

PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN

**CITY OF BLAINE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM
UPDATE**

UPDATED DECEMBER 2014

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Blaine, Washington is located in the northwest 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. The City of Blaine is rapidly becoming a favorite place for many to live, retire and visit. As growth takes place the demand for facilities that provide public access to highly valued shoreline areas increases. It thus becomes increasingly important to ensure that existing and planned parks, trails and recreational and other facilities can meet the needs of an expanding population.

Drayton Harbor, Semiahmoo Bay, and Dakota and California Creeks are recognized as important assets for the City of Blaine, and these water bodies and the adjacent lands are defined as shorelines of the state under the State Shoreline Management Act, RCW 90.58, The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) requires that cities protect and enhance public access to the state's shorelines. Specifically, the SMA states:

RCW 90.58.020: "The public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the state shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible consistent with the overall best interest of the state and the people generally.

"Alterations of the natural conditions of the shorelines of the state, in those limited instances when authorized, shall be given priority for...development that will provide an opportunity for substantial numbers of people to enjoy the shorelines of the state."

Shoreline public access is the physical ability of the general public to reach and touch the waters edge or the ability to have a view of the water and the shoreline. Public access can be provided through the following: parks and recreational facilities, pathways and trails, docks and boat launches, street ends, picnic areas, and viewpoints. Waters of the state are a public resource owned by and available to all citizens. Ongoing and improved access to this resource is an important asset for the City as it continues to grow and develop.

The information contained in this plan is primarily drawn from the City of Blaine Parks and Recreation Plan (2004) and the City of Blaine Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (Trail Plan). The Blaine Parks Plan was adopted in 2004 and the Trail Plan was adopted in 2009 following significant public input and formal review. Information from the two plans has been supplemented with additional information derived through the development of the Blaine Shoreline Inventory and Analysis prepared in 2006 as part of the Blaine Shoreline Master Program Update.

2.0 EXISTING PUBLIC ACCESS FACILITIES

A wide range of public access facilities and opportunities has been identified within the City of Blaine. These include City-owned parks, other publicly owned facilities, privately owned facilities where public access is available, and shoreline viewpoints and trails.

2.1 City Parks

Marine Park is a 10.1-acre community park located adjacent to Semiahmoo Bay. This park 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. Several trails provide access to the shore and the park in general. The City's wastewater reclamation facility is located in the park. A recreation of a historical lighthouse is proposed for the park. Public restrooms are available on site. The site is designed as a high-usage public access area, but portions of the shoreline are dedicated as wildlife habitat with human access discouraged.

Montfort Park is a neighborhood park located on Drayton Harbor. This park consists of 2.0 acres of land donated to the city by the Montfort family, plus an additional 1.5 acres 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.

Lester Park is a 0.2-acre street end park located at the end of G Street on Peace Portal Drive overlooking Drayton Harbor and the Blaine Marina. The park historically contained monuments commemorating the sons of Blaine killed during the wars. This park has recently been redeveloped as part of the first phase in developing the Blaine Boardwalk.

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 has also recently been redeveloped as part of the first phase in developing the Blaine Boardwalk.

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.

Cherry Street Parklet is a 0.2 acre public access and view corridor at the west end of Cherry Street. The park includes a small parking area and a bench. Excellent views of Drayton Harbor are available from the parking lot and sitting area.

Hughes-Bayview Park is a 0.6 acre park located west of Bayview Avenue on Drayton Harbor. The park is nearly complete, and when finished will include a small parking area, a short trail, a large grassy area, a picnic table and bench. All of the active areas of the park offer excellent views of Drayton Harbor. Due to the high bank waterfront direct access to the water is not feasible.

2.2 Other Publicly Owned Facilities

Peace Arch State Park (20 acres), which borders on Semiahmoo Bay, is the most widely used park in the area. Owned and managed by the State of Washington, Peace Arch 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 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.

Blaine Marina is operated by the Port of Bellingham. The marina provides private moorage protected by a large breakwater. The Blaine Marina also accommodates the Plover ferry that operates on a seasonal basis and provides ferry service connecting to the Resort Semiahmoo and Semiahmoo Spit. This general area also includes the Marina Boat Launch operated by the Port that provides access to the water for a large number of users.

2.3 Private Facilities

Inn at Semiahmoo, a privately owned resort facility, is located at the tip of Semiahmoo Spit and provides both physical and visual access to the shoreline, including views from the rooms and grounds, beach access and numerous boardwalks and docks.

