

King Mountain Neighborhood Trails: Conceptual Master Plan (March 2024)

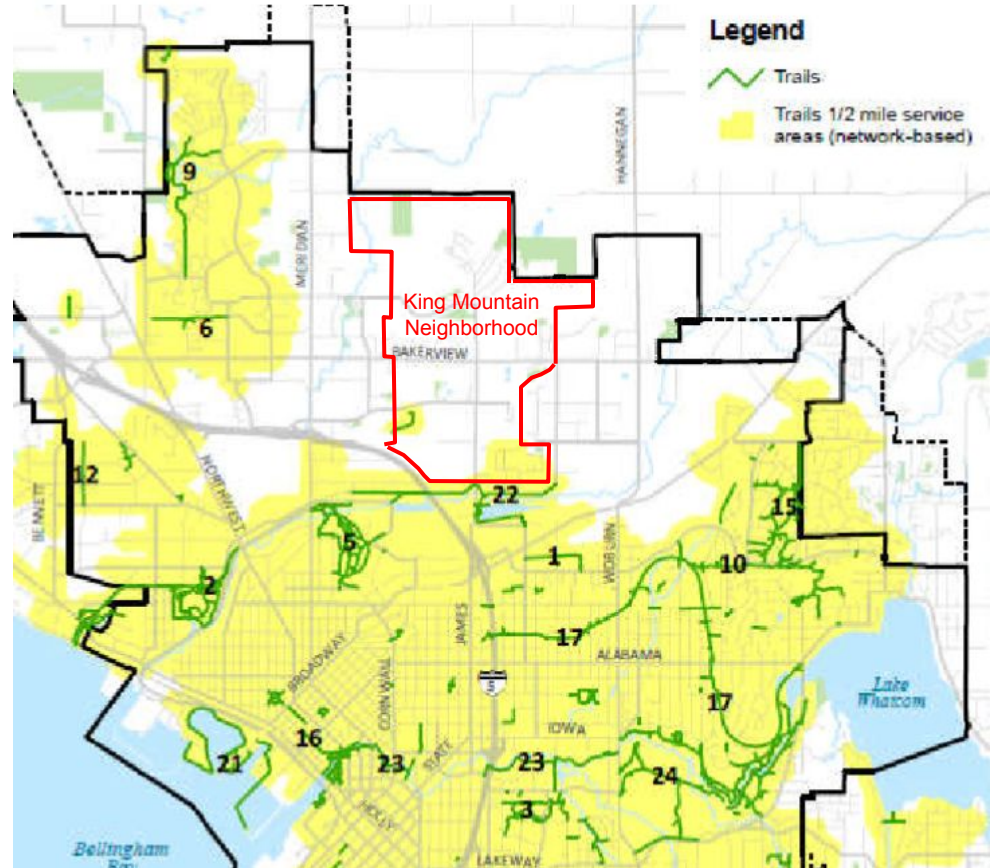
King Mountain Neighborhood Association: *Parks Recreation & Open Spaces (KMNA PROS)*



Problem Statement:

- Lack of trails in this rapidly developing part of town
- Lack of connections between parks, residential areas, and the new school
- Lack of safe pedestrian/bike access between King Mountain Neighborhood and other neighborhoods, particularly to the south
- Unique opportunity to secure trail ROWs prior to permitting development and to build trails

Historical context: King Mountain Neighborhood was annexed into the City of Bellingham in 2009

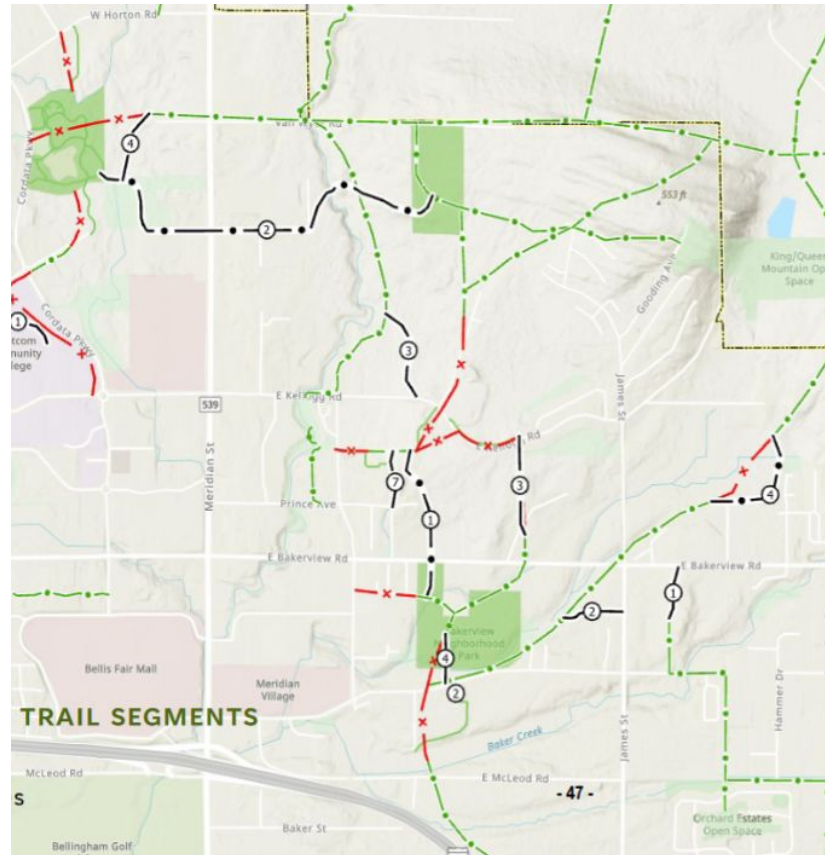


Existing Trails (from 2/24/20 Bellingham PRO Plan, p. 22)

Overview:

The city's Parks Recreation and Open Space (PRO) plan has provided an important framework for planning and development in the area.

Successive updates of PRO plans have continued to refine these trail plans in response to property development, bike, pedestrian, and road plan updates.



TRAIL EDITS

CHANGE CATEGORIES

- 1 Aligned to development plan or property acquisition
- 2 Alignment to reflect Bike or Ped Master Plan
- 3 Aligned to undeveloped property
- 4 Realigned to terrain and critical areas avoidance
- 5 Completes existing trail connection
- 6 Identified in Neighborhood Subarea Plan
- 7 Potential unopened right-of-way trail connection

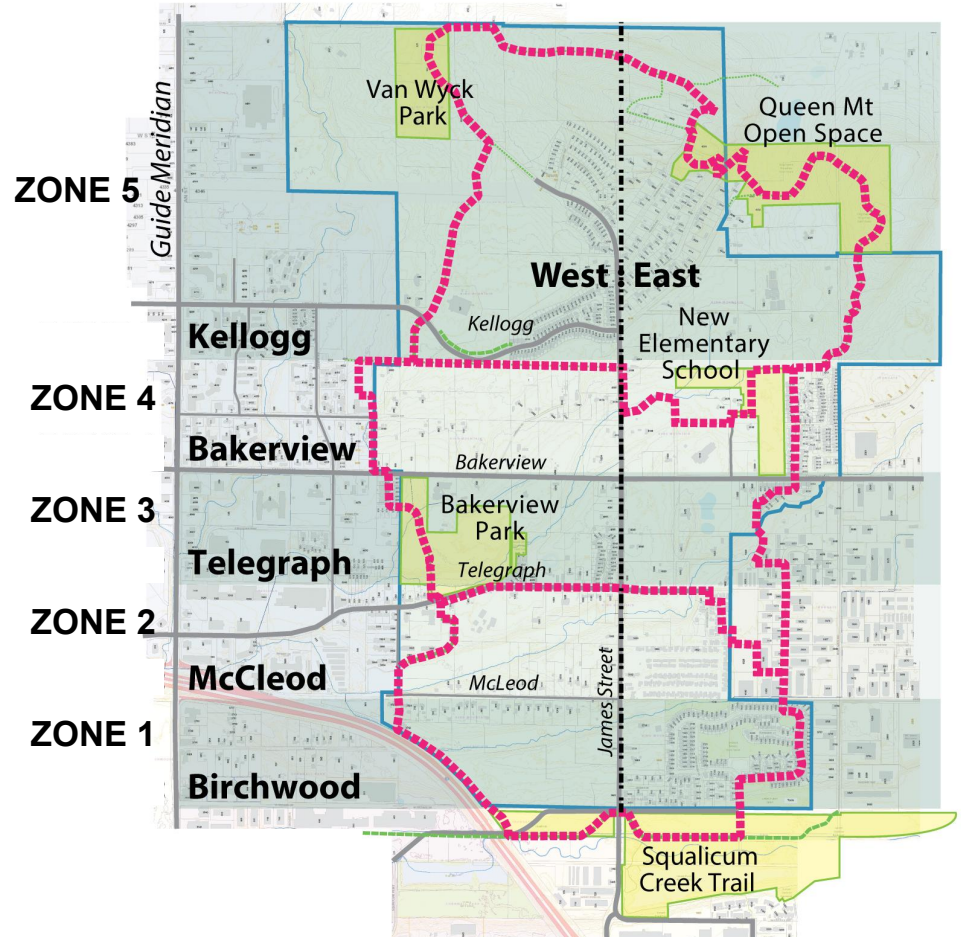
October 2023 Updates to Bellingham PRO plan

(City Council 10/16/23 agenda packet, p. 47)

Overview (continued):

This conceptual master plan is intended to provide greater specificity based on local knowledge, recent explorations of informal trails, and reviews of land ownership and permitting data.

