7	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
Panorama Heights *	0.4	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
Parkhurst Open Space *	5.8	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
Peabody Plaza *	0.4	OS	COB																											Trees and lawn	
Salmon Park Nature Area	35.0	OS	COB	0.93																										Trails, Viewpoint from bridge over Whatcom Creek.	
Samish Crest Open Space	118.7	OS	COB	2.34					1																					Undeveloped, unimproved dirt paths, incl. Highlands OS & Newton/ Whatcom/ Edwards tracts (.4 ac) & Old Lakeway/ Woburn/ Xenia (2.5 ac) & Pacific View OS (2.2 ac) & Samish 46th Lots (.9 ac) & Samish Hts OS (.9 ac)	
Sehome Hill Arboretum	165.0	OS	COB	3.66												X							X							Trails. Includes 2007 acquisition of 0.04 acre "Brown" property and lands owned by WWU, managed by COB	
South Creek Short Plat*	1.8	OS	COB																											Undeveloped	
Spring Creek Nature Area	3.6	OS	COB	X																										Trails	
St. Paul - Toledo Open Space *	0.1	OS	COB	X																										Trails	
Sunset Gardens Short Plat*	3.7	OS	PRI																											Undeveloped Conservation Easement	
Sylvan Pond Open Space *	0.5	OS	COB																											Undeveloped. NE Corner of Silver Beach Rd and Fir St. in Alabama Neighborhood.	
Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands	112.9	OS/AQU	COB	0.63													X	1				X	X							Natural area preserve, beach, incl. N & S	
Euclid Park	22.0	OS/AQU	COB	0.18													X													Undeveloped with trail. w/ 700 lf shoreline on Lake Whatcom	
Silver Beach Open Space	2.5	OS/AQU	WA														X													lease, undeveloped beach, incl. Main Shores LLA tract (.4 ac)	
Other Right-of-Way*	9.3	OS/ROS	COB																												
Bayview Cemetery	73.0	SU	COB																				X							Cemetery	
Big Rock Garden	2.7	SU	COB				1																X	X						sculpture garden, display gardens, greenhouse	
Broadway Overlook *	0.6	SU	COB																				X							Plaza. Bellingham Bay view, brick paving, ornamental fencing, parking and benches. Nice old tree.	
Community Garden - Fairhaven *	0.3	SU	COB																							1				Community Garden, gazebo	

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Track/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/ Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Baseball Stadium (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sf)	Informal Playfield/Park (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot (20 stall avg)	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Notes
Community Garden - Happy Valley *	0.8	SU	COB																							1				Community Garden	
Community Garden - Lakeway *	1.8	SU	COB																							1				Community Garden	
Cornwall Rose Garden	0.4	SU	COB																											rose garden	
Fountain Square Plaza *	0.1	SU	COB																											Ornamental fountain, plaza	
Gibson Plaza *	0.2	SU	COB																											Plaza, grass area	
Gossage Gardens Plaza *	0.1	SU	COB																											gazebo, garden is maintained by neighborhood volunteers	
Lake Padden Golf Course	204.0	SU	COB	X			X														X				X					18 hole w/ driving range	
Lee Memorial Park*	0.9	SU	COB																			0.5		X						Ornamental Fountain, plaza, public art and ornamental plantings. The Library's "lawn".	
Old Colony Wharf*	0.2	SU	COB																											Undeveloped dock/water access	
Park Admin Office-Cornwall	n/a	SU	COB																		10000			X						2,800 s.f. administrative office, conference	
Park Shop/Maintenance Buildings - Woburn *	5.5	SU	COB																		10000			X						maintenance shops, yard & nursery	
Taylor Dock	n/a	SU	COB/DNR	X	1		1																X							COB leases the land, owns the dock, bay views	
Woodstock Farm	14.0	SU	COB																											Historic Buildings, archeology, Chuckanut Bay views, unique forest, beach access. Parking lot is small	
Brentwood Trail Connector *	0.1	TR	COB	X																										Paved sidewalk and stairs	
Neighborhood Trail Connectors*	0.2	TR		2.19																										Various locations	
Old Village Trail	0.2	TR		0.32	0.5																									trail in right of way	
Bay to Baker Greenway & Trail	6.5	TR/OS	COB	3.6																				X						Trails	
Interurban Greenway & Trail	98.6	TR/OS	COB	6.34																				X			1			Trails w/ trailhead	
Klipsun Greenway & Trail	20.8	TR/OS	COB	1.51																										Trails. Includes "Bowers" as listed in 2006	
Laurelwood Trail*	0.6	TR/OS	COB	0.37																										Undev. Lot and trail in row	
Lower Padden Open Space & Trails	46.6	TR/OS	COB	1.55																										Larrabee Buffer Trail, incl. Old Fairhaven Pkwy Greenway (4.8 ac), incl. Padden Lagoon (4.17), incl. Post Point Treatment Plant (21.9 ac)	
Moore-Pacific-Racine Greenway & Trail	4.6	TR/OS	COB	0.47																										Trails	
Railroad Greenway & Trail	65.4	TR/OS	COB	3.91																										Trails, viewpoint from Alabama Street bridge, incl. Fever Ck. Nature Area (11.7 ac) & Pacific Trails (.5 ac) & Roosevelt Nature Area (10.8 ac)	
South Bay Greenway & Trail	16.6	TR/OS	COB	3.5																										Trails, incl. Taylor Dock trail (7.3 ac)	
Squalicum Creek Greenway & Trail	69.2	TR/OS	COB	X																										Includes Bug Lake (10.4 ac) & St. Joes OS (13.1 ac)	
Whatcom Creek Greenway & Trail	22.8	TR/OS	COB	2.05																			X							Trails. Includes Haskell easement, wayside overlook, public art	
TOTAL EXISTING CITY	3,027.3			64.7	15.0	30.0	23.0	14.0	2.0	12.0	1.0	5.0	18.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	3.0	2.0	5.0	20,003.0	33,600.0	22.1	2,112.0	0.0	1.5	480.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/ Track/ Stadium (ea)	Soccer/ Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Baseball Stadium (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)
TOTAL EXISTING CITY	3,027.3	64.7	15.0	30.0	23.0	14.0	2.0	12.0	1.0	5.0	18.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	3.0	2.0
Facility Unit Cost	\$ 90,328	\$ 550,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Existing Total Facility Cost	\$ 273,453,643	\$ 35,601,500	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 3,900,000	\$ 5,750,000	\$ 2,100,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 13,950,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 735,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 200,000
Existing Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 3,635	\$ 473	\$ 20	\$ 52	\$ 76	\$ 28	\$ 0	\$ 20	\$ 160	\$ 20	\$ 185	\$ 160	\$ 10	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 3
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.10)	\$ 7,634	\$ 1,060	\$ 45	\$ 116	\$ 171	\$ 63	\$ 1	\$ 45	\$ 357	\$ 45	\$ 415	\$ 357	\$ 22	\$ 9	\$ 9	\$ 6

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sf)	Informal Playfield/Park (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot (20 stall avg)	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Notes
TOTAL EXISTING CITY	5.0	20,003.0	33,600.0	22.1	2,112.0	0.0	1.5	480.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	
													TOTAL EXISTING CITY SYSTEM
Facility Unit Cost	\$ 50,000	\$ 800	\$ 400	\$ 250,000	\$ 2,000	n/a	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 500	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	
Existing Total Facility Cost	\$ 250,000	\$ 16,002,400	\$ 13,440,000	\$ 5,525,000	\$ 4,224,000	n/a	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 407,651,543
Existing Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 3	\$ 213	\$ 179	\$ 73	\$ 56	n/a	\$ 24	\$ 3	\$ 6	\$ 4	\$ 3	\$ 5	\$ 5,419
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.10)	\$ 7	\$ 477	\$ 400	\$ 165	\$ 126	n/a	\$ 54	\$ 7	\$ 13	\$ 9	\$ 6	\$ 12	\$ 11,631

EXISTING FACILITIES
PORT OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football (ea)	Soccer (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Gymnasium (sf)	Community Center (sf)	Notes
Airport - Marine Drive Trail	18.0	OS	POB	X																		trail
Fairhaven - Marine Park	2.7	CP	POB		1	1	1									1						picnic shelter, sand beach, restrooms
Fairhaven - Padden Creek Lagoon Boat Launch	0.8	SU	POB														1					boat launch
Squalicum - Inner Harbor Promenade	2.0	OS	POB	X																		lighted 1.5 mile, 12 wide paved trail with harbor view and ornamental plantings.
Squalicum - Harbor Boat Launch	3.5	OS	POB														1					boat launch
Squalicum - Tom Glenn Commons	1.2	OS	POB																			plaza stage & viewpoint
Squalicum - Zuanich Point Park	10.7	CP	POB	X		1	1											1			1	transitory moorage, public art, Playground
TOTAL EXISTING PORT	38.9			0.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	

EXISTING FACILITIES
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
(Outside Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football (ea)	Soccer (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Gymnasium (sf)	Community Center (sf)	Notes	
Alderwood ES + Early Childhood Center	10.8	SU	BSD			2		1					1							1			
Aldrich Rd. ES	19.8	SU	BSD																				Undeveloped
Battersby Field	3.8	SU	BSD				1				1		2										
Bellingham HS	17.0	SU	BSD							5	1	1	1								1		
Birchwood ES	4.1	SU	BSD			1		1					3										
Carl Cozier ES	4.0	SU	BSD			2		1					3										
Columbia ES	3.0	SU	BSD			2		1				1	1								2		
Fairhaven MS	14.0	SU	BSD					2			1	1									2		track
Geneva ES	8.8	SU	BSD			2		1				1	1								1		
Happy Valley ES	7.4	SU	BSD			2		1					1								1		track
Kulshan MS	10.0	SU	BSD					4			1										1		
Larabee ES	1.2	SU	BSD			1		1					1								1		
Lowell ES	2.2	SU	BSD			1		1													1		
Northern Heights ES	15.6	SU	BSD																				
Parkview ES	4.2	SU	BSD			1		1				1									1		
Roeder Admin Building	n/a	SU	BSD																				no recreational facilities
Roosevelt ES	14.2	SU	BSD			1		1					1								1		OPEN SPACE part is 4.5 acres and is included in count of COB list as "Roosevelt Nature Area".
Sehome HS	40.0	SU	BSD							6	1	1	1								2		
Shuksan MS	16.0	SU	BSD					2		6	1	2									1		
Silver Beach ES	10.0	SU	BSD			2						1	1								2		OPEN SPACE part is 3.7 acres and is included in count of COB list as "Silver Beach Elementary School"
Squalicum HS	45.4	SU	BSD								1	1	1								1		
Sunnyland ES	2.9	SU	BSD			2		1					1								1		
Wade King ES	15.6	SU	BSD																				Under Construction 2008
Whatcom Falls MS	4.2	SU	BSD					6													3		
Whatcom Hills Waldorf ES	2.0	SU	PRI																				
Whatcom Community College		SU	WCC							2													
Bellingham Technical College		SU	BTC																			X	
Western Washington University	195.0	SU	WWU							8		2	4									X	Includes Huxley. track, not sure if this acreage counts PME portion of Sehome Arboretum
WWU - Recreation Center		SU	WWU																	1	1	X	fitness center, hockey court, climbing wall
WWU - Carver Gym		SU	WWU																	1	2		4 racquetball courts, fitness center
WWU - Lakewood	9.8	SU	WWU																				crew facility, kayak & canoe rentals
WWU - Hannegan Environmental Center	23.2	SU	WWU																			X	
TOTAL EXISTING EDUCATION	504.3			0.0	0.0	19.0	1.0	25.0	0.0	27.0	7.0	12.0	23.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	26.0	0.0	

Appendix C: *Proposed Facilities Tables*

See the attached tables of Proposed Facilities including the 4 options as referenced in *Chapter 7* of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan.

