

## **Proposed Improvements to Old Village Trail**

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Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) proposal submitted by the  
Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association (LSNA)  
June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003

The Old Village Trail is a .5 mile long trail that begins in Maritime Heritage Park, follows a concrete walkway up the hill to D Street and crosses at Bancroft Street. From there, the trail meanders through the Lettered Streets Neighborhood ending on Clinton Street at Broadway Street.

The LSNA submitted a proposal to make improvements to the trail, based on suggestions outlined in the *Lettered Streets Neighborhood Plan*. The *Neighborhood Plan* is currently being amended, and as of 5/29/03 identified the following in regards to the trail:

### **II. Open Space**

The nine block-long Old Village Trail was developed as a useful neighborhood connection. Some improvements are needed, including landscaping. Both the trail and the Pickett Bridge Overlook were designed as entries to the Maritime Heritage Park. The falls on Whatcom Creek leading to the park are dramatic and invite passersby to take a look.

...Improvements to the Old Village Trail should be completed. Park use by residents of the neighborhood should be encouraged.

### **III. Public Facilities and Utilities**

Additional street lighting, stop signs to replace yield signs, and crosswalks should be placed in the neighborhood where deemed appropriate by the residents and the Public Works Department.

### **V. Land Use**

#### **Area 10 and 10A:**

....Redevelopment of this area presents an infill opportunity adjacent to the CBD and substantial recreational activity areas. Redevelopment opportunities for Old Town have been the subject of several community planning efforts including the American Institute of Architect's Regional Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT), Whatcom Creek Waterfront Action Program, and the City Center Master Plan. These Plans identify Old Town as a vital link between the Central Business District and the waterfront, with an emphasis on:

- **Providing pedestrian connectivity**
- Preserving historic resources
- Ensuring compatibility of existing and new uses
- Accommodating infill

Redevelopment of property along the Old Village Trail, which is within the Bancroft Street right-of-way, should promote and enhance it as a pedestrian connection. Redevelopment of properties along the Trail should incorporate a pedestrian friendly interface with features such as an entry and windows on the trail. Parking should be located behind or beneath buildings and should not abut the trail.

**The LSNA NIP proposal suggests the following improvements:**

- a. Repair, level and widen the pavement where necessary to comply with ADA accessibility, WSDOT or USFS Walking Trail Standards
- b. Mark pavement where needed to differentiate between driveways, streets, and trail (so cars will not park on the trail in areas as they do now)
- c. Create a cohesive way-finding system with signage and a map of the trail at each street crossing so the user will know how to follow the trail at any point between Broadway Street and the Maritime Heritage Park. Signage could incorporate information provided in current Whatcom Museum *Old Town Walking Tour* brochure into way-finding system so users will learn more about why this is called the "Old Village Trail."
- d. Plant and landscape areas adjacent to the trail with either native plants or those that have a low water requirement per COB Parks Department standards, with LSNA members helping in the planting process.
- e. Connect the trail to current COB-owned open space Lots 11-14 of Block 2 (Parcel # 380330 051361) with picnic tables or benches per COB Parks Department guidelines. Also incorporate benches and/or picnic tables in other areas as deemed feasible by Parks Department.
- f. Have LSNA members work with Parks Department to initiate conversations with private land owners about acquiring additional land adjacent to the trail
- g. Once the trail is more visible and defined, then Public Works may consider it a trail corridor that should have crosswalks to connect it for ADA accessibility and safety of users. In its present condition, it is not a defined trail corridor on any maps of the area. A crossing similar to the current "bump out" trail crossing at Woburn and the old railroad grade to Lake Whatcom would be a desirable enhancement. A pedestrian island on Broadway to connect the trail to Elizabeth Park would also be highly desirable.