



2010-2015 Comprehensive Plan

South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District Board of Commissioners

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**Plan updated and adopted
June 16, 2010**



South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District

Resolution 2010-03

Resolution Approving 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 2010-2015 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

Signed and approved by the Chairman the Board of Commissioners of South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District this

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

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 and programs for the South Whidbey 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 provides parks and recreational facilities and programs.
- G3.** To continue maintaining 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 _____

Additional needs were identified through review of the existing plan by stakeholder groups within our geographic boundaries.

Those stakeholders involved in the review and update process are as follows:

South Whidbey School District – Dan Poolman, Business Manager

Port of South Whidbey – Ed Field, Port Manager

City of Langley – Fred Evander, Senior Planner

Island County Public Works/Parks – Joantha Guthrie, Project Manager

Island County Public Health – Carrie McLachlan, Supervisor

South Whidbey Parks and Aquatics Foundation – Kristen _____, Swimming Advocate

South Whidbey Tennis Community - Jim Day, Tennis Advocate

South Whidbey Little League – Debbie Holbert, President

Background, Purposes and Milestones

1979, prior to the formation of the Parks & Recreation District, a corporation was formed and negotiations were completed with Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Waterman for the donation of a 43-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.

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.

1983 The South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District was formed by the voters to develop the 43-acre site donated by the Waterman Family, into a parks and recreation center.

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 Comprehensive Park Plan.

Phase I of the comprehensive plan included the development of three Little League baseball/softball fields, three multi-purpose 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. These facilities are the water storage tank, lighting, buildings, concession stand, offices and maintenance shed, and a 20,000 sq. ft. playground.

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.

Since 2000, the district has operated with a Director, Office Manager, Program Coordinator, Maintenance Supervisor, Laborer I and Laborer II plus several seasonal positions for Summer Day Camp.

2006-2007, the District hired a consultant team to develop the district's Master Plan. McLeod Reckord and ARC Architects in conjunction with park staff, park commissioners and the public created a master plan of district property to identify future locations of needed facilities.

In 2007, the district passed a park improvement bond of \$1.6 million dollars for infrastructure repair and major maintenance and construction of new park facilities. Included in the park improvement bond were the following projects: Drainage and irrigation for the four soccer fields at the Sports Complex; drainage and irrigation for a baseball and soccer field at Community Park; new playground, plaza and picnic pavilions at the Sports Complex; new paving of gravel roads and overlay of existing asphalt roads; new roofs and gutters on all Community Park buildings; expansion of the skate park in Community Park; renovation of Castle Playground; new trail head parking and ADA Loop Trail at Trustland Trails;

