



WHATCOM COUNTY

COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Updated January 2016



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Lily Point Marine Park

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

Planning documents used to inform the 2016 PROS Update (as amended)

Whatcom County Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan 2010 1/11
Preserving a Way of Life- A Natural Heritage Plan for Whatcom County 6/19/91
Whatcom County Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan 8/13/91
Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan 4/08
Outdoor Recreation in Washington (2013 SCORP draft) 3/13
Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan (updated) 2/13
Whatcom County Trail Plan (revised) 1/75
Chuckanut Mountain Trails Master Plan 6/96
Economic Contribution of Outdoor Recreation to Whatcom County 2015, Earth Economics



Hovander Homestead Park

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This plan is prepared as requirement by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to retain eligibility for certain funding programs. This document also guides the County and Parks & Recreation Department in addressing the future needs of the community and progress towards achieving the mission of the Department. This plan works together with and is informed by other planning documents including the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, Whatcom County 6-year and 20-year Capital Improvement Plans, the 2008 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, trails and park master plans and the County's Natural Heritage Plan.

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process used in this document encompassed:

- a) review of historical plans and data
- b) public participation and outreach,
- c) an assessment of existing facilities and lands and,
- d) a review of current goals, objectives and policies

Additional input to inform the plan was received from the Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Commission, a seven member advisory committee, Whatcom County Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee, Parks & Recreation Staff, park districts and agencies, community partners and stakeholders, and the general public from participation in park planning initiatives and daily contacts with departmental staff.

This plan relies upon the 2008 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and should be considered an update of that plan. Parks & Recreation staff managed the planning process and compiled the planning document. Kulshan Environmental Services was contracted to facilitate the community charrettes and the Beckwith Consulting Group provided the community and online surveys and analysis.

RCO REQUIRED PLANNING ELEMENTS

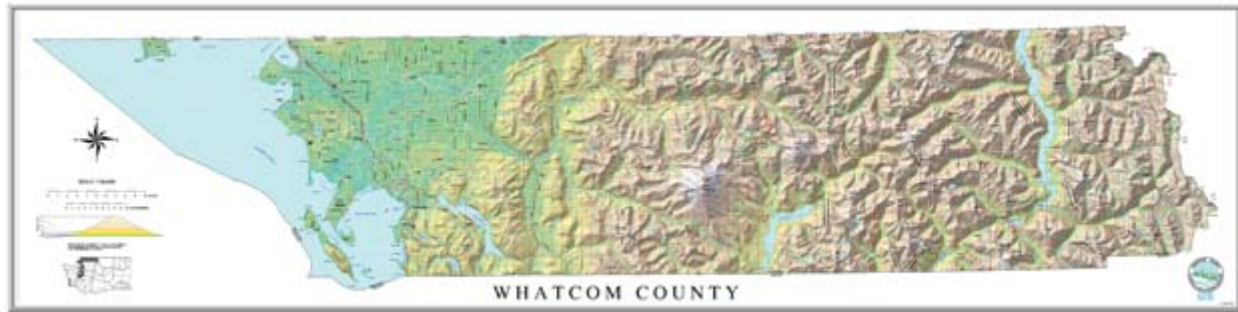
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1. INTRODUCTION

Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department Mission Statement: *Enrich the quality of life for the community and preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the County through the provision of outstanding parks, trails, open space, natural areas, recreational activities and senior services.*

Whatcom County residents take great pride in their parks and recreation facilities. The Community has supported a strong parks and recreation system providing financial support and countless hours of volunteer help.

The Whatcom County Parks system provides residents with recreational opportunities and places to maintain healthy active life styles. They play an important role in the social life of the community providing places for the community to come together for events, family gatherings, and memories. Parks also provide significant economic benefits through tourism and retail sales, particularly in the rural segments of the County. In Whatcom County, recreation expenditures annually amount to \$705 million in spending. Recreation supports 279 businesses employing 3,728 persons with \$508 million in revenues. County residents spend an average of 78.1 days a year recreating compared to the state average of 59 days annually (Source: 2015: Economic Contribution of Outdoor Recreation to Whatcom County, Earth Economics). Parks help preserve the heritage, culture and history of the county through the preservation of historical sites and provide numerous environmental benefits protecting critical habitats and natural processes.



2. COMMUNITY PROFILE

Whatcom County is known for its high quality of life and close proximity to an abundance of recreational opportunities. Mountain biking, hiking, camping, golfing, boating, kayaking, fishing and hunting are all just minutes away for most residents. Within the county are lakes, islands, rivers, mountains, beaches and forests.

TOPOGRAPHY

Whatcom County is the northernmost county in the state of Washington. Whatcom County contains 2,107 square miles that border on British Columbia, Canada to the north, Okanogan County to the east, Skagit County to the south, and the Strait of Georgia to the west. Much of the county is mountainous and part of the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest and North Cascades National Park. Fifty miles east of Bellingham lies the highest peak in the North Cascade mountain range, Mount Baker (10,778 feet), an ice-clad volcano. Providing the state's longest ski season and world's greatest recorded snowfall in one season 1,140 inches. There are two inhabited islands, Lummi and Eliza in Whatcom County.

A deep-water port, Bellingham's Squalicum Harbor is the second largest harbor in Puget Sound. Bellingham is located 90 miles north of Seattle and 23 miles south of the Canadian border. A trip to Point Roberts, the county's most northerly community, requires a crossing through Canada. Interstate- 5 provides a major transportation link to Vancouver BC, 60 miles north of Bellingham and Seattle, 89 miles to the south.

HISTORY

Archaeological sites

The arrival of people in the Pacific Northwest cannot be dated with great precision. However, archaeological investigations at the Manis mastodon site near Sequim on the Olympic Peninsula indicate humans were in the area as early as 12,000 years ago.

There are more than 5,000 Native American sites on record in the state, only a few of which have been professionally evaluated. Generally, sites are located at river conjunctions within valleys and along the shoreline. Known sites have been grouped into three rather broad time periods:

- early sites - approximately 12,000-8,000 years old,
- middle-period - sites between 8,000-3,000 years old, and
- late-period - sites about 3,000 years old.

Native American tribes

Many Native American tribes inhabit the Pacific Northwest region with diverse life-styles, languages and traditions. The people who lived in the Puget Lowlands depended largely on seafood—salmon and shellfish, supplemented by berries, roots, and game. The tribes built substantial cedar plank houses, often big enough to house a number of families clustered in villages. Cedar trees also provided transport, in the form of dugout canoes. The local Native American population is estimated to have declined by nearly 90% as a result of smallpox and other epidemics after European settlement.

In Whatcom County, the traditional territories of the Semiahmoo, Lummi, Nooksack and Samish people center on the marine resources of the Strait of Georgia and Northern Puget Sound. These groups developed reef-net fishing for salmon, and proficient food-preservation techniques. They share language and cultural characteristics with the Saanich First Nation on Vancouver Island. The Nooksack Indian Tribe traditional homeland is located along the main stem and three forks of the Nooksack River. Salmon from spring and fall fish runs has been an important part of life for the Nooksack for thousands of years, centered on the artery of the river.

Treaties with the US Government limited the tribes' territorial extent and established rights to traditional resources. The tribes remain an integral part of the region, with important roles in natural

resource management and restoration, as well as contributions to the cultural and economic fabric of the community.

European exploration

The first European exploration of Puget Sound was accomplished in 1792 by British explorer Captain George Vancouver. More detailed mapping was accomplished by Lieutenant Charles Wilkes in 1841. Religious missions and a nominal military presence were established after the 1846 Oregon Treaty established the international boundary.

In 1841, Wilkes sailed two ships for the Oregon Country entering the Strait of Juan de Fuca and anchoring in Port Discovery. The expedition explored the entire Puget Sound region.

City development

Bellingham - In 1852, Henry Roeder and Russell Peabody arrived from California and started the Roeder-Peabody-Page sawmill on Whatcom Creek Waterway to process virgin red cedar and douglas fir.

By 1854, the towns of Whatcom, Sehome, Bellingham, and Fairhaven were settled around Bellingham Bay; the Washington Territorial Legislature established Whatcom County; and designated the residence of RV Peabody, near the mouth of Whatcom Creek, as the county seat. Whatcom was derived from a Lummi Indian term meaning "noisy, rumbling waters" – a reference to Whatcom Falls.

In 1857, gold was discovered on the Fraser River creating an instant stampede through the Whatcom Creek settlement then north to Sumas to the gold fields. On a peak day, 7 steamers and 13 square-rigged sailing ships anchored at the mouth of the Whatcom Creek Waterway. Soon after, the British government required all miners to clear customs in Victoria then travel by steamboat directly up the Fraser River, bypassing the Bellingham area.

Following the gold rush, the four towns emerged around Bellingham Bay separated from each other by dense forest.

Fairhaven - was developed in earnest in the 1880s in expectation of becoming the western terminus of the Great Northern Railway. The central business district housed 135 brick and commercial block buildings including retail stores and fine mansions. The Panic of 1893 dried up investments in Fairhaven.

Sehome - was developed in 1858 around a vein of coal that angled into the bay at the bottom of

Sehome Hill. Coal tailings were dumped at the base of the hill and into the bay until the coal vein ran out in 1878. In 1893, Sehome resident and Washington poet laureate Ella Higginson persuaded officials to locate a state normal school (teachers' college) on the hill above the abandoned mine. The school, which evolved into Western Washington University, occupies the former site of the Higginson home.

Whatcom - the earliest settlement, had a neighboring community develop across the creek after 1880 when 25 Kansas families signed an agreement with local promoters, bought stock in a development company, and arrived to found Washington Colony. They built a wharf, sawmill, and a small town on Whatcom Creek. In 1884, confusions over land ownership resulted in the dissolution of the colony in legal challenges. The Whatcom business district continued to develop on pilings and plank roads along the waterfront from Prospect to Broadway Streets. By the 1890s, the railroads arrived and built wharves far out into the bay to service shipping lines.

Bellingham - the smallest of the bay's settlements, began along the base of Sehome Hill at the Pattle coal claim. Although Bellingham proved to be inconsequential and transitory, the other communities chose the name when they decided to overcome rivalry and merge into a single town.

In 1903, the towns of Whatcom, Sehome, Bellingham, and Fairhaven were consolidated into the City of Bellingham. Tideland areas were filled and the Great Northern Railway constructed passenger and freight depots in the Whatcom "Old Town" business district to service the rapidly expanding city.

As Bellingham continued to expand, the business district core gradually moved south onto the hill overlooking Whatcom Creek and Bellingham Bay. Development in the Whatcom "Old Town" business district waned and the district became a specialized waterfront extension of the new downtown and civic center.

Blaine - the Semi-ah-moo Indians occupied Semiahmoo Spit in pre-settlement times subject to constant warfare with the Haida and other tribes from Vancouver Island and further north. Blaine was initiated in 1857 by survey crews who camped on the Spit while performing fieldwork to establish the international boundary between the United States and Britain. Some merchants set up stores on the mainland to furnish supplies to the surveyors, providing the nucleus for the town's development.

A year after the survey began gold was discovered on the Fraser River in British Columbia, initiating a rush of miners through the area, some of whom settled on the Spit.

In 1891 a cannery on the Spit processed 36,000 cases of sockeye salmon in a single season attracting the attention of the Alaska Packers Association, who bought the cannery and enlarged it to process the catch from local and northern waters. Several cannery buildings are currently included in the county park holdings at Semiahmoo Spit.

Sumas - the city boomed as a border way station on the Whatcom Trail during the 1858 Fraser River gold rush, and then continued as a railroad town on the Northern Pacific and Milwaukee Road railroad lines thereafter.

East of Sumas, a grassy strip is located between two Boundary Roads, the only physical demarcation of the border. The strip is the remnant of the original 40 foot wide swath that surveyors cleared in the 1800s to identify the boundary. Iron posts and rock cairns were located within the cleared strip to identify the exact location of the boundary line.

Lynden - Phoebe and Holden Judson settled in Lynden in 1871 after paddling upriver by dugout canoe to establish a preemption claim. Logjams blocked the river until 1881, preventing sternwheelers from traveling upriver to Lynden. Early settlers logged the land and built sawmills allowing later settlers to begin farming the rich soil in the 1880s. Lynden attracted immigrants and by the 1890s was the largest Dutch settlement in the state.

Everson and Nooksack - these river town communities were established in 1858 when the Whatcom Trail became the route to the Fraser River goldfields. The trail crossed the Nooksack River near Everson at a site called the "upper crossing".

Deming - the Nooksack Indians occupied the North Fork of the Nooksack River and frequently camped in the Deming area during salmon season. Logging and sawmills replaced the Indian encampments during the 1860s, followed by steamboat landings – Deming being as far upriver as the sternwheelers could navigate, and later by early railroad lines.

Ferndale - in the 1870s, Ferndale was known as the "lower crossing" or "Jam" due to the massive logjams that would block the Nooksack River from upriver travel. Early settlers logged the land and built sawmills. Agriculture was established by Hokan

Hovander, a self-taught architect who migrated with his family from Sweden. Hovander's homestead and early antique farm equipment is part of the county's Hovander Park.

Ferndale's isolation ended with the construction of the first highway north in 1884 followed in 1894 by the construction of the Great Northern Railway to Vancouver, British Columbia.

Point Roberts - the US and Canada agreed in 1846 to extend the 49th parallel as the boundary between the two countries. The agreement was made to resolve the 13-year standoff between the United States and Canada over the San Juan Islands. In 1861 the Joint Boundary Survey Commission erected boundary marker Number One, a 19-foot obelisk imported from Scotland, at the western end of the mainland boundary. The obelisk is located in the county's Monument Park at the corner of Marine Drive and Roosevelt Way.

In 1858 the steamship Commodore anchored off Point Roberts to set ashore California miners headed for the Fraser River goldfields. A few miners lingered to sell whiskey. Although the United States classified the Point as a military reservation, squatters raised cattle and operated fish traps on the Point in the years following.

Lummi Island - fish traps were set west of Lummi Island in the 1900s and supplied 3 large canneries staffed by hundreds of Chinese, Native American, and white workers. Flat-bottomed reef net barges are still stored on the beach at Legoe Bay when not in use during the Fraser River salmon runs.

Top Ten Employers

St. Joseph Hospital	2,751
Western Washington University	2,196
Bellingham School District	1,278
City of Bellingham	840
Whatcom County	838
BP (Cherry Point Refinery)	800
Sodexo Services	726
Ferndale School District	685
Heath Techna	610
Fred Meyer Grocery	578

Whatcom County Population by City

	2005	2010	2012	2015
Whatcom	180,800	201,140	205,262	209,790
Unincorporated	79,848	87,085	89,683	89,788
Incorporated	100,952	114,055	115,579	120,002
Bellingham	72,320	80,885	81,360	83,580
Blaine	4,240	4,695	4,760	4,905
Everson	2,080	2,486	2,520	2,580
Ferndale	9,750	11,415	11,830	12,920
Lynden	10,480	11,951	12,340	13,090
Nooksack	970	1,342	1,370	1,460
Sumas	1,112	1,311	1,399	1,467

Higher Education

Whatcom Community College - Part of the state's community college system, serving an average of 7,800 students per quarter.

Bellingham Technical College - One of five technical colleges in Washington State, serving approximately 4,000 students per quarter.

Northwest Indian College-Only accredited tribal college in the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho with 584 students.

Western Washington University – Washington State's third largest university, serving over 14,800 students with graduate and under graduate programs.



Population Growth

Population growth has a major impact on demand for recreational programs and facilities. Whatcom County's population is estimated to increase by nearly 65,000 residents (29.23%) over the next 20 years. This rate is higher than the State's projected growth rate but reflects a lower rate for each five year period than the 11.25% growth rate experienced by the county between 2005 and 2010.

Population Projections (Medium Series)						
	2012	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Whatcom County	205,262	210,050	225,307	241,138	256,643	271,142
Washington	6,897,012	7,022,200	7,411,977	7,793,173	8,154,193	8,484,628

Source: WA State Office of Financial Management

Demographics	Whatcom County	Washington State
Population (2010)	201,140	6,724,540
Population (2015)	209,790	7,061,410
% Change (2010-15)	4.12%	4.77%
Median Age (2010)	36.6	37.3
Average Household Size (2010)	2.43	2.51
Median Household Income (2012)	\$51,268	\$56,444
Housing Units (2010)	94,069	3,008,881
Diploma or higher, age 25+ (2007 - 2011)	91.40%	89.80%
Bachelor's degree or higher, age 25+ (2007 - 2011)	31.80%	31.40%



Silver Lake Park

PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS/ SERVICE AREA

Whatcom County Parks & Recreation uses a classification system based on size, function and service area to group parklands. This classification helps the department in management of these areas and allows comparison against state and national GIS data bases such as the National Recreation and Park Association's PRORAGIS. Park classifications can change over time as use of a facility changes, plans are modified or an area is annexed or incorporated into a UGA. The following are the general park classifications used by the Whatcom County Parks & Recreation System.

Park

Includes both developed and undeveloped properties such as preserves, open space, regional parks, resource and natural areas, greenways, trails, water access sites, historical sites, athletic fields, beaches and forests. Park definition is inclusive of all parklands.

20.97.285 WCC Park. "Park" means private or public areas of land with or without buildings, designated for active or passive recreational uses. This includes unlit athletic fields with no more than one baseball diamond, soccer or football field, unenclosed spectator seating facilities and nor more than 30 parking spaces. (Ord. 2004-026 § 1, 2004).

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks primarily serve the immediate neighborhood and are usually located within one quarter mile walking distance of the residents. These parks are generally smaller facilities with limited activities and parking. Neighborhood parks are usually provided by the Cities and private residential developments. Ted Edwards and Redwood Parks are examples.

Community Park

Community Parks provide space for community activities and usually provide activities for both children and adults. These parks primarily serve a single community with a typical service area of 5 miles. They often contain both passive and active recreational components such as picnic areas, playgrounds, shelters, playfields and courts. These parks are often located in more urbanized incorporated areas or may serve an entire rural community. Josh VanderYacht Memorial Park is an example of a small rural Community Park.

Regional Park

Regional Parks are typically larger destination parks focused upon a unique feature or amenities that attract users from a broad service area. A

3. INVENTORY

Whatcom County has one national park (North Cascades), two national recreational areas (Ross Lake and Mt. Baker), two national forests (Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan), three national wilderness areas (Mt. Baker, Pasayten, Noisy Diobsud), two national scenic trails (Pacific Crest, Pacific Northwest), three State Parks, (Larrabee, Birch Bay, Peace Arch), local municipal parks in the cities of Bellingham, Everson, Lynden, Ferndale, Sumas and Blaine, parks and marina areas operated by the Port of Bellingham, and four park and recreation districts (Chuckanut Mountain, Northwest Park and Recreation, Point Roberts, Lynden). Recreational activities also occur on state forest trust and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife lands. While Whatcom County has a considerable amount of federal recreational land, limited accessibility and distance to these lands is a challenge for most residents. The majority of recreational use by county residents occurs in local and county parks and recreational facilities.

Other recreational opportunities within the County for residents include school district properties, private developments and parks, commercial businesses such as golf courses, riding academies, water parks, ranges, and through partnerships on private lands such as the Galbraith Mountain mountain biking area.



service area of 25 miles is often used for planning purposes. Regional parks serve all county residents and often attract visitors from outside the county. These parks can have significant natural, cultural, or historical features along with multiple amenities such as boat launches, campgrounds, beaches, equestrian activities and event areas. A regional park may also serve or have elements of a community park and preserve/open space areas. Examples include Hovander Homestead and Silver Lake Parks.

Preserve/Open Space/Conservancy/Forests

Preserves and Open Space areas focus on preserving significant natural areas, wilderness, wildlife habitats, scenic views and watersheds. Preserves and Open Spaces don't have a service area component. These areas are intended to be maintained in a natural state and are managed to preserve the natural attributes of the site. Each site is individually evaluated for public access and when compatible, amenities are often limited to that which is appropriate to support the level of public access to the property. Examples of preserves include the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve and Canyon Lake Community Forest.

Water Access Site

The primary purpose of water access sites is to provide public access to shorelines and lakes. Amenities are often limited and sites are used for a variety of purposes including swimming, beachcombing, shore fishing, launching, and shell fishing. Examples of water access sites include the Jackson Road Beach Access in Birch Bay and the Nugent's Corner River Access. These sites do not have a service area.

Special Use Areas

Special use areas have one dominant specialized use activity. They serve a targeted user group or population. They may be located anywhere within the County and need to be of adequate size and have specialized amenities to properly serve their

intended use. Examples include the Plantation Rifle Range, Northwest Soccer Fields and the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center.

Greenways/Trails

These are undeveloped open space natural areas, agricultural lands, recreational lands and wildlife corridors. These greenways often serve as linear parks and may have multi-use trails. The trails can serve both recreation and transportation purposes and are usually planned as part of a community trails and greenway system linking bicycle routes, parks and destinations within the community. Examples include the Interurban and Bay Crest trails.

Developed Park

Whatcom County has adopted a level of service for developed parks. There is currently no definition of developed park in the County Code or Comprehensive Plan. In this plan the definition of developed park is defined as any park area that is open to the public and has at minimum a constructed parking area and at least one other built amenity such as a trail, view point or restroom.

EXISTING INVENTORY

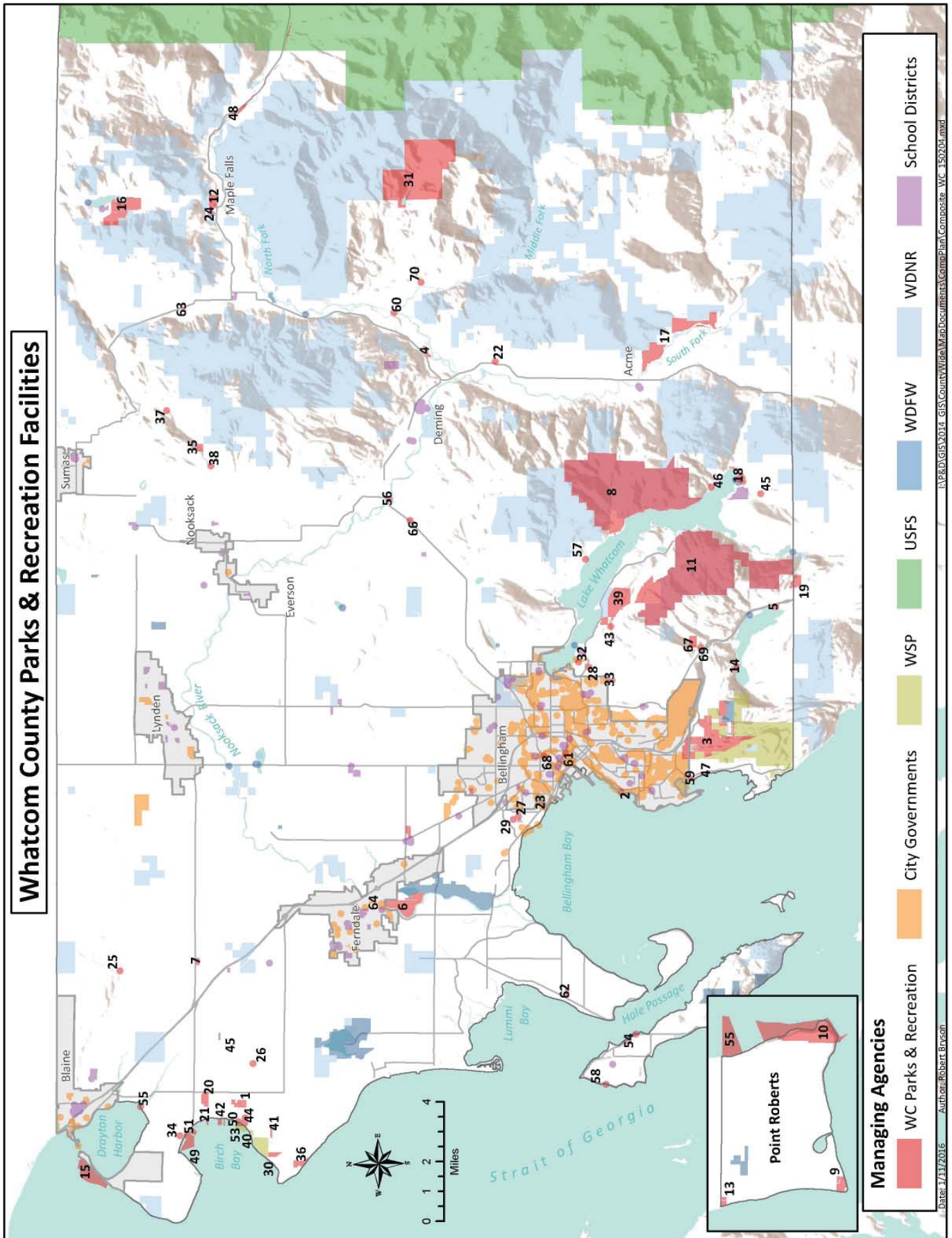
Whatcom County Parks & Recreation currently manages or oversees 16,000 acres of property comprised of 69 properties. These include natural areas, parks, gardens, tidelands, beaches, historic buildings, special use areas and undeveloped lands. Included in this inventory are 65.46 miles of trail, campgrounds, boat launches, picnic areas, day lodges, shelters and numerous other amenities. These include undeveloped natural areas and open space, community and regional parks, multi-use trails and special use areas.

The following chart lists the current inventory of lands and facilities assigned to the department.

Name	Campground (#sites)	Group Camp	Picnic Area	Restrooms	Gardens	Open Shelter	Day Lodge	Cabins	Swimming Area	Playground	Boat Launch	Historical Attraction / Interpretive Center
1 Bay Horizon Park			x	x						x		
2 Boulevard Park												
3 Chuckanut Mountain / Pine & Cedar Lakes	3			x								
4 Deming Eagle Homestead Park			x									
5 Dittrich Park												
6 Hovander Homestead Park			x	x	x	x				x		x
7 Jensen Family Forest Park												
8 Lake Whatcom Park				x								
9 Lighthouse Marine Park	30	x	x	x		x				x	x	x
10 Lily Point Marine Park				x								
11 Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve				x								
12 Maple Creek Park												
13 Monument Park												x
14 Samish Park			x	x			x		x	x		
15 Semiahmoo Park			x	x			x					x
16 Silver Lake Park	89	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
17 South Fork Park												
18 South Lake Whatcom												
19 Squires Lake Park				x								
20 Sunset Farm Park				x								
21 Birch Bay Community Park												
22 Josh VanderYacht Park			x		x	x				x		
23 Little Squalicum Park												
24 Maple Falls Community Park												
25 Haynie Road												
26 Kickerville Road												
27 Redwood Park												
28 Ted Edwards Park			x			x						
29 Alderwood												
30 Birch Bay Conservancy Area												
31 Canyon Lake Community Forest				x								
32 Drayton Harbor Tidelands												
33 Euclid Park												
34 Galbraith Mountain Access												
35 Halverson Park												
36 Ostrom Conservation Site												
37 Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve				x								
38 South Pass East												
39 South Pass West												
40 Stimpson Family Nature Reserve												
41 Terrell Creek Access												
42 Terrell Creek Heron Rookery												
43 Turner-Jaeger												
44 Bay Crest Trail												
45 Camp #2 Road RR ROW												
46 Hegg (Blue Canyon)												
47 Interurban Trail												
48 Maple Falls-Glacier Trail												
49 Birch Bay Tidelands												
50 Broadway Beach Access												
51 Cottonwood Beach Access												
52 Drayton Harbor Tidelands												
53 Jackson Road Beach Access												
54 Lummi Island Beach Access			x									
55 Maple Beach Tidelands												
56 Nugent's Corner River Access			x									
57 Sunnyside Landing												
58 Sunset Beach												
59 Teddy Bear Cove Park												
60 Welcome Bridge River Access												
61 Bellingham Senior Activity Center												
62 Cagey Road												
63 East Whatcom Regional Resource Ctr												
64 Ferndale Senior Activity Center												
65 Northwest Soccer Park												
66 Parks Headquarters												
67 Plantation Rifle Range												
68 Roeder Home												
69 Samish Way					x							
70 Welcome Senior Activity Center												

