



Master Plan Document

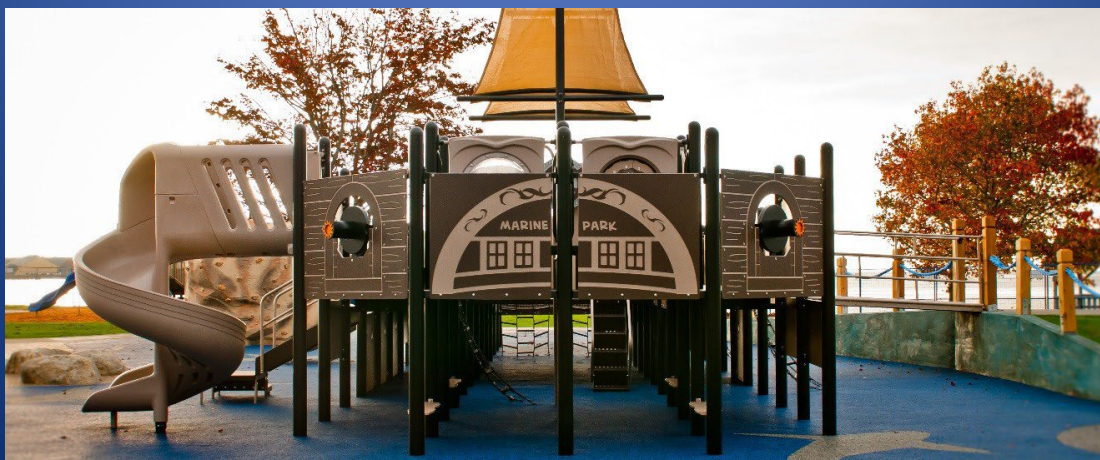


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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to all the citizens of the District who contributed their time and energy to this effort.

District Commissioners

Dave Wilbrecht, *Chair*
Jeff Carrington, *Vice Chair*
Billy Brown, *Treasurer*
Sheli Moore
Jesse Creydt
Ted Morris, *Capital Projects Specialist*

Staff

Heather Lindsay, *Director*
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Cooperating Agencies and Jurisdictions

Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce
Blaine Chamber of Commerce

Citizens of Blaine & Birch Bay
City of Blaine
Communities Blaine School District
Whatcom Council of Governments

Washington State Parks
Washington Department of Active
Transportation
Whatcom County Health Department
Whatcom County Government Agencies
Whatcom County Parks & Recreation
Port of Bellingham
WTA (Whatcom Transportation
Authority)

MISSION

Provide recreational opportunities, acquire, and maintain sites that enhance our quality of life, and preserve the natural and recreational resources of the District.

Section 1: INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

In 2021, the Board of the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 (BBBPRD2), formerly known as the Northwest Park and Recreation District 2, embarked on a process to update the 2016 comprehensive master plan for parks and recreation within the District boundaries. This process began with a series of community meetings and a Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreational Needs Assessment Survey conducted by the Board to elicit community in-put and suggestions about parks and recreation (see Community Survey Results in the attachments section for further details, pages 11 - 16).

In preparation for an updated Master Plan, community meetings were conducted on May 5th, May 12th, 2022, and May 19th, 2022. A community needs assessment survey was distributed via email, promoted through social media, and the digital link was published in printed news outlets. From suggestions and input, the draft master plan was developed to represent the desired future for parks and recreation within the District. The process utilized a modified strategic planning effort, one in which knowing the vision and desires of the citizens drives the final master plan document in a true effort to make the BBBPRD2 reflect the vision and desires of its patrons and citizens.

This master plan is to be viewed as a complement to existing plans while offering specific goals and objectives within BBBPRD2 boundaries. During the process, the draft document was reviewed with both Whatcom County Parks and Recreation and the City of Blaine to ensure proper coordination and linkage. Making sure that parks and trails link together and are carefully sited is very important in today's time of limited resources but high expectations from the community.

Once adopted by the Board of the District, the District will be eligible for State grants and support for parks and recreation. This Master Plan document will be reviewed annually by the Board of Commissioners and updated as needed to ensure maximum responsiveness to community need.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Active Recreation: Leisure time activities, often of a more formal nature and performed with others, usually requiring equipment, and taking place at specific places, sites, or fields.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP): Physical improvements involving land acquisition, site and facility development ordinarily exceeding \$5,000 and having a useful life of 3-5 years or more.

Critical Areas: Ecosystems including wetlands, areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas.

District Boundaries: The Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 boundaries are defined as the Blaine School District minus Point Roberts.

Greenways: A corridor of undeveloped land, typically along a river or between urban centers that is reserved for recreational use or environmental preservation.

Level of Service (LOS): LOS standards measure the amount and/or quality of public facilities that must be provided to meet a community's basic needs and expectations.

Multi-Modal: Transportation corridor that combines vehicular, non- motorized, and pedestrian modes of travel.

Open Space: Areas of land or water essentially unimproved and reserved for public or private use or enjoyment, or for the use and enjoyment of owners and occupants of land adjoining or neighboring such open space.

Passive Recreation: Generally, the less intensive range of outdoor activities (hiking, birdwatching, picnicking) compatible with preserving natural resources such as wildlife habitat and floodplain protection.

Recreation Facility: A place designated and equipped for the conduct of sports, leisure time activities and other recreational pursuits.

Section 2: PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT VISION

We are a community that places a high value on quality parks and recreation programs and services. The District organizes instructors and citizens who work with the community to plan and conduct programs for citizens of all ages. Park and recreation facilities, trails and water use areas have been developed and are heavily used by local citizens as well as visitors.

The District trail system has numerous connections and overlaps with county and city jurisdictions and other organizations. The parks, recreation and trails system has been integrated with the plans of Whatcom County, the City of Blaine, Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Whatcom Council of Governments. This coordination has provided a careful methodology to help meet the needs of the citizens while effectively utilizing limited resources and avoiding duplication.

The community has supported the development of new and priority park areas and facilities with new funding through grants, levy, donations, and joint funding. The District, in collaboration with Whatcom County, the Blaine School District, City of Blaine, and the Blaine and Birch Bay communities work very closely on both programs and facilities to meet growing and ever changing community needs while conserving on costs and operating expenses.

The District currently has comprehensive activities, programs, and events. We provide healthier lifestyle opportunities for the community's citizens. Expanding existing programs is a main component of the District vision.



PARK REQUIREMENT & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Park Category	Park Service Area Recommendation per 1,000 Population	Potential Allocation for City of Blaine Community 1	Potential Allocation for Birch Bay Community 2	Total District Allocation
Neighborhood	1.0 acre	5.9 acre	10.1 acres	16 acres
Community	5.2 acres	30.6 acres	52.6 acres	83.2 acres
Regional/Facilit	7.0 acres	41.2 acres	70.8 acres	112 acres
Trail	.5 acres	2.9 acres	5.1 acres	8 acres

Park Category

Definition

Neighborhood

Range in size from one to five usable acres and are designed to be located within ¼ mile radius of the neighborhoods they serve. They are connected to the trail system and contain children’s play area with appropriate play structures, are well maintained, have formalized pathways, picnic benches, shade trees and sitting benches. Neighborhood Park needs may also be met by sections of school or other parks by design.

Community

Offer a wide range of facilities suitable for many activities. Range in size from five to twenty acres. Each park offers a picnic area, sitting areas, children’s play equipment, covered picnic shelter and formal ball fields for softball, baseball, soccer, football, and other games. These parks are located within a one-mile radius of the neighborhoods they serve and connect to the trail system. Branch libraries, swimming pools, skate parks and community centers may also be located in this category of park.

Regional/Facility

Provide for major activities and events and are typically designed to complement the economic viability of the region or community by providing for large-draw activities with economic spin-off. They may include wetlands and wildlife habitat and /or provide for major sports facilities, museums, community centers and pools.

Trail

Are the major connectors between the community and the park system. They are interconnected within the community and serve as the walking or biking link between shopping areas, schools, and other parks. They provide alternative transportation modes. Wildlife viewing stations, physical fitness stations, picnicking and other activities can be accommodated. They may also serve as buffers between various land uses. Developers will provide a majority of the trail system.