To better organize a review, we have grouped recommendations into five zones, starting from south to north (numbered to correspond to the city's James Street development sections) and divided by west and east of James Street.



King Mountain Neighborhood Trails: Conceptual Master Plan (March 2024)

King Mountain Neighborhood Association: *Parks Recreation & Open Spaces (KMNA PROS)*

Zones: Running North South

Zone 5 West

> Van Wyck Park connections

Zone 4 West

> Pipeline trail
> Deemer-Creston Pond link
> Bakerview to Kellogg

Zone 3 West

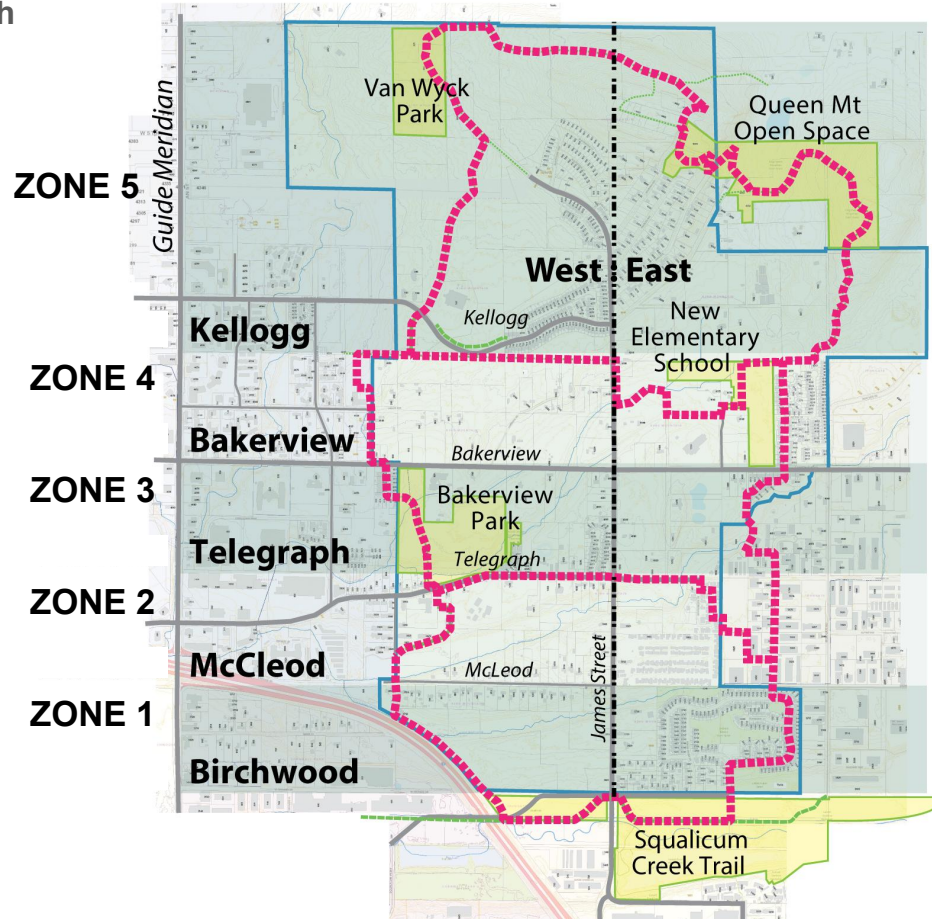
> Through new Bakerview Park

Zone 2 West

> Connecting from McLeod to Telegraph Road

Zone 1 West

> Connecting Squalicum Creek Corridor (Orchard Drive) with McLeod Road



Zone 5 East

> Queen Mt OS connections, including to Stonecrest

Zone 4 - 5 East

> Connecting to new school

Zone 3 East

> Bakerview to Telegraph routes to consider, route to school

Zone 2 East

> Connecting Fruitland to Telegraph, route to school

Zone 1 East

> Review bike route

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Connectors: Running East West

Pipeline Connector

East-West path along pipeline ROW, Deemer Road to James Street

ZONE 5

Telegraph Connector

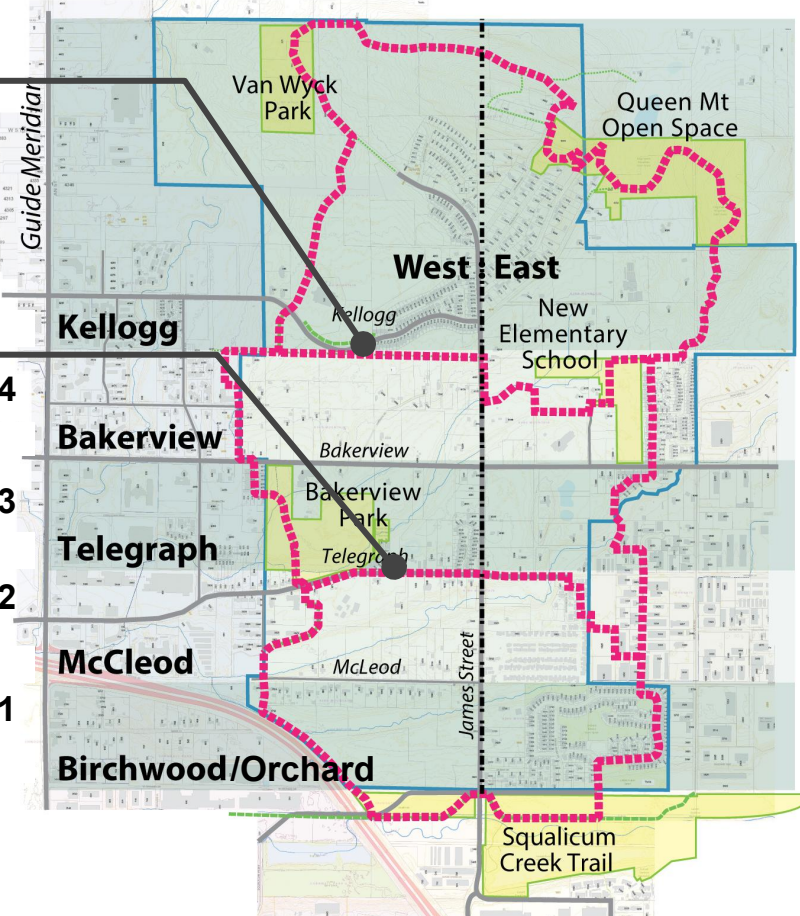
East-West bike and pedestrian multi-modal route along Telegraph Road, connecting to North-South trails