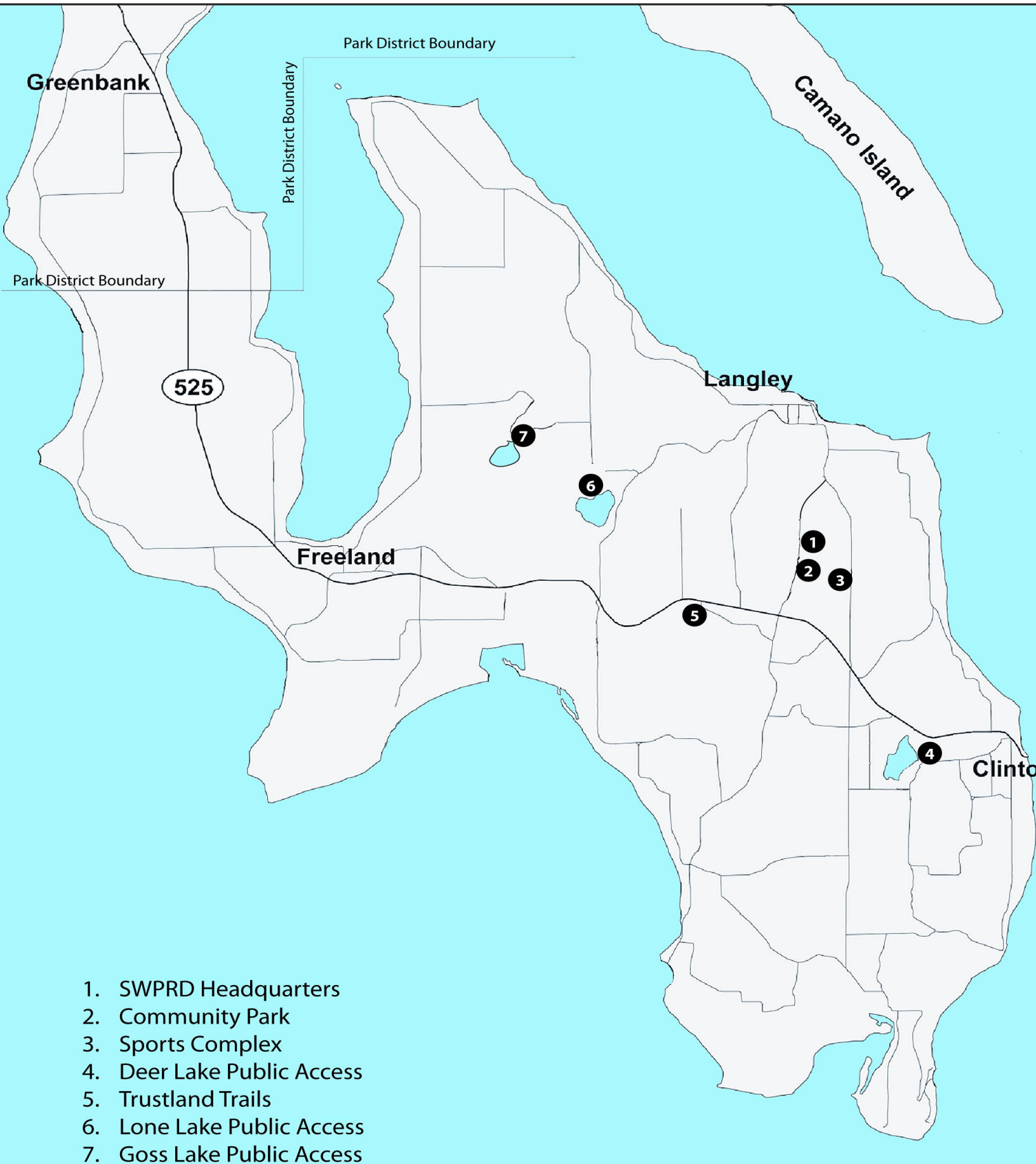
In 2009, the district's management and program personnel moved into new headquarters at 5475 Maxwellton Rd., a building owned and leased by Island County Property Management. The 2,000 square-foot building hosts park administrative offices, recreation program rooms, a conference room, and a large multi-purpose program room. This building is a universally accessible building with ample parking and amenities. The district offers rooms for community use at low or no cost.

In 2010, the district will complete a new maintenance equipment and storage facility in Community Park, it will be located off of the north entrance road and will be the future home of the SWPRD maintenance staff, storage and use of equipment, supplies and materials.

The District has had a very successful history of passing its maintenance and operations levies since it's inception. 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.

1987 5-year levy passes; funding through 1992
1992 5-year levy passes; funding through 1997
1997 6-year levy passes; funding through 2003
2003 2-year levy passes; funding through 2005
2005 2-year levy passes; funding through 2007
2007 3-year levy passes; funding through 2010
2007 1.6 million Park Improvement Bond passes
2010 4-year levy passes; funding through 2014

SOUTH WHIDBEY PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT PARKS & FACILITIES



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. All SWPRD activities should be fun, 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

