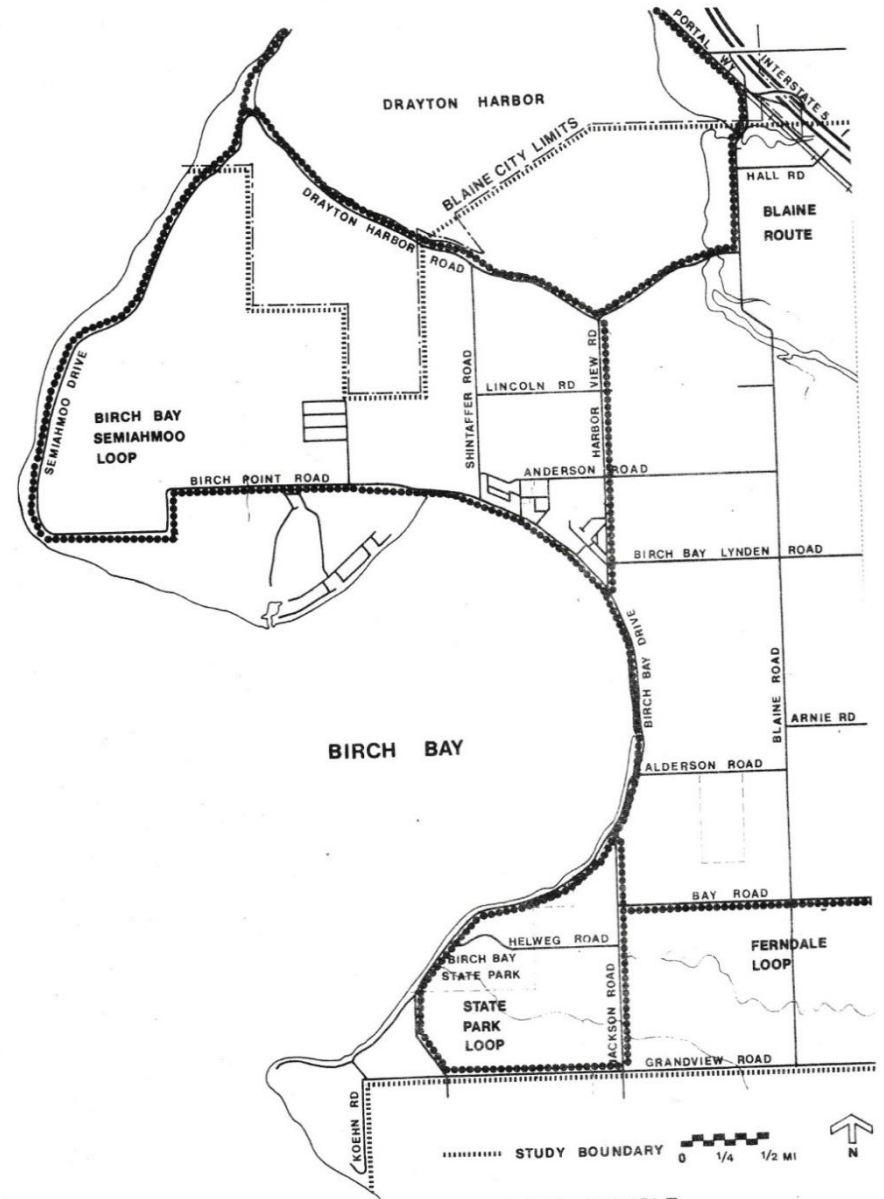
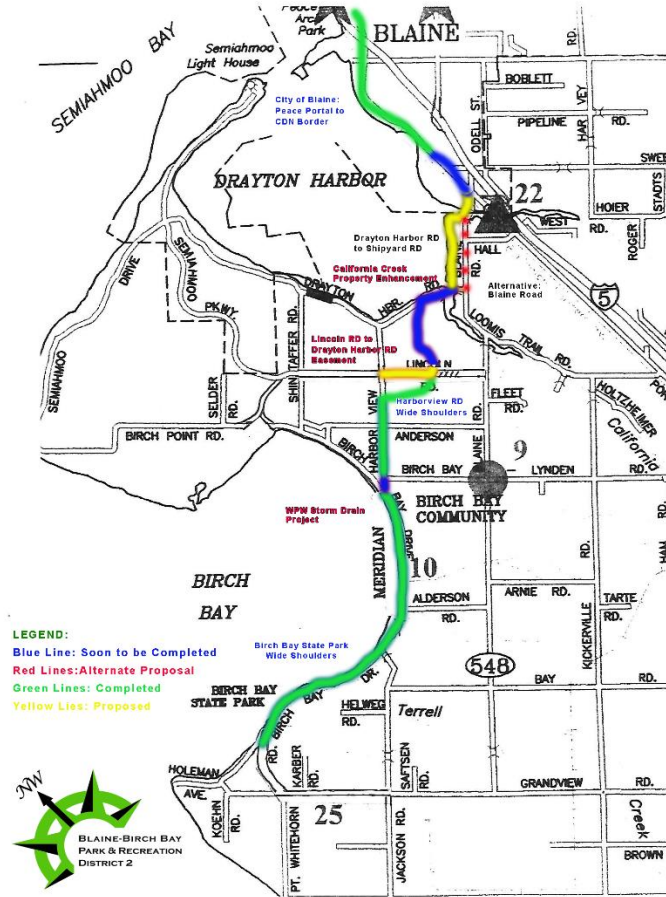


