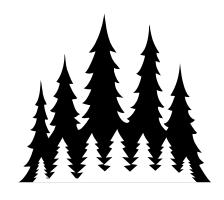


South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District

Comprehensive Plan

2004 - 2009

South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District PO Box 136 Langley, WA 98260 360-221-5484



South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District **Board of Commissioners**

S. Curtis Gordon, Chair

Carl D. Westling, Vice Chair

Paul P. Arand, Treasurer

James R. Porter, Secretary

Allison C. Tapert, Member at Large

Plan last adopted June 17, 1998

South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District

Resolution 2004-02

Resolution Approving Six Year Comprehensive Plan

A resolution approving the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District's six year Comprehensive Plan.

WHEREAS, South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District considers it in the best public interest to develop and approve a six year comprehensive plan that will guide the planning of parks and recreation facilities in the South Whidbey Island community; and

WHEREAS, South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District values the input of its citizens and as such have provided appropriate opportunities for public comment and participation in the comprehensive plan process; and

WHEREAS, South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District must develop and maintain a six year comprehensive plan to be considered an eligible grant applicant for some state / federal grant programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District of Washington State,

Section 1. There is hereby adopted by reference the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District's 2004-2009 Comprehensive Plan and attached hereto.

Adopted by the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District's Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on the 21st day of January, 2004.

Signed and approved by the Chairman the Board of Commissions of South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District this 21st day of January 2004.

SIGNED:	S. Curtis Gordon, Chairman
ATTEST:	
	James R. Porter, Secretary
APPROVED AS TO FORM:	

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INTRODUCTION

The Planning Process

The three goals of this plan are as follows:

- **G1.** To guide the planning of parks and recreation facilities in the South Whidbey Island community.
- **G2.** To increase public involvement in the future of parks planning and to create better channels of communication and coordination among the agencies that provide parks and recreational facilities.
- **G3.** To continue the eligibility of South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District to participate in state and federal funding programs for parks and recreation facilities.

Public needs have been identified through (1) advertised open public meetings, (2) onsite random sample needs assessment survey, and (3) small group assessments. (See Attachment C for Methodologies Used.) Additional needs were identified through review of existing plans and reports, literature and unstructured observations.

Background and Purposes

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District is a junior taxing district formed in 1983 to promote and provide recreation services to the residents of South Whidbey. The need for such services has long been recognized by concerned citizens, but it has only been within the last 15 years that significant progress had been made toward meeting that need.

Prior to the formation of the District, a corporation was formed in 1979 and negotiations were completed with Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Waterman for the donation of a 40-acre parcel on Maxwelton Road. Under the conditions of the agreement, title to the land was transferred to the corporation after logging of the site was completed and tax-exempt status had been secured by the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District. These accomplishments provided a basis for achieving the broader purposes of the corporation.

In 1982 Western Washington University was contacted about completing a recreational preferences survey of the people of South Whidbey. The university agreed to complete the survey to collect the needed information and to provide a report that would enable the orderly and responsive planning for recreation services through the 1980's.

In 1989 a comprehensive plan was developed and approved by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). This plan allowed the district to apply for and receive a \$154,000 grant through the IAC. The grant, combined with matching funds donated by citizens and organizations throughout South Whidbey, enabled the District to

complete Phase I of the Park Plan.

Phase I of the master plan included the development of three Little League baseball/softball fields, three multipurpose soccer fields, a restroom, picnic shelter, paved parking and roadway of ¼ mile to access these fields and landscaping with irrigation.

Also included in Phase I was the completion of the remaining infrastructure. Included in these facilities are the 100,000-gallon water storage tank, lighting, buildings such as the concession stand, offices and maintenance shed, and a 20,000 sq. ft. playground.

The District has had a very successful history of passing its maintenance and operations levies. In 1987 the voters passed the District's first 5 year maintenance and operations levy to develop and maintain park facilities. A second 5 year levy successfully passed in 1991 and a third 6 year levy passed in 1997 with over a 70% approval. In 2002 the District passed its fourth maintenance and operations levy, a two year request, with just under 70% approval of the voters. The District has been able to maintain the same levy rate of \$0.15 per \$1,000 assessed valuation throughout its maintenance and operations levy history.

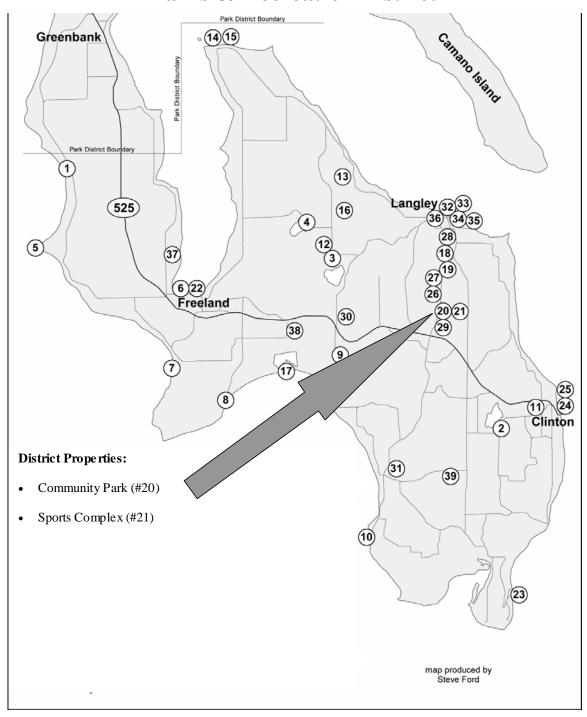
In 1996 the District Board of Commissioners hired its first full-time director who put together a professional staff to maintain the facilities and develop recreational programs.

The past efforts of the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District have been directed toward planning and building Community Park as well as acquiring additional land and developing new facilities based on community needs. The future will be directed toward maintaining current District facilities, developing additional recreational programs, continuing to acquire additional land for active and passive use, and providing new facilities identified by community needs.