ZONE 4

ZONE 3

ZONE 2

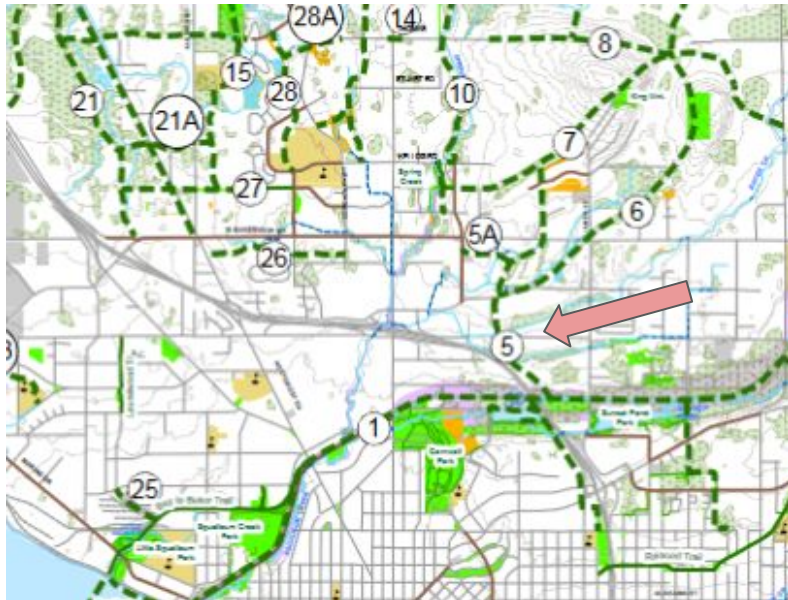
ZONE 1



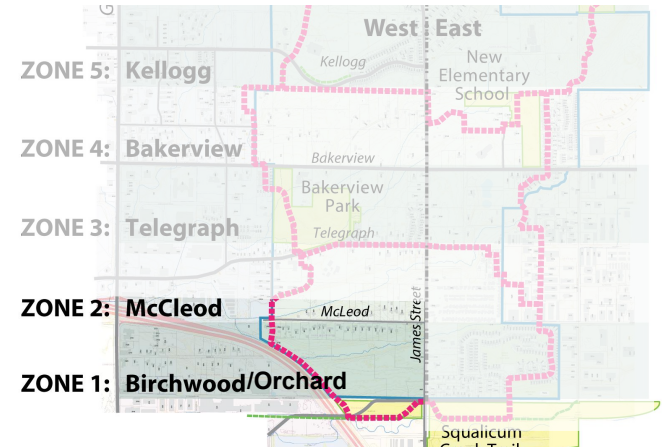
Zone 1 West:

Connecting Squalicum Creek Corridor with McLeod Road

This trail route was identified in the *2008 North Bellingham Trail Plan* adopted by the city (see below) where it was described as the “Bay to Baker – King Mountain Link (Trail 5)”. It has carried over and is identified as a priority in the current 2022-2026 Greenways Strategic Plan.



Map from *North Bellingham Trail Plan*, adopted in 2008



Why is this trail so important?

- 1) It is difficult to safely commute from King Mountain Neighborhood to the city center. The barrier of Interstate 5 and the lack of bike or pedestrian space along James Street has largely isolated King Mountain Neighborhood in terms of bicycle or pedestrian access.

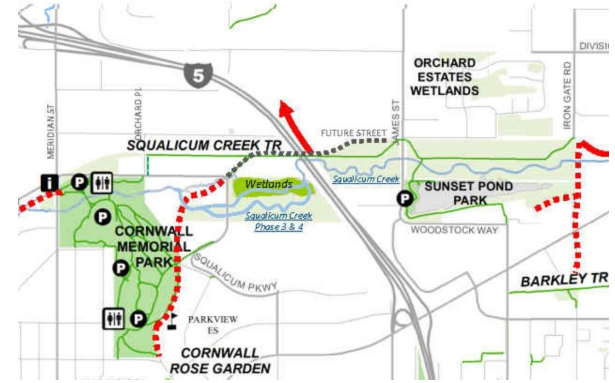
Zone 1 West:

Connecting Squalicum Creek Corridor with McLeod Road (continued)

2) The Squalicum Creek Corridor is one of two most resource rich east-west park and open space zones in Bellingham (see 2022-2026 Greenways Strategic Plan p.17). The Squalicum Creek Corridor features: Squalicum Creek Park, 115-year-old Cornwall Park, and Sunset Pond Park, It also offers trail connectivity to the Railroad Trail, to Little Squalicum Creek Park (with 3.4-million-dollar estuary, and a multi-million-dollar pier), to Bellingham's robust waterfront via Roeder Avenue to the west, to new extensions to the east, and to the new Sunset Pond Trail to the south.

This connection relies on obtaining easements through properties north of Orchard Drive, and/or building along the I-5 ROW. Residential properties on the south side of McLeod Road and the east side of Primrose Lane have all been developed.

This section between Squalicum Creek Trail and McLeod Road is a critical link and should be a priority.



Squalicum Creek Trail Segment

<https://cob.org/wp-content/uploads/Squalicum-Creek-Trail-2020-09-24.jpg>



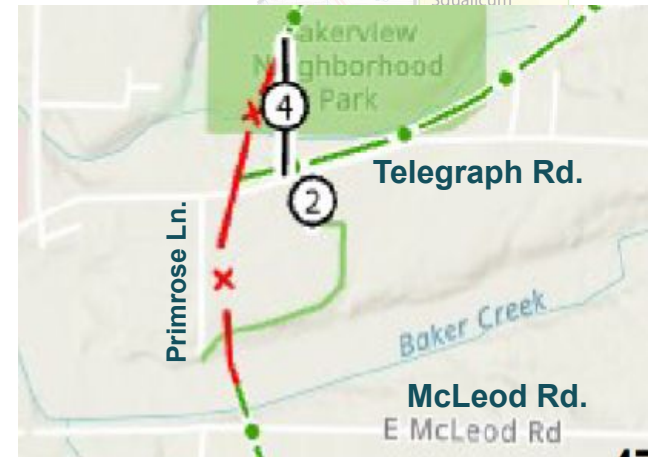
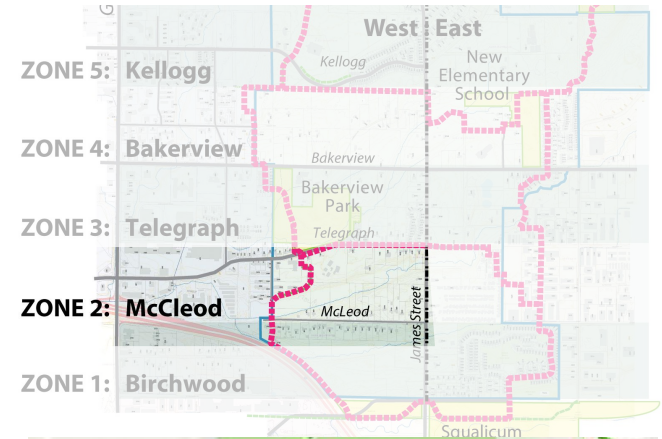
Zone 2 West:

Connecting McLeod to Telegraph Road and the Bakerview Neighborhood Park

This trail connection, shown in city's 2023 PRO plan, is a critical north-south link between the new Bakerview Neighborhood Park and the Bay to Baker (Squalicum Creek) trail by Orchard Drive.

Today there are no safe pedestrian or bike routes between Telegraph Road and Orchard Drive. A single shared-use path is designed into the James Street improvement project. However, this section of project is not currently funded and will not be built until after 2028 at the earliest (see 2024-2029 Transportation Improvement Program).

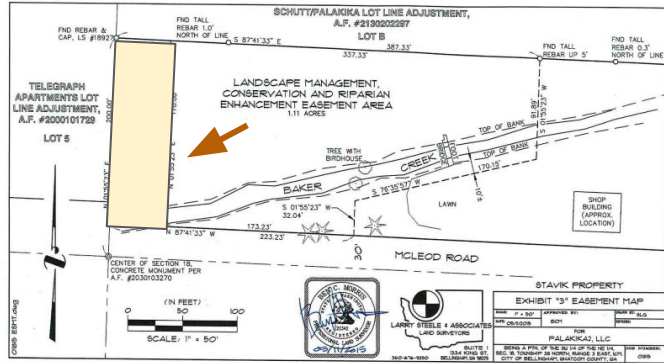
This trail would use the existing gravel bike trail south and east of the apartments by Primrose Lane. (Note path currently doesn't fully use the trail easement at 773 Telegraph Road.)



Zone 2 West:

Connecting McLeod to Telegraph Road and the Bakerview Neighborhood Park (continued)

Greenways purchased trail easements in 2015. McLeod Road residents deeded the 50 foot wide public trail easement in 2015.



50 x 170 foot trail easement on north side of McLeod Road



30 x 268 foot trail easement south of Primrose Lane



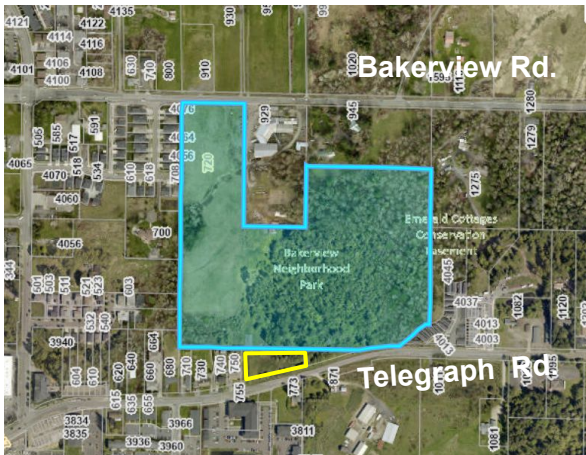
Existing trail by apartments on Primrose [Palakika Trail]

Zone 3 West:

Connecting Telegraph Road to Bakerview Road through new Bakerview Neighborhood Park

The new (2020) 29-acre *Bakerview Neighborhood Park* offers the most logical trail route for this section, and east to the recently purchased *Bakerview Open Space*. An informal trail could precede full park development.

