

Island County Comprehensive Plan

7. Parks and Recreation Element



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**Adopted
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1 ***ISLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT***

2 ***INTRODUCTION***

3 Parks and recreation facilities are becoming more important for all generations as places to
4 exercise, spend time with family and friends, play, enjoy nature and relax from the stresses of
modern society.

5 Island County, known for its natural beauty and rural lifestyle, has become a favorite place for
6 many to live, retire and visit. These characteristics have made Island County one of the fastest
growing counties in the state. The county is Washington's second smallest county in land area,
yet it has one of the highest population densities with almost 300 people per square mile.

7 As growth resulting from new development increases the need for recreational opportunities, it
8 thus becomes increasingly important to ensure that existing and planned parks and recreational
facilities can meet the needs of an expanding population.

9 The county's seven State Parks account for 12.5% of all state park visits throughout Washington.
10 In 1990 almost five million visits were made to State Parks in Island County, a doubling in only
ten years. Because State Parks are annually filled with regional visitors, their availability to
local residents is sometimes limited.

11 The County contains over 200 miles of saltwater shoreline, but very few miles of this shoreline
12 are publicly accessible. A 1991 survey of Island County residents indicated that adequate
shoreline access was the highest area of concern. Eighty-three percent of the respondents felt
13 they did not have adequate access to the shoreline. Given the current trend of accelerating
property values, the cost to acquire shoreline parcels suitable for recreation may soon become
14 prohibitive for local governments.

15 The impact of growth in Island County is felt by everyone. More people are forced to share
limited park space and recreation facilities. The necessity to preserve open space and shoreline
16 access, and to expand the recreation services for a growing population becomes increasingly
important. A comprehensive parks and recreation plan that addresses these issues is essential.

17 This Parks and Recreation element continues planning efforts that began with the 1969 Parks and
Recreation Study, and the Parks Summary included within the 1977 Island County
18 Comprehensive Plan. The 1969 Parks and Recreation Study consisted of an inventory of
existing facilities and needs. However, it did not include suggestions, goals or long-range
19 planning elements. The ten-page 1977 Parks Summary included several recommendations
which have not yet been implemented. A Shoreline Access Study conducted in 1976 partially
20 listed public shoreline access locations. Another important document is a 1994 publication,
Getting to the Water's Edge: Accessing Public Beaches on Whidbey and Camano Islands.
21 Published by the WSU Beach Watchers of Island County, this booklet provides valuable
information regarding access and restrictions to county shorelines.

22 The purpose of this plan is to guide the acquisition, planning and development of parks and
23 recreation facilities in Island County. A second function of the plan is to reaffirm the eligibility

1 of Island County to participate in state and federal funding programs for parks and recreation facilities.

2 In the past, the primary responsibility of the Island County Parks Department has been the
3 management of existing parks facilities while working within a limited budget. Due to the high
4 rate of growth throughout the county and the increasing utilization of existing facilities, the
5 Parks Department must consider the need to expand the number of parks and types of services
6 available to handle the increasing demands. Establishment of outdoor recreation programs and
7 trail systems should also be given a high priority in this expansion.

8 The development of parks and recreational facilities should be an integral part of a larger open
9 space framework where the protection of the unique island environment and its natural resources
10 are balanced with recreational enjoyment and interpretation. The development of a Natural
11 Lands element in this plan is therefore closely linked to this Parks and Recreation element in the
12 identification of future parks and recreation areas, greenbelts and trail corridors.

13 Besides the traditional management of park areas, Island County is mandated by GMA to
14 preserve “critical lands” such as environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitats. The
15 preservation of agricultural and forest resources are also linked to the open space framework,
16 and it is necessary for the county to establish a stewardship role in guiding and facilitating the
17 preservation efforts.

18 Open space and recreation opportunities are tied together in a balance between providing
19 recreational access and preserving natural resources. Only parts of the open space pattern will
20 be open for recreational access, while others may allow only visual access such as bird watching
21 and scenic vistas, without permitting physical access to an area.

22 **VISION STATEMENT**

23 Parks and open spaces which provide active and passive recreational opportunities are an
24 integral element of the character of Island County. All residents, and all visitors to the county
25 should have ample access to a wide variety of well-maintained parks, recreational amenities and
26 open spaces.

27 **INTEGRATION**

28 In order to comply with the internal consistency mandate of GMA, the Parks and Recreation
29 element must not conflict with other elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Of particular
30 importance will be consistency with the Land Use, Critical Areas and Natural Lands elements of
31 this plan. In addition, implementation strategies identified in this element should be considered
32 in the drafting of the Capital Facilities Plan.

33 External consistency; *i.e.*, consistency with other planning documents, is also important. The
34 Parks and Recreation element should not conflict with the county’s *Non-Motorized Trails Plan*
35 or its *Shoreline Master Program*, or with the comprehensive plans of the various jurisdictions
36 and special purpose districts incorporated within the county, or with the goals and policies
37 identified by such state agencies as the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of
38 Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), or the Inter-Agency
39 Committee on Outdoor Recreation (IAC). Also of importance will be consistency and

1 coordination with the United States Park Service, which is responsible for the Ebey's Landing
2 National Historical Reserve. Each of these agencies has been consulted in the drafting of this
3 plan, and their comments have been reviewed and included to the greatest extent possible.

3 **GOALS AND POLICIES**

4 The implementation strategies encouraged by this plan must be based upon a recognized set of
5 goals and policies adopted by the county. The County-wide Planning Policies related to the
6 natural lands element are found in the Policies section of this document. To be effective, these
7 goals must also be consistent with the requirements of state law, and must be compatible with the
8 values of county residents. In addition, in order to maximize opportunities to seek and obtain
9 adequate funding for the acquisition, development and maintenance of recreational areas, the
10 goals and policies established by the state's IAC should also be considered.

11 Goals of the Growth Management Act. While a Parks and Recreation element is not specifically
12 required under GMA, the development of such a plan element does require conformity with
13 certain goals set forth in GMA. Some of these goals, not listed in any order of priority, apply to
14 this plan element. These applicable goals are:

- 15 • *Open space.* Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational
16 opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands
17 and water, and develop parks.
- 18 • *Environment.* Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including
19 air and water quality, and the availability of water.
- 20 • *Citizen participation and coordination.* Encourage the involvement of citizens in the
21 planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile
22 conflicts.
- 23 • *Historic preservation.* Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures,
that have historic or archaeological significance.
- *Critical areas.* Each county shall adopt development regulations that protect critical areas.
- *Shoreline management.* The goals and policies of the state's Shoreline Management Act are
also incorporated as a GMA goal.

