



Trustland Trails

A new 200-acre property for the citizens of
South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District
in Island County, Washington

MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008



Contributors:

South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District
National Park Service
Volunteer Working Group

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people and organizations contributed time, energy and expertise to the development of this draft Plan for Trustland Trails. Many thanks to them all!

Evert Challstedt, Project Manager, Transactions, WA State Dept. of Natural Resources
Kim Glass, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, Area 2, WA State Dept. of Transportation

WORKING GROUP

Terri Arnold, current Director, SWPRD
Art Burke, former Director, SWPRD
Craig Johnson, Whidbey Audubon Society
Linda Kast, Parks District Commissioner
Ron Martell, House of Prayer
Brian Martin, Whidbey Audubon Society
Sheila McCue, Neighbor
Pat Powell, Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Danielle Rideout, Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Alex Stone, National Park Service, Rivers & Trails Program
Allison Tapert, South Whidbey Parks District Commissioner
Sharon Vanderslice, Backcountry Horsemen
Nancy Waddell, Whidbey Watershed Stewards
Elaine Woods, Whidbey Walks

ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Terri Arnold, former director, Island County Parks Department
Tom Baxter, Kiwanis and retired Forest Service
Brad DaPont, Kiwanis – wheelchair users
Garrett Devier, Student Intern, NPS Rivers & Trails Program
Karen Grossman, Island County Health Department
Frazer Mann – runners and bicyclists
Carrie McLachlan, Island County Health Department
Molly Petersons, Neighbor
Whitney Webber, Island County Health Department

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Marianne Edain, Frosty Hollow Ecological Restoration
Tom Fallon, SW Parks District
Craig Holmquist, NPS, North Cascades National Park
Douglas J. Kelly, Island County Public Health Hydrogeologist
Carl Stephens, Friends of Dugualla, for GPS mapping
Dyanne Sheldon, Sheldon & Associates
Allison Tapert, X-Sound Engineering
Dan Varland, wildlife biologist with Rayonier Forest Resources, Inc.
Whidbey Audubon Society



P O Box 136 Langley WA 98260 360-221-5484

To Our Citizens,

South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District is delighted to offer another means of recreation for the citizens and visitors of Whidbey Island through the acquisition of this 200-acre property from Washington State.

Vision and diligence were keys to acquiring this property. Our thanks go to Lee McFarland and Art Burke, former Park directors, and Pat Powell, Executive Director, Whidbey Camano Land Trust, who understood the importance of convincing the State to deed the property to South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District.

Over the past two years, a volunteer working group has diligently constructed a plan for use of the property; some of it can be accomplished in the near future and some at a later date when resources are identified to develop this site. We are grateful to them all for the hard work it took to bring this plan to fruition. Special thanks go to the National Park Service for providing the time and expertise of staff member Alexandra (Alex) Stone to guide the process, and to the House of Prayer church for meeting space, temporary access to the property, and stewardship of the property.

The Working Group and the Park District tried to include the public in as many ways as possible to gather input about developing a trail system with amenities so all non-motorized user groups can enjoy this property. This trail development plan will complement the Park Master Plan for the existing areas within the District.

On behalf of the 2007 Park District Commissioners, I wish you wellness and I hope this new trail system will provide great opportunities for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Jim Porter, Chair, SWPRD Board of Commissioners 2007

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White Pine

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Figure 1. Trustland Trails showing SR 525 bisecting the property, with 160 acres south of the highway and 40 acres to the north. Only the 160-acre piece south of the highway is the subject of this Plan.

THE OPPORTUNITY

A. Background and Collaboration

Trust Lands Transfer

The 200-acre property now known as Trustland Trails (Fig. 1) had been in State ownership since 1895 as part of Common School Trust land.

With statehood Washington received more than 3 million acres of trust lands from the federal government. Washington retained most of these lands to provide a continuous flow of income for specific beneficiaries. The trust lands are managed by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

About 1.8 million acres are Common School Trust lands which are managed to earn revenue to build kindergarten through 12th grade public schools. Some parcels have higher value for ecological or recreational uses than for income production. The State's Trust Land Transfer Program allows the legislature to transfer state school lands with special values to local or state governments, which then protect the lands as parks, natural areas or wildlife habitat.

Each biennium the DNR identifies a list of properties as candidates for transfer, and the Legislature approves and funds the transfer of the parcels. The parcels are appraised for their timber and land values. The cash value of the unharvested timber is deposited into the school construction fund. The land value is deposited into a land replacement account which is used to buy replacement trust land in Washington that generates higher long-term revenue for school construction. The parcel is transferred to the receiving agency for management and protection of the special resource. Legislation requires that a deed restriction be imposed that dedicates the land for the special public use intended.

