

REPORT

**City of Bellingham
Greenways Levy Survey**

February 2006



APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST, LLC

A. R. N. Technical and Research Reports
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Needing to gather public input regarding a potential greenways levy, the City of Bellingham contracted with Applied Research Northwest, a Bellingham-based social scientific research firm, to conduct a phone and web-based survey. Stakeholder groups submitted potential questions and the survey was drafted and approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Responses, including 400 phone and 902 web surveys, were collected from January 31st to February 14th, 2006.

The web-based survey paralleled the telephone survey and was provided as a tool to collect as much public input as possible. The telephone survey sample was drawn at random from among all registered voters in the city of Bellingham. These findings can be considered representative of the distribution of voter opinions throughout Bellingham, with less than a 5% margin of error.

Respondents to both versions of the survey were asked about their attitudes about greenways in general, the importance of improving specific parks and trails, and their overall support and thoughts about the potential greenways levy.

How to Spend Greenway Funds

Voters were asked their opinion of the importance of three different types of greenways spending:

- Renovating existing facilities and trails
- Buying more land
- Developing already-owned land by creating parks and trails.

A majority of voters said each of these was *very* or *extremely important* with between 10% and 21% saying they were *not at all* or *a little important*. However, voters were also asked which of the three was *most important* to them.

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of voters selected “Buying more land” as the *most important* use of greenways funds. Another 34% selected “Renovating and improving” existing greenways. “Developing existing land” was selected by 20% of voters. The remaining 8% of voters could not decide or did not have a preference.

Where to Spend Greenway Funds

Voters were asked to rate the importance of purchasing land in three areas:

- North Bellingham, including Cordata, Guide Meridian and King Mountain areas
- Chuckanut Ridge
- A variety of properties that would complete major existing greenway corridors.

54% of respondents said it was *very* or *extremely* important to “Complete major greenway trail corridors” throughout the greenways system. Buying land in North Bellingham tied with Chuckanut Ridge as 44% of respondents said that purchases in those areas were *very* or *extremely* important. The purchase of Chuckanut Ridge showed the most polarization with 23% of voters saying the purchase was *not at all* important.

Similar proportions chose “Completing greenways corridors” and the purchase of Chuckanut Ridge as the *most important* (35% and 32% respectively). However another 40% of respondents chose “completing corridors” as the second most important use of funds compared to 30% choosing North Bellingham and 20% choosing Chuckanut Ridge.

Where to Develop Greenways

Voters were also asked about development of specific locations within the city's existing green spaces:

- Northridge Park
- Squalicum Creek Park
- Parks and trails at the Georgia Pacific redevelopment site
- Trails in the Chuckanut/Interurban area

Most respondents (61%) rated development at the Georgia Pacific waterfront redevelopment site as *very* or *extremely important* and was chosen by half of respondents as the *most important* area for development.

Greenway Levy Preferences

This survey showed that a majority of Bellingham voters recommend keeping the greenways levy at the current rate of 57-cents per \$1,000 assessed property valuation. About 14% preferred no levy at all and another 16% preferred lowering the rate.

While some in the community are supportive of a 10-year period or more for the levy (39% of all respondents), the distribution of responses suggests that more voters would likely prefer a shorter period for the levy.

Setting aside a portion of the greenways funds for a maintenance endowment was considered *very* or *extremely important* by a majority of respondents.

Fairness of Spending Greenway Funds

The vast majority (80%) of respondents *strongly* or *somewhat agreed* with the statement "Greenways expenses on trails, parks and open space should be distributed fairly across the entire city." Respondents in both north and South Bellingham were equally supportive of the statement.

Results from the Web-Based Survey

The self-selection of the web-based respondents attenuates the ability to generalize web-based results to the larger population. These results reflect the interests and opinions of those with the highest motivation to seek out an opportunity to contribute to the discussion in the community.

The web-based responses were noticeably more polarized than those of the phone-based respondents and statistically different from the phone survey results on almost every item. In fact, web survey respondents were indistinguishable from phone survey respondents on only one item: their selection of the Georgia Pacific waterfront redevelopment area being the *most important* area for improvements.

Otherwise, web survey respondents were more likely to focus on land purchases.

Discussion

This study showed that the greenways program enjoys some support from voters in the community. We employed both ratings (on a five-point scale) and rankings (a choice of one over all others) for many items. When ratings and rankings provide similar results, the findings can be considered very robust. However, if there is substantial variation in the results, careful interpretation may be required. Research on survey responses suggests that people are less thoughtful about rating items, and more thoughtful about ranking.

Readers should note that this survey did not ask voters whether or not they would vote for a levy at any level, nor did it ask about prior voting behavior – an excellent indicator of future voter turnout. There is sufficient information in these findings to design a levy measure that addresses voter interests. However there is insufficient information to reliably suggest whether or not a levy at any level would be more or less likely to be approved as a ballot measure.

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INTRODUCTION

Needing to gather public input to assist the City Council in their decisions regarding a potential greenways levy on the May 2006 ballot, the City of Bellingham's Parks and Recreation Department contracted with Applied Research Northwest (ARN) to conduct a phone and web survey of Bellingham city residents. ARN, a Bellingham-based social research firm, coordinated the collection of scientific phone data as well as non-scientific web data to answer the City's most important questions about the potential levy.

From January 31 to February 14, 2006 Applied Research Northwest performed 400 phone interviews and collected 902 web-based surveys from community members. While the phone surveys targeted a scientific and statistically valid sample of registered voters within the city limits, the online survey was open to anyone interested in providing feedback on the potential levy.

The telephone survey sample was drawn at random from among all registered voters in the city of Bellingham. A 41% response rate was obtained after 3 attempts to reach each potential respondent. A 41% response rate means that for every 10 voters that were called, 4.1 answered the survey questions. Respondents were distributed proportionately throughout the city— it may be useful to note that the distribution of voters between the north and south parts of town is almost exactly equal (50% in each). It is very likely that these findings resemble those of the population within an error margin of plus or minus 5% on any given data point.

Respondents to both versions of the survey were asked about their attitudes about greenways in general, the importance of improving, developing or adding parks and trails, and their overall support and thoughts about the potential greenways levy. Finally, information about the respondent's geographic location within the city (north or south) was gathered to compare the results of those sub-groups. Geographic location was determined by the voter precinct location, with precincts north of Lakeway Drive and Holly Street being assigned to the northern part of the city.

The findings from these studies are presented in the next section. A complete description of the methods used in the research is included in Appendix A. The distribution of responses to each item can be found in Appendix B. The web survey results are contained in Appendix D.

Figures shown below detail the number of respondents who gave answers that were on the scale that was offered (e.g. *extremely*, *very*, *somewhat*, *a little* or *not at all*). Missing cases either refused to answer the question, gave a *don't know* response, or were logically skipped due to their response to a prior question. The documentation of the survey programming and all missing cases are provided in Appendix B of the report.

This report uses the convention of italicizing all response categories to signify their verbatim use in the survey.

FINDINGS

HOW TO SPEND GREENWAY FUNDS

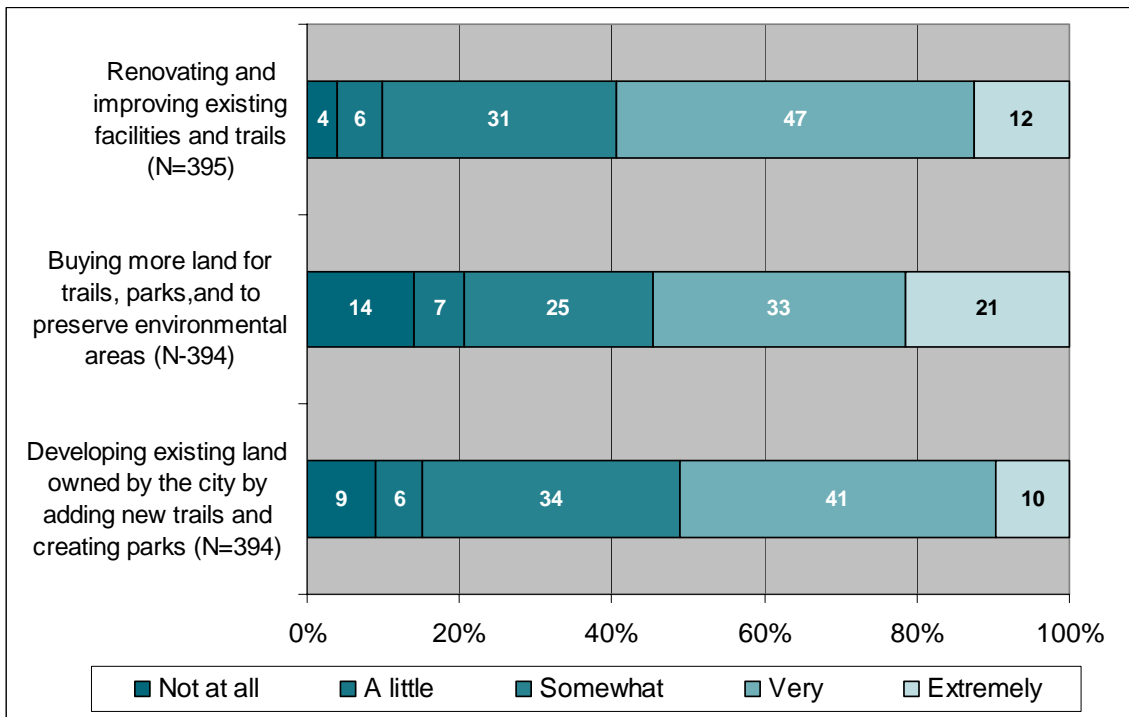
Voters were asked their opinion of the importance of three different types of greenways spending:

- Renovating existing facilities and trails
- Buying more land
- Developing already-owned land by creating parks and trails.

Presentation of these items was randomized so that respondents may have heard them in any order.

A majority of voters said each of these was *very* or *extremely important* (Figure 1) with between 10% and 21% saying they were *not at all* or *a little important*.

Figure 1. Importance Ratings Regarding How to Spend Greenways Funds.



Making decisions based on ratings alone is difficult. For example, if the *extremely important* category is the only one that is considered, then “Buying more land” would be the clear priority having 21% of the distribution. However, if the responses *very* and *extremely* are considered together, then “Renovating and improving” existing greenways could be selected as a priority, with 59% of the distribution.

To muddy the view even further is the fact that just as 21% of respondents that said it is *extremely important* to buy more land, those respondents are perfectly counterbalanced by the voters who said it was *not at all* or only *a little important*. Among the three items, this is the most polarized.

Clarification comes when examining the responses to the more difficult question that followed these in the survey: “Which of these three is *most important* to you, if any?”

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of voters selected “Buying more land” as the most important use of greenways funds. Another 34% selected “Renovating and improving” existing greenways. “Developing existing land” was selected by 20% of voters. The remaining 8% of voters could not decide or did not have a preference.

WHERE TO SPEND GREENWAY FUNDS

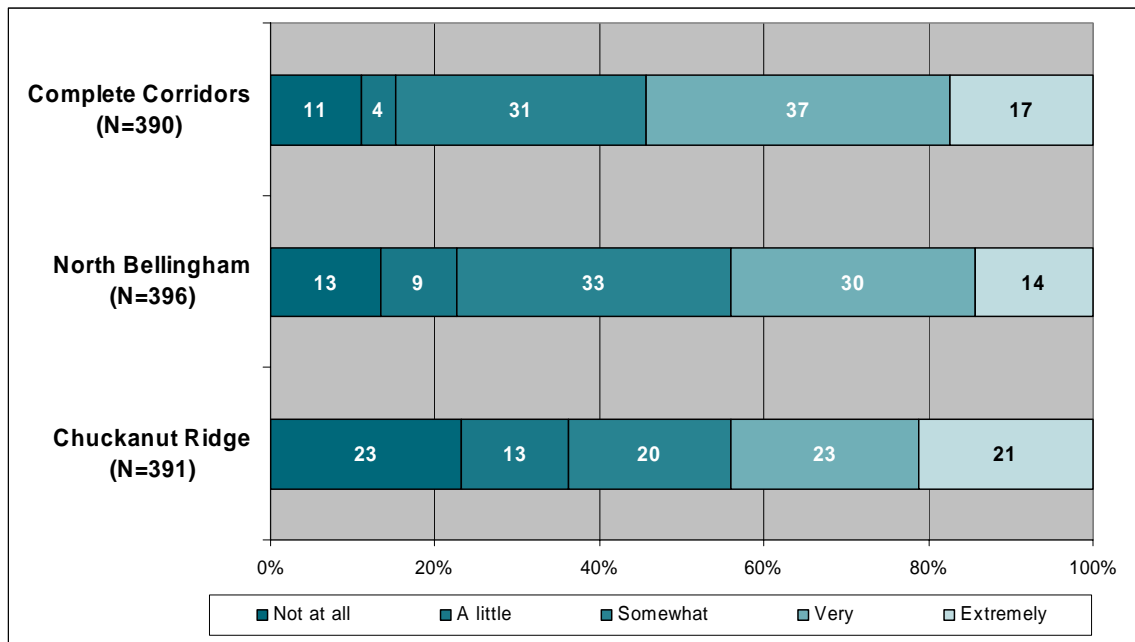
Voters were asked to rate the importance of purchasing land in three areas:

- North Bellingham, including Cordata, Guide Meridian and King Mountain areas
- Chuckanut Ridge
- A variety of properties that would complete existing greenway corridors.

Presentation of these items was randomized so that respondents may have heard them in any order. For all of the items, respondents were told that if they didn't know where the area was, the interviewer could provide more information (please see the full text of the survey in Appendix B for more information).

As Figure 2 indicates, 54% of respondents said it was *very* or *extremely* important to “Complete major greenway trail corridors” throughout the greenways system. Buying land in North Bellingham tied with Chuckanut Ridge as 44% of respondents said that purchases in those areas were *very* or *extremely* important.

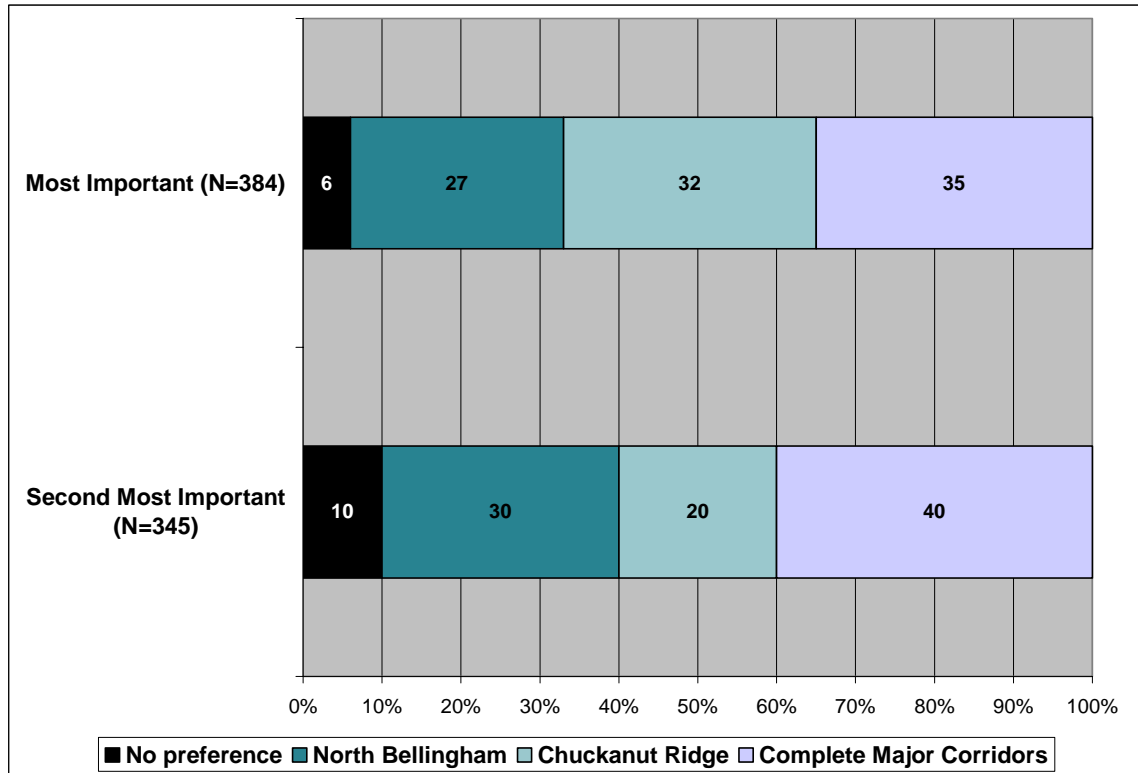
Figure 2. Importance Ratings Regarding Where to Spend Greenways Funds.



The key difference among the three items was the portion of people saying that purchases in North Bellingham or Chuckanut Ridge were *not at all important*. Chuckanut Ridge showed the most polarization, as the percent of voters reporting the purchase is *not at all important* (23%) is mirrored at the other end of the spectrum with 21% of voters saying that it is *extremely important*.

Respondents were also asked to select the *most important* of these three areas, and the *second most important*. The results, including those with no preference, are shown in figure 3.

Figure 3. Which area is most and second most important (figures are percents)



When asked to indicate the *most important* of these three areas, 35% of the 384 respondents who answered the question indicated that “Completing major greenway corridors” was their first choice, followed by Chuckanut Ridge with 32% of responses. Purchases in North Bellingham garnered 27% of responses. Another 6% said they had no preference or that all were equally important.

If respondents answered *no preference* or *don't know* they were not asked for a second most important area. Of the 345 who answered both questions, 40% mentioned “Completing major greenway corridors” as the *second most important* area, and 30% chose “North Bellingham.” Another 20% mentioned “Chuckanut Ridge.” Ten percent (10%) had no second choice preference.

WHERE TO DEVELOP GREENWAYS

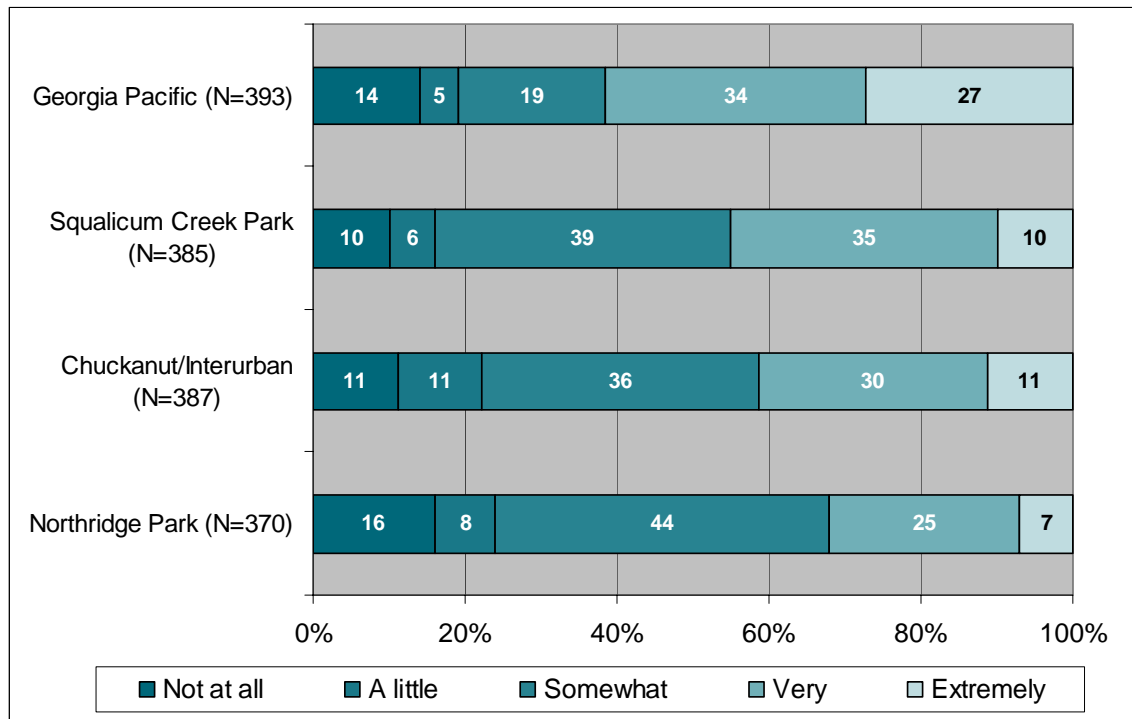
Voters were also asked about development of specific locations within the city's existing green spaces:

- Northridge Park
- Squalicum Creek Park
- Parks and trails at the Georgia Pacific redevelopment site
- Trails in the Chuckanut/Interurban area

As with the previous item sets, this one was presented in random order to respondents. Interviewers offered every respondent additional information about the location being discussed if the respondent wanted it.

Figure 4 shows that 61% of respondents rated development at the Georgia Pacific waterfront redevelopment site as *very* or *extremely important*. Squalicum Creek and the Chuckanut/Interurban areas were favored similarly by 45% and 41% of respondents (respectively). Northridge Park showed the highest number of *somewhat* responses (44%) but also 32% of stronger ratings. There is no pattern of polarization around any of these areas.

Figure 4. Importance of Developing Four Existing Greenways (figures are percents)



To clarify the ratings, respondents were asked which of these was the most important to them. Half of all respondents selected the Georgia Pacific waterfront redevelopment area as the *most important* among the four. Nineteen percent (19%) chose the Chuckanut/Interurban area, 16% chose Squalicum Creek Park and 7% chose the Northridge Park area.

GREENWAYS LEVY PREFERENCES

Respondents were asked three questions about a potential greenways levy. They were their preferences for:

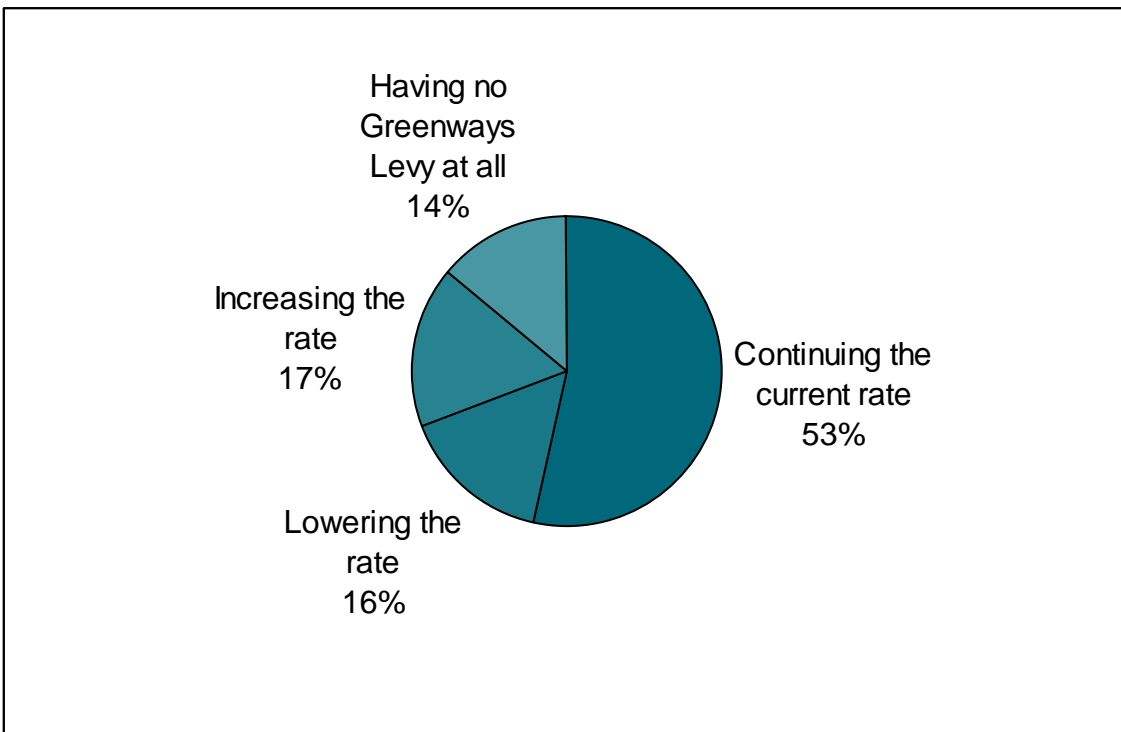
- The levy rate, based on assessed home valuation
- The levy length in years
- Whether a portion of the levy should be set aside for a maintenance endowment.

Levy Rate

Respondents were told that both previous levies were for 57 cents per \$1000 of property value, and asked how they would like the potential future levy to compare. Information about the level of the prior levies was included up front for a very specific reason. Ample publicity around the levy discussions had revealed this information to any who were following the debate. By including the information in the survey, any voters who were unaware of the prior levy amounts were put on equal footing with those who were already familiar with the amounts. Given the goals of the survey, providing a common reference point for all respondents is preferable to some respondents having a reference while others did not.

As Figure 5 shows, most respondents (53%) indicated that a new levy should continue the current rate. Fourteen percent (14%) wanted no levy at all.

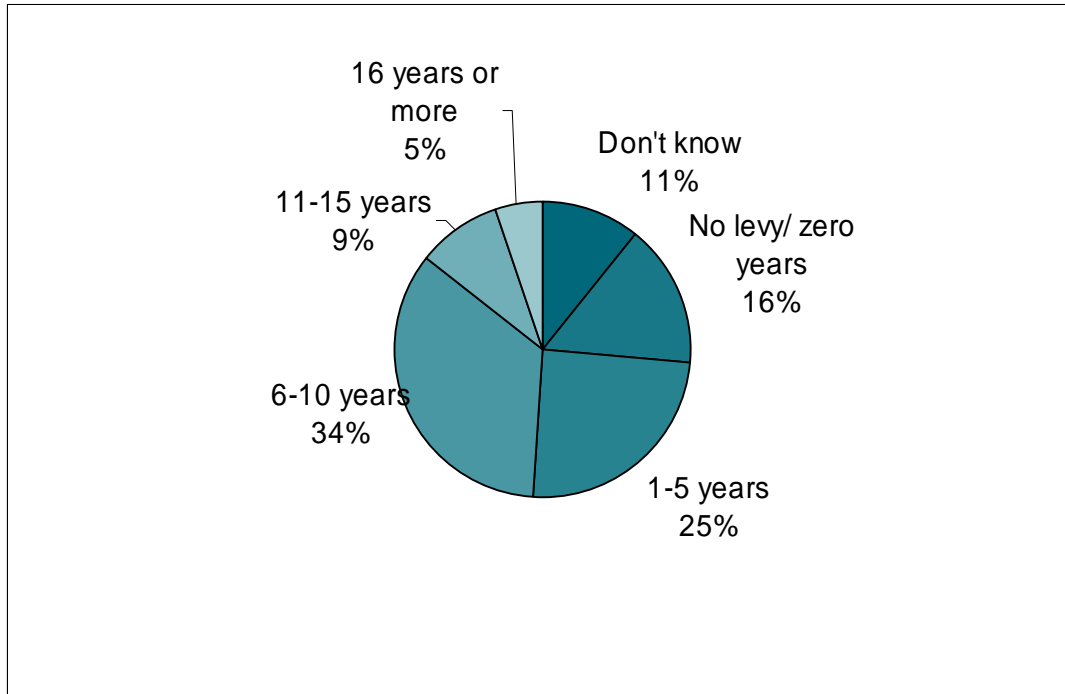
Figure 5. Preference for levy rate compared to existing rate. (N=381)



Levy Length

Respondents were then told that the last two greenways levies were 7 and 9 years long, and then asked how long they would prefer a new levy to be. About 73% of respondents answered the question. The remainder either did not want a levy at all (16%) or could not decide on an answer to the question (11%).

Figure 6. Length of potential levy (N=400).



The average length of time provided by voters who answered the question was 10 years, although the responses ranged from 1 to 250 years (Median=10). On average, people who were interested in longer levies also tended to support higher levy amounts. For example, among those who wanted the levy amount to remain at 57-cents, the average length of the levy was 10 years. Among those who wanted the levy amount increased, the average length of the levy they wanted was 13 years. The median for both groups was 10 years. Among those who wanted a lower rate for the levy, the average levy length was 7 years with a median of 5 years.

Maintenance Endowment

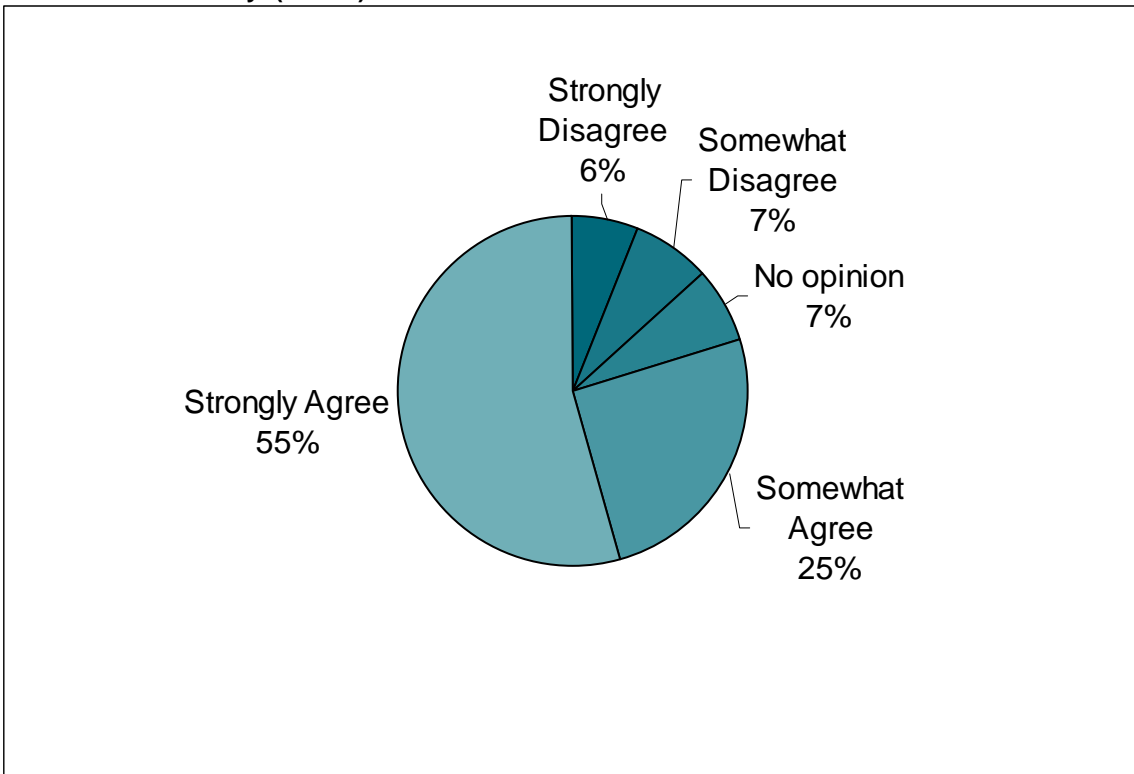
The concept of the greenways endowment was explained to respondents and then they were asked how important it was for a new levy to include a provision to set aside a certain portion of the funds raised to increase the endowment. The majority of voters (59%) said that it was *very* or *extremely important* to allot future greenway money to increase the permanent fund.

FAIRNESS OF SPENDING GREENWAY FUNDS

Voters were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed with the statement "Greenways expenses on trails, parks and open space should be distributed fairly across the entire city." Although the question has limited utility, the statement about the distribution of greenways around the city was suggested by two groups involved in the greenways proposal design process and so was included as part of the survey. Agreement with a strongly worded statement is a standard method for gauging public sentiment around issues that may otherwise be difficult to phrase as a survey item. It's placement at the end of the survey helped to ensure that it could not bias people's responses to the previous items.

As shown in Figure 7, the vast majority (80%) agreed with the statement. Respondents in both north and South Bellingham were equally supportive of the statement.

Figure 7. Greenways expenses on trails, parks, and open space should be distributed fairly across the entire city. (N=354)



A noticeable proportion of respondents commented upon this item. Many felt that it was obvious that they should agree with the statement, but wondered what was truly meant by the word "fairly." Does fairly mean by population, by geography, presence of existing parks and trails, etc.? These are issues that may need to be addressed by planners when they present their justification to the public.

OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

At the end of the survey, respondents were invited to share any other comments regarding greenways. For each respondent, the interviewer listened to the respondent and typed notes into the computer-aided telephone interviewing software. Respondents were asked to elaborate on any confusing or incomplete information through the use of a neutral probe (“Can you tell me more about that?”). Once the respondent was finished, the interviewers followed a protocol designed to assure good validation of the text. Interviewers read the text of their notes to the respondent and asked if it accurately represented what they wanted to say. At this point, the respondent could add more to the comment, ask the interviewer to edit their comments or give their approval on the comment as it was read to them. If the respondent added to or changed the text, the interviewer re-read the relevant section to the respondent for validation. The complete text of the responses is contained in Appendix C.

Two independent raters reviewed the comments for themes and classified them into twelve categories (see Table 1). Each comment could receive up to three separate codes. In some cases a single comment could be coded into two separate categories.

In all, 211 respondents (53%) offered their thoughts and opinions at the end of the survey. The most common content of the responses was support for greenways generally or specific recommendations regarding greenways (e.g. Focus on specific use of funds, location-specific requests). Some respondents used the opportunity to voice concerns or ideas that were more relevant or pressing than greenways from their perspective (e.g. tax rates, growth, other city issues).

Table 1. Distribution of Post-Coded Comments		
Post-Coded Category	N	%
Support for Greenways (appreciate trails/open space; makes Bellingham what it is)	57	19%
Location-specific requests (specific park, trail, project, part of town)	46	16%
Focus on Buying Land	30	10%
Focus on Maintenance	28	10%
Taxes are too high; no new taxes	23	8%
Manage funds better; mismanagement; accountability and follow-through	20	7%
Concerns about development (no development; greenways aid development; pro development)	16	5%
Focus on Preservation	13	4%
Greenways should not be a priority; fix downtown; other pressing needs	12	4%
Focus on Trails; connecting trails; expanding trails	8	3%
Find alternate funding (not just levies, private investors, etc.)	8	3%
Other	32	11%

N in this instance is equal to the number of comments coded in the category. Total number of classified comments=293.

