

IDENTIFYING PRIORITY LOCATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS IN BOTHELL, WA

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A capstone project to fulfill the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in
Policy Studies

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Summer 2025

Abstract

Community gardens are used to address climate change and ensure food access to vulnerable populations through food sovereignty. Bothell, Washington's Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan contains two policies that seek to address lack of food access for vulnerable populations through the implementation and mapping of community gardens. This study investigates community input on the preferences of community gardens sites and support of this type of government led project. Surveys were given to the public in-person in downtown Bothell as well as virtually through a survey platform that gave insight into the best locations for community garden implementation at the city level given the social and ecological needs of the city. Guided by previous research on community gardens that considered land tenure, social perceptions, inequity, and successes and failures of this type of project, this study was able to provide a socially and ecologically relevant survey to the public that was then analyzed for policy recommendations for the City of Bothell. The findings of the study indicate an overwhelming support for community gardens with high projections for engagement once implemented and a preference towards public land use for these spaces on school grounds and public parks with close attention being given to ensuring transportation access to these spaces.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 – Purpose of Study.....	(4)
Chapter 2 – Literature Review.....	(7)
Chapter 3 – Methodology.....	(13)
Chapter 4 – Results and Discussion.....	(19)
Chapter 5 – Conclusion.....	(41)
Bibliography.....	(45)
Appendices.....	(47)
English Survey.....	(47)
Spanish Survey.....	(49)
Chinese Survey.....	(50)
Region Coding for Survey Map Analysis.....	(51)
Signage for Surveying Events.....	(52)
Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan Maps.....	(53-58)

Chapter 1

Purpose of the Study

Climate change is a global issue that reaches every sector of society and requires a tailored approach to mitigating and proactively addressing its effects. The state of Washington chose to address these issues by enacting House Bill 1181 which required Washington state city governments and government agencies to provide climate change and resiliency planning to their comprehensive plans, development regulations, and regional policies, plans, and strategies. The strategies include but are not limited to increasing tree canopies for cooling, supporting building codes that promote energy efficiency and sustainability efforts, and providing more affordable housing options.

Bothell, Washington, a smaller suburban city of the Seattle area, located in King County has issued an Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan with a separate climate element that addresses strategies to create a resilient and thriving community. In the city government's adaptation of the goals in this comprehensive planning, the need for community gardens was recognized because of the potential for community gardens to enact a social, ecological approach to address two of the city's recently adopted policies. The city government seeks to use community garden implementation to address policy CC-5.1, which provides opportunities to expand local food security and the food-related economy to address climate impacts and increase access to healthy, affordable, and climate-friendly foods, and policy CC-5.2, which aims to identify suitable locations for community gardens with a priority to locate in areas with overburdened communities. Communities that are more vulnerable to climate stressors are

elderly communities, low-income families, people with disabilities, and persons of color and immigrant communities.

Prior studies approaches to governance and social action via community garden have shown that there are significant hurdles that these projects have faced in establishing consistency, equity, and land tenure, but also triumphs that have arisen through this work resulting in wholistic acceptance, engaged community leadership, and reduction of financial hardship for food supply. Land tenure dedicated to community gardens is often not executed because of city prioritization of profitable development projects, especially in marginalized neighborhoods that generate little tax revenue for public works (Decaro 2025). In previous attempts to establish community gardens with individuals of overburdened, non-English speaking immigrant communities, respondents from these groups stated that language and neighborhood insecurity posed significant barriers to their participation (Mmako 2018).

The research question for this capstone is: “*What areas in Bothell, Washington are the best social and ecological options for introducing a community garden that follows the goals of the city's Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan?*” This capstone project maps out spaces within the city of Bothell that are socially and ecologically appropriate for the introduction of community gardens and provides suggested priorities among these options. These maps will not only address the needs of city government leaders, but they also will fill the gaps in prior studies on this topic. It will be important to address climate adaptation within the guidelines of Bothell’s approach to climate equity given their demographic and pre-mapped climate vulnerable areas. This capstone is a specific example of community garden mapping designed within these niche guidelines. To provide the most useful prioritization, this capstone uses an innovative approach to community garden mapping through a social lens in conjunction with pre-mapped climate

vulnerable areas such as heat regions, wildfire risk areas, future land use, and potential floodplains. Community garden mapping should also prioritize ecologically protected areas within the city of Bothell in line with state regulations and county regulations. This innovative mapping method for community gardening will rely on the same climate vulnerability maps and public inquiry as mentioned above. This capstone incorporates results of public survey to consider and center on citizen priorities for developing community gardens in their neighborhoods and present these issues as part of the mapping analysis. Surveys given to the public examined participants: residency status for Bothell, their level of support and likelihood of utilizing a community garden, a ranking on preferred locations of a community garden, and an open-ended section to express any concerns or suggestions for future community garden locations. There is little research conducted on community garden mapping that stems from a qualitative approach to public inquiry, and this will be vital in providing innovative literature for future references.

This capstone will have immediate significance for city leadership within the City of Bothell on actionable steps that can be implemented to address policies CC – 5.1 and CC – 5.2. These policies are especially relevant in the greater climate adaptation and future planning necessary for climate resilience that can be a blueprint for ecologically and socially similar suburban cities within King County. This capstone also provides public literature on community garden mapping that has a social inquiry and climate resilience approach to its final product.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

The City of Bothell, Washington is a suburb of Seattle that sits within both King and Snohomish counties. Over the past 50 years, Bothell has changed from a loosely populated agricultural and natural resource rich region into the tech and educational hub that it is today. The “Boeing Boom and Bust” of the 1980’s established a boost in population for the Seattle area that eventually sprawled out to the suburbs in the following decade. At this time in Bothell, a “technology corridor” was created in this city to match the demand of the surrounding area and utilize the open spaces to create an industrial/business park. At the same time, the University of Washington established its branch campus in Bothell that resulted in this city emerging as a growing education and technology hub resulting in the next twenty years growing the city’s population from about 12,000 to 45,000. (City of Bothell, 2024) Currently, this city has a population of around 50,000 residents and is described as a well-educated community with over 95% of the population holding at least a high school diploma and over half of its residents having a bachelor’s degree or higher education level. Community characteristics of Bothell currently include the following groups with higher vulnerability to social and ecological stresses: 5.5% children under the age of 5, 13.3% adults age 64 and older, 31.3% who represent communities of color, 4.5% who are of low-income, 9.6% who speak English less than very well, 8.9% who are disabled, and 5.3% who do not hold a high school diploma (City of Bothell, 2024).

Bothell is a city known for prioritizing green spaces and preserved natural areas to enhance environmental sustainability and residential quality of life. In December of 2024, the city proposed an Imagined Bothell Comprehensive Plan that included a Climate focus that

accounts for demographics, current land projected, climate projections, and a thorough climate plan. This climate plan aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prioritize natural and green infrastructure solutions, provide road and utility infrastructure designed with nature, minimize risks to public health and safety, maximize equity and protection of the most vulnerable, protect and restore functioning ecosystems, support a sustainable economy, provide opportunities for affordable housing and universal design, ensure mobility across transportation modes and connectedness, and continue effective and essential public services, community members, non-profit organizations, other jurisdictions, businesses as well as partners involved in co-creating and implementation of these goals (City of Bothell 2024). A map and justification for priority locations for community gardens that address several sectors within the climate plan goals was requested by the City of Bothell's long-term planner as well as a Civic Spark associate in their extended development of a useful Climate Action Plan. Establishing community gardens in the city would align with policy CC-5.1, which seeks to expand local food security and the food related economy to address climate impacts and increase access to healthy, affordable, and climate-friendly foods, and policy CC-5.2, which seeks to identify suitable locations for community gardens with a priority to locate in areas with overburdened communities. The planning of community gardens adhering to the city of Bothell's Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan will seek to provide a bridge between the understanding of the city's Climate plan and the needs of the individuals who respond to this study. This capstone provides recommendations to the City of Bothell planners for priority locations and considerations for success of community gardens that was developed through public input, insights from the literature, interviews with community garden managers in other cities, all while using a social justice and through a climate action lens.

Climate Action Plans:

Climate Action Plans are rooted in government ideologies that come from statistical analysis on ecological needs at a state level that may or may not be influenced by business and political goals. Government and business influence have contributed to a large portion of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and have sustained this figure for the past decade. (Sheheen 2023) Often the needs of the state trickle down to local level adaptations of climate action initiatives and this creates a reflection of these goals that is varied in ecological emphasis based on the majority political ideology of the citizens of a state. The states and cities have different incentives when adopting climate protection possibly stemming from interest group politics or as a product of rational calculation of economic costs and benefits or simply as a reflection of policy learning and emulation among state governments. (Yi 2015) This lack of congruency with the actual needs of the individual and the goals of the state has resulted in planning that varies between states regardless of a city's unique social and ecological need. Incentives and perceptions have infiltrated climate action planning and this is something that is evolving as more global emphasis is placed on the urgency and individual outcomes of adherence or lack of adherence to climate action planning. Little research exists on the incorporation of agrodiversity and health. (Sheehan 2023) This capstone will marry together climate risks and social needs of the City of Bothell to recommend priority locations for community gardening that will address food security and the expansion of the food related economy for its population.

Land Tenure:

Land tenure and established property ownership is vital in the creation and longevity of community garden mapping. It is not only land tenure, but land value that has dictated local government policy and programmatic approaches to urban agriculture. (Hodgson 2011) This is

compounded by the policies that are placed on land that is private and subject to financial and legal representation that often takes a long time to confirm the transfer of. In the past, it has taken specific acts of legislation that are directed towards greenspace establishments such as the Smith-Lever Act that established the cooperative extension service and resulted in a Community Garden Agreement (Decaro 2025). Previous research has shown however that landmark legislation on community gardening has lacked community awareness of these acts with up to 54% of respondents unaware of institutionalization of urban green spaces. (Dimouli 2024) Schools have created an opportunity for expediting the transfer and establishment of land access for community gardening. Lands that are deemed protected for environmental purposes are not distinguished in these literature reviews and have the potential to be used in a way that upholds the original purpose of their protection with community garden spaces. Bothell has several regions that are a part of public-owned ecologically protected spaces that can be utilized for community gardening. This capstone provides surveys from the population of the public that require awareness and input on community garden priorities as well as establishing their own ideas for stakeholders for these green spaces.

Social Perceptions and Engagement of Community Gardening:

Community gardens are wholistically accepted and promoted within most social sectors and this is due to the social, financial, ecological and social benefits that occur in these opportunities that are well-known to many. To adequately initiate community gardens, previous attempts have found success in engaged political leadership and support of urban agriculture policies and accompanied programs. (Hodgson 2011) Combinations of government input and influence must be paired with public interest, support and engagement to create a foundation for successful urban-agriculture planning, policy development and implementation. (Hodgson 2011)

Community gardening is an equalizer in political splits and can be useful in providing hybrid social spaces for a city or region. Previous surveys on community gardening reported 95% of respondents recognized the social value that green spaces held. (Dimouli 2024) There is not much research that has been conducted on the issues that individuals have major issues with community gardens being implemented and this can be useful for understanding the perceived impact of Bothell's climate action plans in the community for individual proposed policies such as this community garden project. This capstone takes into consideration these issues in its participatory survey process prior to the mapping stage of the community gardens for Bothell.

Inequity in Community Gardening:

Inequities in community garden projects are heavily rooted in location that makes it difficult for those with limited transportation access to be involved in on a consistent basis. Previous research has found that there is success in community garden mapping that employs social design elements (Mmako 2018) Inequities in locating community gardens stem from a common idealization for implementation to be within existing green spaces that are essentially in existence because of social and racial bias towards affluent and White neighborhoods. Even when placed in areas that have the goal of addressing this bias through public land use regions there is still an accessibility issue that comes from policies that protect these public lands and limit social inclusion. Schools, as mentioned earlier can be an asset to successful community gardens yet have had issues stemming from limited hour access for participants that has resulted in a strong need to coordinate with school administrators. (Kanosvambhira 2025) There is not an example from prior research that works within a region that is predominantly affluent and engages communities that are of lower incomes through the use of existing agencies. Soliciting community input for a ranking for proposed community gardens among schools, places of

worship, proximity to housing, parks, and public land space in the public survey process can yield greater clarity on these public priorities, particularly among less affluent members of the community.