In 2004, Whidbey Camano Land Trust, a local non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the County's natural legacy, coordinated a lobbying effort to place this property on the DNR transfer list. Referred to in DNR documents as the "Upper Maxwelton Valley," the parcel consisted of 200 acres of forest at the headwaters of Maxwelton Creek, one of only three streams in Island County that bears salmon. Preserving the forested headwaters is crucial to protecting the existing condition of the watershed while salmon restoration efforts continue. The parcel's large size, mature forest and riparian zone provide important habitat for all kinds of wildlife.

The Land Trust gathered public support for the acquisition from islanders, Island County Commissioners and local state legislators. The transfer was approved in 2006 as part of a package of properties in Island County. The Upper Maxwelton Valley property was appraised by DNR at \$3.8 million in May 2007 (Fig. 2). Funding was approved by the legislature in early 2007, and the property was officially transferred to the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District June 30, 2007.

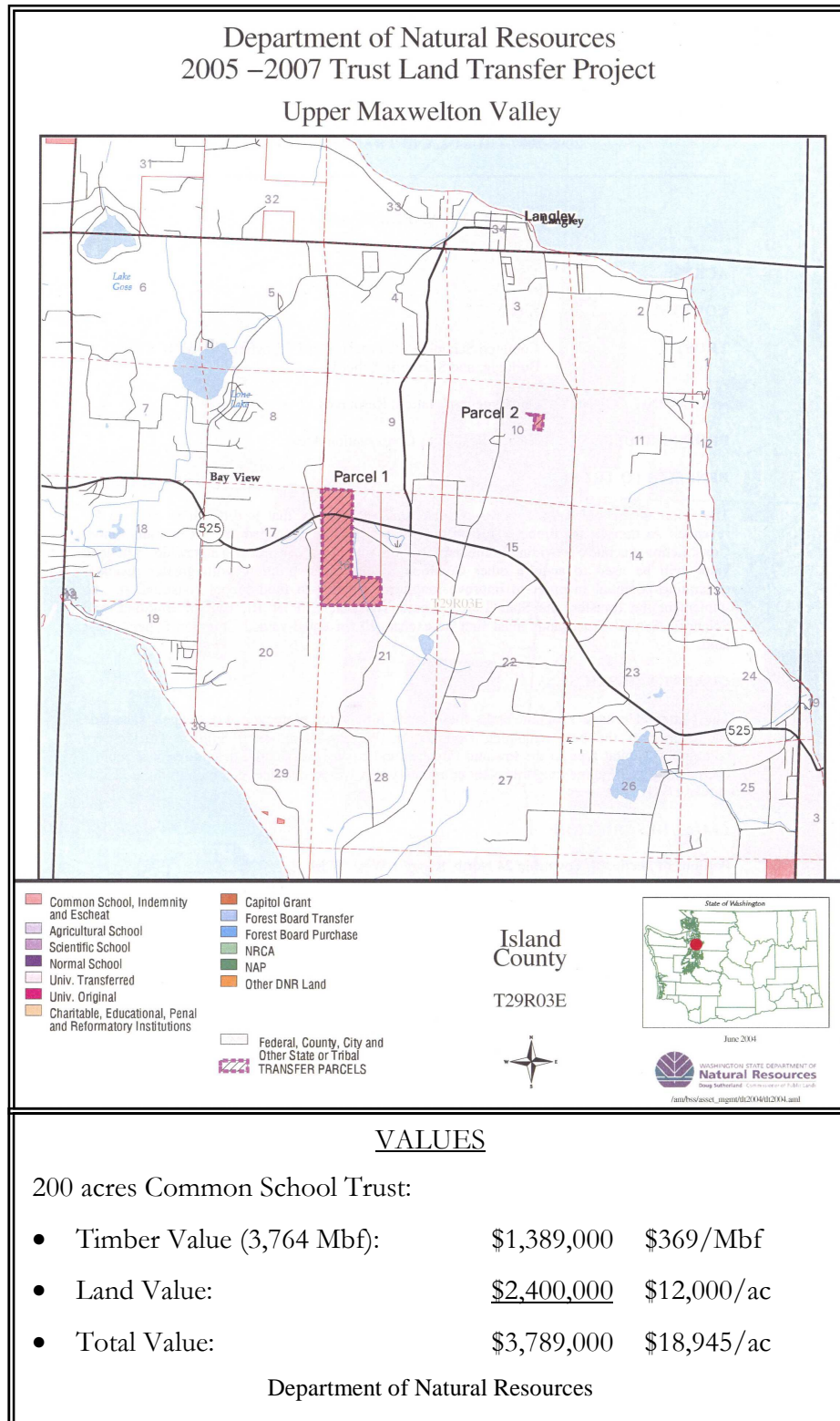


Figure 2. Trust Land Transfer parcels transferred to South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District in 2007. Parcel 1 is the 200 acres now called “Trustland Trails.”