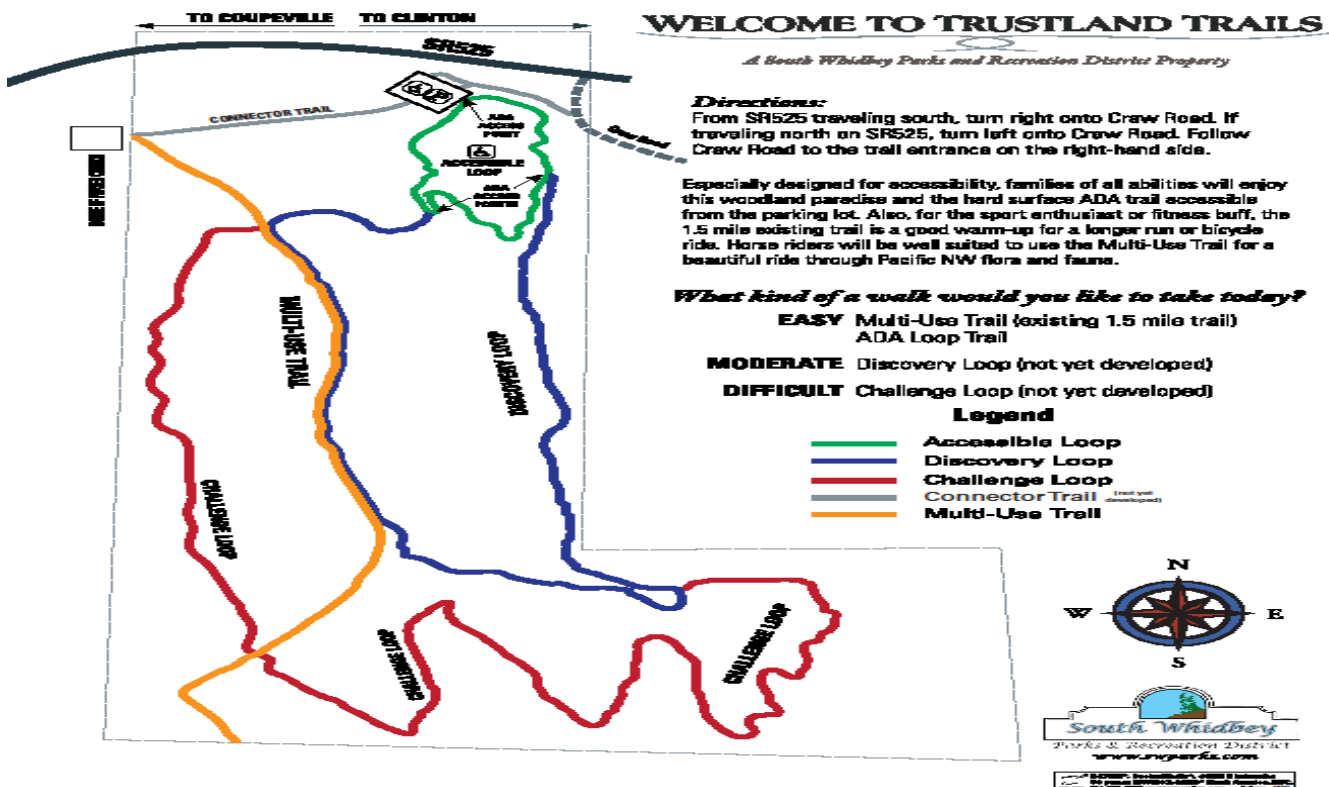
1. Provide recreational and sporting activities for all age groups, inter- and intra-generationally.
2. Encourage use by residents and visitors.
3. Provide a variety of activities and facilities for both recreation and competitive sports.
4. Involve recreational sites throughout geographic boundaries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



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, sports 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 the development of parks.
3. Encourage public use of open space areas for year-round recreation and sports activities.
4. Encourage development of facilities and programs where community activities, sports and events can occur for the benefit of all South Whidbey residents.
5. Encourage and support development and awareness of safe, separate, and convenient right-of-way for swimmers, tennis players, bicycles, pedestrians, and other alternative modes for both recreation and transportation.
6. Encourage the protection of the historic character of the area by striving to retain existing regionally significant land uses and patterns including trials, natural areas, and open spaces.
7. Provide for the protection of open space through education, lobbying and securing land through fee simple purchases or easements.