Various sources and data are used to calculate existing and proposed land and facility costs including:

- Recent public land acquisition costs
- Real estate digest database of Bellingham area recent vacant land sales
- Professional Real Estate Appraisal services
- Land valuation comparisons-Whatcom County Assessor information
- Public agency bid data including Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Washington State Department of Transportation
- Building Industry Association of Washington construction data
- Means Construction Cost data
- Independent Cost Estimators
- Consultant cost databases
- Contractor information
- Construction trend information

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in the tables:

*	Facility not shown on maps in plan
**	Cost not included in plan, would be funded via separate source (bond, levy, etc.)
	Acre
AC	
AQU	Aquatic Land
COB	City of Bellingham
CP	Community Park
C	Current (Currently funded project priority)
EA	Each
LF	Linear Foot
NP	Neighborhood Park
N/A	Not Applicable
OS	Open Space
SU	Special Use Site
SF	Square Foot
TR	Trail
X	Facility Exists but is not quantitatively defined
UGA	Urban Growth Area (For purposes of this plan includes both city and UGA areas)

PROPOSED FACILITIES - PRIORITY PROJECTS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playground (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes					
PROPOSED																																					
LAKE PADDEN PARK	n/a	CP	1	COB													1																drainage/beach improvements				
N WATERFRONT PARK	12.0	CP	1	COB	1	1	1	1									1					1	400	X							0.5		part of waterfront district site				
NE COMM PARK	40.0	CP	1	COB	2	2	2	2	1		1		1	2	0.5	2						2		X		200	1			1							
S WATERFRONT PARK	12.0	CP	1	COB	1	1	1	1		1					0.2		1				800	3		X									part of waterfront district site				
CENTRAL BAKERVIEW PARK	5.0	NP	1	COB	0.5		1	1	1													2		X									to be determined with redevelopment				
DOWNTOWN GATHERING SPACES	10.0	NP	2	COB																																	
E AIRPORT PARK	2.0	NP	1	COB	0.5		1		1													0.5		X													
E YEW STREET PARK	5.0	NP	3	COB	0.5		1	1	1													1		X										develop part of existing open space			
N SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP	3	COB	0.5		1	1	1													1		X													
S SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP	3	COB	1	1	1																	X													
SUNSET POND (Expansion)	5.0	NP	1	COB	0.5		1	1														0.5	200											expand existing open space			
OPEN SPACE ANCHOR ADDITIONS	200.0	OS	1	COB																														varies, generally north Bellingham			
COURTHOUSE PLAZA	0.3	SU	2	COB																														per Old Town Neigh Plan			
DEPOT PLAZA	0.3	SU	2	COB																														500000	per Old Town Neigh Plan		
FOUNTAIN SQUARE PLAZA	n/a	SU	2	COB																															500000	Improve fountain	
LITTLE SQUALICUM PIER & HAND LAUN	0.5	SU	2	COB													0.3																		100000		
WOODSTOCK FARM	n/a	SU	1	COB																			400													improve access, hand boat landing (no launch)	
CENTRAL WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAIL*	4.8	TR/OS	1	COB	2																																
N BELLINGHAM GREENWAY & TRAIL (from Master Plan)*	163.6	TR/OS	1	COB	45																															UGA trails per master plan	
N.WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAILS*	7.3	TR/OS	1	COB	3																															5	north-south connection, assumes two
S. WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAIL*	6.1	TR/OS	1	COB	2.5																																

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - PRIORITY PROJECTS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes	
SAMISH CREST TO LOOKOUT MT. GREENWAY & TRAIL*	3.6	TR/OS	3	COB	1.5																												
WHATCOM TO BAY TO BAKER EAST GREENWAY & TRAIL*	3.6	TR/OS	1	COB	1.5																												
WHATCOM TO BAY TO BAKER WEST GREENWAY & TRAIL *	2.4	TR/OS	1	COB	1																												
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	483.5				64.0	5.0	10.0	8.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	2.0	0.7	2.0	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	800.0	11.0	1,000.0	n/a	0.0	200.0	1.0	5.0	0.0	1.5	1,100,000.0		

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - PRIORITY PROJECTS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	483.5	64.0	5.0	10.0	8.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	2.0	0.7	2.0	3.5	0.0	0.0

Facility Unit Cost	\$ 90,328	\$ 550,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000
Proposed Total Facility Cost	\$ 43,671,672	\$ 35,200,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 245,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -	\$ -
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 494	\$ 398	\$ 6	\$ 15	\$ 23	\$ 5	\$ 0	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 3	\$ 18	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 4	\$ -	\$ -
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.10)	\$ 1,038	\$ 892	\$ 13	\$ 33	\$ 51	\$ 11	\$ 0	\$ 3	\$ -	\$ 8	\$ 39	\$ 6	\$ 8	\$ 9	\$ -	\$ -

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - PRIORITY PROJECTS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playground (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes
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TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	0.0	800.0	11.0	1,000.0	n/a	0.0	200.0	1.0	5.0	0.0	1.5	1,100,000.0	
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TOTAL COSTS

Facility Unit Cost	\$ 800	\$ 400	\$ 250,000	\$ 2,000	n/a	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 500	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$	1	
Proposed Total Facility Cost	\$ -	\$ 320,000	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 2,000,000	n/a	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$	93,476,672
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ -	\$ 4	\$ 31	\$ 23	n/a	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ 8	\$ -	\$ 3	\$ 12	\$	1,058
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.10)	\$ -	\$ 8	\$ 70	\$ 51	n/a	\$ -	\$ 3	\$ 4	\$ 19	\$ -	\$ 8	\$ 28	\$	2,300

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - BASE PLAN OPTION
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes			
PROPOSED																																			
BLOEDEL DONOVAN PARK	n/a	CP		COB													1																parking control/fee, boat house-by others		
BOULEVARD PARK	n/a	CP		COB													1																Beach improvements, boardwalk, performance shelter by donation		
CIVIC ATHLETIC COMPLEX	n/a	CP		COB		1												1															replace Joe Martin fields w/ synthetic		
CORNWALL PARK EXPANSION	15.0	CP	Current	COB									X	X																			expand park		
NE COMM PARK	40.0	CP	1	COB	0.5																			X			1								
FAIRHAVEN PARK	n/a	CP		COB	2	2	2	2	1		1		1	2	0.5	2						2		X		200	1			1			drainage, rose garden, entry improvements		
LAKE PADDEN PARK	n/a	CP	1	COB													1																drainage/beach improvements		
MARITIME HERITAGE PARK	n/a	CP		COB																													improve playground restroom/year-round access		
N W Community PARK	40.0	CP		COB	2	2	1	1	1	1	1		1	1		2						800	2	X	1		1		1						
N WATERFRONT PARK	12.0	CP	1	COB	1	1	1	1									1					1	400	X							0.5		part of waterfront district site		
NORTHRIDGE PARK	n/a	CP	Current	COB	1	1	2	1	1						0.2									X									develop existing park		
S WATERFRONT PARK	12.0	CP	1	COB	1	1	1	1		1					0.2		1					800	3	X									part of waterfront district site		
SQUALICUM CREEK PARK	n/a	CP	Current	COB	0.5	2	2	1	1					2		2						800	2	X		200							Phase 2 per master plan		
WHATCOM FALLS PARK	n/a	CP		COB				1																									Woburn Entry		
BOARDWALK REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																													as needed, locations vary		
BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																													100000	as needed, locations vary	
MISCELLANEUS PARK IMPROVEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																													500000	updated park master plans, as needed	
PARKS TRANSPORTATION PLAN	n/a	n/a		COB																														50000	study of parking, bus access, shuttle opportunities, trail access, traffic impacts of parks,
SIGNAGE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	n/a	n/a		COB																														100000	as needed, locations vary
STAIR REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																														500000	as needed, locations vary
BARKLEY PARK	1.0	NP		COB	0.25		1															0.5												expand existing open space	
BIG ROCK GARDEN	n/a	NP		COB	0.25			1																X										improvements per master plan	

