



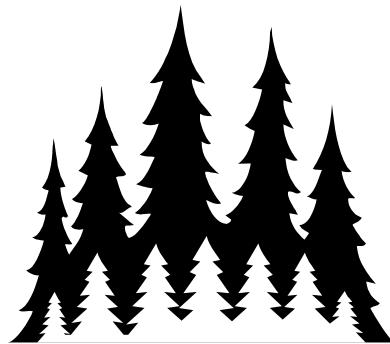
South Whidbey Parks & Recreation

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) on-site 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 Maxwellton 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.

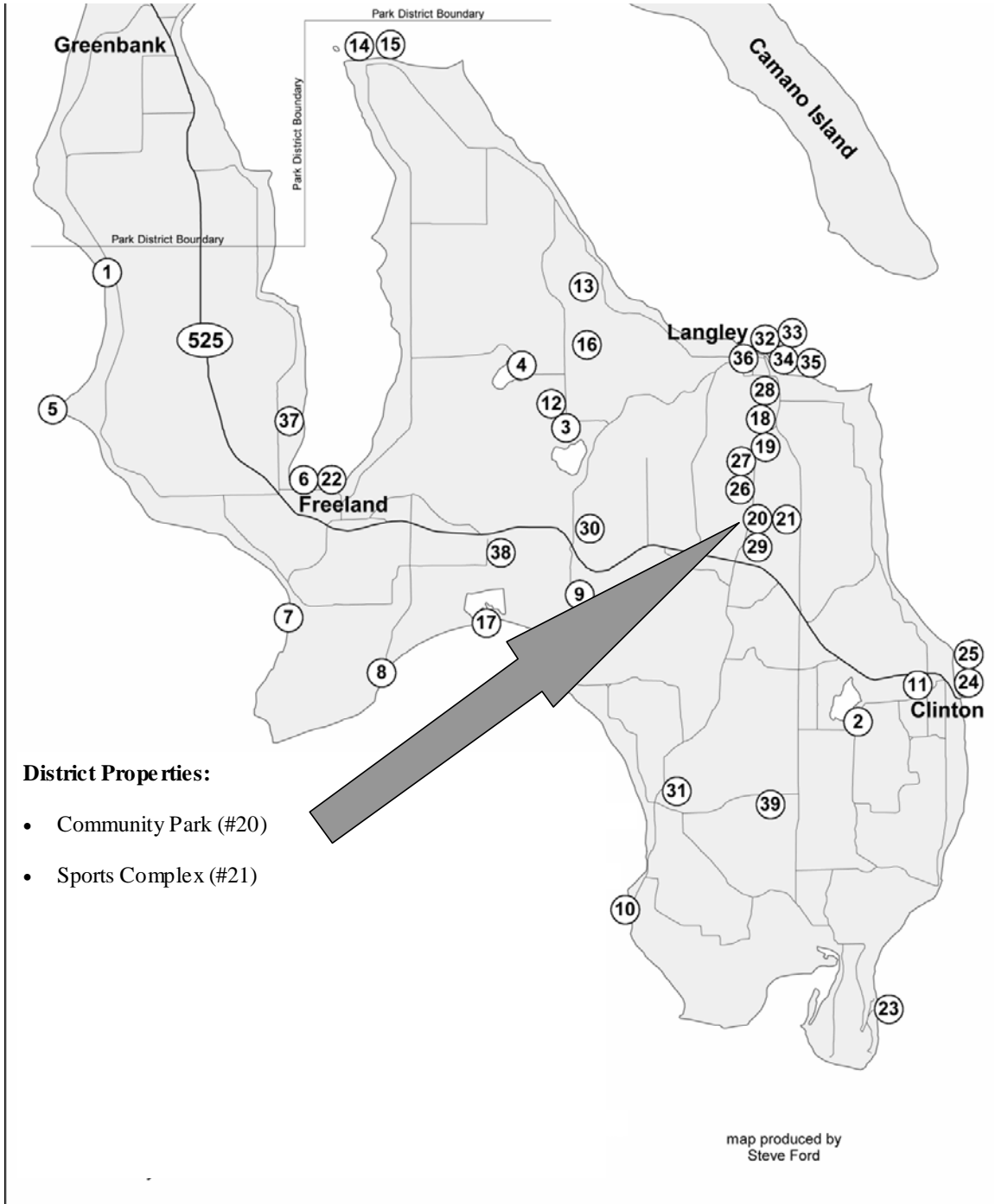
The past efforts of the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District have been directed toward planning and building Community Park as well as acquiring additional land and developing new facilities based on community needs. The future will be directed toward maintaining current District facilities, developing 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:

