

Connecting Bellingham with the Bay

The Waterfront Futures Group will lead a cooperative process that takes a fresh look at our waterfront and recognizes the diverse perspectives of our community. Our mission is to create a compelling vision for current and future generations and identify the steps to get us there.



JANUARY — MAY 2003

Project Launch

MAY — SEPTEMBER 2003

Education & Analysis

SEPTEMBER 2003 — JANUARY 2004

Applying it to Bellingham

JANUARY — JUNE 2004

Creating the Plan

JUNE — DECEMBER 2004

Public Review

Little Squalicum



An outstanding opportunity for habitat and beach restoration... Future facilities on the bluff could be models of sustainable development and uses.



Squalicum

Future development could include a vibrant mixture of diverse facilities—housing, retail, office and public spaces throughout the area.

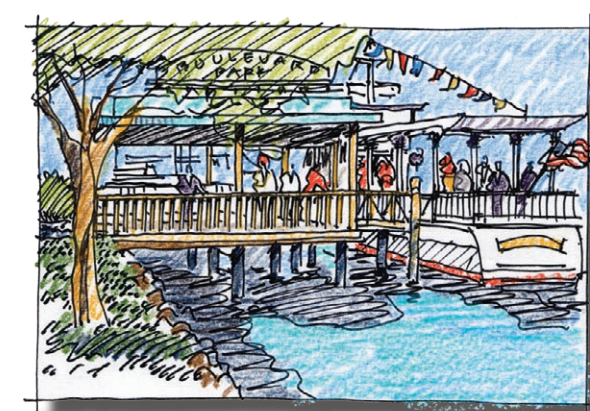


City Center

This area could become an exciting mixture of housing, cultural facilities, waterfront access, public gathering places and waterfront activities.

The Cornwall Avenue landfill could include housing, open space, habitat restoration areas, public facilities and an overwater pathway connecting it to Boulevard Park and Fairhaven via the Taylor Street Dock.

South Hill & Boulevard Park



Boardwalks and improved beach access could become expansions of existing open space and trails, opening up additional recreational opportunities from Boulevard Park to Padden Creek.