24 Island County Goals for Parks and Recreation. The goals and policies identified in this plan
element are intended to build upon the county's history of providing significant opportunities for
residents and visitors to enjoy recreational pursuits, and to relax in natural open space areas.
This historic trend reflects the values of county residents, who place great importance on matters
pertaining to their quality of life.

Goal 1 - Planning. To develop, implement and maintain a comprehensive parks and open space
program. Such a program will be based upon local standards which are suited to meet the long-
range needs of county residents. Elements which shall be considered in such planning efforts
include existing natural land features, population growth and distribution, facility types, needs of
identified user groups, accessibility and travel time, and staffing and capital facility needs.

1 **Goal 2 - Maintaining rural character.** To maintain rural open space patterns within Island County.

2 **Goal 3 - Environmental stewardship.** To ensure that the environmental quality of the county's open spaces is maintained.

3 **Goal 4 - Shoreline access.** To increase public access to the county's shoreline areas. This goal will require adherence to the goals and policies set forth in the county's *Shoreline Master Program*. In addition, it will require the identification of sites that have the potential to be added to the county's inventory of points of shoreline access. Finally, strategies which add to public access opportunities without requiring the purchase of land should be explored.

6 **Goal 5 - Open space corridors and greenbelts.** To establish and maintain natural and man-made open space corridors that have convenient access to residential areas, especially within the county's cities and Urban Growth Areas.

8 **Goal 6 - Coordination.** To continue to work in cooperation with state and federal agencies, local governments and special purpose districts, and other organizations who have an interest in achieving the goals set forth in this plan. A special effort in this area will include working with school districts to develop 'multiple use' concepts which can optimize the public use of appropriate school properties for recreational purposes.

11 **Goal 7 - Programming.** To implement a program of outdoor recreation pursuits that features activities of interest to users in all age groups. A comprehensive programming effort will include cooperation and coordination of those other agencies, organizations and groups identified in Goal 6.

13 **Goal 8 - Public involvement.** To continue a program of active public involvement in the establishment and implementation of policies and programs that promote the goals of this plan.

15 **POLICIES**

16 The goals identified above will work with the following policies to provide guidance to the implementation steps which are shown in a later section of this plan.

17 **Policy 1.** *The establishment and maintenance of parks and open spaces is an essential function of government at all levels, including local and regional governments.*

18 The availability of parks and open spaces enhance our quality of life by providing land areas that permit enjoyable physical activity or quiet enjoyment of a tranquil or scenic environment. Except in limited circumstances, the ability to provide these experiences at a profit is limited. Those limited circumstances can include private golf courses, marinas, health clubs, and those small neighborhood parks and tot lots that may be required as a condition of approval for a residential development

21 Non-profit recreational pursuits such as model hobby parks and sites provide a special niche in Island County and are an important part of the overall provision of recreational opportunities.

23 Because private clubs may not be affordable to all residents, good public policy suggests that facilities that can benefit the general public are most effectively provided by government.

1 **Policy 2.** *Parks and open spaces can help to preserve our heritage.*

2 Like many other areas, Island County's history is illustrated through the preservation of special
3 places where important events are remembered. An active parks system can help to preserve
4 these areas for future generations, and can also provide interpretive areas to help citizens
5 understand their past.

6 **Policy 3.** *Parks and open spaces make economic sense.*

7 The economy of Island County relies heavily upon tourism. The importance of the infusion of
8 outside capital provided by tourists and visitors to Whidbey and Camano Islands cannot be
9 minimized.

10 The open, rural character of the area: the forests, prairies and scenic vistas; are the essence of the
11 attraction of the area to visitors. The county's system of parks and open spaces, which includes
12 campgrounds, beaches and trails, helps to create and maintain the physical environment which is
13 so attractive.

14 **Policy 4.** *Public involvement is an essential element of a parks and recreation program.*

15 If governments are the most appropriate provider of many parks and recreation opportunities,
16 then it must be remembered that governments represent people. The types of lands devoted to
17 parks and recreation, the facilities provided on these lands, the programs developed, the very
18 nature of government efforts in this area; all of these elements must rely on the vision and values
19 of local residents for their long-term success.

20 **SPECIAL ISSUES**

21 Shorelines and Access. It has been noted that Whidbey and Camano Islands have a combined
22 total of some 200 miles of saltwater shoreline. However, public access to this shoreline is
23 limited due to physical constraints such as high bluffs, and by private property restrictions.

24 Because public access to shorelines has been identified as a priority by county residents,
25 strategies to increase this access should be pursued. Those strategies may include:

- 26 • purchase of properties;
- 27 • purchase of easements or licenses;
- 28 • acquisition through transfer or exchange of properties;
- 29 • acceptance of donations;
- 30 • acquisition of access as a condition of development approval; or
- 31 • condemnation (*to be used only in very limited special circumstances*).

32 Trails. In 1995, the county adopted a county-wide Non-motorized Trails Plan. This ten-year
33 plan was intended to work in cooperation with the county's 1993 Transportation Plan, which has
34 been updated as an element of this comprehensive plan.

1 The Non-motorized Trails Plan identified an existing system which includes more than 300 miles
of trails. That plan, which is incorporated herein by reference, accomplished the following tasks:

- 2 • Identified and evaluated existing pedestrian, horse and bicycle trails that have developed
3 within Island County.
- 4 • Identified and evaluated potential public lands, roads, utility right-of-ways, environmental
5 features and other opportunity sites for pedestrian, horse and bicycle trails within the county.
- 6 • Forecasted future trail demand and needs, particularly for facilities that may be provided by
7 county-wide or regional action.
- 8 • Discussed the appropriate roles that should be undertaken by the state, county, city and park
9 jurisdictions in order to meet critical trail programming, development and maintenance needs.
- 10 • Estimated the financial costs involved in developing trail facilities, particularly the possible
11 use of innovative financing tools or methods authorized by GMA.
- 12 • Surveyed public opinion to determine which trail development issues are most important to
county residents, and which methods are most preferred for financing or realizing trail
developments.
- Defined the necessary elements of a comprehensive plan for developing trail facilities.
- Detailed an implementation program outlining the actions necessary to realize the county-
wide trail plan's development.