¹Based on 2020 Blaine population estimate of 5,884 people *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5- Year Estimates FPL = Federal Poverty Level*

²Based on 2020 Birch Bay population estimate of 10,115 people *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates FPL = Federal Poverty Level*

Section 3: MASTER PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 Master Plan has been designed to both develop and implement the following objectives and goals.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a six-year park Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and funding mechanisms coordinated with and through both the City of Blaine and Whatcom County through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).
2. Link the District plan with those of the City of Blaine, Whatcom County, Birch Bay Community Plan, and others.
3. Develop a long-term vision for the park, recreation, and trails system.
4. Develop and propose park, recreation, and trail standards for construction.
5. Develop a recreation program that serves all areas of the District and builds a sense of community.
6. Develop a Master Plan that provides for extensive innovation and community implementation over time.
7. Lay the groundwork for a comprehensive maintenance program in cooperation with other local agencies and jurisdictions.
8. Continue the Level of Service (LOS) established by the National Parks and Recreation Association.
9. Provide a step-by-step Road Map that leads to success and full achievement of District goals and objectives.

GOALS

1. Deliver the desired community park and recreation services and facilities as determined by the citizens of the District.
2. Provide for annual review of the Master Plan by the District's Board of Commissioners during the November-December budget process and adjust CIP priorities in a timely fashion.
3. Provide organizational options for Commissioner consideration.
4. To provide a Master Plan for certification by the State of Washington.
5. Develop and complete California Creek Estuary.
6. Propose, create, and fund safe trails between Blaine and Birch Bay.
7. Increase league, sport, and team programming within the District boundaries.
8. Expand recreational programming to increase participation from community members at District facilities, parks, and trails.

Section 4: MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The process used to update the Master Plan for the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 was based on citizen engagement and identification of community needs and desires. Two community meetings were held in 2022 in addition a Community Needs Assessment Survey was conducted by the Board prior to the Master Planning update process. Citizens were encouraged to think big and to help design the future vision of the District.

BBBPRD2 filed a draft discussion master plan document with the Board and made appropriate changes to the Plan based on that meeting.

The Master Plan document was discussed in a board meeting and then adopted by the Commissioners with suggested and approved changes.

Section 5: CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

SURVEY FOR WASHINGTON STATE 2017

2018 Washington Resident Survey of Outdoor Recreation. Eastern Washington University was contracted by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to conduct the survey to assess the demand for outdoor recreation in preparation for the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The table below identifies the Recreation Activities by Participation in Washington State, 2017.

ACTIVITY	TYPE or LOCATION	% of PARTICIPANTS
Attending an outdoor concert or event	Farmer’s market, fairs, or sporting events	58%
Day-hiking	Hiking	53%
Nature Activities	Visiting rivers or streams	66%
Photography, painting, or drawing	Outdoor Nature Activities	27%
Sightseeing	Public outdoor facility (e.g., dam, lock, or fish ladder)	27%
Sightseeing	Outdoor cultural or historical facility	28%
Swimming/wading	At a beach - freshwater	50%
Walking	Park or trail setting	84%

2022 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

A representative cross section of citizens attended and participated in the community meetings and the Community Needs Assessment Survey to provide their input in developing the Master Plan.

As a result of the community meetings and based on the input from community members the following facts have been determined:

- There is a very strong interest in enhancing the parks, recreation and trails within the boundary of the District.
- The community desires to make sure that District plans are fully coordinated with plans of the City of Blaine and Whatcom County.
- There is strong interest in the development of funding mechanisms in order to develop new facilities and recreational opportunities.

May 5th, 2022, Community Meeting - Blaine Harbor Meeting Room

Physical Spaces:

- Utilization of pre-existing spaces for a recreation center
- Approaching the City of Blaine for inquiries about enhancement of the bike routes – include better delineation of bikes lanes with improved paving and painting
- All Tides Kayak Launch on N side of Marine Drive – a sloped concrete slab for a launch
- Public Pools– Ted Morris spoke to previous experiences with Park District trying to support a pool, Director Hubbard tasked to call area pools and inquire yearly operating costs
- Fence around outdoor multi-use courts at the Birch Bay Activity Center

California Creek Park:

- Public bathrooms that are accessible through the year; Morris said that they would be accessible all year during open hours
- ADA accessible trail systems – suggested to use accessibly crushed limestone on the Birch Bay Berm as inspiration for an ADA trail
- Improve the small north point, harbor-side part of park: safer parking, better picnic areas, add trash cans and dog poop stations
- Signage: QR Codes for relevant tide information
- Distance Markers on trail
- Playgrounds and Natural play areas for kids – Morris spoke to wetlands being a barrier to building more structures

May 12th, 2022, Community Meeting - Birch Bay Community Bible Church

History of Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation:

- Commissioner Wilbrecht read a description of the history of Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 submitted by Director Ted Morris.
- Commissioner Moore gave an overview of the Multi-Modal Trail project, the proposed bike trails, and information on California Creek Estuary Park.

Park Project

- Commissioner Moore informed the attendees that there will be California Creek Estuary Park include interpretive signs
- Attendees expressed a desire to have exercise equipment along the side of the trail
- Community members think that the park in it's entirety should be more accessible to the public.
- Community members wondered what other uses could the land provide – Commissioner Brown spoke about the wetlands on the property being a substantial barrier to building new structures or outdoor sport-based recreational space.
- The community would like to see BBBPRD2 have more presence at the county level, including planning meetings and council meetings.
- Splash Park

- Community pool for swim lessons and exercise
- Lighting the ballfields owned by the Blaine School District
- More covered outside spaces for multi-use purposes; including youth educational programming
- Larger and better pickleball spaces
- Look at fungi mitigation to help build new spaces

Community Center:

- A community center that brings the entire district together is vital
- Community Meeting space would be a benefit to the entire District
- A reader board so community can have a central location to find information
- Partnering with the Blaine Library for a larger location
- Using old and new spaces for programming
- Outside field space
- Pickleball court space
- Locating the community center between both communities – Commissioner Wilbrecht said that the District purchasing property outside district lines may not be a barrier.
- Space for Education

Programming:

- Youth summer programs, including summer camps
- Youth and adult programs around nature-based education such as mycology, shoreline, outdoor nature walks
- More adult sports leagues
- Youth Birding walks and education

Other suggestions and questions presented by attendees:

- Marketing: How do the people know about what we do?
 - Invest in better end-of-the-road signage, including a digital sign that's easy to change
 - Safer signage at the end of Gemini Street
- Disconnect between Blaine and Birch Bay
 - How to bridge the divide
- Short presentation by Jackie Dexter on newly founded kelp and mussel farm, Holdfast Mariculture, in Birch Bay.

May 19th, 2022, Community Meeting - Digital ZOOM

History of Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation:

- Ted Morris gave a comprehensive overview of the start and evolution of the District, District accomplishments and projects currently in process, and future trail and park goals for the District.
- Ted Morris also spoke about the sustainability of BBBPRD2 through current and potential future funding, including applying for trail enhancement grants, consideration of an increased levy, and a capitol and/or operating bond to support an improved recreation center.