Name	Address	Acres	Year Acquired	Classification	Developed/Undeveloped	Saltwater (ft)	Freshwater (ft)	Trails Multi-Use (mi)	Trails		
									Hiking/MB/Equestrian (mi)	Hiking/MB/Equestrian (mi)	
1	Bay Horizon Park	7467 Gemini Street, Blaine, WA 98230	69.8	1981	Regional Park	Developed	0	0	0	0.25	0
2	Boulevard Park	471 Bayview Drive, Bellingham, WA 98225	1.8	1968	Regional Park	Developed	700	0	0	0	0
3	Chuckanut Mountain / Pine & Cedar	745 Old Samish Road, Bellingham, WA 98229	973.1	2002	Regional Park	Developed	0	250	0	15.52	0
4	Deming Eagle Homestead Park	5645 Truck Road, Deming, WA 98244	28.5	2002	Regional Park	Developed	0	2250	0	0.3	0
5	Dittrich Park	319 E Lake Samish Drive, Bellingham, WA 98229	22.8	1966	Regional Park	Undeveloped	0	1600	0	0	0
6	Hovander Homestead Park	5299 Nielsen Road, Ferndale, WA 98248	338.3	1969	Regional Park	Developed	0	13750	0	3.2	0
7	Jensen Family Forest Park	8051 Stejn Road, Custer, WA 98240	21.7	2005	Regional Park	Developed	0	0	0	0	0.67
8	Lake Whatcom Park	3220 Northshore Road, Bellingham, WA 98226	4686.5	1972	Regional Park	Developed	0	11200	0	4.01	0
9	Lighthouse Marine Park	811 Marine Drive, Point Roberts, WA 98281	24.3	1971	Regional Park	Developed	2250	0	0	0	0
10	Lily Point Marine Park	2315 A.P.A. Road, Point Roberts, WA 98281	274.0	2008	Regional Park	Developed	10150	0	4.16	0	0
11	Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve	2537 Lake Louise Road, Bellingham, WA 98229	4430.3	2001	Regional Park	Developed	0	0	0	0	4.11
12	Maple Creek Park	7842 Silver Lake Road, Maple Falls, WA 98266	79.7	2007	Regional Park	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	1.28
13	Monument Park	25 Marine Drive, Point Roberts, WA 98281	7.3	1971	Regional Park	Developed	460	0	0	0.35	0
14	Samish Park	673 N Lake Samish Drive, Bellingham, WA 98229	26.4	1996	Regional Park	Developed	8750	0	1600	0	1.66
15	Semiahmoo Park	9261 Semiahmoo Parkway, Blaine, WA 98230	304.0	1980	Regional Park	Developed	0	6350	0	0.63	0
16	Silver Lake Park	9006 Silver Lake Road, Maple Falls, WA 98266	410.4	1966	Regional Park	Developed	0	15860	0	0	5.75
17	South Fork Park	1530 Mosquito Lake Road, Deming, WA 98244	550.3	1993	Regional Park	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
18	South Lake Whatcom	4144 S Bay Drive, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284	78.9	1973	Regional Park	Undeveloped	0	5220	0	0	0
19	Squires Lake Park	2510 Nulle Road, Bellingham, WA 98229	82.3	1995	Regional Park	Developed	0	3100	0	0	2.88
20	Sunset Farm Park	7977 Blaine Road, Blaine, WA 98230	70.0	1993	Regional Park	Developed	0	0	0	0	0.56
		Total Developed Regional Park Acres	11748.8								
		Total Undeveloped Regional Park Acres	731.7								
		Total Regional Park Acres	12480.5								
21	Jorch Bay Community Park	7930 Birch Bay Drive, Blaine, WA 98230	3.5	2014	Community Park	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
22	Birch VanderYacht Park	4106 Valley Highway, Deming, WA 98244	2.2	1970	Community Park	Developed	0	0	0	0	0
23	Little Squallicum Park	640 Marine Drive, Bellingham, WA 98225	13.7	1975	Community Park	Developed	0	0	0	0	0
24	Maple Falls Community Park	7470 Second Street, Maple Falls, WA 98266	4.1	2014	Community Park	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
		Total Developed Community Park Acres	15.9								
		Total Undeveloped Community Park Acres	7.6								
		Total Community Park Acres	23.5								
25	Haynie Road	2876 Haynie Road, Custer, WA 98240	1.9	1974	Neighborhood Park	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
26	Kickerville Road	4110 Bay Road, Ferndale, WA 98248	2.4	1977	Neighborhood Park	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
27	Redwood Park	3310 Redwood Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98226	0.2	1993?	Neighborhood Park	Developed	0	0	0	0	0
28	Ted Edwards Park	4150 Oriental Lane, Bellingham, WA 98226	3.6	1968	Neighborhood Park	Developed	0	0	0	0	0
		Total Developed Neighborhood Park Acres	3.8								
		Total Undeveloped Neighborhood Park Acres	4.3								
		Total Neighborhood Park Acres	8.1								
29	Alderwood	3479 Willowood Road, Bellingham, WA 98226	2.8	1955?	Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
30	Birch Bay Conservancy Area	7000 Point Whitehorn Road, Blaine, WA 98230	43.2	2004	Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	1500	0	0	0	0
31	Canyon Lake Community Forest	8300 Mt. Baker Highway, Deming, WA 98244	2394.4	1998	Preserve / Open Space	Developed	6700	7.01	0	0	0
32	Euclid Park	1570 Euclid Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98226	1.2	1966	Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	0	50	0.05	0	0
33	Galbraith Mountain Access	800 Birch Falls Drive, Bellingham, WA 98229	20.3	1993	Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
34	Halverson Park	5075 Anderson Road, Blaine, WA 98230	5.6	1932	Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
35	Ostrom Conservation Site	4304 South Pass Road, Everson, WA 98247	36.3	1983	Preserve / Open Space	Developed	0	0	0.56	0	0
36	Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve	6770 Koehn Road, Blaine, WA 98230	55.3	2008	Preserve / Open Space	Developed	1950	0	0.81	0	0
37	South Pass East	4900 South Pass Road, Sumas, WA 98295	0.7		Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
38	South Pass West	4190 South Pass Road, Sumas, WA 98295	0.5		Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
39	Stimpson Family Nature Reserve	2076 Lake Louise Road, Bellingham, WA 98229	376.1	2000	Preserve / Open Space	Developed	5620	4.02	0	0	0
40	Terrell Creek Access	7417 Jackson Road, Blaine, WA 98230	0.6		Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	0	540	0	0	0
41	Terrell Creek Heron Rookery	7065 Jackson Road, Blaine, WA 98230	14.4	2005	Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
42	Terrell Creek Point	7685 Birch Bay Drive, Blaine, WA 98230	7.6		Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
43	Turner-Jaeger	1975 Lake Louise Road, Bellingham, WA 98226	4.7	2005	Preserve / Open Space	Undeveloped	0	0	0	0	0
		Total Developed Preserve / Open Space Acres	2862.2								
		Total Undeveloped Preserve / Open Space Acres	94.2								
		Total Preserve / Open Space Acres	2963.7								

Name	Address	Acres	Year Acquired	Classification	Developed/Undeveloped	Saltwater (ft)	Freshwater (ft)	Trails Multi-Use (mi)	Trails		
									Hiking/MB/Equestrian (mi)	Hiking/MB/Equestrian (mi)	
44	Bay Crest Trail									0.5	0
45	Camp #2 Road RR ROW	2.3	2005	Greenway / Trail	Developed					0	0
46	Hegg (Blue Canyon)	4.0	1999	Greenway / Trail	Undeveloped					1820	0
47	Interurban Trail	11.2	1990	Greenway / Trail	Undeveloped						2.8
48	Maple Falls-Glacier Trail	90.7	1992	Greenway / Trail	Developed					7500	0
		101.9	1970	Greenway / Trail	Developed						0
	Total Developed Greenway / Trail Acres	101.9									
	Total Undeveloped Greenway / Trail Acres	6.2									
	Total Greenway / Trail Acres	108.2									
49	Birch Bay Tidelands	143.9	1936	Water Access	Undeveloped		5700	0	0	0	0
50	Broadway Beach Access	0.1	1981	Water Access	Developed		55	0	0	0	0
51	Cottonwood Beach Access	4.6	1932	Water Access	Developed		775	0	0	0	0
52	Drayton Harbor Tidelands	0.3	2009	Water Access	Undeveloped		270	0	0	0	0
53	Jackson Road Beach Access	0.2		Water Access	Developed		50	0	0	0	0
54	Lummi Island Beach Access	0.1	1979	Water Access	Developed		130	0	0	0	0
55	Maple Beach Tidelands	101.5	1971	Water Access	Undeveloped		1900	0	0	0	0
56	Nugent's Corner River Access	16.5	2004	Water Access	Developed		0	1500	0	0	0
57	Sunnyside Landing	6.5	2005	Water Access	Undeveloped		0	780	0	0	0
58	Sunset Beach	5.4	2008	Water Access	Developed		1340	0	0	0	0
59	Teddy Bear Cove Park	8.8	1992	Water Access	Developed		1425	0	0	0	0
60	Welcome Bridge River Access	0.5	2007	Water Access	Developed		0	150	0	0	0
	Total Undeveloped Water Access Acres	36.2									
	Total Developed Water Access Acres	251.9									
	Total Water Access Acres	288.4									
61	Bellingham Senior Activity Center		1973	Special Use Area	Developed		0	0	0	0	0
62	Cagey Road	20.3		Special Use Area	Undeveloped		0	0	0	0	0
63	East Whatcom Regional Resource Ctr	9.2	2006	Special Use Area	Developed		0	0	0	0	0
64	Ferndale Senior Activity Center	0.0	1974	Special Use Area	Developed		0	0	0	0	0
65	Northwest Soccer Park	36.5	1964?	Special Use Area	Developed		0	0	0	0	0.38
66	Parks Headquarters	4.7	1991	Special Use Area	Developed		0	0	0	0	0
67	Plantation Rifle Range	60.1	1975	Special Use Area	Developed		0	0	0	0	0
68	Roeder Home	1.0	1971	Special Use Area	Developed		0	0	0	0	0
69	Samish Way	2.0	1992	Special Use Area	Undeveloped		0	0	0	0	0
70	Welcome Senior Activity Center	0.8	1973	Special Use Area	Developed		0	0	0	0	0
	Total Developed Special Use Area Acres	113.5					37405	85840	28	37.46	
	Total Undeveloped Special Use Area Acres	22.3									
	Total Special Use Area Acres	135.8									
	Total Park Acres	16008.1									



REGIONAL PARK INVENTORY

Bay Horizon Park (1):

69.8 acre former air force radar base. Site amenities include a playground, basketball court gymnasium, open fields, small picnic area and connection to the Bay Crest Trail. Buildings are leased to the Camp Horizon Foundation for operation of Camp Horizon serving disabled adults and to the Northwest Park & Recreation District for community recreational programming.

Boulevard Park (2):

1.8 acres leased to the City of Bellingham. Fully developed with multi use trail and boardwalk, restrooms/coffee shop, parking and lawn areas.

Chuckanut Mountain/Pine & Cedar Lake Access (3):

973.1 acres of forestland, hiking, equestrian and mountain bike trails, 2 remote back country camp areas, boardwalk, parking area and vault toilets. Site connects and adjoins with City of Bellingham's Arroyo Park, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Pine and Cedar Lakes and Larrabee State Park.

Deming Eagle Homestead Park (4):

28.5 acre park along a channel of the Nooksack River. Improvements include parking, picnic area and walking trail.

Dittrich Park (5):

22.8 acres of undeveloped park land located on Lake Samish. Site has three residences and is comprised of fields, wetlands and wooded shoreline.

Hovander Homestead Park (6):

338.3 acres. Multi-use park focused around a historic farmstead and Tenant Lake. Improvements include a 2,000 square foot open picnic shelter, picnic and event areas, demonstration gardens, playground, domestic animal display, historic farm buildings and equipment, historic home and furnishings, agricultural fields, multi-use trails, observation tower, boardwalk, interpretive center, restrooms and boat launch.

Jensen Family Forest Park (7):

21.7 acres. Leased for public park use site has an accessible ½ mile walking trail, parking area and picnic area.

Lake Whatcom Park (8):

4,686.5 acres. Located on Smith Creek and the east shore of Lake Whatcom. Amenities include vault toilets, multi-use, hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails, parking areas and shore access.

Lighthouse Marine Park (9):

24.3 acres. A fully developed park located on the southwest corner of Point Roberts. Improvements include boat launch, 30 site campground, board walk, museum, restrooms, shower building, picnic areas and shelter and shore walk.

Lily Point Marine Park (10):

274 acres. A natural area park containing the remnants of a salmon cannery. Improvements include parking, restrooms, overlooks and multi-use trails and shellfish beds.

Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve (11):

4,430.3 acres. A natural themed park located on Lookout Mountain and jointly owned with the City of Bellingham. Improvements include hiking and mountain bike trails, restroom and parking area.

Maple Creek Park (12):

79.7 acre undeveloped park area. Adjoins Maple Falls to Glacier segment of the Bay to Baker Trail.

Monument Park (13):

7.3 acre park. Park contains US/Canadian border monument and has a small parking area, walking trail and beach access.

Samish Park (14):

26.4 acres fully developed park area on the north shore of Lake Samish. Improvements include a day lodge and restrooms, changing building, swim beach, small playground, boat rentals, fishing dock, hiking trail and picnic areas.

Semiahmoo Park (15):

304 acres. Most of this parks acreage is tidelands. Upland improvements include parking area, trails, museum, restrooms, beach accesses, picnic areas and a day lodge.

Silver Lake Park (16):

410.4 acres. Improvements include 6,000 square foot building housing a day lodge, offices, restrooms, concession area, kitchen, overnight lodge, 6 cabins, docks, boat launch, four campground areas with 123 sites in total, restrooms, shower building, picnic areas and open shelters, forestry museum, stables, swimming beach, playground, trails and open activity fields.

South Fork Park (17):

550.3 acres. An undeveloped park area with a historic farmstead.

South Lake Whatcom (18):

78.9 acres. Undeveloped park area with shore access on the southeast shore of Lake Whatcom.

Squires Lake Park (19):

82.3 acres. This park is focused around Squires Lake and includes walking trails, benches and parking area. Jointly managed by Whatcom and Skagit County Parks.

Sunset Farm Park (20):

70 acres. Park is programmed for equestrian use and includes riding ring and course along with trails.

Other Lands:

Lands the Parks & Recreation Department leases to other entities:

- *City of Bellingham:*
12.8 acres at Little Squalicum Park and 1.4 acres at Boulevard Park for park purposes.
- *Lummi Nation:*
20 acres on Haxton Way leased to the to the Lummi Nation
- *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:*
Hovander Boat Launch
- *South Whatcom Fire Authority:*
1.38 acres
- *Whatcom Soccer Commission:*
Northwest Soccer Park 36.5 acres
- Whatcom County Public Works leases a boat launch site on the south shore of Lake Whatcom to the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The Department leases land for park purposes from:

- *Bertch Timberlands LLC:* 60 acres at Plantation Rifle Range
- *Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife:* 140 acres at Pine & Cedar Lakes
- *Puget Sound Energy:* Interurban Trail and miscellaneous properties
- *Jensen Family:* 21.7 acres Jensen Family Forest Park
- *Washington Department of Natural Resources:* Miscellaneous tidelands
- *Whatcom Public Works Department:* through an interdepartmental agreement, the Parks & Recreation Department manages the contract with the Back Country Horsemen for use of the Y-Road trailhead

The County has a reserve of 182.2 acres of park and open space lands for future development and use. These include;

- *Dittrich Park:* 25.2 acre undeveloped property on the southeast shore of Lake Samish
- *South Lake Whatcom:* 79.5 acre undeveloped property on the southeast end of Lake Whatcom. The property has limited day use access and its shoreline is used for fishing, boating and diving.
- *Maple Creek Park:* 73 acre undeveloped property in Maple Falls along Bay to Baker Trail Corridor
- *Haynie Road:* 1.88 acre undeveloped former school site located corner of Haynie and Custer School Roads
- *Kickerville Road:* 2.58 acre undeveloped former school site located at the NW corner of Kickerville and Bay Roads

CONDITION

Park facilities are inspected and assessed by staff on an annual basis for capital and general maintenance needs. Playgrounds are inspected on a daily basis during peak use periods and at least weekly during other times of the year. Water, septic and other operating systems are inspected and tested according to local and State requirements. Park facilities as a whole are generally in good condition. Because many of the major park areas were developed in the late 1960's and 1970's, a major portion of the capital improvement budget in the past 10 years has focused on infrastructure maintenance such as roofs, playgrounds, docks and water systems. Through the use of real estate excise tax revenues (REET I and II), an aggressive preventative maintenance schedule and a dedicated maintenance staff, the department has been able to keep pace with the maintenance and replacement needs within the parks system.

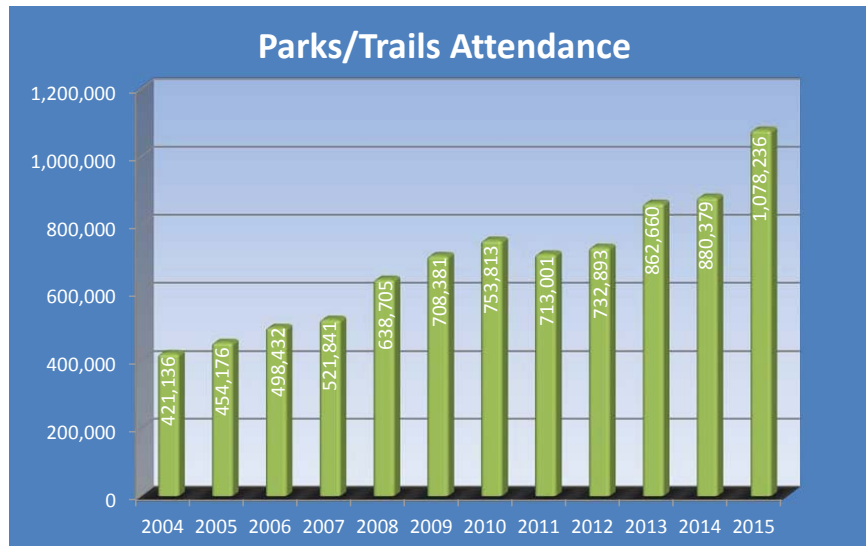
Feedback from the 2015 customer service survey indicates that park visitors overall were pleased with the condition of park facilities giving a good approval rating 92% of the time.

Needed improvements identified through the planning process include:

- Playground replacements: Samish and Lighthouse Marine Parks
- Road improvements: Hovander and Silver Lake Parks

- Parking improvements: Hovander and Lake Whatcom Parks
- Roof replacements: Hovander Park
- Bridge and boardwalk replacements: Canyon Lake Community Forest, Lake Whatcom Park, Silver Lake Park, Tennant Lake, Pine & Cedar Lakes
- Improved road, directional and trail signage: system wide
- Expanded day use area: Lake Whatcom Park
- Development of South Fork Park and Nessel Farm restoration
- Boardwalk replacement: Lighthouse Marine Park
- New restroom buildings: Silver Lake, Hovander Homestead Park, Lake Whatcom Park
- Campground road and electrical upgrades: Silver Lake Park
- Cabin improvements (restrooms): Silver Lake Park
- Increase Public access (saltwater and Nooksack River)
- Boat launch and water access Lummi Island
- Completion of the shore walk: Lighthouse Marine Park
- Walkway and irrigation improvements: Hovander Homestead Park - Tennant Lake/ Fragrance Garden

In addition to the improvements identified, there was strong support expressed in the surveys and public workshops for maintaining a priority on the maintenance of existing parks and facilities.



CAPACITY

In 2015, the Whatcom County Park system had over 1,078,236 visitations to parks and trails and 193,3292 visitations in senior services. A visitation is defined as a single visit on a per day bases. The department uses a variety of methods in determining visitor counts including infra-red trail counters, vehicle counters, registrations and daily attendance logs. In general, most park areas and facilities are currently meeting visitor needs. Many park areas have additional capacity or with improvements, can accommodate greater user numbers without compromising the visitor's experience or the parks resources.

The following recommendations pertaining to capacity issues were taken from the public workshops, surveys and staff reports:

- Need improved and/or additional restroom capacity: Silver Lake Park, Hovander Homestead Park, Stimpson Family Nature Reserve and Lake Whatcom Park
- Need surfaced parking capacity: Hovander Homestead Park, Lily Point Marine Park, Lookout Mountain, Samish Park and Lake Whatcom Park
- Need entrance improvements and wider park roads: Hovander Homestead Park and Silver Lake Park
- Need improvements to accessibility and more opportunities for older adults in the parks system due to an aging population
- Need informal youth playfields for team practice, soccer, rugby, and other open field games: Bay Horizon Park and East Whatcom Regional Resource Center

- Need additional tournament grade fields to compliment Northwest Soccer Fields and provide additional capacity for future tournaments

PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS

The Parks & Recreation Department provides programmed activities at a number of park facilities through collaboration with community partners. The department continues to directly provide firearms safety and skill classes at the Plantation Rifle Range. In 2008 due to budget reductions, the County significantly reduced its capacity to directly deliver programs and redirected efforts to providing venues for other community providers to deliver similar services.

Community partners currently offering public programming within the parks system include:

- *Whatcom Land Trust*: Interpretive programs, various locations
- *Audubon Society*: Interpretive and birding programs, various locations
- *Friends of Hovander/Tennant Lake Park*: Interpretive programs at Hovander Homestead Park
- *Drayton Harbor Maritime*: Museum staffing and programs at Semiahmoo Park
- *Whatcom Volunteer Center*: Docent tours of Hovander Home at Hovander Homestead Park
- *Daughters of Norway and Black Mountain Forestry Center*: Museum staffing, tours and programs at Silver Lake Park
- *Master Gardener's Foundation*: Programs and demonstration gardens at Hovander Homestead Park

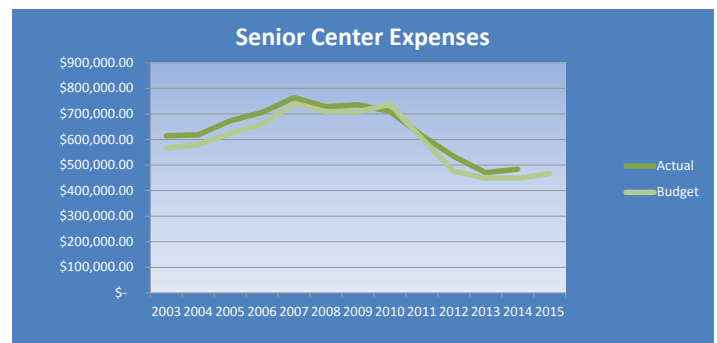
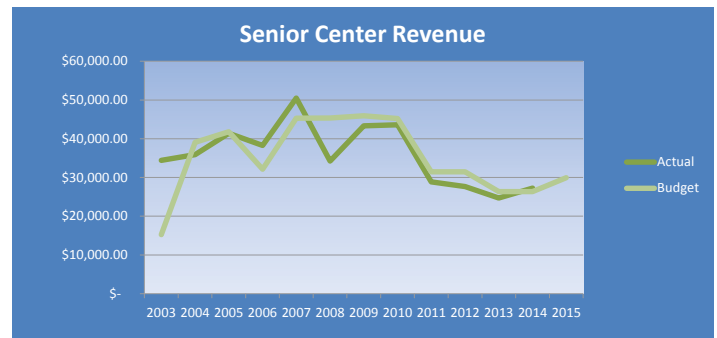
- Programming and classes at the Senior Activity Centers are provided by contract through non-profit organizations.
- *Community Day*: Tuesdays at the Roeder Home provided by various volunteer artisan groups

As resources permit, it is recommended the County continue to partner with community organizations, businesses and agencies in offering recreational programming opportunities in the parks.

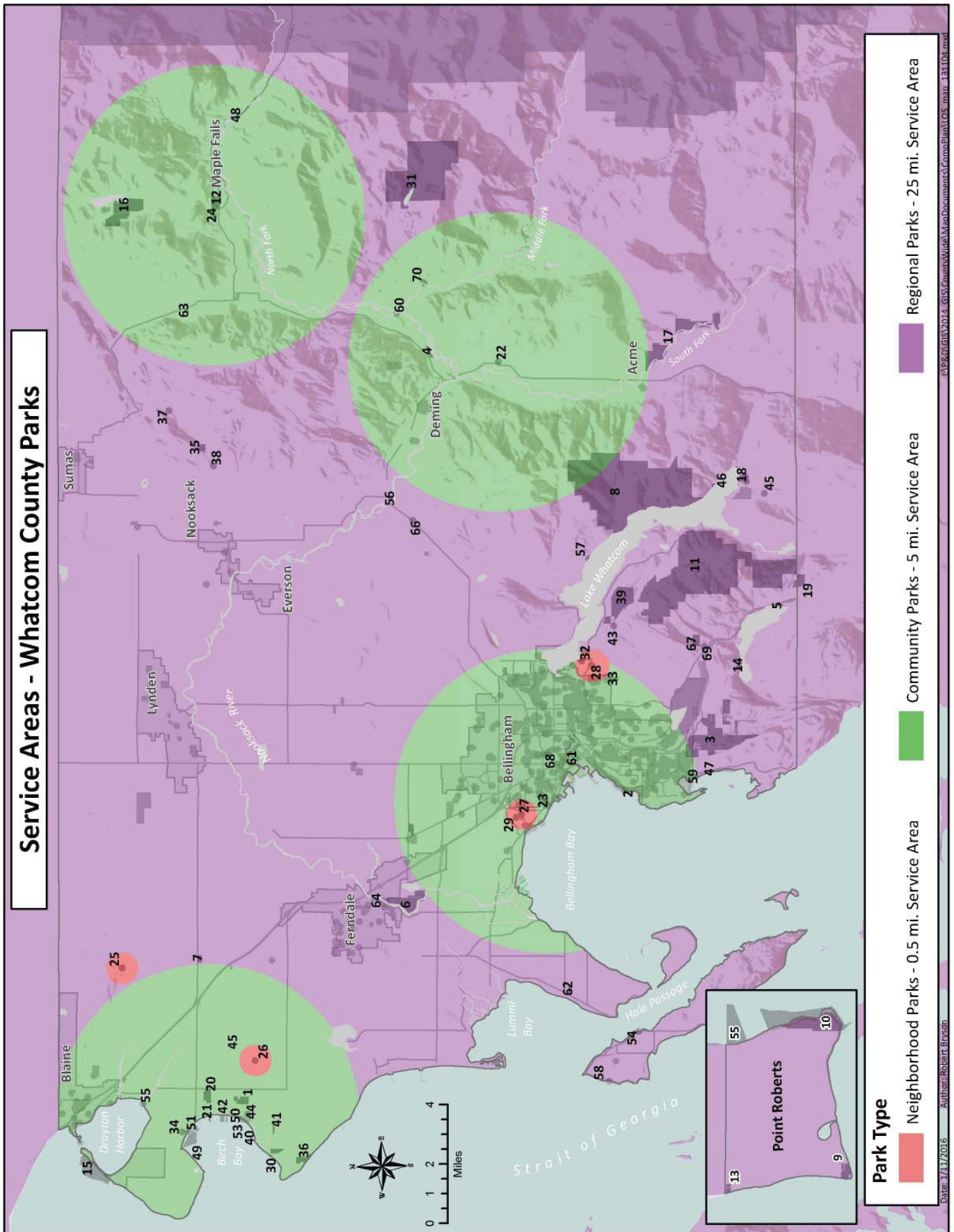


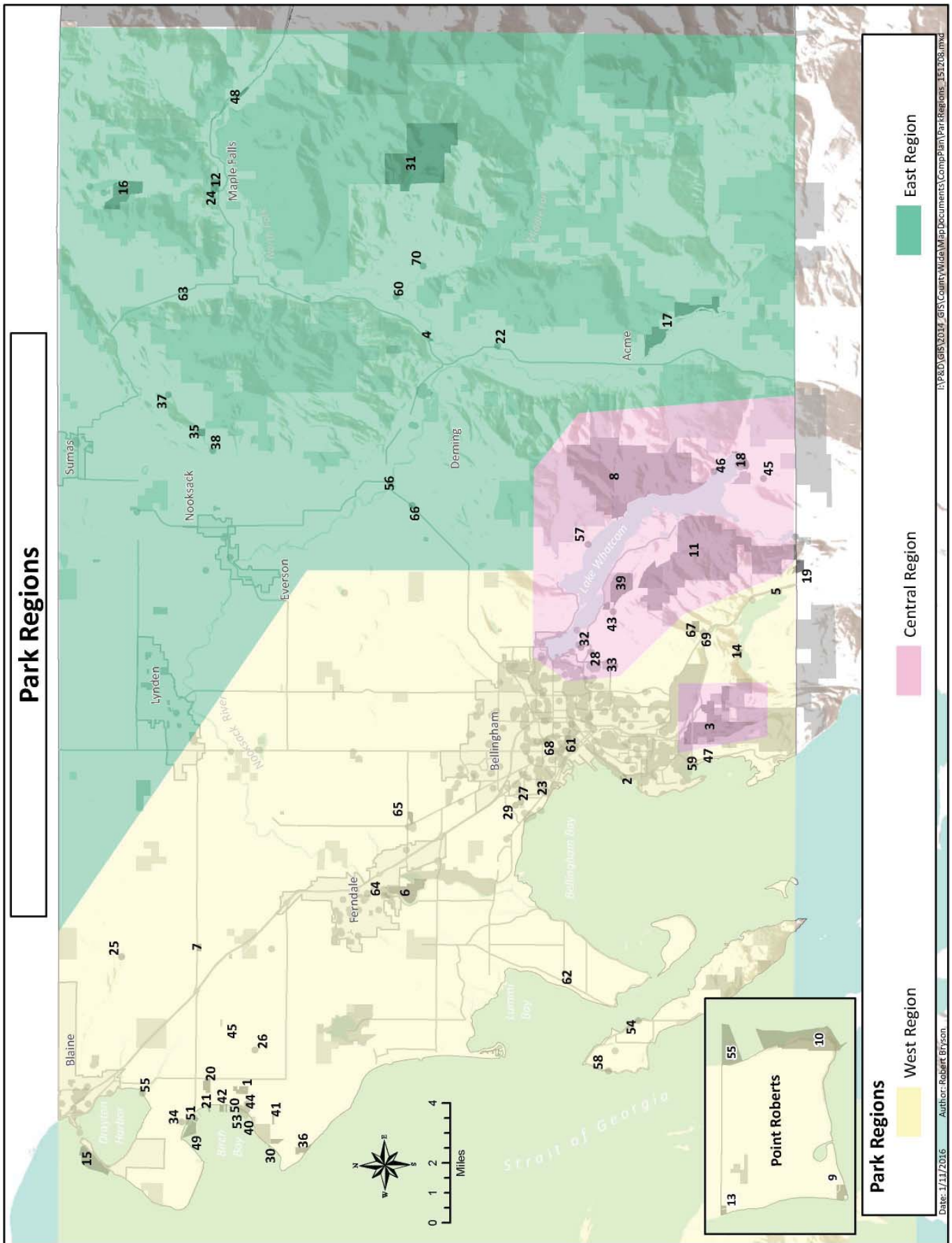
DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS

Based on GIS data, 99.9% of Whatcom County's population is located within 25 miles of a regional park facility or trail. This access is primarily by motorized vehicle. Hovander Homestead Park and Semiahmoo Parks are linked by community trails and WTA bus service is available to the Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve and Stimpson Family Nature Reserve. Efforts continue on providing alternative transportation options for visitors to County Park areas through community trail systems and designated bicycle routes and lanes. As Whatcom County is a provider of regional services, community and neighborhood parks are not listed in the service area for the County. Those types of park areas owned by the County are shown on the service area map for reference.