Objectives for Public Access, Acquisition, Expansion, and Development

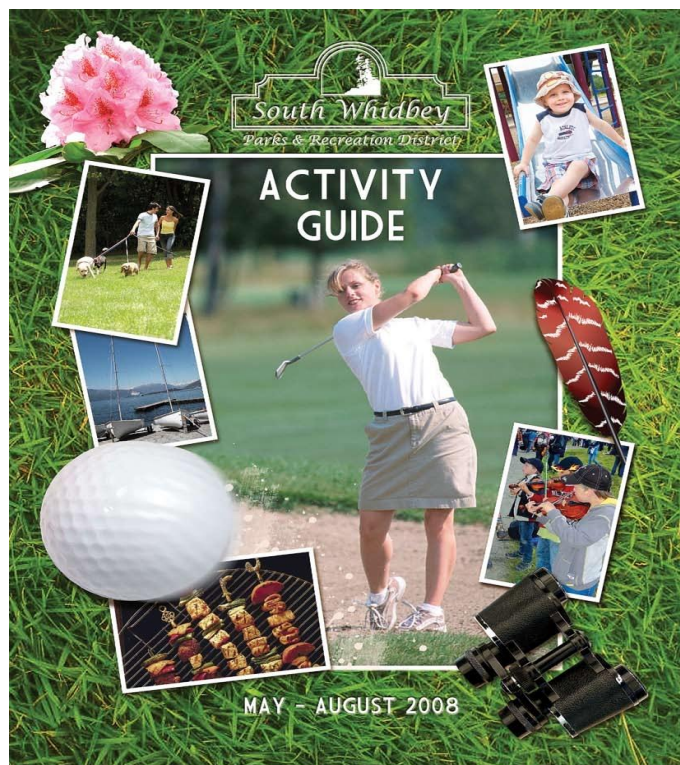
1. Acquire freshwater and coastal shoreline properties for public access within the District's boundaries.
2. Acquire open space / greenways within the District's boundaries that provide a variety of non-motorized trail use opportunities.
3. Expand current District inventory by assuming publicly held properties within the District's boundaries as necessary and appropriate.
4. Develop a community center and/or indoor swimming pool and indoor tennis courts within Community Park to provide space for year-round recreational and sporting opportunities that benefit all South Whidbey full-time and summer residents, guests, visitors, and tourists.
5. Develop an indoor swimming pool in our community for year-round aquatic opportunities to benefit all South Whidbey residents.
6. Develop a South Whidbey Tennis Center with indoor and outdoor tennis courts and spectator areas to provide year-around community tennis recreation, training, competitive tennis, and exhibitions to benefit all South Whidbey residents, visitors, and tourists.



Responsibilities for Providing Park and Recreation Services

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, port, school and state 'park and recreation facilities or 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 District, county, city, school 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. Through partnering for community use of facilities paid for with public dollars, we avoid duplicity of efforts, we encourage efficient use of limited resources, and are able to expand our services, where appropriate.



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 Mutiny Bay 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.