Semiahmoo Marina is located on Semiahmoo Spit and provides private moorage for residents of the Semiahmoo and surrounding area.

2.4 Roads and Trails

Marine Drive provides access to the Blaine Marina and Marine Park. The west end of Marine Drive accesses the Old Plank Boardwalk, which provides access at the inlet to Drayton Harbor for fishing and viewing.

Semiahmoo Parkway Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathway is located on the Drayton Harbor side of Semiahmoo Parkway on Semiahmoo Spit. Those traveling onto Semiahmoo Spit, whether on the Parkway or on the adjacent pathway, enjoy good views of Drayton Harbor and the surrounding area.

Peace Portal Drive is located within the City adjacent to Drayton Harbor and provides limited view opportunities for the travelling public.

Interstate-5 connects to the Canadian border. This roadway provides visual access to Semiahmoo Bay for those traveling to and from Canada.

Drayton Harbor Road is located in the Blaine urban growth area immediately adjacent to the southern shoreline of Drayton Harbor. This roadway provides significant visual access to the Drayton Harbor tidelands, which are an important resource enjoyed by the wider community.

Semiahmoo Spit Loop Trail is a non-motorized corridor adjacent to the water on the tip of the spit. The trails is partially complete and when finished will include a hard surfaced trail along the entire shoreline at the tip of the spit. Included in this trail feature are several trails that link the two shorelines (Semiahmoo Bay and Drayton Harbor) and offer access to residences, shops, and the resort facility.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS GOALS & POLICIES

The following public access goals and policies are intended to ensure physical and visual access to important shoreline areas including access to waters of the state, publicly owned shoreline areas and privately owned shoreline areas where the public has been granted a right of use or access.

3.1 Parks and Recreation Plan Vision and Goals

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 6000 has a vibrant tourism & 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 U.S. 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".

Community Park Goals

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

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

Shoreline Area Goals

Goal: Acquire and maintain the best possible visual and physical access to shorelines of the City of Blaine. Assure that public access meets the demand of the residents of Blaine and visitors to Blaine.

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

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

Trails, Open Space, Conservation Goals

Goal: To develop a comprehensive open space and trails implementation program which protects the natural environment and significant cultural resources, provides passive recreation opportunities, is integrated with the Transportation Element and is designed to link neighborhoods with parks, significant open spaces, schools, shoreline access areas, commercial centers and employment centers.

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

3.2 Shoreline Master Program Goals and Policies

Public access includes the ability of the general public to reach, touch and enjoy the water's edge, to travel on the waters of the state, and to view the water and the shoreline from adjacent locations. The following goals and policies are consistent with the Blaine Shoreline Master Program Goals and Policies. The policies are general in nature to achieve the greatest amount of public access as desired by the community. It is the intent of these policies to increase public access both physically and visually so that all citizens can enjoy and use the shorelines of the state.

GOAL 4.2: Assure acquisition and maintenance of an adequate supply of visual and physical access to the shorelines for the residents of the City of Blaine and visitors to the community. Wherever possible, encourage utilization of public property for public access purposes.

Policy 4.2A: Public access should be located, designed, managed and maintained in a manner that protects shoreline processes and assures no net loss of ecological functions.

Policy 4.2B: The protection and provision of physical and visual access to publicly owned shorelands should be encouraged and protected.

Policy 4.2C: Unopened rights-of-way and other properties in public ownership should be utilized for shoreline visual and physical access where feasible, and when this can be done in a manner that protects shoreline processes. Such rights-of-way should not be vacated.

Policy 4.2D: Provide incentives for public access opportunities in private developments.

Policy 4.2E: Encourage the development of restaurants, hotels, markets and public gathering places that enhance public use and attract the public to appropriate shoreline areas.

Policy 4.2F: Encourage and incentivize the redevelopment and repurposing of piers, docks and wharves in a manner that facilitates public access where feasible and where mixing uses do not create an undue risk to people or facilities.

Aquatic Environment

Policy: New over-water structures shall only be allowed for water-dependent uses or public access or ecological restoration.

Natural Environment

Policy: Access may be permitted for scientific, historical, cultural, educational, and low-intensity water-oriented recreational purposes, provided that no significant ecological impact on the area will result.

High Intensity Environment

Policy: Where feasible, visual and physical public access should be required.

Shoreline Residential Environment

Policy: Multifamily and multi-lot residential and recreational developments should provide community or public access and joint use for community recreational facilities.