Community Engagement:

- A longtime advocate, supporter, and levy lead of BBBPRD2, spoke to the commission about the continued support she would like to provide.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESMENT SURVEY

<p><i>What amenities would be most useful in an indoor community recreation facility answered by 318 people</i></p> <table> <tr><td>Public Meeting Space</td><td>47.80%</td></tr> <tr><td>Exercise Equipment</td><td>61.95%</td></tr> <tr><td>Pool</td><td>65.09%</td></tr> <tr><td>Gymnasium</td><td>46.54%</td></tr> <tr><td>Indoor Court Space</td><td>45.91%</td></tr> <tr><td>Indoor Field Space</td><td>13.52%</td></tr> <tr><td>Internet Access</td><td>44.34%</td></tr> <tr><td>Senior Specific Spaces</td><td>38.05%</td></tr> <tr><td>Internet Cafe</td><td>26.42%</td></tr> <tr><td>Studio for Fitness</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Classes</td><td>63.21%</td></tr> <tr><td>Small Cafe or Coffee Spot</td><td>46.86%</td></tr> </table>	Public Meeting Space	47.80%	Exercise Equipment	61.95%	Pool	65.09%	Gymnasium	46.54%	Indoor Court Space	45.91%	Indoor Field Space	13.52%	Internet Access	44.34%	Senior Specific Spaces	38.05%	Internet Cafe	26.42%	Studio for Fitness		Classes	63.21%	Small Cafe or Coffee Spot	46.86%	<p><i>Does the Blaine-Birch Bay area need an indoor community recreation facility, answered by 317 people.</i></p> <table> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>88.33%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>11.67%</td></tr> </table>	Yes	88.33%	No	11.67%																																								
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<p><i>Which of these Park and Recreation hosted or sponsored events have you or your family participated in? (select all that apply) Answered by 290 people.</i></p> <table> <tr><td>Wings Over Water</td><td>51.38%</td></tr> <tr><td>Picnic in the Playground</td><td>17.93%</td></tr> <tr><td>Pirate Daze</td><td>44.48%</td></tr> <tr><td>Drayton Harbor Days</td><td>57.59%</td></tr> <tr><td>Run with the Chums</td><td>10.69%</td></tr> <tr><td>Kids Karnival</td><td>16.90%</td></tr> <tr><td>Holiday Lights Dash</td><td>21.03%</td></tr> <tr><td>Rollback Weekend</td><td>35.52%</td></tr> <tr><td>Discover Birch Bay Days</td><td>60.69%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sandcastle Competition</td><td>54.83%</td></tr> <tr><td>Halloween on the Berm</td><td>26.55%</td></tr> <tr><td>Ring of Fire</td><td>51.38%</td></tr> <tr><td>Polar Bear Plunge</td><td>41.03%</td></tr> <tr><td>Splash Days</td><td>16.55%</td></tr> <tr><td>Blaine Youth Sports</td><td>18.97%</td></tr> <tr><td>Run to the Border</td><td>10.34%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other (please specify)</td><td>9.31%</td></tr> </table>	Wings Over Water	51.38%	Picnic in the Playground	17.93%	Pirate Daze	44.48%	Drayton Harbor Days	57.59%	Run with the Chums	10.69%	Kids Karnival	16.90%	Holiday Lights Dash	21.03%	Rollback Weekend	35.52%	Discover Birch Bay Days	60.69%	Sandcastle Competition	54.83%	Halloween on the Berm	26.55%	Ring of Fire	51.38%	Polar Bear Plunge	41.03%	Splash Days	16.55%	Blaine Youth Sports	18.97%	Run to the Border	10.34%	Other (please specify)	9.31%	<p><i>Tell us what types of programming you'd like to see more of in our area, answered by 307 people.</i></p> <table> <tr><td>Adult Sports</td><td>44.30%</td></tr> <tr><td>Youth Sports</td><td>23.45%</td></tr> <tr><td>Adaptive Programming</td><td>11.73%</td></tr> <tr><td>Outdoor Fitness Groups</td><td>45.28%</td></tr> <tr><td>Programming for Seniors</td><td>45.28%</td></tr> <tr><td>Outdoor Winter Activities</td><td>27.69%</td></tr> <tr><td>CPR, Self-defense Classes</td><td>43.65%</td></tr> <tr><td>Youth Sports Camps</td><td>23.13%</td></tr> <tr><td>Youth Life Skills</td><td>28.01%</td></tr> <tr><td>Youth Educational Summer Camps</td><td>26.38%</td></tr> <tr><td>Swimming</td><td>49.84%</td></tr> <tr><td>Community Garden</td><td>25.08%</td></tr> <tr><td>Watersports (kayak, SUP, sailing)</td><td>38.44%</td></tr> <tr><td>0-5 Playgroups</td><td>16.61%</td></tr> <tr><td>Family Programs</td><td>25.41%</td></tr> <tr><td>Creative (art, theater)</td><td>39.41%</td></tr> <tr><td>Youth Programming</td><td>20.85%</td></tr> </table>	Adult Sports	44.30%	Youth Sports	23.45%	Adaptive Programming	11.73%	Outdoor Fitness Groups	45.28%	Programming for Seniors	45.28%	Outdoor Winter Activities	27.69%	CPR, Self-defense Classes	43.65%	Youth Sports Camps	23.13%	Youth Life Skills	28.01%	Youth Educational Summer Camps	26.38%	Swimming	49.84%	Community Garden	25.08%	Watersports (kayak, SUP, sailing)	38.44%	0-5 Playgroups	16.61%	Family Programs	25.41%	Creative (art, theater)	39.41%	Youth Programming	20.85%
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Which of the following do you consider recreation, answered by 313 people.

Reading	51.44%
Geocaching	57.83%
Court Sports	59.42%
Pickleball	66.13%
Walks	92.33%
Running/Jogging	60.38%
Biking	81.15%
Bird Watching	56.55%
Yoga	60.38%
Field Sports	51.44%
Swimming	75.08%
Watersports	65.50%
Writing	29.39%
Picnicking	52.08%
Art Programs	47.60%
Gardening	59.11%
Theater/Drama	42.17%
Dance	60.06%
Cooking	43.77%
Hiking	78.59%
Photography	49.52%

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the community meetings, the previously held community meetings conducted by the Commissioners, and other data received from citizens and special interests, the following recommendations are made for projects that should be undertaken.

Assist in development of Beach Park along Birch Bay Drive on the property purchased by Whatcom County Parks and Recreation.

- Path to Connect Blaine to Birch Bay
- Signage for Parks, Facilities and Trails
- Outdoor Multi-Purpose Courts & Fields at Bay Horizon Park
- Enhancement to existing City of Blaine Parks and Trails
- Beach, Kayak and Boat Launch Access
- Increase programming in Blaine and Birch Bay
- Dog Parks
 - Improvements to current
 - Development of new park in Birch Bay

Section 6: DISTRICT PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED

Whatcom County Bay Horizon Park

- Gym restoration – gym floor was resurfaced
- A new surface was put on the existing basketball court at Bay Horizon Park

Birch Bay Activity Center

- Established Job Descriptions and hired one full time Director and three part-time Activity Coordinators
- Created internal policies and procedures manuals.

Washington State Parks

- Birch Bay State Park - Partnered to purchase playground equipment

City of Blaine - Inter-local Agreements & Partnerships

- Hughes Bayview Park - enhancement Peace Portal Community Trail
- Marine Park - birding shelters, partnered to purchase playground equipment
- Dakota Creek - kayak launch
- Salishan Park – seasonal restroom facilities
- Trails – Purchased property easements for trails between Lincoln Road and Drayton Harbor Road.

Community Projects

- Blaine Senior Center - exercise equipment
- Drayton Harbor Maritime - Sailing School & Sailboat Restoration
- Blaine Boys & Girls Club – “Teach Me to Golf” program
- Blaine Youth Baseball – program support for the Minors & Pony League
- Grateful Dogs Unleashed – support for the dog park at Skallman Park
- Blaine School – Drama program, Wrestling Club, Girls Basketball, Technology Student Association.
- Blaine and Birch Bay - Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts

Sponsorship of:

- Birch Bay Chamber – Sand Sculpture Competition, Kite Making & Flying, Rollback Weekend, Discover Birch Bay Days, World’s Largest Swim Lesson, and Trick or Treat on the Berm.
- Blaine - Wings Over Water Birding Festival, Maritime Festival Drayton Harbor Days, Pirate Daze, and Holiday Harbor Lights Dash Festival.
- Whatcom Conservation District- Run with the Chums

Recreation Activity Programs

- Adult Fitness Classes

ZUMBA®	POUND Fitness	Line Dancing	Walk/Run/Hiking
Ballroom Dance	Pickleball	Basketball	Volleyball
Yoga	Badminton	Karate	Tai Chi
Skateboard and Skim board	Swim and Boating Lessons	Kids Basic Sports & Outdoor Classes	Art & Drama Classes
Kite making	Rentals	Dog Parties	Broom Hockey
Movie Nights	Toddler Time	Kids After School	Babysitting Classes
Geocaching		Reiki and Qigong	

Events:

Bike Safety	Splash Days	Holiday Dash
Picnic in the Playground	Pirate Daze and Kids Carnival	World’s Largest Swimming Lesson

Section 7: STATEMENT OF NEED

The Blaine, Birch Bay area had been without a formal parks and recreation operation since 1987. The Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 (Formerly Northwest Park and Recreation District 2) has been in existence since 1979. From the time of the original inception of the District, the area has gone through significant change and growth. New homes, businesses and residents have come to the area over the past twenty years.

