

**CITY OF BLAINE**

**COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND  
RECREATION PLAN**

**2004**

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Edited and recommended to the Blaine City Council  
by the Blaine Parks and Cemetery Board

Approved in August, 2004 by the Blaine City Council

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Introduction

Introduction	I-1
Summary of Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities	I-3
Future Needs	I-5

### Chapter 1 – Physical Setting

Planning Area	1-1
Climate	1-1
Landforms	1-1
Shoreline	1-2
Habitat	1-2
Wetlands Habitat	1-2
Beach Habitat	1-2
Terrestrial Habitat	1-3

### Chapter 2 – Community Setting

Community Character	2-1
Historical Developments	2-1
Blaine's Present Condition	2-3
Population	2-4
Future Growth	2-4

### Chapter 3 – Parks Vision and Goals

Vision	3-1
Goals	3-1
Community Preferences	3-4

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## Chapter 4 – Analysis and Recommended Action

<b>Administration and Coordination</b> _____	4-1
<b>Community Parks Element</b>	
Map of Existing and Future Community Parks _____	4-3
Existing Community Parks _____	4-3
Marine Park _____	4-4
Lincoln Park _____	4-5
Skallman Park _____	4-6
Future Community Parks _____	4-6
Dakota Creek Shoreline _____	4-6
East Blaine Conservancy Park _____	4-7
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	
Map of Existing and Future Neighborhood Parks _____	4-8
Existing Neighborhood Parks _____	4-9
Montfort Park _____	4-9
Salishan Park _____	4-10
Kilmer Park _____	4-10
Future Neighborhood Parks _____	4-10
10 <sup>th</sup> Street Right of Way _____	4-11
7 <sup>th</sup> Street Right of Way _____	4-11
Steen Street Road End _____	4-11
Clyde Street Area _____	4-11
Lincoln Park Frontage _____	4-12
E Street/Jerome Street/Harvey Road Area _____	4-12
<b>Shoreline Use/View Areas</b>	
Map of Existing and Future Shoreline Use/View Areas _____	4-13
Existing Shoreline Use/View Areas _____	4-14
Marine Park (reference) _____	4-15
Lester Park/G Street Road End _____	4-15
H Street Road End _____	4-15
Martin Street Road End _____	4-15
Clark Street Road End _____	4-15
Marina Boat Launch (reference) _____	4-16
Tidelands _____	4-16
Future Shoreline Use/View Areas _____	4-16
H and G Street Ends (Blaine Boardwalk (reference)) _____	4-16
Boblett Street Road End _____	4-16
Cherry Street View Area _____	4-16
4 <sup>th</sup> Street Harbor Viewing Area _____	4-17
Ruby Street Right of Way _____	4-17
Pearl Street Right of Way _____	4-17
Runge Avenue Right of Way _____	4-18
Dakota Creek Shoreline (reference) _____	4-19

---

**Blaine Recreational Facilities**

Existing Recreational Facilities _____	4-19
Plover Ferry _____	4-19
7 <sup>th</sup> Street Community Gardens _____	4-19
Community/Senior Center _____	4-19
Library _____	4-19
Future Recreational Facilities _____	4-19
Blaine Boardwalk _____	4-20
“Birding” Shelters _____	4-20
Blaine’s W harf Boardw alk _____	4-21
Skateboard Park _____	4-21
Community Pool _____	4-21
Dakota Maritime History Center _____	4-21

**Trails**

Function and Criteria _____	4-23
Map of Existing and Future Trails _____	4-23
Existing Trails _____	4-25
Spit Trail _____	4-25
Coast Millennium Trail _____	4-25
Marine Park Trail _____	4-26
Lincoln Park Trail _____	4-26
Future Trails _____	4-26
Northwest Necklace Trail Loop _____	4-26
B laine’s W harf Loop _____	4-26
Drayton Harbor Bluff Trail _____	4-26
Peace Portal Bike Lane Trail _____	4-26
School to Athletic Field _____	4-26
Boardwalk to Pedestrian Pier Trail Loop _____	4-26
Marine Boardwalk Loop _____	4-26
Cain Creek Greenway Trail _____	4-26
East Blaine Conservancy Park Loop _____	4-26

**Open Space and Conservatory Lands**

Function and Criteria _____	4-27
Existing Designated Lands _____	4-28
Semiahmoo Bay Marine Park Protection Area _____	4-28
Future Designated Lands _____	4-29
Heritage Trees _____	4-29

## **Chapter 5 – Blaine 2004 – 2010 Projected Expenditures and Funding Requirements**

Administrative Responsibilities _____	5-1
Parks and Recreation Budget History _____	5-1
Future Expenditure/Revenue Summary _____	5-3
Parks and Recreation Revenue Sources _____	5-3

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Map Folio	
Appendix 2: Detailed, Projected Capital Acquisition and Improvement Expenditures	

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## INTRODUCTION

Parks and recreation facilities are becoming more important for all generations. People need places to exercise, spend time with family and friends, play, enjoy nature, and relax from the stresses of modern society.

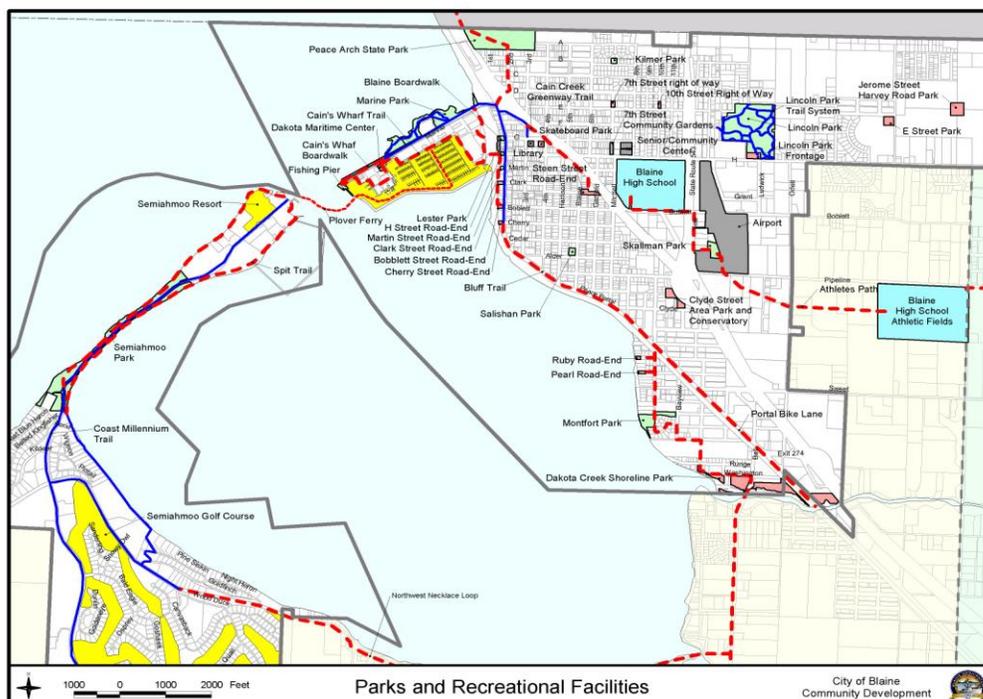
The City of Blaine is rapidly becoming a favorite place for many to live, retire and visit. As growth takes place, the demand on recreational facilities increases. It thus becomes increasingly important to ensure that existing and planned parks and recreational facilities can meet the needs of an expanding population.

Everyone feels the impact of growth. More people are forced to share limited park space and recreation facilities. The necessity to preserve open space and shoreline access and to expand the recreation services for a growing population become increasingly important. A Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan that addresses these issues is essential.

This Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan continues planning efforts that began with the first parks plan in 1975. The purpose of this plan is to guide the acquisition, planning and development of parks and recreation facilities in the City of Blaine. A second function of the plan is to reaffirm the eligibility of Blaine to participate in state and federal funding programs for parks and recreation facilities.

Beyond the traditional management of park areas, the City is mandated by the Growth Management Act (GMA) to preserve "critical lands" such as environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitats. This plan is also designed to function as another component of an integrated, environmental protection effort.

Since Blaine is a small, close knit community of caring citizens, another objective of this plan is to encourage community participation in the parks planning and development process. This has already been partially realized through a recreation survey, meetings with the Parks and Cemetery Board, workshop planning sessions, and public hearings held during the adoption process.



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### Need for the Plan

The primary purpose for preparing the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan is to guide the City in developing and managing a parks and trails system. The plan establishes policies and guidelines for the acquisition and development of new parks and trail systems, improvements to existing park facilities, and strategies for financing the improvements.

An approved parks plan is necessary to qualify for state and federal grants. The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) administers most state and federal recreation oriented grant programs. In order to qualify for these grants, Blaine must maintain an updated parks and recreation plan.

### Previous Park Plans

The City of Blaine has seen two previous editions of the Parks Plan:

1975 - COMPREHENSIVE PARK PLAN, by George H. Raper and Associates.

The general goal for this plan was to develop a list of projects arranged in order of their priority.

These priorities were as follows:

1. Acquire land, easements and/or leases for projects.
2. Complete projects already begun and/or those capable of being completed relatively quickly and/or inexpensively.
3. Develop projects requiring greater time and/or funds.
4. Develop future projects.

1992 - BLAINE COMPREHENSIVE PARK PLAN, by Keith I. Stefanson (Resolution #1073-95)

The goal for this edition was to update the old Comprehensive Park Plan of 1975, make recreational opportunities user friendly, and represent the changes in time and needs for all ages.

More specifically, this plan addressed four goals:

1. To create and enhance a user friendly parks system for the citizens of Blaine and tourists.
2. To improve the signage and to make the parks system accessible to everyone.
3. To create a complete bike/walking trail system, thus, providing an alternative means of transportation.
4. To create a greenway corridor to take advantage of the beautiful panoramic view along the bluff of Drayton Harbor.

### Previous Documents Relating to Parks and Recreation

1968 A Preliminary Plan for City of Blaine, "Blaine Update," by Urban Planning and Research Associates.

Discussed some of the history of the potential sites for parks, especially that of Drayton Harbor.

1973 Comprehensive Plan for Alaska Packers Association's Property, by Delta Associates.

Discussed that a scenic trail for bicycles and pedestrians should be created along the length of the Spit.

1974 Comprehensive Plan for Semiahmoo Spit and Adjacent Portions of Birch Point, by Blaine Planning Commission.

Stated that the neck of the Spit and areas adjacent to the neck on both the north and south should be reserved for public park purposes.

1975 Blaine Comprehensive Park Plan, by George H. Raper

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- 1985 The Resort Semiahmoo Master Development Plan, (Ordinance # 1754)  
Discussed the importance and location of the pedestrian/bicycle path as well as the beach/waterfront access.
- 1992 Blaine Comprehensive Park Plan, by Keith I. Stefanson, (Resolution #1073-95)
- 1993 Blaine Urban Waterfront Development Plan  
Described how Blaine needs to develop a boardwalk and how Peace Portal Drive needs to be connected with the waterfront by a trail or walkway.
- 1994 City of Blaine Comprehensive Transportation Element, (Resolution #1008-93)  
Defined the types of bikeways there are within the City and the City's U G A . It also defined where they are located and where improvements need to be made.
- 1996 City of Blaine Shoreline Management Master Program, (Ordinance # 96-2247)  
Stated the goals for public access and recreation along the shoreline.
- 1998 Blaine Harbor Comprehensive Improvement Plan  
Gave many great ideas about Marine Park and the boardwalk and how the two together would draw people downtown.
- 1998 Open Space, Parks, and Public Access Plan  
Talked about the development of viewpoints in the Marine Drive area, as well as the development of a pedestrian bridge across BNSF tracks from H Street to the public boat launch ramps.
- 1999 Blaine Comprehensive Plan  
Discussed some of the future needs the City will face in terms of parks.
- 2000 Parks Survey  
Results of public opinion survey
- 2001 Tourism Marketing and Development Plan  
Discussed the need for the proposed boardwalks along Peace Portal and Marine Drives. It also discussed the need to complete the Coast Millennium Trail
- 2001 Coast Millennium Trail Design Report  
Showed where the proposed trail should run, where the trail currently is, and the places that need to be developed to connect and complete the trail.
- 2003 Blaine/Birch Bay "Birding" Committee Report to the Parks and Cemetery Board  
Stated some of the tasks that need to be performed in order to comply with the vision of Blaine.

## **SUMMARY OF EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

The City of Blaine currently has three community parks totaling 39.0 acres, three neighborhood parks totaling 4.4 acres, three shoreline view areas totaling 0.5 acres, county and state parks totaling 34.3 acres, and two public recreational facilities totaling 1.1 acres. The Blaine School District owns 41.7 acres of land within the city limits, as well as an athletic complex that is 58.6 acres just outside the city limits to the East. The above 15 park and recreational facilities total 179.6 acres, of which the City owns nine of the 15 totaling 43.9 acres, not including the Blaine School District properties. There are several private recreational facilities located inside the City as well, including Blaine Marina, Semiahmoo Resort and Semiahmoo Golf course. The location of public parks and recreational areas is shown on Map I.

### **City Owned Parks**

Marine Park is 10.1 acres and has an amphitheater, a large wooden recreational platform for events, four "birding" shelters, interpretive signs, and several large pieces of art. This facility is located on Marine Drive and is part of the bike/walkway system. Public restrooms are available on site.

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**Lincoln Park** is 27 acres and the largest City owned park in Blaine. This park is located north of H Street between the truck route and Odell Road. Lincoln Park was designed as a natural park; therefore, it contains a heavy growth of various types of trees and dense understory. The park contains a bike/walking trail, picnic tables, a pond, and a stream. Both the pond and stream have the potential for development to enhance the overall future appearance of the park.

**Skallman Park** is located at the southwestern end of a 42 acre parcel of City owned property which includes the Blaine Airport and the City's maintenance shop. The 1.9 acre park contains three picnic tables, a pond, and a grassy area with many fully grown trees.

**Montfort Park** consists of two acres of land donated to the City by the Montfort family, plus an additional acre and a half of City owned right of way. It has waterfront access, but this park needs improvements to be user friendly. Public awareness and access are limited, making Montfort a less popular park, but this park has potential.

**Salishan Park** is a 0.6 acre neighborhood park located at the corner of Blaine Avenue and Alder Street. The park contains a small concrete basketball court, a couple of picnic tables, five park benches, and playground equipment. There is also a grassy area for multiple uses.

**Kilmer Park** is a 0.3 acre neighborhood park located on B Street in northern Blaine. The land was established by the builder of a 70 lot subdivision in 1975. The park contains playground equipment and two picnic tables.

**Lester Park** is a 0.2 acre memorial park located at the end of G Street on Peace Portal Drive overlooking Drayton Harbor and the marina. The park contains monuments commemorating the sons of Blaine killed during the wars, a cannon, park benches, and landscaping to enhance the park's natural beauty.

**H Street Parklet** is a 0.2 acre street end located at the intersection of H Street and Peace Portal Drive overlooking Drayton Harbor and the marina. The park contains art sculptures, benches and a small grassy area. The park is landscaped with flowers, shrubs, and various trees.

**Martin Street Parklet** is a 0.2 acre public access and view corridor reserve located at the intersection of Martin Street and Peace Portal Drive, overlooking Drayton Harbor and the marina. The park contains a flower garden, local art, a grassy area, a handrail at the western edge, and an asphalt parking lot that can be used by park visitors or people dining at the adjacent restaurant.

**Clark Street Parklet** is a 0.2 acre public access and view corridor reserve located at the intersection of Clark Street and Peace Portal Drive, overlooking Drayton Harbor and the marina. The park contains flowerbeds, local art, a grassy area, and two benches.

### **Parks Owned by Other Agencies**

**Peace Arch State Park** (20 acres) is the most widely used park in the area, owned and managed by the State of Washington. Peace Arch State Park is an international facility located on both sides of the U.S./Canadian border. A popular attraction in this park is the Peace Arch Monument, in commemoration of the peace and friendship of the peoples of the two neighboring countries. The park also contains extensive landscaping, restrooms, two picnic shelters, and a large grassy field for numerous uses. The park is used for formal, organized functions, as well as less formal uses by travelers, visitors and residents of Blaine.

**Semiahmoo Park** (17.9 acres plus 288.1 acres of tidelands) is owned and maintained by the Whatcom County Parks Department. This park is located at the beginning of Semiahmoo Spit and forms a boundary between Semiahmoo Bay to the northwest and Drayton Harbor to the southeast. Semiahmoo Spit contains beach areas for personal use and recreational clamming within the park.

**The School Facilities** total 100.4 acres of property owned by Blaine School District. There are approximately 17.0 acres of recreational facilities on the school campus in the City of Blaine, including tennis courts, football fields, baseball fields and grass areas for multiple uses. These are centrally located within the City of Blaine and maintained by the Blaine School District. Public use is limited because of school activities. The school district also recently completed a 58.6 acre recreation complex on Pipeline Road east of the City. The 75.7 acres of recreational facilities include a variety of areas for all ages.

Recreational Totals in acres	
Open Space	6.7
Football	4.7
Baseball	4.4
Gym	0.6
Tennis	0.6
Recreation Complex	58.6
Total	75.7

### Funding for Parks

The budget for City parks is obtained from City Current Expense funds, grants and donations. In the past, approximately 1 percent of the Current Expense budget has been transferred annually into the Park fund. There is no City Department specifically assigned to plan or construct parks, and there are no paid park employees. Parks are managed by a volunteer Parks and Cemetery Board which reports to the City Council. The Parks and Recreation Director and Public Works Department work with the Parks and Cemetery Board on annual budgeting and contract administration for construction and maintenance of the parks. At times, there have been contract employees for specific tasks, such as park maintenance.

### FUTURE NEEDS

There is not an adequate supply of park land in Blaine to serve the existing population of the City and meet the needs for recreational land in the future. Additionally, existing park land needs to be improved to better meet the needs of the community. With annexation of the land to the east and around Drayton Harbor, there will be a need for additional neighborhood parks in the annexed areas to serve the new residential areas.

A number of priorities, relating to parks and recreation, have been identified in several different surveys. They include:

1. Bike/walking paths linking the parks and recreational areas
2. Identification and clean-up of existing parks
3. Completion of the school district's athletic complex
4. Creation of a City Parks Department
5. Street beautification to improve appearance
6. Protection of Cain Creek
7. Establishment of an arboretum in Lincoln Park
8. Development of a community garden/compost area
9. Development of an indoor city swimming pool
10. Improvements to the wooden pier at the west-end of Marine Drive
11. Clean up of the pond at Skallman Park

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## CHAPTER 1 PHYSICAL SETTINGS

### PLANNING AREA

The City of Blaine, Washington is located in the very northwestern corner of Washington State, on the shores of Drayton Harbor, and at the international border crossing to Canada. Blaine is home to the third busiest Canada/U.S. border crossing, with more than 25 million travelers passing through the border on Interstate 5 (I-5) each year.

### Climate

Like most coastal communities along the Puget Sound, climate has a significant impact on the type and location of recreational activities. Due to the marine influence, the local climate is characterized as having mild temperatures year round and relatively low amounts of rainfall.

Blaine's climate is heavily influenced by its proximity to the Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean. The abundance of moist marine air keeps the temperature mild year round. Air masses that originate over the Pacific Ocean are usually at ocean temperature and saturated with moisture. As they move onshore, the mountains cause the moist air to rise and cool. As the air cools, it causes the air to condense and produce precipitation. However, the San Juan Islands and Vancouver Island create somewhat of a rain shadow, and as a result, the Blaine area receives approximately 49 inches of precipitation a year. Since it is relatively dry in Blaine, people are able to recreate in the City throughout the year.

The average summer temperature range is in the high 60s, and the winter temperature range is in the low to mid 40s. However, it is not uncommon for temperatures to exceed these averages. This is an important factor in understanding why people enjoy recreating in the City of Blaine. The temperature rarely gets too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer, therefore, one is able to enjoy the numerous recreational opportunities that Blaine offers year round.

### Landforms

Blaine is located west of the Cascade Mountain Range. The Cascade Mountains were created by continuous volcanic activity along the border of the underlying continental plates. This mountain range provides excellent skiing during the winter months and some excellent hiking trails throughout the rest of the year.

Blaine is composed of a low elevation plateau, semi-enclosing Drayton Harbor and bordering on Semiahmoo Bay and the Strait of Georgia. Semiahmoo Spit forms the northwestern shoreline of Drayton Harbor. Blaine's Wharf and the marina have established a rocky shoreline along the northeastern edge.

The eastern portion of the plateau is bisected by Dakota and California Creeks that drain an extensive system of wetlands into Drayton Harbor and then into Semiahmoo Bay. In places, the drainage corridors provide dramatic hillsides and overlooks, particularly of Drayton Harbor. These creeks are also areas where salmon spawn. Therefore, during spawning season, there is a great opportunity to watch the salmon make the journey from the ocean into these creeks.

Topography ranges from 0 to about 230 feet above Puget Sound on the west edge of the plateau in Semiahmoo and to 400 feet or more on the east boundary of the urban growth area (UGA).

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The plateau edges overlook Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay, dropping off abruptly in slopes ranging from 40 to 75 percent. Since most of the City is relatively flat, it is an excellent place for all ages and skill levels to recreate. For example, rollerbladers, skateboarders, and bicyclists are abundant on the streets of Blaine, especially in the summer months. The sidewalks and trails offer easy pedestrian access for the retired community as well.

### **Shoreline**

With the presence of two major stream corridors, a harbor, and the Strait of Georgia, there are more than 11 miles of shoreline within the Blaine planning area. While the City provides miles of saltwater shoreline access, the major stream corridors are relatively inaccessible.

### **Habitat**

Habitat conservation areas are critical to the survival of the City's diverse plant and wildlife communities. Natural habitat encompasses a variety of areas, including large parcels of contiguous, undeveloped land, special areas like streams and wetlands, and structural elements like rocky shorelines and standing dead trees.

The ecological value of an area depends on the quantity, quality, diversity, and seasonality of the food, water, and cover that it provides wildlife species. A particular site's value also depends on proximity to other usable habitats, the presence of rare species, and the rarity of the habitat type.

The preservation and restoration of critical habitat areas are key to protecting the biological diversity of the City and region. Critical habitat can be lost or degraded due to urban and some rural land use activities. Critical habitat threats can be reduced with effective land use policies and regulations. In some instances, valuable habitat can also be restored or enhanced through preservation and conservation efforts.

### **Wetlands Habitat**

Small wet spots, bogs, peat, and muck deposits from one to three acres are common throughout the area, particularly within the soils east of Drayton Harbor. Approximately 10 percent of the land within city limits (450 acres) and 20 percent of the land within the UGA (492 additional acres) are impacted by wetlands or wetland buffer areas. Sizable wetland areas are located:

Southeast of Blaine Municipal Airport and I-5 that drain into Dakota Creek

West of I-5 between Dakota and California Creeks that drain into California Creek and Drayton Harbor

South of Drayton Harbor between Shintaffer and Harbor View Roads that drain into Drayton Harbor and Birch Bay.

### **Beach Habitat**

Beaches provide refuge for juvenile salmon at the edge of the tide where the water depth prevents passage of larger, predator species. Mobile, attached, and burrowing creatures make their homes on the sea floor from the top of the tidal influence to the deepest channels. In Blaine, these include native and introduced species such as littleneck and manila clams. Commercial and/or harvestable species include crabs, clams, and kelp. Species that favor Puget Sound's gentler beaches and finer substrates, such as geoduck, tend to be abundant along Semiahmoo Spit. Crabbing, clamming, fishing, wildlife viewing, and swimming are recreational activities shared

by many of the residents of Blaine. Therefore, it is very important to maintain the beaches so they are suitable to facilitate these recreational activities.

**Terrestrial Habitat**

Terrestrial areas are the upland lands located above freshwater, estuarine, and marine water zones. The zones may extend from the level lowlands that border marsh or creek banks to the tops of the bluffs, hills, or foothills located around Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay.

Most of the area within the City has been disturbed through agricultural or development activity. There are pockets of forested uplands that provide habitat and cover. Lincoln Park has one of the mixed conifer trees in the City. A large area extending east of State Road 543 (SR543) for three miles and north of H Street comprise most of the forested terrestrial habitat. There are significant preservation opportunities in this area.

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## CHAPTER 2 COMMUNITY SETTING

### COMMUNITY CHARACTER

The City of Blaine is 5.48 square miles in size with approximately 4,000 people living within its limits. The City has a rich history in commercial fishing and timber harvesting with many well-established families who proudly lay their claim as descendants to the original settlers of Blaine. Its historical context is evident when touring Blaine's historical downtown or looking out at the fishing fleet that inhabits the marina. However, in recent years its proximity to British Columbia and Seattle, in conjunction with its highly sought, coastal, residential properties has attracted a significant retirement community to the gated, residential community called Semiahmoo. Many other families have moved to Blaine because of its beauty and high quality school system. But the single most important characteristic that describes Blaine is its small town character.

### HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### Indian Settlements

The arrival of Indian groups in the Pacific Northwest cannot be dated with great precision. However, archaeological investigations at the Manis mastodon site near Sequim on the Olympic Peninsula indicate man was in the area as early as 12,000 years ago.

There are more than 5,000 Indian sites on record in the state, of which only a few have been professionally evaluated. Generally, sites are located at river conjunctions within valleys and along the shoreline of Puget Sound. Known sites have been grouped into three rather broad time periods:

Early sites - approximately 12,000 - 8,000 years old

Middle period sites - between 8,000 - 3,000 years old

Late period sites - about 3,000 years old

A large number of different Indian tribes and bands inhabited the Pacific Northwest region with varied lifestyles and different languages, dress, ceremonies, and adornments. Tribal characteristics are generally distinguished between the coastal tribes of western Washington and those of the interior. In general, the coastal tribes depended on the rivers and tidal waters for staple foods, whereas the interior tribes relied more heavily upon plants and berries, as well as game and other animals.

Semiahmoo Indians lived around Drayton Harbor and in the Dakota and California Creek drainage areas in significant numbers. Their territory extended to the headwaters of the Campbell and Serpentine Rivers and as far west as Point Roberts. The Semiahmoo Tribe fished Puget Sound and the rivers. However, the tribe also exhibited some agricultural and hunting characteristics common to eastern or interior tribes. The tribe spoke Salishan, a language that may have been common from the coast through Puget Sound to the eastern Rockies and most of northern Canada. The tribe most likely spoke a subfamily dialect common to the Nooksack and Lummi Tribes' territorial boundaries.

Indian encampments consisted of tribal groups that may have numbered more than 250 persons per group in densities of four to ten persons per square mile. A major village site was centrally located on Semiahmoo Spit. An Indian burial ground was also located at the southwest end of Semiahmoo Spit, south of the present wastewater treatment plant.

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Estimates of the Semiahmoo population ranged from 250 to 600 persons at the time of early contact with settlers. The Semiahmoo Tribe was essentially wiped out by raiding parties from other more fierce tribes and an epidemic soon after 1850.

The Organic Act of 1848 established Oregon Territory and also provided the first guarantee of Indian rights. The first comprehensive Indian agreement was negotiated by the Indian Treaty Act of 1850. The act authorized negotiations with the tribes located west of the Cascades and surveyed public lands for the Oregon Donation Act.

Isaac Stevens, territorial governor of Washington, and Joel Palmer, superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon Territory, concluded treaties with the Nooksack and Lummi Tribes in 1854. The Lummi Reservation was located in southwestern Whatcom County under the terms of the original 1854 Treaty.

### **Early Expeditions**

The first exploration of Puget Sound was accomplished in 1792 by British explorer Captain George Vancouver. Vancouver sent several exploration parties out from Port Townsend, including one headed by the expedition botanist Archibald Menzies, who sighted and named Mount Rainier. Vancouver's party explored Birch Bay and Point Roberts and named those sites accordingly.

The next major expedition of the Puget Sound region was the U.S. Exploring Expedition, or Wilkes Expedition, in 1838 under the direction of Lieutenant Charles Wilkes. The expedition's purpose was to chart more accurate and detailed maps and to determine if the United States should acquire the Oregon Country.

In 1841, Wilkes sailed two ships for the Oregon Country entering the Strait of Juan de Fuca and anchoring in Port Discovery. The expedition explored the entire Puget Sound region. Wilkes party charted and named "Drayton's Cove" after Joseph Drayton, an artist and draftsman who accompanied Wilkes on that expedition.

### **Blaine settlers**

Semiahmoo - was platted and lots sold by William King Leer in 1856 to house miners bound for the Fraser River during the early gold rush. A wharf was built at the end of the Spit along with a store-post office, saloon, hotel-boarding house, and a few small homes. Most gold prospectors, however, pitched tents and camped, awaiting boats to take them to the Fraser River gold fields.

Semiahmoo "went bust" in 1858 when miners were required to go to Victoria and register for mining licenses before going to the Fraser River. The buildings at Semiahmoo were boarded up, and the lots were left vacant.

In 1870, settlers docked at Semiahmoo and settled land on the Spit and around Drayton's Cove on Dakota and California Creeks. The town site was reactivated and served by a steamer from Seattle.

In 1876, James Tarte and G. A. Martin established a cannery on Semiahmoo using machinery from a burned out cannery Martin owned in San Francisco. The partnership bought four lots and leased waterfront for a wharf and small cannery facility. In 1877, Charles Jones and Mason Clark started a salmon salting and barreling business at Semiahmoo.

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Blaine – was platted in 1884 by James Cain and named after the Republican presidential candidate James G. Blaine, who opposed and lost the election to Grover Cleveland. The first railroad line was constructed to Blaine in 1891, connecting the town with the Canadian line in New Westminster, British Columbia.

The Semiahmoo Cannery was sold to Daniel Drysdale from New Westminster, British Columbia in 1890. Drysdale expanded the facility and imported Chinese laborers to work at the plant. The U.S. Cutter Walcott was brought into Semiahmoo Bay in 1891 to stand-off any demonstrations by Blaine residents. The old cannery buildings were remodeled and expanded to house the workforce.

By 1892, Blaine had a population of nearly 2,000 persons. The town had a bank, weekly newspaper, several schoolhouses, churches, and one hotel – the Arlington. The town also had a train depot about two miles from town, five shingle mills, two sawmills, and two fish canneries.

By 1897, the town had six miles of plank roads and sidewalks, rail and water transportation, water works, four lumber mills, three canneries, four churches, and three brick schoolhouses.

In 1893, the Alaska Packers Association (APA) was formed, combining packing groups along the coast of Alaska. The APA purchased the Drysdale cannery, Semiahmoo and the cannery at Point Roberts in 1884, and then Drysdale became a vice president. By the early 1900s, the APA operated 17 canneries, including four at Blaine, with a fleet of 61 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 48,414 tons. The APA employed 4,500 people and eventually accounted for half of the salmon packing industry of the Pacific coast. By 1916, APA vessels represented the largest privately owned fleet under the American flag.

In 1910, the Great Northern Railroad completed the waterfront railroad line from Bellingham to Vancouver, making Blaine an important border point.

During the 1920s, declining salmon runs, wage disputes, and the post-World War I Depression impacted the cannery business. By 1923, the Blaine cannery operated with a single shift. Some of the other canneries along the coast converted part or all of their equipment to vegetable and fruit canning. Semiahmoo did not.

## **BLAINE'S PRESENT CONDITION**

Downtown Blaine has developed specialized recreational, retail, and small business downtown and along the waterfront that provide services to local residents during the year. During the spring and summer seasons, these centers also attract boating and tourist interests. The historical structures and scale of development within the older, developed areas provide a source of interest and value to present City residents and tourists alike.

In 1974, Blaine annexed 800 acres that make up the Resort Semiahmoo site. The Resort Semiahmoo is a planned resort community located on the end of Semiahmoo Spit. The 57-acre site currently provides 33 townhouse units, a 201 room hotel, 400 slip marina, offices, and a small retail shopping area.

Semiahmoo Uplands is located south of the Spit on the west side of Drayton Harbor. The 735-acre site currently provides 122 single-family houses, 73 attached condominium units, a golf course, and clubhouse. The Master Development Plan for the Uplands may eventually provide up to 2,079 housing units on the site. The Semiahmoo Company estimates over 50 percent of the

property owners are Canadian, and 42 percent of the homeowners spend less than six months of the year at Semiahmoo.

**Population**

Historic Growth

Blaine was incorporated as a municipal jurisdiction in 1890 with a resident population of around 2,000 persons. The resident population fluctuated between 1,592 in 1900 to 2,363 in 1980 before beginning to steadily increase to 3,770 persons in 2000. The population is currently at 4,015.

Over the past 30 years, population growth within Blaine has varied widely from negative growth in the period from 1985 to 1990 to 4.8 percent growth in the period from 1990 to 1995. The average annual rate of growth in the 1970s was 1.9 percent. This rate decreased to 0.5 percent per year in the 1980s, but then increased dramatically in the 1990s to an average annual rate of 4.2 percent. Such wide fluctuations make projecting future population growth difficult.

**Table 1: Blaine Historic Population, 1970 - 2000**

Year	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Population	1,955	2,240	2,363	2,544	2,489	3,142	3,770

**Table 2: Historic Annual Growth Rates**

5-Year Periods	1970-1975	1975-1980	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000
Growth Rate	2.8%	1.1%	1.5%	-0.4%	4.8%	3.7%
10-Year Periods	1970 - 1980		1980 - 1990		1990 - 2000	
Growth Rate	1.9%		0.5%		4.2%	

Future Growth in Blaine

The City is projected to grow at an average rate of 2.3 percent annually, with a larger proportion of that in the next few years.

**Table 3: City of Blaine - Project Average Annual Growth Rates**

Forecast	2002 - 2007	2007 - 2012	2012 - 2017	2017 - 2022
Growth	2.7%	2.4%	2.1%	2.1%

Source: ECONorthwest

Whatcom County population projections – Growth in Whatcom County over the past decade has been higher than the state average. In fact, Whatcom County was the sixth fastest growing County in the state between 1990 and 2000. High growth along the I-5 corridor and in lower British Columbia is likely to spill over into Whatcom County. The quality of life, affordable housing, and lack of traffic congestion in Whatcom County are likely to continue to attract people from more congested areas.

According to *Whatcom County Economic Forecasts* (ECONorthwest, 2002) commissioned by all jurisdictions in Whatcom County, Whatcom County will increase in population by another 87,000 persons during the 2002 – 2022 time period, or by an annual average rate of change of 1.8 percent.

Socioeconomic characteristics - The U.S. Department of Census compiled demographic statistics for jurisdictional areas in 1990 and 2000 (the results of which are pending) including Washington State, Whatcom County, and the Blaine incorporated area.

According to the statistical findings, the population within the 1990 Blaine incorporated area had socioeconomic characteristics that were significantly different than the averages typical of the surrounding county. For example, the average household size was 2.34 persons within the City, with smaller households in Semiahmoo. Likewise, the median age was 37.6 years for residents within city limits.

A substantial number of Blaine residents are Canadians who may be seasonal or part-time residents retaining Canadian citizenship, the majority of whom are not counted in the U.S. Census.

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## CHAPTER 3 PARKS VISION, GOALS AND COMMUNITY PREFERENCES

### VISION

In 2001, the City Council produced a general statement that addresses its vision for the City of Blaine in the year 2010.

#### **Blaine Vision Statement - 2010**

*The City of Blaine is a friendly, attractive and appealing community located at the U.S./Canadian border on Drayton Harbor. This small city of 6,000 has a vibrant tourism and recreation economy centered on its quaint, historic downtown and the harbor area. It also has developed a growing number of businesses and family wage jobs based on the significantly expanding cross-border, commercial activity occurring between the United States and Canada.*

*Blaine is a positive, supportive and diverse community that strives to maintain the beautiful, natural environment while building on its desire to foster increased cultural and educational activities and programs for its residents of all ages. Blaine offers the best of the Northwest, truly "a place to return to."*

#### **Parks and Recreation Vision**

The City of Blaine will provide an integrated and well-managed Parks and Recreation Program encompassing both active and passive recreational opportunities that are accessible to every citizen. The City's Parks and Recreation Program will significantly contribute to the enhancement of Blaine's quality of life by meeting the current and future leisure, recreational and cultural needs of the citizens of Blaine through:

The development and maintenance of community parks, neighborhood parks, recreational facilities, trails, public access to shorelines and conservation lands.

Preservation, protection, and enhancement of public lands and facilities for present and future use.

The provision of recreational services and cultural amenities that foster individual and social enrichment.

The promotion of a clear community identity and pride in the City's parks system.

#### **Integration**

In order to comply with the internal consistency mandate of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan must not conflict with other elements of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Of particular importance will be consistency with the Land Use and the Critical Areas elements of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. In addition, action items identified in this element should be considered in the drafting of the Capital Facilities Plan.

#### **GOALS**

The implementation strategies encouraged by this plan must be based upon a recognized set of goals and policies adopted by the City. Similarly, Blaine's parks and recreation goals must reflect the needs and preferences of the community. The goals identified below were developed

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after considerable time and research investigating community preferences. Specific results are contained at the end of this chapter.

### **State Goals**

While a parks plan is not specifically required under the GMA, the development of such a plan does require conformity with certain goals set forth in the GMA. Some of these goals, not listed in any order of priority, apply to this plan element. The applicable goals are as follows:

#### Goals of the Growth Management Act

Open space. Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.

Environment. Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality and the availability of water.

Citizen participation and coordination. Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.

Historic preservation. Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historic or archaeological significance.

Critical areas. Each county shall adopt development regulations that protect critical areas.

Shoreline management. The goals and policies of the state's Shoreline Management Act are also incorporated as GMA goals.

### **Blaine Parks and Recreation Goals**

In the context of this plan, a goal is a statement of the City's aspirations as it relates to the City's parks and recreation vision. It is the desirable quality that the City wishes to achieve. A goal must be realistic and flexible enough to allow a discussion of how it is to be achieved. Goals are long range and usually remain unchanged throughout the practical life of the plan.

The City has identified six categories of goals that more specifically articulate Blaine's vision of its future Parks and Recreation Program:

- Administration and coordination goals
- Community parks goals
- Neighborhood parks goals
- Shoreline use goals
- Recreational facilities goals
- Trails element, open space and conservation goals

The following goals are derived from a careful analysis of the community preference surveys and the City's vision for parks and recreation facilities in the future:

### **Administration and Coordination Goals**

Goal #1: Establish a clear, legal basis for the designation and management of all lands within the City that are identified for parks and recreation purposes.

Goal #2: Work in cooperation with other agencies in providing and enhancing parks and recreational facilities.

Goal #3: Increase community awareness, support and participation in the Parks and Recreation Program.

### **Community Parks Goals**

Goal #4: Improve existing community parks to better meet the diversity of local and regional recreational needs.

Goal #5: Identify and develop appropriate recreational areas in Blaine to draw tourists into the City.

### **Neighborhood Parks Goals**

Goal #6: Upgrade existing neighborhood parks in a manner that is responsive to adjacent neighborhoods.

Goal #7: Develop additional neighborhood parks with a distribution sufficient to serve all residential neighborhoods in Blaine.

### **Shoreline Access Goals**

Goal #8: Acquire and maintain the best possible visual and physical access to shorelines of the City of Blaine. Ensure that public access meets the demands of the residents of and visitors to Blaine.

Goal #9: Provide ample recreational opportunities that are compatible with the shoreline environment for the residents of the City of Blaine and its visitors.

Goal #10: Increase public access to and enjoyment of the physical and aesthetic qualities of Blaine's shorelines to the greatest extent feasible.

### **Recreational Facility Goals**

Goal #11: Install or improve recreational facilities designed with adequate size to serve intended user groups without generating conflict between activities. These can include children's play areas, ball fields, community facilities, and special purpose facilities.

Goal #12: To the extent reasonable and feasible, facilities' design will include compliance with the provisions set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which provides for accessibility to sites for persons with physical disabilities.

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### **Trails, Open Space, Conservation Goals**

Goal #13: To develop a comprehensive open space and trails plan and implementation program that protects the natural environment and significant cultural resources; provides passive recreation opportunities; is integrated with the non-motorized component of the transportation element; and is designed to link neighborhoods with parks, significant open spaces, schools, shoreline access areas, commercial centers and employment centers.

Goal #14: To preserve and enhance bird habitat in and along the marine waters of Blaine and create high quality bird watching facilities and trail system that can be used by a wide range of bird watchers.

Goal #15: To conserve and protect the shellfish and fish resources in the marine waters of Blaine.

### **COMMUNITY PREFERENCES**

Recent surveys provide strong evidence that the citizens of Blaine support parks, open spaces, and trails when they are created in a manner that promotes conservation. Areas of special concern are tidelands, salmon bearing streams, and wildlife habitats.

Citizens of Blaine generally share the opinion that parks and open space which provide recreational opportunities are an integral part of the character of Blaine and that ALL residents and visitors to Blaine should have ample access to well-maintained parks, recreational amenities and open spaces.

### **Summary of 1974 Parks and Recreation Survey Results**

A questionnaire survey was conducted during October 1974. Responses came from 111 people living inside the city limits of Blaine and from 81 people living outside the City. The results were tabulated and graphed to arrange recreational activities according to degree of demand.

#### Highest priorities

- Water-related parks
- Trails
- Natural preserves
- A swimming pool
- Playgrounds
- Salt-water recreation

### **Summary of 1992 Parks and Recreation Survey Results**

In order to identify demand for recreation opportunities and need for recreation areas and facilities, a questionnaire survey was conducted during October 1992. Approximately 1,100 surveys were mailed out to residents of Blaine. Responses came back from about 11 percent of the residents surveyed.

The survey results showed:

- Peace Arch State Park, the school grounds, and Semiahmoo Park were most used.
- Neighborhood parks and Lincoln Park got the lowest ratings and were the parks least used.
- Public awareness of the City parks is low.

Major problem: Inadequate care and maintenance of the parks system.  
 Future Priorities: the trail system, especially bicycle trails.

