



2011-2016
Comprehensive Plan
DRAFT

Plan adopted _____, 2011

What is a Parks and Recreation District Comprehensive Plan?

A Parks and Recreation District Comprehensive Plan incorporates input from a variety of community stakeholders and the general public in the local community to establish objectives for Parks District recreation programs, facilities, parks, and open space over a multi-year period. An update to the Plan is formally approved approximately every six years by a Parks District Board of Commissioners Resolution, and subsequently provides overarching guidance for the operation of the Parks System.

What is contained in the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District Comprehensive Plan?

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District (hereafter referred to as the “Parks District”) Comprehensive Plan looks forward six years into the future to set a path for the Parks District. It is created to help the Parks District fulfill its goals by establishing a Mission Statement in the context of a set of Guiding Principles, and considers both the current state of the parks system at the beginning of the Comprehensive Plan period and the needs of all segments of the District population. Objectives to achieve these goals are set as the plan looks forward over a five-year period.

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Section I
Mission and Guiding Principles

To create and sustain
Parks, facilities, and programs
For all citizens of
the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District

Guiding Principles for Parks District Operations

Certain fundamental principles are used to guide decisions made by Parks District staff and the Board of Commissioners during the Comprehensive Plan period. The Parks District believes recreation, the pursuit of athletic and leisure activities indoors and out, and the preservation of parks, natural areas and open spaces for use in recreation are essential elements in maintaining a balance of the quality of life throughout Island County. These principles, while not intended to provide strict decision-making rules for use in all situations, provide general, overarching guidance for decisions and actions between Comprehensive Plan revisions. These principles are:

1. We provide a full range of active and passive parks and recreational opportunities for citizens of all age groups within the District population and across the District geography
2. We operate and maintain park facilities and programs in a fiscally responsible and sound manner, utilizing all possible funding sources for park operations, maintenance, acquisition, and facility development (to include public funds, grants, public-private cooperative partnerships, and other short and long-term sources of financing)
3. We develop the central core of the parks system around the Community Park and Sports Complex sites between Maxwellton and Langley Roads. Beyond this parks core, we partner with other community organizations to provide a network of park sites across the District geography
4. We consider acquiring and maintaining park assets within District boundaries as the District budget allows and as broad public demand supports
5. We operate and maintain the parks system in an environmentally responsible manner



Section II
The Current State of the Parks District
2011

Geography, Demographics, Economics

Whidbey Island (hereafter referred to as the “Island”) is the largest island in Puget Sound with a land area of 172 square miles. The Island is ringed with approximately 148 miles of saltwater shoreline, and extends 40 miles in a North-South direction while varying from one to ten miles in width (East-West). The North end of the Island is connected to the Washington State mainland by the Deception Pass and Rainbow bridges. The mainland can be reached on the South and West sides of the Island by ferry.

The Parks District covers the southern one-third of the Island, an area that totals 58.9 square miles. The District’s northern border extends from Mutiny Bay Road on the East side of the Island westward to the southern boundary of South Whidbey State Park. The Parks District is bordered on the other three sides by the waters of Puget Sound.

The current population of Island County is estimated at 80,300 (by Washington State’s OFM 2009 forecasting), a level that represents a roughly 19% increase over the past decade. With average annual growth percentages provided by the Island District Economic Development Council (IDEDC) factored in, the current population of South Whidbey (within the Parks District boundary) is estimated at 13,715. The Parks District population is concentrated in the more densely developed areas of Clinton, Langley, and Freeland.

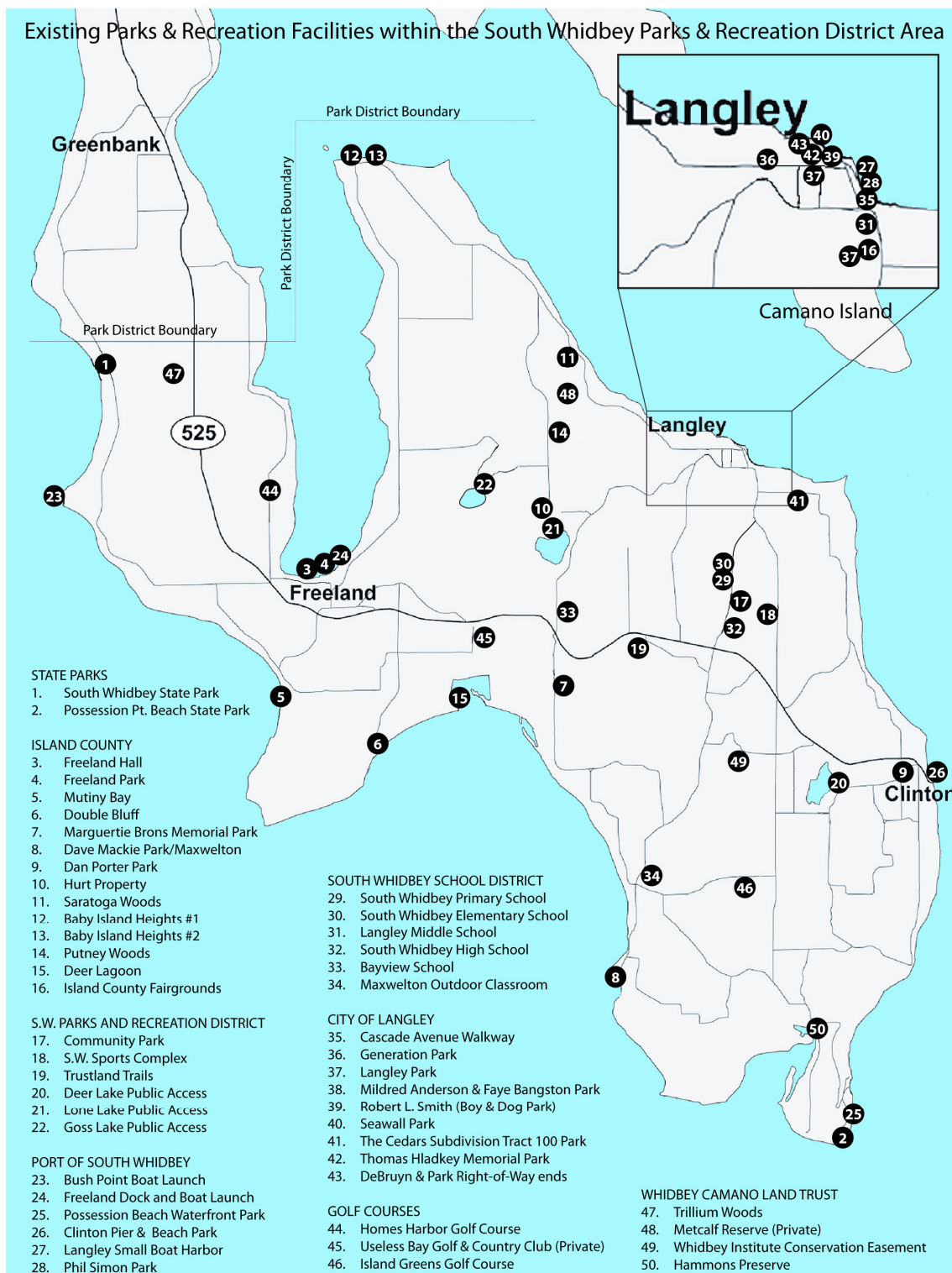
The economic base of South Whidbey is primarily service industries, small retail businesses, restaurants, and tourism. According to the IDED, the area experiences an average 25% population increase from May to September from part-year residents and from tourists visiting the area temporarily.

Public access to bodies of water, including Puget Sound and the lakes within the Parks District, is limited. No public swimming pool exists within the boundaries of the Parks District, and private options carry significant membership and usage fees relative to median local incomes.

Starting as early as 2007 the local area and region began to feel the effects of an economic downturn that eventually paralleled similar conditions in the rest of the State and the Nation as a whole. These conditions impacted the Parks District in many ways, primarily in terms of lower registration levels for certain fee-based parks programs and in increased dependency on scholarships by disadvantaged families interested in park program participation. Another significant area of impact was felt through many of the other entities who own and/or operate parks and recreation facilities and programs within the Parks District boundaries. In some cases those organizations, in particular governmental organizations like Washington State and Island County, saw significant enough reductions in funding allocated for parks and recreation operations and maintenance that they sought to transfer operations and maintenance responsibility and in some cases even ownership of park properties or recreation facilities to the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District. Based on the popularity of and usage levels at the locations in question and in the interest of the citizens of the District, the Parks District assumed responsibility for keeping some of these sites open and operating. These actions created increased pressure on the Parks District budget during the term of the last Comprehensive Plan.