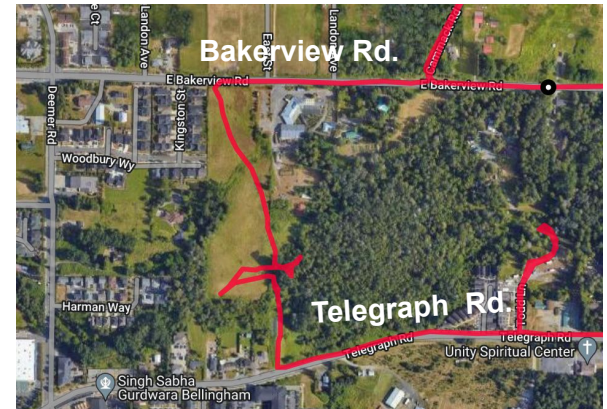
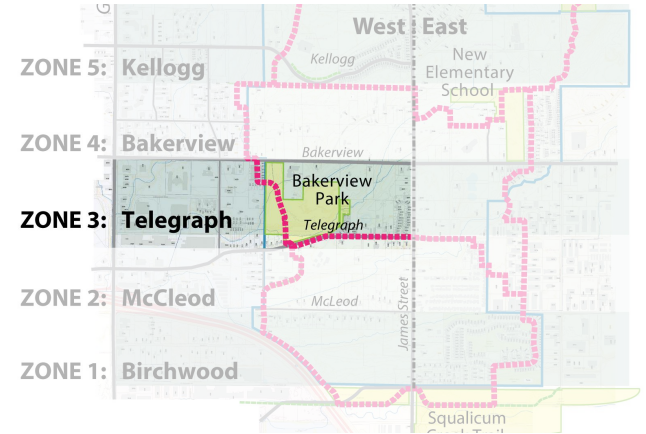
Routing over the North Fork of Baker Creek earthen dam would be similar to how the Railroad Trail crosses Fever Creek in the Roosevelt Neighborhood.



Bakerview Neighborhood Park



North Fork of Baker Creek earthen dam on city property



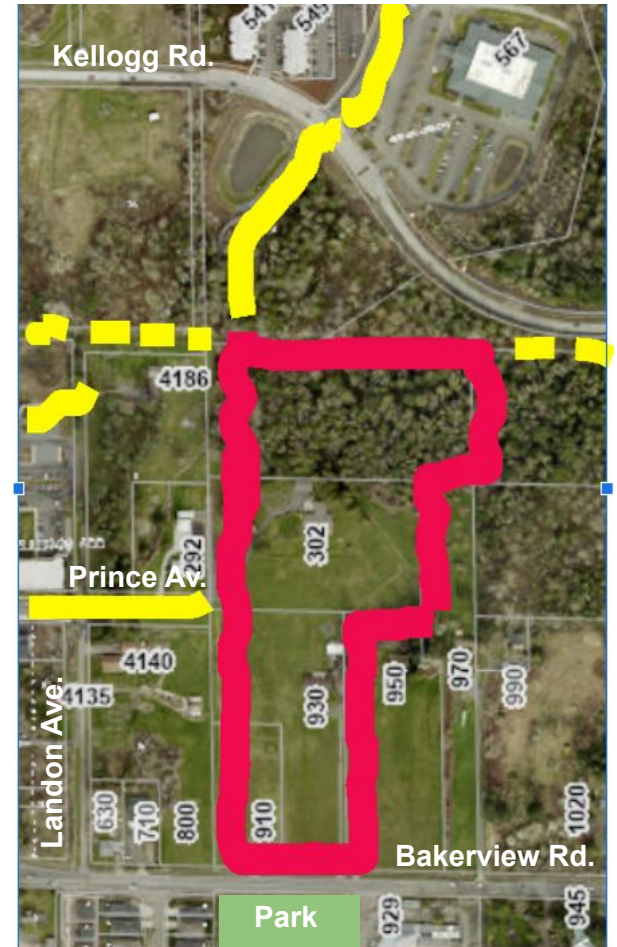
Zone 4 West:

13.7 acre property north of Bakerview Road

This four-parcel group was recently listed for sale, specifying zoning for 165 to 361 units. Trail plans should be incorporated into any development permits. This area offers an important opportunity for critical trail connections:

- 1) It is directly north of Bakerview Park, the logical route to trails southward to the Bay to Baker Trail (Squalicum Creek Trail).
- 2) Landon Avenue and Prince Avenue provide access to Deemer Road.
- 3) The northwest corner of the property is where the new Creston Pond trail currently terminates. This should offer future access to Van Wyck Park and Queen Mountain Open Space.
- 4) Also along the north side of the property is the currently used “informal” or “social” east-west trail along the pipeline ROW.

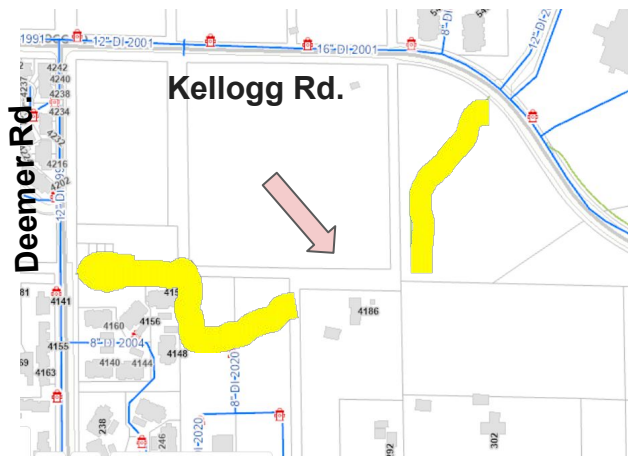
In short, there are not many good alternatives for north-south trail connections in this rapidly growing area of Bellingham. **Priority: HIGH**



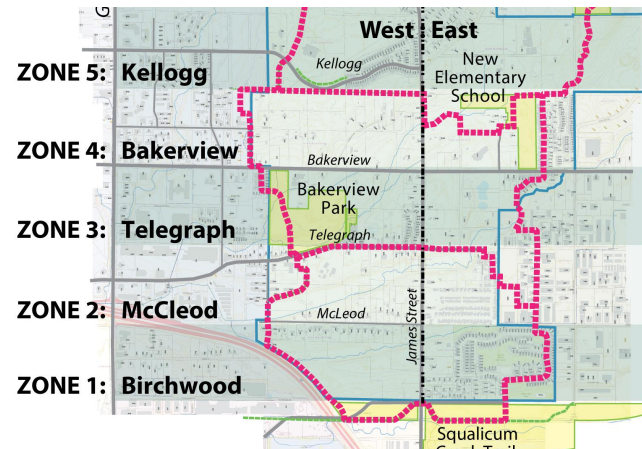
Zone 4 West:

Route for connecting Deemer Road to Kellogg Road

A short trail jogs east of Deemer Road toward the new “Kingsway Trail” by the runoff pond adjacent to Creston Way. This link was described as an “exciting trail corridor” in the 12/3/20 Greenways AC meeting minutes. There is an apparent easement (see arrow). Also note there is a “potential unopened right-of-way trail connection” south to Landon Ave. noted in the city’s PRO plan.