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - BASE PLAN OPTION
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes		
BROADWAY PARK	n/a	NP		COB																												improve restroom/year-round access		
CENTRAL BAKERVIEW PARK	5.0	NP		1 COB	0.5	1	1	0.5														2		X								100000		
CHUCKANUT PARK	1.0	NP		COB	0.25		1		0.5													0.5		X										
CORDATA PARK	n/a	NP	Current	COB	0.5	1	1	1	0.5						0.2							1		X									develop existing park to be determined with redevelopment	
DOWNTOWN GATHERING SPACES	10.0	NP		2 COB	0.5	1	1	1	0.5													1		X										
E AIRPORT PARK	2.0	NP		1 COB	0.5		1		0.5													0.5		X										
E YEW STREET PARK	5.0	NP		3 COB	0.5		1	1	0.5													1		X										
ELIZABETH PARK	n/a	NP		COB																													improve fountain	
FRANKLIN PARK	n/a	NP		COB											0.1																			
GENEVA PARK	2.0	NP		COB	0.25		1															0.5												
J STREET PARK	0.5	NP		COB		1																0.25												
KING MOUNTAIN	5.0	NP		COB	1	1	1	1	0.5															X										develop part of existing open space
N GUIDE MERIDIAN PARK	2.0	NP		COB	0.5		1															1		X										
N SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP		3 COB	0.5		1	1	0.5													1		X										develop part of existing open space
S SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP		3 COB	1	1	1																	X										
SUNSET POND (Expansion)	5.0	NP		1 COB	0.5		1	1														0.5	200											expand existing open space
W BAKERVIEW PARK	2.0	NP		COB	0.5		1															0.5		X										
ARROYO PARK	n/a	OS		COB																														improve N. Chuckanut trailhead
BIG ROCK	n/a	OS		COB	0.5																							1						trail connector to Klipsun
CONNELLY CREEK NATURE AREA	n/a	OS		COB																														24th St.
LITTLE SQUALICUM PARK	n/a	OS		COB		1																0.5						1						
OPEN SPACE ANCHOR ADDITIONS	200.0	OS		1 COB																														varies, generally north Bellingham
WATERFRONT/TIDELANDS	20.0	OS		COB																														varies

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - BASE PLAN OPTION
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes				
EUCLID PARK	n/a	OS/AQU		COB																																
COMMUNITY CENTER	n/a	SU		COB																														30,000 sf on 5 acres; may be combined with admin		
COURTHOUSE PLAZA	0.3	SU		2 COB																													per Old Town Neigh Plan			
DEPOT PLAZA	0.3	SU		2 COB																													500000	per Old Town Neigh Plan		
FOUNTAIN SQUARE PLAZA	n/a	SU		2 COB																													500000	Improve fountain		
J STREET HAND LAUNCH	0.3	SU		COB																														100000	in combination w/ J Street Park	
LITTLE SQUALICUM PIER & HAND LAUN	0.5	SU		2 COB													0	1						X												
MAINTENANCE/SHOP	n/a	SU		COB													0																		20,000 sf on 5 acres may be combined with admin	
PARKS OFFICE/SHOP	n/a	SU		COB																															10,000 sf on 5 acres may be combined with shop or community center	
WATERFRONT HAND LAUNCH	0.3	SU		COB																																
WOODSTOCK FARM	n/a	SU	1	COB													0	1						X											improve access, hand boat landing (no launch)	
COAST MILLENIUM TRAIL	on road	TR		COB	on road																														complete trail	
GALBRAITH TRAILHEAD	n/a	TR		COB																															jointly with County	
I-5 TRAIL CROSSINGS *	0.6	TR		COB																															tunnel, bridge, etc. - assumes three (one at Sunset/Mt. Baker Hwy.)	
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL CONNECTORS	12.1	TR		COB	0.25																														locations vary	
BAY TO BAKER GREENWAY & TRAIL*	12.1	TR/OS	Current	COB	5																														complete trail	
CENTRAL WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAIL*	4.8	TR/OS	1	COB	5																															
CHUCKANUT TO WOODSTOCK GREENWAY & TRAIL*	3.6	TR/OS	Current	COB	2																															
INTERURBAN GREENWAY & TRAIL	3.6	TR/OS	Current	COB	1.5																															
INTERURBAN GREENWAY & TRAIL	n/a	TR/OS		COB	0.5																															trailhead at 24th and Hoag Pond
LAKE WHATCOM SHORE GREENWAY & TRAIL*	2.4	TR/OS		COB	1																															
N BELLINGHAM GREENWAY & TRAIL (from Master Plan)*	163.6	TR/OS	1	COB	45																															UGA trails per master plan
N.WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAILS*	7.3	TR/OS	1	COB	3																															north-south connection, assumes two
S. WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAIL*	6.1	TR/OS	1	COB	2.5																															

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - BASE PLAN OPTION
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes	
SAMISH CREST GREENWAY & TRAIL*	15.0	TR/OS	Current	COB	3.5																											trailheads assumed with Samish Crest Park (north and south)	
SAMISH CREST TO FAIRHAVEN GREENWAY & TRAIL*	6.1	TR/OS		COB	2.5																												
SAMISH CREST TO I-5 GREENWAY & TRAIL*	4.8	TR/OS		COB	2																												
SAMISH CREST TO LOOKOUT MT. GREENWAY & TRAIL*	3.6	TR/OS	3	COB	1.5																												
SEHOME TO BAY GREENWAY & TRAIL*	1.2	TR/OS		COB	0.5																												
WHATCOM CREEK GREENWAY & TRAIL*	2.4	TR/OS	Current	COB	1																												complete system
WHATCOM TO BAY TO BAKER EAST GREENWAY & TRAIL*	3.6	TR/OS	1	COB	1.5																												
WHATCOM TO BAY TO BAKER WEST GREENWAY & TRAIL *	2.4	TR/OS	1	COB	1																												
YEW GREENWAY & TRAIL*	6.1	TR/OS		COB	2.5																												
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	639.0				97.3	15.0	22.0	15.0	7.5	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	4.0	2.2	6.0	6.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2,400.0	19.8	3,640.0	n/a	1.0	400.0	3.0	12.0	1.0	1.5	5,570,000.0		

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - BASE PLAN OPTION
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	639.0	97.3	15.0	22.0	15.0	7.5	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	4.0	2.2	6.0	6.0	0.0

Facility Unit Cost	\$ 90,328	\$ 550,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 150,000	\$15,000	\$ 125,000	\$12,000,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Proposed Total Facility Cost	\$ 57,723,561	\$ 53,487,500	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,860,000	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 1,125,000	\$30,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$1,000,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 770,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 600,000	\$ -
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 653	\$ 605	\$ 17	\$ 32	\$ 42	\$ 13	\$ 0	\$ 3	\$ -	\$ 11	\$ 35	\$ 9	\$ 10	\$ 7	\$ -
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.10)	\$ 1,372	\$ 1,356	\$ 38	\$ 72	\$ 95	\$ 29	\$ 1	\$ 6	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ 79	\$ 20	\$ 23	\$ 15	\$ -

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - BASE PLAN OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	2.0	0.0	2,400.0	19.8	3,640.0	n/a	1.0	400.0	3.0	12.0	1.0	1.5	5,570,000.0	

TOTAL COSTS

Facility Unit Cost	\$ 50,000	\$ 800	\$ 400	\$ 250,000	\$ 2,000	n/a	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 500	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1	
Proposed Total Facility Cost	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 960,000	\$ 4,937,500	\$ 7,280,000	n/a	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 5,570,000	150,093,561
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 11	\$ 56	\$ 82	n/a	\$ 14	\$ 2	\$ 5	\$ 20	\$ 2	\$ 3	\$ 63	1,698
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.10)	\$ 3	\$ -	\$ 24	\$ 125	\$ 185	n/a	\$ 30	\$ 5	\$ 11	\$ 46	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 141	3,713

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING UGA LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes		
PROPOSED																																		
BLOEDEL DONOVAN PARK	n/a	CP		COB													1				X											parking control/fee, boat house-by others		
BOULEVARD PARK	n/a	CP		COB													1															Beach improvements, boardwalk, performance shelter by donation		
CIVIC ATHLETIC COMPLEX	n/a	CP		COB		1											1						2640											
CORNWALL PARK EXPANSION	15.0	CP	Current	COB									X	X																		expand park		
NE COMM PARK	60.0	CP	1	COB	0.5																		X			1								
FAIRHAVEN PARK	n/a	CP		COB	2	2	2	2	1		1		1	2	0.5	2						2		X	200	1			1			120000	drainage, rose garden, entry improvements	
LAKE PADDEN PARK	n/a	CP	1	COB													1																drainage/beach improvements	
MARITIME HERITAGE PARK	n/a	CP		COB																													improve playground restroom/year-round access	
N W Community PARK	60.0	CP		COB																														
N WATERFRONT PARK	12.0	CP	1	COB	2	2	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	2						800	2		X	1		1		1				part of waterfront district site	
NORTHRIDGE PARK	n/a	CP	Current	COB	1	1	1	1									1						400	X						0.5			develop existing park	
S WATERFRONT PARK	12.0	CP	1	COB	1	1	2	1	1						0.2									X									part of waterfront district site	
SQUALICUM CREEK PARK	n/a	CP	Current	COB	1	1	1	1		1					0.2		1				800	3		X									Phase 2 per master plan	
WHATCOM FALLS PARK	n/a	CP		COB	0.5	2	2	1	1					2		2					800	2		X	200								Woburn Entry	
BOARDWALK REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB				1																				1					as needed, locations vary	
BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																												100000	as needed, locations vary	
MISCELLANEUS PARK IMPROVEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																												3000000	updated park master plans, as needed	
PARKS TRANSPORTATION PLAN	n/a	n/a		COB																												500000	study of parking, bus access, shuttle opportunities, trail access, traffic impacts of parks,	
SIGNAGE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	n/a	n/a		COB																													50000	
STAIR REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																													100000	as needed, locations vary
BARKLEY PARK	10.0	NP		COB																													500000	expand existing open space
BIG ROCK GARDEN	n/a	NP		COB	0.3		1															0.5												improvements per master plan
					0.3			1															X											

* Average 25' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING UGA LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes				
BROADWAY PARK	n/a	NP		COB																												100000	improve restroom/year-round access			
CENTRAL BAKERVIEW PARK	10.0	NP		1 COB	0.5	1	1	0.5														2	X													
CHUCKANUT PARK	10.0	NP		COB	0.3	1		0.5														0.5	X													
CORDATA PARK	n/a	NP	Current	COB	0.5	1	1	1	0.5						0.2							1	X											develop existing park to be determined with redevelopment		
DOWNTOWN GATHERING SPACES	10.0	NP		2 COB	0.5	1	1	1	0.5														X													
E AIRPORT PARK	5.0	NP		1 COB	0.5	1		0.5														0.5	X													
E YEW STREET PARK	10.0	NP		3 COB	0.5	1	1	0.5														1	X													
ELIZABETH PARK	n/a	NP		COB																															improve fountain	
FRANKLIN PARK	n/a	NP		COB											0.1																					
GENEVA PARK	5.0	NP		COB	0.3	1																0.5														
J STREET PARK	5.0	NP		COB		1																0.3														
KING MOUNTAIN	5.0	NP		COB	1	1	1	1	0.5															X												develop part of existing open space
N GUIDE MERIDIAN PARK	10.0	NP		COB	0.5	1																1	X													
N SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP		3 COB	0.5	1	1	0.5														1	X													develop part of existing open space
S SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP		3 COB	1	1	1																X													
SUNSET POND (Expansion)	10.0	NP		1 COB	0.5	1	1															0.5	200													expand existing open space
W BAKERVIEW PARK	5.0	NP		COB	0.5	1																0.5	X													
ARROYO PARK	n/a	OS		COB																																improve N. Chuckanut trailhead
BIG ROCK	n/a	OS		COB	0.5																							1							trail connector to Klipsun	
CONNELLY CREEK NATURE AREA	n/a	OS		COB																															24th St.	
LITTLE SQUALICUM PARK	n/a	OS		COB																								1								
OPEN SPACE ANCHOR ADDITIONS	350.0	OS		1 COB		1																0.5														varies, generally north Bellingham
WATERFRONT/TIDELANDS	50.0	OS		COB																															varies	