**Summary of 2000 Parks and Recreation Telephone Survey Results**

A random sample of approximately 200 resident voter households in Blaine were contacted in early October 2000 to participate in a controlled survey concerning parks, recreation, and open space needs and priorities.

The survey results are accurate to within +/- 10 percent of the opinions of the general population (note: the statistics are rounded and may not add up to 100 percent). The statistics also account for undecided (ranged from 0 to 3 percent of the total), but do not depict the percents in the tables shown.

The following is a brief summary of the findings for the total sample group. The complete telephone survey contents are provided in the appendix.

Recreation program priorities

Survey participants were asked to rate the need for recreation programs in Blaine in general on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is the least important and 5 is the most important. Following is a rank ordering of their selections.

<i>Recreational Program in Priority Sequence</i>	<i>Ratings</i>		
	<i>1 + 2 low</i>	<i>3 medium</i>	<i>4 + 5 high</i>
Before/after school childcare/latch key programs	16%	19%	63%
Senior social and health activities	18%	26%	55%
Teen social activities	10%	25%	44%
Aquatic instruction and recreation – all ages	40%	16%	43%
Athletic leagues (non-school) – all ages	33%	24%	42%
Physical conditioning and recreation – all ages	36%	28%	35%
Drama and performing arts instruction – all ages	52%	20%	27%
Self-help classes – finance, health – all ages	54%	23%	22%
Arts and crafts instruction – all ages	48%	30%	21%

Recreational Program costs

Survey respondents were asked to rate the following methods of paying for recreational programs, assuming that it would require more money to provide present or future services.

<i>Recreational Program Cost Options In Priority Sequence</i>	<i>Ratings</i>		
	<i>1 + 2 low</i>	<i>3 medium</i>	<i>4 + 5 high</i>
Use or increase program user fees	18%	25%	55%
Use a portion of city general fund property taxes	20%	32%	46%
Approve, by voter referendum, a special levy	31%	23%	44%
Reduce the number	42%	33%	22%
Reduce the quality	84%	11%	2%

General priority projects

A principal objective of the telephone survey was to determine what resident voters thought about possible project priorities, especially which projects should be considered for general funding applications as opposed to special funding revenues or strategies.

Consequently, survey participants were asked to select project proposals on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 was the lowest and 5 the highest priority. The responses were described exactly as defined below without the aid of illustrations or other materials. The results indicate how resident voters reacted in general to these concepts rather than to any project design or content particulars. Following is a rank ordering of their priorities by project category.

<i>General Priority Projects</i>	<i>Ratings</i>		
	<i>1 + 2 low</i>	<i>3 medium</i>	<i>4 + 5 high</i>
Streetscape improvements along major roads	19%	19%	62%
Teen center facilities	15%	24%	61%
Children’s playgrounds and play areas	16%	24%	60%
On-road bicycle lanes	22%	19%	59%
Senior center facilities	15%	25%	58%
Multipurpose hike and bike trails	22%	20%	57%
Nature and handicap accessible park trails	19%	27%	54%
Wildlife habitat areas	28%	21%	48%
Indoor swimming pool	38%	16%	46%
Open spaces	26%	27%	45%
Daycare and child nursery facilities	36%	18%	44%
Boat launch facilities and marinas	31%	25%	44%
Soccer, baseball, and softball fields	33%	23%	44%
Basketball, volleyball, tennis courts	30%	27%	42%
Picnic tables and shelters	32%	28%	39%
Historical buildings and museums	24%	35%	39%
Skateboard/ rollerblade court	53%	17%	30%
Indoor gym and physical conditioning facility	45%	25%	29%
Performing arts and theater facilities	44%	27%	29%
Classrooms and meeting facilities	42%	33%	25%
Arts and crafts facilities	55%	29%	16%

Site Specific project priorities

Survey participants were also asked to select project proposals on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 was the lowest and 5 the highest priority, for specific project proposals that were illustrated. Some of these projects may be accomplished by the City with city funds, others by other agencies with shared or other funding sources. The results indicate how resident voters reacted to these project concept particulars overall, regardless of when or how they are accomplished. Following is a rank ordering of their priorities by project. I changed the wording where highlighted.

<i>Project Proposals in Priority Sequence</i>	<i>Ratings</i>		
	<i>1 + 2 low</i>	<i>3 medium</i>	<i>4 + 5 High</i>
Tidelands – Preserve and protect the tidelands and shoreline within Drayton Harbor and along Semiahmoo Spit, particularly the large tidelands on the west shore of Drayton Harbor to be transferred to the City from Trillium Corporation?	10%	12%	75%
Fishing pier – Convert the entire pier at the end of Marine Drive into a public destination with picnic tables, viewpoints, fishing areas, bait and coffee shop, transient boat landing, small public parking area, and walkway and viewpoint on top of the breakwater entry pilings?	13%	15%	71%
Streams – Conserve and restore Cain Creek’s natural drainage corridor along I-5, behind City Hall, and through downtown?	20%	11%	66%
Streetscape – Continue the development of a major pedestrian streetscape or sidewalk system with landscaping, street trees, street lights, benches, signage, artwork, and special city gateway features along Marine and Peace Portal Drives between the harbor, downtown, and City Hall?	19%	22%	59%
Water trails – Expand the Plover’s summer schedules and routes to include walking and biking passenger connections at Blaine Harbor, Semiahmoo, the Berg Shipyard on Dakota Creek (when tides allow), and White Rock, B.C.?	20%	24%	56%
Civic center – As part of the proposed master plan for the library, police station, and City Hall, develop a public park along Cain Creek and improve portions of H Street and 3rd Street to provide for farmers’ markets, street fairs, and other special events?	24%	21%	55%
Street-end viewpoints – Develop a series of viewpoints and overlooks with interpretive signage, benches, landscaping, special lighting, and artwork at the end of the public street rights of way overlooking Drayton Harbor from F to Cherry Streets?	30%	19%	51%
Shoreline trails – Develop a trail from Blaine Harbor along the shoreline to the overlook of the old piers and docks in Drayton Harbor at the end of Cherry Street right of way?	22%	27%	51%
Water trails – Develop a water trail system within Drayton Harbor and on Semiahmoo Bay between Blaine and White Rock, B.C. with launch sites for kayaks, canoes, and hand-carry boats in Blaine Harbor, at Warehouse #6 at Semiahmoo, at the old county launch ramp on Semiahmoo Spit, at the Berg Shipyard on Dakota Creek, and at the fishing access site on California Creek?	32%	17%	51%

Multipurpose trails – Develop a hike and bike trail (the Millennium Trail) around Drayton Harbor with trail connections to Lincoln Park, White Rock, B.C., and Birch Bay/Chuckanut Bay?	23%	26%	51%
Swimming pool – Develop an indoor swimming pool on the Blaine School Campus for school and public instruction, competitions, and open swim activities?	39%	11%	50%
Walking and hiking trails – Develop a system of citywide walkways, paths, and trails between Peace Arch State Park, Marine Park, Lincoln Park, downtown, Blaine Airport/Skallman Park, Blaine School Athletic Park, and Montfort Park/Dakota Creek?	31%	20%	49%
Park walking trails – Develop natural interpretive areas, jogging, and handicap accessible trails within and around local parks and properties including Peace Arch State Park, Marine Park, Blaine School Campus, Blaine School Athletic Park on Pipeline Road, and Semiahmoo Spit?	25%	27%	48%
Decks – Develop a system of multilevel decks, balconies, and stairways connecting downtown buildings to the streetscape and viewpoints at F, G, and H Streets, and to lower level walkways, new storefronts, and a parking lot below and behind the buildings?	34%	21%	45%
On-road bicycle touring routes – Develop a system of citywide, on-road bicycle routes providing access between Peace Arch State Park, Marine Park, Lincoln Park, downtown, Blaine Airport, Blaine School Athletic Park, and Montfort Park/Dakota Creek?	28%	30%	42%
Day/sports camp – Develop a day camp, sports camp, and group picnic facilities at the old barn at the Blaine School Athletic Park on Pipeline Road?	29%	31%	40%
Blaine lighthouse – Erect a replica of the original lighthouse or beacon on top of the old wastewater treatment plant structure in Marine Park to provide a landmark and publicly accessible viewpoint?	42%	19%	38%
Playgrounds – Locate public playgrounds within a half mile radius of residential areas including new facilities at the Penno Homestead adjacent to Lincoln Park and Fire Station #2 on Semiahmoo Parkway?	37%	26%	37%
Overhead railroad crossings – Construct an overhead pedestrian trestle crossing of the railroad to connect the downtown/Peace Portal Drive with waterfront trails and activities at Cherry and H Streets?	37%	25%	37%
Fishing pond – Restock and develop a children’s fishing access site in the pond behind the City’s Public Works Yard at Skallman Park?	37%	24%	37%
Fire/community annex – Open the kitchen and training room facilities at Fire Station #2 for general, public use including meetings, child care, and senior activities?	32%	31%	36%

Boat launch ramps/transient moorage – Restore and reactivate public boat launch facilities and transient moorage docking at Warehouse #6 at Semiahmoo?	36%	28%	35%
Day camp – If available, acquire and develop a day camp and group picnic facilities on the Penno family homestead, barn, and farm adjacent to Lincoln Park?	37%	26%	35%
Campgrounds – Develop overnight camping facilities at Whatcom County’s undeveloped park property on Dakota Creek?	41%	24%	33%
Picnic facilities – Acquire the parcel adjacent to Salishan Park and expand the park to include picnic tables and shelter?	36%	32%	31%
Rose garden/arboretum – Acquire the Westview Motel in the triangle parcel between Peace Portal Drive, Alder and 4th Streets and redevelop the site to provide a formal rose garden or arboretum with community picnic area and viewpoints of Drayton Harbor?	54%	14%	31%
Athletic fields – Develop a new community park with playground, picnic facilities, and soccer and baseball fields at “the Cedars” (a site west of Semiahmoo Parkway) or behind Fire Station #2 to provide for residents of proposed new residential areas on the west side of the City?	45%	25%	30%
Historical museum – Construct a building to house the museum and interpretive center in Marine Park?	56%	16%	28%
Skateboard court – Develop a skateboard, rollerblade, and BMX bicycle court at the Senior/Community Center or on the Blaine School Campus?	58%	14%	28%
Historical museum/interpretive center – Develop a historical museum and interpretive center to display local maritime, environmental, and cultural artifacts, photographs, and other educational memorabilia?	36%	38%	26%
Historical museum – Locate the museum and interpretive center in Warehouse #6 at Semiahmoo?	53%	20%	26%
Special events – If available, acquire, restore, and schedule the Penno Homestead house and barn for special event activities like weddings, anniversaries, and other parties?	48%	27%	25%
Earthworks sculpture – Create a sculptured hillside or berm with pathways, grassy lawn, and surrounding tree stands to frame Semiahmoo Bay viewpoints and provide for casual outdoor events at Marine Park?	52%	22%	25%
Historical landmarks – If available, acquire and preserve the former “Berg Shipyard” site at the mouth of Dakota Creek?	50%	23%	24%
Historical landmarks – If available, acquire and preserve the Penno family homestead, barn, and farm adjacent to Lincoln Park?	46%	26%	24%
Archaeological sites – Set aside and conserve the Native American burial mounds at the formerly proposed wastewater treatment plant site on Semiahmoo Spit?	53%	22%	23%

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Picnic facilities – Develop a group picnic area and shelter at or adjacent to Fire Station #2 on Semiahmoo Parkway?	46%	29%	22%
Cultural center – Develop a Native American cultural center at the formerly proposed wastewater treatment site on Semiahmoo Spit?	69%	17%	13%

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## CHAPTER 4 ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The City has identified seven elements that can be used as a tool to evaluate and direct implementation of the vision and goals of the Parks and Recreation Plan:

- Administration and coordination element
- Community parks element
- Neighborhood parks element
- Shoreline use/view areas element
- Recreational facilities element
- Trails element
- Open space and conservation element

This chapter will analyze each of these seven elements, assess their existing condition and recommend actions necessary to achieve the City's vision and corresponding goals.

### ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION ELEMENT

**Issue(s):** Section 2.44.040 of the Blaine Municipal Code outlines the Parks and Cemetery Board's considerable responsibilities in its advisory capacity to the City Council. The Parks and Recreation Director provides part-time staff support to the Board, and the Public Works Superintendent oversees parks maintenance.

**Analysis:** City staff does not have an adequate amount of allocated time to fully address parks planning, operations or park improvements.

**Recommended Action:** The City Council should provide adequate staffing to manage the parks program and implement the provisions of this plan. Funding for this action may require additional, supplemental income from grants, impact fees or other related sources.

**Issue(s):** The City must have a clear, legal basis for the designation and management of all lands within the City that are identified for parks and recreation purposes.

**Analysis:** While the City has passed numerous ordinances and resolutions that designate lands as "park lands," the City does not have a clear, legal basis for the designation and use of some of the lands currently providing parks and recreation functions.

**Recommended Action:** City staff should immediately identify those park lands that have no legal basis for such a use and bring them into compliance with all related legal requirements. This will require the vacation of some of the City's rights of way, the transfer of some lands into a "parks" designation, and approval by the City Council through the passage of related ordinances. When complete, every park, trail and recreational facility will have a clear, legal basis for its designation and management.

**Issue(s):** The City currently has a number of park lands that have no official names. Additionally, this plan calls for the creation of several additional parks and trails that have no names.

**Analysis:** This situation has been evident for some time. An example is the Clark Street Road end that was converted to a park but with no name or signage.

**Recommended Action:** Pursuant to Chapter 2.46, Blaine Municipal Code, the City Council should undertake the task of naming park lands where appropriate. In preparation for such a task, staff and the Parks and Cemetery Board shall prepare a list of all such park lands requiring

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official park designation and submit recommendations for appropriate names using the criteria contained in Section 2.46.010.

**Issue(s):** The conceptual “Northwest Necklace Trail” was jointly developed in the spring of 2001. Jointly developed by several public and private interests, the concept highlights the abundant parks and recreational opportunities in and around the Drayton Harbor area. However, many of them are privately owned or are under the jurisdiction of Whatcom County, Washington State agencies or the Federal Government.

**Analysis:** There is currently little coordination among agencies and the private sector. Without such coordination, the abundant parks and recreational opportunities in this area will not be fully realized.

**Recommended Action:** The City should actively seek out a cooperative alliance with other agencies in order to fully take advantage of the abundant parks and recreational opportunities in this area. Working with other parties, staff should identify all lands that currently offer recreational opportunities in the area and begin to coordinate programs and services. A notable priority in this effort is coordination with the Birch Bay community, Semiahmoo management, Whatcom County and the City of White Rock, British Columbia.

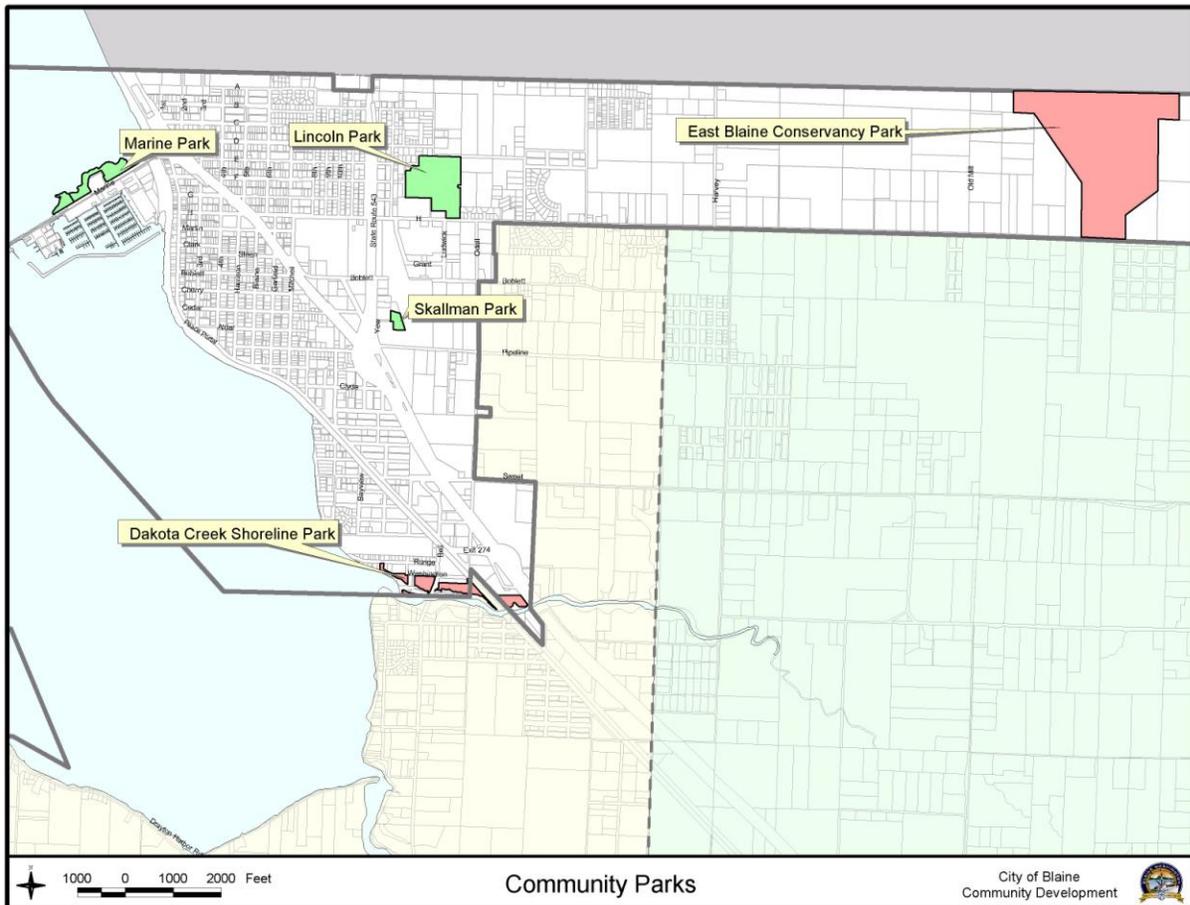
**Issue(s):** Many parks and trails are underutilized and only periodically maintained.

**Analysis:** Recent surveys indicate that the community is not aware of the location and number of parks in Blaine. Responses indicate little support for the present Parks and Recreation Program.

**Recommended Action:** The Parks and Cemetery Board should develop a strategy to increase community awareness, support and participation in the Parks and Recreation Program. This may require the Parks and Cemetery Board to hold several public meetings to increase public awareness of the Parks and Recreation Program with follow-up recruitment to increase community participation. Community beautification, neighborhood park improvements, maintenance, and parks funding are just a few topics that members of the community can participate in.

**Recommended Action:** The Parks and Trails Plan should be implemented in phases as development occurs.

## COMMUNITY PARKS ELEMENT



### Function and Criteria

Community parks are planned to provide a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. In general, community parks are larger in size and/or have amenities or facilities that draw a broad cross-section from the entire community. Community parks can also provide indoor facilities to meet a wider range of recreational interests. Community parks should be easily accessible to both pedestrians and vehicles, and should be connected to other parks and community centers through the trail network or developed in conjunction with related recreational centers or tourist commercial development. All community parks should have some standard features that will create an enjoyable park experience. These features may include:

- Sufficient size to provide exercise and a variety of recreational opportunities
- Access to city infrastructure to allow for improvements to facilities including restrooms and indoor facilities
- Sufficient parking capacity for day users
- Signage stating park rules and hours of operation
- Trash receptacles
- Doggie bag containers (“mutt mitts”)
- Picnic tables, barbecue stands, benches, and water fountains
- An ongoing maintenance program
- Bicycle racks

**Analysis of Community Parks:** The City currently has three parks that meet the above criteria or were intended for the community when first developed. These are Lincoln Park, Marine Park and Skallman Park. In addition to these three, the Peace Arch State Park located on the Canadian border, the County-owned Semiahmoo Park located on the Spit and the Port-managed pier at the end of Marine Drive all provide community park functions. Together they provide open space, view areas and recreation opportunities for the community. However, each of these parks can be improved.

### **Marine Park**

*For additional discussion of Marine Park, reference “Shoreline Use/View Areas” below.*

**Issue(s):** Marine Park was built on top of the old Blaine dump in the early 1990s, primarily through the efforts of the Marine Education and Resource Center Foundation. The intent was to create a low impact, open space area dedicated to marine education and sensitive shoreline access. The park provides excellent opportunities for bird watching and other low impact recreational activities.

**Analysis:** There has been some debate regarding future use of the site. The debate has been generally divided into passive and active shoreline use. Another factor in future planning of Marine Park is its location below Blaine’s downtown boardwalk and its adjacency to the marina. A further factor is the presence of 2.2 acres of commercial property located in the center of the park.

**Issue(s):** Other issues include the lack of well identified parking. The berm that obstructs marine views has been debated for as long as it has been there. Ongoing issues include the presence of slabs of concrete to stabilize the bank and limited beach access.

**Recommended Action:** The Parks and Cemetery Board should work with Blaine Tourism, the Marine Education and Resource Center Foundation and the Port to formulate a long range concept plan that can be agreed upon by all parties. Implementation will require the commitment of a number of interests.

#### **Suggested Improvements:**

1. Expand Marine Park to include the disturbed wetland area south of Marine Drive between the parking lot and the railroad. The wetland should be significantly enhanced to provide marine bird habitat.
2. View Tower – Reconstruct the old Semiahmoo Lighthouse at the old holding tank location within the park. Visible from Peace Arch State Park, the lighthouse would generate visual interest in Marine Park and encourage people to investigate the area.
3. Implement the recommendations of the wildlife report.
4. Continue to expand the existing fence along the shoreline in the eastern half of the park to prevent public access to critical bird habitat. The signs that are currently in place are insufficient in deterring individuals from disturbing critical habitat.
5. Plant and maintain native vegetation in strategic locations to inhibit individuals from disturbing critical habitat. The vegetation could include aesthetically pleasing flora, such as wild roses.
6. Improve the existing tide pools or create new pools and place interpretive signs near them. This will function as an area that will attract members of the community. It could also be an area for school field trips for studying marine wildlife.
7. The parking area should be formalized with one parking area located at the west end of the park and the other within the 2.5 acre commercial property owned by the City.
8. Develop a view corridor in the mid-portion of the berm in order to enhance the safety and view.

9. The dumpster near the restrooms should be screened with fencing or vegetation.
10. Wildlife habitat is important. Remove the obstructions to fish migration to Cain Creek and preserve the fresh water source of Cain Creek for wildlife habitat. Providing “mutt-mitts” for pet owners is another essential task in preserving habitat.
11. Identify and designate the shorelines, salt marsh, and intertidal areas north and east of Shelter #3 as a “fish and wildlife habitat conservation zone” under Chapter 16.12.070, Blaine Municipal Code. Apply limited access within its boundaries in addition to the application of some appropriate buffer areas.
12. Create artificial tide pools and place interpretive signs near them
13. Place signs that explain and define the rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations

**Lincoln Park.** Lincoln Park is the City’s first park with an area of 27 acres.

**Issue(s):** The park was designated a natural park in earlier park plans. Lincoln Park is relatively undeveloped with its large stand of mature conifer trees. At 27 acres, Lincoln Park is the largest City-owned park in Blaine. Previous city direction has been to leave the park in its natural condition. The park contains a bike/walking trail, picnic tables, picnic shelter, a pond, and an intermittent stream. The park is in average to poor condition. The picnic shelter is beginning to deteriorate, primarily because of the heavy tree coverage which restricts air movement and does not allow light to penetrate. The constructed pond is degenerating, and the trail needs improvement.

**Analysis:** The park’s location, forested nature and lack of lighting limit its use as a full service community park. The park is relatively dark, even in the daylight. It functions well as forested open space, but has limited parks and recreational use. Previous parks plans have identified it as a natural area with no clear park or recreational use. Many women feel it is unsafe to travel in the park unaccompanied. Under these conditions, it is not surprising that the park is not well utilized.

**Recommended Action:** The Parks and Cemetery Board should hold a series of public meetings to determine Lincoln Park's optimal use. The Board should follow up the meetings that lead to the development and publication of a Lincoln Park Plan.

Suggested Improvements:

1. Some of the vegetation needs to be cleared and thinned out using best management practices. This would create more light and open space within the park. This is especially true at the picnic shelter. The picnic shelter will be used much more frequently with exposure to sunlight.
2. Create formalized parking and a turn-around area inside the park with easier vehicular access to the designated picnic area. This will allow a broader cross-section of the community to use the park and will provide police access.
3. Enhance the pond with native hydrophyte vegetation and incorporate it into an interpretive nature trail with interpretative signs. The park could serve as an important ecosystem reserve for Blaine’s school system.
4. Place benches in different sections of the trail. This trail system is one of the City’s larger trail systems, and there are no places to sit down and rest.
5. Thin vegetated areas and place lighting adjacent to the trails to increase visibility.
6. Consider the installation of restrooms.
7. There is currently only one picnic shelter in poor maintenance. The park should be equipped with picnic areas strategically placed on the south side of the park. Tree thinning should take place on the south and west sides of the shelters to allow the sun in during the afternoon hours.

8. Place at least two trash receptacles slightly in from the entrances and parking areas located close to the covered picnic tables.
9. Install “m u t t m itt” containers for park visitors upon entering the park.
10. As the City’s first park, it has historical significance. The park should incorporate historical signage at the entrance with historical photographs.

As indicated in the neighborhood park section, allocate one acre of Lincoln Park fronting H Street to be used for neighborhood recreational purposes.

### **Skallman Park**

**Issue(s):** Skallman Park is located in a relatively inaccessible portion of the City’s airport/industrial lands.

**Analysis:** The park is not frequently used. This is partly due to its location behind the Public Works building, out of view from motorists. The stand of conifer trees is aesthetically pleasing but allows little light to penetrate. The park is not connected to a trail system. The pond, which once was a public children’s fishing area, is in poor shape with no sign of life. The southern boundary of the park opens to a large, undeveloped, depression area. The extension of the park into this area would dramatically increase the park’s functionality and would allow more user friendly parking to take place off of Pipeline Road.

**Recommended Action:**

1. The park should be expanded to the south and connected with a trail system that leads to the Blaine Athletic Fields.
2. The pond should be restored as a shallow wetland with a diversity of native wetland plants. The wetland could serve as an outdoor laboratory for the school district.
3. Additional picnic tables and barbecue stands should be installed to the south of the trees.

### **Future Community Parks**

**Issue(s):** Dakota Creek is a rare, environmental asset to the community.

**Analysis:** One of the most highly rated community preferences was access to the City’s waterfront. The northern banks of Dakota Creek within the city limits are relatively undeveloped. Additionally, the City has a fair amount of right of way along the northern banks of Dakota Creek. A concerted effort to acquire some additional land adjacent to these rights of way could result in an additional community park with unique characteristics unequalled anywhere else in the County. Because of its relative sensitivity, the park would need to be fairly passive in its orientation with designated picnicking area and controlled water access.

**Issue(s):** A related issue is projected demand for community parks. As the City continues to grow, residential development will spill in to the City’s UGA immediately south of Dakota Creek.

### **Dakota Creek Shoreline (From Shoreline View/Use Areas)**

**Issue(s):** Dakota Creek is a valuable asset to the Blaine and Whatcom County community. However, with little opportunity to access the shorelines, it is rarely used for recreation and education opportunities.

**Information:** There are presently three parcels amounting to 5.5 acres located immediately south of the Front Avenue right of way on the northern banks of Dakota Creek between the old Haws Street and Odell Road (Parcel #s: 400107-491302, 4100107-516301, and 400107-548302). They are zoned Residential Low Density and Planned Commercial. The owners are the City of Blaine, Robert Bye, and Ron Freeman. These properties are located near the mouth of Dakota Creek and

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have a view of both the Creek and Drayton Harbor. A cement dock connecting the shoreline to the City owned island is used by sport fishermen.

**Analysis:** Together these properties and rights of way offer one of the best remaining public access opportunities to the City's shorelines. If converted to a shoreline park or a conservancy area, the opportunities for bird watching, fishing, and exploring the unique, intertidal habitat would provide further protection to Dakota Creek, in addition to creating a great recreational asset to the community.

**Recommended Action:** Staff and the Parks and Cemetery Board should initiate inquiries to determine the feasibility of acquisition of these properties. Upon determining feasibility, the City should explore funding alternatives for the acquisition of these properties and pursue closing. Upon closing, the City should consolidate the three parcels and develop a long range plan that calls for the creation and maintenance of a shoreline park or conservancy area.

#### **East Blaine Conservancy/Wetlands Area**

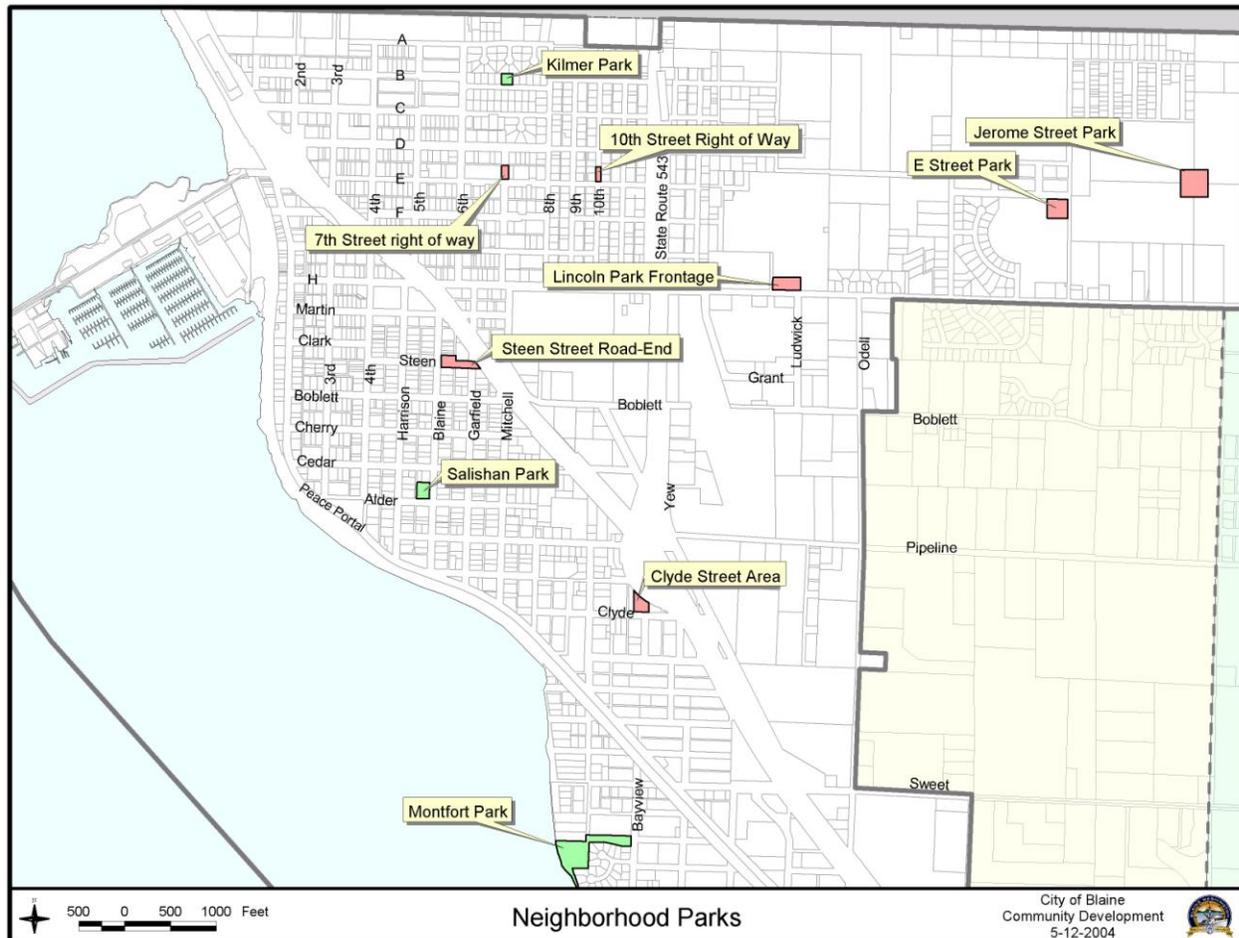
**Issue(s):** There are substantial areas in East Blaine between the border and H Street that have very high value wetlands and adjacent forested areas. This area provides a continuous flow of clean water to Dakota Creek and the City's municipal wells located lower in the watershed.

**Issue(s):** The east Blaine area has substantial forested areas subject to urban levels of development. These can be cut and cleared unless the City takes legislative action to preserve them.

**Analysis:** The Blaine Comprehensive Plan directs the City to find ways to preserve large blocks of wetland/forested areas. This action will also provide protection for the City's water supply.

**Recommended Action:** The City should identify and seek to preserve the H Street wetland and adjacent forested lands before it becomes too late to preserve large blocks of valuable wetlands and forested land.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS ELEMENT



### Function and Criteria

Neighborhood parks are designed primarily for informal use by the neighborhood. These types of parks are generally small in size and serve the immediate area, typically within a quarter mile in radius. Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible to the neighborhood population, geographically centered with safe walking and bicycle access and preferably connected to a community-wide trail system. Parking facilities, if provided at all, should be very limited (less than 10 spaces) and intended for use by those on the perimeter of the service area and by the disabled. All neighborhood parks should have some standard features that will create an enjoyable park experience. These features may include:

- Signage stating park rules and hours of operation.
- Picnic tables, barbecue stands, benches, and water fountains
- Large, deciduous shade trees
- An ongoing maintenance program
- A “pack it in, pack it out” policy.

### **Analysis of existing neighborhood parks**

While many of the parks in Blaine can function as neighborhood parks, the City of Blaine currently has only three parks that meet the above definition: Montfort Park, Kilmer Park and Salishan Park. Even with the other parks, they do not meet the needs of the community. There are two conditions that create this inadequacy:

#### **1. Condition - The three existing neighborhood parks are not adequately developed and equipped to fully serve their intended function.**

Each of the three parks will be addressed independently:

##### **Montfort Park**

**Issue(s):** Montfort Park is a largely undeveloped park with a rapidly growing neighborhood surrounding it. It is also one of the few parks abutting the marine shoreline of Drayton Harbor. Another issue is that the park's two properties are separated by City right of way.

**Analysis:** The general public is not aware that this park exists. This is partly due to limited access. The trail into the park is not fully developed, and there are no amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, etc. However, neighborhood demand for the park is going to increase significantly. Related issues include the proximity of the aging stand of conifer trees to new, single-family structures, and the relative sensitivity of the erosional bluff along the shoreline to increased human use. There have also been complaints from neighbors of littering and unauthorized camp fires.

##### **Recommended Action:**

Because Montfort Park is largely undeveloped with a rapidly growing neighborhood surrounding it, a neighborhood task force should be convened to work with a park planner to develop a master plan for future development as a neighborhood park. The task force should consider the following

##### Suggested Recommendations:

1. Transfer the status and designation of existing street rights of way in and around Montfort Park to park land.
2. Increase accessibility with a developed trail that can be accessed by everyone.
3. Provide three to six additional parking spaces along the Bayview Avenue right of way.
4. Take advantage of the view. The viewpoints and areas within the park need to be cleared in some places and thinned in others, using best management practices.
5. Consider providing access to the shoreline from the bluff. This access should allow for pedestrian traffic and non-motorized small craft launch. Environmental impacts to the shoreline and the bluff must be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
6. Place identification and public access signs at all three entrances to the park.
7. Identify and locate amenities and features that will create an enjoyable neighborhood park experience
8. Establish a policy of "pack it in, pack it out."
9. Since there is new development occurring around the park, investigate the advantages and disadvantages of a vegetative buffer along the park boundaries where appropriate.
10. Fund covered picnic tables and related park amenities as needed.

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### **Salishan Park**

**Issue(s):** Salishan Park is ideally located in a well established neighborhood.

**Analysis:** Salishan Park is the most used neighborhood park in the City. It currently functions fairly well in its capacity. Major improvements are not needed. However, there are a number of small improvements that will increase neighborhood enjoyment.

**Recommended Action:** City planners should facilitate a few meetings with those interested in the neighborhood before specific improvements are implemented.

**Suggested Improvements:**

1. The basketball court is not currently being fully utilized. Paint free throw line and court boundaries to increase usage.
2. The existing play equipment is at the end of its life cycle. Replace it with equipment selected by a cross-section of adjacent neighbors.
3. Replace the existing gravel base with a rubber pad to improve safety and wheelchair accessibility.
4. Explore the acquisition of the lot directly north of the park to meet the increasing demands as the area infills.
5. Establish a policy of “pack it in, pack it out” through signage and education.
6. The park does not have large shade trees. A few large shade trees, such as oak, maple, and apple planted along the alleyway, would create a place for people to picnic or get out of the sun.
7. Install signage indicating park rules and hours of operation.
8. Install a drinking fountain.

### **Kilmer Park**

**Issue(s):** Kilmer Park is located in the middle of a residential area, but is not used as much as other neighborhood parks.

**Analysis:** Kilmer Park does not appear to be used to its full capacity. Some of this may be due to its design and layout. Another reason may be its relatively small size and its very close proximity to adjacent homes. There is concern that the play equipment is too big and not safe for younger children to be playing on. The existing picnic tables need replacing. There is also no container to dispose of litter and other debris. The benches are in good shape but at the end of their life cycle.

**Recommended Action:** City planners should facilitate a meeting or two with interested neighbors to best determine specific improvements.

**Suggested Improvements:**

1. The existing play equipment should be replaced with equipment that is safe and accessible to children of all ages. However, the City may consider reducing the scale of equipment while increasing covered picnic tables and maximizing open space for volleyball, an informal soccer practice area or other similar sports.
2. The gravel at the base of the playground area should be replaced with a rubber pad or a similar material so it is safe and wheelchair accessible.
3. Replace the existing picnic tables with other types of furniture that will serve the neighborhood community.
4. Establish a policy of “pack it in, pack it out.”

**Condition 2: The number and distribution of neighborhood parks is not adequate to service many of the neighborhoods currently located in or planned for Blaine.**

**Analysis:** There are a number of residential areas within the city limits that do not have access to a neighborhood park. This condition is mitigated with the presence of Lincoln Park, Marine Park and Peace Arch State Park. These three larger parks provide many of the same functions for surrounding neighborhoods. However, there are still several neighborhood areas without a park in close proximity. Recognizing the limits of the City's revenue sources, the City has identified

several rights of way that have potential as future neighborhood parks. Other properties need to be identified to expand these park areas and to provide additional neighborhood parks as new neighborhoods are added to the City. When constructed, these neighborhood parks will provide better park distribution throughout the City. The neighborhood parks will also provide more diversity and open space to the residential areas in the community.

**Recommended Action:** Where feasible, develop neighborhood parks on the following vacant lands. The City should hold one or two meetings with the neighborhood to develop a plan for future development as a neighborhood park. Park improvements should be sensitive to neighborhood preferences.

#### **10th Street Right of Way (Adjacent to E Street)**

**Issue(s):** This small quarter-acre area is located in the southern half of 10th Street between E and D Streets. Surrounded by single-family housing, the vegetation has been cleared and graded level. It is routinely mowed in the summer by the City.

**Analysis:** With some cooperation from the neighborhood, the site could function as an open space/park for the neighborhood.

**Recommended Action:**

1. Hold meetings with interested parties from the neighborhood to determine best use and cooperation.
2. Develop a park strategy acceptable to the neighborhood.
3. Implement the strategy.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Street Right of Way (Between E Street and D Street)**

**Issue(s):** This small quarter-acre park is located in the southern half of the 7th Street right of way, between E and D Streets. The area is zoned for multiple-family, residential development. However, there is little development near the site.

**Analysis:** The site can be used as a park for the neighborhood.

**Recommended Action:**

1. Convert the right of way to a neighborhood park.
2. Use the park impact funds collected from surrounding development to build a small park in this area.
3. Provide neighborhood park amenities
4. Add park benches and a picnic table
5. Provide enough parking for two to four vehicles.

#### **Steen Street Road End Area (Cain Creek Neighborhood Park)**

**Issue(s):** There are no neighborhood park facilities within three-quarters of a mile of this area.

**Analysis:** This residential area is populated with single-family residences. Cain Creek abuts the eastern boundary of the road end, and the City owns several pieces of land and the right of way adjacent to the road end.

**Recommended Action:**

1. Convert the right of way to a neighborhood park.
2. Use the park impact funds collected from surrounding development to build a small park in this area.
3. Provide neighborhood park amenities.
4. Provide enough parking for two to four vehicles.

**Clyde Street Area (Eaglenest Neighborhood Park)**

**Issue(s):** There are currently no park facilities in this residential area.

**Analysis:** With several rights of way and some undeveloped properties, there is neighborhood park potential in this area. A park could be developed in conjunction with new development and/or one of the rights of way could serve this purpose.

**Recommended Action:**

1. Convert the right of way to a neighborhood park.
2. Use the park impact funds collected from surrounding development to build a small park in this area.
3. Provide neighborhood park amenities.
4. Add park benches and a picnic table.
5. Provide enough parking for two to four vehicles.

**Lincoln Park Frontage** (*one acre fronting H Street*)

**Issue(s):** The residential area to the immediate west, north and east do not have access to a neighborhood park.

**Analysis:** While Lincoln Park provides a high quality, forested habitat with trails, it does not provide neighborhood park functions. With no other park land available for a neighborhood park, it may be feasible to utilize a one-acre block of land fronting H Street for this purpose.

**Recommended Action:** Allocate one acre of Lincoln Park fronting H Street to be used for neighborhood recreational purposes.

**Suggested Improvements**

1. Provide neighborhood park amenities including a basketball court, tennis courts, or a flat lawn area for informal ball games or practice.
2. Add park benches and a covered picnic table.