Bay to Bay International Trail

Connecting the Communities of Blaine & Birch Bay



2019 Proposed Routes & 1976 Proposed Routes



**PROPOSED BICYCLE
 TOURING ROUTES
 BIRCH BAY AREA
 WHATCOM COUNTY 1976**

Portion of the Coast Millennium Trail

- This project would complete a portion of the northern part of the Coast Millennium Trail
- A 50 mile trail that would stretch from Colony Creek in Skagit County to the Canadian border

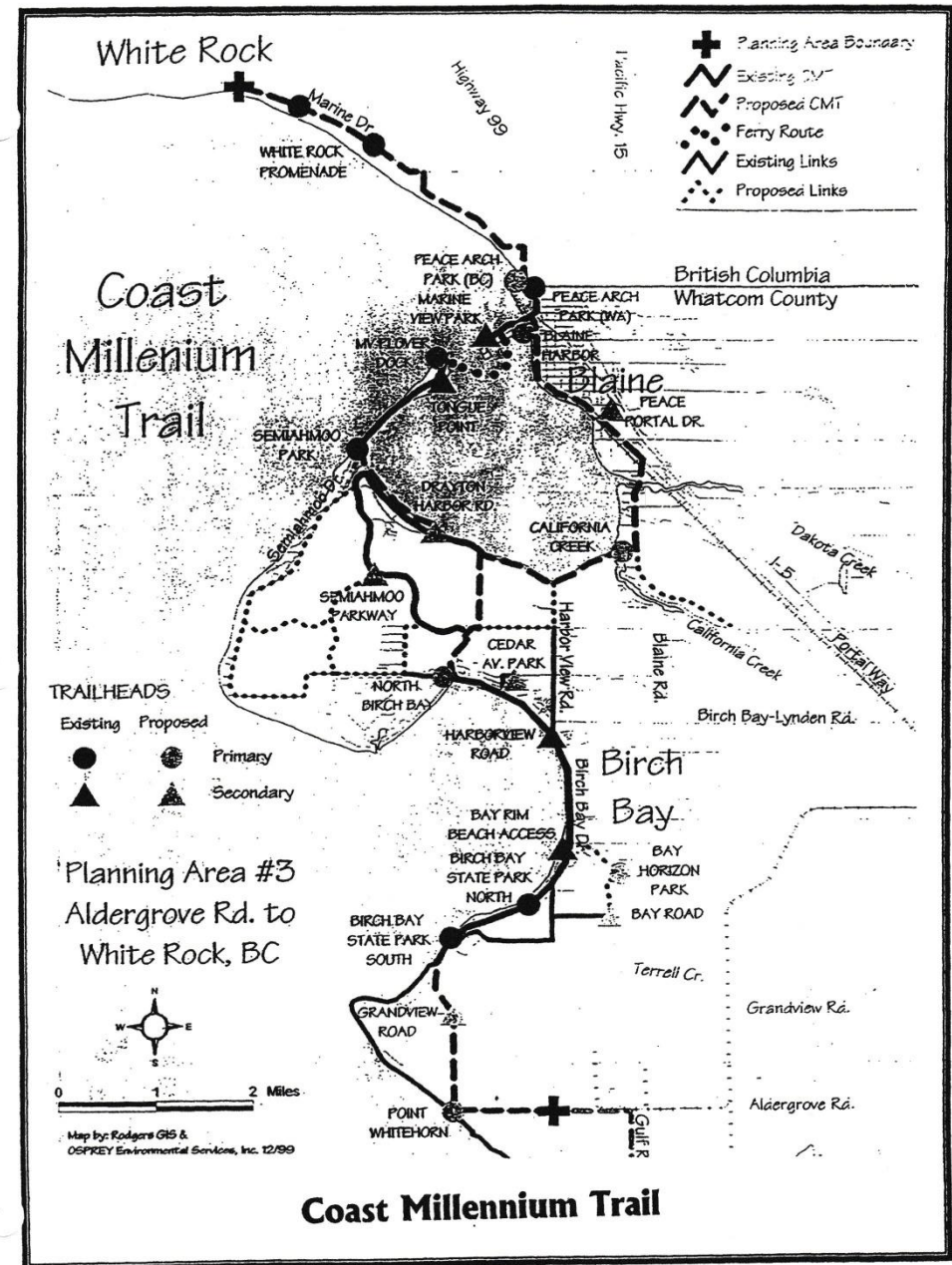


Figure 12-2

Trail consistently at top of list in Community Meetings

- April 2008 Community Meeting



The Northern Light.com
The Community Newspaper of Blaine and Birch Bay, Washington

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Non-motorized trails favored for parks district

Published on Thu, Apr 17, 2008 by [Sonia Hurt](#)

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Non-motorized trails favored for parks district
By Sonia Hurt

The Northwest Park and Recreation District meeting held March 29 at Semiahmoo County Park drew an enthusiastic crowd eager to share their concerns and interests with the NWPRD Commissioners.

The last of five community meetings to discuss future recreational facilities and activities for Blaine and Birch Bay had over 30 people including twenty-somethings, young parents just starting their families and born-and-raised-in-Blaine seniors. The audience also included six Blaine parks & cemetery board members.

Commissioner Ted Morris, who guided the meeting, said "In two hours we'd like to assess our direction and gather ideas as raw material for a master plan that will tie us into the general community plans for the area in terms of facilities such as sports fields, trails and other elements.

This will help do two things, to leverage support from granting agencies for projects and to coordinate our efforts as a community to get more bang for the buck, to help various groups work together on large projects that may benefit a variety of users."

According to Morris, one topic was consistently at the top of the list at each public meeting: Non-motorized trails that would join Blaine and Birch Bay. Although the reasons varied from school children getting safely to school to good old exercise, there was a clear consensus. In a tie for second place were public sports/recreation areas and aquatic related activities.