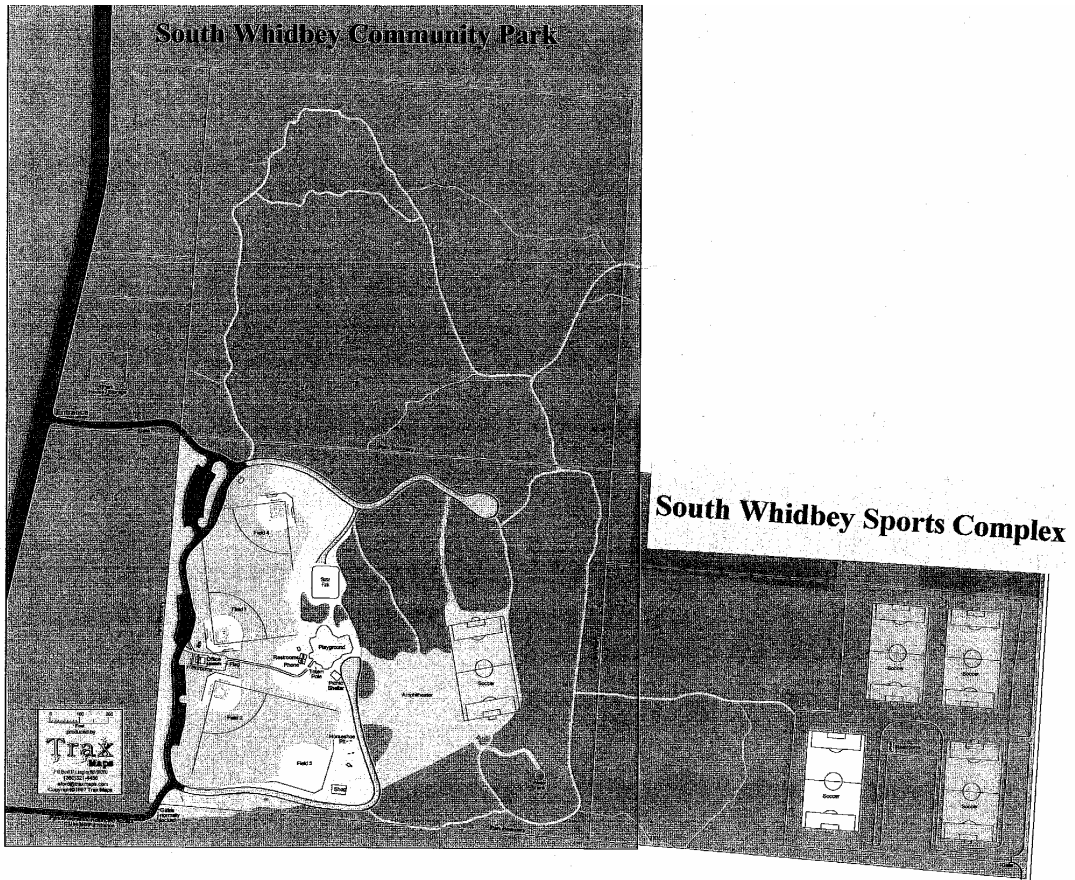
1. It will be the policy of the District to identify and protect "Critical Areas" as defined in the Growth Management Act. Also due to the increasing population, and reflecting the differing needs of various segments of that population, the District will need to acquire easements or fee-simple title 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.