*Department reorganized in 2010 shifting some Senior Center expenses to Administration

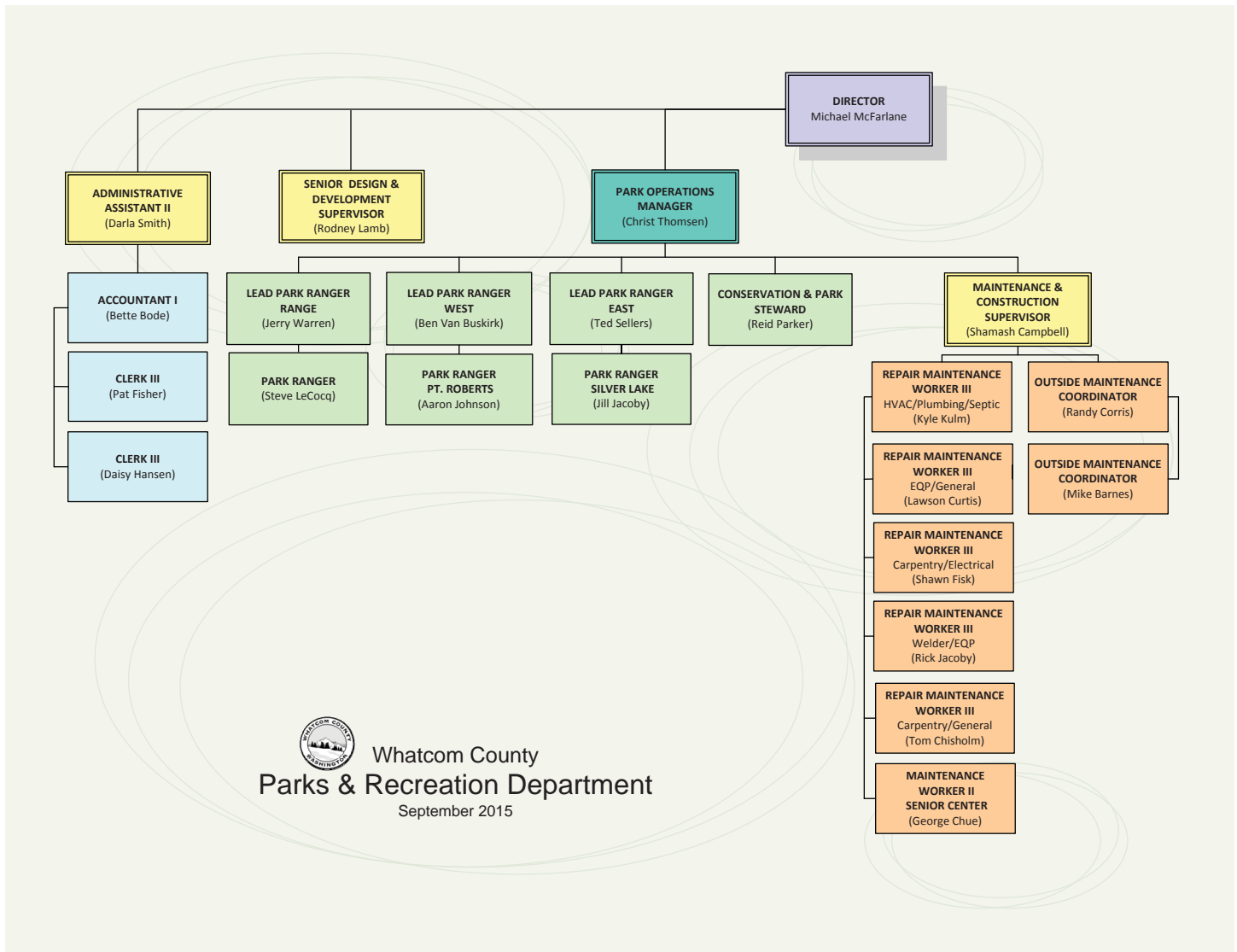




PARK OPERATIONS

The Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for operations, maintenance, and oversight of all assigned properties and facilities. In 2015, the Department had a staff of 23 full-time employees and approximately 21,754 hours of part-time extra help.

The department also utilizes the services of two work crews from the County's Jail Alternative Program. Volunteers, interns and community organizations supplement park staff in helping to maintain facilities and provide additional programming hours. The park system is divided into three regional service areas to better facilitate operations and provide staff coverage for all properties.



WILDLIFE & CRITICAL HABITAT CONSERVATION

Whatcom County park lands provide a wide variety of habitats for wildlife and marine species. Management is achieved through a collaborative process between the department, regulating agencies and tribal governments.

Habitat conservation areas are critical to the survival of Whatcom County's diverse plant and wildlife communities. Habitats encompass a variety of areas including large parcels of contiguous undeveloped land, special areas like streams or wetlands, and structural elements like rocky shorelines or standing dead trees.

The ecological value of an area depends on the quantity, quality, diversity, and seasonality of the food, water, and cover that it provides wildlife species. A particular site's value also depends on proximity to other usable habitats, the presence of rare species, and the rarity of the habitat type.

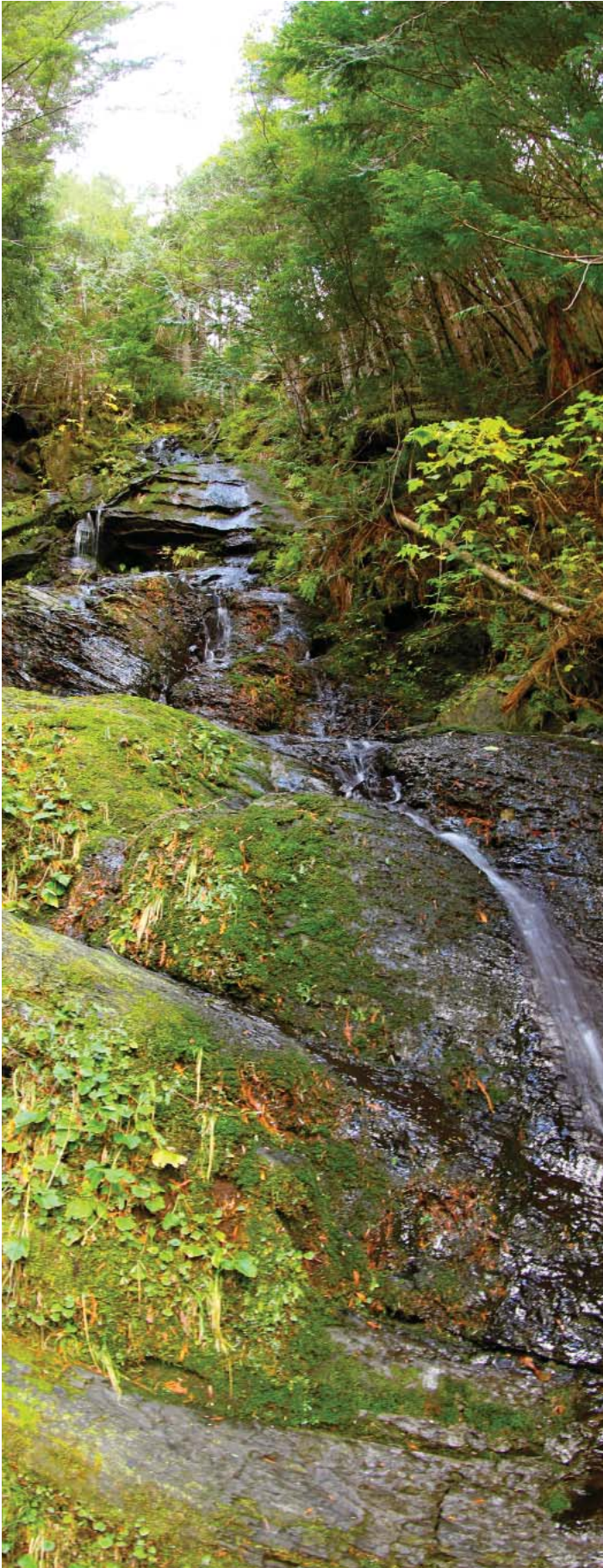
The preservation and restoration of critical habitat areas are key to protecting the biological diversity of Whatcom County. Critical habitat can be lost or degraded due to urban and some rural land use activities. Critical habitat threats can be reduced with effective land use policies and regulations. In some instances, valuable habitat can also be restored or enhanced through preservation and conservation efforts.

Wildlife habitats are generally classified as marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial. Many wildlife species rely upon most, even all, of these habitat types for survival. Whatcom County has all four types of wildlife habitat.

Marine Habitat

Marine habitats are salt water areas that extend outward from the upper limit of wave spray on land. In Whatcom County, marine habitats extend the complete circumference of the mainland and Point Roberts, and Lummi, Portage, and Eliza Islands.

Marine habitats provide critical plant, fish, and wildlife habitat that can be greatly affected by land and water-based activities. The waters of Georgia Strait, Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay, Lummi Bay, Bellingham Bay, and Chuckanut Bay depend on the health of tideflats and the water column for primary production. Eelgrass, kelp, and phytoplankton provide the primary cornerstone for the grazing food chain, and shelter for both invertebrate and vertebrate animal species.



The deeper waters and narrow channels of Georgia Strait, Rosario Strait, and Hale Passage, as well as the shallower waters of Drayton Harbor and Birch, Lummi, Bellingham, and Chuckanut Bays produce a unique marine environment rich in nutrients hosting a remarkable diversity of fish and other animal life.

The open channels, rocky outcrops, islands, and large bays of Whatcom County provide wintering and breeding habitat for a wide variety of marine birds including loons, grebes, cormorants, gulls, ducks, geese, shorebirds and alcids.

Fish and Wildlife Species

Special status/priority fish and wildlife species (or particular relationships between species and habitat) that rely on the marine habitat in Whatcom County for at least part of the year or part of their life cycle include: bald eagle, Brandt's cormorant, regular large concentrations of brant (geese), haulout areas for California sea lion, common loon, common murre, breeding concentrations of cormorants and alcids, regular concentrations of Dall's porpoise, breeding areas and regular concentrations of Dungeness crab, regular concentrations of geoduck, breeding areas for great blue heron, haulout areas for harbor seal, regular marine concentrations of harlequin duck, killer whale, regular concentrations of Manila clam, marbled murrelet, native littleneck clam; nonbreeding concentrations of Barrow's goldeneye, common goldeneye, and bufflehead; nonbreeding concentrations of loons, grebes, cormorants, and alcids; nonbreeding concentrations of plovers, sandpipers, and phalaropes; northern abalone, Olympia oyster (restoration effort in progress), Pacific harbor porpoise, regular concentrations of Pacific oyster, regular concentrations of Pandalid shrimp, peregrine falcon, regular concentrations of red urchin, regular large concentrations of waterfowl, western grebe, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, pink salmon, sockeye salmon, bull trout, steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, Pacific herring, Pacific sand lance, surf smelt, longfin smelt, and numerous rockfish species.

Kelp and eelgrass beds - are identified in the Whatcom County Critical Areas Ordinance as Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs). These beds provide habitat, feeding, and rearing grounds for a large number of marine organisms including crabs, fish, and birds. Kelp are the large brown seaweeds typically found in rocky intertidal and subtidal areas. Eelgrass is a vascular plant that grows most commonly in intertidal and shallow subtidal sandy and muddy areas.

Kelp beds provide a surface upon which other plants

and animals grow. They are used as resting areas by birds and mammals including gulls, herons, waterfowl, shorebirds, and seals. Kelp beds also protect environments for intertidal plants and animals by reducing current, wave action, and inshore erosion on sand and gravel beaches. The beds provide a protected beach habitat for marine organisms that would not be present otherwise. Eelgrass is a highly productive plant that provides trophic functions and nutrient infusions for the entire coastal zone. Eelgrass beds provide an important stopover and wintering area along the Pacific flyway for a variety of migratory birds. The eelgrass beds in Georgia Strait and Puget Sound further south have been found to be three times more productive to diving birds, for example, than non-vegetated near-shore areas.

Kelp and eelgrass beds have declined in number and overall size in Georgia Strait and Puget Sound in recent years. The decline may be due to changes in water quality and turbidity resulting from urban development and forest cutting activities, or to natural fluctuations due to storms, unusually hot weather, or an increase in the population of grazing species.

Shellfish

Commercial and recreational shellfish areas are identified in the Whatcom County Critical Areas Ordinance as Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs). Shellfish inhabit the muds, sands, and rocky substrata of Georgia Strait, Drayton Harbor, and Birch, Lummi, Bellingham and Chuckanut Bays. Intertidal areas support hardshell clams including butter clams, native littleneck, manila clams, cockles, and horse clams. Geoducks typically burrow in subtidal areas up to 2 to 3 feet into the mud or soft sand. Shrimp, crab, and oysters also inhabit the shoreline areas. Dungeness crab frequent eelgrass beds, and red rock crab inhabit rocky terrain with less silt content.

Surf smelt, Pacific herring, and Pacific sand lance spawning areas - are identified in the Whatcom County Critical Areas Ordinance as Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs). Surf smelt inhabit marine nearshore areas year-round, and spawning may occur year-round. Significant spawning concentrations of Pacific herring are found in the Cherry Point and Samish-Portage Bay areas. Most Pacific herring stocks spawn from late January through early April, although the Cherry Point stock (the largest in the state) spawns from early April through early June. Spawning areas for Pacific sand lance are scattered along nearshore areas in Whatcom County, with spawning in intertidal areas occurring annually from November 1 through February 15.

ESTUARINE HABITAT

Estuaries are semi-enclosed bodies of water that are freely connected with the open sea and within which saltwater mixes with freshwater drainage. Estuaries create transitions between marine, freshwater, and terrestrial environments that support a rich and diverse variety of wildlife species.

By definition, estuaries have a salt concentration from 0.5 parts per trillion up to 30 parts per thousand. Estuaries include subtidal and intertidal zones as well as lagoons, sloughs, and channels that meet this salinity definition. Estuaries are typically shallower with warmer water temperatures than marine habitat zones.

In Whatcom County, the estuarine environment may extend inland for some distance where freshwater from the Nooksack and Lummi Rivers, and Dakota, California, Terrell, Squalicum, Padden, and Chuckanut Creeks mixes with saltwater tidal currents. Salinity content may be affected by the amount of freshwater flow that enters the saltwater, the strength of the tides, and the resulting amount of fresh to saltwater mixing. Salinity is not constant within such a mixing and may vary with depth and area of flow. The animals and plants that are established within the area are often better predictors of the estuary's influence than salinity alone.

Wildlife Species

Estuaries support many of the same species that are present in the marine environment described above (refer to "Species" section under "Marine Habitat". Some species, such as oysters, are more abundant in estuaries.

FRESHWATER HABITAT

Freshwater bodies include lakes, rivers, creeks, wetlands, riparian areas, and all other types of water bodies not included in estuaries or marine habitat that have a low ocean salt content. Freshwater habitats support different wildlife than saltwater systems, particularly species that depend on wetland vegetation. However, 87% of all wildlife and fish species are estimated to depend on streams, wetlands, or other freshwater bodies during some part of their life cycle for drinking water, foraging, nesting, and migratory movements.

Riparian areas - are the vegetated corridors located along rivers, streams, and springs. Riparian corridors have free-flowing water or moist conditions that result in high water tables, certain soil characteristics, and vegetation that is transitional between freshwater and terrestrial. The



transitional edges are usually defined by a change in plant composition, relative plant abundance, and the end of high soil moisture content.

Riparian corridors transport water, soil, plant seeds, and nutrients to downstream areas, and thereby serve as important migration routes for many wildlife species. Riparian areas, though small in overall size, are one of the most important sources of wildlife biodiversity in the landscape.

Riparian areas in Whatcom County are located along the Nooksack and Lummi Rivers and all stream corridors. These areas are covered with riparian vegetation and should be considered important wildlife corridors.

Wetlands

Freshwater wetland habitats are water bodies less than 20 acres in size or less than 6 feet in depth and include marshes, swamps, bogs, seeps, wet meadows, shallow ponds, and lakes. Like riparian areas, wetlands are very productive, supporting diverse and dense populations of plants and animals. The wooded areas that are located adjacent to wetlands provide nesting areas, forage, and cover that are critical to wetland-dependent

species, such as waterfowl and small mammals including beaver.

Riparian and wetland vegetation provides significant food and cover for wildlife. Generally, riparian areas and wetlands provide substantially more important wildlife habitat than drier forested areas. Riparian areas are also passageways for wildlife moving between or around developed areas. Riparian vegetation also helps maintain optimum fish spawning conditions by providing shade, bank stabilization, a breeding ground for insects, and a source of organic material for streams.

Hundreds of small ponds and wetlands are located throughout the county directly connected to rivers, streams, lakes, or the bays. The surface water area varies considerably in these systems depending on the time of year.

Wetlands perform a variety of functions including:

- providing habitat for fish and wildlife,
- maintaining water quality by filtering pollutants, removing sediments, producing oxygen and recycling nutrients,
- reducing floods, and
- recharging ground water.

In 1991 Whatcom County Planning & Development Services inventoried the wetlands that cover Whatcom County. The inventories identified and evaluated wetlands that included bogs, forested wetlands, scrub/shrub wetlands, wet meadows, shallow marsh wetlands, deep marsh wetlands, and open water wetlands (lakes or ponds). Wetlands are found distributed throughout the county.

Lakes - are water bodies greater than 20 acres in size or more than 6 feet in depth. The deeper waters and larger surface of a lake support many fish and wildlife species. However, most species prefer to nest and forage in shallower ponds and the wetlands that adjoin larger open water bodies.

Numerous lakes are located in the central and western parts of the county, including Silver Lake, Lake Terrell, Lake Padden, Lake Samish, Squires Lake, Cain Lake, Emerald Lake, Canyon Lake, Tennant Lake, Wiser Lake, Fazon Lake, Squaticum Lake and Lake Whatcom. Ross and Baker Lakes in the eastern portion of the county were formed by impounding the Skagit River. In all there are over forty named lakes in Whatcom County.

Wildlife species

Special status/priority wildlife species (or particular

relationships between species and habitat) that rely on freshwater habitat in Whatcom County for at least part of the year or part of their life cycle include: bald eagle, Cascades frog, Columbia spotted frog, common loon, red-legged frog, tailed frog, western toad, cavity-nesting ducks, breeding areas for great blue heron, harlequin duck breeding areas, regular occurrences of mink, regular concentrations of snow geese, regular concentrations of trumpeter and tundra swans, and significant breeding areas and large wintering concentrations of all waterfowl except Canada geese in urban areas.

Fish habitat and species

County streams provide freshwater habitat for various species of anadromous fish, including salmon and sea-run trout that live in saltwater but return to spawn in freshwater. These fish species have evolved over time to fit the specific characteristics of their stream of origin, and are uniquely imprinted compared with other members of the same species.

Anadromous fish require cool, uncontaminated water with healthy streambeds and insect populations. Vegetated riparian areas maintain stream habitats critical to fish by stabilizing water temperature, producing an insect supply, controlling erosion, and providing woody debris.

Chinook salmon (Puget Sound) and bull trout, both found in Whatcom County, are candidates on the Washington State and federal threatened species lists. Other special status/priority fish species that rely on freshwater habitat in Whatcom County include coho salmon, chum salmon, pink salmon, sockeye salmon, rainbow trout/steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout.

Factors that have caused the diminishment of wild runs of anadromous fish in Whatcom County include:

- forest clearcutting and land developments - that create sediment loads which increase water turbidity and silt in gravel spawning beds;
- clearcutting tree stands in riparian areas – that remove natural shading which increases water temperatures; and
- water diversions – that restrict access to the upper reaches and spawning areas of rivers.

TERRESTRIAL HABITAT

Terrestrial habitat includes those lands located above freshwater, estuarine, and marine habitats.

These areas extend from the level lowlands that border marshes, rivers, etc., to the tops of bluffs, foothills and mountains in Whatcom County.

Plants

Natural plant communities are described in terms of broad vegetation patterns called vegetation zones. Washington plant communities are divided into three major vegetation groupings including:

- forests,
- grasslands and shrub/grass communities, and
- timberline and alpine areas.

Western Whatcom County contains three primary forested vegetation zones: the Western Hemlock, Pacific Silver Fir, and Mountain Hemlock zones. These zones are defined by their elevation which affects temperature and vegetation types.

Much of western Whatcom County is located within the Western Hemlock zone. This zone is the most extensive vegetation zone in all of western Washington, extending from the Pacific coast to an elevation of about 2,500 feet, and characterized by a mild and generally wet climate.

The Western Hemlock zone is the major source of commercially harvested coniferous trees including Western Hemlock, Douglas Fir, and western red cedar. Grand fir, western white pine, and lodgepole pine also occur within this zone although on a sporadic basis.

Deciduous tree species, such as red alder, big leaf maple, and paper birch, are generally dominant on lands that have been cleared for urban and agriculture uses in Whatcom County. Black cottonwood, willow, red alder and big-leaf maple, tend to grow along major watercourses.

Understory vegetation in the western hemlock zone varies substantially depending upon soils, wetness, and other environmental factors. Some typical understory species in this zone in Whatcom County include Oregon grape, salal, vine maple, salmonberry, and sword fern.

Development in Whatcom County has substantially reduced terrestrial habitat throughout the years. However, valuable habitat still remains in undeveloped, large native forests. Some wildlife species may feed in more than one type of habitat during the day but retreat for night and seasonal cover into upland wooded areas. Mature forests provide thermal cover during winter months allowing larger game mammals to forage up to 3,000 feet in elevation during normal seasons, or

2,000 feet during especially harsh winters.

Some previously forested portions of the county's low-lying areas are now converted to pastures and meadows which may contain agricultural crops, woody vegetation, grasses, and wildflowers. These areas provide food for migratory waterfowl and deer, habitat for birds and small mammals, and hunting grounds for predators like garter snakes, barn owls, red-tailed hawks, and coyotes.

Many wildlife species can tolerate urban development as long as some adjacent habitat and connecting migration corridors remain undisturbed, and large reserves remain connected by natural migration corridors. These corridors enable species to colonize new areas, forage for food, find mates, and exchange genes with neighboring populations.

Wildlife Species

Special status/priority wildlife species (or particular relationships between species and habitat) that rely on terrestrial habitat in Whatcom County for at least part of the year or part of their life cycle include: bald eagle, golden eagle, marbled murrelet, northern goshawk, northern spotted owl, peregrine falcon, pileated woodpecker, purple martin, Townsend's big-eared bat, Vaux's swift, willow flycatcher, wolverine (very rare), band-tailed pigeon; roosting concentrations of big brown, Myotis and pallid bats; blue grouse, cavity-nesting ducks, regular large concentrations of /migration corridors for Columbian black-tailed deer, regular occurrences of mink and marten, breeding areas and regular concentrations of mountain goat; and regular concentrations, calving areas, and migration corridors for Roosevelt elk.

OTHER IMPORTANT HABITATS

Whatcom County has a number of other specific habitat types that are critical to wildlife including caves, cliffs, urban natural open space, and snag-rich areas.

UNIQUE AND THREATENED PLANT SPECIES

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Program has compiled a list of endangered, threatened and otherwise sensitive plant species in Washington State. Although these sensitive plant species have not yet been officially tracked by county, the Koma Kulshan Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society has begun the process of compiling a list for Whatcom County. A list of the known occurrences of rare plants in Whatcom County is provided at the end of this Appendix.



Maple Creek Park

WILDLIFE HABITAT CONCERNS

Marine Habitat

Urban development and forest cutting practices along the shoreline can seriously impact the marine environment by increasing the amount of suspended solids, pollutants, or freshwater entering marine areas. Suspended solids introduced into saltwater can reduce light penetration, increase sediment deposition, increase water temperature, and affect dissolved oxygen and pH balance, thereby affecting all forms of marine habitat.

An increase in turbidity as slight as 1% can reduce light penetration and affect kelp and eelgrass beds. An increase in sedimentation levels can smother eelgrass beds in shallow areas, as can long term exposure to sewage effluent.

Sedimentation created by natural or urban erosion can cover shellfish beds and fish spawning gravel. Shellfish beds can also be contaminated by chemical and bacterial discharge, and viruses created by agriculture practices, failing septic drainfields, sewage outfalls, and stormwater runoff. Some contaminants may not harm shellfish, but may adversely affect birds and other animals that feed on the shellfish.

Toxic contaminants contained within urban stormwater runoff or industrial discharge can poison the marine water column and sediments creating tumors and poisonous concentrations in fish and invertebrate species.

Bulkhead, dock, and other waterfront structures can reduce the natural shoreline and affect the rate of natural beach deposition resulting in loss of vegetation and loss of the shoreline and intertidal habitat that support herring, smelt, and other fish.

Estuarine Habitat

Some estuarine areas have been filled or drained in the past, especially around developed waterfront. The remaining unaltered estuarine areas may be protected by the Shoreline Management Act, which virtually prohibits further alterations.

Among the greatest risks to estuarine areas are contaminants that may enter the saltwater from oil transportation hazards and recreational boating activity and from freshwater by way of general stormwater pollution from agriculture, septic failures, and other degradations. Water quality risks are dramatically increased where land development activities occur along freshwater streams that feed an estuary.

Freshwater Habitat

Some freshwater habitats have been altered in the county by landfill or piped diversions. Past development activities adjacent to urban areas, particularly along the shorelines and waterfronts, have filled valuable wetland habitat areas.

Among the greatest risks to freshwater habitats are contaminants that may enter the stormwater runoff from agriculture, septic failures, and other urban land uses. Water quality risks are also dramatically increased where land development or timber clearing activities increase erosion and siltation, and where vegetation is cleared within the riparian buffer along freshwater corridors.

Development activities most adversely affect the quality of freshwater habitat by removing vegetation, and increasing silt, organic debris, and other stormwater contaminants that enter the natural drainage system. Generally, studies have determined that the hydrological balance of a stream begins to decline when 12% of the watershed becomes impervious.

Terrestrial Habitat

Considerable terrestrial habitat has been permanently lost by the clearing of lands for agriculture and urban land developments.

Commercial forest management practices have included replanting clearcuts with single species, thereby reducing wildlife diversity and isolating habitat and migration corridors, particularly along riparian areas.

Fire suppression, particularly of naturally occurring wildfires has reduced the amount and diversity of meadowlands and other open areas necessary for foraging activities.

The greatest risk to the terrestrial habitat, however, is the continued pace of urban land conversions, particularly land development patterns that block or demolish migration corridors, log timbered areas, remove riparian cover, erode productive topsoils, and introduce urban activities - potentially including intense recreational uses - into wildlife areas.

As the most important habitats are isolated, wildlife species decline in diversity and number. Urban tolerant species, like raccoons and crows, invade the remaining habitat from the urban edges, supplanting and driving out many native species.

LAND USE IMPLICATIONS

Marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial habitats contribute to the overall biological diversity of the region and provide a number of additional environmental functions and values of interest to Whatcom County residents. Many species depend on the constant interaction of all four of these habitat systems for food, cover, nesting, and other survival requirements.

Impacts on plant, fish, and wildlife habitat can be minimized by sensitive land use patterns, innovative design concepts, and performance oriented development standards that:

- replant - native vegetation along the shoreline and tidal boundaries, within the estuarine zone, and along drainage corridors,
- remove - artificial shoreline structures, barriers to the mixing of salt and freshwater, and freshwater impoundments or diversions,
- control – the content and quality of stormwater runoff that enters freshwater systems and marine and estuarine environments,
- cultivate – native trees and shrubs that support and retain native species, and
- cluster – roadways and other improvements to preserve natural shorelines and to provide contiguous open spaces as common lands.

Within a park setting, the most intense park activities must be separated from the most sensitive habitats by creating conservancies, open space corridors, and other protected areas.

This park, recreation, and open space plan seeks to preserve and enhance critical and unique habitat areas by purchasing development rights or title for regional parks, preserves and open space.

For a detailed list of Whatcom County Threatened or endangered plant species go to:

<http://www1.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/refdesk/lists/plantsxco/whatcom.html>

LAKE WHATCOM FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIES

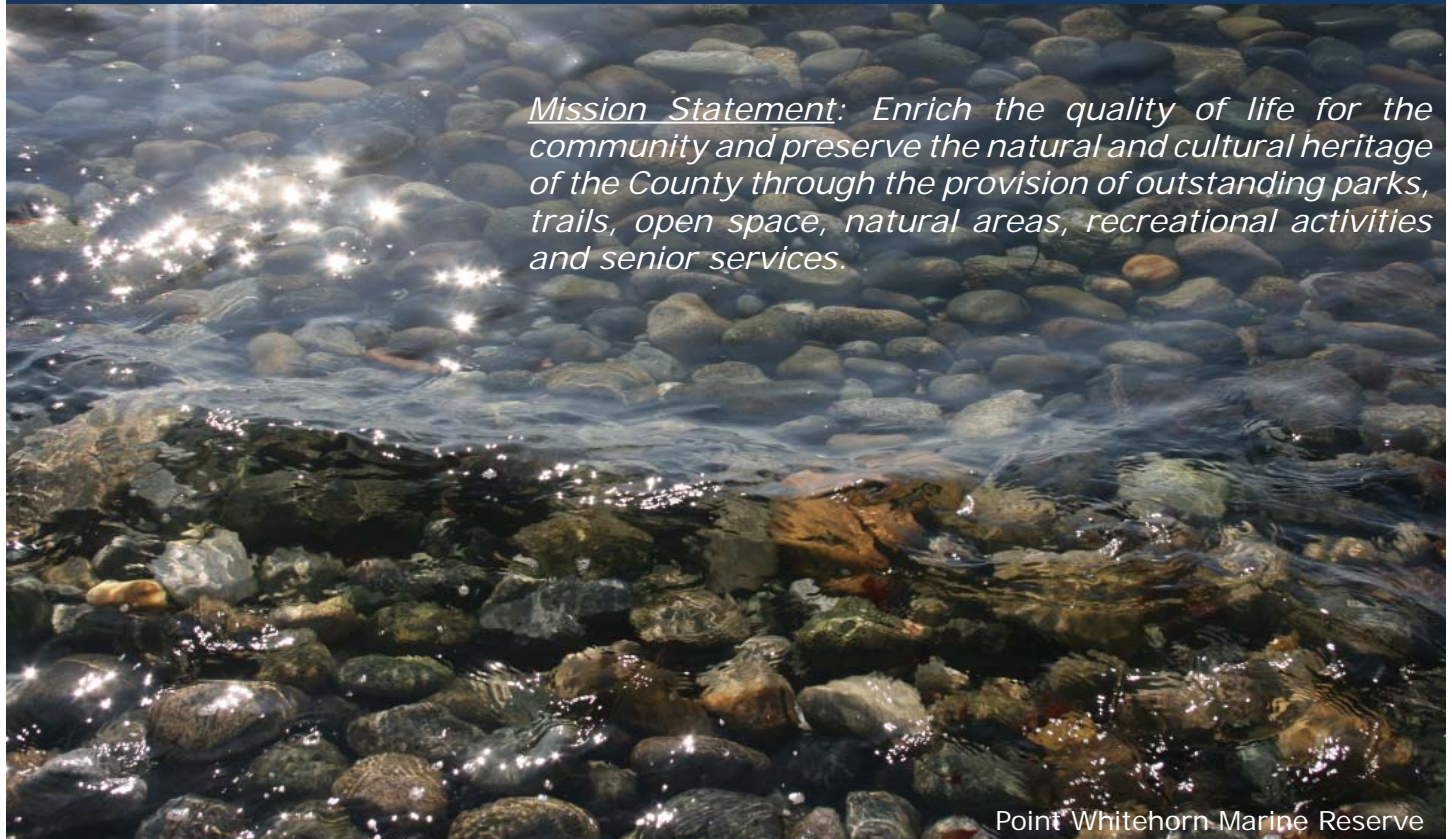
Lake Whatcom supports a variety of fish including native and introduced, cold and warm water species. Fish species and wildlife that can be found in Lake Whatcom include Kokanee, Cutthroat trout, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, amphibians, reptiles, 125 species of birds.