RESULTS FROM THE WEB-BASED SURVEY

A version of the survey was also made available online for any resident (registered voter or not, living within city limits or not) that wanted to provide feedback on the potential greenways levy. In all, 902 individuals completed the web-based survey. This web-based version of the survey was intended to provide an open public forum. Because web-based respondents were not selected at random, it attenuates the ability to generalize web-based results to the larger population. These results reflect the interests and opinions of those with the highest motivation to seek out an opportunity to contribute to the discussion in the community.

The results are included in Appendix D of this report, along with the comments in Appendix E.

The vast majority of the respondents to the web survey reported that they were registered to vote (91%) and lived within the Bellingham city limits (89%). The geographic distribution of respondents was slightly higher south of Lakeway & Holly than the actual population distribution in the city.

The web-based responses were noticeably more polarized than those of the phone-based respondents and statistically different from the phone survey results on almost every item. This could be because a larger proportion of involved and engaged individuals sought out the web-based survey as a means to express their interest.

Findings from the volunteered responses to the web-based survey followed those of the telephone survey on only one item: Web survey respondents were indistinguishable from phone survey respondents in their selection of the Georgia Pacific waterfront redevelopment area being the *most important* area for improvements. In fact, the distribution of choices on this item was almost identical to that of the phone survey for every area.

Web-based survey results differed most noticeably from those of the phone survey on the following issues.

Web-survey respondents were:

- Much more likely to say “Buying land” was *extremely* important (66% compared to 22% of phone survey respondents)
- Much more likely to choose “Buying land” as the most important use of greenways funds (68% compared to 35% in the phone survey).
- Much less likely to say “Renovating existing facilities and trails” was *very* or *extremely important* (41% versus 59% of the phone survey).
- Much more likely to say the purchase of any land was *extremely important*.
- Somewhat more likely to say the purchase of Chuckanut Ridge was the most important of the three areas listed (43% compared to 31% in the phone survey).
- Substantially more supportive of developing the waterfront for parks (46% said *extremely important* compared to 27% in the phone survey).
- Somewhat more supportive of increasing the levy rate (29% compared to 16% of phone survey respondents)

SUMMARY & DISCUSSION

This survey showed that the greenways program enjoys some support from voters in the community. Understanding voter opinions was aided in this study by the combined use of ratings (on a five-point scale) and rankings (a choice of one over all others) for many of the items. When ratings and rankings provide similar results, the findings can be considered very robust. However, if there is substantial variation in the results, careful interpretation may be required. Research on survey responses suggests that people are less thoughtful about rating items, and more thoughtful about ranking. Though both ratings and rankings provide useful information, this discussion summarizes key patterns seen in the data with regard to the relative effort required to provide a ranked order of items versus rating the items.

LEVY CHARACTERISTICS

This survey showed that a majority of Bellingham voters recommend keeping the greenways levy at the current rate of 57-cents per \$1,000 assessed property valuation. While some in the community are supportive of a 10-year period or more for the levy (39% of all respondents), the distribution of responses suggests that more voters would likely prefer a shorter period for the levy. Setting aside a portion of the funds for a maintenance endowment was considered *very* or *extremely important* by a majority of respondents.

Readers should note that this survey did not ask voters whether or not they would vote for a levy at any level, nor did it ask about prior voting behavior – an excellent indicator of future voter turnout. There is sufficient information in these findings to design a levy measure that addresses voter interests. However there is insufficient information to reliably suggest whether or not a levy at any level would be more or less likely to be approved as a ballot measure.

DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING GREENWAYS

Both ratings and rankings showed that voters in Bellingham are very interested in the future of the Georgia-Pacific waterfront redevelopment area, and they prioritized it well above other existing, undeveloped greenway areas (50% ranked it first among four areas). In addition, development on the waterfront was supported equally by voters in both the north and south areas of town.

The fair distribution of parks is strongly supported by voters across the city, though respondents were generally less likely to express an interest in developing greenways in the city compared to buying new land or renovating existing areas. Respondents from North Bellingham did show somewhat more support for their own area than areas further south, though the pattern was less distinct than the support shown by south-Bellingham voters for parks in their own area.

The findings from this research suggest that voters may see areas with a longer history of more dense residential use (south and central Bellingham) as more conducive to park development. As one respondent said, “I think it makes sense to distribute [parks] fairly, but there are some places that just lend themselves to park atmospheres better than other places.”

USE OF FUNDS

Voter opinion regarding the priority for use of new greenways funding is quite mixed. Similar proportions of respondents gave top priority to buying new land as well as renovating and improving existing facilities and trails. Although development of land currently owned by the city but not yet prepared for public use was rated similarly to the other two fund uses, only 20% of respondents said it was their first priority. Development of new parks and trails was more strongly supported by respondents in North Bellingham where the city has no developed parks.

PURCHASE OPTIONS

When asked about three potential purchase options, voters showed substantial interest in completing major greenway corridors. The purchase of the Chuckanut Ridge property was also given high priority in the top rankings, but secondary rankings and ratings support was more mixed. The purchase of Chuckanut Ridge has been a key issue in the greenways levy design debates.

APPENDIX A: RESEARCH METHODS

The scientific, phone study consisted of randomly selected voters with the city limits. The roster of voters was procured from a national organization called Voter Contact Services (VCS) by using voter precincts known to be mutually exclusive and exhaustive of Bellingham proper. Researchers at Applied Research Northwest then used a simple random sampling process to ensure that no unmeasured voter characteristics would bias the study.

Interviewers at ARN attempted to contact respondents up to 3 times, with at least one of the attempts being a daytime call. Effort was also made to make at least one call on a weekend, but the quick turn around needed on data collection did not make this possible for every case. So attempts to reach registered voters were made throughout the day, over weekends, and across weeks. The leveraging of clock and calendar time in managing a research sample is crucial for maximizing the validity and representativeness of the results.

Care was also taken to confirm the eligibility of each respondent. Quality checks were integrated into the phone survey to verify that the individual was indeed a registered voter and lived within the Bellingham city limits. Finally, quotas were set and tracked such that the final distribution of completed phone surveys matched the voter population distribution within the city.

While the web survey was open to any and all individuals, quality checks were also put into place so that eligible cases (registered voters within Bellingham city limits) could be identified. (Please note that all web-based comments are provided in Appendix E, regardless of final eligibility.) An additional quality check attempted to disallow multiple completed surveys from the same individual.

Both surveys were publicized in print and radio media, and the web survey was also made available through the City of Bellingham's website.

Call Disposition Tables

The following table shows the final call dispositions of all cases attempted in the scientific, phone component of this research.

Table A1. Call Results Summary (Phone Survey)	
	N
Complete	400
Partial Complete	1
Soft Refusal *	118
Refused	67
No Answer/Machine/Busy	246
Callback	148
Total Valid Contact	980
Bad Number	277
Unable - Language	7
Unable - Physical/Mental	57
Deceased	3
Not Qualified -- not in city	26
Already Responded	1
Max Attempts - 3x	369
Total Invalid Contacts	740
Total	1720
Response Rate (completes/valid)	41%
Average Length of Survey	9:05

*When a respondent hangs up without hearing the purpose of the telephone call, it is called a "Soft Refusal." If the interviewer explains the purpose of the call and the patient declines to participate, it is classified as "Refused."

Data Quality

The Whatcom County Auditor's office provided Applied Research Northwest with a breakdown of voter distribution across the precincts within the city limits. This information allowed researchers at ARN to perfectly match the proportion of voters in each geographic area of interest with the proportion of completed surveys within those areas.

Additionally, an extensive interviewer training session occurred the night before the official launch of the phone study. This training consisted of an overview of the study's purpose and goals. Interviewers then read through the survey, practiced with the script, and then made live calls to registered voters. This comprehensive process not only gives the interviewers invaluable experience with the survey script, but it also provides feedback to researchers about respondents' understanding of the concepts and issues raised throughout the course of an interview.

Respondents were prompted to provide an answer to each question using a fixed answer scale. Respondents that did not use the scale were prompted again with the potential choices until they selected the one that best fit their opinion. Open-ended responses were typed as the respondent spoke, probed for clarity, then read back to the respondent for validation. Finally, the open-ended items were minimally edited for readability.

The overall quota of completed surveys (400) was set such that the results estimated would likely have less than a 5% margin of error. This level of scientific precision attenuates the chances that the findings presented in this report are due to chance, and makes the information reported here much more generalizable to the larger population.

APPENDIX B: SURVEY TEXT AND FREQUENCY REPORT (SCIENTIFIC, PHONE SURVEY)

INTRO:

Hello, my name is \$I and I'm calling from Applied Research Northwest on behalf of the City of Bellingham with a few questions about a potential Greenways levy. May I speak with <FIRST> <LAST>?

N =	400	100%
Able to Continue	400	100%
Unable to Continue.....	0	0%
New Telephone Number.....	0	0%

INFO1:

Hello, [my name is \$I and I'm calling from Applied Research Northwest on behalf of the City of Bellingham.] The city is gathering citizen feedback about some proposed Greenways projects that might be part of a May election. You have been selected to participate in a scientific survey of Bellingham voters. The survey findings will help the City Council decide what to include in a Greenways plan. All of your responses are completely confidential. Is it correct that you're a registered voter living in the City of Bellingham?

N =	400	100%
Yes, a registered voter	400	100%
No, not a registered voter	0	0%
Yes, a registered voter (can't talk now)	0	0%

INFO2:

Before we begin, I want to explain that Greenways are a connected system of parks, trails and natural open space lands that are owned by the city. Now, I'm going to read you a list of three ways the parks could use new Greenways funds if a new levy is brought to and approved by voters. I'd like you to rate the importance of each one by telling me if it is extremely important, very, somewhat, a little, or not at all important. The first one is...

N =	400	100%
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Q1A:

Developing existing land owned by the city by adding new trails and creating parks.

N =	400	100%
Extremely Important.....	38	10%
Very Important	163	41%
Somewhat Important	133	33%
A little Important	25	6%
Not at All Important	35	9%
Don't Know (do not read).....	6	2%

Q1B:

Buying more land for trails, parks, and to preserve environmental areas.

N =	400	100%
Extremely Important.....5	85	21%
Very Important.....4	131	33%
Somewhat Important.....3	98	25%
A little Important.....2	26	7%
Not at All Important.....1	56	14%
Don't Know (do not read).....7	4	1%

Q1C:

Renovating and improving existing facilities and trails.

N =	400	100%
Extremely Important.....5	49	12%
Very Important.....4	186	47%
Somewhat Important.....3	121	30%
A little Important.....2	23	6%
Not at All Important.....1	16	4%
Don't Know (do not read).....7	5	1%

Q2:

And of those three things, which is the most important to you, if any? (Allow up to two choices if they can't pick only one) *note – numbers represent number of responses. 14 people chose more than one option. Percents are percent of *mentions*.

N =	400	100%
Developing existing land owned by the city by adding new trails and creating parks.....1	82	20%
Buying more land for trails, parks and to preserve environmental areas.....2	140	34%
Renovating and improving existing facilities and trails.....3	160	39%
No Preference (do not read).....4	24	6%
Don't Know (do not read).....7	8	2%

INFO6:

I'm going to describe three areas where the city might try to purchase land in order to add it to the Greenways system. For each one, please tell me if it is extremely important, very, somewhat, a little, or not at all important for the City to purchase land in that area. If you're not sure where these areas are, I have some information that might help you; just let me know. The first one is...

N =	400	100%
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Q3A:

So, how important is it that the city try to purchase land in...						
	<i>Extremely Important</i>	<i>Very Important</i>	<i>Somewhat Important</i>	<i>A little Important</i>	<i>Not at All Important</i>	<i>Don't Know (do not read)</i>
<i>Chuckanut Ridge, also known as the Fairhaven Highlands development</i>	83 (21%)	89 (22%)	77 (19%)	51 (13%)	91 (23%)	9 (2%)
<i>North Bellingham. For example, north of Sunset Drive and I-5 including Cordata, Guide Meridian and King Mountain areas</i>	57 (14%)	117 (29%)	132 (33%)	37 (9%)	53 (13%)	4 (1%)
<i>Land that would complete major Greenway Trail corridors like Samish Crest between Lakeway Drive and Lake Padden park, or the Bay to Baker Greenway that runs along Squalicum Creek</i>	68 (17%)	144 (36%)	119 (30%)	16 (4%)	43 (11%)	10 (3%)

Q3D:

Of these three, which if any would you prefer the city spent its Greenways funds on?

N =	400	100%
Chuckanut Ridge (also known as the Fairhaven Highlands development)	122	31%
North Bellingham (north of Sunset Drive and I-5 including Cordata, Guide Meridian and King Mountain areas).....	105	26%
Complete major Greenway Trail corridors (like Samish Crest between Lakeway Drive and Lake Padden park, or the Bay to Baker Greenway that runs along Squalicum Creek)	133	33%
No preference (do not read).....	24	6%
Don't Know (do not read).....	16	4%

Q3E:

What would be your second choice, if any?

N =	360	100%
Chuckanut Ridge (also known as the Fairhaven Highlands development)	69	19%
North Bellingham (north of Sunset Drive and I-5 including Cordata, Guide Meridian and King Mountain areas).....	102	28%
Complete major Greenway Trail corridors (like Samish Crest between Lakeway Drive and Lake Padden park, or the Bay to Baker Greenway that runs along Squalicum Creek)	138	38%
No preference (do not read).....	36	10%
Don't Know (do not read).....	15	4%

INF10:

I'm going to tell you about existing Greenways areas that could be improved with new Greenways funding and then ask you to rate the importance of improving them. If you're not sure where these areas are, I have some information that might help you; just let me know. The first one is...

N =	400	100%
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Q4A:

So, how important is it for Greenways funding be used to improve...						
	<i>Extremely Important</i>	<i>Very Important</i>	<i>Somewhat Important</i>	<i>A little Important</i>	<i>Not at All Important</i>	<i>Don't Know (do not read)</i>
<i>Northridge Park</i>	27 (7%)	93 (23%)	161 (40%)	31 (8%)	58 (15%)	30 (8%)
<i>Squalicum Creek Park</i>	39 (10%)	134 (34%)	152 (38%)	23 (6%)	37 (9%)	15 (4%)
<i>Creating new parks and trails at the Georgia Pacific waterfront redevelopment site</i>	107 (27%)	134 (34%)	76 (19%)	21 (5%)	55 (14%)	7 (2%)
<i>Trails in the Chuckanut/Interurban area, including Arroyo Park and access to Woodstock Farm</i>	44 (11%)	118 (30%)	141 (35%)	43 (11%)	41 (10%)	13 (3%)

Q4E:

And which of those four areas is most important? Would you say...

N =	400	100%
Northridge Park	26	7%
Squalicum Creek Park	64	16%
Parks and trails at the Georgia Pacific waterfront redevelopment site	198	50%
Trails in the Chuckanut/Interurban area, including Arroyo Park and access to Woodstock Farm	74	19%
Don't Know (do not read).....	17	4%
No Preference (do not read).....	21	5%

Q5:

Both of the previous Greenways levies were for 57 cents per \$1000 of property value. For a \$250,000 home, that amounts to about \$143 in yearly property taxes. If the city put a Greenways Levy on a ballot would you prefer...

N =	400	100%
Continuing the current rate	203	51%
Lowering the rate.....	60	15%
Increasing the rate, or	65	16%
Having no Greenways Levy at all	53	13%
Don't Know (do not read)	19	5%

Q6:

Sometimes people prefer shorter levies because voters have more say in program goals and expenses. And sometimes people prefer longer levies to allow for long-term planning and large-scale purchases and projects. How long would you prefer a new Greenways levy to last, if you want one at all? [Prompt for a number between zero and 99]

N = (only respondents that answered 1, 2, 3, or 7 to Q5)	347	100%
Median.....	10.0 years	
Mean.....	10.2 years	
Standard Deviation	11.3 years	

Q7:

The 1997 Beyond Greenway levy included money for a special, permanent endowment fund. The interest is used to help pay for the maintenance of new and existing Greenways property. If a levy did pass, how important would it be that the city set aside a portion of the Greenway levy funds to add to the permanent fund? Would you say...

N =	400	100%
Extremely Important.....	96	24%
Very Important	129	32%
Somewhat Important	86	22%
A little Important.....	31	8%
Not at All Important	37	9%
Don't Know (do not read)	21	5%

Q9:

Would you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement: Greenways expenses on trails, parks and open space should be distributed fairly across the entire city. You can also say you have no opinion or that you don't know. (So, would you say...)

N =	400	100%
Strongly agree.....	193	48%
Somewhat agree	89	22%
Somewhat disagree.....	25	6%
Strongly disagree	22	6%
No opinion.....	25	6%
Don't Know (do not read)	46	12%

Q10:

Is there anything else you'd like to tell the City Council regarding Greenways?

N = 400 100%

INT99:

That's the end of the survey, <FIRST>. Thank you very much for your time. Have a good day/evening.

N = 400 100%

Complete08 400 100%

APPENDIX C: POST-CODED COMMENTS (SCIENTIFIC, PHONE SURVEY)

Post-Coded Category: Support for Greenways

- Well, if we lose that, if we let things go and not save what we have, our greenways will have a desert. They are very important. This is a beautiful country, and we want to keep it that way. I have been in other countries, and this is a fairy land. It is a beautiful land compared to other places. Our Mother Earth is depleting with the treatment, with the disregard for our land which is sacred to people. It is misused in a lot of ways that is unnecessary.
- It has been a very successful project, and I appreciate their work and for accepting it.
- I have been very pleased with the previous Greenway purchases. The recreational opportunities is what attracted me to Bellingham in the first place.
- Good luck!
- I think they're doing a great job, and I think that Bellingham has a remarkable set of greenways and they need to keep them up.
- That I think it is a very important and worthwhile investment.
- They (Greenways) are vitally and horrendously important as human beings. We are losing habitat for animals horribly in this town it needs to be helped.
- I appreciate that they are there to help give back, and that we maintain greenways.
- I would like to express my gratitude for the existing greenways and look forward to seeing more.
- That I appreciate any and all Greenways they give us. And living in a beautiful town with lots of parks is a beautiful thing.
- Do it!
- I enjoy them very much. I like having areas where I can walk the dog. I like that many are graveled, and any weather. It's nice to have a variety of options; different options to walk and different trails.
- I think it is a wonderful thing in Bellingham. There are trails everywhere. I can leave my house and take my dog for a walk without having to walk on the busy streets. I see the joggers, people with babies, and bicycles. It is great. It is a wonderful thing they are doing. This is one of the smaller cities I have lived in, and it is very noticeable that we have these greenways and parks. There are plenty of parks; more per square mile than in any other city I have lived in. I think it is great and they should keep it up.
- I think it is an important issue that future generations will thank us for, if it passes.
- They are wonderful to use.
- I love spending time in the parks, and I hope to see them stay in good shape and up and running.
- I just think it has been handled well in the past. Perfect no, but they have made an honest effort to do a good job of it.
- Just that it's one of the things that makes Bellingham an enjoyable place to live, and I like taking visitors out to see the Greenways, to enjoy the beauty of the green spaces that we've preserved.
- I like what they have done so far. We have some new greenways right near us that have turned out nice. I don't have any complaints.
- I think it's nice that we have that. Because I've lived other places, and there's never been trails in any of the other places I've lived. So Bellingham's fortunate to have that.
- I think one of the major attractions to Bellingham is that citizens do value the park system. I know we get a lot of complaints about the money spent on the parks, but that's what make our city a very nice place to live. So, the Greenways, parks and trails are used. I use them. I live off Vining, and the trails are great. We use them, and there are certain days they are used more than others. I don't know the portion compared to the population, but I definitely take advantage of them.
- I'd like to thank them for what they've done.
- Good Job!
- I think we need them and they are important to people's state of mind and health. They are good to have.

- I think that is part of what makes this city so great, the Greenways areas.
- I think we have a lot of nice places to go for walks and I am glad that we do. As long as the money is going towards something good, I don't mind paying it.
- Greenways is what made this city what it is today, which is a very people friendly place, and it's one of the reasons we moved here. We've lived here I think thirteen years, and it would be a shame to let the city become poverty stricken in regards to people friendliness.
- I really like what they have done so far. The parks and trails is what I love about Bellingham.
- We need them and this is what makes Bellingham special.
- No. They do a good job. We are lucky we have the parks that we have. The parks are nice.
- I am a former resident of Boulder Colorado. They had a Greenbelt that prevented the city from growing into the next city. Right now we have a problem with Ferndale. We are growing right into Ferndale, right around the airport. Ferndale is growing south in that same area. We don't want to be completely homogenized. This is one of the uses of Greenways and Greenbelts. Both cities get to benefit, and there is a divider.
- I think it is a really important program that they need to keep up.
- I think they are important to have.
- I am a supporter.
- I just think it's a great program, and we've got to do everything we can to keep it up.
- Do it.
- Keep up the good work.
- The Greenway... I would like to continue to pay for the Greenways at the current rate. No new taxes please. We are a family, just trying to raise two children.
- I think the parks systems are one of the nicest things to have, but I am concerned with the costs of the parks. I think the cost of new parks should be contributed by those who live in that area, the developers buying up the land, they should be the ones to contribute to the cost of parks, of course I know they will pass it on to the homeowners.
- I think the important Greenways mission is to acquire new property while we can still do it, and I think it's important to acquire properties that have high ecological value regardless of where they're at. I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Greenways program and I am delighted to have my tax money go to it.
- I think it is a wonderful program and that it has done a lot of good. I would like to see moderate growth but I think the emphasis should be on maintenance. The growth should be towards connecting the trails. There needs to be more planning to make them all interconnected.
- To me it's one of the attractions of Bellingham, and I'm willing to pay more to maintain and increase trails and parklands.
- I think we have such beautiful parks and trails, and we should really keep them up. We do not want to out-grow Bellingham. I do not like all of this rapid development.
- The continued growth of Greenways is very important for the health of the city as it continues to grow.
- They are doing an outstanding job. I am concerned with what happens with the newly acquired area along the bay, and I think that we should continue our energies on that land. Keep public lands as much as possible, privatizing only a small portion.
- I think it's an exceptional program, and I've voted for it every time it's come up. It's important for them to focus on the downtown area and also to bring in parks on the north side.
- I think that Greenways are an important part of our community and need to be continued. Greenways bond payments are more important than many of their existing expenditures.
- Nobody likes taxes, but it's one of the things that makes Bellingham a wonderful place to live, so I hope they keep at it. My wife thinks their asking too much but she's not the official pollee so, he he.
- I have always been a Greenways supporter, but with the increase in property taxes, it's making it harder to support the added levies. The argument is that taxes have not been raised, but they reassessed the values of the homes in order to raise more taxes. My property taxes went up 78% in one year, and that could force me out of my home and out of Bellingham.
- With all the development with condos going in I think it's important that we maintain all the things that make Bellingham a nice place to live, and I think greenways are a part of that.

- We have a history of respecting greenways and making sure they are available, and it is what distinguishes this city, and they are very loved and used. With the growth we are experiencing, we have to preserve these lands for Greenways now.
- I don't want it to be a levy that causes me to have more in-fill, as opposed to developing Chuckanut Ridge and having that take some of the burden off the rest of the city. I also think there are a lot of parks on the south end of town, and there should be more on the north. One of the best Greenways projects is the Taylor Street docks. It gives people access to the waterfronts. I think greenways is one of the best things our city has going. I support it one-hundred percent.
- That I appreciate having them. I think we take pretty good care of what we already have, and I would like to see that continue. Also, I would love to see the Georgia-Pacific area developed.
- It has been a useful and wonderful concept, and it has by and large been rather well done, and I hope it continues to be well done. I really approve of setting aside a small chunk of it for maintenance money. And I don't like the way they framed the question before this one, it's like if you have 100 people and they're all hungry and you say "we're going to give everyone exactly one piece." It's ludicrous.
- I think that greenways are a great idea. I think it makes sense to distribute them fairly, evenly. But there are some places that just lend themselves to park atmospheres better than other places.
- Parks are important, but they better be aware that taxes aren't a very popular thing. The money had better be well managed.
- Back off! We should not have so many Greenways levies. I love having parks, but we are spending too much money on Greenways, and then we cannot afford EMTs.

Post-Coded Category: Location-Specific Requests

- I think that they're extremely important, and I think as many of them as possible, and even ones that haven't been explored are options, and maybe some way of hooking them all up would be a good plan, which I don't know how feasible it is. And just more access to the waterfront, and more access for people with dogs, whether it be specific dog places where they can run off leash or a place in the Greenways parkway they can run off leash and be fenced in. And people picking up after their dogs. My sister lives in Anchorage, and they have an incredible greenways system. And they use it in the winter equally if not more, and this isn't like that. And things like habitats for bird watching and wetlands and educational things where people of all ages could go. And like I said, a really good map that you could download off the internet or buy. I just watched the GP lagoon thing on TV the other night, and it was quite fascinating, and I think it's all a really good idea. And maybe an espresso stand here or there. I guess there's so many of them in town. Access to bathrooms would be a really good thing, or port-a-potties. If you're out for the day, well people who hike bring in their own water. And level the trails when possible so people who walk with a cane or wheelchair can enjoy the outdoors as much as everybody else. And also signs identifying specific trees like older trees that were unusual or plant life here or there. Some light would be expensive but it would be nice, especially in the winter when you get home, when you want to go do something and it's dark. And maybe groups of people that would like to walk together and start walking clubs or something, for myself would be a good idea; I sometimes feel uncomfortable in isolated areas. The waterways, the streams, is another thing all in itself; I think the waterways and stream we have is a program unto itself; I don't know, it seems like it should all be part of the same thing. Some sculpture, outdoor sculpture, big pieces, because I'm sure they would get vandalized, so they'd have to be heavy duty, like Big Rock Garden, I think is really a fun place, and maybe a model to look at. If people wanted to ride their bikes, I think I would discourage that, and also horseback riding, or create separate specified areas for that. Maps at the beginning of the trail, directions, and places you can come out, and accessible parking, and you could go half a mile or five miles depending on your energy level or your time constraints.
- I guess the most important thing, and there are people that are very passionate about Chuckanut Ridge. I think we need to be creative and have Greenways help purchase part of Chuckanut Ridge, and then have residents and neighbors looking for private funding so that it is a balance, so that it's Greenways funding and partially private funding.

- That I appreciate having them. I think we take pretty good care of what we already have, and I would like to see that continue. Also, I would love to see the Georgia-Pacific area developed.
- Support Greenways 2006. Do not support Greenways Legacy. There is plenty of park space on the South Side of Bellingham, and it is time to focus on the north side and other parts of the city. Please take care of what we already have.
- To acquire land that shouldn't be developed that way. The one being the industrial property down by the creek; I can't remember the name of the road. It's on the way down to the harbor from the Marine Drive on down the hill.
- I would like to see the new ball field that they purchased on Squalicum way well developed and turned into a quality facility that has multiple uses--not just a ballpark--with easy access to the neighborhood. I also think they should continue to connect the parkways like they did between downtown and Boulevard
- I would really like to see the trail along Whatcom Creek completed.
- It needs to be looked at from a perspective of all citizens, not just Fairhaven and a few vocal citizens. My priority would be developing downtown because I think that would benefit everyone in Bellingham, and the waterfront area, but they can't leave Squalicum Creek the way it is. It is a wasteland and dangerous, so it needs to get to a point where it isn't an eyesore.
- I would just hope that they drum up the money to purchase the property off Chuckanut so that it's not developed because I don't think we have the infrastructure to support development there, schools being one of them.
- I think Padden Creek is under pressure for development, and I think flooding is an issue that needs to be addressed. The development above is going to flood the neighborhood. Everything that comes into the Padden Creek watershed will affect flooding.
- It is very important to purchase Chuckanut Ridge because Greenways was originally formed to buy the Chuckanut Ridge, and they did not follow through with it. I feel it is extremely important to buy it now since developers are looking at expanding it. I believe the talk about fairness is just a way of changing their subject, and is just a way for the developers to get their hands on it. Places like Chuckanut Ridge are available to everyone that lives in the city. This is a make or break issue on how people act on this. I know I represent a large voting box, and people will vote depending on the way the city approaches this issue. If at all possible, we need to be able to vote on Chuckanut Ridge. If they can't do it in this levy, then they should add a second levy. Especially since the first levy was to buy the ridge, we need to not lose out on it again.
- Parks and everything connected with parks are extremely important, and to not pay attention to making money off them. I think the Georgia Pacific Waterfront is extremely important, especially on the waterfront so everyone can enjoy, not just for the wealthy. I think it's also important not to downplay how important something like this is to the community.
- This North end really needs parks and green areas.
- I think they should have some parks in the GP area. They don't need as many as they're showing.
- That the GP redevelopment site is important because I think it would be such an addition to Bellingham. I use the area for walking on the trails, but I guess that is assumed.
- I want them to bear in mind that by acquiring the land over in the south end of town (Chuckanut Ridge.. I think they call it), I believe it would cost less than if it was developed. I don't want them trading that (land) for any other city owned pieces of land.
- There is one area they are totally leaving out. It is behind Cornwall Park, there is an old horse farm that has been for sale for years, that's wetlands. I think they should buy it and add it to Cornwall Park. It is east of Cornwall Park, south of Squalicum Way and west of St. Joseph's.
- It would be nice to get more in the northern part of the city and not so concentrated on the south side of Bellingham. I think that is the most important thing.
- I think development should be located more in the north area where people are more poor and new families are. Rather than in the Chuckanut areas. Other areas that should be focused on are Squalicum Park and Rodeo Drive area. The young people could benefit from more parks, there should be more cultured opportunities for them. This would improve physical and mental health. Chuckanut area might want to access private funding for their improvements.

- I don't want them to get into things like the Chuckanut Ridge business. The city can meddle to a certain extent to keep the density down, but what citizens need is corridors to walk through areas. That's what Greenways is supposed to be, not to buy huge acreage.
- I like to see them get busy in the park where the gravel pit is: Squalicum Park, where they were going to put in baseball diamonds and soccer diamonds and now there is a big pile of dirt.
- If they do a Greenways. Purchase property by the land behind Cornwall Park that is for sale. There is some open land on, maybe Squalicum Way, and behind Cornwall Park there is about 6 acres for sale. That would tie right into Cornwall park, added right into it.
- I think the Chuckanut Ridge one is the most important to me, and if they can get more that is great.
- The Georgia Pacific site; that one should be a be-all, end-all, complete, top priority. We're only going to get one chance to do it right, and we better do it right.
- Get involved with Galbraith Mt. because Syrees (sp) wants to make that into an extension of Bellingham, and it should be preserved.
- Just fix GP.
- I will not vote for it if they do not put Chuckanut on it.
- I am for the Marina expansion in the basin.
- Purchase Chuckanut Ridge.
- I think that they need to cautiously look at what they're trying to do at Chuckanut and Woodstock Farm because there's a lot of wetlands, wildlife, and private homes. They call it an existing park at Mud Bay, but at high tide there's no park at all and there's a lot of wildlife that would be threatened by the park. And there's no sidewalks to mud bay, it's not set up for traffic, there's nowhere to park; you cannot expect to park down there.
- I would avoid the heavy handed pressure regarding the Chuckanut Ridge project from those community groups.
- I think we need to concentrate on developing parks like we have in the south, up north. I'd like to see more parks in the Sunset area and the Cordata area, and I think they have done a wonderful job of developing the parks, and I'd like to see that continue.
- The zoning for Galbraith Mountain, which is practically a greenway, the way trillium has been allowing us to use it had been like a greenway. If the city doesn't rezone, then it will essentially augment the other greenways. Galbraith should stay forest land and not rezoned.
- The only thing I feel strongly opposed to is the Chuckanut Ridge. That is what I know most about.
- I live on the South Side. We have plenty of property and parks here. The Chuckanut area is a perfect site for what they want to do here, as long as it environmentally sound.
- Taxes are rough right now, and I think that the Birchwood neighborhood is underrepresented in Greenways and parks.
- I believe in the Greenways and I think it is the best thing this city is doing. I wish we could tax it and draw some kind of revenue out of it, but I understand why we can't. We need to develop that waterfront property to generate revenue to help money back into the city. That piece of property is going to be a connecting point between North and South Side Bellingham. And I hope there is going to be some kind of connection that generates some income for the city of Bellingham to put back into the Greenways. As well as more money for the police department and protection to those who have had property damage and things like that. I love this city. I wish we could clean the transient camps up so they can be more available to families.
- They are doing an outstanding job. I am concerned with what happens with the newly acquired area along the bay, and I think that we should continue our energies on that land. Keep public lands as much as possible, privatizing only a small portion.
- I think it's an exceptional program, and I've voted for it every time it's come up. It's important for them to focus on the downtown area and also to bring in parks on the north side.
- I think it is important that they maintain what we have. Nice to have the area by Lake Padden worked on now and again. The trails are quite muddy, I don't think they have maintained the trails for years.
- I'd like to preserve the wooded areas that we have already; I think it's really important to focus on the nice areas that we have right now, like Chuckanut, and the wooded areas.

- The question about the GP site: there should be other sources of funding other than the Greenway levy. I think the greenways are more useful for preservation as opposed to maintaining existing facilities.
- I think my major comment is to acquire as much open land, green space, as possible. I guess developing the parks is a priority of much less importance. Please don't forget about Galbraith Mountain.
- I would tell the City Council that they need to focus on purchasing properties at this point that are available, like Chuckanut Ridge, because they are not going to be available again, and I think that is extremely important. They need to take the opportunity to purchase lands that are available like Chuckanut ridge. Extending the network and the trail system is a great thing. Keeping people off the roads with their bicycles is a benefit. Extending the trail to Woodstock Farm would be beneficial.
- Cut the costs by 50%, and do what they can with less money. And concentrate on the waterfront. The rest of these areas are really not important; we're a waterfront city.
- I don't want it to be a levy that causes me to have more in-fill, as opposed to developing Chuckanut Ridge and having that take some of the burden off the rest of the city. I also think there are a lot of parks on the south end of town, and there should be more on the north. One of the best Greenways projects is the Taylor Street docks. It gives people access to the waterfronts. I think greenways is one of the best things our city has going. I support it one-hundred percent.