Working Group

In July 2005, then-Parks District director Art Burke launched a planning effort for the property in anticipation of the pending land transfer. He invited groups and individuals interested in the project to support an application to the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program of the National Park Service (NPS) for technical assistance for a planning effort; the request was granted. The Parks District is very grateful to Alexandra Stone and other NPS staff for their expert assistance in formulating a concept plan for the property.

The initial group met with Stone on January 25, 2006. They determined the need to expand to a larger “Working Group” to develop a proposed plan for the new property. Burke recruited additional participants by contacting other groups and putting notices in the newspapers. The first meeting of the Working Group was held February 23, 2006 following a walk through the property. As initial development was planned only in the area south of State Route 525, that is what the Working Group concentrated on, and this Trails Plan only applies to the 160-acre portion of the 200 acre property. Work has continued to the present time (with some changes of personnel) with the submission of this plan.

Working Group Outreach Activities

The Working Group brought in additional expertise to increase their knowledge and understanding of the property and its possibilities. To keep the public informed about its mission and progress, the group solicited public participation through personal contacts, the newspapers and the Parks Activity Guides. Alex Stone helped create colorful displays and a proposed project timeline. The group brought displays to several public events and invited input. Outreach included:

2006	Art Burke met with Pioneer Park Homeowners Association.
June 3, 2006	National Trails Day at Community Park
April 21, 2007	Earth Day Fair at Bayview Corner
June 2, 2007	National Trails Day at House of Prayer/property entrance

Public comments are included in Appendix 1.

Field Trip Research

In the spring of 2006, Garrett Devier, a landscape architecture student at the University of Washington serving as an intern with the National Park Service RTCA program, walked the property with Art Burke and Alex Stone. Devier recommended several locations for the Working Group to visit as good examples of construction techniques in trail design and development.

The following month, NPS Trails Maintenance Supervisor Craig Holmquist guided the group on a tour of North Cascades National Park Visitors Center and North Cascades Institute (www.ncascades.org). The group discussed accessibility, trail development standards, opportunities for recycling materials, and the need for education (trail training) for user groups.

Later that year, members of the Working Group traveled to Bainbridge Island’s IslandWood, a 255-acre forested retreat/education center (www.islandwood.org).

The final field trip was a tour of the Maxwellton Outdoor Classroom, which is operated for the South Whidbey School District by Whidbey Watershed Stewards (WWS). Working Group member and WWS Administrator Nancy Waddell provided information on the development and curriculum of the six-acre facility in South Whidbey's Maxwellton Valley.

From these trips the Working Group gained valuable information on a variety of construction methods, materials and considerations for planning the development of the Trustland Trails property.

On-Site Field Work

Members of the Working Group and Tom Fallon, facilities manager of South Whidbey Parks & Rec District, spent many hours in field work on the southern 160 acres between 2005 and 2007. Using adjoining property survey stakes and maps, the property's six corners and five shared property lines were roughly identified. The NPS's Craig Holmquist presented a helpful process for conceptualizing a trail system and steps for trail development on the project site.

Carl Stephens, Friends of Duguala, created a GPS map of the property (Fig. 3) that helped the Working Group locate the existing trail and other reference points on the property on topo maps.

