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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
**FROM:** GINA AUSTIN, PROJECT ENGINEER  
**CC:** LAINE POTTER, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** SUNSET POND TRAIL CONNECTOR  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 21, 2023

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Staff will present an update on the Sunset Pond Trail Connector project. Details about the project alignment, design, and materials will be presented for information and recommendation.

This project includes completion of the loop trail around Sunset Pond, two new bridge crossings, stairs, and trail connector to Sunset Drive. The project is included in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

The Squalicum Creek Trail segment of the Bay-to-Baker Trail was completed in 2016. This segment of the trail has activated Sunset Pond Park and the surrounding area. Completion of the loop trail will provide a vital connection to the neighborhoods and provide much needed recreational opportunities and water access for this area of Bellingham. The project will also connect the Irongate and King Mountain Neighborhoods south to the Barkley Urban Village, as well as provide a connection between two arterial trails – the Bay to Baker Trail and Railroad Trail.

We are also presenting the option of installing a prefabricated aluminum structure in lieu of the typical weathered steel bridge standard. Most of the project area is in a floodplain and critical area buffer, making construction in this corridor challenging for large equipment. Aluminum is made of recycled material and is a fraction of the weight of structural steel, yet durable and long lasting. This may result in preserving existing trees that would otherwise need to be cleared to make way for a larger crane due to the increased weight of weathered steel. Using a lighter weight bridge may also be a cost savings for this project due to smaller concrete footings and smaller equipment for installation.

In accordance with BMC 2.36.050, we are providing this information to fulfill the requirement for the issuance of a City building permit.

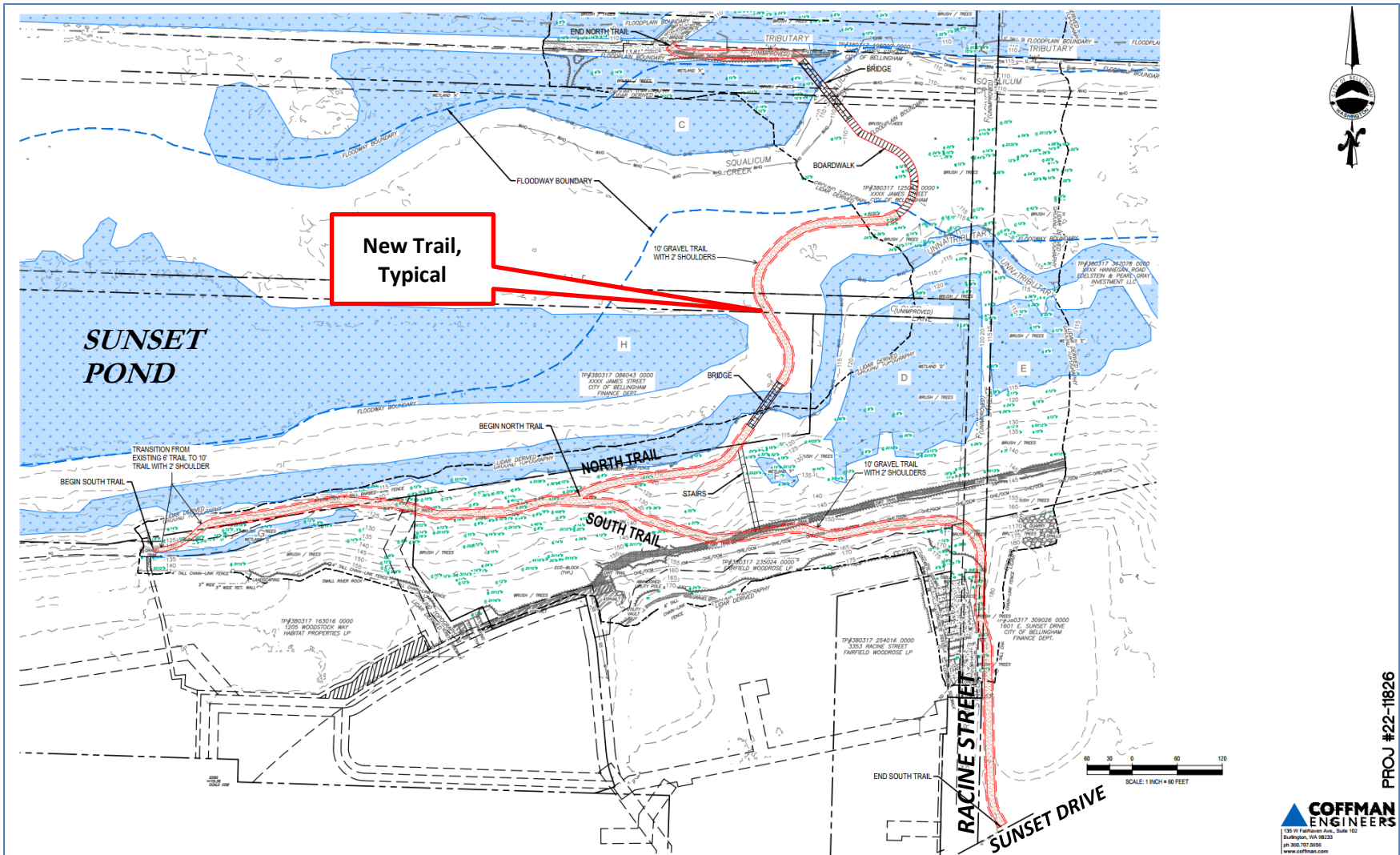


Figure 1 – Trail Alignment