

PROPOSED BY: Planning & Development Services
INTRODUCTION DATE: _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE
WHATCOM COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
RELATING TO CAPITAL FACILITIES PLANNING**

WHEREAS, The Whatcom County Planning Commission held a public hearing and issued recommendations on the proposed amendments; and

WHEREAS, The County Council considered Planning Commission recommendations;

WHEREAS, The County Council held a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, The County Council hereby adopts the following findings of fact:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The proposal is to amend the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Whatcom County Facilities 2021-2026 (Appendix F of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan) by adding the following two projects:
 - a. Hovander Park Tennant Lake Flood Repair and Mitigation Improvements; and
 - b. Lookout Mountain Road & Culvert Repair and Mitigation Improvements.
2. Notice of the subject amendments was submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce on February 28, 2022.
3. The SEPA Official determined on February 28, 2022 that the determination of non-significance (DNS) issued in 2020 for the Six-Year CIP update is sufficient for the subject amendments.
4. Notice of the Planning Commission hearing was posted on the County website on March 11, 2022.
5. Notice of the Planning Commission hearing was published in the Bellingham Herald on March 11, 2022.

6. Notice of the Planning Commission hearing was sent to the County's email list on March 11, 2022.
7. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the subject amendments on March 24, 2022.
8. Pursuant to WCC 22.10.060(1), in order to approve the proposed comprehensive plan amendments the County must find all of the following:
 - a. The amendment conforms to the requirements of the Growth Management Act, is internally consistent with the county-wide planning policies and is consistent with any interlocal planning agreements.
 - b. Further studies made or accepted by the Department of Planning and Development Services indicate changed conditions that show need for the amendment.
 - c. The public interest will be served by approving the amendment. In determining whether the public interest will be served, factors including but not limited to the following shall be considered:
 - i. The anticipated effect upon the rate or distribution of population growth, employment growth, development, and conversion of land as envisioned in the comprehensive plan.
 - ii. The anticipated effect on the ability of the county and/or other service providers, such as cities, schools, water and/or sewer purveyors, fire districts, and others as applicable, to provide adequate services and public facilities including transportation facilities.
 - iii. Anticipated impact upon designated agricultural, forest and mineral resource lands.
 - d. The amendment does not include or facilitate spot zoning.
9. The Growth Management Act (GMA) establishes planning goals in RCW 36.70A.020 to guide adoption of comprehensive plan amendments.

10. GMA planning goal # 12 is to "Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards" (RCW 36.70A.020(12)).
11. The subject amendments consist of updating the Six-Year CIP for Whatcom County Facilities for the 2021-2026 planning period by adding two park projects needed to address damage to existing facilities. Updating the CIP is one step in the process of planning capital facilities, including park and recreation sites, to serve the people of Whatcom County.
12. The GMA normally requires concurrent review of all comprehensive plan amendments once a year. However, there are exceptions including capital facilities plan amendments that occur along with the adoption or amendment of a county budget (RCW 36.70A.130(2)(a)(iv)). The subject Six-Year CIP amendments will be accompanied by a County budget amendment and, therefore, are not subject to the concurrent review provisions of the GMA.
13. County-Wide Planning Policy K-1 indicates that, as part of the comprehensive planning process, the County must identify appropriate land for public facilities that meets the needs of the community including recreation, transportation and human service facilities.
14. The Six-Year CIP identifies such improvements as contemplated by the County Wide Planning Policies.
15. There are no known interlocal agreements relating to the subject amendments.
16. An updated Six-Year CIP was adopted for County owned or operated facilities in 2020. The subject proposal amends the CIP to address needs identified by the Whatcom County Parks Department.
17. The goal of the Six-Year CIP for Whatcom County Facilities is to plan for County owned or operated facilities. The proposed repair and mitigation projects are in the public interest.
18. The subject proposal does not involve rezoning property.

CONCLUSION

The subject Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan amendments are consistent with the approval criteria in WCC 22.10.060.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that:

Section 1. Amendments to the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program for Whatcom County Facilities 2021-2026 (Appendix F of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan) are hereby adopted as shown on Exhibit A.

Section 2. Adjudication of invalidity of any of the sections, clauses, or provisions of this ordinance shall not affect or impair the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Todd Donovan, Chairperson

APPROVED as to form:

() Approved () Denied

/s/ Royce Buckingham

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, Executive

Date: _____

Chapter 2 – Parks, Trails, and Activity Centers

Parks

The 2020 inventory of County parks and open space areas is over 16,200 acres. This inventory is shown below.