Policy: Public or private outdoor recreation facilities should be encouraged if compatible with the character of the area. Preferred uses include water-dependent and water-enjoyment recreation facilities that provide opportunities for substantial numbers of people to access and enjoy the shoreline.

Urban Conservancy Environment

Policy: Public access and public recreation objectives should be implemented whenever feasible and significant ecological impacts can be mitigated.

Special Management Unit-Wharf

Policy: Provide a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Policy: Provide public access to the shorelines and tidelands.

Special Management Unit-Semiahmoo

The Resort Semiahmoo Master Plan contains numerous regulations and planning elements related to public access to the shoreline, intertidal area and water. The elements that implement public access are integrated throughout the Plan.

Aquaculture

Policy: Consideration should be given to visual and physical access to the shoreline when locating aquacultural activities.

Boat Ramps

Policy: New boat ramps should only be allowed for water-dependent uses or public access.

Breakwaters

Policy: When locating breakwaters, the possible effect on navigation and the public use of the water surface should be considered and adverse impacts should be avoided or minimized.

Bulkheads

Policy: Public access to the shoreline should be considered when locating bulkheads.

Commercial Development

Policy: Consideration should be given to the effect on public physical and visual access by new commercial development.

Policy: Commercial developments should provide public access, unless such improvements are demonstrated to be infeasible or present hazards to life or property.

Policy: New water-dependent commercial uses should provide public access, should be encouraged to provide on-site ecological restoration, where feasible, and should prohibit non-water uses unless they are part of a mixed-use project that includes water-oriented uses.

Policy: In areas of primarily retail or tourism activity, pedestrian traffic should be given priority over other forms of traffic in areas adjacent to the shore.

Industrial Development

Policy: Wherever possible, industrial development should not interfere with public visual and physical access to the shoreline.

Policy: Industrial development should be encouraged to provide public access, except where such access would pose a threat to public health or safety or to private property.

Jetties and Groins

Policy: Jetties and groins should only be allowed where necessary to support public access, shoreline stabilization or other public purpose.

Marinas

Policy: Construction or expansion of marinas should provide opportunities for physical and visual public or community access to the shoreline, should not interfere with existing or planned public access or recreational facilities, and should accommodate multiple uses, such as water-dependent uses, wherever possible.

Outdoor Advertising and Signs

Policy: In general, signs should be constructed to minimize interference with visual access to the shoreline. Where such locations are available, signs should be constructed against existing buildings to minimize visual obstructions of the shoreline and water bodies. Monument signs should be used as the alternative to other types of freestanding signs.

Piers and Docks

Policy: New piers and docks should be allowed only for water-dependent uses or public access.

Recreational Development

Policy: Where possible, shoreline recreational facilities should be linked to other recreational attractions by pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Policy: Public access and parks planning goals, policies and priority actions should be implemented to insure that an adequate supply of publicly-owned space for shoreline walking, viewing, and general shoreline enjoyment is provided and maintained.

Policy: Trail links between shoreline parks and public access points should be encouraged for walking, bicycle riding and other non-motorized vehicle access where appropriate.

Policy: The City should work towards reconstructing and naturalizing the shoreline in public parks to enhance the public's visual experience and access to the water's edge

Residential Development

Policy: Subdivisions should be encouraged to provide community or public physical and/or visual access to shorelines.

Shoreline Protection

Policy: Wherever possible, construction of shoreline protection facilities should provide opportunities for public access to the shoreline.

Shoreline Stabilization

Policy: Shore stabilization should not be permitted to unnecessarily interfere with public access to public shorelines, nor with other appropriate shoreline uses including, but not limited to, navigation, seafood harvest, or private recreation.

Policy: Wherever feasible, opportunities for public access should be incorporated into the design and construction of shoreline stabilization projects.

Transportation and Parking

Policy: Provisions should be made in highway and road design for compatible multiple uses, such as utility lines, pedestrian shore access, scenic pull-outs and view points.

Policy: Transportation facilities should be located and designed to avoid impacts to public recreation and public access areas and to significant natural, historic, archaeological or cultural sites.

Policy: Road and transportation planning should make provisions for public transportation, pedestrian, bicycle and other public access to shoreline areas, where appropriate.

Utilities

Policy 8.9F: Provisions should be made in highway and road design for compatible multiple uses, such as utility lines, pedestrian shore access, scenic pull-outs and view points.

Policy 8.9H: Transportation facilities should be located and designed to avoid impacts to public recreation and public access areas and to significant natural, historic, archaeological or cultural sites.