Parks, Facilities, and Programs within the District

Parks and Recreation facilities, programs, and operations exist across the District under the auspices of many different governmental and private entities, including the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District. The sites and their respective owners/administrators are described in this section and shown on the map below:



FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE SOUTH WHIDBEY PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT

▲ South Whidbey Community Park

Park/Facility Description: this 87.5-acre park on Maxwellton Road between the populated centers of Langley, Clinton, and Freeland provides a diverse mix of active and passive use areas and includes four ball fields, 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, maintenance buildings, a storage trailer, and parking.

Programs and Activities at the site: baseball leagues, camps, and instruction; softball leagues, camps, and instruction; soccer leagues, camps, and instruction; skateboarding and skate park BMX riding; mountain biking; fitness walking, hiking, running, equestrian activities, dog walking, bird watching; youth playground activities; youth day camps, youth summer camps; active recreation classes and events; sports classes, training events, and competitions; outdoor concerts, plays and other special events

Condition: fields and facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition (however, certain areas of the site are difficult to drain during the wettest portion of the year and are closed to the public to prevent damage from usage during those periods)

▲ South Whidbey Sports Complex

Park/Facility Description: this 29.09-acre park on Langley Road between Langley and Clinton includes four turf soccer fields, 12 acres of forest with walking trails, an information kiosk, restrooms, and parking. Recent site improvements include a children's playground, two picnic pavilions, a plaza, and an Early Learning perimeter walking trail.

Programs and Activities at the site: soccer leagues, camps, and instruction; mountain biking; fitness walking, hiking, running, dog walking, bird watching; youth playground activities; youth day camps, youth summer camps; active recreation classes and special events; sports classes, training events, and competitions; other special events

Condition: fields and facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition (however, certain areas of the site are difficult to drain during the wettest portion of the year and are closed to the public to prevent damage from usage during those periods)

▲ Trustland Trails

Park/Facility Description: this 200-acre property is located off Highway 525 and Craw Rd. one mile south of Bayview. The site includes a trailhead parking area, an ADA-compliant trail, mixed use trails, a picnic pavilion, a bike rack, portable restrooms, and a storage shed.

Programs and Activities at the site: mountain biking; fitness walking, hiking, running, equestrian activities, dog walking, bird watching; special events

Condition: trails and facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition

The following sites are owned by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife but are managed by the Parks District until at least 2015. Capital improvements for these sites are the responsibility of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife in conjunction with the Parks District and Island County.

▲ Deer Lake Public Access

Park/Facility Description: this .75-acre site is located on the east side of Deer Lake and includes a boat ramp, fishing dock, swim area, vault restrooms, a picnic area, and parking.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; recreational and open water swimming; open water swim classes and special events; fishing; recreational sail and power boating; kayaking; waterskiing, tubing, and wakeboarding

Condition: public facilities at this site are in good overall condition but sustain regular heavy usage during summer periods and, because Parks District maintenance facilities are distant from the site, conditions may periodically degrade between maintenance and repair visits

▲ Lone Lake Public Access

Park/Facility Description: this 5 acre site is located on the north side of Lone Lake and includes a boat ramp, vault

restrooms, a picnic area with BBQ equipment, and parking.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; recreational and open water swimming; open water swim classes and special events; fishing; recreational sail and power boating; kayaking; waterskiing, tubing, and wakeboarding
Condition: public facilities at this site are in good overall condition but sustain regular heavy usage during summer periods and, because Parks District maintenance facilities are distant from the site, conditions may periodically degrade between maintenance and repair visits

▲ **Goss Lake Public Access**

Park/Facility Description: this .6-acre site is located on the north side of Goss Lake and includes a boat ramp, swim area, vault restrooms, a picnic area, and parking.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; recreational and open water swimming; open water swim classes and special events; fishing; recreational sailing and kayaking

Condition: public facilities at this site are in good overall condition but are more primitive than those at the Deer Lake and Lone Lake properties. The site sustains regular heavy usage during summer periods and, because Parks District maintenance facilities are distant from the site, conditions may periodically degrade between maintenance and repair visits

Many other parks and recreation facilities, programs, and operations exist across the Parks District under the auspices of other organizations and entities. Those facilities are overlaid on the preceding map of the Parks District and are described below, to fully detail the scope of parks and recreation opportunities available to the citizens of South Whidbey Island.

FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

▲ **South Whidbey State Park**

Park/Facility Description: this 347-acre park, located on the west side of Whidbey Island near Freeland, is a camping park with 4,500 feet of saltwater shoreline on Admiralty Inlet. The park includes 45 tent and 9 utility year-round camping spaces, a dump station, restrooms, showers, 1 kitchen shelter (including BBQ equipment 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 views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula.

Programs and Activities at the site: mountain biking; fitness walking, hiking, running, equestrian activities, dog walking, bird watching; kayaking, camping, fishing, beachcombing, shell fishing; swimming, snorkeling, and scuba diving; special events

Condition: public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition

▲ **Possession Point State Park**

Park/Facility Description: this 25-acre park on the East side of the Southern-most tip of Whidbey Island has 1175 ft. of saltwater shoreline access, 3 camp sites, a restroom, and a cabin.

Programs and Activities at the site: kayaking, camping, fishing, beachcombing, shell fishing; swimming, snorkeling, and scuba diving; special events

Condition: public facilities at this site are in good overall condition

FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY ISLAND COUNTY

▲ **Freeland Hall**

Park/Facility Description: this 3-acre parcel in Freeland includes a hall with a large multi-purpose room, a small meeting room and restrooms; an outdoor picnic shelter; BBQ stations, and walking trails. The site is managed by the Holmes Harbor Activity Club.

Programs and Activities at the site: concerts, plays, meetings, dances, socials, and other special events

Condition: public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition

▲ **Freeland Park**

Park/Facility Description: this 17-acre park adjacent to the mouth of Holmes Harbor includes restrooms, two picnic shelters, a children's playground, beach access, and a boat ramp with boarding floats. The site is part owned by the Port of South Whidbey.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching; youth playground activities; fishing, kayaking, water sports; special events

Condition: public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition

▲ **Mutiny Bay**

Park/Facility Description: this .33-acre area on the West side of Whidbey Island Northwest of Freeland contains a boat ramp and parking area, and includes 12 undeveloped lots containing regulated wetlands. The site is part owned by the Port of South Whidbey.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching; fishing, shell fishing, water sports; special events

Condition: public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition

▲ **Double Bluff**

Park/Facility Description: this .75-acre park on the West side of Whidbey Island between Clinton and Freeland 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.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching, fitness walking, hiking; fishing, kayaking, shell fishing, water sports; special events

Condition: public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition

▲ **Marguerite Brons Memorial Park**

Park/Facility Description: this 13-acre park near Bayview includes a fenced off-leash area for dog walking, trails, a picnic shelter, an information kiosk, and parking.

Programs and Activities at the site: dog off-leash play, special events

Condition: public facilities at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Dave Mackie Park**

Park/Facility Description: this 5-acre park in the Maxwellton Beach community has a boat ramp, playground, restrooms, beach access, ball field and grandstand, 3 picnic shelters with BBQ equipment, a group picnic shelter area with brick stove BBQ, a concession stand with water and electric, and parking. The site is part owned by the Port of South Whidbey.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching; youth playground activities; fishing, kayaking, water sports; special events

Condition: public facilities at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Dan Porter Park**

Park/Facility Description: this 8.5-acre park in Clinton has a playground, 2 ball fields, 2 tennis courts, a picnic shelter with BBQ equipment, nature trails, restrooms, and parking.

Programs and Activities at the site: baseball leagues, camps, and instruction; fitness walking, tennis, hiking, running, dog walking, bird watching; youth playground activities; special events

Condition: public facilities at this site are in fair overall condition, with some elements in poor condition. Ball fields have not been actively maintained for many years rendering them unplayable for all but a small number of the youngest baseball fields. The tennis courts at the site are currently not playable.

▲ **Hurt Property**

Park/Facility Description: the 30-acre forest land on Lone Lake Road 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.

Programs and Activities at the site: none

Condition: public facilities at this site have not yet been developed

▲ **Saratoga Woods**

Park/Facility Description: this 120-acre park North of Langley towards Baby Island includes nature trails, a picnic area, and parking.