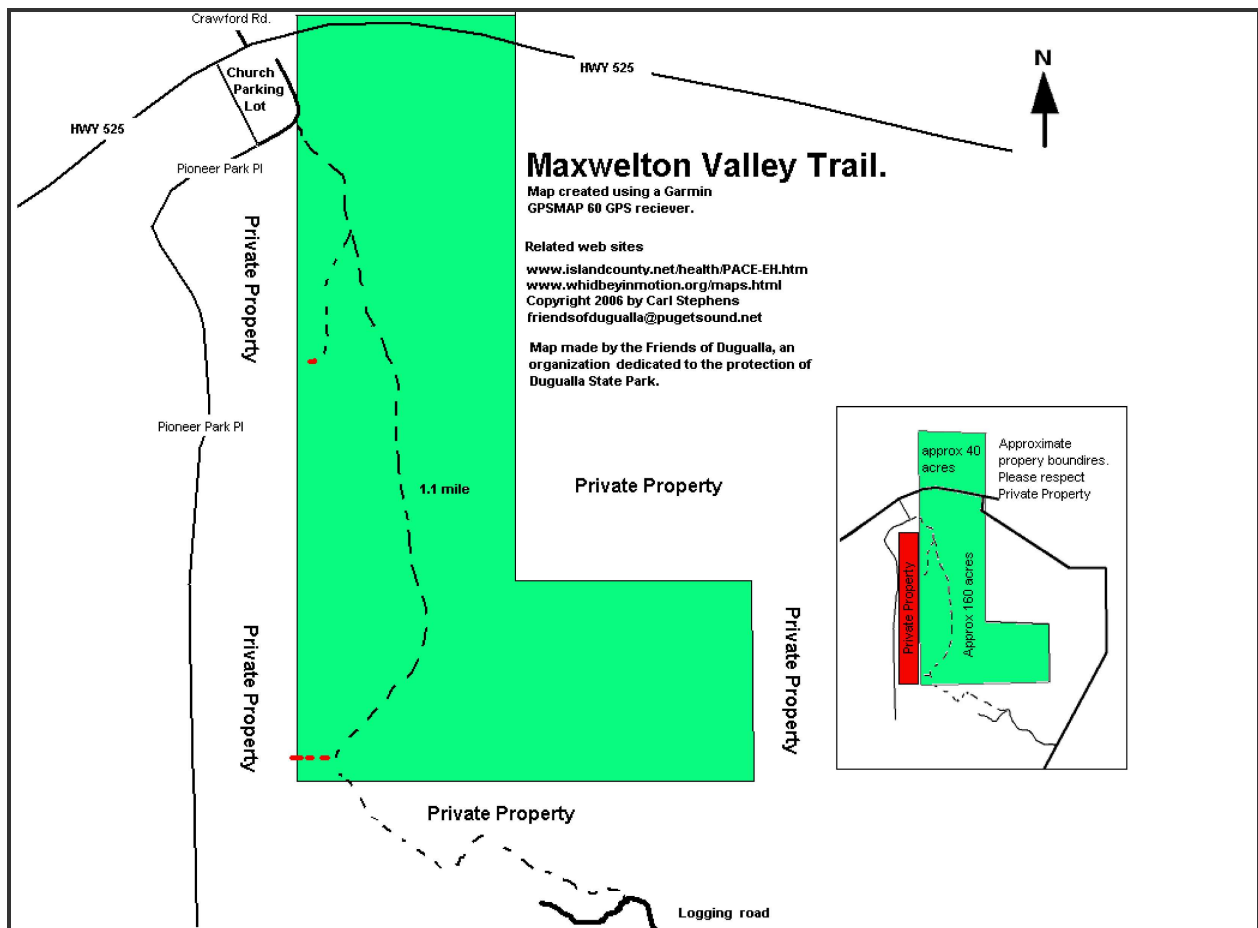


Figure 3. Map created for the Working Group by Carl Stephens.



The group used topographical maps of the parcel to follow the land contours for deciding roughly where the recommended system of trails might go. In the trail concept plan they took care to limit sight to or from neighboring properties, as well as between all trails. As they explored the property, the Working Group began to identify possible resting spots and natural features for highlighting alongside trails. Trail work in 2008 will include additional field checking of proposed trails.

Using International Forestry Consultants' Table II Stand Descriptions, the group examined all twelve distinct stands of trees (Appendix 2). The stream in the southeast corner was located and followed. The group brought experts onsite to identify and evaluate plants, birds and tree health (see page 13).

B. Related Plans and Coordinated Efforts

The vision for Trustland Trails supports local values, needs, and priorities established in a number of other current area plans. Staff and the Working Group reviewed related local and regional recreation and transportation plans. This helped them better understand the issues and consider the potential to coordinate efforts in areas where there are shared goals. The review showed a high demand among local residents for more places to walk and for access to nature, and support for connected networks of trails.

1. Recreation Needs Assessment: Autumn 2005 *South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District*

Local citizens place a high priority on having more places close to home to walk and experience nature. In 2005 the District, as part of its regular cyclical service evaluation, surveyed residents about their use of SWPRD and other parks, asked for feedback on current recreation facilities and programs, and inquired about priorities for future recreation experiences and investments. Out of a randomly selected group of 4,013 district members (22% of the eligible population) who received the survey, an impressive number, 25%, were returned. Returns showed high public support for trails, natural areas and greenways (Appendix 3).

From a list of nine existing amenities and facilities, the most popular reason for visiting District parks was to use walking trails (68% of respondents). When asked to prioritize

future acquisitions of land for the community, the number one response was Natural Areas (40-200 acres) with 55% of respondents saying it was a “High Priority” (Fig. 4). The second highest response was for Greenways (linear parks connected by a trail network) with 50% giving it a “High Priority” rating.