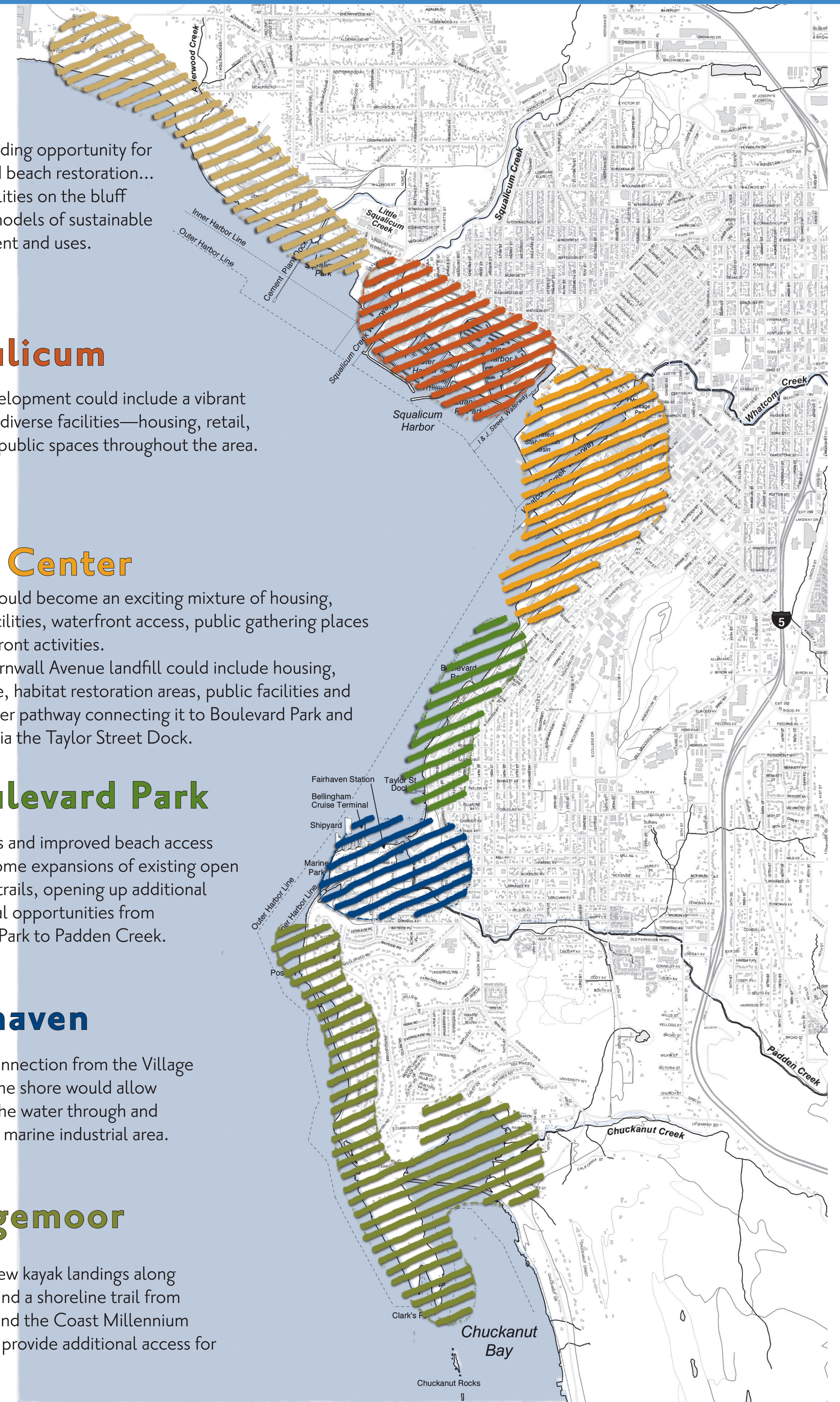
Fairhaven

A direct connection from the Village Green to the shore would allow access to the water through and around the marine industrial area.

Chuckanut & Edgemoor



Creating new kayak landings along the shore and a shoreline trail from Fairhaven and the Coast Millennium Trail could provide additional access for boaters.



Guiding Principles & Framework Plan

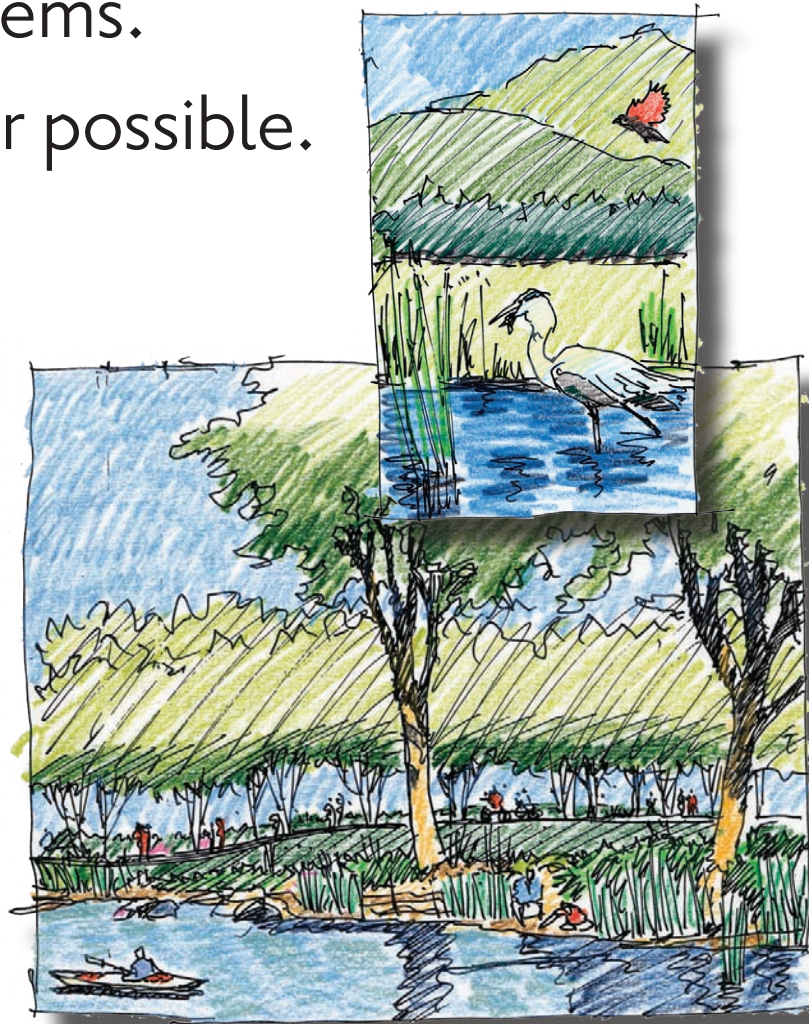
Reinforce the Inherent Qualities of Each Place on the Waterfront

- ♦ Make the waterfront a regular part of the lives of more people.
- ♦ Respect history, cultures and the arts.
- ♦ Make the waterfront inviting to people on foot.
- ♦ Reinforce a unique “sense of place” at different waterfront locations.
- ♦ Complement adjacent uses.