Map of South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District's Boundary

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 trails, 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.

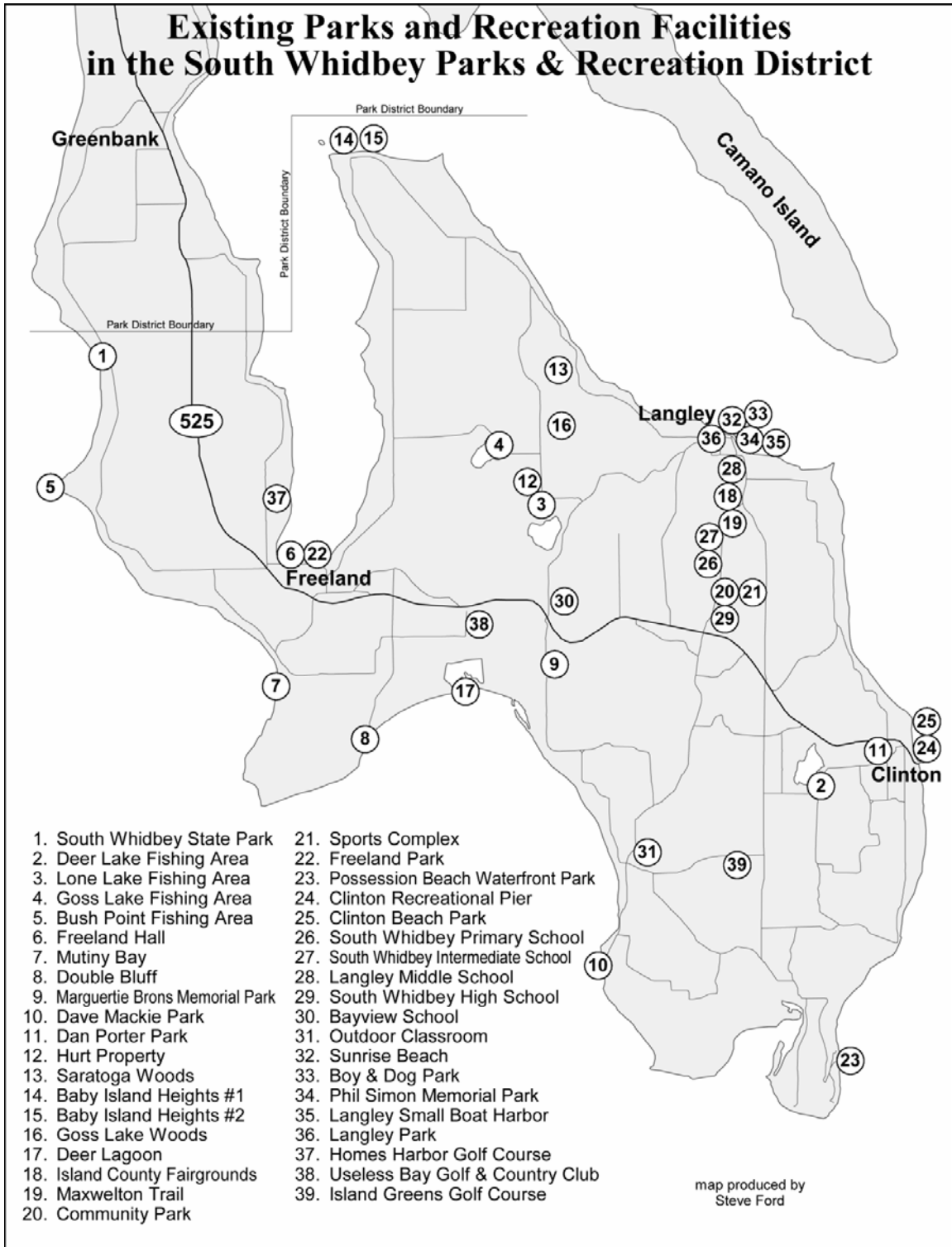
The physical characteristics of the area are those of forested rolling hills of glacial deposits, including significant wetland systems. The climate is generally mild and uniform with annual precipitation of \pm 36 inches.