For a more detailed visit the Lake Whatcom Watershed managements news, information, and website at:

<http://www.lakewhatcom.whatcomcounty.org/about-the-lake/fish-and-wildlife>

Some of the above species are listed on the State endangered, threatened, sensitive or candidate list by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/endangered/All/>



Mission Statement: Enrich the quality of life for the community and preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the County through the provision of outstanding parks, trails, open space, natural areas, recreational activities and senior services.

Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve

4. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

POLICY FOUNDATION

The Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan is reviewed every 8 years. It is currently undergoing a series of updates and is scheduled for adoption in 2016. The Comprehensive Plan provides broad guidance for Whatcom County activities. Whatcom County's Comprehensive Plan was developed pursuant to the Growth Management Act (GMA) Planning Goals (RCW 36.70.020). Under GMA, goals were adopted to guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations of those counties and cities that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040. The following GMA planning goals pertain to parks, recreation and open space and are used exclusively for the purpose of guiding the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations:

Open Space and Recreation

Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.

Environment

Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.

Historic Preservation

Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance

The following Whatcom County County-Wide Planning Policies (Adopted April 1993 and revised 3/11/97 & 1/25/05) are taken from the County's Comprehensive Plan and pertain to parks and recreation:

H. Open Space/Greenbelt Corridors

1. Adequate open space is vital to the quality of life and sense of place in Whatcom County. The county, cities, Port of Bellingham, and other appropriate jurisdictions should coordinate protection of linked greenbelts, within and between Urban Growth Areas, parks, and open space to protect wildlife corridors and to enhance recreational opportunities, public access and trail development.
2. The county and the cities shall plan for greenbelts and open space in their Comprehensive Planning processes and coordinate with each other. Open space systems should include lands which contain natural areas, habitat lands, natural drainage features, and/or other environmental,

cultural and scenic resources. With increased residential densities, jurisdictions also should ensure provision of adequate neighborhood parks and play areas within safe bicycling and walking distance for children.

3. The county and the cities shall encourage, to the extent it is feasible, separation of Urban Growth Areas through planning, zoning, development regulations, open space purchase, conservation easements and other mechanisms which may be appropriate. Also, an array of incentives such as density bonuses, design flexibility and transferable development rights shall be offered to affected land owners.
4. The County and Cities should work cooperatively to protect and restore stream corridors within Urban Growth Areas that support anadromous fish.

J. County-Wide Transportation Facilities and Strategies

7. Priorities shall be established and expenditures coordinated for county-wide bicycle and trail corridors. Bicycle and pedestrian-specific trails and other facilities shall be included during project planning and review. Coordinated corridors and cost sharing should be explored among all responsible and interested parties.

L. Impact Fees

1. The county and the cities are encouraged to adopt fair and reasonable impact and/or mitigation fee ordinances to ensure that new growth pays its fair share of the cost of capital facilities, such as transportation improvements, parks, and schools.

Within the Comprehensive plan there are chapters which include goals, objectives, and associated policies that apply to park, recreation and open space activities. These include but are not limited to the following:

Goal 4F: Achieve level of service targets for park and recreational facilities identified in this chapter and which support objectives and priorities identified in the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan, in the Natural Heritage Plan, and in this plan.

Policy 4F-1: Seek non-capital opportunities to

acquire, enhance and maintain park lands, trails, and other recreational facilities.

Policy 4F-2: Include acquisition and development costs in the six-year CIP for future trails projects.

Policy 4F-3: Develop a recreational facilities program that achieves and maintains the level of service for athletic fields and courts, trails, and support facilities for shoreline access, picnicking, and camping without adding to capital costs.

Policy 4F-4: Place a high priority on improvements to existing county recreational sites and facilities and using them to their full potential, including those outlined in the *Whatcom County Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan*, before investing capital in the acquisition and development of new facilities.

Policy 4F-5: Continue to provide centers for use by senior citizens and others.

Goal 4G: Establish levels of service for roads, parks, corrections, and administrative services.

Policy 4G-2: Adopt the following level of service standards for park facilities:

- Developed Parks: 9.6 acres per 1,000 population
- Trails: 0.60 of a mile per 1,000 population
- Activity Centers: five centers per 100,000 population

Goal 4K: Consider alternative funding sources to assure levels of service adopted in the plan.

Policy 4K-1: After all other financing options have been exhausted, consider the use of bonded indebtedness to finance major capital investments in infrastructure.

Policy 4K-2: Identify and promote public private partnerships to provide and enhance the provision of necessary services.

Goal 4L: Ensure that capital facilities provide protection for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species.

Policy 4L-1: Fish and wildlife habitat should be

carefully considered when selecting projects for the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program.

Goal 6M: Promote bicycle and pedestrian travel by systematically providing safe and convenient routes and facilities where feasible.

Policy 6M-1: Encourage safe and efficient bikeways that link populated areas of the county with travel destinations.

Policy 6M-2: Recognize public safety, education and law enforcement as integral to the development of bicycle transportation opportunities in Whatcom County.

Policy 6M-4: Identify needed rights-of-way for bicycles.

Policy 6M-5: Include internal pedestrian circulation systems as well as links to external systems in development projects.

Policy 6M-6: Develop a system of off road trail networks for non-motorized transportation to link population centers, employment centers and recreation areas.

Policy 6M-8: Implement as a priority the goals, policies and recommendations of the latest Whatcom County Bicycle Plan.

Goal 7E: Enhance the economic trade, tourism and industrial siting advantages of the county's location adjacent to the Canadian border.

Policy 7E-1: Support attractions for Canadians and other visitors so they will remain in the community longer and distribute their spending throughout the community. Some of the examples would include support for such items as the following:

- Events such as the "Ski to Sea" race and festival.
- The Whatcom Museum of History and Art, Mount Baker Theater, other historic and cultural centers, and community revitalization efforts.
- Parks and open spaces.
- The Bellingham Festival of Music.

- The Mount Baker outdoor recreation area.
- Farmers markets and other natural resource based activities.
- Projects, events and activities of unincorporated areas such as Point Roberts, Birch Bay and East County.

Goal 7G: Coordinate economic development with environmental, resource, and other comprehensive land use and open space policies and measures to enhance the community's overall quality of life.

Policy 7G-1: Recognize the natural environment as a major asset and manage environmental resources accordingly.

Policy 7G-3: Provide support to Whatcom County's tourist industry to maintain and enhance a balance between the economic benefits of tourism and the local quality of life.

Goal 7H: To promote economic diversity, continue to support the resource industries as significant elements of the local economy including the employment base.

Policy 7H-2: Work with other agencies and groups to improve the condition of the fishery resource, including habitat maintenance and enhancement, especially for habitats utilized by threatened and endangered fish species.

Policy 7H-7: Encourage growth of tourism and recreational activities and businesses that provide for diversity of the natural resource industry, provided that they comply with the countywide planning policies, and preserve the rural character of the area.

Goal 7K: Enable a geographic balance for economic growth within the capacities of the county's natural resources, natural systems, public services, and public facilities.

Policy 7K-4: Consider establishing more resource and tourism based recreational, commercial, and industrial uses to create economic opportunity in the rural areas of the county.

Goal 8D: Reduce land use conflicts between Whatcom County's agriculture and non-agricultural landowners.

Policy 8D-9: Encourage low intensity recreational activities which sustain and are compatible with agricultural uses.

Goal 8I: Ensure that forest practices avoid adverse impacts to the habitat of threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species.

Policy 8I-1: Ensure that adequate riparian buffers are maintained along rivers and streams.

Policy 8I-2: Minimize sedimentation to rivers and streams.

** Note: Policy 9A - 10N Pending approval "Recommended By Parks & Recreation Commission for Inclusion"*

Goal 9A: Address county-wide recreational needs by adequate provision of day use parks.

Policy 9A-1: Because the cities currently provide the highly developed urban parks, the County's role should be to provide rural regional parks that are centered around a unique feature or recreation opportunity.

Policy 9A-2: Because of the unique features of the site, location within the county is not too important although they must have good road access.

Policy 9A-3: Development standards will vary according to the use intended. For the intensive use park areas, all facilities and improvements should be built to a high standard and designed to be easily maintained.

Policy 9A-4: All parks must be designed to create a minimal impact upon surrounding property and to the site itself.

Policy 9A-5: Regional parks should be designed with one entrance and control point so that entrance fees can be charged.

Policy 9A-6: If possible, regional parks should be located on an existing or proposed trail route.

Policy 9A-7: The parks should be designed to accommodate a range of age groups, accessibility and interests.

Policy 9A-8: The County should only accept sites

that meet the above standards.

Goal 9B: Provide multi-use camping parks to serve county resident needs as well as provide a tourism draw.

Policy 9B-1: All the policy statements and design standards for regional parks should also apply to multi-use camping parks.

Policy 9B-2: Because camping parks will attract many non-county residents, they should be recognized for their tourism value but at the same time county residents should not subsidize the cost of camping.

Policy 9B-3: A wide variety of camping types should be offered including primitive sites, tent sites, full-service RV sites and group camping areas.

Policy 9B-4: The camping areas should be physically separated from the other parts of the park with the ability to be closed off during winter months.

Policy 9B-5: Most large camping areas should be designed to a high standard with full-service hookups, flush toilets and rest rooms, showers, laundry and other support facilities.

Policy 9B-6: Future Park development should consider the financial ability of the County, and should focus on existing park lands before considering further acquisition.

Goal 9C: Expand outdoor recreation opportunities for county residents by providing enjoyable trails for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, walking, boating, and other trail activities in a safe environment.

Policy 9C-1: Trails should be interesting and attractive. Trails which follow natural water courses, pass significant natural resources, traverse interesting scenery or cross areas of outstanding beauty provide interesting and enjoyable experiences for the trail user.

Policy 9C-2: Incorporate existing and proposed trails into a comprehensive and integrated system of looped and interconnected trails which give users a wide choice of routes and environments.

Policy 9C-3: Trails should link other recreational uses in the Foothills area and connect to

existing trail systems in the National Forest and state land.

Policy 9C-4: The wet climate of Whatcom County may preclude extensive multi-use of some trails or require seasonal limitations on their use. Trail routes should take into account soil conditions, steep slopes, surface drainage and other physical limitations that could impact the areas from over-use.

Policy 9C-5: Bicycle trails should provide opportunities for the recreational rider as well as the touring and commuter bicyclist.

Policy 9C-6: Bicycle routes and paths should minimize the conflicts between motorists and bicyclists.

Policy 9C-7: Hiking trails should have a variety of lengths and grades for the casual stroller as well as the serious hiker and when practicable, be accessible.

Policy 9C-8: Hiking trails should reach areas of natural beauty with the purpose of permitting the hiker to seek areas of solitude and get away from the built environment.

Policy 9C-9: Equestrian trails should be usable most of the year. Some equestrian trails should be close-in to the urban areas.

Policy 9C-10: Adequate parking, signage, trash receptacles, and toilet facilities should be provided at all major trailheads.

Policy 9C-11: Where public funds are used to construct or maintain dikes, levees or revetments, public access should be encouraged for trail purposes, where appropriate.

Policy 9C-12: Water trails for non-motorized boats should be identified with provisions made for parking, launching areas, and places of interest along the water route where boats can land.

Policy 9C-13: Work toward partnering with other agencies and the public to accomplish recreational goals.

Policy 9C-14: Investigate multi-solutions that will accommodate several county goals, such as recreation, water retention, and flood prevention measures, utilizing a similar piece of property.

Policy 9C-15: Sharing of corridors for major utilities, trails and other transportation rights of way is encouraged when not in conflict with goals to protect wildlife, public health and safety.

Policy 9C-16: Implement the goals, policies and recommendations of the latest Whatcom County Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan that are consistent with this plan and within the County's fiscal capabilities.

Policy 9C-17: Promote the integration of trails within subdivisions, planned unit developments and other development proposals that provide internal circulation and connect to nearby recreational opportunities.

Policy 9C-18: Acquisition of and planning for trail corridors should be encouraged as new subdivisions and development occurs, if the trail has been identified in a park, trail, open space or other plan adopted by Whatcom County.

Policy 9C-19: Continue to update the trails inventory to identify all designated and non-designated trails in the county.

Policy 9C-20: Continue to support the County's long range parks and recreation vision of developing a county-wide trail network, while respecting property rights, and working collaboratively with willing landowners to acquire easements or property for public trails when opportunities exist.

Policy 9C-21: Provide non-motorized access to regional recreational and outstanding scenic areas in the county.

Policy 9C-22: *Reduce conflicts between the various trail user groups and provide appropriate signage.*

Policy 9C-23: Provide bike lanes or wide shoulders where appropriate for trail corridor connection in conjunction with major road improvements.

Policy 9C-24: Coast Millennium Trail - Continue to develop trail corridors, particularly off-road segments such as the airport connector and shoreline access.

Policy 9C-25: Hertz North Lake Whatcom Trail

Extension - Develop and implement a plan to either acquire Rights of Way for a trail corridor along the abandoned RR R/W between the existing North Shore Trail and Blue Canyon Road or pursue an alternative route to link these points.

Policy 9C-27: Nooksack River Trail - Develop and implement a plan to acquire Rights of Way for a trail corridor and picnic areas along the Nooksack River between Ferndale and Glacier, to provide recreation opportunities, inter-community transportation and tourism development.

Policy 9C-28: Continue to collaborate with other organizations, groups, or individuals consistent with the goals identified in the Natural Heritage Plan for Whatcom County Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

Goal 9D: Provide specialized recreation areas taking advantage of unique opportunities to serve both county residents and visitors.

Policy 9D-1: Because these facilities are unique, adopt specific standards for each one individually.

Policy 9D-2: Explore need for community parks as undeveloped areas of county increase in density.

Policy 9D-3: Encourage development of sport field complexes to meet the needs of organized recreation activities, using public and private partnerships where possible.

Policy 9D-4: Promote the integration of recreational and open space opportunities in subarea planning, subdivisions and other development proposals.

Policy 9D-5: The dedication and acquisition of open space and recreation opportunities should be encouraged as new subdivisions and development occurs.

Goal 9E: Recognize the shoreline as one of Whatcom County's unique assets and provide adequate physical and visual access for present and future generations.

Policy 9E-1: As economically feasible, acquire for public use as much of the saltwater shoreline as possible. Public and private

resources should be explored to further this policy. A reasonable goal is to acquire for public access a minimum of 15% of the saltwater shoreline and adjacent tidelands in Whatcom County.

Policy 9E-2: Continue to review the Nooksack River Plan (Jones and Jones, 1973) and implement those elements which are beneficial, appropriate and economically feasible.

Policy 9E-3: Provide pedestrian, interpretative and small boat access sites for a diversity of public shoreline.

Policy 9E-4: When the County acquires property for flood storage or fish and wildlife purposes, the County should consider secondary use for park and open space purposes.

Goal 9G: Coordinate with the DNR to provide ORV opportunities.

Policy 9G-1: Recognizing that there will continue to be a demand for ORV riding, the county should continue to assess its role in the ORV program. Between the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Service, some joint solution may be possible.

Goal 9H: Encourage multi-use indoor activity centers to meet the needs of the population using public and private partnerships where possible.

Policy 9H-1: Support multi-use of the existing senior/community centers to maximize their full potential.

Policy 9H-2: Continue the cooperation between the County and the Cities and Point Roberts Park District on ownership and management of the existing senior/community centers.

Policy 9H-3: Evaluate the cost/benefit ratio of adding a multi-purpose facility on the property owned by the Parks Department at Smith and Northwest Roads to meet the expanding demand by all age groups in the Bellingham/Ferndale growth corridor.

Policy 9H-4: Expand the Plantation Rifle Range to meet the needs of citizens and law enforcement agencies.

Policy 9H-5: Acquire property for a buffer area around the Plantation Rifle Range to insure the ability to continue its use in the future.

Policy 9H-6: Continue to utilize the Roeder Home for cultural arts activities, community events and gatherings while utilizing partnerships, leased space, or creative opportunities to accommodate program expansion.

Policy 9H-7: Continue to monitor the need for additional aquatic facilities in the community, with the basic assumption that Whatcom County will not be an indoor aquatic provider in the near future.

Policy 9H-8: Continue to search for partnerships with other public agencies and private groups in providing recreation facilities such as golf facilities, camping, and resort centers.

Policy 9H-9: Expand the partnership concept to incorporate school buildings and other public or private facilities which can accommodate meetings and recreational functions.

Goal 9I: As economically feasible, continue to implement the Whatcom County Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space (CPROS Plan) goals and policies through adoption of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Policy 9I-1: Continue to monitor park and recreation service needs throughout the county and encourage others to provide the identified service needs.

Policy 9I-2: Develop facilities and areas that will be particularly attractive to Whatcom County residents.

Policy 9I-3: Develop and maintain facilities at a high standard. These standards should be established in accordance with the Whatcom County Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space (CPROS Plan) and the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 9I-4: Design and develop recreation facilities for low maintenance.

Policy 9I-5: In keeping with policies in other chapters of this plan, consider strategies for ensuring the provision of community parks

in accordance with appropriate standards. In the residential UGAs not associated with cities and in Rural Communities mechanisms are needed for acquisition, development and subsequent maintenance and operations. Community Associations and Park Districts are options to be explored.

Policy 9I-6: Continue to plan for full utilization of existing senior/community centers and explore partnerships to help absorb future need.

Policy 9I-7: Continue to identify and develop major planning initiatives identified in the CPROS Plan.

Policy 9I-8: Develop strategies to acquire land currently leased for the Plantation Rifle Range and a buffer around the rifle range

Policy 9I-9: Galbraith/Lookout Mt. - Develop and implement a plan to acquire Rights of Way for trail corridors and purchase of additional park acreage, along with pursuit of formal usage agreements with private land owners, to preserve the recreational value for residents and tourists.

Policy 9I-10: Stewart Mt. - Negotiate with current landowner to obtain formal usage agreements for access to logging trails, to open public access corridors between Lake Whatcom recreation areas and the South Fork Valley.

Goal 9J: Develop a stronger financial base for recreational services.

Policy 9J-1: Design future recreation facilities and areas with the ability to charge user fees.

Policy 9J-2: Explore new innovative methods of financing facility development, maintenance, and operating needs.

Policy 9J-3: Consider joint ventures with private clubs, public agencies, commercial operations and other groups to build and maintain facilities.

Policy 9J-4: Seek to design and develop facilities that will encourage tourism.

Policy 9J-5: Consider the establishment of park impact fees based on the Growth Management Act.



The following 2008 adopted Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan goals, objectives and actions have been updated and revised for this plan:

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES REVISED

Whatcom County has undertaken a modified strategic approach to regional or countywide services where Whatcom County assumes responsibility for functions no other agency or organization can provide, and helps coordinate or support those functions and activities that have other viable sponsors and partners. For example:

Coordinating activities:

Whatcom County provides central information and coordination services for open space, trail, park facilities and recreational programs on a countywide basis.

Planning and development assistance:

Whatcom County will provide planning and development assistance when:

- there are no other designated agencies or organization who can,
- the activity involves siting controversies or environmental consequences that may not be equitably resolved otherwise within the Whatcom County urban growth or community planning areas, or
- proposed developments will be within city urban growth areas and thus potentially annexed into corporate limits but currently subject to Whatcom County authority.

Development, operation and maintenance:

Whatcom County will develop, operate and maintain open space, trails, or park facilities and recreational programs when:

- the facility will have broad benefits for a large proportion of the countywide population and financed using resident approved methods,
- facility development and operating costs will be recaptured from direct charges of the populations who use the facility, or
- facility development and operating costs will be compensated in some manner through inter-local agreements with the using agency, area or benefiting user group, particularly where the demands will originate from a regional service requirement, or
- the facility will generate economic benefits for the area, or
- the site or facility has intrinsic value apart from traditional operation and maintenance needs, like a passive natural area or wetland preservation.

The following goals and objectives are based on a strategic approach to regional or countywide services, an analysis of existing open space, trail, park, and recreation conditions, and the results of workshop planning sessions and surveys.

PRESERVES AND OPEN SPACE

Goal:

Provide protection for a diversified system of significant and critical habitats and environmental areas that protect threaten species, watersheds, migration corridors, forestlands, tidelands, open spaces and scenic areas.

Objectives:

Assume a major responsibility for the planning, coordination, and preservation of unique environmental areas, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, open spaces, agricultural lands, forestlands, and scenic areas.

Work with all other public and private agencies, particularly the cities, Port of Bellingham, Washington State Departments of Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Transportation, and Whatcom County and Lummi Island Land Trusts, among others, to create an effective approach to the following regional conservation issues and proposals.

Wildlife habitat

- a: Identify and conserve critical wildlife habitat including nesting sites, foraging areas, and migration corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces, and the developing urban areas – such as the Terrell Creek Heron Colony and Tennant Lake Wildlife Area.
- b: Preserve sensitive habitat sites that support threatened species and urban wildlife habitat - including the saltwater shorelines of Birch, Lummi and Bellingham Bays, Drayton Harbor, and Chuckanut Bay, and the freshwater shorelines of Silver Lake, Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish, and the Nooksack and Lummi Rivers.

Natural areas

- a: Preserve and protect significant environmental features including unique wetlands, open spaces, woodlands, shorelines, waterfronts and other characteristics that support wildlife and reflect Whatcom County's resource heritage – especially including the valleys of the North, Middle, and South Forks of the Nooksack River.
- b: Provide public access to environmentally sensitive areas and sites that are especially unique to Whatcom County – especially including Drayton Harbor, Bellingham Bay, Chuckanut Bay, and Lummi and Portage Islands.

Forestlands

- a: Identify and protect forest resources in Whatcom County – including public and private forestlands that can provide productive timber and other wood products. Develop and utilize protective forest resource zoning districts and designations, special tax incentives, public land ownership and management, and other measures to preserve this valuable resource.
- b: Identify and conserve forest cover and the scenic attributes woodlands provide between rural and urban land uses especially including the viewsapes along the Interstate 5/Lake Samish and SR-9 corridors and between the Twin Sisters and Chuckanut Mountains (North Cascades Corridor)
- c: Identify and preserve prime examples of heritage forestlands in Whatcom County – such as the old growth forests in and around Canyon Lake Community Forest and the extensive woodlands on Chuckanut, Lookout and Stewart and Sumas Mountains.

Farmlands

- a: Identify and protect agricultural resources in Whatcom County including lands and soils that can provide productive crop, livestock, and other agricultural products. Develop and utilize protective farm resource zoning districts and designations, special tax incentives, development rights, public land ownership and management, and other measures to preserve this valuable resource.
- b: Identify and conserve farmlands and the scenic attributes agriculture provides between rural and urban land uses – especially including the rural farm landscapes in the valleys around Lynden, Sumas, and Nooksack.
- c: Identify and preserve prime examples of heritage farmsteads in Whatcom County – such as the Hovander and Nessel Farms.

Open spaces

- a: Define and establish a system of open space corridors or separators to provide definition between natural areas and urban land uses within Whatcom County's emerging urban centers especially including the Nooksack River corridor and delta, and the Interstate 5 and Lake Samish corridor.
- b: Increase natural area and open space linkages within the developing urban areas - particularly along the current and former UP, NP, BN&SF, BB&BC, and BB&E Railroad corridors.

Urban growth preserves and set-asides:

- a: Cooperate with other public and private agencies, and with private landowners to set-aside land and resources necessary to provide high quality, convenient open space, trail, and park facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development – particularly the lands around Stewart, Lookout, and Chuckanut Mountains.
- b: Preserve unique environmental features or areas in future land developments and increase public use and access. Cooperate with other public and private agencies, and with private landowners to set aside unique features or areas as publicly accessible resources – including lands adjacent to Birch Bay State Park, Semiahmoo Spit, Bellingham Airport, and Larrabee State Park.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Goal:

Assume a major responsibility for the planning, coordination, and preservation of unique archaeological, historical, cultural, scenic, and man-made places, sites, landmarks, and vistas.

Objectives:

Work with all other public and private agencies, particularly the cities, Port of Bellingham, Lummi Nation, Whatcom County and Lummi Island Land Trusts, Whatcom County and Washington State Historical Societies, among others, to create an effective approach to the following regional resource conservation issues and proposals.

Historical features and interests:

- a: Identify, preserve, and enhance Whatcom County's multicultural heritage, traditions, and cultural features including historical sites, buildings, artworks, views, and monuments within park sites and historical districts.
- b: Identify and incorporate significant historical and cultural lands, sites, artifacts, and facilities into the open space, trail, and park system to preserve these interests and provide a balanced social experience – especially including important Native American, railroad, mining, logging, and shipping sites and places of interest.
- c: Work with Washington State and Whatcom County Historical Societies, and other archaeological and cultural groups to incorporate historical and cultural activities into park developments and recreational programs.

Manmade environments and features

- a: Incorporate interesting manmade environments, structures, activities, and areas into the open space, trail, and park system to preserve these features and provide a balanced recreational experience – especially including Military Road and Guide Meridian, the UP, NP, BB&BC, BB&E Railroads and Interurban Trolley, Steamer and Mosquito Fleet landings, and sawmills and mines.
- b: Work with property and facility owners to increase public access and utilization of these special sites and features.

TRAILS, GREENWAYS AND SCENIC BYWAYS

Goal:

Plan, develop and operate a system of on and off-road regional trails. Regional trail facilities may include fresh and saltwater trails, off-road hike, bike, and horse trails, on-road bicycle touring routes and scenic drives, and cross country ski and snowmobile trails that are directly related to environmental resources that are of most interest to county residents.

Objectives:

Work with all other public and private agencies, particularly the cities, Port of Bellingham, Washington State Departments of Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Transportation, Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission, US Forest Service, and National Park Service, to develop and maintain the following integrated system of regional trails.

Water trails – non-motorized craft

- a: Incorporate and extend the Cascade Marine Trail, a saltwater trail network for hand-carry or car-top craft including canoes and kayaks, extending from British Columbia and through Puget Sound, with launch sites into Drayton Harbor, Birch, Lummi, Bellingham, and Chuckanut Bays, with access to Lummi and Portage Islands.
- b: Develop a freshwater trail network for hand-carry or car-top craft including launch sites for canoes and kayaks that extends the length of the Nooksack River from Maple Falls and Deming to Bellingham Bay, and Lake Whatcom.
- c: Designate appropriate bad weather pull ins and overnight camping locations along the major saltwater trail routes – including Lighthouse Marine Park, Semiahmoo Spit, Birch Bay State Park, Cherry Point, Lummi and Portage Islands, and Larrabee State Park, among others. Designate overnight camping locations along the major freshwater route on the Nooksack River - including Deming, Nugent's Corner River Access, Lynden, Hovander Homestead Park, among others, and along the shoreline of Lake Whatcom.
- d: Develop and operate canoe, kayak, crew, and other non-motorized craft instruction, rental, and storage facilities at major freshwater locations – including Silver and Samish Lakes and Lake Whatcom.

On-road rural and scenic byways – vehicles and bicycle touring

- a: Identify a countywide system of rural and backcountry scenic driving routes and byways that access and highlight the scenic, environmental, farmland, and historical attributes of Whatcom County – especially including Drayton Harbor and Birch Bay, Lummi Island and Bellingham Bay, Chuckanut, Lake Samish, and Lake Whatcom Drives, South Pass Road, SR-9 and the Mount Baker Highway. Integrate the countywide system with other state and federal byways through the North Cascades, Skagit and Island Counties.
- b: Develop a series of roadside rest stops, viewpoints, interpretive exhibits, and byway signage systems that integrate the scenic routes with specific historical, cultural, environmental, and scenic points of interest – such as Semiahmoo Spit in Drayton Harbor, Sandy Point in Lummi Bay, Lummi Island and Chuckanut Island in Chuckanut Bay, among others.
- c: Integrate byway routes and points of interest to access parks, public facilities, museums and historical sites, and business districts – especially in Blaine, Ferndale, Bellingham, Lynden, Nooksack, Sumas, Kendall, and the Mount Baker Highway.
- d: For bicycle touring enthusiasts, designate appropriate overnight bicycle camping locations along the major routes and byways – such as Lighthouse Marine Park, Hovander Homestead Park, Silver Lake Park, Birch Bay State Park, and Larrabee State Park, among others.
- e: Integrate continuous off-road trail corridors and local spur or loop routes with parks, public facilities, museums and historical sites, and business districts in cities.
- f: For overnight trail users, develop appropriate overnight camping locations along the major trail corridors – such as Hovander Homestead Park, Silver Lake Park, Birch Bay State Park, and Larrabee State Park, among others.
- e: Furnish off-road trails with appropriate supporting trailhead improvements that include interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water, and other services.
- f: Where appropriate, locate trailheads at or in conjunction with park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to countywide trail systems and reduce duplication of supporting improvements.
- g: Where appropriate, install telephones, emergency call boxes, or other means by which trail users can summon fire, emergency aid, police, and other safety and security personnel should the need arise.
- h: Develop trail improvements of a design and development standard that is easy to maintain and access by maintenance, security, and other appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles.