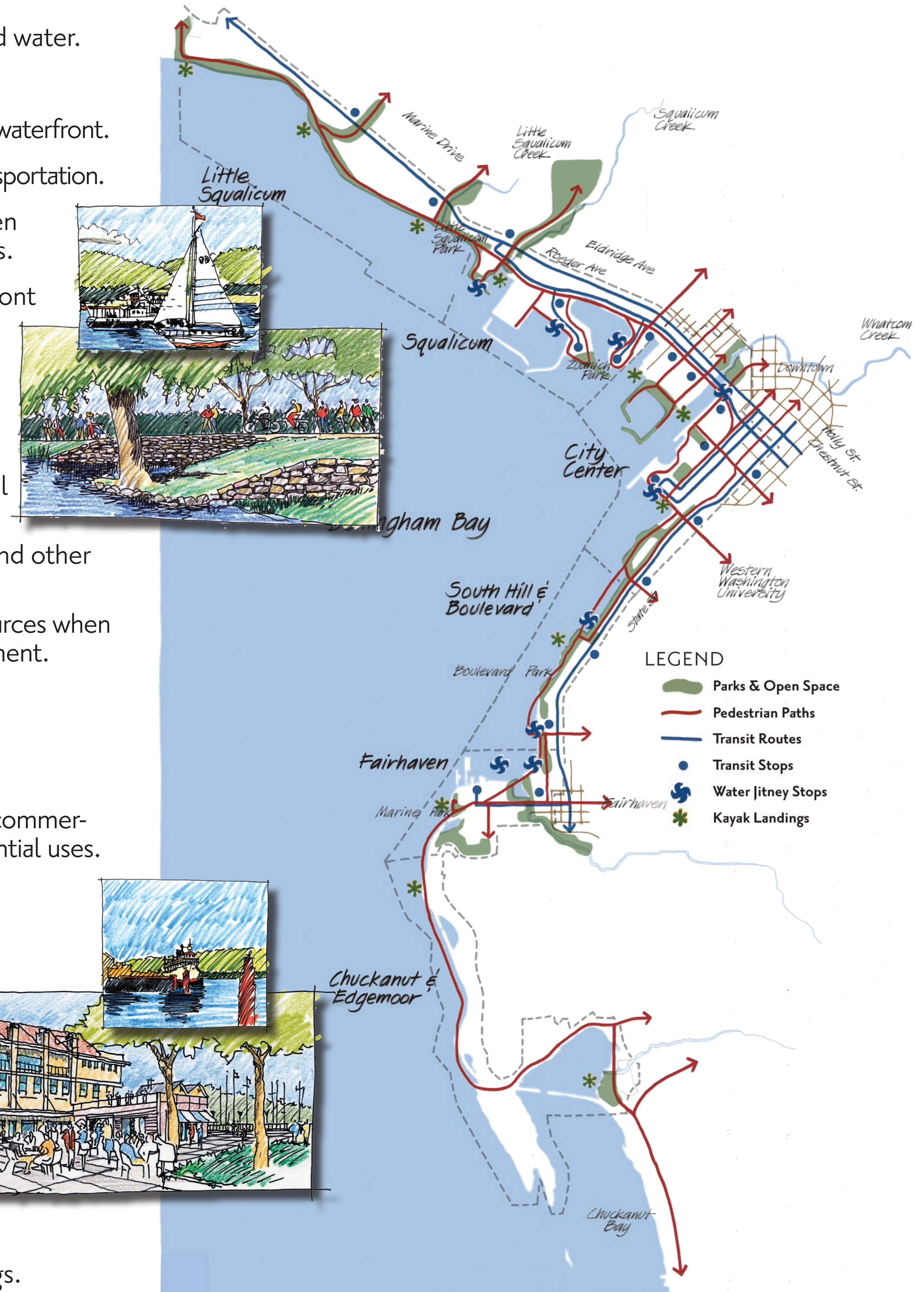
Restore the Health of Land & Water

- ♦ Enhance or reintroduce natural systems.
- ♦ Create and restore habitat wherever possible.
- ♦ Remediate upland and in-water contamination.
- ♦ Protect existing natural shorelines.
- ♦ Seek opportunities to soften existing hardened shorelines.
- ♦ Tailor environmental cleanup strategies and remediation to planned use.
- ♦ Manage storm water to enhance estuarine habitats.
- ♦ Require sustainable practices in all development.
- ♦ Restore, enhance and expand beaches wherever possible.
- ♦ Connect proposed open space and natural areas to regional open space network and wildlife corridors.
- ♦ Explore mitigation banking and incentives (such as environmental credits) for environmental resource protection and enhancement prior to redevelopment.