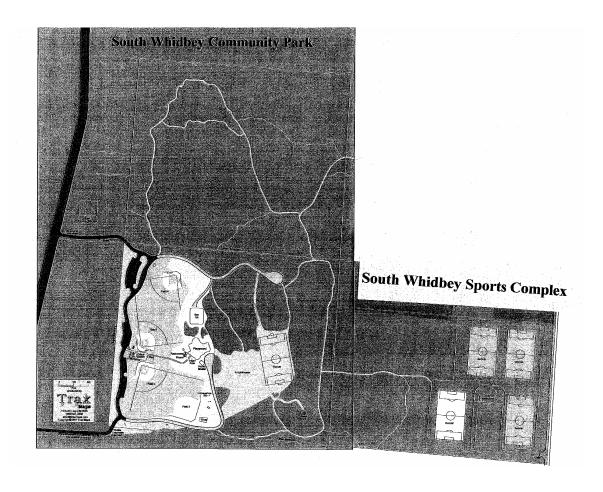
From the work that has been done up to this time, including the public sessions and surveys, the following conclusions have been reached:

- 1. It will be the policy of the District to identify and protect "Critical Areas" as defined in the Growth Management Act. Also due to the increasing population, and reflecting the differing needs of various segments of that population, the District will need to acquire easements or fee-simple title to lands for development of hiking, bicycling, and horse-riding trails throughout South Whidbey Island.
- 2. Acquisition of shoreline properties for public access to both freshwater and saltwater access remains as a critical need for the community.
- 3. The planning of a recreation center/ swimming pool and campground at Community Park should have a high priority in the future.
- 4. In any and all developments and property acquisitions the protection of the island's environment and natural resources should be a high priority.

South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District



Map of Community Park and Sports Complex



MISSION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Mission Statement

The mission of the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District is to provide all residents and visitors in the district a variety of recreational activities and facilities. This should be fun and safe and be well integrated into our island community and environment. It should also be educational and healthful, providing opportunities for individuals and our community to play well together. It is our mission to best achieve this through community participation.

Recreation Goals

- 1. Provide recreational activities for all age groups, inter- and intra-generationally.
- 2. Encourage use by residents and visitors.
- 3. Provide a variety of activities and facilities.
- 4. Involve sites throughout geographic boundaries of the District.
- 5. Emphasize fun as a major motivation to use the District facilities and programs.
- 6. Emphasize health.
- 7. Insure safety for all participants and observers.
- 8. Emphasize education.
- 9. Programs and activities should be compatible with the Island environment.

Park and Open Space Goals

With the development of this plan, the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District is committing itself not only to preserving existing open space, but to proactively building it into the South Island community as we grow. The following goals are designed to enhance the sense of open space within the South Whidbey area and to provide public recreation areas for citizens of all ages. More specifically, planning ahead for open space assures the District a future complete with places devoted to relaxation and play; safe and accessible right-of ways for bicycles, foot traffic and other forms of alternative transportation; the enduring presence of wildlife; lasting historic character and a general atmosphere of natural beauty.

- 1. Encourage the retention of open space in its natural condition and conservation of fish and wildlife habitat.
- 2. Encourage access to natural resource lands and water and development of parks.
- 3. Encourage public use of open space areas for year-round recreation activities.
- 4. Encourage development of facilities and programs where community activities and events can occur for the benefit of all South Whidbey residents.
- 5. Encourage and support development of safe, separate, and convenient right-of-way for bicycles, pedestrians, and other alternative modes for both recreation and transportation.
- 6. Encourage the protection of the historic character of the area by striving to retain existing regionally significant land uses and patterns including trials, natural areas, and open spaces.
- 7. Provide for the protection of open space through education, lobbying and securing land by purchasing or easements.

Objectives

- 1. Acquire freshwater and coastal shoreline properties for public access on South Whidbey within the District's boundaries.
- 2. Acquire open space / greenways within the District's boundaries that provide a variety of non-motorized trail use opportunities.
- 3. Expand current District inventory by assuming publicly held properties within the District's boundaries as necessary and appropriate.
- 4. Develop a community center and/or indoor swimming pool in Community Park to provide spaces for year-round recreational opportunities that benefit all South Whidbey residents.

Responsibilities

In keeping with the spirit of cooperation, the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District feels it should accept the responsibilities for providing park and recreation services within the district boundaries as outlined below:

- 1. While it is recognized that there will be an overlapping of District, municipal, county, and state park and recreation services within our district, it is nevertheless desirable to define the District's responsibility as clearly as possible.
- 2. Since the role of the District should be to acquire, develop and maintain recreation facilities and programs that will serve the needs of communities and areas within the district, the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District should provide such facilities and programs, where there is no other unit of local government to provide them, by whatever method the board may determine most appropriate.
- 3. In accomplishing this, the Board may utilize county, city, and port services as well as other methods by which those benefited will pay the cost. Entering into intergovernmental contracts or agreements with other local units of government for the joint use of resources and for park and recreation facilities and programs should be examined.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AREA

Whidbey Island is the largest island in Puget Sound with a land area of 172 square miles. Approximately 148 miles of saltwater shorelines surround this land mass which extends 40 miles in a north-south direction and varies from one to ten miles in width between shorelines. The island is connected to the mainland on the north by the Deception Pass Bridge. The mainland can be reached on the south and west by ferry.

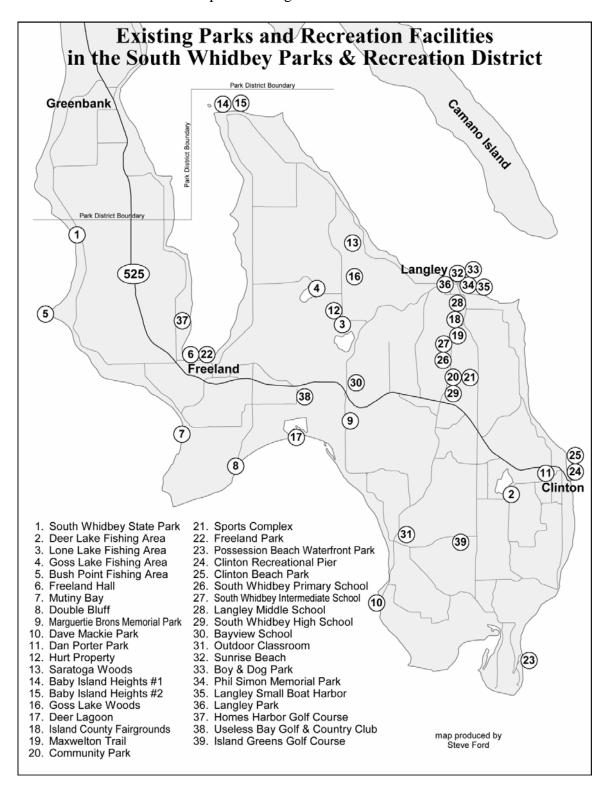
South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District encompasses the southern one-third of Whidbey Island, totaling 58.9 square miles. The District's northern border is from Classic Road westward to the southern boundary of South Whidbey State Park. The District is bordered on the other three sides by the waters of Puget Sound. The District is 35 minutes from Everett and 55 minutes from Seattle by way of the Clinton / Mukilteo ferry and Interstate 5.