Off-road trail systems

- a: Create a comprehensive system of off road hike, bike, and horse trails that access scenic, environmental, historical, and open space attributes of Whatcom County – especially including the Nooksack River, original UP, NP, BB&BC, BB&E railroad corridors, old logging and mining roads, and where appropriate, within the road rights-of way, as well as across cooperating private properties where appropriate.
- b: Develop a series of trailheads, trailside rest stops, viewpoints, interpretive exhibits, and trail signage systems that integrate the off-road hike, bike, and horse trails with specific historical, cultural, environmental, and scenic points of interest – such as former steam boat landings, fish traps, sawmills, mining sites, farmsteads, railroads, and roads, among others.

Winter trails

- a: Designate a system of appropriate winter cross-country skiing and snowmobiling trails that access safe and secure back roads, trail corridors, parks, and public and private lands in Whatcom County – including Black Mountain Ranch, Canyon Lake, and Skookum Creek. Link the county winter trails system with the more extensive winter trails networks designated on US Forest Service and National Park Service lands in the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest and North Cascades National Park.

Off-road vehicle and ATV

- a: Identify, and when and where appropriate, provide coordination for off-road motorcycle, ATV, and 4-wheel drive vehicle riding courses, trails, and areas in Whatcom County.

REGIONAL PARKS AND WATER ACCESS

Goal:

Plan, develop, manage and operate a system of Regional Parks. These facilities may include resource-oriented activities including fishing sites, boat access ramps, swimming beaches, picnicking areas, and campgrounds that are directly related to environmental and historical resources that are of countywide interest to residents.

Objectives:

Work with all other public and private agencies, particularly the Port of Bellingham, Washington State Departments of Fish & Wildlife and Natural Resources, Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission, US Forest Service, and National Park Service, to develop and operate the following appropriate resource park facilities.

Waterfront access and facilities

- a: Acquire and develop additional salt and freshwater shoreline access for waterfront fishing, beachcombing, wading, swimming, and other related recreational activities and pursuits – especially including sites on Drayton Harbor, Birch, Lummi, and Bellingham Bays, Silver Lake, Lake Whatcom, Lake Samish, and the Nooksack River.
- b: Develop a mixture of salt and freshwater non-motorized and powerboat access opportunities – especially including additional sites and improvements to existing properties on Drayton Harbor, Lummi Island, Birch and Bellingham Bays, Lake Whatcom and Samish, and the Nooksack River.

Picnicking and day-use activities

- a: Acquire and develop additional countywide picnic sites, shelters, and day-use group picnic grounds and camps at major resource parks and along major off-road trail corridors throughout Whatcom County – especially including sites on Point Roberts, Semiahmoo Spit, Birch Bay, Cherry Point, Lummi Island, Lake Whatcom and Samish, South Pass, and at intervals along the Nooksack River including Hovander Homestead Park.

Campgrounds and retreats

- a: Acquire and develop a countywide system of tent, recreational vehicle, yurt, cabin, lodge, and retreat facilities at major resource parks and along major off-road trail corridors throughout Whatcom County – especially including sites on Point Roberts, Cherry Point, Lakes Whatcom and Samish, Acme, and at intervals along the Nooksack River.

SPECIAL USE AREAS AND FACILITIES

Goal:

Assist with the planning of special use areas such as athletic parks, community centers. These facilities may include competitive soccer, softball, and baseball, rugby and La Crosse fields, meeting and activity centers and special enterprises that are of countywide interest.

Objectives:

Help coordinate and assist other public and private agencies cities, school and park districts, nonprofits and sports leagues and commissions. Such coordination will seek to site and sponsor development of major competitive outdoor athletic facilities, centers and facilities for all age and skill groups within reasonable geographic service areas of major population centers.

Athletic fields

- a: Identify and help plan a network of sites that can be developed (such as soccer, softball, and baseball fields) that meet the highest quality competitive practice and playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests – including new possible sites at Bay Horizon Park, East Whatcom Regional Resource Center, Ferndale and Mt Baker Highway/Nooksack.

Community centers

- a: Designate a network of multipurpose community centers that can be developed to provide arts and crafts, music, video, classroom instruction, meeting facilities, eating and health care, daycare, latch key, and other spaces for all age groups including preschool, youth, teens, and seniors on a year-round basis.
- b: Support the continued development and diversification by the Whatcom County school districts and other organizations of special meeting, assembly, and other community facilities that provide general support to school age populations and the community-at-large at elementary, middle, and high schools within Whatcom County urban growth and community planning areas.

- c: Develop special outdoor cultural and performing arts facilities that enhance and expand music, dance, drama, cultural and historical interpretations, and other audience and participatory opportunities for the county-at-large – including a festival events area at Hovander Homestead Park.

Special enterprises

- a: Where appropriate and economically feasible (self-supporting), designate and support operation of specialized and special interest recreational facilities like canoe and crew houses, equestrian centers, gun ranges, historical museums and exhibits, retreats and conference centers for these interests in the general population.
- b: Where appropriate, initiate joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies to determine and provide for special activities like marinas, ATV and off-road vehicle courses, and camping on a regional basis.

RECREATIONAL AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS**Goal:**

Coordinate, assist, and when feasible, program and operate recreational and interpretive programs and outreach activities of special interest to or benefit for county residents at county park sites and community centers.

Objectives:

Coordinate, promote, and link an integrated recreational program system with other public, non-profit, and for-profit agencies, organizations, and vendors. Such programs may include athletic leagues and sports, teen and senior age groups, and special populations where these activities are of major interest and benefit to county residents of all ages.

Recreational and interpretive programs

- a: Organize and sponsor the operation of environmental, historical, cultural, and recreational programs providing instruction, volunteerism, and participation in habitat restoration, water-based recreation, trail development and security, interpretation programs, summer and day-camps, maintenance, and other site-specific activities at Whatcom County parks sites and properties.
- b: Create a central access point and clearinghouse for arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care, meeting facilities, daycare, latch key, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in Whatcom County by all agencies and vendors including the county.
- c: Designate and land bank appropriate sites, and help facilitate development agreements and clearinghouse access to user and league

organizations to operate basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, baseball, softball, and other instruction and participatory programs for all age, skill level, and income groups in Whatcom County.

- d: Assist historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits; and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs that document and develop awareness of Whatcom County's heritage at county park sites and properties.

CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS**Goal:**

Help facilitate, organize, coordinate, and selectively develop high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities at Whatcom County parks and properties.

Objectives:**Programs**

- a: Support successful collaborations between public agencies, the business community, service groups, schools, arts patrons, and artists that optimally utilize artistic resources and talents at Whatcom County parks and properties.

Artworks

- a: Where appropriate, incorporate public artworks including paintings, sculptures, exhibits, and other media for indoor and outdoor display to expand resident access and appropriately furnish public places in Whatcom County parks and properties.

DESIGN AND ACCESS STANDARDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY**Goal:**

Design and develop facilities that are accessible, safe, and sustainable with life cycle features that account for long-term costs and benefits.

Objectives:**Accessibility**

- a: Design outdoor picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, courts, fields, parking lots, restrooms, and other active and supporting facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests.
- b: Design indoor facility spaces, activity rooms, restrooms, hallways, parking lots, and other active and supporting spaces and improvements to be accessible to individuals and organized

groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests.

Maintenance

- a: Design, retrofit, and develop facilities that are of low maintenance and high capacity design to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.
- b: Where appropriate, incorporate low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements, and retain natural conditions and experiences.

Security and safety

- a: Implement the provisions and requirements of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and other design and development standards that improve park facility safety and security features for park users, department personnel, and the public-at-large.
- b: Develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that provide proper training and awareness for department personnel.
- c: Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that protect user groups, department personnel, and the general public-at large.
- d: Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, park watches, park police patrols, technology and other innovative programs that increase safety and security awareness and visibility.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND COORDINATION

Goal:

Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining Whatcom County facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

Objectives:

Finance

- a: Investigate innovative available methods, such as growth impact fees, land set-aside or fee-in-lieu-of-donation ordinances, and inter-local agreements, for the financing of facility development, maintenance, and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility services.

- b: Consider joint ventures with other public and private agencies including the cities, school districts, regional, state, federal, and other public and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires, where feasible and desirable.

Public and private resource coordination

- a: Create a comprehensive, balanced open space, trail, park, and recreation system that integrates Whatcom County facilities and services with resources available from the cities, school districts, and other regional, state, federal, and private park and recreational lands and facilities in a manner that will best serve and provide for Whatcom County resident interests.
- b: Cooperate with the cities, school districts, regional, state, and federal, and other public and private agencies to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and represent resident area interests through joint planning and development efforts.

Cost/benefit assessment

- a: Define existing and proposed land and facility levels-of-service (ELOS PLOS) that differentiate requirements due to population growth impacts versus improved facility standards, regional versus local nexus of benefit, county versus the combination of city, county, school, and other provider agency efforts in order to effectively plan and program open space, trails, parks, and recreation needs within Whatcom County.
- b: Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining open space, trail, park, and recreational facilities in manners that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private user interests - including the application of growth impact fees where new developments impact potential level-of-service (ELOS) standards inside urban growth and community planning areas.
- c: Develop and operate recreational programs that serve the broadest needs of the population recovering program and operating costs with a combination of registration fees, user fees, grants, sponsorships, donations, scholarships, volunteer efforts, and the use of general funding.
- d: Where appropriate, provide recreational programs, like equestrian centers, boating facilities, gun ranges, and retreat and conference facilities for those interested groups who are willing to finance the cost through user fees, registration fees, volunteer efforts, or other means and methods.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Goal:

Develop, train, and support a professional open space, trail, park, and recreation staff that effectively serves Whatcom County in the realization of the above listed goals and objectives.

Objectives:

Personnel

- a: Employ a diverse, well-trained work force that is motivated to achieve department and countywide goals.
- b: Encourage teamwork through communications, creativity, positive image, risk taking, sharing of resources, and cooperation toward common *goals*.
- c: Where appropriate, provide staff with education, training, technology, equipment and supplies to increase personal productivity, efficiency, and pride.

LOCAL PARKS

Goal:

Recognizing the fact that local parks such as neighborhood and Community parks are primarily the responsibility of the Cities and Park Districts, Whatcom County will continue to assist local and rural communities in the development of these park areas when resources permit.

Objectives:

- a. County will not add any neighborhood parks to it inventory.
- b. Neighborhood and Community parks in the current inventory will be transferred to the cities upon annexation.
- c. County will continue to work with rural communities and UGA's in development of community parks when community sponsorship and cost sharing for development and maintenance is a major component.



5. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department along with the 7 member Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Commission, a citizen's advisory committee over saw this planning process. The following outreach methods were used to solicit public input into this planning document.

- Random Countywide Survey: Beckwith Consulting was contracted to conduct a random survey of county households to determine satisfaction, need and priorities for park facilities, programs and funding. A total of 196 persons responded.
- Website On-line Survey: The Parks & Recreation Department's website hosted the same survey and provided an opportunity for other residents to participate and provide input. A total of 62 persons responded.
- Customer Service Survey: The Parks & Recreation Department implemented a customer service survey to assess satisfaction by park users with facilities. These were available at major park areas and passed out by staff when making contacts. 196 completed surveys were received during this period.

- Community Work Shops/Charrettes - Kulshan Environmental Services was contracted to facilitate the public visioning and assessment process. A total of eleven charrettes were held at different locations throughout the County (Bellingham, Van Zandt, Point Roberts, Birch Bay, Lynden, Ferndale, Everson, Kendall and Lummi Island). One charrette was specifically targeted at park user groups. The participants were asked to provide input into five topic areas along with any general comments, suggestions and opinions. These areas included:

- 1) Parks & Conservancy Areas,
- 2) Trails,
- 3) Programs and Activities,
- 4) Water Access and Beaches,
- 5) General.

A total of 74 persons participated.

The proposals contained within this document represent the opinions developed from these public outreach efforts along with those of the 2008 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Summary of general statements taken from all community workshops 2013

General Park Facilities

- Locate facilities within short 2-5 minute driving distance to all citizens
- A county park is needed in north central area of the County
- Need more soccer and multi-use sport fields and complexes
- Better signage is needed for marking parks and accesses
- Open road ends along shorelines to provide public park opportunities

Trails

- Consistent and better signage, design standards and trailhead amenities such as restrooms and information kiosks are needed
- Provide connectivity with other facilities and transportation networks
- Loop trails as opposed to dead ends
- Use the tops of dikes along the river (Nooksack) as trails
- Continue to work on regional trail plans (Bay to Baker, Emerald Necklace, Nooksack River)
- Designate trail uses to minimize conflicts
- Urban trail design needed on Bay to Baker route in Kendall area

Programs and activities

- Parking is a problem with large events
- Reinstigate Tennant Lake Interpretive Center programs
- Install more interpretive signage in the parks
- Disabled parking seems limited and too far from trailheads
- A need for more multi sports fields and artificial turf
- Youth and senior programs are needed in the Kendall area
- Youth activities and recreation are needed in the Birch Bay area

Water Access

- Need more public access to saltwater, tidelands, Lake Whatcom and the Nooksack River
- Use county park property on South Lake Whatcom for boating and swimming
- Boat launch needed for Lummi Island residents
- Maple Beach (Pt. Roberts) needs upland improvements such as restrooms, signage and parking

General

- Work and coordinate with other agencies providing recreational services
- Consider the economic value of parks when making decisions

2013 SURVEY RESULTS

Random Survey Sample: Surveys were completed by 196 households and reflect an accuracy of +/- 8% of the opinion of registered voters. This survey was similar to the previous survey taken in 2007 which sampled 300 households and had a +/-7%. A smaller sampling was undertaken due to limited funding but reflects the same trends and priorities as identified in the previous plan.

Existing Program Conditions

Survey respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the following activities and facilities available in Whatcom County that are provided by the county, cities, park districts, and Port on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the very lowest satisfaction and 5 is the very highest satisfaction level. Following is a rank order list reflecting the highest percent given a 4-5 or high satisfaction score.

Very high satisfaction (above 50% scoring 4-5) – survey respondents were most satisfied with hiking and walking trails (78% scored 4-5), picnic areas (67%), preservation of undeveloped natural resources, (66%), multiuse trails (65%), playgrounds (65%), athletic and play fields (62%), open space and scenic area preservation (62%).

Very low satisfaction (under 30% scoring 4-5) – conversely, survey respondents were of mixed opinions with equal or slightly higher percentages giving 1-2 score for rental of cabins and overnight lodges (18% score 4-5), geo-caching and orienteering (21%), food and vending concessions (22%).

However, significant percentages of some of these features received average or scored 3 indicating

substantial portions of the population were ok with though not highly satisfied or dissatisfied with existing conditions on a countywide basis regardless of facility sponsor.

Survey respondents were asked to rate the following methods of paying for recreation programs if it requires more money than can be budgeted from Whatcom County resources to provide future recreation programs.

A significant majority gave increasing user fees for nonresidents the highest preference (61% score 4-5) for financing future recreation programs if additional monies are required above what can be budgeted from Whatcom County resources.

Respondents were equally divided in support and opposition to using increased user fees for everyone (36%), reducing the content, variety, and duration (35%), and reducing the number of programs (34%) to maintain costs within Whatcom County resources.

A majority of respondents (58% score 1-2), however, were opposed to increasing county taxes as a means of financing any recreational program shortfalls.

Facility Priorities in General

Respondents were asked to rate the existing inventory of all parks, recreation, and open space facilities provided in Whatcom County by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, and other park providers in general on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the poor and 5 excellent.

A significant majority of all respondents gave excellent ratings (4-5) to the quantity (77%) and quality (70%) of all park, recreation, and open space facilities provided by all providers in the county.

Respondents were asked to rate the need for the following additional facilities within the county in general whether provided by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, or another park provider where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest priority.

Very high priorities (above 50% scoring 4-5) – included waterfront access and beach use sites (64% scoring 4-5), restrooms (58%), forestland conservation areas (55%), wildlife habitat, conservation, and natural areas (55%), water resources and watershed protection areas (55%).

Very low priorities (under 30% scoring 4-5) – included off-road ATV, motorcycle, and ORV parks

(9%), golf course and driving ranges (11%).

Development Plan Proposal Priorities

Under the proposed park plan, the county, cities, school districts, port, and other park providers may jointly set aside and develop wildlife and open space preservations, waterfront parks, picnic and camping facilities, trails, athletic fields, meeting facilities, and other activities within the county. Respondents were asked to rate conceptual proposals provided in graphic format.

Very high priorities (above 50% scoring 4-5) – included conservancies watershed (65%), conservancies scenic (63%), conservancies farmland (60%), conservancies forestland (60%)...

Very low priorities (under 30% scoring 4-5) – included horse trails (10%), ATV/motorcycle riding areas (11%)...

Generally, respondents gave the highest priority to conservancies and shoreline and hiking trails and the lowest priorities to specialty recreational and park interests like horse trails, ATV/motorcycles, and motorized boat launches.

The priorities generally reflect recreation participation rates where the greatest percent of the population engages in conservancy activities including shoreline and hiking trails and the smallest percents engage in specialty activities like equestrian, ATV, motorcycle, motorized boats, etc.

Therefore, countywide park facility financing proposals will be most successful where the measures implement high priority and high participation activities as opposed to specialty interests. This does not mean specialty or low participation rate activities are not provided, but rather they will need to be financed by other than countywide resources such as user fees, donations, and other means.

Joint Venture Opportunities and Partner Options

Whatcom County, like all jurisdictions in Washington State, must restructure fiscal policies to reflect recently adopted restraints on the use of property, license, and other taxes for the financing of general governmental services.

The survey outlined a number of alternative methods for delivering park, recreation, and open space facilities and programs in the county for respondent evaluation. For example, County Council could adopt some, most, or all of the following ways and methods for restructuring the way the

county delivers and finances park and recreation facilities and services depending on the results of this survey, and in some cases subsequent voter approvals.

Besides Whatcom County – cities, school districts, athletic organizations, private operators, and a variety of other public and private agencies own and operate park facilities and recreational programs within the county. Respondents were asked to rate joint venture projects with public agencies and profit and non-profit organizations.

Survey respondents were comfortable joint venturing park facility development with nonprofit organizations (51% scoring 4-5) and other public agencies (48%) but ambivalent about for-profit organizations (29%).

Likewise, survey respondents were comfortable joint venturing recreation program operations with other public agencies (58% scoring 4-5) and nonprofit organizations (55%) but ambivalent about for-profit organizations (30%).

Organizational and Financing Alternatives

County Council could institute alternative methods of organizationally managing and financing regional versus local parks, recreation, and open space improvements within the county.

Local park facilities using recreational service areas – County Council could institute a limited short-term (3-5 year) property tax levy as a means of financing the acquisition, development, and/or operation of local parks, recreation, and open space facilities and/or programs within specified areas of the county. Recreation service areas can be established for a single facility for a single benefit area, such as scenic preservation for county waterfront areas - or for multiple facilities for a specified portion of the county, such as athletic fields and indoor gymnasiums for a city or an urban growth area (UGA).

Once proposed, the county residents within each local recreation service area vote to determine whether to assess a limited short term property tax increment to finance acquisition, development, and/or operation of the proposed facilities and programs within the proposed local service area. Respondents were asked to rate these alternatives.

Survey respondents were ambivalent to opposed to using recreation service areas for specific facilities (25% scoring 4-5) or specific areas (23%).

Survey respondents were asked to indicate the

amount per year they would be willing to pay to fund local facilities and programs

The results varied from \$0 to \$1,200 per household per year where 104 or 56% of the respondents provided an answer. The median amount or middle number of the range would be about \$100 –though an accurate response would depend on surveying a specific proposal for a specific facility or program for a specific area.

Real Estate Excise and Fuel Tax, and License Fee Options

Survey respondents were advised that subject to voter approval, County Council could institute a variety of optional fees and taxes to be used instead of or in addition to the regional/local organizational financing approaches defined in the above (as a way of reducing the use of property taxes for park financing). Survey respondents were asked to rate each fee or license option which included local option sales tax, real estate excise tax, local option vehicle license fee and local option fuel tax.

In principal and without specific facility or program proposals, survey respondents were opposed to all of the options giving all of them less than a 30% score 4-5 and at least a 49% score 1-2.

General Obligation Bond Options

Survey respondents were advised that subject to voter approval, County Council could also propose a variety of optional bonds as a means of financing parks, recreation, and open space improvements for specific projects. This option could be used instead of or in addition to the options defined in the above. Survey respondents were asked to rate the following.

General obligation bond - County Council could submit a general obligation bond for voter approval to finance acquisition and development of specific parks, recreation, and open space improvements. The bond, which cannot be used to finance operation and maintenance, would be financed over a 20-year period.

Like the previous question on local park facility and program levies, the results varied from \$0 to \$1,200 per household per year where 102 or 55% of the respondents provided an answer. The median amount or middle number of the range would be about \$100, though an accurate response would depend on surveying a specific proposal for a specific facility or program on a countywide basis.

Population Growth Impact Management Options

Survey respondents were advised that in the

next 20 years the county population is projected to increase by another 61,840 people or 23% more than the existing population of 203,500 persons. They were asked if the existing park and recreation facilities within the county, cities, and school districts will be enough to provide for this population increase.

The majority of the respondents 63% felt that there would not be enough to provide for this population increase with 37% responding that there would be an adequate inventory.

The existing inventory of county parks and recreational facilities is estimated to be worth about \$900 per person or \$2,000 for an average single family house. This amount is the cost required for additional park facilities for new housing residents if the county is to maintain the same standards for parks, recreation, and open space facilities that are currently provided existing residents.

Given this fact, survey respondents were asked to rate three growth management financing options for dealing with the impact of new population growth on parks and the methods existing residents may use to finance park improvements.

A majority of the survey respondents would impose a one-time impact fee from new housing developments (63% score 4-5) while clear majorities would oppose increasing county taxes (54% score 1-2) or lowering standards (59%).

When asked how much to charge, 48% of the survey respondents would charge above 50% of current value or \$1,000 per single family house and 51% would charge below \$1,000.

2013 WEBSITE SURVEY

The Parks & Recreation Department website hosted the same survey used in the random survey. Results general tracked the same as the random survey with the following exceptions noted:

- Participants were slightly younger in age with greater representation in the 25-64 age group and fewer in the 65+ range.
- Respondents were generally not as satisfied with interpretive programs, picnic and camping areas, trails, athletic courts, and accessibility accommodations.
- Respondents were less supportive of reducing programs to pay for them and more supportive of using user fees and tax increases.
- Respondents were less satisfied with the

quantity and quality of existing park facilities

- More interested in car top and hand carry launch sites
- Respondents indicated a greater need for horse, hiking and multipurpose trails
- Did not rate the need for athletic fields as high as the random survey respondents
- Rated the need for activity and teen centers higher than the random survey respondents
- Did not rate farmland conservancy as high
- Respondents were more supportive of working with nonprofit organizations
- Respondents were more supportive of using real estate excise tax, local vehicle tax and local option sales tax to pay for parks and recreation
- Supported the maximum and minimum amount of impact fees in greater numbers

CUSTOMER SERVICE SURVEY

During the summer of 2013 the Parks & Recreation Department instituted a customer service survey at major park use areas. This on-going survey was intended to help gauge the satisfaction of park users with facilities and customer service. The following are the results of the 2015 returned surveys received.

Appearance over all 90% good, 5% fair 3% poor

Cleanliness 90% good, 6% fair, 7% poor

Condition 92% good, 3% fair, 5% poor

Overall visit 78% great, 16% good, 6% fair, 0% poor



Tennant Lake Interpretive Center

6. DEMAND AND NEED ANALYSIS

Park, recreation, and open space land and facility demands can be estimated using a variety of methods including population ratios, participation models, level-of-service (LOS) measurements, and/or questionnaire survey methodologies. This plan utilized a variety of methods to help determine demand and need.

Adopted Level of Service (LOS)

Whatcom County approved minimum levels of service standards in 1997 for parks, trails and activity centers. This was a joint effort between the Planning and the Parks & Recreation Departments and these standards were adopted in the County's Comprehensive Plan. Levels of service (LOS) are quantifiable measures of the amount of public facilities that are provided to the community. These are often expressed on a per capita basis. LOS has traditionally been used as a planning tool to compare a local community's facilities against other communities, agencies and national standards. Typically, a standard LOS is calculated for each type of facility such as the number of parks or acres per 1,000 residents. The practice of quantifying local

LOS to a national standard has not proven to be beneficial or justifiable as each community's vision, values and needs are different. The challenge of just using LOS for Parks is that it does not identify the quality of the service or facility, satisfaction of the residents with the facility or capacity and use issues.

The current LOS calculation used by the County combines athletic facilities, regional, community and neighborhood parks, developed water accesses, greenway/trail sites and preserves and open space that have parking, restrooms, trails and other developed amenities as representing developed parks. The LOS measurement is expressed in acres per capita.

All trails including multi use, hiking, mountain biking and equestrian are combined for the trail inventory.

Senior centers, rifle range, East Whatcom Regional Resource Center, Roeder Home and community halls are combined for a total count of activity centers.

In the adopting the current levels of LOS, the county did not define the type of trail or what constituted a developed park. The Plantation

Rifle Range, Roeder Home and senior centers are combined in the activity center count though they clearly serve different constituencies and demands. It is recommended that the current adopted LOS standards be reviewed and revised for the County's 2016 Comprehensive Plan update.

Current LOS based on Adopted Standards

2012 Population: 205,262

(Office of Financial Management - 2014)

Trails $(205.26 \times .60 = 123.16 \text{ miles of trails})$

Current inventory miles of trails: 63.17 miles

Activity Centers $(2.71 \times 5 = 10.25 \text{ activity Centers})$

Current inventory activity centers: 13 activity centers

Based on existing inventory and population, Whatcom County is currently meeting its minimum level of service for developed parks and activity centers. It currently has a trail deficit of

approximately 60 miles.

Whatcom County will continue to meet its LOS for developed parks over the next 20 years. Near the end of this twenty year time span an additional activity center will be required as population increases to 271,142. A total of 162.68 miles of trails will be required adding an additional 39.52 miles to the County's current 60 mile trail deficit.

It should be noted that typically, service levels are not applied to water accesses, preserves and open space lands and greenways.

The 2008 PROS plan provided LOS calculations for various types of park and recreation facilities. These were based somewhat on standards and studies done by the National Park and Recreation Association and the Recreation and Conservation Office in the late 1980's and early 1990's. These are listed for informational purposes only.

	1997	2015
Developed Parks	9.6 acres per 1,000 population	9.6 acres / 1,000 population
Trails	.75 miles per 1,000 population	.60 miles / 1,000 population
Activity Center	6 / 100,000 population	5 / 100,000 population

	Developed Parks ($205.26 \times 9.6 = 1,970.50$ acres)	Current inventory developed parks (in acres):
Regional Parks		12,480.50
Community Parks		23.5
Neighborhood		8.1
Preserve/Open Space		2,963.70
Greenway		108.2
Water Access		288.4
Special Use Areas		135.8
Total		16,008.10

Total Park Lands	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Acres of park Land			6716.1	26124.1	15138
Ratio Per 1,000**	34.45	Na	37.42	145.54	174.22
Preserves and Open Space	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Acres of park Land			5407.8	22513	14042
Ratio Per 1,000**	10	Na	30.13	125.42	154.35
Regional Parks	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Acres of park Land			952.4	2388.1	259
Ratio Per 1,000**	16.5	Na	5.31	13.3	11.18
Linear Trails	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Acres of park Land			120.3	363.2	813
Ratio Per 1,000**	4.85	Na	0.67	2.02	4.97
Linear Trails	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Acres of park Land			120.3	363.2	813
Ratio Per 1,000**	4.85	Na	0.67	2.02	4.97
Athletic and Sports Fields	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Acres of park Land			50	464	20
Ratio Per 1,000**	3.1	Na	0.28	2.58	2.04
Recreation Centers/ Pools	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Acres of park Land			3	5.4	4
Ratio Per 1,000**	Na	Na	0.02	0.03	0.04
Special Use Facilities	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Acres of park Land			178.1	385.9	0
Ratio Per 1,000**	Na	Na	0.99	2.15	1.63
Support Facilities	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Acres of park Land			4.5	Na	0
Ratio Per 1,000**	Na	Na	0.03	Na	0.02
Waterfront Access	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Waterfront - freshwater			58,067	73,690	7,500
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	323.49	410.53	342.81
Waterfront - saltwater			12,978	91,573	12,000
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	72.3	510.16	437.32

*expressed in linear feet

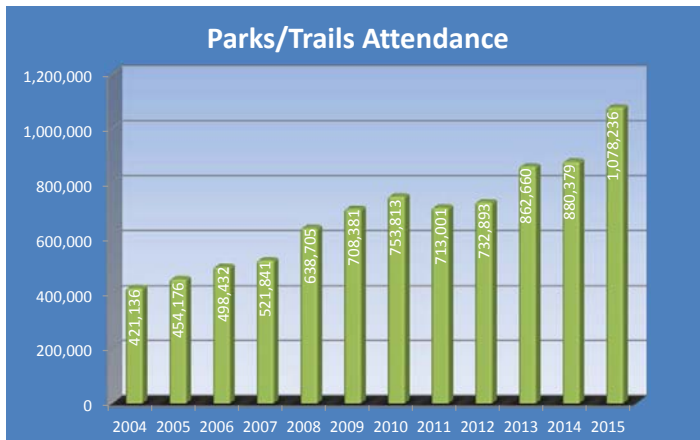
Kayak Launch Sites	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Kayak - freshwater			14	32	10
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.08	0.18	0.18
Kayak - saltwater			7	32	17
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.04	0.18	0.21
Boating Facilities	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Boat ramps-freshwater			3	9	6
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.02	0.05	0.06
Boat ramps-saltwater			2	12	7
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.01	0.07	0.08
Moorage slips			1	4,350	2,245
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0	24	28
Picnic Facilities	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Picnic tables			49	537	150
Ratio per 1,000	Na	1.77	0.27	2.99	2.9
Picnic shelters			24	52	14
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.13	0.29	0.28
Tent and Vehicle Camping	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Tent/RV campsites			0	211	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	1.28	0	1.18	0.89
Vehicle campsites			154	200	220
Ratio per 1,000	Na	2	0.86	1.11	1.77
Multipurpose Trails	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Multipurpose trail miles			30.8	42.9	268.4
Ratio per 1,000	0.5	0.13	0.17	0.23	1.32
Walking & Hiking Trails	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Park trail miles			9	14	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	0.14	0.05	0.08	0.05
Day-hiking trail miles			0	97	112
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0	0.54	0.88
Shoreline trail miles			7	35	26
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.04	0.2	0.26
Boardwalk trail miles			3	3	1
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.02	0.02	0.02

On Road Bicycle Routes	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Road shoulder miles			30	47	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	0.03	0.17	0.26	0.2
Shoulder/in-lane marked miles			0	0	325
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0	0	1.37
Off Road Bicycle Routes	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Off-road park trails			0	23	0
Ratio per 1,000	0.5	0.3	0	0.13	0.1
Off-road day-bike miles			16	26	137
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.09	0.14	0.69
Horse Trails	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Trail miles in parks			2	14	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	0.11	0.01	0.08	0.06
Day-ride trail miles			4	6	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.02	0.03	0.02
Backcountry trail miles			18	23	153
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.1	0.13	0.74
Playgrounds & Courts	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Playgrounds	Na	Na	5	20	7
Basketball courts	Na	Na	0	43	0
Volleyball courts - sand	Na	Na	0	1	10
Soccer Fields	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Soccer fields - youth/adult			12	53	31
Ratio per 1,000	0.1	0.29	0.07	0.29	0.38
Baseball/Softball Fields	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Baseball/softball-youth			5	18	3
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.03	0.1	0.09
Baseball/softball-adult			0	81	23
Ratio per 1,000	0.4	0.49	0	0.45	0.43
Indoor Gymnasium	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Gymnasium sq ft			10,000	382,368	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	55.71	2130.18	1614.48
Physical condition sq ft			0	16,536	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0	92.12	69.82

Indoor Activity Space	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Arts and crafts sq ft			1,000	10,600	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	5.57	59.05	44.76
Lodge/meeting room sq ft			14,700	43,428	14,000
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	81.89	241.94	242.48
Senior Centers	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Senior center sq ft			53,740	56,920	30,000
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	299.39	317.1	367
Museums / Interpretive Ct	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Museum sq ft			43,475	82,475	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	242.2	459.47	348.24
Interpretive center sq ft			7,888	11,288	1,400
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	43.94	62.89	53.57
Gun Ranges	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Indoor gun range sq ft			11,200	11,200	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	62.4	62.4	47.29
Outdoor gun targets			39	39	0
Ratio per 1,000	0.02	0.06	0.22	0.22	0.16
Archery range targets			0	0	0
Ratio per 1,000	0.02	0.06	0	0	0
Support Facilities	Standards		Existing Supply		Rcmd*
	NRPA	IAC	WhtcmCo	All total	Add/std
Admin sq ft			4,624	12,624	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	25.76	70.33	53.3
Maintenance sq ft			18,835	Na	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	104.93	Na	79.53
Shop/nursery yard sq ft			2	Na	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.01	Na	0.01
Caretaker house sq ft			19,976	Na	6,000
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	111.29	Na	109.68
Concession stand sq ft			800	1,200	0
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	4.46	6.69	5.07
Restroom fixtures-each			64	160	108
Ratio per 1,000	Na	Na	0.36	0.89	1.13

Use

Park use is tracked at most major trailheads and park areas. A variety of methods are used including car and trail counters, daily staff estimates, reservation data and spot counts. This information is used by staff for planning and reporting purposes and to help inform management decisions. User counts are helpful in determining the demand and capacity of park facilities and staff. Taken over time, they can show user trends and reflect responses to conditions and improvements.



