

Bellingham City Council Goals for 2009

PREAMBLE:

The underlying premise that guides all City Council policy making is to protect and enhance the quality of life and livability throughout Bellingham.

The goals described and enumerated below, as adopted by the City Council, support the overall direction of the Comprehensive Plan and will provide additional focus to municipal operations for the 2009 budget year. The goals will also help us benchmark progress on key elements of our shared vision for the City and assure that limited resources are used efficiently and effectively.

The corresponding objectives and strategies linked to each goal represent only a partial illustrative list of the focused work City departments will undertake during the year to move us closer to our shared goals. Any numbering of the objectives or strategies is for organizational purposes only and is not intended to indicate prioritization.

Ongoing Commitment to Core City Services

In addition to the enumerated goals, the City of Bellingham in 2009 will remain committed to maintaining or improving the current levels of core municipal services upon which our citizens rely. We will continue to develop and implement plans that preserve and shape Bellingham as a city of neighborhoods that work together and function interdependently as a vibrant, livable community with a distinct sense of place.

Furthermore, we will remain dedicated to being a supportive environment for commerce, inclusive of our efforts to develop a vibrant downtown that includes a mix of residential, commercial, educational, retail and cultural uses and amenities, and that links seamlessly to our developing water front and surrounding neighborhoods.

With these ongoing commitments to core services, we also establish these goals for 2009 and will assure that the City's financial and human resources are allocated to achieve them:

Goal One

Return the quality of the Lake Whatcom reservoir to 1992 TMDL levels by 2018.

Goal Two

Continue to alter local transportation habits by further reducing automobile trips (from 87% to 75%) by 2022, by improving transit, bicycle and pedestrian choices.

Goal Three

Implement a vibrant waterfront strategy that reflects the Waterfront Futures Plan and complements the downtown and Old Town.

Goal Four

Support programs and provide facilities that serve low-income families and individuals, including an increase in the availability of affordable housing throughout the city.

Goal Five

Implement the Comprehensive Plan's strategies on urban villages and infill.

Goal Six

Establish and communicate clear annual budget priorities utilizing community input strategies and examine how these priorities can be linked to expenditures of discretionary funds.

Goal Seven

Enhance public safety.

Goal Eight

Maintain and improve an efficient municipal infrastructure.

Goal Nine

Protect and enhance the City's cultural, educational, recreational, and environmental assets.