* Average 25' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING UGA LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres; X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes				
EUCLID PARK	n/a	OS/AQU		COB																																
COMMUNITY CENTER	n/a	SU		COB																														30,000 sf on 5 acres; may be combined with admin		
COURTHOUSE PLAZA	0.3	SU		2 COB																	x												per Old Town Neigh Plan			
DEPOT PLAZA	0.3	SU		2 COB																													500000	per Old Town Neigh Plan		
FOUNTAIN SQUARE PLAZA	n/a	SU		2 COB																														500000	Improve fountain	
J STREET HAND LAUNCH	0.3	SU		COB																														100000	in combination w/ J Street Park	
LITTLE SQUALICUM PIER & HAND LAUN	0.5	SU		2 COB													0.3	1						X												
MAINTENANCE/SHOP	n/a	SU		COB													0.3																		20,000 sf on 5 acres may be combined with admin	
PARKS OFFICE/SHOP	n/a	SU		COB																	x													10,000 sf on 5 acres may be combined with shop or community center		
WATERFRONT HAND LAUNCH	0.3	SU		COB													0.3	1						X												
WOODSTOCK FARM	n/a	SU		1 COB													0.3																		improve access, hand boat landing (no launch)	
COAST MILLENIUM TRAIL	on road	TR		COB	on road																														complete trail	
GALBRAITH TRAILHEAD	n/a	TR		COB																															jointly with County	
I-5 TRAIL CROSSINGS *	0.8	TR		COB																															tunnel, bridge, etc. - assumes three (one at Sunset/Mt. Baker Hwy.)	
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL CONNECTORS	15.2	TR		COB	0.3																														locations vary	
BAY TO BAKER GREENWAY & TRAIL*	15.2	TR/OS	Current	COB	5																														complete trail	
CENTRAL WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAIL*	6.1	TR/OS		1 COB	5																															
CHUCKANUT TO WOODSTOCK GREENWAY & TRAIL*	4.5	TR/OS	Current	COB	2																															
INTERURBAN GREENWAY & TRAIL	4.5	TR/OS	Current	COB	1.5																															trailhead at 24th and Hoag Pond
LAKE WHATCOM SHORE GREENWAY & TRAIL*	n/a	TR/OS		COB	0.5																															
LAKE WHATCOM SHORE GREENWAY & TRAIL*	3.0	TR/OS		COB	1																															
N BELLINGHAM GREENWAY & TRAIL (from Master Plan)*	163.6	TR/OS		1 COB	45																															UGA trails per master plan
N.WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAILS*	9.1	TR/OS		1 COB	3																															north-south connection, assumes two
S. WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAIL*	7.6	TR/OS		1 COB	2.5																															

* Average 25' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING UGA LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes	
SAMISH CREST GREENWAY & TRAIL*	10.6	TR/OS	Current	COB	3.5																											trailheads assumed with Samish Crest Park (north and south)	
SAMISH CREST TO FAIRHAVEN GREENWAY & TRAIL*	7.6	TR/OS		COB	2.5																												
SAMISH CREST TO I-5 GREENWAY & TRAIL*	6.1	TR/OS		COB	2																												
SAMISH CREST TO LOOKOUT MT. GREENWAY & TRAIL*	4.5	TR/OS	3	COB	1.5																												
SEHOME TO BAY GREENWAY & TRAIL*	1.5	TR/OS		COB	0.5																												
WHATCOM CREEK GREENWAY & TRAIL*	3.0	TR/OS	Current	COB	1																												complete system
WHATCOM TO BAY TO BAKER EAST GREENWAY & TRAIL*	4.5	TR/OS	1	COB	1.5																												
WHATCOM TO BAY TO BAKER WEST GREENWAY & TRAIL *	3.0	TR/OS	1	COB	1																												
YEW GREENWAY & TRAIL*	7.6	TR/OS		COB	2.5																												
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	929.0				97.3	15.0	22.0	15.0	7.5	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	4.0	2.2	6.0	6.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2,400.0	19.8	3,640.0	n/a	1.0	400.0	3.0	12.0	1.0	1.5	5,570,000.0		

* Average 25' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING UGA LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	929.0	97.3	15.0	22.0	15.0	7.5	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	4.0	2.2	6.0	6.0	0.0
Facility Unit Cost	\$ 90,328	\$ 550,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 150,000	\$15,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Proposed Total Facility Cost	\$ 83,914,575	\$ 53,487,500	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,860,000	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 1,125,000	\$30,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 600,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 770,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 600,000	\$ -
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 949	\$ 605	\$ 17	\$ 32	\$ 42	\$ 13	\$ 0	\$ 3	\$ -	\$ 7	\$ 35	\$ 9	\$ 10	\$ 7	\$ -
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.10)	\$ 1,994	\$ 1,356	\$ 38	\$ 72	\$ 95	\$ 29	\$ 1	\$ 6	\$ -	\$ 15	\$ 79	\$ 20	\$ 23	\$ 15	\$ -

* Average 25' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING UGA LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	2.0	0.0	2,400.0	19.8	3,640.0	n/a	1.0	400.0	3.0	12.0	1.0	1.5	5,570,000.0	

TOTAL COSTS

Facility Unit Cost	\$ 50,000	\$ 800	\$ 400	\$ 250,000	\$ 2,000	n/a	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 500	\$150,000	\$ 150,000	\$200,000	\$ 200,000	\$	1	
Proposed Total Facility Cost	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 960,000	\$ 4,937,500	\$7,280,000	n/a	\$ 1,200,000	\$200,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$200,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 5,570,000	\$	175,884,575
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 11	\$ 56	\$ 82	n/a	\$ 14	\$ 2	\$ 5	\$ 20	\$ 2	\$ 3	\$ 63	\$	1,990
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.10)	\$ 3	\$ -	\$ 24	\$ 125	\$ 185	n/a	\$ 30	\$ 5	\$ 11	\$ 46	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 141	\$	4,325

* Average 25' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING CITY LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes		
PROPOSED																																		
BLOEDEL DONOVAN PARK	n/a	CP		COB													1				x												parking control/fee, boat house-by others	
BOULEVARD PARK	n/a	CP		COB		1											1						2640										Beach improvements, boardwalk, performance shelter by donation	
CIVIC ATHLETIC COMPLEX	n/a	CP		COB																												replace Joe Martin fields w/ synthetic		
CORNWALL PARK EXPANSION	15.0	CP	Current	COB	0.5								x	x																		expand park		
NE COMM PARK	60.0	CP		1 COB	2	2	2	2	1		1		1	2	0.5	2						2		X			1							
FAIRHAVEN PARK	n/a	CP		COB																				X		200	1					1	drainage, rose garden, entry improvements	
LAKE PADDEN PARK	n/a	CP		1 COB													1															120000	drainage/beach improvements	
MARITIME HERITAGE PARK	n/a	CP		COB																													improve playground restroom/year-round access	
N W Community PARK	60.0	CP		COB	2	2	1	1	1	1	1		1	1		2						800	2		X	1		1						
N WATERFRONT PARK	12.0	CP		1 COB	1	1	1	1	1								1					1	400	X							0.5		part of waterfront district site	
NORTHRIDGE PARK	n/a	CP	Current	COB	1	1	2	1	1						0.2										X									develop existing park
S WATERFRONT PARK	12.0	CP		1 COB	1	1	1	1	1						0.2	1						800	3		X									part of waterfront district site
SQUALICUM CREEK PARK	n/a	CP	Current	COB	0.5	2	2	1	1					2		2						800	2		X	200								Phase 2 per master plan
WHATCOM FALLS PARK	n/a	CP		COB																								1					Woburn Entry	
BOARDWALK REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB				1																										as needed, locations vary
BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																														as needed, locations vary
MISCELLANEUS PARK IMPROVEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																														updated park master plans, as needed
PARKS TRANSPORTATION PLAN	n/a	n/a		COB																														study of parking, bus access, shuttle opportunities, trail access, traffic impacts of parks,
SIGNAGE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	n/a	n/a		COB																														as needed, locations vary
STAIR REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																														as needed, locations vary
BARKLEY PARK	10.0	NP		COB	0.25		1															0.5												expand existing open space
BIG ROCK GARDEN	n/a	NP		COB	0.25			1																X										improvements per master plan
BROADWAY PARK	n/a	NP		COB																														improve restroom/year-round access
CENTRAL BAKERVIEW PARK	10.0	NP		1 COB	0.5		1	1	0.5													2		X										100000