The single largest response to facility and/or program development was the support of environmental and nature related facilities and programs – 80% of respondents (Fig. 5). Out of 14 potential park facilities, the highest percentage of respondents (40%) selected Hiking Trails as one of the two “Most Important” to them and their household.

The new Trustland Trails property will be a valuable asset to the Parks District in meeting residents’ demand for trails and public access to natural, undeveloped areas.

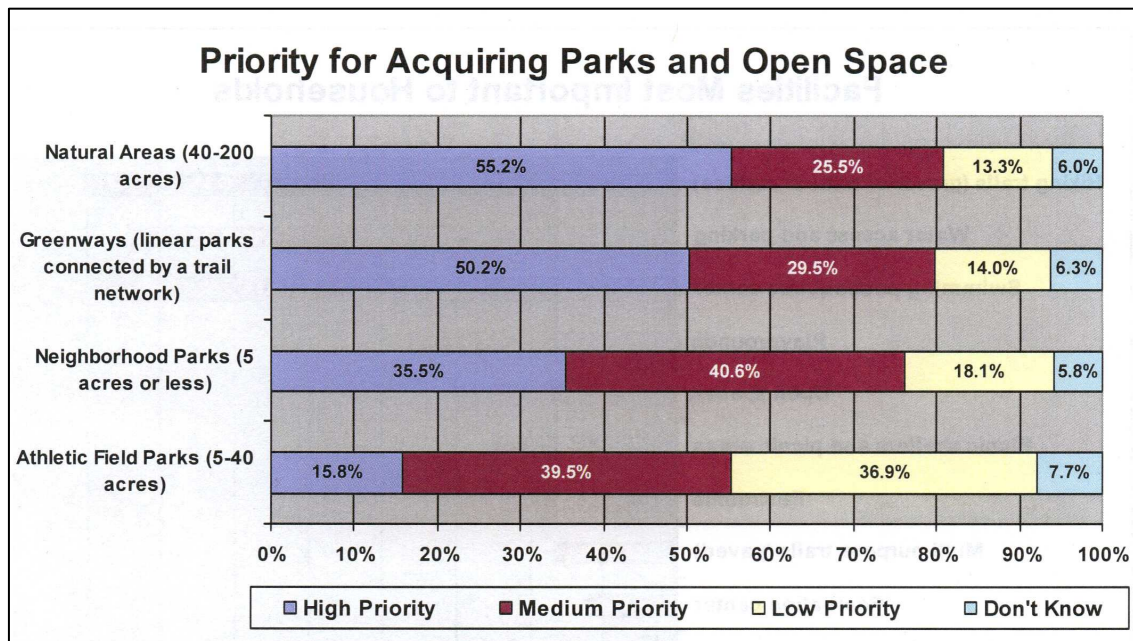


Figure 4. Acquisition priorities selected by Parks District members in Needs Assessment (2005)



Figure 5. Respondents’ support for environmental and nature related facilities and programs.

2. Island County Non-Motorized Trail Plan: March 2006

Island County Public Works

Island County's *Non-Motorized Trail Plan*, an element of the County's Transportation Plan, will guide construction and improvement of non-motorized trails for walking, hiking, road cycling, mountain biking, and equestrian purposes over the next 20 years. With the goal of enhancing the livability and connectivity of the island communities, this regional, inter-connected trail system will increase transportation options, improve safety and encourage physically active lifestyles for the entire community.

The *Non-Motorized Trail Plan* includes SW Parks District's Trustland Trails among the off-street facilities envisioned for South Whidbey Island (Appendix 4). Mid-term off-street priorities listed in the Plan include:

- Trail development at the Trustland Trails property, with improvements to the existing trail and creation of a loop trail system.
- Phase 2 extension of the Maxwellton Trail to the Trustland Trails on SR 525 (Phase 1 will connect South Whidbey elementary schools with the Community Park).

The *Non-Motorized Trail Plan* also includes Trustland Trails in its recommendations for on-street bicycle routes (Appendix 5) to connect the property to the South Whidbey Community Park and other recreation sites, as well as to Langley and other island communities, residential areas, services and commerce, and the ferry. The Plan notes that the availability of high-quality, fare-free public transit (Island Transit) can increase access to recreation sites, especially when facilities such as trailheads and bus stops are coordinated.