13 Public Lands. There exist throughout Island County numerous parcels of land which are owned
14 by the public, and are idle or used for purposes other than active or passive recreation or open
15 space. Many of these parcels may have the potential to provide future recreational opportunities.
16 The types of properties which may have this potential include utility corridors, road rights-of-
way (including vacated streets), properties acquired through tax foreclosure, and properties
owned by state or federal agencies. The Natural Lands element of this plan suggests procedures
to prioritize these lands for possible future acquisition by the county.

17 Facilities Design. Recreational facilities must be of adequate size to serve intended user groups
18 without generating conflict between activities. From tot lots and pocket parks, to ball fields,
regional parks and special purpose facilities, the size of the available property will be a major
determinant to the use of the property.

19 The needs of user groups are also important to facilities design. In locations where a property
20 may be developed for multiple uses, the size and location of buffers will help to minimize user
conflicts.

21 Appropriate facilities design must also include compliance with the provisions set forth in the
22 Americans with Disabilities Act, which provides for accessibility to sites for persons with
physical disabilities.

23 Recreation Programming. The resources required to acquire, improve and maintain facilities for
parks, recreation and open space are substantial and ongoing. In order to gain the maximum

1 value from this significant public investment, the development and implementation of recreation
2 programs which promote the use of these facilities by the public makes great sense.

3 The establishment of recreation programs requires a continuing investment in staffing and
4 equipment. The use of volunteers to supplement the work of paid staff, partnering with
5 educational institutions, and seeking private sector sponsorships are examples of strategies that
6 can help to minimize the public costs of such programs.

7 ***INVENTORY***

8 Island County enjoys a variety of parks and recreation facilities that are owned and maintained
9 by many different government and volunteer organizations. These include:

- 10 • *Federal:* National Park Service, with Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Trust
11 Board.
- 12 • *State:* Parks and Recreation Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of
13 Natural Resources.
- 14 • *Local:* Island County, City of Oak Harbor, City of Langley, Town of Coupeville, North
15 Whidbey Parks and Recreation District, South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District, Port of
16 South Whidbey, Port of Coupeville, Oak Harbor School District, Coupeville School District,
17 South Whidbey School District. Also, non-profit organizations such as the Whidbey-Camano
18 Land Trust and the Lions Club.
- 19 • *Private Commercial:* Golf clubs, marinas and sport clubs.

20 *Figure 1* provides a summary of the facilities provided in each service area in Island County by
21 various entities.

Figure 1 Facilities by Service Area

LOCATION	FACILITY TYPE/OWNER	# OF PARKS/SITES	SIZE (ACRES)
Camano Island	State Park	1 park	134.4
	County Park	2 parks	11.0
		7 sites	12.7
North Whidbey	State Park	2 parks	1,037.0
	County Park	8 sites	47.5
	City of Oak Harbor	12 sites	67.5
	North Whidbey Parks & Recreation Dist.	2 sites	4.0
	Oak Harbor School District	9 sites	192.0*
Central Whidbey	National Park Service	1 park	45.8
	State Park	3 parks	662.7
	DNR	1 park	120.0
	Island County	7 sites	116.24
	Port of Coupeville	1 site	0.1
	Town of Coupeville	4 sites	5.9
	Coupeville School District	2 sites	26.0*
South Whidbey	State Park	1 park	346.8
	DFW	3 sites	5.8
	Island County	9 sites	83.13
	South Whidbey Parks & Rec.	1 site	43.9
	City of Langley	4 sites	1.5
	South Whidbey School District	4 sites	120.8*
	Port of South Whidbey	2 sites	11.9

* Total Acreage includes building footprints and undeveloped areas

DESCRIPTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES ON CAMANO ISLAND:

Owned/Managed by Island County:

1) Maple Grove:

This 0.76 acre site consists of a boat ramp, parking area, picnic area and beach access.

2) Utsalady Vista:

This 1 acre site contains a picnic area and a view point.

3) Utsalady #2.:

The 0.5 acre site has a boat ramp and a very limited parking area. The boat ramp is in good repair and only needs occasional maintenance.

*Note: Mode III service level**

4) Livingston Bay:

The 0.75 acre site has a parking area and beach access. This is an undeveloped area that requires no maintenance other than trash pick up.

Note: Mode IV service level

* See Technical Appendix for a description of the county's Park Maintenance Standards

1 **5) Camano Multi-Purpose Center:**

2 This 6 acre area contains the multi-purpose center (Senior Center), one ball field, two tennis
3 courts, a picnic area/playground, and a pump house.

4 **6) Cavalero Beach:**

5 The 0.5 acre site has a boat ramp, picnic area and parking area. The approach to the boat ramp
6 needs improvement. The site is generally in good condition.

7 **7) Walter G. Hutchinson Park:**

8 This 5 acre park has nature trails, a picnic area and parking. Due to deed restrictions, the site
9 must be left in its natural state. Maintenance is minimal requiring only trash collection and
10 storm damage clean up.

11 *Note:* Mode III service level

12 **8) English Boom**

13 This 6.72 acre parcel consists of 2.5 acres of timbered uplands, and more than 4 acres of lowland
14 salt marsh beach with approximately 900 feet of water frontage. The site offers unlimited bird-
15 watching opportunities, beach combing, and sweeping scenic vistas. Future plans for the facility
16 include a 6-10 car parking lot including handicap accessibility, a vault toilet, interpretive
17 signage, a trail connecting the uplands to the beach, and a paved pathway to an accessible
18 viewing area. Other than the pavement associated with the accessible trail, the property will
19 remain largely undeveloped.

20 **9) Dry Lake Road Trail Head**

21 This is a 2.5 acre undeveloped parcel that will be developed as a trail head/rest area for users of
22 the Camano State Park-Cama Beach Trail. Future trail development can link this site with the
23 trail to the Elger Bay DNR property. Limited development of this site may include a small
24 parking area, picnic facilities and rest rooms.

1 Figure 2 Existing Park and Recreation Areas on Camano Island

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1 ***Owned/Managed by the Stanwood School District:***

2 No Facilities in Island County are currently owned by the Stanwood School District. However,
3 recent estimates indicate that approximately 50% of the Stanwood student body resides on
4 Camano Island. It is assumed that many of those students utilize recreational facilities owned by
5 the school district and located outside of Island County.