Success and Failure of Community Garden Implementation:

Often qualitative approaches are used in establishing an understanding of the successes and failures of implemented or proposed community garden practices. This has a lot to do with the necessity for community understanding for the success of a community garden and by providing ethically and low-cost alternatives to implementation married with loosely policy guided adherences to community practices there is more room and potential for success. Qualitative information regarding community gardening stemming directly from the effected community will be innovative in the establishing the preliminary process of community garden mapping by providing spaces to openly suggest and critique these proposals. Previous research has found success in focus groups on topics of green spaces. (Mmako 2018) Qualitative approaches have been conducted on established school-based community gardens, but none on their implementations. (Kanosvamaha 2025) There is little mention of a qualitative approach to conducting interviews on an individual or group level that incorporates the crafting of a community garden. This could result in innovative and less policy/rigid implementations of a community garden that could have the potential to increase longevity. These concerns also informed the survey design in this capstone.

Chapter 3

Methodology

To develop recommendations on priority sites for community gardens that are informed by both social and ecological priorities, I incorporated the climate vulnerability maps from the Climate Element of the City of Bothell's Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan as well as the public opinions of residents in and around the Bothell region. This research forms a case study of community garden in the City of Bothell, including its topography, citizens, climate vulnerabilities and stakeholders. This case study was conducted using a survey that compares sections of the City of Bothell with one another to inform priorities for community gardening.

Data Sources:

Primary data sources for this case study are two-fold. At the outset and in final analysis, I used a set of maps from the Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan, including a transportation map of the city, existing park and open space maps, and the current and future land use maps of Bothell. Crucially, I also used their "heat map", which integrates climate vulnerabilities to extreme participation, extreme heat, wildfire risk, and heat islands. These mapped images are from the December 2024 Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan, available on the official City of Bothell website that was created for the city to address vital sectors of city planning to serve as a referential foundation and "blueprint" for policy goal and capital Projects to support the city over the next 20 years.

The second source of data are the results from community surveys distributed by me on preferences for future locations of community gardens, guided by a map indicating 5 potential priority regions within the city in which community gardens could be sited. I used the map

products from the City of Bothell's planning department to select these 5 general areas in which community gardens might be located and asked community members to rank them in order of their preference. These maps included current and projected land use, which allowed me to prioritize location with lower income housing, proximity to transit networks, and the heat map that showed areas of greatest need for greening projects. In addition, I asked community members to rank different types of sites among schools, places of worship, proximity to transit, parks, and open public land space ("empty lots"). Participants were also given the opportunity to indicate any other location on the city map that they would find suitable for a proposed community garden.

5 regions were selected to be placed in the surveys for potential sites for community gardening. These sites were selected in the central region of Bothell which was densest in multi-unit housing and general residential use for accessibility of community members to walk and have easy access to these spaces. Regions that were rejected from placement in this survey were on the outer edges of Bothell which were dense in commercial use or very high in single-unit housing and far away from areas of multi-unit housing. These preliminary regions for the survey process also incorporated environmental risk and land use data from the December 2024 Image Bothell Comprehensive Plan but were not regions designated as high priority for this type of community project by the city. For these 5 regional placements I gave each region a letter for my own tracking purposes following the results of individuals ranking these regions during the survey process. These regions were given shapes of generally similar size to ensure that there would be equal opportunities for them to contain elements that respondents preferred. The resulting survey imagery is presented below.

Figure 1. Visual imagery of shaped images corresponding with regions given to survey respondents on a current map of Bothell.

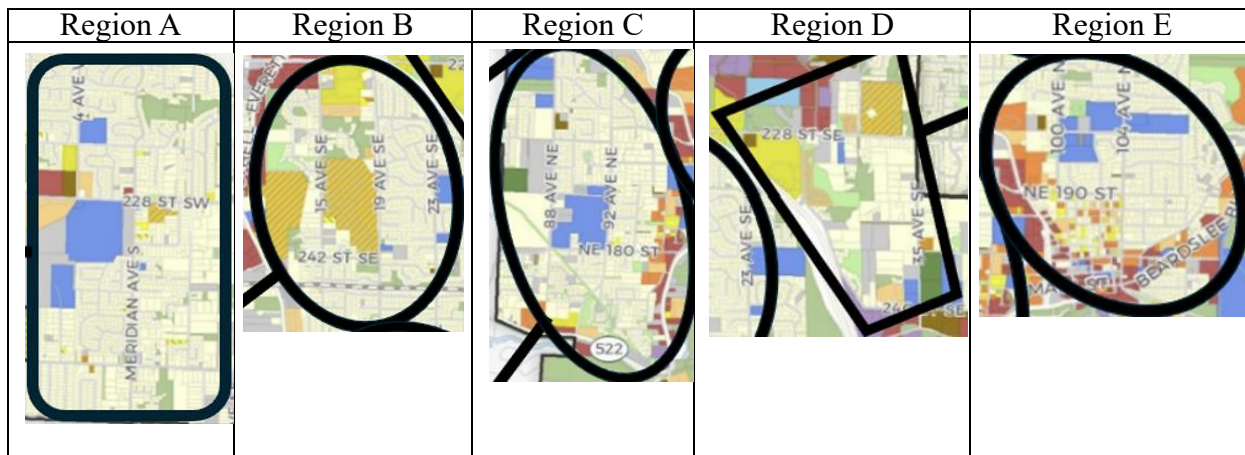


Figure 2. The legend used in the current map of Bothell overlaid with regions that was given to survey respondents



These surveys were given to the public during public engagement events provided by the city of Bothell in conjunction with a private business named Gilly Wagon, a creative event production agency located in Seattle, Washington. A series of community-based events were offered through this partnership throughout the summer on the main strip of Bothell's downtown area and were titled *Moonlight on Main* events. Of these events, I attended Garden Week on Saturday, June 21st, and Outdoor Recreation Night on Saturday, June 28th with each of these events offering an opportunity for me to conduct surveys for a four-hour period. The sample pool derived from these surveying events was contingent on the turnout and participation within the turnout of each of these events. Participants filled out my paper surveys as well as digital survey on a voluntary basis while attending these events and only had the consent requirement of being of legal age in Washington state.

The participation protocols for this survey process consisted of an initial verbal whether there is interest in participating in my survey followed by the handoff of the hard copy survey, or provision with a QR code link to a digital survey based on their preferred language of English, Spanish, or Chinese. The survey included an opening written statement that acknowledges the anonymity of their responses and the assurance that aggregate survey results will be publicly shared with the academic community and with the City of Bothell government for future planning (See Appendix). After agreeing to this initial statement, respondents were then guided by a series of questions corresponding with the Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan imagery on various climate vulnerability and public land use maps for their reference to their answers. Respondents were asked brief questions on their residency status with the city, age, primary and secondary languages and transportation access. These preliminary questions will support additional ecological and social questions related to community garden mapping.

The responses for the survey that I provided to respondents were given in written format, and there were no verbal interviews. There was a variety of question formats for my study, most importantly map-based questions that required the respondent to indicate their ideal location within city limits for locating community gardens, however there were also ranking questions, multiple-choice questions, Likert Scale questions and open-ended questions. These survey data were compiled from the online entries via Survey Monkey, and the hardcopy responses were added to the full dataset. Any open answer responses were transcribed and quoted within the results section of this capstone. Preliminary questions were based on residency status and support or opposition to community gardens implemented by the city. Respondents were then given the opportunity to rank proposed aspects of community gardens that are most helpful to them based on previous research. Participants also had an open opportunity to provide suggestions of community partners for participation and any inquiries or oppositions that they had in establishing these green spaces. Finally, participants were given a visual map of pre-indicated spaces for community gardens that they can rank and had the opportunity to provide their own indications for a proposed community garden.

Given the community preferences expressed in the survey, I returned to the detailed City of Bothell planning maps to inform my final recommendations for priority locations for community gardens in the City of Bothell.

Limitations:

A major limitation to this design strategy is the participatory aspect of this case study which relies on public interest in participating in this work in conjunction with the accessibility of finding these individuals who happen to also be participating in a community event sponsored by the City of Bothell. There is also the limitation of participants needing to fill out this survey at the event. Language barriers are of the largest issue with this survey given that this work needs to be provided in languages that are relevant to the population, especially the most vulnerable of citizens, although these survey will be provided in a multi-lingual format for those that do not speak English, there is still the cultural competency that is missing from me as a conductor of this work in ensuring that the language transcription is relevant and adequate to those that are responding. Having an in-person survey approach to this work is ideal however because of the necessity of providing relevant visual mapping information from the Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan to the respondents in correlation with their survey questions to provide an adequate analysis based on my hypothesis question of the best social and ecological approach to community garden mapping.

Chapter 4

Results and Discussion

Survey Format and Residency Results:

Survey respondents were given surveys in two formats, digital and hard copy, and had their responses chronologically batched and recorded into three pools, survey day 1 with variables ending in 1, survey day 2 with these variables ending in a 2., and all other surveys submission recorded afterwards with a variable ending in 3. Although all responses were batched based on survey submission dates, all 62 survey responses were pooled together for analysis in this capstone. Respondents were initially asked to declare their residency status on a nominal scale as yes or no before answering all other questions in this survey.

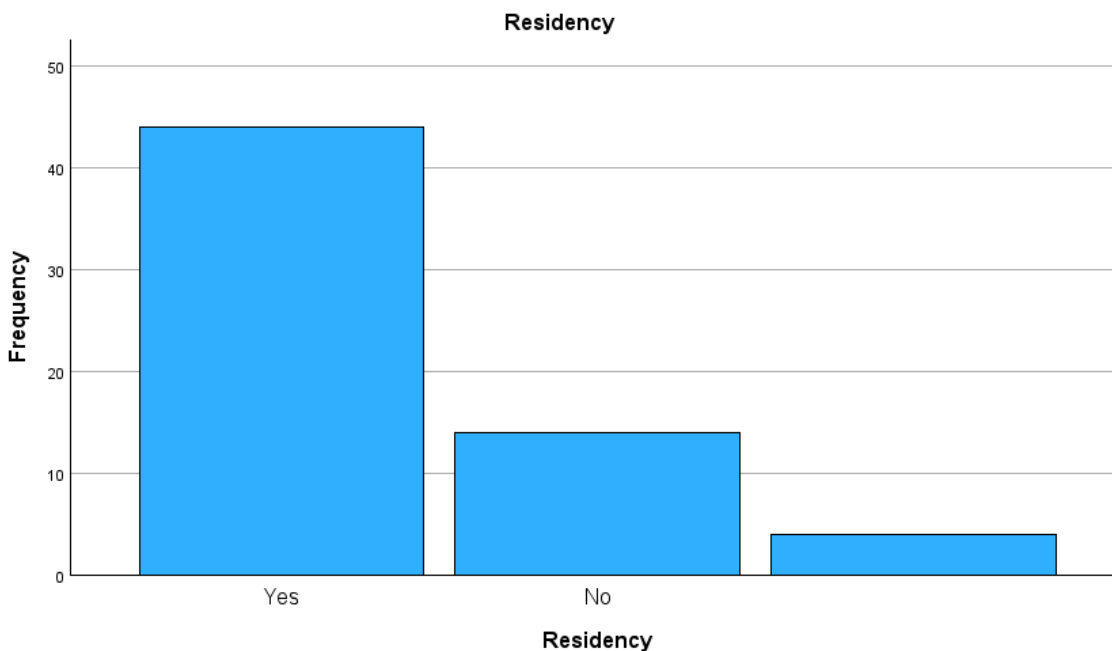
Table 1. Frequency and Percent respondents in the first and second tabling group, and third online survey, by language of respondent.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	EnglishOnline1	23	37.1
	EnglishOnline2	19	30.6
	HARDCOPY1	9	14.5
	HARDCOPY2	5	8.1
	ChineseOnline3	4	6.5
	HARDCOPY1 Spanish	1	1.6
	Spanish2	1	1.6
	Total	62	100.0

Table 2. Frequency and Percent of residency status of the City of Bothell and decline of answers to this survey question.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	44	71.0
	No	14	22.6
		4	6.5
	Total	62	100.0

Figure 3. Frequency of residency status responses across all surveys (N=62)



Respondents of this survey were primarily residents of the City of Bothell totaling 71% of the respondent pool, while non-resident respondents represented 22.6% of the survey pool. 4 individual respondents chose to skip this question entirely. Most respondents chose to fill out the survey via the digital format (Survey Monkey) by following the QR codes designed by the site

and following along the established survey interface, while 15 individuals chose to fill out the survey via the hard copy versions distributed at either of the survey tabling events associated with the City of Bothell. 6 survey responses were filled out in a language other than English, with 4 responses digitally filled out in Chinese and a digital and hard copy version of the survey in Spanish resulting in 2 Spanish responses.

Implementation Support Results:

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their level of support they had for city implementation of community gardens and were initially asked if they perceived it as good or not and then followed up by elaborating on their level of support that they had for this type of project. The respondent's perceived level of support was indicated on a three-point ordinal scale of being very supportive, moderately supportive and not supportive.