**E Street/Jerome Street/Harvey Road Area**

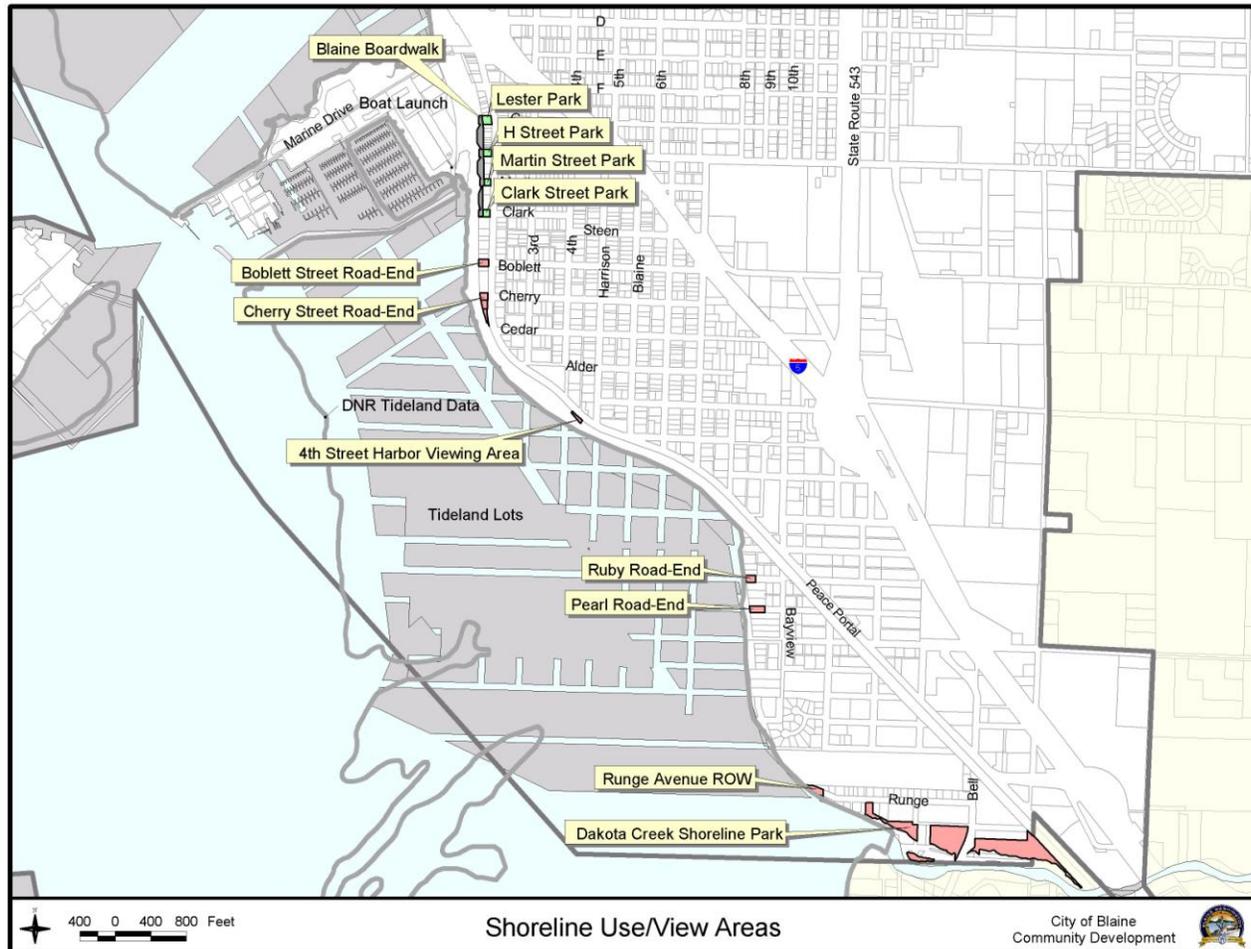
**Issue(s):** There currently exists a large, relatively undeveloped area in east Blaine between Allan Street and Harvey Road that has no park facilities.

**Analysis:** This area will experience a fair amount of residential growth in the next 10 years. It is important to plan for parks and recreational opportunities before development takes place. When fully developed, this area will require two or more neighborhood parks. It is also important to plan recreational trails to allow pedestrian and bicycle access from these parks to Lincoln Park.

**Recommended Action:**

1. A conceptual neighborhood parks and trails plan should be developed for the east Blaine residential area.
2. Once developed the City should work with developers to flexibly implement the plan.
3. In addition to neighborhood park amenities, public access and easement should be incorporated into all conditions for development approval.
4. The parks and trails plan should be implemented in phases as development occurs.

## SHORELINE USE/VIEW AREA ELEMENT



### Function and Criteria

Access to shorelines addresses public use and means direct access to the beach or access to the uplands immediately adjacent to the beach or waterline. It also means visual access to the shoreline and waterways. Upland areas that do not obstruct visual access to the shoreline are called view corridors. Surveys of the Blaine community have shown a high demand for shoreline access.

### **Analysis of Shoreline Use Areas**

While Blaine is located on the banks of the Puget Sound, access to the shoreline is limited. The City of Blaine has almost no public access to the coastal waters that, historically, have played such an important role in the City's development. Much of the shoreline is isolated by the presence of the railroad, with its tracks following the coastline. The rest of the shoreline has been acquired for private purposes. The City is committed to providing shoreline access for the general public, but the options are limited.

**Recommended Action:** The Parks and Cemetery Board should work with staff to identify all properties and rights of way with shoreline public access opportunities and make

recommendations to the City Council to increase public shoreline access. Strategies to increase shoreline access may include:

1. Purchase of properties
2. Purchase of easements
3. Acquisition through transfer or exchange of properties
4. Acceptance of donations
5. Acquisition of access as a condition of development approval
6. Condemnation (to be used only in very limited, special circumstances)

### **Existing Shoreline Use Areas**

The discussion within this subsection will focus on the issues and recommendations relating to shoreline use areas that are currently available to Blaine's community.

### **Marine Park** (*For additional discussion of Marine Park, reference "Community Parks."*)

Marine Park has 3,680 feet of shoreline. The trail along the adjacent upland area is 2,790 feet long. It also has four viewing shelters, several viewing benches, and a stationary viewing scope. The park provides the best public access opportunities to Semiahmoo Bay, in turn, offering excellent opportunities for bird watching and other viewing activities.

**Issue(s):** While Marine Park provides excellent visual access to the shoreline, the presence of slabs of concrete riprap and mudflats limits beach access. The Park has two small pocket beaches on the western portion of the Park that offer beach access opportunities, but they are difficult to get to and, in their present state, are degraded by the presence of concrete slabs and invasive exotic vegetation.

#### **Recommended Action:**

1. Increase access to the existing pocket beaches west of the third shelter. Install stairways from the established trails to the two pocket beaches. This should include the construction of five sets of stairways with railings, related staging areas and interpretive beach signs. Each of the five stairways terminates above the high water line. The stringers will be constructed of reinforced concrete. The treads will be made of weather treated 3x8' timbers.
2. Improve the quality of the existing pocket beaches. This can be done through sand and gravel engineering techniques and stabilization of the upland areas adjacent to the beaches.

**Issue(s):** The shoreline banks located on the most westerly section of the park (approximately 565 feet) are experiencing significant erosion. Over time this has resulted in a reduction in the land area of the Park. Once lost, it cannot be regained. In the past, the City has tried to slow this erosional process with the placement of large slabs of concrete bank. The primary result of that effort was to make the bank look ugly and render it hazardous to beach walkers.

**Recommended Action:** Hire a shoreline consultant to recommend more aesthetically pleasing and beach stabilizing alternatives. Grants should be secured to implement the consultant's recommendations.

### **Other Shoreline recommendations in Marine Park:**

1. Expand Marine Park to include the disturbed wetland area south (and north) of Marine Drive between the parking lot and the railroad. The wetland should be significantly

- enhanced with some deep pools to provide marine bird habitat. Additionally, Cain Creek should be redirected to flow into the improved wetland area before it drains into the tidelands.
2. Identify and designate the shorelines, salt marsh, and intertidal areas north and east of Shelter #3 as a “fish and wildlife habitat conservation zone” under Chapter 16.12.070, Blaine Municipal Code. Allow controlled limited access within its boundaries.
  3. Explore opportunities to develop intertidal pools in conjunction with the two pocket beaches and place interpretive signs near them.

#### **Lester Park/G Street Road End (Lighthouse Plaza)**

**Issue(s):** The City has decided to use this site to build Lighthouse Plaza, an integral part of the downtown boardwalk. The plaza will provide a place for community gatherings. However, the City’s Veterans’ Memorial is currently located there along with an artillery gun.

**Analysis:** A new location will need to be found for the Veterans’ Memorial and artillery gun. The relocation process must be done in the most respectful and sensitive manner possible. A site befitting the memorial will need to be found for the relocation.

**Recommended Action:** Before this site becomes a boardwalk plaza, the Veterans’ Memorial will need to be moved to an alternative location. The American Legion has suggested that the best location alternative would be at Peace Arch State Park. If that location is unavailable, the next best location would be to place the memorial adjacent to City Hall.

#### **H Street Road End (Harborview Plaza and the pedestrian overpass to marina)**

**Issue(s):** The H Street Parklet has functioned as the center of the City for many years. The City has decided to build Harborview Plaza as an integral part of the downtown boardwalk.

**Analysis:** When constructed, the Plaza will provide enhanced viewing of the Marina, Spit, water and sunsets. The Plaza should include a much needed overpass that connects pedestrian traffic with the Blaine Marina and Marine Park.

**Recommended Action:** Use this site to build the boardwalk and pedestrian overpass. Trim trees to improve the view corridor.

#### **Martin Street Road End**

**Issue(s):** The Martin Street Parklet was built in the winter of 2003 - 2004. It overlooks the marina and provides visual access to the water and sunsets.

**Analysis:** Its location overlooking the marina makes it a significant amenity to the downtown area. It should be used to boost the commercial environment and provide a viewing and resting area for the general public.

**Recommended Action:**

1. Provide opportunities to use the park for art displays.
2. Minimize obstructions to the view.
3. Install a viewing scope and interpretive signs.
4. Encourage the utilization of this park for bird viewing with interpretative signs.

#### **Clark Street Parklet**

**Issue(s):** Like the Martin Street Parklet, this park overlooks the marina. It, too, should be used to boost the commercial environment and provide a viewing and resting area for the general public.

**Analysis:** The parks location overlooking the marina makes it a significant amenity to the downtown area. It should be used to boost the commercial environment and provide a viewing and resting area for the general public.

**Recommended Action:**

1. Provide opportunities to use the park for art displays.
2. Provide one additional park bench, one picnic table and shelter.
3. Restrict obstructions to the view.
4. Install a viewing scope and interpretive signs.
5. Encourage the utilization of this park for bird viewing with interpretive signs.

**Marina Boat Launch** (*reference “Other Parks and Facilities” section for information*)

**Issue(s):** The Port’s public boat launch provides excellent water access for the community of Blaine and greater Whatcom County. It has ample parking facilities and restrooms.

**Analysis:** The boat launch is currently functioning well.

**Recommended Action:** None.

**Tidelands**

**Issue(s):** The City of Blaine received 428 acres of Drayton Harbor tidelands from the Trillium Corporation. The tidelands provide rich habitat for bivalves, invertebrates, a variety of fish species and marine birds.

**Analysis:** These tidelands are a fragile marine ecosystem that will require protection from excessive clam harvesting and other intrusive recreational activities. They should be regarded as a conservancy area by the City of Blaine and protected.

**Recommended Action:** The City should work with all interested parties to develop a management plan for the tidelands that will insure the long term health and sustainability of these tidelands.

**Future Shoreline Use Areas**

**Issue(s):** The City has a number of undeveloped road ends and rights of way that provide direct beach access or a view of the marine waters of Drayton Harbor.

**Recommended Action:** Take the necessary measures to improve these areas for public use. A listing of road ends and rights of way is outlined below.

**H and G Street Road Ends (Blaine Boardwalk)**

See section titled **Future Recreational Facilities**.

**Boblett Street Road End**

**Issue(s):** The Boblett Street Road End is located approximately a quarter mile south of downtown, providing a view corridor on the west side of Peace Portal Drive. It is also located between two residential buildings with a well established, historic neighborhood across the street to the east.

**Analysis:** While the road end does provide a view corridor, it is far enough removed from the downtown to prevent heavy use by downtown consumers. The road end is adjacent to a well established neighborhood and can be used as a neighborhood park. It will also provide visual access to Drayton Harbor and sunsets.

**Recommended Action:**

The development of this road end for recreational uses will serve two purposes: (1) provide a viewing area of Drayton Harbor; and (2) provide a local use park for the neighborhood.

Improvements should include the following:

1. Prioritize the view corridor during development.
2. Convert the road end to a neighborhood park.

3. Provide neighborhood park amenities.
4. Provide opportunities for art exhibits.
5. Add park benches and a picnic table.
6. Encourage the utilization of this park for bird viewing with interpretative signs.
7. Provide enough parking for two to four vehicles.

#### **Cherry Street View Area**

**Issue(s):** This small road end and adjacent properties to the south can provide one of the best view corridors on the west side of Peace Portal Drive. However, without the two adjacent properties to the south, the utility of the right of way is limited.

**Analysis:** While the park does provide a view corridor, a full view will require removal of some of the trees on the railroad right of way. The property is far enough removed from the downtown to prevent heavy use by downtown consumers, but is very well suited for bird watching, viewing sunsets and for neighborhood use. Parking, however, will be difficult to design into the park.

**Recommended Action:**

1. Develop the site as a parklet to enhance the view corridor and provide neighborhood access.
2. Contact the railroad authorities and negotiate tree removal.
3. Provide opportunities for art exhibits.
4. Add a park bench and picnic table.
5. Encourage the utilization of this park for bird viewing with interpretative signs.
6. Limit parking to one or two vehicles.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Street Harbor Viewing Area**

**Issue(s):** This is an excellent spot to view Drayton Harbor and its wildlife. With views of Mt. Baker to the south, this area has great potential.

**Analysis:** At this location, Peace Portal Drive is only 35 feet wide including bike lanes on each side. The right of way is 80 feet. This creates a 22.5-foot wide strip on the western edge. Several parking stalls could be installed, and a bird viewing structure constructed. This would create a viewing area of the southern part of the harbor where many shorebirds feed. The viewing station would also strengthen the link between the central and south Blaine communities and provide a needed stop along Peace Portal Drive.

**Recommended Action:** Develop this location with a viewing platform, covered area, and benches for pedestrians and bike riders.

#### **Ruby Street Right of Way**

**Issue(s):** This is a 0.2 acre right of way that begins at the western most end of the paved portion of Ruby Street until it reaches Drayton Harbor. It is a relatively flat grass land with a large, coniferous tree at the edge of the property overlooking Drayton Harbor. There is a trampoline placed by the neighbor in the middle of the lot. Adjacent neighbors maintain the land.

**Analysis:** Like the Pearl Street right of way, the Ruby Street road end can easily serve two functions: a public access function and a neighborhood park function.

**Recommended Action:**

The Ruby Street and Pearl Street rights of way should be planned and designed simultaneously to ensure integration. The Ruby Street road end should be converted to a small neighborhood park with parking to provide a location to look out over Drayton Harbor.

Suggested Improvements:

1. Allow passive recreational activities such as viewing and picnicking by making minimal improvements.
2. Install a bench and picnic table to facilitate leisurely viewing of the harbor habitat.
3. Explore options that would allow physical access to the beach.
4. Include parking space for up to five vehicles for this site.

**Pearl Street Right of Way**

**Issue(s):** This is a quarter acre right of way that lies west of Bayview Avenue and terminates on a 10-foot bluff overlooking Drayton Harbor. It does not appear to be a right of way, because the adjacent neighbors have landscaped the site as part of their residential yard.

**Analysis:** The right of way has recently been used as garden space and driveway access by the surrounding neighbors. There is currently a large rose garden, other shrubbery, landscape amenities, and garden furniture on this site. The overall effect keeps the public from using the site to access the shoreline and excellent views. Parking is going to be a challenge and should be worked out with the neighbors to minimize conflict.

**Recommended Action:** The City should work with the neighbors to develop a plan that creates a park with public shoreline access. By working with the surrounding neighbors, the City will be able to create a park that addresses some neighborhood needs while allowing public shoreline access.

Suggested Improvements:

1. Allow passive recreational activities such as viewing and picnicking by making minimal improvements.
2. Install a bench and picnic table to facilitate leisurely viewing of the harbor habitat.
3. Explore options which would allow physical access to the beach.

**Runge Avenue Right of Way**

**Issue(s):** Size: 0.82 acre Location - This site is located on both the north and south of Runge Avenue between Bell Road and Drayton Harbor. (Parcel #: 401073833950000) The portion of the park north of Runge Avenue is a flat, undeveloped, vacant grass lot used by the Public Works as a lift station. The portion of the park south of Runge Avenue is a right of way that is overgrown with vegetation.

**Analysis:** There is little public access into Dakota Creek. Most of the shoreline is owned by the private sector. This reality highlights the need to take advantage of every public access opportunity. While limited, the 70-foot-wide right of way can provide good access to the mouth of Dakota Creek. The heavy vegetation of wild blackberries and scrub trees will need to be cleared and the bank stabilized. There is an abundance of migratory birds that inhabit this area in the winter. The site can be used as a bird watching location. Because the area is remote, a parking area will be a necessary part of the design.

**Recommended Action:** The site should be developed for both neighborhood use and to increase public access to the shoreline.

Suggested Improvements:

1. Clear the vegetation to allow greater waterfront access.
2. Utilize this park as a bird viewing area and bird shelter with interpretive signs
3. Provide parking for up to five vehicles.

### **Dakota Creek Shoreline**

See section above under Future Community Parks.

## **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ELEMENT**

### Function and Criteria

Recreational facilities typically require planning, design, construction, and maintenance.

Recreational facilities in Blaine should be built to last over 40 years, have a low maintenance requirement, and significantly contribute to the vision and goals of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan.

### **Existing Recreational Facilities**

#### **Plover Ferry**

**Background:** The historic 32-foot Plover, built in 1944, has been ferrying pedestrians from Tongue Point, Semiahmoo to Blaine's Marina since 1995. Over the course of its free service, it has gained notoriety and acclaim as one of the most unique ferries along the Northwest coast.

**Issue(s):** The Plover's limited summer schedule and capacity will soon be inadequate to service increasing ferry demand.

**Analysis:** As the downtown attracts more recreation and tourism traffic, additional capacity requirements (bike storage, etc), additional trips and a longer ferry season will be necessary.

**Recommended Action:** While the ferry system is not a parks function, the Parks and Cemetery Board should work with all interests to find ways to expand existing ferry services and support continuous and predictable ferry service.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Street Community Gardens**

**Background:** On May 8, 2000, the City of Blaine signed an agreement with a community member (Dianna MacLeod) to provide for the use of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street right of way between H Street and G Street for use as a community garden.

**Issue(s):** The northern half of this right of way has been converted into a community garden with several garden plots emerging each spring. The rest of the right of way is a grass field. The garden plots seem in good shape. The southern half is not maintained.

**Analysis:** The community gardens are in good shape and used by the immediate neighbors.

Informing the neighborhood and encouraging them to take advantage of this recreational facility would increase its service area.

**Recommended Action:** This facility is functioning in its current state, but there is room to expand. Creating a green recycling center for lawn by-products on the south side would make this facility much more useful for the community. The community gardeners could then mulch this material which, in turn, could be used in the City's landscaping.

#### **Community/Senior Center**

**Background:** On October 24, 1974, the ground breaking for the original center occurred. The center then opened on May 7, 1975. It was later replaced by the current \$1.05 million building in 1993.

**Issue(s):** The 10,000 square foot facility provides a dining room, recreation room, multipurpose meeting room, and kitchen. The Whatcom County Parks Department and Whatcom County Boys & Girls Club facilitate different programs for the residents.

**Analysis:** The facility functions well in its current capacity as a community gathering facility.

**Recommended Action:** Continue to support and maintain the facility.

### Library

**Background:** In 1911, the Blaine Free Library was established in a residence on Peace Portal Drive. The books were donated to the library from various places, but mostly from the Seattle Public Library. Now the library contains approximately 20,000 books and documents. It also includes a large meeting room which is used for community events.

**Issue(s):** The library serves the Blaine/Birch Bay community, as well as other nearby communities such as Custer.

**Analysis:** The facility currently functions well in its capacity as Blaine's library.

**Recommended Action:** Continue to fund and maintain the library.

### Future Recreational Facilities

#### Blaine Boardwalk

**Issue(s):** The City is currently working on the final design plans for the construction of a pedestrian boardwalk that will extend along the marine bluff in the heart of the downtown district. The boardwalk will be constructed on the west side of commercial buildings looking out over the Blaine Marina and Semiahmoo Bay. The objective is to link the upland downtown with its historic marine commercial wharf and the shorelines of Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay. When complete, the boardwalk will provide a pedestrian link to the Blaine Marina, Marine Park and Blaine's Wharf.

**Analysis:** This \$1.5 million project is well under way with funding from local lodging taxes and state and federal grants.

**Recommended Action:** This project can be successfully completed if both commercial and recreational interests support its development. When complete, the boardwalk should include:

- Viewing areas of the marina, Drayton Harbor, Semiahmoo Bay.
- Viewing scopes
- Interpretive signs
- Public access to the shoreline.

#### “Birding” Shelters

**Issue(s):** Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay have abundant marine bird populations in the fall, winter and early spring. Marine Park currently has four shelters that are used for bird watching. However, a newly formed “birding” subcommittee of BTAC has recommended the construction of several additional bird watching shelters to be strategically placed along the shoreline of Drayton Harbor for “birders”.

**Analysis:** The City has identified “birding” as an important social and economic component of the City's tourism and recreation program. Since most “birding” takes place in the fall, winter, and early spring, bird watching shelters are an important amenity for this activity.

**Recommended action:**

1. Build “birding” shelters in the seven locations identified in the folio. Care needs to be taken that it is done in close coordination with trail development, so that “birders” have the opportunity to walk or bike from one shelter to the next.
2. Develop a self-guided bird watching tour that directs visitors to five to seven specific sites. The objective should be to provide an optimum viewing experience with the least possible impact on the birds.
3. Shelters should be located, oriented, constructed, and signed in a manner that will minimize any disturbance to the birds as a result of the watching activity.
4. Purchase spotting scopes for each viewing shelter.

5. Develop a signage plan that directs birdwatchers and provides interpretive information.
6. Designate a “birding center” as a specific location where “birders” can congregate and receive and share information.

### **Blaine’s Wharf Boardwalk (boardwalk within right of way of Marine Drive between Marine Park and the Pier)**

**Issue(s):** While both Marine Park and the Fishing Pier provide excellent recreation and marine viewing areas, the two facilities have no pedestrian link. Marine Drive has no pedestrian shoulders and has a high volume of industrial traffic, which makes it unsafe for pedestrians to travel the 300 yards that separate the park and the pier.

**Analysis:** The addition of a walkway along Marine Drive would provide a safe means for residents and visitors to walk from Marine Park to the pier and facilitate leisurely waterfront access to an exceptional marine ecosystem of the mudflats and migratory birds. However, boardwalk construction is not feasible until improvements are made to Marine Drive.

**Recommended Action:** The City should plan and construct the marine boardwalk in conjunction with the road improvements to Marine Drive.

### **Skateboard Park**

**Issue(s):** A 0.38 acre parcel just off of 4th Street behind City Hall. (Parcel #: 4101310200260000)

It is relatively flat land with some vegetation, such as fruit bearing trees. The northern portion of the lot begins to slope down. Cain Creek is directly to the north of the lot.

The Blaine Extreme Sports Club presented the first proposal for this park to the City Council on October 22, 2001. Ground breaking began on November 15, 2003.

**Analysis:** The development of the skateboard park is moving forward through the voluntary efforts of the Extreme Sports Club. The City should support them where possible.

**Recommended Action:** The City of Blaine should continue to support the Blaine Extreme Sports Club who will construct, maintain and operate the facility.

### **Community Pool**

**Issue(s):** Surveys have revealed a strong community preference for a swimming pool.

**Analysis:** The City does not have the necessary funding source for the construction and maintenance of a community swimming pool.

**Recommended Action:**

The City should help facilitate the creation of a task force to research funding options necessary to locate, construct and maintain a community swimming pool

### **Dakota Maritime History Center**

**Issue(s):** Blaine’s roots are the fishing industry. However, the once robust fishing fleet that sailed out of Blaine is almost gone. There is a great desire to preserve this rich, nautical history.

**Issue(s):** There is currently a community effort to acquire the Dakota Fisheries building, its dock and the Dakota fishing vessel to establish a northwest nautical museum and maritime center. This group envisions a number of uses for the facilities:

**Dock**

- Fisher’s Saturday market
- Farmers’ market
- Plover boarding stop

**Dakota Fisheries Building**

- Nautical museum
- Marine education center
- Visitor Information Center
- Conferences/Meetings
- Art workshops
- Art gallery
- Educational classes (marine)
- Office space
- Boating classes
- Coffee shop

**Dakota Vessel**

- Floating Museum piece
- Rent the Dakota to overnight guests
- Charter Vessel

**Analysis:** The City does not have the funding for the acquisition and maintenance of the Dakota facility. However, the City can provide a non-profit organization with assistance to help make this a reality. The presence of such a facility will also help the downtown revitalization efforts currently under way.

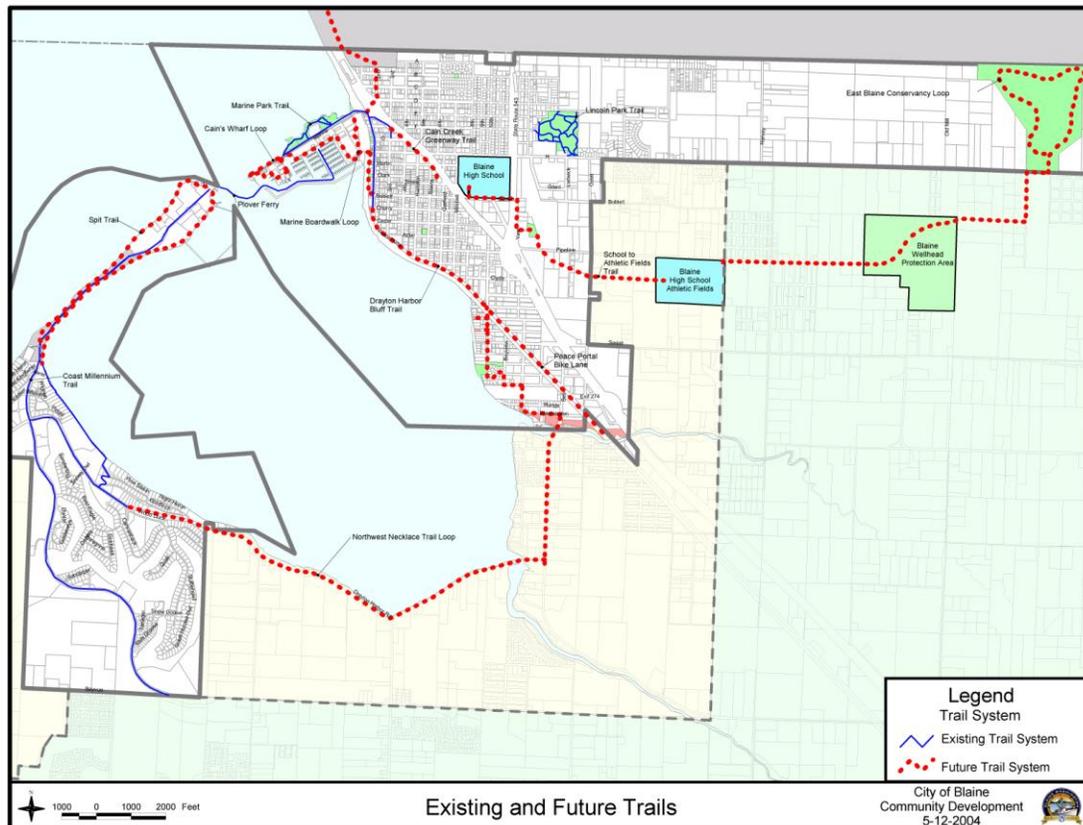
**Recommended Action:**

The City should help facilitate the organization, funding and acquisition of the building facility.

## TRAILS ELEMENT

### Function and Criteria

Trails are designed to provide walking, bicycling and other non-motorized means of linking various parts of the community. Trail use typically includes bicycle and mountain bike riding, rollerblading, walking, and hiking. Appropriate signage throughout the trail network allows maximum use.



### **General Trail Criteria**

Trails should be developed to link major environmental assets, parks and recreational facilities, community centers, and historical features throughout Blaine. They should be located to coincide with other parks and recreational improvements or public facilities to access rest stops, parking lots, restrooms, and other services.

Trail corridors may be developed on other publicly-owned lands using public use agreements or special easements, or on lands owned as portions of road and highway rights of way, stream corridor conservation, or buffer zones of independent title. They can also be located on independent properties or include portions of other sites that are providing resource activities, athletic facilities, and other parks and recreational or public facility properties.

Trail corridors may be improved with trailhead services including rest stops, parking lots, restrooms, water, and air utilities. Where the trail is located in association with another park and

recreational improvement or public facility, the trailhead may be improved with active picnic, playgrounds, and play areas.

Linked with conservation areas and resource activities, the trails may create a system of interconnected greenways to integrate and define the urban and natural portions of the county in accordance with the GMA's provisions for urban separators.

### **Walking and Hiking Trail Criteria**

Generally, walking and hiking trails may be developed as dirt or bark surfaced routes on interior alignments through environmental features. Portions of the system within the more densely developed areas, however, may be developed as sidewalks or boardwalks with urban streetscape furnishings and amenities.

Where possible, walking and hiking trails should be developed in alignment, separate from vehicular or other motorized forms of transportation. For example, walking and hiking trails may be located within natural drainage corridors, wooded ravines, and utility easements. In some instances and for short durations, walking and hiking trail systems may be developed as improvements within the right of way of established vehicular or other transportation corridors.

Generally, walking and hiking trails may be developed to class 2 - 5 walking trail standards providing two-way travel on a crushed rock, bark or compacted dirt base varying between two and five feet in width. The trails may be of a slope not more than a ratio of 1 to 12 unless provided with stairs or other erosion controls. Class 2 - 3 trail segments may be handicap accessible and usable by all age and skill groups.

Within the most urban alignments, walking and hiking trails may be developed to class 1 walking trail standards providing two-way travel on an asphalt or concrete surface between four and six feet in width. Such sidewalk or boardwalk trails may be of a slope not more than a ratio of 1 to 50. Class 1 trail segments may be handicap accessible and usable by all age and skill groups.

Multipurpose trails provide recreational trail opportunities that:

- Access natural features that may not be available otherwise.
- Link open spaces and other conservation areas into a greenway system.
- Serve persons with varied physical abilities and skills.
- Establish high visibility and volume pedestrian routes through the most developed urban areas.
- Expand the park system to connect with public properties.
- Expand roadway corridors to provide recreational and commuter trail opportunities.

### **Multipurpose Trail Criteria**

To the extent possible, multipurpose trails may be developed within corridors separate from vehicular or other motorized forms of transportation. For example, multipurpose trails may be located on utility easements or in separate property alignments. In some instances, the trail may be developed as improvements within the right of way of established vehicular or other transportation corridors.

Typically, multipurpose trails may be developed to class 1 walking trail and class 1 AASHTO (American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials) bicycle trail standards. The

trails may provide two-way travel on concrete, asphalt or very fine crushed rock base between eight and 12 feet in width. The trails may be of a slope not more than a ratio of 1 to 50, handicap accessible and usable by all age and skill groups.

Multipurpose trails provide recreational trail opportunities that:

- Conserve natural features.
- Define urban identities.
- Link community facilities.
- Serve persons with varied physical abilities and skills.
- Promote commuter and other more functional transportation methods.

### **City Trails System**

**Issue(s):** Pedestrian, bike and equestrian trails do not meet the recreational demands of the community of Blaine. The City does not have a well thought out, comprehensive trails plan.

**Analysis:**

The existing trail system does not meet the increasing demand for trails within Blaine. Those trails that are in place for the most part are contained within the boundaries of each park or recreation facility. With the exception of the Semiahmoo development, the City does not have trails that meet the criteria outlined above. The development of such a trail system will require a concerted effort on the part of the City and volunteer members of the community.

**Recommended Action:** The City should immediately form a Trails and Open Space Committee who will work in diligence with the Parks and Recreation Director and Parks and Cemetery Board to develop a comprehensive trails plan. Once approved by the City Council, the City should immediately allocate available funding towards implementation of the plan.

The trails plan should concentrate on trails that:

1. Access natural features that may not be available otherwise.
2. Link open spaces and other conservation areas into a greenway system.
3. Serve persons with varied physical abilities and skills.
4. Establish high visibility and volume pedestrian routes through the most developed urban areas.
5. Expand the Parks and Recreation Program to connect with public properties.
6. Expand roadway corridors to provide recreational and commuter trail opportunities.

The Trails and Open Space Committee should consider the following recommendations:

#### **Existing Trails**

**Spit Trail.** Work with property owners and developers to fully develop the Semiahmoo Spit shoreline trail corridor. The Trail system should be “master planned” and include a variety of amenities including shelters, parks benches and viewing areas. The trail on the west side of the Spit should be informal with a crushed rock surface. The trail section on the east side should be a more formal trail with a hard surface suitable for handicapped access.

**Coast Millennium Trail.** This trail system requires ongoing and reliable ferry service from the marina to the Spit. The City should work with the County to expand the trail system so that it circumvents Drayton Harbor. Additional marketing will let a broader range of people know about the trail.

**Marine Park Trail.** This well used pedestrian walkway can be linked to the planned Blaine's Wharf Trail and become part of the two mile loop that ultimately will take pedestrians from the downtown boardwalk to the pier and back.

**Lincoln Park Trail.** This trail needs to be opened up to allow more lighting. It also needs to be linked to a larger trail system.

### **Future Trails**

**The “Northwest Necklace” Trail Loop.** The Northwest Heritage Master Plan developed in 2001 calls for a trail loop around Drayton Harbor. This is a long term goal and will require incremental development.

**Blaine's Wharf Loop.** When complete, this trail will connect the downtown boardwalk with the public boat launch, the marina, the nautical museum, the pier, “birding” shelters, the Lighthouse, and Marine Park, providing a much-needed safe access corridor to the pedestrian pier at the end of Marine Drive. From here, it will bring its travelers into the commercial plaza directly east.

**Drayton Harbor Bluff Trail.** Blaine is fortunate to have panoramic views of Drayton Harbor. The development of a greenway corridor along the top of the bluff of Drayton Harbor between Peace Portal Drive and the Burlington Northern right of way will provide excellent access to these views.

**Peace Portal Bike Lane.** A bike lane should be built from Exit 274 to exit 276 and then continue east to the truck route. This will provide a continuous bike route from the entire length of the City with excellent views of the Harbor much of the way.

**School to Athletic Field Trail.** Create a trail that connects the school district complex with Skallman Park and the athletic fields. This will allow students to travel between the two locations with minimal use of the roads.

**Marine Boardwalk Loop.** A two-mile pedestrian trail should be constructed and signed that connects the downtown boardwalk with the Historical Marina, Marine Park and the Port's pier. A portion of the trail that goes north into Marine Park will meander through enhanced wetlands fed by Cain Creek.

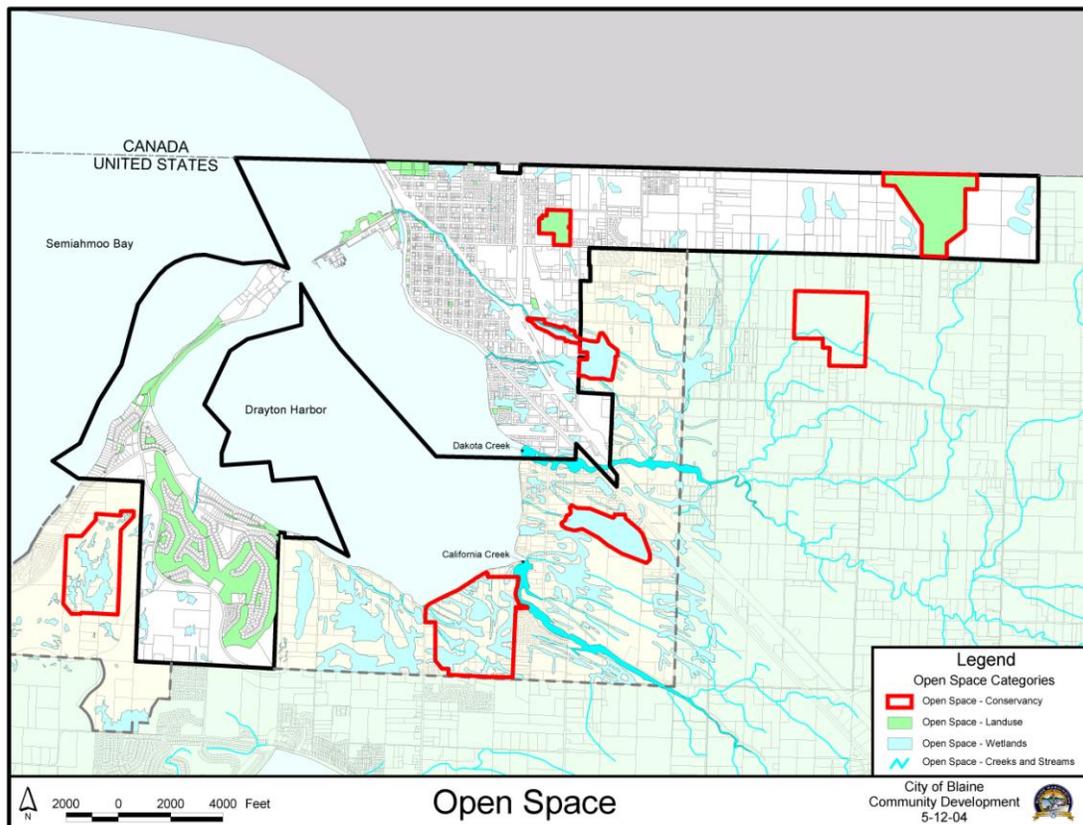
**Cain Creek Greenway Trail.** The Cain Creek riparian area is a valuable resource to the community. It should be designated as a conservancy area. It may be possible to construct a trail along some portions of the stream.

**East Blaine Conservancy Park Loop.** This future trail will travel east from the high school, to the athletic fields, then further east to the Blaine Wellhead Protection Area. From the Wellhead Protection Area the trail will head east then north toward the East Blaine Conservancy Park. The trail should loop around the Category I wetland, one of the finest and most beautiful wetlands in all of Whatcom County.

## OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVANCY LANDS

### Function and Criteria

Open space is undeveloped land. Conservancy lands are natural areas that provide wildlife habitat and environmental quality. They include forests, water courses, wetlands, viewscapes, and natural meadows. Activity within conservancy lands is limited to passive activities that have no or minimal impact on the natural environment. Recreational activities such as hiking, nature study or viewing are examples of the type of activities appropriate for these areas. Appropriate site facilities may include trails with controlled or limited access and interpretive signs or kiosks.



**Issue(s):** As communities urbanize, open space and conservancy lands become more essential to the preservation of natural areas and the quality of life of those who live there. Yet the nature of development further reduces the supply of these valuable natural resources.

**Analysis:** The UGA still has significant environmental features that can be preserved for future generations, but the community will need to take action in the near future.

**Recommended Action:** When formed, the Trails and Open Space Committee should develop an “open space and conservation lands” element to the comprehensive Trails and Open Space plan. Once a plan is approved by the City Council, the City should immediately allocate available funding and begin implementing the plan.

Suggested areas for preservation include:

1. Georgia road end/Bald Eagles Nest - This area has been the nesting site for a pair of bald eagles since 1999.
2. Category I and II Wetlands
3. Special Management Areas to be identified by the Trails and Open Space Committee
4. City of Blaine Aquifer Protection Area
5. Drayton Harbor Conservation Area
6. Dakota Creek Riparian Conservation Area
7. California Creek Riparian Conservation Area
8. Cain Creek Riparian Conservation Area
9. Forested Aqua Recharge Area east of Harvey Road between H Street Road and the Canadian Border
10. East Blaine Conservancy Area
11. Significant Open Space Areas
12. Significant Forested Areas
13. Heritage Trees

**Existing Opens Space and Conservancy Lands Designation**

**Semiahmoo Bay-Marine Park Wildlife Protection Area**

In 2002, City of Blaine hired Ann Eissing, Wildlife Biologist, with grant funds provided by the State Department of Ecology. Over a period of six months the consultant and a subcommittee of the Parks and Cemetery Board developed a number of recommendations for the protection of great numbers of migrating bird populations that winter, among other places, in the mudflats off Marine Park.

Upon completion of the Wildlife Protection Plan, the Parks and Cemetery Board adopted the following general and specific sets of recommendations:

**General Recommendations**

1. Maintain the current separation of land use with park, recreation and habitat to the north of Marine Drive and the Port and Marina development to the south.
2. Establish a zoning and land use designation for Marine Park that is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan.
3. Identify and designate the shorelines, salt marsh, and intertidal areas north and east of Shelter #3 as a "fish and wildlife habitat conservation zone" under Chapter 16.12.070, Blaine Municipal Code. Apply limited access within its boundaries in addition to the application of some appropriate buffer areas.
4. The implications of the recommendation and its effect on public access to Marine Park need to be fully understood before it is enacted. Specifically, what restrictions are in the action, and what would its effect on the shoreline upland portion of Marine Park be?
5. Impose seasonal restrictions to the intertidal areas adjacent to the park when necessary to protect wildlife and habitat.
6. Promote public education of natural history and assist in building the public's appreciation of wildlife habitat.

