
AN URBAN FOREST PLAN IS NEEDED TO BALANCE CONFLICTS BETWEEN TREES AND VIEWS.

Clarks Point on the southwest end of the neighborhood is an important natural feature. It has been preserved in a natural state through a conservation easement held by the Whatcom Land Trust. Neighborhood public access is limited to two viewpoints accessed by trails that are available during daylight hours. The trail heads are located approximately 150 feet south of the south end of Fieldston Road and 50 feet north of the “Private Drive” entrance gate. Parking is available on Fieldston Road north of the “No Parking Tow Away” signs. Restrictions on the use of the view points are posted.

There is a trail on the north side of Chuckanut Bay Tidelands which starts at the west end of Fairhaven Avenue in the South Neighborhood. There is access to the trail from Sea Pines Road. Use of the full extent of the trail is limited to times below high tide.

CONNECTION OF THE TRAIL ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CHUCKANUT BAY TO THE EDGEMOOR STREET SYSTEM VIA THE EXISTING TRAIL EASEMENT IS NEEDED TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO THE TRAIL.

Bellingham Bay and its coves surround the neighborhood on three sides although access to the waterfront is restricted to the west and north by the railroad, a formidable barrier to the beach. Large rocks (riprap) placed to prevent erosion along the railroad embankment inhibit marine life which would typically exist on a beachfront.

The tracks for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad limit access to the waterfront of Bellingham Bay on the west side of Edgemoor. The closest access point to the western beach front is at Marine Park in the Fairhaven Neighborhood to the north of Edgemoor. 83% of the residents to the questionnaire indicated some degree of concern with access to the waterfront.

The City of Bellingham comprehensive plan incorporated the following in the 2005 update: *The vision for Chuckanut and Edgemoor is one that emphasizes conservation and public access. The rugged shoreline and tidelands will remain accessible only by water or on foot. Eventually a safe water-grade trail is envisioned that will connect to both Fairhaven and the Coast Millennium Trail near Woodstock Farm. Woodstock Farm will become a new city park, and the railroad causeway across Chuckanut Bay will be perforated to improve water flow and allow for marine habitat enhancement. Kayak and other hand-carry landings will give boaters access to various points along the shoreline.*

A MARINE ACCESS PLAN NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED TO ALLOW GREATER USE OF THE WATERFRONT BY RESIDENTS. THE NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORTS THE VISION FOR CHUCKANUT AND EDGEMOOR AS STATED IN THE WATERFRONT FUTURES GROUP VISION AND FRAMEWORK PLAN WHICH WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IN 2005.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ACCESS SHOULD BE IMPROVED TO FAIRHAVEN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Public utilities in Edgemoor include water and sewer. Private utilities provide cable, phone, power and natural gas. Much of Edgemoor has underground power lines allowing undisturbed views of Bellingham Bay and Chuckanut Bay.

THE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS GENERALLY ADEQUATE. HOWEVER, IN THE LESS DEVELOPED SOUTHERN PART OF EDGEMOOR, SOME ADDITIONAL "LOOPING" IS DESIREABLE.

AS DEVELOPMENT OCCURS, ADDITIONAL LOOPING OF THE WATER DISTRIBUTION AND ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED.

Of continuing concern is the storm water sewer system. Storm drainage has proved to be a problem in the Edgemoor Neighborhood in recent years. As streets were developed, enclosed storm drainage was excluded and, for the most part, shallow roadside ditches carry storm water runoff. Although culverts have been installed in some places, an overall storm sewer system is absent. While development of an overall storm drainage system is needed to alleviate overflow problems, it is also important that new sources of storm water runoff be required to maintain existing levels of drainage volumes so as not to exacerbate problems downstream. The Comprehensive Drainage Plan, authored by Kramer, Chin, and Mayo in 1973, indicates trunk storm sewer improvements needed in the neighborhood and more recent study by the Public Works Department has more specifically identified the overall drainage needs.

AN OVERALL STORMWATER DRAINAGE PLAN FOR THE EDGEMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED. THE PLAN SHOULD ADDRESS EXISTING CAPACITY ISSUES AND PROVIDE STORMWATER SYSTEMS IN AREAS NOT CURRENTLY SERVED. NEW DEVELOPMENT SHOULD ANALYZE THEIR STORM WATER RUN-OFF TO ENSURE THE PROJECT DOES NOT EXACERBATE ANY DOWNSTREAM DRAINAGE PROBLEMS.

IV. CIRCULATION

The primary northerly access into the neighborhood is across the 12th St Bridge on Chuckanut, and thence west on Hawthorne, Willow, Broad, 16th, Viewcrest or Sea Pines. A secondary access from the north is provided by 4th St, through Edgemoor Terrace into Bayside Rd. Emergency services, police and utility maintenance all enter Edgemoor from the north. From the south, access can be gained from 30th St onto Chuckanut. Although access was generally rated adequate in the neighborhood questionnaire, most of the features of the 12th St bridge and 5-leg intersection were cited in responses and comments as "Poor" or requiring attention.

The 12th Street Bridge is a WSDOT bridge on a State Highway (SR 11) and is the primary gateway to the Edgemoor Neighborhood. The Edgemoor neighborhood considers the 12th St bridge unsafe.

INVESTIGATION AND PLANNING FOR IMPROVED ACCESS ALTERNATIVES TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN ADDITION TO THE 12TH ST BRIDGE NEED TO BE UNDERTAKEN. PRIMARY ACCESS MUST BE MAINTAINED ON THE NORTH END OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO ENSURE CONNECTION WITH THE GREATER SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY. THIS IS CRITICAL IN THE EVENT OF INCREASED DEVELOPMENT SOUTH OF THE 12TH ST BRIDGE.