Post-Coded Category: Focus on Maintenance

- I would like to see the repair and upkeep of existing facilities a priority after land acquisition/habitat preservation.
- With all the development with condos going in I think it's important that we maintain all the things that make Bellingham a nice place to live, and I think greenways are a part of that.
- We already have so many they can barely keep them maintained, so why buy more? We have more than any place, so don't waste the money. Maintain what you have and stop putting such an importance on Greenways and put it into the people and roads, widening streets, and dealing with the traffic, also schools.
- I think it is important that they maintain what we have. Nice to have the area by Lake Padden worked on now and again. The trails are quite muddy, I don't think they have maintained the trails for years.
- Just that I think it's a good idea to maintain what is already in place and not overspend.
- Maintain the stuff, the trails you have. The city said they would put a trail in right next to my house. They said they would put in stairs. They made us move the fence, and that was five years ago and, nothing has happened at all. They made a big fuss about the fence and did nothing. We have great trails, great parks, for the most part. It is not perfect, but they are good.
- Just watch your expenses. I would like to see good value for my dollar. I have nothing against the greenways, but they don't have to go overboard. Maintaining what you have is more important than anything else.
- Take care of what they have first. I see maintenance is lacking in the areas that is already there. Maintenance should be a top priority.
- They need to take care of what they already got. They really do. There are so many nice trails that need maintenance.
- To maintain the parks that we have right now. We ought to focus on the parks right now, rather than buying more parks that we can't maintain; we've got more parks than any other city in the U.S. for a city this size. The Whatcom Falls park is not very well maintained at all; just improve upon what we have and maintain it rather than buy more and let it go into disrepair.
- I think that it is important that we keep creating them and keeping up the ones that we have.
- They should make sure they can pay for maintaining the land they already have before they buy land. There is a deterioration in quality of the land they already have. They should make sure they can maintain the land before they make any more purchases.

- I live on one of the trails, and it is used a lot, and I think it is very important that they are kept up.
- It seems to me most important to maintain at the highest level the properties and trails that already exist, and I would prefer that over acquiring new properties and spreading the budget too thin.
- They should be careful where they spend their money. I don't think they need to spend the money on GP. Maintain the stuff we have so that it is in good shape.
- I think that the endowments to take of the parks really need to be investigated more thoroughly. I don't think we've added enough staffing to maintain them, if we were going to maintain parks we need to have more staffing. In the past few years the parks department staff has cut been cut.
- They need to figure out a budget that includes the maintenance of the parks and Greenways areas and not add an additional levy.
- I want to be sure we are taking care of what we already have, and some of them aren't being maintained the way they should be. So to get more and not maintain them is not something I want to happen.
- Just how very important it is to maintain and increase them (greenways) based on the amount of people moving into Bellingham. Maintain the current greenways. And also, with the gross increase, if we can keep the majority of the land in green trails. If Bellingham could grow up instead of out. It would be better for the environment.
- I would argue that you need to just take care of what you have; make it the best possible and not consider expansion.
- What we have already, I'd hate to have it deteriorate. To maintain them is very important, making new ones is not as important. I'd hate to lose what we already have.
- I think they need to pay more people to take care of what they have before they get anymore. I don't think they realize that they need to take care of the parks after they put them in.
- The only thing: If they open up something, like a park, is to take care of what they already have. A lot of areas we already have get neglected. Why open another park when you don't have the funds? If you can't handle what you have now, don't put more projects in front of you that you can't handle.
- I don't want my property taxes raised one more penny for any parks in this town. Maintain what you have, we have plenty.
- Support Greenways 2006. Do not support Greenways Legacy. There is plenty of park space on the South Side of Bellingham, and it is time to focus on the north side and other parts of the city. Please take care of what we already have.
- In order to answer these questions, I felt like I didn't have enough current information on what the condition of the areas were. Being a woman walking alone, by myself, some of these trails are pretty scary, so maintenance should be a high priority.
- To me it's one of the attractions of Bellingham, and I'm willing to pay more to maintain and increase trails and parklands.

Post-Coded Category: Focus on Buying Land

- I think my major comment is to acquire as much open land, green space, as possible. I guess developing the parks is a priority of much less importance. Please don't forget about Galbraith Mountain.
- It is a great program to buy and have public land. I would prefer money be spent for the purchase of the land and much less for the maintenance of it.
- Setting aside more land with the Greenways levy is most important, not improvements. Improvements are not as important as acquiring more land. Improvements, to me, is like more development.
- HUSBAND NOT PARTICIPANT- The thing is, I remember when Padden was a water source for the city, and then it got to be polluted. The city needs to get a hold of the land while they still can.
- I think Greenways should be used to purchase new land. That is what Greenways is all about. Parks and Recs should be involved with improving parks and recs. That should be included in their budget.

- I think the important Greenways mission is to acquire new property while we can still do it, and I think it's important to acquire properties that have high ecological value regardless of where they're at. I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Greenways program and I am delighted to have my tax money go to it.
- In my opinion Greenways have always been about acquisitions of important properties, preserving environmentally sensitive areas, the connection of people and animals and our open space together. Greenways money should not be spent on constructing ball fields or play areas, or picnic areas.
- To acquire land that shouldn't be developed that way. The one being the industrial property down by the creek; I can't remember the name of the road. It's on the way down to the harbor from the Marine Drive on down the hill.
- I would like to see the repair and upkeep of existing facilities a priority after land acquisition/habitat preservation.
- I would tell the City Council that they need to focus on purchasing properties at this point that are available, like Chuckanut Ridge, because they are not going to be available again, and I think that is extremely important. They need to take the opportunity to purchase lands that are available like Chuckanut ridge. Extending the network and the trail system is a great thing. Keeping people off the roads with their bicycles is a benefit. Extending the trail to Woodstock Farm would be beneficial.

Post-Coded Category: Taxes are Too High / No New Taxes

- Back off! We should not have so many Greenways levies. I love having parks, but we are spending too much money on Greenways, and then we cannot afford EMTs.
- Just don't raise the property taxes anymore than you have to. Please consider alternative ways to make money, such as cutting back on city expenses or implementing park user fees.
- Nobody likes taxes, but it's one of the things that makes Bellingham a wonderful place to live, so I hope they keep at it. My wife thinks their asking too much but she's not the official pollee so, he he.
- I have always been a Greenways supporter, but with the increase in property taxes, it's making it harder to support the added levies. The argument is that taxes have not been raised, but they reassessed the values of the homes in order to raise more taxes. My property taxes went up 78% in one year, and that could force me out of my home and out of Bellingham.
- I don't want my property taxes raised one more penny for any parks in this town. Maintain what you have, we have plenty.
- Taxes are rough right now, and I think that the Birchwood neighborhood is underrepresented in Greenways and parks.
- No new taxes. Please learn to spend the money more wisely. Try to live within our means.
- Don't give us anymore taxes.
- To keep it down. The homes are increased in value so much, and it's got to be hard for people to pay the taxes.
- I think that we should be more in tune with the economy of the area when we're putting out new levies. Something that might sound like a little bit for the price of houses is a lot now because of the increase in house costs. And the city needs to be more aware of what this is costing the home owner.
- I think the levies should wait a couple years until financial aspects are better in Bellingham, rather than replacing or adding more taxes.
- I don't want taxes to go up. People are struggling with finances as it is. I understand the importance of saving the environment but they should leave it alone.
- The property values have doubled since the last levy, so they would be doubling the amount that they are taxing us, and that the citizens can't afford it.
- The residents on fixed incomes can't keep supporting higher and higher taxes. We will have to sell our house if they keep adding more taxes.
- We own a very small, modest home, and we can't afford these taxes, that is the taxes that are raised to support the Greenways. We can't afford the increased taxes.

- I'd like to see the whole thing die and keep our money; we don't have enough money. I'd like to see them cut down on the amount of money they take from people in taxes.
- Don't put it on the ballot. Don't even vote for it. Don't have an option to vote for it. We have too many taxes already.
- I would like to tell them to use the money they already have. No more property taxes increase.
- It is hard for me to understand in regard to the general fund. Our taxes have gone up sharply in the last dozen years or so. Where is this money going, and why is it, if our property taxes have gone up so fast and were voting in a continued greenways levy, that we are also talking about charging new houses 4,000 dollars per household to support the parks? Then to continue on, that seems like an unfair taxation because a lot of these people are not new to the city. Just because you are building a new house doesn't mean your new to the area. And in saying that, why should you have to pay 4,000 dollars for parks and greenways? I strongly support parks, but this new park fee is said to be paid for by developers, but it's not. It will be paid for by home owners.
- When is this taxation going to stop? Every time I turn around they are raising taxes. That's my main concern right there.
- The Greenway... I would like to continue to pay for the Greenways at the current rate. No new taxes please. We are a family, just trying to raise two children.
- I would like to urge them to not bring it up for a vote and to discontinue the greenways program for the main reason that our property taxes are already too high. And I feel that this is a low priority and that we need to get back to the taxes going to the basic necessities.
- Parks are important, but they better be aware that taxes aren't a very popular thing. The money had better be well managed.

Post-Coded Category: Manage Current Funds Better

- Parks are important, but they better be aware that taxes aren't a very popular thing. The money had better be well managed.
- Cut the costs by 50%, and do what they can with less money. And concentrate on the waterfront. The rest of these areas are really not important; we're a waterfront city.
- I think it is important that the money for greenways is used for the greenways and not some political scam to turn the property over to a private developer. It is also important that the eminent domain issues are dealt in a way that people aren't forced out of the homes in order to turn over the land to private developers.
- I think they have totally mismanaged what they have. I think they have absconded with funds that were dedicated to certain areas that somehow have found their way to the general fund. I would like to know where the funding went for Memorial Park, and how it became part of the general funds. That's theft; it was private money dedicated to maintain that park. I am very disappointed in that, and I'm disappointed in the development of the property they have; Arroyo Park and mismanagement of the Chuckanut Ridge development and a whole series of things that the current administration has demolished. I am very disgusted at how they have developed it, and I will not support any aspect of it whatsoever. There's a park on the top of Alabama that the city purchased about 6 or 8 years ago. There was quite a scandal about how much the city paid for it. It was far exceeding the value of the property. The city's management of the green spaces and the acquisition of new properties is extremely disappointing.
- Any money that the "voters approve of" should be solely for the purpose of the Greenways.
- Where the mall is right now, that area was given to the city as a preserve, and that whole area is now a developed area. What kind of assurance do we have that they won't sell it off? I wonder about that. I don't really know what their ideas of their trails are preserves are.
- My main thing: the bridge across Alabama. It was voted out, and then it was put in, and you still don't have access. It just is incredulous to me the way this city wastes money. It will make people like me with limited income forced out of our homes.
- Just maybe to spend their money more wisely.
- We're using greenways funds for other projects, such as for road construction underneath roads.

- The only issue about the Greenways is they should make sure that when they create this and buy Greenways, the money to produce and maintain is in that and not sucked out of other funds.
- I am not so sure about the way the city handles the money sometimes. It seems like they spend it on things that aren't really necessary.
- Do what you are saying you are going to do and stop fooling around.
- Be more prudent with finances.
- I think they spend too much money on them.
- I wish the council would quit wasting tax payer's money. The current mayor does not know how to fix things without raising taxes, and I think it's ridiculous.
- Make sure it is used for whatever it is voted for. Don't say it is for one place and then use it for a different place.
- Just that I think it's a good idea to maintain what is already in place and not overspend.
- Maintain the stuff, the trails you have. The city said they would put a trail in right next to my house. They said they would put in stairs. They made us move the fence, and that was five years ago and, nothing has happened at all. They made a big fuss about the fence and did nothing. We have great trails, great parks, for the most part. It is not perfect, but they are good.
- Just watch your expenses. I would like to see good value for my dollar. I have nothing against the greenways, but they don't have to go overboard. Maintaining what you have is more important than anything else.
- When they acquire green space, they should keep it green. Don't cut down the trees on the green space you acquire. Don't pave it or turn it into facilities for commercial interests, and don't borrow money from the Greenways taxes for other city programs, which is what they do. They divert the money; it's what they did with the watershed funds.
- It is very important to purchase Chuckanut Ridge because Greenways was originally formed to buy the Chuckanut Ridge, and they did not follow through with it. I feel it is extremely important to buy it now since developers are looking at expanding it. I believe the talk about fairness is just a way of changing their subject, and is just a way for the developers to get their hands on it. Places like Chuckanut Ridge are available to everyone that lives in the city. This is a make or break issue on how people act on this. I know I represent a large voting box, and people will vote depending on the way the city approaches this issue. If at all possible, we need to be able to vote on Chuckanut Ridge. If they can't do it in this levy, then they should add a second levy. Especially since the first levy was to buy the ridge, we need to not lose out on it again.

Post-Coded Category: Concerns about Development

- I don't want it to be a levy that causes me to have more in-fill, as opposed to developing Chuckanut Ridge and having that take some of the burden off the rest of the city. I also think there are a lot of parks on the south end of town, and there should be more on the north. One of the best Greenways projects is the Taylor Street docks. It gives people access to the waterfronts. I think greenways is one of the best things our city has going. I support it one-hundred percent.
- I think they should be looking carefully, with regard to Greenways, about any city expansion.
- They should not use greenway funds for the land use and planning tool; i.e. buying property that may be developed to prevent development. That should be done through the regular process and not using greenway funds to do.
- With the increase in population, who knows. Everything's going toward you know what, so people got to start thinking.
- Be careful as to whose feet you are stepping on. Don't just step in and grab land. I don't want that happening. They are not entitled to take someone's land because of a Greenway path. If there is some way around it, then do that.
- Don't build anymore apartments or condos. Send Trillium back where they came from.
- Lay off of Chuckanut ridge; no development. I've been riding horses up there for 50 years.
- I hate the development, particularly on the South Side.

- I think that as new development comes in place, the developer should be responsible for setting aside Greenway land, public schools, all lands to do with that, and the infrastructure street areas, and that existing taxpayers should not have to pay for city staff for support or checking plans. That should all be reimbursed by the developer. The expense of growth should be on the shoulders of the developers, one hundred percent.
- I think we have such beautiful parks and trails, and we should really keep them up. We do not want to out-grow Bellingham. I do not like all of this rapid development.
- The continued growth of Greenways is very important for the health of the city as it continues to grow.
- I think we need to preserve what we can. There's too much developing going on and we need to be a little more focused to do what we can.
- I would just hope that they drum up the money to purchase the property off Chuckanut so that it's not developed because I don't think we have the infrastructure to support development there, schools being one of them.
- I think Padden Creek is under pressure for development, and I think flooding is an issue that needs to be addressed. The development above is going to flood the neighborhood. Everything that comes into the Padden Creek watershed will affect flooding.
- Pull on their budgets and use their heads, the people are exhausted. We have new people coming in all the time and they love it. The people who have lived here have suffered. They should slow down on building.
- We have a history of respecting greenways and making sure they are available, and it is what distinguishes this city, and they are very loved and used. With the growth we are experiencing, we have to preserve these lands for Greenways now.

Post-Coded Category: Focus on Preservation

- We have a history of respecting greenways and making sure they are available, and it is what distinguishes this city, and they are very loved and used. With the growth we are experiencing, we have to preserve these lands for Greenways now.
- In my opinion Greenways have always been about acquisitions of important properties, preserving environmentally sensitive areas, the connection of people and animals and our open space together. Greenways money should not be spent on constructing ball fields or play areas, or picnic areas.
- I think we need to preserve what we can. There's too much developing going on and we need to be a little more focused to do what we can.
- I'd like to preserve the wooded areas that we have already; I think it's really important to focus on the nice areas that we have right now, like Chuckanut, and the wooded areas.
- The question about the GP site: there should be other sources of funding other than the Greenway levy. I think the greenways is more useful for preservation as opposed to maintaining existing facilities.
- When they acquire green space, they should keep it green. Don't cut down the trees on the green space you acquire. Don't pave it or turn it into facilities for commercial interests, and don't borrow money from the Greenways taxes for other city programs, which is what they do. They divert the money; it's what they did with the watershed funds.
- I feel that maintaining undeveloped areas so that the wildlife can continue to be strong up here in the Pacific Northwest is absolutely important to this region. The fish, the birds and the wildlife are important to this land, and we can't let developers come and destroy it.
- I don't want to miss the opportunity to preserve what open space is left before the developers get to it.
- To hopefully protect as much land as possible as long as possible from development.
- I am all for preserving what we have. And the ability to have open land and not develop. In particular, Chuckanut Ridge: keeping that the pristine nature that it is. Also, I hope that we will have greenery around Bellingham. Where there are spots that are already, let's keep it. There is enough development. Let's keep our greenery green. It is not just the South Side. That we have greenery everywhere. I love Bellingham with all of my heart.
- I think that anything we can do to preserve what we have is a good thing. I may not be an owner for long, but I am appreciative of anything that is being done.

- I would like to see the repair and upkeep of existing facilities a priority after land acquisition/habitat preservation.
- I think it is very important to save Chuckanut Ridge, that once it is gone it can never be replaced. I spend hundreds of hours in those woods every year. I spent an hour and a half there tonight. I would hate to lose it. My hobby is to take photographs of wildlife, of deer and elk. I can name them by name. My goal is to find their antlers during this time. I see a tremendous amount of wildlife. It breaks my heart to think of someone developing that land. Bellingham should make it a park. I could go on and on.

Post-Coded Category: Greenways Should Not be a Priority

- I would like to urge them to not bring it up for a vote and to discontinue the greenways program for the main reason that our property taxes are already too high. And I feel that this is a low priority and that we need to get back to the taxes going to the basic necessities.
- What does covering my deck have to do with breathing? I think we should build high rise apartments rather than more small houses. We should build up. There are a million places to walk and bike. Why do we need more?
- It is a good idea, but they have got to consider there are retired people, and \$100 is a lot of money. It would be a hardship on some people. I know people who won't vote for it because of this.
- I think money could be spent in a better way. I know I would not vote for it and my other senior friends would not. We can't afford off of social security.
- I think we're wasting a lot of money. I think the money could be used somewhere else; we've got enough parks.
- I don't think it is in the top 5 things to worry about, in the city. It's maybe in the top 20.
- I think it is a waste of time. Personally, I think we have enough trails and parks. They should spend some money to clean up downtown Bellingham. Get our streets and sidewalks in good order before spending money on other things. You know what the Council needs to do, in my opinion, is go down and look at Everett. To check out downtown to see how beautiful it is.
- They just want too much money. I walk everyday, and I barely see anybody walking at Whatcom Falls Park, and it's one of our most popular parks. I just would rather see money spent elsewhere on things for kids not on parks barely used. I walk 2.4 miles everyday, and in the hour walk I see about ten people on a good day.
- The parking situation in downtown Bellingham should be just as an important issue as Greenways. They are going to lose business and the stores downtown if they can't park. Downtown will lose business to the mall if they don't address this issue.
- Back off! We should not have so many Greenways levies. I love having parks, but we are spending too much money on Greenways, and then we cannot afford EMTs.
- We already have so many they can barely keep them maintained, so why buy more? We have more than any place, so don't waste the money. Maintain what you have and stop putting such an importance on Greenways and put it into the people and roads, widening streets, and dealing with the traffic, also schools.
- It needs to be looked at from a perspective of all citizens, not just Fairhaven and a few vocal citizens. My priority would be developing downtown because I think that would benefit everyone in Bellingham, and the waterfront area, but they can't leave Squalicum Creek the way it is. It is a wasteland and dangerous, so it needs to get to a point where it isn't an eyesore.

Post-Coded Category: Focus on Trails

- I would tell the City Council that they need to focus on purchasing properties at this point that are available, like Chuckanut Ridge, because they are not going to be available again, and I think that is extremely important. They need to take the opportunity to purchase lands that are available like Chuckanut ridge. Extending the network and the trail system is a great thing. Keeping people off the roads with their bicycles is a benefit. Extending the trail to Woodstock Farm would be beneficial.

- I have a very high interest in trail systems and the expansion of existing trails especially for hooking them up for alternative transportation routes.
- I see connective trails as the most important thing. Being about to get all around on trails would be very valuable. It's still hit and miss.
- To me it's one of the attractions of Bellingham, and I'm willing to pay more to maintain and increase trails and parklands.
- I think it is a wonderful program and that it has done a lot of good. I would like to see moderate growth but I think the emphasis should be on maintenance. The growth should be towards connecting the trails. There needs to be more planning to make them all interconnected.
- I think that they're extremely important, and I think as many of them as possible, and even ones that haven't been explored are options, and maybe some way of hooking them all up would be a good plan, which I don't know how feasible it is. And just more access to the waterfront, and more access for people with dogs, whether it be specific dog places where they can run off leash or a place in the Greenways parkway they can run off leash and be fenced in. And people picking up after their dogs. My sister lives in Anchorage, and they have an incredible greenways system. And they use it in the winter equally if not more, and this isn't like that. And things like habitats for bird watching and wetlands and educational things where people of all ages could go. And like I said, a really good map that you could download off the internet or buy. I just watched the GP lagoon thing on TV the other night, and it was quite fascinating, and I think it's all a really good idea. And maybe an espresso stand here or there. I guess there's so many of them in town. Access to bathrooms would be a really good thing, or port-a-potties. If you're out for the day, well people who hike bring in their own water. And level the trails when possible so people who walk with a cane or wheelchair can enjoy the outdoors as much as everybody else. And also signs identifying specific trees like older trees that were unusual or plant life here or there. Some light would be expensive but it would be nice, especially in the winter when you get home, when you want to go do something and it's dark. And maybe groups of people that would like to walk together and start walking clubs or something, for myself would be a good idea; I sometimes feel uncomfortable in isolated areas. The waterways, the streams, is another thing all in itself; I think the waterways and stream we have is a program unto itself; I don't know, it seems like it should all be part of the same thing. Some sculpture, outdoor sculpture, big pieces, because I'm sure they would get vandalized, so they'd have to be heavy duty, like Big Rock Garden, I think is really a fun place, and maybe a model to look at. If people wanted to ride their bikes, I think I would discourage that, and also horseback riding, or create separate specified areas for that. Maps at the beginning of the trail, directions, and places you can come out, and accessible parking, and you could go half a mile or five miles depending on your energy level or your time constraints.
- I would like to see the new ball field that they purchased on Squalicum way well developed and turned into a quality facility that has multiple uses--not just a ballpark--with easy access to the neighborhood. I also think they should continue to connect the parkways like they did between downtown and Boulevard
- I would really like to see the trail along Whatcom Creek completed.

Post-Coded Category: Find Alternate Funding

- I think that as new development comes in place, the developer should be responsible for setting aside Greenway land, public schools, all lands to do with that, and the infrastructure street areas, and that existing taxpayers should not have to pay for city staff for support or checking plans. That should all be reimbursed by the developer. The expense of growth should be on the shoulders of the developers, one hundred percent.
- I believe in the Greenways and I think it is the best thing this city is doing. I wish we could tax it and draw some kind of revenue out of it, but I understand why we can't. We need to develop that waterfront property to generate revenue to help money back into the city. That piece of property is going to be a connecting point between North and South Side Bellingham. And I hope there is going to be some kind of connection that generates some income for the city of Bellingham to put back into the Greenways. As well as more money for the police department and protection to those who have had property damage and things like that. I love this city. I wish we could clean the transient camps up so they can be more available to families.

- I think there can be other types of funding besides taxing.
- I think the funding should not come from just home owner taxes. I am an apartment dweller and I think everyone should pay.
- I would like to see private folks come up and spend the money on the 100 acre wood. It seems to me the people who are protesting it are the ones who live there, and they need to pay for part of it with their money, so maybe a combination of public and private funds could be something for that area.
- Just don't raise the property taxes anymore than you have to. Please consider alternative ways to make money, such as cutting back on city expenses or implementing park user fees.
- I think the parks systems are one of the nicest things to have, but I am concerned with the costs of the parks. I think the cost of new parks should be contributed by those who live in that area, the developers buying up the land, they should be the ones to contribute to the cost of parks, of course I know they will pass it on to the homeowners.
- I guess the most important thing, and there are people that are very passionate about Chuckanut Ridge. I think we need to be creative and have Greenways help purchase part of Chuckanut Ridge, and then have residents and neighbors looking for private funding so that it is a balance, so that it's Greenways funding and partially private funding.

Post-Coded Category: Other, Miscellaneous

- It has been a useful and wonderful concept, and it has by and large been rather well done, and I hope it continues to be well done. I really approve of setting aside a small chunk of it for maintenance money. And I don't like the way they framed the question before this one, it's like if you have 100 people and they're all hungry and you say "we're going to give everyone exactly one piece." It's ludicrous.
- I think that greenways are a great idea. I think it makes sense to distribute them fairly, evenly. But there are some places that just lend themselves to park atmospheres better than other places.
- In order to answer these questions, I felt like I didn't have enough current information on what the condition of the areas were. Being a woman walking alone, by myself, some of these trails are pretty scary, so maintenance should be a high priority.
- I think it is very important to save Chuckanut Ridge, that once it is gone it can never be replaced. I spend hundreds of hours in those woods every year. I spent an hour and a half there tonight. I would hate to lose it. My hobby is to take photographs of wildlife, of deer and elk. I can name them by name. My goal is to find their antlers during this time. I see a tremendous amount of wildlife. It breaks my heart to think of someone developing that land. Bellingham should make it a park. I could go on and on.
- Pull on their budgets and use their heads, the people are exhausted. We have new people coming in all the time and they love it. The people who have lived here have suffered. They should slow down on building.
- I believe that there should be an independent committee separated from the council who decides these things. Meaning they don't vote them in; the people decide who is on the committee.
- They should lower it because property values have gone up. That use to be a \$250,000 home does not exist anymore.
- They should make the most of what is in existence. I am not in favor of purchasing more land.
- Make sure they get passed, put something in front of the people that is reasonable or passable.
- They are needed.
- I think they should give a cost before they put in a park; what it would cost the people instead of doing a levy and doing what they want to do. As far as North Bellingham goes, I'm sure people would like a park, but before I move into an area I would make sure it would have some of these things, like a park, instead of moving in and realizing they don't have a park.
- They need to be conservative.
- Keep it where it's at instead of trying to push for more. I'm looking to build a house on new property and they are asking for over three grand to go to parks but I don't know what part of

- parcs in comparison to the Greenways. More money should go toward off leash dog areas. I think there is one at post point and maybe the Lake Padden area.
- Whatcom County is a wonderful place and we need to keep on top of it.
 - I think that a nice park for the kids with easy access would be nice, where ever, as long as kids can get there to enjoy what is there.
 - "Fair" should be interpreted as more funding going to the low-income areas. People with more money have more access to recreational activities.
 - One of my thoughts is that in terms of property value, it would be nice if property taxes correlated to property tax benefits from the improved Chuckanut Ridge development.
 - I certainly appreciate the solicitation of opinions from the community.
 - I would hope they would do and use more diligently in regards to what they find out about the needs of the greenways rather than the downtown parking. Which has turned into the fiasco they are abounding because they didn't look into. So, hopefully before they waste more taxpayers dollars on the parks, they really looking into the data before making big decisions.
 - On the trails, they have a thing that motorized vehicles aren't allowed. I would like them to allow electrical vehicles because I am in an electric wheelchair.
 - I think they need to get a fair, balanced levy that is clear so voters know what they are voting for.
 - I appreciate the fact that the city is taking the time to get the people's opinion and looking at it from different angles, but it would be nice if the participants could send in a well thought out comment within a week or so, possibly by email.
 - I think that we are pretty lucky to live where there are some pretty amazing trails and parks, and it would be nice to be able to add more.
 - They need to be reminded that they may have to do the Greenways levy along with school and library levies, so timing needs to be considered. There could be three assessments going at the same time.
 - So far I think it has been a pretty reasonable discussion of the program as I understand it.
 - I very much want to have a negotiated levy, it is very disturbing, the attitude of no compromise between both groups. So, what I would like to see is a compromise. I really appreciate the city council attempting to negotiate a compromise between the groups.
 - Sidewalk access to Greenways starting points is a very important issue to consider.
 - That I would prefer a 10-year levy over 15.
 - Hire more people for the parks.
 - I think that Greenways are an important part of our community and need to be continued. Greenways bond payments are more important than many of their existing expenditures.
 - What does covering my deck have to do with breathing? I think we should build high rise apartments rather than more small houses. We should build up. There are a million places to walk and bike. Why do we need more?
 - I think that they're extremely important, and I think as many of them as possible, and even ones that haven't been explored are options, and maybe some way of hooking them all up would be a good plan, which I don't know how feasible it is. And just more access to the waterfront, and more access for people with dogs, whether it be specific dog places where they can run off leash or a place in the Greenways parkway they can run off leash and be fenced in. And people picking up after their dogs. My sister lives in Anchorage, and they have an incredible greenways system. And they use it in the winter equally if not more, and this isn't like that. And things like habitats for bird watching and wetlands and educational things where people of all ages could go. And like I said, a really good map that you could download off the internet or buy. I just watched the GP lagoon thing on TV the other night, and it was quite fascinating, and I think it's all a really good idea. And maybe an espresso stand here or there. I guess there's so many of them in town. Access to bathrooms would be a really good thing, or port-a-potties. If you're out for the day, well people who hike bring in their own water. And level the trails when possible so people who walk with a cane or wheelchair can enjoy the outdoors as much as everybody else. And also signs identifying specific trees like older trees that were unusual or plant life here or there. Some light would be expensive but it would be nice, especially in the winter when you get home, when you want to go do something and it's dark. And maybe groups of people that would like to walk together and start walking clubs or something, for myself would be a good idea; I sometimes feel uncomfortable in isolated areas. The waterways, the streams, is another thing all in itself; I think the waterways and stream we

have is a program unto itself; I don't know, it seems like it should all be part of the same thing. Some sculpture, outdoor sculpture, big pieces, because I'm sure they would get vandalized, so they'd have to be heavy duty, like Big Rock Garden, I think is really a fun place, and maybe a model to look at. If people wanted to ride their bikes, I think I would discourage that, and also horseback riding, or create separate specified areas for that. Maps at the beginning of the trail, directions, and places you can come out, and accessible parking, and you could go half a mile or five miles depending on your energy level or your time constraints.

APPENDIX D: SURVEY TEXT AND FREQUENCY REPORT (NON-SCIENTIFIC, WEB SURVEY)

Q1A:

Developing existing land owned by the city by adding new trails and creating parks.

N =	902	100%
Extremely Important.....5	180	20%
Very Important.....4	270	30%
Somewhat Important.....3	242	27%
A little Important.....2	134	15%
Not at All Important.....1	71	8%
Don't Know.....7	5	1%

Q1B:

Buying more land for trails, parks, and to preserve environmental areas.

N =	902	100%
Extremely Important.....5	595	66%
Very Important.....4	135	15%
Somewhat Important.....3	71	8%
A little Important.....2	38	4%
Not at All Important.....1	60	7%
Don't Know.....7	3	0%

Q1C:

Renovating and improving existing facilities and trails.

N =	902	100%
Extremely Important.....5	135	15%
Very Important.....4	237	26%
Somewhat Important.....3	298	33%
A little Important.....2	160	18%
Not at All Important.....1	69	8%
Don't Know.....7	3	0%

Q2:

And of those three things, which is the most important to you, if any?

N =	902	100%
Developing existing land owned by the city by adding new trails and creating parks.....1	160	18%
Buying more land for trails, parks and to preserve environmental areas.....2	611	68%
Renovating and improving existing facilities and trails.....3	90	10%
No Preference / Can't decide.....4	41	5%

Q3A:

So, how important is it that the city try to purchase land in...						
	<i>Extremely Important</i>	<i>Very Important</i>	<i>Somewhat Important</i>	<i>A little Important</i>	<i>Not at All Important</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
<i>Chuckanut Ridge, also known as the Fairhaven Highlands development</i>	411 (46%)	113 (13%)	105 (12%)	85 (9%)	180 (20%)	8 (1%)
<i>North Bellingham. For example, north of Sunset Drive and I-5 including Cordata, Guide Meridian and King Mountain areas</i>	322 (36%)	253 (28%)	198 (22%)	80 (9%)	39 (4%)	10 (1%)
<i>Land that would complete major Greenway Trail corridors like Samish Crest between Lakeway Drive and Lake Padden park, or the Bay to Baker Greenway that runs along Squalicum Creek</i>	335 (37%)	318 (35%)	151 (17%)	46 (5%)	44 (5%)	8 (1%)

Q3D:

Of these three, which if any would you prefer the city spent its Greenways funds on?

N =	883	100%
Chuckanut Ridge (also known as the Fairhaven Highlands development)	1	379 43%
North Bellingham (north of Sunset Drive and I-5 including Cordata, Guide Meridian and King Mountain areas).....	2	244 28%
Complete major Greenway Trail corridors (like Samish Crest between Lakeway Drive and Lake Padden park, or the Bay to Baker Greenway that runs along Squalicum Creek)	3	235 27%
No preference / Can't Decide	4	25 3%

Q3E:

What would be your second choice, if any?

N =	874	100%
Chuckanut Ridge (also known as the Fairhaven Highlands development)1	124	14%
North Bellingham (north of Sunset Drive and I-5 including Cordata, Guide Meridian and King Mountain areas).....2	292	33%
Complete major Greenway Trail corridors (like Samish Crest between Lakeway Drive and Lake Padden park, or the Bay to Baker Greenway that runs along Squalicum Creek)3	383	44%
No preference / Can't Decide4	75	9%

Q4A:

So, how important is it for Greenways funding be used to improve...						
	<i>Extremely Important</i>	<i>Very Important</i>	<i>Somewhat Important</i>	<i>A little Important</i>	<i>Not at All Important</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
<i>Northridge Park</i>	11 (12%)	257 (29%)	289 (32%)	140 (16%)	70 (8%)	35 (4%)
<i>Squalicum Creek Park</i>	180 (20%)	318 (35%)	241 (27%)	89 (10%)	55 (6%)	19 (2%)
<i>Creating new parks and trails at the Georgia Pacific waterfront redevelopment site</i>	406 (45%)	221 (25%)	147 (16%)	58 (6%)	59 (7%)	11 (1%)
<i>Trails in the Chuckanut/Interurban area, including Arroyo Park and access to Woodstock Farm</i>	183 (20%)	244 (27%)	230 (26%)	131 (15%)	99 (11%)	15 (2%)

Q4E:

And which of those four areas is most important? Would you say...

N =	902	100%
Northridge Park1	41	9%
Squalicum Creek Park2	135	15%
Parks and trails at the Georgia Pacific waterfront redevelopment site3	426	47%
Trails in the Chuckanut/Interurban area, including Arroyo Park and access to Woodstock Farm4	157	17%
Don't Know7	27	3%
No Preference8	76	8%

Q5:

Both of the previous Greenways levies were for 57 cents per \$1000 of property value. For a \$250,000 home, that amounts to about \$143 in yearly property taxes. If the city put a Greenways Levy on a ballot would you prefer...