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### Specific Recommendations

1. Maintain passive recreation only at Marine Park.  
Comment: By definition of “passive” the committee understands it to mean walking, biking, bird watching, and picnicking. It does not include swing sets, playground equipment and similar related activities.
2. Maintain the current trail network.
3. Maintain current fencing in park area.
4. Require that all dogs be on leash in all areas including the intertidal zone.
5. Remove toxic debris and garbage from beaches.  
Comment: This could be an activity for high school students and/or volunteers.  
Warn workers to take care to avoid injury from glass and pieces of metal.
6. Enhance, re-vegetate and slightly reform the berm near the totem.  
Comment: Develop a view corridor in the mid-portion of the berm to enhance the view of the totem pole and public access area of the Park. Consider lowering the whole level of the berm.
7. Enhance the shoreline-upland interface with shrubs and listed vegetation and add vegetative barriers where necessary.
8. Add trees and perches to the upland for perching birds including raptors.
9. Utilize only native plant species.
10. Eliminate or control invasive non-native plants.
11. “The shoreline-upland interface is vital habitat for many species, including marine and upland species. As a result the band of habitat extending along the shoreline is considered sensitive and is in need of enhancement with native shrubs and trees”.
12. Add interpretive signage for “birders” in the current viewing areas.
13. Build a low viewing tower east of Shelter #3.  
Comment: The committee feels this is a highly desirable item and should be a high priority for implementation.
14. Maintain “birding” information and checklists at the Visitor Information Center.  
Comment: All are in agreement that this would be a valuable adjunct and suggest adding “wildlife lists are available at information center” to interpretive signage
15. Monitor wildlife patterns and public use of the intertidal area for one year to determine need to impose greater public access restrictions. Assess and record disturbance of current public use activities.  
Comment: This could be a function of the educational center when it is developed or a volunteer organization.
16. Encourage redevelopment in a specified area for educational and commercial facilities. Coordinate with the Port of Bellingham, Blaine Harbor, Marine Education and Resource Center individuals and others to plan redevelopment options. The areas of prime interest are the old buildings on the marina side of Marine Drive and would include the Dakota Fisheries building among other development options. Refer to the “Blaine Tourism Marketing and Development Plan” executive summary under #13 Major Attractions where it states: “We recommend that the City recruit the Northwest Discovery Center to have it sited in Blaine. An attraction of this magnitude would put Blaine on the map as a major destination City. The folks behind the center have been working on it for more than five years and have developed a concept that would be a perfect fit for Blaine. The facility could exceed 40,000 square feet and would include living and static exhibits, a living museum, U.S./Canadian cultural center, arts exhibits, a wildlife education center and rehabilitation clinic, marine conservation center and a

scientific research laboratory. Millions of dollars in grants, foundations, and other capital could be raised to develop the facility.”

17. Add a shoreline pedestrian boardwalk to the north side of Marine Drive extending out to the pier.
18. The preservation and enhancement of the fallow field should be a compatible use for the park in its present state. The committee recommends that this two-and-a-half acre property, currently zoned marine commercial, be converted to parkland and be rezoned to a park status. Until this time, the committee recommends the field remain in its present state.
19. Remove obstructions to fish migration to Cain Creek and preserve the fresh water source of Cain Creek for wildlife habitat.
20. Maintain picnic shelters to serve as “birding” blinds and multi-use structures. Several of the structures are in need of repair and painting.
21. Require all small boat launchings to take place at the harbor boat launch facility south of Marine Park.

#### **Future Opens Space and Conservancy Lands Designation**

As indicated above, the Trails and Open Space Committee is charged with the task of identifying significant open space lands and designating them accordingly. The Committee should use the official City Parks and Recreation Folio as a starting point in this task. The folio identifies areas with significant open space, forested lands and wetlands, and other water bodies.

#### **Heritage Trees**

Heritage Trees are native and non-native species that are recognized for their historical connection to pioneer settlement or as unique specimens not commonly found within the city limits. They are typically in good health, have the room to grow over a long period of time, and pose no danger to members of the community.

The Parks and Cemetery Board has identified a number of Heritage Trees in the City of Blaine that meet the above definition. They have been included in the official City Parks and Recreation Folio. The Parks and Cemetery Board’s intent is to protect these trees from thoughtless destruction through the identification and education of the City at large.

**CHAPTER 5  
 BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Parks and Recreation Director is responsible for the Parks and Recreation Program. The Director works with the Parks and Cemetery Board to update the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan for the City and to manage, improve, add to, and beautify all public squares, recreation facilities, parks and trails of the City. The Director is also responsible for assisting the Board in its communication with the City Council to ensure that the City has a well-integrated and complete program for the use of its parks and playgrounds. The Director works with the Public Works Superintendent to establish annual priorities and implementation for the operation, maintenance, and capital improvements of the City's parks.

**PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET HISTORY**

**Past Parks and Recreation Expenditures**

The annual expenditures for parks and recreation functions increased from \$65,266 in 2000 to \$83,829 in 2004, averaging between 1.0 and 1.1 percent of all City current expenses.

**Table 5-1  
 History of City/Park and Recreation Expenditure**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Total City Expenditure</b>	<b>Parks Expenditure</b>	<b>% of Total City</b>
1996	3,104,906	26,786	0.96%
1997	3,308,218	34,623	1.05%
1998	3,434,609	36,929	1.08%
1999	3,696,086	35,914	0.97%
2000	4,205,641	65,266	1.55%
2001	4,128,711	56,325	1.36%
2002	4,305,418	63,630	1.48%
2003	4,318,844	84,266	1.80%
2004*	4,916,176	82,173	1.71%

\* Budgeted amounts.

**Past Expenditures by Category**

There are generally two categories of expenditures for the Parks and Recreation Program: (1) operations and maintenance, and (2) capital expenditures. Operations and maintenance expenditures result from day-to-day operations and maintenance, repair staff, equipment, and contract services.

Capital expenditures are funds spent on new parks facility acquisitions and development. During this time period, the City accomplished the following projects using a combination of general funds, grants, donations, and self-help:

- Marine Park – Improvements to the bandstand and salmon artworks
- Marine Park – Installation of a telescope
- Marine Park – Installation of several benches
- Peace Portal Drive Beautification – Replaced approximately 350 feet of cyclone fencing with wood railing.
- Clark Street Viewing Park - Constructed small park for viewing.
- Martin Street Viewing Park - Constructed small park with railing for viewing.
- Downtown Boardwalk Design – Construction scheduled for summer of 2005.

The table below provides a breakdown of Parks and Recreation expenditures by past capital improvements expenditures:

**Table 5-2  
 Past Expenditures by Category**

Year	Operations & Maint		Capital Improvements		Totals
	Staff	Expense	Acquisition	Improvements	
1996	.07	26,786	0	0	26,786
1997	.07	31,100	0	3,523	34,623
1998	.07	33,357	0	3,572	36,929
1999	.07	35,914	0	0	35,914
2000	.07	65,266	0	0	65,266
2001	.20	56,325	0	0	56,325
2002	.23	63,630	0	0	63,630
2003	.23	77,932	0	6,334	84,266
2004*	.23	82,173	0	0	82,173

\* Budgeted amounts.

**REVENUE**

Blaine’s total parks and recreation revenue increased, reflecting a relatively constant source of revenue and a planned improvement program for utilities and general governmental services. In 1999, however, the gambling tax was rescinded, reducing the amount of money created from this source of revenue.

**Table 5-3  
 Past Parks and Recreation Revenue Received by Funding Source**

Year	001	110	103	410	300	104	Total
1994	9,250	0	0	2,500	0	858	12,608
1995	9,250	0	0	2,500	0	938	12,688
1996	15,000	5,287	0	2,500	0	544	23,331
1997	23,700	5,287	0	2,500	0	276	31,763
1998	33,463	0	0	2,500	0	408	36,371
1999	41,165	0	0	2,500	0	1,710	45,375
2000	67,223	0	0	2,500	0	1,353	71,076
2001	36,110	0	0	2,500	0	2,445	41,055
2002	60,000	0	0	2,500	0	1,108	63,608
2003	77,397	0	0	2,500	0	562	80,459
2004	65,661	0	0	2,500	0	300	68,461

**Funding Descriptions**

- Fund 001 - general fund
- Fund 103 - park impact fund
- Fund 104 - parks fund
- Fund 110 - hotel/motel fund
- Fund 410 - water funding
- Fund 300 - real estate excise tax (1/4 %)
- Fund 308 - real estate excise tax (1/4 %)

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## **FUTURE EXPENDITURE/REVENUE SUMMARY**

See **City of Blaine Park and Recreation Expenditure and Revenue Projections – 2005 to 2010**.

## **FUNDING IMPLICATIONS**

Blaine has developed a good parks, recreation, and open space inventory using land and monetary donations, grants, volunteer efforts, project development mitigation, and a healthy allocation of property tax derived from general funds. However, these sources will not continue to yield enough money to meet the demand for future parks, open space and trail acquisition and development maintenance requirements. In addition, in light of the 1.0 percent statutory limit on local property tax yield's effect on discretionary funding in general, Blaine can no longer depend entirely on traditional revenue sources as a means of funding capital improvement projects.

Below, under the Parks and Recreation Revenue Sources section, is a list of potential funding sources. Staff, the Parks and Cemetery Board and the City Council will need to actively seek additional sources of funding from the pool of funding options contained in the appendix, if the City of Blaine is going to meet community demand for parks, recreation, and open space.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION REVENUE SOURCES**

### **Existing Revenue Sources - General Government**

#### **City General Fund**

General City funds allocated to the parks budget. A significant amount of the Department's budget comes from this source.

#### **Park Impact Fees**

Development fees are imposed by the City for parks land acquisition and development. Fees charged to the developer are based on a set amount per residential unit.

Blaine recently developed and adopted a growth impact fee provision in accordance with the recently enacted Washington State GMA. The park impact fee is applied to all proposed residential developments within the Blaine corporate limits by the City as a means of maintaining existing parks, recreation, and open space levels-of-service (LOS). The ordinance estimates the impact each development project has on parks, recreation, and open space facilities within the project's local service zone, and makes provisions for setting aside the resources, including lands or monies, necessary to offset the project's local or neighborhood community or regional facility impacts.

The dollar value of the project's parks, recreation, and open space impact can be offset by the project developer of an amount equal to the combined facility acquisition and development costs that Blaine and/or another providing agency would incur to maintain the same existing level-of-service (LOS).

A developer is allowed to choose any combination of land or cash mitigation measures including credit for any parks or recreation facilities to be included within the project development. The ordinance considers the following when determining the types of mitigation measures or development credits that could be made available to the developer:

Will the facility be available to the public?

Is a designated owner responsible for continuing operation and maintenance (the owner may be a common property owner's association, school district or other agency)?

Does it correspond to and not exceed or vary from the types of parks, recreation, and open space facilities that are being impacted (a developer could provide but should not be able to take full credit value for facilities for which there is no shortage, impact or local interest)?

Land contributions can be accepted in lieu of monies if the lands would be suitable sites for future facilities. Land and monies accumulated under the proposed ordinance must be invested within a reasonable time of impact assessment or be returned to the contributing developer.

### **Other Potential Revenue Sources**

#### **General Levy Rate Referendums**

The 1.0 percent statutory limitation could be waived by referendum approval of a majority of Blaine registered voters. However, referendums are time consuming, expensive and difficult to communicate, especially when General Fund issues are complex, somewhat statistical and abstract. The new rate would be subject to the same 1.0 percent limitation and would continue to decline during periods of rapidly increasing property value.

#### **Special Legislation**

Local government representatives can seek state enabling legislation authorizing new or special revenue sources. Senate Bill 5972 (RCW 82.46) is an example of one possible legislative solution. The 1982 bill gave city governments the option of adding an additional 0.0025 percent increment to the real estate excise tax (REET) for the sole purpose of financing local capital improvement projects including parks, utilities and other infrastructure except governmental buildings. The City of Blaine currently collects the REET tax and uses it for their commercial loan program.

Like bonds, Senate Bill 5972 funds may not be used to finance operation and maintenance requirements.

#### **Unlimited General Obligation Bonds**

Blaine may come to depend on voter referendums as a means of financing a larger portion of the capital improvement program, since unlimited obligation bonds are not paid from the property tax subject to the 1.0 percent limitation.

Voter approved capital improvements may be more representative of actual resident priorities than some other methods of validating capital expenditures, and will at the least, ensure referendum submittals provide widespread benefits.

#### **User Fees and Charges**

Blaine may elect to use an increasing array of special user fees, charges, and special assessments to pay facility operating and maintenance capital requirements. The user fee approach may be difficult to impose on facilities that don't have readily identifiable or chargeable users, like some passive parks or trail systems. The approach may be very responsive, however, for facilities and services that have an identifiable user group receiving a direct proportional benefit for the charge.

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### **Special Revenue Funds**

A number of special revenue generating devices may be employed to create funds for parks, recreation, and open space developments in Blaine. Special revenue accounts include the proceeds (other than special assessments) or the finances of specified activities related to parks, recreation, and open space development as required by law or administration regulations. For example,

Paths and Trails Reserve - was established under State of Washington RCW 47.30 to provide for the establishment and maintenance of paths and trails within the right-of-way of county roads. The reserve is funded by 0.005 percent of the gas tax revenue collected within Blaine on an annual basis.

Special revenue funds can create a source of dedicated financing for specific activity or local area improvements. Generally, however, the reserves will not create the magnitude of funds necessary to implement facility projects of a scale needed throughout Blaine. The concept must be employed on a wider scale, or the concept needs to be supplemented by other financing devices if Blaine needs are to be satisfied.

### **GRANTS**

#### **LWCF:**

Grants distributed for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Grants pay 50 percent of the cost of acquisition and development. The program is administered locally by the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC)

#### **Department of Ecology:**

Grants from the Coastal Zone Management Account. Grants pay 50 percent and are primarily used for shoreline acquisition and public access.

#### **Aquatic Land Enhancement Fund:**

This program, funded by the State Department of Natural Resources, will finance up to \$80,000 for acquisition and development of waterfront parks, public access sites and environmental protection.

#### **Federal parks, recreation, and open space project grants:**

Federal monies are available for the construction of outdoor parks facilities from the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The IAC administers the grants.

#### **NPS (National Park Service) grants:**

Usually do not exceed \$150,000 per project and must be matched on an equal basis by the local jurisdiction. The IAC assigns each project application a priority on a competitive statewide basis according to each jurisdiction's need, population benefit, natural resource enhancements and a number of other factors. In the past few years, project awards have become extremely competitive as the federal government has significantly reduced the amount of federal monies available through the NPS program. The state increased contributions to the program over the last few years using a variety of

---

special funds, but the overall program could be severely affected by pending federal deficit cutting legislation.

Applicants must submit a detailed comprehensive parks, recreation, and open space plan to be eligible for NPS funding. The jurisdiction's plan must demonstrate facility need, and prove that the jurisdiction's project proposal will adequately satisfy local parks, recreation, and open space needs and interests. Due to diminished funding, however, IAC grants have not been a significant source of project monies for city or other local jurisdictions in recent years.

TEA21 (Transportation Enhancement Act) grants:

Can be used to finance on and off-road non-motorized trail enhancements along major and minor arterial collectors roads or sometimes, within separate trail corridors. The program was adopted in 1993 and is administered by the IAC on behalf of the US Department of Transportation.

**Washington State Project Grants**

Washington State created a number of new programs in recent years for parks, recreation, and open space purposes using special state revenue programs. Recently enacted programs include the:

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA) - Initiated on a trial basis in 1985, and since renewed and expanded, uses revenues obtained by the Washington Department of Natural Resources from the lease of state-owned tidal lands. The ALEA program is administered by the IAC for the development of shoreline related trail improvements and may be applied for the full cost of the proposal.

Referendum 39 - A Department of Ecology-administered water quality program provides grants for up to 75 percent of the cost of water quality/fish enhancement studies. Referendum 39 monies can be applied to park developments that propose to restore, construct or otherwise enhance fish producing streams, ponds or other water bodies.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission - Initiated a program that may be used for watercraft sanitary pump-out facilities. The Port of Bellingham used a grant to provide water and sewer services to the moorage slips in Blaine Harbor.

**User Fees and Charges**

Blaine may charge user fees and use the proceeds to purchase land, develop, operate, and maintain facilities where all costs are reimbursed by the revenue obtained. User fees could finance facilities whose profit margins are too low to sustain commercial operations or whose benefiting user group may extend beyond city boundaries. Essentially, Blaine could become a facility developer/operator providing whatever facilities or services the market will support from user revenue.

However, user fee administration, management and collection costs can also be significant, consuming from 25 to 75 percent of the gross proceeds for facilities that have low user volumes, turnover or fee charges. Conversely, user fee charges may be relatively easy and efficient to collect on facilities that have very high user volumes, turnover or fee charges, or are relatively

---

easy to administer. High volume activities, in fact, may generate revenue sufficient to pay all facility operating and maintenance costs with some revenue surplus.

User fees and charges should be explored as one possible method of obtaining operational monies from facility users who most directly benefit and who may be most willing to pay for an activity facility and program.

Blaine could charge fees for admission into recreational programs, such as youth athletic leagues, or the use of recreational facilities, such as indoor facilities like the Community Center, and burial services at the cemetery.

### **Special Use Agreements**

Special property agreements can often be used instead of property purchases to secure public use rights for land or property at no cost or a nominal fee, particularly where the possible public use is of benefit to the private landowner. Some forms of special use agreements can provide favorable tax benefits if the use agreement can be shown to have an assigned value.

Blaine could expand the use agreement concept to include complete development, operation or maintenance responsibilities, as in the possible development of a multipurpose trail corridor under the power lines parallel to I-5. Package lease agreements may provide more effectively maintained facilities than is possible where Blaine must staff specialized, small work crews.

Sometimes package lease agreements covering use and maintenance aspects may be the only way of resolving an equitable agreement with the private ownership.

### **Public/private Service Contracts**

Private market skills and capital may be employed in a variety of ways, including the use of public/private services contracts where a private party can be contracted to operate and maintain a facility for a fixed fee cost. Service contracts can be very efficient where the activities are small, scattered in location, seasonal, expert or experimental. Service contracts are also relatively easy to initiate or terminate if area demand fails to provide sufficient use or revenue to justify continued operation.

Service contracts may be very flexible and include agreements with school districts, local user groups or commercial operators who would be interested in sustaining the activity on a subsidized, sweat-equity or loss-leader basis in exchange for the facility.

### **Public/private Concessions**

Blaine could lease a portion of a site or facility to a private party in exchange for a fixed fee or a percentage of gross receipts. The private operator assumes operation and maintenance responsibilities and costs in exchange for a profit. Blaine's portion of the profits may be used to pay facility development costs at the same or for similar facility developments.

Concessions can save Blaine considerable monies where the activities are specialized, seasonal, experimental or unproven. Concessions can be easily initiated, provide direct user benefit/cost reimbursements, and relieve Blaine of a capital risk should market or user interest fail to materialize to at least break-even levels.

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Concessionaires could operate a wide variety of facilities, including kayak and other boat rentals at waterfront sites and bicycle rentals along proposed multipurpose trail corridors.

**Public/private Joint Development Ventures**

Blaine can enter into an agreement with a private or public developer to jointly own or lease land for an extended period of time to allow development, operation, and maintenance of a major recreational facility or activity in exchange for a fixed lease cost or a percentage of gross receipts.

The developer assumes development, operation, and maintenance responsibilities, cost, and all market risks in exchange for a market opportunity providing a profitable return not otherwise available. Blaine realizes the development of a facility that may not be realized otherwise in exchange for a low minimum capital return and no or very little capital risk.

Joint development agreements represent an ultimate benefit/cost resolution providing public revenue that Blaine could use for other development opportunities. Examples include the possible joint development on City lands of indoor swimming pools, tennis courts, physical conditioning centers, and child care facilities, among others.

**Self-help Land Leases**

There are instances where an activity is so specialized in appeal or of a service area so broad in scope that it cannot be equitably financed using general public funds. Specialized user groups should be provided options for developing or maintaining facilities in ways accounting for equitable public cost reimbursements. Examples include the use of land leases where Blaine may lease land at low or no cost to a user group or club who assumes responsibility for the development, operation, and maintenance of the facility. The club could provide volunteer help or use club finances to develop, operate, and maintain the facility as a means of meeting user benefit/cost objectives.

Land lease agreements could accommodate organized athletics like soccer, baseball, football, softball, and rugby, or very specialized facilities like skateboard parks, among others.

**Self-help Contract Agreements**

Blaine can purchase land, develop, operate, and maintain a specialized facility under a negotiated contract agreement where a special interest group agrees to defray all costs in addition to or in lieu of a user fee as a means of meeting user benefit/cost objectives. The agreements can be quite flexible and could contract Blaine, the user group, another public agency or a private operator to be developer/operator.

Contract agreements may accommodate a range of more expensive, special purpose facility developments including high quality athletic competition facilities for league organizations or schools, and specialized facility developments when and where the user organization can provide financial commitments.

Blaine will conduct periodic program reviews with residents, user groups, the school district, and other agencies to decide the most efficient and representative way of delivering the facilities mitigated by the ordinance. Alternative delivery methods may include:

---

Acquisition of suitable sites - in conjunction with other public or school facilities including title transfer if other public or school agencies enter into special agreements assuming development, operation, and maintenance responsibilities and costs,

Development of facilities - on other public or school sites if other public or school agencies enter into agreements, assuming future operation and maintenance responsibilities and costs, or

Any other alternative - including development, operation or maintenance proposals by user groups or private concessionaires or developers that provide a viable facility in accordance with the parks, recreation, and open space strategies outlined.

### **Interlocal Agreements**

Blaine should also work with Whatcom County to determine an equitable means whereby growth mitigation park impact fees can be collected for residential developments occurring within the UGA outside of existing city limits, within the area the City eventually expects to annex.

A joint growth impact fee should be collected where the County and City maintain the same local and regional or citywide level-of-service (LOS) presently existing within the incorporated (city) and unincorporated (county) sections, and for the UGA in total. A common fee could be collected by each agency, then shared on a project-by-project basis for improvements benefiting local neighborhoods (and potential residents of proposed subdivisions) or residents of the community and UGA at large.

Blaine should also work with the Blaine School District to cooperatively finance common facility improvements, possibly using co-located school and park sites, commonly improved and scheduled fields and facilities.

It is to Blaine's advantage to assist Whatcom County and the Blaine School District with the development and operation of common facilities since these facilities serve residents of the urban growth area.

In return, however, Whatcom County and the Blaine School District must determine some equitable means whereby the City, County, and School District perform or reimburse each other for some of the added facility maintenance and operational impacts that users from the urban growth area create on each agency's facilities.

### **Volunteer Efforts and Donations**

Volunteers can be quite effective in terms of contributing cash, materials, or labor. Playground and picnic shelters are often developed in this manner.

Appendix I  
City of Blaine Parks & Recreation – Map Folio



8-23-2004

# Blaine Map Folio: Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreational Facilities

<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>Community Parks</b>	
Existing Community Parks	2
Marine Park	3-6
Lincoln Park	7,8
Skallman Park	9,10
Future Community Parks	11
Dakota Creek Shoreline Park	12-13
East Blaine Conservancy Park	14-15
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	
Existing Neighborhood Parks	16
Montfort Park	17,18
Salishan Park	19,20
Kilmer Park	21,22
Future Neighborhood Parks	23
10 <sup>th</sup> Street right of way	24,25
7 <sup>th</sup> Street right of way	26,27
Steen Street road end	28,29
Clyde Street area	30,31
Lincoln Park Frontage	32,33
E Street/Jerome Street/Harvey Road area	34,35
<b>Shoreline Use/View Areas</b>	
Existing Shoreline Use/View Areas	36
Marine Park (see Community Parks)	3-6
Lester Park	37,38
H Street road end	39,40
Martin Street road end	41,42

Clark Street road end	43,44
Marina Boat Launch Area	45
Tidelands	46
Future Shoreline Use/View Areas	47
Blaine Boardwalk	48,49
Boblett Street road end	50,51
Cherry Street road end	52,53
4 <sup>th</sup> Street Harbor Viewing Area	54,55
Ruby & Pearl Street road ends	56,57
Runge Avenue right of way	58,59
Dakota Creek Shoreline Park (see Community Parks)	12,13

**Blaine Recreational Facilities**

Existing Recreational Facilities	60
7 <sup>th</sup> Street Community Garden	61
Community/Senior Center	61
Airport	62
Library	62
Future Recreational Facilities	63
Blaine Boardwalk (see Shoreline Use/View Areas)	48,49
Blaine's W harf B oardw alk	63
Skateboard Park	63
Community Swimming Pool	63
Dakota Maritime History Center	63
Birding Shelters	64

**Other Parks and Facilities in or near Blaine**

Blaine Marina	65
Motor Vessel Plover	65
Blaine School District	65
Blaine schools and Athletic Fields	65
Semiahmoo County Park	65

Port of Bellingham Recreational Facilities	65
Peace Arch State Park	65
Other Public & Non-profit Agencies	65
Private Facilities	65

### **Trails**

Existing Trails	66
Semiahmoo Shoreline Trail Corridor	66
Coast Millennium Trail	66
Lincoln Park Trail	66
Future Trails	66
The “Northwest Necklace” Trail Loop	66
Boardwalk to Pedestrian Pier Trail Loop	66
Drayton Harbor Bluff Trail	66
Peace Portal Bike Lane Trail	66
The Plover Foot Ferry	66
Marine Boardwalk Loop	66
Cain Creek Greenway Trail	66
East Blaine Conservancy Park Loop	66

### **Open Space & Conservancy Lands**

Significant Open Space Areas	67
Existing Designated Lands	
Semiahmoo Bay Marine Park Protection Area	68
Drayton Harbor Protection Area	69
Future Designated Lands	
Clyde Street Area Conservancy Area	70
Cain Creek Conservancy Area	71
East Blaine Conservancy Park	72
Category 1 & 2 Wetlands	73
Significant Forested Areas	74
Heritage Trees	75

# Introduction:

## Inventory of Existing Parks, Trails, and Recreational Facilities Systems

The Parks and Recreational Program for the City of Blaine, consisting of 179.6 acres of land, has been carefully assembled over the last 98 years. Constructed of State, County, and City owned land, including the Blaine School District, Library, and Community Center, the Parks and Recreation Program continues to evolve and grow.

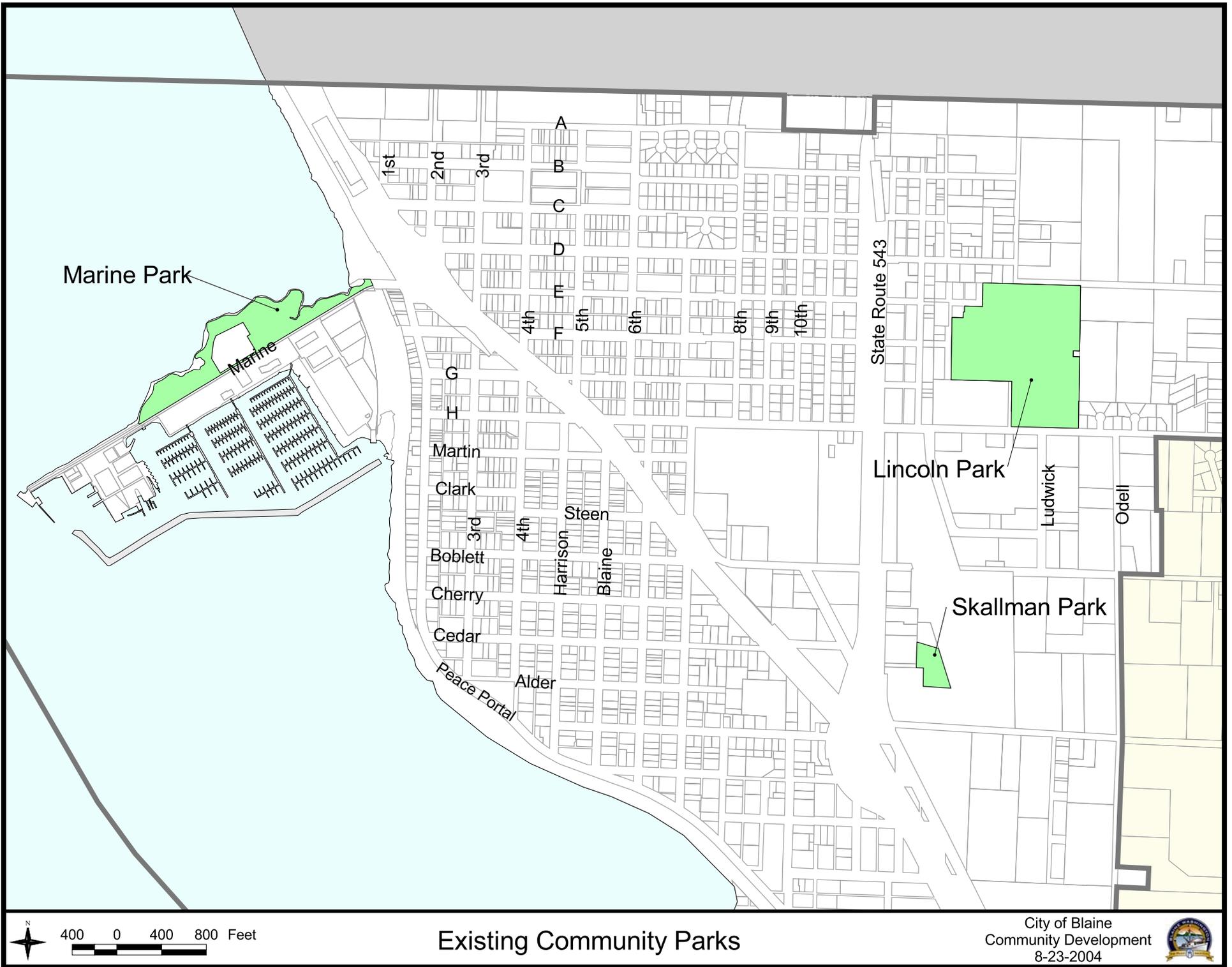


These lands provide the community and visitors of Blaine a variety of uses, such as trails for biking and hiking, wildlife conservancies, bird watching shelters, picnic areas, boat rides, athletic fields and playgrounds, while maintaining natural areas to keep Blaine beautiful.



Blaine is growing, and as it does, the Parks and Recreation Program needs to grow with it. This folio was designed to complement the Parks and Recreation Plan adopted in 2004. It outlines existing infrastructure while targeting areas for expansion.





Marine Park

Marine

State Route 543

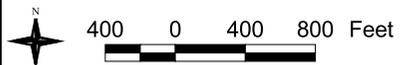
Lincoln Park

Ludwick

Odell

Skallman Park

Existing Community Parks



# Existing Community Park: Marine Park

## **Description:**

Marine Park is a passively developed park with marine shoreline upland features. The adjacent tide flats are home to many species of birds and are usually filled with large flocks of various types. The park contains several parking areas along Marine Drive, maintained lawns, walkways (gravel and asphalt), four picnic shelters, benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, informative signage, several flag poles, a bluff-top picnic area, amphitheater, entry sign/salmon wall art piece, large totem pole, telescope, Orca whale sculptures and large open-air deck. At the western edge of the park is the city sewage pumping facility. Portions of the park are natural open space including a fallow field/seasonal wet-meadow, berm, the shoreline upland interface, and Cain Creek outfall area. A fallow field designated by the city as community space covers approximately 2.5 acres of upland. The upland area is primarily open with only a few trees and low shrubs, giving the entire park a sense of openness resulting in excellent views of Semiahmoo Bay, the Peace Arch, City of White Rock, Point Roberts, and on a clear day, Vancouver Island and the San Juan and Gulf Islands.

## **History:**

In the beginning, sawmills dominated this area, but as they moved inland with the forest edge, the canneries became the primary reason for constructing Marine Drive. Because they did not remove the pilings that have since rotted or settled, bumpy portions of Marine Drive were created. Marine Park was originally the site of the Morrison Mill. After the mill closed, it became the city dump. The oldest part of the dump was located where the old sewage treatment plant is. The dump expanded eastward to the edge of Cain Creek. On the north side of the terminus dock, a pile of scrap metal from the old canneries can be found rusting away, creating a solid mound of tin.

Around the time I-5 was being built, a 25 foot wide berm was created around the dump because the City of White Rock complained of garbage floating their way. Clay removed from between H and D streets where the freeway runs is the primary component of this berm. The dump was filled with gravel and dirt to neaten its appearance. In the 1960s, a storm carried away the fill at the end of Marine Drive. It was decided to barge rock in from Lummi Island to fill in the areas washed away. The fill process was repeated after a storm in December 2001 washed away more of the fill.

Many of the existing structures are located on the clay berm while the salmon wall and auditorium are located on the portion of the park consisting of fill. There is a totem pole that was raised in 1995, and was initiated by a local teacher named Phil Claymore. Mr. Claymore was an enthusiastic marine biology instructor who spent many hours sharing his knowledge with his students on the beaches of Marine Park.

## **Current Condition:**

All of the benches are in good condition and appear relatively new. The five picnic tables near the totem pole are in usable condition but need repair. The fence is in good condition overall, but there are a few fence posts that need replacing. The four picnic shelters need maintenance. The public restrooms are in good condition. The parking areas are gravel and could be developed to increase parking capacity, but are usually adequate.

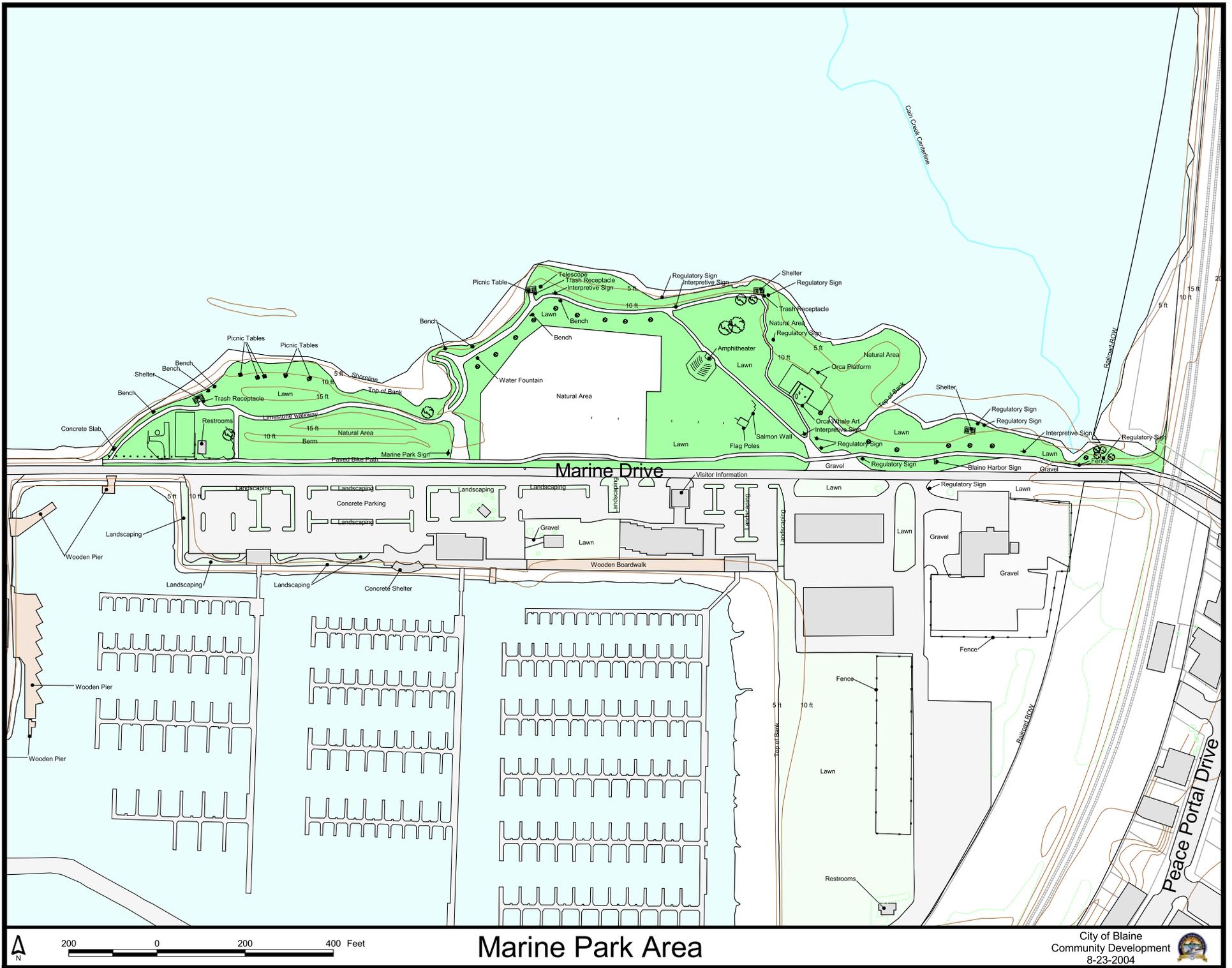
## **Information:**

Located on the north side of Marine Drive and adjacent to Semiahmoo Bay.  
Designation: Community Park  
Owner: City of Blaine  
Size: 8.6 acres  
Used By: Citywide/ Tourists  
Frequency of Use: Very Frequent  
Parcel #:  
4151363351600000



# Marine Park Area





Marine Drive

Peace Portal Drive



Marine Park Area



# Marine Park



# Existing Community Park: Lincoln Park

## Description:

Lincoln Park is the largest City owned park in Blaine. It was designated as a natural park and contains a heavy growth of various types of trees with dense undergrowth. The park contains a developed trail system with a wide range of trail types, as well as picnic tables, a picnic shelter, a pond, and a small seasonal stream. The City's water storage tank is located in the center of the park with two pumping stations as well.



## History:

In 1906, the first Park in the City of Blaine was acquired from Thomas Bunbury on a tax sale. A large open-air pavilion was constructed on the site in 1908 from donated labor. An article from a local newspaper in 1908 stated, "This willingness to devote time and money toward park improvements is resulting in considerable publicity for Blaine – many newspapers are commenting upon the public spirit shown by Blaine."

## Current Condition:

The park overall is in adequate condition. The main trails are maintained and a less maintained trail exists on the eastern edge of the park. The picnic shelter needs a little maintenance due to the fact that it is surrounded by large trees, and does not dry out easily. The pond is in poor condition and has turned into a shallow wetland with a seasonal stream. Restoration could greatly enhance wetlands functionality. The frontage of the park is not well utilized.

## Information:

Located on the eastern boundary of Blaine's City limits, between H Street and D Street.

Designation: Community Park

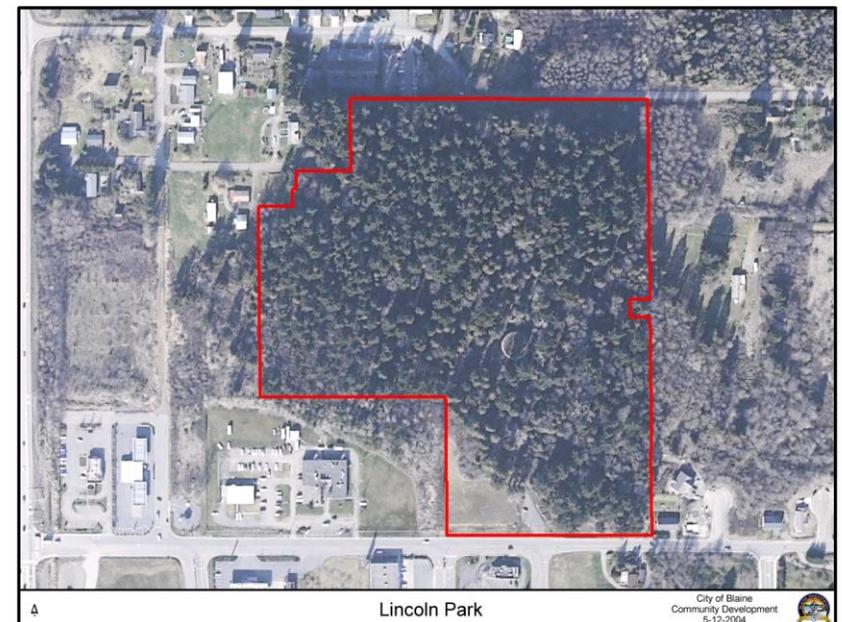
Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 27.0 acres

Used By: Citywide

Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

Parcel #: 4101315130900000





# Lincoln Park



# Existing Community Park: Skallman Park

## Description:

Skallman Park is mostly undeveloped and has a large stand of cedar trees with a small fishing pond.



## Current Condition:

The pond is overgrown and in poor condition. The two picnic tables are inadequate and need maintenance.

## History:

This park was acquired from the airport in 1977 and once was a very active park with a high level of usage. It once contained two little league ball fields, nine picnic tables and barbecue bases, and a 12 foot deep children's fishing pond.



Skallman Park

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
5-12-2004

## Information:

Located at the southern end of a 42-acre parcel of city owned property, which includes the Blaine Airport and the City's maintenance shop.