Recommendations and Needs

The following needs have been determined through a combination of the above processes which included public participation in planning charrettes, community, web-based and customer surveys, staff and stakeholder input, public comment and past planning efforts. In general, Whatcom County is meeting the recreational needs of its residents through the provision of local, county, state and federal parks.

Major Needs and Improvements Identified

Site Specific Improvements

Bay Horizon Park

- Multi-use play fields
- Multi use trail interior loop to connect with Bay Crest Trail
- New restroom

Bay to Baker Trail

- Continue upgrades for year round use (Maple Falls to Glacier segment)

Canyon Lake Community Forest

- Restore road access and way finding signage

Chuckanut Mountain / Pine & Cedar Lakes

- Improve trail way finding signage
- Replace boardwalks at Pine and Cedar Lakes
- Improve trails for mountain biking

Dittrich Park

- Develop park master plan

Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan 2016
Demand and Need Analysis

East Whatcom Regional Resource Center

- Develop multipurpose athletic fields
- Develop covered sports court

Galbraith Mountain

- Create skills area
- Develop parking area and restroom facility

Hovander Homestead Park

- Install new restrooms in park and boat launch area
- Landscape and surface boat launch area
- Plant perimeter buffers to screen developments
- Install open shelters in picnic areas
- Road improvements and parking lots
- Renovate main park entrance to improve traffic flow
- Demolish storage barn and replace with new facility and/or repurpose area
- Replace walkways and irrigation in Fragrance Garden
- Remodel Tennant Lake Interpretive Center for multi-use
- Renovate animal contact area for accessibility and
- Convert milk house to concession area
- Install plaza in barn area
- Revise park master plan to include event staging, picnic areas and traffic control

Lake Whatcom Park

- Create day use areas, open shelter and restroom
- Expanded existing and create new parking areas
- Develop trails system and overlooks on new acquisition
- Install boat docks
- Update master plan and develop forest management plan
- Install additional restrooms along shore and replace and enlarge existing restroom building

Lighthouse Marine Park

- Replace boardwalk
- Complete walking path along shore and roadway
- Lighthouse multi use room and observation area
- Replace playground
- Restore dunes

Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve

- Develop trails system and overlooks on new acquisition
- Develop forest management plan

- Surface parking lot

Maple Creek Park

- Develop park master plan
- Develop trailhead with restrooms and parking
- Bridge and trail improvements

Maple Falls Community Park

- Develop trailhead with restrooms and parking
- Develop play areas, walkways and trails

Northwest Soccer Park

- Install artificial turf and lighted fields

Plantation Rifle Range

- Replace aging HVAC system for indoor range
- Replace rods on indoor range

Samish Park

- Replace playground
- Parking improvements

Semiahmoo Park

- Renovate restroom building for concessions
- Repair/resurface multi-use trail

Silver Lake Park

- Reconstruct and surface roadways throughout park
- Install new restrooms/shower - Equestrian Camp/Cabins
- Renovate cabins 2,3,4,5,6 and install restrooms
- Renovate beach picnic area, walk and volley ball areas
- Renovate campsites to improve accessibility and function
- Upgrade power and RV pedestals in campgrounds
- Replace lagoon bridge
- Install directional signage on trails and roads
- Install play areas in campgrounds
- Renovate concession area in day lodge
- Install contact station
- Construct wood shed

South Fork Park

- Implement master plan to include trailhead, trails and restrooms
- Restore Nessel Farm Buildings

South Lake Whatcom

- Develop park master plan
- Link south park area by trail and add restrooms

Warnick Bridge Access

- Develop parking and shore access

Non-Site Specific Improvements

1. Maintain and improve existing facilities parks and trails
2. Provide more and better restrooms throughout the parks system
3. Provide better road, way finding and trail signage throughout parks system
4. Complete planning and trail development inconveyance areas
5. Provide better trail connectivity for non-motorized access (existing parks, trails and communities)
6. Provide activities, play fields and facilities for youth in East County
7. Continue efforts working with community partners to develop major multi-use trails
8. Provide shore access using road ends and key parcels on Lummi Island and Birch Bay
9. Improve accessibility at existing parks and trails and provide less strenuous activities for older adults
10. Develop park properties for public use on South shore of Lake Whatcom
11. Provide more opportunities for Mountain Biking within the parks system
12. Provide better bike rack accommodations

Major Planning Initiatives

1. Dittrich Park Master Plan
2. Hovander Homestead Park Master Plan-Revision
3. Lake Whatcom Park Master Plan-Revision
4. Lake Whatcom Forest Management Plan
5. South Lake Whatcom Park Master Plan
6. Comprehensive Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan 2020
7. Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan (Recreation) 2016
8. Maple Creek Park Master Plan

DEPARTMENT WORK PLAN
MASTER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS LIST

2/7/2014

PARK FACILITY	PROJECT	SCOPE	FUNDING SOURCE
Bay Horizon Park	Development	Playfields, multi-use trail	Grants, REET II, NW Park District, Donation
Bay to Baker Trail-Maple Falls to Glacier segment	Develop trailhead	Develop trailhead and trail to include parking and restrooms	REET II, Grants, Donation
Chuckanut Mtn. Park	Samish Park connector trail	Develop 2.7 mile trail between Samish and Chuckanut Parks	Grants, Donation
East Whatcom Regional Resource Center	Day use improvements	Construct play fields and covered court	REET II, Donation
Ferndale Senior Center	Building	Replace Roof	
Headquarters Complex	Service Building	Electrical service upgrade & shop floor	REET II
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Day use area	Construct 3 picnic shelters	REET II
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Contact area	Improve accessibility, pens and features	Donation
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Hovander Home, Tennant Lake Interpretive Center	Replace Roofs	REET II
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Parking Lot Improvements	Surface / construct parking lots and improve access roads	REET II, Grants
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Maintenance building	Construct shop/equipment storage building	REET II
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Interpretive Center	Remodel interior for Multi-use	REET II, Grants, Donations
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Bridge	Replace bridge over slough between Tennant Lk & Animal Contact Area	REET II
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Renovate drying shed	Replace roof and siding	REET II
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	New restroom building	Remove machine shed and install restrooms	REET II
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Fragrance Garden Walk & Irrigation	Replace walk and irrigation system	REET II, Donations
Lake Whatcom Park	Hertz Trail Bridges	Construct two vehicle accessible bridges at Hertz Trail	
Lake Whatcom Park	Parking & day-use improvements	Surfacing and drainage improvements, Day-Use area, shelter, restroom	REET II, Grants
Lake Whatcom Park	Trail, overlook, campsite development	Develop 24 miles of hiking trail	REET II, Grants, Donation
Lake Whatcom Park	Restrooms	Replace trailhead restroom	REET II, Grants
Lake Whatcom Park	Mooring Dock	Construct small boat docks	REET II, Grants
Lake Whatcom	Hertz Trail Expansion	1 mile multi-use trail	REET II, Grants
Lighthouse Marine Park	Playground	Replace playground	Grants, REET II
Lighthouse Marine Park	Walkway improvements	Surface, widen and connect 0.5 mile walkway for accessibility	REET II, Grants
Lighthouse Marine Park	Boardwalk	Replace boardwalk	REET II, Grants, Donations
Lighthouse Marine Park	Observation deck	Construct observation deck or building	Donation
Lookout Mountain	Trail development	Construct 30 miles of trail	Donation and grant
Maple Creek Park	Bridge	Install bridge at creek	REET II
Northwest Annex	Walking Trail	Surface 1.0 mile trail	REET II
Plantation Rifle Range	HVAC Replacement	Replace HVAC	REET I, Grant
Park shop	Shop improvements	Floor/electrical imp.	REET I or II
Samish Park	Replace playground and beach improvements	Replace playground and beach improvements	REET II, Grants, Donation
Samish Park	Rental house improvements; SCOPE	Repair rotted wall and pitch roof	REET II
Semiahmoo Park	Renovate storage building for concession	Electrical , plumbing & fixture improvements	REET II
Silver Lake Park	Lagoon Bridge walk replacement	Replacement of 300' of boardwalk	REET II
Silver Lake Park	Beach and picnic area improvements	Filtration wall, walkway, sand volleyball	REET II
Silver Lake Park	Renovate cabins: scope each one	Renovate cabins, indoor plumbing, flooring & insulation	REET II
Silver Lake Park	Shower / restroom building main campground	Construct new shower and restroom building in campground	REET II
Silver Lake Park	Restroom & Shower building at equestrian camp	Replace restroom in equestrian campground	REET II
Silver Lake Park	Upgrade campground	Install new electrical service, pads, road surfacing, water and walkways.	REET II
Silver Lake Park	Repair and surface roads	Widen and surface roadways throughout the park	REETII
Silver Lake Park	Replace residence garage	Replace garage at residence	REET II
Silver Lake Park	Campground playgrounds	Install playgrounds in 2 campgrounds	REET II
South Fork Park	Trail development	Construct 4.25 mile multi use trail	REET II, Grants
South Fork Park	Restore Nessel Farm buildings	Restore historic building	Donation, Nessel Foundation
South Fork Park	Nessel Farm Restroom & Bridge replacement	Install new public restroom and replace bridge @ Nessel Creek	Donation, Nessel Foundation
South Fork Park	Develop vehicle access and trailhead amenities	Construct access road, parking, restrooms and landscaping	REET II, Grants, Park Improvement Fund
Sunnyside Landing	Trail development	Construct 700 feet of multiuse trail and convert trestle	REET II
Sunnyside Landing	Day use area	Construct picnic/rest area	REET II, Grants, Donation
Sunset Farm	Trail development	Improve 0.5 mile trail and connect to community trail system	REET II, Grants, Donation

DEPARTMENT WORK PLAN
MASTER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS LIST

2/7/2014

PARK FACILITY	TYPE OF IMPROVEMENT	Project Budget	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	NOT SCHEDULED	TOTAL
Bay Horizon Park	New	\$385,000							X	\$385,000
Bay to Baker Trail-Maple Falls to Glacier segment	New	\$275,000							X	\$275,000
Chuckanut Mtn. Park	New	\$20,000							X	\$20,000
East Whatcom Regional Resource Center	New	\$160,000							X	\$160,000
Ferndale Senior Center		\$15,000							X	\$15,000
Headquarters Complex	New	\$150,000							X	\$150,000
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake		\$126,000			\$42,000		\$42,000	\$42,000		\$0
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Replacement	\$75,000		\$75,000						\$0
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Replacement	\$85,000	\$65,000	\$20,000						\$0
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	New	\$625,000							X	\$625,000
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	New	\$125,000							X	\$125,000
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Replacement	\$50,000		\$50,000						\$0
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Replacement	\$100,000							X	\$100,000
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Replacement	\$15,000	\$15,000							\$0
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	New	\$225,000				\$225,000				\$0
Hovander Park - Tennant Lake	Replacement	\$25,000	\$25,000							
Lake Whatcom Park	New	\$350,000							X	\$350,000
Lake Whatcom Park	New	\$320,000	\$100,000		\$220,000					\$0
Lake Whatcom Park	New	\$900,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000		\$780,000
Lake Whatcom Park	New	\$75,000							X	\$75,000
Lake Whatcom Park	New	\$100,000							X	\$100,000
Lake Whatcom	New	\$117,000							X	\$117,000
Lighthouse Marine Park	Replacement	\$135,000	\$135,000							\$0
Lighthouse Marine Park	Replacement	\$30,000		\$30,000						\$0
Lighthouse Marine Park	Replacement	\$150,000							X	\$150,000
Lighthouse Marine Park	New	\$250,000							X	\$250,000
Lookout Mountain	New	\$500,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000		\$380,000
Maple Creek Park	New	\$100,000							X	\$100,000
Northwest Annex	New	\$140,000							X	\$140,000
Plantation Rifle Range	Replacement	\$250,000	\$250,000							\$0
Park shop	Improvement	\$65,000							X	\$65,000
Samish Park	Replacement	\$60,000	\$60,000							\$0
Samish Park	Replacement	\$45,000							X	\$45,000
Semiahmoo Park	New	\$25,000	\$25,000							\$0
Silver Lake Park	Replacement	\$150,000							X	\$150,000
Silver Lake Park	Replacement	\$40,000	\$40,000							\$0
Silver Lake Park	Replacement	\$225,000		\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000		\$0
Silver Lake Park	New	\$325,000							X	\$325,000
Silver Lake Park	New	\$325,000								\$325,000
Silver Lake Park	Replacement	\$352,500							X	\$352,500
Silver Lake Park	Replacement	\$500,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$200,000					\$0
Silver Lake Park	Replacement	\$30,000		\$30,000						\$0
Silver Lake Park	New	\$60,000							X	\$60,000
South Fork Park	New	\$350,000	\$175,000	\$175,000						\$0
South Fork Park	Replacement	\$125,000	\$125,000							\$0
South Fork Park	New	\$150,000							X	\$150,000
South Fork Park	New	\$275,000	\$175,000	\$100,000						\$0
Sunnyside Landing	New	\$243,000							X	\$243,000
Sunnyside Landing	New	\$25,000							X	\$25,000
Sunset Farm	New	\$33,000							X	\$33,000
		Yearly Total=	\$1,380,000	\$715,000	\$547,000	\$310,000	\$127,000	\$127,000		\$6,070,500

Major Acquisitions Identified

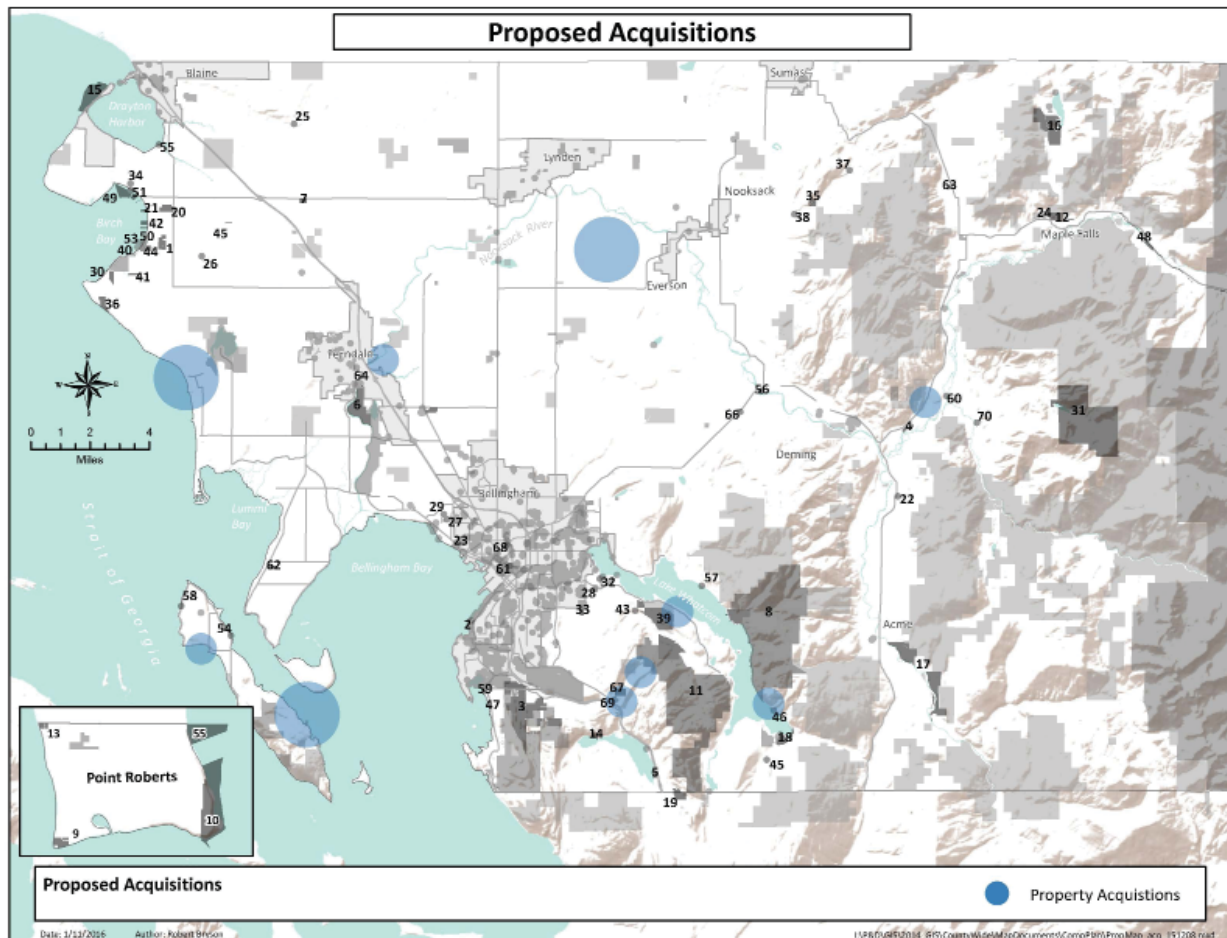
1. Acquire remaining 14 acres at South end of Hertz Trail to link with Blue Canyon Road
2. Provide more public access to fresh and saltwater, Nooksack River and area beaches
3. Acquire critical habitats, watersheds and historical sites of special concern to the County
4. Acquire a small boat launch access on Lummi Island
5. Acquire a waterfront restroom and parking area for beach access at Birch Bay
6. Acquire public trail easements on Lookout / Galbraith Mountain
7. Acquire a regional park in the north central area of the County
8. Acquire Plantation Rifle Range property and buffer area
9. Acquire public trail easements/trailheads for Bay to Baker, Nooksack, Nooksack Loop and

Coast Millennium Trails

10. Acquire easements for key connectors on existing trail systems
11. Acquire additional trailhead accesses
12. Acquire public access at Cherry Point
13. Acquire DNR commercial property adjoining Stimpson Family Nature Reserve
14. Acquire DNR property or public easement on Nooksack River for a designated raft take out area-Maple Falls
15. Acquire main parking lot at Bellingham Senior Activity Center
16. Acquire Governor's Point
17. Acquire closed WA DOT wayside site SR542

Assistance with Local and Community Park Initiatives

Whatcom County Parks and Recreation will provide assistance as resources permit.



Columbia Valley Community Trail

- Assist community in acquisition of property to provide community trails

purpose observation building at Lighthouse Marine Park

- Develop restrooms and parking near Maple Beach

Maple Falls

- Assist community planning efforts and acquisition of elementary school site from the Mt. Baker School District for development of a community park and trailhead for the Maple Falls to Glacier segment of the Bay to Baker Trail

City of Ferndale

- Assist the City of Ferndale in the acquisition of Riverplace Park for expanded sports fields

Community Trails Efforts- as resources permit, assist communities, districts and local efforts to acquire and develop the following trail corridors

Birch Bay

- Assist community in acquisition and development of beach access for development of public restrooms and parking

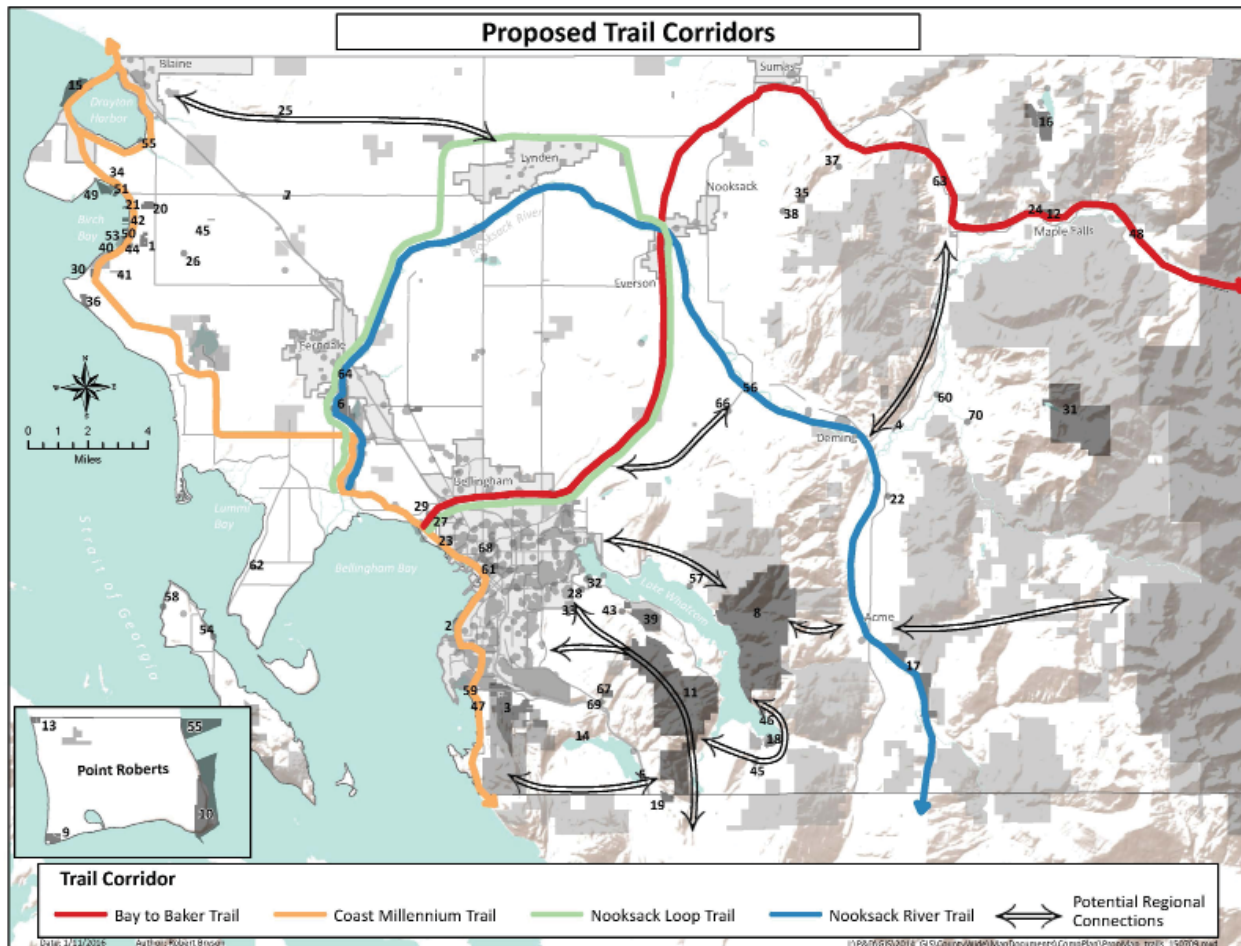
- Glacier community trail
- Columbia Valley bicycle/pedestrian trail
- Nooksack Loop Trail
- Bay to Baker Trail
- Bellingham Mt Baker Trail
- Coast Millennium Trail
- Nooksack River Trail
- Drayton Harbor Trail (CMT)

Lummi Island

- Assist community in acquisition of shore accesses and boat launch
- Assist community in acquisition and development of former quarry site

Point Roberts

- Construct a Lighthouse themed multi-





Nessel Farm

7. ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

This document contains recommendations for improvements, developments, and potential acquisitions. Successful implementation of this plan will require community partnerships, funding and dedicated resources. Whatcom County is fortunate in that it has dedicated sources of funding used to purchase lands and make capital improvements. These sources are also used to leverage grant funding.

These include;

- REET I: Used for funding improvements projects in parks and non-park facilities such as senior activity centers and rifle range.
- REET II: Used for capital improvement projects in the parks.
- Conservation Futures Fund: Used for acquisition of parks and natural areas.
- Parks Improvement Fund: Used for improvements on specific properties.

- Nessel Foundation: Private foundation holding funds for the restoration, improvement and operation of the Nessel Farm located at South Fork Park.
- Whatcom Parks & Recreation Foundation: Private foundation holding funds from donations used for various park improvements and programs.

Grant funding available;

- State: Departments of Natural Resources, Ecology and Fish & Wildlife, Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO)
- Federal: Coastal Management, Transportation Enhancement Funding, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Agency

Maintenance and operations are achieved through a variety of sources and strategies which include general funds, user fees, cooperative agreements, volunteers, private/public partnerships and licenses. A portion of the Conservation Futures Fund is also used to maintain those properties that are eligible.

Adoption

Following is a summary description of the major tasks required to effectively implement the park, recreation, and open space plan.

The County Council will need to adopt this plan. With an anticipated update of the County's Comprehensive Plan scheduled for 2016, it is expected that portions of this plan will be further modified and updated at that time. The Council may adopt this plan as a compliant element of the county's comprehensive plan in accordance with Growth Management Act (GMA) provisions or use it to guide and inform the revised comprehensive plan.

Listed below are updated strategies for implementation from the 2008 PROS plan.

ADOPT PLAN

Adopt regional plan as GMA element

Whatcom County may complete actions necessary to adopt this planning document:

Action

- Disseminate copies of this plan document – on county website and CDs to appropriate public agencies and interested public and private parties in accordance with GMA adoption provisions.

- Conduct public hearing and record comments with Planning Commission – of this document as stand-alone parks, recreation, and open space element plan and make recommendations to County Council in accordance with GMA provisions.
- Conduct public hearing and record comments with County Council – of this document, comments received by Planning Commission, recommendations made by Planning Commission, and comments provided at hearing in accordance with GMA provisions.
- Adopt this plan and accompanying Capital Facilities Program (CFP) by County Council – as an element of the county comprehensive plan and implementing CFP in accordance with GMA provisions.

Adopt local plans and/or establish local recreation service areas

Concurrent with task 1 above, Whatcom County may complete actions necessary to incorporate existing or proposed park, recreation, & open space elements of Blaine, Lynden, Sumas, Nooksack, Everson, Ferndale, and Bellingham as the local plan chapters of this document.

Where a Park & Recreation District is the local governing agency – as in Point Roberts and Blaine/ Birch Bay area– Whatcom County will adopt the district's current park, recreation, & open space element plan will be adopted as the local plan chapter of this document in the same manner.

Where there is no governing park and recreation agency – as in Kendall UGA – Whatcom County may propose or consider initiating a voter referendum to establish a local recreation service area in accordance with RCW Chapter 36.68 to represent the local park requirements of the area.

RCW Chapter 36.68 authorizes the establishment of local recreation service areas that correspond to the logical service boundaries of an area's recreation facilities. The county may provide recreational facilities that are specific to a community in turn for the community's agreement to pay the special development, operation, and maintenance costs utilizing special financing devices.

Special recreation service areas may be initiated by a County Council resolution or citizen petition following hearings on feasibility and costs studies of the proposed facility development or operation

costs. The proposal must ultimately be submitted for voter approval including all provisions relating to any special financing agreements.