* Average 50' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING CITY LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes			
CHUCKANUT PARK	10.0	NP		COB	0.25	1		0.5														0.5		X											
CORDATA PARK	n/a	NP	Current	COB	0.5	1	1	1	0.5						0.2							1		X										develop existing park to be determined with redevelopment	
DOWNTOWN GATHERING SPACES	10.0	NP		2 COB																															
E AIRPORT PARK	10.0	NP		1 COB	0.5		1		0.5													0.5		X											
E YEW STREET PARK	10.0	NP		3 COB	0.5		1	1	0.5													1		X											
ELIZABETH PARK	n/a	NP		COB																														improve fountain	
FRANKLIN PARK	n/a	NP		COB																															
GENEVA PARK	10.0	NP		COB	0.25		1															0.5													
J STREET PARK	10.0	NP		COB		1																0.25													
KING MOUNTAIN	10.0	NP		COB	1	1	1	1	0.5															X											develop part of existing open space
N GUIDE MERIDIAN PARK	10.0	NP		COB	0.5		1															1		X											
N SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP		3 COB	0.5		1	1	0.5													1		X											develop part of existing open space
S SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP		3 COB	1	1	1																	X											
SUNSET POND (Expansion)	10.0	NP		1 COB	0.5		1	1														0.5	200												expand existing open space
W BAKERVIEW PARK	10.0	NP		COB	0.5		1															0.5		X											
ARROYO PARK	n/a	OS		COB																															improve N. Chuckanut trailhead
BIG ROCK	n/a	OS		COB	0.5																														trail connector to Klipsun
CONNELLY CREEK NATURE AREA	n/a	OS		COB																															24th St.
LITTLE SQUALICUM PARK	n/a	OS		COB																															
OPEN SPACE ANCHOR ADDITIONS	750.0	OS		1 COB		1																0.5													varies, generally north Bellingham
WATERFRONT/TIDELANDS	90.0	OS		COB																															varies
EUCLID PARK	n/a	OS/AQU		COB																															
COMMUNITY CENTER	n/a	SU		COB																															30,000 sf on 5 acres; may be combined with admin
COURTHOUSE PLAZA	0.3	SU		2 COB																														per Old Town Neigh Plan	
DEPOT PLAZA	0.3	SU		2 COB																														500000	per Old Town Neigh Plan
																																			500000

* Average 50' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING CITY LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes		
FOUNTAIN SQUARE PLAZA	n/a	SU		2	COB																											Improve fountain		
J STREET HAND LAUNCH	0.3	SU			COB																											100000	in combination w/ J Street Park	
LITTLE SQUALICUM PIER & HAND LAUNCH	0.5	SU		2	COB												0.25	1						X										
MAINTENANCE/SHOP	n/a	SU			COB												0.25								400								20,000 sf on 5 acres may be combined with admin	
PARKS OFFICE/SHOP	n/a	SU			COB																												10,000 sf on 5 acres may be combined with shop or community center	
WATERFRONT HAND LAUNCH	0.3	SU			COB																													
WOODSTOCK FARM	n/a	SU		1	COB												0.25	1															improve access, hand boat landing (no launch)	
COAST MILLENIUM TRAIL	on road	TR			COB	on road											0.25																complete trail	
GALBRAITH TRAILHEAD	n/a	TR			COB																												jointly with County	
I-5 TRAIL CROSSINGS *	1.5	TR			COB																									1		tunnel, bridge, etc. - assumes three (one at Sunset/Mt. Baker Hwy.)		
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL CONNECTORS	30.3	TR			COB																												locations vary	
BAY TO BAKER GREENWAY & TRAIL*	30.3	TR/OS	Current		COB	5																											complete trail	
CENTRAL WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAIL*	12.1	TR/OS		1	COB	5																												
CHUCKANUT TO WOODSTOCK GREENWAY & TRAIL*	9.1	TR/OS	Current		COB	2																												
INTERURBAN GREENWAY & TRAIL	n/a	TR/OS			COB	1.5																												trailhead at 24th and Hoag Pond
LAKE WHATCOM SHORE GREENWAY & TRAIL*	6.1	TR/OS			COB	0.5																												
N BELLINGHAM GREENWAY & TRAIL (from Master Plan)*	163.6	TR/OS		1	COB	1																												UGA trails per master plan
N.WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAILS*	18.2	TR/OS		1	COB	45																												north-south connection, assumes two
S. WATERFRONT GREENWAY & TRAIL*	15.2	TR/OS		1	COB	3																												
SAMISH CREST GREENWAY & TRAIL*	21.2	TR/OS	Current		COB	2.5																												trailheads assumed with Samish Crest Park (north and south)
SAMISH CREST TO FAIRHAVEN GREENWAY & TRAIL*	15.2	TR/OS			COB	3.5																												
SAMISH CREST TO I-5 GREENWAY & TRAIL*	12.1	TR/OS			COB	2.5																												
SAMISH CREST TO LOOKOUT MT. GREENWAY & TRAIL*	9.1	TR/OS		3	COB	2																												
SEHOME TO BAY GREENWAY & TRAIL*	3.0	TR/OS			COB	1.5																												
					COB	0.5																												

* Average 50' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING CITY LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Priority	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multipurpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playground (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes		
WHATCOM CREEK GREENWAY & TRAIL*	6.1	TR/OS	Current	COB	1																											complete system		
WHATCOM TO BAY TO BAKER EAST GREENWAY & TRAIL*	9.1	TR/OS	1	COB	1.5																													
WHATCOM TO BAY TO BAKER WEST GREENWAY & TRAIL *	6.1	TR/OS	1	COB	1																													
YEW GREENWAY & TRAIL*	15.2	TR/OS		COB	2.5																													
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	1,503.8				97.3	15.0	22.0	15.0	7.5	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	4.0	2.2	6.0	6.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2,400.0	19.8	3,640.0	n/a	1.0	400.0	3.0	12.0	1.0	1.5	5,570,000.0			

* Average 50' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING CITY LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football/Stadium (ea)	Soccer/Multi-purpose (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	1,503.8	97.3	15.0	22.0	15.0	7.5	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	4.0	2.2	6.0	6.0	0.0

Facility Unit Cost	\$ 90,328	\$ 550,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 125,000	\$12,000,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$100,000
Proposed Total Facility Cost	\$ 135,839,489	\$53,487,500	\$1,500,000	\$2,860,000	\$3,750,000	\$1,125,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$1,000,000	\$3,100,000	\$ 770,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 600,000	\$ -
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 1,537	\$ 605	\$ 17	\$ 32	\$ 42	\$ 13	\$ 0	\$ 3	\$ -	\$ 11	\$ 35	\$ 9	\$ 10	\$ 7	\$ -
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.10)	\$ 3,228	\$ 1,356	\$ 38	\$ 72	\$ 95	\$ 29	\$ 1	\$ 6	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ 79	\$ 20	\$ 23	\$ 15	\$ -

* Average 50' width assumed, off-street system only.

PROPOSED FACILITIES - EXISTING CITY LOS OPTION

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

(Within Planning Area)

Name	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Meeting Room/Office/Community Center (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Planning / Other	Notes
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY UGA	2.0	0.0	2,400.0	19.8	3,640.0	n/a	1.0	400.0	3.0	12.0	1.0	1.5	5,570,000.0	

TOTAL COSTS

Facility Unit Cost	\$ 50,000	\$800	\$ 400	\$ 250,000	\$ 2,000	n/a	\$1,200,000	\$ 500	\$150,000	\$ 150,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$	1	
Proposed Total Facility Cost	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$960,000	\$4,937,500	\$7,280,000	n/a	\$1,200,000	\$200,000	\$450,000	\$1,800,000	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$ 5,570,000	\$	228,209,489
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 11	\$ 56	\$ 82	n/a	\$ 14	\$ 2	\$ 5	\$ 20	\$ 2	\$ 3	\$ 63	\$	2,582
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.10)	\$ 3	\$ -	\$ 24	\$ 125	\$ 185	n/a	\$ 30	\$ 5	\$ 11	\$ 46	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 141	\$	5,569

* Average 50' width assumed, off-street system only.

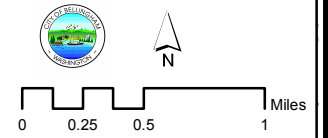
Appendix D: North Bellingham Trail Plan

See attached map and route descriptions.

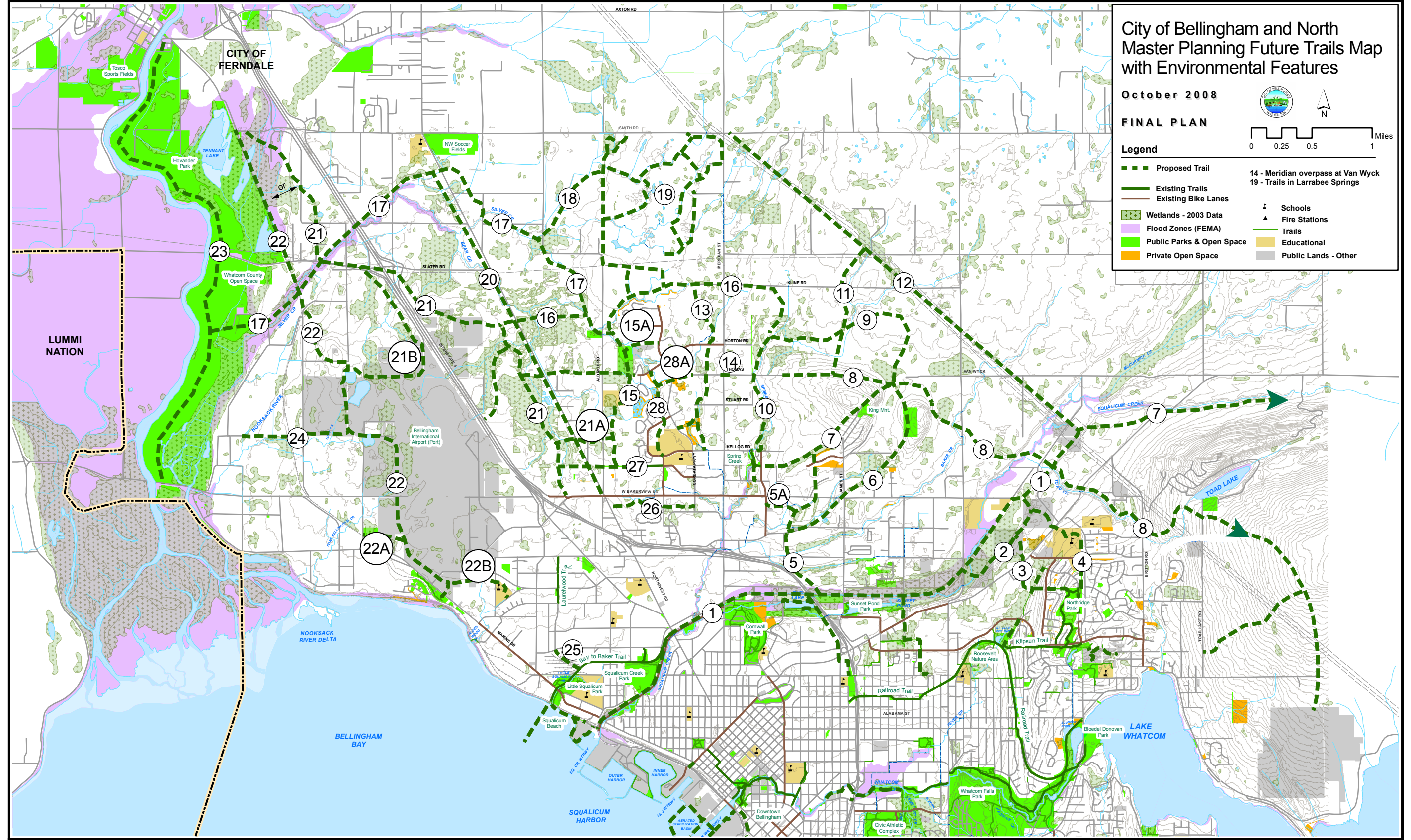
City of Bellingham and North Master Planning Future Trails Map with Environmental Features