The physical characteristics of the area are those of forested rolling hills of glacial deposits, including significant wetland systems. The climate is generally mild and uniform with annual precipitation of \pm 36 inches.

The economic base of South Whidbey is primarily service industry and tourism, compatible with a primarily rural population. According to the Island District Economic Development Council (IDEDC), the area experiences an average 25% population increase from May to September from part-year residents, such as vacation and second homes, and also from tourists visiting the area in the summer season. The tourist trade has driven a burgeoning bed and breakfast industry in recent years as well as an increasing demand for daytime and nighttime activities.

The current population of Island County is estimated at 74,000 which is based on 2000 U.S. Census figures and the State's OFM forecasting. Based on estimated population changes from 2000 to 2003, Island County is ranked 11th out of the states' 39 counties by percentage of change in population. The state's GMA growth projections – based on intermediate growth projections – for Island County's 2010 population is expected to be 80,650.

South Whidbey's population from the 2000 Census was 12,662. With average annual growth percentages provided by IDEDC factored in, current population numbers are estimated at 13,715. Population projections for South Whidbey is expected to be 16,527 by 2010 and 21,573 by 2020.



EXSITING FACILITIES

The planning area shares the same borders as the South Whidbey School District and the South Whidbey Port District. The area also is encompassed by the Island County Park Department.

STATE PARKS:

1) South Whidbey State Park

The 347-acre park is camping park with 4,500 feet of saltwater shoreline on Admiralty Inlet, located on the west side of Whidbey Island. The park includes 45 tent and 9 utility year-round camping spaces, a dump station, restrooms, showers, 1 kitchen shelter (includes a BBQ and 4 tables), 4 picnic shelters, 19 unsheltered tables, an amphitheatre, and 16 fire circles (one of which is sheltered). The park also features 3.5 miles of trails, an old-growth forest, and vista views.

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE:

The following sites are managed by Island County Parks, with the exception of site 5 which is managed by the Port of South Whidbey, by agreement with Department of Wildlife. Capital improvements for sites 2-5 are the responsibility of the Department of Wildlife.

2) Deer Lake Fishing Area

The .75 acre site is located on the east side of Deer Lake and includes a boat ramp, fishing dock and swim area (no lifeguard), vault restrooms, picnic area, and parking.

3) Lone Lake Fishing Area

The 5 acre site is located on the north side of Lone Lake and includes a boat ramp, vault restrooms, picnic area & BBQ, and parking.

4) Goss Lake Fishing Area

The .6-acre site is located on the north side of Goss Lake and includes a boat ramp, swim area (no lifeguard), vault restrooms, picnic area, and parking. Petroleum-powered watercrafts are NOT allowed on this lake.

5) **Bush Point Fishing Area**

The 2+ acre site is located on Admiralty Inlet on the west side of Whidbey Island and currently includes 120 feet of shoreline, a fishing area and an old sling boat launch. Construction is currently slated for 2004-2006 on a public boat launch, dock and parking area.

ISLAND COUNTY:

6) Freeland Hall

The 3-acre parcel includes a hall with a large multi-purpose room, a small meeting room and restrooms, picnic shelter, BBQ, and walking trails. The hall is managed by the Holmes Harbor Activity Club, under a management contract with the County. For their services they are allowed to keep the facility rental income which is used for routine maintenance of the building. The County is responsible for repairs over \$500.00.

7) **Mutiny Bay**

The .33-acre area contains a boat ramp, parking area, and vista view. The site consists of 12 undeveloped lots containing regulated wetlands.

8) **Double Bluff**

The .75 acre park includes beach access, clamming, restrooms, interpretive kiosks, parking, vista views, picnic area and an off-leash area. The public access provides direct access to several miles of state-owned public tidelands.

9) Marguertie Brons Memorial Park

The 13 acre park includes a fenced off-leash area, trails, picnic shelter, informational kiosk, and parking.

10) **Dave Mackie Park** (Maxwelton Beach Community)

The 5 acre park has a boat ramp, playground, restrooms, beach access, ballfield & grandstand, 3 picnic shelters & BBQ's, group picnic shelter area with brick stove BBQ, concession stand (water/electric available), and parking.

11) **Dan Porter Park** (Clinton)

The 8.5 acre park has a playground, 2 ballfields, tennis court, picnic shelter & BBQ's, nature trails, restrooms, and parking.

12) **Hurt Property** (Lone Lake Road)

The 30 acre forest land was deeded to the county for a passive, interpretive and educational park. The deed is very restrictive and excludes the possibility for establishing parking or any facilities in the area with the exception of nature trails. The land is currently closed to the public and awaiting development.

13) Saratoga Woods

The 120 acre park includes nature trails, picnic area, vista view, and parking.

14) Baby Island Heights #1

The 2 acre tideland site has water access only.

15) **Baby Island Heights #2**

The 3 acre beach and tideland site is surrounded by private property and not

accessible by land – water access only.

16) Goss Lake Woods

The 600+ acre park includes nature trails.

17) **Deer Lagoon**

The 400+ acre site is expected to become Island County property in 2004 and consists mostly of wetlands.

18) Island County Fairgrounds:

The 13-acre site is home to the annual Island County Fair. The site also includes 80 camping sites which are available year-round, storage areas in the off-season, and 24 buildings which are used for a variety of community and 4-H activities.

19) **Maxwelton Trail**

The future +/- 4 mile trail connecting the city of Langley to Community Park on Maxwelton Road is slated for construction in 2005 - 2006.

SOUTH WHIDBEY PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT:

20) **Community Park** (Maxwelton Road)

The 87.5 acre park provides a diverse mix of active and passive use areas and includes four ballfields, one soccer field, a batting cage, an asphalt basketball court, a 20,000 sq. ft. playground, a 6,300 sq. ft. skate / bike park, a picnic shelter & BBQ, amphitheatre, approximately 69 acres of forestland through which approximately 3 miles of hiking/mountain biking trails run, information kiosks, concession stand, restrooms, District offices, maintenance buildings, a storage trailer, and parking.

21) **Sports Complex** (Langley Road)

The 29.09 acre park includes four turf and one dirt soccer fields, 12 acres of forest with walking trails, information kiosk, restrooms, and parking. Future site improvements planned include a playground, picnic shelter and perimeter walking trail.