Current trail sections shown in yellow

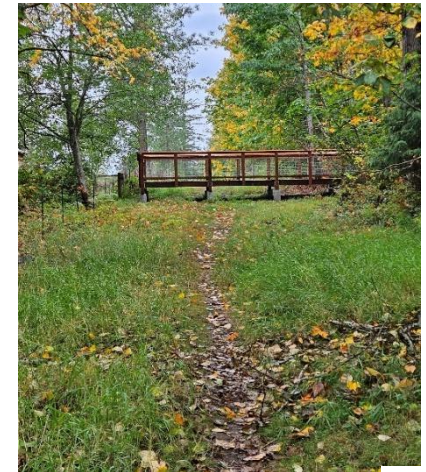
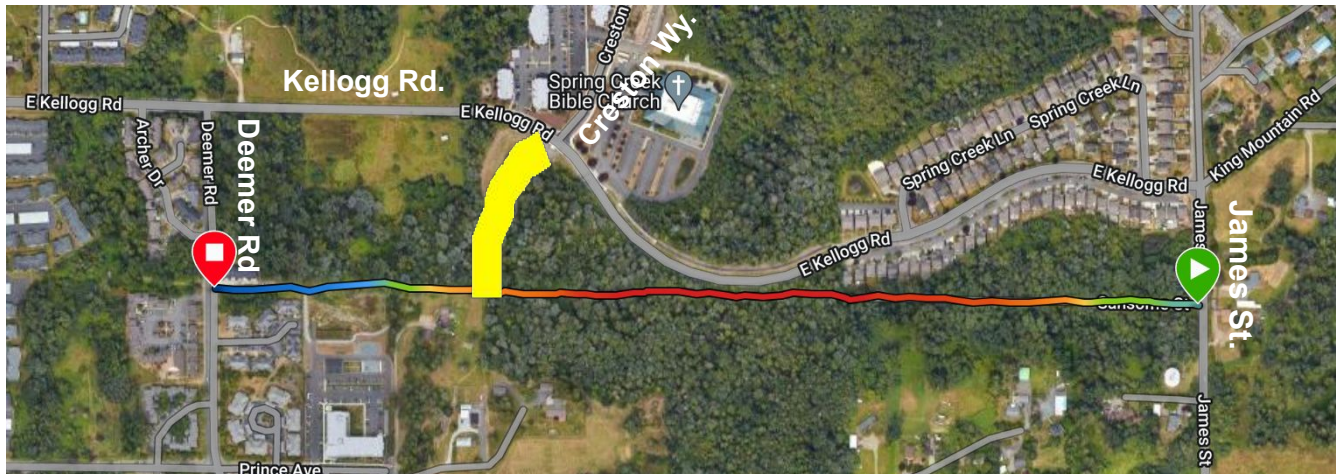


Zone 4 West:

East-West path along pipeline ROW, Deemer Road to James Street, 0.7 miles

An informal footpath along a pipeline ROW. East end is shown as “Sansome Street” on Google Maps, but there is no road. West end connects to a short trail section by a five-plex on Deemer Street. The recently built “Kingsway Trail” (shown in yellow) terminates on an elevated boardwalk over this trail but does not actually connect with it.

This trail corridor has potential for connecting Meridian Neighborhood to King Mountain trails, open spaces, and the new school. It also could provide options for trail connections with Bakerview Neighborhood Park.

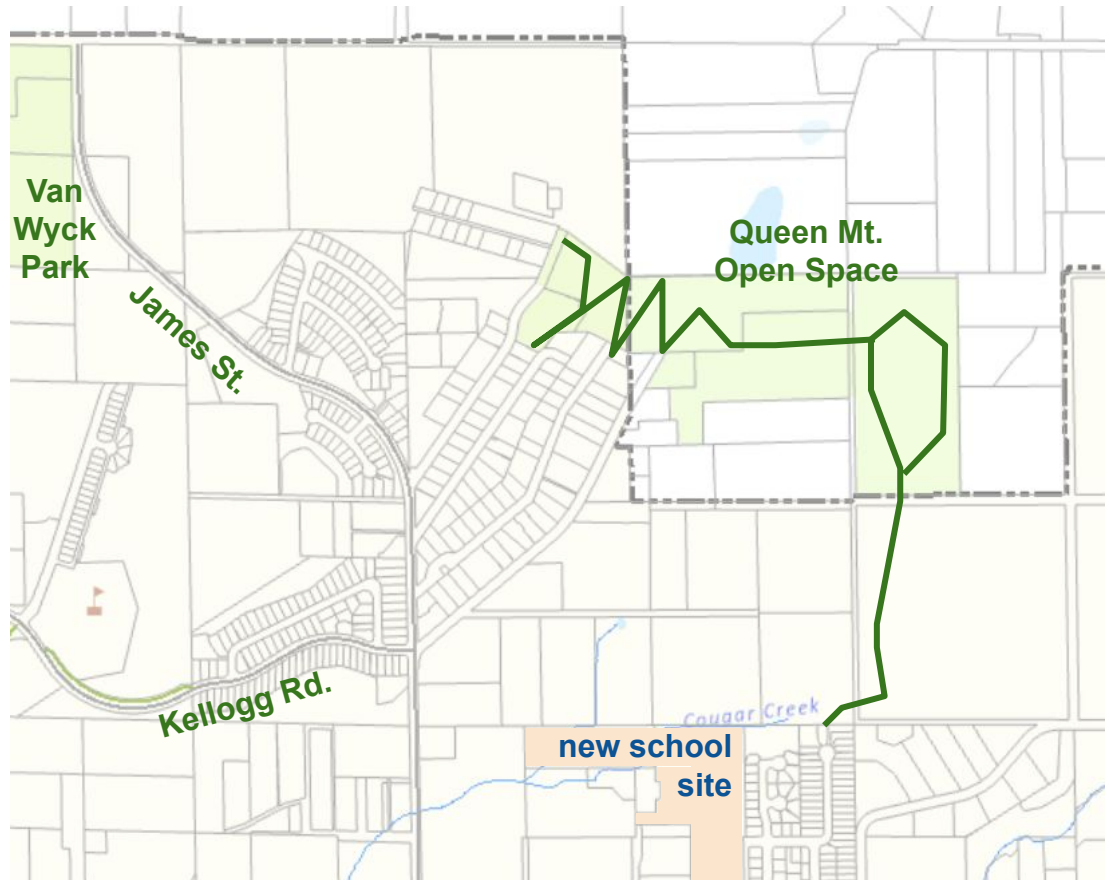


Zone 5 East

Trail connections to and from Queen Mt. Open Space should be developed concurrent with property development.

Switchback trails will navigate steep slope and service King Mt. Rd., King Ave., Francis Ave., and Gooding Ave.

Plans for the *Queen Mountain Homes* include trail access from Stonecrest to Queen Mt. Open Space.

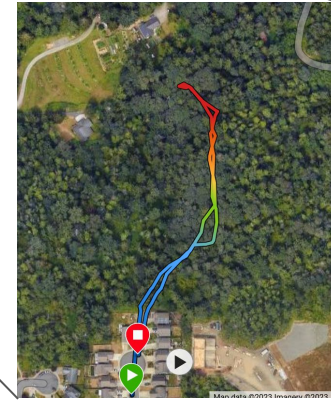
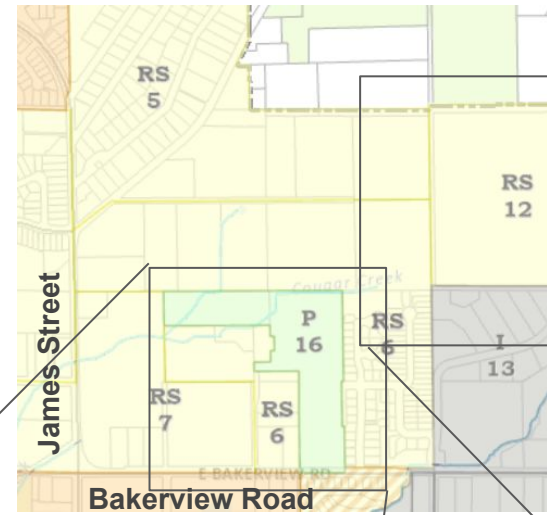


Zone 5-4 East

Trails to school, and connecting Stonecrest Court to Queen Mountain Open Space

There is an undeveloped singletrack footpath through a wooded area, mostly on *Queen Mountain Homes* property south of Queen Mountain Open Space. Local residents have advocated for a trail right of way from Queen Mt. Open Space south to Stonecrest Court as part of property development.

High priority should be given to trails and other access routes connecting to the new elementary school site.



Single-track trail north of Stonecrest Ct.

New school site plan (from 2/21/23 Project Application, Bellingham School District)

Zone 3 East

Bakerview Road to Telegraph Road

Easement acquisition at the east end of Telegraph Road could open possibilities for trail development.

Note that Kramer Lane south of Bakerview Road could play a role in “safe routes to school” if connected to residential areas east of James Street.

Possible easement along “Washington Ave.”? Possible land acquisitions? Safe Routes to School funding appropriate.