N =	902	100%
Continuing the current rate	466	52%
Lowering the rate.....	89	10%
Increasing the rate, or	254	28%
Having no Greenways Levy at all	65	7%
Don't Know	28	3%

Q6:

Sometimes people prefer shorter levies because voters have more say in program goals and expenses. And sometimes people prefer longer levies to allow for long-term planning and large-scale purchases and projects. How long would you prefer a new Greenways levy to last, if you want one at all? [Prompt for a number between zero and 99]

N = (only respondents that answered 1, 2, 3, or 7 to Q5)	809	100%
Median.....	10.0 years	
Mean.....	10.9 years	
Standard Deviation	7.8 years	

Q7:

The 1997 Beyond Greenway levy included money for a special, permanent endowment fund. The interest is used to help pay for the maintenance of new and existing Greenways property. If a levy did pass, how important would it be that the city set aside a portion of the Greenway levy funds to add to the permanent fund? Would you say...

N =	902	100%
Extremely Important.....	306	34%
Very Important	283	31%
Somewhat Important	152	17%
A little Important.....	44	5%
Not at All Important	42	5%
I don't support a Greenways Levy	44	5%
Don't Know	31	3%

Q9:

Would you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement: Greenways expenses on trails, parks and open space should be distributed fairly across the entire city.

N =	902	100%
Strongly agree.....	384	43%
Somewhat agree	304	34%
Somewhat disagree.....	111	12%
Strongly disagree	74	8%
No opinion.....	17	2%
Don't Know	12	1%

Q10:

Is there anything else you'd like to tell the City Council regarding Greenways?
 [See next appendix for open-ended comments.]

Qvoter:

Are you a registered voter living in the city of Bellingham?

N =	902	100%
Yes.....1	816	91%
No.....0	77	9%
Don't Know6	9	1%

Qresident:

Do you currently live within the city limits of Bellingham, Washington?

N =	902	100%
Yes.....1	797	88%
No.....0	100	11%
Don't Know6	5	1%

Qarea:

Do you live North or South of Lakeway Drive/Holly Street in Bellingham?

N =	802	100%
North.....1	358	45%
South.....2	439	55%
Don't Know6	5	1%

APPENDIX E: COMMENTS (NON-SCIENTIFIC, WEB SURVEY)

- One area that receives little notice is Galbraith Mtn. I have been on both 100 acre woods and Galbraith. The use and importance of Galbraith far outstrips the 100 acre woods. If 100 acre wood money is put on the ballot then I will actively try and defeat the measure going door to door if necessary.
- Even though I do not live in Bellingham, I work in Bellingham and recreate here. I think we need to make maintenance of our existing parks a high priority.
- It is important for the North side of town to get parks, trails and open space now in proportion to the number of residents there. We are going to have future ghetto-like conditions that will affect young children and families adversely if there is no green space amongst the density of all the apartments and developments. There is no reason to use GW funds to buy down development in the south side. There are more creative ways that could be used to raise funds for those folks that feel that area should not have any development. I don't feel that naming the properties that might be acquired is helpful for the negotiation of the staff that needs to acquire the properties. We cannot afford to pay outrageous fees per acre like the CR property when much of the corridor needed to connect the Fairhaven Park and the Interurban will be a acquired as a condition of development. The Council should do what is right and fair for the whole community- not cave in for the vocal minority that doesn't choose to have infilling in their neighborhood. Areas like Northridge have had a generation of children miss use of their Park site through lack of development funds. They deserve the funds, as do the northern neighborhoods around Squalicum creek park and the area north of there in Cordata and King mountain. I hope that the Council will use their position to make the hard choice of standing up for what the community as a whole needs and come up with a CR funding package that does not use the majority of our GW funds in the south end where the need is the least at the cost to the north end where the need is clearly the greatest.
- Please adopt the proposal that came from staff.
- Although I do not live in the city, I am a life long resident of Whatcom County and feel very strongly about preserving the beauty of areas within the city and access to it for all residents. Let's keep Bellingham GREEN! The color of life in my opinion.
- Last chance to acquire land. King Mountain, Galbraith Mountain, Chuckanut Ridge. Don't blow it!
- Please take time to consider the monetary logic in building upon space already set aside. I would also encourage a lot of forethought on how many new people are planned for the north end of town. More Greenways to cater to them would help maintain the amount of PEACE one is able to find in a city park now> Due to the amount of parks available for our current number of residents.
- People move here because of the beauty- especially on the South side. Once these areas are built upon it is irreversible. It seems we are so into building especially on the hillsides, Bellingham will look like Saucilto, CA.- no evergreen trees surrounding the city, buildings everywhere. The area above Barkley is a blight. Ugly. Stuffed with buildings, no greenery. Once Chuckanut Ridge is built on it is irreversible. What are we thinking??? the north of Bellingham has no sites like this. We have to prioritize - those in the north can drive to the south for forest. Those in the south can drive to the north for wetlands and grassy parks. Once Bellingham fills it's "quota" which the council set too high to begin with, then what?? Building will never end, it will spread. All we can do now is protect special areas for the future. Everett, Blaine are wanting more to move there. What do we want Bellingham to look like in 50 years, not the next 10. We should be updating and working on simplifying and updating the building codes with height restrictions. Everyone wants a "View," but there is only so many spots for that. We are already pricing our real estate out of the realm of those who work here. We have little big industry here. So vacation homes, retirement homes, rental homes, investment homes- is that what we want? Please save our big chunks of forest- there is so few of it left.
- I live in Geneva so am a Bellingham resident, just living outside the city limits. Our community is growing rapidly and land costs are rising as rapidly. The most important step today is to get important connecting pieces of land to stop the development. Improving or developing lands is less important today than acquiring it. Once we have it in the public

- chest, then we can work to find local user groups to help to improve the owned and protected properties. We need to think far in advance and protect what we have today. We can then improve it later.
- Chuckanut Ridge should not be portrayed as a north/south issue but as a general environmental issue. This property is worth far more to future generations as a permanently preserved forest land than as a "gimme" for the BIA. There's an old American Indian saying that in our every deliberation we must consider the impact of our decision on the next seven generations. Keeping Chuckanut Ridge safe from developers forever should be a priority for anyone in Bellingham who claims to love our beautiful scenery. I think most would agree that concrete and steel are not considered beautiful scenery. Once we destroy old-growth or second-growth forests, we just don't get them back. Let us please stop this silly north/south bickering and look at the real issue: being good stewards of our beautiful and intrinsically important environment. The animals and plants don't get a vote; they are subject to our whims and flawed science and differing passions. If people insist on looking at north/south balances, let's consider the fact that Fairhaven has been horribly "uglified" by cancer-like growths of condos in just the past year alone. Must we make the south side even worse? But forget the ratios and look at the land itself: Chuckanut Ridge is special because of wetlands, because of the old growth, because of the diverse animal and plant life. Besides, it would be downright foolish to have taxpayers pay more for extra services (roads, sewers, etc.) to a development like that than to just purchase the land and protect it. If Chuckanut Ridge is not taken off the market for good, it will certainly look to many of us as though the BIA controls the purse strings (and a whole lot more) in this city.
 - I believe land that is particularly "valuable" as "environment" and habitat should be highest priority.
 - We feel that purchase of Chuckanut Ridge by the city for long-term preservation is the top priority and would show far more foresight than the myriad smaller pet projects that tend to get financed. Green spaces need to be saved now for the future, and this is a critical piece of habitat and its development in no way constitutes "in-fill."
 - We need parks in the north end of Bellingham!!! we have nothing here!!!
 - I grew up in Southern California and know what mindless development can accomplish. We have the opportunity here to accomplish something superior, truly a legacy to be proud of and create a city and environs we love. Let's do that.
 - Greenways are so important to the health and-well-being of our community. Thank you for the time you devote to this project.
 - I think the City Council should really consider the needs of parks before acquiring any portion of Chuckanut Ridge. Given the property has to go through a permit process, it seems likely that the City will eventually obtain those park functions that were found necessary during review of the Open Space plan, adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan. I do not want to spend any of my tax dollars on purchasing wetlands or open space corridors that will already be protected and obtained through the permitting process. The Chuckanut Ridge property has development opportunity similar to those developed properties in the vicinity - except that it is vacant.
 - 100-acre woods is an excellent location for high-density housing. The city can work with the developer to provide a benefit to housing needs while also preserving significant habitat that is also an amenity to the all residents. Perhaps the developer could pay for additional infrastructure impacts such as widening the bridge into Fairhaven.
 - We desperately need a park in the Cordata neighborhood and I feel this should take TOP priority, especially considering the amount of new homes being built in this area. Please, please, please - give our children a park to play in! It is not fair that I have to "sneak" my child into the playgrounds at neighborhood apartment buildings (we do not live in an apartment) so she can play on a jungle gym or go down the slides. The nearest park to our home is Cornwall Park and that is nearly 3 miles away and we must fight the Guide Meridian traffic to get there. We need a neighborhood park that we can walk or ride our bicycles too, like every other neighborhood in this town. Thank you for taking on this task! It will be GREATLY appreciated!
 - Greenways are a vital part of Bellingham's community. The community gets stronger as more greenways get invested into providing additional space for community members to go and relieve themselves from a growing communities hustle and bustle. Please continue to put funds and support towards expanding Bellingham's greenway system.

- I do not like the way the city is dividing north against the south. I think the major has lacked leadership on this. When I hear non political people in our school staff room saying we may need a change in mayor then you know this has divided the community.
- Greenways has been particularly successful in developing trails. We cannot buy all existing vacant land to prevent development. What we might be able to do is to buy a right of way alongside a development and connect them to existing trails.
- Find sources of money for greenways other than property taxes.
- It is critically important not only to add more land based to the existing Greenways but also to lobby against the kind of development that plagues Chuckanut Ridge. Developers will gobble up the land, putting housing projects right up against the parks and trails we are trying to preserve unless we create buffers and look at the overall impact of such developments.
- I FEEL THAT GREENWAYS EXPENDITURES ARE PRESENTLY THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF BELLINGHAM. I ALSO FEEL THAT DEVELOPERS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS SCHOOLS, ROADS, WATER-SEWER, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO EXPRESS MY OPINIONS.
- I would like to see some compromise over Chuckanut Highlands. Some percentage of the total property that would allow current trails with very wide buffers, not just a few feet of sparse vegetation, should be an objective to follow. I am opposed to full purchase of the property because it would draw too much of the funds collected.
- Greenways are very important and we need to keep them in front of the public all the time. This takes work. Greenways should draw attention to the improvements they are making with signs (unobtrusive, inviting words and signs that "ask people to enjoy your Greenways trail here at . . . ")
- Greenways money should be used in the highest interests of protecting and conserving nature, habitat, ecosystems for the benefit of future generations, not for supplementation of the public works and parks budgets. Buy open space! I've seen in City literature, the term "empty space," as though anything undeveloped is empty. It is not empty.
- Pass the levy for our future and our children's future.
- I think it really important to maintain Bellingham in a way that encourages outdoor walking and hiking in scenic areas, preserves and enhances views of Bay, hills, and the waterfront, restrains houses and other structures that go up the sides of the hills/mountains, and that the Greenways paths connect all parts of the City. Greenways is one of the best things we have here besides our waterfront; it is a crucial element in keeping us connected and will be ever more important as we look for ways to use less of those Arabs' oil. Thank you.
- Now that there are park impact fees, this greenways levy should be most if not all about acquisition. Giving the option of either parks north of I-5 or Chuckanut ridge is wrong and the individuals that say this are going to doom to failure whatever greenways gets put forward by the City Council. We can and should have it all. I am all in favor of giving more to the park deficient portions of the city but we also must be able to preserve special parcels like Chuckanut Ridge. Greenways should be for acquisition and not for some park department/mayor slush fund to continue to spend our tax money on over priced & over done development projects like the intersection of Old Samish Rd and the Interurban. I WANT A GREENWAYS THAT PROVIDES FOR ALL....THROW THE IDIOTIC POLITICAL CRAP ASSIDE AND DO WHAT IS BEST FOR EVERYONE IN THE CITY!!!!!! There is no reason we can't give everyone what the want.
- Chuckanut Ridge area should be the first and foremost on the list of land acquisitions. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity that future generations will praise us for. I keep hearing that it is not an environmentally valuable from our planners. This is hogwash. It has so much value in its current state, environmentally and in other ways. It could make an incredible natural corridor from Fairhaven park to Arroyo park and Chuckanut mountain. There are other areas of importance, but many people head towards the Southside/Chuckanut first when then need to recharge in a natural environment. This is not the place to infill the city with condos and high rises. The planners are making a huge mistake with this perspective. Decisions made decades ago are now obsolete considering how fast this city is growing today.
- Acquire major tracts of available green space now before it is too late.
- To equalize the total Greenways funding (including 1990 & 1998(7) & 2006) for a goal of 50% north and 50% south does not take into consideration unique natural areas that should be

preserved no matter where they are located. This 50/50 funding split is divisive. We are one community. Mistakes were made in the past by not purchasing the Chuckanut Ridge site with the first levy and by not planning very well at all on the north on B'ham and letting developers take over. Let's not keep making mistakes just to obtain an arbitrary 50/50 split. Congratulations for voting in additional impact fees this week. Thanks for listening to us. Thanks for the public hearing last night. Thanks for helping to negotiate something that hopefully will work for everyone.

- It is important to me that missing links in the Whatcom Creek Trail get built so that there's a continuous trail from Bloedel-Donovan to the waterfront.
- Purchasing land NOW is the most important thing we need to do. If we let it slip away there is no way to have it later. Some of these questions are confusing: Greenways doesn't have anything to do with maintaining city buildings (civic field dressing rooms). Let people do their community service in doing maintenance for the city.
- At this time of extreme growth there is no more important focus than preserving open space. Vancouver, BC required developers to pay for parks - has this been discussed, rather than placing full burden on the individual tax payer?
- While maintenance and development of parks is important, now seems like a key time to be setting aside land before it's developed, even if it is not used for a while, before it is developed.
- Buying land for future parks is extremely important to me because the price of land will continue to increase and put many parcels out of reach for us. In addition I feel that funding of the maintenance and operations of parks are already in the budget and the tax payers are paying for this. Perhaps that budget needs to be increased if it is not meeting the maintenance and operation needs.
- The biggest need for parks and trails is in Cordata.
- I think that corridors are extremely important. For instance, there is currently no good trail to Irongate from town. James st. by Sunset Pond is flat out dangerous on a bike. Also, there seems to be no good way to get out to Whatcom Community College. Greenways are great for everybody, but if they don't ultimately link up major housing and business areas, you're not going to see anybody get out of their cars and use them to get places. The Guide is dangerous, James is dangerous, and so is Hannegan. Greenways are no good if they're dead-end trails.
- Since the middle and southern areas of Bellingham have quite a few parks and trails with the north end with practically nothing, you should concentrate on equalizing the locations of the parks and trails. Get the developers to shoulder some of the cost of the new land needed. Example, to help acquire schools in some states they charge \$1500 for each house.
- The Mayor and City Council are playing politics of the most disgusting kind: trying to divide the city and pitch neighbors against neighbors in a North vs. South fight over parks and money. Mayor Asmundson should be ashamed of his behavior. He has lost my vote and my contributions to future campaigns. We are all in this together. The north side needs Chuckanut Ridge, and the south side needs parks and greenways in Cordata and Guide Meridian. We are one city, and to suggest that acquisition of land on the south side would only benefit a small minority is to engage in the sort of divisive politics we expect from someone trying to retain office at any cost.
- Do NOT devote substantial funding to 100 Acres; pressure the developer to preserve as much land as possible and make it available for public use. Do create better funding for maintenance and improvement of existing assets. Link parks and trails together better so that they can become part of a non-motorized transportation network within Bellingham. Make sure that GP site improvements connect with other important trails and destinations, including WWU
- I think that preserving open space and natural habitats, and creating trails and parks is one of the most important things that we do in Bellingham. I completely support Greenways, and while I always keep an eye on the budget, I feel that Greenways is a worthwhile expense. I think that the top priority should be to obtain as much land as possible, now, while it is still available, even if it can't be developed into parkland right away. Concerning where land purchases should be made, I think that we should strive for a balance throughout the city, and certainly not leave the north parts of town with nothing. However, I think that completing the trail systems, like Bay to Baker, is equally important, and preserving animal habitats probably

- most important of all. I also think that the intrinsic qualities of a given parcel of land should be a consideration. We shouldn't turn our backs on a particularly beautiful or ecologically important piece of just because it is located on the south side or the north side. And on a related subject, we should be able to get to our parks, so we shouldn't let the streets become so congested that we can't use them. I don't spend a lot of time in the "Hundred Acre Wood" myself, but I do hike several times a week and I love to hike up to Fragrance Lake. If Chuckanut Drive becomes impassable, I won't be able to go there anymore! By the way....change my answer on assessments for Greenways. I don't mind if it costs a bit more!
- I can't believe that you can just attach more taxes on already overly high taxes. Having taken advantage of the growth of the area, you have used this to raise taxes to the hilt. I will not vote for a new levy. There are more important things for people to just exist in this city. What are you trying to do, drive people away?
 - Neither bioregions nor ecosystems work on political boundaries. If we're going to protect and preserve sensitive wildlife habitat corridors that house indicator species, we need to take an honest look at where they still exist. And this means Chuckanut Ridge, not Cordata. For this reason I support the Greenways Legacy plan. Trying to say we need to have the same amount of parks acreage north of Lakeway Dr. as we do south of it in order to be fair ignores the reality of existing conditions. It is like trying to paint a picture with just one color. The city's many areas have different needs and preserving a healthy environment requires more attention to specific areas. Preserving the health of the Chuckanut ridge area is far more important than making it easier to develop the real estate through some kind of fairness doctrine. I do agree that the Cordata area needs to be a lot greener. But to do so from a natural systems perspective would mean to remove all the blight known as sprawl and replant trees and restore all the wetlands that have been filled in and paved over, and not to encourage or make it easier for yet more development in an area that is grossly (from both a size and aesthetic perspective) overdeveloped. If the parks need to be maintained, and they definitely do, then that should be a regular city budget item, and not a levy. If they mayor says they can't afford it, maybe they should quit giving millions a year away in development subsidies, and assess 100% impact fees on new development so the taxpayers aren't stuck with the bill. Thank you
 - I believe that the development of the GP property is very important, but I also believe the city needs to be extremely careful when budgeting for remediation. They have purchased a superfund cite that will be extremely hard to clean up and it needs to be handled well so it doesn't cost the tax-payers too much money. Also, residential and retail development needs to be minimized in that area, it is shameful how little accessible waterfront exists in this city. We are already seeing a surge in development, but we need to preserve areas for citizens to recreate. I think investing in reputable urban planners (like for the city of Portland, OR) that have accomplished this in other areas, is essential.
 - Preserve available green space. Develop later. Maintain from general tax funds.
 - I think it is critical to take into consideration preserving the wild, sensitive ecosystems in and around our town. It is secondary that people have pretty parks to "play" in. The Earth is a delicately balanced ecosystem in which we humans are allowed to "share" the bounty.
 - Greenways is not a maintenance bond to support the Parks department. The issue is being politicized by people who want to Parks' bills rather than set aside our land for future generations. The goal must be to protect the last stands of green space first, then to slowly connect and incorporate them into current parks. Trails and connectors are critical. Location within the city is irrelevant. As a strong environmental supporter, I will seriously consider and probably oppose ANY levy that is simply a parks maintenance bond instead of a land preservation mechanism. Why is it so hard to follow the will of the people to set aside our heritage for future generations.
 - I think that the council has made up it's mind, but is neglecting to consider all of Bellingham in it's ideas for parks and recreation. I also think that raising any tax (as in utilities) hurts those that can least afford it. Spending money on all the perks may impress those who continually support your career in politics, but to those of us who work and live in town it seems harder to understand. You burden workers with having to work more than one job and seniors fear daily living expenses while the wealthy and students cry for art and recreation. I pray you hear the voice of the retired poor and working poor and cut down on your spending spree. Until Bellingham is livable for all it is not the great town you advertise. I live in one of the

neighborhoods that the college kids call a ghetto and see more police cars than any where else in town. Also one of my jobs is cleaning houses for elderly clients of the senior low-income high rises and listen to their fear of growing costs and inability to buy good food and medicine. You need to hear all voices and before you put in one more cement guarder or park or trail or theater or museum, please consider the neighborhoods with no parks and no road repairs or sidewalks and all the workers of local businesses without medical care and seniors living on fixed incomes. You all seem unaware or uncaring to many of us. Thank you for your time and I pray consideration Nichol Fritz Bellingham

- I'm going to have to "unretire" to afford these taxes.
- The parks and trails are one of the prime reasons I want to continue living in Bellingham.
- I feel that connectivity and using the funds strategically. To me this means buying all sorts of trail corridors and buying high value habitat. I am opposed to buying the Fairhaven highlands. I feel the funds should buy cheap land with high habitat value and not highly valued developable land where possible, the money will go further. Connectivity is the key. Soma balance between north and south would be nice but I also love natural parks and most of the nice natural land happens to be in the south. The things to buy in the north would be multi-use trails that allow bikes and walkers to get from park to park.
- The whole world is watching!
- I think that the North end of town needs to catch up in the green space available on the Southern part of town. Continued maintenance is of concern. Acquisition is not the only need. Development of existing parcels/trails and maintenance of these new parks/trails is important to me.
- Please spend the funds for true Greenways projects not private sports facilities and other ridiculous projects having nothing to do with Greenways.
- I live in the Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood. We have essentially no parks and trails out here in yet the city has approved huge new residential housing developments in this area. The strongest consideration should be given to this area for more parks and trails! Chuckanut Ridge is my lowest priority.
- Developing the waterfront (Georgia Pacific lands) for general public use is critically important to the future of Bellingham. I believe we should place little emphasis on commercial use of that area.
- Acquisition and development of parks, trail, and green spaces in the North end of the city is extremely important!!!!!!
- save Chuckanut crest!
- It is unfortunate that this survey is confusing and biased. It is still obvious that the public is being giving information to divide the city between north and south (the question on where we live should not be in the survey, for example). The rate of growth is astounding and unbelievable in Bellingham with no long term plan in place. We need to buy land now for open space, not just for the people to enjoy (why do you think people want to live here?) but to protect the environment, to preserve open space, trees, animals, birds, etc. and to provide a corridor for the species that still exist here. Look at Seattle, where there is so little open space compared to its population size, look at what is happening just south of us in the Burlington area, so much development, mall after mall, after mall. When will it all stop? Let us buy the land now, while it still exists because there is no other to prevent us from being just another pacific coast over developed, crowded city.
- With regard to the permanent fund, enough funding should be maintained to keep up with maintenance of parks. With regard to priorities, issues like Chuckanut Ridge are important for their environmental uniqueness, not easily replaced once lost. As for Squalicum Creek Park, mostly open space and trails, fewer ball fields, be mindful of traffic and parking.
- Listen to yourselves and your peers not the mayor
- Separating the questions into three distinct subjects is very divisive and will give very incomplete and biased results to the survey. I support a long term levy to support the acquiring of high value (significantly biologically and recreationally important) properties as soon as possible. If they are not acquired now, they will be gone or will be unaffordable. This city needs to graduate from kindergarten and look at the long term needs that the WHOLE city needs and wants. Citizens need to be listened to. The mayor needs to stay out of it and let the people that he works for craft this levy.

- Feeling a little over taxed, just passed EMS, school bond coming up for vote and now Greenways. Our house was recently reassessed causing property taxes to go up, water meter recently installed causing huge water bill increase. So, not very interested in paying more, especially to buy private land (Chuckanut Ridge) for special interest groups.
- I'd like to see more trails through new developments, like you can find in Ridgemont area. I'd also really like to see land acquired (or trails through new developments) that would enable a trail way from Whatcom Falls Park and the Civic field complex, through the Hawley Farm open space and the Samish Crest Natural area on the west side of Yew Street, connecting to Lake Padden. I wouldn't mind acquiring land in the Chuckanut Ridge area, but I'd like to leave it undeveloped. Besides, there are already lots of "unofficial" trails in that area that locals have created.
- I am an ardent supporter of Greenways. I would like to see the city acquire as much green space as possible during the development boom that is beginning to unfurl and will only amplify with the advent of the 2010 winter Games in Vancouver.
- Serve the community equitably. Prioritize underserved areas to the North and on the waterfront, where much of the growth is being directed.
- Please do not develop the Chuckanut Ridge site. It would be such a sad thing for this wonderful city.
- New development should fund all its expenses, including infrastructure, parks, and affordable housing! Pay as you go. While change is inevitable, growth, especially subsidized by current residents, is not!
- It is the Mayor's responsibility to lead our city forward. As of yet, all he has done is create and strengthen the divide within our city and our citizens. I am seriously disappointed with his leadership.
- I most definitely support the levy that raises the money to purchase Chuckanut Ridge and completely stops the "Chuckanut Highlands" development! Philip Shantz 1921 Rainier Ave 676-0927
- I'm uncomfortable with using Greenways funds for park maintenance. The money should be used to acquire new property first, then some for development and, if any is for maintenance, it should go into the endowment fund. Although I would like to see Chuckanut Ridge preserved, the cost is too high as a proportion of the total proposed budget. Perhaps some could be earmarked for part of the cost of Chuckanut Ridge and the proponents should raise the rest-that's a compromise. As for parks in the north part of the city, the developers, not the taxpayers should be responsible for most of the cost of park acquisition. thank you
- We will not vote for any levy that has millions for the purchase of The Chuckanut ridge property.
- The area between King & Queen Mountains is a peaceful little area know to the locals as Royal Valley. It is a wonderful wildlife corridor and has great potential as a place for parks, trails and a horticulture learning facility as well as space for community gardens. I would strongly encourage the council to take a close look at this area and give it high priority when they look at which pieces of property to purchase as part of a new greenways levy.
- I now live in the county at top of Yew St. Rd. I lived in B'ham for 10 yrs. and work and play there!
- I support the Greenway 06 and Mayor's plan rather than the Greenways Legacy plan. I don't see a need for more parks in Sorth Bellingham.
- The question of whether or not to obtain the Chuckanut Ridge property is not a north/south issue. The area supports a wildlife habitat that is linked to the most of the city's greenways. Without it, we will be compromising the entire city's wild areas, and once species are lost, recovery is extremely difficult and unlikely. Choosing not to use funds for its use strictly because people like our mayor are turning this into a battle between the north & south for funds is a gross error. If people understood its environmental significance to our entire area, they may be more likely to support its acquisition by the city.
- more dog friendly/off leash areas in north Bellingham
- buying as much land/open space as possible is the main priority. It can always be developed later. The rate Bellingham is growing we won't have any open land to purchase in a few short years!!
- We have too much greenways/parks/open space now. Certainly don't buy any more in the Southern region of the city. Those who move into Cordata with no parks, understand that

- there are no parks there except those that are in their development. DO NOT BUY ANY PARKS there. If they want parks, they could have moved in to a home near a park.
- Take a long-term view. The goal: everyone able to walk to a park in five minutes. How close can you get to this ideal? New real estate developments should be the primary source of new parks in the same locale. Parks should be treated as a requirement and funded just like new roads, additional fire department and police department capital outlays, etc, when a new development is built. Parks should not be an afterthought.
 - Please continue to buy whatever we can - there will always be time/opportunity to develop sites in the future, but the chance to purchase property may never come again (and/or will be much more expensive).
 - I think the tax assessment should be sufficient to address all the areas of concern raised. It is a small price to pay to have parks, trails, facilities and open spaces throughout the city that are well planned and maintained.
 - The beachfront (I think it is called little Squalicum beach) at the end of the industrial district on the waterfront needs work. It is difficult to access, the parking lot is full of potholes and is muddy. The beach itself is ok, but is very hard to walk due to blowdown. Also, a walking path from the Columbia neighborhood (I live on Jaeger St) would be something worth considering.
 - We should buy as much land as we can now before it is developed. We can add trails and other amenities later.
 - Don't raise my property taxes again! It's tough enough to own/maintain a home, I have plans for that money the city wants to take.
 - If the neighborhood is willing to work on redevelopment of a park and raise funds, there needs to be a clearer method for getting improvements approved. Parks department resists because they are worried about changes resulting in maintaining at a higher cost.
 - The question of south vs. north and "fair" distribution of spending needs to be balanced against where there is land that is of importance to our ecosystems and natural beauty. It doesn't make sense to purchase treeless land next to a highway at the exclusion of a forested areas where wildlife abound. Additionally, in areas near developments, developers should be paying to create parks rather than using our greenways funds. those funds should be used for environments that need to be protected and can be used for recreational purposes as well as to maintain the overall natural beauty of our areas.
 - Greenways is our community savings account for future live-ability of our city. Everything that makes this city desirable to economic interests will fail if quality of living is not upheld in order to attract to this area the kind of people who make good workers and investors. We know already from the example of G.P. that once private enterprise has had its way with an area, the mess is left for taxpayers to clean up and the land sometimes contributes to the city's liability rather than livability. I urge you to protect the common interests and avoid the future expense of reclamation after private enterprise has used up all the resources that make this city so pleasant to live in. Support Greenways to purchase land now to keep it in trust for future sustainability.
 - There are no parks or trails in the Cordata area. There are no bike lanes connecting the Cordata area to the Bellingham city area biking and recreation areas. Thousands of people will be moving to the Cordata during the next few years. Where is the Bellingham quality of life for the Cordata area that has been promoted by the City counsel and staff.
 - Do not use greenways money to purchase special interest areas, especially Fairhaven Highlands. Use existing regulations to get open space from that development and utilize the levy money for areas that need more trails and to develop existing greenways property.
 - It's extremely crucial that as much land be purchased and set aside for Greenways. Greenways funds used for maintenance and repair of existing parks is not what the intention of Greenways is, it is to purchase and set aside land for now and future generations. Once it is paved, it's gone.
 - Do not decrease money that is going to the parks at this point, just because a greenways levy passes. Please let the levy money pay for new property. We can develop the property later, but if it is not saved from development then it will be gone.
 - Chuckanut Ridge/Fairhaven Highlands definitely should be acquired as part of a Greenway Proposal.