Programs and Activities at the site: mountain biking; fitness walking, hiking, running, equestrian activities, dog walking, bird watching; special events

Condition: trails and public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition. Certain sections of the trail system do not drain easily during the wettest portion of the year and public access may be restricted simply because some trail sections may become impassable during this period

▲ **Baby Island Heights #1**

Park/Facility Description: this 2-acre tideland site North of Langley at the entrance to Holmes Harbor has water access only.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching; fishing, kayaking, water sports

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Baby Island Heights #2**

Park/Facility Description: this 3-acre beach/tideland North of Langley at the entrance to Holmes Harbor is surrounded by private property and is inaccessible except by watercraft

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching; fishing, kayaking, water sports

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Putney Woods**

Park/Facility Description: this 600+ acre park between Langley and Freeland includes an extensive nature trail system and parking

Programs and Activities at the site: mountain biking; fitness walking, hiking, running, equestrian activities, dog walking, bird watching; special events

Condition: trails and public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition. Certain sections of the trail system do not drain easily during the wettest portion of the year and public access may be restricted simply because some trail sections may become impassable during this period

▲ **Deer Lagoon**

Park/Facility Description: this 400+ acre site between Langley, Clinton, and Freeland consists mostly of wetlands

Programs and Activities at the site: bird watching, fitness walking

Condition: trails and public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition. Certain sections of the trail system do not drain easily during the wettest portion of the year and public access may be restricted simply because some trail sections may become impassable during this period

▲ **Island County Fairgrounds:**

Park/Facility Description: this 13-acre site in Langley is home to the annual Island County Fair. The site includes 80 camping sites which are available April – October, storage areas available in the winter months, and 24 other buildings used for a variety of community and 4-H activities.

Programs and Activities at the site: camping, special events

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE PORT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY

▲ **Bush Point Boat Launch**

Park/Facility Description: this 2+ acre site is located on Admiralty Inlet on the West side of Whidbey Island to the

North of Freeland, and was recently reconstructed to include 200 ft. of shoreline access, a public boat ramp with seasonal boarding floats (April – Sept.), public restrooms, and parking including trailer spaces.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching; fishing, kayaking, water sports; special events

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Possession Beach Waterfront Park**

Park/Facility Description: this 11.9-acre park near the Southern tip of Whidbey Island was recently developed and presently contains a boat ramp, restroom facility, picnic sites, nature trails and beach access. From this park one can access the Dorothy Cleveland hiking trail, a trail that winds from the vicinity of the beach to the top of the bluff above the waterfront park.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; walking, hiking, dog walking, bird watching; fishing, kayaking, water sports; special events

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Clinton Recreational Pier and Clinton Beach Park**

Park/Facility Description: this .5-acre community pier at the Clinton ferry dock has a walkway and a small float with two daytime moorage slips. Public parking is available at the Clinton ferry commuter lot. The Beach Park includes a natural beach, a viewing platform, picnic areas, and restroom building, areas for storage of bicycles and kayaks, and parking.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching; fishing, kayaking, water sports; special event

Condition: public areas at this site are in excellent overall condition

▲ **South Whidbey Harbor at Langley**

Park/Facility Description: this .11-acre site consists of a marina with 38 transient moorage slips which are actively managed by the Port's full-time Harbor Master. The site includes a beach area, fishing pier, restrooms, shower facilities, and a boat launch. The surrounding waters support snorkeling and scuba diving.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching; fishing, crabbing, shell fishing, kayaking, water sports, snorkeling, scuba diving; special events

Condition: public areas at this site are in fair overall condition

▲ **Phil Simon Park**

Park/Facility Description: this .46-acre community park at the Langley Boat Harbor was acquired by the City of Langley in 1975 and transferred to the Port of South Whidbey in 2009.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching; fishing, kayaking, water sports; special events

Condition: public areas at this site are in excellent overall condition

FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY SOUTH WHIDBEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

▲ **South Whidbey Primary School**

Park/Facility Description: this 34.1-acre school site is located on Maxwellton Road outside Langley and contains two playgrounds, one basketball court, and nature trails.

Programs and Activities at the site: basketball, mountain biking; fitness walking, hiking, running, dog walking, bird watching; youth playground activities; special events

Condition: public and semi-public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **South Whidbey Intermediate School**

Park/Facility Description: this 20-acre site located on Maxwellton Road outside Langley includes an upper (improved) and lower (unimproved) soccer field, three outdoor play areas, and two covered play areas with basketball courts.

Programs and Activities at the site: basketball, soccer, mountain biking; fitness walking, hiking, running, dog walking, bird watching; youth playground activities; special events

Condition: public and semi-public areas at this site are in fair to good overall condition. Soccer fields at the site are not regularly maintained and are generally suited only for practice.

▲ **Langley Middle School**

Park/Facility Description: this 22.6-acre school site is located in Langley. The area contains two rough dirt playing fields with backstops and a football field, a soccer field, and a gravel running track.

Programs and Activities at the site: baseball, softball, football, soccer, running, dog walking, bird watching; camps and special events

Condition: public and semi-public areas at this site are in fair to good overall condition. Baseball and Soccer fields at the site are not regularly maintained and are generally suited only for practice. The running track at the site is not regularly maintained and does not meet State competition standards.

▲ **South Whidbey High School**

Park/Facility Description: this 48.4-acre school site is located on Maxwellton Road outside Langley, adjacent to Community Park. It contains one football field, a synthetic-surfaced 400-meter running track, one softball field, one practice field, one baseball field, seven tennis courts, and 2 asphalt basketball courts.

Programs and Activities at the site: baseball leagues, camps, and instruction; softball leagues, camps, and instruction; soccer leagues, camps, and instruction; football leagues, camps, and instruction; tennis leagues, camps, and instruction; basketball; mountain biking; fitness walking, hiking, running, dog walking, bird watching; active recreation classes and special events; sports classes, training events, and competitions; special events

Condition: public and semi-public areas at this site are in good overall condition. The primary Football/Soccer field at the site sustains excessive wear from practice and is therefore normally restricted to only game play.

▲ **Bayview School**

Park/Facility Description: this 4.0-acre school site is located at Bayview Corner and includes a rough baseball field (no backstop).

Programs and Activities at the site: baseball, special events

Condition: public and semi-public areas at this site are in fair to poor overall condition

▲ **Trillium Forest**

Park/Facility Description: this 654-acre forest property is located along State Route 525 north of Freeland. The property includes an extensive trail system.

Programs and Activities at the site: walking, dog walking, scenic vistas.

Condition: trails and public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition. Certain sections of the trail system do not drain easily during the wettest portion of the year and public access may be restricted simply because some trail sections may become impassable during this period

FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE CITY OF LANGLEY

▲ **Cascade Avenue Walkway**

Park/Facility Description: this 1.28-acre community park is located in downtown Langley. The park includes the flat area east of Cascade Avenue, as well as a large portion of the bluff east of the walkway.

Programs and Activities at the site: walking, dog walking, scenic vistas

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Generation Park**

Park/Facility Description: a .35-acre community park located at the Northwest portion of the Second Street and DeBruyn Avenue intersection. The site features picnic tables and a children's playground.

Programs and Activities at the site: youth playground activities

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Langley Park**

Park/Facility Description: a .15-acre community park located at the Southwest portion of the Second Street and Anthes Avenue intersection. The site includes a sheltered area with chairs and tables.

Programs and Activities at the site: social interaction

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Mildred Anderson and Faye Bangston Park**

Park/Facility Description: a 1.36-acre undeveloped neighborhood park that was donated to the City of Langley. The park has a trail connection with the natural area.

Programs and Activities at the site: walking, dog walking, scenic vistas

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Robert L. Smith or 'Boy and Dog' Park**

Park/Facility Description: a .15-acre passive use community park located in the middle of the First Street business core in downtown Langley. The site includes benches, landscaped areas, and stairs to access Seawall Park and the beach below.

Programs and Activities at the site: walking, dog walking, scenic vistas

Condition: public areas at this site are in excellent overall condition

▲ **Seawall Park**

Park/Facility Description: a 1.44-acre community park created in 1975 when the seawall was constructed along the Saratoga Passage. The site includes 1140 feet of salt water beach access and views of Saratoga Passage.

Programs and Activities at the site: beachgoing; dog walking, bird watching; fishing, shell fishing, kayaking, scenic vistas

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **The Cedars Subdivision-Tract 100 Park**

Park/Facility Description: Tract 100 of The Cedars housing development is a .65-acre neighborhood park that was donated to the City of Langley. The site includes one picnic table and childrens play structures.