Table 3. Frequency and Percent of support of community gardens implemented by the City of Bothell.

Are City of Bothell Community Gardens a Good Idea?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	62	100.0

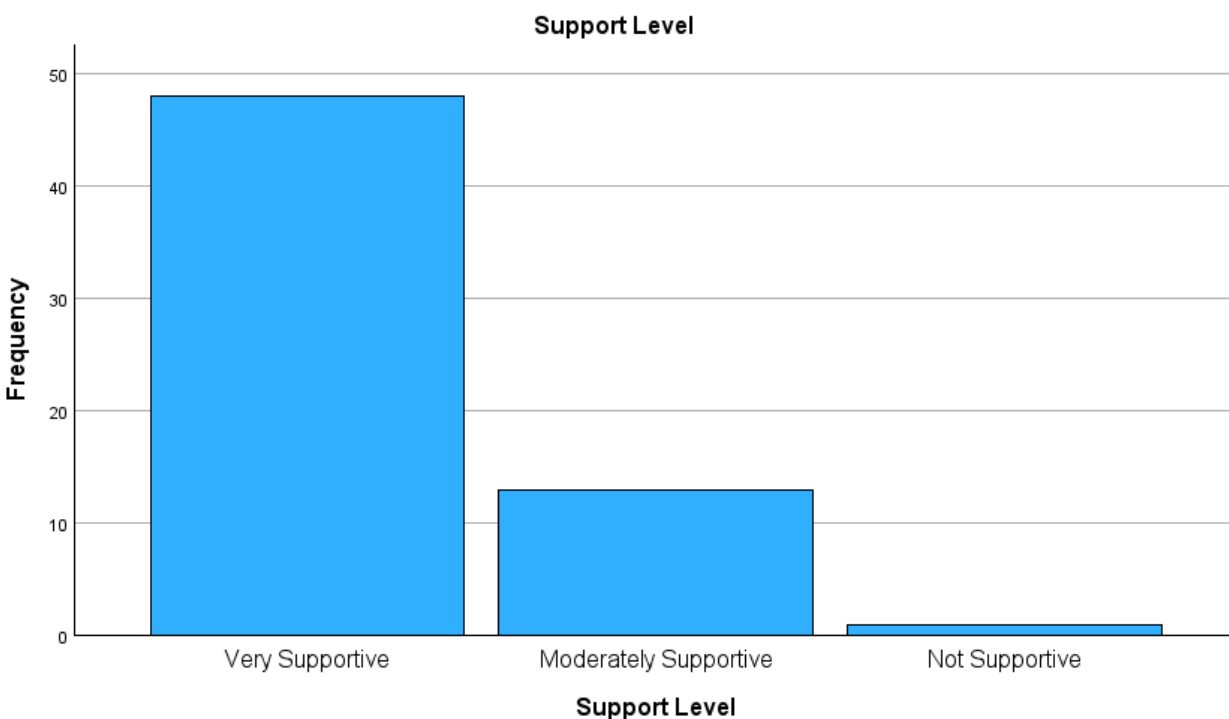
Table 4. Frequency and Percent of level of support that respondents have of City of Bothell implemented community gardens.

Support Level

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very Supportive	48	77.4
	Moderately Supportive	13	21.0
	Not Supportive	1	1.6

Total	62	100.0
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Figure 5. Level of support for community gardens.



Community gardens are highly favorably viewed by those surveyed: 100% of respondents, regardless of survey response format, language, or residency indicated that they thought that the City of Bothell implementation of community gardens was a good idea, even with a single respondent later indicating that they were not supportive of the creation of one or more community gardens. This trend follows along with previous research that indicated that there is widespread support for community gardens because of the social, economic and ecologically positive outcomes that can come from these established spaces. Outside of this, a single response on non-support of community gardens was an outlier given that 78% of respondents were very supportive of the creation of one or more community gardens, and 21% who were moderately supportive of this. A statistic of 100% support and favor of city involvement in a green space, community engaged project(s) is an overwhelming positive

collective response that needs to be highlighted in presenting to city leadership. This combined with a 98% response rate of moderately or very supportive of multiple community gardens gives insight into the notion that community garden implementation could be piloted at multiple locations across the city limits.

Projected Community Engagement Results:

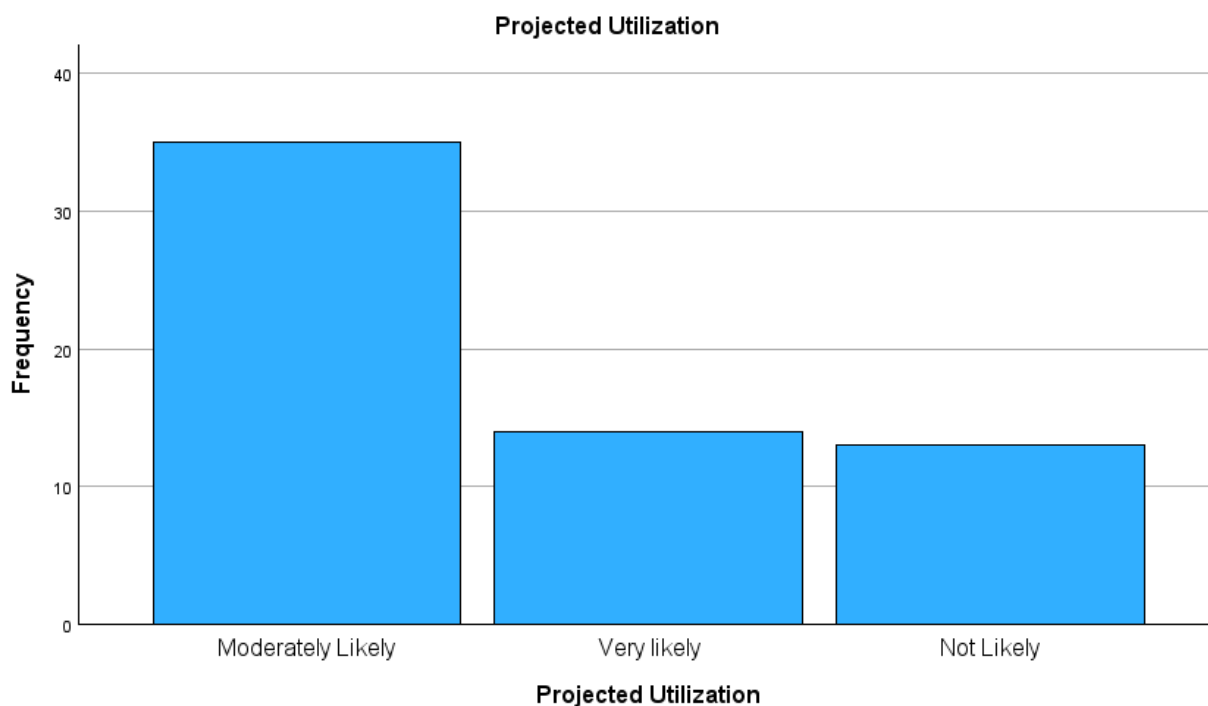
Survey respondents were asked to provide their perceived level that they would utilize a potential community garden on a three-point ordinal scale of being very likely, moderately likely or not likely to engage in a project like this.

Table 5. Frequency and Percent of likelihood that respondents would utilize community gardens.

Projected Utilization

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Moderately Likely	35	56.5
	Very likely	14	22.6
	Not Likely	13	21.0
	Total	62	100.0

Figure 6. Frequency of respondents likelihood of utilization of community gardens.



Half of respondents, 56.5%, were moderately likely to use a community garden while 22.6% were very likely to utilize these potential green spaces and 21% of respondents were not likely to use community gardens. This statistic indicates that there would need to be ample promotion and community engagement efforts prior to the implementation of community gardens to establish which individuals would be consistently engaged with these projects. Those unlikely to use community gardens were also respondents of the 100% who thought that City of Bothell community garden implementation was a good idea, so this shows that there is underlying support outside of direct engagement for community garden usage that should be considered.

Location Preference Results:

Survey respondents were presented with six different types of public sites within a city that commonly are associated with community gardens. Respondents were asked to rate these types of sites on a numerical rating scale that ranked these sites from 1 to 6 with 1 being most favored and 6 being least favored. Respondents were then asked to make a similar ranking that was specific to sectioned regions of the City of Bothell presented in the survey. Respondents ranked these 5 visual regions on a numerical rating scale with 1 being the most favored and 5 being the least favored.

A community garden near a school was ranked the highest in surveys indicating #1 placements at 17 high rankings, followed by a community garden near a park receiving 14 #1 respondents' placements and just shy of this high ranking were 13 top preferences for community gardens near the respondent's homes. Schools and parks were the most preferred community garden location given their abundance of combined #1 and #2 rankings resulting in almost 30 responses each for these spots. Community gardens near empty lots and public transit ranked on the lower end of preferences for respondents. Interestingly, a proposed community garden near a place of worship only receives a single #1 placement for the entirety of this survey, however this type of site did rank highest for #6 placements for over 30 respondents. This shows that there is a need for the City of Bothell to refrain from implementing a community garden at a place of worship. For all placements, two respondents provided specific organizations in the open response portion of the survey that were thought to be a good fit for maintaining this sort of project. These organizations were Westhill Elementary School and the Seattle Giving Garden Network. Westhill Elementary School is a primary school within the Northshore School District located in a busy sector of Bothell adjacent to large swaths of residential properties and local

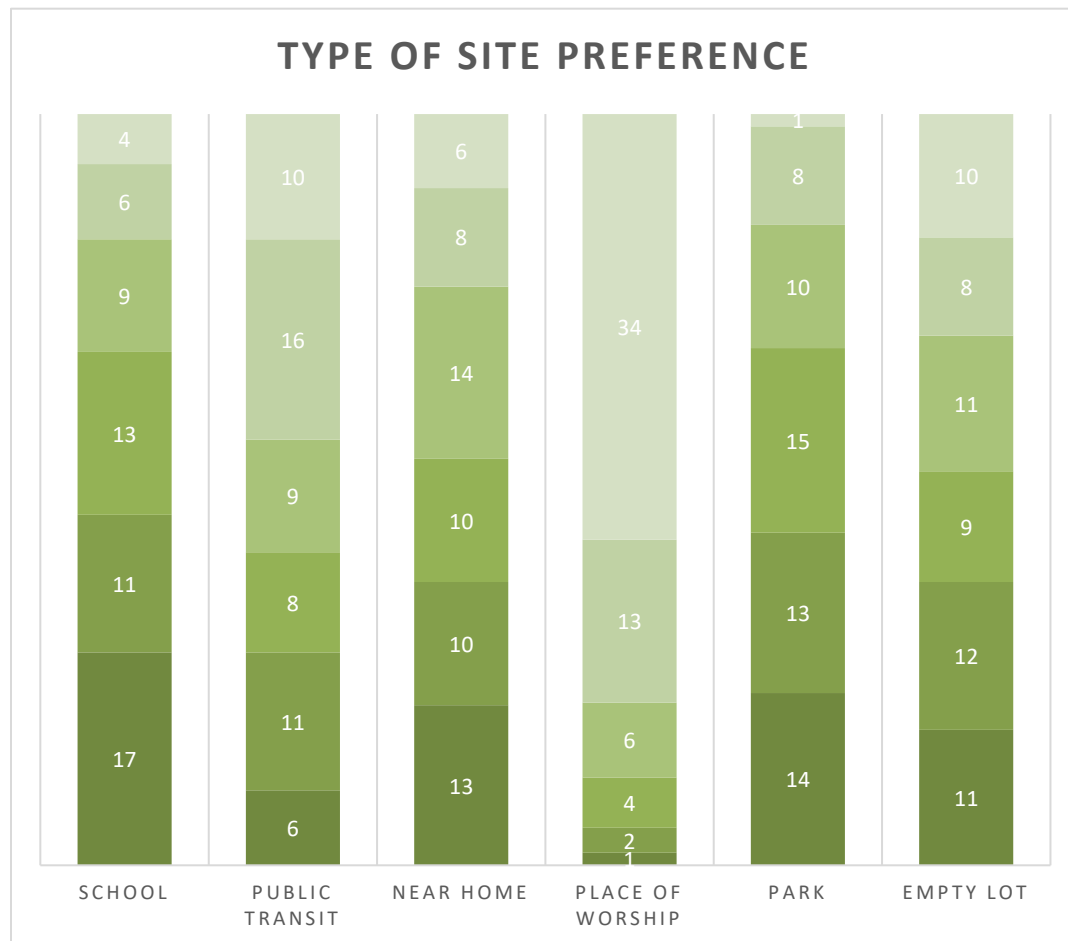
businesses. Their online presence is consistently available in 8 languages and operates on a year-round basis throughout the school year. Seattle Giving Garden Network is an organization that offers resources to participating gardeners who donate their harvest. Resources provided included seeds, plant starts, financial support and networking opportunities. This organization operates within a diversity, equity and inclusion framework and works in collaboration with the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods “Giving Garden” program.