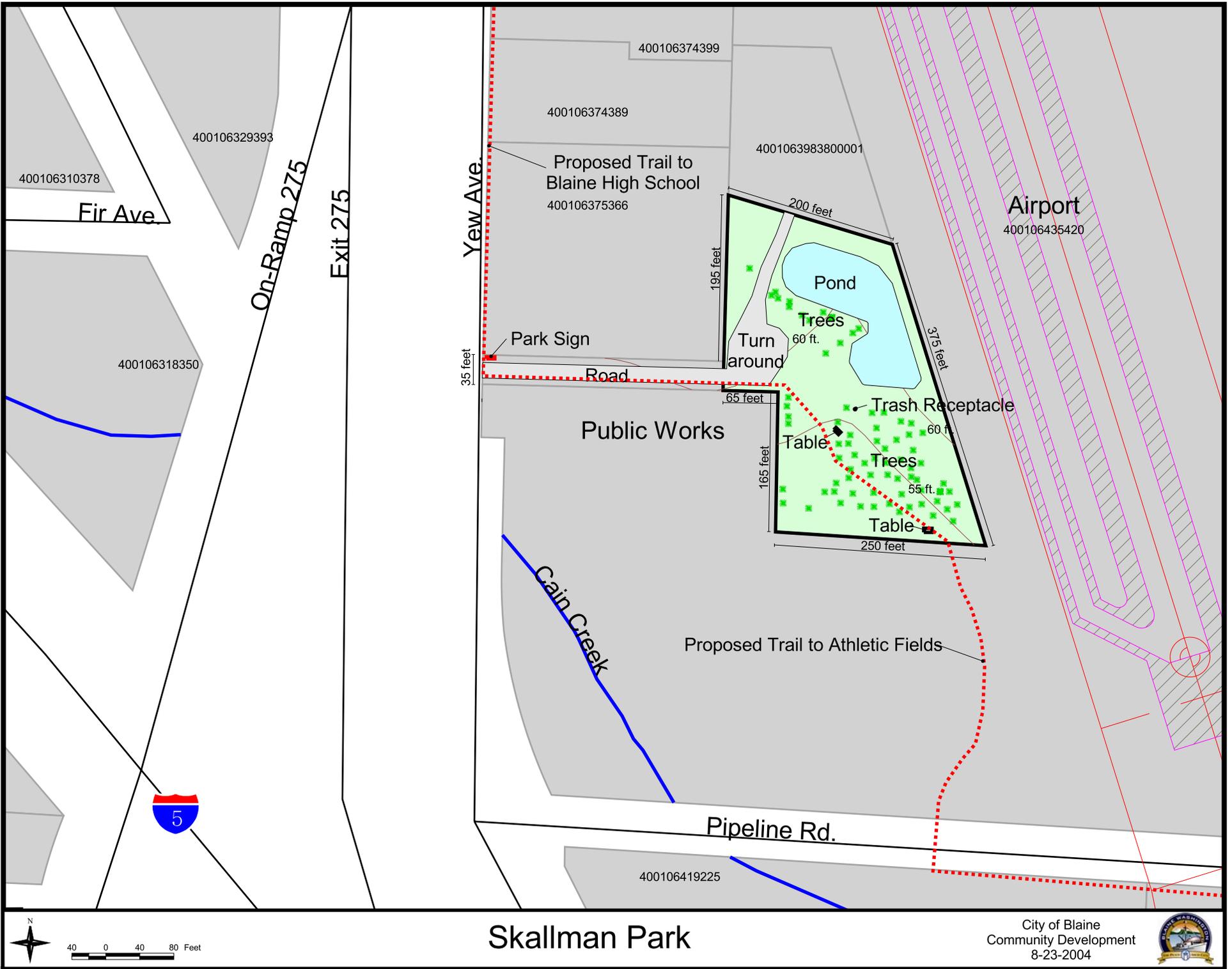
Designation: Part of the Airport property

Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 1.9 acres

Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

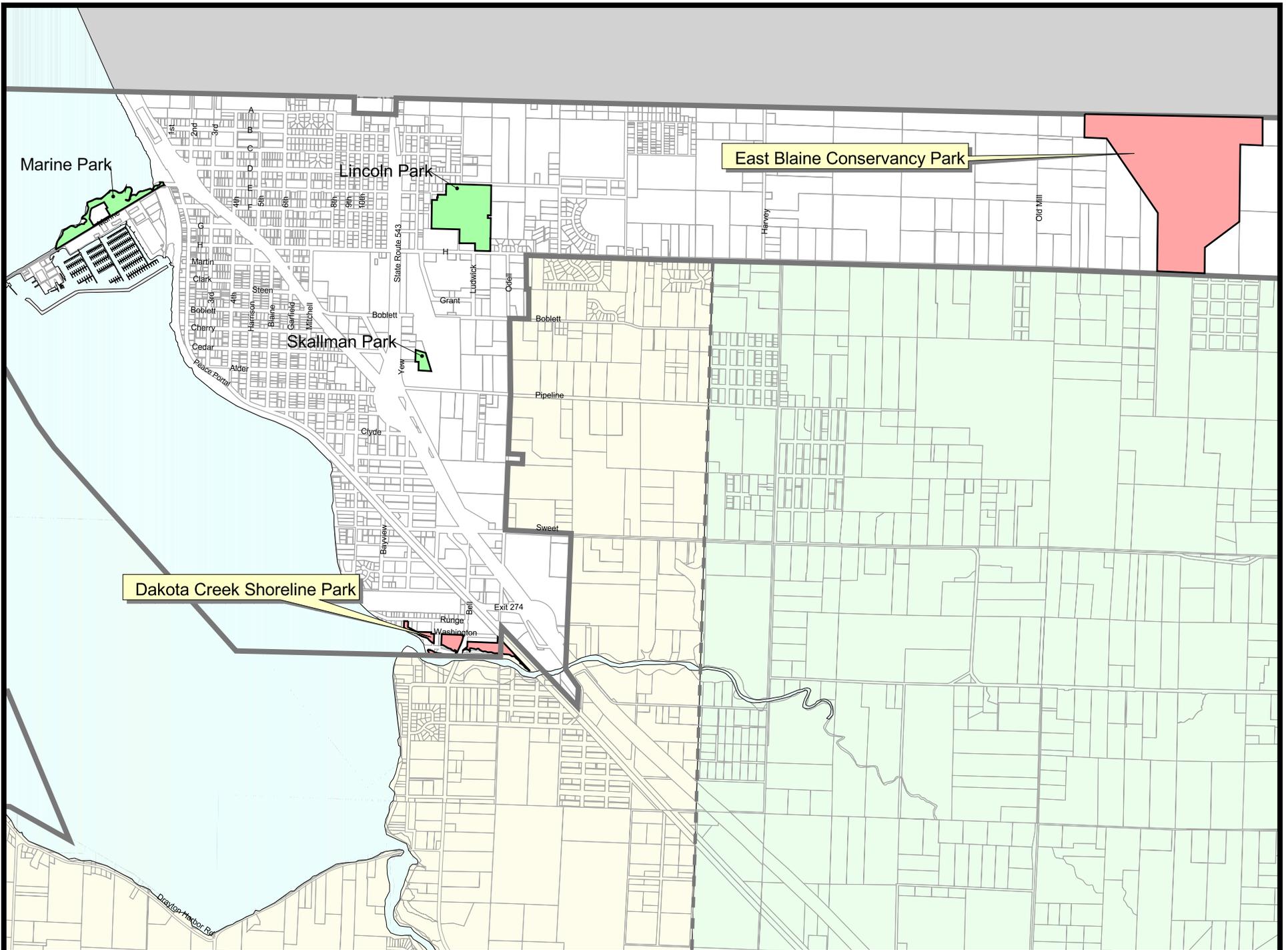
Parcel #: Same as Airport



# Skallman Park

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004





# Future Community Parks



# Future Community Park: Dakota Creek Shoreline Park

## Description:

This future park offers excellent access and tranquil views of Dakota Creek, a place rich with Blaine's history. A large stand of Douglas fir trees stretches along the northern edge of the creek, offering shade in the hot summer months. A small island exists in the creek, and a walkway has been constructed on the City's right of way. The island is in its natural state and offers a truly unique opportunity to experience the creek up close.

## Current Condition:

The City of Blaine already owns just over 12,000 square feet of land on the north side of the creek, some of which is below the uplands boundary, but is dry in the summer. Additionally, just over 3.8 acres of right of way could be designated parklands, creating a community park on the largest creek within city limits. Further more, if some private land could be acquired, Dakota Creek Shoreline Park could be a true gem for the City of Blaine, amassing up to 12 acres of beautiful waterfront property for the public to enjoy forever.



Dakota Creek Shoreline Park

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004

## History:

Dakota Creek is a major independent coastal tributary of Whatcom County, and therefore, has the history to go with it. This creek has a rich past in the harvesting of timber and salmon, two vital industries to City of Blaine in the early days.

## Information:

Located by the Bell Road and Washington Avenue intersection, on the north side of Dakota Creek overlooking the waterway.

Designation: Right of way

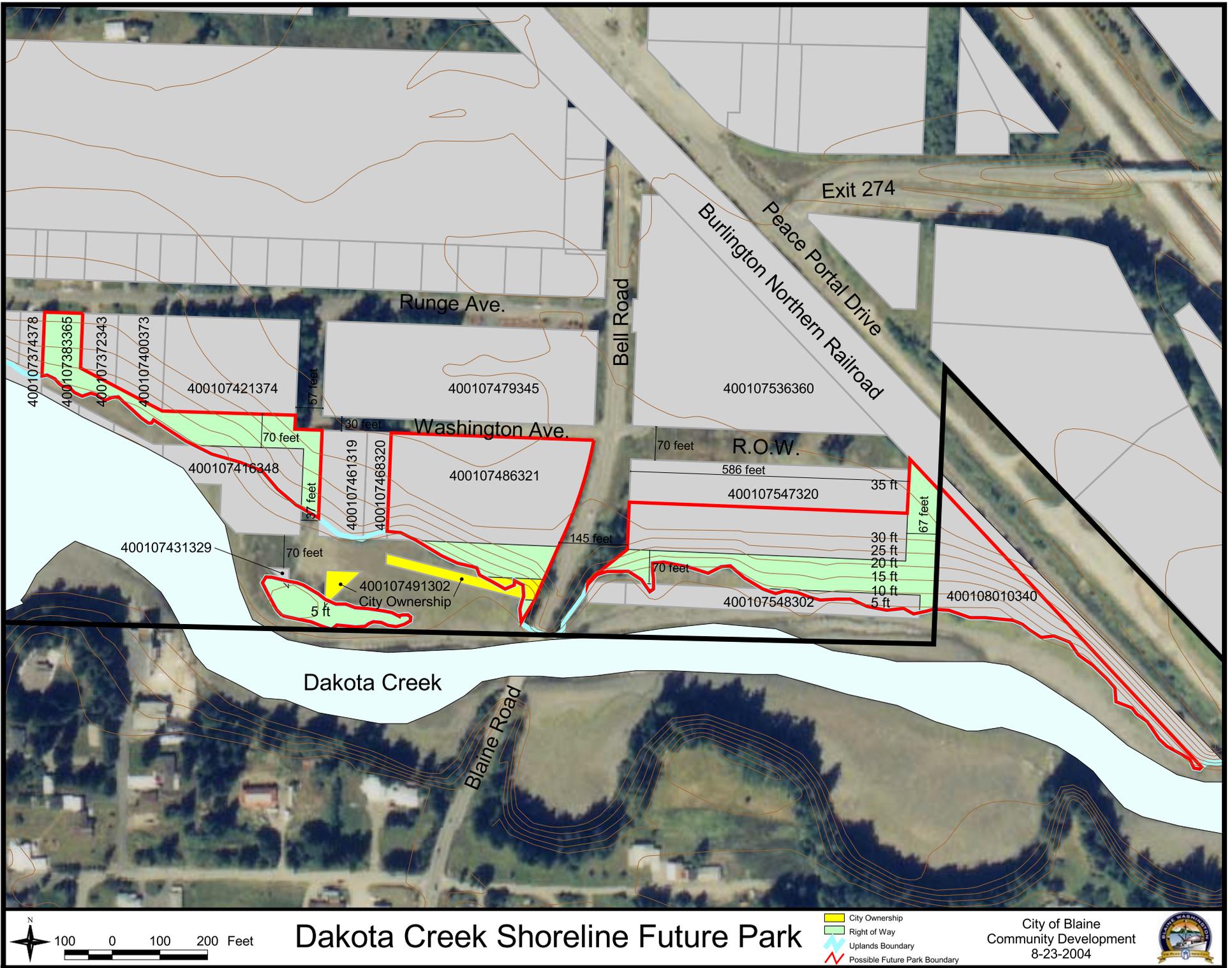
Owner: City of Blaine/ Street right of way/ private

Size: City Owned 0.28 acres/R.O.W. 3.8 acres/Private 8 acres/Total 12 acres.

Used By: Neighborhood

Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

Parcel #: N/A



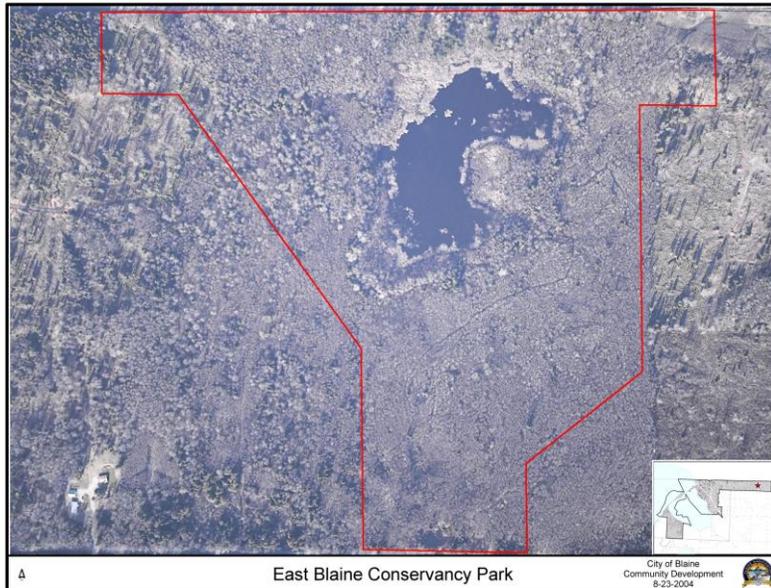
# Future Community Park: East Blaine Conservancy Park

## Description:

This future park and conservancy is the home of a category one wetland, which is the largest and most well-preserved wetland within the city limits. The surrounding area in its natural state has a flourishing ecosystem with an abundance of wildlife. These factors have created an opportunity for the City to provide an area lacking in parks of any kind, the largest natural park and trail system currently existing within city limits.

## Current Condition:

The land is undeveloped, except to the east of the wetland there has been substantial logging. While there are no known access roads or trails into the wetland, there are logging roads nearby that could provide a potential access point. A dense alder forest separates the logging area from the wetland.



## History:

The land was once a site for a future subdivision, but is now undeveloped with no immediate plans for construction. It is currently under private ownership.

## Information:

Located North of H street about 2 miles east of Odell road.

Designation: Private ownership

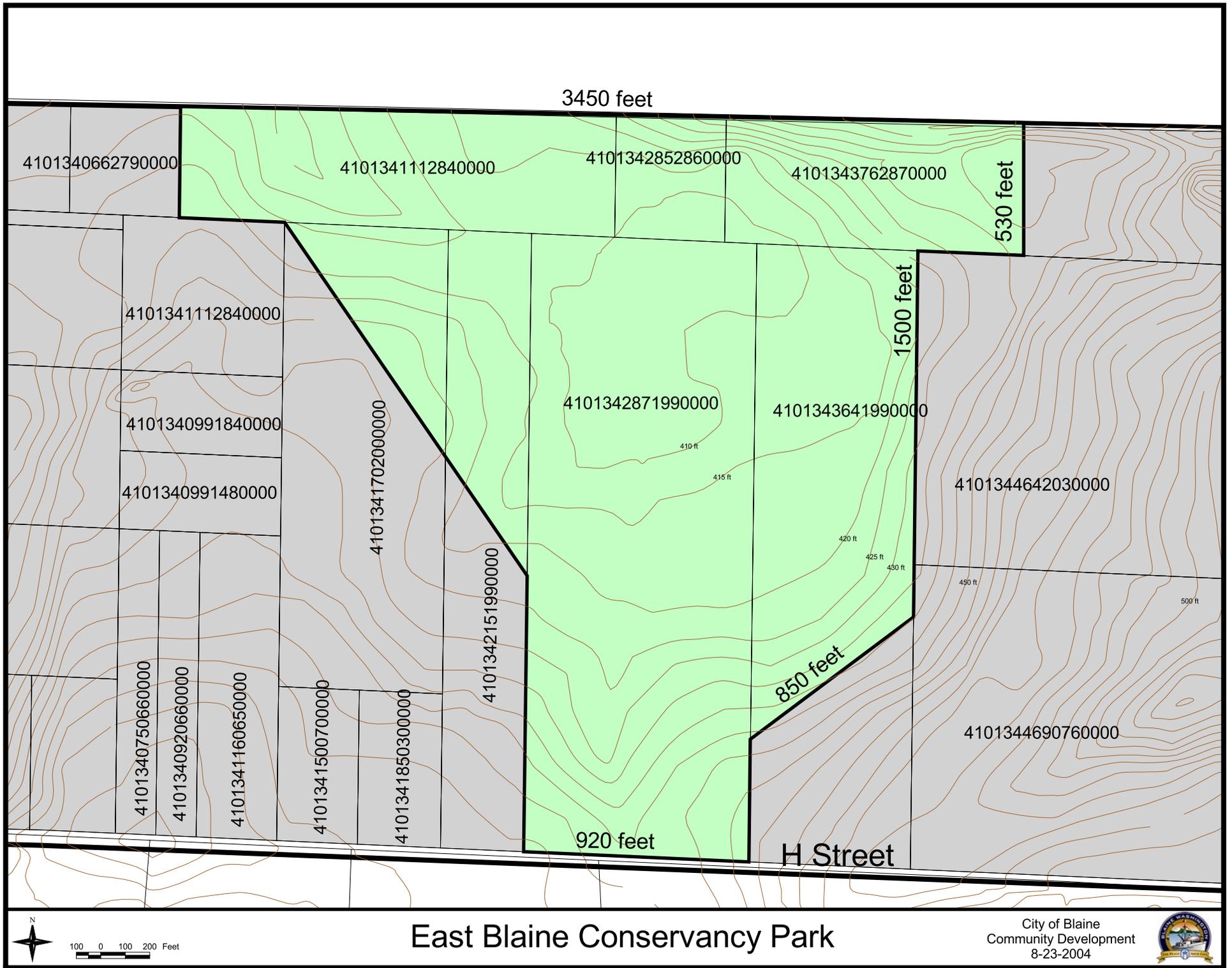
Owner: Keeting and Sons Inc.

Size: 135.9 acres

Used By: N/A

Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

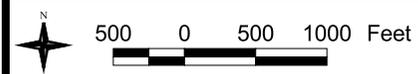
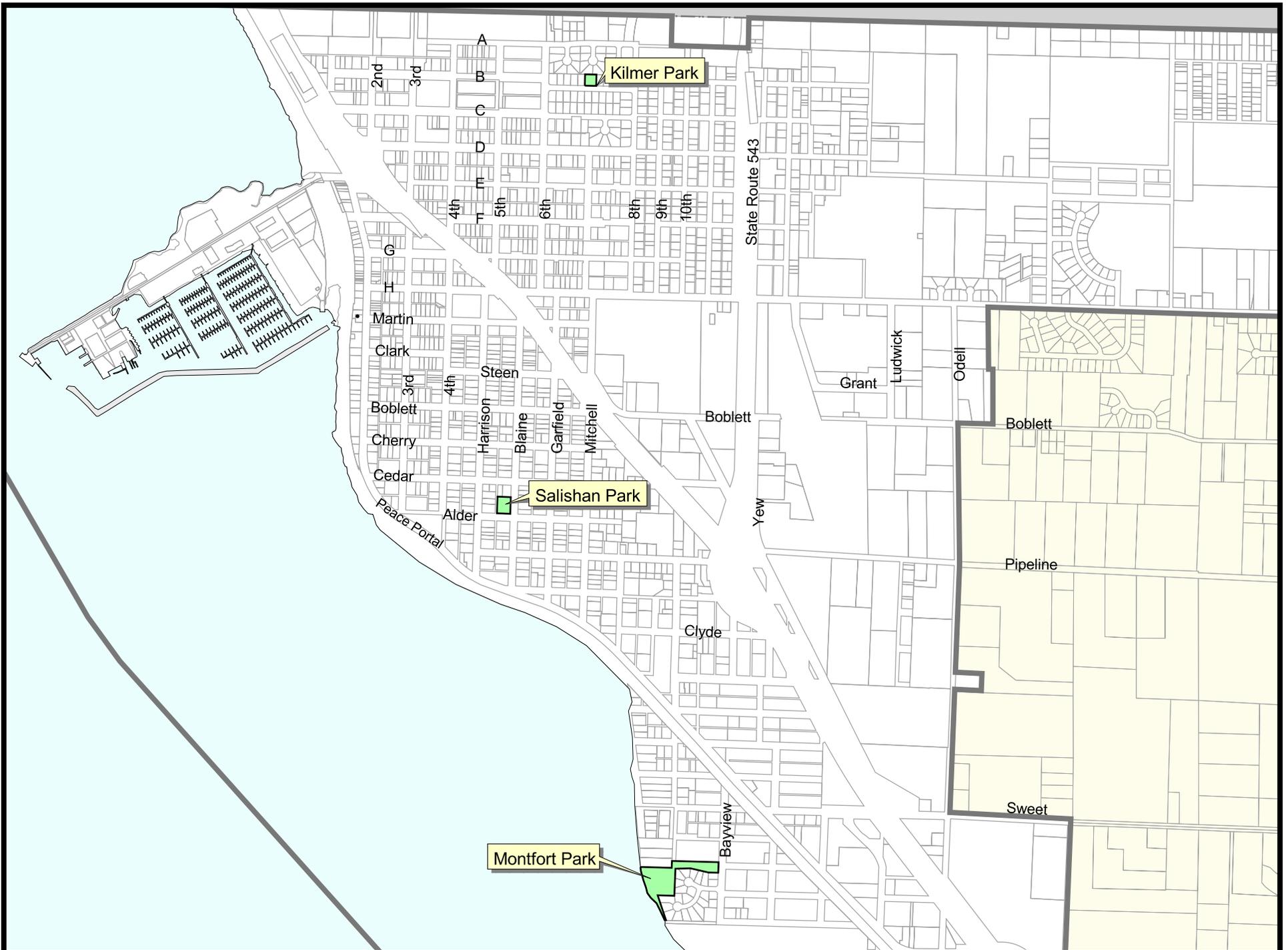
Parcel #: 410134111284, 410134285286, 410134376287, 410134287199, 410134364199



# East Blaine Conservancy Park

City of Blaine  
 Community Development  
 8-23-2004





### Existing Neighborhood Parks



# Existing Neighborhood Park: Montfort Park

## Description:

The Montfort family donated this park to the City. It has waterfront access, but this park needs improvement to be user friendly. Public awareness and access are limited, making Montfort a less popular park. The trails are overgrown in areas, one of the two park benches is unsafe, and the trashcan is inadequate.



## History:

On March 24, 1919, Mrs. Montfort granted the park to the City to leave a memorial for her late husband, Donald Montfort.

## Information:

Located on the east by Dodd Street and the west by Drayton Harbor.

Designation: Neighborhood Park

Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 2 acres with an additional 1.5 acres of right of way

Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

Parcel #: 4001072132260000





# Existing Neighborhood Park: Salishan Park

## Description:

The park contains a basketball hoop on a concrete slab, three picnic tables, five park benches, playground equipment that includes swings and a slide, and one sign identifying the park. There is also a large grassy area to the north for multiple uses.

## Current Condition:

The five benches are in good shape. Two of the picnic tables are in good shape, but one of the picnic tables is unsafe and needs to be repaired. The big play equipment is missing a few pieces and should be replaced. The swings are in good shape, but the seats might soon need replacing. The basketball court is in good shape but needs a 'free-throw' line as well as a 'three-point' line.



A

Salishan Park

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
5-12-2004

## History:

The first school in Blaine was built here in 1891, then sold in 1921. On June 19, 2003, Eden Matlewsky, a concerned citizen, addressed the Parks and Cemetery Board regarding the condition of the play equipment at Salishan Park. She stated that she has been working together with 'Funding Factory' and has started a recycling program to raise money for new play equipment.

## Information:

Located at the corner of Blaine Avenue and Alder Street.

Designation: Neighborhood Park

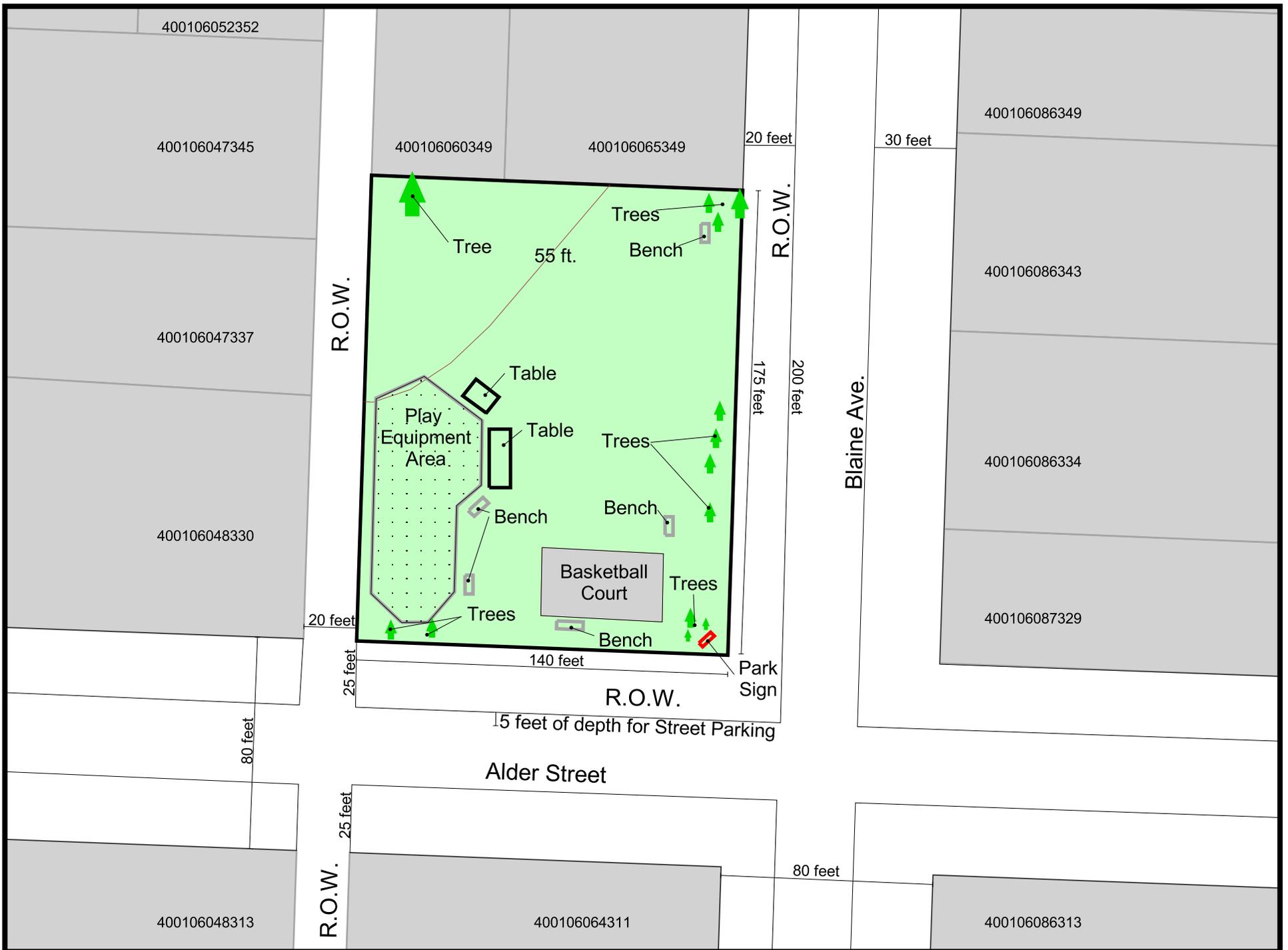
Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 0.57 acre

Used By: Salishan Neighborhood

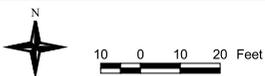
Frequency of Use: Frequent

Parcel #: 4001060633390000 & 4001060643300000



# Salishan Park

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004



# Existing Neighborhood Park: Kilmer Park

## Description:

The park contains playground equipment, two picnic tables, one bench, several trees, and a sign identifying the park.

## Current Condition:

One of the two picnic tables is inadequate and needs to be repaired. The playground equipment is falling apart and, with the bad design of the structure, it has become unsafe.

## History:

Before 1975, the land was vacant. Then an individual developed Peace Arch Plaza, a 70-lot subdivision, and in the process, constructed a Neighborhood Park to satisfy requirements.



## Information:

Located on B Street in the North end of Blaine.

Designation: Neighborhood Park

Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 0.33 acre

Used By: Neighborhood

Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

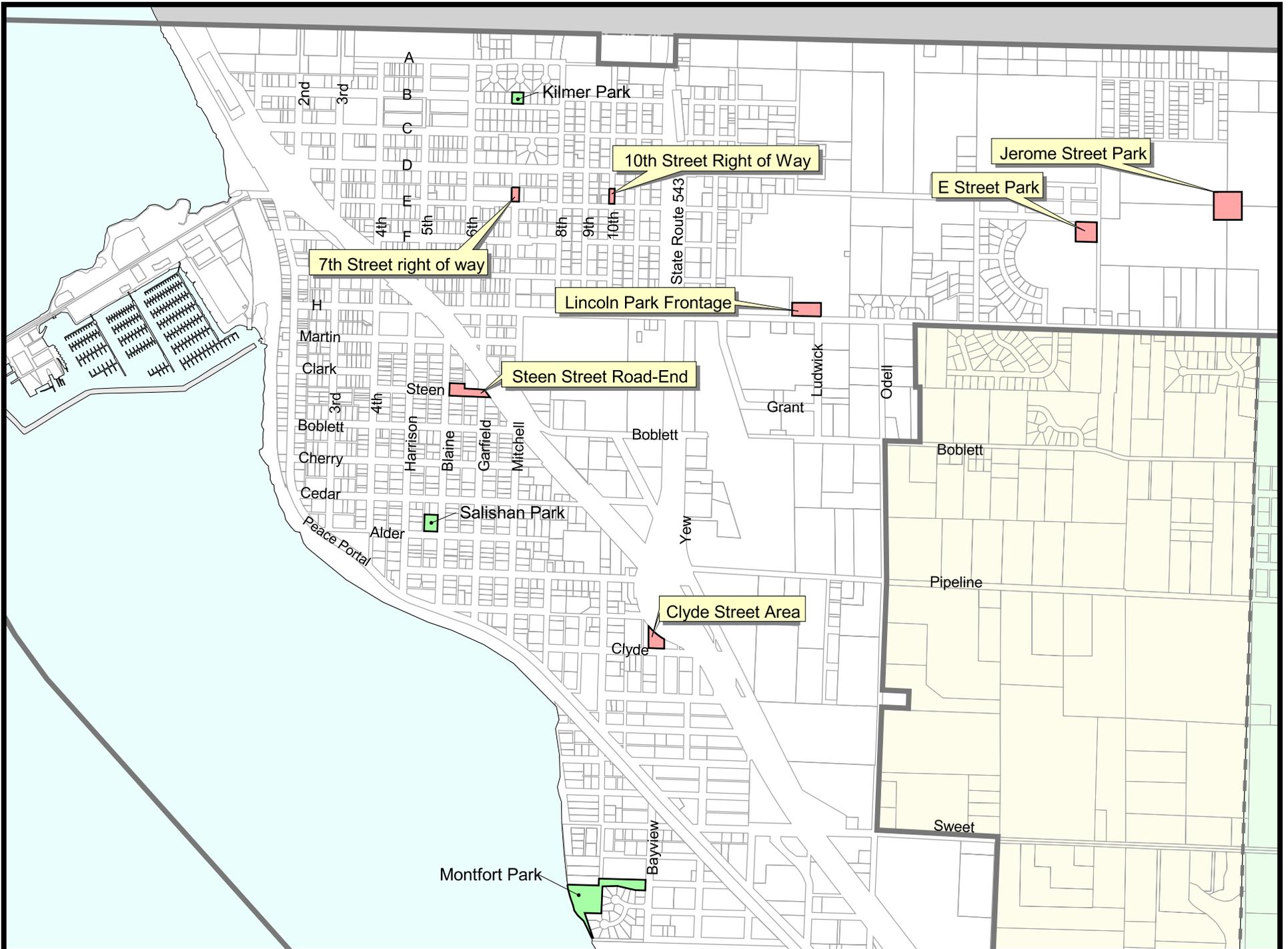
Parcel #: N/A



# Kilmer Park

City of Blaine  
 Community Development  
 8-23-2004





# Future Neighborhood Parks



# Future Neighborhood Park: 10th Street Right of Way

## Description:

This small right of way could be converted into a neighborhood park, serving the surrounding residents. With the addition of some landscaping and picnic tables, it would make a nice place for a family picnic. Play equipment would also make it attractive to the neighborhood children and their families.

## Current Condition:

As a right of way not currently maintained, the existing condition is mostly a dirt and grass field.



## History:

Currently designated as 10<sup>th</sup> Street right of way.

## Information:

Located on 10<sup>th</sup> street, between D Street and E Street.

Designation: Right of way

Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 0.2 acres

Used By: Neighborhood

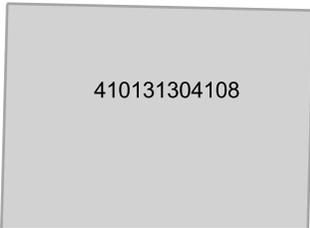
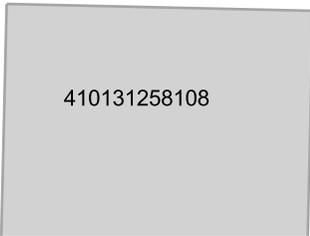
Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

Parcel #: N/A



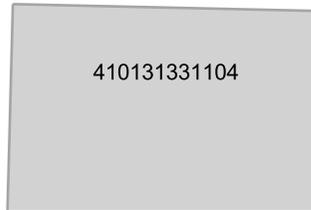
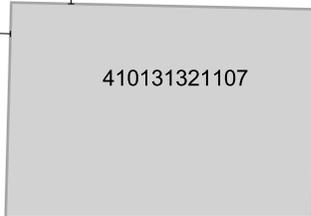
E

9th

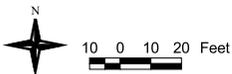


60 feet

10th



11th



10th Street Right of Way



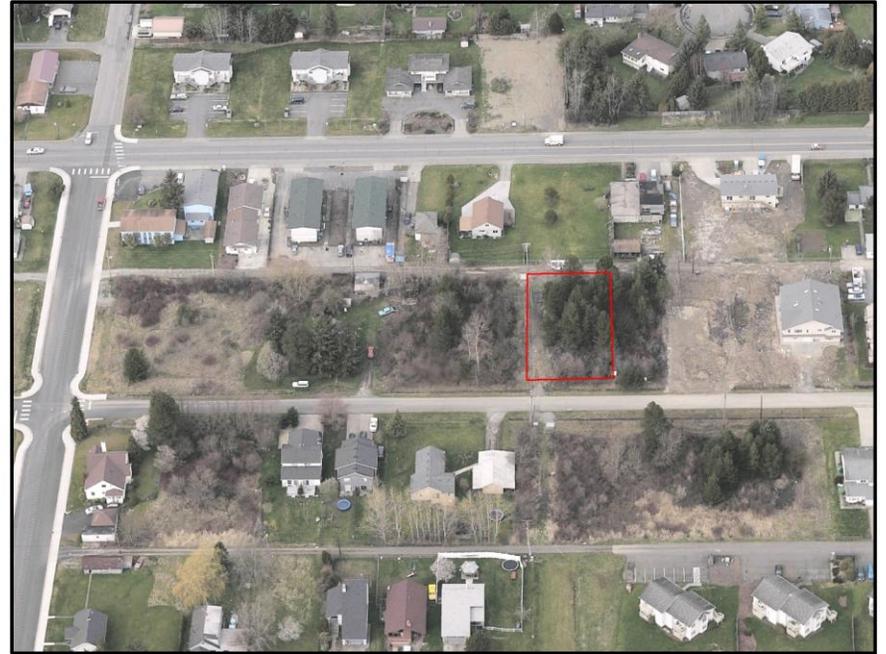
# Future Neighborhood Park: 7<sup>th</sup> Street Right of Way

## Description:

This small right of way could be converted into a neighborhood park, serving the surrounding residents.

## Current Condition:

As a right of way not currently maintained, the existing condition is mostly a forested area.



## History:

Currently designated as 7<sup>th</sup> Street right of way.

## Information:

Located on 7<sup>th</sup> Street between D Street and E Street.

Designation: Right of Way.

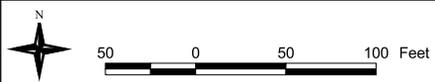
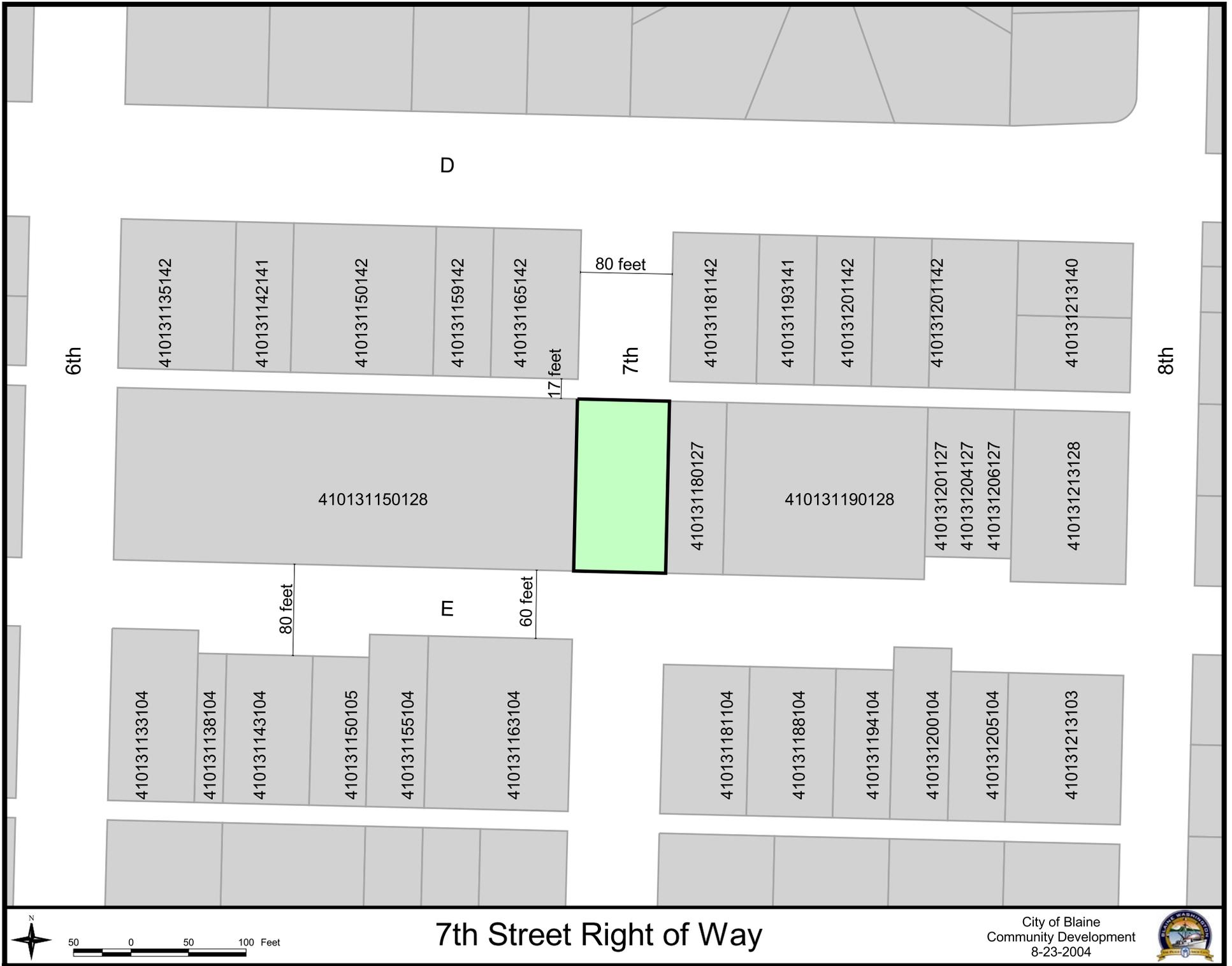
Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 0.28 acres

Used By: Neighborhood

Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

Parcel #: N/A



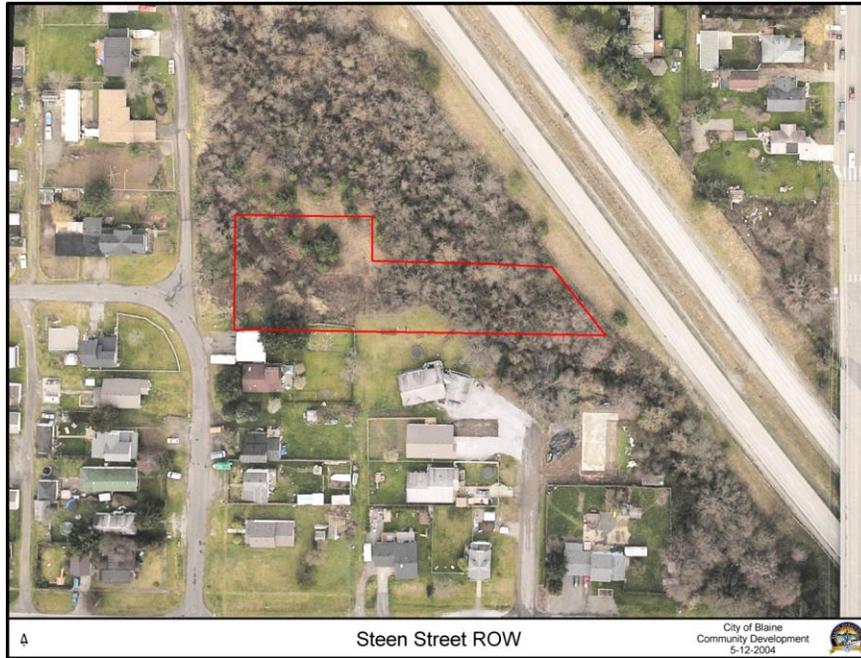
### 7th Street Right of Way



# Future Neighborhood Park: Steen Street Road-End

## Description:

This future park consists of a right of way and City owned land. Cain Creek flows through the eastern portion of the right of way and offers some excellent opportunities to create picnic areas right next to the waterway. With the addition of landscaping, picnic tables, trash receptacles, benches and some lighting, this future park could be a great addition to the downtown area, located just 300 feet south of the eastern part of the commercial business zone. With such close proximity to several large businesses, this future park could receive many visitors at lunchtime looking to relax in the peaceful surroundings of the Cain Creek greenbelt. Located in the Salishan neighborhood next to the high school, many families live nearby, and the addition of some play equipment could create a popular spot for parents to take their children.