6 ***Owned/Managed by the State of Washington:***

7 **10) Camano Island State Park:**

8 This 134.4 acre state park is located on the south west side of Camano Island. The park has 114
9 picnic units, two boat launches, and one view point. The 87 camp units served 19,357 overnight
10 visitors in 1990, in addition to the 385,793 day use visitors. The park, which also contains 6,700
11 feet of shoreline, is generally considered to be operating at capacity in terms of the number of
12 visitors served. The park primarily serves as a regional destination park that is highly sought by
13 visitors, and thus provides only limited service to the local population due to seasonal crowding.

14 **11) Cama Beach State Park:**

15 This former resort has been purchased as a state park by joint agreements between the property
16 owners and the Washington State Park & Recreation Commission. The site has an extensive
17 gravel beach that provides access to public tidelands that extend north to the west shoreline of
18 the island, and south to Camano Island State Park. The beach portion of the park includes a
19 series of wooden vacation cabins, a general store, a boat works yard, and other structures that are
20 being renovated for day use activities. The upland portion of the site extends to West Camano
21 Drive, to include Cranberry Lake and numerous wetlands located within a coniferous forest.

22 ***DESCRIPTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES ON NORTH WHIDBEY ISLAND:***

23 ***Owned/Managed by Island County:***

24 **1) Monroe Landing:**

25 This 0.25 acre road end has a boat ramp, beach access and a parking area that has been
26 established by a 25-year use agreement with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The boat
27 ramp is in good condition and requires only routine maintenance.

28 **2) Scenic Heights:**

29 The 0.75 acres picnic area is located close to private residences and is not heavily used.

30 *Note: Mode VI service level**

31 _____
32 * See Technical Appendix for a description of the county's Park Maintenance Standards

1 Figure 3 Existing Park and Recreation Areas on North Whidbey

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1 **3) Hastie Lake:**

2 The 0.75 acre area contains a boat ramp, parking and beach access. This area is in excellent
3 condition and requires minimal maintenance.

4 **4) West Beach Vista:**

5 The view area is closed due to hazardous bluff conditions.

6 *Note: Mode III service level**

7 **5) Moran Beach:**

8 This 0.5 acre road end has a parking area and beach access. This area is undeveloped and
9 requires very minimal maintenance.

10 *Note: Mode VI service level*

11 **6) Mariners Cove:**

12 The 0.25 acre area contains a boat ramp and a very limited parking area. The boat ramp is in
13 good condition and is presently being maintained by community volunteers.

14 **7) Ethel Taylor Property:**

15 This 33 acre parcel is undeveloped with an older house and outbuildings. Wetlands comprise
16 approximately 50% of this property. The largest of these wetlands is connected to Cranberry
17 Lake, which is within the boundaries of Deception Pass State Park. No plans for development of
18 this property have been formulated.

19 **8) Ala Spit:**

20 This is a 12 acre site consisting of an 8 acre sand spit, 4 acres of uplands, and more than 5,000
21 linear feet of beach and tidelands. The area is currently undeveloped, except for a gravel parking
22 area. Available activities include clam digging, fishing, crabbing, bird watching, beach combing
23 and picnicking. The extreme southeast portion of the beach area has been designated as a camp
24 area for users of the Cascadia Marine Trail. Future development will be limited to parking area
25 improvements, rest rooms, and picnic facilities.

26 ***Owned/Managed by the City Of Oak Harbor:***

27 **9) City Beach Park:**

28 This 28.5 acre community park has developed recreational facilities such as ball fields, 15 picnic
29 units, an exercise course and children's play areas. The park's principal value is the 2,100 feet
30 of shoreline bordering Oak Harbor Bay. The park has one boat launch and a recreational trailer
31 park with space for 55 R.V. units.

32 **10) Neil Park:**

33 This 3.5 acre neighborhood park contains one tot lot and the Holland Gardens.

34 * See Technical Appendix for a description of the county's Park Maintenance Standards

1 **11) Smith Park:**

This one acre neighborhood park has picnic sites and children's play area.

2 **12) Summer Park:**

3 This 4 acre neighborhood park has two tennis courts and a covered picnic site.

4 **13) Flintstone Park:**

5 This 1.5 acre neighborhood park has beach access with 500 feet of shoreline, two picnic units, a
6 pier and float for use of transient boaters, and rest rooms. The park is developed as a theme park
based on the Flintstone comic strip.

7 **14) Tyhuis Park (Well site #6):**

The 0.75 acre well site contains a tot lot.

8 **15) Koetje Park (Well site #7):**

9 The 0.75 acre site has a baseball field and a tot lot.

10 **16) Kimball Park (Well site #8):**

The 0.75 acre site contains a tot lot.

11 **17) Hal Ramaley Memorial park:**

12 This 0.5 acre passive recreation site contains a small play area.

13 **18) Well Site #11:**

14 The 1.5 acre site contains a tot lot and a picnic site.

15 **19) Well Site #12:**

The 0.8 acre site has a tot lot and a picnic site.

16 **20) Shadow Glen Subdivision:**

17 This 0.75 acre site contains a tot lot, picnic site and a baseball practice field.

18 **21) Oak Harbor Marina:**

19 The city owns and operates a 420-boat facility located on approximately eight acres of the
former Navy Seaplane Base with 1,000 feet of shoreline. The marina is open seven days a week
with a capacity of 133 open and 183 covered slips, in addition to 104 dry storage sheds. The
20 facility, which also accommodates the Oak Harbor Yacht Club, is within walking distance of
most retail services including motels and restaurants in Oak Harbor. It is a half-way point for
21 boaters from Seattle, Tacoma and Everett en route to the San Juan Islands, providing extensive
moorage for boats in excess of 50 feet.

22 **22) Civic Center:**

23 The City owns the 14 acre site that includes one softball field, as well as the Oak Harbor Senior
Center. Also located on the site is the John Vanderzicht pool, owned and maintained by the
North Whidbey Parks and Recreation District.

1 ***Owned/Managed by the North Whidbey Parks and Recreation District:***

2 **23) John Vanderzicht Pool:**

3 The John Vanderzicht indoor swimming pool with sauna, therapeutic and training pools is
4 located on the Civic Center grounds owned by the City of Oak Harbor. This pool facility is
5 owned and maintained by the North Whidbey Parks and Recreation District.