Table 6. Number of responses ranking each of 6 site types.

Type of Site Ranking

Rank	School	Public Transit	Near Home	Place of Worship	Park	Empty Lot
1	17	6	13	1	14	11
2	11	11	10	2	13	12
3	13	8	10	4	15	9
4	9	9	14	6	10	11
5	6	16	8	13	8	8
6	4	10	6	34	1	10

Figure 7. Visual chart of ranked site types based on respondent preference.



Type of Site Ranking Results:

Priority site preference was determined by which sites received the highest amount of #1 and #2 placement rankings for this survey from respondents. Schools received the highest top rankings from this survey with 28 respondents favoring this type of site for a proposed community garden implemented by the city government. Parks closely followed this preference with 27 respondents in favor of this type of community garden site. These preferences were vital in analyzing regions that were most preferred by respondents by identifying which preferred zones contained these types of sites as options for community gardens.

Visual Region Ranking Results:

Survey respondents were given a map of the City of Bothell with regional sections for ranking purposes (Figure 6), each of which was labeled with a letter from A-E, and asked to provide a ranking between 1 and 5 in which 1 is most favored and 5 is least favored. Respondents had digital access to this Bothell current land use map with accompanying shapes that included a legend of what the color-coding on this map represented such as residential space, commercial use areas, vacant space, open land/park space, and public use spaces. To adequately analyze these regions in this capstone for environmental risk and land use characteristics, these shapes and their corresponding locations were overlaid on six maps from the Imagine Bothell Comprehensive Plan's Climate element. These six maps were Urban Heat Islands, Future Land Use, Existing Parks and Open Space, Floodplains Critical Facilities & Manufactured Homes, Urban Wildfire Risk and Existing Transit network. The regions were selected as those that best combined opportunity to ameliorate heat islands and provide access to residents, particularly those with lower economic means.

Analysis of the 4 Priority Regions for Potential Siting of Community Gardens:

Below are the images of the regions that were presented in the region ranking section of the survey given to respondents. Region A, Region C, and Region E were most highly favored in their first and second placement for potential sites of a community garden, followed by Region B which received a high number of 2 & 3 rankings. Region D received the lowest marks from respondents for favorable placement of community gardens and was omitted from further environmental risk and land characteristic analysis.

Figure 8. The five regions given to survey respondents on a current map of Bothell, labeled A-E

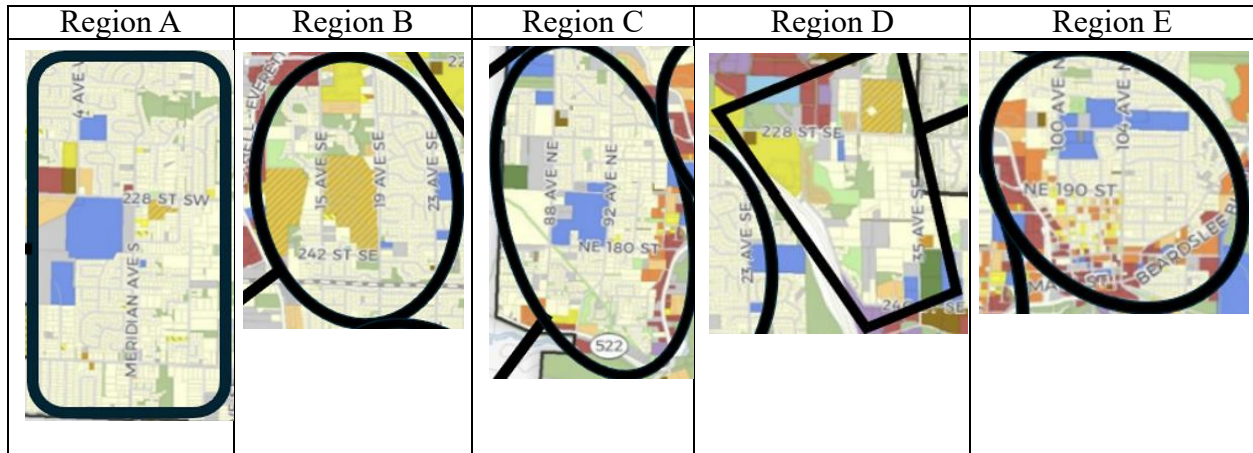
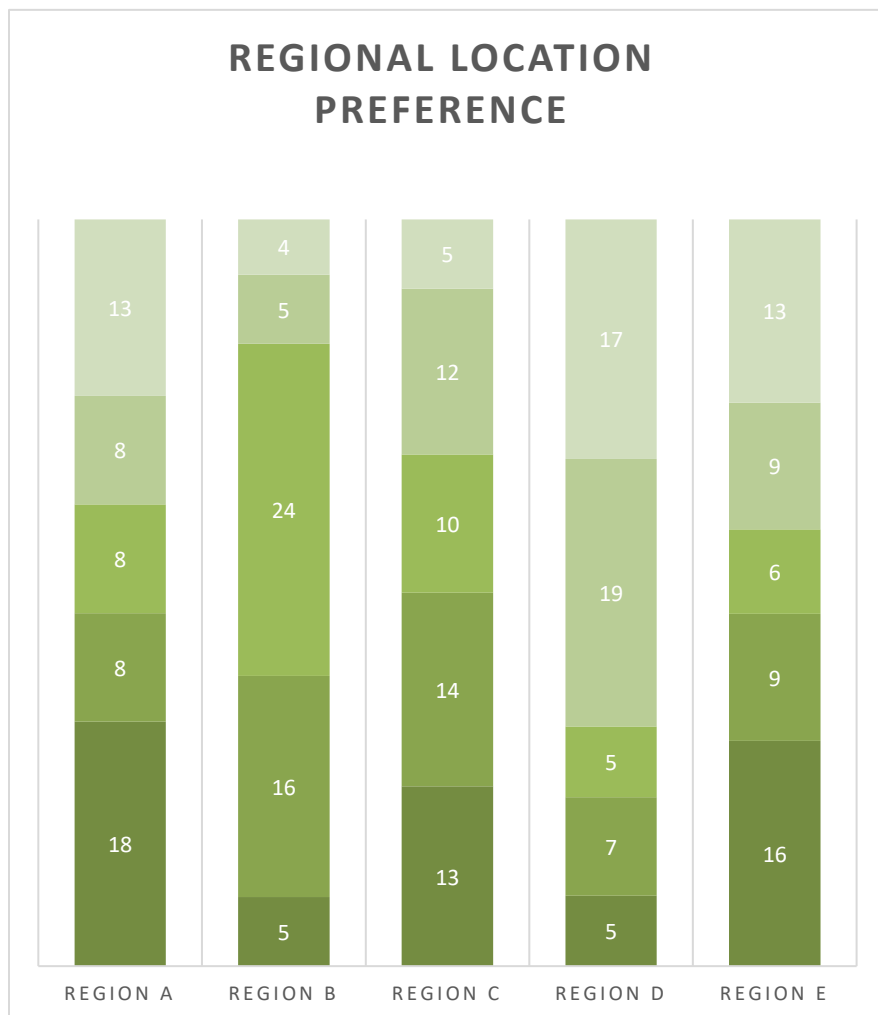


Table 7. Ranking of regions based on respondent preference of visual imagery from the survey. Values represent number of individuals giving each rank for each region

Regional Location Ranking

Rank	Region A	Region B	Region C	Region D	Region E
1	18	5	13	5	16
2	8	16	14	7	9
3	8	24	10	5	6
4	8	5	12	19	9
5	13	4	5	17	13

Figure 9. Visual chart of ranked regional location based on respondent preference.




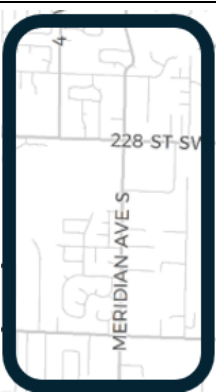
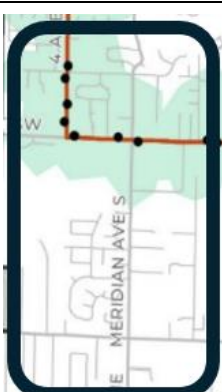

Regional Location Ranking Results:

Priority regional location preference was determined by which regions received the highest amount of #1 and #2 placement rankings for this survey from respondents. Region A, C, and E received the top placements given these criteria with Region A totaling 26 top priority placements from respondents, Region C receiving 27 priority placements, and Region E receiving 25 priority placements. Inversely, Region D received 36 low placements in rankings for this survey, so its analysis was omitted from analysis of this survey that the remaining regions received in understanding their environmental risk and land use characteristics.

What follows are suggestions for more specific priority locations for community gardens in Regions A, E, C & B based on the City of Bothell's land use and environmental characteristic maps. In each case, the more detailed maps are presented first, followed by discussion of their implications for locating community gardens.

Region A Analysis:

Figure 10. Visual imagery for Region A overlaid with environmental and land use maps from the Image Bothell Comprehensive Plan. Please see the maps in the Appendices, found on pages 53-58, for legends.

Region A / Urban Wildfire Risk & Tree Canopy	Region A / Urban Heat Islands	Region A / Future Land Use
		
Region A / Existing Parks & Open Space	Region A / Existing Transit Network	Region A / Floodplains, Critical Facilities & Manufactured Homes
		



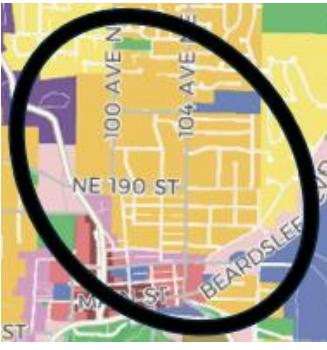

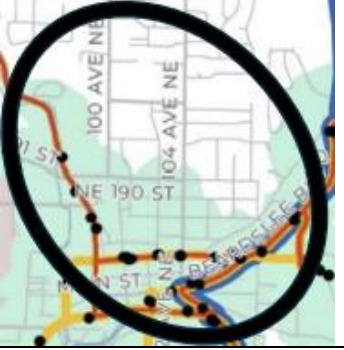

Environmental Risk and Land Use Characteristics

This region is moderate in heat island severity and only has one zone in its uppermost section that will be prone to severe heat. A majority of this region is projected to be dedicated to housing for future land use, however there is a significant portion that are used for commercial purposes. This region is on the edge of several public interest points such as restaurants, and

grocery stores that are near these housing units. There are no parks in this region that can be dedicated to community gardening, but there are two schools within its boundaries. These public schools are Frank Love Elementary and Shelton View Elementary. Public transportation has a single line that runs between these two schools and is in the upper portion of this region. This public transit is a community transit line that runs through 228th street and passes by the City of Bothell Fire Department. In addition to this first response center, there is also a government office, FEMA Region-10, located here that holds land tenure and could potentially be a point where a community garden can be established.

Region E Analysis:

Figure 11. Visual imagery for Region E overlaid with environmental and land use maps from the Image Bothell Comprehensive Plan. Please see the maps in the Appendices, found on pages 53-58, for legends.