The method is tremendously flexible and can be used to provide local recreational facilities in a variety of custom service choices including where the:

- Operating agency – may consist of a common property owners association, an adjacent city or school district, a private operator or the county parks department as the facility developer, operator, or maintenance entity.
- Boundaries – may consist of the owners of a residential development project, of unincorporated county, of an incorporated city, of a school district or any other physical boundary that corresponds with recreation service benefits,
- Services – may be multipurpose including all types of recreation facilities and programs or single purpose providing a single type of facility service like a swimming pool, soccer field, or other activity,
- Financing – may be by user fees, levies, bonds, self-help contributions or private concessionaire agreements for facility development, operation, and maintenance costs.

There are no limitations on the number of recreation service areas that can be established within Whatcom County. Conceivably, recreation services could be fully implemented by a multitude of local, even overlapping, recreation service areas providing a custom mixture of recreation facilities and services according to each community's unique sponsor, boundary, service and financing preferences. Whatcom County Parks & Recreation may or may not be involved in the actual particulars of a local recreation service area depending on area resident preferences.

Participants – County Council and Planning Commission with the assistance of the Park & Recreation and Planning & Development Services Departments and the participation of the cities, park and recreation districts, and citizens at large of proposed UGAs.

Action

- Incorporate by reference local city or park and recreation district comprehensive

park plans – as the local plan chapter 5 of this document in accordance with GMA provisions.

- Where there is no governing park and recreation agency – as in the Kendall Urban Growth Area (UGA), initiate a voter referendum to establish a local recreation service area to plan, finance, and operate local park facilities within the area.

ADOPT PROJECT FINANCING STRATEGIES

Allocate Capital Facility Funds

County Council may allocate a proportional amount of the monies received from dedicated resource-oriented revenue programs to provide funds for conservancy acquisitions that reflect the wildlife, habitat, forestland, farmland, and other objectives of these programs. At the present time, these funds are being used to acquire and protect conservancies but not through a concerted or coordinated defined park and open space program. This action will directly link revenue funding and project coordination and accomplishment through this document.

The revenue programs to be coordinated for resource conservancy acquisitions will include Conservation Futures (CF), Timber Harvest Sales, State Timber Sales, and Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET) 1 and 2 programs.

County Council may also allocate a proportional amount of the monies received from tourism, transportation, and flood management revenue programs to provide funds for the development of countywide trail systems that benefit tourists, multimodal transportation development, and maintenance of river dikes. At the present time, these funds are not contributing to the development of trail systems even through such projects directly implement the goals of these revenue programs. This action will provide a balance of priorities.

The revenue programs to be coordinated for trail system development may include the Hotel/Motel Tax for tourism, the County Road Fund, and the Flood Control Zone funds.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Parks & Recreation, Planning & Development Services, and Public Works Departments.

Action

- Allocate a proportional amount from existing resource-oriented revenue programs to fund the acquisition of resource conservancies – designating monies from Conservation

Futures (CF), Timber Harvest Sales (THS), State Timber Sales, and Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET) 1 and 2 programs.

- Allocate a proportional amount from existing tourist and transportation-oriented revenue programs to fund the development of countywide trail systems – designating monies from the Hotel/Motel Tax, County Road Fund, and Flood Control Zone programs.

Adopt GMA Park Impact Fees

County Council may adopt a coordinated GMA park impact fee system on a county-wide basis for regional or county-wide facility acquisition and development, and on a UGA basis for local or city-wide facility acquisition and development.

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) allows the county to impose a park impact fee on proposed residential developments within the county as a means of maintaining existing park, recreation, and open space levels-of-service (ELOS). The ordinance for impact fees will estimate the impact each development project will have on park, recreation, and open space facilities within the project's regional or local service zone and make provisions for setting aside the resources, including lands or monies, necessary to offset the project's regional or local facility impacts.

The dollar value of the project's park, recreation, and open space impact can be offset by the project developer of an amount equal to the combined facility acquisition and development costs that the county and/or another providing agency would incur to maintain the same existing level-of-service (ELOS).

A developer may be allowed to choose any combination of land or cash mitigation measures including credit for any park or recreation facilities to be included within the project development. The park impact fee ordinance will consider the following when determining the types of mitigation measures or development credits to be made available to the developer:

- Will the facility - be available to the public.
- Have a designated owner - responsible for continuing operation and maintenance (the owner may be a common property owner's association, school district or other agency). And,
- Correspond to and not exceed or vary from -

the types of park, recreation, and open space facilities that are being impacted (a developer could provide but should not be able to take full credit value for facilities for which there is no shortage, impact or local interest).

Land contributions can be accepted in lieu of monies if the lands will be suitable sites for future facilities. Under GMA provisions, land and monies accumulated under the proposed ordinance must be invested within a reasonable time of impact assessment or be returned to the contributing developer.

The county will conduct periodic program reviews with residents, user groups, the school district, and other agencies to decide the most efficient and representative way of delivering the facilities mitigated by the ordinance. Alternative delivery methods could include:

- Acquisition of suitable sites - in conjunction with other public or school facilities including title transfer if other public or school agencies enter into special agreements assuming development, operation, and maintenance responsibilities and costs
- Development of facilities - on other public or school sites if other public or school agencies enter into agreements assuming future operation and maintenance responsibilities and costs. Or
- Any other alternative - including development, operation or maintenance proposals by user groups or private concessionaires or developers that provide a viable facility in accordance with the park, recreation, and open space strategies outlined.

Participants – County Council and Planning Commission with the assistance of the Parks & Recreation and Planning & Development Services Departments, and the participation of cities, park and recreation, and school districts.

Action

- Adopt a GMA park impact fee for regional facilities on a county-wide basis – collecting a proportional fee based on the value of regional facilities regardless of facility ownership, and allocating the fees for regional acquisition and development in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.
- Adopt a GMA park impact fee for local facilities on a UGA basis – collecting a proportional fee

based on the value of local facilities located within the UGA boundaries regardless of facility ownership, and allocating the fees for local facility acquisition and development by the local agency in accordance with the local plan for the UGA area.

Institute county-wide park levy

County Council will place a property tax levy proposal for voter approval on a county-wide basis for the acquisition, development, and operation of regional parks, recreation, and open space facilities throughout the county. The funds collected from the levy will be allocated to the appropriate sponsoring agency, which may include the County, Port, city, park or school district, or non-profit organization, for the realization of regional facilities identified within this plan.

Under Washington State enabling acts, Whatcom County may levy a property tax for general governmental purposes at a rate not to exceed \$1.80 per \$1,000 on the assessed value of all taxable property within the county. An additional \$2.25 per \$1,000 may be levied for road construction and maintenance needs on the assessed value of taxable property within the unincorporated area of the county.

In 2001, Washington State law was amended by Proposition 747, a statutory provision limiting the growth of the regular property tax levy to 1.0% per year, after adjustments for new construction. Any proposed increases over this amount are subject to a referendum vote.

The statute was intended to control local governmental spending by controlling the annual rate of growth of property taxes. In practice, however, the statute can reduce the effective property tax yield to an annual level far below a county's levy authorization, particularly when property values are increasing rapidly.

Proposition 747, the statutory provision limiting the growth of regular property taxes to 1.0% per year, can be waived by referendum approval of a simple (50%) majority of Whatcom County's registered voters. Whatcom County voters will be asked to approve a resetting of the property tax levy rate that will adjust the amount of revenue the county can generate. (The new total revenue that will be generated by a resetting of the rate will be subject to the same 1.0% limitation, however, and the total amount of revenue and the resulting property tax rate will start to decline again in accordance with the Proposition.)

The adjusted rate and revenue will be used to finance the proposed regional park, recreation, and open space facility proposals in this plan – or the projects and programs from this plan that involve construction, maintenance, and operations aspects that a majority of the voters are willing to pay for under the adjusted rate.

Whatcom County voters may be asked to reset the rate on a permanent basis with the new differential rate dedicated to regional or county-wide parks, recreation, and open space proposals, subject to the provisions of Proposition 747. Or Whatcom County voters may be asked to reset the rate on a temporary basis, where the rate is adjusted until a specific amount of revenue has been generated to finance a specified number of regionally-oriented parks, recreation, and open space projects or programs – whereupon the rate reverts to the original or a specified amount defined in the referendum.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation and Planning & Development Services Departments, and the participation of cities, park and recreation, and school districts.

Action

Submit and approve a county-wide property tax levy rate adjustment (on permanent or temporary basis) to acquire, develop, and operate **regional facilities on a county-wide basis** – allocating the additional revenues for regional acquisition, development, and operation in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.

Approve Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) 3

County Council may eventually place a proposal for voter approval of a third 0.0025% increment to the real estate excise tax (REET) for the acquisition and development of regional resource conservancy and park developments throughout the county. The funds collected from the third REET increment will be allocated to the appropriate sponsoring agency, which may include the county, port, city, park district, or non-profit organization, for the realization of regional conservancies and parks identified within this plan.

RCW 82.46 gives Whatcom County the option of adding up to three 0.0025% increments to the real estate excise tax (REET) for the sole purpose of financing the acquisition and development (but not maintenance or operation) of capital improvement projects including parks, recreation, and open space facilities. The County Council has adopted the first two REET options the third may be submitted for

voter approval.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation and Planning & Development Services Departments, and the participation of cities, park and recreation, and school districts.

Action

- Submit and approve REET 3 to acquire and develop **regional resource conservancy and park facilities on a county-wide basis** – allocating the additional revenues for regional acquisition and development in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.

Approve LOVLF/LOFT

Local Option Vehicle License Fee (LOVLF) - in accordance with the Transportation Improvement Act (RCW 82.80), County Council may approve a county-wide Local Option Vehicle License Fee (LOVLF) of up to \$15.00 per vehicle registered within the county. The additional revenue would be distributed amongst the county and cities within the county that levy the tax on a weighted per capita basis for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of non-motorized transportation and trail systems specified within this plan.

Local Option Fuel Tax (LOFT) – also in accordance with the Transportation Improvement Act (RCW 82.80), the County Council may submit for county-wide voter approval an optional fuel tax addition up to the equivalent of 10% of the statewide Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax and a special fuel tax of \$0.023 cents per gallon. The additional revenue would be distributed amongst the county and cities within the county that levy the tax on a weighted per capita basis for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of non-motorized transportation and trail systems specified within this plan.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation and Planning & Development Services Departments, and the participation of cities.

Action

- Approve the Local Option Vehicle License Fee (LOVLF) to acquire, develop, maintain, and operate **regional non-motorized transportation and trail systems on a county-wide basis** – allocating the additional revenues for acquisition, development, maintenance, and operation of regional trail systems in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor
- Submit and approve the Local Option Fuel Tax (LOFT) to acquire, develop, maintain, and

operate regional non-motorized transportation and trail systems on a county-wide basis
– allocating the additional revenues for acquisition, development, maintenance, and operation of regional trail systems in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.

INITIATE COUNTY-WIDE REGIONAL PROJECTS

Acquire resource/historical conservancies

Using funds generated from tasks 3-6 above, County Council may acquire and conserve regionally-significant wildlife, forestland, farmlands, and open spaces indicated within this plan on a county-wide basis. Where appropriate, monies will be allocated to and/or combined with monies provided by the Port, cities, park and recreation districts, state agencies, and non-profit organizations for regionally significant projects.

Depending on schedules and availabilities, initial acquisitions may include significant sites on the Nooksack River, properties fronting on Lake Whatcom and saltwater access sites.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation and Planning & Development Services Departments, and the participation of the Port, cities, park and school districts, WA DNR, DFW, Whatcom Land Trust, and other non-profit organizations.

Action

- Initiate the acquisition and conservancy of regionally-significant resource conservancy sites – allocating revenues for regionally-significant properties in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.

Acquire/develop regional resource or multiuse parks

Using funds generated from tasks 3-6 above, County Council may acquire, develop, maintain, and operate of regionally-significant resource or multiuse parks indicated within this plan on a county-wide basis. Where appropriate, monies will be allocated to and/or combined with monies provided by the port, cities, park and recreation districts, state agencies, and non-profit organizations for regionally significant projects.

Depending on schedules and availabilities, initial acquisitions and developments may include an expansion of Lighthouse Marine Park on Point Roberts, acquisition of a site at Cherry Point and significant park sites on the Nooksack River, the development of Lake Whatcom North and South, and Dittrich Park on Lake Samish, among others.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation Department, and the participation of the Port, cities, park and school districts, and WA P7RC, DNR, and DFW.

Action

- Initiate the acquisition, development, maintenance, and operation of regionally-significant resource or multiuse parks – allocating revenues for regionally-significant properties in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.

Acquire/develop regional trail systems

Using funds generated from tasks 3-7 above, County Council may acquire, develop, maintain, and operate regionally-significant trail systems indicated within this plan on a county-wide basis. Where appropriate, monies will be allocated to and/or combined with monies provided by the Port, cities, park and recreation districts, state agencies, and non-profit organizations for regionally significant projects.

Depending on schedules and availabilities, initial acquisitions and developments may include the completion of the Cascade Marine Water Trail, and multipurpose Bay to Baker Trail, Millennium Coast Trail, Nooksack River Trail, and Bellingham Bay Trail, among others.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation, Planning & Development Services, and Public Works Departments, and the participation of the Port, cities, park districts, and WA WSDOT, DNR, and DFW.

Action

- Initiate the acquisition, development, maintenance, and operation of regionally-significant corridors and on and off-road trail systems – allocating revenues for regionally-significant projects in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.

Conserve/designate scenic corridors

Using funds generated from tasks 3-7 above, County Council may designate and conserve regionally-significant scenic corridors and byways indicated within this plan on a county-wide basis. Where appropriate, rural by design guidelines, scenic land use overlays, byway signage, trailheads, and vista development monies will be allocated to and/or combined with monies provided by the Port, cities, park and recreation districts, and state agencies for regionally significant projects.

Depending on schedules and availabilities, initial designations may include the Interstate 5/Samish Lake Greenway, Bellingham Bay, Lummi Island, South Bay and Blue Canyon Road, and South Pass/Silver Lake Roads, among others.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation, Planning & Development Services, and Public Works Departments, and the participation of the Port, cities, park districts, and WA WSDOT and DNR.

Action

- Initiate the designation, management, acquisition, development, maintenance, and operation of regionally-significant scenic corridors, byways, and viewpoints – allocating revenues for regionally-significant projects in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.

Acquire/lease regional sports sites

Using funds generated from tasks 3-6 above, County Council may acquire and lease for development regionally-significant athletic field sites indicated within this plan on a county-wide basis. Where appropriate, acquisition monies will be allocated to and/or combined with monies provided by the Port, cities, park and recreation districts, and non-profit organizations for regionally significant projects.

Depending on schedules and availabilities, initial acquisitions may include an athletic field site in Deming, Kendall, and Birch Bay, among others.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation Department, and the participation of the Port, cities, park and school districts, and non-profit athletic leagues.

Action

- Initiate the acquisition and lease for development of regionally-significant athletic field sites – allocating revenues for regionally-significant acquisition projects in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.

Acquire/develop community center facilities

Using funds generated from tasks 3-6 above, County Council will acquire and develop or otherwise provide regionally-significant community centers indicated within this plan on a county-wide basis. Where appropriate, acquisition, development, and/or lease monies will be allocated to and/or combined with monies provided by the Port, cities, park and recreation districts, and non-profit

organizations for regionally significant projects.

Depending on schedules and availabilities, initial acquisitions and developments may include a community center in Kendall, Sudden Valley, and Birch Bay, among others.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation and Planning & Community Services Departments, and the participation of the cities, park and school districts, and non-profit organizations.

Action

- Initiate the acquisition and development of regionally-significant community center facilities – allocating revenues for regionally-significant acquisition and development projects in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.

IMPLEMENT PROGRAM FINANCING STRATEGIES

Create *WhatcomParks.com*

County Council may develop and operate an internet web-based recreational clearinghouse coordinating recreational program offerings that include as wide a variety of activities as there is an interest by county residents, regardless of age, skill level, income – or program provider.

The clearing house will offer recreational program activities providing health, education, social, recreational, and other welfare activities for children, teens, adults, seniors, and special populations.

To the extent possible, practical, and consistent with the county's mission, programs will be conducted by county staff or contractors. However, depending on demand, cost, and feasibility, the clearing house will also coordinate programs to be conducted by other public, non-profit, or for-profit organizations and even vendors.

To the extent possible and practical, program offerings will include activities that will be conducted in county parks, community centers, and trail facilities. However, depending on demand, the clearinghouse will also include program offerings that may be conducted in schools and other public facilities inside or out of the county, as well as at non-profit and for-profit sites and facilities.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation Department, and the participation of the cities, park and school districts, non-profit organizations, and private vendors.

Action

- Create and operate an internet web-based recreational clearinghouse for regionally-significant recreational activities – allocating web-site information for regionally-significant recreational programs in accordance with this plan regardless of agency sponsor.

Revise user fee schedules

County Council may assess the mission criteria for all program offerings the county is considering of providing with staff, contract instructors, or vendors. If the program is consistent with the county's park and recreation mission and level-of-service proposals shown in this plan, the county will offer the program under a pricing policy or goal that establishes a public versus private good or benefit scale under one of the following 3 cost recovery scenarios:

- Enterprise (full cost recovery) programs - will recover all direct costs (including full and part-time staff, supplies, materials, maintenance, and utilities) and indirect costs (including department overhead for staff benefits).
- Merit pricing (partial cost recovery) programs – will partially recover direct and indirect costs based on a policy decision about the degree to which each program provides public versus private goods or benefits. Merit pricing programs may also include the providing of scholarships to eligible user individuals or user groups that would prevent the program from realizing full cost recovery.
- Subsidy (no or very low cost recovery) programs – will not attempt to recover costs as a fee, although it may ask for donations or grants from using individuals, groups, or organizations who benefit or are likely sponsors.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation Department, and the participation of the cities, park and school districts, non-profit organizations, and private vendors.

Action

- Revise user fee schedules to reflect a public versus private goods and benefits scale for regionally-significant recreational activities – collecting user fees under an enterprise, merit, or subsidy based cost recovery policy for regionally-significant recreational

programs in accordance with this plan regardless of activity provider.

Recruit program vendors

County Council may assess the mission criteria for all program offerings the county is considering of providing with staff, contract instructors, or vendors. If programs are not consistent with the county's park and recreation mission and level-of-service proposals shown in this plan, the county will not offer the program, but will recruit and facilitate the program to be offered by other providers including the option of partnering or brokering the program, and/or offering scholarships or other services, and/or publishing the program offering on the clearinghouse.

Depending on the program activity, other vendors may include:

- Other jurisdictions – including the park and recreation districts in Blaine and Point Roberts, cities, school districts, Whatcom Community College and Western Washington University, Lummi Indian Nation and Nooksack Tribes, Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission and Departments of Fish & Wildlife and Natural Resources, US Forest Service, and National Park Service (NPS).
- Non-profit organizations – such as the Whatcom County Soccer League, YMCA and YWCA, Boys & Girls Club, Boy and Girl Scouts, Campfire USA, Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis Clubs, Elks, VFW, and Granges, 4-H Clubs, and Volunteers for Outdoor Recreation, among others.
- Private for-profit entities and vendors – such as KOA, Bellingham Motorcycle Club, Downstream River Runners, Osprey River Adventures, Reachout Expeditions, Outward Bound West, North Cascades Mtn Guides, and Pasayten Llama Packing, among others.

Participants – County Council with the assistance of the Park & Recreation Department, and the participation of the cities, park and school districts, non-profit organizations, and private vendors.

Action

- Recruit and facilitate sponsors and vendors to provide regionally-significant recreational activities – that will not be provided by county staff for regionally-significant recreational programs in accordance with this plan regardless of the public or private nature of the activity provider.

FOLLOW-UP

Conduct progress assessments

County Council may conduct progress assessments reviewing action on the regionally-significant projects and programs identified above and improve methods, assign responsibilities, or take other measures necessary to ensure effective implementation.

Participants – County Council and Planning Commission with the assistance of the Parks & Recreation, Planning & Community Services, and Public Works Departments and the participation of the Port, cities, park and school districts, WA P&RC, DNR, DFW, and WSDOT, USFS, NPS, non-profit organizations, private vendors, and citizens at large.

Action

- Adjust regional parks, recreation, and open space vision, strategies, and implementing measures – based on the results of the follow-up assessments.

LOCAL PLAN AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Local elements of the parks, recreation and open space plan are defined with each city or park district's planning document, or in the community planning documents of the urban growth areas (UGAs) of Whatcom County.

Local parks, recreation, and open space plans

Local plans may be derived based on the results of field analysis, environmental inventories, demand analysis, workshop-planning sessions, and in some cases, surveys of resident households.

Whatcom County community (subarea) planning documents

Community plans are allowed under the Growth Management Act (GMA). In Whatcom County, the process is intended to foster a community's desired character and typically will include the following in the plan:

- Public participation by involving community residents in plan development and amendment.
- An articulated vision for the community.
- Features and characteristics of communities to be retained, developed, preserved, enhanced or corrected.
- Areas for commercial, industrial, residential, capital facilities, recreation and other land uses, using the density ranges and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Policies that supplement the objectives, principles and standards of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Design features to be encouraged in capital facilities, multi-family residential, commercial and industrial construction and landscaping. Design features may include site planning, building design and other features that affect the character of a community.
- Use of Comprehensive Plan policies to achieve environmental protection, create open space, provide affordable housing, and accomplish other Comprehensive Plan objectives.

Relationship of community plans to this plan

A community plan and the parks, recreation, & open space plan are both considered to be part of the Comprehensive Plan and must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and County-wide Planning Policies. In addition, community plans may also amend the County's Comprehensive Plan in accordance with RCW 36.70A.

Within the context of the parks, recreation, & open space plan, community plans may define the following:

- An inventory of existing parks, recreation, and open space facilities located within the community planning area;
- An analysis of how these facilities compare to existing countywide LOS standards;
- Proposed LOS standards for those facilities that are not addressed at the countywide level;
- Site planning, building design, preferred uses, and park facility requirements for existing and proposed facilities;
- Prioritization of desired capital improvements within the planning area;
- Funding strategies for implementing community scale facilities; and
- Implementing actions for any policies related to parks, recreation, or open space.

In Whatcom County the provision of neighborhood and community parks is primarily the responsibility of the Cities and Park Districts. Whatcom County does not have the capacity to add neighborhood parks to the County's inventory and will continue to work with communities in rural areas and UGAs to develop community parks if community sponsorship and cost sharing for development and maintenance is a major component. In UGAs, the expectation is that once a UGA is annexed, ultimately the responsibility for the development and maintenance will be the city's.

Whatcom County does not foresee adding any additional neighborhood parks to its inventory.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS - REGIONAL

The following proposals concerning elements of the recreational programs approach are based on the results of demand analysis, workshop planning sessions, and the mail-out/phone-back survey of resident households. The proposals outline the vision developed for REGIONAL recreational programs within Whatcom County for the next 6 years. The program proposals are CONCEPTUAL, in some instances, subject to further study and coordination with public and private participants that may modify the eventual program particulars.

See the appendix chapters on existing recreational programs for a description of Whatcom County's current program particulars.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS 2015 - 2040

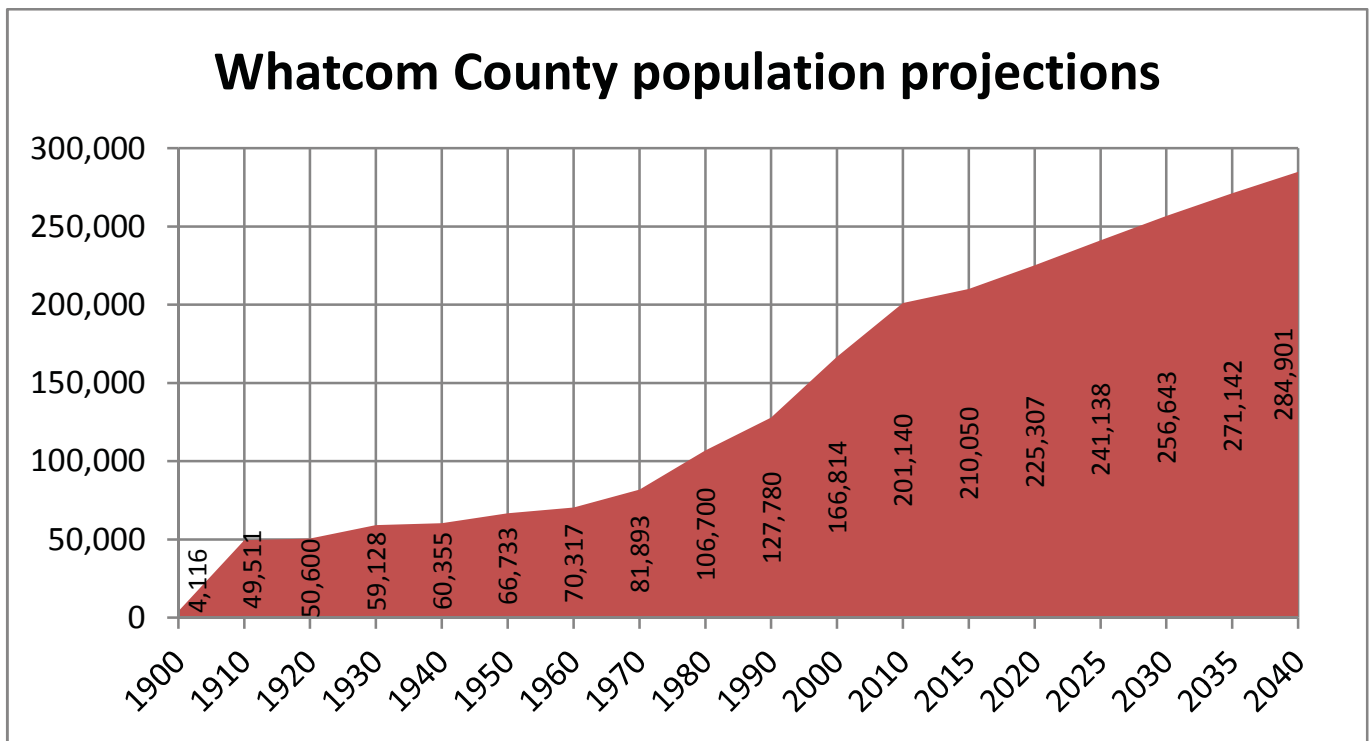
Whatcom County's population in 1900 was 24,116 persons located primarily along the Bellingham Bay waterfront. The county's population increased to 49,511 persons by 1910 or by an annual rate of growth of 7.5% as railroads extended into Whatcom County and the area's logging, agriculture, and fishing industries grew in importance.

Whatcom County population growth increased at a slight rate averaging between 0.2% to 1.6% per year from 1920 to 1970, then by an average annual rate of 2.7% to 1.9% from 1970 to 2010 as the area urbanized and resource industries were less influential on the area's economic growth. The county's growth rate declined to an annual average rate of 0.9% between 2010 and 2015 due largely to the impact of the economic recession on area industries and in-migration.

Washington State's Office of Financial Management (OFM) expects Whatcom County rate of growth will gradually decline from 1.4% on an annual average basis between 2015 and 2020 to 1.0% by 2035 to 2040 due to economic and in-migration influences statewide.

RECREATION DEMAND 2012 - 2040

Every 6 years each state must develop a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in order to remain eligible to receive federal Land & Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) for matching grants for the acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities by local jurisdictions.



The Washington State's Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO – formerly the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC)) develops the SCORP for Washington State. As part of the SCORP process, RCO conducts a detailed recreation participation survey by which to determine demand and thereby need for specific park and recreation facilities in state and local jurisdictions.

The last RCO recreation participation survey was conducted in 2006 and involved a year-long survey of monthly participation by survey participants drawn from every age, gender, racial, and income group from 10 regions in the state. The survey determined the percent of the population that participated in 15 major activity categories each month of the year, the number of times, and the type and location of the facility (urban or rural, indoor or outdoor, in a public park or out-of-park setting, etc).

The survey found slight differences in participation rates in recreational activities between gender, race, and income, and major differences by age and region

Generally, younger ages participate to a greater extent in active pursuits including athletics and extreme sports while older age groups are more active in walking, biking, gardening, and wildlife observation. The latter activities will become more prominent as the population ages due to the affects of the baby boom.

Regional differences are also apparent where boating, fishing, and other aquatic pursuits are more pronounced in regions around Puget Sound, the Columbia River, and Pacific Ocean, while hunting, camping, and off-road recreational vehicles (ORV) are more pronounced in the inland counties.

Differences are also apparent between urban counties like Whatcom County where activities occur more often at athletic parks, community centers, and trails compared with rural counties where activities occur more often outside of parks in rural settings.

This planning effort utilizes the results of the surveys for the Puget Sound region – or the most urban population and setting in the state for the average monthly participation and frequency rates for 17 activities of most interest to an urban jurisdiction and sponsoring agency.

Participation rates

Activities in Puget Sound which realize the highest participation rate (the percent of the population that engages in the activity) include:

- walking without a pet - 62.9%,
- picnicking - 48.4%,
- bicycle riding - 37.7%,
- socializing at an event at a community center - 35.9%,
- walking with a pet - 35.8%,
- observing or photographing wildlife - 34.2%,
- flower or vegetable gardening - 33.6%,
- playground activities - 33.6%,
- aerobics/fitness at a facility - 33.4%,
- jogging or running - 32.6%,

These activities were found to appeal to the broadest segments of the population regardless of age, gender, income, or race.