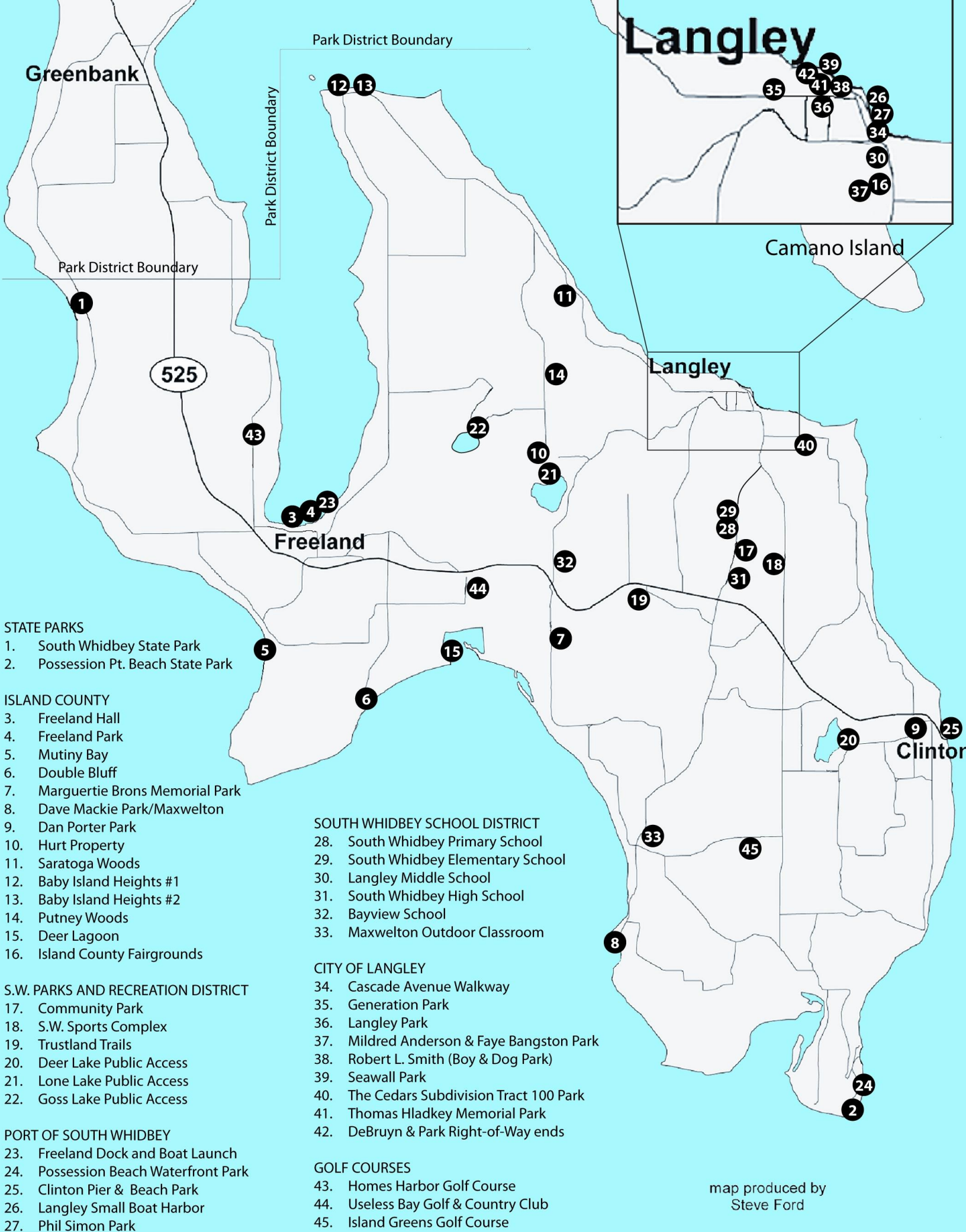
The physical characteristics of the area are those of forested rolling hills of glacial deposits, including significant wetland systems. The climate is generally mild and uniform with annual precipitation of \pm 36 inches.

The economic base of South Whidbey is primarily service industries, small businesses, retail businesses, and restaurants. 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 current population of Island County is estimated at 80,300 (by the State's OFM 2009 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 80,703; and 87,334 in 2015. South Whidbey School District 2009 population numbers estimate 15,757 residents with a decrease in population from 2000-2009 of 1,750 or equal to a 12.49% drop in population.

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 projection for South Whidbey is expected to be 16,527 by 2010 and 21,573 by 2020.





EXISTING FACILITIES within SW Parks & Recreation District Boundaries

The planning area shares the same borders as the South Whidbey School District and the Port of South Whidbey. The area includes properties owned and maintained by Island County Parks Department and City of Langley.

STATE PARKS:

1) South Whidbey State Park

The 347-acre park is a 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.

2) Possession Point State Park

Paddling, camping, fishing, shellfish and scuba diving at Possession Point marks a dividing line for those heading north in Puget Sound. This park is 25-acres and 1175 ft. of saltwater shoreline access, 3 camp sites, a restroom and cabin. Turn hard west for the Hood Canal, bear west up the side of Whidbey Island for Admiralty Inlet or go east for Saratoga Passage. This State Park property is also a great overnight destination for those on the populated eastern shores of mid-Puget Sound. Location: East side of the southern-most tip of Whidbey Island.

WA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE:

The following sites are managed by South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District until 2015. Capital improvements for sites 2-5 are the responsibility of the WA Department of Fish & Wildlife in conjunction with SWPRD and Island County.