6 **24) Clover Valley Ball Field:**

7 The 4.0 acre site has two ball fields.

8 ***Owned/Managed by the Oak Harbor School District:***

9 **25) Administrative compound:**

10 This 4 acre area contains a football stadium.

11 **26) Broadview Elementary:**

12 The 16 acre school site has a play field and three softball/baseball fields.

13 **27) Clover Valley Elementary:**

14 The 15.4 acre school site has three softball/soccer fields, two outdoor basketball courts, a
15 playground and a large grass play field. Estimated size of the recreation area is 10 acres.

16 **28) Crescent Harbor Elementary:**

17 The 10-acre school site has three softball/soccer fields, outdoor basketball court, playground, and
18 large mowed grass play field. Estimated size of the recreation acres is 5 acres.

19 **29) Oak Harbor Elementary:**

20 The 16-acre school site has two play fields and four softball/baseball fields. The estimated size
21 of the recreation area is a 8 acres.

22 **30) Oak Harbor Middle School:**

23 The 17-acre school site contains a football field, four softball/baseball fields, a quarter-mile
24 paved athletic track and four tennis courts. The estimated size of the recreation area is 8 acres.

25 **31) Oak Harbor Junior High School:**

26 The 25-acre school site has a football field, three softball/baseball fields, two tennis courts, and a
27 quarter-mile paved athletic track. The estimated size of the recreation area is 12 acres.

28 **32) Oak Harbor High School:**

29 The 43.9-acre school site has a football field, a quarter-mile paved athletic track, six tennis
30 courts and a baseball field. The estimated size of the recreation area is 22 acres.

31 **33) Olympic View Elementary:**

32 The 12.0 acres school site has a play field and three softball/baseball fields. The estimated size
33 of the recreation area is 6 acres.

1 **34) Hillcrest Elementary**

2 *Owned/Managed by the U. S. Department of the Navy:*

3 **35) The Naval Air Station at Whidbey Island:**

4 This facility has 206.86 acres of park and recreation areas containing six softball fields (three for
5 casual use only), one football field, one soccer field, six tennis courts, two volleyball courts, four
6 basketball courts, one gravel running track and a fitness trail. Even though the facilities are not
7 accessible to the general public, 31,675 personnel and dependents are eligible to use the facilities
(D.T. Waggoner, 7/7/92). Since a large number of these service personnel live on North
8 Whidbey Island, it may be assumed that the availability of these facilities, while restricted from
9 the general public, provide recreational opportunities that would otherwise need to be provided
10 from other sources. NAS Whidbey also has an 18 hole golf course and picnic area located at
11 Rocky Point.

12 *Owned/Managed by the State of Washington:*

13 **36) Deception Pass State Park:**

14 1,195 acres of the park's 1,248 acres are located on Whidbey Island at the very northern tip
15 surrounding Deception Pass. This park is the most heavily visited State Park in the state, with
16 nearly 3.5 million visits recorded in 1990. This amounts to more than three times the number of
17 visitors recorded by the next most popular state park.

18 The park has 254 camping spaces that handled 97,070 overnight visitors in 1990. The park has
19 2345 picnic units, an environmental center, moorage and docks, an outdoor amphitheater and 8.5
20 miles of hiking trails. The park has approximately 30,000 linear feet of shoreline on the
21 Whidbey Island side. Heavy use of the park by out-of-county visitors limits local use during the
22 summer season. The adjacent 680 acre Hoypus Hill DNR property was transferred to State
23 Parks in February, 1992. This area is under consideration for designation as a Natural Forest
24 Area (NFA) and/or a Natural Area Preserve (NAP).

25 **37) Joseph Whidbey State Park:**

26 This 112 acre park is located on the west coast of Whidbey Island, just south of the Naval Air
27 Station. This park has limited facilities, yet it recorded 61,676 day visits during 1990.

28 **38) Dugualla Bay:**

29 State Parks has acquired the 586 acre tract of land located southeast of Dugualla Bay. This land,
30 which was previously owned by DNR, contains over a mile of shoreline.

31 ***DESCRIPTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES ON CENTRAL WHIDBEY ISLAND***

32 *Owned/Managed by Island County:*

33 **1) Rhododendron Park:**

34 The county-owned 32 acres of the park contains a picnic area, two ball fields, rest room
35 facilities, a small playground and pump house. Scheduled improvements include a storage

1 building and a paved parking lot. The State Parks Department maintains a 10 acre site, the
2 Department of Natural Resources Campground, located just north of the County Park.

3 **2) Libbey Beach Park:**

4 This three acre park has 1.5 acres of developed park consisting of a shelter, picnic area with
5 barbecue, vault rest room and beach access. This facility is heavily used.

6 **3) Telaker Shores:**

7 The 0.74 acre site has a picnic area and beach access. The area is maintained by the Coupeville
8 Lions Club, and requires minimal maintenance by county personnel.

9 *Note: Mode IV service level**

10 **4) Ledgewood Beach:**

11 The 0.5 acre site provides beach access by way of a ramp and stairs. This is a relatively
12 undeveloped site that could be enhanced with a picnic area.

13 *Note: Mode IV service level.*

14 **5) Lagoon Point #1:**

15 The road end provides limited access to DNR-owned tidelands, and is used primarily for surf
16 cast fishing. Parking is limited.

17 *Note: Mode IV service level.*

18 **6) Lagoon Point #2:**

19 This road end provides limited access to DNR-owned tidelands, and is used primarily for surf
20 cast fishing. Parking is limited.

21 *Note: Mode IV service level*

22 **7) Amber Property:**

23 This 80 acres of selectively logged property lies adjacent to the county-owned Barstow property,
24 and was purchased to be utilized as open space. In addition, this property will provide a link
25 between the Kettles Trail. That trail traverses the southern boundary of the site, connecting to
26 the Barstow and Fort Ebey properties. This site is intended to remain as a passive use area.

27 ***Owned/Managed by the Town of Coupeville:***

28 **8) Town Playground:**

29 The Town Playground is a half-acre neighborhood park in a single family residential area,
30 located on the north side of Coupeville in close proximity to the county courthouse. The park
31 contains a tennis court, playground equipment and a softball backstop.

32 **9) Town Park:**

33 This 3.8-acre park is located in the northwest section of town. The north portion of the park is
34 wooded, medium bank waterfront land with 500 feet of shoreline. The site was donated to the

* See Technical Appendix for a description of the county's Park Maintenance Standards

1 town for use as a natural park. The area, which is sheltered from the wind, contains a tennis
2 court. A 440-foot trail leads to the beach.