There was no shortage of ideas at this particular meeting. The long list included after-school programs, swimming lessons, recreation areas designed for seniors, nature outings, skate parks, arts and crafts classes, cooking classes, geocaching, beach parties, dances and movie nights. Also discussed were revitalizing the recreation assets that already exist such as Lincoln Park and Bay Horizon Park. There was also strong agreement among the group that the Blaine and Birch Bay aquatic resources needed to be incorporated in the program. Several attendees volunteered their services for various activities.

Now that the public input has been gathered, NWPRD will publish its RFP (request for proposals) within the next week for a consultant to prepare a master plan. During this time a final budget will also be developed for the anticipated revenues, which are estimated to be between \$650,000 and \$700,000, to be provided by the 10 cents per thousand assessment levy approved by voters last November.

By this summer the district should have several youth programs going as well as an off-leash dog area in Skallman Park. Commissioners hope to have a solid and diverse program in place at the end of two years to show voters that their investment was utilized wisely for the benefit of the entire community. "We're here to listen to the community and offer parks and recreation programs approved by the community," commissioner Terry Johnston said.

Morris said he sees NWPRD as an umbrella that will bring the two communities of Blaine and Birch Bay closer together and noted "the rec program adds hugely to the economic health of this area."

A website is currently being developed to provide a calendar of events and links to related sites. When finished, that site will be located at www.nwparkandrec.org.

Morris stated that NWPRD is hoping to acquire a storefront in the near future which would be staffed, at least on a part-time basis. In the meantime, Morris said residents can contact the commissioners via P.O. Box 68, Blaine, 98231, or nwprd2@hotmail.com.

