

# BIRCH BAY COMMUNITY PLAN AND URBAN DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

Spring 2006, Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University  
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## Transportation



High Rating = 85



Low Rating = 29

- Transportation should create functional corridors for all users, including disabled, pedestrians, bicyclists, and automobile users of all ages.
- Roads should make pedestrian, bicycle, and stormwater improvements along the sections connected to the Birch Bay focus area.
- Transportation should highlight the aesthetics of Birch Bay while promoting safety and sustainability.
- Birch Bay Drive will continue to be a functional road but will be reduced in speed to limit the amount of through traffic and promote pedestrian use over vehicle use.
- Roads should follow parcel lines as often as possible.
- Motorized traffic should be diverted from the waterfront and bring traffic to commercial centers.

## Public Space



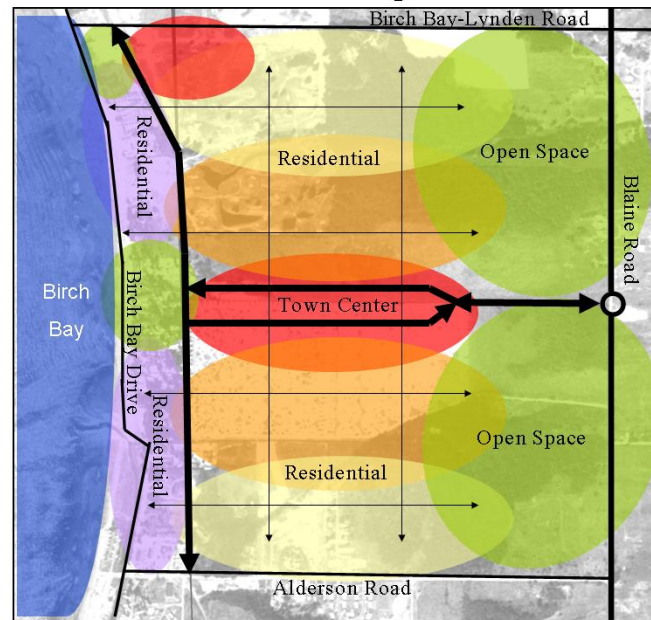
High Rating = 94









Low Rating = 37

- Public Spaces should provide accessibility to a safe, clean, environment.
- Parks should be consistent with surrounding areas.
- Parks should invite people to visit and provide space for exercise and other activities.
- Pathways to the parks should be accessible for all forms of non-motorized transportation and for people of all ages.
- There should be a focus on including shade trees and human scaled lighting.

## Birch Bay Proposed Master Plan Bubble Diagram



### Legend

	Proposed Roads		Mid-Density Housing
	Commercial		Low-Density Housing
	Public Open Space		Cottage Housing

The overall goal for the Birch Bay focus area is to provide well planned and well managed growth while meeting community objectives, the greatest of which is the preservation and enhancement of Birch Bay. The master plan envisions a distinct future for Birch Bay, offering walkable neighborhoods that connect lower density residential areas to the urban core of Birch Bay, diverse housing types, desirable commercial development, and attractive community spaces. The master plan focuses on transportation and connectivity, commercial and town center areas, residential areas, and the public spaces between. These components provide a foundation for a healthy community with a strong sense of place and a superior quality of life.

## Commercial/Town Centers



High Rating = 71



Low Rating = 9

- Commercial development should capture the historic beach feel that defines Birch Bay and its heritage.
- Commercial centers should create a strong connection with Birch Bay waterfront.
- This area should provide attractive shopping and dining opportunities.
- Centers should have potential to serve commercial, residential, and government/institutional uses.
- The commercial areas should exude a sense of culture unique to Birch Bay.
- Centers should be looked at as relaxing places where families and friends can play and shop simultaneously.

## Residential



High Rating = 77



Low Rating = 14

- Housing should provide natural transitions between regions.
- Residential should allow for different housing types.
- Pocket parks, connected by trails and a grid-system, should be encouraged to provide green spaces throughout.
- There should be a focus on alternative transportation created by slow, pedestrian-friendly grid streets that serve families over cars.
- Wetlands characteristics should be incorporated into the residential landscape.
- Residences should not detract from the beauty of the bay.