3) 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.

4) 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 with BBQ, and parking.

5) 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.

ISLAND COUNTY PROPERTIES:

6) Freeland Hall

This 3-acre parcel includes a hall with a large multi-purpose room, a small meeting room and restrooms; picnic shelter; BBQ's; and walking trails. The hall is managed by the Holmes Harbor Activity Club, (360) 331-6341

- 7) **Freeland Park**
This 17-acre park adjacent to the mouth of Holmes Harbor is home to one of the best clamming beaches on South Whidbey, however, it has been closed since 2006 by the State Dept. of Health. Facilities and amenities include: restrooms, picnic shelters (2), children's playground, beach access, and boat ramp with boarding floats. (Partial Port of South Whidbey ownership)
- 8) **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. (Partial Port of South Whidbey ownership)
- 9) **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.
- 10) **Marguerite Brons Memorial Park**
The 13-acre park includes a fenced off-leash area, trails, picnic shelter, informational kiosk, and parking.
- 11) **Dave Mackie Park** (Maxwelton Beach Community)
The 5-acre park has a boat ramp, playground, restrooms, beach access, ball field & grandstand, 3 picnic shelters with BBQ's, group picnic shelter area with brick stove BBQ, concession stand (water/electric available), and parking. (Partial Port of South Whidbey ownership)
- 12) **Dan Porter Park** (Clinton)
The 8.5-acre park has a playground, 2 ball fields, tennis court, picnic shelter with BBQ's, nature trails, restrooms, and parking.
- 13) **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.
- 14) **Saratoga Woods**
The 120-acre park includes trail head parking off of Saratoga Road, nature trails, picnic area, vista view, and parking.
- 15) **Baby Island Heights #1**
The 2-acre tideland site has water access only.
- 16) **Baby Island Heights #2**
The 3-acre beach and tideland site is surrounded by private property and not accessible by land – water access only.
- 17) **Putney Woods**
The 600+ acre park includes a trail head parking area and many equestrian nature trails.

- 18) **Deer Lagoon**
The 400+ acre site is an Island County property since 2004 and consists mostly of wetlands. Recent Island County ordinance eliminated hunting from the lagoon, improving the area for water fowl during migration.
- 19) **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 April – October, storage areas in the off-season, and 24 buildings which are used for a variety of community and 4-H activities.

SOUTH WHIDBEY PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT:

- 20) **Community Park** (Maxwelton Road)
This 87.5-acre park 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.
- 21) **SW Sports Complex** (Langley Road)
This 29.09-acre park includes four turf soccer fields, 12 acres of forest with walking trails, 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.
- 22) **Trustland Trails**
This 200-acre property is located off Highway 525 and Craw Rd. one mile south of Bayview and one mile from Community Park. Trail head parking area, ADA compliant trail, mixed use trails, picnic pavilion, bike rack, portable restroom, and storage shed.

PORT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY:

- 23) **Bush Point Boat Launch**
The 2+ acre site is located on Admiralty Inlet on the west side of Whidbey Island and has been 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.
- 24) **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.
- 25) **Clinton Recreational Pier and Clinton Beach Park**
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. Beach Park includes a natural beach, a viewing platform, picnic areas, and restroom building, areas for storage of bicycles and kayaks, and parking.
- 26) **South Whidbey Harbor at Langley**
The .11-acre site consists of a marina with 38 transient moorage slips which are actively

managed by the Port's full-time Harbor Master, along with fishing pier, restrooms, shower facilities, and a boat launch with diving and beach access.

27) **Phil Simon Park**

A .46-acre community mini-park that was acquired by the City of Langley in 1975 and transferred to the Port of South Whidbey in 2009; it is located south of the marina. The site has a passive use trail system that travels through a forested wetland.

SOUTH WHIDBEY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

28) **South Whidbey Primary School**

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

29) **South Whidbey Intermediate School**

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

30) **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.

31) **South Whidbey High School**

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

32) **Bayview School**

The 4.0-acre school site is located on Bayview Road and includes a rough baseball field (no backstop).