Table 1. Existing Parks

Site No.	Park Name and Location	Acres
1	Alderwood Park, 3479 Willowood Rd.	1.9
2	Bay Horizon Park, 7467 Gemini St.	68.2
3	Birch Bay Beach Park, 7930 Birch Bay Dr.	13.7
4	Birch Bay Conservancy Area, 7000 Point Whitehorn Rd.	45.0
5	Birch Bay Tidelands	151.0
6	Boulevard Park, 471 Bayview Dr.	1.4
7	Broadway Beach Access, 7497 Birch Bay Dr.	0.1
8	Cagey Road, 3130 Haxton Way	20.0
9	Camp 2 RR ROW, 3775 Camp 2 Rd.	2.3
10	Canyon Lake Community Forest, 8300 Mt. Baker Hwy.	2,266.0
11	Chuckanut Mountain Park, 745 Old Samish Rd.	987.9
12	Cottonwood Beach Access, 8191 Birch Bay Dr.	5.1
13	Deming Eagle Homestead Park, 5615 Truck Rd.	33.0
14	Dittrich Park, 319 E Lake Samish Dr.	25.2
15	Drayton Harbor Tidelands	0.3
16	Euclid Park, 1570 Euclid Ave.	2.2
17	Galbraith Mountain Access, 800 Birch Falls Dr.	20.0
18	Glacier Cemetery	0.5
19	Halverson Park, 5075 Anderson Rd.	5.6
20	Haynie Road, 2876 Haynie Rd.	1.9
21	Hegg, 3845 Blue Canyon Rd.	3.5
22	Hovander Homestead Park and Tennant Lake, 5299 Nielsen Rd.	333.4
23	Jackson Rd. Beach Access, 7465 Birch Bay Dr.	0.2
24	Jensen Family Forest Park, 8051 Stein Rd.	21.5
25	Josh VanderYacht Park, 4106 Valley Highway	2.0
26	Kickerville Road, 4110 Bay Rd.	2.6
27	Lake Whatcom Park, 3220 North Shore Rd.	4,853.0
28	Lighthouse Marine Park, 811 Marine Dr. in Point Roberts	20.5
29	Lily Point Marine Park, 2315 APA Rd. in Point Roberts	262.1
30	Little Squaticum Park, 640 Marine Dr.	12.7
31	Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve, 2537 Lake Louise Rd.	4,682.8
32	Lummi Island Beach Access, 2198 N. Nugent Rd.	0.2
33	Maple Beach Tidelands	100.9
34	Maple Creek Park, 7842 Silver Lake Rd.	73.1
35	Maple Falls Community Park, 7470 Second St.	4.2
36	Monument Park, 25 Marine Dr. in Point Roberts	6.9
37	Nugent's Corner River Access, 3685 Mt. Baker Highway	14.2
38	Ostrom Conservation Site, 4304 South Pass Rd.	38.6
39	Phillips 66 Soccer Park, 5238 Northwest Dr.	36.6
40	Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, 6770 Koehn Rd.	54.1
41	Redwood Park, 3310 Redwood Ave.	0.3
42	Samish Park, 673 N. Lake Samish Dr.	30.6
43	Samish Way, 5170 Samish Way	1.4
44	Semiahmoo Park, 9261 Semiahmoo Parkway	291.9
45	Silver Lake Park, 9006 Silver Lake Rd.	413.4
46	South Fork Park, 1530 Mosquito Lake Rd.	603.0
47	South Lake Whatcom Park, 4144 S Bay Dr.	79.5
48	South Pass East, 4900 South Pass Rd.	0.5
49	South Pass West, 4190 South Pass Rd.	0.4
50	Squires Lake Park, 2510 Nulle Rd.	84.2
51	Stimpson Family Nature Reserve, 2076 Lake Louise Rd.	400.4
52	Sunnyside Landing, 2870 Northshore Rd.	6.3
53	Sunset Beach, 2580 West Shore Dr. on Lummi Island	7.0
54	Sunset Farm Park, 7977 Blaine Rd.	69.5
55	Ted Edwards Park, 4150 Oriental Ave.	3.5
56	Teddy Bear Cove Park, 1467 Chuckanut Dr.	11.2
57	Terrell Creek Access, 7417 Jackson Rd.	0.5
58	Terrell Creek Heron Rookery, 7065 Jackson Rd.	15.0
59	Terrell Creek Point, 7685 Birch Bay Dr.	6.7
60	Turner-Jaeger, 1975 Lake Louise Rd.	3.8
61	Welcome Bridge River Access, 5585 Mosquito Lake Rd.	0.6
TOTAL		16,204.1

Pursuant to RCW 36.87.130, there are also public access properties on right-of-way ends that intersect shorelines.

