

White Paper # 38
Handout for April 28, 2003
Open Public/Green Space

April 11, 2003

Patricia Decker
Director, Waterfront Futures Group
1801 Roeder Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

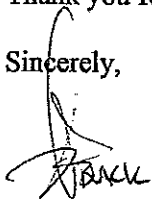
Dear Ms Decker,

I would like to propose that the Waterfront Futures Group designate a portion of North Boulevard as public open or green space. A park with sandy beach access, kayak launch, picnic area, and perhaps an outdoor concert area would be a terrific asset to the Bellingham community. The land that I am referring to is included within the South Hill Neighborhood west of Boulevard Street, south of Cedar Street and north of a line obtained by extending Palm Street to the water (please see enclosed map). Currently it contains several large warehouse style buildings and is zoned industrial.

In researching potential uses for the waterfront, I discovered the book *Waterfront Development* written by L. Azeo Torre. This book summarizes some key points to successful waterfront development, including devising a plan to bring people to the waterfront on a repeated basis and allowing public access to the water's edge. Providing a public green space, beach, and water access close to the downtown area would be an excellent way to accomplish both of these objectives. This North Boulevard area would be the perfect location for an open space since it is located between an existing neighborhood and our downtown and it serves to connect two vibrant business areas. The land in this area is an already level, no bank waterfront with ample space for parking. Once residents and tourists discover this space, there would be a natural draw for them to explore businesses, shops and restaurants within walking distance.

Thank you for considering this proposal in helping to contribute to our thriving Bellingham community.

Sincerely,

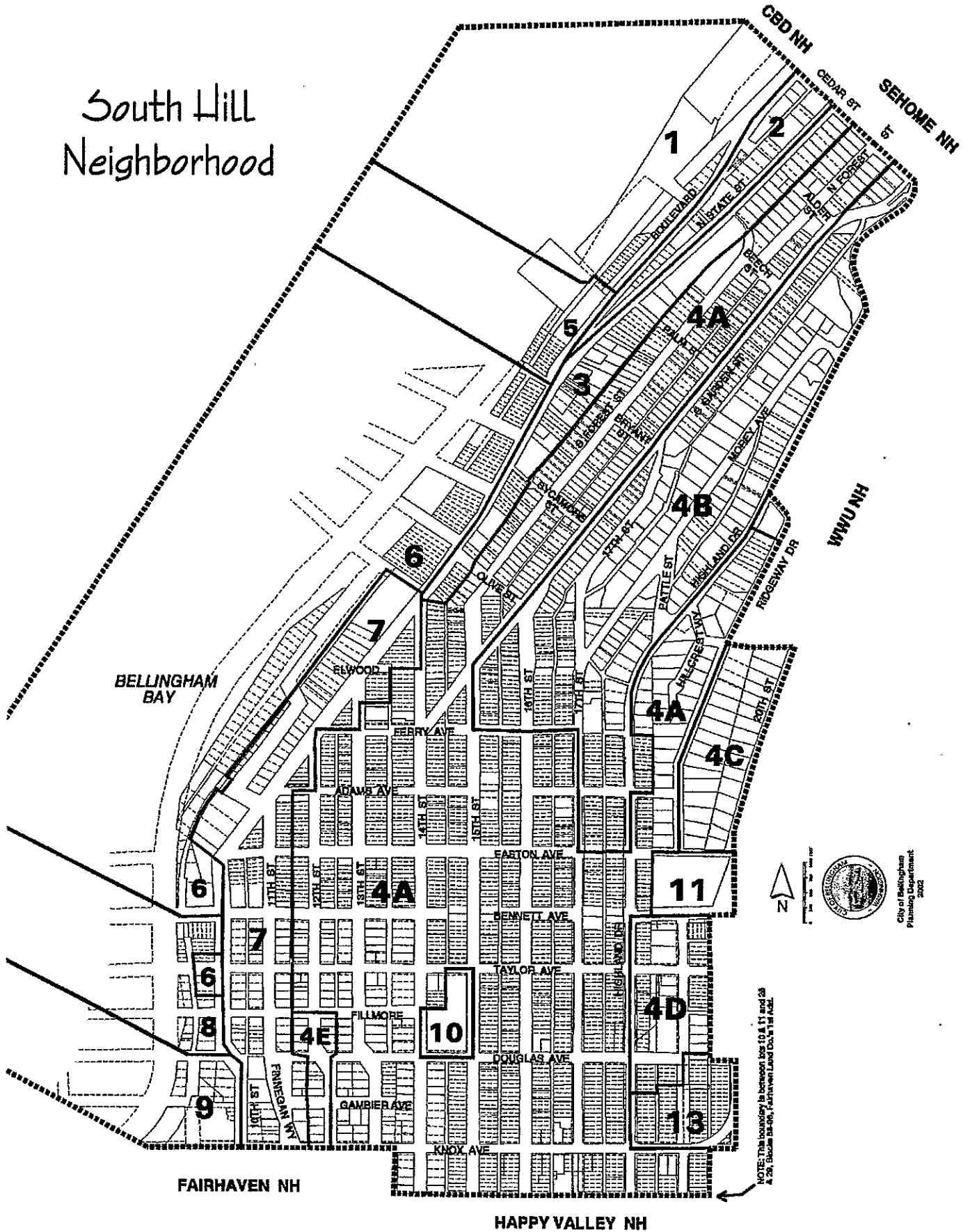


Rick Black
Interested Citizen and Vice President South Hill Neighborhood Association
309 Palm Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

cc: Lydia Bennett

Enclosure

South Hill Neighborhood



NOTE: The boundary is between lots 4, 11 and 28 A, 29, B, and C-6, Fairview Land Co.'s 1st Add.

City of Bellingham
Planning Department
2002

I collected these signatures^{*} by walking down the two streets nearest to my own home, Forest and Garden Streets. Of the people that were home in the evenings when I collected signatures 100% were in support of this letter. I did not encounter one person that chose not to sign.

**(78 signatures collected)*