PORT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY:

22) Freeland Park

The 17-acre park contains a boat ramp and dock, picnic area w/BBQ's, picnic shelter, restrooms, playground, walking trails, clamming, shellfish wash station, fresh water, parking vista views.

23) Possession Beach Waterfront Park

The 11.9-acre park has been recently developed and presently contains a boat

ramp, restroom facility, picnic sites, nature trails and beach access.

24) Clinton Recreational Pier

The .5-acre community pier has a walkway and a small float with two daytime moorage slips. Public parking is available at Clinton ferry commuter lot.

25) Clinton Beach Park

The future .58 acre site, located on the north side of the Clinton Ferry Terminal, is slated for construction in 2005 - 2006, and would include a natural beach, a viewing platform, picnic areas, a small concession and restroom building, areas for storage of bicycles and kayaks, and parking.

SOUTH WHIDBEY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

26) South Whidbey Primary School

The 34.1 acre school site is located on Maxwelton Road and contains two playgrounds, one basketball court, and nature trails.

27) South Whidbey Intermediate School

The 20-acre school site is located on Maxwelton Road and contains an upper (improved) and lower (unimproved) soccer field, three play areas, and two covered play sheds with basketball courts.

28) Langley Middle School

The 22.6-acre school site is located in Langley north of the fairgrounds. The area contains two rough dirt playing fields with backstops and a football field, lower soccer field and a gravel track.

29) South Whidbey High School

The 48.4-acre school site is located on Maxwelton Road adjacent to Community Park. It contains one football field and ¼ mile running track, one softball field, one practice field, one baseball field, seven tennis courts, and 2 asphalt basketball courts.

30) **Bayview School**

The 4 acre school site is located on Bayview Road and includes a rough baseball field (no backstop).

31) **Outdoor Classroom**

The 6.3 acre site is located south of Hwy 525 on Maxwelton Road. Maxwelton Creek runs through the parcel and the facility includes interpretive trails, streamside viewing platforms, in-stream salmon hatching boxes, a fully equipped outdoor classroom building (in conjunction with Maxwelton Salmon Adventure, a non-profit corporation working to promote watershed stewardship and to the

preservation and protection of salmon, wildlife, habitat and water quality), picnic area, restrooms, and parking.

CITY OF LANGLEY:

32) Sunrise Beach

The .2-acre site includes a 6-foot community walkway, tidelands, and vista view.

33) **Boy & Dog Park** (aka Sewall/Totem Park)

The 1 acre park includes picnic tables, a staircase to the beach, 1,000 feet of shoreline, and vista views.

34) Phil Simon Memorial Park

The .21-acre park is adjacent to the Langley Small Boat Harbor and includes picnic tables and 400 feet of shoreline.

35) Langley Small Boat Harbor

The .11-acre site consists of a marina with 38 transient moorage slips, fishing pier, restrooms, shower facilities, boat launch and beach access.

36) Langley Park

The .15-acre park includes gardens, pathways, tables and benches.

GOLF COURSES:

37) Homes Harbor Golf Course

Homes Harbor is an 18-hole course open to the public but owned and operated by a privately held corporation. Located north of Freeland, the course is open year around. It has a dining room, banquet room and a boat dock.

38) Useless Bay Golf & Country Club

Useless Bay is an 18-hole private course. It is a membership-only course and does not allow outside play without a member. Located south of Freeland, it also has a driving range, a practice green, an outdoor seasonal swimming pool, two tennis courts, a dining room, and banquet facilities.

39) Island Greens Golf Course

Island Greens is a par 3 nine-hole course open to the public with private ownership. Located south of Clinton, it also has a driving range.

FACILITY STANDARDS

Facility standards for South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District have been developed on the national basis using criteria developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The NRPA criteria employs a ratio for a required facility to a standard unit of population to measure facility needs. These standards should be viewed as guideline as it addresses minimum, not maximum, goals to achieve.

For the purposes of this plan, public facilities through-out the District have been factored into the standards listed below, not just District-owned properties.

2003 population: 13,715 2020 population: 21,573

Facility	2003 Invento	ry	NRPA	Surplus / Deficit	
,	District Owned	All Other Public	Standard		
Park Land					
Open Space			2.0 acres/1000		
Athletic Flds/playgrounds			3.1 acres/1000		
Picnic					
Tables (areas) w/o shelter	2 tables / areas	29 tables / areas	na		
Shelter group use	1 shelter	12 shelters	.5 / 1000	+ 6.14 shelter	
	1	Γ	1	·	
Trails	3.0 miles	3.5 miles documented	.5 / 1000	35 miles	
		+ several miles of County trails		+ several miles of Co. trails	
Desch Assess Asses	0 sites	10 sites of	/-		
Beach Access Areas	0 sites	varying sizes	n/a		
Camping	0 campsites	134 tent/rv sites	3.33 / 1000	+ 88.33 sites	
Playgrounds			na		
Covered	0	2			
Uncovered	1	5 + IM?,			
		T			
Skateboard Park	1	0	na		
Basketball Courts (outdoor)			.3 / 1000	+ 1.88 courts	
Covered	0	2			
Uncovered	1	3			
				_	

Tennis Courts	0	8	.5 / 1000	+ 1.14 courts
		1	1	
Volleyball Courts	0	0	.2 / 1000	- 2.74 courts
E: 1170			05 / 1000	1.01
Field Track			.05 / 1000	+1.31 track
Rubberized	0	1		
Gravel surface	0	1		
Football			.05 / 1000	+ 2.31 fields
	0	1	.03 / 1000	+ 2.31 Helds
Grass lighted		1		
Practice field	0	2		<u> </u>
Soccer			.1 / 1000	+ 5.63 fields
Grass	4 fields	1		
All-weather	1 field			
Un-maintained play area		1		
Baseball			.2 / 1000	74 fields
grass, unlighted	1	1	.27 1000	.74 Helds
grass, arrighted	1	1		
Softball / Baseball			.2 / 1000	+ 6.26 fields
grass, unlighted	3	3		
play areas		3		
		1	1	
Swimming Pool			.05 / 1000	68 pool
Indoor	0	0		
Outdoor	0	0		
Recreation / Community Center	0	0	1 / 25,000	55 center