Programs and Activities at the site: social interaction, youth playground activities

Condition: public areas at this site are in excellent overall condition

▲ **Thomas Hladkey Memorial Park**

Park/Facility Description: a .25-acre community park located at the north end of the Anthes Avenue right-of-way in downtown Langley. The park includes benches, a whale bell, landscaping and interpretive signage.

Programs and Activities at the site: social interactions, scenic vistas

Condition: public areas at this site are in excellent overall condition

▲ **DeBruyn and Park Right-of-Way ends**

Park/Facility Description: as yet undeveloped future park locations, potentially offering water access at two places in downtown Langley

Programs and Activities at the site: none

Condition: public facilities at this site have not yet been developed

FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE WHIDBEY CAMANO LAND TRUST

▲ **Hammons Preserve**

Park/Facility Description: this ~10 acre former farm is located at the intersection of Possession and Cultus Bay Roads on South Whidbey Island

Programs and Activities at the site: walking, birdwatching, dog walking, scenic vistas

Condition: public areas at this site are in good overall condition

▲ **Whidbey Institute Conservation Easement**

Park/Facility Description: This 59-acre forest is part of the Whidbey Institute property off Campbell Rd. on South Whidbey Island. The forest contains a sizeable network of walking trails.

Programs and Activities at the site: walking, birdwatching, dog walking, scenic vistas

Condition: trails and public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition. Certain sections of the trail system do not drain easily during the wettest portion of the year and public access may be restricted simply because some trail sections may become impassable during this period

FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY OTHER ENTITIES FOR PUBLIC USE

▲ **Holmes Harbor Golf Course**

Park/Facility Description: Holmes Harbor is an 18-hole course North of Freeland that was open to the public until early 2010. Owned and operated by a privately held corporation, ***the course closed indefinitely in March 2010.***

Programs and Activities at the site: none

Condition: facilities at this site are not currently open for use

▲ **Island Greens Golf Course**

Park/Facility Description: Island Greens is a par 3 nine-hole course open to the public. Located south of Clinton, it also has a driving range. ***This golf course is currently for sale.***

Programs and Activities at the site: golf

Condition: facilities at this site are in poor to fair condition. The site has significant drainage issues that render much of the course nearly unplayable during the wettest portion of the year.

FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY OTHER PRIVATE ENTITIES, WHERE SOME PARKS/PUBLIC USES ARE ALLOWED

▲ **Metcalf Reserve**

Park/Facility Description: This several hundred acre forest property sits adjacent to the Putney Woods and Saratoga Woods properties described elsewhere in this section to create a nearly 1000-acre network of forest trails.

Programs and Activities at the site: walking, birdwatching, dog walking, scenic vistas

Condition: trails at this site are in excellent overall condition. Certain sections of the trail system do not drain easily during the wettest portion of the year and public access may be restricted simply because some trail sections may become impassable during this period

▲ **Maxwelton Outdoor Classroom**

Park/Facility Description: this 6.3-acre site is located south of Highway 525 on Maxwelton Road near the Maxwelton Beach Community. 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 Whidbey Watershed Stewards, a non-profit corporation working to promote watershed stewardship and dedicated to the preservation and protection of salmon, wildlife, habitat and water quality) , a picnic area, restrooms, and parking.

Programs and Activities at the site: walking, scenic vistas

Condition: trails and public facilities at this site are in excellent overall condition. Certain sections of the trail system do not drain easily during the wettest portion of the year and public access may be restricted simply because some trail sections may become impassable during this period

▲ **Freeland Wetlands**

Park/Facility Description: This ~40-acre wetland near Freeland offers a small but growing set of trails and wetland viewing point.

Programs and Activities at the site: walking, birdwatching, dog walking, scenic vistas

Condition: trails at this site are in good to excellent condition

▲ **Useless Bay Golf & Country Club**

Park/Facility Description: Useless Bay is an 18-hole private golf course, outdoor 25-yard swimming pool, and tennis courts. The site is located south of Freeland, adjacent to Useless Bay.

Programs and Activities at the site: swimming instruction, other aquatics programs

Condition: facilities at this site are in good to excellent condition

▲ **Island Athletic Club**

Park/Facility Description: a private athletic club in Freeland with fitness equipment, racquetball courts, and an indoor 25-yard swimming pool

Programs and Activities at the site: swimming instruction, other aquatics programs

Condition: facilities at this site are in good to excellent condition

Park Facility Use Matrix

Park site	Trails	Sports Fields	Boat launch	Beach swim	Camp ground	Tennis	Vistas	Golf	Picnic areas	Dog walking	Play ground
Community Park	Yes	Yes					Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Sports Complex	Yes	Yes					Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Trustland Trails	Yes						Yes		Yes	Yes	
Deer Lake			Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes		
Lone Lake			Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes		
Goss Lake			Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes		
SW State Park	Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	
Possession State Park	Yes			Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes	
Freeland Hall	Yes						Yes		Yes		
Freeland Park			Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes		Yes
Mutiny Bay			Yes	Yes			Yes				
Double Bluff			Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes	
Brons Park							Yes			Yes	
Dave Mackie Park			Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes	Yes
Dan Porter Park	Yes						Yes			Yes	
Hurt Property											
Saratoga Woods	Yes						Yes			Yes	
Baby Island 1				Yes			Yes				
Baby Island 2							Yes				
Putney Woods	Yes						Yes				
Fairgrounds					Yes		Yes				
Bush Point			Yes	Yes			Yes				
Possession Beach	Yes		Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes		
Clinton Beach				Yes			Yes		Yes		
Langley Harbor			Yes	Yes			Yes				
Phil Simon Park							Yes		Yes		
Primary School	Yes	Yes					Yes			Yes	Yes
Intermediate Sch.	Yes	Yes					Yes			Yes	Yes
Middle School		Yes					Yes			Yes	
High School	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes			Yes	
Bayview School							Yes			Yes	
Outdoor Classroom	Yes						Yes				
Cascade Walk	Yes						Yes			Yes	
Generation Park							Yes		Yes		
Langley Park							Yes				
Anderson/Bangstrom							Yes			Yes	
Boy & Dog Park							Yes				

Park site	Trails	Sports Fields	Boat launch	Beach swim	Camp ground	Tennis	Vistas	Golf	Picnic areas	Dog walking	Play ground
Seawall Park				Yes			Yes		Yes		
Cedars Park							Yes				Yes
Hladkey Park							Yes				
DeBruyn/Park Ave.				Yes			Yes				
Holmes Harbor							Yes				
Island Greens							Yes	Yes			
Useless Bay CC				Yes			Yes	Yes			
Island Athletic				Yes			Yes				
Hammons Preserve	Yes						Yes			Yes	
Whidbey Institute (Conservation Easement)	Yes						Yes			Yes	
Trillium Forest	Yes						Yes			Yes	
Metcalf Reserve	Yes						Yes			Yes	
Freeland Wetlands	Yes						Yes				

Parks District Needs Assessment Process

The Parks District employs a set of information gathering tools to gauge and constantly update an assessment of the parks and recreation needs of the population living within the District boundary, a process used extensively in the formulation of this Comprehensive Plan. These tools include a periodic, formal Needs Assessment survey; the collection, review, and discussion of public comment in various regular forums including Parks District meetings, Master and Comprehensive Plan development initiatives, programs, and other events; a periodic Level of Service Determination (see Appendix C); and direct liaison between Parks District staff and Commissioners and various user groups and key Stakeholders. This information gathering enables the Parks District Staff and Board of Commissioners to develop and maintain an understanding of the prioritized needs of District residents for parks, recreation facilities, and programs on South Whidbey. Further information on this process is found in Appendix B.

Current Estimate of Parks and Recreation Needs

Current needs identified through this Needs Assessment process and the District Level of Service Determination include:

- ▲ The identification of a creative and cost-effective solution to construct a community recreation center with multiple recreation courts, including a public swimming pool
- ▲ Further development of aquatics programs and other water-borne programs like fishing and waterskiing
- ▲ Improvements to existing facilities for active recreation
- ▲ Expansion of both passive and active recreation programs to address the needs of a broader portion of the District population
- ▲ Further development of tennis facilities to enable year round play
- ▲ Further development of access to hiking trails and open spaces for public recreation uses
- ▲ Further efforts to enhance public access to our local and regional waterways
- ▲ Further efforts to maintain park properties within the Parks District currently operated by other entities open and accessible, if and when current owners (i.e. Island County, Washington State, etc.) become unable to sustain operations. This includes efforts to upgrade the quality of those facilities to meet the expectations of Parks District citizens.
- ▲ Further evaluation of archery range needs and facility options
- ▲ Continued monitoring of the situation with public and private golf courses within the District to address the

needs of the District's citizens in this area

The "Specific objectives for Parks, Programs, and Facilities through 2016" in Section III "Looking Forward" and the Capital Improvement Projection (Appendix E) reflect these priorities and are current as of the date of the Comprehensive Plan.