3. Island County Plan for Healthy Living: 2006

Island County Health Department

The *Plan for Healthy Living*, developed by Island County Health Department's Physical Activity Coalition, addresses the need for and ways that Island County residents can enjoy healthier lives, focusing on physical activity and good nutrition for all ages. Local parks and trails are integral components to achieving the vision of walking as a way of life and as a means to feel connected to the community and the land. In a public survey (60% of those surveyed live on south Whidbey), 55% of respondents stated that walking a trail was the form of exercise which they would most like to be able to do, and 56% said they were most likely to do this type of exercise.

The location, variety and number of recreation facilities on Whidbey Island affect the choices for physical activity available to residents of different generations. Walking is central because it is a low-cost physical activity that can be done through all life stages. The Coalition's publication "Whidbey in Motion" features maps of hiking trails on Whidbey Island.

The SWPRD is in a position to support the vision and strategies outlined in the Healthy Living Plan – generally as a part of their current recreation services as well as specifically with development and programming at Trustland Trails. Although proportionally it may be

small, the site will become a part of an envisioned network of walking and biking routes, and will help boost tourism as visitors choose a destination known for walking and bicycling, and for parks served by transit.

4. Environmental Health Assessment

Environmental Health Assessment Team (EHAT)

Island County Health Department organized a citizen advisory group (EHAT) to identify environmental health issues of concern to Island County residents. The desire for walkable communities proved to be a high priority in our community. As a result, a Walkability Forum was held in April 2007.

With feedback from a walkability consultant, EHAT developed a community-based "walkable Island County action plan." They repeatedly stressed the importance not only of having trail systems but of providing easy accessibility and connectivity to other systems' walking opportunities. To make this feasible, the Team encourages bike and pedestrian facilities including trails, connectivity, access to transit, and public open spaces. The easy accessibility of the planned Trustland Trails trailhead will support the vision of EHAT to encourage walking as a way of life, for both transportation and recreation.

5. Island County Comprehensive Plan, Natural Lands Element: September 1998

Island County

In response to a strong interest expressed by residents, Island County adopted the Natural Lands Element of its Comprehensive Plan in 1998 to support and promote the protection and conservation of natural lands. In a survey used to help develop the plan, South Whidbey residents indicated that wildlife habitat and undisturbed natural communities and ecosystems were the highest of nine priorities regarding natural lands protection. Natural lands defined in the plan include forests and watersheds, agricultural land, wetlands, significant wildlife habitat, open space and wildlife corridors, and shoreline systems among others.

The Plan recognizes natural lands' social, economic and environmental benefits, and discusses possible social and economic impacts that could result from land conservation. Based on an understanding of the benefits of natural lands, the Plan contains nine goals and three policies that support and promote the protection and conservation of natural lands. In addition to an inventory of federal, state, and locally owned natural lands, the plan also provides possible implementation tools for protecting other natural lands in Island County.



Douglas Squirrel



Bracken Fern

THE SETTING

A. Ecological Significance

The Trustland Trails property lies on the western edge of the Maxwellton Watershed of south Whidbey (Figure 6), the largest watershed on Whidbey Island. A watershed is an area of land that drains rainfall and spring flows to a common point such as a river or salt water.



The Maxwellton watershed contains a Coho salmon-bearing stream (Maxwelton Creek) and many tributaries coming from its ridge boundaries. One of those tributaries has its origin in a wetland on the property. It forms into a stream and flows southeast through adjacent properties into Miller Lake, from which Maxwelton Creek emerges. The creek flows through a former estuary below French Road to its outfall into Useless Bay at Maxwelton Beach.