Region E / Urban Wildfire Risk & Tree Canopy	Region E / Urban Heat Islands	Region E / Future Land Use
		
Region E / Existing Parks & Open Space	Region E / Existing Transit Network	Region E / Floodplains, Critical Facilities & Manufactured Homes
		

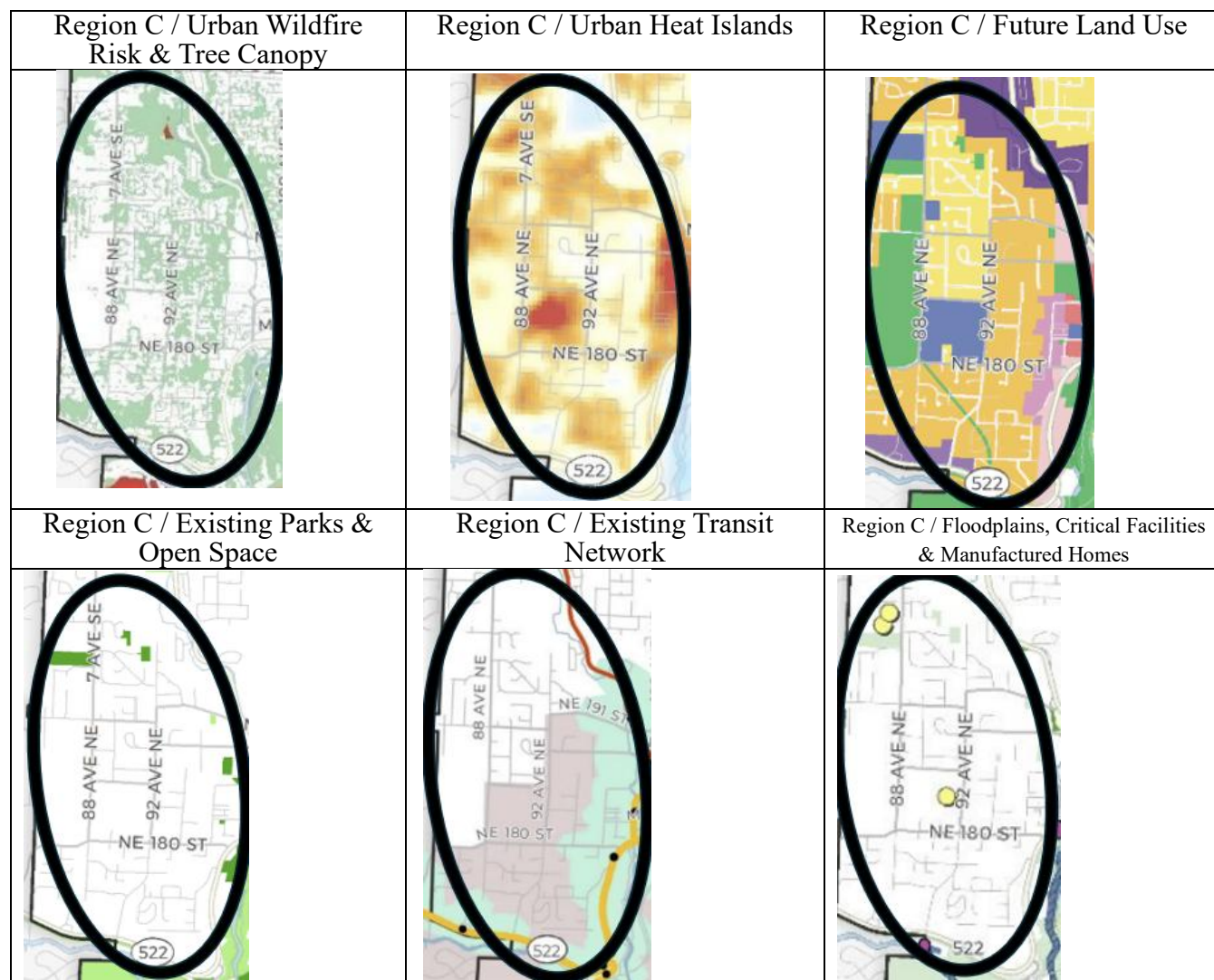
Environmental Risks and Land Use Characteristics

This region has high severity levels for heat islands in relation to the city of Bothell. It is expected to have future land use to be dedicated primarily to housing, specifically medium residential housing with a quarter of this region projected to be a part of low-density residential housing and has the edges of it that reach a manufactured home community. Only one park is in this region, William Penn Park, which is primarily used a sports facility for pickleball. This

region intersects with two major community transit lines, one on 527, and the other on Beardslee Boulevard. King County Metro also has several bus lines along the bottom portion of this region with several stops on all of these lines. All other streets in this region are residential and this entire region is located within the boundaries of King County. This region houses a fire station, three police facilities, and has a sliver of space below Beardslee Boulevard that falls within a 1.0% chance of floodplains. There is a low percentage of tree canopy in this region because of its residential, and commercial density however, there is also little to no urban wildfire risk. This region contains Bothell City Hall and its accompanying green spaces that are located on this property that sit between public businesses of small and large companies. Near city hall, an empty lot located on 102nd & 185th street was specifically mentioned in the open suggestion for a community garden space section of this survey via one written submission and two other times via word of mouth during the tabling process which took place both days within this region. This pairing could potentially be a pilot community garden space that has quick access for the city to monitor its progress along with a large residential population surrounding it to get involved with this work.

Region C Analysis:

Figure 12. Visual imagery for Region C overlaid with environmental and land use maps from the Image Bothell Comprehensive Plan. Please see the maps in the Appendices, found on pages 53-58, for legends.



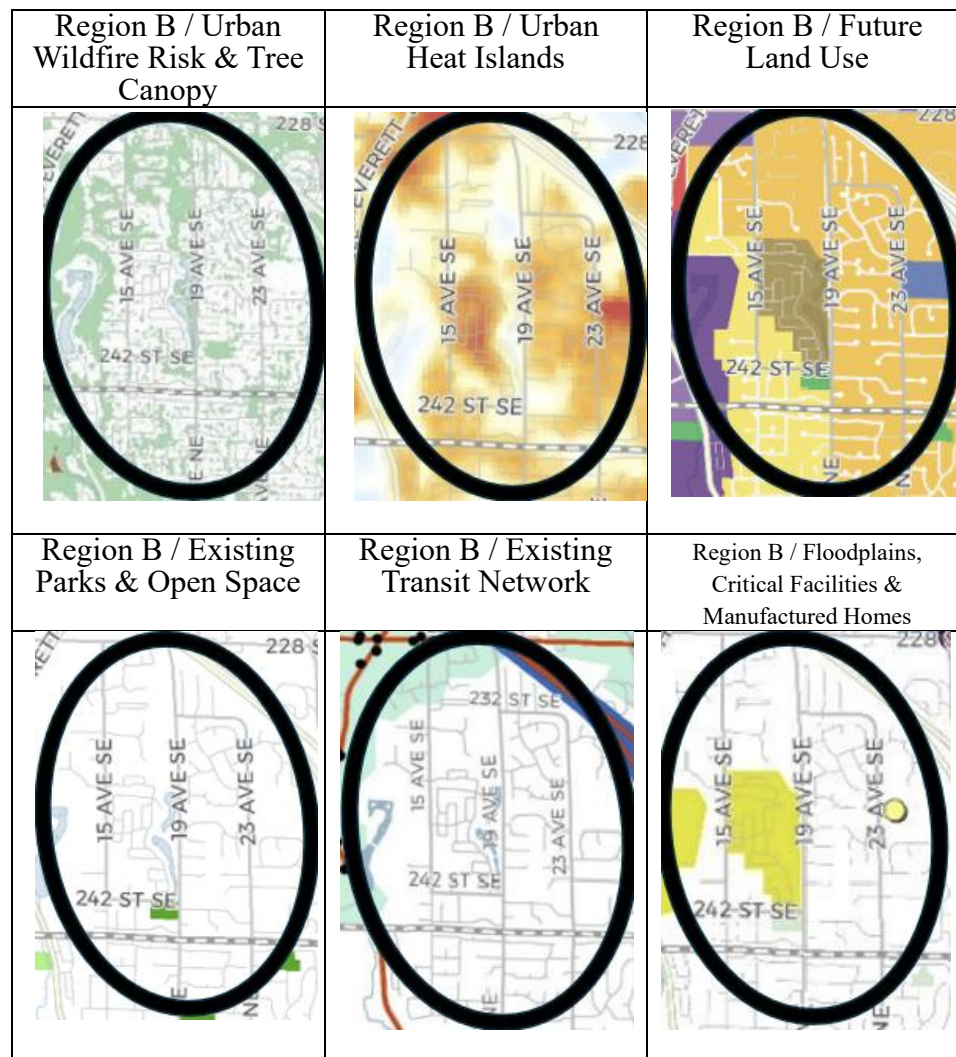
Environmental Risk and Land Use Characteristics

Region C has two zones that are of high risk of urban heat severity based on summer surface temperatures, however the rest of this region is moderate to low in these risks. For projections of future land use, this region is dense in residential use of moderate and high levels with several sections being apartment complexes and newer residential high-rise apartments in

the downtown area. A future land use map suggests that this region will contain a sizeable section of land between NE 190th Street and NE 180th Street that will be available as open space that could also be public access. Currently, this land is home to a private business titled Magnolia Cattle Company, but more analysis on future land rights for this space will be valuable in establishing a potential community garden space within this open land surrounded by residential homes and a public school. Existing Park and open space include Doug Allen Sportsfields a larger park space adjacent to Westhill Elementary School, as well as two small green space parks; Tall Tree Park and Conifer View Park which are both surrounded by residential homes and adjacent to shaded woods that are the only point within this region at risk of wildfires. Most interestingly, this region intersects with the edges of The Park at Bothell Landing which has previously been used as a pop-up space for needs of the community by installing a temporary dog park for residents sponsored by city and public interest efforts. This type of mixed-use flexibility for a public park is essential in establishing a preliminary community garden space for the public. This park space is adjacent to highway 522 and is within the King County Metro bus lines for two stops around this point and along the lower portion of this region. Three prominent education facilities are in this region and include Bothell High School, a strong community serving point, Sorenson Early Childhood Center and Westhill Elementary School. Bothell High School and Westhill Elementary school are both with the Northshore Unified School District and the latter of the two was mentioned by a respondent as a potential organization that this type of project should initially establish a connection with for possible gardening space.

Region B Analysis:

Figure 13. Visual imagery for Region B overlaid with environmental and land use maps from the Image Bothell Comprehensive Plan. Please see the maps in the Appendices, found on pages 53-58, for legends.



Environmental Risk and Land Use Characteristics

Region B has two zones that are of moderate to high risk of urban heat islands and these zones coincide with a public education facility and a large mobile home park. This region is the most residential of the four regions analyzed for environmental risk and land use characteristics and features swaths of space that are dense in tree canopy that surround these residential areas. There is only a single park within this region named Stipek Park, which is smaller in size, but

features open space adjacent to a busier street, 19th Ave SE. There are no public transit lines within this region reinforcing the denseness of the residential nature of this area. There are large bodies of water within the natural spaces surrounding this region that have small strips of land within them; however, this seems inaccessible for the public to use for community gardening purposes. The two mobile home parks within Region E of note are Green Acres Park and Lake Pleasant RV Park, each of which is denser in concrete surface, but has small portions on these properties that have potential to be turned into micro community gardens. Land tenure for these zones is contingent on private businesses, so city influence may be minimal for this type of residential community gardening implementation. A single school lies within this region, Canyon Middle School Park, but similar to the residential homes, there are few to no spaces of open land available to set aside for a community garden on the property.

Policy Recommendations:

1. Implement a pilot community garden space in close proximity to City Hall.
 - a. Region E where City Hall is located is dense in residential units that house multiple units and is also highly accessible due to public transit lines that have dozens of stops for vulnerable populations to access these spaces, a specific recommendation for this pilot garden is the empty lot located on 102nd and 185th street which was a written recommendation within the survey and was verbally requested a few times during the tabling process of the survey events in this region.
 - b. Region C is also adjacent to City Hall and contains The Park at Bothell Landing, which is not only dense in residential units, but would be an ideal pilot garden project at this public park that is central to community members and has previous history of mixed land use for the community given its pop-up dog park that was created based on growing demand from the community in May of 2025.
 - c. Having a community garden space adjacent or in close proximity to City Hall will provide consistent insight into the needs, successes and failures of Bothell-ran community gardens.
2. Work with Northshore School District to establish a policy or partnership that allows for community gardening on their grounds.

- a. Public schools appear in all 4 of the analyzed regions from this capstone and have potential to use their green spaces for community gardens.
 - b. Westhill Elementary School has shown efforts in reaching an array of non-English speaking community members and their children making them a desirable choice for reaching and serving vulnerable populations in Bothell.
3. Collaborate with City of Bothell Parks and Recreation department to establish community garden locations with city limits.
 - a. The parks and recreation department within the City of Bothell is already in tune with city policy work and community engagement efforts. Their involvement in this project is essential in establishing equitable access to community gardens through its existing green space responsibilities.
 - b. The pop-up dog park could be used as a template for efficiently and communicatively creating a public space that serves the needs of the community.
4. Gain a deeper economic understanding of future land use within the next year of future land use to accurately map out community garden spaces on open land, and empty lots.
 - a. Prioritize the projected future land use of open spaces and empty lots to provide a list to the community of potential community garden spaces.
5. Incorporate community garden planning in public outreach efforts for the City of Bothell due to overwhelming support from the community.
 - a. Update future land use maps with future comprehensive and climate action goals that visually engage the community on community garden spaces.
 - b. Provide city initiatives that inform the public more on progress and implementation of community garden spaces. Incorporate multi-unit residential housing in these efforts because of the preferences of community gardens being near homes.
 - c. Ensure that outreach efforts are provided physically and digitally in multiple languages to equitably inform and engage the community.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

Establishing community gardening opportunities in the City of Bothell has been recommended as a direct response to addressing food security issues amidst the challenges of climate change. Policies CC-5.1 that provides opportunities to expand local food security and policy CC-5.2 which aims to identify suitable locations for community gardens with a priority to locate in areas with overburdened communities has provided the basis for this capstone work and accompanying survey that was given to the public. Community engagement, social perceptions, site type preferences, and location preferences were the focus of surveys given to public at community led events in the downtown area of Bothell. These focuses stemmed from previous literature on successes, shortcomings, and failures of community garden implementation and climate action planning. Previous research has shown that community gardens need to be placed on lands that have extended tenure to ensure longevity of the communities that upkeep these spaces. Literature also suggests that social perceptions of community garden implementation is wholistically accepted and there must be close attention paid to the locations that these gardens are placed to ensure that there is not inequity in green space access that exasperates the already present prejudices that green space placements have in urban and suburban region against vulnerable communities.

