



MEMORANDUM

TO: BELLINGHAM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: GINA AUSTIN
CC: LAINE POTTER; NICOLE OLIVER
SUBJECT: CIVIC PLANNING ASSESSMENT PROJECT UPDATE
DATE: APRIL 12, 2023

Staff is providing an update on the status of the Civic Athletic Complex Planning Assessment project. The purpose of this work is to help the city understand existing and future uses to meet the needs of the community. Work will be completed in multiple phases as funding becomes available.

The Civic Athletic Complex is a community park established c.a. 1950. Stadium structures were originally constructed circa 1960 and renovated in 2006. Facilities include a lighted multiuse stadium, track and field facilities, softball fields, baseball stadium, aquatic center, playground, skate park, bike jump park, privately operated indoor ice arena and soccer facility, parking, restrooms, and trails.

The city is seeking a better understanding of the development potential for current and evolving uses at the Complex. Future decisions, including redevelopment potential or expanding uses, may be guided by the outcomes of this planning work as well as from the recently completed Recreation Needs Assessment and the Cost Recovery study that is also underway. The outcome of this work may provide the city answers as to how the Complex may be used in the future and what improvements will be needed to meet the demands of our growing community, including meeting the city's Climate Action Plan.

Work completed to date includes the following:

1. Data gathering & data gap analysis
2. Repository of all existing reports & studies
3. Initial facility inventory
4. Boundary survey summary & assessment of property commitments
5. Critical area review
6. Stormwater facility inventory, condition, and function

The final deliverable for phase 1 work includes a reference report and the interactive story map. A draft report is currently under review by city staff and managers.

Phase 2 work includes a design charrette, prioritizing the city's needs and recommendations, stakeholder engagement, public process, and other final recommendations. The deliverables for phase 2 will include a stakeholder and public engagement plan as well as planning level graphics and recommendation for future development.