October 2008

FINAL PLAN



- Legend**
- - - Proposed Trail
 - Existing Trails
 - Existing Bike Lanes
 - Wetlands - 2003 Data
 - Flood Zones (FEMA)
 - Public Parks & Open Space
 - Private Open Space
 - Schools
 - ▲ Fire Stations
 - Trails
 - Educational
 - Public Lands - Other
 - 14 - Meridian overpass at Van Wyck
 - 19 - Trails in Larrabee Springs



North Bellingham Trail Plan Route Descriptions

Map No.	Trail Name	Route Description	Length
1	Bay to Baker Trail	Multi-purpose trail from Roeder Avenue to City Limits on railroad right of way	5.18
2	Dewey Valley Loop	Loop trail off main Bay to Baker Trail through wooded hillside on DNR property	0.87
3	Railroad Trail Connector	Connection from Railroad Trail to Bay to Baker Trail through subdivision open space areas	1.03
4	Bay to Baker - Northridge Link	Multipurpose connector from bay to Baker Trail (1) to northern Northridge Park	1.44
5	Bay to Baker - King Mountain Link	Connector from bay to Baker Trail north to Kellogg Road and King Mountain	1.42
5A	Deemer Trail	Neighborhood connector to Deemer Road	0.27
6	Queen Mountain Trail	Connector from (Trail 5) to King Mountain Trail Hub	1.77
7	Spring Creek to King Mountain Trail	Connector from Spring Creek Trail (10) to King Mountain Trail Hub	3.01
8	King Mountain East-West Trail	East-West Trail connecting Cordata Trails by way of Guide Meridian Overpass (14), crossing Spring Creek Trail (10), going over King Mountain to Bay to Baker Trail (1), and eastward to Squalicum Mountain	4.33
9	North King Mountain Trail	From Spring Creek Trail (10) east to King Mountain Trial Hub	1.76
10	Spring Creek Trail	From Bakerview north to North Bear Creek Trail (16)	1.35
11	Upper Spring Creek Trail	From King Mountain Trail (8) north to Power Line Trail (12)	1.13
12	Power Line Trail	From Smith Road, southeast to Bay to Baker Trail (1) and eastward along upper Squalicum Creek	3.80
13	Cordata East Trail	From WCC north to North Bear Creek Trail (16) at Klein Road	1.71
14	Meridian Overpass	Bike/Ped Overpass from Meridian av Van Wyk/Thomas Roads	0.10
15	West Cordata Trail	From Division Street Trail (27) north to North Bear Creek Trail (16) near Aldrich Road, through proposed Aldrich Elementary School property	1.29
15A	West Cordata Trail Link	From Cordata Park through County property to Cordata Parkway	0.30
16	North Bear Creek Trail	From Bear Creek Trail (21) east to Spring Creek Trail (10)	2.75
17	Old Silver Creek Trail	East-west connector from Cordata area west to Dike Trail (23), passing through NW Soccer Fields and crossing under I-5	4.67
18	Silver Springs Trail	From Silver Creek Trail (17) to Silver Springs at Smith Road	0.82
19	Larabee Springs Trails	As per Larabee Springs Master Plan, tying Silver Springs Trail (18) to Power Line Trail (12) and North Bear Creek Trail (16)	6.36
20	Northwest Road Trail	Bike/Ped trail or sidewalks & bike lanes from I-5 north to Old Silver Creek Trail (17) at NW Soccer Fields	3.03

North Bellingham Trail Plan Route Descriptions

21	Bear Creek Trail	From Bakerview Road north to Coast Millennium Trail (22) under I-5 at Slater Road, to Hovander Park in Ferndale	4.66
21A	Cordata to Brear Creek Trail	From west Cordata Trail to Bear Creek Trail	0.50
21B	Bear Creek to Coast Millennium Trail	From Slater Road through north Airport property to Lost Lake area	1.72
22	Coast Millennium Trail	From Marine Drive south of Bellingham Airport north to Hovander Park in Ferndale	4.76
22A	West Extension of Coast Millennium Trail	From Coast Millennium Trail (22) west to Wynn Road	0.36
22B	East Extension of Coast Millennium Trail	From Coast Millennium Trail (22) east to Alderwood School	0.61
23	Nooksack Dike Trail	(see County Trail Plan)	4.40
24	Marietta to Coast Millennium Trail	Extension of Coast Millennium Trail (22) to west at Skagit Street	0.90
25	Laurelwood Trail	Extension south to Bay to Baker Trail (1) near Little Squalicum Park	0.26
26	Belleau Woods Trail	From Northwest Road Trail (20) to Cordata Parkway/Bellis Fair Mall	0.74
27	Division Street Trail	From Eliza Street west to Northwest Road Trail (20)	0.59
28	Cordata Pond Trail	From Kellogg Road north to Horton Road	0.77
28A	Cordata to Meridian Trail	Connector trail from Cordata Pond Trail (28) east to Meridian Overpass and on to King Mountain East-West Trail (8)	0.31
		Total Trail Miles	

Appendix E: Capital Facilities Plan (6 Year)

See the City's adopted 2008 Parks and Recreation Department 6 year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) on the following pages. Expenditures for 2008 were authorized after budget adoption by the City Council. Expenditures identified for years beyond 2008 are included for information and review of potential future needs. Their inclusion is not a request for approval or budget authorization.

The following abbreviations referenced in the CFP table (not all abbreviations may be used):

BGL	Beyond Greenways Levy Fund
CIVIC	Civic Field Improvements Fund
FQET	First 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund
GL3	Greenways III Levy Fund
PIF	Park Impact Fee Fund
PKA	Parksite Acquisition Fund
SQUAL	Squalicum Park/Olympic Fund
SQET	Second 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund

Capital Facilities Plan (continued)

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN	Fund Source	Cost in Thousands					
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT							
Funded Items							
Greenway Land Acquisition including Cornwall Park Expansion	GL3, BGL	3,700	1,600	2,900	-	400	4,100
Land Acquisition - Park in Developing Area	PIF	1,000	-	1,000	500	500	500
Sidewalks, Paths and Trails	BGL, FQET	582	200	200	200	200	200
Neighborhood Park Construction (2)	PIF	250	850	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Community Parks Construction	SQET, PIF	250	250	250	250	750	750
Northridge Park Development	GL3, PIF	200	1,300	-	-	-	-
Squalicum Creek Park-Phase I	SQUAL, BGL, GL3, PIF	198	-	900	4,300	-	-
Boulevard Park Shoreline	GL3	150	1,200	-	-	-	-
Civic Field Projects	CIVIC	113	-	-	-	-	-
Acoustic Tiles at Aquatic Center	FQET	100	-	-	-	-	-
Parks Facility Asphalt Patching and Resurfacing	SQET	100	100	50	-	50	50
Labor Distribution to General Fund from Greenways 3	GL3	77	77	77	77	77	77
Labor Distribution to General Fund from Beyond Greenways	BGL	75	-	-	-	-	-
Tennis Court Resurfacing	SQET	60	-	-	-	-	-
Neighborhood Park Construction (1)	SQET	50	50	50	50	50	50
Labor Distribution to General Fund from Park Impact Fees	PIF	50	50	50	50	50	50
Labor Distribution to General Fund from First Quarter REET	FQET	50	13	13	13	13	35
Sports Lighting Pole - Joe Martin Field	FQET	30	-	-	-	-	-
Perimeter Fencing - Whatcom Falls Park	FQET	30	-	-	-	-	-
Trail Surface/Drainage Repairs	FQET	30	25	25	25	30	35

Expenditures for 2008 are authorized after budget adoption by the City Council. Expenditures identified for years beyond 2008 are included for information and review of potential future needs. Their inclusion is not a request for approval or budget authorization.

Capital Facilities Plan (continued)

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN	Fund Source	Cost in Thousands					
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT continued							
Labor Distribution to General Fund from SQET	SQET	30	50	50	50	50	50
Parksite Acquisition Fund Land Purchases	PKA	25	-	-	-	-	-
Sidewalk & Curb Replacement	FQET	25	25	30	30	30	30
Replacement of Fairhaven Park Entry Columns	SQET	15	-	-	120	-	-
Roof Replacements	FQET	15	15	15	15	20	20
Labor Distribution to General Fund from Civic Field Improvement Fund	CIVIC	10	-	-	-	-	-
Park and Sports Field Lighting	FQET	6	6	6	6	7	7
Community Park Construction	SQET	-	-	-	-	-	250
Chuckanut Interurban Trail	GL3	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Samish Trail	GL3	-	-	-	-	1,800	-
Total Funded		7,221	5,811	5,616	5,686	5,027	6,204
TOTAL PARKS AND RECREATION		7,221	5,811	5,616	5,686	5,027	6,204

Expenditures for 2008 are authorized after budget adoption by the City Council. Expenditures identified for years beyond 2008 are included for information and review of potential future needs. Their inclusion is not a request for approval or budget authorization.

Appendix F: *Revenue Source Descriptions*

The following is a general description of the different types of revenue resources that may be used to fund park, recreation and open space programs or facilities. Some are restricted to development only while other may be used for operations and maintenance. These are listed in no particular order and with no reference to the feasibility or recommendation of implementing each revenue source.

General fund

The General Fund is derived from property taxes, licenses and permits, intergovernmental revenues including state and federal grants, service charges and fees, fines and forfeitures, and other miscellaneous revenues. General funds are used to finance most government operations including staff, equipment, capital facility, and other requirements. Park, recreation, and open space programs and operations are funded primarily from general fund accounts.