In 5 years (2008) population: 15,669

Facility	2003 Invento	rv	NRPA	Surplus /
	District Owned	All Other Public	Standard	Deficit
Park Land				
Open Space			2.0 acres/1000	
Athletic Flds/playgrounds			3.1 acres/1000	
Picnic				
Tables (areas) w/o shelter	2 tables / areas	29 tables / areas	na	
Shelter group use	1 shelter	12 shelters	.5 / 1000	+ 5.17 shelter
Trails	3.0 miles	3.5 miles documented	.5 / 1000	- 1.33 miles
		+ several miles of County trails		+ several miles of Co. trails
Beach Access Areas	0 sites	10 sites of varying sizes	n/a	
Camping	0 campsites	134 tent/rv sites	3.33 / 1000	+ 81.82 sites
Playgrounds			na	
Covered	0	2		
Uncovered	1	5 + IM?,		
Skateboard Park	1	0	na	
Basketball Courts (outdoor)			.3 / 1000	+ 1.3 courts
Covered	0	2		
Uncovered	1	3		
Tennis Courts	0	8	.5 / 1000	+ .17 courts
Volleyball Courts	0	0	.2 / 1000	- 3.13 courts
Field Track			.05 / 1000	+1.21 track
Rubberized	0	1		
Gravel surface	0	1		
Football			.05 / 1000	+ 2.21 fields
Grass lighted	0	1		
Orano inglitea				

Soccer			.1 / 1000	+ 5.44 fields
Grass	4 fields	1		
All-weather	1 field			
Un-maintained play area		1		
Baseball			.2 / 1000	- 1.13 fields
grass, unlighted	1	1		
Softball / Baseball			.2 / 1000	+ 5.87 fields
grass, unlighted	3	3		
play areas		3		
Swimming Pool			.05 / 1000	78 pool
Indoor	0	0		
Outdoor	0	0		
Recreation / Community	0	0	1 / 25,000	62 center
Center				

ACTION PLAN

The action program for South Whidbey Parks &Recreation District presented in this section is based on the data examined in other sections of this plan and is aimed toward the satisfaction of those demands and needs made apparent by the examination of related data. It must be remembered that this action program is merely a guideline based on current data, not a rigid, unchangeable schedule of commitment. As new data becomes available and future, currently unforeseen, events transpire, this action program should be reviewed and, if necessary, altered to conform to new circumstances.

Part-time residents and tourists continue to find South Whidbey the perfect vacation and summer getaway spot, making competition for local facilities quite evident. As previously stated, the Island District Economic Development Council estimates that the South Whidbey population grows by 25 percent between May and September. With this comes the conflict of sharing our natural beauty with thousands of others and creates a demand for additional facilities to eliminate overcrowding of prime use areas.

Island County's population has grown by approximately nineteen percent (19%) over the past ten years. While growth continues, it has slowed due to the state's current economy. Public access to outdoor recreation areas have increased moderately during this period.

Once-numerous large farms, which provided scenic views throughout the island, are dwindling. Several have been developed into housing and others have been platted and are being sold for similar uses. Forested areas on the island are at a premium. These areas left on South Whidbey are encroached by residential housing. Trails that have been traditionally used by hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers are quickly disappearing as a result of land conversion. Shorelines and access to waterways have been cut off to the public due to platting and sale of shoreline properties where previous owners allowed access.

Continued population growth and the loss of recreational land has put demands on all providers of parks and recreation services to come up with alternative leisure pursuits. It has been evident to the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District Commissioners that the priorities of South Whidbey residents include a recreation center, swimming pool, hiking trails and waterfront property for public access. Therefore, the Capital Improvement Plan (Attachment B) deals primarily with acquiring critical public access to trails and shorelines, as well as development of public facilities at Community Park for a recreation center and / or swimming pool.

Priorities

Changing situations can dictate development project priorities. If acquisitions are to be made, development projects and priorities could well change significantly. Therefore, the following priorities have been established by the District Board:

- 1. Maintaining and improving existing park facilities within available funding limits.
- 2. Making improvements to meet the top ten recreational needs that citizens identified as very important to them.
- 3. Acquiring property, making improvements and developing facilities to meet future demands for park and recreation areas.

In addition to facilities, previous needs surveys and public input have indicated an overwhelming need for more organized recreational opportunities on South Whidbey. To meet those needs, the District hired its first full time Recreation Coordinator in 2001 and continues to develop new programs and events. Multi-agency collaboration is encouraged whenever possible and practical in offering public programs and facilities.

ACQUISTION AND DEVELEOPMENT

The increased availability of public lands over the past several years has helped close a previously existing gap in facility standards on South Whidbey. However, shortfalls continue in public access to shorelines and trails.

Acquisition of sufficient land to meet both current and future parks and recreation needs must be given a high priority by the District because of the rate of growth and increasing land prices.

The District has used five different means for acquisition in the past: bonds, loans, donations, levies, and grants. A variety of funding approaches may be necessary to address the District's future acquisition and development needs.

A number of areas, sites and facilities have been identified in this plan and should be pursued in the next six years. This plan covers only a limited number of sites; others may be identified in the next six years that will be more of a priority than the ones listed here. Each should be evaluated on the merits it possesses.

Recommended acquisition and/or development projects that would expand existing district parks areas and facilities.

Deer Lake, Goss Lake, Lone Lake – Acquire lake frontage as it becomes available

Coastal Areas – Acquire saltwater frontage if it should become available

Property around Community Park – Community Park is bordered on three sides by private holdings.

- 1. The property to the north of the park is currently functioning as a private horse
- 2. The private property to the west of the park borders on Maxwelton Road and would be ideal to develop into an RV and camping site.
- 3. The property to the south currently provides no real advantage to ownership to the District at this time.

Walking / Bike Trail / Equestrian – The District should continue working with Island County, the South Whidbey Port District, the City of Langley and trail groups to establish a network of public trails. One trail that should be pursued by the District is an off-road corridor along Hwy. 525 from Clinton to Greenbank. Another trail corridor to be pursued is from Langley to Maxwelton Beach.

Swimming Pool – Although a previous ballot initiative was not approved by the voters, the need for a public swimming pool continues to be ranked high on citizens' wish lists. The 2001 needs survey listed a swimming pool as the top outdoor facility needed, and the 1996 needs survey identified a swimming pool as the most highly rated facility by those surveyed.

Community Center – The District was formed in 1983 for the purposes of building a community center at Community Park. The District has not deviated from that vision. Such a public facility at Community Park could potentially be combined with a swimming pool.

Community Park Development – In addition to the above stated RV camping, potential exists to develop a dirt BMX track, add amenities to the existing skate / bike park (i.e. expanded apron, flat slab, and bowls), and a second picnic shelter.

