

## Parks & Recreation Committee Executive Summary and Recommendations

The goal of this committee was to develop a plan and mechanism that would help to facilitate community involvement and suggestions for future parks & trails revitalization and upgrades, and ensure that our parks are maintained going forward. Below is a summary of our recommendations:

### ASAP

- Establish a standing Parks & Recreation Committee with a chairperson who has frequent and direct contact with Administration and Maintenance as necessary.
- Ensure that the 2017 and future parks budgets are sufficient to provide basic maintenance.
- Allocate adequate capital funds to continue to improve our parks.
- Determine which parks will be returned to their natural state and/or maintained simply as green space.
- Evaluate metal storm water pipe at AM beach and implement a plan to cover it and prevent injury.
- Address current off-leash and on leash regulations at all parks to bring them in-line with Bellingham city parks.

### 2017:

- Finish Tumbling Water Park
- Establish a plan to rebuild Treehouse park

### Within 3 years

- Rebuild Treehouse Park
- Bring all playground cushioning material up to code
- Replace old cement picnic tables in all parks
- Upgrade playground equipment in Cascade Park
- Upgrade playground equipment at the Marina and add sand volley ball or other sports area
- Resurface tennis courts

### Within 3-5 years

- Add additional features to Strawberry Park
- Complete a walking/biking path around the Marina
- Determine the feasibility of adding a bike/skate park, possibly in the airport strip.
- Replace backstops at ball fields

As submitted by Committee members: Karen Borchert, Carol Trower & Elizabeth Huthert, September 2016.

DRAFT