(Basemap from Bellingham IQ)

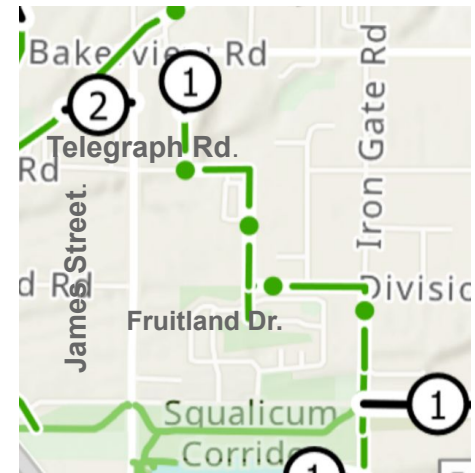
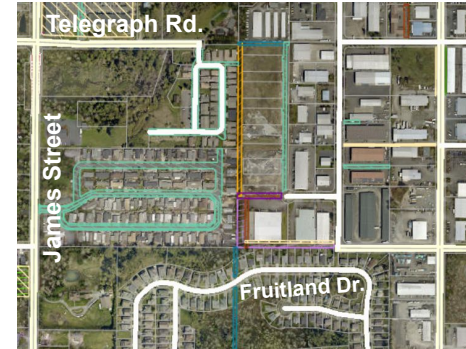
Zone 2 East

Connecting Telegraph Road to Fruitland Drive/Division Street

The city's 2023 PRO plan shows a trail connecting from Irongate Road, jogging between developments northward to Bakerview Road in the vicinity of the new King Mountain School. This would serve as a critical north-south link, and a "Safe Route to Schools" and should be a priority.

Today there are no safe pedestrian or bike routes between Telegraph Road and Orchard Drive. A single shared-use path is designed into the James Street improvement project. However, this section of project is not currently funded and will not be built until after 2028 at the earliest (see 2024-2029 Transportation Improvement Program).

The proposed route would rely on using an existing easement between developed properties.



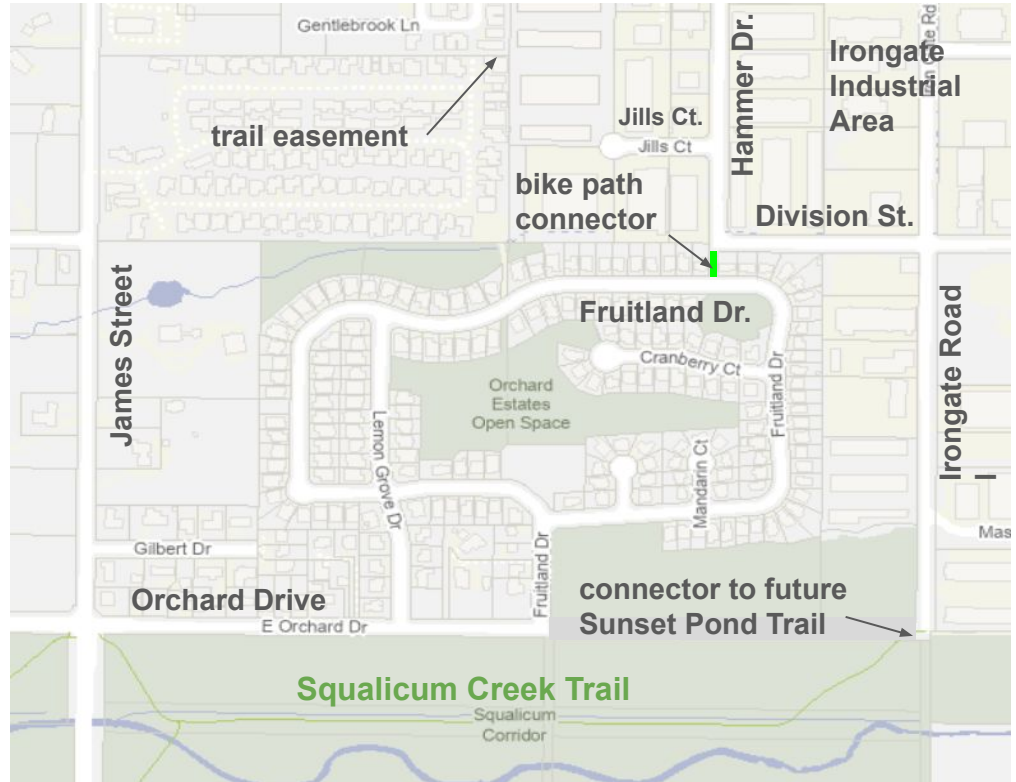
From city's 2023 PRO plan update

Zone 1 East

Telegraph Road to the Squalicum Creek Corridor (continued)

Currently there is a bike route, marked by “sharrows” on the pavement of Fruitland Drive, which connects from Hammer Drive to Orchard Drive. This route is shown on the city’s master bike plan.

To the east, use of Irongate Road in the Irongate industrial area provides the only other workaround to avoid the unsafe use of James Street while walking or peddling to the Squalicum Creek corridor from the north.



(Basemap from Bellingham IQ)

Unsafe pedestrian or bicycle passage along James Street due to lack of shoulder

24-hour traffic volume in 2018: 11,200



James Street traffic. Facing north, between Orchard Drive and McLeod Road (2/19/2024)



James Street traffic. Facing south, between McLeod Road and Telegraph Road (2/19/2024)

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Summary of Trail Recommendations, KMNA PROS March 2024

Zone	Trail Section Recommend	Predominate Land Status of Route	Existing Developed Trails	Length of New Trails	Property acquisition or require with development	Similarity with city's 2023 PRO Plan	Priority	Comments
1 West	Orchard to McLeod, parallel to I-5	private, mostly undeveloped	none	0.4 miles	acquire easements or use I-5 easement	same	high	critical trail link between KM and rest of Bellingham
2 West	McLeod to Telegraph	public trail, easement	bike path behind apartments	0.1 miles	neither, existing easement and bike path	same		low cost due to short length, could build with trail south of McLeod
3 West	Telegraph to Bakerview	public park	none	0.3 miles	neither, city park already	same		informal trail could precede full park development
4 West	Bakerview to Kellogg	private, undeveloped	none	0.25 miles	require with development	same	high	important opportunity in key location
4 West	Deemer to Creston Pond link	public easements, and private?	short paths from Deemer and from Kellogg	0.1 miles	existing easement	same		link to residences to the west, Spring Creek nature area?
4 West	East-West pipeline Deemer to James	utility corridor	well established informal "social" trail	0.7 miles	unknown, existing utility easement	same in western part, new section in eastern part		gentle informal footpath parallel to Kellogg, leads towards new school
5 West	Connectons to Van Wyck Park and east	private, mostly undeveloped	no developed trails	0.3 miles 0.6 miles	require with development	similar		link VW Park to QM Open Space
5 East	Connectons south from Queen Mt. Open Space	private, mostly undeveloped	small footpath, trail in development plan	0.3 mile	require with development	similar		connect from QM Open Space to Stonecrest Ct.
4 East	Connections to new school and James	private, mostly undeveloped	none	0.2 miles	require with development and school building	similar	high	Kramer for north-south, other for school
3 East	Bakerview to Telegraph	private, mostly undeveloped	none	0.3 miles	require with development	same		some easements? school safe routes?
2 East	Telegraph to Fruitland	private, mostly developed	none	0.3 miles	would require easements	same		some easements? school safe routes?
1 East	Fruitland to Orchard	private, mostly developed	bike "sharrows" on neighborhood street	0.1 miles	n.a.	same		fully developed, small easements off Fruitland, "gray" connections

total length approx. 3.3 miles, excluding Pipeline Trail

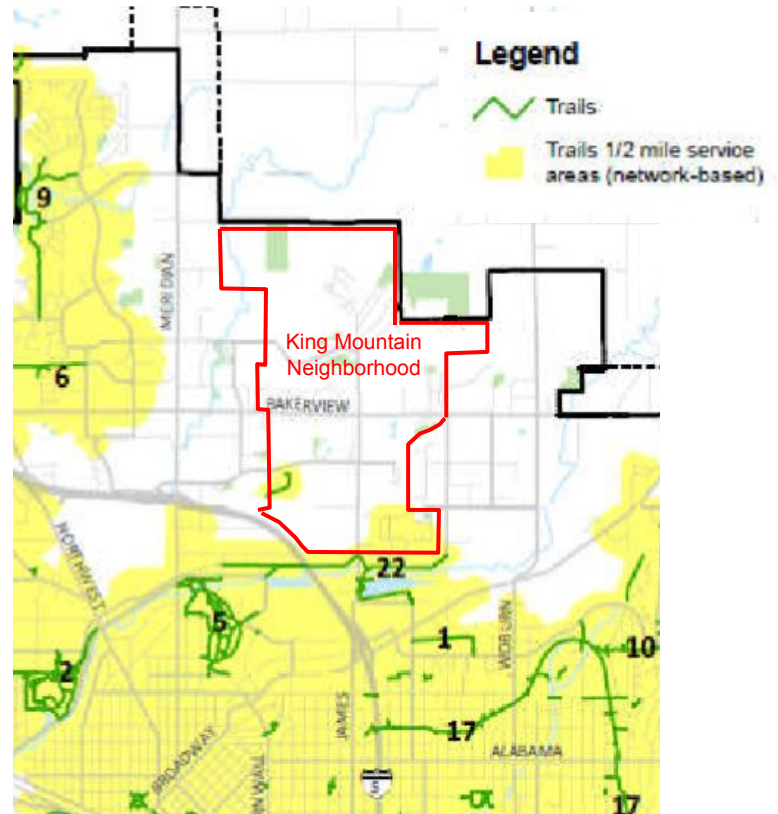
Conclusions:

We are asking City of Bellingham and the Greenways Advisory Committee prioritize trail right-of-way acquisition and trail development in King Mountain Neighborhood.