Future Needs

A level of service of 9.6 acres of developed parkland for every 1,000 people in the County was adopted in the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan. The County’s existing parks will meet the adopted level of service over the six-year planning period. However, the County is proposing park improvement projects to increase quality of existing park facilities and develop the Birch Bay Community Park to meet the longer term needs of a growing population.

Proposed Improvement Projects

Park improvement projects, totaling ~~approximately \$8 million~~ ~~almost \$6.5 million~~, are proposed over the six-year planning period.

Trails

Whatcom County currently has almost 74 miles of trails in various locations throughout the County. This inventory is shown below.

Table 2. Existing Trails

Site No.	Trail Name and Location	Miles
1	Bay Horizon/Bay Crest Trail	0.75
2	Bay to Baker Maple Falls-Glacier	4.00
3	Canyon Lake Community Forest	7.01
4	Chuckanut Mountain / Pine & Cedar Lakes	16.60
5	Deming Homestead Eagle Park, Truck Rd.	0.30
6	Hovander Homestead Park	3.20
7	Interurban, Chuckanut area	3.15
8	Jensen Family Forest Park, Stein Rd. and Birch Bay Lynden Rd.	0.67
9	Lake Whatcom Park	8.50
10	Lily Point, Point Roberts	2.00
11	Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve	6.80
12	Maple Creek Park, 7842 Silver Lake Rd., Maple Falls	1.28
13	Monument Park, 25 Marine Dr. in Point Roberts	0.35
14	Phillips 66 Soccer Park Trail (Used to be Northwest Soccer Park), Smith	0.38
15	Ostrom Conservation Site, 4304 South Pass Rd.	0.56
16	Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, 6770 Koehn Rd, Birch Bay	0.81
17	Samish Park, 673 N. Lake Samish	1.38
18	Semiahmoo Park	0.63
19	Silver Lake Park, 9006 Silver Lake Rd.	5.28
20	South Fork Park	2.30
21	Squires Lake, 2510 Nulle Rd.	2.88
22	Stimpson Family Nature Reserve, 2076 Lake Louise Rd.	4.02
23	Sunset Farm, 7977 Blaine Rd.	0.56
24	Teddy Bear Cove	0.33
	TOTAL	73.74

Future Needs

A level of service of 0.60 miles of trails for every 1,000 people in the County was adopted in the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan. With projected population growth in Whatcom County over the next six years, about 71 additional miles of trails would be needed by the year 2026 to serve the people of Whatcom County.

Proposed Improvement Projects

Trail improvement projects and associated facilities, totaling approximately \$4.8 million dollars, are proposed over the six-year planning period. These projects would add 9 trail miles (the South Fork Park trails project would add 5 miles and the Lake Whatcom trails project would add 4 miles). Additionally, the Birch Bay Drive & Pedestrian Facility (beach restoration and berm project) will add 1 mile of trail.

While there is a shortfall in trail miles provided by the County, there are other trails that are owned/maintained by a variety of agencies or jurisdictions that provide recreational opportunities for Whatcom County residents and visitors.

Activity Centers

There are currently 13 activity centers that provide a variety of year-round programs for various age groups. The activity center inventory is shown below.

Table 3. Existing Activity Centers

Site No.	Activity Center Name and Location
1	Bay Horizon, 7511 Gemini Street
2	Bellingham Senior Activity Center, 315 Halleck Street
3	Blaine Community Senior Center, 763 G Street
4	East Whatcom Regional Resource Center, 8251 Kendall Rd.
5	Everson Senior Center, 111 W. Main Street
6	Ferndale Senior Center, 1999 Cherry Street
7	Lynden Senior Center, 401 Grover Street
8	Plantation Rifle Range, 5102 Samish Way
9	Point Roberts Senior Center, 1487 Gulf Road
10	Roeder Home, 2600 Sunset Dr.
11	Sumas Senior Center, 461 2nd Street
12	Van Zandt Community Hall, 4106 Valley Highway
13	Welcome Senior Center, 5103 Mosquito Lake Rd.