Residents with a wide range of ages and interests now live full time in the District. Park recreation and trail needs are becoming very important to the livability of the region.

With the level of growth slowing due to the current financial situation, the District has some time to get its plans and approach ready to be able to adequately plan and implement a comprehensive system for parks and recreation. This time is also good for the District to work with other jurisdictions to put more partnerships in place.

Based on Levels of Service (LOS) used in the overlapping jurisdictions, there is a need for the District to create a standard for LOS and to use those levels to help define capital projects over time. It is necessary for the District to adopt LOS that is consistent with LOS already in existence in the City of Blaine, as well as in Whatcom County. As such, the District does not need to create a LOS that would conflict or supersede existing standards.

The National Recreation Park Association (NRPA) identifies the following LOS Standards that can serve as a starting point for the creation of local criteria:

- Neighborhood Parks: 1 - 2 acres per 1000 population
- Community Parks: 5 - 8 acres per 1000 population
- Regional/City Parks: 5 - 10 acres per 1000 population

The area covered by the District now has an approximate population of 15,999 and that figure is anticipated to increase to approximately 22,407 by the year 2036 (Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, Adopted August 9, 2016, Updated *May 2022*). The District population is predominately rural, concentrated in the neighborhoods of Blaine, Birch Bay and Urban Growth Areas. The need for neighborhood parks within proximity to the District population is graphically shown on the 'Neighborhood Park' planning map attached at the end of this report. Development of neighborhood parks in the Blaine-Birch Bay area is a subject for focus in our long-range planning.

To effectively deal with these increases and the growing demand, the District will need to create effective partnerships with the City of Blaine and Whatcom County Parks Department. Within the Whatcom County portion of the District's boundary, the District will need to work with the County, as well as with private developers, to assist in the development of additional facilities to meet community needs.

Continued growth and development may outpace the District's ability to maintain the LOS and to improve the quality of both facilities and programs. Partnering with other jurisdictions, grants and effective use of District funds will be required to meet District needs.

Local citizens are very concerned about providing facilities to meet expanding recreational needs, while at the same time, preserving the natural resources and beauty of the region. Citizens are also in favor of working with both the City and the County in the development, funding and operation of park and recreation facilities.

The need for strategic planning and development of volunteer resources (both in terms of labor as well as donations) is critical to meet the needs and the requirements of the LOS.

A professional full and part-time staff to help recruit, train and utilize volunteers while coordinating efforts with surrounding jurisdictions is strongly recommended.



Birch Bay State Park

Section 8: FACILITY DEFINITIONS

A quality parks, recreation, and trails system, one that meets both the current and future needs of the community, is made up of a variety of facility elements that must be created within the local jurisdiction. A proper combination of neighborhood, community, and regional parks, as well as trails and special use facilities are needed to meet total community needs. Trails or open space connections should be provided to link all these facilities. In some areas, trails must be located adjacent to or as a part of existing streets and sidewalks. Facilities such as community gardens, greenway corridors, buffers and areas left in their natural state should serve as appropriate and effective open space connections as part of a careful master plan.

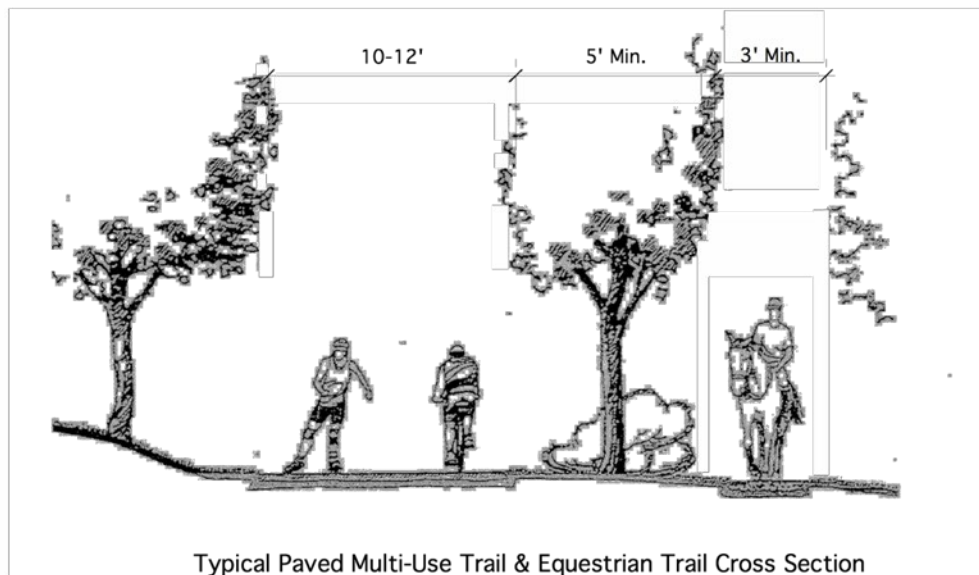
A classification of recreation areas establishes guidelines for each type of park facility within the district boundaries. These definitions should be used and viewed as guidelines to assist decision makers in providing the best possible services to meet community needs. Strict implementation of these definitions is not encouraged. Rather, these definitions should provide a general understanding to assist in decision making.

These park standards and classifications are based on standards historically proposed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). For the purposes of this Master Plan, the population estimate used for this area is the 15,999 approximated from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5- Year Estimates

1. **Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks typically range in size from one to five usable acres, and are designed to be located within a ¼ mile radius of the neighborhoods they serve. Neighborhood parks are connected to the trail system and contain children’s play area with appropriate play structures, are well maintained, have formalized pathways, picnic benches, shade trees and sitting benches. Neighborhood park needs may also be met by sections of school or other parks by design. The recommended level of service in this category is 1-2 acres per 1,000 population.
2. **Community Parks:** Community parks are larger park areas which offer a wide range of facilities suitable for many activities. They typically range in size from five to twenty five acres. A community park offers picnic areas, sitting areas, children’s play equipment, covered picnic shelter and formal ball fields for softball, baseball, soccer, football, and other games. These parks are located within a one mile radius of the neighborhoods they serve. Community parks connect with the trail system. Branch libraries, swimming pools, skate parks and community centers may also be located in this category of parks. The recommended level of service in this category is 5-8 acres per 1,000 population.
3. **Regional Parks and Facilities:** Regional parks and facilities are those that meet the needs of the entire community by providing for major activities and events. This parkland classification is typically designed to complement the economic viability of the region or community by providing for large draw activities with economic spin-off. Parks in this category may also include wetlands and wildlife habitat areas. These parks may also provide for major sports facilities that can accommodate large tournaments and activities. This category of park may also provide space for museums, special interest buildings, community centers and pools. The recommended level of

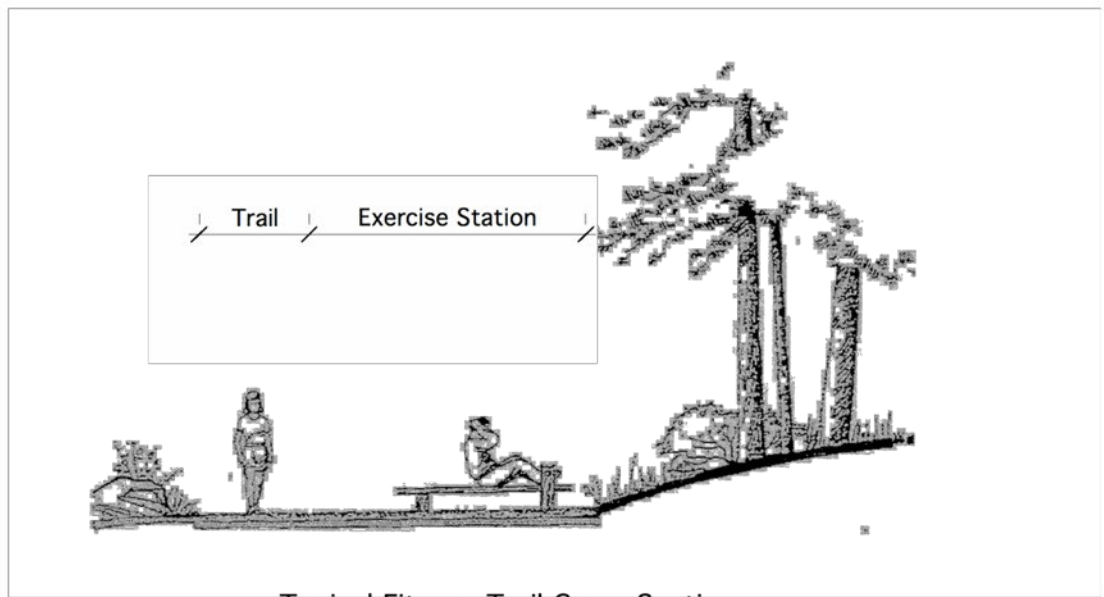
service in this category is 5-10 acres per 1,000 population.