3 The south portion of the park is used as a picnic and playground area. Playground equipment
4 consists of swings and a log “jungle Jim” type structure. The picnic area contains a concrete
5 barbecue pit, a covered open-air kitchen, and rest rooms. In addition, the Coupeville Lions Club
6 recently constructed horseshoe pits and a shuffleboard court.

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10) Alexander Blockhouse:

The 0.1-acre site next to the Museum contains the historic Alexander Blockhouse.

1 Figure 4 Existing Park And Recreation Areas on Central Whidbey

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1 **11) Captain Thomas Coupe Park:**

2 This 0.8-acre park is situated east of and adjacent to the Town’s Wastewater Treatment facility,
3 and has recently been improved. The park has approximately 500 feet of low or no bank
4 shoreline and contains a new boat launching ramp with floating dock, new rest rooms, parking
5 and picnic facilities. The park also has a holding tank dump station for travel trailers and
6 recreational vehicles.

7 **12) Triangle Park:**

8 This small, 0.11-acre site on Main and Ninth Streets has been attractively landscaped by the
9 Coupeville Garden Club. Park facilities consist of park benches.

10 *Owned/Managed by the Port of Coupeville:*

11 **13) Coupeville Wharf:**

12 The wharf is located in downtown Coupeville on port-owned property and tidelands. The wharf
13 has a public pier and a float with transient moorage slips.

14 *Owned/Managed by the Coupeville School District:*

15 **14) Coupeville Elementary School:**

16 This one-acre site has a covered sports court and a playground with play equipment. Directly
17 adjacent to this facility is Clark Field, a 9.7-acre site which contains the School District’s
18 stadium and several multi-purpose athletic fields. The recreation area is approximately 10 acres
19 in size.

20 **15) Coupeville Junior/Senior High School:**

21 This 6-acre site houses the junior and senior high school facilities. It has three tennis courts, two
22 baseball fields and two gymnasiums which are used by the community.

23 *Owned/Managed by the State of Washington:*

24 **16) Ebey’s Landing:**

25 This 22 acre site is located on the west side of central Whidbey Island between Fort Casey and
26 Fort Ebey State Parks, in the National Historical Reserve. The site has a small gravel parking
27 lot, an interpretive display board and hiking trails along the top of a steep bluff with exceptional
28 views of the Strait of Juan De Fuca. The site contains 2,720 feet of shoreline. The area is owned
29 by State Parks and the Ebey’s Landing Trust Board. The area had 45,559 day visits in 1990.

30 **17) Fort Casey State Park:**

31 The 411.5 acre park is located near the Keystone Spit and the Port Townsend ferry terminal.
32 The park contains a parking area, 60 picnic units, rest rooms, two boat launches, and view
33 points. Attractions include pre-World War II military shore defense fortification structures and
34 an operating light house. The park reported 494,099 day use visitors in 1990, and also 20,330
35 campers who utilized the 35 overnight camping spaces. The park has 8,200 feet of mostly high

1 bank shoreline. The park also contains the Keystone Underwater Park, which is very popular
2 with scuba divers.

3 **18) Fort Ebey State Park:**

4 The original 228.2-acre park is located on the west side of Whidbey Island, a few miles north of
5 Ebey’s Landing in the National Historical Reserve. The park has 61 camp units, which attracted
6 19,044 overnight visitors in 1990 in addition to 236,549 day use visitors. The park has 20 picnic
7 units, rest rooms, a historic fort, and scenic vistas. With the acquisition of the Point Partridge
8 property from the Department of Natural Resources (see below) the park now contains over 644
9 acres.

10 **19) Point Partridge:**

11 The 416-acre DNR site was transferred to State Parks ownership in 1990, and has been
12 incorporated into the Fort Ebey State Park. The area is located at the western-most point of
13 Whidbey Island overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Olympic Peninsula, and even parts
14 of British Columbia can be observed on clear days. The point is within the Ebey’s Landing
15 National Historical Reserve.

16 ***Owned/Managed by the Department of Natural Resources:***

17 The State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages large areas of forest lands in Island
18 County for the benefit of school and university trust accounts. However, due to recent
19 management decisions, some of these lands have been designated as “urban transitional” and
20 will be sold in the near future, with the capital re-invested in more productive forest lands
21 outside Island County. This decision may result in significant loss of public owned lands in
22 Island County. The County should encourage the transfer of DNR forest lands to other public
23 agencies.

24 **20) Rhododendron Park:**

25 DNR owns most of the area known as Rhododendron Park. 120 acres are designated as school
26 trust lands, 32.58 are state owned and 31.85 acres are owned by the County. A potential sale of
27 the 120-acre School Trust lands could adversely impact the park. Acquisition by Island County
28 or other parks providers should be seriously considered.

1 Figure 5 Existing Park and Recreation Areas on South Whidbey

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1 **DESCRIPTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES ON SOUTH WHIDBEY**
2 **ISLAND**

3 **Owned/Managed by Island County:**

4 **1) Dave Mackie Park (Maxwelton):**

5 This 5-acre park has a boat ramp, a rest room facility, a ball field with grandstand, a concession
6 stand with water and electricity, a shelter with a brick stove, a playground, a picnic area with a
7 barbecue, a pump house and beach access. This facility is in good condition. This park is not
8 included in the Parks Department turf maintenance program (fertilization) due to budget
9 restrictions.

10 **2) Dan Porter Park (Clinton):**

11 This 8.5 acre park contains vault rest rooms, a playground, tennis court, ball field, nature trails
12 and a picnic shelter. This facility is in good condition, but is in need of improvements such as
13 new rest rooms and ongoing turf maintenance. Also, the entry road and parking area should be
14 paved.

15 **3) Hurt Property:**

16 This 30 acres of forest land was deeded to the county for a passive, interpretive and educational
17 park. The deed is very restrictive and excludes the possibility for establishing parking or any
18 facilities in the area with the exception of nature trails. The deed requires that the county build a
19 fence along the property boundary. This fence is a high priority item for the Parks Department.

20 *Note: Mode IV service level.*

21 **4) Double Bluff Beach Access:**

22 The Double Bluff Beach Access is located at the end of Double Bluff Road and consists of a
23 visitor parking area with 22 parking spaces, adjacent to three waterfront parcels which feature
24 over 800 feet of beach front. The site provides access to more than two miles of state-owned
25 tidelands. Development includes rest room facilities, a paved pathway, a landscaped berm, an
26 interpretative kiosk, viewing benches and a grassy picnic area.