Funding and actually constructing trails in this rapidly developing part of town will help assure the Greenways Program

- 1) meets the goal of connecting neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces, and
- 2) meets the objective of equitable community access.

These benefits will be enjoyed by today's residents and future generations.



Existing Trails (from 2/24/20 Bellingham PRO Plan, p. 22)

Contacts:

King Mountain Neighborhood Association (KMNA)

<https://www.kmna.org/>

KMNA Parks Recreation and Open Space (PROS)

Subcommittee

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Jud Daffern

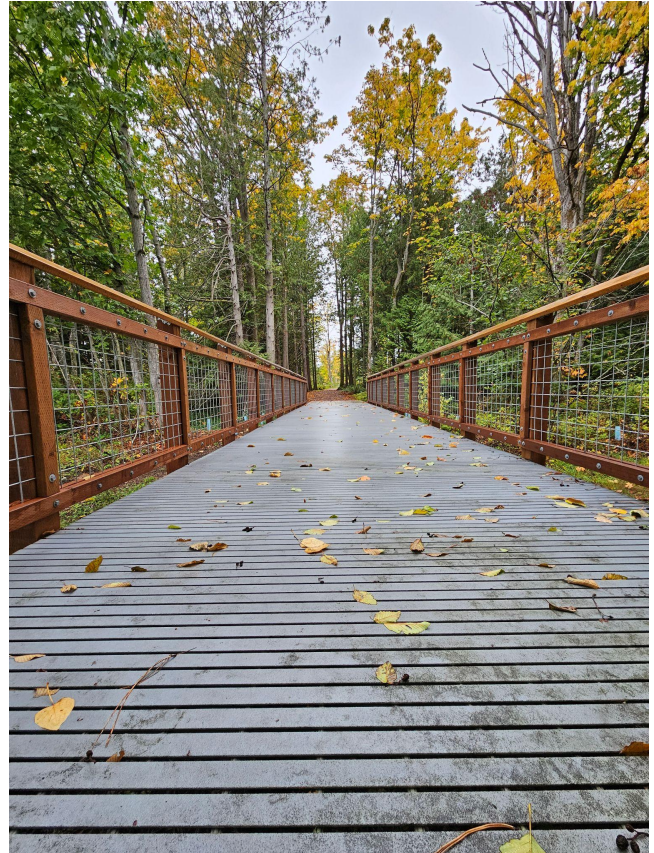
Melissa Gille

Jim Marcotte *blairandjim@gmail.com*

March 2024



KING MOUNTAIN
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Appendix A

From Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan 2020, p.37

5.5.1 Policy Recommendations Trails (TR)

Acquire and/or develop new trail connections as shown on the following map in order to provide an off-street trail within a half mile of every resident in Bellingham.

...

Connect Cordata Park, Whatcom Community College and Van Wyck Park.

...

Pursue easements to connect Bay to Baker Trail to King and Queen Mountain Greenway.

...

From 2022-2026 Greenways Strategic Plan, p.9

GOAL 1: ACQUIRE PROPERTY WHICH CONNECTS PARKS, NEIGHBORHOODS, OPEN SPACE AND HABITAT ACROSS BELLINGHAM AND ITS URBAN GROWTH AREA

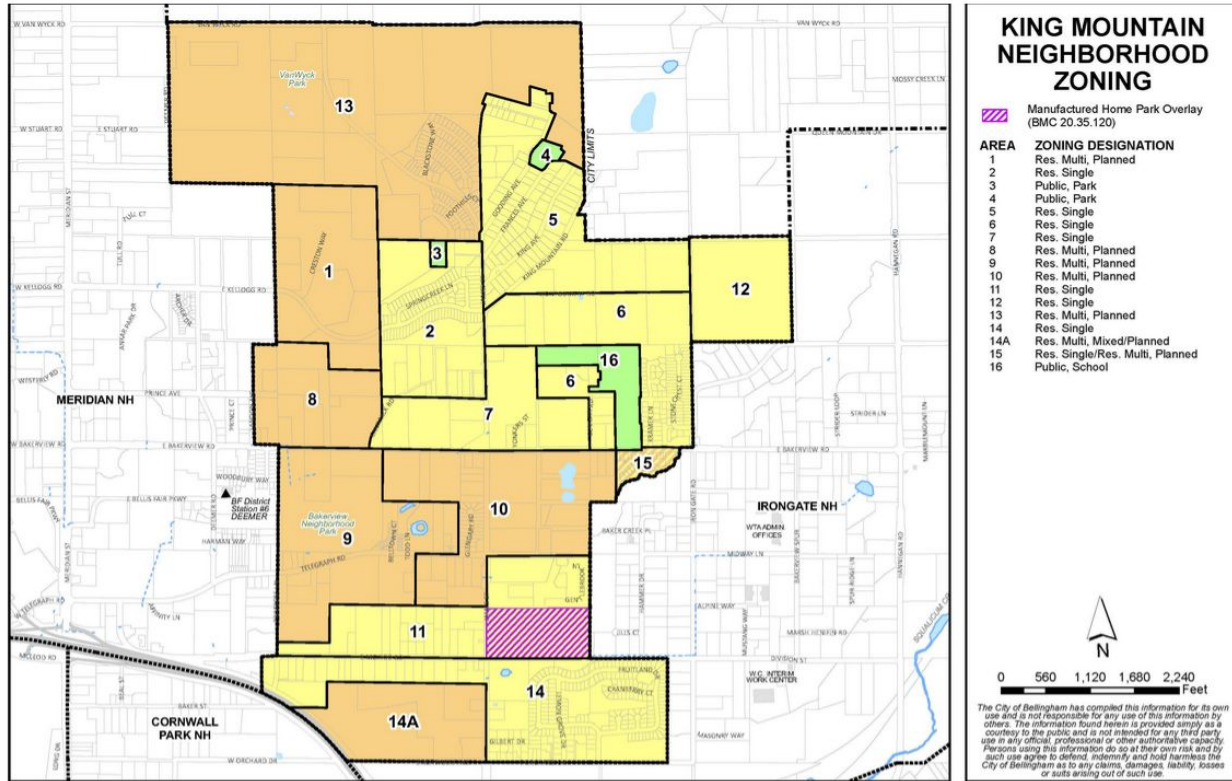
Objectives:

- a. **Equitable community access.** Ensure equitable community access when setting acquisition priorities. Priority consideration should be given to neighborhoods with a disproportionate number of low-income households in ensuring access to greenways, open space, parks, park facilities and trails.
- b. **Connecting neighborhoods.** Create a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails to connect neighborhoods and provide viable alternatives to motor vehicles. ...
- c. **Connecting parks.** Create a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails to provide public access to parks and open space.