4. Trails: Trails are the major connectors between the community and the park system and serve as the walking or biking link between shopping areas, schools, and other parks. They provide a variety of alternative transportation modes for citizens to utilize. Wildlife viewing stations, physical fitness stations, picnicking and other activities can be accommodated along the trail system. It is envisioned that the trails may also serve as buffers between various land uses. The trail system will be developed in such a way that requires developers to provide a majority of the trail system. Trails are designed to provide a level of service that is 0.5 acres per 1,000 population.
5. Water Facilities: Water facilities are unique to this region and tie the average citizen to the water in both passive and active ways. Marinas, water trails, boat launches, scenic water views, and historical parks are but a few examples of facilities in this category.
6. Equestrian Trails: Equestrian trails are designated routes on which horses are permitted to travel. This trail type is composed of natural surfacing with some reinforcement as needed for stability. A three-foot minimum width is recommended except in extremely difficult terrain where width may be as narrow as eighteen inches. Desirable tread width for two way travel is four to eight feet. The maximum grade should not exceed 30%. If combined with a multi-use trail, a buffer of five feet (min.) should be incorporated.



Not To Scale

7. Sports Complex: A Sports Complex is a heavily programmed athletic facility and can be classified as either a regional or special use facility. The size requirements for a sports complex are 25 acres to 80 acres.



Typical Fitness Trail Cross Section

Not to Scale

8. Natural Resource Areas: Natural resource areas are lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open spaces, and visual buffering. Natural resource areas are typically not developed and are left in their natural state. These areas are extremely critical to the long-term health of the community and provide interpretive areas that feature agricultural life, birds, plant life and wildlife and may contain areas designed to serve as classrooms.
9. Schools: School District land complements other community open space and allows for expanding the recreational and educational opportunities available to the community. School land should be connected to the park and recreation system via the trail system. School land is classified as Community Park acreage.
10. Signage: Distinct, clear, and usable signs will be placed at all parks and open spaces providing interpretive, historical, directional, and informational signs and suggestions for park usage.

Section 9: FACILITY INVENTORY

The chart below identifies major park facilities and their location within the District. Detail information about each facility and smaller parklets (not listed in the chart) follows.

PARK FACILITY LOCATIONS

Park Facility	Birch Bay	Blaine
7 th Street Community Garden		<input type="checkbox"/>
Bay Horizon Park & Activity Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Birch Bay Community Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Birch Bay Shoreline Properties,	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Birch Bay State Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Birch Bay State Park Boat Launch	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Birch Bay Tidelands	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Blaine Community Center Pavilion		<input type="checkbox"/>
Blaine Harbor & Pier		<input type="checkbox"/>
Blaine Skateboard Park		<input type="checkbox"/>
Boblett Street Parklet		<input type="checkbox"/>
BP Heron Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brickyard Park		<input type="checkbox"/>
Dakota Creek Kayak Launch		<input type="checkbox"/>
G Street Plaza Parklet		<input type="checkbox"/>
H Street Plaza Parklet		<input type="checkbox"/>
Halverson Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hughes Bayview Park		<input type="checkbox"/>
Kilmer Park		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lincoln Park (off leash dog park)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine Park		<input type="checkbox"/>
Montfort Park		<input type="checkbox"/>
Parklets: Clark St., Veteran's Memorial		<input type="checkbox"/>
Parklets: Cherry St., Martin St.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Peace Arch State Park		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pipeline Athletic Complex		<input type="checkbox"/>
Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Salishan Park		<input type="checkbox"/>
Semiahmoo Park Tideland and Trails		<input type="checkbox"/>
Skallman Park (off leash dog park)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunset Farm Park (Equestrian Center)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Neighborhood Parks



[Montfort Park \(Blaine\):](#)

1.7 acres of wooded natural area and wetlands adjacent to Drayton Harbor shoreline. Park features include a 0.2 mile nature trail and 1 bench.



[Salishan Park \(Blaine\):](#)

0.4 acres of open, grassy area. Park features include a half-basketball court, playground equipment, grassy play area, 2 picnic tables, benches, and 0.1 mile walking path.



[Kilmer Park \(Blaine\):](#)

0.3 acres of open grassy area bounded by trees. Park features include playground equipment, and 1 picnic table



[Halverson Park \(Birch Bay\):](#)

4.7 acres of wooded natural area with trails. No on-site parking, but parking available at Cottonwood Beach.



[Brickyard Park \(Blaine\):](#)

Brickyard Park was donated to the City on May 11, 2006, as part of the Brickyard Cottages Development. The park is approximately 4,752 square feet. There are large and small climbing structures for children to play on, a picnic table where you can sit and enjoy a bite to eat, shade trees and a bench to rest and watch the kids play or just enjoy the scenery. Parking is available along the street.



[Hughes Bayview Park \(Blaine\):](#)

Hughes Bayview offers bird-watching and beautiful scenery in a waterfront location. This small park has a roosting tree popular with local Bald Eagles, and the area offers long views over Drayton Harbor tide flats often visited by dozens of Great Blue Herons. The park offers an open lawn and landscaped areas in a quiet residential area. The site has limited parking across the street on Bayview. The City plans to add a bench and picnic table in the immediate future.

Community Park



[Marine Park \(Blaine\):](#)

8.6 acres adjacent to Semiahmoo Bay. Park features include maintained lawns, 0.4 mile walking trails, bike route, 6 picnic tables, 2 picnic shelters, benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, amphitheater with stage, sculpture works, Pirate Ship Playground and play area, and restrooms. Generous views take in the Bay, the Peace Arch, City of White Rock, Point Roberts, Vancouver Island, and the San Juan and Gulf Islands.



[Lincoln Park \(Off Leash Dog park\) \(Blaine\):](#)

28.0 acres of wooded hillside with a small creek and pond. Park features include a 0.2 mile bike and walking trail, 18 hole disc golf course, 2 picnic tables and picnic shelter. Pleasant views of the harbor.



[Skallman Park \(Off Leash Dog park\) \(Blaine\):](#)

2.0 acres of small woodland stand with fishpond. Located next to Blaine Public Works department at 1200 Yew Avenue, the park offers fenced play areas for pets, a gazebo to shelter pet owners, and picnic tables for resting.

Regional Parks



[Bay Horizon Park & Activity Center \(Birch Bay\):](#)

69.2 acres located on Alderson Road in Birch Bay. Facilities include a commercial kitchen, dining hall and gymnasium. Park features include a walking trail and a small playground. The property is currently leased to the Camp Horizon Foundation for a summer camp and the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District which operates the Birch Bay Activity Center.



[Pipeline Athletic Complex \(Blaine\):](#) Multiple use athletic center featuring 3 grass regulation soccer fields and multi-purpose area, 4 grass and fenced softball fields, and 2 grass and fenced baseball fields.



[Birch Bay Community Park \(Birch Bay\):](#) Is 4.1 acre park in developmental planning stage owned by Whatcom County Parks. Community meetings have been held and a design has been selected for future development.