- I would like to see the Samish Crest to Lake Padden trail system developed. But with my property values having increased so much I am afraid \$.57 will be too big a hit on my pocketbook.
- Now is the time to preserve available forest land in this town, it will never be cheaper or have more opportunity to connect natural areas. B'ham needs to protect wild lands not just areas for parks or bike path corridors...although wonderful they do not support a wide variety of wildlife or protect our streams well. Set aside the wild lands today even if they have to have to maintenance for yrs to come...at least it is preserved!!
- Its too late for a level. Those involved with the different proposals should have sat down and worked it out before the holidays, they did not and at this time and properly even next year a level should not be put to the voters. I hate to say this but I'm hearing to many people saying they will not support another Greenways until other issues such as the library, is the EMS tax going to be enough, traffic, growth, neighborhood plans, law and justice or neighborhood safety need to be addressed, FIRST.
- As the City/County continues to find ways to generate more income is there a chance they could look at the other side of the equation as well (CUT EXPENSES)? Between the parks budget, greenways, and not the park impact fee - it appears to be to much money. And, how can such programs be diverted to such activities like expanding locker rooms at the pool and artificial turf at Civic Field. It seems there all these great creative ways to extract money. I don't trust the best interest of the public funds is truly being pursued.
- I was born in Bellingham 44.5 years ago. I am a 5th generation Whatcom County resident. I have also traveled to many cities around the world and must caution against allowing Bellingham to become a "concrete jungle". The Greenways Levy is our only way of ensuring that our families have as beautiful a place to grow up in as I did. If we don't purchase these lands now, they will be developed at our community's expense for the profit of the few. Please do the right thing and keep this city livable. Eric L. Mastor
- When I moved here from Chicago in 1997, I was extremely excited to hear about Greenways and took advantage of most of the trails immediately. I was convinced that Bellingham had a vision that other cities didn't. I am rapidly losing faith that the vision I saw is still alive. Please don't lose the vision of a livable city with many trails and parks!
- It is extremely important that the City of Bellingham set aside green spaces with in the urban area. Of specific importance is the Chuckanut Ridge area (the Hundred Acre wood) because of the important ecosystems that are contained within. To loose this valuable area to development would be a shame.
- Greenways fund should not be used to buy the "100 acre wood". That is prime property for housing. But the proposed density is too great. The impacts of that many additional residents would be too great. Could Greenways money be used to buy land within that plot to reduce density?
- The most wooded natural areas, especially near the sound, should be preserved. I love the two large forested parks within th3 city limits of Portland. We have Whatcom Falls Park in this category and the city should have Chuckanut Ridge which would adjoin Chuckanut Drive and the Interurban and Pacific Crest Trail - all so beautiful.
- Open up Padden Creek Tunnel for flood control and fish enhancement
- It is critical that funds be used for land acquisition today--as much land, in as many areas, as possible. It is due to city mismanagement that land in the north was not acquired as developments were approved. It is time to rectify this--at the same time it is critical to acquire Chuckanut Ridge. It will be too late in the future--the future is NOW, do it for our kids, for our legacy! Make sure that funds are distributed equally to all parts of the city (that's three areas, in my way of looking at the map--south, central, and north).
- We should do a shorter less expensive greenways levy to purchase parks on the north side...add to endowment, but no operating money. Borrowing to live on is "bad" financial planning. The perception is that it releases general fund money to be spent on other projects...
- The Greenways levy tax base should be expanded to include taxing developers for each property they develop. This would be a way to make those who benefit from development pay the community back directly by funding the preservation of the city's remaining natural areas.
- My number one concern is that Bellingham will maintain current level of developed parks and trails. Further development should begin in North Bellingham, where parks are in need. I'd

- like to see the wooded areas of parks remain wooded. Bellingham has an abundance of parks and trails. I don't want to see over development of parks, only to find out there is no money to maintain each and every park and trail. There are more parks and trails in Bellingham than the average family of 4 can adequately cover in 2 years.
- Greenways \$ should be spent in ways that bring the greatest value for the money spent, whether to purchase new lands for preservation or to develop/maintain existing properties. Secondly, Greenways \$ should be distributed in ways that benefit the most people, rather than on distribution attempting to spend funds equally across the city.
 - I would like Greenways to emphasize preserving areas of natural environment and reserves within the city to some degree WITHOUT extensive trails, picnic tables, parking (e.g. Stimson Nature Reserve type of lands) I am happy with the presence of "developed" parks in the city, as well, but holding space for UNIQUE, NATURAL areas and habitats amidst further city development in appropriate areas is of foremost concern to me and the future of Bellingham city and environment.
 - Very disappointed in the skewed questions and the divisive nature of the survey. Previous north/south split had been Whatcom Creek. It now appears to be Lakeway Dr. If one is to choose a parameter, one should be consistent. These questions shouldn't be either/or but quantitative in nature.
 - Improving the GP site will benefit everyone in Bellingham. New development and parks in the outlying areas like Cordata will help to ease the pain of living in human warehousing. While I understand the people living in Fairhaven feel very attached and feel a sense of ownership with the 100-acre woods, it sounds like there are opportunities for a group of dedicated Fairhaven residents to buy the land and I would support their effort. However Fairhaven residents like many living in older neighborhoods already have ample park space. I am lucky to live close to Cornwall and Broadway parks. It is important that new development areas include parks so everyone in our community can share in our good fortune. However our main priority should be improving the GP site because everyone uses downtown. The economic benefits of a vibrant downtown with local independent businesses that will thrive and return portions of their profits back into other local businesses will increase the quality of life for the entire community. Our second priority should be new parks for growing areas that need them. The third should be to improve trails and develop existing land owned by the city with volunteer help from the residents in the neighborhoods closest to the parks so they can take pride and ownership in their local park. All of this development and work will be wasted unless portions of the greenway funds are provided to maintain our parks.
 - While living in B'ham, I promoted Beyond Greenways by doorbelling. I am strongly in favor of a new greenways levy. I ride the trails that have been developed by these levies almost daily as I go about my shopping in town. I may not live there but I do most of my shopping in B'ham. I support the economy there. I leave my car at home most days and ride around town. I would ride more places if you had trails there that would separate cars from peds/bikes/etc. I feel that at this time, acquisition of land needs to take precedence over maintenance of existing trails and facilities or even development of those lands. Spend your money on getting the land now while it is available and more affordable and then fix it up later
 - The area north of Interstate 5 has been overlooked and ignored by both city government and developers as the character of the area has changed from industrial to predominantly residential with this trend continuing as evidenced by ongoing and planned residential growth. This is true in set asides for parks, trails and recreation, community facilities and traffic revisions to accommodate the quality of life needs of residents. This Greenways levy should address the needs of this area as a top priority so that residents can enjoy the same amenities as citizens in other parts of city, especially those on the south side where much of the Greenways funds have been spent to date.
 - Greenways development needs to include more recreation activities for children and adults, such as soccer fields.
 - The Greenways funds should be for land acquisition and management and NOT to supplement park budget.
 - I live in Chuckanut and although just outside the city limits, I am strongly affected by what happens inside the city limits.
 - Is it even possible for the City to buy the 100 acre wood? Is Edelstein still willing to negotiate? I want to save this as much as the next person. But I also fully support the

- Greenways 2006 proposal, as it was looked into by former Parks Board and Greenways people who have a good working relationship with Council, Staff and the Mayor. And the Greenways 2006 people are in no way Mayor "yes men/women" types. I can vouch for that. I respect their opinions immensely. I wish there was a way to do it all, but only in the parameters of 10 years, and at the more reasonable cost. There still are voters who won't support the higher sum, even in Bellingham. Hey, can you buy the abandoned shopping area, by Toys R Us for housing or parks? Just adding on to my previous statement made to council that things CAN be obtained with patience, as properties come available, even if at market value. The now or never thing is too doomsday. Yes, you may lose the 100 acre wood. Unfortunately that is true. I wish there was a way. But I still have to wonder why the Legacy people aren't asking for private donations also. Or just come But to have equity in the North, like expanding You know, Tim Wahl has been extremely diligent in negotiating and watching for properties over the years. And Parks Board and Greenways folks have done a good job. Obviously the focus shifts, and I wasn't even aware of how little parks properties was set aside in the North, but hey, lets just fix it, and not point blame. Tim Douglas had it right when he said no one really envisioned the North side/industrial areas ending up as they have. Although my husband grandfather pointed out that building always goes to the North. That helped him in procuring good real estate, but he wasn't one to speak at public hearings. We could all do our part by contributing to greenways in our own yards. We could stretch a corridor in between areas where greenways aren't by doing it privately. How about tax breaks for people who make "greenways" in their own back yards? TAX BREAKS. I have a back yard wild life habitat, and maintain a city park with a few volunteers myself. I am a stand alone in an urban setting, but I am ready to be a "link". Maybe people won't just do it as a "nice guy", but only if there are tax incentives. One last consideration, is the city purchased property around Lake Whatcom. As a former parks board member, it was brought to my attention, that abandoned, unimproved property, which is pristine, is great for our lake, and I firmly support this plan. However, there is litter and rowdiness, that the Parks Staff cannot keep up with. What about these problems? What would the 100 acre wood be like? Would the neighbors patrol it? Maintain it? Good questions....thanks for your hard work.
- "I don't skate to where the puck is, I skate to where the puck is going to be." -- The Great One Look out to 40 years from now. Future residents will either be cursing our graves or blessing our foresight. Now, not later, is the time to gain community assets. And, yes, it is the duty of our government to provide collectively what we cannot do individually for ourselves. This includes parks as well as Louisiana levees. Get this done now, don't wait until it's too late.
 - I don't understand why Chuckanut Ridge wasn't purchased and protected with the first Greenways Levy like it was supposed to.
 - Please save Chuckanut ridge and keep greenways thriving!!!
 - I believe it is critical to place the priority on acquiring land while it is still available in areas we know will continue to grow. Good examples include the waterfront and North Bellingham. I also believe that parks, trails, etc are part of our City's infrastructure similar to roads and utilities. Ensuring stable funding for the maintenance of existing and planned assets should be a given when considering the new Greenway levy. Thank you for your attention to this import issue that will greatly impact the citizens of Bellingham and residents of Whatcom County.
 - I would like to see Chuckanut Ridge not be developed and the only way it now seems feasible is for Greenways levy to fund the city buying it from the present owners. I, of course, want to see more parks in the north end of the city too, but because of this current potential development of Chuckanut Ridge, the focus needs to be on the south end at this time. Having these precious wetlands destroyed and huge number of homes built, including high rises would affect all (including the vulnerable animals and plants) and also have a terrible long term effect beyond the south side of Bellingham. No longer would we live near or in a "fair haven". Infilling needs to focus on areas already deforested and preferably near the center of Bellingham or else areas that have already been built on and abandoned. Also, the council should investigate the legality of how the zoning mysteriously changed overnight one night back in the early 1980s(I don't recall the year) and see if it can be overturned. Better now than later! Thanks. Patrice Clark at Clark's Point, which has a conservation easement on 78 acres through the Whatcom Land Trust.

- Please save Chuckanut ridge, it has wetlands and a landscape that make Bellingham such a wonderful place to live. Please don't let houses be built along the interurban trail.
- Greenways has been a community-wide commitment to proactively conserve open space for future generations and to preserve the remarkable beauty of Bellingham. That vision has been conceived as one in which natural preserved areas in the City retain their connection to the natural landscape around the city. This vision has anticipated the fact that it is much better to look ahead and forestall problems that come with "growth" rather than to do what remains possible after development has proceeded. The current controversy stems in part from a slippage in this commitment, so that park development is now seen as equivalent to preservation of open space. The North of the city has not been served well by the "planners", but that should not be remedied by this levy. The mayor has taken an unfortunately prominent role in subverting the original purpose of the Greenways tradition and in so doing has also undermined the community and unity of the city. Please do not allow him to lead us down a road of divisiveness and regrets.
- I am a registered voter in Whatcom County and I am a property tax payer in the Bellingham City limits. I am a proponent of the environment and the wildlife. My desire is that untouched areas be set aside all over Bellingham and Whatcom County to protect and preserve all the non-humans in our community. I'm not that interested in there being trails or developed parks so that more humans can invade more of the undeveloped land. The only reason I can think of to connect trails is to make it possible for wildlife to easily roam the extent of these protected areas.
- Enough already, stop taxing us home owners to death. Make the developers pay for any and all needed parks.
- Chuckanut Ridge is the last natural jewel in the city. It must not be destroyed.
- The preservation of undeveloped land is critical for the overall health of the Bellingham community. Maintenance and development of existing parks could easily be managed through community service and interest of specific groups (school, clubs, neighborhoods) which would have the added benefit of stewardship.
- Please consider master planned areas that can provide parks, trails and open space without significant public expenses. Many of our most beloved parks were donated to the City. We should pursue joint efforts with landowners to acquire land without public expense to taxpayers.
- Dividing the city so that the Central Area Facilities, such as the Civic Field, etc. are included in the "South" Area is inappropriate. You should either have a Central District, or divide your goals so that 2 wards are in each of three districts; North, South and Central
- We have an incredible amount of wonderful open space, parks and trails in the south part of town, we should not buy additional property there. There is a bias toward spending parks and Greenways funds in the Interurban basin. We have discriminated against the north part of town and should reduce expenditures in the south part of town and make sure more is spent in the north part of town. We should not spend one penny on Chuckanut Ridge. As it is developed much of it will be dedicated to open space at no cost to taxpayers. We should place Interurban basin park and trail improvement projects on hold until we have purchased properties in the north part of town, developed Northridge Park and completed the Whatcom Creek Trail.
- It is very unlikely that I will vote for any Greenways Levy that includes dollars toward the purchase of Chuckanut Ridge. I feel that to include the Chuckanut Ridge in a levy will endanger the entire levy package.
- Please think of the city as wards-NOT north/south. Preserve our critical areas as listed in Ann Eissinger's Wildlife Assessment as critical areas. In the South I do not want money for rebuilding a perfectly good trestle at Boulevard Park, work at Lake Padden and I especially do not want a parking lot at Woodstock Farm. Complete OUR Greenways!!
- Current expenses at places like renovation of trail that crosses Lake Samish Road near Arroyo park seem excessive and poorly planned. This detracts from my willingness to support Greenways.
- I personally would like a levy that is 100% acquisition so that we could get as much green space as possible while we can. But I also think that what people in each part of town are passionate about should be addressed in the levy, because that is fair and it is probably the only way a levy will pass. as is the case with Squalicum where lots of money would be spent

on improvement, not acquisition. That would probably be true in the area between Whatcom Falls Park and downtown, too, although it would be nice if this levy could buy some land near the creek for a park in the York neighborhood. The people who live in the Chuckanut Ridge part of town (I don't live there, but I do think that the ridge is a choice greenways acquisition) seem to be extremely passionate about acquiring it above all else. So why not listen to people's passions? What they want for their part of town--not just whether they are north or south of the Mason-Dixon Line?

- very important work, tough choices
- Some of the questions seemed redundant
- Greenways has been an incredibly well thought-out, conscientiously maintained program which very much enhances the community. I have great respect for the work they have done with previous levies. I support the staff recommendations to City Council for the upcoming levy election.
- Please create a levy that will help purchase land to be preserved as wildlife refuge. This will make this city more valuable in the future and will keep our city healthy and clean. Bicyclists need refuge from loud threatening traffic. Animals need safe places to live and breed. Please keep in mind those living beings who can not vote or speak for themselves.
- Get ahead of the land grab and the North side now!
- I don't think the city should be buying land that will be taken off the tax rolls. There are enough parks in Whatcom County, and more parks and greenways means we have to pay more for the upkeep of them.
- Please consider how your decisions will affect future generations. Developers will always push to build more houses for one reason... money.
- I feel the city should get a handle on existing projects before taking on new ones. I further feel that the City Council won't listen to any citizen input, rather just march off in any direction Mayor Mark heads....
- We have a beautiful city here that draws people to it because of its beauty. If we don't purchase the few large remaining beautiful pieces of property, we will no longer have a special city. We would have destroyed the very thing that made us special.
- I support the acquisition of Chuckanut Ridge. It is a community and environmental asset that needs to be preserved as it is and left undeveloped.
- Please purchase land in the Cordata area for a much needed park. I don't mind paying my fair share if I have a park in my vicinity. I don't want to pay for parks just on the south side.
- We need a long-term plan and commitment to preserving the green spaces in Bellingham and Whatcom County. As a lifelong resident of this beautiful area this seems like a pivotal decision affecting the future of Bellingham. We need to keep as much green space as possible now and decide what to do with it later.
- I'm pretty familiar with the area as I've lived here for decades and pretty familiar with the controversy involving the current Greenways proposal. I strongly feel that acquiring any or all of Chuckanut Ridge land should NOT be a Greenways priority. If it were I would prefer to vote against Greenways. Thanks for the chance to comment.
- The city should provide the funding for on going parks maintenance and renovations. They should not have levy for on going expenses. The waterfront should be the highest priority and there is little in the proposed levy.
- Stick to the city's core business functions including the proper funding of its long-term under funded liabilities such as retirements. Too much time and money is spent on non-essentials. Stick to your knitting.
- Green space, and pure open space (even without any trails or parks) is EXTREMELY important for my family. We moved here BECAUSE of the open space. WE DO NOT want developers or this corrupt city government to simply disrespect the majority of the people who live here who WANT OPEN SPACE. WE have had enough of the corruption and games-playing and collusion between the city gov. and developers. Enough is Enough. We want open space for our children and future generations. Period.
- Absolutely supported the past greenway levies and will support a 3rd levy. It is important that the levy monies not be earmarked for particular properties.
- I am interested in mountain biking from Barkley to Padden. I recognize the need for multi-use trails, and walker lanes in busy places would help. I would love to see some place to roller blade. Flat trails would make great roller blade parks. I also enjoy having places for dogs,

- kids, slow moving pedestrians, runners and road bikers. I will use the trails in as many ways as possible. I also like the spray parks. These would work well in areas that do not get wind or shade. Thanks,- Dex
- Please work to preserve the green spaces in our city. We don't need to let the developers ruin it for future generations.
 - Buy the property now and develop it later.
 - Each day we have a new opportunity to protect habitat and a healthy town. Greenways, by its original concept, is about protecting habitat for recreation; it does not make sense to me to throw good money after bad at the paved north end of town. I wish to see protection of the existing trails, and aggressive purchase of areas that provide natural settings for parks and recreation.....a unique characteristic of the flavor of Bellingham.
 - I live 2 blocks outside the city limits. These decisions are very important to me and my family.
 - as a resident of Whatcom county, what Bellingham does, effects me too! I would like to see the trail from the bay to t mountain completed.
 - Top priority: Preserving current open spaces. Second: Maintaining and renovating existing developed parks (St. Clair, for example).
 - Greenways money should not be used to stop development. I believe that the current Greenways proposals that include money to buy Chuckanut Ridge are really trying to stop development.....not add to greenways. I am not in favor of the development of Chuckanut Ridge but I feel stopping it with Greenway money is wrong.
 - I would like to have trails from Toledo Hill to Lake Padden.
 - I believe public access trails and parks are an essential component to quality life here in Bellingham. I would urge the city council to take this opportunity to expand on the current greenways program and plan for an even more enjoyable Bellingham. I support any proposal that seeks to obtain maximum funding for the acquisition of new land for preservation and park use. Please don't squander the future of our beautiful city by under developing our parklands. Eric M Sokolowski knutsenx@comcast.net
 - Regarding Chuckanut Ridge... why can't we think outside the box? How about a Greenways levy that taxes Southside residents more! To include the provision to buy Chuckanut Ridge! Compared to sitting through several traffic light cycles at Fairhaven Parkway and 11th Street I'd be happy to pay more in property taxes to assure that doesn't happen. Thank you.
 - The question of fairness in geographic distribution must look at all the factors; where most of the tax revenue is coming from, where most of the people live, density of park acres vs population in an area, etc. The south end greenways are utilized by everyone in the city, not just by those living in the south. This should not be a north vs south argument, it just happens that some very environmentally valuable land which must be protected now happens to be in the south and we must act now to save it. The fact that there are so few parks in the north end is not the fault of greenways spending priorities but rather an indictment of the city government who not only allowed but encouraged that building spree without requiring set-asides. This same faulty city government thinking is being practiced in Fairhaven at this moment with totally inadequate parking requirements for the building going on there, the end result of which will be more people driving farther to shop at the malls and department stores on the fringes, allowing the downtown business core to die out.
 - Now is the last moment we can save certain areas for our children and our children's children. I don't want Bellingham to grow into Bellevue. I love this place, and want the deer and the creatures in my neighborhood to continue to feel welcome.
 - that a corporation owns some property does not entitle them to any profit monetarily. investment for money is greed. investment in land to preserve it is our God given duty.
 - Developing some plan for access to Woodstock farm is important, but Arroyo Park does not need more attention. The recent Interurban approach to Arroyo upgrade was overkill and more trail and clear-cut and fence than we needed. The "fair" distribution of park resources needs to take into account the quality of the resources available. Some resources, such as play fields and playgrounds and gardens, are local and can potentially be built in many different locations and should be fairly distributed by population, while other scarce resources like waterfront and Chuckanut Ridge are regional in their quality. National Parks, for example, are placed where the national natural treasures are, not where the most people are.

- At a time when Bellingham is growing rapidly, I think that Greenways land acquisition is of paramount importance. Can some of the development and maintenance of parks be taken over by volunteers? Sal Russo
- Regarding distribution of capital acquisitions, development and improvements of existing properties and annual allocation of maintenance budget, I think it should be based on a BALANCE of "fairness" and what is best for the City as a whole. Currently, we have a number of sites and networks but need to build connectors between them. However, we also need to take advantage of opportunities (such as the GP site) when they arise. Further, we should look to cost benefit from a City perspective (again such as the GP site) trying to improve the livability and economic attractiveness of Bellingham as a tourism and business destination location.
- Great program! I enjoy having trails and green spaces in my community. Suggestion - provide dog waste bags and garbage cans on all trails. I frequently use the trail that connects the Birchwood neighborhood to Little Squalicum Beach. There is dog waste everywhere! I think it would encourage people to pick up after their dogs if bags and convenient garbage cans were provided...better yet, how about the biodegradable bags.
- I think this survey has a bias shown by the position of the questions and by lumping the continuance of trail ways all into one very vague proposition. I support us spending our money on purchasing land, that is unique to the city and is used by people from all over the city and is part of the gateway into Bellingham. I do not think we need to spend so much on cosmetics of the parks, certainly do not need to make so many trails. Individual organizations will willingly take that on. We don't need Greenways levy money fed into the waterfront park, that will undoubtedly have its own funding.
- Land purchases and park development should be guided by the principle of choosing the best available land, no matter where it is in the city. This means prioritize buying land such as Fairhaven Highlands and the GP waterfront area. Neither the county, state, nor federal government tries to spread park land purchases equally. This would be a ridiculous policy that would result in many gems that are now parkland, instead being in private ownership.
- At this time acquisition is the key. too much land is being lost. The Chuckanut ridge area is most important because of beauty and wildlife habitat
- It's extremely to spend the money now to purchase land. It won't be there much longer and no matter where it is everyone will have access to it.
- Some city officials have created a shameful, hostile environment for surveys of this type by injecting an artificial north/south socio economic divide in their public comments and description of some residents as "NIMBYs".
- Buy Chuckanut Ridge!
- I frequently walk the trails from civic field to Whatcom falls park, and I really enjoy and appreciate them. I would really, really like to see a sidewalk connection on the stretch of Fraser Street between the trail outlet and the existing sidewalk. There is currently a gap of about 300 yards where all the pedestrians and bicycles have only the narrow shoulder of the road and it is unsafe and scary. There are no streetlights on this stretch either, so at dusk it is really bad.
- let the Horizon Bank/Edelstein "project" DIE/or be bought by WWU for a Research Park- by NOT allocating ANY levy money....as it is UNDEVELOPABLE ...IF Planning dept declares a FULL EIS on Chuckanut Ridge. ALL levy money should go towards purchase land for parks in the North and Cordata AND the Endowment. NONE should go to Parks and Rec for salaries....That is responsibility of the General Fund !!!
- I believe much too much attention has been devoted to the 100 acre woods in Fairhaven. That area already has considerable parks and doesn't need expansion of funds like other areas do, such as in the northeast. I also believe we've already purchased considerable property and it is now time to develop it rather than spending an inordinate amount of resources of more property, especially now that land prices have increased as they have. With valuations and assessments increasing, maintaining the same rate results in considerably higher funding which should be sufficient to meet the funding needs for this worthy sector.
- The city is not here for convenience and profit of developers. There are many other sites more suitable than the 100 Acre Wood for high priced homes. Send the greedy rascals away!!!!

- Greenways Trails really help to make Bellingham the special place that it is. Since the Birchway trail system was created in my neighborhood I have seen so many of my neighbors using and enjoying it. This has definitely improved my neighborhood.
- Excellent survey. Glad to participate and voice my 2 cents worth.
- 1. I believe that if Chuckanut Ridge must be developed it be developed at a density of 3 acre lots or more with expensive houses that are constructed with every attempt to preserve trees. That would preserve habitat and let the Developer make money. 2. I believe that in North Bellingham neighborhoods like Birchwood, we get so much benefit from 1/2 acres lots, that the need for parks is reduced, however, up by Bakerview Road where you're cramming people into multi-family housing, that area needs parks desperately. 3. I think the TREE LINED RIDGES of Bellingham should be protected by ordinance. What kind of lousy Developers would steal something like the backdrop of our lovely cities. We've got to guide these guys... 4. That means that the tree lined ridge on top of King Mountain and Samish Hill should be preserved, rather than used as promontories for expensive houses that flash at you from any view in town! 5. Back to Bakerview Road. That 'community' does not have a 'sense of community'. I can't believe people buy those condos for so much. They're really missing out on the good stuff about Bellingham. The area does not have a cohesive character. Maybe somebody should quick work on that. 6. I think more people should plant trees in their yards. Especially if they are against cutting forests like Chuckanut Ridge. Maybe a City program could promote an attitude that NIMBY's could channel their energy into restoring habitat in their backyards. 7. I don't think people should be so greedy about views of Bellingham Bay. Barkley Hill may have a great place to shop and great trails, but man is that development butt ugly when viewed from across town. I think places like that should start planting trees AND NOT TOP THEM. a.s.a.p. !!!!! 8. So the story you get from me is a combination of the citizens taking some responsibility for what they want: trees/beauty/habitat, and the City making new ordinances that make people behave, and maybe a different way of looking at density that would grasp on the benefit of large lots in that they leave more habitat and give us 'personal parks.' 9. Good luck. I think the Mayor showed excellent leadership in trying to bring everyone together about the levy and what it should be. Good idea.
- No more taxes period.
- What a weird survey. are you afraid to ask the REAL question? As a community, Do you or do you not want to buy the available chunks of land in this city to have as parkland for our future and our children's future??? OF COURSE WE DO!! WE NEED TO --we will never get another chance to save what we believe is important to us! We will NEVER regret the purchases of land throughout the city! Don't you dare spend GREENWAYS money on asphalt!! at civic field--- admit that": that should be a WWU-WTA transport project . CERTAINLY NOT GREENWAYS! Understand the importance of "Legacy" ---please put the Greenways Legacy proposal on the ballot and give this community a chance to be proud of its decisions and PROUD of itself for YEARS AND YEARS to COME. Let's be leaders in doing what we know is good for HUMANS!! Space, GREEN, Undeveloped, soothing; mentally healing; THE EARTH WILL THANK YOU.
- Yes on Greenways! Yes on major land acquisition!
- The North End is in dire need of parks and trails. The South Side seems a little selfish about this! I would hope you will treat this in a fair manner and not bow to the "elite".
- I think it extremely important for our city, and its' future generations of citizens, to purchase beautiful, and environmentally important real estate now before it is all bought and developed.
- I think Chuckanut Ridge is an important area to save, yes. But we also have to consider what amount of money is shooting ourselves in the foot. Do we want to save one huge area of land and not be able to afford anything else? If there were some sort of a compromise, a joint effort perhaps, maybe the city could pay a percentage or do some sort of a matching fund with the greenways money to help preserve whatever portion of the hundred acre wood we can without causing a detriment to the rest of the program.
- Previous question about distribution of funds "fairly across the city" requires agreement on what is fair . . . fair doesn't necessarily mean equal. There are very valuable properties in key places that would be worth buying, which could require more funding to go to one area, but the distribution would still be fair. ALL residents and citizens benefit from property preserved with Greenways money, regardless of what part of town they live in (ie: the north town residents benefit greatly by having the interurban and essential "wilderness" of Chuckanut /

- interurban so close even if it isn't in their immediate backyard. Likewise, southern residents benefit from the trails and pocket parks that connect town with county in the north. Greenways levy money is citywide and this should not become a north vs south / neighborhood issue. I think maintenance and development for the properties, once they are purchased by the city (including all those purchased previously over the last 20 years) should be out of the Parks and Rec and Public Works Department budget - and those budgets determined accordingly. GREENWAYS funding should be primarily to purchase and preserve existing green space!! I feel strongly about this. Regarding Chuckanut Highlands I strongly disapprove of City regulations and policies that would allow density of 739 units there and strongly disapprove of the development of that area. However I don't believe raising taxes for Greenways purchases is the right way to preserve it or assure reasonable development . . . that should be through the planning office, If protection of wetlands, slopes and vegetation, and attention to infrastructure requirements and traffic are not sufficient to limit the density to +/- 300 units then the regulations are not adequate OR else the planners are not doing their job. Citizens should not have to use Greenway money (ie raise taxes) to prevent over development.
- 1- money for maintenance and increased staff. 2- buy property when available regardless of location. 3- invest in and improve current parks. thank you, the parks are great, work hard and make sure this levy passes!!
- I feel that with the limited funds in my pocket I would rather support a new library than this greenways proposal. Developers should be putting some of the land into parks when they put together these new massive projects and let the city maintain what we own now.
 - When I spend time at Lake Padden, I am certainly surrounded by people from all parts of town. The location of a gorgeous piece of property is not the issue. All residents are free to use all trails and parks. If a piece is especially nice, the levy ought to purchase it. This is the case with the Chuckanut Highlands. This should NOT be a polarizing issue, pitting one part of town against another. Also, the already established parks need to be maintained with the funds that pay for parks, rather than with Greenways money. That money was voted by the residents to purchase corridors and open spaces to keep this city green. The north end does need more green spaces. Perhaps, the length of the levy needs to be adjusted to include that, as well as the piece on Chuckanut, as they need NOT be mutually exclusive. We all need green space and we all use the ones that exist, no matter which end of town!
 - to let the hundred acres woods slip away to housing would be the biggest error you as city leaders will ever make. there is no other wooded area like this in the city of Bellingham. whether it is north or south in Bellingham it still is woods that are beautiful.
 - Land needs to be purchased today if we plan to have parks in the future. Not maintaining but purchasing.
 - Given the current distribution of green spaces in the city, the rate of development in different portions of the city, and the opportunity afforded by the GP waterfront acquisition, it is clear that it would be inappropriate to spend funds on the Chuckanut Ridge property. That portion of the city already has extensive green spaces, and compared to most of the rest of the city, has not contributed equitably to accommodating the growth of the city's population. In contrast, the north end of the city has grown rapidly, and with little land being set aside for public green spaces. If we don't act quickly, the land will be densely developed without parks, creating a landscape unlike that in any other portion of the city. The GP waterfront acquisition creates a one-time chance to substantially enhance the waterfront character of this city. If we don't ensure now that a good portion of this land is developed as public green spaces, we will be throwing away an opportunity to create one of the most inviting waterfront cities on the entire west coast.
 - protect and serve. Save the city from building blight. give our children a legacy a protected amount of the nature world.
 - 3rd generation born and raised in Bellingham. Now live in the county. All of Whatcom county is effected by the parks, greenways and natural places. They are needed and required by all. Not just by those living at the moment inside the city limits. thank you, Diane Harrington
 - I resent the NIMBYs behind Greenways Legacy Campaign - I know that the bulk of their leaders live by or near the proposed Chuckanut Ridge development and it is far too self-serving. How often are they the only person in their car when they drive over the bridge at Old Fairhaven Parkway?

- Green space is a good thing...for everyone.
- Maintenance on the Lake Padden Trail is abysmal. Mud holes are in need of gravel and better drainage. Many people leave their dogs off leash on the trail around the lake, ignoring the fenced in area that has been specially built for them. There is no one to enforce the rules. Vandalism seems to be a problem. Perhaps locking the park at night is going to be required. When we can take care of our present greenways and parks then the city can budget for new park acquisition.
- I feel strongly that the city should focus on buying land and protecting it from development, more than we should worry about developing existing park land. Also, we should buy large wooded parcels, to set aside for the future. Property values have increased, so even if the levy rate is decreased, revenue can be maintained, or increased. I also believe we need more park space along the water with a focus on open space for kicking soccer balls, etc.. Too many of our parks have fancy landscaping that break the green space into unusable pockets. Post point, Boulevard, the farmers market and the village Green were all ruined by their "improvements." Just buy the land, and save it for later, please. Keep it simple.
- Thanks for having this land for our use it is important for our children's future that there be outdoor alternatives to SHOPPING where a healthy relationship to our environment can develop
- I understand how difficult this decision is. However, I have no doubt that preserving the Chuckanut Ridge area must be taken priority. To allow a large development on that site would be both an ecological mistake & have dramatic negative impact in the Fairhaven area and everything south. There are many other areas that can better handle Bellingham's housing needs.
- I think it is very important to be able to maintain and improve the property we have which I do not think has been done.
- I live the Puget Neighborhood and feel the Samish Crest Trail is very important for our area of the city.
- I do not live in the city limits but I have a Bellingham address and the decisions made in the city influence my quality of life ie; traffic, crowded schools, lack of law enforcement... all results of overcrowding. Lots of wasted money on the mega-overkill with the redo of the trail of the interurban near Samish way and Chuckanut Dr. Wow.
- In light of all the other projects that the City is taxing its residents for, it is absolute lunacy to levy more taxes. This government is totally out of control when it comes to taxes, environmental issues, and more civic projects. The City should stop all new projects and catch up financially with all its current obligations. The taxpayers are NOT an endless pot of money!
- Is there any way to complete the railroad trail so it continues all the way to downtown Bellingham????? I much prefer riding my bike on trails rather than roads, and I use the railroad trail to get from my home to downtown, but a block after crossing I-5, I'm on the streets again.
- I feel very strongly about using funds to purchase as much property as possible, even if undeveloped in the short run, to preserve land for public use in the future.
- Very concerned that the competing Greenways groups are creating an either/or situation where one group won't support the final levy proposal if it is not theirs. Hope there is a good compromise everyone can support.
- you only get a chance to save undeveloped land and preserve for future. Once developed into housing it is gone forever. SAVE IT NOW
- The Greenways add immeasurably to the quality of life here in Bellingham. Thank you to all the "forward thinkers" involved in the Greenways.
- I live in Sunnyland. I would like to see some encouragement made to develop (at least) a playfield at the DOT site that was wholesaled to a developer for housing. Housing is fine, especially if we stick to 10000 ft lots, but that site cries out for a playfield that would serve an area that isn't currently provided for at all.
- I appreciate the efforts taken thus far to include community members in parks planning, through surveys such as this, etc.
- The longer the term of the levy, the less control the voters have in how it is to be spent. Also, endowments lessen voter control. Chuckanut Ridge is of little importance to most of the

- population north of Fairhaven-if they do not want development in their back yards take up a collection to buy- don't use my taxes.
- Disrupting the fragile ecosystem, especially that of the 100 acre wood would have detrimental effects for future generations. Acting in an educated and responsible manner would be our greatest legacy, destroying it could be our worst.
 - We need to save as much land as possible now for us and for the future generations to come. We need to preserve as much as possible before it is lost forever, and put maintenance/development of existing lands on hold. Please save the 100 Acre Woods!!
 - Maintenance of any land currently owned by the city, or purchased is extremely important. I door belled for Greenways and when I walk on trails that are in need of better drainage or crushed rock with fines to create a better surface I feel somehow what I door belled for is losing out to projects like the Fairhaven Commons area and that isn't what I door belled for. Does the city currently have an endowment fund raising effort besides taxing the public. Some of our best parks in Bellingham came through the movers and shakers providing monies for them, and I think the city should be actively trying to search for donations for land acquisitions or improvements using them as naming opportunities.
 - Purchasing the Chuckanut Ridge property is the single most important land purchase the city can do. If that land gets developed it will destroy the surrounding Chuckanut area.
 - Please make it possible to protect Chuckanut Ridge from development. Please make it possible for Greenways to buy it. It is not important to develop it as a park or with trails right now - that could happen at some point in the future, however it is essential to protect the green space that it is now. Fairhaven is overdeveloped with new residential structures that appear to still have many vacancies. There has been no additional infrastructure, the roads are busier, and, existing neighborhoods are neglected - many roads in Happy Valley and Fairhaven have no sidewalks, narrow streets, and are unsafe for the pedestrian, especially at night. We need to address all these issues, not to mention environmental impact to our waterways and wildlife, before we allow any more development in this area. Thank you. Sarah Clarke, 2505 McKenzie Ave.
 - The purpose of a Greenways Levy initially was for acquisition of lands for parks not for the maintenance and operations or for capital improvements of existing parks. The endowment fund of the 1997 Beyond Greenways is a slush fund for administration or staff decisions which are Beyond the preview of the public participation. Not acceptable. The mayor's, Mark Asmudson, interference in a public process angers me as does the effort of Paul Leuthold of the mayoral appointed Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to adversely influence the citizens' Greenway Legacy. When the division of Bellingham's park needs are placed into a North vs. South question (Whatcom Creek or for the purpose of this survey, Lakeway Drive) understanding other models that describe the city's parks and citizen usage is lost. For example, what does an East-West division of park lands tell us about where we should spend Greenways dollars for acquisition or if we divide the city into Central, NW, NE, SW, and SE sectors what areas of the city are wanting. Neither does the Mayor or his lackey's (appointed committee members or city staff, i.e. owing their position to the mayor) reflect on the concept of neighborhood parks (a park which is walked to), city parks (used mainly by city residents) or regional (parks used by Whatcom County, Skagit County or British Columbian residents also). In an act of omission, the Mayor befuddles or angers (those who are closely following this issue) the voting public and thus threatens the Greenways Levy passage in a May election. The Mayor nor this survey considers the use of impact fee for new development to acquire land in the city and in the UGA. Grants and development impacts fee are options to fund on-going park needs rather than using a special levy to finance those needs. Was this intentional? The best characterization of the Mayor's interference is best reflected on by this definition: "Throughout the world ... we use the word 'politics' to describe the process so well: 'Poli' in Latin meaning 'many' and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures". Actively involved, Yours Truly.
 - NO MORE WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY. WE HAVE 100 MILES OF FOREST TO THE EAST!!
 - It would be helpful for the community to know more about WHICH areas already owned by the city might be developed for greenways in the future. As a citizen, I do not necessarily know which of these are potential for greenway development. Thank you for your time.