The methodology of this research provided an opportunity for all respondents to be seen equally and not separated by race, class or gender in their responses while only adhering to declaration of their residency status, levels of support for community gardens, and likelihood of utilization of these spaces and preferences of site types and regional location. Results of this

research showed that there was unanimous support from all 62 respondents of City of Bothell implementation of community gardens regardless of the language that they submitted the survey in and residency status. Residents of Bothell were almost 75% of the respondents while high and moderate support levels of this type of project represented over 95% of the responses.

Likelihoods of engaging in this work were also high, with Bothell residents professing high likelihoods to engage in a community garden, and with over 75% of respondents indicating that they would engage in community gardens once established. Respondents showed highest preferences for community gardens placed at schools and parks. Moderate levels of interest were also present in ensuring that community gardens would be placed for utilization on empty lots and would be near public transit. The responses also strongly disfavored placement of city-implemented community gardens in or near a place of worship. This lack of support from the public was shown in immense numbers and indicated a need for the city to refrain from these sorts of partnerships for community gardening.

Regional preferences for community gardening via a visual map of the City of Bothell was provided to respondents and organized by locations that had higher social and ecological properties necessary for a successful community garden. Of the 5 regions presented in the survey, only one region received a consistently low ranking and was omitted from deeper analysis of environmental risk and land use characteristics. Once analyzed, each region showed at least one public school available for community garden implementation. All but Region A had a couple of options for public parks to be used for adding a community garden, and all regions were situated in areas that were dense in housing and residential space that house vulnerable populations in current and future land use maps. Public transit stops were apparent in all but one of these regions, Region B, with multiple route lines from local to county transportation. Wildfire

risk was very low in all regions and coincided with more wooded areas adjacent to residential housing but an evaluation of risk perspective suggests this is not an important consideration for selection locations for community gardens within these regional options.

Unanimous public support of City of Bothell implemented community gardens coincides with previous research on overwhelmingly positive social perceptions of this type of urban agriculture with 100% of respondents indicating that they believed this type of project was a good idea. Support levels were also very high for this community project, with the survey resulting in over 77% of respondents being very supportive. This combined with high levels of projected engagement show promise in the utilization that community will have in ensuring that these gardens are adequately cared for in the long term. Projected engagement was high with 79% of respondents indicating that they would be highly or moderately likely to utilize City of Bothell implemented community gardens. Public schools and parks being of high preference for community garden sites address issues that can occur from lack of land tenure as both site types have established tenure through government policies and consistency in community usage. Bothell has many schools and public parks within the most favored regions within this survey to provide options for the community that would be the best fit for accessibility and aversion to ecological risks such as heat islands and flood risk. Tree canopies were not overwhelmingly dense in any of these regions making it ideal to implement community gardens in their green and open spaces to ensure that there is proper sun access throughout the year for the community gardens to thrive year-round.

Policy recommendations for the City of Bothell to address policies CC-5.1 and CC-5.2 from their climate action plan stem from the analysis of this survey in conjunction with knowledge and insights gained from previous literature on this topic. Vulnerable populations

exist predominantly within multi-unit housing, present in the most preferred regions of this survey. It is recommended that the City of Bothell start a pilot community garden near City Hall in the downtown area to understand the needs of this type of project for their community and ensure monitoring of the space and community engagement as it progresses keeping a focus on ensuring equitable access and establishing food security. Relationships with Northshore School District and the city government led Bothell Parks and Recreation department were also recommended to give actionable steps and understanding of the policies and procedures necessary to establish community gardens on these tenured lands. A better economic understanding of empty lot land tenure was suggested to provide the public with specific options for community gardens on this type of site. The overwhelming support for city implemented community gardens was the basis for the recommendation for the City of Bothell to incorporate community garden mapping in their future outreach efforts and climate action plans going forward.

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Appendices

English Survey Page 1

City of Bothell Community Garden Survey Resident Preferences in Bothell, WA

The City of Bothell is exploring establishing community gardens in the city. A community garden is a public land use that allows anyone to grow food. I am collecting resident interest in community gardens to assist the city as a part of my master’s program at the University of Washington Bothell. Your responses will be anonymously taken and be used for my research and to help inform the City of Bothell’s policies and planning of community gardens.

Are you a resident of Bothell?	YES	NO	
Do you think City of Bothell implementation of community gardens is a good idea?	YES	NO	
How supportive are you of creating one or more community gardens?	Very Supportive	Moderately Supportive	Not Supportive
How likely are you to use one?	Very Likely	Moderately Likely	Not Likely

What aspect of a potential community garden space would be most helpful to you? Please rank from 1 to 6 (1 being the most helpful).

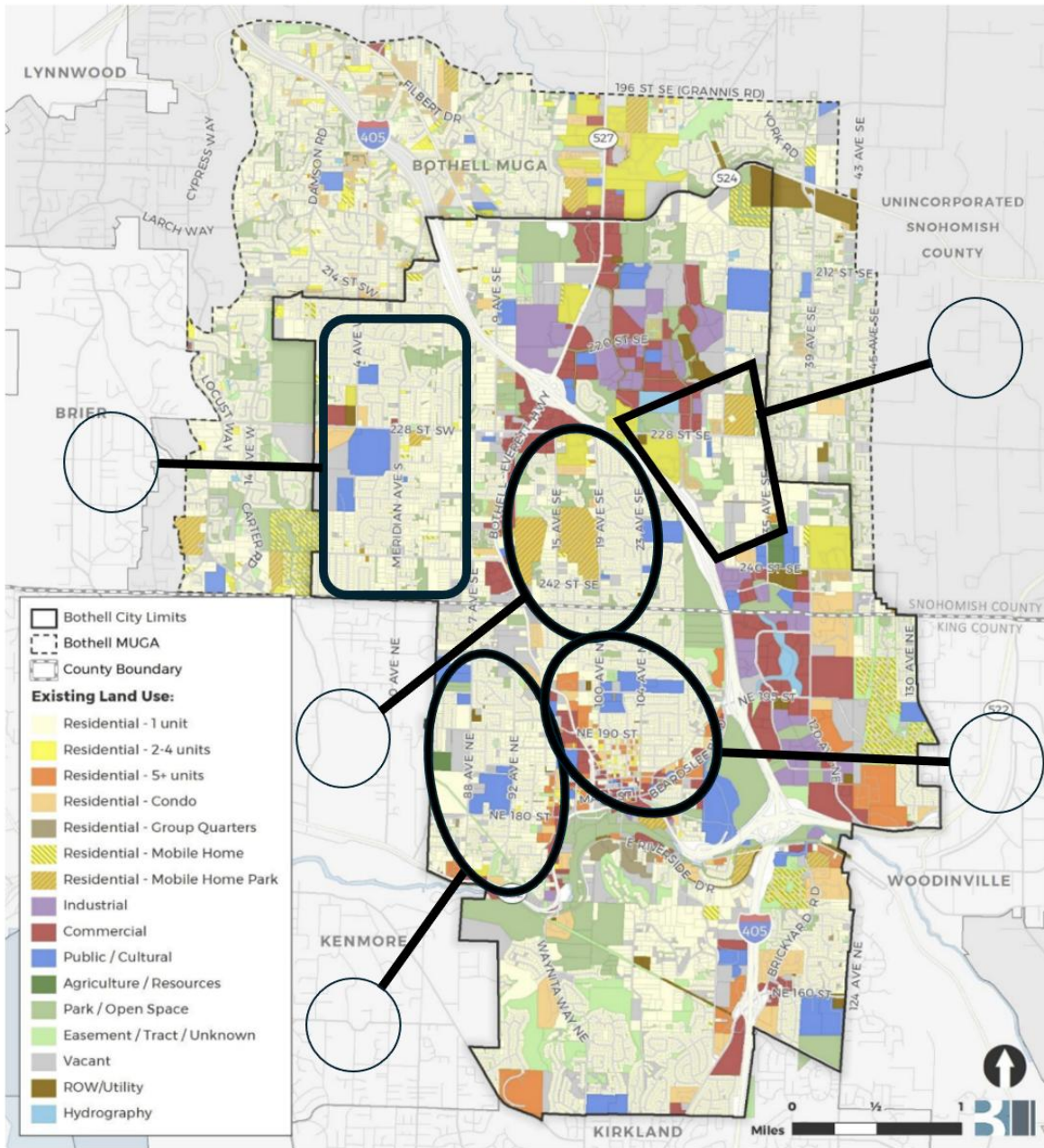
- _____ A COMMUNITY GARDEN AT A SCHOOL
- _____ A COMMUNITY GARDEN NEAR PUBLIC TRANSIT
- _____ A COMMUNITY GARDEN NEAR YOUR HOME
- _____ A COMMUNITY GARDEN AT A PLACE OF WORSHIP
- _____ A COMMUNITY GARDEN IN A PARK
- _____ A COMMUNITY GARDEN IN AN EMPTY LOT

Community gardens have been successfully maintained when there is an organization or group dedicated to providing continuous land use and/or stewardship. If you have any organizations or community groups that are interested in dedicating their time/land to community gardens or additional comments, please list them below.

English Survey Page 2

Here is a map of potential community garden regions with climate elements factored into their placement such as wildfire risk, flood risk, and future land use goals, please rank these regions (1-5) based on your preferences, or place a star to indicate a specific area that would prefer a community garden to be established.

Exhibit 2-3. Bothell Planning Area Current Land Use (2023)



Spanish Survey Page 1

Encuesta sobre huertos comunitarios de la ciudad de Bothell**Preferencias de los residentes de Bothell, WA**

La ciudad de Bothell está explorando la posibilidad de establecer huertos comunitarios. Un huerto comunitario es un uso público del suelo que permite a cualquier persona cultivar alimentos. Estoy recopilando información sobre el interés de los residentes en huertos comunitarios para ayudar a la ciudad como parte de mi programa de maestría en la Universidad de Washington Bothell. Sus respuestas se recopilarán de forma anónima y se utilizarán para mi investigación y para contribuir a la planificación y las políticas de huertos comunitarios de la ciudad de Bothell.

¿Es usted residente de Bothell?	SÍ	NO	
¿Crees que la implementación de jardines comunitarios en la ciudad de Bothell es una buena idea?	SÍ	NO	
¿En qué medida apoya usted la creación de uno o más huertos comunitarios?	Muy solidaria	Moderadamente solidaria	No solidaria
¿Qué probabilidad hay de que utilices uno?	Muy probable	Moderadamente probable	Poco probable

¿Qué aspecto de un posible huerto comunitario le resultaría más útil? Por favor, clasifíquelo del 1 al 6 (siendo 1 el más útil).

- _____ UN JARDÍN COMUNITARIO EN UNA ESCUELA
- _____ UN JARDÍN COMUNITARIO CERCA DEL TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO
- _____ UN JARDÍN COMUNITARIO CERCA DE TU CASA
- _____ UN JARDÍN COMUNITARIO EN UN LUGAR DE CULTO
- _____ UN JARDÍN COMUNITARIO EN UN PARQUE
- _____ UN JARDÍN COMUNITARIO EN UN TERRENO VACÍO

Los huertos comunitarios se han mantenido con éxito cuando existe una organización o grupo dedicado al uso continuo y/o la gestión del terreno. Si conoce alguna organización o grupo comunitario interesado en dedicar su tiempo o terreno a huertos comunitarios o tiene comentarios adicionales, indíquelos a continuación.