Parks Acquisition Criteria

Any parks property or facility that is considered for incorporation into the Parks District is evaluated against a set of established criteria. These criteria were established by the Parks District Board of Commissioners and Parks District Staff during a series of public meetings in summer 2010, and include:

- ⤴ Costs to acquire, establish, and maintain
- ⤴ Extant infrastructure relative to need
- ⤴ Parks density in the area
- ⤴ User groups served
- ⤴ Physical access
- ⤴ Access to bodies of water
- ⤴ Potential for revenue generation

Known projects as of the adoption date of this Plan are reflected in the Capital Improvement Projection at Appendix E.



Section III
Looking Forward
2011-2016

Demographic and Economic Projections through 2016

According to Washington State projections, Island County's population is expected to grow from 80,703 in 2011 to 87,334 in 2016. South Whidbey's population is expected to increase from roughly 13,715 in 2011 to 16,527 by 2016.

The economic crisis which began in 2009 is projected to continue to impact levels of growth, tourism, employment, personal income, and property values for several years, potentially through the end of the Comprehensive Plan period. It is projected that these economic metrics will generally continue to trend as they have historically; however, the rates of rise may be much lower than in previous periods. The 2009-2010 impact of this economic downturn on the Parks District, primarily in terms of the downward trends in registration levels for certain fee-based parks programs and in increased dependency on scholarships by disadvantaged families interested in park program participation. As well, the unfavorable impact of this economic downturn on property values in the District will serve to reduce the Parks District budget.

This period of economic weakness has the potential to fundamentally impact the situation with parks and recreation facilities within the Parks District boundary during the term of this Comprehensive Plan. Washington State and Island County will continue to face significant enough reductions in funding allocated for parks and recreation operations and maintenance that they will seek to transfer operations and maintenance responsibility and in some cases even ownership of park properties or recreation facilities to the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District. To assume responsibility for keeping these sites open and operating will place great pressure on the Parks District budget.

Specific objectives for Parks, Programs, and Facilities through 2016

To fulfill the District Mission and address issues of Quantity, Quality, and Distribution & Access identified in the Level of Service Determination (Appendix C), the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will consider these projects and initiatives along with others that evolve during the term of this Comprehensive Plan. Capital requirements for known projects are reflected in the Capital Improvement Projection at Appendix E :

▲ Community Park Developments

2011-2016 Objective: further develop Community Park facilities and programs to appeal to a broader range of potential users from the local population, some of which are detailed below.

Background: as the core of the South Whidbey Parks system, Community Park is the location of many important park facilities and is the center of many current park programs and activities. The park property is large enough to potentially site additional facilities and host additional programs. As such, it is a candidate for initiatives based on the "Current Estimate of Parks and Recreation Needs" found in Section I of this plan and on a review of the National Recreation and Park Association Facility Standards detailed in Appendix C. The Parks District Master Plan created in 2009 collected many of these potential additional uses and distributed them across a conceptual drawing of the "Community Park of the future". These projects are under consideration at the start of the Comprehensive Plan:

- **Baseball/Softball field improvements** – to address a need expressed by existing user groups for pitching warm-up stations, retaining walls, possible turf infields at Fields 1, 2, and 3 (see Capital Plan Appendix E for detail), and for continued improvements to drainage and other field aspects to improve wet season access to fields
- **Soccer field improvements** – to address a need expressed by existing user groups for fencing around the upper soccer field, to prevent loose balls from rolling into the woods or down the large hill to the west, and for continued improvements to drainage and other field aspects to improve wet season access to fields
- **Maintenance facilities** – consider modifying and/or repurposing the existing Parks maintenance facility, once the new facility is fully completed in 2011, in accordance with the conceptual outline in the existing Parks Master Plan.
- **Picnic Pavilion** – consider the construction of one or more additional picnic pavilions in Community Park to address a need expressed by existing user groups.
- **Outdoor Basketball facilities** - consider the construction of an improved basketball court surface and

- improved goals to address a need expressed by existing user groups
- **Outdoor amphitheatre** – to address a need identified in the Needs Assessment process for a facility that could host community theater events, day camp activities, summer concerts, and special events
- **Archery** – to address a need identified in the Needs Assessment process for a dedicated archery site for use by a recreational archery club, day camp activities, and a School District archery program
- **Disc Golf** – to address a need identified in the Needs Assessment process for the dedicated course that would be required to enable this activity within Community Park or another park site

▲ **Sports Complex Developments**

2011-2016 Objective: further develop Sports Complex facilities and programs to appeal to a broader range of potential users from the local population, some of which are detailed below.

Background: as a part of the core of the South Whidbey Parks system, the Sports Complex is the location of the majority of the soccer/multipurpose fields in the Parks District and is the center of many current park programs and activities. The park property is large enough to potentially site additional facilities and host additional programs. As such, it is a candidate for initiatives based on the “Current Estimate of Parks and Recreation Needs” found in Section I of this plan. The Parks District Master Plan created in 2009 collected many of these potential additional uses and distributed them across a conceptual drawing of the “Community Park of the future”. These projects are under consideration at the start of the Comprehensive Plan:

- **Picnic Pavilion** – to address a need remaining from the original site plan for the addition of one smaller picnic pavilion on the southwest side of Field #4
- **Basketball Goals** – to address a need remaining from the original site plan for the addition of basketball goals in sections of the lower parking areas adjacent to Field #4.
- **Soccer Field improvements** – to continue to evaluate options to improve access to fields during all seasons of play
- **Soccer Equipment improvements** – to evaluate options to improve material conditions of soccer goals
- **Dog Play Course** – to address a need expressed by dog enthusiasts in the District

▲ **Trustland Trails Development**

2011-2016 Objective: Complete the construction of the Discovery Trail and the Challenge Loop at the Trustland Trails site, and further develop the Trustland Trails facility and programs to appeal to a broader range of potential users from the local population.

Background: since receiving this 200-acre parcel from the state’s trust land transfer program, the Parks District has worked diligently to develop the property appropriately for public access and recreation. In late 2007-2008, the district completed the Trustland Trails Management Plan to guide the future development of this property for recreation purposes. In 2008, the Parks District was successful in securing a \$56,000 grant to develop a trailhead parking area, an ADA Loop Trail, a learning pavilion, an equestrian connector trail, portable restrooms, interpretive and regulatory signage, and other park amenities. These projects are under consideration at the start of the Comprehensive Plan:

- **Discovery Trail** – part of the Trustland Trails Management Plan, this trail will extend throughout the park to extend the potential uses of the site
- **Challenge Loop Trail** – part of the Trustland Trails Management Plan, this trail will extend throughout the park to extend the potential uses of the site
- **Site Access Improvements** – evaluation of easement opportunities to expand site access
- **Additional Site Facilities** – evaluation of citizen request to add 10-acre level field and/or horse arena
- **Secondary Property Development** – evaluation of recreation options at the 40-acre remainder of the original 200-acre property, located on the North side of SR 525

▲ **New Park Properties – Acquisition, Transfer, other issues**

2011-2016 Objective: evaluate new potential park properties

Background: Evaluate new potential park properties using the Acquisition Matrix located at Appendix D, and take action based on the prioritization in the Matrix should any of those properties become available during the term of the Plan. Specific properties for consideration at Plan launch include:

- **Properties adjacent to Community Park and to other park properties** - maintain properties bordering Community Park and other park sites on the Parks District Acquisition Matrix at all times, regardless of current availability. Community Park is bordered on three sides by private parcels. Maintaining those properties (and similar properties at other key locations) and their relative prioritization on the Parks District Acquisition Matrix will allow for rapid evaluation and action if and when those properties change hands or appear on the real estate market.
- **SWPRD 5-acre parcel** - build a use plan for the 5-acre parcel obtained from the State DNR in the trust land transfer process, and seek an easement to enable access to the site. The Parks District obtained a 5-acre parcel of land from DNR near the Community Park property on Maxwellton Road in Langley through the trust land transfer program and has not yet identified a use for this parcel of land. As well, the property will require an easement across private property to gain physical access from Community Park.
- **Park properties currently administered by other entities** – evaluate the impact on the citizens of the District and on the Parks District budget of the potential acquisition of or transfer of operating responsibility for park properties currently owned and/or managed by other entities. These include such properties as Dave Mackie Park, Dan Porter Park, Freeland Park, and others described in detail in the “Parks, Facilities, and Programs within the District” section of this Plan

▲ **Shoreline Areas and Water Access**

2011-2016 Objective: evaluate new salt and freshwater frontage properties if they become available during the term of the Comprehensive Plan, using the Acquisition Matrix (Appendix D).