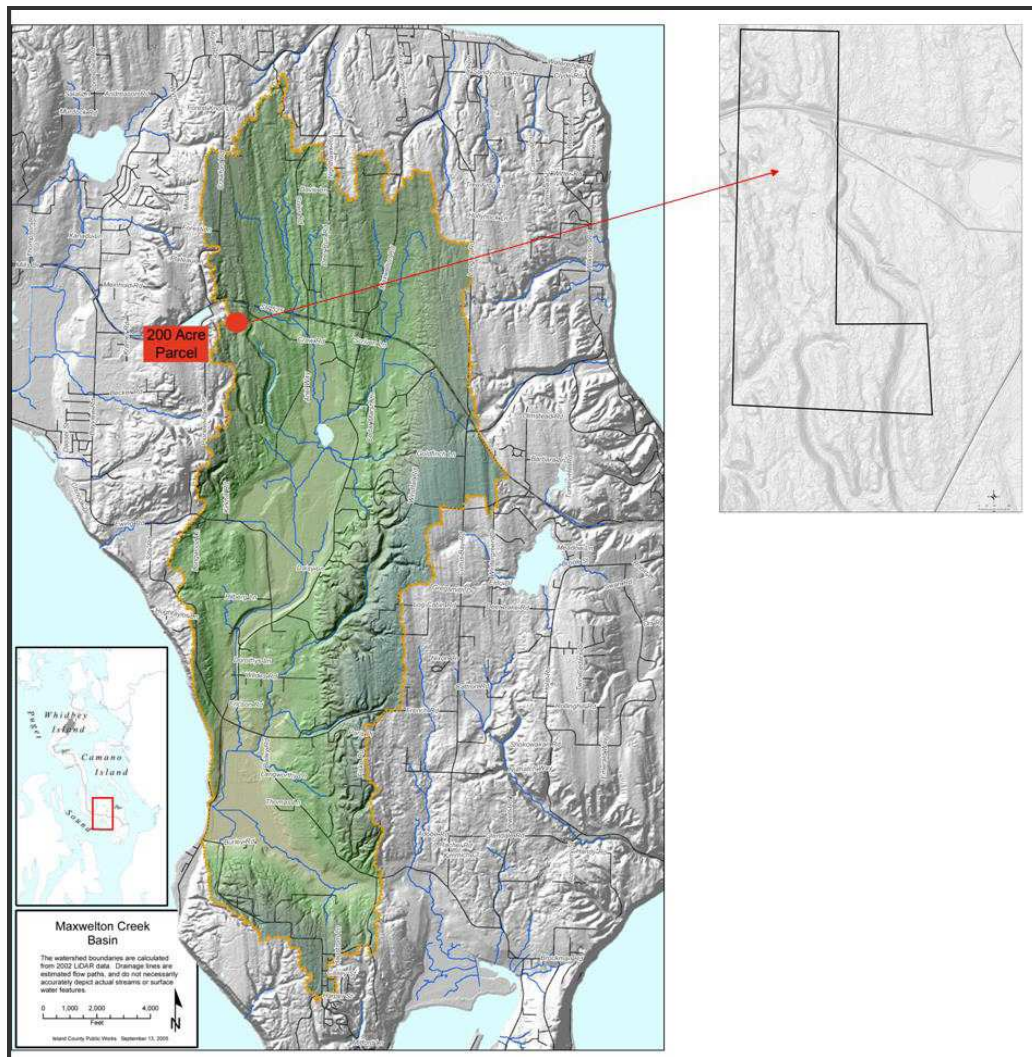


Figure 6. Maxwellton Creek Watershed showing location of Trustland Trails property.

Forested wetlands, such as the one found on a part of this property, are important for protecting water quality and flow. Wetlands act as protective natural sponges by capturing, storing and slowly releasing water over a long period of time, thereby reducing the impact of floods. Wetlands can be important in recharging aquifers. Wetlands improve water quality by acting as sediment sinks or basins. They are especially effective at trapping sediments and toxins in slow moving water. Wetlands also help to moderate global climate conditions by storing carbon instead of releasing it into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.

As a re-grown forest with a healthy understory of native plants, the property also provides valuable habitat for wildlife.

B. Cultural History

The Snohomish people of the Salish tribe used the Maxwellton estuary as a summer food source. The first non-native settlers came in 1870 and began small logging operations near Maxwellton beach. However, the rest of the Maxwellton watershed remained largely wilderness with very few settlers even at the beginning of the 20th century.



Historic logging photo

In 1882, Dr. P. B. Miller bought land in the upper watershed around the lake that is now named for him. Logging was a major early industry in the watershed. The first known mill in the area was built in the early 1900s north of Miller Lake, near what is now called Craw Road. (Previously, logs had been sent to mills elsewhere.) Alvan Craw sold his dairy farm in Kansas to purchase a quarter section of land and finance a steam-powered sawmill. The mill produced the lumber for the “mansion” on Maxwellton Road where he lived with his wife, Evaline Boyd Craw, and seven children.

Later named for the Craw family, Craw Road was originally part of the “old highway” that connected South Whidbey’s neighborhoods before State Route 525 was built in the 1960s. Part of the old road borders Trustland Trails’ northern property line. Washington State Department of Transportation will allow SWPRD to use the road to access the future trail head entrance and parking area.

Shortly after 1900, Adolph and Rosaline Ulrich purchased property on what was to become Craw Road. Two families of Ulrich daughters, Lillie and Josie, lived for a significant period of time on this road, adjacent to the Trustland Trails property. Fremont Clarkson “Goldie” Goldthorpe and his wife Josie Ulrich Goldthorpe built a house on Craw Road in the 1920s, adding onto it in the 1940s for their son Rod, his wife Verna, and their four children, who lived there until the 1960s. Their land eventually included over 40 acres, with an orchard and a turkey farm at one time.