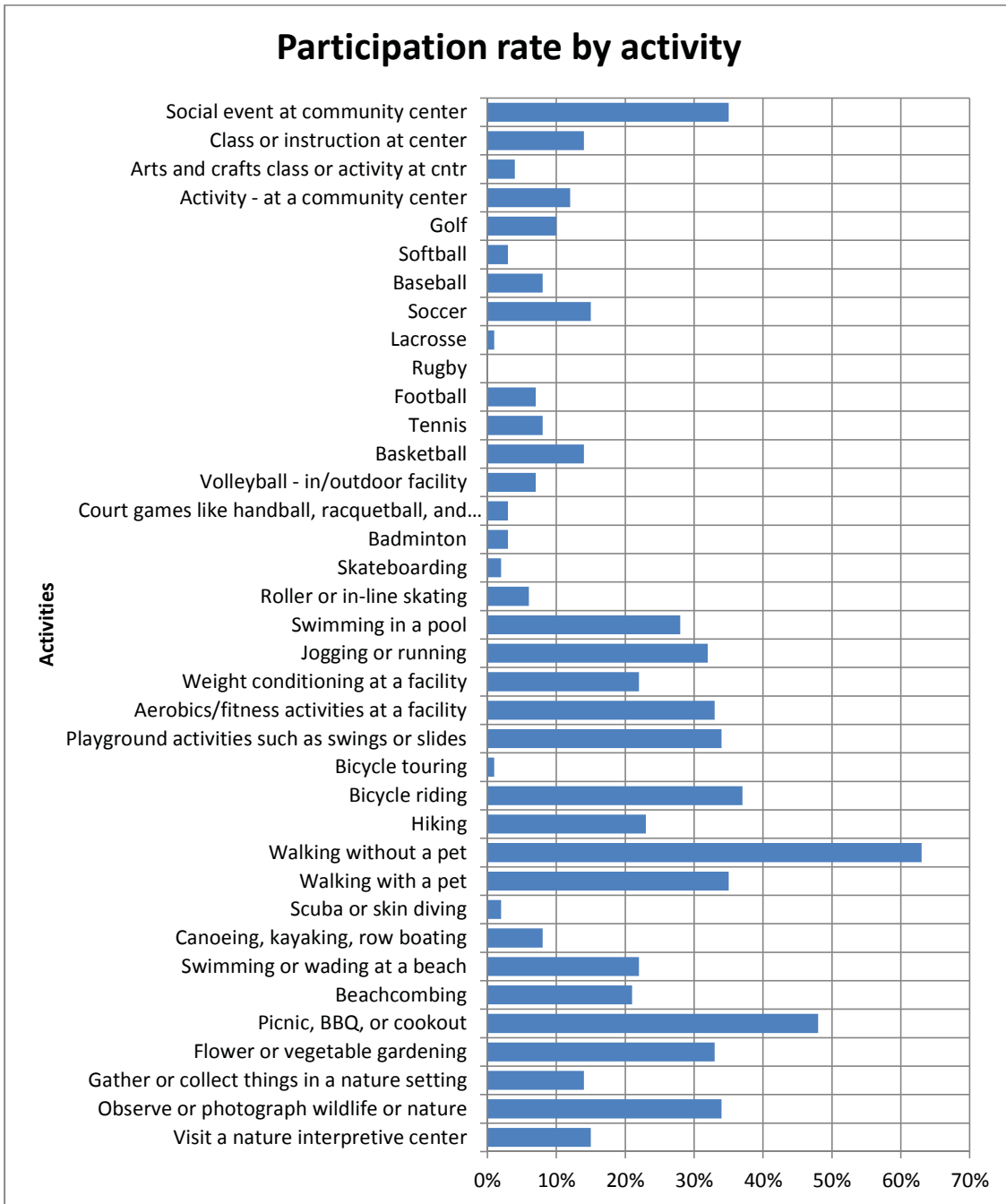
Conversely, activities with the lowest participation rates include:

- rugby - 0.0%,
- lacrosse - 0.5%,
- bicycle touring - 0.5%,
- scuba or skin diving - 0.9%,
- skateboarding – 3.1%,
- court games like handball, racquetball, and squash – 3.9%,
- softball – 3.4%,
- badminton – 4.1%,

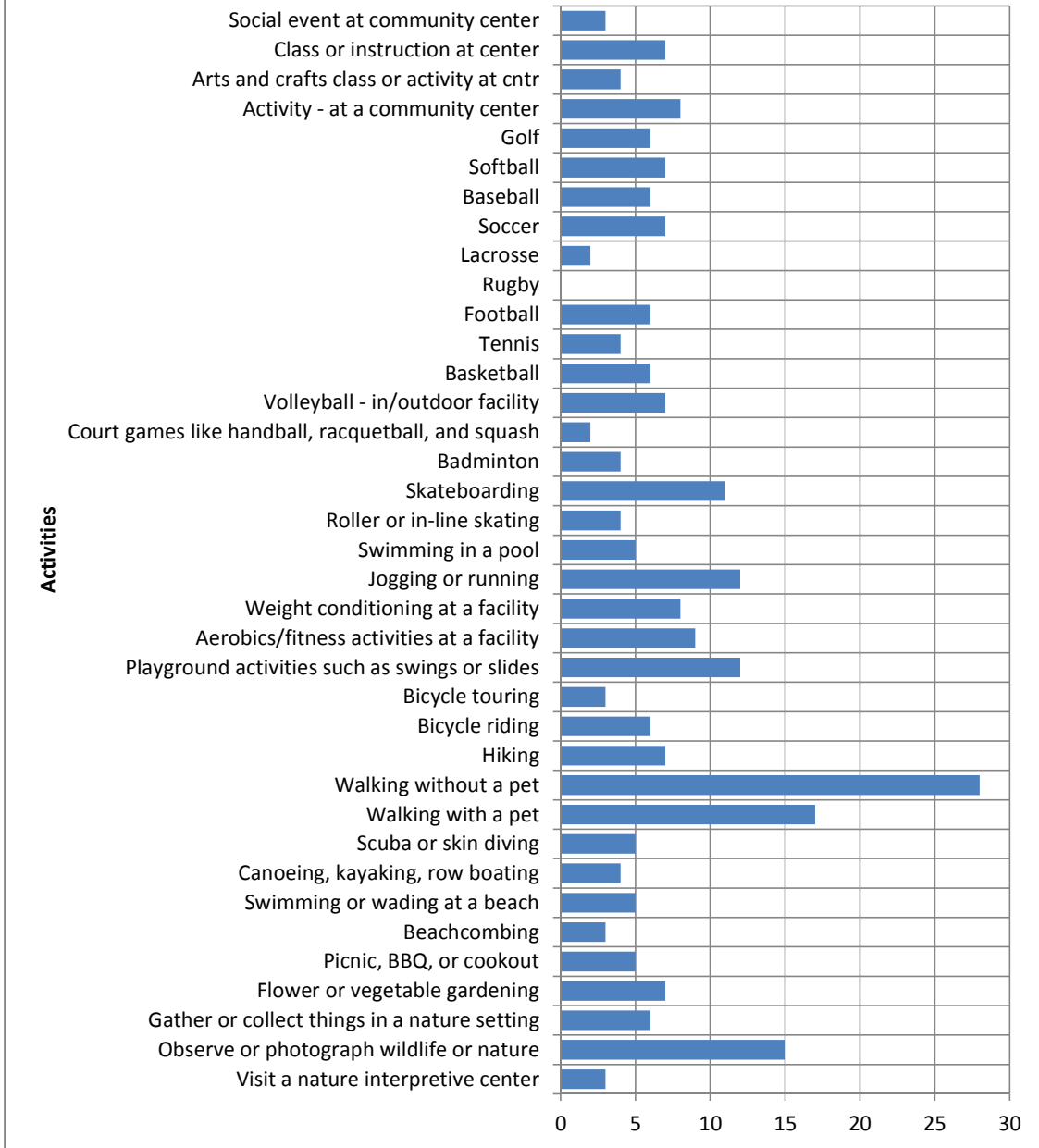
These activities were found to appeal to a limited age or enthusiast group.

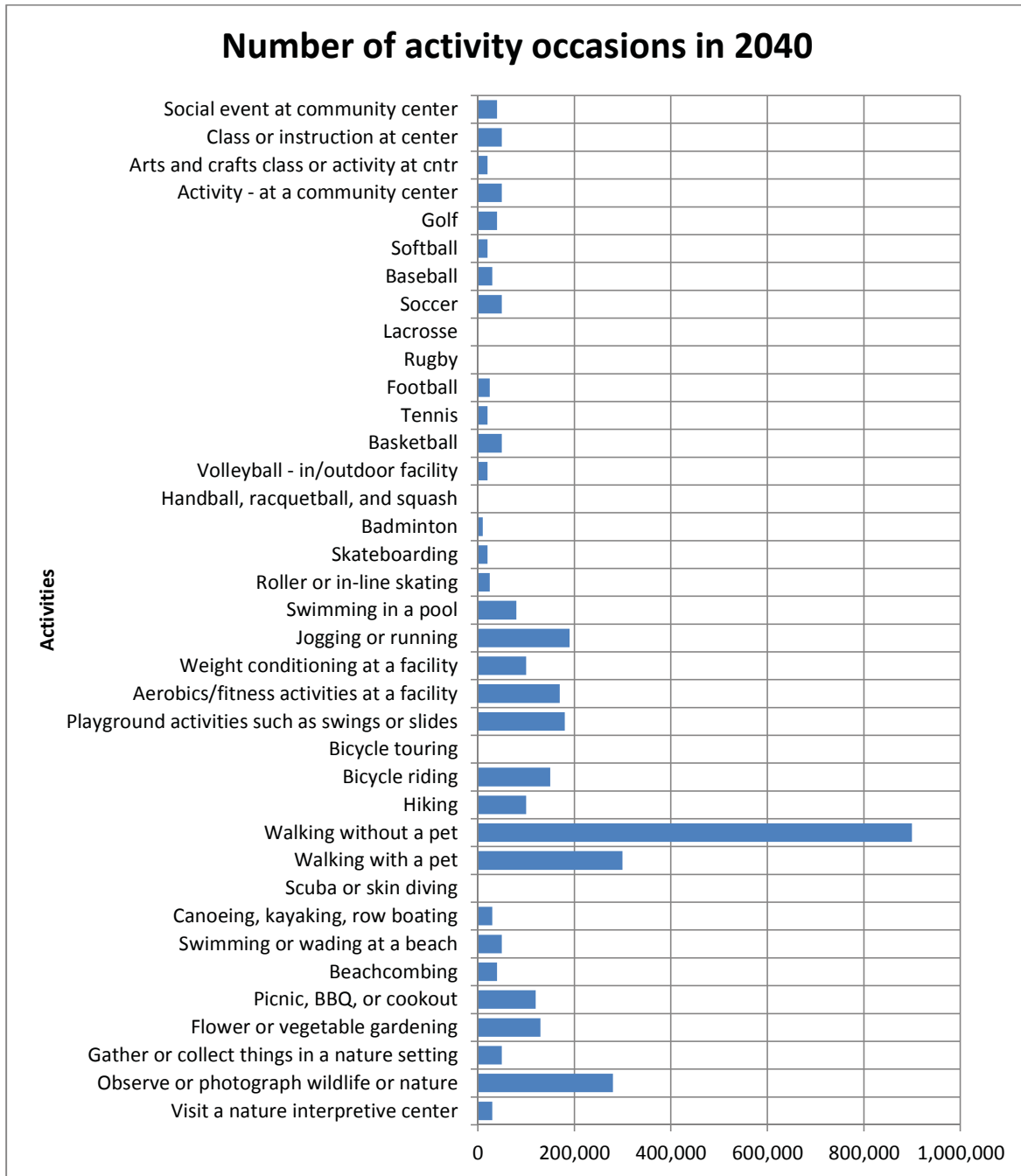
Frequency rates

The frequency rate is the average number of times an average participant engages in the activity over a year's time. Since the frequency rate is an average, it may include a person who plays softball once a year at an annual picnic, for example, and a person who regularly plays in a softball league numerous times per year.



Annual average frequency by activity





Consequently, the average rate will be lower than an enthusiast may recognize based on their own behavior. The average rate is accurate, however, for the purpose of projecting the total volume that could be generated by occasional and frequent players.

Activities which realize the highest frequency rate (the number of times a participant engages in the activity per year) include:

- walking without a pet – 27.44,
- walking with a pet – 16.05,
- observing or photographing wildlife – 14.92,
- jogging or running – 11.49,
- playground activities – 10.86,
- skateboarding – 10.39,

These activities appeal to broad segments of the population, as in walking and wildlife observation, or to enthusiasts who will engage in the activity on a frequent basis, as in jogging, playground, and skateboarding.

Activities which realize the lowest frequency rate include:

- rugby – 0.00,
- visiting a nature interpretive center – 1.48,
- court games like handball, racquetball, or squash – 1.66,
- lacrosse – 2.00,
- bicycle touring – 2.34,
- social event at a community center – 2.36,
- beachcombing – 2.62,

These activities may occur during other events, as in visiting a nature center or beachcombing, or season, as in bicycle touring, or simply on a specialized schedule, as in a social event at a community center.

Annual volumes in Whatcom County 2015-2040

The potential annual activity volume or occurrence that could result were the entire population of Whatcom County to engage in these activities in Whatcom County is determined by multiplying the Puget Sound region participation rate by the frequency rate by the number of persons expected

to reside in Whatcom County from 2015 to 2040.

The total number of activity occurrences that could result if all activity were to occur in Whatcom County programs and facilities would be 13,040,409 in 2015 increasing to 17,687,339 by 2040 or by 4,646,930 or 36%.

Activities which would generate the greatest potential annual volume in 2040 were all activity to happen in Whatcom County programs and facilities would be from:

- walking without a pet – 4,920,140 occurrences,
- walking with a pet – 1,637,971,
- observing or photographing wildlife or nature – 1,455,202,
- running or jogging – 1,067,588,
- playground activities – 1,040,224,
- aerobics or fitness conditioning – 888,305,
- flower or vegetable gardening – 780,877,
- bicycle riding – 755,957,
- picnicking – 676,245,

Except for aerobics or fitness conditioning, the majority of these activities can be accommodated on trails, conservancy areas, or neighborhood parks.

Activities which would generate the lowest potential annual volume in 2040 were all activity to happen in Whatcom County would be from:

- rugby – 0 occurrences,
- lacrosse – 2,771,
- bicycle touring – 3,637,
- scuba or skin diving – 12,133,
- court games like handball, racquetball, or squash – 18,325,

Recreational Clearinghouse

Whatcom County will operate an internet web-based recreational clearinghouse coordinating recreational program offerings that include as wide a variety of activities as there is an interest by county residents, regardless of age, skill level, income – or program provider.

Recreational program offerings that will be offered through the clearinghouse will include activities providing health, education, social, recreational, and other welfare activities for children, teens, adults, seniors, and special populations.

To the extent possible, practical, and consistent with the county's mission, programs will be conducted by county staff or contractors. However, depending on demand, cost, and feasibility, the clearinghouse will also coordinate programs to be conducted by other public, non-profit, or for-profit organizations and even vendors.

To the extent possible and practical, program offerings will include activities that will be conducted in county parks, community centers, and trail facilities. However, depending on demand, the clearinghouse will also include program offerings that may be conducted in schools and other public facilities inside or out of the county, as well as at non-profit and for-profit sites and facilities.

Vision

The internet web-based recreational clearinghouse may be realized through the coordination of:

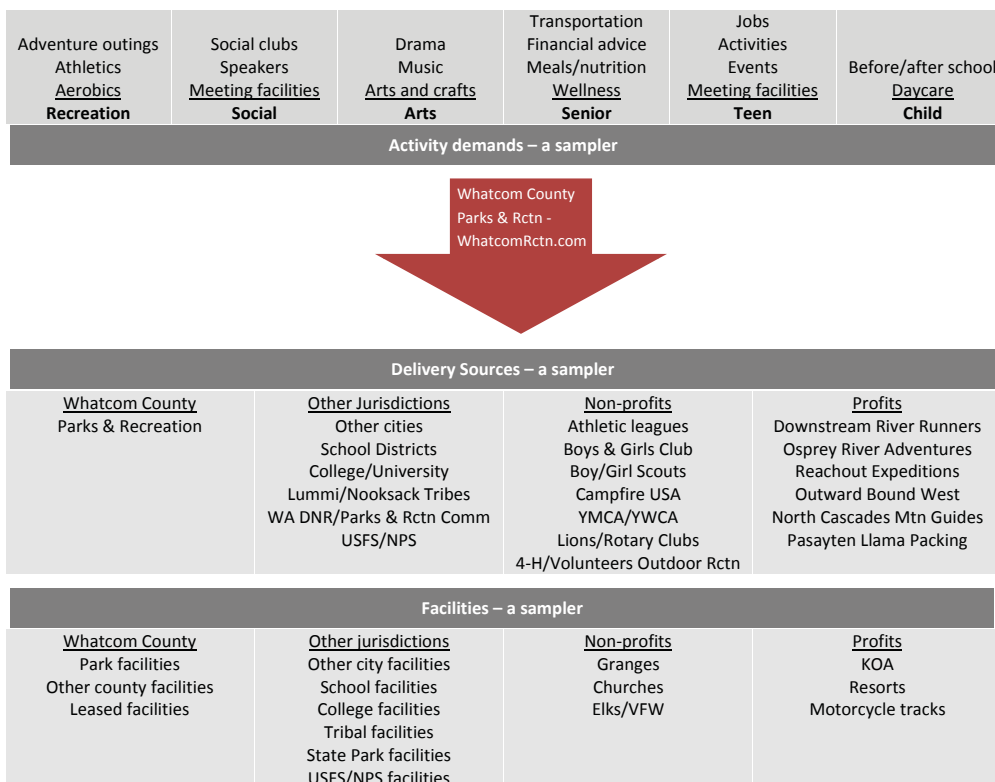
Whatcom County programs – where there is sufficient demand to meet the county's park and recreation mission and pricing and delivery objectives;

Other jurisdictions– including the park and recreation districts in Blaine and Point Roberts, cities, school districts, Whatcom Community College and Western Washington University, Lummi Indian Nation and Nooksack Tribes, Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission and Departments of Fish & Wildlife and Natural Resources, US Forest Service, and National Park Service (NPS);

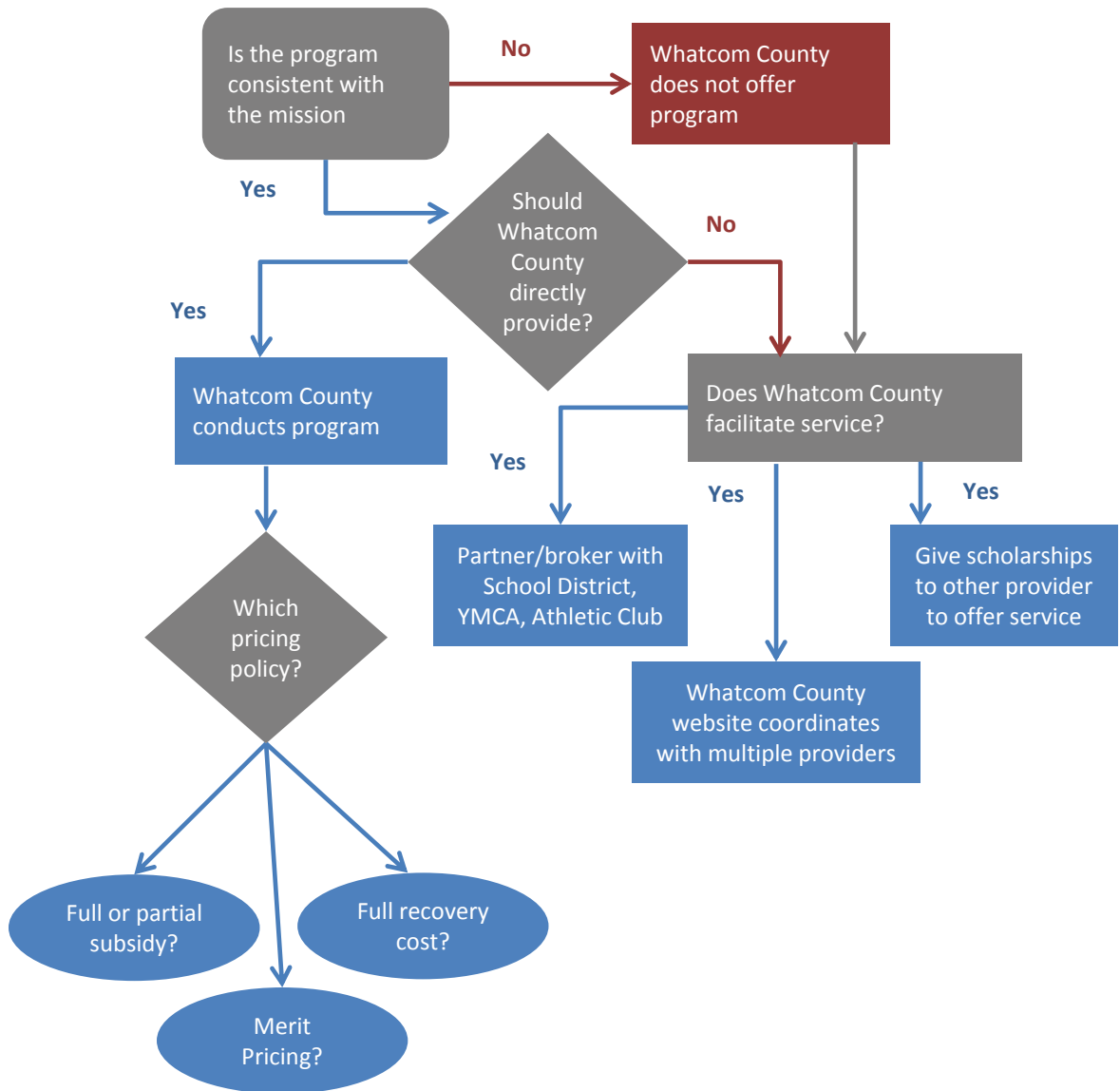
Non-profit organizations – such as the Whatcom County Soccer League, YMCA and YWCA, Boys & Girls Club, Boy and Girl Scouts, Campfire USA, Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis Clubs, Elks, VFW, and Granges, 4-H Clubs, and Volunteers for Outdoor Recreation, among others; and

Private for-profit entities and vendors – such as KOA, Bellingham Motorcycle Club, Downstream River Runners, Osprey River Adventures, Reachout Expeditions, Outward Bound West, North Cascades Mountain Guides, and Pasayten Llama Packing, among others.

Recreational programming model – clearinghouse ala expedia.com



Proposed program pricing and delivery options



4.5 WHATCOM COUNTY PRICING AND DELIVERY CRITERIA

Whatcom County will continuously assess the mission criteria illustrated in the program formula for all program offerings the county is considering of providing with staff, contract instructors, or vendors:

1. Is the program consistent with the county's park and recreation mission and level of service proposals as shown in the matrix in chapter 2?

If not - the county does not offer the program, but may facilitate the program to be offered by other providers including the option of partnering or brokering the program, and/or offering scholarships or other services, and/or publishing the program offering on the clearinghouse.

2. If yes – should the county directly provide the program?

If not – the county does not offer the program, but may facilitate the program to be offered by other providers including the option of partnering or brokering the program, and/or offering scholarships or other services, and/or publishing the program offering on the clearinghouse.

3. If yes – what pricing policy or goal should the county establish for the program on a public good or benefit versus private good or benefit scale – full cost recovery, merit pricing, or full subsidy?

Enterprise (full cost recovery) programs

- will recover all direct costs (including full and part-time staff, supplies, materials, maintenance, and utilities) and indirect costs (including department overhead for staff benefits).

Generally, full cost recovery programs will include services that primarily provide private goods or benefits to a specialized user group, such as gun and rifle ranges, equestrian facilities, adult sports field rentals, adult classes, and all facility rentals including cabins, campsites, boats, and the like.

In some instances, the county may add a surcharge to recover a slight profit or return on investment with which to defray long term life cycle costs for maintenance and repair, and/or to reinvest in similar facilities elsewhere in the

system.

Merit pricing (partial cost recovery) programs

– will partially recover direct and indirect costs based on a policy decision about the degree to which each program provides public versus private goods or benefits. Merit pricing programs may also include the providing of scholarships to eligible user individuals or user groups that would prevent the program from realizing full cost recovery.

Merit pricing program determinations will consider the degree to which the program provides a public benefit to the public at large or to special users within the general population (such as teens or seniors); whether the program can or is able to be offered by other providers at a reasonable cost; and the practicality of collecting fees for service.

Generally, merit pricing programs may include teen day camps and field activities, youth sports field rentals, senior health and nutrition programs, and safety and instruction programs of all kinds.

Subsidy (no or very low cost recovery) programs

– will not attempt to recover costs as a fee, although it may ask for donations or grants from using individuals, groups, or organizations who benefit or are likely sponsors.

Generally, subsidy programs benefit the population at large sufficiently to justify the use of public funding and/or include activities that are not practical to effectively recover a fee or charge, such as special events or festivals, interpretive exhibits, and trail related activities.

4.6 WHATCOM COUNTY PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Based on the proposed policies and strategies above, the county could offer and/or facilitate the following programs over the next 6 year period (the examples are not necessarily comprehensive or indicative of what may be offered in any given time period).

Existing recreational programs

Depending on the continued assessment of price and delivery options outlined above, Whatcom County may or could offer the following recreational programs conducted by county staff, contract instructors, or vendors at county parks, community centers, and trail facilities.



Proposed Whatcom County Recreation Pyramid

Interpretive Activities		Site or Facility Location
1	Environmental and wildlife exhibits, walks, programs, and events	Lighthouse Marine, Tennant Lake, Semiahmoo, Silver Lake, Stimpson, Lily Point, Pt. Whitehorn
2	Historical, archaeological, and heritage exhibits, walks, programs, and events	Hovander Homestead, Roeder Home, Semiahmoo, Silver Lake-Black Mountain
3	Farm and agricultural exhibits, programs, and events	Hovander Homestead, Silver Lake
Outdoor Recreation		Site or Facility Location
4	Swimming beaches	Samish Park, Silver Lake
5	Picnic shelters and lodges - rentals	Hovander Homestead, Lighthouse Marine, Samish Park, Silver Lake
6	Campsites and cabins - rentals	Silver Lake, Lighthouse Marine
7	Youth day use and overnight summer camps - programs	Bay Horizon, Silver Lake
8	Family or group picnic and camping events - rentals	Lighthouse Marine, Silver Lake
9	Canoes, boats, and other equipment - rentals	Samish Park, Silver Lake
10	Swimming and boating - safety instruction	Samish Park, Silver Lake
11	Gun and archery - safety instruction	Plantation Rifle Range
Trail Activities		Site or Facility Location
12	Kayaking - youth, adult, family groups	Silver Lake, Semiahmoo, Lighthouse Marine, Samish Park
13	Hiking - youth, adult, family groups	Bay to Baker Trail, Hertz Trail, Silver Lake, Lookout Mtn., Chuckanut Mtn., Canyon Lake
14	Biking - youth, adult, family groups	Bay to Baker Trail, Hertz Trail
15	Equestrian - youth, adult, family groups	Bay to Baker Trail, Silver Lake-Black Mountain, Sunset Farm
Athletic Events		Site or Facility Location
16	Soccer, softball, and baseball camps	Northwest Soccer Fields
Special Events		Site or Facility Location
17	Festivals - music, drama, cultural	Hovander Homestead, Lighthouse Marine
18	Weddings and parties - rentals	Hovander Homestead, Roeder Home, Semiahmoo, Silver Lake
Community Centers		Site or Facility Location
19	Health and nutrition including meals on wheels - seniors	Blaine, Lynden, Sumas, Everson, Welcome, Ferndale, Bellingham, Point Roberts
20	Physical conditioning and wellness	Bellingham, Lynden, Blaine, Ferndale
21	Arts and crafts programs	Point Roberts, Blaine, Lynden, Sumas, Everson, Welcome, Ferndale, Bellingham
22	Music and dance events	Point Roberts, Blaine, Lynden, Sumas, Everson, Welcome, Ferndale, Bellingham
23	Social - clubhouse and events	Point Roberts, Blaine, Lynden, Sumas, Everson, Welcome, Ferndale, Bellingham
Volunteer Opportunities		Site or Facility Location
24	Work parties - youth and adults	Silver Lake
25	Camp and trail ranger programs	Silver Lake

Proposed recreational programs

Depending on the continued assessment of price and delivery options outlined above, Whatcom County will likely offer the following additional recreational programs to be conducted by county staff, contract instructors, or vendors at county parks, community centers, and trail facilities:

Interpretive Activities		Site or Facility Location
1	Environmental and wildlife exhibits, walks, programs, and events	Nesset Farm, Cherry Point, Nooksack River
2	Historical, archaeological, and heritage exhibits, walks, programs, and events	Nesset Farm, Nooksack River
3	Farm and agricultural exhibits, programs, and events	Nesset Farm, Cherry Point
Outdoor Recreation		Site or Facility Location
4	Swimming beaches - lifeguards	Dittrich Park, Lake Whatcom North and South
5	Picnic shelters and lodges - rentals	Dittrich Park, Lake Whatcom North and South, Cherry Point
6	Campsites and cabins - rentals	Lake Whatcom South, Cherry Point
7	Youth day use and overnight summer camps - programs	Lake Whatcom South, Cherry Point, Nooksack River
8	Family or group picnic and camping events - rentals	Lake Whatcom South, Cherry Point
9	Canoes, boats, and other equipment - rentals	Lake Whatcom North and South
10	Swimming and boating - safety instruction	Lake Whatcom North and South
11	Gun and archery - safety instruction	
Trail Activities		Site or Facility Location
12	Kayaking - youth, adult, family groups	Semiahmoo, Nooksack River
13	Hiking - youth, adult, family groups	Millennium Trail, Nooksack River Trail, Lake Whatcom Park, Lookout Mtn., South Fork
14	Biking - youth, adult, family groups	Millennium Trail, Nooksack River Trail
15	Equestrian - youth, adult, family groups	Millennium Trail, Nooksack River Trail, South Fork
Athletic Events		Site or Facility Location
16	Soccer, softball, and baseball camps	Bay Horizon Park, EWRRRC
Special Events		Site or Facility Location
17	Festivals - music, drama, cultural	South Fork
18	Weddings and parties - rentals	
Community Centers		Site or Facility Location
19	Health and nutrition including meals on wheels -	Bay Horizon, EWRRRC, Sudden Valley
20	Physical conditioning and wellness	Bay Horizon, EWRRRC
21	Arts and crafts programs	Bay Horizon, EWRRRC, Sudden Valley
22	Music and dance events	Bay Horizon, EWRRRC
23	Social - clubhouse and events	Bay Horizon, EWRRRC, Sudden Valley
Volunteer Opportunities		Site or Facility Location
24	Work parties - youth and adults	Bay to Baker Trail, Hovander Homestead, Hertz Trail, Nooksack River Trail
25	Camp and trail ranger programs	Bay to Baker Trail, Hovander Homestead, Hertz Trail, Nooksack River Trail