Background: the “Current Estimate of Parks and Recreation Needs” found in Section I of this plan highlighted a need for improved public access to bodies of water within District boundaries.

▲ **Lake Properties**

2011-2016 Objective: address issues to improve public access and bring facilities to expected standards at existing lake properties managed by the District.

Background: in 2010 the District took over from Island County management of three lake properties within District boundaries and inherited a number of facilities that had not been regularly maintained. The District will work in partnership with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to make necessary improvements to these sites to improve public access over the term of this Plan.

▲ **Community Center**

2011-2016 Objective: during the term of the Comprehensive Plan, find a solution to deliver a community recreation center to the citizens of the District in a form (and at a cost) acceptable to the significant majority required to pass any construction bond or significant levy.

Background: the Parks District was formed in 1983 for the express purposes of building a community center at Community Park. The need for a publicly-accessible community center was supported in recent forums, including the 2005 Parks District Needs Assessment Survey, public meetings associated with the development of the Parks District Master Plan, and through the work of the nascent South Whidbey Parks and Aquatics Foundation. A plan for such a center was developed in 2007 but the \$10M+ cost of the facility was rejected by the voters of the District in 2008.

▲ **Public Swimming Pool**

2011-2016 Objective: during the term of the Comprehensive Plan, find a solution to deliver a public swimming pool, potentially as part of a community recreation center, to the citizens of the District in a form (and at a cost) acceptable to the significant majority required to pass any construction bond or significant levy.

Background: 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 & 2005 Needs Surveys 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.

▲ **Tennis Center**

2011-2016 Objective: develop a tennis center with indoor and outdoor tennis courts and spectator areas to provide year-around community tennis for recreation, training, competitive tennis, and exhibitions

Background: tennis facilities were listed as ‘extremely important’, “very important”, or “somewhat important” by 68.9% of those who responded to the 2005 Needs Assessment survey. Since then, tennis participation has been growing at double-digit rates nationwide, as has the membership in the local Community Tennis Association (CTA). Existing publicly-accessible courts at South Whidbey High School allow for only limited public access during the busy school year, and have been judged unacceptable for any official tournament play based on insufficient spacing between adjacent courts.

▲ **Golf Facilities**

2011-2016 Objective: evaluate the impact of the potential permanent loss of the two public golf courses that currently exist within the Parks District boundary. Develop a plan to address the situation that will satisfy the needs of citizens of the District in the context of the current fiscal situation.

Background: golf is a significant active recreation outlet for a portion of the District’s citizens. In 2010, one of two public courses within the District boundary (Holmes Harbor) closed indefinitely due to financial problems. The other public facility, Island Greens, remained for sale on the real estate market and could be converted away from a golf configuration if sold.

▲ **Multiple-Use Trails**

2011-2016 Objective: Improve overall access to trails for District citizens through a coordinated effort to develop new multiple-use trails

Background: access to trails for walking, hiking, running, biking, dog walking, bird watching, and other activities has been highlighted as a need in multiple community forums since 2005. Separately, in 2009 Island County amended the Non-Motorized Trails Plan to include a high-standard separated multiple-use trail along SR20 and SR525 from Deception Pass Bridge to the Clinton Ferry. Progress towards this objective will likely involve partnership at some level with the Parks District, at least on the sections of the trail falling within the boundaries of the Parks District.

▲ **Camping/RV Park**

2011-2016 Objective: Consider options to address possible need under the Parks District umbrella

Background: periodic requests from District citizens for the Parks District to offer options for camping, and possibly RV parking, within District boundaries under the auspices of the District staff



Section IV

Appendices

Appendix A

Comprehensive Plan Stakeholders

As detailed in Section II above, the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District is not the only provider of parks and recreation services on South Whidbey Island. Many other local entities support the parks and recreation needs of the citizens of the Parks District or are connected to the mission of the South Whidbey Parks District in some meaningful way. The establishment and maintenance of relationships between the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District Staff and Board of Commissioners and these other entities and organizations is essential to the most efficient functioning of the Parks District. Each of these organizations and entities will be provided a formal copy of the approved version of this Comprehensive Plan.

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District Board of Commissioners

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Member-at-large

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District Leadership Team

- Director
- Office Manager
- Maintenance Supervisor
- Recreation Coordinator

Key Parks and Recreation Stakeholders

- *South Whidbey Parks & Aquatics Foundation*
- *Port of South Whidbey*
- *South Whidbey School District*
- *Island County Parks*
- *Washington State Parks Department*
- *City of Langley*
- *Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife*
- *Whidbey Camano Land Trust*
- *Island Rowing Association*
- *Island County Public Health*
- *Island County Trails Council*
- *South Whidbey Little League*
- *South Whidbey Tennis community*
- *South Whidbey Youth Soccer Club*
- *South Whidbey Youth Football*
- *South Whidbey Fishing Club*
- *South Whidbey Yacht Club*
- *South Whidbey Commons*
- *South Whidbey Children's Center*
- *South Whidbey Senior Center*
- *Island Athletic Club*
- *Useless Bay Country Club*
- *Island Greens Golf Course*
- *Friends of Saratoga Woods Preserve*
- *Friends of Freeland*

Appendix B

The Parks District Needs Assessment Process

The Parks District employs a set of information gathering tools to gauge and constantly update an assessment of the parks and recreation needs of the population living within the District boundary, a process used extensively in the formulation of this Comprehensive Plan. These tools include a periodic, formal Needs Assessment survey; the collection, review, and discussion of public comment in various regular forums including Parks District meetings, Master and Comprehensive Plan development initiatives, programs, and other events; a periodic Level of Service Determination (see Appendix C); and direct liaison between Parks District staff and Commissioners and various user groups and key Stakeholders. This information gathering enables the Parks District Staff and Board of Commissioners to develop and maintain an understanding of the prioritized needs of District residents for parks, recreation facilities, and programs on South Whidbey.

Needs Assessment Tools and frequency of information gathering/review:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Public input directly to Parks Staff members | frequent (daily) |
| 2. Public input directly to Parks Board members | frequent (daily/weekly) |
| 3. Parks Staff reviews with user groups and key Stakeholders | frequent (daily/weekly) |
| 4. Public input at SWPRD Board of Commissioners meetings | frequent (monthly) |
| 5. Surveys of Parks program participants | frequent (~monthly) |
| 6. Public input to Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan reviews | infrequent (annually) |
| 7. Level of Service Determination | infrequent (annually or less frequently) |
| 8. Formal Needs Assessment Surveys of full District population | infrequent (every 5-7 years) |

Appendix C

Level of Service Determination

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) recommends determination of a level of service for park and recreation planning, including trails. This analysis uses a State RCO tool to indicate the strengths and weaknesses of the District's parks and trails system and to suggest where additional resources may be needed. This tool uses indicators in each of three categories – Quantity, Quality, and Distribution & Access – each with measurable elements to determine the Level of Service to the population within the District.

The Needs Assessment process described in detail at Appendix B was used to determine the baseline for the Quality indicator. The Distribution & Access indicator baseline was determined using Geographical Information System (GIS) and incorporates information on access points, barriers to access, and census block data. To determine the baseline for the Quantity indicator, criteria developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) are used. The population numbers used in the calculations are:

- 2011 population: South Whidbey = 13,715, Island County = 80,703
- 2016 population estimates: South Whidbey = 16,527, Island County = 87,334

For the purposes of this plan, public facilities throughout the District (not just those facilities owned/operated by the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District) were used in these calculations.