Note: The Blaine, Everson, Lynden and Sumas Centers are owned by these respective cities. The Point Roberts Center is owned by the Point Roberts Park District. Whatcom County provides and/or contracts for senior activities and recreational programming at these centers.

Future Needs

The Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan does not contain a level of service standard for activity centers. Rather, Comprehensive Plan Policy 4F-5 states:

Continue to provide and support activity centers, including senior centers, to serve the growing population of Whatcom County by the following methods, as needed, which are listed in priority order: (1) implementing programming changes, (2) adding space to existing centers, and/or (3) establishing new centers.

Proposed Improvement Projects

Two activity center projects, involving a boiler replacement at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center and demolition of a building at Bay Horizon, are proposed. These project will cost about \$591,000 within the six-year planning period.

Six-Year Capital Improvement Program

The park, trail, and activity center projects planned over the next six years are shown below.

Table 4. Park, Trail, and Activity Center Projects Planned Over the Next Six Years

Project #	Funding Source	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Totals	
1	Nugent's Corner Buiding Demolition	1	67,713					67,713	
2	Parks Admin Offices HVAC Replacement & Upgrade	1	81,411					81,411	
3	Lighthouse Marine Park Siding & Roofing	1		168,350				168,350	
4	Silver Lake Restrooms & Day-Use Improvements	1	1,430,000	1,450,000	910,000			3,790,000	
5	Birch Bay Beach Park Development	2, 3	140,000	392,825				532,825	
6	Hovander Picnic Shelters	1		53,200	210,000	105,000		368,200	
7	Silver Lake Cabins Capital Maintenance Program	1		250,603				250,603	
8	Hertz Trail Capital Maintenance Program	1			25,000	195,000		220,000	
9	Stimpson Family Nature Reserve Parking Improvements	1		80,075				80,075	
10	Lookout Mtn Forest Preserve Parking Improvements	1			94,218			94,218	
11	Lake Whatcom Park Trailhead	1	352,025		1,350,000	975,000		2,677,025	
12	Lily Point Marine Park Parking Improvements	1				241,136		241,136	
13	South Fork Park Bridges & Connector Trail	1, 2	29,000	125,000	125,000	515,000		794,000	
14	Tennant Lake Interpretive Center Remodel	1				10,000	56,383	66,383	
15	Hovander Park Access Improvements	1, 2					250,000	250,000	
16	Samish Park Parking/Vehicular Circulation Improvements	1				75,000	225,000	300,000	
17	Bay Horizon Hostel Demolition	1					456,248	456,248	
18	Lake Whatcom Trail Development	1	189,000					189,000	
19	Hovander Maintenance Shop	1	175,000					175,000	
20	Maple Falls Park Trailhead Restroom & Parking	1, 2				182,500	750,000	932,500	
21	East Whatcom Regional Resource Center-Replace Boiler	4		134,770				134,770	
22	Hovander Park Tennant Lake Flood Repair and Mitigation Improvements	1, 2		1,050,000				1,050,000	
23	Lookout Mountain Road & Culvert Repair and Mitigation Improvements	1, 2, 5		500,000				500,000	
Parks Totals			2,464,149	3,954,220	1,589,821	1,995,000	1,678,636	1,737,631	13,419,457
Funding Sources:				-2,404,220					-11,869,457
1. Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)									
2. Grants									
3. Parks Special Revenue Fund									
4. Economic Development Investment (EDI) Funds									
5. Conservation Futures									

Chapter 11 – Total Costs

Total Costs for the six-year planning period are shown below.

Table 18. Total Costs for the Six-Year Planning Period

	Total Costs 2021-2026	Percent of Total Costs
Parks, Trails, and Activity Centers	<u>13,419,457</u> 11,869,457	<u>5.36%</u> 4.77%
Maintenance and Operations	812,375	<u>0.32%</u> 0.33%
General Government Buildings and Sites	52,893,469	<u>21.12%</u> 21.25%
Sheriff's Office	21,730,000	<u>8.68%</u> 8.73%
Emergency Management	405,842	0.16%
Adult Corrections	95,197,922	<u>38.01%</u> 38.24%
Juvenile Detention	0	0.00%
Transportation	53,797,000	<u>21.48%</u> 21.61%
Stormwater Facilities	12,213,000	<u>4.88%</u> 4.91%
TOTAL	<u>250,469,065</u> 248,919,065	100.00%

The County plans to undertake capital improvement projects costing approximately \$250.5 million~~\$249 million~~ between 2021 and 2026, which will be financed with a combination of local, state, federal, and other funding sources.