Sports Complex Development – Future site improvements to the complex may include a play structure, picnic shelter, perimeter walking trail, and concession stand.

Attachment A

(2001 Needs Survey & 2003 Class Survey)

South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District 2001 Needs Survey Results

Part I	Tally of Results	2001	Ticous Buriey 1	tosaits			
1.	In which zip code do you	reside?	42 Langley	42 Clinton	<u>31</u> Fre	eland	4 Other
2.	How well informed would 16 Very Well informed			outh Whidbey l			District? ot at all
3. gro	How important do you thioups?	nk it is to	provide recreation	on programs fo	or each of the	followi	ng age
	PreschoolElementaryMiddle SchoolHigh SchoolAdultsRetired adultsHandicap/Special Needs	Very Important 49 90 103 98 58 50 62	Moderately t Important 41 25 16 23 47 46 43	Not Very Important 21 2 1 2 8 17 7	Not at all Important 4 0 0 0 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	No Opinio 2 1 0 1 1 3 5	on
4.	Do you believe the South 51 Yes 63 No	Whidbey	Community has	ample outdoor	r facilities?		
5.	If no, what additional oute 1. Swimming Pool 2. Trails for Walkin 3. Soccer Fields 4. Baseball Fields 5. Skate / Bike Park 6. Basketball Court 7. Beach Front 8. Covered Picnic A 9. BMX Track 10. Small Boat Facili	g/Biking s	(19) (14) (9) (8) (7) (6) (5) (4) (4)	——————————————————————————————————————			
6.	Of the outdoor recreation increase on South Whidbe				the most imp	ortant to	keep or to

Outdoor

Basketball

2. Beach Front Lighted Fields

38

Parks 76

1. Hiking/

Biking Trails

Tennis Courts

Outdoor

Swimming Pool

Small Boat Facility 29	Access to Fresh/Salt Water	5. Picnic Areas	Skate Park 47	4. Playgrounds	Public Forested Areas 52
Open Space Areas	52 3. Soccer Fields	55 Amphitheater	Horse Trails	56 BMX Bicycle Racing Track	Baseball Fields
35	57	23	24	23	53
Do you believ	e South Whidbe ve the Parks & R O_No	•			any indoor facilities. oor facilities?
	er to Q-7 was yes g? A. <u>Swimmin</u>				Recreation District
If yes in Q-7, 17 Langley	in which area or26_Freelan			e facilities built ommunity Park	? _ <u>4</u> Other
					rks & Recreation Other 80 All of
	ed taxes in Q-10, er year 38.5				see a new facility? More than \$20
If you checke 16 Yes 6	ed donations, wo		ested in being of Donation?	n a Fundraising 65 Yes 1	
Have you or a this past year	•		ed or been to Co	mmunity Park o	on Maxwelton Road
	3 how many times 17_5		o 20 <u>41</u> Mo	re than 20 times	in the last year.
					South Whidbey. cipated sometime
82 Playgro		64 Swimmi	ng	35 Mountain	Bicycling
<u>8</u> BMX B	icycling	53 Road Bio	cycling	40 Tennis	
56 Basketh	all	39 Boating		32 Canoeing	/Kayaking
<u>39</u> Golf		38 Softball/	Baseball	48 Snow skii	ng/boarding
43 Fishing		7_Hunting		55 Soccer	
86 Hiking	/Nature	77 Picnicki	ng	53 Overnight	Camping
34 Kite Fly	ing	84 Movies		57 Music Co	ncerts
34 Crafts		60 Televisio	on	53 Exercise/	Weight Club
60 Internet		3 Other G	<u>ymnastics</u>	2 Other Ru	nning
	Find out about re onal Brochures o School	creation program 73 Word of 24 Internet		? Newspaper	

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14

15.

16.

17.	In which areas listed, would you or members of your household like to see new or improved									
	programs?									
	<u>44_</u> Fitn	ess Activitie	s	<u>25</u> Arts,	Crafts &	Hobbies	<u>19</u> Tean	n Sports		
	<u>24</u> Spec	cial Events		<u>32</u> Educ	ational Pro	ograms	23 Perfo	orming A	rts	
	<u>16</u> Gen	eral Interest		<u>55</u> Swin	nming		<u>20</u> Bask	etball		
	31_Sail:	ing/Boating		<u>14</u> Tour	naments		22 Soco	er		
	<u>10</u> Base	eball/Softball		15 Senio	ors		6 Othe	r		
18.		st year, has ar Parks & Rec				cicipated in <u>24</u> No		n sponsoi	red by the S	South
19.		dicate how yo	ou would	rate the S	outh Whi	dbey Parks	& Recrea	ation Dist	rict in each	of the
	following		Excellen	t Ver	y Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't kn	ow
Condition Instructor Program Program Publicity Registra	ons of Factors ors or Costs or Times		37 35 27 27 24 17 23 39	- - - -	34 41 33 41 38 29 30 34	24 19 18 17 22 26 23 17	2 1 5 6 6 18 9	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{array} $	12 13 22 15 15 11 18 14	
20.	What is y	our gender?	Fema	le <u>75</u>	Male	e <u>48</u>				
21.	What is y 1112-1		4 8	_25-34	<u>37</u> 35-4	44 <u>37</u>	_45-54	<u>12</u> 55-6	64 <u>16</u>	65-over
22.		ny years have s than five	you live <u>60</u> 5		outh Whid 32 More	•				
23.	Which of the following best describes the type of household in which you now live? 30 Couple with no children at home 70 Couple with children at home Single parent with children at home 9 Single adult									
24.	South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District hosts an Internet Web site at www.icelu.com/swparks Have you ever visited the site? <u>21</u> Yes <u>100</u> No									
25.	In the pas	st year, the SV	WPRD ha	as more th	ıan double	d the amou	unt of acre	eage we n	nanage and	
	maintain. The District has in place through the year 2002; a property tax of 15 cents per \$1,000.00									
	of assessed value for providing maintenance and operations.									
	,	Would you be value for prov 108 Yes		aintenance				er \$1,000	.00 of asses	ssed