33) **Maxwelton Outdoor Classroom**

The 6.3-acre site is located south of Hwy 525 on Maxwelton Road. Maxwelton Creek runs through the parcel and the facility includes interpretive trails, streamside viewing platforms, in-stream salmon hatching boxes, a fully equipped outdoor classroom building (in conjunction with Whidbey Watershed Stewards, 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:

34) **Cascade Avenue Walkway**

The Cascade Avenue Walkway is a 1.28-acre community mini-park located in the downtown portion of Langley. The park includes the flat area east of Cascade Avenue, as well as a large portion of the bluff east of the walkway.

35) **Generation Park**

Generation Park is a .35-acre community mini-park located at the northwest portion of the Second Street and DeBruyn Avenue intersection.

Site features picnic tables, swing and slide features.

36) **Langley Park**

Langley Park is a .15-acre community mini-park located at the southwest portion of the Second Street and Anthes Avenue intersection. Shelter, chairs, tables, with a whimsical nature.

37) **Mildred Anderson and Faye Bangston Park**

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.

38) **Robert L. Smith or 'Boy and Dog' Park**

.15-acre passive use community mini-park that is located in the middle of the First Street business core. Benches, landscaped areas, and stairs to access the beach.

39) **Seawall Park**

Seawall Park is a linear 1.44-acre community mini-park created in 1975 when the seawall was constructed along the Saratoga Passage. 1140 feet of salt water beach access; views of Saratoga Passage.

40) **The Cedars Subdivision-Tract 100 Park**

Tract 100 of the Cedars is a .65-acre neighborhood mini-park that was donated to the City of Langley. One picnic table and play structures.

41) **Thomas Hladkey Memorial Park**

A .25-acre community park located at the north end of the Anthes Avenue right-of-way. The park was recently redeveloped as part of the Two Totems construction project. Benches, a whale bell, landscaping and interpretive signage.

42) **DeBruyn and Park Right-of-Way ends**

Potential future mini-park locations.

GOLF COURSES:

43) **Holmes 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. ****This golf course closed March 2010.***

44) **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.

45) **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. **** This golf course is currently for sale.***

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.

2010 population: 16,527 (South Whidbey) 80,703 (Island County)
2015 population: XXX (South Whidbey) 87,334 (Island County)

CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED LEVELS OF SERVICE FOR PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT

SWPRD INVENTORY	CURRENT	RECOMMENDED	+/- (surplus/def.)
Park Land	117 acres	6 acres / 1000	-603 acres
Open Space	205 acres	6.25 – 10.5 / 1000	+130 acres
Softball Fields	1 fields	1.0 field / 5000	-1.4 fields
Baseball Fields	3 fields	1.0 field / 6000	+1.0 field
Soccer Fields	4 fields	1.0 field / 4000	+1.0 field
Basketball Courts	1 court	1.0 per / 2000	- 5.0 fields
Trails	8.0 miles	1 mile / 4000	+5.0 miles
Picnic Shelters	5 shelters	1 shelter / 2000	-1.0 shelters
Skate Park	1 skate park	1 skate park / 15000	-.25 skate parks
Children's Playgrounds	2 playgrounds	1 / 6000	0
<i>Swimming Pool</i>	<i>0 pools</i>	<i>1/ 20,000</i>	<i>-1.0 pool</i>
<i>Community Rec Center</i>	<i>.5 centers</i>	<i>1 / 15,000</i>	<i>-.75 center</i>
<i>Tennis Courts/Center</i>	<i>0 courts</i>	<i>1/ 2000</i>	<i>-6.0 courts</i>
<i>Camp Sites</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1/300</i>	<i>40 sites</i>

ACTION PLAN

The action plan 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 plan 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 **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. In 2000 population of South Whidbey equaled 71,558 and between 2006- 2008 the population was tallied as 81,049. 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, indoor tennis courts, 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 and developing facilities 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.

ACQUISTION 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, trails, public swimming facilities and indoor tennis facilities.

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.