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.

Map of Existing Parks & Recreation



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 Maxwellton Road and contains two playgrounds, one basketball court, and nature trails.

27) **South Whidbey Intermediate School**

The 20-acre school site is located on Maxwellton 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 Maxwellton 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 Maxwellton Road. Maxwellton 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 Maxwellton 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 Inventory		NRPA Standard	Surplus / Deficit
	District Owned	All Other Public		
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
Trails	3.0 miles	3.5 miles documented	.5 / 1000	- .35 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	+ 88.33 sites
Playgrounds			na	
Covered	0	2		
Uncovered	1	5 + IM?,		
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
Volleyball Courts				
	0	0	.2 / 1000	- 2.74 courts
Field Track				
			.05 / 1000	+1.31 track
Rubberized	0	1		
Gravel surface	0	1		
Football				
			.05 / 1000	+ 2.31 fields
Grass lighted	0	1		
Practice field	0	2		
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		
Softball / Baseball				
			.2 / 1000	+ 6.26 fields
grass, unlighted	3	3		
play areas		3		
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 Inventory		NRPA Standard	Surplus / Deficit
	District Owned	All Other Public		
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		
Practice field	0	2		

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

ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

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 ranch.
2. The private property to the west of the park borders on Maxwellton 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 Maxwellton 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

1. In which zip code do you reside? 42 Langley 42 Clinton 31 Freeland 4 Other

2. How well informed would you say you are about South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District?
16 Very Well informed 55 Well Informed 41 Not Very Well 2 Not at all

3. How important do you think it is to provide recreation programs for each of the following age groups?

	Very Important	Moderately Important	Not Very Important	Not at all Important	No Opinion
<u>Preschool</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Elementary</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Middle School</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>High School</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Adults</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Retired adults</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Handicap/Special Needs</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>

4. Do you believe the South Whidbey Community has ample outdoor facilities?
51 Yes 63 No

5. If no, what additional **outdoor** facilities are needed?

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

6. Of the outdoor recreation facilities below, which do you think are the most important to keep or to increase on South Whidbey? (Please circle all those that apply.)

Outdoor Swimming Pool	Tennis Courts	1. Hiking/ Biking Trails	Outdoor Basketball	2. Beach Front Parks	Lighted Fields
52	53	91	42	76	38

Small Boat Facility 29	Access to Fresh/Salt Water 52	5. Picnic Areas 55	Skate Park 47	4. Playgrounds 56	Public Forested Areas 52
Open Space Areas 35	3. Soccer Fields 57	Amphitheater 23	Horse Trails 24	BMX Bicycle Racing Track 23	Baseball Fields 53
Other _____					