Quantity Criteria:

Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities	Desired Quantity/Per Capita Average	Difference	Percent Difference	Level of Service Rating
45 (note 1)	52 (note 2)	7	13%	B
Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities	Facilities that Support Active Recreation Opportunities	Difference	Percent Difference	Level of Service Rating
45	44	1	2	A
System Capacity (note 3) - Basketball	System Demand		Percent Demand met by existing facilities	Level of Service Rating
100 games	125 games		80%	A
System Capacity - Tennis	System Demand		Percent Demand met by existing facilities	Level of Service Rating
7 simultaneous matches outdoor	7 simultaneous matches outdoor 3 simultaneous matches indoor		70%	B
System Capacity – Baseball/Softball	System Demand		Percent Demand met by existing facilities	Level of Service Rating
100 games	125 games		80%	A
System Capacity - Soccer	System Demand		Percent Demand met by existing facilities	Level of Service Rating
200 games	250 games		80%	A

System Capacity – Recreation Courts	System Demand		Percent Demand met by existing facilities	Level of Service Rating
100 events	200 events		50%	C
System Capacity - Pool	System Demand		Percent Demand met by existing facilities	Level of Service Rating
50 events	300 events		15%	E
System Capacity - Trails	System Demand		Percent Demand met by existing facilities	Level of Service Rating
500 events	500 events		100%	A

NOTE 1: this count includes all parks and recreation facilities within District boundaries, whether or not they are owned and/or operated by the District. Not counted are the two private facilities (Island Athletic Club, Useless Bay Golf & Country Club) where only limited public access is allowed, the one closed facility (Holmes Harbor Golf Course), and the two facilities where no parks development has yet occurred (Hurt Property and road ends in Langley)

NOTE 2: NPRA Facility Standards for Parks and Recreation Districts in communities with populations < 20,000 people is the reference for this section and is found later in this Appendix. The list of missing facilities towards the Quantity criteria includes 1 pool, 2 multiple recreation courts, 2 tennis courts, 1 archery range, and 1 golf course. Not counted at the time of the adoption of this plan are 4 badminton courts, 1 handball court, 1 ice rink, 1 lighted baseball field, and 1 combination skeet/trap field based on the lack of public interest from the Needs Assessment process and/or acceptable public/private options. These may factor into the Quality criteria calculation later in the plan period if public input changes measurably.

NOTE 3: Specific facility types chosen for capacity analysis from NPRA guidelines based on interest from District citizens expressed in Needs Assessment process

Quality Criteria:

Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities	Facilities fully functional for specific design and safety guidelines		Quality Percent	Level of Service Rating
45	38.5 (note 4)		86%	A
Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities	Facilities that meet public satisfaction requirements		Satisfaction Percent	Level of Service Rating
45	38 (note 4)		84	A

NOTE 4: see the table titled “Data for Level of Service Criteria analysis” below

Distribution & Access Criteria:

Number of District citizens within the following service areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park/trail • 5 miles of a community park/trail 	Total District Population		Percent within Service Areas	Level of Service Rating
---	---------------------------	--	------------------------------	-------------------------

• 25 miles of a regional park/trail				
13,715 (note 5)	13,715		100%	A
Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities	Facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation		Access Percent	Level of Service Rating
45	42 (note 6)		93%	A

NOTE 5: for the purposes of this analysis, South Whidbey State Park and trail system are considered a “regional park/trail”

NOTE 6: two sites, Baby Island #1 and Baby Island #2, are only accessible by boat

Data for Level of Service Criteria analysis

Park site	Number (count) of facilities	Supports Active Recreation	Fully Functional for Design, Safety	Fully Functional for Customer Satisfaction	Accessed Safety via Foot, Bicycle, Public Transport
Community Park	1 (note 7)	1	1	1	1
Sports Complex	1	1	1	1	1
Trustland Trails	1	1	0.5 (note 8)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Deer Lake	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Lone Lake	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Goss Lake	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
SW State Park	1	1	1	1	1
Possession State Park	1	1	1	1	1
Freeland Hall	1	0	1	1	0
Freeland Park	1	1	1	1	1
Mutiny Bay	1	1	1	1	1
Double Bluff	1	1	1	0.5 (note 10)	1
Brons Park	1	1	1	1	1
Dave Mackie Park	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Dan Porter Park	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Hurt Property	0	0	0	0	0
Saratoga Woods	1	1	1	1	1
Baby Island 1	1	1	1	1	0
Baby Island 2	1	1	1	1	0
Putney Woods	1	1	1	1	1
Fairgrounds	1	1	1	1	1
Bush Point	1	1	1	1	1
Possession Beach	1	1	1	1	1
Clinton Beach	1	1	1	1	1
Langley Harbor	1	1	1	1	1
Phil Simon Park	1	1	1	1	1
Primary School	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Intermediate Sch.	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Middle School	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
High School	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Bayview School	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Outdoor Classroom	1	1	1	1	1
Cascade Walk	1	1	1	1	1
Generation Park	1	1	1	1	1
Langley Park	1	1	1	1	1
Anderson/Bangstrom	1	1	1	1	1
Boy & Dog Park	1	1	1	1	1
Seawall Park	1	1	1	1	1
Cedars Park	1	1	1	1	1
Hladkey Park	1	1	1	1	1
DeBruyn/Park Ave.	0	0	0	0	0

Holmes Harbor	0	0	0	0	0
Island Greens	1	1	0.5 (note 9)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Useless Bay CC	0	0	0	0	0
Island Athletic	0	0	0	0	0
Hammons Preserve	1	1	1	1	1
Whidbey Institute (Conservation Easement)	1	1	1	1	1
Trillium Forest	1	1	1	1	1
Metcalf Reserve	1	1	1	1	1
Freeland Wetlands	1	1	0.5 (note 8)	0.5 (note 10)	1
Totals	45	44	38.5	38	42

NOTE 7: a score of "1" means the facility is counted towards the total described in the column heading

NOTE 8: a score of less than 1 means the District staff considers the facility partially functional for design, safety based on the partial completion of facilities at the site. The actual rating given is a best estimate given the level of completion of facilities at the site.

NOTE 9: a score of less than 1 means the District staff considers the facility partially functional for design, safety based on the material condition and/or the historical design/upkeep of the site. The actual rating given is a best estimate given the range of facilities and conditions at the site.

NOTE 10: a score of less than 1 means the District staff estimates a facility is considered satisfactory to a portion of District residents. The actual rating given is a best estimate given the diverse range of uses and users of this facility.

ACTIVITY OR FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	# UNITS PER POP.	# UNITS REQUIRED IN DISTRICT (2016)	WITHIN DISTRICT BOUNDARIES	POPULAR DEMAND FROM NEEDS ASSESSMENT?	NOTES/EXCEPTIONS
Badminton	Singles – 17'x44' Doubles – 20'x44'	1 per 5000	4 courts	0 courts	No	No significant interest from Needs Assessment process
Basketball 1. Youth 2. HS 3. College	46-50'x84' 50'x84' 50'x94' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides	1 per 5000	4 courts	> 4 courts	Yes	> 4 outdoor courts fully public. Many other semi-public courts at school locations available to citizen league play based on MOU with Parks District.
Handball (3-4 wall)	20'x40' – Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance	1 per 20,000	1 court	0 courts	No	Private option at Island Athletic Club is partly suited to Handball. No significant interest from Needs Assessment process
Ice Hockey	Rink 85'x200' (minimum 85'x185') Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	1 rink	0 rinks	No	Fee-based option exists within 20 miles (including ferry) in Everett through Everett Parks & Recreation. No significant interest from Needs Assessment process
Tennis	36'x78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	1 court per 2000	9 courts	7 courts	Yes	# of courts sufficient for 2011-2013 population Lack of covered courts an issue with local players because of the District climate
Volleyball	30'x60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	1 per 5000	4 courts	> 4 courts	Yes	> 4 semi-public courts at school locations available to citizen league play based on MOU with Parks District.
Baseball 1. Official 2. Little	Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – min. 320' Center field – 400'+ Baselines – 60', Pitching distance – 46' Foul lines –	1 per 5000 Lighted 1 per 30,000	4 fields 1 lighted field	> 4 fields 0 lighted fields	Yes	3 fields fully public on Parks District property sufficient for 2011-2014 population. > 4 additional semi-public fields at school locations available to citizen league play based on MOU with Parks District.