Improve Waterfront Access

- ♦ Develop strong connections between uplands and water.
- ♦ Provide links to regional trail systems.
- ♦ Provide multiple modes of access to each area of the waterfront.
- ♦ Provide convenient connections among modes of transportation.
- ♦ Create and connect large and small parks and open spaces with a “braided” system of pedestrian trails.
- ♦ Enhance opportunities for visual access to waterfront areas.
- ♦ Provide the opportunity to walk the waterfront while respecting natural habitat.
- ♦ Help people find their way.
- ♦ Provide wayfinding regarding Coast Millennium Trail as a route that follows existing and proposed trails.
- ♦ Explore the concept of public access “banking” and other financing incentives for improving public access.
- ♦ Protect and enhance shoreline environmental resources when designing for shoreline access and upland development.



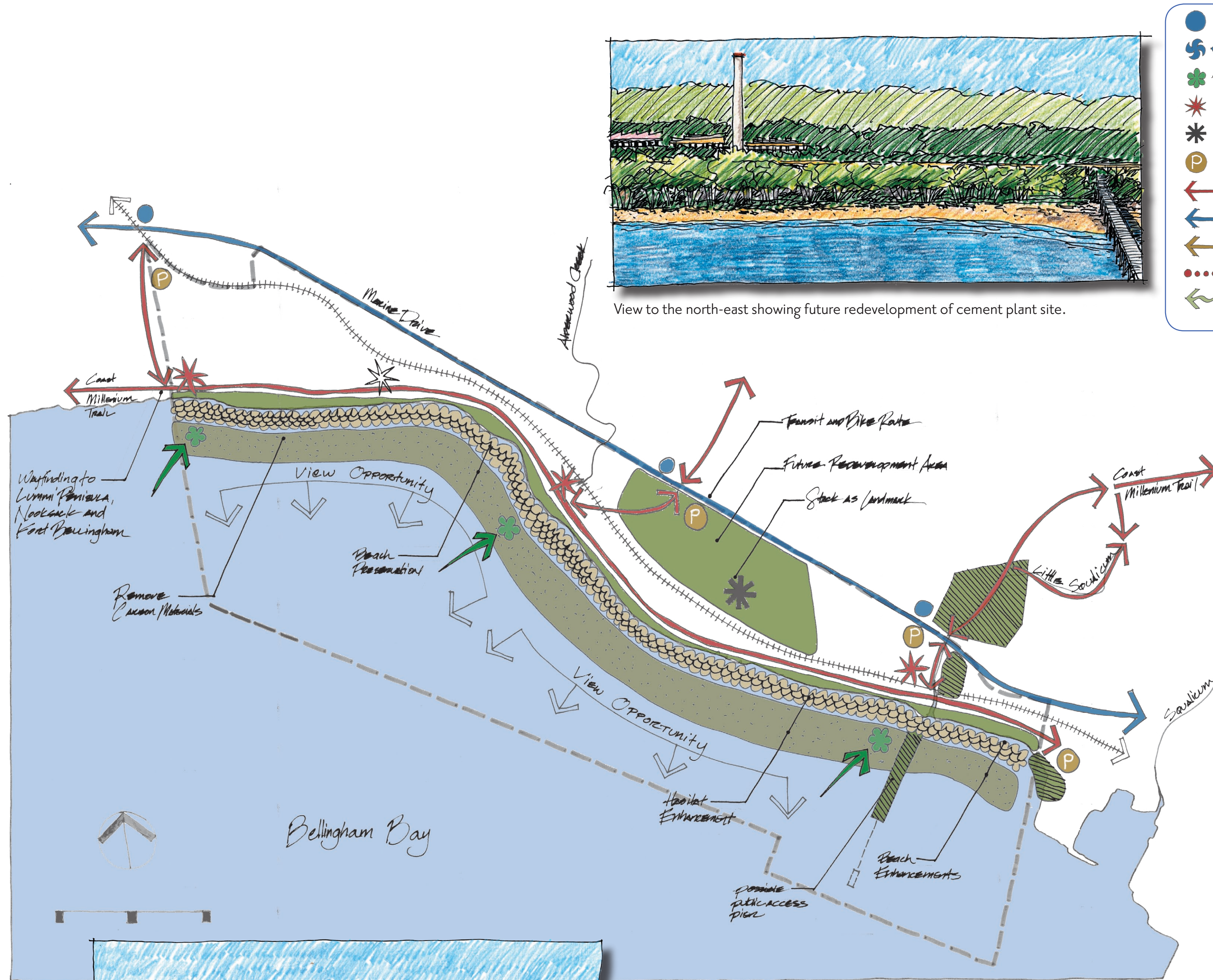
Promote a Healthy & Dynamic Waterfront Economy

