

THE waterfront DISTRICT

BELLINGHAM



WASHINGTON

PROGRESS CONTINUES ON WATERFRONT

It is an exciting time for the downtown waterfront redevelopment project with the first roads, park and commercial building under construction. These amenities will open to the public in 2018 allowing the community to access the downtown waterfront for the first time in over 100 years.

PARK & ROAD ADJUSTMENTS PROPOSED

The layout of parks and roads through the interior of the downtown waterfront is being updated. Two alternatives to enhance public access to and through site have been developed and are under review by the Port Commission.

PUBLIC INPUT REQUESTED

The Port Commission is planning to select a preferred park layout at its February 6 meeting and would like your input before making a decision. This brochure explains the differences between the two park and road alternatives, how to learn more, and how to submit comments.



GRANARY BUILDING



GRANARY BUILDING



Waterfront Futures Group Guiding Principles - Community Vision -

- * Restore the Health of Land and Water
- * Promote a Healthy & Dynamic Waterfront Economy
- * Improve Waterfront Access
- * Reinforce the Inherent Qualities of Each Place on the Waterfront

THE VISION FOR THE CITY CENTER waterfront calls for the creation of a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood

Parks and public access are an important part of the downtown waterfront redevelopment project. A large park running along the Whatcom Waterway with connectivity to surrounding parks and trails will significantly improve waterfront access. Through the interior of the site, new shops, offices, restaurants, residences and a hotel will help create a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood. Two options are being considered for the layout of a large park running through the middle of the new downtown waterfront. A description of these two park layout alternatives is detailed in the figures to the right.



The dashed box above shows the approximate location of the figures to the right

Bay Street is intended to provide an important connection from downtown Bellingham to the waterfront. Public access is complicated by a large bluff and the main line of the BNSF railroad. To overcome these challenges, the Port and City are proposing to extend Bay Street over the railroad tracks. Pedestrians will be able to walk over the railroad and onto a public plaza with steps down to a large public park which connects to the water. Vehicles using the proposed Bay Street extension will drive over the railroad tracks and into the top level of a new parking garage. This parking garage will have retail and other mixed uses above to provide an enhanced pedestrian experience along the street level of the Bay Street extension.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PARK AND ROAD LAYOUT ALTERNATIVES?

The primary difference is the location of the park connection to the Whatcom Waterway. One park connects at Maple Street and the other at Waypoint Park.

WHEN WILL THE NEW PARKS BE BUILT?