[Blaine Community Pavilion \(Blaine\)](#)

This facility houses the Senior Center and the Boys and Girls Club. Space is available for rent for meetings and events. Both the Senior Center and the Boys and Girls Clubs offer numerous activities and programs. This facility is 4,400 square feet, and it includes basketball hoops.

Specialty Parklands



Birch Bay Tidelands (Birch Bay): Tidelands located along Birch Bay Drive that provide (9,539,640 linear feet of saltwater shoreline on Birch Bay.

Significant parcels include properties located north of Cottonwood Drive, north of the intersection of Harborview and Birch Bay Drive, Evergreen Lane south past Cedar Lane and north of Alderson Road



Birch Bay Shoreline Properties, Tideland, and Conservancy Areas: 56.4 acres of shoreline or near shore properties located along Birch Bay Drive at Cedar Avenue and Beach Way, Cottonwood Drive, Alderson Road, Jackson Road, and Terrell Creek. A 45 acre wildlife conservancy area is located along Point Whitehorn Road. Area facilities include picnic tables and 909 linear feet of shoreline with hand-carry boat access.



Semiahmoo Park, Tidelands and Trails (Blaine): 17.9 acre park located on Semiahmoo Spit between Semiahmoo Bay and Drayton Harbor. 8,812 linear feet of shoreline and tidelands provides access for picnicking, beachcombing, clamming, fishing, and hand-carry boat access. There is also a paved 1.5 mile multi- purpose trail. Facilities include several former Alaska Packers Association cannery buildings have been converted for use as an interpretive center and museum, restrooms, and meeting rooms.

Semiahmoo Parkway Trail: A 3.0 mile hiking and bike trail from Horizon Drive to Semiahmoo Spit



[Blaine Harbor & Pier \(Blaine\):](#)

Facilities include a 1.0 mile harbor boardwalk, the Plover historic ferry dock, Blaine Seafarers memorial, 2 public boat launch ramps, public fishing and crabbing pier and overlook with benches and landscaping, transient boat moorage, pump-out, marine support and dry boat storage facility, commercial boat docking terminal, commercial marine fisheries support and industrial area, parking, and restrooms. The marina has 182 commercial fishing boat berths, 813-863 pleasure boat slips, harbormaster office, harbor retail and office use area, and meeting rooms.



[Birch Bay State Park and Boat Launch \(Birch Bay\):](#)

194 acres of waterfront on Birch Bay and Terrell Creek including 8,255 linear feet of saltwater shoreline and 14,923 linear feet of freshwater shoreline. Facilities include 147 standard campsites, 20 trailer hook-up sites, 40 person primitive group camp, dump station, and showers. Park features include 197 picnic tables and stoves, 3 picnic shelters, playground, boat launch, comfort station/bathhouse, 408 parking spaces, 8 fire rings, 7 restrooms, and 2.2 miles of hiking trails. There is a paved boat launch with 1 ramp and is usable with a 3+ high tide



[The BP Heron Center \(Birch Bay\):](#)

The BP Heron Center is a new facility equipped for educational programs, retreats, parties, weddings, fundraisers and more. The building accommodates 137 people inside and is available to rent year round. Located on the beach at the Birch Bay State Park.



[Peace Arch State Park \(Blaine\):](#)

20 acre international facility spanning the US/Canada border. Park features include the Peace Arch monument, grassy playing field, kitchen shelter, 2 picnic shelters, 100 picnic tables, benches, walking path, 2 restrooms, formal gardens and overlooks, and 0.9 miles of trails. During the summer, the park hosts an annual International Sculpture Exhibition.



[Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve \(Birch Bay\):](#)

54 acres of forest, bluff and beach. Park features include a 0.75 mile fully accessible trail to viewpoints offering generous views of the Strait of Georgia and San Juan Islands. Access to a cobble beach is provided by a switchback path that descends from the bluff.

Interpretive signage provides details of the forest, wildlife, and marine ecology of the area



[Sunset Farm Park \(Equestrian Center\) \(Birch Bay\):](#)

69.5 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and open fields located on Blaine Road in Birch Bay. Sunset Farm is a special purpose park property with facilities that include a 3,060 square foot stable, and a 1,180 square foot garage and shop. Other Park features include riding trails, open riding areas, jumps, round pen, and an outdoor arena.



[7th Street Community Garden \(Blaine\):](#)
8,800 sq. ft. area with several garden plots maintained by community residents.



[Dakota Creek Kayak Launch \(Blaine\):](#)
Located off Runge Avenue, the Dakota Creek Kayak Launch features public parking directly across the street from the access trail. The kayak launch is located at the end of a short trail down to the Dakota Creek estuary where kayaks can be launched directly into the creek during high tide, or on a mud and sand beach. This site is best used during higher tides due to mud flats just offshore. The launch offers excellent access to the estuary and southern Drayton Harbor. Opportunities for salmon fishing and wildlife viewing.



[Blaine Skateboard Park \(Blaine\):](#)
The Skateboard Park offers a large smooth concrete pad and a variety of steel ramps, benches, and street features. The park features ample parking and picnic benches to relax at.

Parklets (typically under 1 acre in size)



[Cherry Street Parklet \(Blaine\):](#)

0.42 acre Drayton Harbor & Marina overlook. Park features include benches and landscaping.



[Martin Street Parklet \(Blaine\):](#)

0.15 acre Drayton Harbor & Marina overlook. Park features include grassy area, picnic tables, artwork, and landscaping.



[Clark Street Parklet \(Blaine\):](#)

0.24 acre Drayton Harbor & Marina overlook. Park features include grassy area, bench, artwork, and landscaping.



[Veteran's Memorial Parklet \(Blaine\):](#) A small plaza adjacent to the Blaine Police Department with benches and a monument commemorating citizens of Blaine killed in wartime.



[H Street Parklet \(Blaine\):](#)

0.1 acre Drayton Harbor & Marina overlook. Park features include artwork, benches, and landscaping.



[G Street Community Plaza Parklet \(Blaine\):](#)

0.2 acre Drayton Harbor overlook and memorial. Park features include benches and landscaping.



[Boblett Street Parklet \(Blaine\)](#)

Located at the end of Boblett Street and abutting Peace Portal Drive, this view corridor features local art and a breath taking view of Drayton Harbor.

Section 10: FUNDING OPTIONS AND METHODS

A variety of funding sources exist for the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District

2. This plan deals only with those funding options that stand the greatest opportunity of being of service to the community. Generally, the District will be working to use a variety of funding mechanisms to assist in the delivery of the Master Plan.

The current economic environment provides the possibility that the federal government may be able to provide for the funding of many elements of community infrastructure. However, it is prudent for the District to focus its efforts on the most local of options and to do so in close working relationship with the community. A site or project specific bond issue or levy, local donations, the formation of special interest groups to help raise funds for facilities, etc., may best serve the District and its patrons.

Here in summary fashion are the most realistic funding options for the District to use in carrying out this Master Plan:

1. Renewed or updated park District levy.
2. Bond issue for specific park facilities.
3. Volunteer efforts linked to local fundraising and donations.
4. Cooperation with the City of Blaine and Whatcom County for parks, recreation, and trail development funding.
5. Requests to private sector companies for funding in exchange for naming rights.
6. Grants from state and federal sources.
7. Program and activity fees to capture a portion of the cost of all programs as outlined in the District's fee policy.

Additional Recommendation:

Use of Inter-local Agreements: The District should enter into Inter-local agreements that include both program and facility enhancements with the Blaine School District, Whatcom County Parks and Recreation, the City of Blaine, State of Washington, and other Whatcom County Agencies.

Section 11: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) identifies the planned improvements to the District Park and Recreation system from 2016 - 2021, a six-year CIP plan.