- **Coastal Areas** – Acquire saltwater frontage if it should become available or form partnerships with Island County and the Port of South Whidbey for inter local agreements allowing access to these salt water points.
- **Property adjacent to Community Park** – Community Park is bordered on three sides by private holdings.
 - A. The private property to the west of the park borders Maxwellton Road and would be ideal to develop into an RV and/or camping site.
 - B. The property to the south (SW High School) currently provides no real advantage of ownership to the District at this time.
 - C. The private property to the north of the park borders Maxwellton Road and was previously operated as a horse ranch. An easement across the rear five or ten acres would give access to the district's five-acre parcel, currently landlocked.
- **SWPRD 5-acre parcel** – park district obtained this five acre parcel of land from DNR through the trust land transfer program. The district has not identified a use for this parcel of land nor a plan to access the land, as it is landlocked and will require an easement across private property.
- **Walking / Bike Trail / Equestrian** – With the addition of Trustland Trails to the district's inventory, walking, biking, and equestrian activities are well-suited to this newly developed site. In 2009, Island County amended the Non-Motorized Trails Plan to include a high-standard separated multi-use trail along SR20 and SR525 from Deception Pass Bridge to the Clinton Ferry. The 2010 Island County TIP identifies the next trail section to be pursued is the 'Freeland Trail' which would be from SR525 and Main Street to SR525 and Bayview Road.
- **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

& 2005 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. Recent incorporation of the South Whidbey Parks and Aquatics Foundations lends credibility to the community identified need for a swimming pool and allows additional opportunities for partnership in order to develop such a facility.

- **Tennis Center** – Tennis was listed as ‘extremely important, very important or somewhat important’ by 68.9% of those surveyed in the 2005 needs assessment survey. Since then, tennis has been growing at double-digit rates and there are no longer adequate facilities for the community. Tennis is a year-around sport and an “indoor facility” will benefit the children and high school students of South Whidbey along with the Community Tennis Association’s (CTA) membership and competitive USTA players. The South Whidbey CTS lends credibility to the community-identified need for an indoor tennis center and allows for opportunity for grants and partnerships to develop a tennis center.
- **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 – additional uses

- **An outdoor amphitheatre** would make a good addition to Community Park for community theatre, day camp activities, summer concerts, and special events.
- **Disc Golf** is a recreational sport coming to fruition on South Whidbey. While it is preferable to some disc golfers to have a moderate to heavily wooded area, others are open to setting up courses in less dense areas.
- **Dog Agility** is another activity the district has taken input about because there are so many dog enthusiasts on South Whidbey
- **Geo Caching** – another up and coming activity for families and clubs. Allow more geo caches and networking in the park.
- **Archery** – archery is a very popular sport at the middle school level. A dedicated archery site would be very advantageous to the archery program and forming an archery club. A possible location for an archery range is the five-acre parcel of land obtained from DNR in the trust land transfer program.
- **South Whidbey Little League** would benefit from pitching warm-up stations located at fields 1 & 2
- **South Whidbey Youth Soccer** would benefit from fencing around the upper soccer field to prevent loose balls from rolling into the woods or down the large hill to the west.

Sports Complex Development –Improvements completed at the SW Sports Complex include drainage and irrigation on all play fields, children’s play structure; two large picnic pavilions; plaza and landscaping.

- **A third, smaller picnic pavilion on the southwest side of Field #4, is suggested for future development.**

Trustland Trails Development – Since receiving this 200-acre parcel from the state's trust land transfer program, the district has worked diligently to develop the property appropriately for public access, passive recreation and wildlife habitat protection. In late 2007-2008, the district completed the Trustland Trails Management Plan as a guiding tool when developing this property for recreation purposes. In 2008, the district was successful in securing a \$56,000 grant to develop a trail head parking area, ADA Loop Trail, learning pavilion, equestrian connector trail, portable restrooms, interpretive and regulatory signage, and park amenities.



Attachment A

SURVEY

Attachment B

(Capital Improvement Plan 2010 - 2015)

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:

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|----|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Stakeholder Reviews & Updates | March – April 2010 |
| 2. | SWPRD Board of Commissioners | April – May 2010 |
| 3. | Surveys | May 2010 |
| | a. | |
| 4. | Public Meetings | |
| | a. | |
| | b. | |
| 5. | Public Hearing and Adoption | June 2010 |