- ♦ Create new mixed-use areas on the waterfront for commercial, industrial, educational, recreational and residential uses.
- ♦ Support water-dependent activities and uses.
- ♦ Create conditions attractive to jobs of the future.
- ♦ Strengthen the tie between local jobs and resources.
- ♦ Provide public amenities and infrastructure to support redevelopment.
- ♦ Improve permitting processes to achieve the goals and principles of the Waterfront Vision.
- ♦ Explore economic spinoff related to Bellingham Bay Pilot cleanup strategies.
- ♦ Provide incentives and credits for “green” buildings.

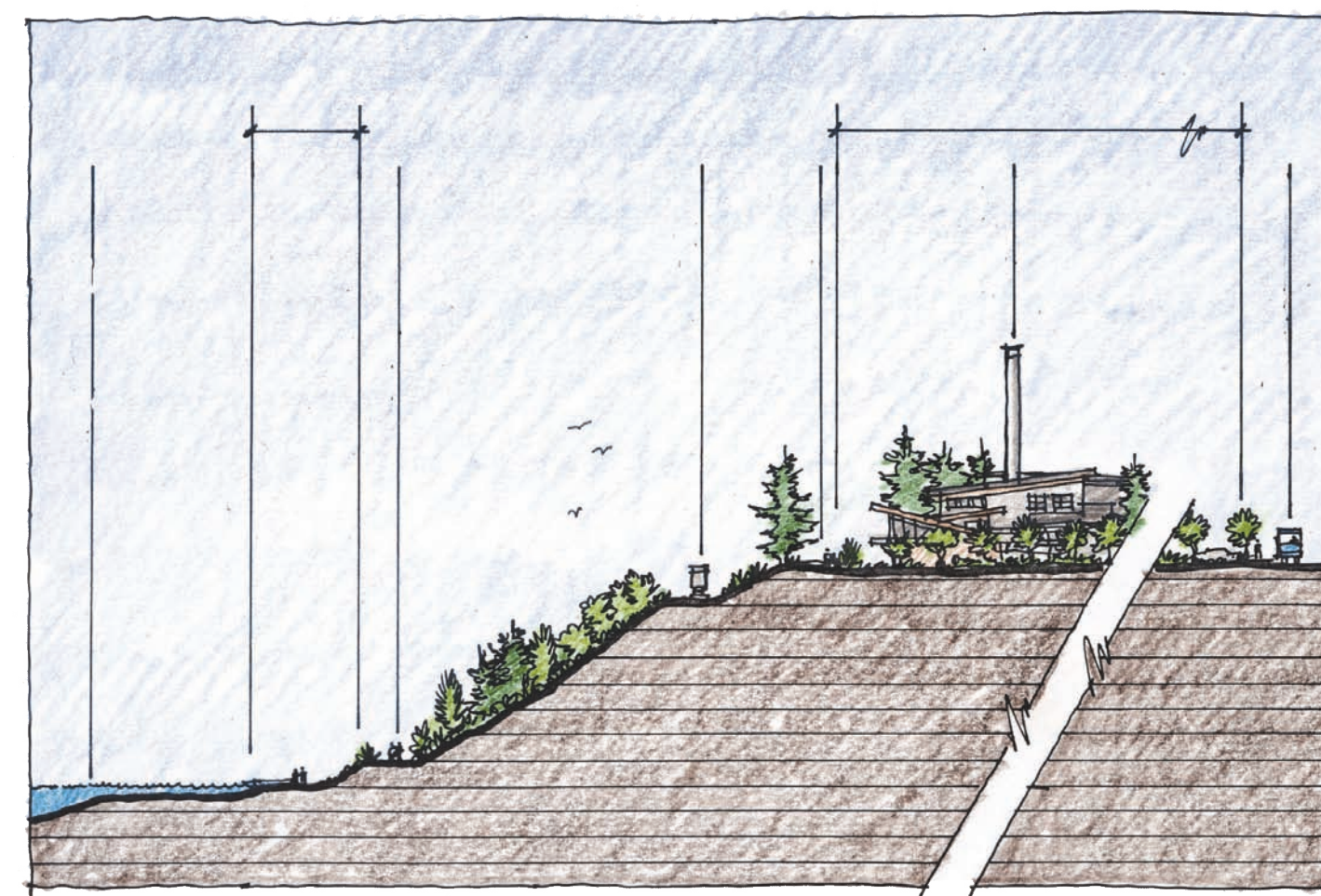


Little Squalicum

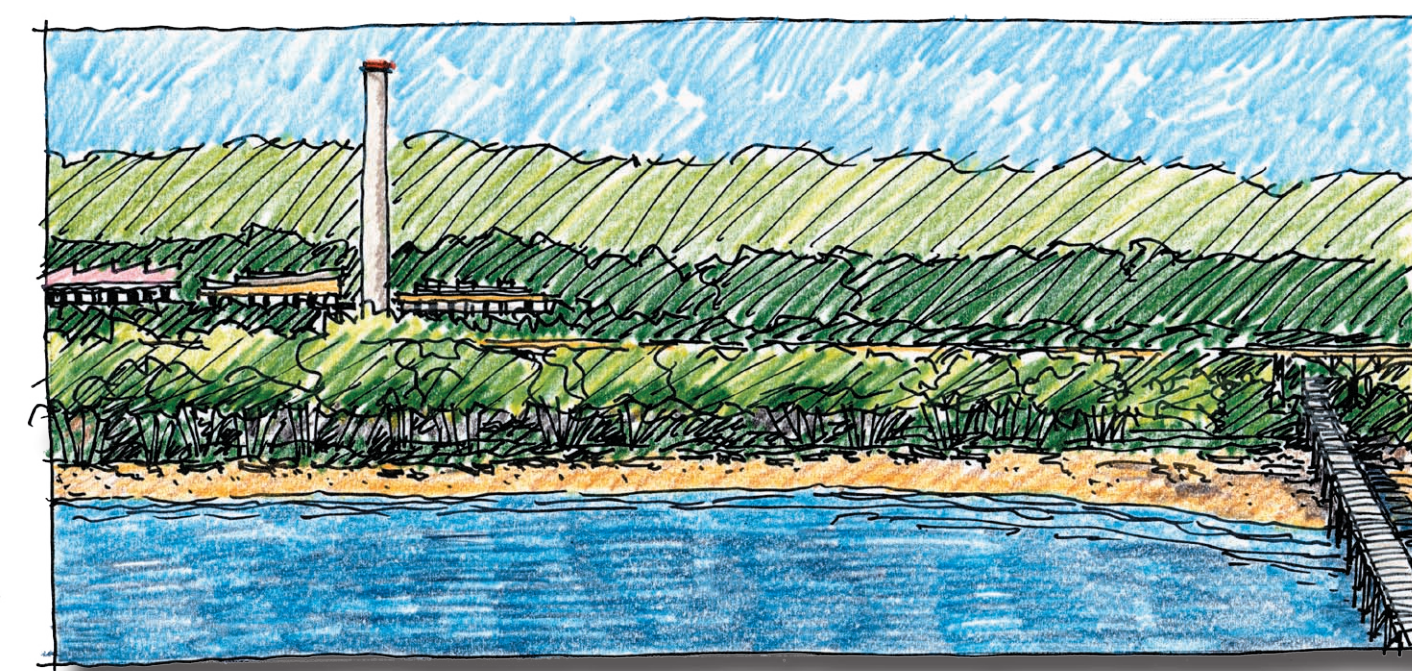
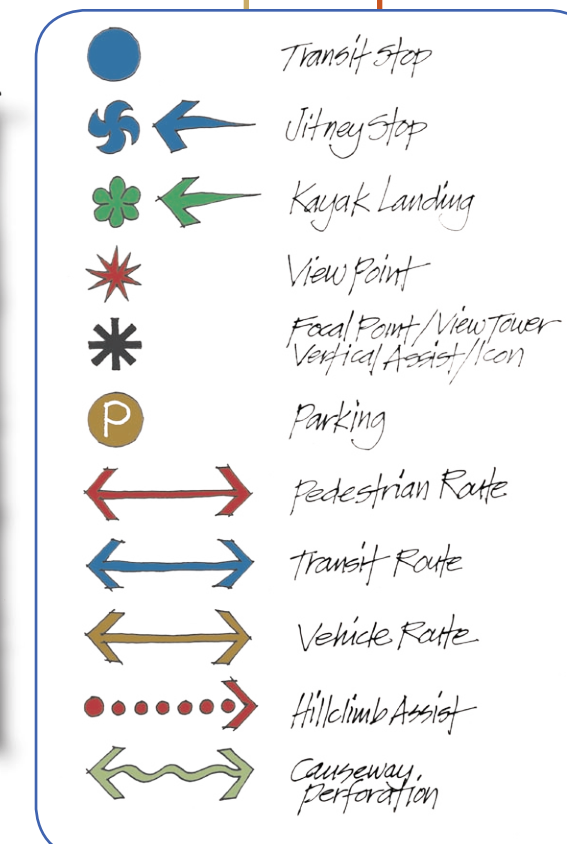
Squalicum