- Stop the sprawl. Enough with the condos and retail megaplexes. Let's preserve what's left of our amazing ecosystem and stop destroying the rest with unnecessary development.
- Your survey did not mention the important acquisition areas of King Mountain and Galbraith Mountain. Greenways levies should be for acquisition, NOT operations and maintenance!
- Thank you for your tremendous stewardship of the Greenways program. Since moving to Bellingham in 1996, we have been continually amazed and astounded by the quality of the recreation and public areas that are available. Living with such stellar parks is like living a dream.
- The purchase of Chuckanut Ridge should be uppermost in the Greenways Levy. We must protect this beautiful land.
- I live two blocks outside the city and utilize city parks frequently. I commend you on the array of parks and green-belts that now exist. All great cities have great parks (San Francisco - Golden Gate, Vancouver - Stanley, New York - Central). The GP waterfront area gives Bellingham the opportunity to establish a truly great waterfront park area that, unlike Zuanich, is conveniently located to downtown. This is an opportunity that will never come again.
- The greenways are part of what brought us to this beautiful city. We need to support them and expand them. I would be in favor of a small increase in the levy but not too much because home owners are stressed with property taxes as their house appreciate.
- Listen to your constituents, that is what you were elected to do.
- Do not purchase Chuckanut Ridge! the South Side already has a disproportionate share of parks, trails, and open space. Focus on parks, trails, and open space in the North, East and Central areas of the City. If the South Side must have Chuckanut Ridge, let the South Side, and only the South Side, pay an additional levy to acquire!
- Put parks, greenways, trails north where the city will grow. We have plenty of parks on the Southside where I reside. DO not purchase Chuckanut Ridge, it's too expensive and too far south. Seniors and families with children are moving north, lots are smaller and condo's apts. They need parks, greenways, trails, and they will use them. B'ham should be livable for all. Thanks
- I support more parks in N. Bellingham and funds to maintain the trails and parks we have in the City Limits. I believe our community's highest priority should be to obtain funds to acquire properties in the Lake Whatcom watershed to protect our only drinking water source. Parks are not crucial to the future survival and quality of life in our community, however clean, good quality drinking water will.
- Greenways funding should be based upon acquiring and preserving those areas such as the 100 Acre Wood that serve the greater good of the whole. Trying to create parks and greenways in an area like Cordata which has already been overdeveloped at the expense of preserving an amazing place like the 100 acre woods is obviously nothing more than giving the special interests ie. developers exactly what they want at the expense of preserving the quality and beauty of our entire region.
- I live in the county, a block from city limits.
- It is critical that land be acquired in all parts of the city now, before they are developed. Acquisition is the priority, development of parks can wait.
- While improvements to currently owned land can happen anytime, the time is lost once land is no longer available for parks and open space. Please spend EVERY dollar available to tie up the land NOW before it disappears from our public trust. Lock up the available land NOW --- please.
- N/A
- I am convinced and committed to a Greenways Legacy levy that earmarks more land for acquisition and less for parks maintenance at this time because our chance to acquire more land and forests is going to pass us by if we don't act while we can.
- Our belief in supporting and voting for the original Greenway levies was to obtain and protect undeveloped land for future generations to improve and enjoy as city owned property. We did not expect the funds to be spent for installing parks, playgrounds or any other groomed and cemented over areas. Let's protect what we can, while we can.
- Use all monies collected to acquire as much open space as possible in that we are experiencing what seems to be an unanticipated amount of growth...growth that we don't seem prepared to handle.

- Maintenance and operations should absolutely be a part of the Greenways levy. While I believe parks and trails on the G-P site are extremely important, I am of the opinion that the Port should provide funding for this infrastructure. That is the agency that will enjoy the benefit of the investment whether the property is held in public ownership (in the form of higher lease rates) or sold (in the form of higher sales prices).
- I live near the "Fairhaven 100 acre woods" and honestly believe that we currently have adequate parks & trails in this area to support the population. Residents in Northern Bellingham are woefully underserved by our Greenways funds, and don't seem to have the same outspokenness to demand fairness. I support funding going toward developing parks on the Northern side of town.
- 1Including Georgia Pacific in a questionnaire about Greenways is a red herring. The development of Georgia Pacific site should pay for the parks in the area. This should not be part of a Greenways levy. 2There was a question about where money should be spent without defining the areas. 3False dichotomies were established in the ranking requests. eg one might feel that only 20% of the money of the next Greenways should be spent on Chuckanut ridge but that was extremely important. The survey only asked for importance not proportions.
- peoples' health are being affected by environmental, social and political factors. open space and natural undeveloped areas are important to physical, mental and spiritual health. marcia leister, M.Ed.
- North Bellingham, including Birchwood has very little developed parkland and few connected trails. It's time to do some work other parts of the city other than the Fairhaven area.
- It is important that all residents in Bellingham have community and neighborhood parks. Bellingham's North side is growing and is dense in its growth but there are little or no parks in that area. This area should have top priority so that all of Bellingham is desirable. Parks, open spaces and nature sanctuaries are needed by all people, not just those who decide that they are rich enough and powerful enough to keep growth and traffic out of their area. As for the environmental impact, I live on the Southside and enjoy the beauty here everyday. It is awful to even think that Chuckanut Ridge may be developed. Nevertheless, much of it has been preserved and the present planned development scaled back. That, in all our comfort here, is the most we can ask. King Mountain is also a beautiful place, as is the old Wilder Ranch area on the North side. We must make parks there as we have on the Southside. It is only fair.
- Park space should be allocated by ward, not some arbitrary, shifting north/south division. All monies should be put towards acquisition, especially in light of recent park impact fees for development. Including maintenance fees in the Greenways levy is the equivalent of double billing. The Mayor doesn't need yet another slush fund. Without Chuckanut Ridge I will vote no!
- Acquisition of all or part of Chuckanut Ridge might be made contingent on S. Bellingham residents contributing matching funds. Edgemoor residents should easily be able to afford this with their high home values. Access to Woodstock Farms should be a higher priority for the S. Side.
- The City cannot properly maintain its existing trails and parks. That it now proposes to purchase more land which it claims it lacks funds to maintain after acquisition demonstrates poor planning and poor priorities by its leaders. I will be voting against whatever parks levy the City proposes until it exhibits better dramatically better management of its existing tax monies and aligns employee salaries and benefits with the local private sector.
- THE CHUCKANUT RIDGE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BOUGHT BY THE CITY YEARS AGO WHEN IT WAS LESS MONEY. THIS IS A TREASURE TO NOT ONLY BELLINGHAM BUT ALL OF WASHINGTON AND BEYOND. THIS CAN NOT BE COMPARED WITH SMALL PARCELS OF LAND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY. WE CAN ALL SHARE THIS AND IF IT GOES AWAY WE ALL JUST HAVE TO TRAVEL FURTHER TO GET TO SUCH AREAS. FOR ONCE DO THE RIGHT THING. ALSO DO NOT TRY AND DIVIDE THE CITY IN HALF. WE ARE STRONGEST UNITED. PLEASES HONOR THAT SINCE IN FACT THE ENTIRE CITY PUTS MOST OF YOU IN YOUR CURRENT OFFICE
- More dog parks would be the best. The current ones are great, but more in north Bellingham would be perfect.
- If money is to be spent, it should be used to provide recreation facilities in areas of the city that have been expanding.

- Any new land acquired is important in this rapidly growing area. I am very concerned for the area surrounding Fairhaven and would like to see Squalicum Creek Bay to Baker trail developed! Thank you!
- I basically support the Greenways 2006 plan. Most important thing is connecting the trails and helping the north side. Still, I wouldn't stand in the way of Chuckanut Ridge purchase, if people wanted it. One idea is to put both proposals on the ballot. One could be the 2006 Greenway proposal. The other could be totally separate, a 15 year park purchase bond measure for the Chuckanut Ridge proposal. Rather than confusing the issues by mixing that into a Greenways levy, maybe it should just be treated as a "stand alone" park purchase item on the ballot. Just for the Chuckanut Ridge and nothing else, rather than the mix people call, "Greenways Legacy." That's just a thought. Also, I understand that there is worry that having 2 things on that ballot could go above some taxing limit. Another problem could be that the two proposals would undercut each other and both fail. I really don't know what I would do, if I were in your position. For my two bits, I just think it would be good to think of Greenways and the Chuckanut Ridge proposals as separate. Hope Greenways passes, but if this problem causes it to fail, I guess one can say, "there is always next year when a Greenways leve can be tried again."
- I think that preserving what land we can now is the single most important thing for a greenways program as we face continued/strong development pressure. How we improve these lands that are set aside is a question we will have the luxury to ask ourselves once we have secured it.
- Be fair on the land you buy. Treat the already parks and trails with more care.
- I believe it is critical to purchase the remaining 83 acres of the 100 acre woods in order to preserve it for the future.
- While acquisition of land for Greenways should be ongoing, undeveloped land has little benefit for the community. Some parts of the city, particularly the north end, have limited trails, and those of us who enjoy walks have to travel to the south side to walk any distance on trails. So I see development and adding trails particularly in the north end of town as very important. Population in this end of town is growing more rapidly and we have much less public access open space. I also object to using Greenways in place of adequate public planning. An example of this is the proposed purchase of the "100 Acre Woods" or Chuckanut Ridge area. Certainly there are many reasons to preserve this area, but that should be done via the planning process, not by using public money to essentially reward the greedy developer for holding the city ransom to his money making schemes. I'd like to see the city council grow some backbone and start passing zoning and development laws with teeth that allow the city to say no to developers. They can start by requiring developers to pay the costs of the infrastructure that now gets foisted on taxpayers, and maybe then the developers won't be so inclined to bulldoze land for their profit at the public expense. I think the city council and various planning boards should be able to stop the development of the Chuckanut Ridge property without resorting to Greenways funds.
- I strongly support parks and trails at the new GP site, but not Greenways funding for them. Since the Port and City already own this land, park land will not only not cost money to "acquire", but will actually increase the value of adjacent land for urban development. I live in the York Neighborhood, and I would like to see Greenways money spent on creating a trail from Cornwall Ave through the bus barn property, Diehl Ford and through the Haskel Business Park on through to the ball fields at Civic Field. I believe much of this land could actually be acquired through donations/tax credits. 100 Acre Wood should not be a Greenways project - it is too bad that the city council and mayor failed to downzone it in the early 2000's, but solving that past mistake does not make fiscal sense today. I hope the mayor and council have learned that they need to limit sprawl through restraining development through intelligent policy and good planning. However, it seems they have not (e.g. lack of attention to bad sprawl proposals for King Mt, Yew St and Smith Rd) and the major and some city council members will likely not be re-elected for their lack of leadership in limiting sprawl on city outskirts, and for their lack of fiscal prudence. Greenways funds should be used to connect neighborhood parks throughout Bellingham. Thanks for conducting this survey!
- Preserve important areas!

- Very important to preserve currently undeveloped land in the "100 Acre Wood" area and in the King Mountain area. These are the "forested backdrop" to the city, that need to be preserved, not developed into giant housing developments. If the City persists in its attitude that large housing developments are appropriate for these two areas, I will find it hard to support more funding for city projects. I live in North Bellingham, just north of city limits, where the City proposes to extend the urban growth area and increase density, to a level that far exceeds the density in Bellingham proper. At this point, I can only hope the County Council will put the brakes on this ill-advised idea, since the City itself seems to lack the backbone to significantly increase density in Bellingham city limits. Urban growth should be directed toward appropriate areas that are already developed, particularly Downtown and the old GP site. By the way, I grew up in Bellingham, but lived in Portland, OR for many years before returning to Bellingham. Portland is often used as a model for urban planning. Bellingham seems to want to do Portland "on the cheap", and seems to disregard the preferences of many citizens for better growth management. There are many meetings, but little evidence that the citizens are listened to. The City seems more concerned with the desires of the building industry to accommodate speculators and those who do not live here yet. I think the current citizens should come first, even those who have just recently moved here, and would like to preserve the quality of life that attracted them. The reason I mention this is because some in the City administration seem to think that recent arrivals do not have a right to ask that growth occur at a slower rate.
- Targeting the greenway money towards the Chuckanut Ridge property purchase is a bad idea. It seems to me, from someone living in downtown Bellingham, that the anti-development activists of Chuckanut Ridge are simply wealthy, extremely vocal neighbors of the property. I'm sure the lettered streets neighborhood was beautiful with trees and streams at one point, but we can't stop growth. This is a good place for growth to happen, but the city needs to scale back the number of homes and require Low Impact Development at this site while retaining as many trees, root zones, trails, and habitat corridors as possible. However, I disagreed that Greenway money should be evenly distributed in the city because I believe that the poor neighborhoods, like my own, need trees and open space more than the affluent neighborhoods. If you study Island Biogeography, you'll realize how important our greenways are. Patches of protected areas need to be connected by corridors. Someday, all protected areas will be surrounded by development, and corridors will be the only way to connect the 'islands' to benefit the other species we share this amazing town with. Implementing the Theory of Island Biogeography should be the focus of the Greenways money. Thank you.
- Now is the time to act to ensure green spaces and environmentally important areas are preserved permanently! Please do all you can to ensure these places are available to future generations, and will be there to support ecosystem health and diversity.
- A major concern is that the City will not be able to maintain Parks in the future since there will be so many. I have a concern that not only is land being removed from the tax rolls but it increases operating costs.
- The Question about 'fair' distribution of funds should be thrown out because 'fair' is not defined in the context of spending moneys in a very complex set of geodemographics. The question about which of our areas should be developed does not provide an option for 'none' because the respondent prefers acquisition over development.
- I would really enjoy a dialogue where we explore in depth what are wishes are in terms of greenways and coming up with creative strategies to incorporate all our wishes. I fear that if we don't purchase all the land we can now we will regret it in the future. This is a great opportunity for us and I really want us to buy all the land we can. I also wonder if you have spoken with children about this. It seems that we are talking about their future too and I would enjoy them being included in the discussions AND exploration of possible solutions - they are often a very creative bunch!!
- very concerned on the continued destruction of green space. The Chuckanut Ridge proposal is a disaster waiting to happen mudslides, runoff, pollution narrow road ways leading to the main roads. Ask the people on Iris Lane how their backyards are after the development next door was put in by Greenbriar. As I been told by the city runoff is a neighbor to neighbor problem. Have all the condo space be rented in Fairhaven? Lots of empty retail space! Let's see how those businesses survive in a year.
- It is very important that a compromise be reached so that this levy will pass.

- I am a resident of Sudden Valley. I would like new development in N Bellingham to be accompanied with new parks.
- GP Site would be of utmost importance right now.
- I would like the money to be directed towards development of new parks in the northern areas of the city. I strongly disagree with the purchase of the Chuckanut Ridge area.
- Great survey! Thanks for asking.
- We will miss one of the greatest opportunities ever presented to the citizens of Skagit and Whatcom counties if we fail to provide the funding to purchase the area known as Chuckanut Ridge. It is that simple!
- I think it is imperative that our Greenways reflects the community's strong desire to encourage downtown and neighborhood revitalization and NOT support the awful trend of sprawl out the Meridian (Cordata! and beyond).
- With the increasing pressure on infill, and density, it is imperative that the city act to acquire what open space remains available. It is this open a public space that makes Bellingham such a special place. Think of neighborhood parks like Elizabeth Park, Broadway park for Neighborhoods and bigger refuge parks like Cornwall park South and north of the City as 'destination' parks. The hundred acre wood would serve as one example, and the Cement plant as another 'destination park'. As an aside, the frisbee golfers overuse is damaging the undergrowth and damaging the trees in Cornwall Park. We need to relocate Frisbee Golf to another site where they frisbee golf use can't injure undergrowth and branches etc. How about to the Cement Park Site? C. Wassan 2530 South Park Drive,
- They are of great importance not only for the community but for the ecosystem that we live and thrive in. When our ecosystem suffers, our health and wellbeing suffer. It is important to preserve what we have left of the natural environment that exists here. And to think ahead to the future and what that could look like. For the community, it creates stronger connections between neighborhoods, and promotes an active, healthy environment for children. It is all around a good thing to promote greenways!
- the city should look strongly at acquiring all or part of the Fairhaven highlands property, simply because of its uniqueness, and the fact that this is possible the last property of its kind available within the city limits. If the city would have acted properly with the first greenways levy the city would already own this property at a much lower cost than is now possible why can't the city do as the voters mandate this property now has increased in value enormously, only because of the city's lack of leadership in this matter we should already own this property!!!!
- Tourists won't be interested in lingering in a city that is nothing but strip malls, condos, and traffic, no matter how much money we spend on waterfront development.
- I think Chuckanut Ridge is an extremely important forested property that should be preserved for the good of all Bellingham citizens. The Greenways Levy should be used for the acquisition of land. If we allow important areas to be developed we give up the option for future parks and natural spaces that are critical to a well-planned city.
- please, when planning the future of our beautiful area, remember our children and theirs, for at least seven generations ... what legacy will we leave them? (I am so grateful for our parks and green spaces!) With an increased population, we have to work harder to protect what we cherish.
- I am strongly in favor of a greenway levy that proportions funding for projects in geographical areas in a way that corrects for previous disproportionate expenditures in certain geographical areas. Acquiring land is almost as important as developing parks to protect natural values. As Bellingham grows natural areas will continue to be developed, and change the quality of this area from what people appreciate to qualities of places they are escaping from.
- I approved the Greenway levy before but I believe it is time to have some relief from it.
- the city of Bellingham will never be able to replace a parcel of land within the city that can offer what Chuckanut ridge can, for generations, at any cost! preserve Chuckanut ridge, it is a bargain.
- Please, make the levy big enough to be able to buy land for parks both north and south.
- Perhaps a shorter term, less expensive levy would make more sense at this time when things are changing so fast that we don't know yet what future needs actually will be.
- This Land is sacred every rock , tree & creature has a spirit ... I ask that you Please support the greenways levy & preserve Chuckanut ridge for generations to come

- If Chuckanut Ridge goes to a major housing development, I think Bham will be much worse for the ware, with increased traffic that is already a problem area (by Fairhaven Middle School) and the destruction of a natural area that gives that side of Bham such beauty. I hope we can find a way to preserve Chuckanut Ridge for the sake of Bham and its future generations. The Bham Parks dept. has done a fabulous job thus far making Bham the most beautiful town I have ever lived in.
- I agree that paying for parks and trails should be evenly distributed IF the parks and trails are evenly distributed. It doesn't seem at all fair for all of the city to have to pay for major south end park purchases when the amount of parks in the entire city is already so skewed to the south. It seems like purchasing Chuckanut could be done by passing the hat in the south. That is where the wealthiest part of the city is and perhaps they could have a south end levy for that.
- Buy land first. Once it's gone, it's gone. And don't spend Greenways money on Park Dept renovation or upkeep of existing Parks, find separate funds for that.
- I am a property owner in Bellingham. If my choices are voted in, I will pay more. I believe it is critical that we protect areas for green space now, when we can. We must be forward thinking, or much can be lost that can not be regained. We have to look at the big picture, over time and area.
- I was disappointed to see this survey focus on divisions and not on equity and balance. That will change the survey results. I noticed there were no questions about transparency and accountability vrs benefits to parks staff and parks insiders.
- Stop taking property off the tax rolls.
- This money should be spent on streets rather than more under-used parks and trails. I keep hearing about the wonderful turn-outs for the G.P. waterfront land. Most of those who show up want parks, parks, parks, trails, trails, trails and greenways. What' so great about 400 people one evening, 100 people another evening and 100 people on a third evening. There's 70,000 people who live in Bellingham. What kind of a percentage is 600 out of 70,000? And probably most of them showed up more than once.
- Why do you ask if I live north or south of some arbitrary line? Why not east or west of the freeway? Or above or below the ground? The city parks are for all of us...no matter where we live in town. The mayor has done a real disservice to us trying to be divisive in his proposal. We need to be acquiring land while we can for future park areas....greenways in the true meaning of the word....not funding park maintenance with a levy. Let's leave a true LEGACY for our children and grandchildren.
- I feel strongly that the City of Bellingham's Parks and Recreation Program would continue to make Bellingham the state's best medium-sized city if the Greenways Levy is continued. Further, I feel that putting some of the Greenways money aside for a maintenance endowment and budgeting a sizable percentage for new acquisitions will aid the city in providing recreation opportunities for all of it's citizens.
- If your are going to use tax revenue from city land owners, you need to hire qualified contractors that live within the city limits to implement some of this greenways work. Recent cement boulevard work and landscaping done on Broadway Street was very substandard. It was very clear that the landscapers were not qualified. Grass will not grow in the median.
- Very supportive of past greenways. Inclusion of developing and maintaining already purchased properties is needed.
- We have to preserve habitat for the wildlife in our area, and that means saving the mature forests and wetlands...even if we, the public, do not have access to these critical areas. The more green space Bellingham has will be a great legacy for our grandchildren.
- The City must clarify whether Fairhaven Highlands could actually be purchased - otherwise having two competing levies creates the potential for neither to pass.
- The Chuckanut area of Bellingham is a national treasure and important to Bellingham's "claim to fame". Parks on the north side are important but I believe with all the new development happening north of the city, developers could and should be required to pay for the needed parks in this area and I don't think it is unreasonable to require/mandate this at all. I believe the tax payers want to preserve Chuckanut. Preserve Chuckanut for generations to come. It is a vital legacy to leave future generations. Please, please do this. Thank you
- Once the Chuckanut area is developed, there is no turning back. It is one of the last wild areas in the Bellingham vicinity. It must be saved for wildlife, future generations and the health

- and safety of South Bellingham. Please help keep the 100 acre woods wild as a testimony to future generations that the importance of building and balance is possible-Thank you
- Setting money aside for perpetual maintenance makes good economic sense; saving always does. The expense of development of (profuse) parks on the waterfront should be largely required from developers for the privilege of building on this prime real estate. I can't imagine that no one would want TO build here if they had to pay extra. We'll get the cream of the crop (the businesses most committed to a vibrant social fabric) if we set our standards high. Maintenance by the city makes sense, but the businesses there will benefit as much from the parks as the public will.
 - I believe the Cordata area should have parks and trails as most of the rest of Bellingham does. If trails are built, I would certainly like to see them connected to the rest of the trail system in Bellingham.
 - Acquisition of new lands (for preservation or future parks) AND the development of new parks in the north end of the city are BOTH important. These goals are not mutually exclusive and should be pursued by the city concurrently.
 - live just outside city on Squalicum Mt.
 - Residential development should not be platted strictly for private territory. Neighborhood commons should always be required - largely at the expense of the developer and by default to some extent, the residents. Maintenance will be mostly by the city.
 - We are so lucky to have what we have here in Bellingham. The greenways levy and park impact fee will ensure that Bellingham continues on as a wonderful place to live and recreate.
 - I think the parks and trails are a wonderful, perhaps unique, feature of Bellingham, part of what makes this such a special place to live.
 - Purchasing sensitive lands that assist in aspects like controlling rodent populations through natural predation, providing homes in wetlands that can never be replaced, allowing infill where other development has already occurred, etc.
 - North end streets are inadequate and until the streets are available for efficient commerce promotion, citizens to use and traffic is back to a reasonable service level, no additional taxes should be levied for amusement facilities. The City council needs to pay more attention to the economic health of our city's citizens.
 - If greenways levy passes all the money should be use for the north Bellingham parks improvements. when you drive the north east of the city you can see how desperate the north east of town, no parks or trees.
 - Why do homeowners get the tax, not the renters. If a toll were charged for each usage... say 10 cents per passage would they be used? I think not. But that would be fair, those who use it pay for it. Incremental "Temporary" tax increases on homeowners is not right. Maintenance should be done by either volunteer church groups, YMCA, youth clubs, and for traffic violations a surcharge or 8 hours of donated time.
 - Rather than taxes setup a pay per use system.
 - I was born here, so of course i would like to as much land saved as possible, but for the people who have moved here i just hope that you remember what it is that drew you to this beautiful corner of the world, with that in mind i think most people would agree that preserving wild lands in and around Bellingham is extremely important. thank you
 - It is unfortunate to frame the debate "either Chuckanut Ridge OR north side development." Can't we have both? Bellingham's livability is a very high priority for us, and we're willing to pay for it. Livability and green spaces go hand in hand. We would prefer a longer term levy that can accomplish more. These next 20 years are crucial ones for Bellingham; there's no going back. Thank you.
 - The Greenways III plan seems to distribute money for Parks and Trails where it really is needed - in the North section of Bellingham. We must push for Greenways III before the "Developers" leave us without any land that can be turned into a Park and Trail and can be connected to other trails in our Fair City.
 - Very concerned about Samish Crest & Lake Padden areas.
 - The city is growing so fast, we must purchase the land while it is still available!
 - I attended the Greenways hearing on Feb. 8. I'm glad people are talking and listening to each other. It resonated with me when one gentleman made the point that if the rate is not lowered a bit, it will be difficult to get the levy passed because property values have risen so dramatically. In other words, many people who were willing to pay "X" for Greenways last time

- are not going to be willing to pay 2X now, or even 1.5X - and because of their increased property value, that's how the numbers would work out if the rate is kept the same.
- I feel it is extremely important to purchase unique, undisturbed properties characteristic of the Pacific Northwest landscape for future generations to appreciate before these properties no longer exist in Bellingham. Maintaining and developing these parks, while important, can be done at a future date. We should focus our efforts on acquiring the properties first. Also, I feel that the Chuckanut Ridge property is inherent to our region, as well as richly diverse in native plants, animals and 2 salmon spawning creeks, whereas the property to the North of our town is flat, open farmland with limited diversity and not very representative of the Pacific Northwest.
 - The money should be used in the manner which the levy states, i.e. not for maintenance
 - I believe there are ample parks and greenways now, what we need are roads and street lights.
 - Our tax burden is high enough already. No increased taxes.
 - There are more parks and green spaces here than in any of the other 6 places I have lived. And yes, this is the most highly taxed area I have lived in as well. For a city with such a small population---there is enough land allocated for parks, etc.
 - Please recall that trees are as important to existence as blood. The oxygen/carbon dioxide agreement we have is non-negotiable. Yes trees are what makes a town beautiful, yes wild critters will perish, but we can keep Bellinghamster's, children's especially, lungs functioning with less asthma if we protect the partnership we find ourselves born into with trees. Remember? It's real and beyond salaries and recreation. Thank you, Citizen Margo
 - Don't waste any money buying out Chuckanut Ridge (Fairhaven Highlands). Get as much of it as possible for free as a condition of allowing the development: 1) Determine how much land is undevelopable due to wetlands, steep slopes and required buffers. 2) Based on the proposed density, require a specific amount of usable open space (parks) necessary for the recreational needs of the new neighborhood. 3) Require the developer to fully build out the parks and associated park facilities, including trails that connect to the City's regional trail network. 4) If feasible and it fits in the school district plans, require a sizable area be dedicated for a future elementary school. Fairhaven Highland adversaries get a partial win with a large portion of the area left as open space and parks. The City wins because we get it at no cost. The City wins again because more Greenways Levy funds can be focused on other areas where they're really needed. The City wins once more because it will have a healthy new neighborhood (Fairhaven Highlands) with above average open space and recreational amenities. Focus greenways funds on areas that are medium to high density, and areas largely built out but deficient of parks and open space. Just don't buy a portion of the property for the sake of making it look like you did something to appease the public. Don't buy what you can otherwise get for free.
 - The only way we will vote for a Greenways levy is if it includes Chuckanut Ridge/Fairhaven Highlands.
 - Please prioritize greenways funds for purchasing property. Chuckanut Ridge is a gem and a buffer and we deserve it to be preserved for all of us. Connect existing greenways where possible. Don't forget the central area. Most maintenance costs should be paid from park funds, not greenways. Is the waterfront area appropriate for greenways monies?
 - more parks in the north end and maintain existing parks.
 - First I think that the % of acreage dedicated to parks is excessive. Secondly the City has just implemented a \$4500 impact fee and that is a significant amount of money. I have seen nothing yet that convinces me that the Park Dept does an effective job of administering the money they have.
 - A Greenways Levy should not be used to buy the Chuckanut Ridge property.
 - Greenways should be strictly applied to land acquisition at this critical time of real estate price escalation and rapid development. The Chuckanut Ridge acquisition is most important because we already taxed ourselves to buy it last time around, because it bridges Fairhaven Park to the Interurban, maximizing the value of previous acquisitions and because it secures one of our most important biological assets and one of the most interesting terrains available.
 - The Council must put together a levy that is a balance for the entire city. I feel the priority is to the North end. But it has to be one that the majority of voters will pass. If the council plays the

- North against the South there will be no levy passed. The tax rate is now based on higher values of homes and tax payers are very much aware of that fact.
- Greenways is extremely important to our city. It is one of the major draws for people relocating here. It is important that parks be distributed evenly throughout the city so that all our citizens have easy access to them. It is equally important to connect these parks with trails. Chuckanut Ridge is a beautiful place, and the developers have said they have planned trails through the development. Planned trails should be a part of every new development. Chuckanut is in the south where we already have three parks. It is time to build parks in other parts of the city. The waterfront is a major new area and must have public parks and trails connected to other parks and trails. The Greenways tax is an easy tax to pay. I see how it affects my life every time I walk a trail or sit in a park. It is important to expand this network for our city.
 - Acquisition of new land, particularly those of high ecologic value, should be the primary mission of Greenways. I enthusiastically support this mission, and I am glad to pay taxes to support it.
 - Enhancing increasing the size and quantity of public access parks, trails, and natural wildlife refuge areas in Bellingham is crucial to maintaining our civic quality of life. Preserving and developing existing park and trail areas is also highly desirable. Bellingham needs to acquire, and protect from residential development, as much remaining forest, field & waterfront/beach as possible; there won't be much left in 10 years if we don't act decisively NOW.
 - I feel the Greenway projects are pet projects of the Major! We have to live within a set budget here and I was very upset that the County Council felt good about "not" raising property taxes for 2006, instead they raised the values of the property to prices that they may not even sell for!
 - I am registered to vote in Whatcom County, and I live one mile east of the city limits, therefore cannot vote in the city. I am close enough to Bellingham to have a vested interest in these proceedings, and I hope you will consider my input. Also, what about a county greenway program?
 - I think it's very important to not only maintain the current parks and Greenways that we have, but to also utilize the properties that are already purchased by the city before we worry about buying new spaces.
 - Purchase Chuckanut Ridge for Greenways
 - Dear City Council Members... I will not support any levy that does not spend 70% for new land acquisition and or preservation of sensitive natural areas. Money must also be specifically earmarked for the central core (which Mark's Plan has overlooked)...where population densities are the greatest and amenities are the fewest. I do not support the Mayor's Greenway proposal! He has been deaf to the desires and concerns of South Bellingham residents concerning their desire to secure an appropriate Greenway tax percentage for land purchase in the south. Sincerely, Jody Bergsma
 - I love the parks and trails in the south, but I live in the north. So do a lot of other people. We've got a lot of catching up to do up here.
 - I get the most out of the walking trails that connect neighborhoods with beaches, downtown, other neighborhoods etc. I see more people enjoying walking paths than parks. it would be great to connect trails with businesses. walking on a trail to a restaurants would be cool. so we need more Dog friendly areas. I see at least 50% of the people enjoying the park systems there with their dogs. dogs bring people out side, we shouldn't ostracize the dog owners to small nasty areas. also, I am very concerned about Squalicum creek contamination. the warning signs on the trail by Morris steel are alarming. what is being done about that?
 - I would like Greenways to look at the whole city and the future growth areas of the city and make sure there are parks and trails in all these areas as opposed to focusing more on one area.
 - I would like to see a surcharge on new development on the north end to help pay the costs of new parks. Chuckanut Ridge is important to me because it's in an older part of Bellingham where there is little wild land left, and an important connector to one of Bellingham's greatest treasures, (the Chuckanut) to the south.
 - Time to buy land in Bellingham is short. The supply is rapidly being consumed for non-park uses. Establishing the largest revenue supply possible will create opportunities to secure

- more land. This can only be done with a levy that is long term and acquisition heavy. Greenways Four will come after the supply is exhausted. This is our last chance.
- It is important to me that the city acquire and preserve Chuckanut Ridge/Fairhaven Highlands.
 - I grew up on Racine st. and the Samish crest trail sounds like a fantastic idea. It would be a great way to connect that area to lake padden and provide a safer way to bicycle/run to lake Padden, than having to take Yew st. It would also be a great way to preserve the wooded areas between Lakeway and Lake Padden.
 - I live in the Cordata area, and there are tidbits of trails - behind SeaMar or beside Darby, for example - which don't see to add up to much.
 - Greenways was initially designed to fund acquisition of open space which is rapidly disappearing. Beyond Greenways identified King Mountain and Chuckanut Ridge as areas to accomplish this. For several reasons, it failed. If a levy is to pass, the Council must explain that to the voters. Greenways was not designed for maintenance & operation of park property.
 - We enjoy more parks and trails than most cities in the United States. No more Greenway levies.
 - Chuckanut Ridge is far too expensive. The people supporting it are rude, untruthful and insulting, unable to see beyond their own self-interests (check their residential addresses). Instead of attacking and insulting the developer and the bank, they should try to negotiate an ideal development of the property. The real need for new parks is on the north side, not adding more acreage in the Fairhaven area.
 - I live in Geneva which is not in the city limits but close enough to be strongly affected by all the city council does. Purchasing open space should be a priority because once it is gone, it is gone forever. All open space should not be developed into parks but left as natural as possible for habitat, for pollution control, for beauty.
 - Preserving existing natural areas that still have some "wilderness" component is my preference, over enhancing in-city parks.
 - The parks dept. needs to maintain the parks they have now. Many are not kept up as they should be because they do not have maintenance funds. I do not believe greenways funds should be used to fund redoing Civic Field. Or, for that matter any funds from roads or sewers.
 - Please do not delay the Greenways vote.
 - I don't live in the city limits, but just outside and would be happy to pay for the Greenways inside the city. Possibly the City and County could jointly propose a County-wide greenways levy. Thank You.
 - We have great parks. Your doing a good job. Thank you
 - I feel that Parks and Trails in the North (Wards 1 and 2) need attention immediately with the location and purchase of land for parks and trails before all the land is developed. If the people in South Bellingham are so eager to Save Chuckanut Ridge, they should establish a SPECIAL LEVY in addition to what is proposed (2-3 times the proposed levy), for the betterment of the City and the Public Parks. The South has parks - The North has NONE.
 - It is important to surround the city with as much green space as possible to constrains sprawl.
 - It's time to end the Greenway levy.
 - The South side of Bellingham has too much park space already and needs are to the north of the city. Purchase of the Chuckanut Ridge is out of place in this city for all fairness and the Park Dept. should look at the needs of the people not whims of a select group. Also there is a need to properly maintain what we have and things are getting run down in our park system. Bellingham already has too much park property per capita. Keep Taxes realistic.
 - Let's buy it all. Choosing between north and south is ridiculous and the fools that put that out should be ashamed because that may doom this whole thing!
 - I have been following this greenways controversy since it became one. i feel that greenways is one of those programs that consistently contributes to maintaining the high quality of life for which Bellingham is well known. i believe that greenways funds should be used, as they have in the past, to benefit the greatest number of people--not the ones with the loudest voices. i cannot state emphatically enough that i do not believe that using greenways funds in acquisition of the Chuckanut ridge property serves the greatest number of people. i believe it serves a small cadre of Southside residents who don't want houses in their backyards. greenways wasn't created to preserve the quality of life for some residents over that of others.