- May 2009 Blaine starts the Peace Portal portion of the trail with Blaine-Birch Bay Parks & Recreation District 2
- Passed levies four different years, last one in 2017 by a 71 percent vote
- Each levy brings in \$350 – 375K

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EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING

Silver Reef CASINO
HOTEL · CASINO · SPA

News in Brief
Published on Thu, May 28, 2009 by Tara Nelson Like Tweet 0

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Marine mammal network hosts meeting

The Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee will host a presentation on the new Whatcom Marine Mammal Stranding Network. The 30-minute presentation will be hosted at 6 p.m. June 4 in the second floor conference room of the Whatcom County Civic Center at 322 N. Commercial Street in Bellingham. A question-and-answer period to follow. The event is free and open to the general public. Mariann Carrasco, a biologist who is the founder and principal investigator of the new network, will discuss identification of marine mammals in distress and what residents can do upon finding one. For more information, contact Whatcom County Public Works at 360/676-6876.

Volunteers needed for Peace Portal trail

The Blaine Parks and Cemetery Board has scheduled a series of work parties to build a new gravel pathway along Peace Portal Drive. Construction of the trail will start at Mitchell and Fourth streets and continue north in a series of phases.

The pathway, which is called for in the city's non-motorized transportation plan, was identified by a team of citizens, including three parks board members, and a consultant from Skookum Peak Consulting, to be the most beneficial to residents and visitors here. It was also identified through a series of public meetings to be a major priority in the city's trail system.

Four work parties have been scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday in June. Participants are encouraged to bring a shovel and a rake. For more information, call 332-8311.

Home tour features sustainable designs

Sustainable Connections has organized their seventh annual Imagine This! home and landscape tour for Whatcom County next month. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 27 and 28 and will feature various homes and gardens that utilize eco-friendly designs, materials, energy efficiency strategies, green roofs and more. Participants can learn more about LEED (Leadership in Energy Efficiency Design) certification for homes and the benefits of organic and native landscapes. Tickets go on sale June 8 at Village Books, The Community Food Co-op, the Re Store, Garden Spot Nursery and at www.sustainableconnections.org or by calling 647-7093.

Volunteers needed for clam survey

The Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee has scheduled a survey of clams along the shoreline of Point Whitehorn to Cherry Point from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 6. The committee is looking for volunteers ready to dig holes in the sand, identify and count clams, and tuck them back in their beds. For more information or to register as a volunteer for any of the clam surveys, call 360/676-6876 or email sgraham@co.whatcom.wa.us.

Council extends public comment for UGA

Blaine City Council has extended the written public comment period for proposed urban growth area (UGA) revision and scheduled a second work session to discuss urban growth area amendments for 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 1 at city hall. The meeting will discuss a 2007 decision by the Washington State Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB) that will require Whatcom County to substantially reduce the size of its urban growth areas. For more information, call 332-8311.

Bay to Bay International Trail travels through four parks over the course of almost 10 miles. We start here in Birch Bay State Park.





Birch Bay Beach Park view of Birch Point





Sidewalks at Birch Bay Drive and Harborview Rd

Harborview Road hill between Lynden-Birch Bay Rd and Birch Bay Drive

- Designated Tsunami Evacuation Route
- Sidewalk on west side ends half way up the hill
- East side has no sidewalk and narrow shoulder
- Storm water project will bring some improvements
- Would like help increasing the developed width of the ROW on the East side for safety of peds/bikes



Harborview Road hill

- Limited developed ROW width on east side for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Unfinished sidewalk on west side from middle to top of hill.



Harborview Road



- Proposing sidewalks at top of hill
- West side on Morgan Dr.
- On Harborview Rd. north side of Lynden-Birch Bay Rd.