- Sales tax - is the city's largest single revenue source and may be used for any legitimate city purpose. The city has no direct control over this source; it is collected and distributed by the state and may fluctuate with general economic and local business conditions.
- Property tax - under Washington State's constitution cities may levy a property tax rate not to exceed \$3.60 per \$1000 of the assessed value of all taxable property within incorporation limits. The total of all property taxes for all taxing authorities, however, cannot exceed 1.0% of assessed valuation, or \$10.00 per \$1,000 of value. If the taxes of all districts exceed the 1.0% or \$10.00 amount, each is proportionately reduced until the total is at or below the 1.0% limit.

In 2001, Washington State law was amended by Proposition 747, a statutory provision limiting the growth of regular property taxes to 1.0% per year, after adjustments for new construction. Any proposed increases over this amount are subject to a referendum vote.

The statute was intended to control local governmental spending by controlling the annual rate of growth of property taxes. In practice, however, the statute can reduce the effective property tax yield to an annual level far below a city's levy authorization, particularly when property values are increasing rapidly.

Special revenues

Special revenues are derived from state and local option taxes dedicated to specific expenditure purposes, such as the motor

vehicle tax, motor excise tax, real estate excise tax, motel and hotel tax, public art, criminal justice, paths and trails, convention center, and the like. Some special revenues may be used to finance limited capital facilities, such as roads or parks, where the local option allows – such as the local real estate excise tax (REET).

Debt service funds

Debt service funds are derived from a dedicated portion of the property tax or general fund proceeds to repay the sale of general obligation (voted) and Councilmanic (non-voted) bonds. Both types of bonds may be used to finance park facility improvements – but not maintenance or operational costs.

- Councilmanic (limited or non-voted) bonds - may be issued without voter approval by the Council for any facility development purpose. The total amount of all outstanding non-voted general obligation debt may not exceed 1.5% of the assessed valuation of all city property.

Limited general obligation bonds must be paid from general governmental revenues. Therefore, debt service on these bonds may reduce the amount of revenue available for current operating expenditures and the financial flexibility the Council may need to fund annual budget priorities. For this reason, Councilmanic bonds are usually only used for the most pressing capital improvement issues. This method was used to fund the 2006 improvements at Civic Athletic Complex.

- Unlimited general obligation bonds - must be approved by at least 60% of resident voters during an election which has a turnout of at least 40% of those who voted in the last state general election. The bond may be repaid from a special levy, which is not governed by the 1.0% statutory limitation on the property tax growth rate. Total indebtedness as a percent of the assessed valuation that may be incurred by limited and unlimited general obligation bonds together, however, may not exceed:
 - 2.5% - provided that indebtedness in excess of 1.5% is for general purposes,
 - 5.0% - provided that indebtedness in excess of 2.5% is for utilities, and
 - 7.5% - provided that indebtedness in excess of 5.0% is for parks and open space development.

Monies authorized by limited and unlimited types of bonds must be spent within 3 years of authorization to avoid arbitrage requirements unless invested at less than bond yield. In addition, bonds may be used to construct but not maintain or operate facilities. Facility maintenance and operation costs must be paid from general governmental revenue or by voter authorization of special annual or biannual operating levies or by user fees or charges.

Enterprise funds

Enterprise funds are derived from the user fees and charges levied for utility operations including water and sewer, storm drainage, regional

water, solid waste, and cemetery. The enterprise revenues are used to pay operating costs, retire capital facility debt, and plan future replacement and expansion projects. Enterprise funds may be created for a park or recreation activity that has a revenue source sufficient to finance all costs. Enterprise funds have been used on a limited basis for golf courses, marinas, and similar self-financing operations.

Special legislation

Local government representatives can seek state enabling legislation authorizing new or special revenue sources. Senate Bill 5972 (RCW 82.46) is an example of one possible legislative solution. The 1982 bill gave city governments the option of adding an additional 0.0025% increment to the real estate excise tax (REET) for the sole purpose of financing local capital improvement projects including parks, utilities and other infrastructure except governmental buildings.

Like bonds, Senate Bill 5972 funds may not be used to finance operation and maintenance requirements.

Unlimited general obligation bonds

Bellingham may come to depend on voter referendums as a means of financing a larger portion of the capital improvement program, since unlimited obligation bonds are not paid from the property tax subject to the 1.0% limitation.

Voter approved capital improvements may be more representative of actual resident priorities than some other methods of validating capital expenditures, and will at the least, ensure referendum submittals provide widespread benefits. However, bond revenue cannot be spent for maintenance and operational issues – and bond referendums must be approved by a margin over 60% of the registered voters who participated in the last election.

General levy rate referendums

Proposition 747, the statutory provision limiting the growth of regular property taxes to 1.0% per year, can be waived by referendum approval of a simple (50%) majority of Bellingham's registered voters. Voters can be asked to approve a resetting of the property tax levy rate that would adjust the amount of revenue the city can generate. The new total revenue that can be generated by a resetting of the rate would be subject to the same 1.0% limitation, however, and the total amount of revenue and the resulting property tax rate would start to decline again in accordance with the Proposition.

However, the adjusted rate and revenue could finance specific capital improvement projects – or programs that involve construction, maintenance, and operations aspects that a majority of the voters are willing to pay for under the adjusted rate.

The resetting of the rate can be permanent, subject to the provisions of Proposition 747. Or temporary, where the rate is adjusted until a specific amount of revenue has been generated to finance a project or program –

whereupon the rate reverts to the original or a specified amount defined in the referendum.

Bellingham voters have passed three levy rate referendums, to fund the Greenway Program acquisitions, improvements and maintenance endowment. The current levy will expire in 2016.

Environmental impact mitigation – subdivision regulations

City subdivision policies require developers of subdivisions within the city, or on lands that may eventually annex to the city, to provide suitably designed and located open spaces, woodland preserves, trail systems, playgrounds, and other park or recreational facilities. Such facilities may include major components of the park or recreational system that may be affected by the project's location or development. The city may also consider requiring developers provide acceptable long-term methods of managing and financing maintenance requirements. Attractive management systems could include:

- ownership by a private organization - like a tennis, swimming or golf club, who assumes responsibility for all maintenance responsibilities and costs,
- ownership by a homeowners or common property owners association - who may contract maintenance responsibilities and assess property owner's annual costs,
- dedication of property - to an adjacent city or school district who assumes maintenance responsibilities using local city or school funds, or
- creation of a special recreation service district - where locally elected district representatives manage maintenance requirements and select a local method of financing.

The city should not accept title and maintenance responsibility unless the land or facility will be a legitimate community park or recreation element that may be supported using public financing. The city may be contracted by any of the other agencies to provide or oversee a maintenance contract on the owner's behalf provided all City costs are reimbursed by an approved method of local financing.

Growth impact fees

Bellingham has adopted a growth impact fee provision in accordance with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). A park impact fee is applied to all proposed residential developments within the city as a means of maintaining existing park, recreation, and open space levels-of-service (ELOS). The ordinance estimates the impact each development project has on park, recreation, and open space facilities and makes provisions for setting aside the resources, including lands or monies, necessary to offset the project's local community facility impacts.

Land contributions can be accepted in lieu of monies if the lands will be suitable sites for future facilities. Land and monies accumulated under the ordinance must be invested within a reasonable time of impact assessment or be returned to the contributing developer.

Inter-local agreements

Bellingham could work with Whatcom County to determine an equitable means whereby growth mitigation park impact fees can be collected for residential developments occurring within the urban growth area outside of existing city limits, but within the area the city eventually expects to annex.

A joint growth impact fee should be collected where the county and city maintain the same local and regional or citywide level-of-service (LOS) presently existing within the incorporated (city) and unincorporated (county) sections, and for the urban growth area in total. A common fee could be collected by each agency, then shared on a project by project basis for improvements benefiting local neighborhoods (and potential residents of proposed subdivisions) or residents of the community and urban growth area-at-large.

The city should also work with the Bellingham School District to determine to what extent the city could cooperatively finance shared or common facility improvements. Such improvements could use co-located school and park sites, commonly improved and scheduled fields and facilities, and the sharing of park and school growth impact fees - among other options.

It is to Bellingham's advantage to assist the school district with the development and operation of common facilities since these facilities serve residents of the entire city.

In return, however, the city and school district must determine some equitable means whereby the city and school district perform or reimburse each other for some of the added facility maintenance and operational impacts that users create on each agency's facilities.

User fees and charges

The city may increase the number of activities subject to user fees and charges and use the proceeds to purchase land, develop, operate, and maintain facilities where all costs are reimbursed by the revenue obtained. Essentially, the city has become a facility developer/operator providing whatever facilities or services the market will support from user revenue.

User fees have been and could be used to provide facilities for park and recreation activities whose profit margins are too low to sustain commercial operations or whose benefiting user group may extend beyond county boundaries. Possible user fee financed facilities include indoor tennis and racquetball facilities, golf courses, horse stables and equestrian centers, boating resorts, recreational vehicle parks, and any other facility where demand is sizable enough to warrant a user fee financing approach.

In essence, the market determines which facility's revenues equal costs, and thereby, which programs the city would provide on a direct costs/benefit basis. To date, city user fee revenues provide a significant source of operating funds for recreational programs. While important, this source of finance will likely never pay full costs for all programs, or any operation, maintenance, or development costs.

Special funding sources

Bellingham has approved or could submit for approval the following special financing options.

- REET (Real Estate Excise Tax) – RCW 82.46 gives city governments the option of adding up to two 0.0025% increments to the real estate excise tax (REET) for the sole purpose of financing local capital improvement projects. REET funds may not be used to finance operation and maintenance requirements.

Bellingham has adopted both REET options.

REET remains a viable financing tool for park, recreation, and open space acquisition and development projects. However, since REET funds are to be used for all city capital requirements, the funds may not be as easy to expense for park purposes as in years past.

- Greenway Funds – in 1990, 1997 and 2006, Bellingham voters approved property tax levies to fund the acquisition and development of park, recreation, and open space projects. The most recent levy, which represented an annual cost of \$57.00 per \$100,000 in property value, will expire in the year 2016. The three levies combined will generate a total of \$71 million in funding.

State grants

Washington State funds and administers a number of programs for non-motorized transportation and trails purposes using special state revenue programs.

- Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) – provides funds for the acquisition and development of conservation and recreation lands. The Habitat Conservation Account of the WWRP program provides funds to acquire critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife categories. The Outdoor Recreation Account of the WWRP program provides funds for local parks, state parks, trails, and water access categories.
- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA) - uses revenues obtained by the Washington Department of Natural Resources from the lease of state owned tidal lands. The ALEA program is administered by the IAC for the development of shoreline related trail improvements and may be applied for up to 50% of the proposal.
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) - a Department of Ecology administered water quality program provides grants for up to 75% of the cost of water quality/fish enhancement studies. Referendum 39 monies can be applied to park developments that propose to restore, construct or otherwise enhance fish producing streams, ponds or other water bodies.
- Capital Projects Fund for Washington Heritage – provides funds for the restoration and renovation projects for historical sites and buildings by local governments and nonprofit agencies. The program is administered by the Heritage Resource Center (HRC).

- *Boating Facilities Program* – approved in 1964 under the state Marine Recreation Land Act, the program earmarks motor vehicle fuel taxes paid by watercraft for boating-related lands and facilities. Program funds may be used for fresh or saltwater launch ramps, transient moorage, and upland support facilities.
- *Washington State Public Works Commission* - initiated a program that may be used for watercraft sanitary pump-out facilities.
- *Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)* – provides grants to cities, counties, and qualified nonprofit organizations for the improvement and maintenance of existing, and the development of new athletic facilities. The program is administered by the Community Outdoor Athletic Fields Advisory Council (COAFAC) of the IAC.
- *Non-Highway & Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA)* – provides funding to develop and manage recreation opportunities for users of off-road vehicles and non-highway roads. An allocation (1%) from the state Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax (MVFT) and off-road vehicle (ORV) permit fees fund the program. NOVA funds may be used for the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, and operation of off-road vehicle and non-highway road recreation opportunities.
- *Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR)* – provides funds to acquire, develop, and renovate public and private nonprofit firearm and archery training, practice, and recreation facilities. The program is funded from a portion of the fees charged for concealed weapons permits.

Federal grants

Federal monies are available for the construction of outdoor park facilities from the National Park Service (NPS) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) administers the grants.

- *NPS (National Park Service) grants* - usually do not exceed \$150,000 per project and must be matched on an equal basis by the local jurisdiction. The IAC assigns each project application a priority on a competitive statewide basis according to each jurisdiction's need, population benefit, natural resource enhancements and a number of other factors. In the past few years, project awards have been extremely competitive as the federal government significantly reduced the amount of federal monies available the NPS program. The state increased contributions to the program over the last few years using a variety of special funds, but the overall program could be severely affected by pending federal deficit cutting legislation.

Applicants must submit a detailed comprehensive park, recreation, and open space plan to be eligible for NPS funding. The jurisdiction's plan must demonstrate facility need, and prove that the jurisdiction's project proposal will adequately satisfy local park, recreation, and open space needs and interests. Due to diminished funding, however, IAC grants have

not been a significant source of project monies for city or other local jurisdictions in recent years.

- Transportation Enhancement Grants - can be used to finance on and off-road non-motorized trail enhancements along major and minor arterial collectors roads or sometimes, within separate trail corridors. The program was adopted in 1993 and is administered by the Regional Transportation Organization on behalf of the US Department of Transportation.

Applicants must demonstrate the proposed trail improvements will increase access to non-motorized recreational and commuter transportation alternatives.

- National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) – is the successor to the National Recreational Trails Act (NRFTA). Funds may be used to rehabilitate and maintain recreational trails that provide a backcountry experience. In some cases, the funds may be used to create new “linking” trails, trail relocations, and educational programs.
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG) – supports development and renovation of areas for non-trailerable recreational boats over 26 feet, and related support elements on US navigable waters. Funds may be used to produce and distribute information and educational materials. The federal program compliments the state-funded Boating Facilities Program (BFP) administered for smaller vessels.

Recreation service districts (RCW Chapter 36.69)

State legislation authorizes the establishment of recreation service districts as special units of government that may be wholly independent of any involvement with a county or any other local public agency or jurisdiction. Districts may provide recreational facilities that are specific to the district’s boundaries in return for the district residents’ agreement to pay the special development, operation, and maintenance costs utilizing special financing devices.

Special recreation service districts must be initiated by local jurisdiction resolution or citizen petition following hearings on feasibility and costs studies of the proposed district’s facility development or operation costs. The proposal must ultimately be submitted for voter approval including all provisions relating to any special financing agreements. The voters must initially approve the formation of the district, and may designate existing elected officials, or a body appointed by existing elected officials, or elect district commissioners or officers solely responsible for park and recreation policy. Separate voter approvals must be sought for 3-year operating levies providing maintenance, repair, operating costs, and facility acquisition and development projects.

A recreation service district can be flexible and used to provide local recreational facilities in the same variety of custom service choices with the exception that the governing board may be separately elected.

There are no limitations on the number of separate recreation service districts that can be established within a county, provided no district overlaps another.

Metropolitan park districts (SB 2557)

In 2002, the state legislature authorized the establishment of metropolitan park districts as special units of government that may be wholly independent of any involvement with a city, county, or any other local public agency or jurisdiction. Like recreation service districts, metropolitan park districts may provide recreational facilities that are specific to the district's boundaries in return for the district residents' agreement to pay the special development, operation, and maintenance costs utilizing special financing devices.

Metropolitan park districts must be initiated by local government resolution or citizen petition following hearings on feasibility and costs studies of the proposed district's facility development or operation costs. The proposal must ultimately be submitted for voter approval (50%) including all provisions relating to any special financing agreements. The voters must initially approve the formation of the district, and may designate existing elected officials, or a body appointed by existing elected officials or elect district commissioners or officers solely responsible for park and recreation policy.

Unlike recreation service districts, voters must also approve the establishment of a continuous levy as a junior taxing district – compared with 3 year levies under a recreation service district to provide maintenance, repair, operating costs, and facility acquisition and development projects.

Like the recreation service district, a metropolitan park district can be flexible and used to provide local recreational facilities in the same variety of custom service choices with the exception that the financing levy may be as a junior taxing district with a continuous levy.

There are no limitations on the number of separate recreation service districts that can be established within a city, county, or as a combination of multiple cities and counties provided no district overlaps another.

The Tacoma Metropolitan Park District was established in 1909 and is the largest and oldest recreation park district in the State of Washington.

Special use agreements

Special property agreements can often be used instead of property purchases to secure public use rights for land or property at no cost or a nominal fee, particularly where the possible public use is of benefit to the private landowner. Some forms of special use agreements can provide favorable tax benefits if the use agreement can be shown to have an assigned value.

The city could expand the use agreement concept to include complete development, operation or maintenance responsibilities. Package lease

agreements will usually provide more effectively maintained facilities than possible where the city must staff specialized, small work crews.

Sometimes package lease agreements covering use and maintenance aspects may be the only way of resolving an equitable agreement with the private ownership. This may include trails on utility corridors where the ownership may prefer to control development and maintenance activities, and the city may prefer to avoid any implied responsibility or liability for the utility worthiness which the city's maintenance of a trail system could imply.

Public/private service contracts

Private market skills and capital may be employed in a variety of ways including the use of public/private services contracts where a private party can be contracted to operate and maintain a facility for a fixed fee cost. Service contracts can be very efficient where the activities are small, scattered in location, seasonal, expert or experimental. Service contracts are also relatively easy to initiate or terminate if area demand fails to provide sufficient use or revenue to justify continued operation.

Service contracts may be very flexible and can include agreements with city, school district or local user groups who can or would be interested in sustaining the activity on a subsidized or sweat-equity basis in exchange for the facility.

Public/private concessions

The city could lease a portion of a site or facility to a private party in exchange for a fixed fee or a percentage of gross receipts. The private operator assumes operation and maintenance responsibilities and costs in exchange for a profit. For certain types of facilities, such as enterprise fund account facilities like golf courses, the city's portion of the profits may be used to pay facility development and/or operation and maintenance costs at the same or for similar facility developments.

The city may save considerable monies on concessions where the activities are specialized, seasonal, experimental or unproven. Concessions can be easily initiated, provide direct user benefit/cost reimbursements and relieve the city of a capital risk should market or user interest fail to materialize to a least break-even levels.

Concessionaire's could operate a wide variety of park and recreational facilities including horse stables and equestrian centers, boating and bicycle rentals, special group and recreational vehicle campgrounds, athletic field and court facilities, swimming pools and beaches, shooting ranges, and ORV tracks, among others.

Public/private joint development ventures

The city can enter into an agreement with a private or public developer to jointly own or lease land for an extended period of time. The purpose of the venture would be to allow the development, operation, and maintenance of a major recreational facility or activity in exchange for a fixed lease cost or a percentage of gross receipts.

The developer assumes development, operation, and maintenance responsibilities, costs, and all market risks in exchange for a market opportunity providing a profitable return not otherwise available. The city realizes the development of a facility not realized otherwise in exchange for a low minimum capital return and no or very little capital risk.

Joint development agreements represent an ultimate benefit/cost resolution that may also provide public revenue that the city could use for other development opportunities. Examples include the possible joint development on city lands of equestrian centers, marinas, hostels, recreational vehicle campgrounds, seminar retreats, special resorts, indoor racquetball courts and athletic clubs, swimming pools and water parks, golf courses, gun and archery ranges, and ORV competition tracts, among others.

Self-help land leases

There are instances where an activity is so specialized in appeal or of a service area so broad in scope that it cannot be equitably financed using general public funds. Specialized user groups should be provided options for developing or maintaining facilities in ways that account for equitable public cost reimbursements. Examples include the use of land leases where the city may lease land at low or no cost where a user group or club assumes responsibility for the development, operation, and maintenance of the facility. The club could provide volunteer help or use club finances to develop, operate and maintain the facility as a means of meeting user benefit/cost objectives.

Land lease agreements could accommodate organized athletics like soccer, baseball, football, softball and rugby; or very specialized facilities like shooting ranges, archery fields, ORV trails, and ultra-light aircraft parks, among others.

Self-help contract agreements

The city can purchase land, develop, operate, and maintain a specialized facility under a negotiated contract agreement where a special interest group agrees to defray all costs in addition to or in lieu of a user fee as a means of meeting user benefit/cost objectives. The agreements can be quite flexible and could contract the city, the user group, another public agency or a private operator to be developer/operator.

Contract agreements could accommodate a range of more expensive special purpose facility developments including high quality athletic competition facilities for league organizations and specialized facility developments like shooting ranges and ORV tracks when and where the user organization can provide financial commitments.