7. At present, the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District does not operate any **indoor** facilities. Do you believe the Parks & Recreation District should look into building indoor facilities?
87 Yes 30 No
8. If your answer to Q-7 was yes, for what type of facilities should the Parks & Recreation District begin planning? A. Swimming Pool (50), B. Gymnasium (31)
9. If yes in Q-7, in which area or location would like to see these facilities built?
17 Langley 26 Freeland 9 Clinton 62 Community Park 4 Other
10. If you answered yes to Q-7 or no to Q-4, how would you propose that the Parks & Recreation District pay for them. 17 Grants 15 Taxes 17 Private Donations 6 Other 80 All of these
11. If you checked taxes in Q-10, how much would you tax yourself in order to see a new facility?
7 \$15.00 per year 38 \$20.00 per year 4 Less than \$15 39 More than \$20
12. If you checked donations, would you be interested in being on a Fundraising Committee?
16 Yes 63 No Making a Donation? 65 Yes 13 No
13. Have you or a member of your household used or been to Community Park on Maxwellton Road this past year? 106 Yes 14 No
14. If yes to Q-13 how many times?
28 Less than 5 times 17 5 to 10 21 10 to 20 41 More than 20 times in the last year.
15. Listed below are some recreation activities that are available to residents of South Whidbey. Please check each activity in which you or members of your household participated sometime during the past year.
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 82 <u>Playground</u> | 64 <u>Swimming</u> | 35 <u>Mountain Bicycling</u> |
| 8 <u>BMX Bicycling</u> | 53 <u>Road Bicycling</u> | 40 <u>Tennis</u> |
| 56 <u>Basketball</u> | 39 <u>Boating</u> | 32 <u>Canoeing/Kayaking</u> |
| 39 <u>Golf</u> | 38 <u>Softball/Baseball</u> | 48 <u>Snow skiing/boarding</u> |
| 43 <u>Fishing</u> | 7 <u>Hunting</u> | 55 <u>Soccer</u> |
| 86 <u>Hiking/Nature</u> | 77 <u>Picnicking</u> | 53 <u>Overnight Camping</u> |
| 34 <u>Kite Flying</u> | 84 <u>Movies</u> | 57 <u>Music Concerts</u> |
| 34 <u>Crafts</u> | 60 <u>Television</u> | 53 <u>Exercise/Weight Club</u> |
| 60 <u>Internet</u> | 3 <u>Other</u> <u>Gymnastics</u> | 2 <u>Other</u> <u>Running</u> |
16. How do you find out about recreation programs and services?
64 Recreational Brochures 73 Word of Mouth 87 Newspaper
26 Notices to School 24 Internet

17. In which areas listed, would you or members of your household like to see new or improved programs?

<u>44</u> Fitness Activities	<u>25</u> Arts, Crafts & Hobbies	<u>19</u> Team Sports
<u>24</u> Special Events	<u>32</u> Educational Programs	<u>23</u> Performing Arts
<u>16</u> General Interest	<u>55</u> Swimming	<u>20</u> Basketball
<u>31</u> Sailing/Boating	<u>14</u> Tournaments	<u>22</u> Soccer
<u>10</u> Baseball/Softball	<u>15</u> Seniors	<u>6</u> Other

18. In the past year, has anyone in your household participated in a program sponsored by the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District? 94 Yes 24 No

19. Please indicate how you would rate the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District in each of the following areas?

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Overall Program Satisfaction	<u>37</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>
Conditions of Facilities	<u>35</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>13</u>
Instructors	<u>27</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>22</u>
Program Costs	<u>27</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>
Program Times	<u>24</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15</u>
Publicity	<u>17</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>
Registration Systems	<u>23</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18</u>
Staff Helpfulness	<u>39</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>14</u>

20. What is your gender? Female 75 Male 48

21. What is your age?
11 12-18 2 19-24 8 25-34 37 35-44 37 45-54 12 55-64 16 65-over

22. How many years have you lived in the South Whidbey area?
30 Less than five 60 5-15 32 More than 15

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
13 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? 21 Yes 100 No

25. In the past year, the SWPRD has more than doubled the amount of acreage we manage 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.

