



City of Bellingham
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

MEMORANDUM

TO: *City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)*

FROM: *Anya Gedrath, Planner II*
Planning and Community Development

SUBJECT: *The Bellingham Plan Presentation and Parks Chapter Discussion*

DATE: *February 12, 2025*

Background

The City of Bellingham is now working on the final phase – the legislative process – of the two-year update to the comprehensive plan, which we are calling the “Bellingham Plan”. The plan addresses important topics, such as housing, transportation, and climate resilience, and establishes high-level goals and policies for the city. Those goals and policies will guide development, capital investments, City programs, and other actions across Bellingham as we work toward our vision for 2045.

A comprehensive overview of the Bellingham Plan process and update was presented to Planning Commission on February 6. The [Planning Commission material](#) prepared for that meeting includes helpful background and context. The packet also includes a [Summary of Proposed Changes](#), with the most significant updates we are proposing for Bellingham’s growth plan grouped into four themes. Additionally, see [Engage Bellingham](#) for a summary presentation of the updates in each chapter of the plan, along with other project information.

Parks Chapter: Significant Proposed Changes

A significant change to Bellingham’s comprehensive plan is separating Parks-related goals and policies from the technical components, actions, or improvements within the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) plan document. Updated goals and policies will be located in a Parks chapter within the Bellingham Plan, while the PROS plan will become a separate implementation document, adopted by reference. Throughout 2025, Planning Department and Parks Department staff will be working closely to coordinate on these proposed changes.

Additionally, goals and policies within other chapters of the Bellingham Plan also relate to Parks. These relevant policies will be linked between the Parks chapter and other chapters of the Bellingham Plan.

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to present a summary of the Bellingham Plan process and update, especially as it relates to the topics addressed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. **Following a short presentation, staff welcome feedback and questions about the proposed updates to the Bellingham Plan and implications for the Parks chapter.**

Staff discussion with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board provides an opportunity to review anticipated updates, identify outstanding questions or concerns, and provide feedback to be incorporated into Planning Commission discussions and the draft plan before the adoption process begins.

NOTE: Staff anticipate presenting Parks chapter material to the Planning Commission in May.