A

Steen Street ROW

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
6-12-2004



## Current Condition:

This land is not currently maintained, and has been overgrown by natural plants. The location of Cain Creek makes for above average wildlife presence in this urban area.

## History:

This right of way is no longer available for street expansion because I-5 borders its eastern edge. The City owned land has not been utilized in the past, and is for all practical purposes, vacant.

## Information:

Located at the eastern end of Steen Street, abutting I-5.

Designation: Right of way

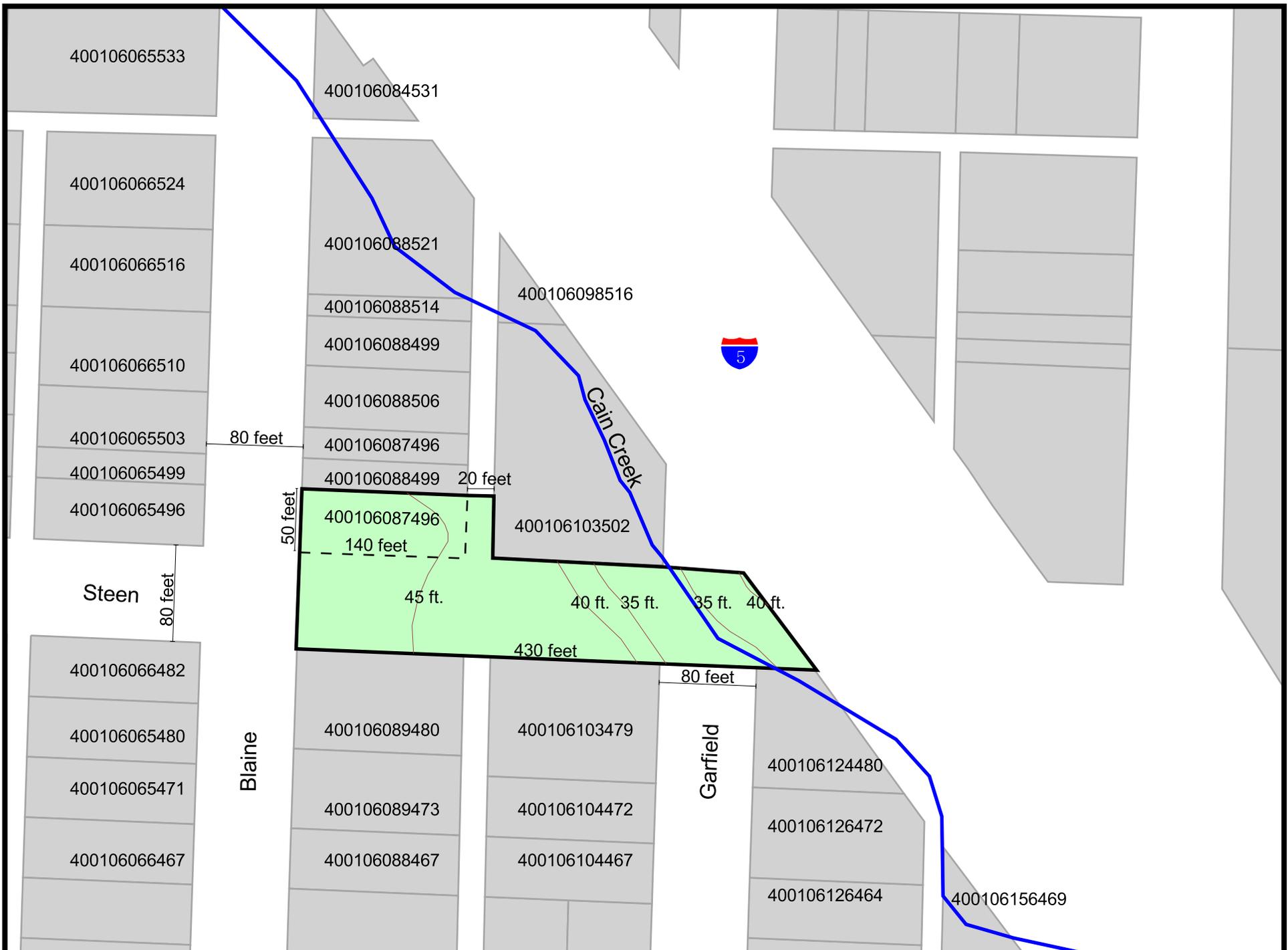
Owner: City of Blaine and Street right of way

Size: City Owned 0.16 acres/ R.O.W. 0.76 acres/ Total 0.92 acres

Used By: Neighborhood

Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

Parcel #: N/A



Cain Creek

# Steen Street Road-End



# Future Neighborhood Park: Clyde Street Area

## Description:

The Eagle Nest Future Park in the Clyde Street area would make a nice neighborhood park, serving the residents in this neighborhood. It gets its name from the large eagle nest in the Eagle Nest conservancy just to the northwest of the proposed park. There are several large trees and abundant undergrowth. Some park facilities, such as picnic tables and benches, would supply visitors with needed amenities. Play equipment would make the park a popular spot to take children.

## Current Condition:

This future park is currently under private ownership. There is a 20-foot right of way on the western side of Eagle Nest Future Park. Most of the Eagle Nest Conservancy Land is in the City's Right of Way, while the remaining portion to the south is currently under private ownership. There are several large trees and bushes, and the land is not maintained.



Clyde Street Area



## History:

The right of way in the Eagle Nest Conservancy Land is no longer available for street expansion due to I-5 bordering the eastern edge. The privately owned parcels have not been developed. The eagle nest is currently being used, and has been for some time.

## Information:

Located to the north of Clyde Street and at the eastern end of Georgia Street.

Designation: Right of way/ Private land

Owner: City of Blaine/ Garry Gogal & Gail Steves/ Leroy & Janice Wiebe

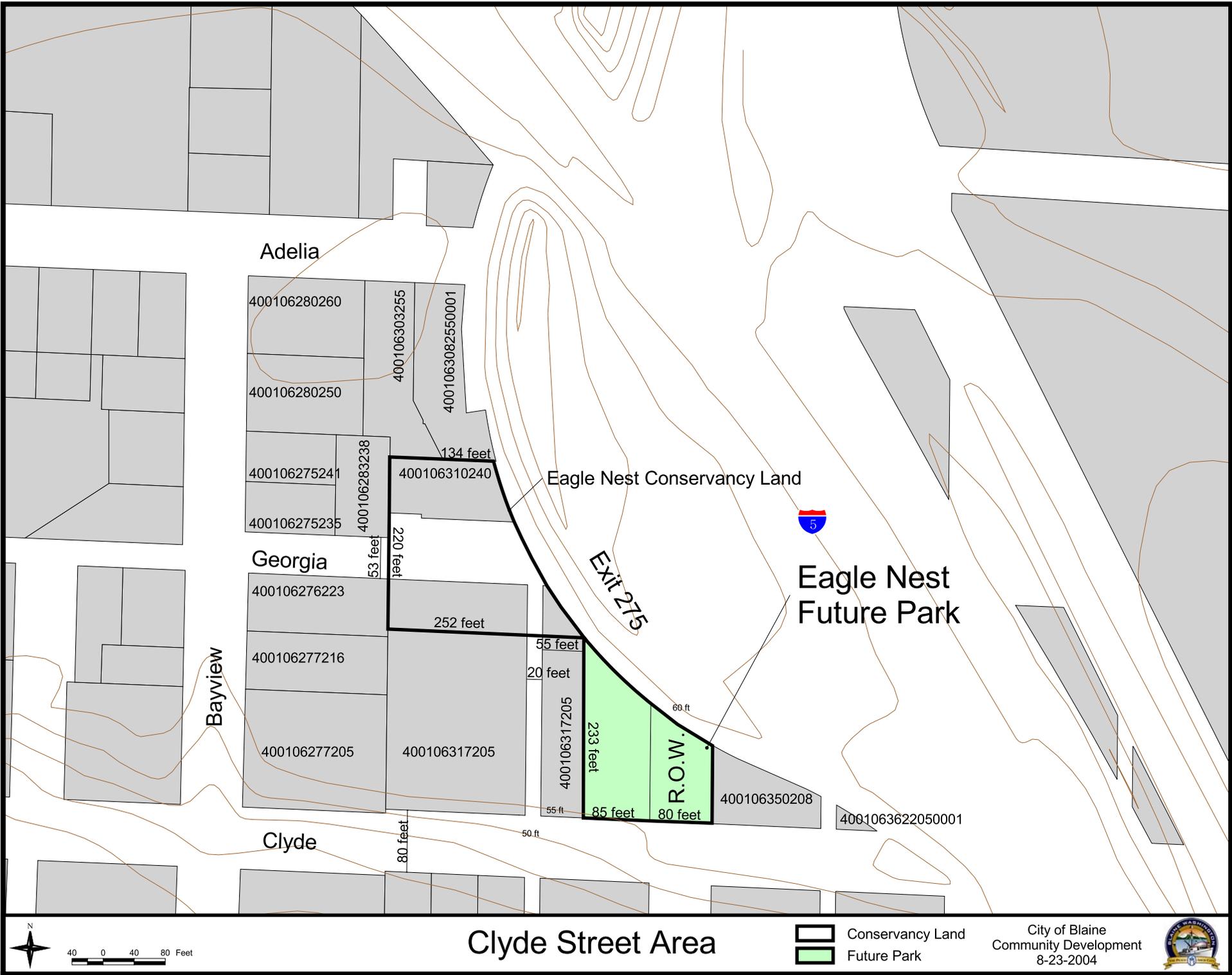
Size: Eagle Nest Future Park is 0.60 acres

Eagle Nest Conservancy Lands is 0.93 acres. Totaling 1.53 acres

Used by: Neighborhood

Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

Parcel#: 400106317205 & 400106310240 (Private Lands)



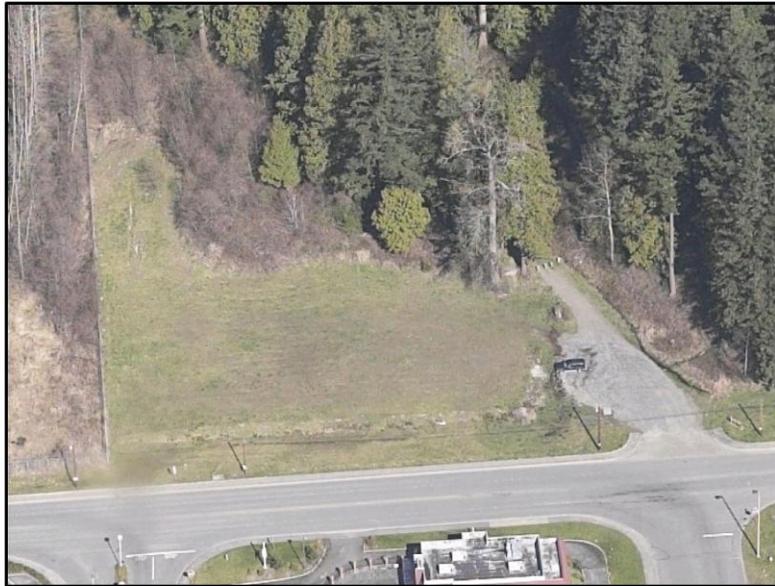
# Future Neighborhood Park: Lincoln Park Frontage

## Description:

Lincoln Park already exists as an excellent community park, but it lacks several family friendly amenities. Developing the frontage of Lincoln Park along H Street would provide a high traffic area, a much-needed asset. With the shopping plaza just across the street, a large play equipment area is needed. There is adequate space to provide such a facility and plenty of parking. This park not only would serve the shopping plaza across the street, but it would serve the neighborhoods extending up H Street as well.

## Current Condition:

While the existing condition is a grass field that is not maintained frequently, it is mowed occasionally. The parking lot is gravel and can facilitate 10 to 20 cars.



## History:

Currently part of Lincoln Park.

## Information:

Located just to the north of the shopping plaza off H Street

Designation: Community Park

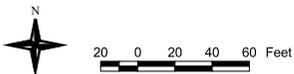
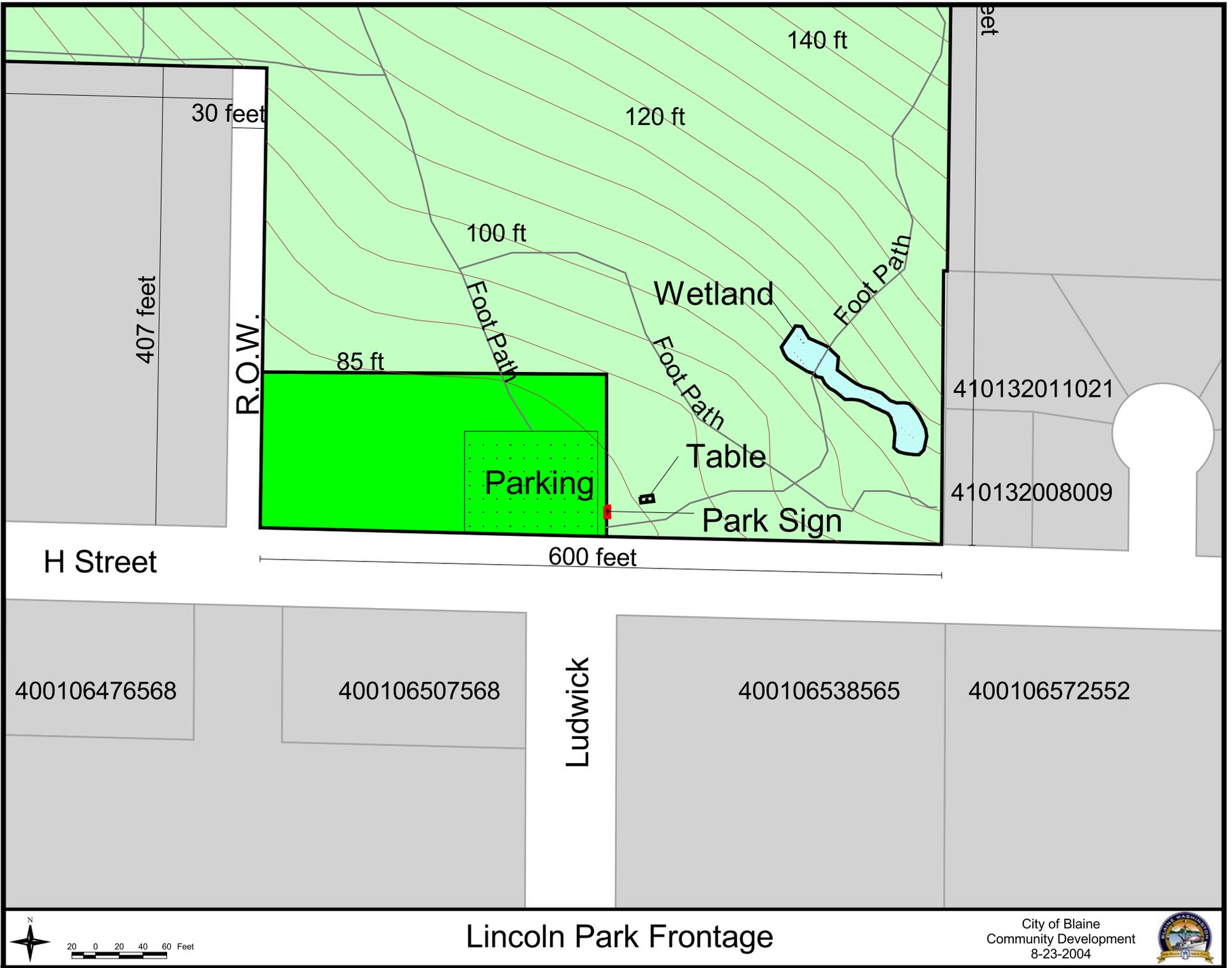
Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 1 acre

Used by: Citywide

Frequency: Not frequent

Parcel #: 4101315130900000



# Lincoln Park Frontage



# Future Neighborhood Parks: E Street\Jerome Street\Harvey Road Area

## Description:

These two future parks would provide an area of the City that lacks recreational facilities with two neighborhood parks. This area, zoned planned residential, is expecting a large amount of growth, and these parks would provide for the new residential developments.



## Current Condition:

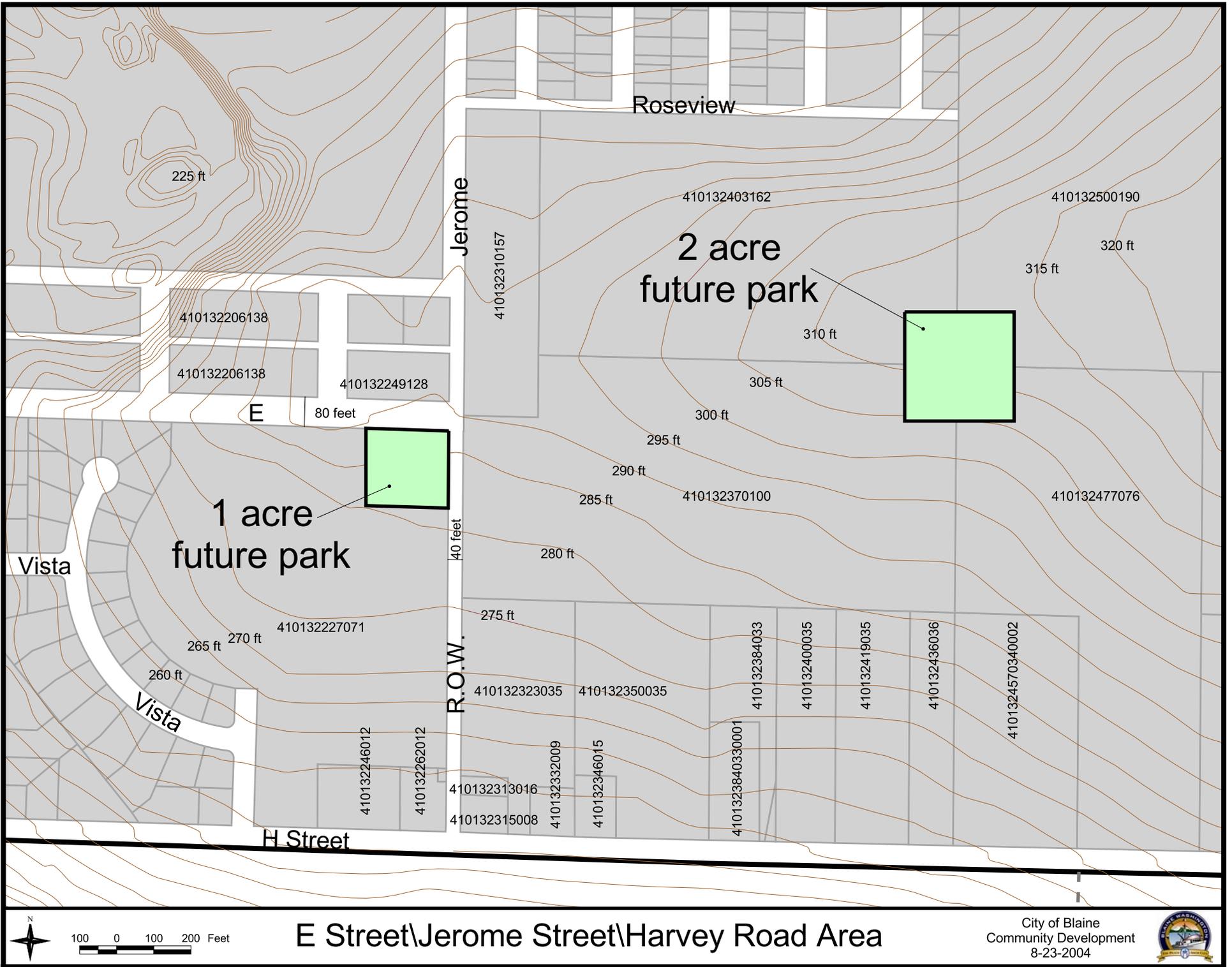
The land is currently forested and not maintained.

## History:

The land is currently under private ownership, and has yet to be developed.

## Information:

Located on the corner of E Street and Jerome Street and between Harvey Road and Jerome Street  
Designation: Private  
Owner: Douglass and Louise Connelly & Hollinger Family Land  
Size: 1 acre & 2 acres  
Used by: Private  
Frequency of Use: None  
Parcel #: 410132227071, 410132370100, 410132403162, 410132500190, and 410432477076





Existing Shoreline Use/View Areas



# Existing Shorelines Use/View Areas: Lester Park

## Description:

This park contains monuments commemorating the sons of Blaine killed during the wars, a cannon, park benches, and greenery to enhance the beauty of the park.

## History:

On November 18, 1907 Ordinance No. 257 was passed, which vacated the portion of G Street where Lester Park currently is. It was then designated as a City owned right of way. On May 9, 1998 Ordinance No. 98-2374 was passed which permanently established this land as a public access and view corridor reserve.



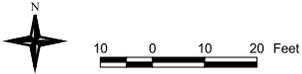
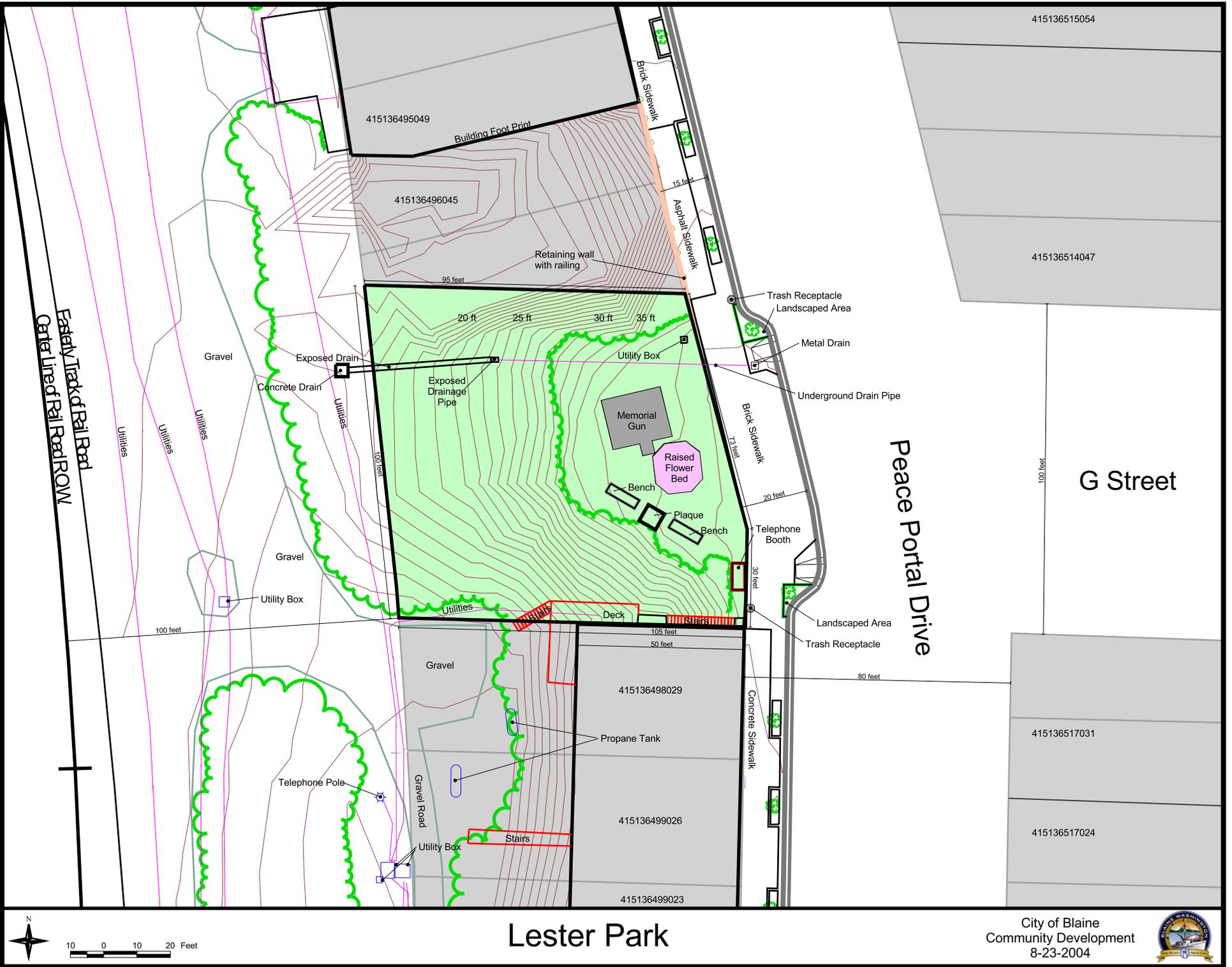
## Current Condition:

All the structures are in good condition with the exception of the two park benches. They are getting old and will need to be repaired, but this park will soon be the site of the new Boardwalk.



## Information:

Located at the intersection of G Street and Peace Portal Drive overlooking Drayton Harbor  
Designation: Public access and view corridor reserve  
Owner: Street Right of way  
Size: 0.24 acre  
Used By: Citywide/Tourists  
Frequency of Use: Frequent  
Parcel #: N/A



# Lester Park

City of Blaine  
 Community Development  
 8-23-2004



# Existing Shoreline Use/View Areas: H Street Road-End

## Description:

Like Lester Park, this public access and view corridor reserve overlooks Drayton Harbor and the marina. It contains artwork, benches, and a small grassy area. It is also landscaped with shrubs, flowering trees, and flowers.

## Current Condition:

All the benches, statues, and trash receptacles are in good condition. This park will soon be the site of the new Boardwalk.



## History:

On November 18, 1907, Ordinance No. 258 was passed which vacated the portion of H Street where H Street Parklet currently is. It was then designated as a City owned right of way. In 1917, the City built a bandstand at this location for the Blaine Juvenile Band and its sponsor, the Elks Lodge. On May 9, 1998, Ordinance No. 98-2374 was passed which permanently established this land as a public access and view corridor reserve.

## Information:

Located at the intersection of H Street and Peace Portal Drive overlooking Drayton Harbor.

Designation: Public access and view corridor reserves

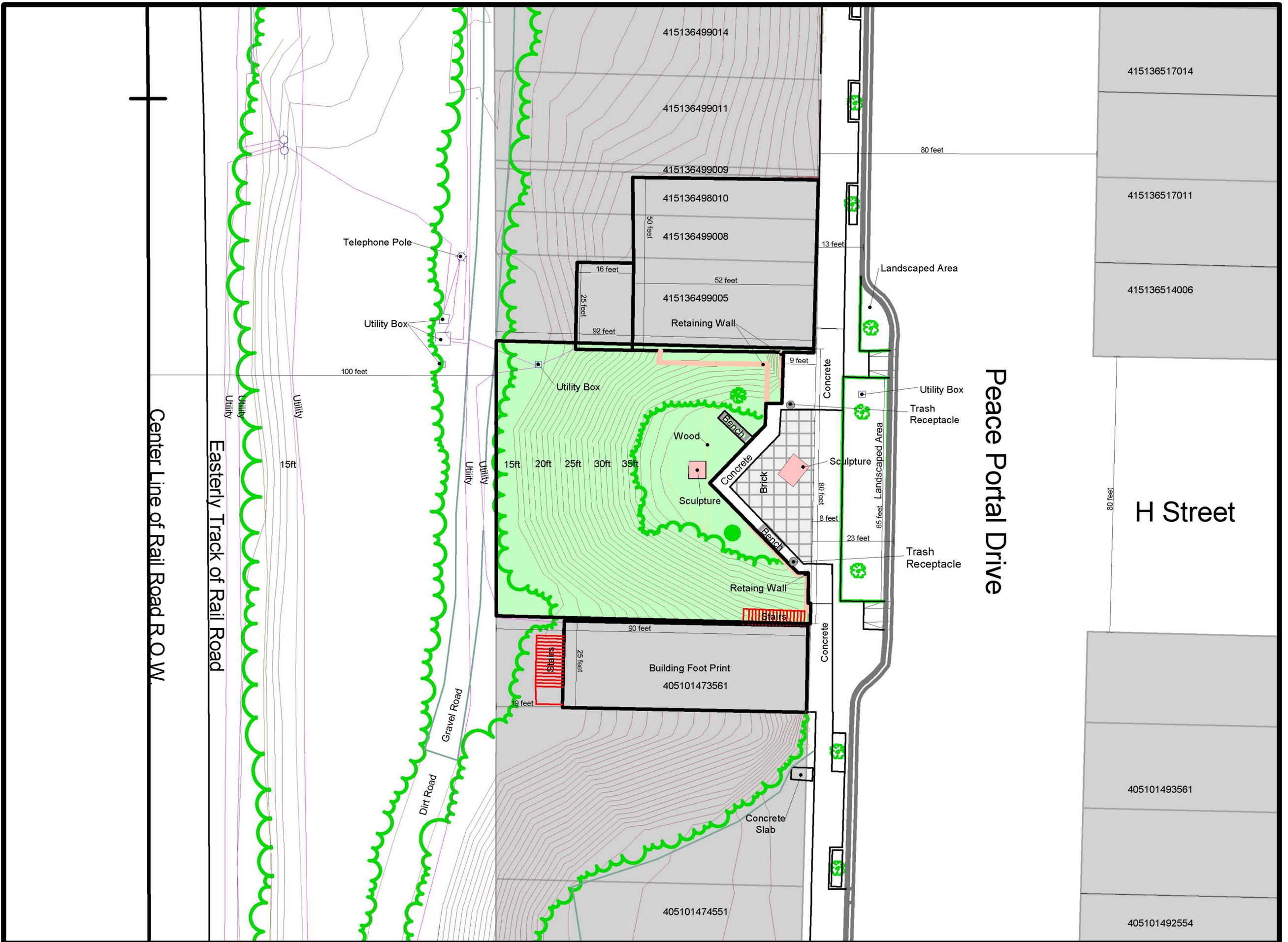
Owner: Street right of way

Size: 0.17 acre

Used By: Citywide/Tourists

Frequency of Use: Very Frequent

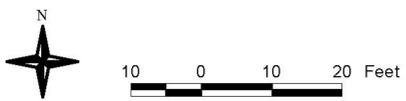
Parcel #: N/A



# H Street Road-End

Peace Portal Drive

H Street



# Existing Shoreline Use/View Areas: Martin Street Road-End

## Description:

Like H Street Parklet, this public access and view corridor reserve overlooks Drayton Harbor and the marina. The park contains a flower garden, local art, a grassy area, a handrail at the western edge of the parklet, and an asphalt parking lot that can be used by park visitors or people dining at the adjacent restaurant.

## Current Condition:

This park is in good condition and is newly constructed.



Martin Street Road-End

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
5-12-2004

## History:

On November 18, 1907 Ordinance No. 259 was passed, which vacated the portion of Martin Street where Martin Street Parklet currently exists. It was then designated as a City owned right of way. On May 9, 1998 Ordinance No. 98-2374 was passed, which permanently established this land as a public access and view corridor reserve. In October 2003, the City of Blaine began the construction of the park.

Located at the intersection of Martin Street and Peace Portal Drive

Designation: Public access and view corridor reserves

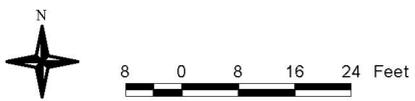
Owner: City of Blaine

Used By: Citywide/ Tourists

Size: 0.15 acre

Frequency of Use: Frequent

Parcel #: N/A



# Martin Street Road-End

City of Blaine  
 Community Development  
 8-23-2004



# Existing Shoreline Use/View Areas: Clark Street Road-End

## Description:

Like Martin Street Parklet, this public access and view corridor reserve overlooks Drayton Harbor and the marina. The parklet contains one bench and a grassy area. It is landscaped with shrubs, flowers, and has statues that are on loan from a non-profit organization promoting local artists.

## Current Condition:

This park is in excellent condition and is well maintained.



## History:

On December 16, 1907 Ordinance No. 260 was passed which vacated the portion of Clark Street where Clark Street Parklet currently is located. It was then designated as a City owned right of way. On May 9, 1998 Ordinance No. 98-2374 was passed which permanently established this land as a public access and view corridor reserve. On March 2001, the City of Blaine built Clark Street Parklet.

## Information:

Located at the intersection of Clark Street and Peace Portal Drive  
Designation: Public access and view corridor reserve  
Owner: City of Blaine  
Size: 0.24 acre  
Used By: Citywide and Tourists  
Frequency of Use: Frequent  
Parcel #: N/A





# Clark Street Road-End

City of Blaine  
 Community Development  
 8-23-2004





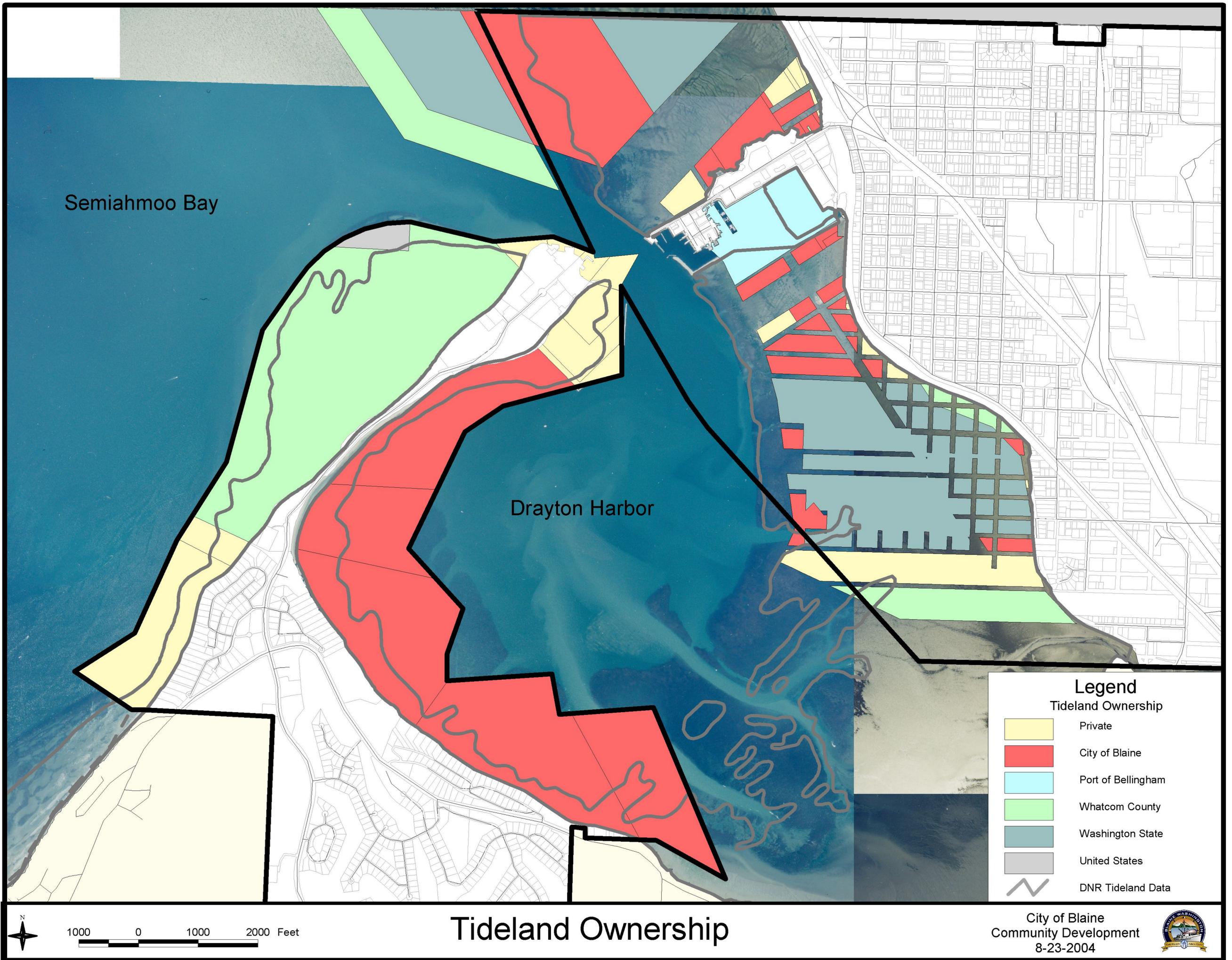
Restrooms

Boat Launch



# Marina Boat Launch





Semiahmoo Bay

Drayton Harbor

**Tideland Ownership**

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004





Existing Shoreline Use/View Areas



# Existing Shoreline Use/View Areas: Blaine Boardwalk

## Description:

Blaine, located on Drayton Harbor, offers breathtaking views of the Harbor, Blaine Marina and Semiahmoo Spit and is home to the most beautiful sunsets on the west coast. In its continued effort to take advantage of Blaine's unique waterfront location, the City is aggressively working toward the construction of a 457' elevated pedestrian boardwalk in the heart of its downtown. It will consist of a plaza on the H Street road end, another plaza on the G Street road end, connected by the Boardwalk on the west side of existing commercial buildings.

Projected Completion: Fall 2005



REDEVELOPMENT CONCEPT FOR  
**BLAINE BOARDWALK**



CITY OF BLAINE



### HARBOR VIEW PLAZA

STROLL AMONG SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS, RELAX AND ENJOY  
MARITIME VISTAS, AND COASTAL SUNSETS.

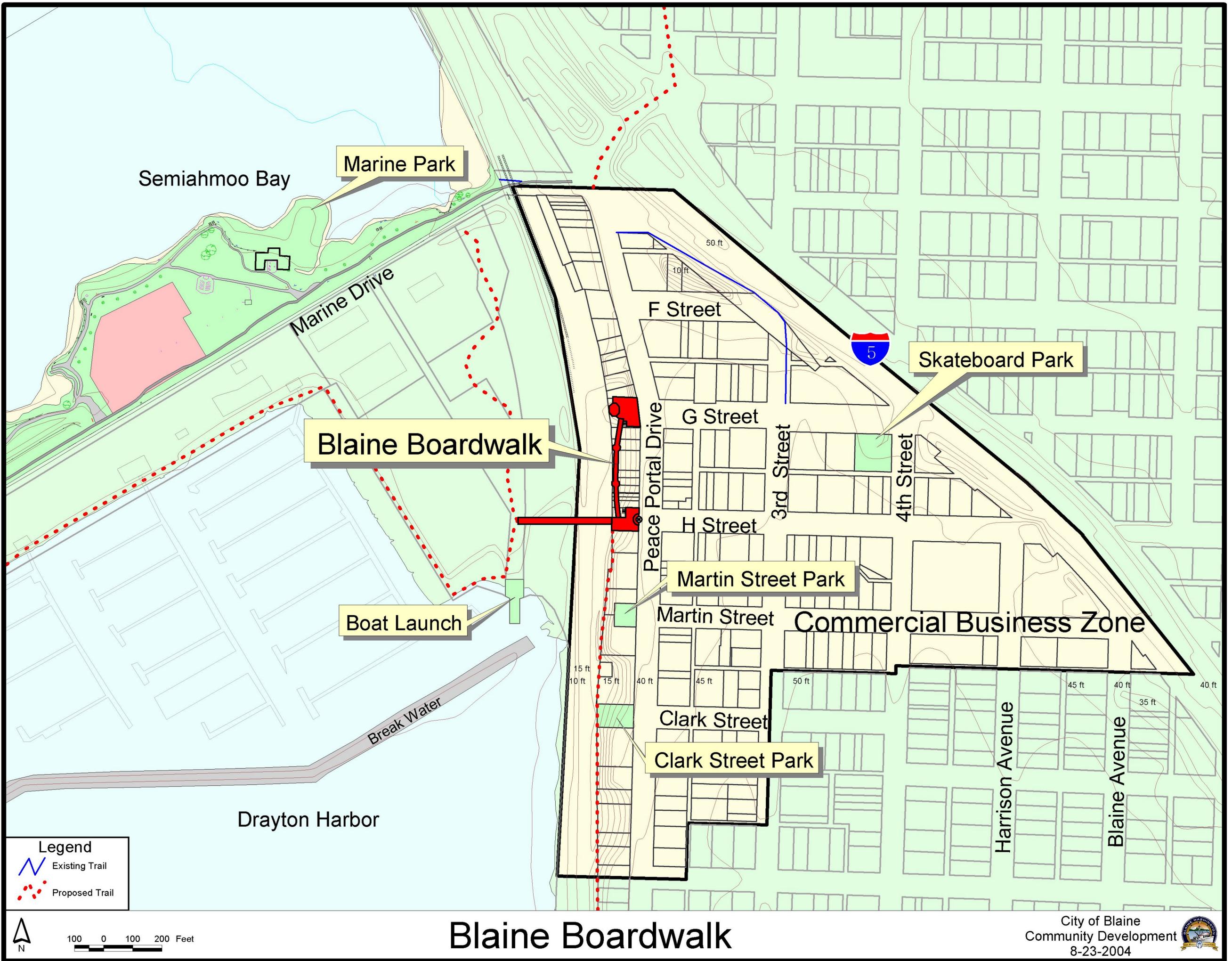
## Project Objective

The objective is to orient the pedestrian Boardwalk to take advantage of the shoreline location and to connect the upland downtown with its historic, marine, commercial wharf that projects out into Semiahmoo Bay. When complete, this revitalization project will provide attractive pedestrian access to shops, restaurants, and related tourist commercial services. And in the future, it will also provide a pedestrian link to the Blaine Marina, Marine Park, Blaine's Wharf, and other marine-related services. The Boardwalk is intended to be a cornerstone in the revitalization efforts in the downtown.