A. Would you be willing to continue a property tax of 15 cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed value for providing maintenance and operations after 2002?
108 Yes 7 No

- B. If your answer above was yes, would you be willing to increase taxes over and above the 15 cents per \$1,000.00 that you are already paying, if it assured that the Parks District would be able to maintain or improve the current level of services and programs we already have?
86 Yes 20 No 3 Maybe
- C. If yes, about how much more would you be willing to pay above the 15 cents?
33 .01 - .05 cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed value
19 .06 - .10 cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed value
32 .11 - .15 cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed value
26. Last year a community group was formed to see if there was a need for a Intergenerational Community Center. This group has representatives from the Youth Center, Senior Center, Health Center, Park & Recreation, School District, County, and Langley on the committee.
- A. Do you believe a Community Center that would include all these organizations is needed on South Whidbey? 86 Yes 24 No 5 Not Sure
- B. If an Intergenerational center were built on South Whidbey, what would you want to see included in the center? Meeting space, class space, play areas, pool, kitchen, gym, multi-purpose room, tennis court, dance room, fitness area
- C. If an Intergenerational center were built on South Whidbey, would you or someone in your family use it? 83 Yes 13 No 3
27. For the past several years, the park on Maxwellton Road has been called by several names. Names used have been Community Park, Playground in the Park, Castle Park, etc. Lately we have used the name Community Park. Since we have added another 73 acres this past year (including the new sports fields on Langley Road) would you want to see the name of this park changed from Community Park to something else? 35 Yes 63 No
28. If you answered yes in Q-27, please offer a suggestion of a name.
South Whidbey Community Park (7), Castle Park (5), Playground in the Park (4)

Part II Evaluation of Results by Question

1. Respondents reside in the following zip codes:
35.3% Langley
35.3% Clinton
26.06% Freeland
3.34% Other
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. Respondents ranked the level of importance of providing recreation programs for the following age groups as follows
- | | Very Important | Moderately Important | Not Very Important | Not At All Important | No Opinion |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Preschool | 41.88% | 35.05% | 17.95% | 3.42% | 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.	<u>Swimming Pool</u>	(19)
2.	<u>Trails for Walking/Biking</u>	(14)
3.	<u>Soccer Fields</u>	(9)
4.	<u>Baseball Fields</u>	(8)
5.	<u>Skate / Bike Park</u>	(7)
6.	<u>Basketball Courts</u>	(6)
7.	<u>Beach Front</u>	(5)
8.	<u>Covered Picnic Areas</u>	(4)
9.	<u>BMX Track</u>	(4)
10.	<u>Small Boat Facility</u>	(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
 - 12.6% Private Donations
 - 4.42% Other
 - 59.26% All of these
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 past year?
- 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:
- 26.17% Less than 5 times
 - 15.88% 5-10 times
 - 19.63% 10-20 times
 - 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)
 - 5. Swimming (64)
 - 6. Television (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
 - 26.65% Word of Mouth
 - 23.36% Recreation Brochure
 - 9.49% Notices to Schools
 - 8.75% Internet
17. Respondents stated that they would like to see new or improved programs in the following areas:
- 1. Swimming 55
 - 2. Fitness Activities 44
 - 3. Educational Programs 32
 - 4. Sailing / Boating 31
 - 5. Arts, Crafts, Hobbies 25
 - 6. Special Events 24
 - 7. Performing Arts 23

- 8. Soccer 22
- 9. Team Sports 19
- 10. 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% Yes
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

EQ Trails / Facility Equestrian
Waterfront / Beach
WF Access
OS Open Space / Greenway
B Boating Facilities
C Camping
F Fishing Area
I Interpretive / Nature
Study
P Picnic / Day Use
PE 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:

1. SWPRD Board of Commissioners January – December 2003
2. Small Group Assessment
 - a. Small Group Assessment August – November 2003
 - b. Middle School Class Discussion November 2003
 - c. Round Table Discussion November 2003
3. Observations
 - a. Unstructured Observations January – October 2003
4. Surveys
 - a. Mailed Survey February 2001
5. Public Meetings
 - a. Community Forums October – November 2003
 - b. Public Hearing December 2003
6. Service Population, Agency, and Community Profiles
 - a. Analysis of community utilization of services August – October 2003
 - b. Analysis of existing service resources in the community August – October 2003
 - c. Archival Retrieval Past Surveys '82, '94, & '96