Five roadways approach each other in the intersection of 12th Street, Chuckanut, Hawthorn, Parkridge, and Cowgill. Four of the approach roads are subject to a traffic signal. The two approaches that line up directly with each other, Parkridge and 12th, have the least through flow. The remaining unsignalized approach, Cowgill, intersects Hawthorn within 50 feet of the intersection at its own stop-signed tee intersection which adds to delay and confusion. No left turn lane is provided on any approach, which is particularly of concern to drivers approaching from the south on Chuckanut who wish to turn left to Parkridge or Hawthorn. There is currently congestion when Fairhaven Middle School students are being picked up or dropped off and at the evening rush hour.

THE 5-LEG INTERSECTION (12TH ST, CHUCKANUT, HAWTHORN, PARKRIDGE, COWGILL) SHOULD BE IMPROVED TO ELIMINATE EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY CONFLICTS AND SIGHT DISTANCE PROBLEMS.

Current transportation options in Edgemoor include private motor vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles, WTA buses, school buses and walking, with the primary mode of transportation being private motor vehicles. Bicycles and motorcycles are seen extensively on Chuckanut Drive. Walkers are out throughout the day, whether students on their way to Fairhaven Middle School, shoppers heading for Fairhaven, exercisers, dog walkers, families heading to Fairhaven Park or kids on their way to the pool in the summer. Pedestrian traffic is most often on the street. School buses circulate through the neighborhood. The WTA route loops through the neighborhood from Chuckanut, going southwest on Hawthorne, south on Fieldston, and east on Willow to intersect and head back toward Fairhaven on Chuckanut.

WTA SHOULD BE CONTACTED ABOUT THE ADDITION OF A BUS SHELTER AT THE HAWTHORN RD/COWGILL STOP NEAR FAIRHAVEN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

86% of respondents to the neighborhood questionnaire rated the street system in Edgemoor as “Good” or “Adequate”. 49% rated sidewalks as “Poor” and 44% rated pedestrian safety as “Poor”. Hills, curves, sloped driveways and landscaping at corners limit visibility of both drivers and pedestrians. Speeding on Hawthorn Rd, Fieldston Rd, Willow Rd and Viewcrest is common.

BUILDINGS AND PLANTINGS SHOULD BE SITED TO AVOID OBSTRUCTION OF VIEWS OF OTHERS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE (20.16.020 S. (3). PRESERVATION OF NATURAL FEATURES, DISTINCTIVE TOPOGRAPHIC FORMS, STANDS OF TREES, OTHER NATURAL FEATURES AND VIEW CORRIDORS SHOULD BE A PRIORITY.

Many homes have been remodeled and/or expanded and most are well maintained. There are few vacant lots and few houses are rentals. As in other neighborhoods, some rental homes are indistinguishable from other housing while others create jarring notes with lifestyles, maintenance and parking.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORTS LICENSING OF LANDLORDS AND BETTER RESPONSE TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLAINTS AND/OR ENFORCEMENT REGARDING VIOLATIONS OF NOISE, PARKING, OCCUPANCY NUMBERS AND HOUSING CONDITION.

Edgemoor residents desire changes in existing housing and new housing to be “...compatible with the essential character of the neighborhood...” (as referenced in Ordinances 20.16.010 E, etc), particularly as regards the size of buildings. City codes regulating building size (over 5,500 sq ft) can be pre emptied on an individual basis through the conditional use process – a discretionary decision made by the Hearings Examiner. Notice of application for a CUP (conditional use permit) must be sent to the owner of any property within 500 feet of the proposed CUP and neighbors can express their concerns at a hearing.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT WITHIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SHOULD ALSO BE SENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.

VI . Land Use and Maps

Area 1

DESCRIPTION

Area 1 includes all but the north side of the Shorewood subdivision and the houses on the west side of Briar Road north of Bayside Road. There are no sidewalks on the street, the lots tend to be large, utility lines are buried and the houses are generally newer.

Land Use Designation: Single Family Residential, Low Density

Area 2

DESCRIPTION

Area 2 includes the area south of Cowgill to the north side of Bayside road, thence from the east end of Bayside Place to the next to last house on Bayside Rd before the Briar Rd intersection. This area is representative of subdivisions designed in the early 1970’s having wide streets, including curbs, gutters and

00.060 - EDGEMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD TABLE OF ZONING REGULATIONS

Area	Zoning	Use Qualifier	Density	Special Conditions	Prerequisite Considerations	Special Regulations
1	Residential Single	Detached	15,000 sq.ft. min. detached lot size	View	None	None
2	Residential Single	Detached	7,200 sq.ft. min. detached lot size	View	None	None
3	Public	School/Recreation	N/A	None	None	None
4	Residential Single	Detached	20,000 sq.ft. min. detached lot size	View; historic; marine access where feasible	None	None
5	Residential Single	Detached	10,000 sq. ft. min. detached lot size	None	None	None
6	Residential Single	Detached	15,000 sq.ft. min. detached lot size	Clearing; view; water distribution design	None	None
7	Residential Single	Detached	20,000 sq. ft. min. detached lot size, or one lot per 20,000 sq.ft. average overall density	Clearing; view buffering from adjacent residential	Improvement to Fieldston and Willow Rds. as neighborhood collectors.	None
8	Residential Single	Cluster, detached required	8,400 sq.ft. min. detached	View; preservation of mature growth timber; open space; cluster subdivision required; protection of herons	Review of cluster subdivision to address special conditions.	None
9	Residential Single	Detached	4 Homes on 71 acres	View; open space requirements	Conservation Easement	None