Following is the approved CIP for the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 (BBBPRD2)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS

AREA	AMENITIES	YEAR	ESTIMATED COST
Bay Horizon Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade & Maintain Gymnasium • Develop outdoor volleyball courts • Develop outdoor pickleball courts • Swings at playground(s) 	2015	\$1,000,000 \$35,000
Trail Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-mile Trail Connection Between Lincoln Road and California Creek • Lincoln Road across California Creek on Drayton Harbor Road • From California Creek Estuary Park to the Blaine City limits • Sunset Farm to Birch Bay Drive • Wharf District Trail Plan 	2015 2016 & 2017	\$11,050 \$20,000 allocated at this time \$1,500,000
City of Blaine Park Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wharf District projects supported and started • Cain Creek Trail Project support • Skallman Dog Park improvement - water access for the dogs • Montfort Park improvements - promote/provide access down to water • Outdoor volleyball courts, Lincoln Park and/or Marine Park • Designated dog area at Marine Park, with plenty of signage to keep them out of the birding areas (strong penalties and enforcement needed) • Kayak/non-motorized boat launch at Marine Park similar to Friday Harbor • Bike lane road map for city streets and then completed bike lanes striping and symbols along the route. • Coordinate with the City of Blaine on their park improvement priorities 		
Birch Bay Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist Whatcom County Parks and Recreation in Development of a public parks in Blaine and Birch Bay 	2015	\$80,000 allocated at this time
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all District and city parks, trails, and the activity center (perpendicular to road for easy visibility) 		

The Capital Improvement Projects (C.I.P) will be reviewed annually by the Board of Commissioners and

may be adjusted as needed.

ATTACHMENTS

POLICY FOR BBBPRD2 FEES FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Cost recovery philosophy and policy is the key component for maintaining financial control, equitability, pricing offerings, and identifying core programs, facilities, and services for BBBPRD2. It is built upon a very logical foundation, using the understanding of who is benefiting from the parks and recreation services of the district to determine how that service should be paid for. The criteria for this, is to fulfill the mission of the District.

A pricing and cost pyramid system is to be used by the district to clarify its fee policies to the District residents. The parks and recreation services of the district are built on a strong supporting base of core services and enhanced with more specialized services and programs.

The pyramid system contains five levels of services, and these are from the foundation on up:

1. **COMMUNITY BENEFIT** – At the foundation level, programs, services, and facilities benefit District residents as a whole. Examples of these services include the existing community and parks and recreation services, the ability for the public to visit and enjoy facilities on an informal basis, development and distribution of marketing brochures, low-income scholarship programs, park and facility planning and design, park maintenance, and research by others.
2. **COMMUNITY /INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT**- The second level represents programs, facilities, and services that promote individual physical and mental well-being, and provide recreation skill development. Program and services at this level will be partially subsidized by the District (community benefit) and the balance by the participant (individual benefit). Examples of these services could include the ability for the public to visit facilities on an informal basis, interpretive programs, and beginning level of instructional programs and classes, etc.
3. **INDIVIDUAL/COMMUNITY BENEFIT** – The third level represents services that promote individual physical and mental wellbeing and provide an intermediate level of recreational skill development. It provides more individual benefit and less community benefit. Generally, the individual fee is higher. Examples of these include summer recreational day camp, sport leagues, hikes, etc.
4. **MOST INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT** – The fourth level generally represents specialized services for specific groups and may have a competitive focus. The programs and services are priced to cover full cost, including direct and indirect costs. Examples of these services would include specialized programs and classes.
5. **HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT** – The fifth level of services represents activities that have a profit center potential and could fall outside the District’s mission. The programs and services are to be priced to recover full cost plus a designated profit percentage.

It is the responsibility of the District Commissioners and staff to set the fee structure at each level based on the District’s mission, citizen input, funding, and other circumstances. The Commission should review the fee structure annually.

FEE LEVELS SUMMARY

1. COMMUNITY BENEFIT – community campfires, bike safety, scholarship programs. Community Events are FREE
2. COMMUNITY/INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT – golf lessons. BBBPRD2 pays 50%.
3. INDIVIDUAL/COMMUNITY BENEFIT – recreational day camps, sports leagues, hikes etc. The District pays 10 – 30%.
4. MOSTLY INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT – babysitting classes, pickleball lessons, etc. BBBPRD2 does not subsidize and receives an administrative/promotional fee.
5. HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT - food concessions, District-taught classes (golf), facility rentals. BBBPRD2 profits from fees for services.

These are meant to be examples and can be changed at the discretion of the Board.

IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

The Road Map is designed to provide the Board of the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 with a step-by-step action plan that will lead to the full implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

STEP 1: Meet with Partners: Upon plan adoption, schedule meetings with both Whatcom County Parks and Recreation and the City of Blaine. Have ongoing discussions.

STEP 2: Joint Meetings: Meet in joint session with the Blaine Parks and Cemetery Board to begin to integrate plans, activities, and decision- making. Continue to hold these meetings.

STEP 3: Inter-Local Agreements: Continue the development of Inter- local agreements with Whatcom County Parks and City of Blaine as well as the Blaine School District for shared use of facilities, project development, joint programs, funding, and other operations

STEP 4: Cooperative Projects: Based on the discussions for joint projects, use District funds to build projects within the District.

MAPS

The attached maps provide an overview of facilities both existing and planned within the BBBRPD2. Further information on facilities and future development can be found in the City of Blaine Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan 2016 and the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan (updated 2008). A brief summary of the information that can be found on the maps is as follows:

The Master Plan Overview Map functions as a general outline of the boundaries of the Park District and the amenities to be found within it. The map includes existing parks, parcel ownership, existing and proposed trails, bike routes and beach access points. References to proposed facility additions and improvements as defined by the citizen directed Master Plan process are also indicated.

The Neighborhood Park Planning Map provides location information about existing neighborhood boundaries in both the Blaine and Birch Bay areas. Existing park facilities and proposed locations for future neighborhood park development are indicated with ¼ mile radius circles. Existing neighborhoods within the Park District are identified. Park and trail categories are defined, and levels of service outlined.

The Community Park Planning Map provides location information about existing community park facilities and indicates proposed locations for future community park development. A 1 mile radius circle is used to loosely define existing and future needs. Park and trail categories are defined, and levels of service outlined.

Full size maps are available for use/review. Contact the District office for information.

BLAINE & BIRCH BAY

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROFILE

1. DEMOGRAPHICS

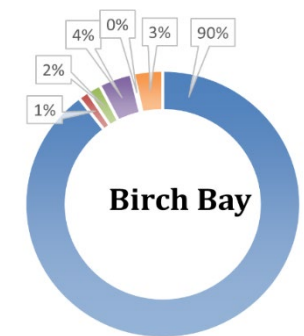
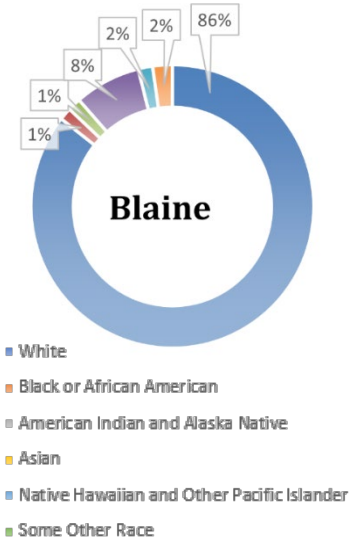
Demographic information provides a profile of potential park, trail, and recreation facility users. Additionally, demographic data can provide information about the unique health needs of population subgroups. Research shows that social and economic factors - like educational attainment, ethnicity, or income - are closely related to health and can contribute to disparate health outcomes.