4.0 PUBLIC ACCESS REGULATIONS

4.1 Shoreline Master Program Regulations

General Regulations

- A. Public access requirements, as specified below, shall only apply to developments meeting any of the following criteria:
 - 1. Development on properties including or abutting the water's edge or ordinary high water mark; or
 - 2. Development on properties within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark.
- B. All subdivisions of more than 4 lots or units shall provide public access to the shoreline through inclusion of a walkway or trail unless found to be infeasible or incompatible with the specific development location and if alternative opportunities for public access are available or can be provided.
- C. The Planning Commission shall approve proposed public access improvements, where required, for each application. Public access requirements shall be based on both the proportionate amount of linear shoreline included in the property proposed for development and the public access potential of the site.

- D. Proposed public access improvements shall be consistent with and shall further the goals of the City's public access planning process and Parks and Recreation Plan and Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Public access improvements may be provided either on- or off-site as approved by the Planning Commission.
- E. Where public access is required, the City shall require granting of easements or dedication of land to ensure long-term access by the public. In such cases, the City shall provide property owners with appropriate indemnification as allowed by law.
- F. Commercial developments shall be required to provide either physical or visual public access to the shoreline through inclusion of a publicly accessible boardwalk, walkway or trail.
- G. Industrial developments shall be encouraged to provide physical or visual public access to the shoreline through inclusion of a publicly accessible walkway or trail; provided that, no such public access shall be required in situations where such access would pose a threat to public health or safety or to private property.
- H. The Planning Commission shall encourage all other uses to provide community or public access to the shoreline consistent with the City's public access planning process and Parks and Recreation Plan.
- I. Shoreline development by public entities, including local governments, port districts, state agencies, and public utility districts, include public access measures as part of each development project, unless such access is shown to be incompatible due to reasons of safety, security, or impact to the shoreline environment.
- J. Public rights-of-way shall be reserved in public ownership for shoreline access and enjoyment purposes, and shall be protected from encroachment by unpermitted private use.

Aquaculture

- A. Public access to the surface of the water shall not be impaired, and existing opportunities for public access shall not be reduced.

Boat Ramps

- A. New boat ramps shall be approved only if they provide public access to public waters, which are not adequately served by existing access facilities, or if use of existing facilities is documented to exceed the designed capacity.
- B. Boat ramps shall only be permitted in conjunction with water-dependent uses, such as marine industry, or for public access

Breakwaters, Jetties and Groins

- A. Prior to granting a permit for a breakwater, the effect on adjacent properties, on water circulation, and on public use of the water surface shall be determined and shall be considered in the permit process.
- B. These structures shall only be allowed where necessary to support public access, shoreline stabilization, and other public purposes, such as protection or restoration of ecological functions.
- C. Construction of jetties and groins shall not significantly decrease public access to or use of the shoreline.

Commercial Development

- A. Proposed commercial developments should incorporate permanent public access into their designs consistent with SMP Section 7.9, as may apply.
- B. Except where personal safety is involved, commercial developments that are not water-oriented shall provide public shoreline access proportionate to the nature and degree of impact associated with the development or, alternatively, provide other comparable means of enhancing the water resource and the public's visual and aesthetic enjoyment of these resources with the approval of the City.
- C. Commercial development shall provide public access as mitigation for impacts to shoreline environments and values unless access is demonstrated to be infeasible or inappropriate.
- D. Commercial developments which have the potential of providing views and scenic vistas to the shoreline and harbor will have priority and shall allow public access within the development and/or to public or private boardwalks or walkways.

Industrial Development

- A. Industrial and port development shall provide public access pursuant to Section 4.2 of the SMP.
- B. Shoreline locations in the port other than those along water navigable at low tide shall be limited to industries and commercial developments which are marine-related but not necessarily water-dependent or mixed-use developments that incorporate such uses. Such uses shall be required to allow public access to the shoreline, unless public safety would be endangered.

Piers and Docks

- A. New piers and docks shall only be permitted in conjunction with water-dependent uses such as marine industry or public access such as a public wharf or marina.

Recreational Development

- A. Where feasible, shoreline recreational facilities shall be required to link to other recreational attractions via pedestrian and bicycle trails.
- B. Recreation areas or facilities within shoreline jurisdiction shall provide public physical or visual access to the shoreline and shall provide public access to publicly owned tidelands.
- C. The Whatcom County Park beaches and tidelands shall be maintained in their natural state for purposes of public use and enjoyment.