## Information:

This project is broken down into the following main project elements:

1. Lighthouse Plaza	4,400 sq.ft.
2. Harborview Plaza	4,010 sq.ft.
3. Lighthouse Pavilion	1,215 sq.ft.
4. Viewing Shelters	860 sq.ft.
5. Boardwalk	7,368 sq.ft.
<b>Total Sq. ft.</b>	<b>17,853 sq.ft.</b>



**Legend**

- Existing Trail (solid blue line)
- Proposed Trail (red dotted line)



# Blaine Boardwalk

# Future Shoreline Use/View Areas: Boblett Street Road-End

## Description:

This right of way road end has great views of Drayton Harbor. There is a metal sculpture of a fireman commemorating the 9/11 tragedy. The road end consists mostly of a grass lawn, with several trees.

## Current Condition:

This road end is in good condition. The grassy area is maintained by one of the neighboring residents.



Boblett Street Road-End

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
5-12-2004

## History:

This right of way is not available for street expansion, and has remained unutilized for sometime.

## Information:

Located at the western end of Boblett Street at the intersection of Peace Portal Drive.

Designation: Road end

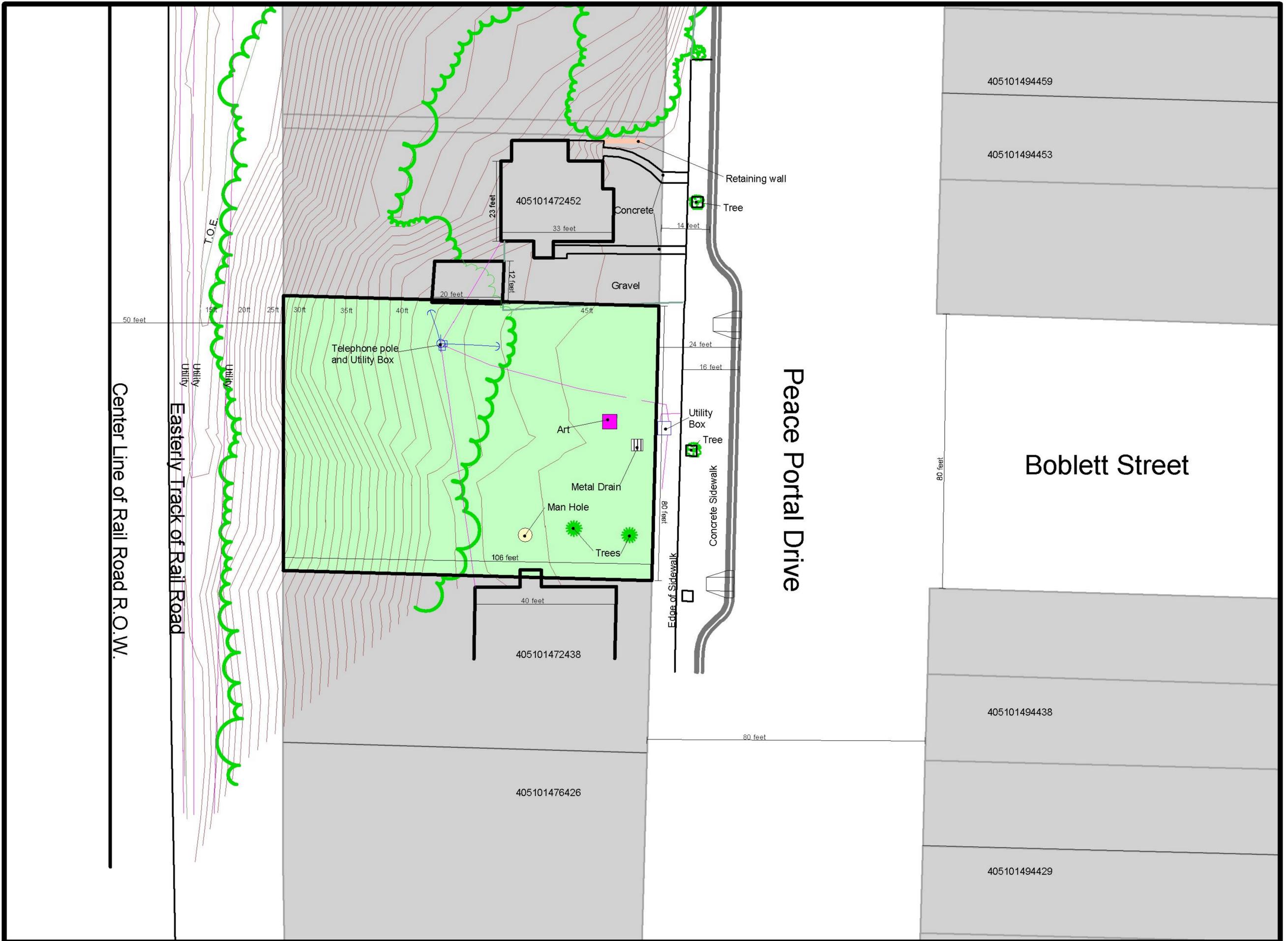
Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 0.2 acres.

Used By: Neighborhood

Frequency of Use: Not Frequent

Parcel #: N/A



Peace Portal Drive

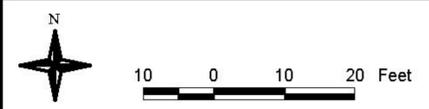
Boblett Street

Center Line of Rail Road R.O.W.

Easterly Track of Rail Road

Boblett Street Road-End

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004



# Future Shoreline Use/View Areas: Cherry Street Road-End

## Description:

This right of way road end has views of Drayton Harbor. There is a small paved section along Peace Portal Drive that soon turns into gravel. The road end consists mostly of small shrubs, and a few small trees towards the back of the lot. There are two vacant lots directly to the south which have been identified as a possible addition to this future park.

## Current Condition:

The road end is not maintained. The area that is not paved is overgrown with natural plants. The front of the two lots to the south is mowed occasionally, but is otherwise not maintained.

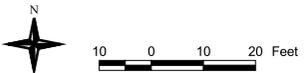
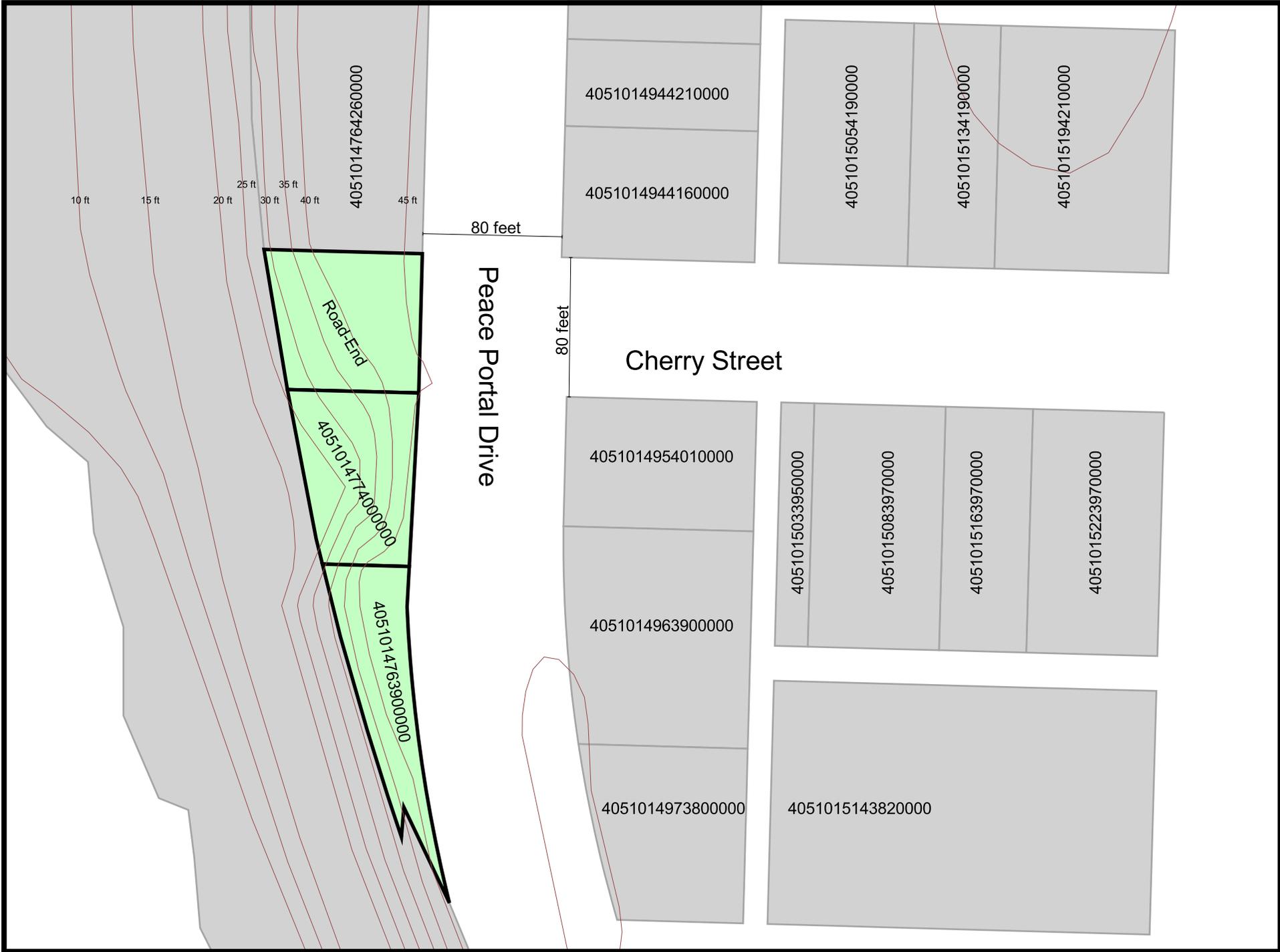


## History:

This right of way is not available for street expansion, and has remained unutilized for sometime.

## Information:

Located at the western end of Cherry Street at the intersection of Peace Portal Drive  
Designation: Road end  
Owner: City of Blaine  
Size: 0.42 acres  
Used By: Neighborhood  
Frequency of Use: Not Frequent  
Parcel #: 405101477400, 405101476390, and road end N/A



# Cherry Street Road-End



# Future Shoreline Use/View Areas: 4<sup>th</sup> Street Harbor Viewing Area.

**Description:** This small, future shoreline viewing area offers superb views of Drayton Harbor. Conveniently located off Peace Portal Drive, there is just enough room for a couple of off-street parking spaces. A “birding” shelter would provide excellent amenities for enjoying a sunny day watching the wildlife on the tide flats.

**Current Condition:** There is a small grass area located just off Peace Portal Drive that is not maintained. One middle-aged conifer tree grows on the edge of bank. Small shrubs and brush grow along the outskirts of this area.



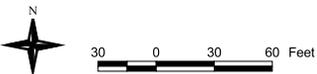
**History:** This area lays within the right of way for Peace Portal Drive and abuts the right of way for the Burlington Northern Railroad.

**Information:**

Located to the south of Peace Portal Drive between 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Harrison Avenue  
Designation: Railroad and City owned right of way  
Owner: Burlington Northern and City of Blaine  
Size: 0.1 acres  
Used By: Neighborhood and travelers of Peace Portal Drive  
Parcel #: N/A



# 4th Street Harbor Viewing Area



City of Blaine  
 Community Development  
 8-23-2004



# Future Shoreline Use/View Areas: Ruby and Pearl Street Road End

## Description:

These right of way road ends have great views of Drayton Harbor and could provide beach access as well. Pearl Street road end has a rose garden growing there from the neighbor to the south. Ruby Street road end has a portable basketball hoop and trampoline from the neighbor to the north, both of which could easily be removed. The bank to the shoreline is sloped and the home of native vegetation.

## Current Condition:

The neighbors maintain both road ends. Pearl Street road end has an extensive private rose garden, while the lawn at Ruby Street road end is kept short and clean.

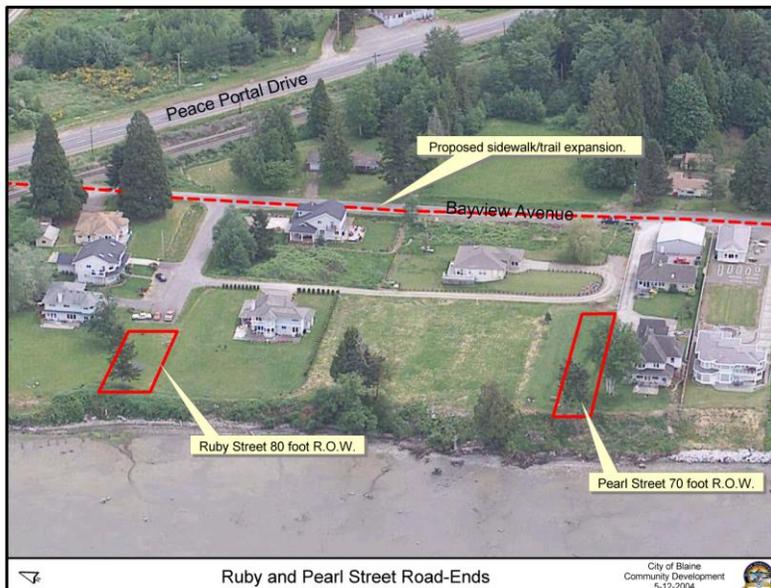
## History:

These right of way road ends are not available for street expansion, and have remained unutilized for sometime.

View Form Ruby Street Road End

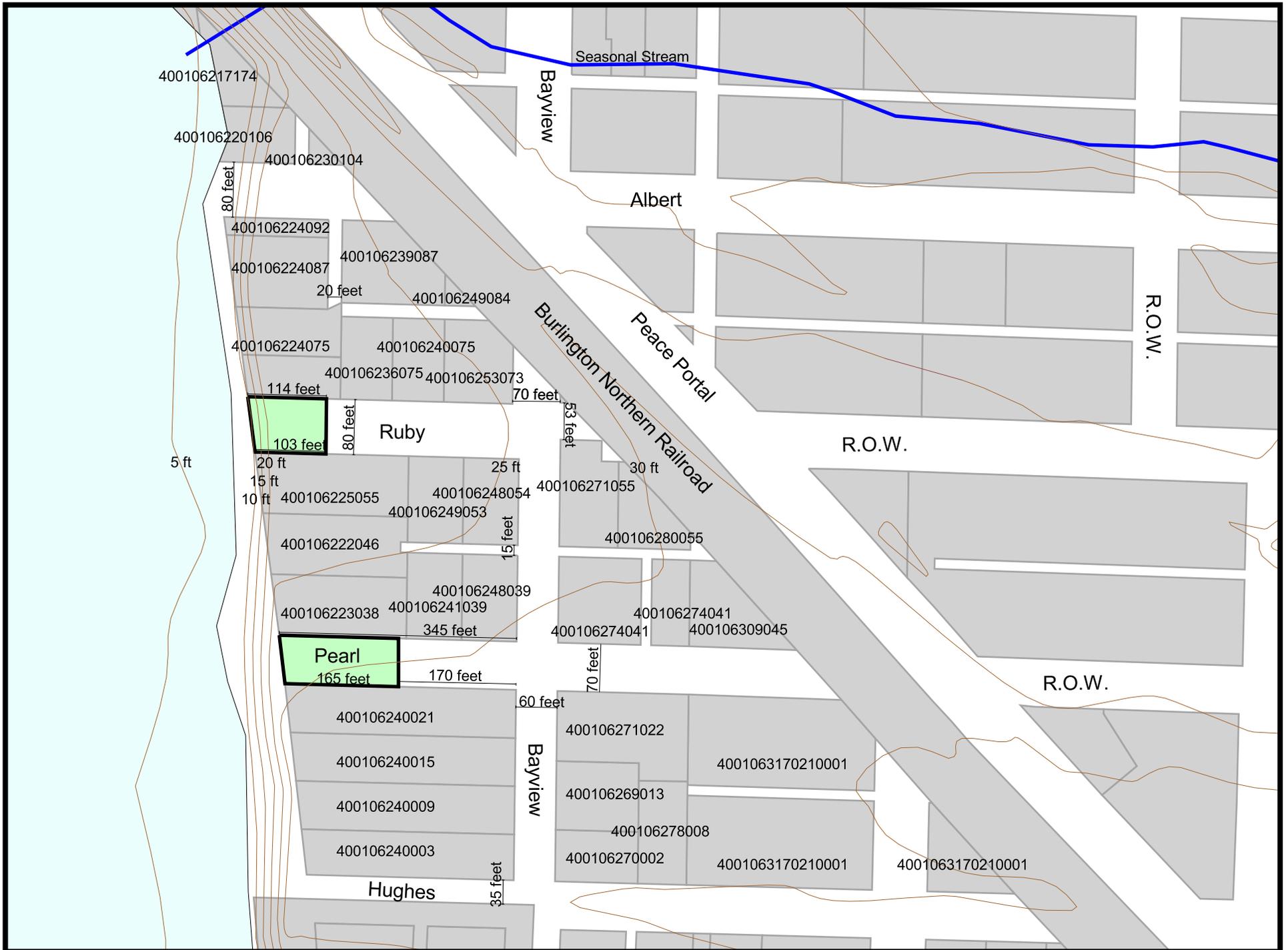


View of Pearl Street Road End



## Information:

Located off Bayview Avenue, at the western ends of Ruby and Pearl Streets  
Designation: Road ends  
Owner: City of Blaine  
Size: 0.2 acres for Ruby Street road end. 0.27 acres for Pearl Street road end  
Used By: Neighborhood.  
Parcel #: N/A



50 0 50 100 Feet

# Ruby & Pearl Street Road-Ends

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004



# Future Shoreline Use/View Areas: Runge Avenue Right of Way

**Description:** Runge Avenue right of way meets Drayton Harbor at an acute angle, creating over 200 feet of City right of way waterfront. The end of the avenue is partially sloped and is forested with large Douglas Fir trees and a heavy understory. The right of way offers excellent views of the mouth of Dakota Creek and Drayton Harbor, and provides excellent bird watching opportunities.

**Current Condition:** The land is not maintained. The neighboring resident has several older vehicles parked in the right of way, and the boundary between private property and City right of way is not well defined, resulting in the appearance that this right of way is private land.



**History:** This proportion of right of way remains unutilized.

**Information:**

Located at the end of Runge Avenue

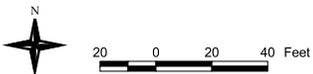
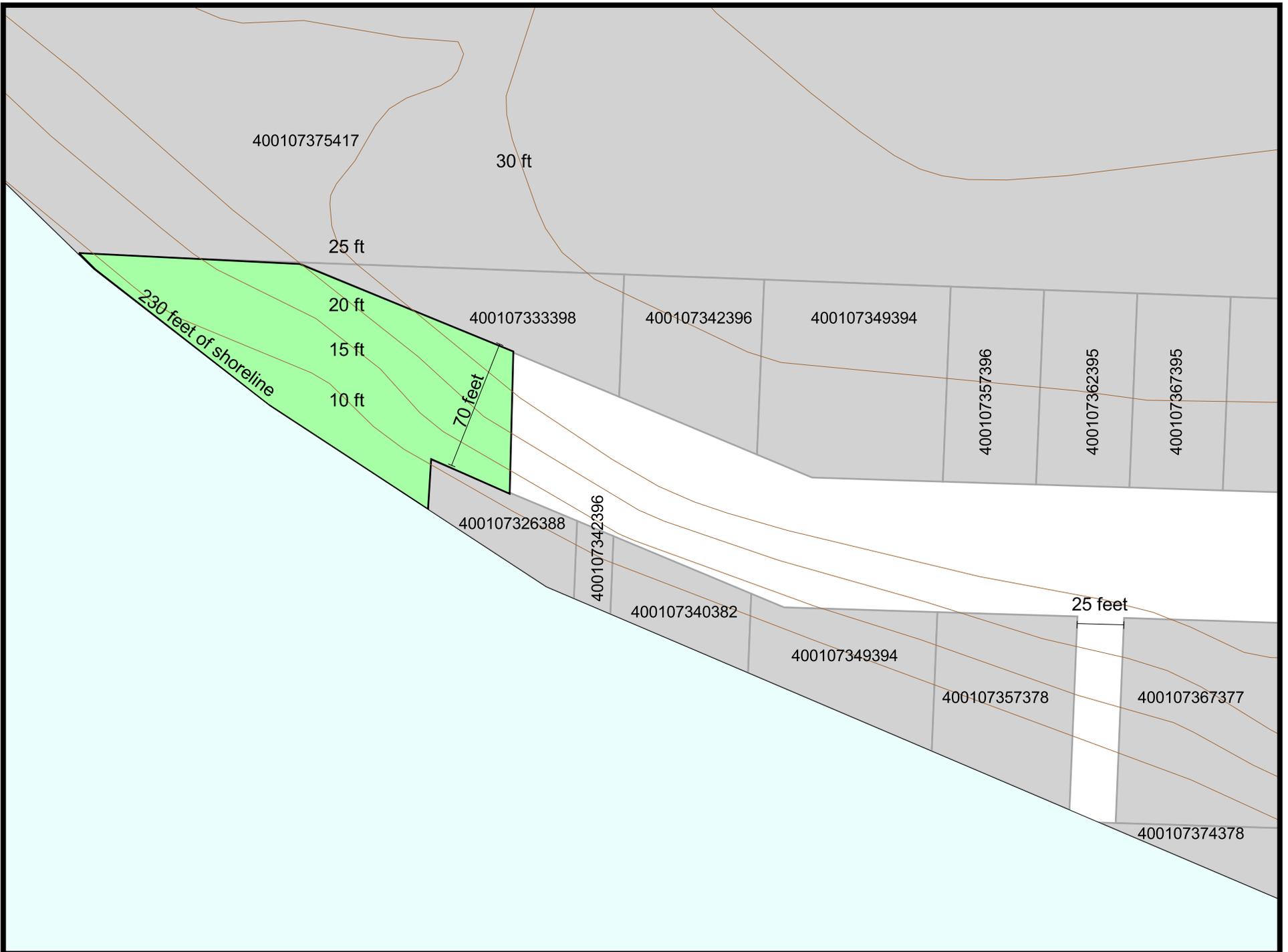
Designation: Right of way

Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 0.27 acres

Used By: Neighborhood

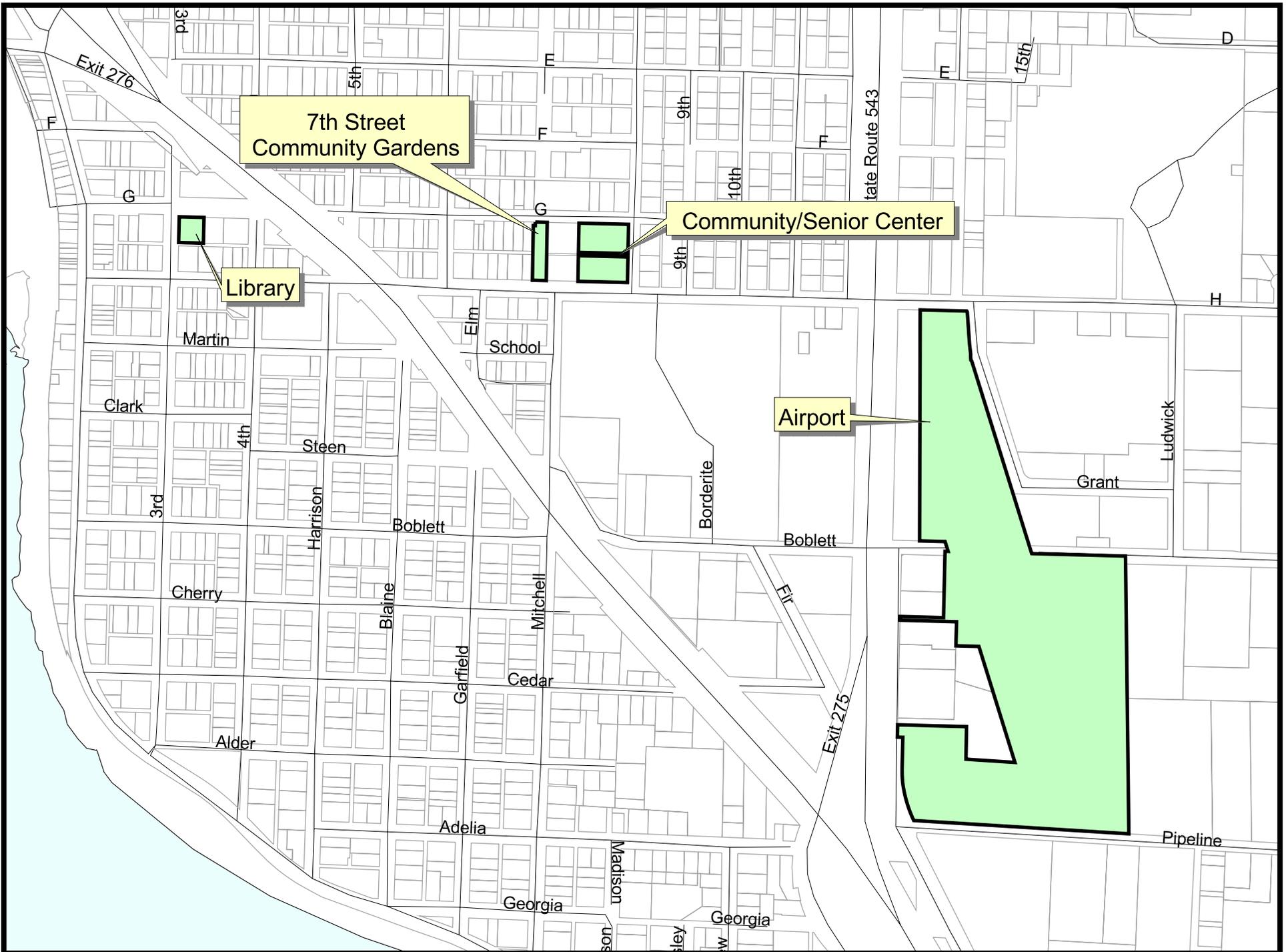
Parcel #: N/A



# Runge Avenue Right of Way

City of Blaine  
 Community Development  
 8-23-2004





7th Street  
Community Gardens

Library

Community/Senior Center

Airport



Existing Recreational Facilities



# Existing Recreational Facilities: 7<sup>th</sup> Street Community Gardens and Community/Senior Center

## Description:

This portion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street right of way has been converted into a community garden and consists of several garden plots maintained by the surrounding residents. The rest of the right of way is a grass field.

## Current Condition:

The garden plots seem in good shape. The southern half is not maintained.

## Information:

Located on the 7<sup>th</sup> Street right of way between G Street and H Street.

Designation: Right of way

Owner: City of Blaine

Size: 8,800 sq. ft.

Used By: Neighborhood

Frequency of Use: None

Parcel #: N/A



## Description:

This is a 10,000 square foot facility providing a dining room, recreation room, multipurpose meeting room, and kitchen. The Whatcom County Parks Department and Whatcom County Boys & Girls Club facilitate different programs here. On October 24, 1974, the ground breaking for the center began, and opened on May 7, 1975. It was later replaced by the \$1.05 million building that was built in 1993.

## Information:

Located at 763 G Street

Designation: Commercial

Owner: Blaine School District

Size: 0.6 acres

Used By: Specialty/Senior citizens and youths

Frequency of Use: Very Frequent

Parcel #: 4101312090120000 and 4101311970120000

# Existing Recreational Facilities: Blaine Airport and Library

## Description:

Blaine Airport has an asphalt runway 2,100 feet long and 46 feet wide. Approximately 5,000 landings and takes-offs occur annually. The airport provides accommodations for general aviation with small commercial aircraft charter services available. Although the airport is currently adequate for the current and projected future uses, there are talks about expanding the airport. The original runway was 1,800 feet with a grass surface and was established in 1947.

## Information:

Located at 1373 Boblett Street  
Designation: Other governmental services  
Owner: City of Blaine  
Size: 41.98 acres  
Used By: Specialty/Pilots  
Frequency of Use: Not Frequent  
Parcel #: 4001064354200000

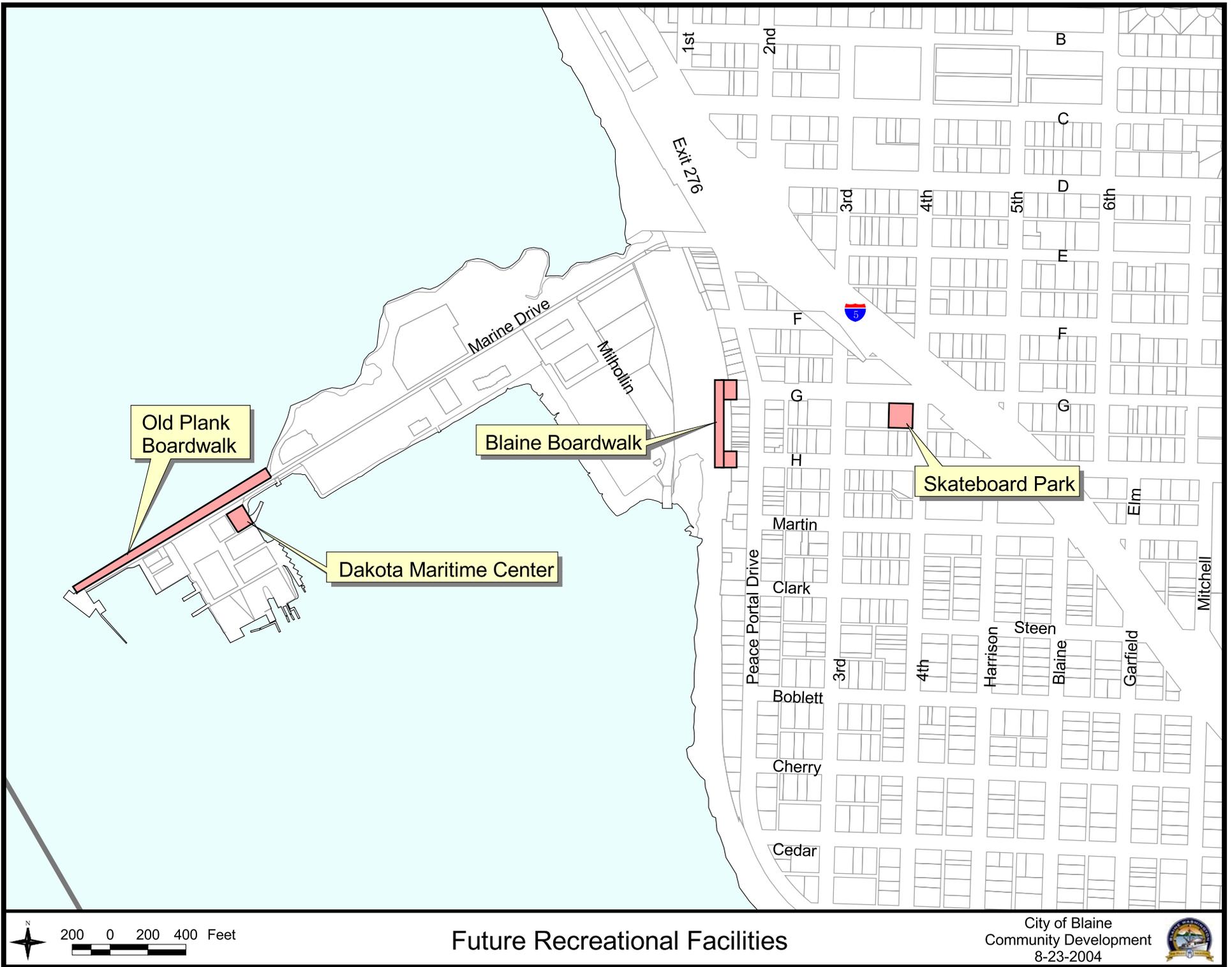


## Description:

The Blaine Community Library contains approximately 20,000 books and documents. The library has a large meeting room which is used for community events. It serves the Blaine/Birch Bay area as well as Custer. In 1911, the Blaine Free Library was first established in a house located on Peace Portal Drive. The books were donated to the library from various places but they received most of the books from the Seattle Public Library.

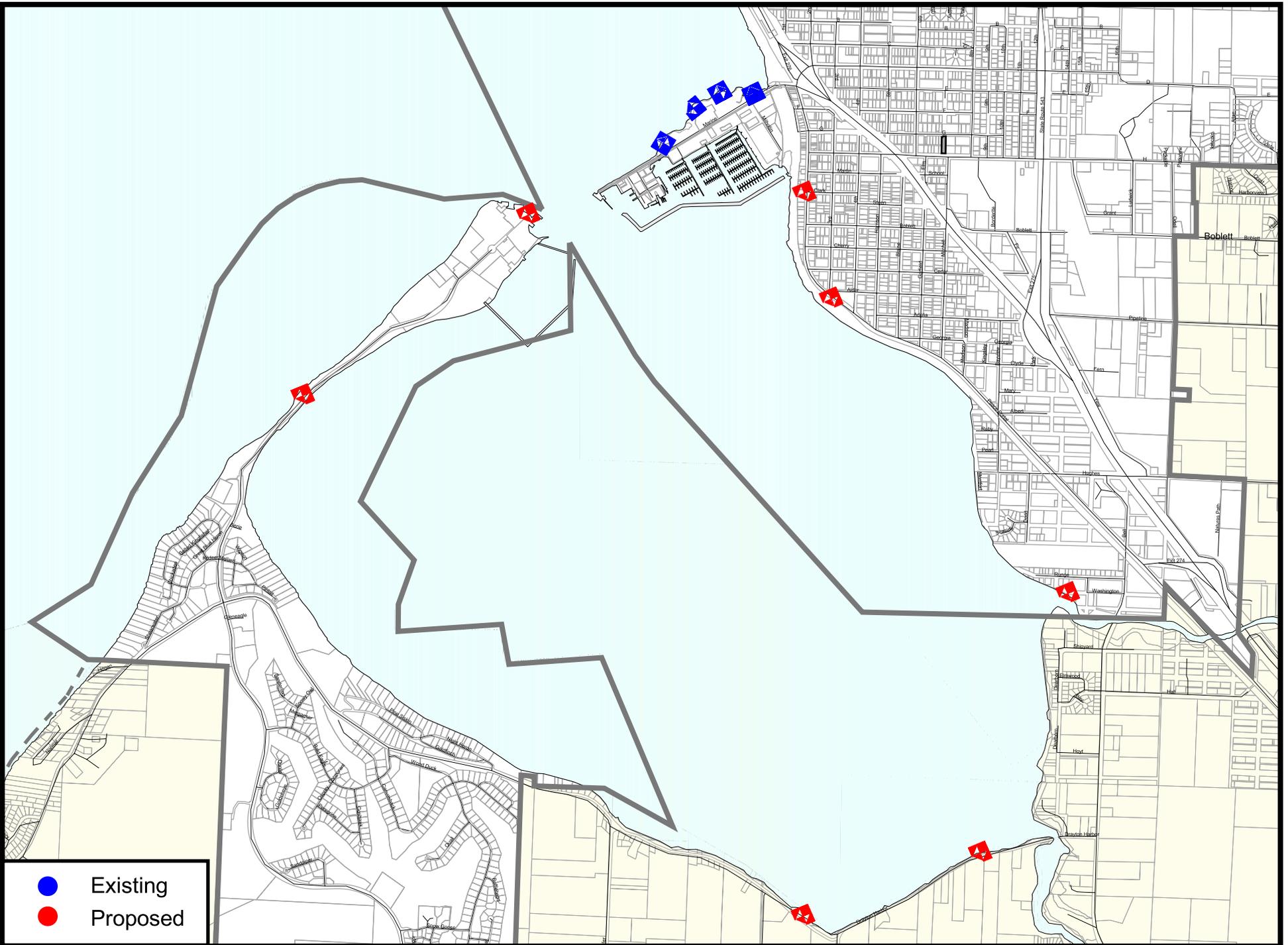
## Information:

Located at 610 - 3rd Street in downtown Blaine next to City Hall  
Designation: Other governmental services  
Owner: City of Blaine  
Size: 0.4 acres  
Used By: Citywide  
Frequency of Use: Very Frequent  
Parcel #: 4151365610250000



**Future Recreational Facilities**



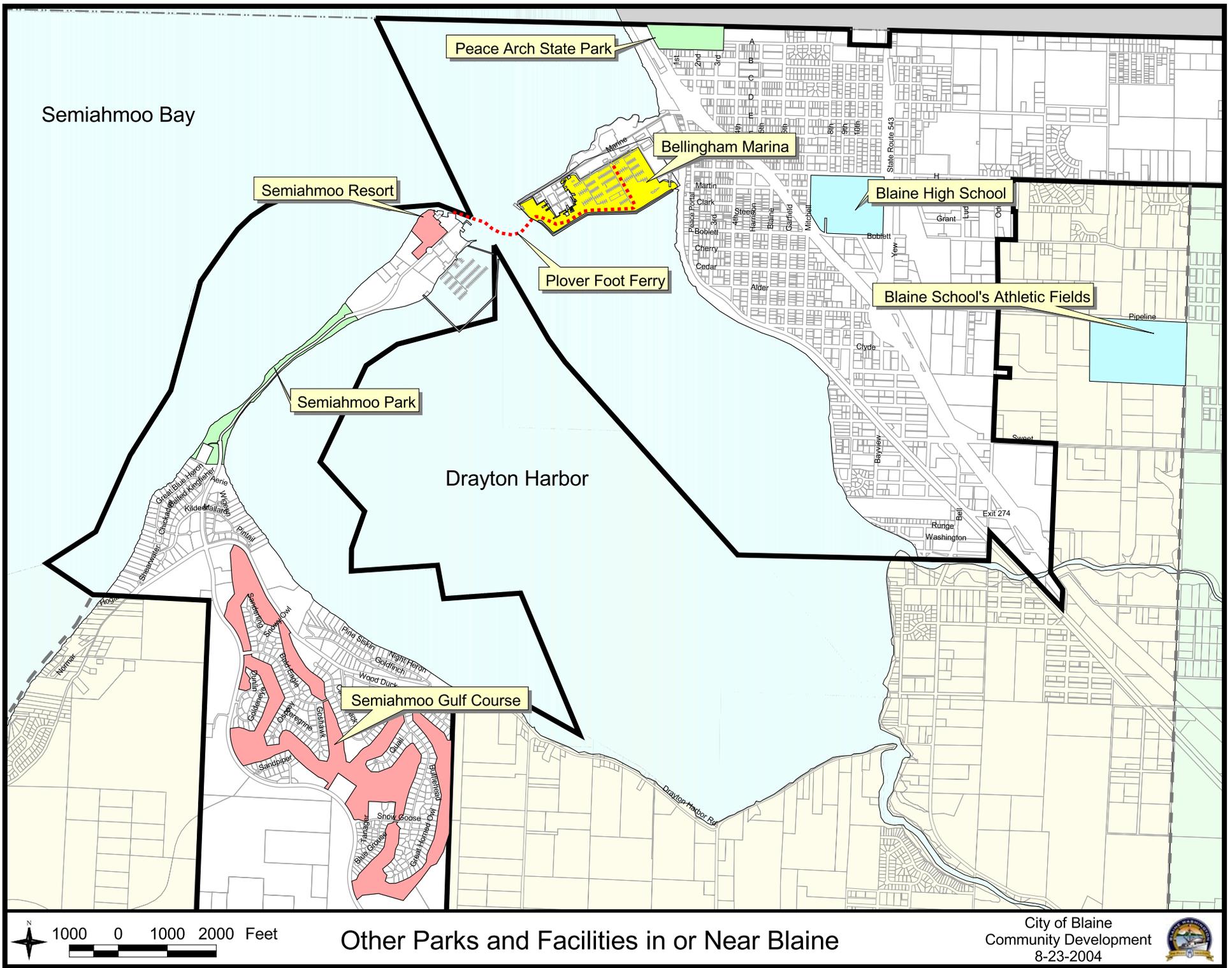


● Existing  
● Proposed



### Existing and Future Birding Shelters





Semiahmoo Bay

Peace Arch State Park

Semiahmoo Resort

Bellingham Marina

Blaine High School

Plover Foot Ferry

Blaine School's Athletic Fields

Semiahmoo Park

Drayton Harbor

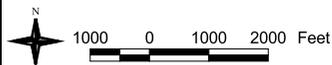
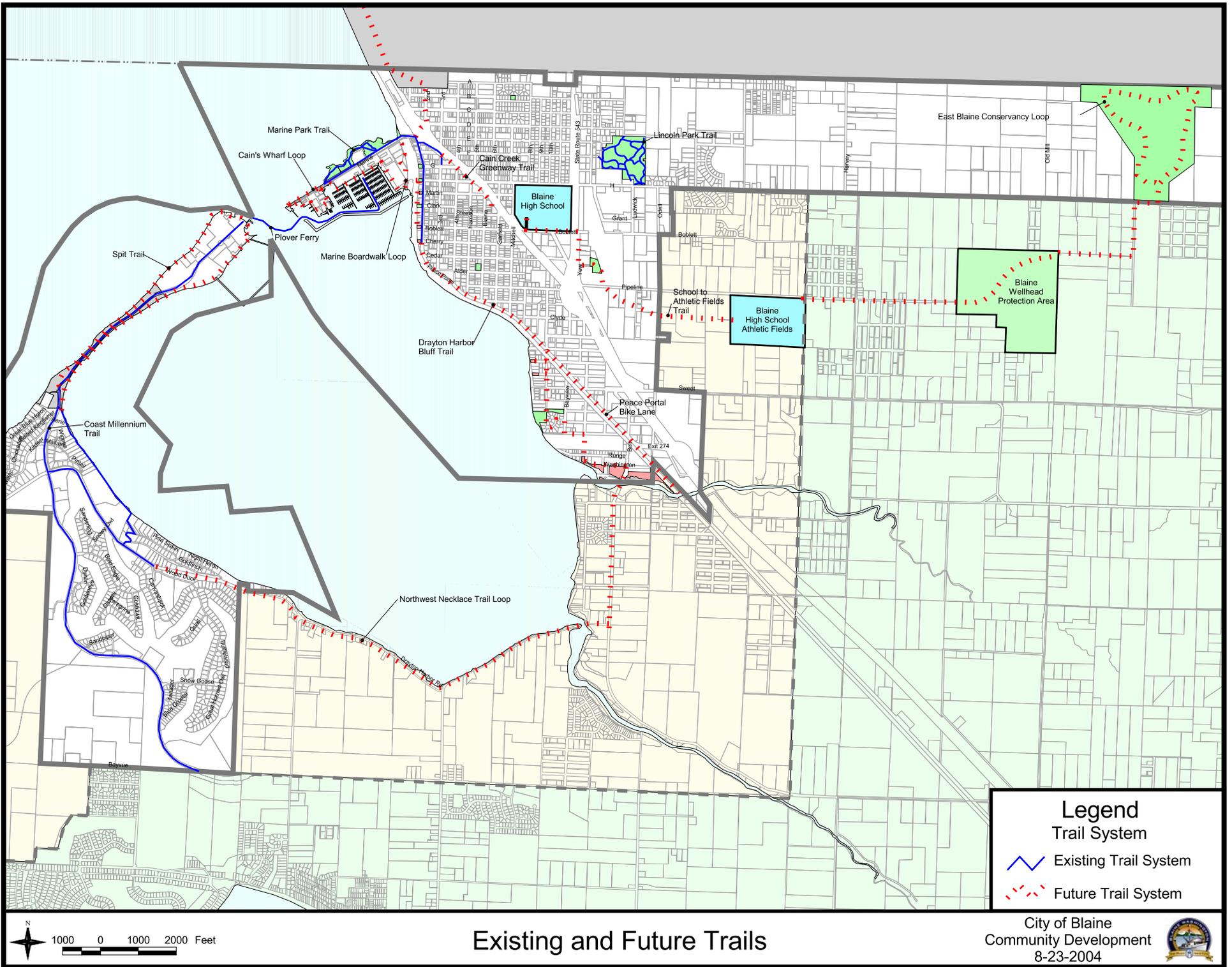
Semiahmoo Golf Course



