

# CITY OF LYNDEN

Mayor Scott Korthuis  
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## City of Lynden 2024 Funding Requests

### Thank you for investing in the City of Lynden!

- Thank you for ensuring that the **Bradley Road Bike and Pedestrian Project** can proceed forward prior to construction of the nearby high school. The City plans to go out to bid in 2024 and expects the project to be completed by the end of 2025.
- The City of Lynden greatly appreciates that the state allocated funding to the **Senior and Community Center** to replace the facility’s HVAC system. The City has secured \$600,000 in additional funding to complete the replacement in 2024.

### Pepin Creek

The Pepin Creek Realignment Project is a multi-year effort to improve fish habitat, water quality and road safety while controlling flooding in Lynden’s Urban Growth Area (UGA) and making developable land available for the construction of housing. It will do this by moving deep ditches beside two substandard arterial roads to a new wider channel that will improve water quality and prevent flooding in that area. The City requests \$1 million to get the project construction ready and to increase the likelihood that the project will compete well for potential federal funds. The project can be phased, and any amount of funding can allow a project component to proceed forward.

### Local Culvert Replacements to Align with WSDOT to Avoid Downstream Impacts

Under a recent Washington Supreme Court decision, WSDOT must replace all state-owned culverts. To maximize these investments and ensure that the state culvert replacements improve fish habitat, locally owned culverts downstream of the WSDOT culverts also need to be addressed. In Lynden, on Duffner Ditch, WSDOT has replaced one culvert in 2022 on SR-546 (Badger Road) and replaced an additional culvert on SR-539 (Guide Meridian) in 2023. Downstream of these two improvements is a city-owned culvert at Baylyn Drive (Site ID 1280095) that is the smallest culvert in the watershed and is not fish passable. The City requests \$700,000 to replace this culvert and improve habitat to support chum, coho, steelhead, cutthroat, and resident trout. The City will contribute an additional \$500,000 to the project.

### Schoolyard Park Funding Request (Support the Recreation and Conservation Office)

Community advocates and the City of Lynden joined together to purchase a 3.9-acre property near downtown Lynden to become Schoolyard Park. Community members have since developed a plan to add a spray park, restrooms, amphitheater, green space, sports courts, walking trails and more to Schoolyard Park. The community has launched a capital fundraising campaign to raise the needed \$4.3 million for the improvements. The City plans to apply for a grant through the state Recreation and Conservation Office to fund this project.

## City of Lynden 2024 Policy Statements

**Public Safety:** Lynden requests that the Legislature make the necessary investments in public defense, prosecution, alternative court programs, and treatment programs to ensure that the newly adopted state policy related to possession of controlled substances can be successfully implemented. Additionally, the City encourages the state to address the growing fentanyl crisis impacting the region.

**Behavioral Health:** Lynden supports state investments in behavioral health facilities and services throughout Washington state, and especially within Whatcom County.

**Grant Resources and Assistance:** As a small City, Lynden requests increased resources and assistance to help jurisdictions access the growing number of state and federal grant programs.

**Local Control:** Lynden urges the Legislature to honor local decision-making authority. The City serves as the government closest to the people and is most responsive to the community in meeting its needs.

**Unfunded Mandates:** Lynden urges the Legislature to refrain from creating new local obligations without corresponding funding to carry out those obligations.

**Affordable Housing:** Lynden is very aware of the rising cost of homes and is concerned that affordable housing will no longer be available to its residents, and its future generations. The City asks that the Legislature remove regulations that increase the cost of housing construction, including state-driven growth management policies that limit land availability, building and energy code requirements, and other regulations driving up the costs of housing development.

**Managed Aquifer Recharge:** Lynden received a \$4.7 million grant from the Department of Ecology to conduct an innovative pilot program to recharge the Nooksack River's aquifer. This project will not only increase minimum water flows in the Nooksack during critical low time periods but will at the same time grant Lynden more municipal water.

**Nooksack Basin Water Rights:** The Washington State Department of Ecology has initiated the Nooksack Adjudication process. Lynden encourages the adjudication to be as efficient and cost-effective as possible. As part of this, the City supports the State authorizing additional judicial resources to Whatcom County.

**Growth Management Act:** Lynden will monitor legislative proposals that propose reforms to the Growth Management Act (GMA) and will support reform proposals that address the impacts that the GMA has had on smaller communities. Lynden has experienced a significant amount of growth as people leave Bellingham and other urbanized areas to live in a setting with single-family homes. Meanwhile, areas of the City's UGA are in environmentally sensitive flood-prone areas that are challenging and costly to develop.

**Public Records:** Lynden will monitor proposals to amend the Public Records Act and will support proposals that prevent malicious requests and increase cost recovery to the City while maintaining transparency.

**State-Shared Revenues:** Lynden supports ongoing and enhanced funding for state-shared revenues. The state has approved several unfunded mandates resulting in increased costs at the local level, including stormwater requirements, planning obligations, building code requirements, and more.

**Broadband:** Lynden encourages the state to explore cost-effective solutions to provide broadband throughout the state, especially to the last mile where there may be limited customers.