

#	Date Rec'd	Subject	Citizen/ Group	Citizen Comments on New Whatcom Waterfront Planning – September 2007												
<i>Last Update</i> 8/31/2007				<i>Citizen comments received from citizens submitting comment to the Port and City and through the New Whatcom website through September 2007. Prior month comments can be viewed on the website in separate monthly documents.</i>												
292	9/20/07	Expedited process; public park & access	'Ray Ballweg' <r.ballweg@comcast.net>	<p>Dear Sylvia and Len, Thank you for allowing the public to attend the New Whatcom Master Planning meeting yesterday. The assembled team seems to have the perspective and knowledge to put together a great plan. I was at the meeting and wanted to inquire about the cost of providing parks and open space. There were statements (including John Stark's article in the Herald today) that the cost of providing parks and open spaces was expensive. I believed that those types of spaces would be inexpensive compared to buildings, roads and other infrastructure. Could you provide what the approximate costs would be or have the consultants, Collins Woerman, provided them along with the drivers that cause that type of space to be expensive? There may be some major misunderstandings that I have that prevent me from seeing the real challenges of developing the waterfront. Thanks.</p> <p><b>Response by Brian L. Henshaw, City of Bellingham, Finance</b> Thank you for your interest in the proposed parks, open space, and recreational areas under consideration in the waterfront redevelopment. At this time, all of the park planning is in the preliminary stages awaiting completion of the master plan. The master plan will determine the densities and type of development that will occur and will help formulate the final planning and programming of the park, recreation, and open space in the redevelopment. Therefore, these estimated costs are based on historical costs of other similar projects that may be incorporated into this redevelopment. Some of these features, such as the overwater walkway and pedestrian bridges are very expensive to build. These parks and open spaces will be city assets that will be used by all citizens.</p> <p>Proposed Projects that are under consideration:</p> <table data-bbox="695 1214 1346 1398"> <tr> <td>Parks &amp; Open Space</td> <td>26 Acres</td> <td>\$ 29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trails</td> <td>3.2 miles</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pedestrian Bridges</td> <td></td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td><hr/>\$ 59</td> </tr> </table>	Parks & Open Space	26 Acres	\$ 29	Trails	3.2 miles	2	Pedestrian Bridges		28	Total		<hr/> \$ 59
Parks & Open Space	26 Acres	\$ 29														
Trails	3.2 miles	2														
Pedestrian Bridges		28														
Total		<hr/> \$ 59														