	В.	cents per \$1,000.0 able to maintain or	00 that you are al	ready paying, ent level of ser	if it assured that vices and progra	axes over and above the Parks District was we already have	would be
	C.	If yes, about how	nuch more would	l you be willing	g to pay above th	e 15 cents?	
		33 .0105 cc 19 .0610 cc 32 .1115 cc	ents per \$1,000.0	0 of assessed	value		
26.	Commu	nity Center. This g Park & Recreation Do you believe a on South Whidbe If an Intergenerat included in the ce purpose room, tel	group has represe, School District Community Cery? <u>86</u> Yes ional center werenter? <u>Meeting soms court, dance</u> ional center were ional center were	entatives from , County, and iter that would _24_ No e built on Sou pace, class sp room, fitness	the Youth Cent Langley on the I include all the 5 Not Sur th Whidbey, wh ace, play areas, area	se organizations is	Health needed to see
27.	used have the name new spo	ve been Communit e Community Park	y Park, Playgrou k. Since we have ey Road) would	and in the Parle added another	k, Castle Park, e er 73 acres this p	by several names. tc. Lately we have bast year (including this park changed f	e used g the
28.		nswered yes in Q-7 hidbey Communi				Park (4)	
Part II	Evaluat	ion of Results by	Question				
1.	Respond 35.3% 35.3% 26.06% 3.34%	lents reside in the Langley Clinton Freeland Other	following zip co	des:			
2.	Respondents ranked the level of which they were informed about SWPRD as follows: 14.05% Very Well informed 48.25% Well informed 35.99% Not Very Well informed 1.71% Not At All informed						
3.	-	ips as follows	•	-		grams for the follow	ving
Prescho	ol	Very Important 41.88%	Moderately Important 35.05%	Not Very Important 17.95%	Not At All Important 3.42%	No Opinion 1.7%	

Elementary	76.28%	21.19%	1.7%	0%	0.83%
Middle School	85.84%	13.32%	0.84%	0%	0%
High School	79.04%				
Adults					
Retired Adults					
Handicap					

4. Are there ample outdoor facilities in the South Whidbey community?

55.27% No 44.73% Yes

5. Respondents stated that the following additional outdoor facilities are needed in the South Whidbey community:

1.	Swimming Pool	(19)
2.	Trails for Walking/Biking	(14)
3.	Soccer Fields	(9)
4.	Baseball Fields	(8)
5.	Skate / Bike Park	(7)
6.	Basketball Courts	(6)
7.	Beach Front	(5)
8.	Covered Picnic Areas	(4)
9.	BMX Track	(4)
10.	Small Boat Facility	(3)

- 6. Respondents said that the following facilities would be the most important to keep or increase on South Whidbey:
 - 1. Hiking / Biking Trails
 - 2. Beach Front Parks
 - 3. Soccer Fields
 - 4. Playgrounds
 - 5. Picnic Areas
 - 6. Tennis Courts
 - 6. Baseball Fields
 - 8. Outdoor Swimming Pool
 - 8. Access to Fresh / Salt Water
 - 8. Public Forested Areas
- 7. Should SWPRD look into building indoor facilities?

74.36% Yes 25.64% No

8. Respondents said that they would like to see SWPRD begin planning for the following types of indoor facilities:

a. Swimming Pool (50) b. Gym (31)

- 9. Respondents said that they would like to see an indoor facility located in the following area:
 - 52.55% Community Park

22.04% Freeland

14.41% Langley

7.63% Clinton

3.37% Other

10. Respondents proposed that SWPRD pay for an indoor facility with:

```
12.6%
                   Grants
        11.12%
                   Taxes
                   Private Donations
        12.6%
        4.42%
                   Other
                   All of these
        59.26%
11.
        Respondents said that in order to see a new facility they would tax themselves:
        43.83%
                  More than $20.00 per year
        42.7%
                   $20.00 per year
        7.87%
                  $15.00 per year
        4.5%
                  Less than $15.00 per year
        1.1%
                  Not in favor of any taxes
12.
        Respondents said that they would be willing to make a donation
        83.34%
                   Yes
        16.66%
                  No
13.
        Had the respondent or a member of their household had used or been to Community Park in the
        88.34%
                  Yes
        11.66%
                  No
14.
        Respondents said that a member of their household had been to Community Park in the last year
        as follows:
                  Less than 5 times
        26.17%
                   5-10 times
        15.88%
                   10-20 times
        19.63%
        38.32%
                  More than 20 times
15.
        Respondents said that members of their household participated in the following recreational
        activities over the past year:
        1. Hiking / Nature
                                 (86)
        2.
            Movies
                                  (84)
        3.
            Playground
                                 (82)
        4.
            Picnicking
                                 (77)
            Swimming
        5.
                                 (64)
           Television
        6.
                                 (60)
        6. Internet
                                 (60)
        8. Music Concerts
                                 (57)
        9. Basketball
                                 (56)
        10. Soccer
                                 (55)
16.
        Respondents said that they find out about recreation programs and services through
        31.75%
                  Newspaper
                   Word of Mouth
        26.65%
```

- 17. Respondents stated that they would like to see new or improved programs in the following areas:
 - Swimming
 Fitness Activities
 Educational Programs
 Sailing / Boating
 Arts, Crafts, Hobbies
 Special Events
 Performing Arts

Recreation Brochure

Notices to Schools

Internet

23.36%

9.49%

8.75%

Soccer
 Team Sports
 Basketball
 19

18. Had the respondent or another member of the household participated in a SWPRD program in the past year?

79.67% Yes 20.33% No

19. Respondents rated SWPRD in the following areas as:

•	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Overall Program Satisfaction	33.64%	30.91%	21.82%	1.82%	0.92%	10.89%
Conditions of Facilities	31.82%	37.28%	18.19%	0.92%	0.92%	10.87%
Instructors	25.48%	31.14%	16.99%	4.68%	0.95%	20.76
Program Costs	25.24%	38.32%	15.89%	5.61%	0.935%	14.005%
Program Times	22.86%	36.2%	20.96%	5.72%	0%	14.26%
Publicity	16.04%	27.36%	24.53%	16.99%	4.72%	10.36%
Registration Systems	22.34%	29.13%	22.34%	9.74%	0%	16.45%
Staff Helpfulness	36.12%	31.49%	15.75%	2.78%	0.93%	12.93%

20. Respondents' gender

61.98% Female 38.02% Male

21. Respondents' age break down

8.95% 12-18 years 1.6% 19-24 years 6.5% 25-34 years 30.09% 35-44 years 30.09% 45-54 years 9.76% 55-64 years 13.01% over 65 years

22. Respondents have resided in the South Whidbey area

24.6% Less than 5 years
 49.19% 5-15 years
 26.21% More than 15 years

23. Respondents categorized the type of household they have as

57.38% Couple with children at home 24.6% Couple with no children at home

10.66% Single parent with children at home

7.36% Single Adult

24. Respondents said that they had visited the SWPRD web site

82.65% No 17.35 Yes

25. A. Respondents said that they would be willing to continue a property tax of 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for providing maintenance and operations after 2002