Residential Development

- A. New multi-unit residential development, including subdivision of land into four or more parcels, shall provide public access to publicly owned shorelines or public water bodies.

Shoreline Stabilization

- A. Wherever possible, construction of shoreline stabilization structures and facilities shall incorporate opportunities for public access and shall provide for protection and restoration of ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes.
- B. Prior to granting a permit for a bulkhead, the effect on adjacent properties and on public access to publicly owned shorelines shall be determined and shall be considered in the permit process.

Transportation and Parking

- A. New roads shall make provisions for pedestrian and bicycle access.

5.0 EXISTING AND PLANNED PUBLIC ACCESS BY REACH

This section of the public access plan addresses public access planning by shoreline reach. These reaches are identified on the Shoreline Reach Map developed as part of the Blaine Shoreline Inventory and Analysis. Existing and planned public access opportunities and facilities, as well as priorities for developing additional public access opportunities, are discussed.

5.1 Reach 1

Reach 1 is described as the marine shoreline on Semiahmoo Bay from the Canadian border south to the mouth of Cain Creek. Reach 1 contains portions of Peace Arch Park, which provides visual access to Semiahmoo Bay for those people traveling across or visiting the international border. No changes to the facilities located in this reach are proposed.

5.2 Reach 2

Reach 2 includes the marine shoreline on Semiahmoo Bay from Cain Creek to the west end of the Marine Drive peninsula. Marine Park is located within the

eastern two-thirds of this reach and provides physical and visual access to the shoreline. The park includes picnic and bird viewing shelters and provides excellent opportunities for bird watching and other low impact recreational activities. The Blaine Parks Plan identifies a number of proposed improvements and modifications to Marine Park to increase public access and functionality. These include constructing additional public facilities, adding interpretive signs, formalizing the parking for the park, enhancing the beaches including possible removal of rip-rap to make access to the tidal area easier, creation of additional beach areas, and constructing a pedestrian wharf/boardwalk adjacent to Marine Drive to connect the park to the old pier located at the west end of Marine Drive. .

5.3 Reach 3

Reach 3 includes the marine shoreline along Drayton Harbor from the tip of the Marine Drive spit back to the north-south shoreline adjacent to, but not including, the Burlington-Northern railroad right-of-way. Public access within Reach 3 is provided by the Blaine Marina, the Plover ferry, and the public boat launch at the northern extent of the reach. Future pedestrian, public access trails are proposed within this reach to connect to the Blaine Boardwalk. The pier/platform (Old Plank Boardwalk) at the end of the spit also provides access. Additional improvements include the creation of "Plover Park," a new City park on Port of Bellingham property.

5.4 Reach 4

Reach 4 includes the marine shoreline along Drayton Harbor south from the boat launch (and including the railroad right-of-way) to the point where Peace Portal Drive is located immediately landward of the Burlington-Northern railroad (near Cedar Street right-of-way). Visual public access within this reach is provided or has the potential to be provided by numerous street end parks (G Street, H Street, Boblett Street, Martin Street, Clark Street, and Cherry Street) as well as by the Blaine Boardwalk, which will connect the existing plazas already constructed at the ends of G Street and H Street. A pedestrian overpass is planned to cross the railroad and link the Boardwalk to pedestrian trails connecting to the Blaine Marina and Marine Park. Commercial developments on the west side of Peace Portal Drive also have the potential for providing visual public access to the shoreline. The Blaine Parks Plan identified specific priorities for improving public access within this reach, including plans for improvements to the various street end park areas.

5.5 Reach 5

Reach 5 includes the marine shoreline along Drayton Harbor where the Burlington-Northern railroad right-of-way is located immediately adjacent to Peace Portal Drive (approximately from Cedar Street to north of Albert Street). Views of the shoreline are available from Peace Portal Drive. A public viewing

site has been planned on Peace Portal Drive near 4th Street that would include parking and a viewing platform that would increase visual access. Development of the Drayton Harbor Bluff Trail, including a greenway corridor along the top of the bluff of Drayton Harbor between Peace Portal Drive and the Burlington Northern right of way, would also provide enhanced access to views of Drayton Harbor.