27 **5) Mutiny Bay:**

28 The 0.33-acre area contains a boat ramp and parking area. The site consists of 12 undeveloped
29 lots containing regulated wetlands. The boat ramp suffers from excessive sand build up and
30 requires frequent cleaning.

31 **6) Freeland Park:**

32 The 15.5-acre park contains a boat ramp with float, rest rooms, a playground, a picnic area with
33 barbecue, picnic shelters, and the Freeland Community Hall.

34 **7) Baby Island Heights #1:**

35 This two acre site is closed due to hazardous conditions.

1 **8) Baby Island Heights #2:**

2 These three acres of beach and tidelands are surrounded by private property. The site is not
3 accessible by land.

4 *Note:* Mode IV service level.

5 **9) Island County Fairgrounds:**

6 The 13-acre site is home to the annual Island County Fair. The area is also utilized as camping
7 area during the summer season. The capacity is 80 camp sites. In the winter season the
8 fairgrounds are used as a storage area.

9 *Owned/Managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife:*

10 **10) Deer Lake Fishing Area:**

11 The 0.2-acre fresh water access is located on the east side of Deer Lake. The area contains a
12 boat ramp, a swimming/fishing dock with a designated swimming area, vault rest rooms, a picnic
13 area and parking. The area is managed by the Island County Parks Department.

14 **11) Lone Lake Fishing Area:**

15 The five-acre fresh water access is located on the north side of Lone Lake at the end of Lone
16 Lake Road. The area has a boat ramp, vault rest room and a picnic area. The site is managed by
17 the Island County Parks Department.

18 **12) Goss Lake Fishing Area:**

19 The 0.6-acre fresh water access site is located on the north side of Goss Lake. The area contains
20 a boat ramp, swim area, vault rest rooms and a picnic area. The site is managed by the Island
21 County Parks Department.

22 *Owned/Managed by the City of Langley:*

23 **13) Sunrise Beach:**

24 This 0.20-acre site in Langley includes a six-foot community walkway and tidelands.

25 **14) Seawall/Totem Park:**

26 The 1.0 acre park is located in downtown Langley along the waterfront below First Street. The
27 park has four picnic tables, a staircase to the beach and 1000 feet of shoreline.

28 **15) Phil Simon Memorial Park:**

29 The 0.21-acre park lies adjacent to the Langley Small Boat Harbor and contains two picnic tables
30 and 400 feet of shoreline.

31 **16) Langley Small Boat Harbor:**

32 The 0.11-acre site consists of a marina with 38 transient moorage slips, fishing pier, rest rooms,
33 shower facilities, boat launch and beach access.

1 **17) South Whidbey Island Community Center Park:**

2 The 43-acre park is currently under construction. It includes plans for a community center,
3 picnic shelter, all purpose ball fields, an amphitheater, rest rooms, and trails.

4 **Outdoor recreation programs:**

5 The South Whidbey Park and Recreation District offers a variety of recreational programs to the
6 community. These include a fun run, bow shoot, hay ride, caroling party, volleyball tournament
7 and summer teen dances. In 1990, a Program Coordinator was hired to administer the recreation
8 program.

9 ***Owned/Managed by the Port of South Whidbey:***

10 **18) Possession Beach Waterfront Park:**

11 The 11.9-acre park contains a boat ramp, rest room facility, picnic sites, nature trails and beach
12 access.

13 **19) Clinton Recreational Pier:**

14 The 0.5-acre community pier has a walkway and a small float with two daytime moorage slips.
15 Public parking is available at Clinton ferry commuter lot.

16 ***Owned/Managed by South Whidbey School District:***

17 **20) Langley Middle School:**

18 The 30-acre school site is located in Langley north of the Fairgrounds. The area contains a large
19 grass field, two softball fields and a football field. The recreation area is approximately 10 acres
20 in size.

21 **21) South Whidbey Primary School:**

22 The 28-acre school site is located on Maxwelton Road and contains two playgrounds and one
23 basketball court.

24 **22) South Whidbey Intermediate School:**

25 The 20-acre school site is located on Maxwelton Road and a large grass play field that is utilized
26 for a variety of recreational activities. The recreation area is approximately three acres in size.

27 **23) South Whidbey High School:**

28 The 40-acre school site is located on Maxwelton Road and contains one football field, one
29 quarter-mile running track, one softball field, one practice field, one baseball field, and five
30 tennis courts. The recreation area is approximately 20 acres in size.

31 ***Owned/Managed by the State of Washington:***

32 **24) South Whidbey State Park:**

33 The 85-acre park is located on the west side of Whidbey Island, northwest of Freeland and
34 southwest of Greenbank. The park contains 70 overnight camping sites that handled 13,681

overnight campers in 1990. The park also recorded 206,525 day use visits during that year. The park has rest rooms and 19 picnic units. The 4,500 feet of high bank shoreline is accessed by hiking trails. State Parks has reached an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to transfer ownership of the adjacent 262 acres of old growth forest, known as “Classic U”. This area has been classified by the state’s Parks and Recreation Commission as a Natural Forest Area (NFA). NFA’s are “designated for preservation and interpretation of natural forest processes.” In general, recreational activities permitted in these areas are limited to hiking on designated trails, and viewing interpretive panels and markers. This designation will expand the size of the park to 347 acres.

Owned/Managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife:

DFW manages two large public recreation shellfish harvest areas in Island County. The largest is a 3.25-mile section of tidelands that extends from San De Fuca to the town of Coupeville. The other harvest area is a 1.6-mile section located between the communities of Shangri-La Shores and Glenwood, on the southwest shore of Whidbey Island.

The character of the inter-tidal ownership varies in these areas and does not provide consistent recreational access. Some sections of tidelands do not have upland public access and can only be reached by boat.

This agency also manages two artificial reefs that were constructed to enhance fish habitat **Omanac Point Reef** and **Possession Point Reef** contain a total of 51 subtidal acres.

ANALYSIS

Level of Service Standards. As noted above, Island County features a wide variety of parks, recreation and open space sites and facilities, ranging from neighborhood tot lots to national reserves. In order to ensure an adequate supply of such facilities for county residents and visitors, appropriate level of service (LOS) standards should be established. Such standards are useful to decision-makers for budgeting and capital facilities planning.