- the money should be spent where it makes the most sense to do so. and it makes no sense to blow such a huge chunk of it on such a small property at the behest of nearby property owners when that \$17 million could easily be used to acquire much more property elsewhere. frankly, the whole thing strikes me as being a bit selfish on the part of those Southside residents who are putting forth the measure. and i believe those people require a swift political slap on account of the whole thing. but that's just my opinion.
- We need parks in the north end.
 - I answered that I favor a 15 year levy at the current rate of 0.057% because I think our parks and trails are among the best things that make Bellingham such a great place to live, and there's never any danger of having too many of them! I'm never happier than when out walking on a beautiful trail! However, I could support a shorter duration or lower rate levy if a longer duration / higher rate levy were in danger of being voted down.
 - The importance of Greenways to our current way of life, and to the possibility of future economic and cultural development, cannot be underestimated. Our green spaces are a huge component of what makes Bellingham special.
 - North Bellingham (Cordata) area needs it the "most". Nothing out this way right now for young folks in the way of parks. We have too much traffic to use the streets for biking, walking, roller blading or bicycling.
 - I believe we need more off lease fenced areas for pets.
 - The success of the Greenways Levy are critical to the Park system which is in turn Bellingham's signature feature. Chuckanut Ridge issues need to be addressed in a separate Levy. Please do not let the entire Greenways effort be held hostage by Chuckanut Ridge NIMBY neighbors.
 - Trails and trail access is what makes me a proud citizen of B'ham. The trails make me happy, and feel like a part of my community, as I meet many people on the trails. The trails are an integral part of keeping our community responsible, healthy, and happy.
 - Use low risk convicts, ones that can not get into jail because it is full, to work off time served, as working on trails. Also, the city should buy the old Home Base, toys r us and good guys for a jail. Coroner, night court and staff could all go there. EZ, and not a lot of people in this area.
 - Greenways money should not be spent on Chuckanut Ridge because this area will not be available for public use by all segments of the population (no parking areas or other recreation amenities. It will only be used by a small segment of the population that live near this area.
 - Acquiring land, at today's prices, while it's still available, is the single most important priority for the Greenways money. I have lived in Bellingham 12 years and use parks all the time. I also believe that people who buy their homes for cheaper (ie all the new developments north) do not deserve the city to automatically BUY them parks. I bought my tiny, older home in North Bellingham partially because of the parks and trails. I could have bought a nicer newer home in another area of town if I chose to do so. Why should I have to subsidize people who bought in other areas needs to suddenly have a park across the street from their house?
 - Greenways, at its inception, had more to do with connectivity and trails than it does ball fields and pocket parks. It was intended as an addition to, not substitute for, city funding for regular park operations. I am not enthusiastic about long-term commitments of large amounts of Greenways funds for single lump parks. On the north end, where city limits and services do not cover us, we have few amenities but many good opportunities for TRAILS. (GreenWAYS?)
 - I think it is very important to put in place the "arterial" connector trails that allow people access to different portions of the city without the use of a vehicle. I am hoping to see the Samish Crest trail developed. It would provide a significant corridor for non-motorized travel to the Lake Padden area. It would allow bikes to be OFF Lakeway & Samish Way...
 - This is a beautiful forest and should be preserved for the citizens of Bellingham. It is so close to town and the birds and the amphibians are very abundant here. There are many native flowering plants here also; Indian pipe and several species of orchids are seen frequently during the spring.
 - I would like to see the City Council budget existing funds to maintain the current parks and trails we have and to abandon the idea of more Greenway's taxes. The Council's stewardship of public money has been abysmal and the Greenway's Tax would be continued poor management.

- I currently live in Ferndale, though I own two residential properties in Bellingham. I strongly believe that acquiring property for future parks/trails/beaches etc is an urgent issue. It will never be cheaper than it is today nor more available. Imagine Bellingham without previous Greenways levies and that should be all anyone needs to convince them to vote for it.
- The city needs to get a handle on major new housing developments: take a time-out, conduct more thorough environmental review (SEPA), and, most importantly, establish more progressive affordable housing laws, such as mandatory inclusionary housing with additional density bonuses. Taking care of these more important prerequisites will give the city council and staff additional time to develop the best Greenways policies while taking care of other related imperatives.
- I always support Parks, but I support open space areas, in addition to parks for recreation. Not everything needs to be developed for recreation. Not every area needs trails built. And the trail system at Arroyo is just terrific as it is, and should be maintained, but as it is. Further, we should buy land where it is, whether N, S, E, or W. Finally, finishing connecting some of the trails up in town -- there are disconnected segments all over the place. But overall, yahoo for greenways levies, park systems, trails, and open space!
- Acquisition and more acquisition should be the focus of Greenways!
- I'd like the city to seriously consider the 15 year legacy levy, so that we can plan long-term. I'd like to see Chuckanut Ridge acquired by the city, as it should have been done 15 years ago. Would also like to see more park land acquired in the North. I believe with a 15 year levy, both goals can be achieved.
- Don't let the Chuckanut Ridge get developed. I live on 40th St by Sehome Village and Green Briar has developed almost the entire surrounding area. What was once trees and fields is now going to be a bunch of crowded together, cookie cutter homes. I think we have enough development going on in B'ham to cover anticipated population growth, so let's try to preserve what's left of our woods and parks.
- I would feel much better about supporting Greenways, if the appropriated funds are use only for Greenways land acquisition and not new turf for Civic Field and other frivolous projects.
- If this greenway levy does not come to pass, the development of homes will surpass the current need to preserve our area and this opportunity to keep green space will disappear from the future. Building by private developers will result in crowded and unhealthy conditions for the general population. More open space and public greenways will bring people to *visit* and produce a better image of tourism for the city.
- I would like to see Parks & Trails developed in the Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood. This area has been developing approximately 21 years and neglected by the Parks & Rec. Dept. NEED HELP BADLY!!!!
- It is important that we acquire as much open space as possible now and fund development later. If we don't buy it up today it will not be available tomorrow.
- This levy, if passed should be structured towards purchasing undeveloped land and create a stop gap measure to slow development. We should pursue increased impact fees on developers to help fund our maintenance and operations of existing facilities.
- Majority of Greenways funds should be for acquisition going to all parts of city. Buy Chuckanut Ridge and other special lands around town now please.
- Live in Cordata area where there are no parks.
- NO MORE TAXES PLEASE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We just cannot afford to live here anymore. We have ENOUGH open spaces for the economic environment. If the economy gets better I am all for this type of thing - but things are amazingly tough in case you haven't noticed or are not affected by it!!! PLEASE DO NOT KEEP DOING THIS!!!! NO MORE LEVIES THAT COST US MORE MONEY!!!!!!
- I would also like a city ordinance allowing a "heritage tree" program such as Seattle and Vancouver, WA have (and various cities in Oregon and elsewhere).
- Levy should be lengthy enough and large enough to provide for needs identified by both citizen greenways proposals. If not, my priority will be to preserve the Chuckanut Ridge area.
- Please make decisions based on maintaining and improving quality of life for present and future generations of Bellingham residents rather than short-term profit and quick fixes.
- If Fairhaven thinks Chuckanut Ridge needs to be "saved", they should buy it. We need to take care of the wonderful Greenways purchases we already have and attempt to connect

- corridors of greenways through-out the city. I do not like that the City is proposing a levy. I think this should come from the people.
- The new developments to the North of town should include land for parks and greenways that are paid for by the developer in these areas as part of the permitting process.
 - I think Greenways are very important to our community. I also believe that the trail systems within the city and parts of the county are very important also, making in more feasible for people to use alternate transportation to get around. Making trail systems that allow people to ride a bike or walk to the Whatcom Community College and the Guide Meridian would be a huge improvement. I would rather see money being spent on Greenways than roadways. Thanks for all you hard work!
 - With the huge amount of development happening in and around Bellingham, I feel it is extremely important to purchase as much land as possible while there is any land still available. Therefore, I feel that land purchase is a top priority and improvements to existing parks and trails can wait. I also like parks and trails to stay in their natural state as much as possible and do not want to see concrete walkways, lighting, curbs, paved parking, and other major changes that take away from the rustic feel of our trails. This is a huge disservice, in my mind, and most evident in the proposed Squaticum Park.
 - Do not miss a unique opportunity to purchase a large piece of environmentally sensitive property (Chuckanut ridge) because the mayor opposes it. It is clear that he is in the pocket of developers--we hope that you are not and that you have the vision to take this opportunity which will not come again. Thank you.
 - I am strongly in favor of purchasing the 100 acre woods because we will never have this chance again.
 - OPEN FIELDS ARE MORE GENERALLY USEABLE THAN DESIGNATED BALL FIELDS AND SO ARE LIKELY TO BE BETTER APPRECIATED BY A BROADER BASE OF PEOPLE. THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CITY NATURALLY HAS SOME BETTER PARK LANDS, BUT THE NORTH SIDE HAS BECOME, GENERALLY SPEAKING, PEDESTRIAN UNFRIENDLY.
 - You do not really want to know!
 - I am a Whatcom county resident, but routinely like to use the city parks.
 - IF CHUCKANUT RIDGE IS INCLUDED IT WILL NOT PASS IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
 - No more parks in the south, that's where all the money has been spent. No levy, we have plenty of parks now, can't maintain what we have.
 - I live in the County, south of the Bellingham City limits. If Chuckanut Ridge is developed, then Chuckanut Drive will become another Sunset Drive, which is outrageous. How can you allow Washington State's First Scenic Highway to become car bound, with traffic lights and congestion? I seriously think the Mayor of Bellingham, Mark Asmundson, has a financial interest in Chuckanut Ridge! Otherwise, why would he be in such strong favor of this project?
 - Parks and green spaces are what make Bellingham special. Let's keep up the good work!
 - Currently the city has double the number of acres of greenways/parks per 1,000 population than Eugene OR. More than 42. We do not need to add any more land for the next 20 years. If the council wants to add a particular park, they should do it with the regular budget. There should be absolutely no more land acquisitions in the South side of the city, it has too much now. In fact some of the greenways in the south should be sold for housing development.
 - The Georgia Pacific site should be the keystone of the city Greenway system with public access areas radiating out in an equitable distribution to all areas of the city. Availability of land, existing public areas and costs will dictate the feasibility of such a grid. Such an approach avoids the appearance of funding the desires of special interest groups and emphasizes equality of the Greenways system for all residents of Bellingham.
 - You should be very concerned about how high property taxes have risen. The average citizen cannot continue to pay for more parks. Why not develop what has already been purchased or sell it? Is it the government's place to collect properties for no particular public use? Wouldn't that free up some money?
 - The question regarding funds being distributed 'fairly'. Fairly should mean that the most funds are used where the most number of people live and play, ie the north side. Our area has few to no sidewalks in many neighborhoods and the trails and parks provide the only safe place to play, walk dogs etc, especially for children/people with few transportation options.
 - I don't support equal expenses/maintenance costs across the city - if the area doesn't have an equal amount of parks, trails and open spaces! It's taxation without representation!!! I'd

- like to see a 10 year levy proposal pass that had a major focus on those areas with no parks (the north). If that levy passes, we could also vote for a second levy to extend the first levy by an additional 5 years, to add to any Chuckanut property acquisition (but no development for now). Allotted money from the original levy for the south end of town can also be used for partial Chuckanut acquisition, that's for the south side neighborhoods to prioritize with City Council okay.
- I favor a levy that will have the best chance of passing. Although I don't agree outright with either of the two competing proposals put forward, I favor the one that places a greater emphasis on development than the one that emphasizes just purchasing the land. While there are merits to both, I don't think voters would find favor with merely using levy money to purchase land that will not be usable for a foreseeable future. Also, both proposals ask for too much money. I think voters will reject a levy that is too ambitious. The City can always come back with a new proposal in a few years when it is demonstrated that this one has been as successful as the previous two. Good luck!
 - I approve of purchasing land for trails and parks and maintaining them. I do not approve of using Greenway funds for Civic Stadium and the Arne Hanna Aquatic Center. Resources for those should come from somewhere else.
 - The trails and parks are one of the main reasons I choose Bellingham as my home. I feel grateful for the spaces we have available now, and look forward to what's possible on the waterfront. The Boulevard Park walkway is fantastic, and it's wonderful to see the numbers of people who are drawn there. That was an exceptional investment, and I look forward to seeing other projects of that caliber!
 - I LOVE the diversity and number of parks that Bellingham has. They contribute greatly to the quality of life here, and are one of the (many) reasons I live here. Growth in Bellingham is inevitable to some degree, and I appreciate the City's efforts in structuring/guiding that growth so that it doesn't become sprawl. Within in this it's vital to create balance regarding the distribution of parks. I live in the northwest part of Bellingham and would like to be able to share this area with friends, but there are so few outdoor public places--i.e., parks. The soccer fields on Northwest really don't count, but that's what we've got right now. Also, as the City considers buying and developing parks, it's important to keep in mind our canine companions and the fact that recreating with them is part of many humans' exercise plans. As Bellingham grows, this means more buildings and more people which will equal more dogs and less open areas in which to let them run. The Georgia Pacific site might actually offer an option for this that's not unlike Seattle's Magnuson Park or Redmond's Marymoor--both exemplary dog parks held in high regard by those who use them. Thank you for taking this survey and considering public comment.
 - It's not a "North vs. South" issue! Splitting it out by the six wards makes a lot more sense. You can't lump Cornwall Park and Whatcom Falls Park into the same category, any more than you can lump Fairhaven Park and Whatcom Falls Park.
 - Development of the Northern end including Squalicum (especially the acquired quarry site) and others is needed badly now. Afterwards the emphasis should shift to the Georgia Pacific Reclamation Area. With some on going development occurring across the board yearly.
 - Please do not let the mayor screw up greenways by making it a parks levy under the name GREENWAYS. If it does not pass then the movement is all but done. Use this survey's results and results from previous surveys and make this Greenways at least a 70% acquisition. Use the park impact fees to do the construction and operations funding the mayor wants! Buy land for my grandkids! Not over priced projects for friends of public works!
 - I live in the Tweed Twenty which is in the county but right next to Bellingham. It really should be a part of Bellingham. Bellingham is our city, where we do everything. So even though I can't vote I am active in supporting the things I believe in.
 - Greenways Funding should be used for preserving the natural spaces of Bellingham. Trails and parks maintenance should be a regular city budget item, especially since parks employees are CITY employees. Each neighborhood should have final say over the decision for how parks funds in their area are spent. There are very few places in Bellingham's parks system where you don't hear traffic whizzing by. It is important to create nature preserves as well as parks...and nature preserves, undisturbed and relatively untouched by man, require far less maintenance expenses which would be wise to consider as property taxes escalate. We already have a large parks and trail system - which will need to be funded to be maintained

- permanently, which should be part of the city maintenance budget. Let's focus on preserving what is left of Bellingham's natural spaces and preserve those as natural areas, without extensive parks and trail facilities. Future generations would almost certainly cast their vote for that approach...and isn't that our responsibility...to make choices that preserve and honor what is best about Bellingham. Thank you.
- Please keep in mind that if you focus on trail connectivity that you will reduce the need for purchasing land for road widening which is far more costly.
 - Great program. Needs to be continued for the benefit of the ENTIRE City.
 - We will not regret purchasing open space now, however we will have regrets when there is no more open space to purchase.
 - We must continue a Greenways Levy no matter what the form. It is the best thing we have done for our community. Existing Parks should use non-Greenways funds for restoration and development - a separate bond, a separate levy. The essence of Greenways has always been for acquisition first, and development of those new acquisitions. Please don't muddy the waters.
 - This is a divisive survey. If Greenways funds are spent entirely on acquisitions of new lands, there will be enough money for all areas of town. A successful acquisitions program will unify the city, not divide it.
 - Do not allow the north end of town to become a slum because people don't have parks in their neighborhoods.
 - Our greenways are so important-- that's why most people in Bellingham have chosen this as our home. I believe we are already ahead of the curve when it comes to our local parks and trails-- let's keep up the good work, and make Bellingham an even better place to live.
 - I support the concept of asking voters to consider a basic core proposal that is common to both competing GW advocacy groups, plus one or more options to increase the core amount to be voted upon separately and with passage accepted only if core proposal passes.
 - I live on the Southside, but I think it will be very unfortunate if a small, well-funded, highly organized and visible group based in this area is allowed to dictate concentration of greenways in this area.
 - If I am going to continue to be taxed for "Greenways" then I want my money to go to buying land and trail corridors....not paying for overpriced development projects that the mayor and his lackeys want. The Beyond Greenways levy turned into a parks fund and was not used for what it was touted to be. Please return the greenways to it's original and intended purpose - to acquire greenways (including Chuckanut Ridge and Parts of King & Queen Mountain) before they become the next mega development!
 - I think the city has an incredible opportunity to purchase Chuckanut Ridge, and I think this should be a priority of the Greenways levy. I also think that the purchase of land at places like King Mountain would be valuable to the city. Any opportunity to purchase large parcels of land like this with intact ecosystems is my top priority. I am in full support of paying a higher levy rate for more years to support purchases such as Chuckanut Ridge, as large parcels like this are rare and I don't think we'll have many opportunities like this in the future.
 - I will NOT vote for any Greenway Levy that includes money to be spent on Chuckanut Ridge. When it is so obvious that the North side of this city is so extremely lacking in parks and open space in comparison to the South side, I'm surprised the City Council is even considering the purchase of this unnecessary parcel of land!! Even now, money is continued to be spent on South side improvements, while we make due with outhouses & gravel pits! Lets start to make this a fair deal!!
 - Purchase of property should be a primary goal. Prioritization of purchase locations should be based first on value of property - both economic and environmental (especially environmental), and then based on creating "fair and even" distribution around the city.
 - Step up to the plate and make a choice, We will support whatever you do.
 - A true greenways levy is for acquisition of the most ecologically important tract of large properties.
 - Chuckanut Ridge is a great investment for the Greenways program. Please note that I live near Whatcom Falls Park and still feel that the Chuckanut area weel worth preserving.
 - I will only support another Greenways Levy IF the tax rate is lower. We love our parks and trails but our need for money for criminal justice is much greater than our need for more parks.

- It is important to preserve wild habitat which will serve animals as well as people if we are to preserve the character of our community.
- I think we have plenty of nice trails, and money could be used for a lot better issues. The Greenways trails exclude a lot of people and I would rather see tax dollars being spent towards education or other city improvements.
- This survey covered it all for me.
- Greenways Levy should be single purpose: purchase, restore, and preserve natural eco-systems. Parks and Recreation should be a separate item on the annual budget, similar to police and fire protection. Developed parks should be as "green" as possible, but treated separately from "natural" Greenways. Those Greenways should be kept as natural as possible with as little money as possible spent on "improving" or "maintaining" them - let nature takes its course. Greenways land should be purchased to form natural links for all native species to flourish and should continue to expand over the next 100 years as the human "footprint" contracts, exchanging quantity for quality for human habitat. Finally, Greenways land should be purchased and protected by a separate, directly elected commission, similar to the Port of Bellingham, as its stewardship is just as important to the economic vitality of the area as is the Port.
- I support the greenways legacy over the other proposed levies. (III or 2006)
- The North side of Bellingham trails and parks need to be enhanced as the annexations start. The South side of Bellingham is rich in these and do not need more yet.
- Greenways are for acquisition.
- The sooner the better for establishing a strong & effective Greenbelt System, so that it represents the Quality of Life here and depicts Bellingham as being on the cutting edge of Pro-Citizen municipal administration.
- I will not support ANY levy using the Special Election Voting. Special election voting was created for emergency issues. What's the emergency for greenways? I will lobby to the best of my ability to educate the public as to the misuse of the special election. Why, cost, non-emergency, an political scam(tool). A single item ballot is wrong. Give all the people, a choice. Not special groups.
- The purchase of land parcels like Chuckanut Ridge is paramount to the future quality of life in Bellingham. The development of Chuckanut Ridge would be an ecological disaster, a traffic nightmare and an economic burden for taxpayers who will have to pay the infrastructure costs into the future if this were to be developed. There is only a small window of opportunity in which to purchase these crucial parcels and once lost, they are lost forever.
- With the possible exception of the substantial new housing around Cordata Parkway, the City of Bellingham has sufficient existing park space. South Bellingham has their share and more. I do not support a tax on all Bellingham residents to purchase Chuckanut land, only to take it out of the future tax base available once the property is developed.
- A great majority of Greenways money should be spent on buying land and developing parks in the north side of Bellingham, until the amount of parks and trails are equal to what the South Side has. Don't poor people deserve as much parkland and open space as rich people? We're like the South before 1954, with lousy schools for black children and good schools for white children. Remember: Central Park in N.Y.C. was created rather than preserved forests - we can grow beautiful parks.
- The only reason I didn't marked extremely agree on the question about allocating money "fairly" across the city is because it was very ambiguous what that meant. My feedback is that it should result with relative geographic over time but that core "shared community assets" like the downtown waterfront are clearly a priority and a commons that benefit all.
- There are more than enough parks here. The only points that should be reviewed are the maintenance of existing parks and the possible development of existing city land in the northern side of the city. There is no need to raise taxes to expand on an already extensive parks system.
- Please focus on trail connections. Bay to Baker is a great idea. A couple of years ago the City vacated a section of Racine Street right-of-way between Sunset and Barkley. This cut off my neighborhood from the railroad trail. The City should have maintained a trail easement. The apartment owner has now posted "NO TRESPASSING" signs. Parks needs to review right-of-way before the City Council gives it away. My neighborhood is permanently cut off from the trail because of poor planning. Please focus on trails. Thank You!

- Please do all you can to protect the area above Lake Padden, across Samish Way. A trail along the creek (near Cedar Creek Lane) is needed, but cuts across the back yards of two of the houses. The proposed Blue Heron development in this area destroys more critical wildlife habitat, in addition to being geologically inappropriate for development. Please save it.
- Greenways should not be a Either - or - deal. Shame on you for wording the question to imply that you can only get either Chuckanut Ridge or land in the North. everyone I have talked to about this wants both. There is no reason we can't have both.....aside form some ridiculous political thought. Don't let the Mayor screw this up!
- Fair distribution of Greenways money across the city is not a sufficient measure of success - an equitable distribution of Greenways acres and park facilities is a much better "on the ground" measure. The current north-south imbalance is more a factor of useable acreage and developed facilities than dollars spent. My other concern is long term planning for general fund parks money, so Greenways doesn't have to shoulder so much of the development burden (it's simply unavoidable for this levy). As far as I know, Birchwood Park and the Skateboard Park are the only new parks of any size actually developed since I moved to Bellingham in 1989 - that indicates to me that we have seriously insufficient capital planning for neighborhood and community park development. If this were remedied, Greenways COULD focus more on critical acquisition needs.
- We need a fair distribution of parks across the city particularly where we have high density and we need to maintain and improve existing parks. The central waterfront development will be everyone's park so do a good job there.
- I believe at one time some money was set aside to improve drainage around Hoags pond, although I believe this money was not part of greenways. Just curious about this, as I know this trail becomes almost unusable six or seven months of the year due to extreme mud and standing water. Would like to see improvements on this trail, and maybe a safer route from interurban to Hoags pond.
- I believe the emphasis should be on acquiring lands while we can, before it is too late. Lands throughout the city. Next area of emphasis is on development and maintenance, once we have all the lands we want.
- This is one of the most distinguishing programs in Bellingham.
- While I live north of Lakeway, I'm not very far from it, though I most strongly support spend levy money much farther north, in the Mount Baker Neighborhood, Birchwood Neighborhood, and out Cordata. Just wanted you to know my opinions weren't self serving!
- I'm not supporting any levy until it is perfectly clear that levy funds will be used to restore the park LOS based on the existing population of Bellingham and that funds to maintain the park LOS for new residents will be provided entirely by the new residents. Since the survey questions didn't make that distinction, I was unable to answer most of them.
- The levy should be a balance between development and acquisition. Providing parks, trails and open space is most important in the north part of town. The south part of town has enough parks.
- I am a thirty year resident and business owner in Bellingham. The original intent of Greenways was for land acquisition and maintenance of special parcels not for maintenance of other parks and trails. I am very disturbed that some of the Greenways plans, especially the city staff plan, is offered to solve city park maintenance problems and cover areas that need to be budgeted through the Parks and Recreation Department as in the past. In addition, we have the opportunity to purchase some rare parcels of land that will not be available in the future. I am appalled that the city and the press have made this Greenways issue a north south Bellingham debate. This needs to be stopped. We need to purchase land for regular parks and maintain and upgrade what we have already acquired (separate from Greenways) through our regular tax base administered though Parks and Recreation. Greenways has always been and should remain a long term fund to pay for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive corridors through our entire city. Lisa Hall
- Open space land must be purchased before it is developed/paved over. Developers are stumbling over each other to CRAB as much land as possible to make a huge profit. LAND ACQUISITION MUST BE TOP PRIORITY!
- I'd like there to always be funds available for adding and maintaining off leash dog areas.

- Maintenance is critical of existing facilities, open spaces and assets. These must be preserved. People enjoy using the park system, but it must be maintained with sufficient funding.
- IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO GET MORE LAND BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS. IT CAN ALWAYS BE DEVELOPED LATER, BUT THE CITY NEEDS TO HAVE IT BEFORE IT CAN BE DEVELOPED.
- We appreciate all the open space in Bellingham. What is here already needs to be maintained and new spaces need to be provided, especially in North Bellingham which is currently very limited.
- Please honor that what makes this city so special IS the wild GREEN spaces and trails systems. Please make this a priority to preserve crucial green spaces while they still exist, there will always be time to cultivate them over time. I especially want to see the Chuckanut Ridge land preserved as a park due to its unique ecosystems and legacy as a key wild space that people have enjoyed for generations. Thanks for your attention to these important matters!!
- While I find it important to have greenway space throughout our city, I find it equally if not more important to include greenway space where the highest concentration of people are located. I think it is extremely important to have more parks within the downtown area -- easily accessible and high use!
- No matter what, it is important that a Greenways Levy be continued with the increase in population expected in Bellingham and the unfinished Greenway corridors that need to keep progressing. But I do not favor a lot of infrastructure improvements to future green space, just do what is needed to keep up existing parks. Bathrooms and picnic areas are important, but so are open habitat areas with just minimal trails. Please finish the access improvements for Woodstock Farm!
- Existing neighborhoods, where our highest densities are, desperately need parks: York, Columbia, Sunnyland, Sehome. It would be unconscionable to add large parks adjacent to existing parks when kids in other neighborhoods don't have safe places to play. I think park equity should occur and should take into account past Greenways levies. They've been heavily weighted south.
- I believe that in order for Bellingham to be an inclusive city, we MUST develop and maintain GP waterfront property as a public park and trail system area. Friends and I drive to Vancouver to walk Stanley Park, spend time at the sea wall, and Jericho Beach... Just think what it could mean to our humble little city if people drove here for its wonderful access to the water! I ride my bike, walk and run the Interurban Trail. I often visit a local bookstore and cafe after my route. It is less-than-pleasant to gain access to it from the Columbia neighborhood due to the amount of road cycling that must be done. I therefore load my bike and then drive to (and park at) a convenient location. I would be all-too-happy to leave my car at home. I believe that green spaces are important to a city's general mood. Even though I work in south Mount Vernon, I still live in Bellingham. The two main factors were 1) Bellingham's trails and 2) its library system.
- I strongly support doing all we can as a community to purchase the Chuckanut Ridge area currently slated for development, I also strongly support the idea of a Greenway Levy in general. I will definitely be voting on all relevant issues. Let the people of Bellingham decide, by vote, whether or not we want to use some of a levy to purchase Chuckanut Ridge!
- I believe to focus of Greenways should continue to be the purchase of land for preservation, recreation, and nonmotorized transport corridors. I believe the GP property green spaces/trails should be independently funded by the developers, and not be funded through Greenways. The taxpayers are already paying for this property. Park development and maintenance must continue to be funded through the city budget, and a greater emphasis needs to put on developers to pay their share. Existing property owners should not be subsidizing new housing costs and impacts of traffic, police, fire, water/sewer, parks, etc.
- Please provide parks and trails in the Cordata area. It's especially important for a park to provide playground areas and play fields for the many children living in Larkin Place Apartments, Pacific Rim Apartments, and lower Greenbriar homes. I would also like a wooded trail for exercise walking. Currently, the MANY adults who walk for exercise must walk on sidewalks along busy Cordata Parkway.

- COUNCIL JUST PASSED A PARKS IMPACT FEE, WE DO NOT NEED A GREENWAYS LEVY!!
- I hope you don't take the area adjacent to Squalicum Pkwy (truck route to the harbor) and turn it into a park. As a Bellingham native, I know the value of our Greenways and appreciate our parks very much. However, we are quickly running out of industrial space in our city. That piece of property I am referring to is ideal for industry, being on the truck route and near the harbor. We already have Cornwall Park within a mile of the proposed Squalicum Park. Please consider keeping that space for industry, and develop parks where we need them -in the GP Waterfront and the North side. Thank you, Marci Hanson
- Tell the city that dividing and conquering the populace is a fascist strategy and will cost them dearly.
- The north side of town must be treated fairly. The NYMBYS on the south side that are demanding Chuckanut Ridge be prioritized in the new levy must be told, "no". If we are to live in a community that is not more divided than it already is then attention must be given to the north side. The south siders are acting like spoiled brats. They have nothing to complain about.
- I view the purchase of the Chuckanut property by a Greenways Levy as nothing less than NIMBY in a very carefully crafted form. I am willing to pay my tax dollars for parks and trails. I am not willing to pay my tax dollars so that a privileged few will not have to work their way through development issues. If residents in that area don't want the development then let them form a special district and tax themselves for the revenue to buy the property.
- Bellingham is a great community. Encouraging alternative transportation by providing safe a pleasant bike travel routes will decrease traffic and increase the quality of Bellingham life. The longer we wait to purchase land the harder it will be.
- I LOVE the greenways in Bellingham. As ALL the empty lots are getting development, the greenways are even more important. PLEASE buy up as many sites as possible, I feel like we are a MAJOR city in its infancy. If we choose not to curb the growth then we should direct it away from as many open spaces as possible. We need SPACE to breathe, and TREES in those SPACES to provide oxygen for us to Breathe
- I'd like the Mayor and the people whose interests he's representing to stop trying to make this a South vs North issue. I rather prefer to think of our town in precincts and as a whole. It's a great place to live because of all the green we see. Quite picturesque and quite alive with biodiversity, especially in the intact second growth forested area of Chuckanut Ridge. We should most definitely be trying to preserve those places that are dear to the hearts of so many many people. We should absolutely do as much as can possibly be done to preserve as much of Chuckanut Ridge as possible. Of course we should give more parks to the North end and provide connectors within the rest. Green belts will keep those protected areas thriving because the creatures will have a way to travel between them. If we leave them as islands without connectivity we will surely see some species disappear. That would be pathetic. We can do this. We can also be thoughtful about ways to protect more land using other means. Greenways Legacy is what I support. Legacy does not divide the city into a North vs. South war. Please do your part to squelch this scheming by the mayor. Thank you!!!
- The new Greenways levy should be designed to bring equity to both North and South Bellingham. In that sense, it ought to be designed to be inequitable for Southsiders to make up for past inequity for Northsiders. I hear Chuckanut Ridge is beautiful, but I've never been there and don't know if I'd be able to find it. We need more neighborhood parks that are accessible to more people without a vehicle. We need to invest more money in maintenance of our current parks - let's find a way to water our neighborhood parks in the summertime. For example, little old Fouts park looks like the Sahara by August.
- I believe "Greenways" as a program first developed to save large areas of green in cities - NOT to help fund the Parks Department. there is a huge difference between greenways/natural space and the kind of development done by the Parks and Recreation Department. Please contemplate these differences and consider how important it is for us to have some areas within our city of "natural wild". Natural wild will be the treasure of the future and keep our city unique. Let the Parks Dept deal with its own upkeep and funding.
- This survey needs some professional work. Several questions seem duplicated. Some questions seem too ambiguous. I realized half way through that I was thinking of the wrong

- park. I needed to go back and correct but there was no way to go back. welcome to contact me for specifics.. check out <http://shna.ws> and contact webmaster. (or either contact WWU's survey/assessment office for other help)
- I would most prefer a County-wide greenways levy as there are many opportunities to protect land and create parks throughout Whatcom County. I think it was cheap of the Mayor to throw in his own plan; he confused things and has made it look even more like the City Council is at his bidding. I do not believe this is the case but I know there is a strong public perception.
 - The city has one of the largest park budgets per capita in the state. Plus they are looking at another Park fee per new residential lot. Enough is enough. Real estate taxes are already too high. We don't need another Greenways levy particularly one that goes beyond a few years before voter re approval and we don't need one that buys another park for the south side residences. I will vote no on any Greenways levy that is proposed.
 - It appears that a majority of greenways funds in the past have been spent developing lands in south Bellingham. I would like to see more of those funds being spent on a equal basis in the north end of the city.
 - Greenways are one of finest assets. We should do everything we can to preserve and expand them, even if this means an increase in taxes. The people of this city love their greenways.
 - As imperative as the Chuckanut Ridge acquisition is: the King Mountain area should preserve 40 plus acres of Urban Ag land for an educational / food production future just outside of the city limits.
 - I don't like impact fees because people will figure out they are a tax and then say they are double taxed by greenways. Greenways levies are better way to fund parks. Make the new developments have parks in them if they are building on undeveloped land. **DONT BLOW IT BY HAVING IMPACT FEES AND A LEVY - THE LEVY WILL FAIL!**
 - We as a city require keeping as much land undeveloped as possible. Once land is developed, its natural state is lost forever and the land around it is cheapened by the actions humans generally choose to modify nature. Please consider using Greenways monies to purchase as much land as possible for the sake of future generations and don't give in to the greed of the few who have a lesser vision of a healthy Bellingham. Quality of life and a natural environment go hand-in-hand. Whatever the cost increase is required to save our quality of life, it is required. For a mere \$200-\$400 extra a year to have more natural surrounding, it is MINIMAL. Residents will spend that much in coffees and donuts for the year. Why not choose to spend the money on a most honorable cause as saving our community from the stench of developers equipment. Also, as Eben Fodor so accurately stated in his presentation, a huge chunk of money SHOULD BE PAID by developers to save land for future generations. They want to gain their dollars on the backs of all of the current residents, so have them pay a mighty big price for the opportunity and save our land at the same time. You as council owe nothing to developers. You responsibility is to the community and its longevity of quality of life. Take a stand because now is the time to stand and be counted or be cut down like a bunch of sheep at the slaughter. You all have the guts to do it and the community is behind you. We will support your choice to save the land and our homes. Thanks for reading this....
 - Now that the City Council is going to pass Park Impact Fees, the idea of using GREENWAYS to fund projects & Maintenance now seems not necessary. GREENWAYS should be used to buy land and let the impact fees pay for developing parcels that need developing (All the while keeping some of the acquisitions as undeveloped open space). Using this greenways only to provide parks to the north side of town is wrong. I feel that the north should get a little more but the other parts of the city need to be included (center and south). Chuckanut Ridge is a must....otherwise why even bother. As a person that lives on the north side of town I want new parks provided using this levy however I feel that that Chuckanut Ridge is too valuable to loose. Now that we have the park impact fees **WHY CAN'T WE HAVE IT ALL?!** - this is the entire city's long term future not just the north's immediate needs.
 - The survey did not address how I feel about 43 or 44 or 60 million total. I think the numbers are too large. Much of the population is not ready for such a large figure. I think 30 million is stretching it if we want to have a positive result. It is easy to get carried away with the need or utopia, but we are feeling the pinch in many directions. Schools should have top priority.
 - Any Greenways measure should be about acquisition of land now before it is too late! Chuckanut Ridge is a forest with riparian streams and wetlands and wildlife habitat which should definitely be protected. It is much more than vacant land or a dirt lot. Neighborhoods

in north Bellingham also need more parks, but we already pay taxes for parks. Why should we pay twice? Developers should be required to pay higher impact fees to help create parks in the north side.