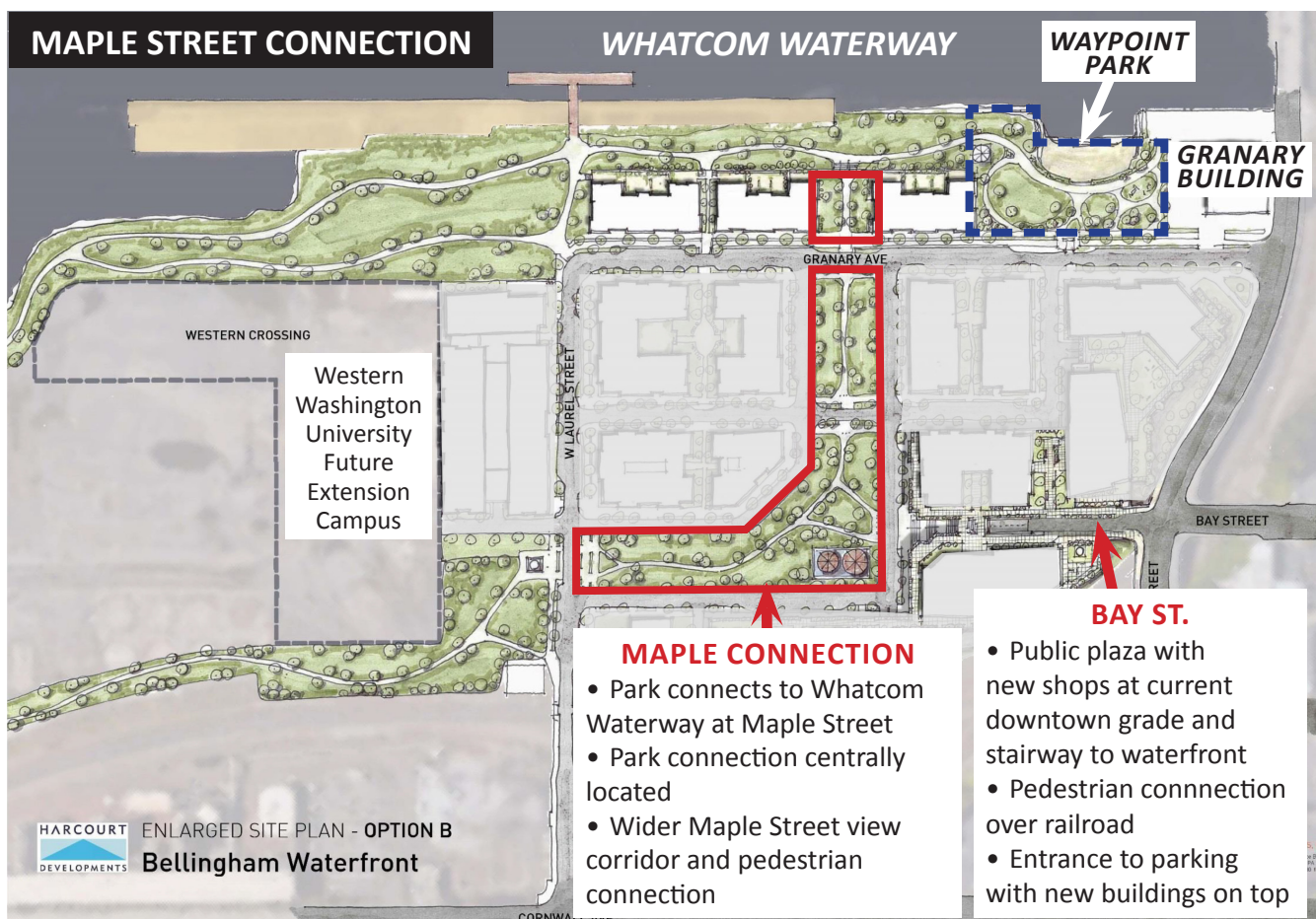
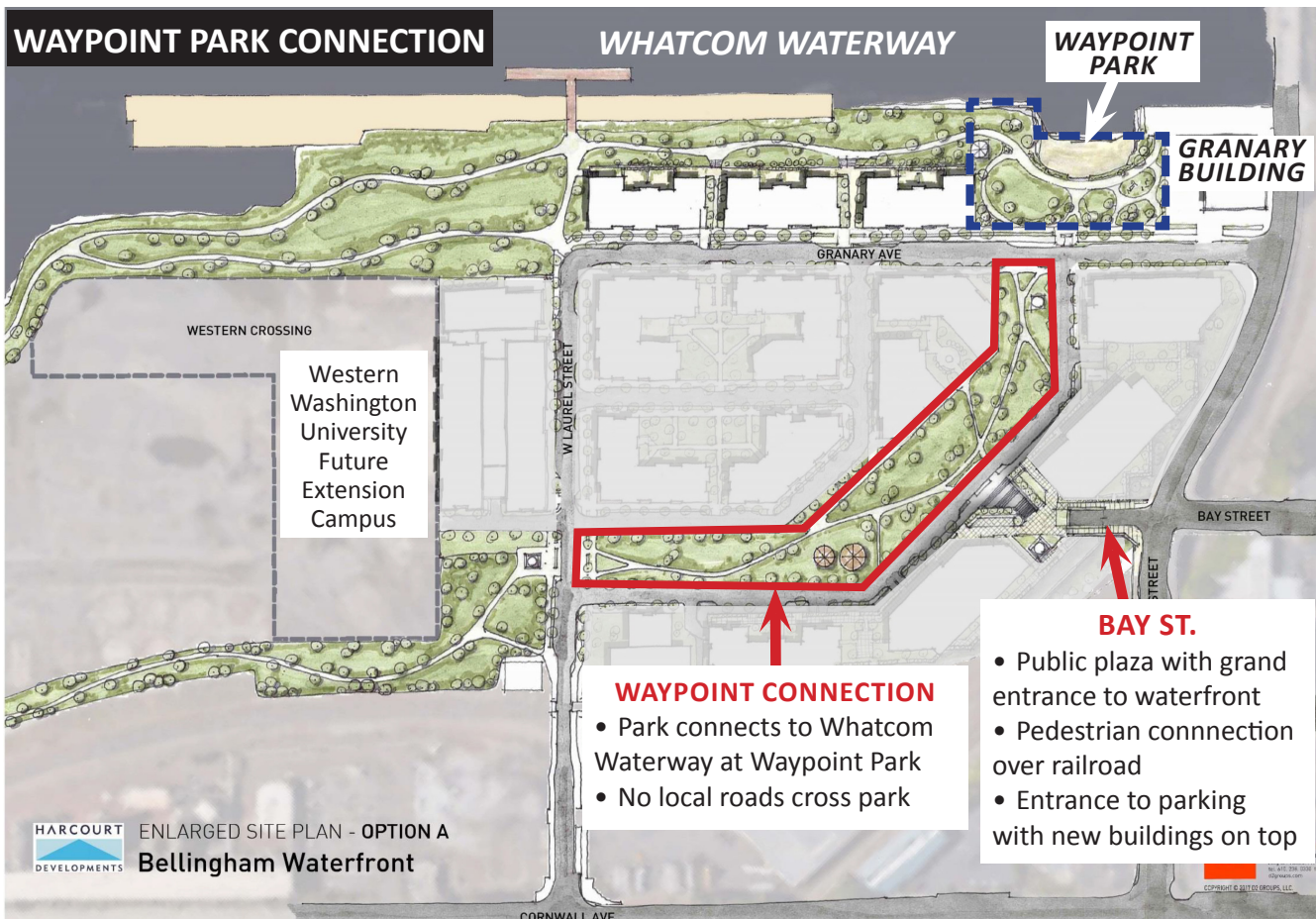
Waypoint Park is under construction and will open in 2018. An interim trail through the interior of the site could be built in the next few years. The final park connection through the interior of the site may not be completed until the adjacent properties are developed.