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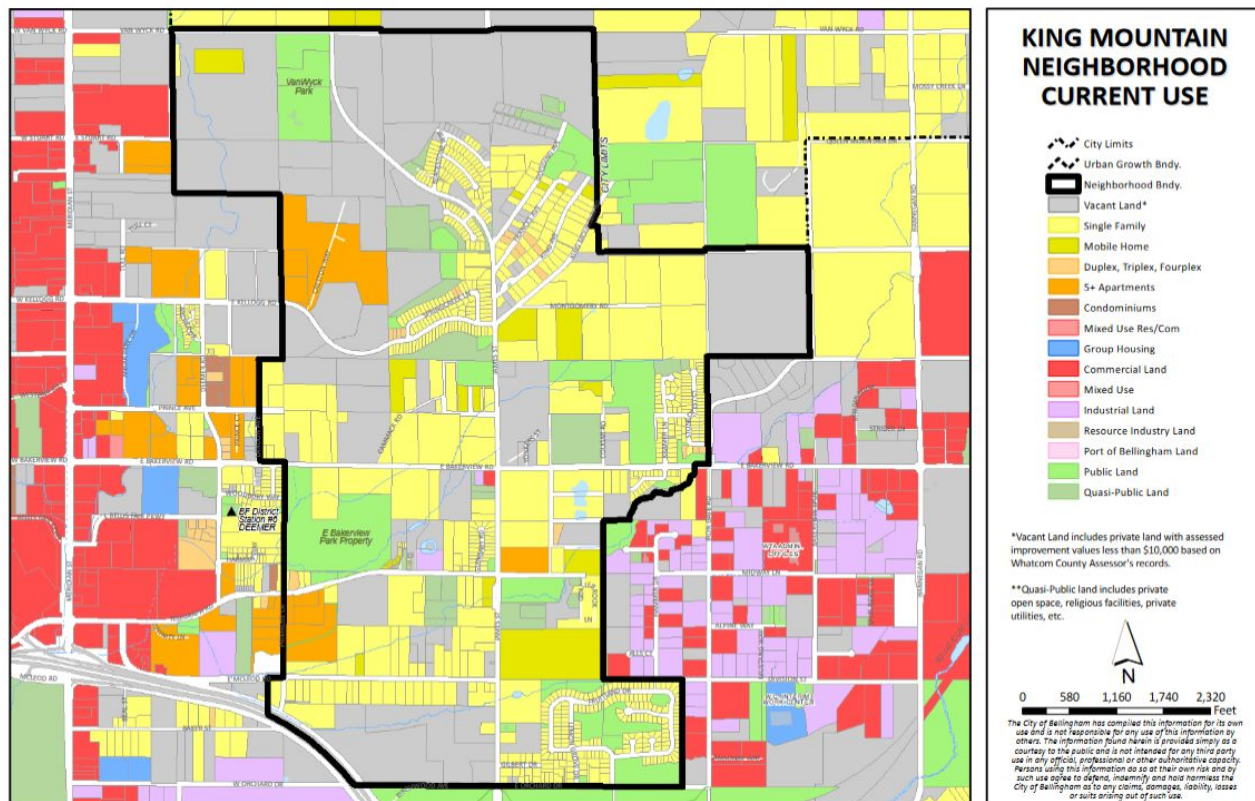
Appendix B



King Mountain Neighborhood Zoning (2023)

<https://bellingham.municipal.codes/BMC/20.00.095>

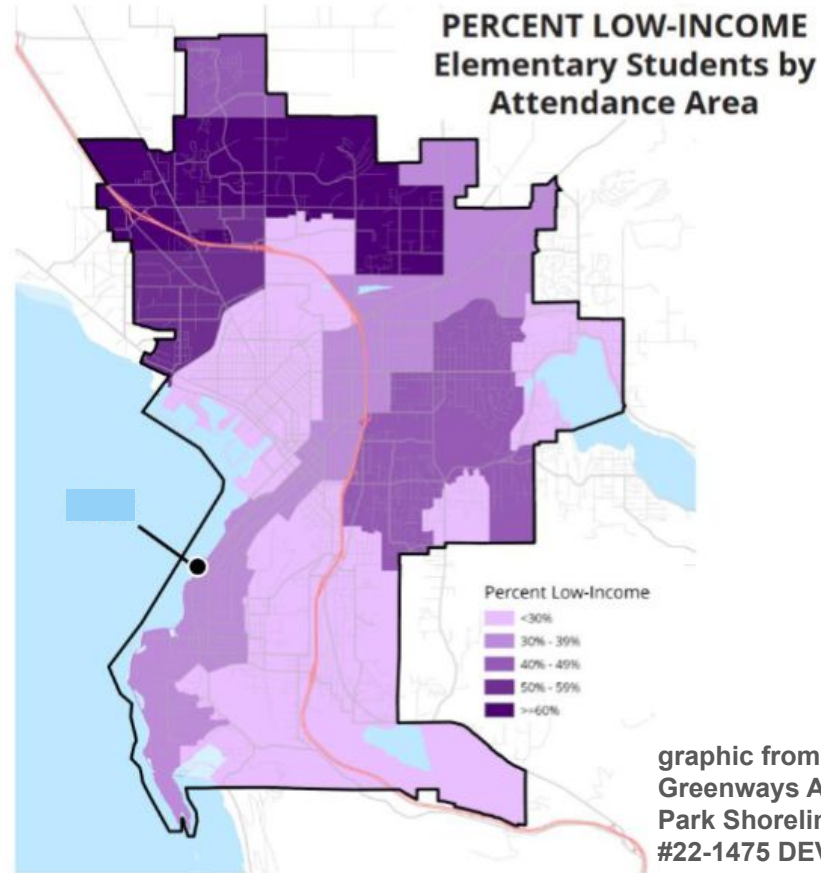
Appendix C



King Mountain Neighborhood Current Use (2022)

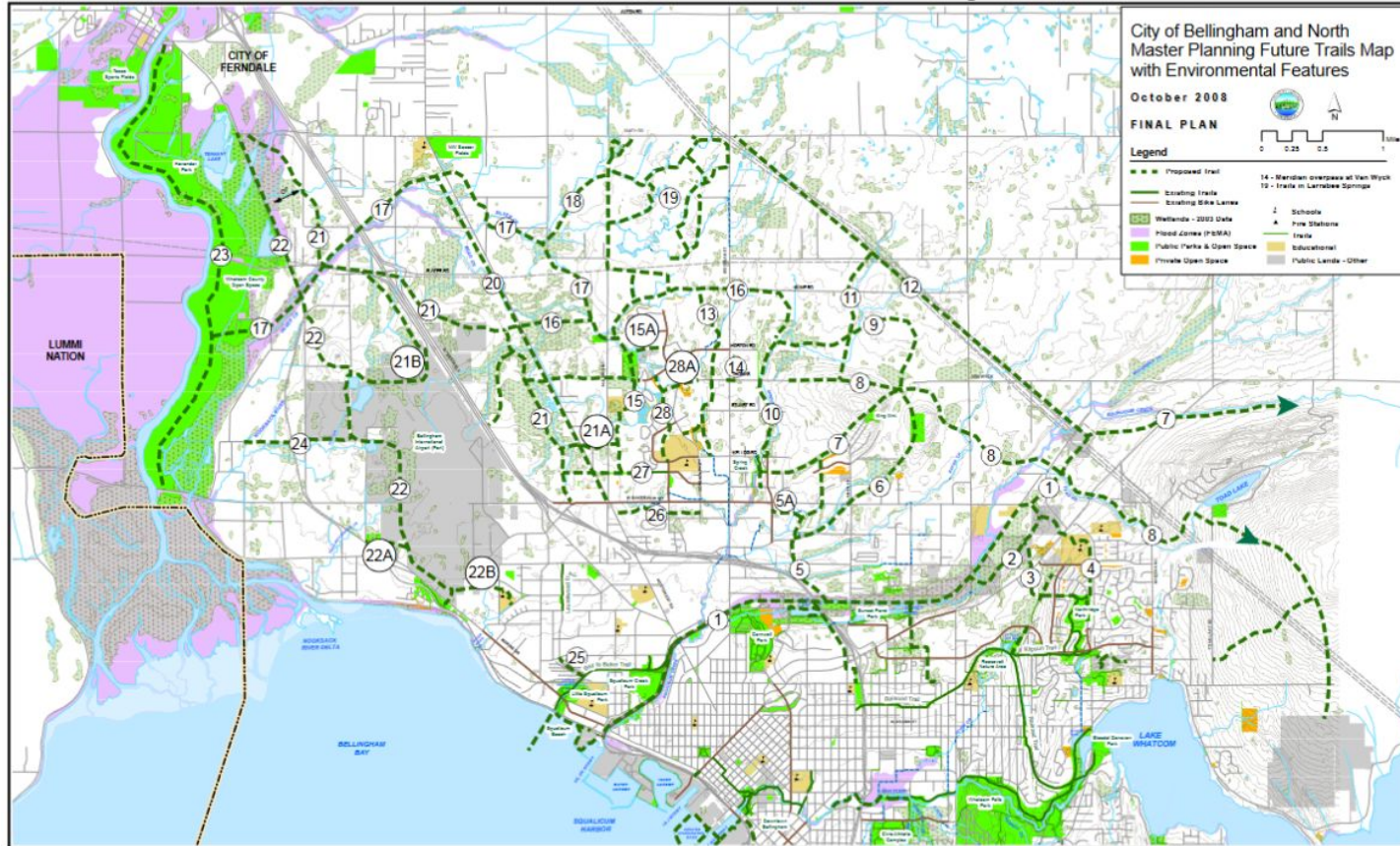
<https://cob.org/wp-content/uploads/KingMtn-CurrentUse.pdf>

Appendix D



Appendix E

Proposed trails shown in 2008 North Bellingham Trail Plan



Appendix F

From 2023 Bellingham Bike Master Plan updates

Existing On-Street Bikeway



Existing Trails



Proposed New Trails

