

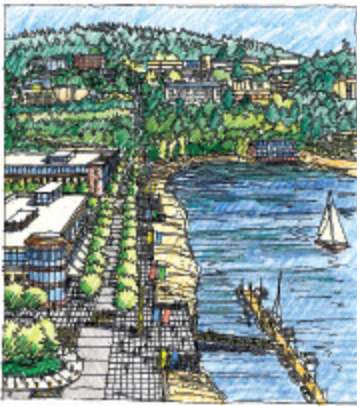
Whatcom Waterway

Community's Vision of the Waterfront Future

Desired Action

Convert the inland portion of the federally designated Whatcom Waterway to a locally managed, multi-purpose waterway with an 18 to 22 foot depth, while retaining the deep water federal channel designation with a 30 foot plus depth for the outer portion of the waterway.

This action assists the community in developing new public access areas along the waterfront and helps connect Downtown Bellingham to the Bay. The change allows all current maritime uses to continue in the inner waterway and preserves the Bellingham Shipping Terminal for current and future deep water uses and the jobs those uses generate.



Community Enrichment

- Construction of public access features such as public beaches, pedestrian bridges, and community docks for vessels needing 18 to 22 foot depth, which can service all but the largest of ocean-going vessels.
- Creation of mixed-used development along the waterfront including housing, businesses, light industry – the community's future waterfront vision.
- Preservation of the Bellingham Shipping Terminal for future maritime industrial and federal maritime facility uses.

Environmental Quality

- Preservation of essential salmon habitat along inner Whatcom Waterway
- Development of additional salmon habitat along the inner Whatcom Waterway and in the new "Clean Ocean" marina.
- Completion of the Bellingham Bay Pilot baywide cleanup effort.

Economic Vitality

- Creation of new jobs through the development of new business, educational, institutional and federal facilities on the waterfront.
- Preservation of marine-dependent jobs by preserving the outer deep draft portions of the waterway; creating flexibility in inner portions of the waterway for vessels requiring only 18 to 22 foot depth consistent with community goals; and developing a new "Clean Ocean" marina that further supports marine trades and businesses.
- Protection of community assets because a locally managed inner waterway saves the community an estimated \$63 million by eliminating the need for development of new deep draft bulkheads and wharves as well as additional sediment dredging in the inner portions of the waterway where those deep draft facilities are not justified.