League	200' Center field – 200' – 250'					1 additional field at Island County park location. Lighted field requirement based on nearly 3x District population and is considered “desired” and not yet “required”
Field Hockey	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	1 per 20,000	1 field	> 1 field	No	Up to 5 full fields available on Parks District property, based on configuration of multi-use fields for this activity. Activity-specific goals not currently in Parks District inventory
Football	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	1 per 20,000	1 field	> 1 field	Yes	> 1 multipurpose fields on Parks District property suitable to this activity 2 lined fields with goals at school locations available to citizen league play based on MOU with Parks District
Soccer	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	1 per 10,000	2 fields	> 2 fields	Yes	Up to 5 full fields available on Parks District property, based on configuration of multi-use fields for this activity. Local popularity, interest, participation levels demand greater number per population than NPRA standard.
Golf-driving Range	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	1 per 50,000	1 range	1 range	Yes	Public driving range available at Island Greens Golf Course, however, in 2011 course complex was listed for sale
¼ Mile Running Track	Overall width – 276' Length – 600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	1 per 20,000	1 track	1 track	Yes	1 semi-public 400m track at high school location, available to citizens based on MOU with Parks District. 1 semi-public non- standard distance track at middle school

						location, available to citizens based on MOU with Parks District
Softball	<p>Baselines – 60 ‘</p> <p>Pitching distance- 46’, min. 40’ women.</p> <p>Fast pitch field Radius from Plate – 225’</p> <p>Between foul Lines: Slow Pitch – 275’ (men), 250’ (women)</p>	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	4 fields	> 4 fields	Yes	<p>> 4 fields on Parks District property, 1 with correct dimensions and other without exact dimensions but generally acceptable for this activity</p> <p>1 fields with correct dimensions at high school location available to citizen league play based on MOU with Parks District</p>
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	120’ x 80’	1 per 10,000	2 recreation courts	0 recreation courts	Yes	<p>Multiple recreation courts at school locations available to citizen league play based on MOU with Parks District.</p> <p>Local popularity, interest, participation levels demand greater number per population than NPRA standard, and need for Parks District control of facility scheduling drives this to the top of the Capital Improvement Projection prioritization list (see Appendix E)</p>
Trails	Well defined head maximum 10’ width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails – 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails – 90 hikers/day/mile.	1 system per region	1 system	> 1 system	Yes	Multiple trail systems available to the District Population
Archery Range	300’ Length x Minimum 10’ wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum 30’, clear space behind targets minimum of	1 per 50,000	1 range	0 ranges	Yes	<p>Temporary ranges established on Parks District property for camps, training classes</p> <p>Private option at Langley-area Rod & Gun Club</p>

	90'x45' with bunker.					
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	1 per 50,000	1 field	0 fields	No	Private option at Langley-area Rod & Gun Club. No significant interest from Needs Assessment process
Golf						
1. Par 3 (18 hole)	Average length 600-2700 yd.	--	0 Par-3 courses	1 Par-3 course	Yes	Single public 9-hole course available to District citizens, but property was listed for sale in 2011. Second public 18-hole course was closed in 2010 due to financial problems.
2. 9-hole standard	Average length 2250 yards	1/25,000	1 9-hole standard course	0 9-hole standard courses		Private 18-hole course option at Useless Bay Country Club
3. 18-hole standard	Average length 6500 yards	1/50,000	1 18-hole standard course	0 18-hole standard courses		Public need for these facilities driving prioritization of this requirement in the Capital Improvement Projection prioritization list (see Appendix E)
Swimming Pools	<i>Teaching</i> - minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 ft. <i>Competitive</i> – minimum of 25 m x 16 m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	1 pool	0 pools	Yes	Private options at Island Athletic Club (all season) and Useless Bay Country Club (summer season only). Public need for this facility driving prioritization of this requirement in the Capital Improvement Projection prioritization list (see Appendix E)
Beach Areas	Beach area should have 50	N/A	Unspecified	> 1 beach areas	Yes	Public beach areas generally meeting this

	sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 A supporting land per A of beach.					specification exist at Parks District-operated lake facilities and at other public water access sites and parks owned and operated by other entities.
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Reference: Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association. (Reprinted with permission)

Appendix D

Acquisition Prioritization Matrix

The Parks District Acquisition Criteria Matrix was developed in 2010 to allow new park properties under consideration for incorporation into the Parks District inventory to be evaluated against a set of objective criteria and then prioritized. The table below is an example simply to show the matrix structure – a copy of the current prioritization matrix is maintained at all times in the Parks offices and known projects are reflected in the Capital Improvement Projection at Appendix E.

[illegible]

Appendix E

Capital Improvement Projection 2011 - 2016

The Parks District Capital Improvement Projection serves as a guide to future capital projects and programs. The calendar year listed for each individual project represents either a best estimate of the project completion timeline or the best timeline to complete detailed planning for the project, even if the project might actually occur in a later year within the term of the Comprehensive Plan. Examples of the latter come from many of the projects in the “Land Acquisition” category in the Projection – the timeline to many of these is based on factors outside the District’s control, however, the District projection includes planning for these potential acquisitions early in the Comprehensive Plan period.

Priority	Project	Financing Plan	Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	Community Park - Finish new Maintenance facility	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
2	Community Park – Old Maintenance facility repurposing	Grant/Budget/other	Renovation	X					
3	Potential Parks facility - Public Swimming Pool	Bond/other	Development				X		
4	Trustland Trails - Discovery Loop Trail	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
5	Potential Parks facility - Community Center	Bond/other	Development				X		
6	Trustland Trails - Challenge Loop Trail	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
7	Community Park – Picnic Pavilion	Grant/budget/other	Development		X				
8	Parks Equipment - Triathlon fencing, bike racks	Grant/Budget/other	Development	X					
9	Potential Parks facility - Multipurpose Gymnasium	Bond/other	Land Acquisition				X		
10	Community Park – Field drainage improvements	Grant/Budget/other	Development /Renovation		X				
11	Potential Parks Site - Properties adjacent to Community Park	Grant/Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
12	Sports Complex – Soccer goal improvements	Grant/Budget/other	Restoration		X				
13	Lakes - Lone Lake - Fishing dock	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
14	Community Park - Amphitheatre/Stage	Grant/Budget/other	Renovation			X			
15	Community Park – Basketball improvements	Grant/Budget/other	Development	X					
16	Sports Complex – Basketball improvements	Grant/Budget/other	Development				X		
17	Community Park – Field retaining walls	Grant/Budget/other	Development	X					

18	Community Park - Tennis Center	Bond/other	Development				X		
19	Community Park - Outdoor Adult Fitness Equipment stations	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
20	Community Park - 5-acre Parcel access improvements	Grant/Budget/other	Development					X	
21	Sports Complex - Upper Soccer Field fencing	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
22	Potential Parks facility - Multi-use trails	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
23	Community Park - Fields #2 and #3 fencing	Grant/Budget/other	Development	X					
24	Community Park - Archery Range	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
25	Community Park – Field #1, #3, #4 Irrigation	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
26	Potential Parks facility - Disc Golf Course	Grant/Budget/other	Development			X			
27	Community Park – Baseball Field pitching stations	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
28	Lakes - Lone Lake - Picnic shelter	Grant/Budget/other	Development					X	
29	Lakes - Goss Lake – Retaining wall	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
30	Community Park - Dog Watering stations	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
31	Community Park – Field #3 Turf infield	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
32	Sports Complex - Turf field	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
33	Sports Complex – Picnic Pavilion	Grant/budget/other	Development					X	
34	Lakes - Lone Lake - Boat Launch	Grant/Budget/other	Renovation		X				
35	Lakes - Deer Lake - Boat Launch	Grant/Budget/other	Renovation		X				
36	Lakes - Goss Lake - Boat Launch	Grant/Budget/other	Renovation		X				
37	Potential Parks facility - Dog Play Course	Grant/Budget/other	Development					X	
38	Trustland Trails – 40 Acres access	Grant/Budget/other	Development						X
39	Potential Parks facility - Camping/RV facility	Bond/other	Development		X				
40	Trustland Trails – Access improvements	Grant/Budget/other	Development		X				
41	Lakes - Lone Lake - Fencing	Grant/Budget/other	Renovation		X				

42	Potential Parks Site - Thompson Horse Arena property	Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
43	Potential Parks Sites - Shoreline Access Areas	Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
44	Potential Parks Site - Dave Mackie Park property	Grant/Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
45	Potential Parks Site - Dan Porter Park property	Grant/Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
46	Potential Parks Site - Freeland Park property	Grant/Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
47	Potential Parks Site - Bayview Hall	Grant/Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
48	Potential Parks Site - Double Bluff property	Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
49	Potential Parks Site - South Whidbey State Park property	Grant/Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
50	Potential Parks Site - Dorothy Cleveland Trail property	Grant/Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
51	Potential Parks Site - Fairgrounds property	Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
52	Potential Parks Site - Freeland Hall property	Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				
53	Potential Parks Site - Holmes Harbor property	Bond/other	Land Acquisition		X				

Appendix F

Resolution

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District

Resolution 2011-03

Resolution Approving Six-Year Comprehensive Plan

WHEREAS, South Whidbey Parks and 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 and 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 and 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 and Recreation District's 2011-2016 Comprehensive Plan and attached hereto.

Adopted by the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District's Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on the

Signed and approved by the Chairman the Board of Commissioners of South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District this ____ day of _____, 20____

SIGNED:

ATTESTED:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