Chinese Survey Page 1

博塞爾市社區花園調查

華盛頓州博塞爾市居民偏好

博塞爾市正在探索在市內建立社區花園。社區花園是一種公共土地用途，允許任何人種植食物。作為我在華盛頓大學博塞爾分校攻讀碩士課程的一部分，我正在收集居民對社區花園的興趣，以協助城市發展。您的回覆將被匿名記錄，用於我的研究，並有助於博塞爾市制定社區花園的政策和規劃。

您是博塞爾的居民嗎？	是的	不	
您認為博塞爾市實施社區花園是個好主意嗎？	是的	不	
您對創建一個或多個社區花園的支持程度如何？	非常支持	中等支持	不支援
您使用它的可能性有多大？	很有可能	相當可能	不太可能

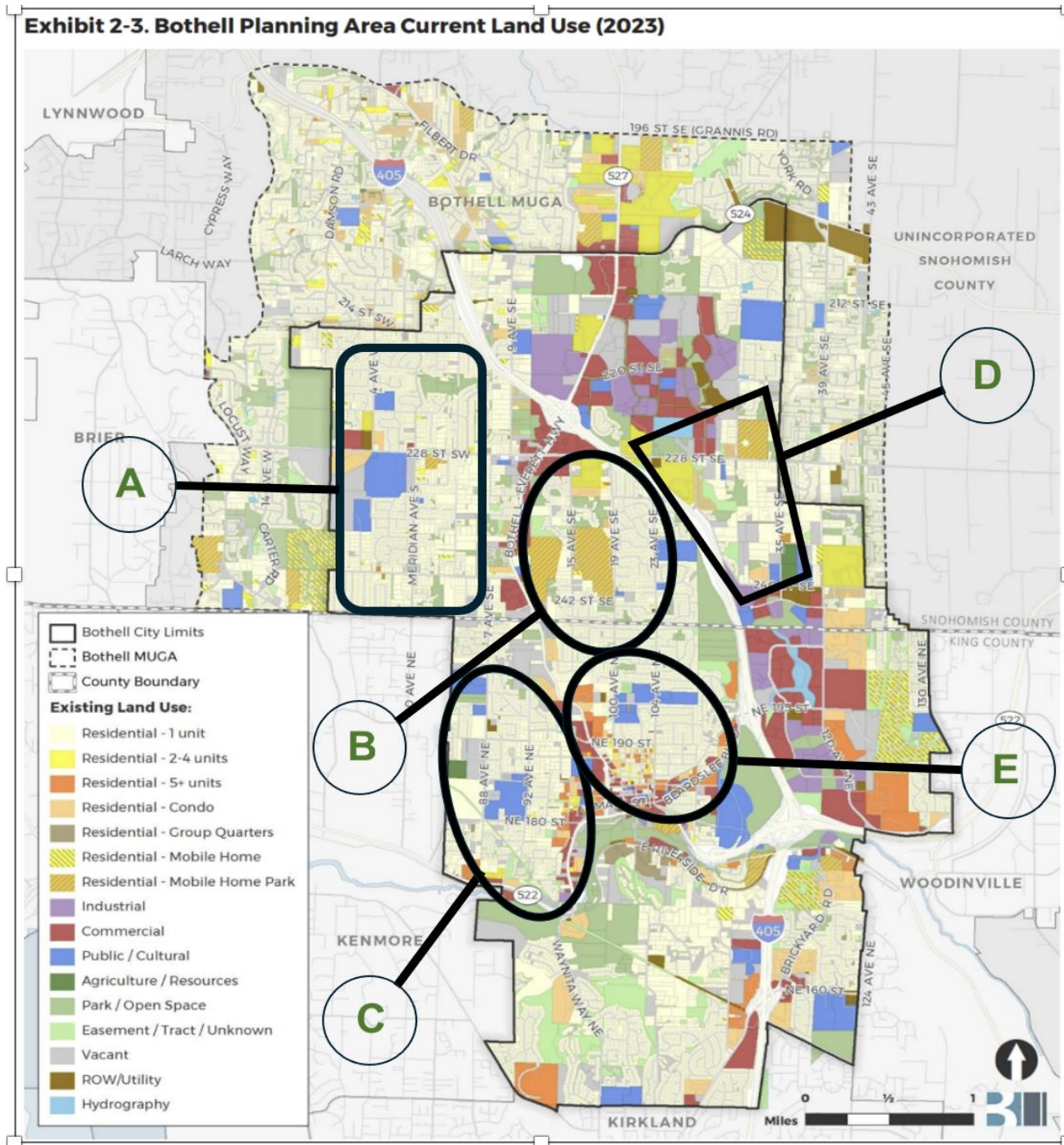
潛在的社區花園空間的哪些方面對您最有幫助？請從1到6評分（1表示最有幫助）。

- _____ 學校裡的社區花園
- _____ 靠近大眾運輸的社區花園
- _____ 您家附近的社區花園
- _____ 禮拜場所的社區花園
- _____ 公園裡的社區花園
- _____ 空地上的社區花園

如果有組織或團體致力於持續的土地利用和/或管理，社區花園就得到了成功的維護。如果您有任何組織或社區團體有興趣投入時間/土地用於社區花園，或有其他意見，請在下方列出。

Region Coding for Survey Map Analysis

Exhibit 2-3. Bothell Planning Area Current Land Use (2023)