Selected Demographic Characteristics	Whatcom County	Blaine	Birch Bay
Total Population	226,847	5884	10,115
Age			
Under 5 years	5.2%	4.5%	7.3%
Under 18 years	19.4%	23.8%	18.5%
18 years and over	80.6%	76.2%	81.5%
65 years and over	17.3%	20.2%	25.8%
Educational Attainment (pop. 25 years and over)			
High School or equivalent degree	22.2%	30.6%	25.1%
Some College, No Degree	24.2%	19.6%	29.3%
Associate degree	10.9%	4.2%	12.8%
Bachelor Level Degree	22.1%	24.1%	16.6%
Graduate or professional degree	13.1%	14.2%	10.2%
Income			
Median Household Income	\$ 65,420	\$72,772	\$ 63,157
Uninsured			
No Healthcare Coverage (Total Pop.)	5.9%	9.8%	4.8%
No Healthcare Coverage (Children)	7.5%	12.3%	4.4%
Population with Limited English Proficiency			
	11.9 %	11.7%	11%
Poverty by Age			
Total Population in Poverty	13.9%	9.3%	13%
Under 18 years	12.4%	19.6%	12.5%
18 to 64 years	15.7%	6.9%	10.4%
65 years and over	8.8%	5.5%	18.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey

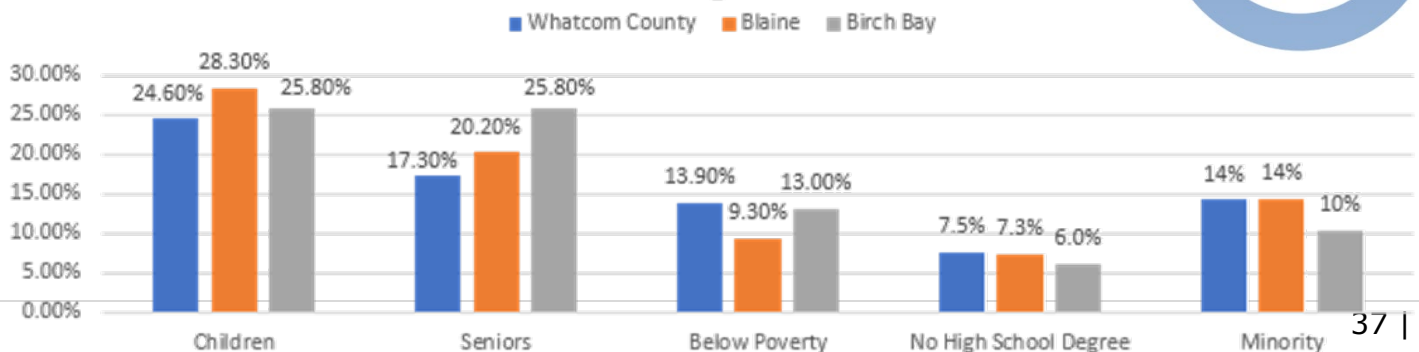
RACE & ETHNICITY

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



2. HEALTH BEHAVIORS & OUTCOMES

Data on health status in Whatcom County are generally available only at the county level because of small sample sizes. However, county-level measurements of health behaviors allow for assessing linkages between social determinants of health and health outcomes. For example, by comparing the prevalence of certain chronic diseases & other health indicators with income levels, we can better understand that these health indicators vary by socioeconomic level.

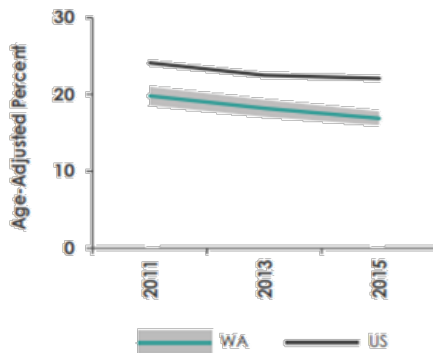
Adults

Time Trends

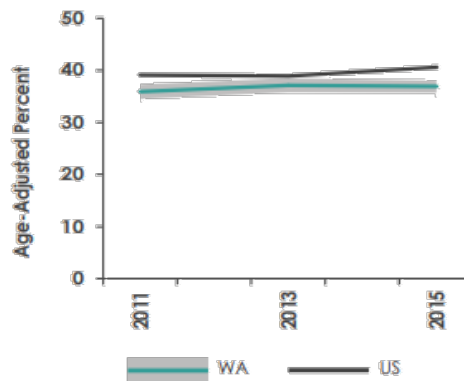
Vegetables

- In the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the prevalence of low vegetable consumption among Washington State adults was 17% (±1%).
- Washington had a lower prevalence of low vegetable consumption compared to the U.S.
- Washington's prevalence in 2015 was lower than 2011.

Low Vegetable Consumption (<1 x/day)
Washington State & US
BRFSS, 2011, 2013, 2015



Low Fruit Consumption (<1 x/day)
Washington State & US
BRFSS, 2011, 2013, 2015

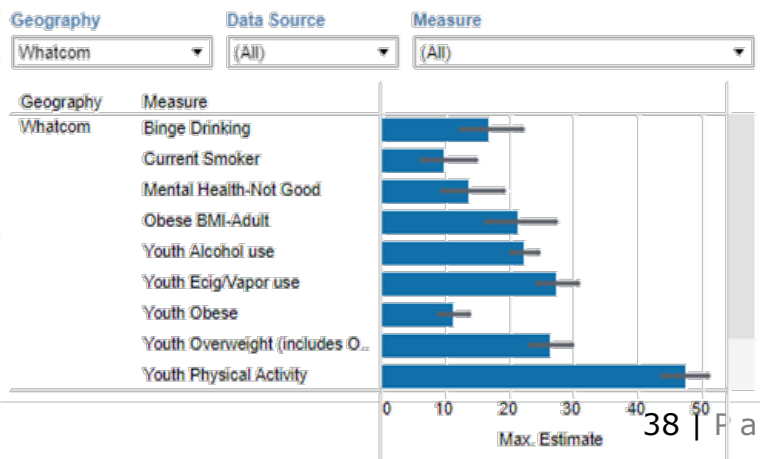
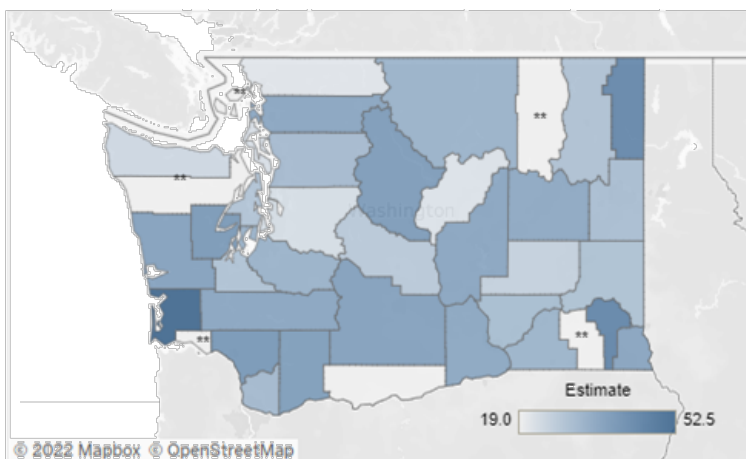


Fruits

- In the 2015 BRFSS, the prevalence of low fruit consumption among Washington State adults was 37% (±1%).
- Washington had a lower prevalence of low fruit consumption compared to the U.S.
- Washington's prevalence in 2015 was similar to 2011.

Access to Healthy Foods

- Several factors affect residents' access to healthy foods, including proximity to healthy food retailers, cost, convenience, and access to transportation.
- In Washington State, the majority of urban populations live within a 10-minute drive of a healthy food retailer (i.e., one that participates in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and Children [WIC]). Nearly all population centers in Washington State live within a 20-minute drive of a healthy food retailer. However, disparities exist in different neighborhoods, including for racial/ethnic minorities and low-income populations.



3. BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment includes access to parks and open space; walkability and bike-ability of neighborhoods, including sidewalks and bike lanes, shops, and basic services; access to outlets for healthy food, medical clinics, and other essential services; and how well the transportation system provides alternatives to single-person motor vehicle commutes. Poor or lacking infrastructure can lead to injuries, inaccessibility of resources and services, and less physical activity, which is an important predictor of obesity-related diseases. In addition, green spaces, and public places to be active or to gather and recreate with community members are associated with lower rates of depression and stress and with better overall mental health.

From 2010 to 2015, the percentage of Whatcom County residents that live within a ½ mile of a park increased by 17%. Access to exercise opportunities (gyms, sports clubs, parks, etc.) increased 11% for Whatcom County from 2012 to 2014.

Access to parks and exercise opportunities, 2010-2015

WHATCOM COUNTY VS. WASHINGTON STATE
Sources: County Health Rankings, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



There is strong evidence that links limited access to healthy foods and food insecurity to negative health outcomes such as weight-gain and premature death.²⁹ Whatcom County's food environment index has remained steady and slightly below WA State's index since 2011.

Food environment index, 2010-2014

An index ranging from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) that weighs both limited access to healthy foods and food insecurity

WHATCOM COUNTY VS. WASHINGTON STATE
Source: County Health Rankings, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