93.92% Yes 6.08% No

B. The YES respondents stated that they would be willing to increase taxes over and above the 15 cents per \$1,000 that they were already paying, if it assured that SWPRD would be able to maintain or improve the current level of services and programs already offered

78.9% Yes

18.35% No 2.75% Maybe C. The YES respondents stated that they would be willing to pay ___ above the 15 cent rate 39.29% .01-.05 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value 22.61% .06-.10 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value 38.1% .11-.15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value 26. A. Respondents that a Community Center, representing the Resource Group members, is needed on South Whidbey 74.79% Yes 20.87% No 4.34% Not Sure B. Respondents said that they would like to see the following types of spaces included in a center: Meeting space, class space, play areas, swimming pool, kitchen, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, tennis courts, dance room, fitness area. C. Respondents said that if an Intergenerational Center were built on South Whidbey, a member of their household would use it 83.84% Yes 13.14% No 3.02% Maybe 27. Would respondents like to see Community Park renamed 35.71% 64.29 No 28. Respondents suggested the following name changes for Community Park: South Whidbey Community Park (7) Castle Park (5) Playground in the Park (4)

2003 Class Survey November 14, 2003

Input received from 7th Grade (Middle School) class regarding facilities and programs they would like to see.

Facilities

- 1. BMX Trail
- 2. Equestrian Trails (for advanced riders)
- 3. Indoor Swimming Pool (multiple responses)
- 4. Racquetball Courts
- 5. Beachfront parks / areas
- 6. Ice Rink
- 7. Rock Climbing Wall
- 8. Water Park
- 9. Transportation (van or bus)
- 10. Youth Center in Park
- 11. Game Works / small arcade
- 12. Paintball Court / Course with CO2 refill station
- 13. Large Boat
- 14. Weight Training Facility (with areas for kids under 14 years of age)
- 15. Better Football Field (at Middle School and/or Park)
- 16. Better Soccer Field (at Middle School)
- 17. Drive-in Theatre
- 18. Amphitheater
- 19. Lazer Tag Arena with Miniature Golf and Go Carts
- 20. Golf Course
- 21. Motorized Dirt Bike Park
- 22. Places to observe natural wildlife (i.e., bird blinds)
- 23. Aquarium
- 24. Preserve open spaces in natural state
- 25. Gun Club / Target Course
- 26. Archery Course

Programs

- 1. Hockey
- 2. Rock Climbing Clinics
- 3. BMX Clinics / Demos / Workshops
- 4. Scuba Diving Classes
- 5. Street Hockey
- 6. Parachute Classes
- 7. Hang Gliding Classes
- 8. Water Skiing / Wake Boarding Classes
- 9. Surfing / Wind Surfing Classes
- 10. Field Trip opportunities (i.e., to Fort Casey)
- 11. Wet suit rentals
- 12. Outdoor equipment rentals
- 13. Tree Climbing
- 14. Rental of motorized dirt bikes
- 15. Karate classes
- 16. Umpire / Referee Clinics
- 17. Archery Classes

Attachment B

(Capital Improvement Plan)

Agency: South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District Date of adoption: 1/21/04

Address: PO Box 136 Resolution # 2004-02

City, Zip Code: Langlely, WA 98260 Completed by: Suzette Hart

Title: Director, South Whidbey Parks & Rec District

Priority	Project Name	Fund Source	ADR	Facility Type	Estimated Cost per Year of Project Implementation					
					2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
				WF, B, F,						
1	Lakefront Property	L, M	A, D	SB						
2	Coastal Areas	L, M	A, D	WF, B, F, I						
3	Trails	L, M	A, D	TP, TB, EQ,						
				OS, I						
4	Recreation / Aquatic Center	L, D, B	D	SI, CC, PF, OS			\$40,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
5	Sports Complex:	L, D, B	U	03			ψ 4 0,000	φ1,300,000	Ψ2,300,000	ψ2,300,000
3	Sports Complex.	L, M,								
	Play Structure	_,, D	D	PE		\$28,000				
	Picnic Shelter	L	D	Р			\$12,000	\$12,000		
	Concession Stand	L	D	INF			\$50,000			
6	Community Park:									
	RV Camping	L, M	D	С						
	BMX Track Skate / Bike Park	L, M	D	ТВ						
	Expansion	L, M	D	SBP			\$75,000			
	Picnic Shelter	L	D	Р					\$12,000	
	Road Improvements	L, B	R	INF			\$30,000	\$30,000		
	TOTALS				\$0	\$28,000	\$207,000	\$1,542,000	\$2,512,000	\$2,500,000

SIX YEAR TOTAL \$6,789,000

Fund Souce Codes:

L Local Funds
 D Donations
 M Matching Grants
 A: Acquisition
 D: Development
 R: Renovation

B General Obligation Bonds

U Unknown

Facility Type Codes:

SI Swimming, Indoor Pool
CC Community / Senior Center

TP Trails Pedestrian

TB Trails Bicycle

- Trails / Facility Equestrian Waterfront / Beach EQ
- WF Access
- os Open Space / Greenway
- В **Boating Facilities**
- С Camping
- F
- Fishing Area Interpretive / Nature
- ı Study
- Ρ Picnic / Day Use
- PΕ Play Equipment
- PF Open Play Field
- SB Swim Beach
- SBP Skate / Bike Park
- INF Intrastructure

Attachment C

(Methodologies Used)

Methodologies Used

A variety of research techniques were used to formally analyze and document levels of need in the South Whidbey population during the course of developing this comprehensive plan.

Assessment methods used included the following:

SWPRD Board of Commissioners	January – December 2003
Small Group Assessmenta. Small Group Assessmentb. Middle School Class Discussionc. Round Table Discussion	August – November 2003 November 2003 November 2003
Observations a. Unstructured Observations	January – October 2003
Surveys a. Mailed Survey	February 2001
Public Meetings a. Community Forums b. Public Hearing	October – November 2003 December 2003
a. Analysis of community utilization of services	August – October 2003
	Small Group Assessment a. Small Group Assessment b. Middle School Class Discussion c. Round Table Discussion Observations a. Unstructured Observations Surveys a. Mailed Survey Public Meetings a. Community Forums b. Public Hearing Service Population, Agency, and Community Profile a. Analysis of community utilization of services b. Analysis of existing service resources in the con-