WHAT TYPES OF BUILDINGS ARE GOING TO BE BUILT IN THE NEW DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT?

Shops, apartments, condominiums, office spaces, a hotel and other commercial buildings will help extend downtown Bellingham to the water and create a vibrant city-center waterfront.

WILL ANYTHING ELSE CHANGE?

The view corridors, location of local roads and boundaries of the Western Crossing site (the location of Western Washington University's future extension campus) will be adjusted to match the new plan.





PORT OF BELLINGHAM

Washington State

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- * *Access To and Through the Site?*
- * *General Park and Road Layout?*
- * *Park and Development Parcel Layout?*
- * *Connection to Downtown?*

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

Attend informational events or email the Port your questions:

- A Community **Open House** on January 17th from 3-7 pm in the Granary Building, 1208 Central Avenue, Bellingham
- Email questions to:
waterfront@portofbellingham.com

HOW DO I COMMENT?

- The public is invited to comment during Port Commission meetings at either 4:30 pm or 5:30 pm. Commission meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month.
- Email comments to:
waterfront@portofbellingham.com
- Mail comments to the Port of Bellingham, 1801 Roeder Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After hearing from the community, the Port Commission is planning to choose a preferred design at its February 6, 2018 meeting. The Port will then submit this design alternative to the City for public review and approval as part of a formal Sub-Area Plan Amendment process. The Sub-Area Plan Amendment application is due to the City by April 1, 2018, and the review process is expected to take about one year.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Port and City approved a Master Plan for the waterfront in 2013. This plan changed the zoning from heavy industrial to mixed-use and helped the Port attract private investment. The Master Plan established 33 acres of new upland parks and trails and 6 acres of restored public beach to be constructed in the Waterfront District. While the Master Plan set forth the minimum amount of park acreage to be built in the Waterfront District, the location of the parks and roads was anticipated to change as development occurred.