Figure 6 identifies existing and proposed service levels for certain facilities related to parks and recreation.

Figure 6 Level of Service Standards

FACILITY	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXISTING LOS	DESIRED LOS
<i>County Parks</i>	acres/1,000 population	2.90	3.50
<i>Trails</i>	miles/1,000 population	0.00	0.14

Community Values. In order for parks and recreation planning and programming to succeed, it must have the active support of the public. Active public involvement has been a cornerstone of this comprehensive planning effort, paying particular attention to soliciting public input for the

1 Natural Lands element and this Parks and Recreation element. Only by actively engaging the
2 public in discussion and debate can we ensure that the resulting plan reflects the vision and
values of the community.

3 In addition to the various public meetings and hearings held in association with the overall
4 comprehensive plan, the preparation of this Parks and Recreation element included several
5 meetings held for this specific purpose. In 1991, an extensive public involvement effort included
6 a Parks and Recreation Survey that was distributed to all households in the county. The results
of the 1991 survey are shown in the *Technical Appendix* to the plan. In addition, four public
meetings were held in different sub-regions of the County. As a result of this effort, more than a
thousand people contributed through written or oral comments.

7 1998 Survey Results. In January, 1998 three additional public meetings were held in various
8 locations within the county to seek public input into issues related to natural lands and parks and
9 recreation planning. During those meetings, participants were asked to respond to a survey that
included questions related to parks and recreation issues. Respondents were asked to rank their
priorities for certain types of parks or recreation facilities. Given the response choices of *high*
priority, *medium priority*, *low priority*, *no priority*, or *do not know*, participants listed their
responses to these categories:

10 *Please mark the box you feel represents your priority of the improvements below:*

- 11 1. A trails system linking communities and parks
- 12 2. More destination parks for county residents
- 13 3. More small community parks in unincorporated areas
- 14 4. Improve existing park facilities
- 15 5. Improve access to and along the shoreline
- 16 6. More regional parks for visitors
- 17 7. More natural areas with limited facilities
- 18 8. More playgrounds in unincorporated areas
9. Maintain scenic vistas from roads

19 The survey also included the following questions:

- 20 • *Do you have any other priorities the County Parks Department should work on?*
- 21 • *List three areas in your community you feel should be secured as recreational property.*
- 22 • *List the recreational activities you would like to see improved in your community.*
- 23 • *Would you be willing to pay something to secure recreational opportunities in your
community?*

In addition to these questions, respondents were asked to identify the area in which they lived. Thus, the responses could be tabulated as a total, or into the geographic areas of North Whidbey Island, Central Whidbey Island, South Whidbey Island or Camano Island.

From those public meetings, a total of 78 participants responded to the survey. Based upon the responses, it appears that residents place the highest priority on ‘*More natural areas with limited facilities.*’ This category ranked first as a high priority overall, and also ranked first in each area of the county except North Whidbey Island, where it tied for second. The second highest overall priority went to ‘*A trails system linking communities and parks.*’ Ranking third overall, and first in North Whidbey Island, was ‘*Improve access to and along the shoreline.*’ While each of these categories received at least 42 ‘*high priority*’ responses, no other category received more than 23.

Overall, the least popular categories were ‘*More regional parks for visitors,*’ and ‘*More playgrounds in unincorporated areas.*’ The ‘*More regional parks*’ category received only one vote as a high priority among all respondents, and it also received the highest number (31) of votes as a low priority.

Figure 7 Highest Priority By Area

	South Whidbey	Central Whidbey	North Whidbey	Camano	TOTALS
1. trails system	5	5	5	32	47:2
2. destination parks	3	1	2	9	15:6
3. small community parks	2	0	2	11	15:6
4. improve existing facilities	1	2	3	18	24:4
5. improve shoreline access	5	3	10	24	42:3
6. regional parks	0	0	1	0	1:8
7. natural areas	6	3	7	36	52:1
8. playgrounds	0	0	1	3	4:7
9. scenic vistas	1	2	7	13	23:5

The figure above indicates which element received the highest priority from respondents in each geographic area of the county. The numbers in each column represent the actual number of respondents ranked the element as a high priority. The TOTALS column contains two numbers, the first being the total of each geographic area in the row, and the second number representing the overall rank of that element among all respondents. The numbers shown in **bold** indicate the highest-ranked element within the geographic area.

Also of interest from the survey is the response to the question, ‘*Would you be willing to pay something to secure recreational opportunities in your community?*’ A total of 63 of the participants responded to that question, with 58 answering YES, and only 5 saying NO. Thus, 92% of respondents indicated that they would be willing to pay for additional facilities or programs.

Figure 8 Would you be willing to pay something to secure recreational opportunities in your community?

	YES	NO
North Whidbey	8	1
Central Whidbey	7	0
South Whidbey	4	1
Camano	39	3
TOTALS	58	5

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of this Parks and Recreation element will involve working in three areas:

- Acquisition of new lands for parks, trails and natural areas;
- Maintenance of existing facilities; and
- Providing a variety of programs for residents.

The Capital Facilities element of this plan identifies planned acquisitions, the resources needed to fund the purchases. In determining priorities for future acquisitions, the information gained through the extensive public participation process that accompanied the development of this plan should be given considerable weight.

The county’s annual budget must fund for the labor and materials needed to protect the county’s investment in parks through a planned maintenance program, and also to promote the use of these facilities through recreation programming.

The amount of funding necessary to implement this plan is considerable, and the priorities expressed in the plan must compete with other county priorities for funding. Therefore, implementation of this plan will require creativity, persistence and patience in identifying local and outside sources of funding. Those sources may include local tax programs such as the Conservation Futures Fund, outside sources such as grants from state or federal agencies or foundations, or combinations of resources in collaboration with others. A more complete discussion of funding options can be found in the Natural Lands element.

Implementation must also conform to the Level of Service (LOS) standards identified here and in the Capital Facilities Element. In budgeting for future acquisition, special attention should be paid to increasing the amount of land devoted to county parks, and also to trails.

Finally, implementation will succeed only if activities include a continuing program of public involvement and education. As changes in public attitudes and priorities were noted between the 1991 and 1998 surveys, future changes may also be expected. By monitoring these changes over time, the county can ensure that its future actions reflect the vision and values of its citizens.