5.6 Reach 6

Reach 6 includes the marine shoreline along Drayton Harbor from the point where the railroad leaves the shoreline south to the mouth of Dakota Creek. Montfort Park, one of the City's neighborhood parks, is located within this reach and provides visual access to the shoreline. Many members of the general public may not be aware that this park exists. This is partly due to the fact that 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 will likely increase significantly as the surrounding neighborhood develops. A related issue is the relative sensitivity of the erosional bluff along the shoreline to increased human use. The Blaine Parks Plan recommends that a task force be organized to consider implementing the following priority actions: improve the trail access to the park and associated parking, consider providing pedestrian access to the shoreline from the bluff, and provide park amenities. Trail improvements occurred in 2007 and 2009 offering enhanced access to the park for a larger area of the neighborhood.

Additional public access within Reach 6 has been provided by development of street end view areas at Ruby and Pearl Street. The Pearl Street ROW has been developed as Hughes-Bayview Park and the Ruby Street ROW has a recently installed bench. Plans include construction of a shoreline access trail down the bluff at Ruby Street. There is a potential for a new park site near the Dodd Street and Leighton Avenue where a large undivided parcel exists, which will likely be developed for residential uses in the future.

5.7 Reach 7

Reach 7 is defined as the shoreline of Dakota Creek from the mouth of the creek upstream to the city limits line (on the north bank) near Interstate-5. The south bank is located in unincorporated Whatcom County in the Blaine urban growth area (UGA), with the exception of one small area. Shoreline public access may be increased in the future through development of a new community park in this reach, referred to as the Dakota Creek Shoreline Park. If the area identified in the Blaine Parks Plan can be developed into a shoreline park, the opportunities for bird watching, fishing, and exploring the unique, intertidal habitat would be increased while providing increased protection of Dakota Creek. The initial

phase of this park was developed in 2009/2010 with the creation of a kayak and canoe launch site and fishing access on the north shore of Dakota Creek.

5.8 Reach 8

This reach has been removed from the City's UGA. This plan includes no provisions for public access along this reach.

5.9 Reach 9

Reach 9 includes a short section of mostly developed single family residential housing. A public right-of-way provides beach access for nearby residents. This plan includes no provisions for additional public access along this reach.

5.10 Reach 10

This reach has been removed from the City's UGA. This plan includes no provisions for public access along this reach.

5.11 Reach 11

This reach has been removed from the City's UGA. This plan includes no provisions for public access along this reach.

5.12 Reach 12

This reach has been removed from the City's UGA. This plan includes no provisions for public access along this reach.

5.13 Reach 13

Reach 13 includes the marine shoreline along Drayton Harbor from the city limits line to the beginning of Semiahmoo Spit. A pedestrian pathway located adjacent to Drayton Harbor connects the Drayton Hillside developments to the beginning of the Semiahmoo Spit. The trail offers excellent views of the shoreline.

5.14 Reach 14

Reach 14 includes the marine shoreline along Drayton Harbor from the beginning of the neck of Semiahmoo Spit to the southwest edge of the Semiahmoo Marina. Semiahmoo Park (a county park) is located in this reach and provides physical and visual access to the shoreline. A pedestrian/bike trail is located on the south side of Semiahmoo Parkway. A shoreline view point and additional shoreline

trails, including a section of the Semiahmoo Spit loop trail, have been constructed in the eastern portion of this reach.

5.15 Reach 15

Reach 15 is identified as the marine shoreline along Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay from the southern edge of the Semiahmoo Marina to the northwestern extent of the Semiahmoo Resort. Significant physical and visual access to the shoreline is provided within this reach by the Semiahmoo Marina, piers adjacent to the Semiahmoo Resort, the dock for the Plover ferry, and existing and proposed public access trails and walkways. The Semiahmoo Spit Loop Trail is partially constructed through this area. Preliminary plans include upgrading the gravel trail to a hard surface.

5.16 Reach 16

Reach 16 is identified as the marine shoreline along Semiahmoo Bay from the western extent of Semiahmoo Resort to the western edge of Semiahmoo Park (just east of the wastewater treatment plant). Semiahmoo Park (a county park) is located in this reach and provides physical and visual access to the shoreline. Recently, the Semiahmoo Spit loop trail was constructed in the eastern portion of this reach. Some additional trail work is proposed for the future.

5.17 Reach 17

Reach 17 is defined as the marine shoreline along Semiahmoo Bay from just east of the wastewater treatment plant southwest to the existing City limits and continuing southwesterly to the southern extent of the Blaine UGA. Approximately one-third of this reach is located within the City and the remaining two-thirds is located in unincorporated Whatcom County. A State Park property is located at the south end of Reach 17, but no developed areas for public access have been identified within this reach.