Other Parks and Facilities in or Near Blaine

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004

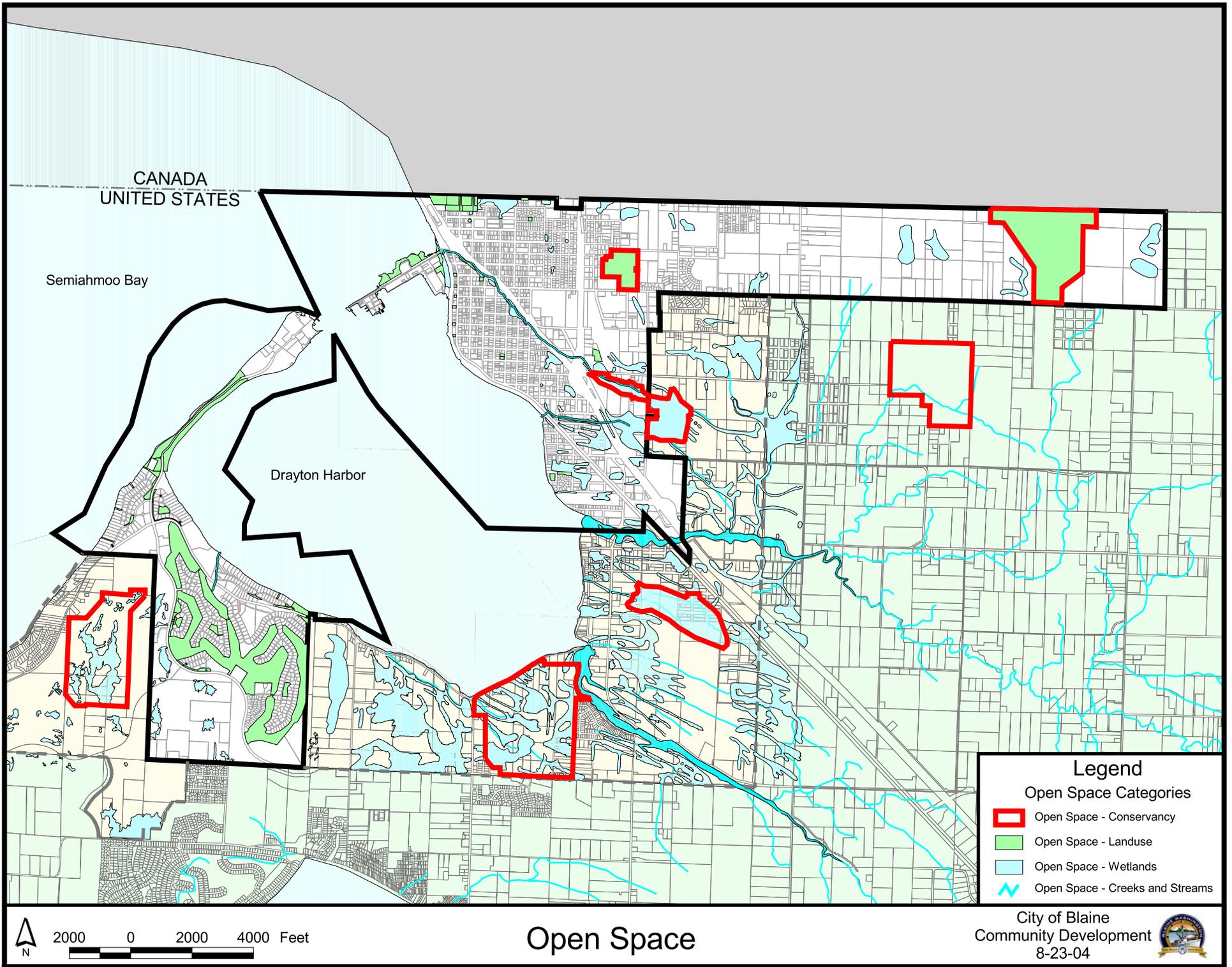




# Existing and Future Trails

City of Blaine  
 Community Development  
 8-23-2004





Canada  
United States

Semiahmoo Bay  
Wildlife Protection Area

Semiahmoo Bay

Drayton Harbor

Marine Drive

Milholin

Exit 276

A

1st

2nd

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

Martin

Clark

Boblett

3rd

4th

5th

6th

Peace Portal Drive

Harrison

Steen

Blaine

Garfield

Elm

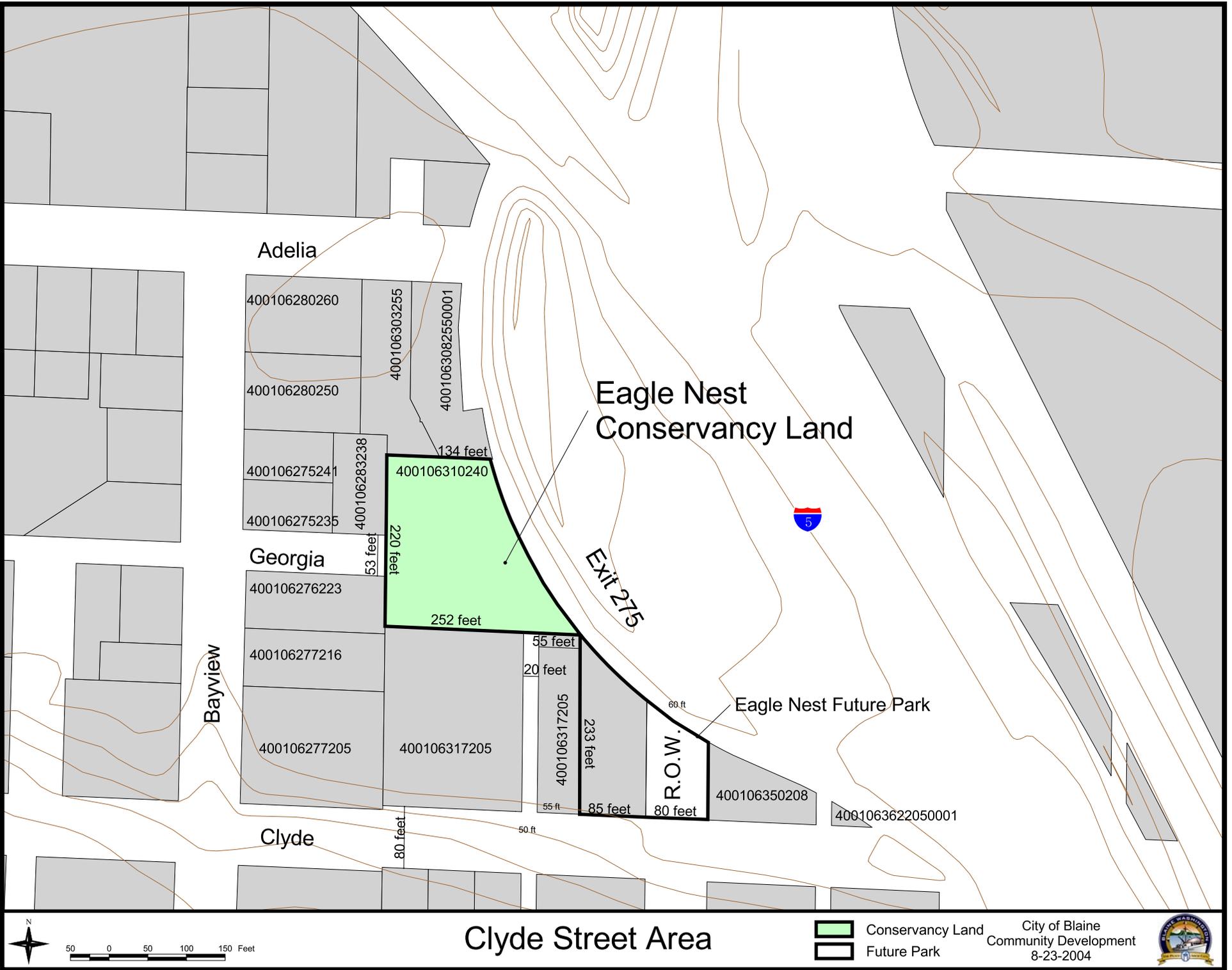


### Semiahmoo Bay Wildlife Protection Area

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004



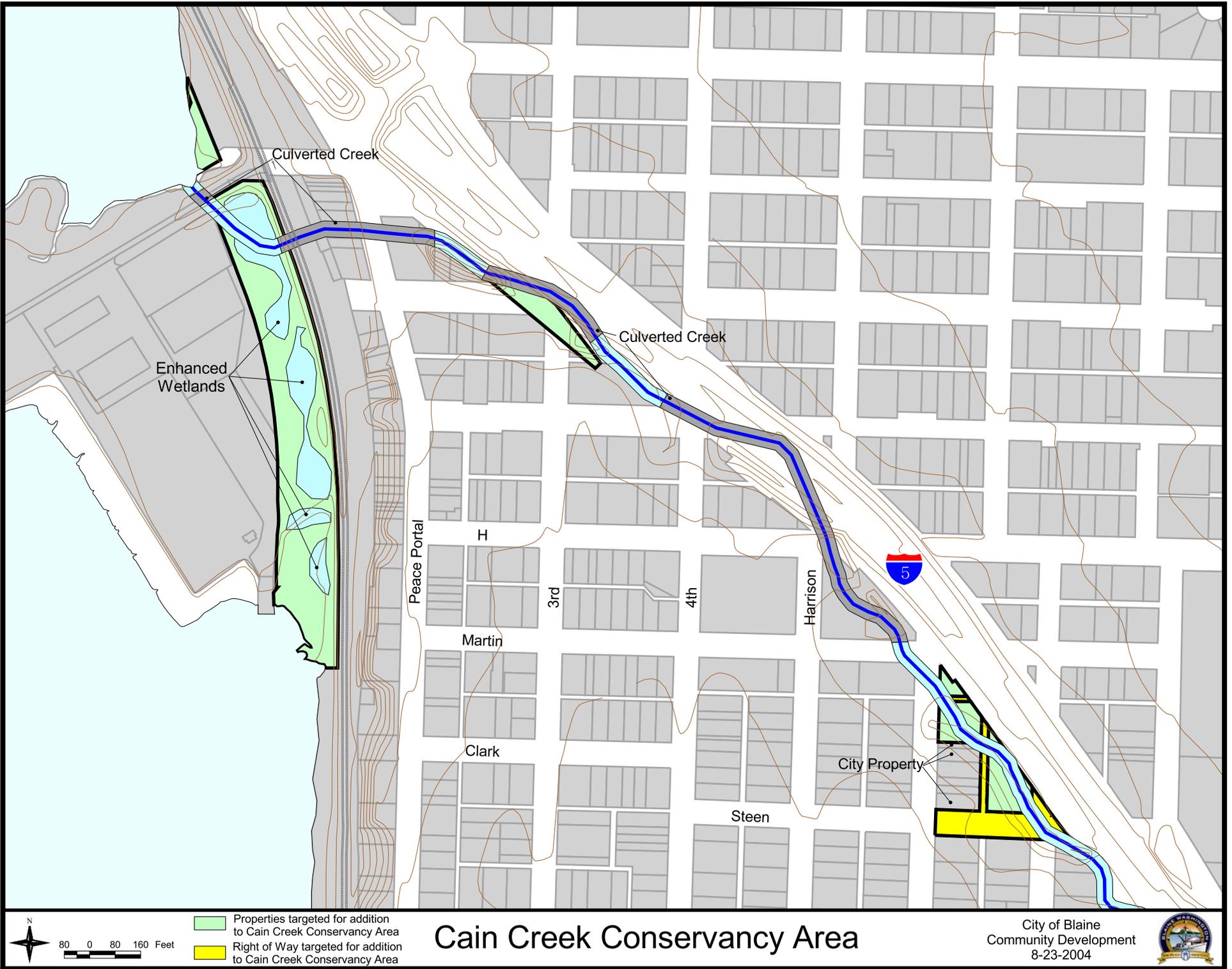




Clyde Street Area

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004





Culverted Creek

Enhanced Wetlands

Culverted Creek

Peace Portal

H

3rd

4th

Martin

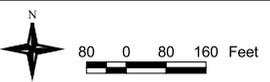
Harrison



Clark

City Property

Steen

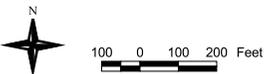
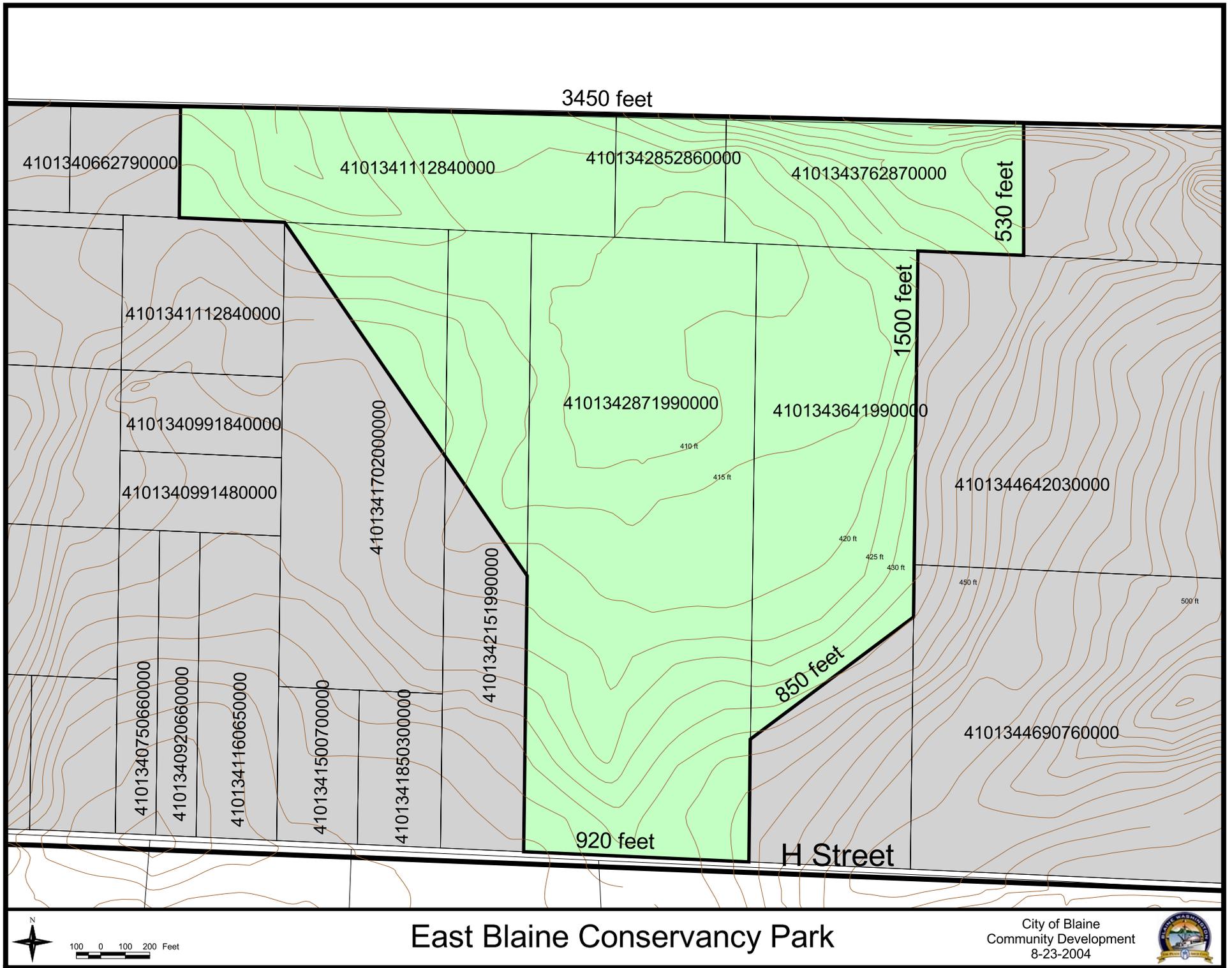


- Properties targeted for addition to Cain Creek Conservancy Area
- Right of Way targeted for addition to Cain Creek Conservancy Area

# Cain Creek Conservancy Area

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004

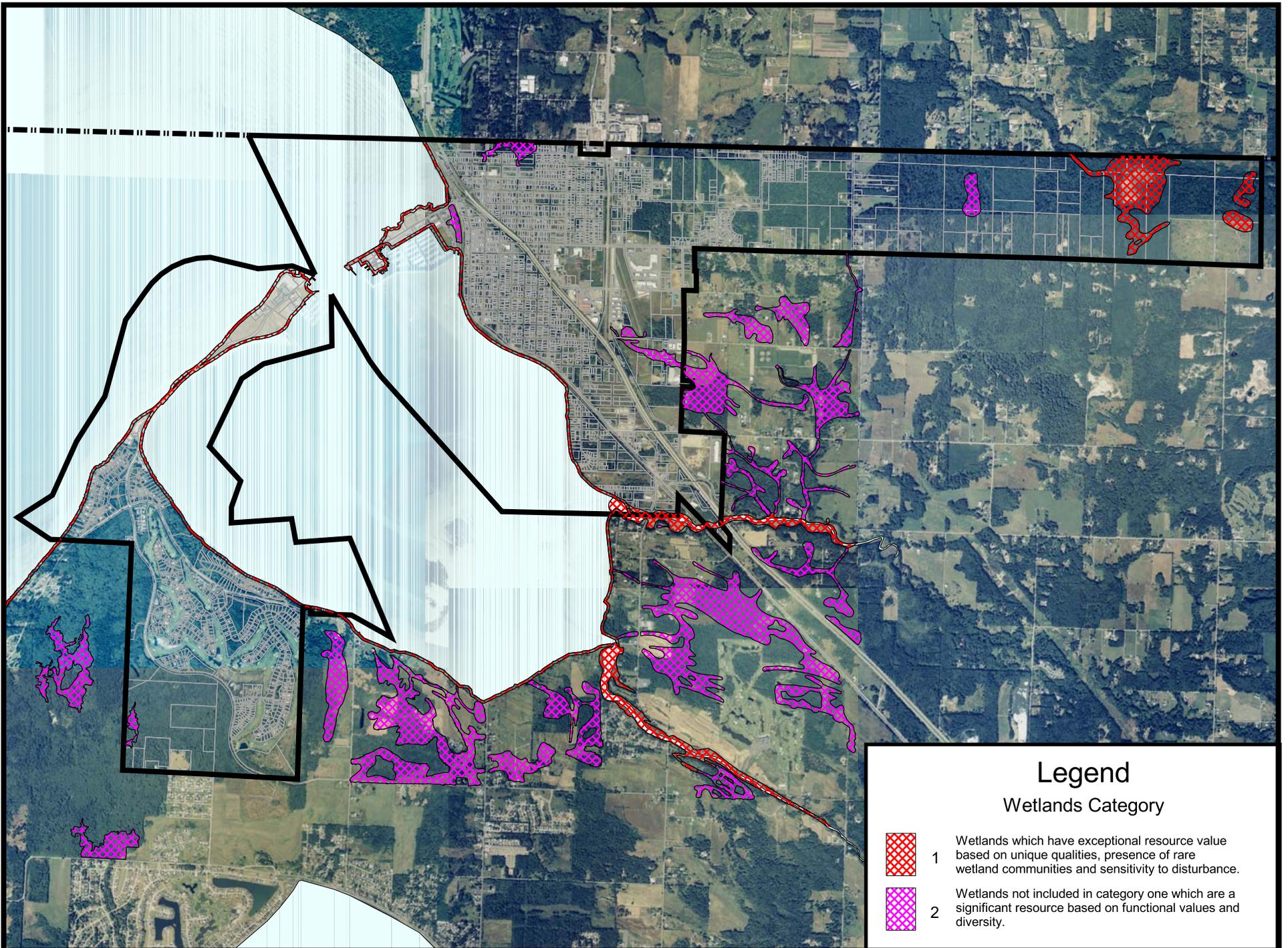




# East Blaine Conservancy Park

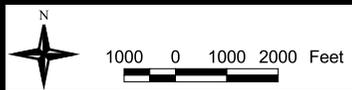
City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004





### Legend Wetlands Category

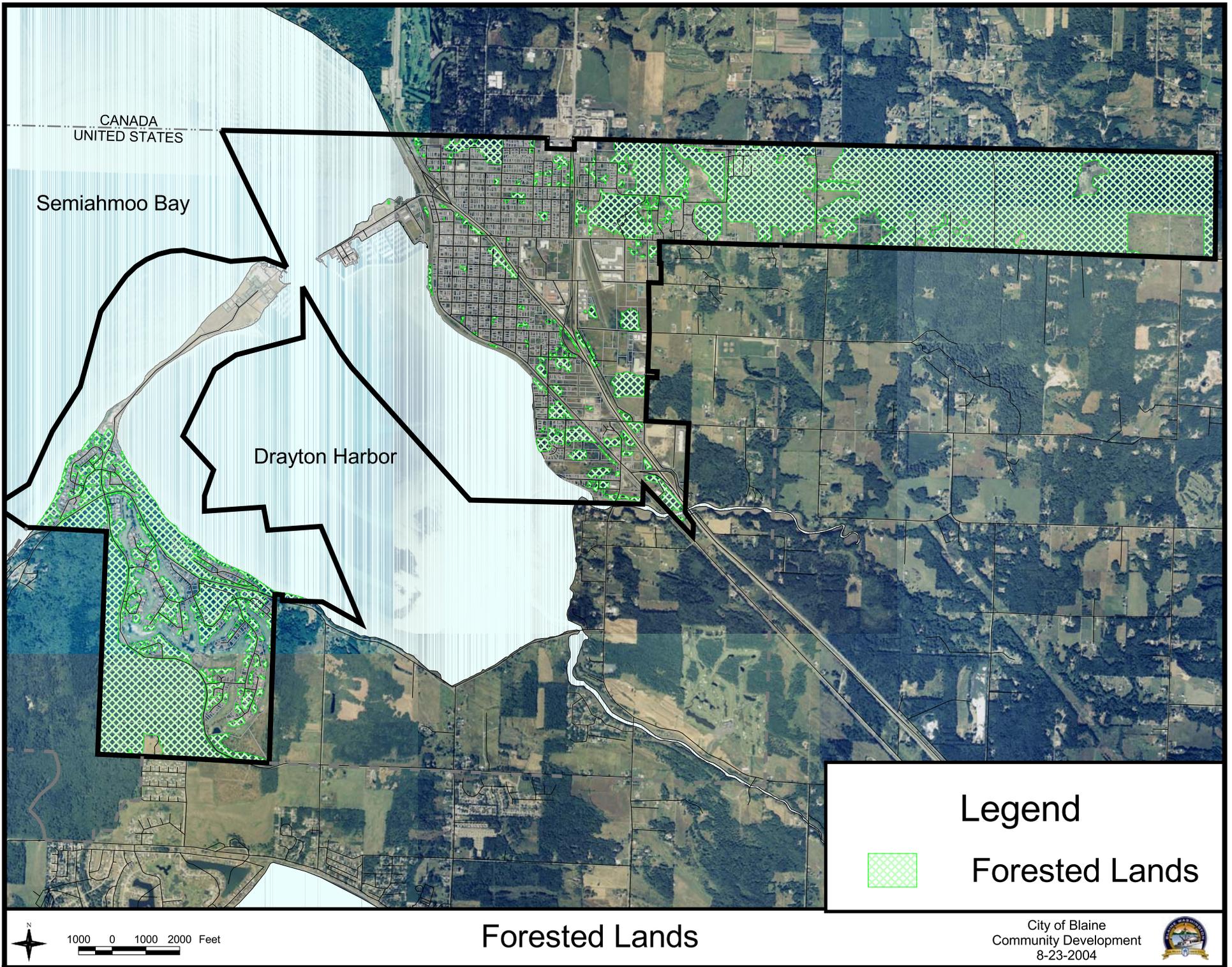
- 
1
 Wetlands which have exceptional resource value based on unique qualities, presence of rare wetland communities and sensitivity to disturbance.
- 
2
 Wetlands not included in category one which are a significant resource based on functional values and diversity.

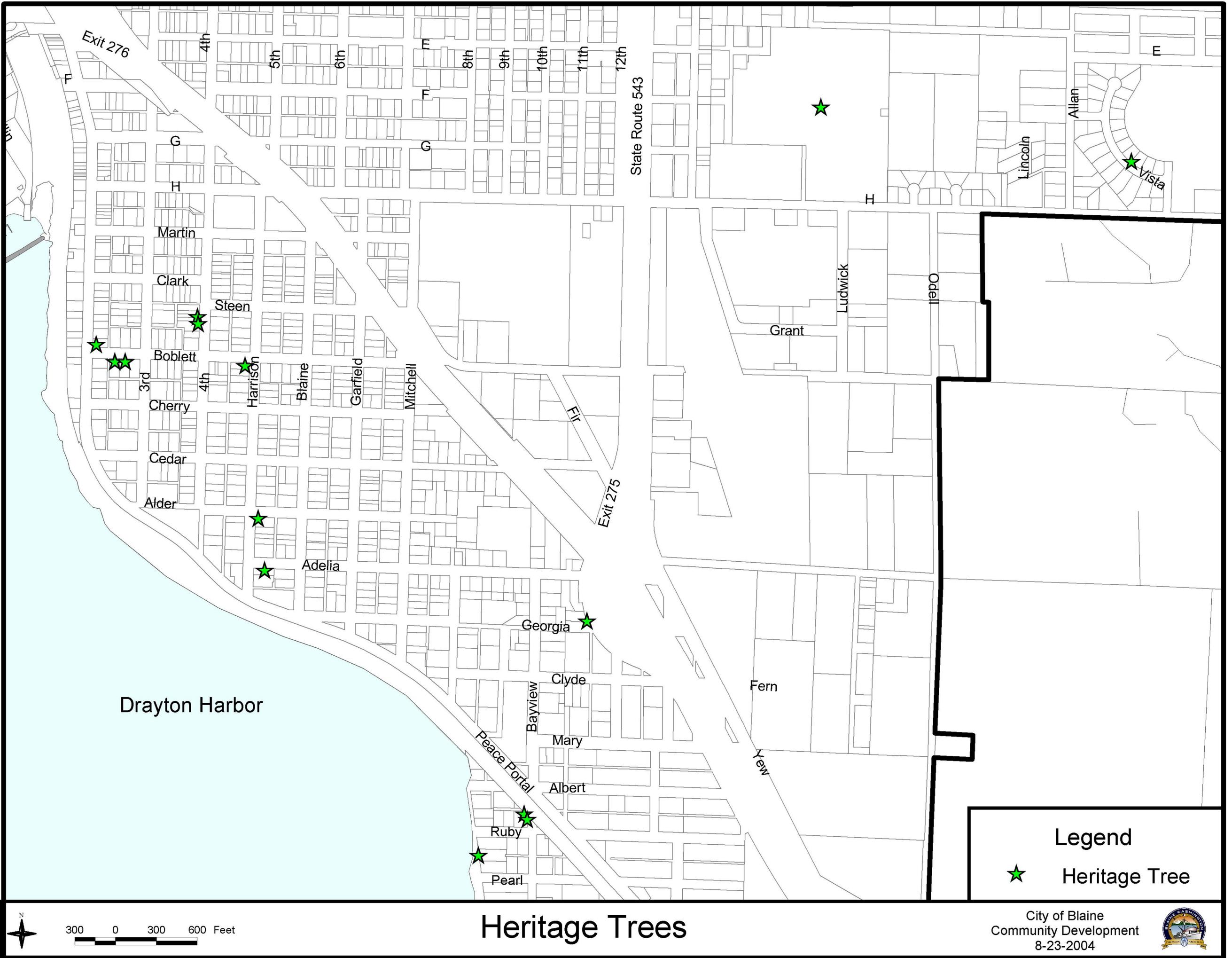


## Category 1 & 2 Wetlands

City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004







Drayton Harbor

# Heritage Trees

**Legend**

★ Heritage Tree



City of Blaine  
Community Development  
8-23-2004



Ordinance No.	Date Passed	Summary
25	06/20/1891	An ordinance providing for the acceptance by the City of Blaine of a tract of land described herein to be used as a cemetery.
58		
257	11/18/1907	An ordinance vacating that portion of G Street, as shown upon the maps and plats of the City of Blaine, Washington, lying between a line one hundred (100) feet east of, and a parallel line two hundred (200) feet west of, and parallel to, the centerline of the Seattle and Montana Railroad Company's railroad, as the same is now located and established.
258	11/18/1907	An ordinance vacating that portion of H Street, as shown upon the maps and plats of the City of Blaine, Washington, lying between a line one hundred (100) feet east of, and a parallel line two hundred (200) feet west of, and parallel to, the centerline of the Seattle and Montana Railroad Company's railroad, as the same is now located and established.
259	11/18/1907	An ordinance vacating that portion of Martin Street, as shown upon the maps and plats of the City of Blaine, Washington, lying between a line one hundred (100) feet east of, and a parallel line two hundred (200) feet west of, and parallel to, the centerline of the Seattle and Montana Railroad Company's railroad, as the same is now located and established.
260	12/16/1907	An ordinance vacating that portion of Clark Street in the City of Blaine, Washington, as shown upon the maps and plats of said City, that lies between the U.S. Meander Line and a line drawn parallel with and distant one hundred and thirty (130) feet westerly thereof.
261	12/16/1907	An ordinance vacating that portion of Boblett Street in the City of Blaine, Washington, as shown upon the maps and plats of the City, lying between lines on each side of, fifty (50) feet from and parallel to the center line of the Seattle and Montana Railroad Company's railroad, as the same is now located and established.
294		
303		
710		

839	03/05/1934	An ordinance creating a Cemetery Board, defining its powers, and establishing a fund to be known as the "Cemetery Fund."
852	05/06/1935	An ordinance prohibiting the removal or destruction of any trees, driftwood, or other material which may form or tend to form any natural or article bulkhead to the banks of any uplands abutting the shores of Drayton Harbor or Dakota Creek.
860		
917	12/07/1942	An ordinance creating a fund known as the "Dock Fund," providing for a transfer of \$6,546.44 from the current expense fund to said "Dock Fund," and providing that all funds expended from said fund shall be expended for repair, maintenance, and construction on the city dock.
932	12/18/1944	An ordinance creating a fund to be known as the "Permanent Cemetery Maintenance Fund," providing a source of revenue, therefore, providing that said fund be earmarked for cemetery maintenance purposes only, and enacting rules and regulations pertaining to the new cemetery addition.
1137		
1188		
1213		
1249	09/05/1967	An ordinance amending ordinance no. 932 entitled "an ordinance creating a fund to be known as the „Permanent Cemetery Maintenance Fund, providing a source of revenue therefore, providing that said fund be earmarked for cemetery maintenance purposes only, and enacting rules and regulations pertaining to the new cemetery addition."
1260	02/05/1968	An ordinance vacating certain streets and alleys for and on behalf of Peace Arch State Park located in the City of Blaine, Whatcom County, Washington.
1261	02/18/1968	An ordinance amending ordinance no. 932 entitled, "An ordinance creating a fund to be known as the „Perm anent Cemetery Maintenance Fund, providing a source of revenue therefore, providing that said fund be earmarked for cemetery maintenance purposes only, and enacting rules and regulation pertaining to the new cemetery addition."
1315	12/17/1970	An ordinance creating a special fund to be designated as "Municipal Park Fund," specifying the purpose for which said fund is created, and directing the use of the money in the fund.

1323	01/18/1971	An ordinance of the City of Blaine appropriating the sum of \$231 for the cemetery fund and finding and declaring an emergency.
1359	12/28/1972	An ordinance of the City of Blaine appropriating the following sums from excess revenues of said funds and finding and declaring an emergency in said funds: Street \$18,000; Cemetery \$1,450; Water/Sewer \$6,000.
1394	08/05/1974	An ordinance relating to parks and recreational facilities, board of park commissioners, defining board powers and duties.
1442	12/30/1975	An ordinance of the City of Blaine appropriating the following sums from excess revenues of the said funds and finding and declaring an emergency in said funds.
1443	12/30/1975	An ordinance of the City of Blaine appropriating the following sum to be paid by interest bearing warrants in the ensuing year, and finding and declaring an emergency in said fund.
1512	05/12/1978	Amending ordinance no. 839 to change the appointment, terms, and duties of the Parks and Cemetery Board.
1513	05/01/1978	An ordinance of the City of Blaine appropriating the following sum from excess revenues of the park fund and finding and declaring an emergency in said fund
1625		An ordinance of the City of Blaine approving the payment of \$2,000 by interest bearing warrants to be issued by the cemetery fund to maintain expenditures in said fund and finding and declaring an emergency.
1644	06/21/1982	An ordinance repealing certain ordinances on record in the City of Blaine.
1670	12/20/1982	An ordinance of the City of Blaine appropriating the following sums from excess revenues of the park fund and finding and declaring an emergency in said fund.
1718	03/19/1984	An ordinance adding to the Blaine Municipal Code, Title 178, Land Use, subsection 17.53, entitled "Recreational Vehicle Parks."
1795	03/18/1986	An ordinance of the City of Blaine, Washington, adding Chapter 17.53A, temporary recreational vehicle park in all zone districts; section 17.53A.010, applicable zone districts; 17.53A.020, procedure; 17.53.030, capital improvement charge; only during the period from April 1, 1986 through November 30, 1986; Blaine Municipal Code.
1823	12/15/1986	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, appropriating \$3,350. From the excess revenue of the fund to maintain expenditures in the cemetery fund and finding and declaring an emergency in said fund.

1871	12/28/1987	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, appropriating \$3,000 from the excess revenues of the cemetery fund to maintain expenditures in the cemetery fund and finding and declaring an emergency.
1947	08/07/1989	An ordinance of the City of Blaine appropriating \$3,851 from the excess revenues of the current expense fund to maintain expenditures in the cemetery fund and finding and declaring an emergency in said fund.
2004	02/04/1991	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, establishing a fund to be known as the Marine Project Construction Fund, appropriating the revenues of the Marine Project Construction Fund to maintain expenditures in said fund for the purpose of construction of the Marine Education Resource Center and Marine Park.
2008	03/25/1991	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, appropriating \$130,000 from contributions for the Whatcom County parks, contributions from the Senior Activity Center members and funds to be provided through possible grant applications or funding by the City for the construction of an addition to the Blaine City Center building.
2075	06/22/1992	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, authorizing mitigation payments from the water-sewer fund to the park fund of \$2,500 per year.
95-2190	02/27/1995	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, appropriating \$2,414 from excess revenue and finding and declaring an emergency in the park fund.
95-2196	05/22/1995	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, appropriating \$ 192,413 from excess revenue and finding and declaring an emergency in the Marine Drive bike path fund.
96-2246	05/13/1996	An ordinance by the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, repealing ordinance no. 1512, codified in the Blaine Municipal Code as Chapter 2.36, Cemetery Board.
96-2280	09/09/1996	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington amending the 1996 budget by \$125,825 and finding and declaring an emergency in the current Expense Fund (001), Street Fund (101), Cemetery Fund (105), and Community Convention Center Fund (110).
96-2290	11/25/1996	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington amending the 1996 budget for the cemetery fund (105) and amending ordinance no. 96-2280.

97-2314	05/27/1997	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, amending the 1997 budget for Fund 104- Parks Fund, Fund 110-Hotel/Motel Fund, Fund 112-Dare Fund, Fund 313-Ground water management Fund, Fund 410-Water Fund.
97-2324	07/28/1997	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, amending Blaine Municipal Code section 2.44 title change to Park and Cemetery Board and section 2.44.010- Definition; 2.44.020 (A)(B)-Composition –Terms – Appointment; 2.44.050 – Responsibility of Board; 2.44.070 Annual Report; and 2.44.080 Budget Estimates.
97-2329	07/14/1997	An ordinance of the City of Blaine, Washington, adopting the City of Blaine 1996 Comprehensive Plan amending the 1995 Comprehensive Plan
98-2365	04/13/1998	An ordinance of the City of Blaine authorizing the collection of impact fees on new residential and commercial development to fund public roads, fire protection facilities, parks, and schools, and establishing procedures for collection and administration of such fees.
98-2374	05/09/1998	An ordinance of the City Council of the City Blaine, Washington, Establishing the street ends west of Peace Portal between G Street and Cherry Street as permanent public access reserves to preserve views.
98-2389	09/28/1998	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, establishing hours of operations for city parks and setting penalties for violation.
98-2391	11/04/1998	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, establishing funds to be known as Fund 102-Traffic impact reserve, Fund 103-Park impact reserve, and changing the name of Fund 112-Dare fund to Fund 112 Community Service/Drug and Crime Prevention.
99-2411	04/22/1999	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, adding Chapter 2.46 entitled “Naming of Public Parks and Facilities” to the City of Blaine Municipal Code.
99-2421	12/13/1999	An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, adding new sub-section to 12.32 entitled “Blaine Parks and Cemetery Policy” to the City of Blaine Municipal Code.

<b>Resolution No.</b>	<b>Date Adopted</b>	<b>Summary</b>
231		
258		
256		
393		
402		
448		
580	02/17/1964	
589	09/07/1965	A resolution transferring monies on a loan basis from the current expense, light, water, street and sanitation funds to the equipment pool fund.
605	02/05/1968	A resolution in the matter of the vacation of streets and alleys for and on behalf of Peace Arch State Park located in the City of Blaine, Whatcom County, Washington.
637	01/18/1971	A resolution transferring monies from item to item within budgets in the current expense, cemetery, and sanitation and light funds.
671	12/12/1973	A resolution of the City Council of the City of Blaine transferring monies from item to item with budgets in the current expense, park, light, water/sewer, street and equipment funds.
694	07/21/1975	A resolution of the City of Blaine, Washington, establishing fishing regulations at Airport Park pond.
715	12/29/1977	A resolution transferring monies from item to item within the 1977 budget of the cemetery fund.
720	05/15/1978	A resolution by the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, fixing the price of lots in the Blaine Cemetery at \$100.
727	12/30/1978	A resolution transferring the monies from item to item within the 1978 budget of the parks fund.
737	04/16/1979	
953	06/17/1991	A resolution of the City of Blaine, Washington, authorizing the City to continue to participate in the development, construction and maintenance of a marine project, Marine Park/Marine Education and Resource Center, and authorizing deposits into the Marine Project Fund.

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1066-95	04/24/1995	A resolution authorizing application for funding assistance for an outdoor recreation project to the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation as provided by the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.
1073-95	06/12/1995	A resolution updating and formally adopting the 1992 City of Blaine Park Plan.
1090-95	12/11/1995	A resolution by the Blaine City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, fixing the fees of cemetery lots, liners, and open/closing and repealing resolution no. 720.
1182-97	12/08/1997	A resolution by the Blaine City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, fixing the fees of cemetery lots, liners, and open/closing and repealing resolution no. 1090-95.
1204-98	10/12/1998	A resolution of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington establishing the amount of the impact fees on new residential and commercial development to fund public roads and parks, as established per ordinance no. 98-2365.
1231-99	04/08/1999	A resolution of the Blaine City Council of Blaine, Washington, adopting policies and procedures for the acceptance of memorials, plaques, and other donor recognition.
1250-99	12/13/1999	A resolution of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington calling for the General Service Administration to abandon plans to encroach on the Peace Arch State Park
1313-01	06/11/2001	A resolution of the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, accepting property donated to the City of Blaine Parks by Donald Water and Lila Young located at the end of Blaine Avenue.