View of Birch Bay
from Harborview Rd,
showing where
pedestrians now have
to walk



Harborview Road

- Enhanced shoulders currently used by pedestrians and cyclists
- Safety a priority for users
- Speed limit 25mph for ½ mile. Increases to 40 mph after Anderson Rd. to Lincoln Rd
- Ditches well over 6' deep. To qualify for grants, separation from traffic is needed



**Alternate route – Anderson Rd to
Glendale Drive through housing
development to east end of Lincoln Rd**

- Majority of development has sidewalks on both sides and 25mph speed limits
- No enhanced shoulders, 35mph speed limit, but ditches not as deep as Drayton Harbor Rd
- Preferred by pedestrians due to vehicle speed and depth of ditches on Harborview Rd



**Harborview Estates Entrance &
Lincoln Rd**



Entrance to Harborview Estates

- For safety, trail users would be routed through the Harborview Estates development to the dead end of Lincoln Rd



Intersection of Harborview Rd & Lincoln Rd

- Chevron gas station on SW corner
- Enhanced shoulder continues to the south end of Lincoln Rd intersection.
- No enhanced shoulders on East Lincoln Rd



**West Lincoln Road with road
enhancements completed to
Semiahmoo**



East Lincoln Road

- Currently no enhanced shoulders. Looking to County for help with this
- Would like to see enhancements on this side of Lincoln Rd to the dead end where trail starts to go off-road



**View looking West to
Harborview Rd from
dead end of Lincoln Rd**

- Routing trail through Harborview Estates
- This is where trail would end on Lincoln Rd



Dead end of Lincoln Rd =
the beginning of our off-road
trail experience.



- Just a few steps in and the adventure begins....
- We stay on the Lincoln Rd easement for a few hundred yards, then turn north towards Drayton Harbor.
- BBBPRD2 Commissioners have worked tirelessly talking with land owners and real estate agents to purchase or be granted trail easements from Lincoln Rd to Drayton Harbor Road
- Most recent purchase was in December 2018.



**BBBPRD2 even purchased
Lot F in Water's Edge Way
off Drayton Harbor Rd to
make this trail a reality**



Lot F previously used as a dumping ground and by the homeless

- Sponsored a clean-up day and provided transportation to the Lot from our park property on California Creek on June 2, 2019
- Commissioner Billy Brown was our shuttle driver for the day



- Lot F clean-up very successful with the help of 27 community volunteers, mostly from Cub Scout Pack 4025
- 1,960 lbs. of trash picked up that day



Water's Edge Way at Drayton Harbor Rd

- Trail easement will intersect with Drayton Harbor Rd. just one lot width to the East of Water's Edge Way
- ROW for Drayton Harbor Rd ends at the utility poles
- We are three properties away from our California Creek Estuary Park properties
- Looking for help developing the ROW for safety of trail users



Aerial view of the trail section that will be on the ROW of Drayton Harbor Rd from Water's Edge Way to the third park on our trail's path (California Creek Estuary Park)

- Recently partnered with Whatcom Land Trust to purchase two adjoining properties to preserve habitat and develop a kayak launch and ½ mile interpretive trail
- Buildings and unwanted plants removed
- Dozens of trees planted on the property



California Creek Bridge looking south

- Geographical limitations on where we can develop trail
- Need your help crossing this bridge! It is only 22' wide and not at all safe for trail users in current condition
- Need a way to get trail users safely across California Creek



California Creek Bridge

- Dearborn Avenue on the North
- Visual of the safety hazards any trail user faces when crossing the bridge
- Speed limit is 35mph



**Pedestrian crossing
California Creek Bridge
with traffic, July 2019**





**California Creek Bridge
looking south**



Potential solution for trail users crossing California Creek

- Mantle Industries, a local business, came up with the solution to use two 6'x100' aluminum bridges for pedestrians and bicyclists



Another view of the potential solution for safely getting trail users across California Creek

- We are asking that you consider including in the *Six Year TIP* a study of how to safely get our trail user traffic across the very narrow California Creek bridge used by thousands of cars per day
- We are moving ahead with our trail project and need your help



Intersection of Drayton Harbor Rd and Blaine Rd, WA 548

- WTA bus route stops are at the east end of California Creek Bridge
- Way to help connect more users safely to the rural bus stops



Blaine Rd (WA 548) Northbound

- Speed limit 45mph
- Wide, but uneven, road shoulders
- If trail route follows Blaine Rd, we are now on a State Hwy and would need to work with WSDOT.
- Alternate route is to use Dearborn Avenue, a County Rd that parallels Blaine Rd to the west



Peace Arch State Park

- The fourth park that our trail travels through is the International Peace Arch State Park
- The City of Blaine completed another major section of the trail system in July 2019 on Peace Portal Ave and has just about reached the City limits at Dakota Creek with this section of trail



Just a short detour down Marine Drive brings you to a fifth park and an adventure in a wonderful playground