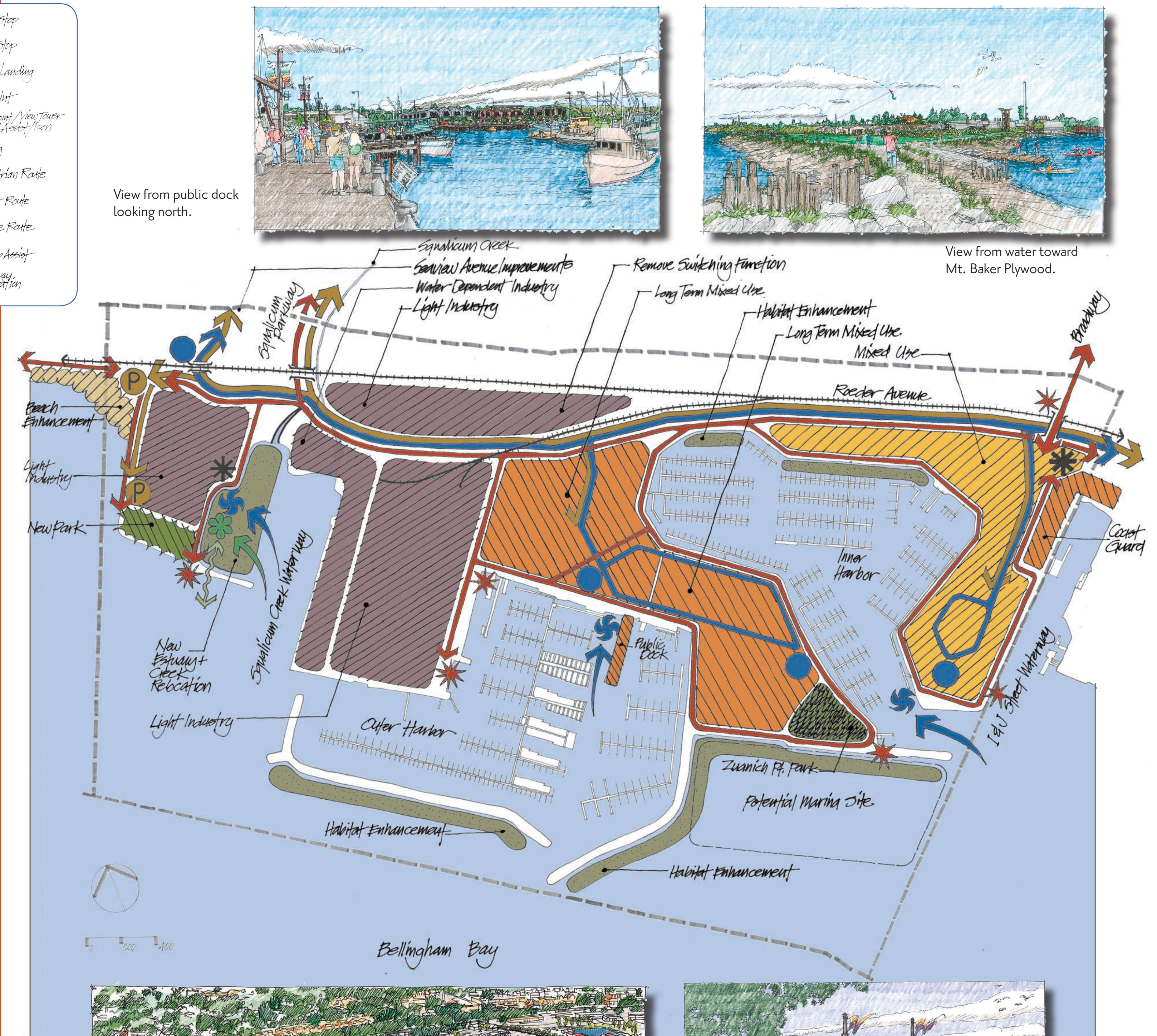
View to the west showing beach enhancements.



