



## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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### Selected Waterfront Goals and Policies from the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan

- LUG-3 Bellingham continues to retain its natural, green setting by protecting unique natural features and public open spaces, creating greenbelts and preserving wooded hillsides in and around the city. New development is encouraged to incorporate existing mature vegetation and additional trees and native vegetation. Open space corridors along creeks include connections from the Bay to Whatcom and Padden lakes as well as along the Squaticum and Chuckanut Creek corridors heading to the mountains. In order to preserve or create these green corridors and open spaces, the community employs a variety of techniques, including incentives and regulations for the design and siting of new development, as well as public acquisition.
- LUG-8 The community recognizes Bellingham Bay as a finite and valued resource. All new waterfront uses emphasize water related activities, provide access to and along the waterfront, and respect views from other parts of the community to the water. The waterfront remains a working waterfront, reflecting its industrial heritage, including fishing, forest products and its role as an operating port.
- LUG-22 Mixed use development on the waterfront has allowed for a mix of water dependent uses and residential, recreational, professional, commercial and industrial uses. This marks a change from the previous pattern of primarily heavy industrial uses, though Bellingham Bay remains a working waterfront, both in Fairhaven and in the downtown area.
- LUG-37 Land uses that promote and allow public access to the waterfront should be encouraged.

#### Policies

- LUP-89 Natural features of the bayfront should be retained where possible and integrated with the urban uses.

- LUP-90 The City and the Port of Bellingham should work together to promote tourist related activities in the downtown and waterfront areas.
- LUP-91 The Port of Bellingham and the City should work cooperatively with the public and land owners to achieve a redevelopment plan for properties between Squalicum Peninsula and Whatcom Creek. Water dependent and water enjoyment uses should be primary in the shoreline area. Planning for the area should focus on creating links between the Squalicum Harbor Area and the Central Business District.
- LUP-95 Explore regulatory flexibility within the Marine Industrial district to allow occupancy by non water dependent uses when dictated by economic circumstances. Such occupancy should be short term and not be permitted if substantial capital investment would be necessary for occupancy.
- CFP-20 Encourage the shared use of public facilities, especially in cooperation with the County government, the School District, Western Washington University and the Port District.

### From the Parks Element of the Comp Plan

Goal #3: Improve recreational access to the shoreline for all Bellingham residents, including saltwater as well as freshwater lakes, ponds and streams.

#### Objectives

1. The City should initiate a cooperative effort with other appropriate agencies to identify and provide physical and visual access to as much marine shoreline within the city as is reasonably possible.
  - The City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, the Port of Bellingham and private industry should establish ongoing communication to identify and provide physical and visual access to as much of Bellingham's marine shoreline as possible.
  - This cooperative effort should enlist the services of other appropriate public or private agencies and resources as appropriate.
  - Saltwater access opportunities identified in this Plan should provide guidelines and objectives for this cooperative effort.
  - Other new and unexplored opportunities for access should be an area of primary concern and continuing effort.

## Visions for Bellingham

- TG-1 Bellingham's transportation network is consistent with its position as a cultural and economic center, with particular emphasis on fixed or light rail access connecting Seattle, Bellingham and Vancouver, ferry service to the San Juan Islands, British Columbia and Alaska, and continued use of our waterfront for water transportation.
- DP-3 Bellingham continues to retain its natural, green setting by protecting unique natural features and public open spaces, creating greenbelts and preserving wooded hillsides in and around the City. New development is encouraged to incorporate existing mature vegetation and additional trees and native vegetation. Open space corridors along creeks include connections from the Bay to Whatcom and Padden lakes as well as along the Squalicum and Chuckanut Creek corridors heading to the mountains. In order to preserve or create these green corridors and open spaces, the community employs a variety of techniques, including incentives and regulations for the design and siting of new development, as well as public acquisition.
- DP-8 The community recognizes Bellingham Bay as a finite and valued resource. All new waterfront uses emphasize water related activities, provide access to and along the waterfront, and respect views from other parts of the community to the water. The waterfront remains a working waterfront, reflecting its industrial heritage, including fishing, forest products and its role as an operating port.
- DW -6 Public access to downtown and to and along the waterfront and creek corridors are a strong component in Bellingham. Access points connect to the bay at strategic points stretching from Fairhaven to Squalicum Beach. Public docks and former railroad trestles are key elements in this public access system, as is preservation of all remaining natural shorelines and beaches.
- DW - 7 Linkages between downtown and the waterfront connect the Central Business District with the Bay and provide a safe walkway along Whatcom Creek between the Bay and Lake Whatcom.
- DW - 8 Mixed use development on the waterfront has allowed for a mix of water dependent uses and residential, recreational, professional, commercial and industrial uses. This marks a change from the previous pattern of primarily heavy industrial uses, though Bellingham Bay remains a working waterfront, both in Fairhaven and in the downtown area.
- DW - 9 City and Georgia Pacific officials have found ways to improve access to the waterfront from the downtown area and to provide for public access along the waterfront without jeopardizing the safe operation of the Georgia Pacific site.
- EV - 3 Bellingham's port and its marine and water-related industries reflect the City's commitment to a working waterfront that retains space for public access and recreation.