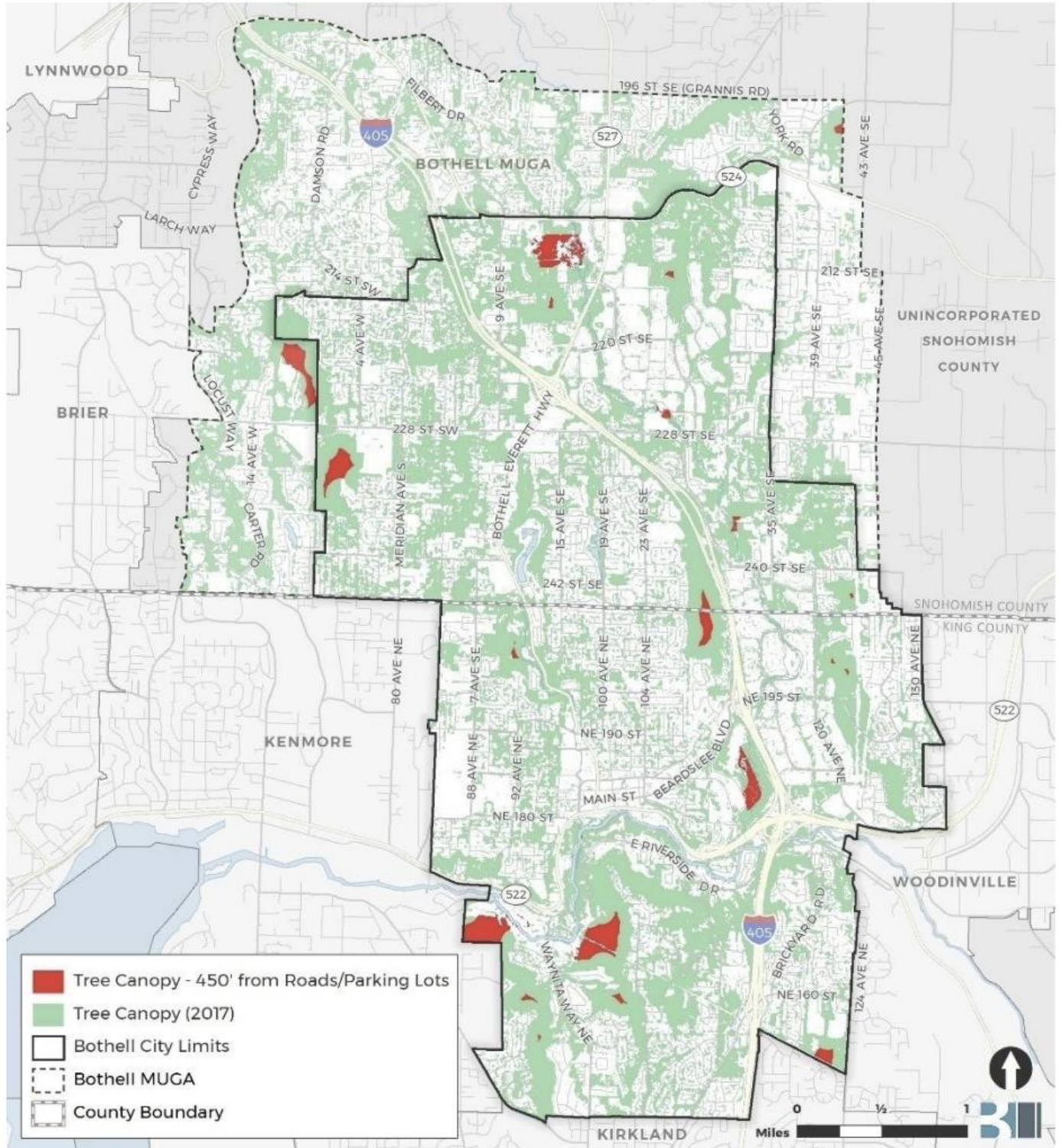


Signage for Surveying Events



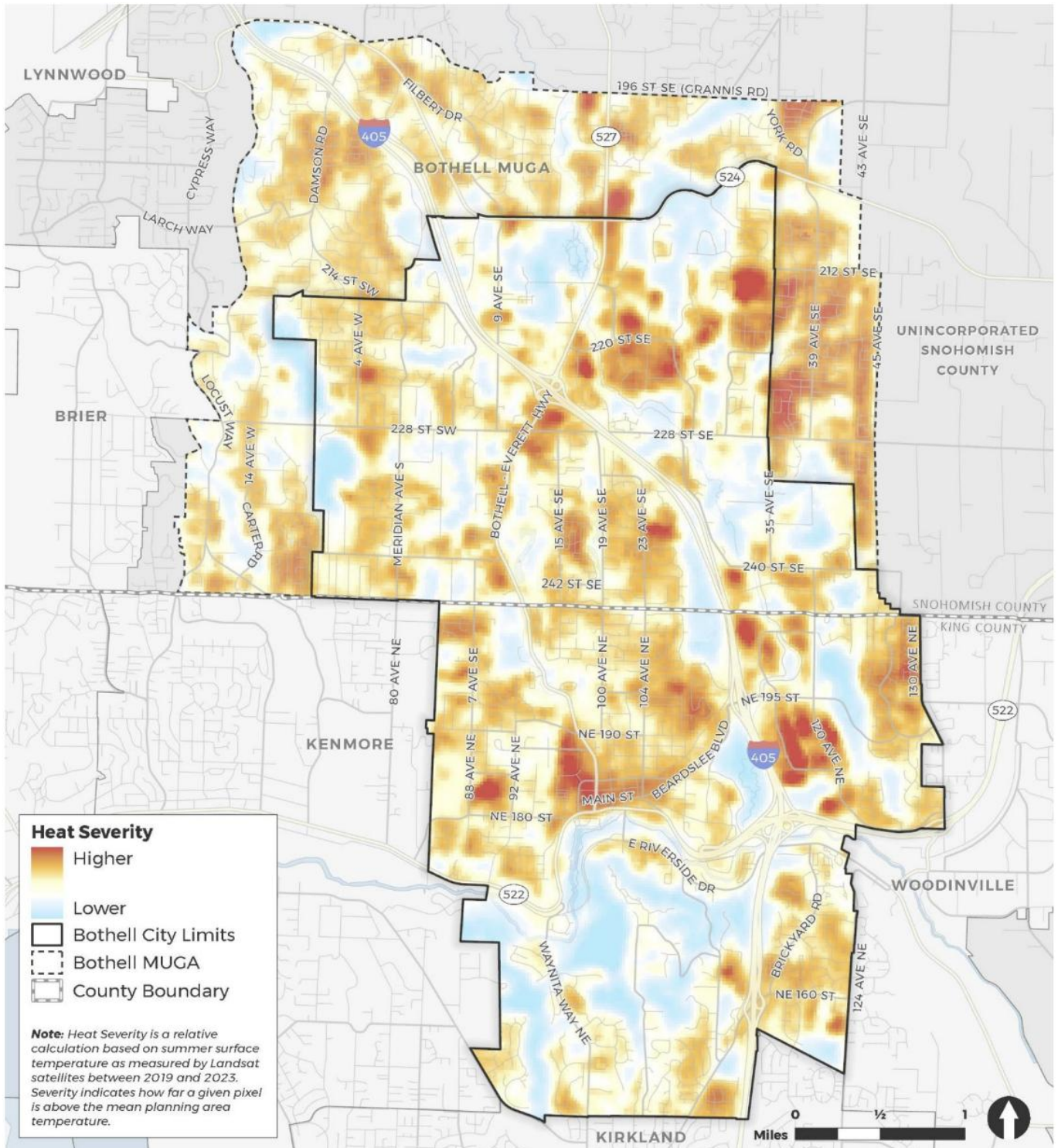
Urban Wildfire Risk & Tree Canopy Map

Urban Wildfire Risk



Urban Heat Island Map

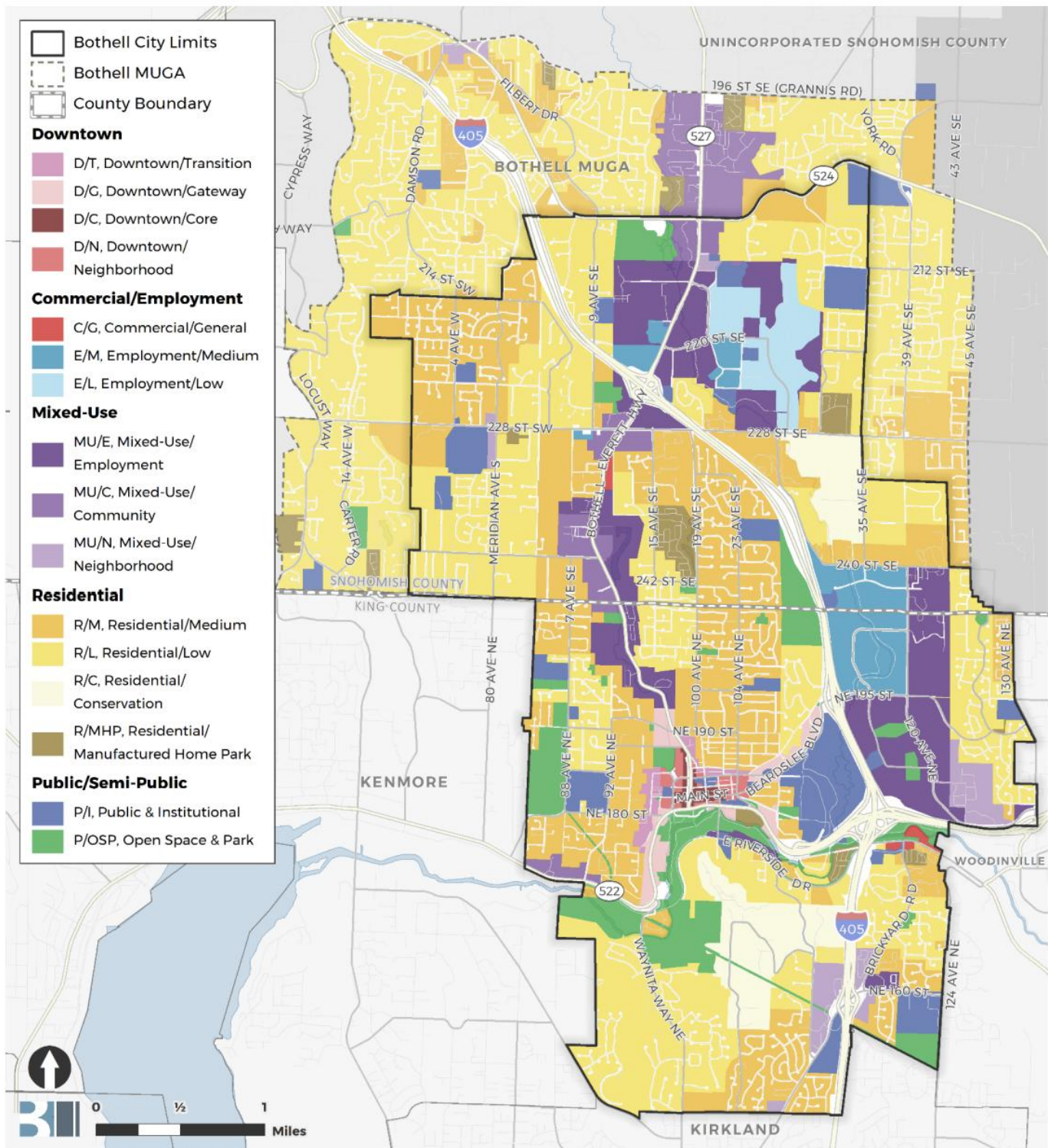
Exhibit 2-5. Urban Heat Islands



Sources: Landsat, 2019-2023; City of Bothell, 2024; BERK, 2024.

Future Land Use Map

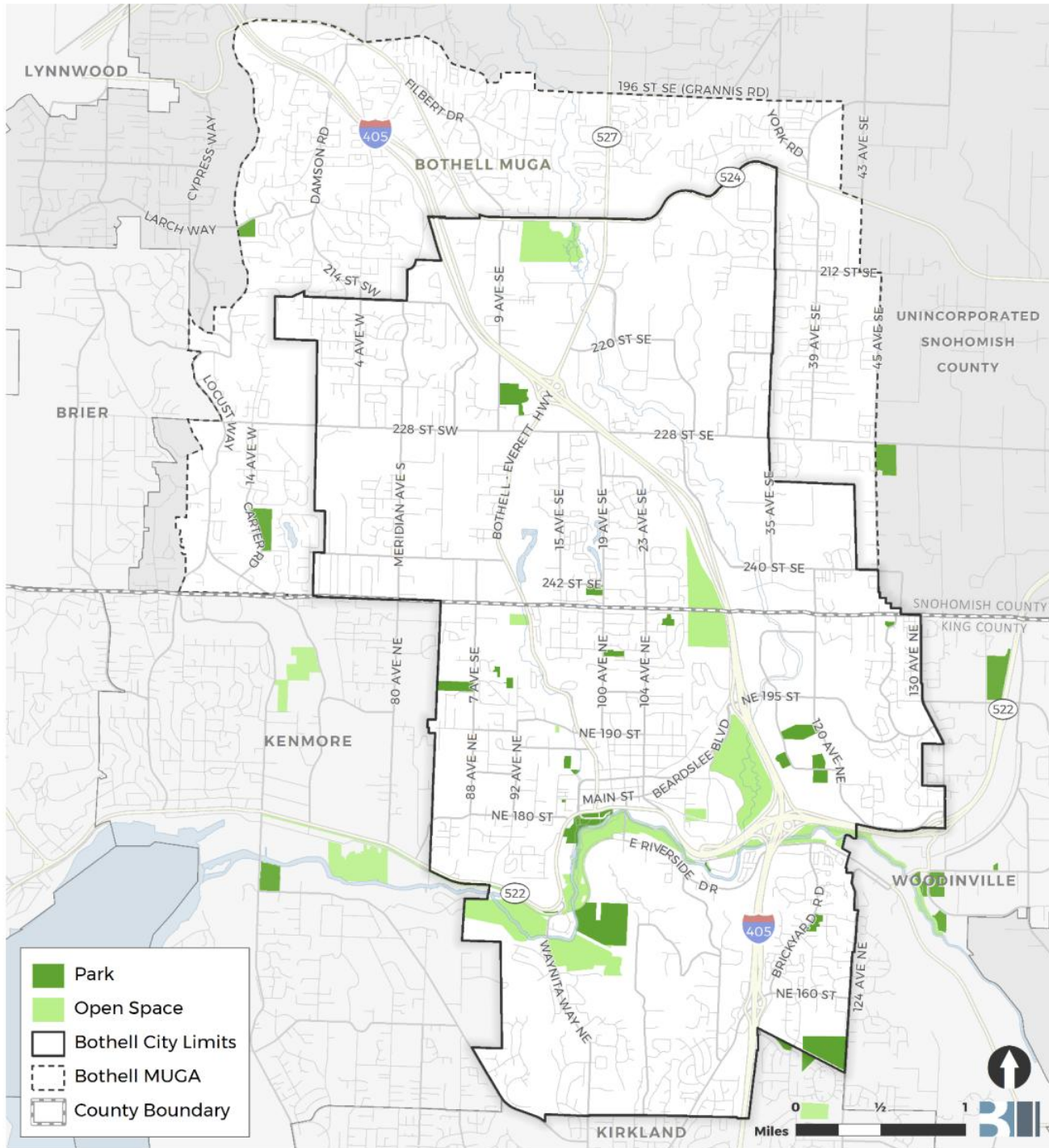
Exhibit 2-8. Future Land Use Map



Note: Downtown/Sunrise Valley View (D/SVV) land use designation in the Downtown Subarea shown as R/M.
 Source: City of Bothell, 2024; BERK, 2024.

Existing Parks & Open Space Map

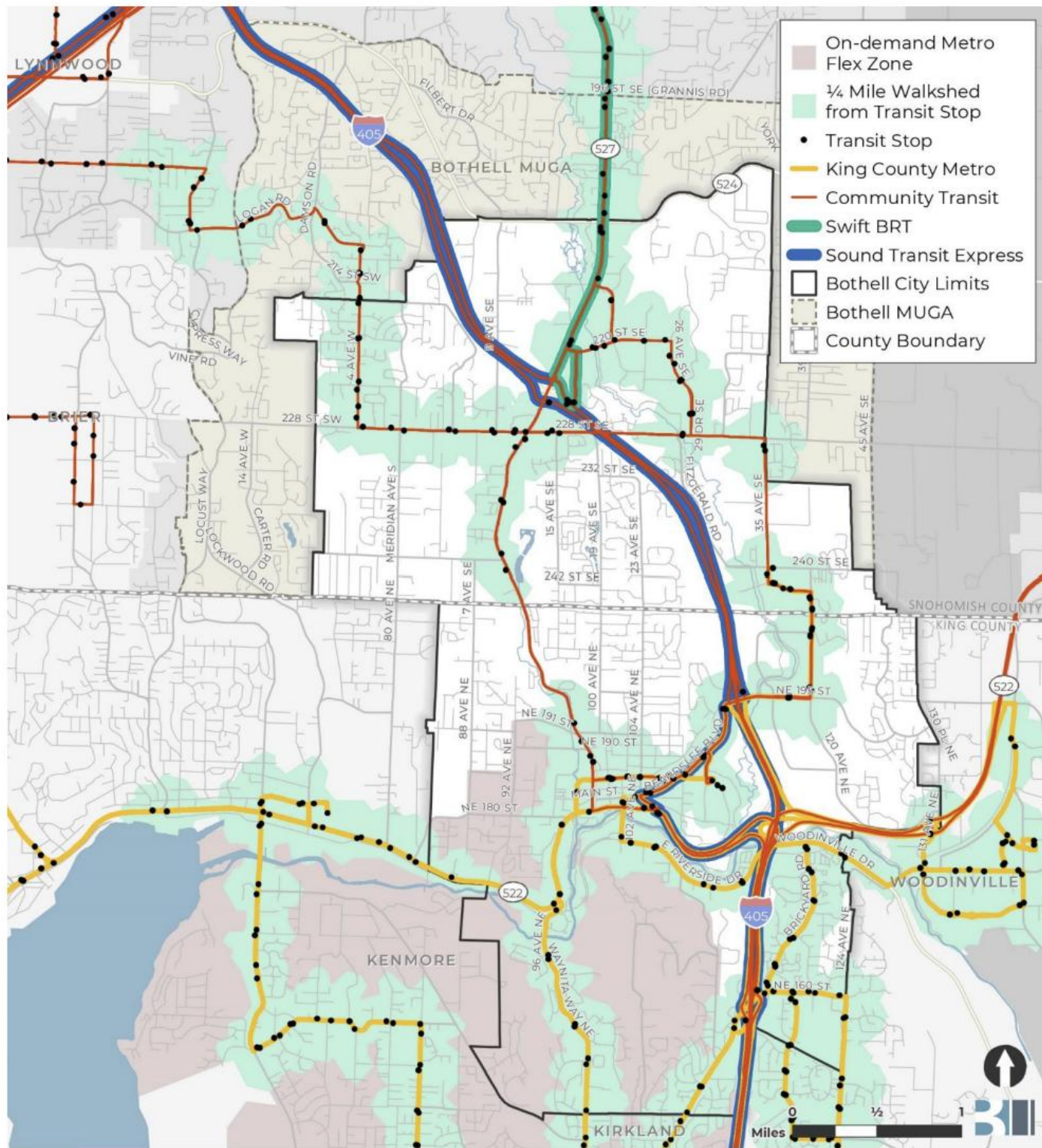
Exhibit 8-1. Existing Parks and Open Space (2024)



Note: Map currently shows City-owned properties only. The inventory of non-City owned and private interest properties (see Map 1 in the 2020 PROS Plan) is currently being updated by City staff and will be added here when available.
Source: City of Bothell, 2024; BERK, 2024.

Existing Transit Network Map

Exhibit 12-6. Existing Transit Network



Source: City of Bothell, 2024; Fehr & Peers, 2024.

Floodplains, Critical Facilities & Manufactured Homes Map

Floodplains, Critical Facilities, & Manufactured Homes