Section looking west.

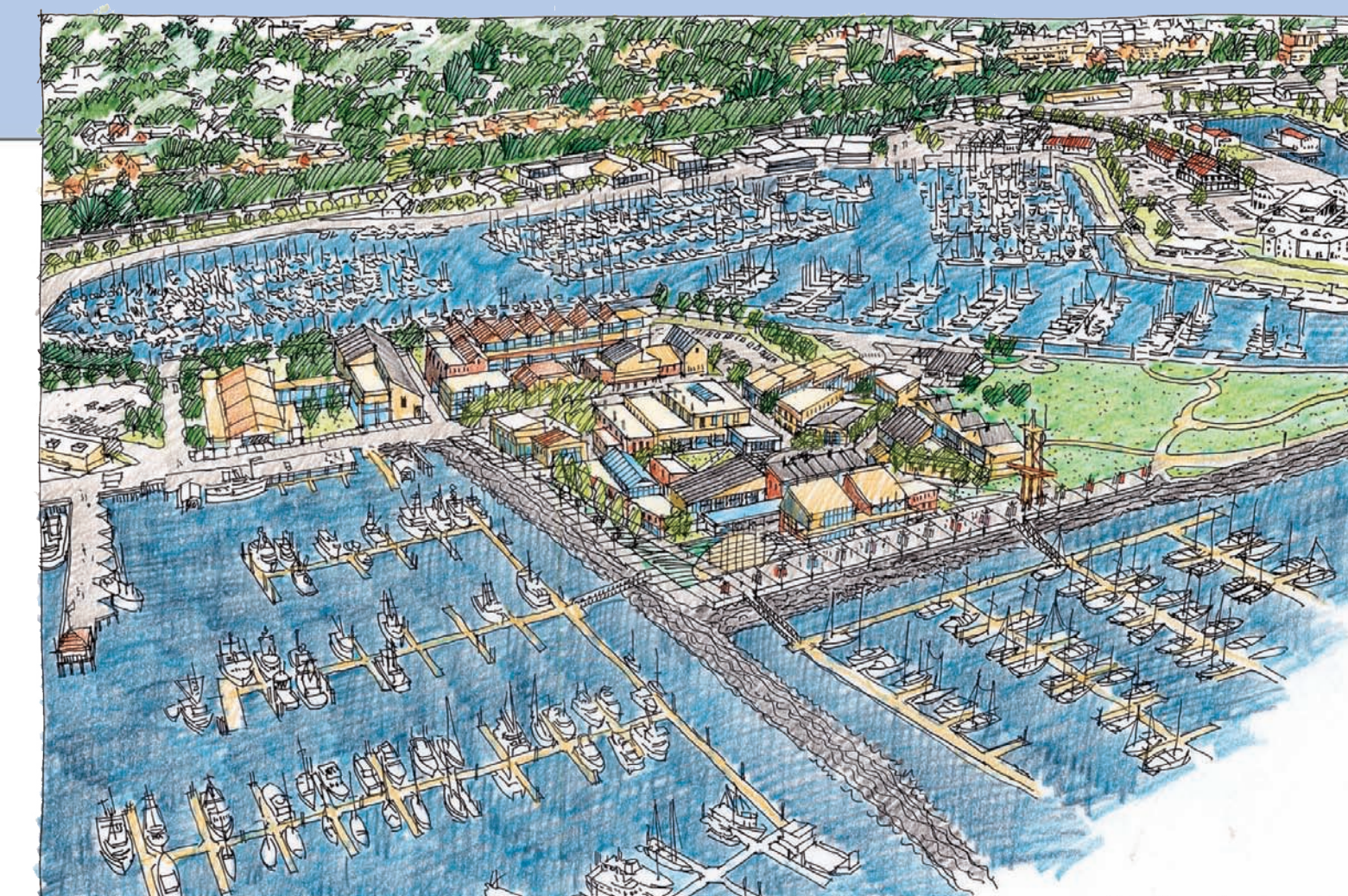


View to the north-east showing future redevelopment of cement plant site.



View from public dock looking north.

View from water toward Mt. Baker Plywood.



View to the south from Broadway Overlook.

Aerial view looking northeast showing potential marina & mixed-use development.