- I do live in the county.
- I was just wondering how much future development and new development areas affect the planning of Greenways. For instance, the Cordata and Whatcom Community College and Northwest Ave have all become new development areas but there are not currently any parks in these neighborhoods. I think that it is important to consider that families and children are looking to these neighborhoods as their home and it would be nice for parks to complete that "home" feeling in addition to creating a sense of community. I know that where I live in the York Neighborhood that the parks are used by others in the community and when people feel like they can gather at a safe and clean place that it helps to bind us together as a working community of neighbors.
- Please control development. Please increase our Greenways. Thank you
- I hope the City Council will find a way to bring both Greenways 2006 and Greenways Legacy ideas together into one package for the voters, possibly with two separate questions for voters to decide on. Both are worthy efforts.
- Don't divert Greenways money to maintenance. That should be a budget line item! For instance, use that "rainy day tax increase" you just passed just because you could...
- It does matter that children all over the city have access to open green space. Children from families with limited incomes particularly need our consideration. Please consider pocket parks and greenways accessible from the area north of the freeways. I would like to see developers be required to provide and develop land into parks in all areas they develop. City council can take the lead in requiring this. Thank you - Flip Breskin
- **DON'T SELL OUT BELLINGHAM TO THE DEVELOPERS!** Every time you have a choice, **CHOOSE NATURE PRESERVATION AND BEAUTY OVER PROFIT!**
- Greenways are one of the best ways for a city to manage growth and environmental issues at the same time. Bellingham does a great job of maintaining a good balance. If we want more growth, we should increase greenways in equal proportion to housing/development in order to preserve the unique outdoor qualities of Bellingham.
- I cannot stress enough how important I feel it is to acquire land for future generations. Maintenance and development of parks will have little relevance if we do not first save as much land from this seemingly endless and building frenzy. And saving areas such as King Mountain is, I believe, paramount. A large development there will stand out as a terrible blight. The north desperately needs save parklands.
- Even though I live on the south side, I believe that people in the north have been shortchanged by previous Greenways spending, and the next plan should put more emphasis on north side parks.
- Don't see this as a bailout for the city. Keep the politics out of the process. Let the people decide what to do.
- Make developers pay for parks in the North of the city. We should not be subsidizing sprawl in the north with our Greenways levy.
- If there are two or more Greenway's propositions on the ballot both will loose. If there is one proposition and it does not include the 100 acre woods, I will actively campaign against it.
- My personal concern is the Samish Hill area. There are beautiful areas in there with wetlands, ferny dells, old trees, etc. We need to preserve as much of it as possible as a green connector from Whatcom Creek to Lake Padden for use both by us humans, & by the wild creatures & birds who need a bit of home too. It is important for the current residents of Bellingham to decide what we want this place to feel, look & be like.
- All of these are important, and I don't like having to choose one over another. Also, I understand we have the money to do them all, if we don't do the development part. Let the impact fees pay for the development, so that, as the houses go up, the land is developed as a park.
- The city has the opportunity, at the Georgia Pacific site, to create a real park such as Stanley Park in Vancouver or Central Park in New York. A real park would be a very visionary thing to do. The Chuckanut Ridge property is a functioning wetland with natural timber stands, etc. To destroy it for a few houses would be extremely short sighted. The EIS for Whatcom

- County shows solid development to the border no matter which of the 4 growth options is adopted - so the reality is LA unless we can save acreage.
- We need more parks in the north end.....look at the map, where are we park and trail heavy in this city? Where is most of the growth? Yes, it may be important to save the 100 acre woods, but what about King Mountain, that is important too. We can't continue to buy in the south endjust because the south side residents want it. There is half a city north of Whatcom Creek that needs parks too. We need greenways in the north side too!
 - The sidewalks on Lakeway Drive between Racine and Toledo are not kept clean for pedestrian traffic, and there are volunteer trees growing right next to the sidewalk between St. Paul and Racine that will soon make walking in our neighborhood difficult. When the city widened Lakeway new sidewalks and rock walls were built. Since then they have not been maintained by neither the property owners adjacent to these sidewalks nor the city. The trash and fir needles on these sidewalks leave a very unfavorable impression on passerby, and make walking in our neighborhood unpleasant. Please make provisions for keeping these areas free of debris.
 - Because my property keeps being reassessed higher based on market value, my taxes are becoming prohibitive and I am less inclined to consider special levies as something I can afford. Why don't we use regular tax monies for Greenways. The taxes go up dramatically because of reassessed values but we keep getting slapped with special levies. Where does the regular tax money go??? I read the Herald but never see anything describing the city budget and why we need special levies. If you want support for continued levies the citizens need to know how our money is being spent. I have relatives in Weston MA an area of very high housing costs and their tax rate is 1/4 what ours is!
 - You need to buy the Chuckanut Ridge property while it is still available. It is a unique piece of land with unique qualities. It has a very rare type of fairy shrimp there in some of the ponds. Please reserve this land for current and future generations!
 - I live adjacent to Bellingham's northern city limits and I believe that we residents in this area should be allowed to have meaningful input in these decisions. I have years of experience in the field of recreation, both paid and volunteer, and believe that, while undeveloped green space is important, children and adults need to be able to interact with their parks. This teaches appreciation and stewardship. Children need to explore, ask questions, discover, and understand why our green spaces are so important. They need to realize the difference between ball fields, open space
 - NO CHUCKANUT RIDGE PURCHASE!!
 - I feel strongly that "Greenways" levy funds should go to acquiring and protecting habitat corridors. This is a separate issue from funding, developing, and maintaining parks and trails-- for which the city has designated funding. I am concerned that this most recent "Greenways" effort is shaping up to actually be a "Parks" effort, simply being called "Greenways."
 - Keep u-p the good work. Good survey.
 - Preserving the green wild areas is critical to preserving the dignity of the Bellingham community. Space is important visually as well as physically, a place to rest the eye as well as the body. Not all preserved areas need to be developed into trails or parks!
 - If we don't preserve land we will become just like everywhere else. I hope that the profit of a few developers doesn't out vote the quality of life for the rest of us.
 - I strongly believe we are overtaxed. I am a senior and the recent reassessment is pricing me out of my home of 30 years. I can't afford another Greenways levy.
 - I feel that funds from this Greenways levy should be dedicated exclusively to land acquisition. I feel that it's urgent to acquire undeveloped land to be set aside for two purposes; 1) to reserve the option of future development for public recreation in locations evenly dispersed throughout the city, and 2) to set aside vital natural assets in perpetuity, regardless of location, such as Chuckanut Ridge.
 - Chuckanut Ridge has been in the UGA for 10 years and should not be taken out to make a park.
 - The reason I "somewhat disagree" with the idea that Greenways efforts should be distributed evenly across all areas of the city is not because I want more in my neighborhood. It is because I think that the funds should be used wherever they will best leverage opportunity. Spreading the benefit geographically can help get support politically, but it does not ensure the best legacy for Bellingham. Future generations will look unfavorably on our spending

money equally on unique, never-to-be-regained properties and on undistinguished properties for which there is a larger, ongoing supply simply for short-term political pragmatism. Chuckanut Ridge is one of those special properties, and so is the waterfront. However, I REALLY hope that Greenways does not have to put anything significant into the waterfront project - that should be handled by the New Whatcom effort, leaving resources for other Greenway candidates.

- connectivity, connectivity, connectivity!
- We can always make parks out of parking lots. We will not always have the opportunity to preserve open space and habitat. It is unfortunate that this whole question has been obscured by some hyped up cross-town rivalry. Preserving open space and habitat for wildlife are important to preserving the quality of life for all who live in Bellingham. Thank you for asking the questions.
- A large part of Bellingham's beauty comes from its natural setting and we should do everything possible to acquire the last remaining natural areas all over the city. We can get out the rakes and shovels later. Let us acquire the available natural areas in the City now before they are bulldozed into oblivion. Now is the time to buy undeveloped property. Development is eating all the land up and we need green spaces in Bellingham for peace of mind and particularly for the health of the natural environment. It is not wise to destroy the special environmental areas that are left in the City limits. We should preserve them for future generations. Chuckanut Ridge area is especially important as a second growth forest, This rich and diverse ecosystem enhances the rest of the cities natural areas with its rich forested wetlands and provides a much needed respite for travelers on the Interurban Trail one of the most used trails in the city. The present building boom is gobbling up as much land as it can and we as a community would be wise to set aside land before it is too late and gets too expensive
- I would support the Mayor's proposal or Greenways 06. I am not in favor of developing more parks in south Bellingham.
- I believe that acquisition of land is more important than development of such acquisitions. The former is extremely time sensitive, as more and more of our area is developed. The latter can happen more gradually. I do understand that visibility and access to Greenways areas is important for garnering public support. That can often be accomplished with minimalist development, like the way Little Squalicum has been in the past. I put the north area as the first priority because this is the area most likely to be over-run with urban sprawl. Areas like Chuckanut are already well known for recreation and scenery, which means there is more public sentiment protecting them. The commercial developments to the north cause a lot of folks (me included) to want to avoid ever going in that direction. This is the right time to plan in some Greenways to balance the malls.
- I feel that saving Chuckanut Ridge is vital because this property impacts all of Chuckanut Drive and the surrounding areas, which are of national significance. Having parks on the North end are vital too. However, you must take into consideration the unique ecological and aesthetic characteristics of the Chuckanut area - it is what attracted many of us here in the first place.
- Green spaces all over the city are important, but I think we should focus on critical wildlife areas of significant beauty or environmental and community value first, regardless of where they are. It wouldn't make sense to have skipped a special place like, say Whatcom Falls park just to make an exactly fair distribution. I don't make a lot of money but I would rather pay for acquiring land than for subsidizing developments, especially when those developments are not really addressing our great need for more affordable housing. We can get creative about maintenance, trails, etc. but we can recreate nature and ecosystems once they're destroyed. It will just get more costly to buy this land. We might as well do it now and think of future generations in Bellingham = and really look at infilling downtown and in areas that are already urbanized. It would be one thing if some affordable housing along the lines of the beautiful Lopez Island land trust housing in Lopez Village were slated to go in along the edge of Chuckanut Ridge, or any of the other planned development parts of the city. I have been frustrated that concern for Chuckanut Ridge has been frames as north vs. south - it is unfair, and disrespectful to people's legitimate concerns about the importance of that area. I have lost a lot of faith in the city - it feels as if they favor the developers and people who have come here with big money to make more money. I trust the Greenways Legacy proposal because

- they seem like citizens who genuinely care about Bellingham, and really listen. It's frustrating as an ordinary citizen to feel that developers and other professionals have such an inside edge, their own motivations, and don't seem to really listen to us. Instead it feels like all they hear is their own assumptions, not our real and legitimate concerns.
- There needs to be a short and long range plan. It seems that the northern part of the city may need some attention as well as the waterfront at this time. But, overall balance is needed in the planning of all areas. Accountability by officials in charge is very important. Thank You for this survey.
 - This is the last chance to acquire land before it is developed. Greenways is about acquiring land for environmental and trail corridors. There will be plenty of time for maintenance and development after all of Bellingham's open areas are developed.
 - Buy half of Chuckanut ridge. Buy land in N. B'ham. finish the Whatcom creek Trail.
 - Habitat and watershed preservation should be the highest priority of the Greenways funds.
 - Use the levy or impact fees but not both. If impact fees are ok'd then vote no for the levy
 - Wetlands and sensitive areas are the most important areas to protect for the most value in maintaining the economic assets of our natural areas. Soon these opportunities will be gone.
 - Using Greenways money to purchase the Fairhaven Highlands / Chuckanut Ridge development would be a waste of money, and be inconsistent with the City's goal to develop additional residential capacity within the city limits.
 - the people in the exclusive south Chuckanut area who do not want to be able to see other houses out there should band together to buy the ridge and donate it to the city. instead they try to get all of the area to do that for them. the wealthy should give not take in excess.
 - Enough has been spent on the south part of the City. The northern section of Bellingham should now receive its share of funding and badly needed parks and trails need to be created. Thank you
 - Buy the Chuckanut Ridge property and acquiring park land in the north are the most important issues since it will show that the city is determined to live up to its past commitments and will strive first and foremost to preserve the quality of life in the community at the level it as existed in the past. It has been shown that allowing the Chuckanut Ridge to be developed will be a city taxpayer subsidy to the developers of more than 12 million dollars. The city need to quit subsidizing development, and do it now.
 - Please,Please,Please fund the trail development know locally as Samish Crest trail.
 - Preserving green space in our city is critical to the quality of life in Bellingham. Many new business that relocate to Bellingham cite quality of life as a key reason for that decision. The Greenways project is a good BUSINESS decision as well as good stewardship of our environment.
 - If the two groups who are sponsoring a Greenways draft can't agree, then Chuckanut Ridge either needs a separate levy or the Southside needs to create it's own Parks district. (Or both)
 - Greenways and the Parks are what make Bellingham a unique city, a bearable place to live. It brings people together in a way nothing else does, enjoying our environment, affordably. It is a way we share as a community.
 - Balancing the spending between north and south sounds politically correct. But the mountains are in the south and they are unique and will be forever lost. Nowhere in Bellingham does it take longer than 15 minutes to get to Arrayo Park. Where would you rather hike?
 - I feel very strongly that the north Bellingham/Cordata area needs more parks. Especially the Cordata area as they don't have any at all now. Is there any way that the City could buy some land at Cordata for a park. Right now there are always walkers walking on the sidewalks. I know the many seniors and families that live in the area would love to have a park to come to and enjoy.
 - I support the staff developed Greenways proposal which is most consistent with the ideas put forth in the Greenways 2006 levy.
 - I lived for 12 years in the North part of the City and resent the implications now being circulated by City officials that the South has enough parks and Greenways. I want my Greenways tax dollars to be spent on acquiring the most ecologically significant natural areas available--including the 100-Acre Wood in the Southwest AND comparable Greenways connections in the North (King Mountain/Bay to Baker) and Central (Squalicum/Whatcom

- Creek watersheds) portions of the City. I do not think it is ethical of the City to use Lakeway Drive as a North/South dividing line or imply as this survey does that specific park improvements should be pitted against each other in any Greenways levy expenditure. I want park impact fees to be used for new park developments & improvements & trail construction where there are the highest growth rates/residential density increases; I want my property tax allocations to be used to FULLY and ADEQUATELY fund the City's Parks & Recreation Department for continued park maintenance, operations, and improvements; and I want our public school impact fees to include adequate ball fields and play areas for the neighborhood children to use. I do not want the Greenways funds I agree to tax myself additionally for to be used for any existing park maintenance, development, or improvement. And in any Greenways levy I vote for, I expect the City will include allocations for acquisitions that 1) are most critical to the entire city (there are 28 areas listed in the City's wildlife & habitat assessment from which to choose); 2) reflect the Greenways priorities of the neighborhoods/wards/geographic regions of the city based on public input and not parks-staff-directed choices; 3) allocate proportional funding across the City so voters will get the amount of natural area/open space acreage they need to complete/protect existing Greenways corridors & habitats started in the past two levies and create new ones that can be expanded by other means as development occurs; and 4) respect the intent and choices of the people, who have already stated their preferences in past surveys and Greenways voting records. I do not appreciate the way parts of this survey have been worded, in order to pit existing parks and trails development against each other. These would not have been my top choices for a Greenways levy. My choices are in the City of Bellingham Wildlife & Habitat Assessment, based on ecological significance to the city at large. I would assemble a Greenways levy aimed at purchasing significant critical areas to complete/enhance the existing three Greenways corridors and initiate a fourth corridor in the North/Central part of the city, where there are not as many defining natural areas but potential for new trails and open space to connect what there are to existing parks and new ones that impact fees pay for.
- Greenways responsibility to preserve the natural settings is extremely important and appreciated. Thank you for nurturing nature.
 - The Greenways levy is a wonderful thing for a city to have and unique to Bellingham. It is important for the city to buy land to protect it from development to keep the beauty of the area. If the surrounding hills are developed, the beauty would be gone.
 - While having parks in all areas of the city are important, I am concerned about 3 things: 1. We should not forgo the opportunity to purchase large tracts of important habitat lands within the city limits, regardless of where they are located, because the remaining lands are being built on now. 2. Parks belong to everyone--north side residents use south side parks, and I as a south side resident, use north side parks. The arguments that pit north against south are ridiculous for this reason. All the parks belong to all the people--let's focus on securing the last remaining jewels--such as King Mountain and Chuckanut Ridge. 3. We should not subsidize sprawl but buying parks for parts of the city that are sprawling beyond our limits--make the developers provide that parkland!
 - It is HIGH TIME the North side of Bellingham was given its proper share of money for park & trail development! I am so tired of the South side getting it all. Please work on this!
 - Chuckanut Ridge represents a unique wildlife corridor and is part of an essential ecosystem. Building on this land will destroy its biological importance to the city and THE REGION. Set it aside now while there's still hope.
 - It is extremely important to buy available property before it is too late and gone forever. Acquisition must be the priority. Special property, such as "Chuckanut Ridge (100-acre woods)", must be prioritized. Yes, the south side of town has parks already, but it also has the most large trees, salmon creeks, wildlife habitat, and beautiful areas worth protecting. These areas need to be purchased for future use. The parks on the Southside are used by people all over the county, not just residents of the Southside.
 - It is imperative that the Council agree on a specific proposal and then present it to the people with strong justification.
 - buy Chuckanut, stop the games. The time to act is now.
 - We should adopt a greenways levy that most confirms to identified needs in the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan and maintenance and operation expenses should be part of it.

- Let's spend more money to preserve more. I'd be willing to pay \$20/month toward Greenways. (i.e $\$20 * 12 = 240/\text{year}$ on my \$250,000 house). It's worth it to me, my family, friends and out of town guests to have such a rich and diverse system of paths and parks and recreation areas. Also, I think we need to provide for the folks that are living it apartment, such as those along Sunset, by tying that area in to Cornwall park and downtown through the Squalicum Creek Trail from Hannegan back to Cornwall. Let's Do It!!! :)
- Acquiring Chuckanut Ridge is too expensive. It essentially solves a very local NIMBY problem at the whole city's expense. Including Chuckanut Ridge acquisition money in the new Greenways levy risks dividing the critical mass of voter support for the whole project. The Council should resist the political pressure to pay for Chuckanut Ridge under the new Greenway levy.
- I think the current assessments of green space (the maps for example) are over simplified for the questions being asked. Open, natural space with trails is very important. But, so are places for popular forms of recreation -- athletic fields, play grounds, basketball and tennis courts, etc. My sense is that playground spots are in okay supply and that replacement and upgrade of equipment is happening (though maybe a little slow). Athletic fields (especially for soccer) are in short supply and thus generate a lot of competition among youth-teams and needlessly long driving trips by parents out of their neighborhoods. Athletic fields should be places that kids can ride their bike to for practice. An inventory of these amenities should be included in the analysis--in a way that's relative to the geographic distribution of population (current and forecasted). This is a logical component of planning for density while preserving quality-of-life. New developments should be required to set aside field-space, playground space, and at least pedestrian connections to open space. With property values going up and land supply going down in general, I do think the priority should still be on acquisition. The separate fund for interest-funded maintenance sounds like PART of the solution for that need. I think there are opportunities for the waterfront redevelopment to use other revenue streams (other than Greenways) and development requirements for ensuring a lot of public-access open space, beach, and trails. The last question about how Greenways funds should be spread -- city wide or not-- was confusing. Couldn't tell if the question was about distribution of green-space land or distribution of the next round of green-ways investments. So, my answer is: keep investing the funds in a way that provides the amenities proportional to where the people are. Places like Lake Padden are "destination" green-spaces and maybe should be factored in differently. But the location of public-access field space, trails, and basketball/tennis/baseball diamonds, etc. should be assessed relative to population distribution and invested in accordingly. And, just because I feel like I need to say it, I am not impressed by the theater of the "100-acre wood" protests. I think there's a compromise solution in there somewhere and it's being ignored. There are indeed environmental concerns (habitat, traffic, etc.) that need to be managed. But this should be done through permitting. It would not be equitable to use city-wide tax revenue for a land-purchase that has more to do with maintaining a buffer around a more opulent neighborhood than it has to do with securing green-space for accessible, public benefit. Thanks so much for this opportunity to communicate. I don't have much time to attend night meetings. This makes so much sense!!!
- I'd like to see a long term goal that makes it possible to bike safely (off road) to all corners of the city from anywhere. Such a trail system was developed in Anchorage, AK. It's fabulous! Would help cut down on road traffic and make it safer to bike.
- I use our parks and trails extensively (almost on a daily basis), as I am a runner, biker and hiker. Our Greenways greatly enhances our quality of life in Bellingham and Whatcom Co. The connector trail on Samish Crest would be a valuable link within the trail system connecting Whatcom falls Park to Lk Padden. Adding trails on Chuckanut would add to the desirability of our community, as it would allow wilderness hiking within 15 mins of downtown! What a treasure!!
- Preserve, protect, and improve our environment. Development is not always in the best interest of the total community. Spend money wisely. Look beyond the big \$\$\$ to the quality of life. Quit selling out to big developers. Say "no" and refuse to be bought. Show some backbone. Don't play the "good old boys" game with our home. Use common sense. Keep us a vibrant and living green - not a lifeless pavement gray.
- Preservation (acquisition) of undeveloped or partially developed land around Arroyo park is my highest priority for the City.

- I believe that the 1997 Levy was to purchase the 100 acre woods. What happened? I think it is important to be fair to the land owners. The owner in 1997 was someone who would have worked with you and actually did as they gave the city the 17 areas. I question the negotiator.
- Land acquired IS an endowment more important than diverting \$\$ to a maintenance fund.
- I am a strong supporter of purchasing land now in order to protect it. It is not necessarily about parks or trails, but preserving green space for both wildlife and future human use. The levy should not be too acreage specific, since staff will need flexibility as well as direction.
- I think it is important to spend the money fairly, in order to benefit the most citizens. Up to now, the North Side of the city has not been treated fairly when it comes to open spaces and park facilities. I live on the South side but I can understand the need to buy more parkland and develop more recreational areas on the north side. Also, the Georgia-Pacific area is very important as it can be used by everyone due to its central location.
- We can always improve and develop. We can't always buy land. We must get it now
- The highest priority for Greenways expenditures should be for the ACQUISITION of property, in fee and/or less than fee (development rights), needed to protect important future open space, parks, and trails throughout B'ham.
- Please build more parks in the Cordata area!!!! Purchasing the land across the parkway from SeaMar and behind the Option Care building would be a wonderful way to keep the area green and add parks to the city. Thank you!! :-)
- Greenways are about protecting watersheds and wildlife habitat and corridors as well as providing a precious space for people. Money raised is supposed to be spent primarily on land purchases--the more precious, the more important. Maintenance for parks is a city budgetary responsibility.
- We must preserve land while it is available. Once developed its gone!
- I would like to see the old GP site developed along the lines of cities like Santa Barbara where the entire water front is parkland, with no buildings by the water cutting off views, and is accessible by all.
- Protecting land from the risk of permanent and irretrievable development is the highest priority to me. We can always improve existing access and such later, but the development is happening NOW. If we don't purchase land, or conservation easements expeditiously, we will lose the chance. Thank you.
- Even though I am not a voter the protection of the environment within the city is an extremely important issue to all in the county and is extremely important to the future health of all in the county. The land is only going to become more expensive and needs to be purchased ASAP.
- I have lived in Bellingham and Whatcom Co. for over 38 years and presently live in the King Mt. area. I strongly support adding parks and trails to the northern part of the city/county. I am fearful that the lands available for parks and trail will soon be developed and the opportunity to purchase these lands will be gone. In my opinion, our quality of life does not increase as we continue with fast-paste development. I am well aware that development will and needs to continue, however, mistakes happen when there is so much pressure and money from developers. If the City Council could keep in mind that there is not a child or grandchild in our community who will ever say, we have too many park and trails. Thanks for the opportunity to express my concerns. K. Roger Woods
- I'd like to emphasize that a reasonable land sale requires a willing seller to work with Greenways. If the Chuckanut Highlands area had been affordable, it would have been purchased the first time Greenways attempted to buy it. It is a lovely, valuable area, but not within the reach of public funds. Please do not hold a 3rd levy hostage to an unaffordable property.
- I am a downtown resident. I have followed Greenways since its inception in May 1990 and I believe its original goals should be completed equitably throughout the City with this levy. Any exceptionally large acquisitions for a particular area should be considered individually. Many areas of the City have already foregone that opportunity in the interest of the City as a whole and all of its park users and citizens.
- Greenways and parks should not be lumped together as they have been in this argument - greenways were meant to be preservation of natural open space while parks are meant for multiple purpose use. That being recognized, funding should not be shifted between as seems to be the case here. Similarly, the greenway issue should not be made into a north versus south issue as it has been. Parks should be spread across the city in proportion to

- population as much as possible but greenways is about preservation of open space and decisions should be made on the environmental value of the habitats - the ecosystem, how it fits in to current holdings and imminent development threat.
- I have recently purchased a home here after renting for several years. My new house is located near one of the trails (we are near Roosevelt school) and I can't tell you how much my children and I have enjoyed it. I love how far we can go and all of the places we can walk to. Thank you so much for building these trails that make one feel like a big park is spread throughout the whole city. I sometimes feel that if there was a way to access downtown by trail (linking northish and south trails), then I could actually access pretty much anything I need by walking - should I choose to. Is there any thought of linking these 2 trail systems?
 - Sites that can be reached by a greater variety of streets, trails and transit services are more important than those that are less accessible by fewer routes and modes of travel.
 - Please read "Last Child in the Woods" by Louve to understand better the extreme importance of nature for the health and welfare of children and adults and Tim Beatley's book "Green Urbanism" for examples of how many European cities are meeting their citizens needs for green spaces within their cities. The best way to do this is to install the GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE first, then build around it. There appears to be a very high correlation between healthy greenways and a healthy economy. Possibly the most important thing we can do in this direction is to declare walking and biking as the preferred means of travel in Bellingham, set aside car free streets and green them and trails for pedestrians and cyclists, charge fees for driving in our city center, construct a city wide network of pedestrian and bikeways connecting all parks, playfields, trails, schools and other important destinations. Make these projects top priority. Do as other cities have done and create an adequately funded department of walking, cycling and greenways to get our green infrastructure in place before permitting further development. Thank you. Bill Hinely
 - The existing levy should be allowed to expire, and should not be replaced ! Property taxes are too high now! And, we are facing additional taxes for a new library and other civic improvements downtown; in addition we have a port district empire with 82 employees and a „budget big enough to choke a large horse, yet they ship virtually nothing and compete with private enterprise at every opportunity. Maybe we could take their levy, or at least a good portion of it, and apply it to Greenways thereby reducing total bureaucracy and taxes. Every dollar of tax revenue lost to property taken off the tax rolls, must be made up in the form of a higher tax on the remaining private property owners. Where does it end?
 - As a resident of B'ham--in the low income level I am finding it increasingly difficult to manage all my bills. I strongly agree with parks and support for them but I am tempted to vote no just to pay for food or electricity. Low income Bellingham homeowners are being hit HARD!!!
 - I hate to see Greenways forced to make up for the City under funding the Parks system.
 - ARN RULES! ... My responses were accurate, but you can ignore this! I love and miss you all!
 - It's a mistake to ask the homeowner for .57 Cents on every thousand or more. I would never agree to paying \$150 a year in taxes for trails I would rarely use. I would agree to pay \$150 or more a year for more important standard improvements such as roads, police department etc. I would be curious what percentage of the home owning population actually uses greenways trails? I can bet it's under %10.
 - It's been said many, many times before but we have a very unique area here and if we don't step up much of what we were given will be lost. I've seen development proceed almost without opposition for the last 15 years, now we're discovering the consequences of overdevelopment. If the cost of being proud of our area means a little money, I'm all for it.
 - Let Greenways be the very definition of Bellingham and the "brightest jewel in her crown".
 - I am 2 miles outside the city limits. Yes, purchasing greenways in North Bellingham is important, but since nothing was done and the character of the land is marginal, emphasis should be to acquire and maintain the south side of Bellingham, such as the Chuckanut Ridge area proposed to be developed (a mistake!) And certainly connecting many of the existing greenways as much as possible. By the way, I am on the Northwest side of Bellingham and still think the character of the land on the South Side of Bellingham is more important due to the character of the land!
 - Samish Crest is an important greenway that needs to be completed and developed. I have walked the area and it is beautiful and an important link with Lake Padden.

- If Greenways passes, then only use the money to keep that which is park already and maintain it to it's best use. Adding more does not help anyone. It takes land off the tax rolls thus increasing the burden on other private sector property. The Parks Department 'kingdom' DOES NOT need more to manage, nor more staff to manage what we already have.
- I actually live on the East side. I don't think of myself as north or south, since I am below sunset, north of Lakeway, and near the lake.
- Once it's lost it's lost forever. It is worth it to me to pay the taxes to preserve this priceless legacy.
- I'm impressed by how much effort and thought are going into this kind of city planning. By how much public input is sought, and listened to. And by how involved the 'Hamsters are. It's the first place I've lived (and I've lived a bunch of different places over the course of my 64 years) where such a process is so openly and wholly public. It's one of the things that makes Bellingham such a special place.
- Try to compromise all factions. If Chuckanut ride is not included, the city should ask that at the minimum turn lanes be established at the intersection of Chuckanut Drive and Viewcrest. No roads across the interurban, instead build a bridge at 12th street connecting Chuckanut Drive and Old Fairhaven Parkway.
- Our city is rapidly growing. Now is the time for us to set aside land that will benefit our city in the future. Now is the time for us to put a lot of money toward purchasing land in order to preserve the wilder spaces in our city. One of the things that sets Bellingham apart from Seattle is our easy access to true forest. Let's preserve that.
- Emphasis for the Greenways program funds should be on acquiring critical lands/habitats, that are still in relatively good shape (ecologically speaking), that will continue to function as natural connections and corridors across the landscape (north, south, east & west), for wildlife and people to use, before these lands are totally lost to development. Development and maintenance of park & recreation lands and facilities should be conducted through normal City funding process, not through the Greenways Program.
- I strongly support the acquisition of land, particularly land which is providing habitat for wildlife. I very much enjoy seeing the variety of wildlife in this area of the country and would like to make sure that they are protected and considered in all decisions made as far as development and preservation.
- I think that Bellingham is at a very important juncture. There are still some larger parcels of land that can be made into parks and trail corridors within the city. Perhaps soon the opportunity to create such parks and trail corridors will no longer be there because the land will be all developed for commercial and residential use. How different would Vancouver be if there was no Stanley Park? What would San Francisco be like without Golden Gate Park? These parks involved setting aside land for future generations. This takes courage and costs money. 50 years from now if we go ahead and create more great parks and trails we can look back and be proud of our beautiful city. Also it is important to note that many trails and parks are VERY well used and on the verge of being loved to death (Lk Padden in summer comes to mind especially). They are getting downright crowded with the increased population. Let's have the courage to go ahead and bite the bullet now and pay for more open spaces for future generations.