Josie’s sister, Lillie Ulrich, married Max Patzwold and built a house and farm on a twenty acre property also adjacent to the Trustland Trails. Their children Carl Patzwold and Bertha “Tudy” Patzwold Johnson also lived and owned property on Craw Road.

The House of Prayer, established in the 1980s, owns five acres adjacent to Trustland Trails off Pioneer Park Place. The current trail entrance is located on their property.

The Pioneer Park residential development, also begun in the 1980s, shares the 'Trustland Trails' west property line.

C. Recreational History

The main trail on the property is a decades-old logging road that currently provides good access along the length of the property. It will serve as a natural springboard to the future proposed trail system. One spur from the main trail goes to private property within the Pioneer Park development and will not be used in the new public trail system.

These trails have long been familiar to local hikers and equestrians. Equestrians have used the main trail for decades. Horse owners who live adjacent to the trail in Pioneer Park have performed much of the maintenance of that trail, along with staff of the House of Prayer. The local chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen has also contributed maintenance and educates its members on Leave No Trace methods and proper trail etiquette.



CURRENT CONDITIONS

A. Site Description

The Trustland Trails property totals 200 forested acres. The majority (160 acres) lies on the south side of Highway 525 between Pioneer Park Place and Craw Road. The remaining 40 acres is north of the highway east of Crawford Road (Fig. 1). ***Only the 160-acre piece south of the highway is the subject of this Plan.***

A trail, originally a logging road, traverses the property north to south, with a short spur to the west that connects to the private Pioneer Park development. The central trail continues south beyond the property border onto adjacent private property.

The current entrance to this main trail is on private property, from the House of Prayer parking area off Pioneer Park Place on the west property boundary. On the east side, a WA Department of Transportation (WSDOT) right-of-way connects Craw Road to the old highway road. WSDOT has given the Parks District the right of access over that right-of-way so that a parking lot and trail access can be built on the property.

B. Vegetation and Wildlife Surveys

The Trustland Trails property is a mature second-growth forest of mainly fir, cedar and white pine with a well-developed understory of salal, huckleberry, elderberry, salmonberry and sword ferns. At least one Pacific yew has been identified on the property, and three stands have residual old-growth Douglas Fir 150-200 years old (#1, 6 & 7; Appendix 2). There is also hemlock, red alder and big-leaved maple. No old-growth stumps have been observed. There is evidence of fire in only one or two snags.



Salmonberry

Wildlife biologist Dan Varland of Rayonier Forest Resources walked the property in April 2006 to evaluate the trees and health of the forest. He noted that the forest is in good shape with a complement of large and small trees. A healthy understory of native shrubs provides food for wildlife. Varland recommended thinning in younger sections of forest, with some of the younger trees dropped and left in place. He also discussed potential use of fungus plugs to encourage heart rot in selected trees for the purpose of developing nesting space for cavity nesting birds and mammals.



Barred Owl

Members of Whidbey Audubon Society identified birds on the property during visits in 2006-2008 (Appendix 6). They observed 41 bird species.

C. Soil Survey

In the fall of 2006 the Island County Hydrogeologist, Doug Kelly, provided soil maps of the property (Appendix 7). The primary soil types are Keystone loamy sand and Whidbey gravelly sandy loam. There appear to be several aquifers in the area at different depths. Mapping shows moderate to high susceptibility for groundwater contamination. Quality of groundwater is generally good, although some shallower area wells show signs of elevated nitrates.

D. Zoning and Land Use

Identifying existing land uses and possible future uses on adjacent properties (Fig. 7) will help determine how Trustland Trails will impact and be impacted by the surrounding area and will help to determine where human activity should be allowed.

Island County's Comprehensive Plan guides the county on how to approach growth and development for the long term. It includes a land use element which analyzes existing use patterns and trends and designates future land uses consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's broader goals for the future. The county's zoning ordinance is the section of county code that specifically describes how land may be used and developed. The zoning classification of each property in Island County is also its future land use designation. Below are descriptions of the existing uses of surrounding parcels and their zoning designations.

Half a mile north of the Trustland Trails is the Whidbey Airpark, approximately 43.11 acres in size. The airpark is open for public use and serves adjacent residents and hangars. According to the WSDOT, the airpark has about 14,000 flights annually, and 16 aircraft are based on the property. Its Airport zoning allows airport related uses and other non-residential uses that are compatible with airport operations.

Land to the northwest is zoned Rural, the principal land use classification for Island County. The Rural zoning classification allows for a variety of uses ranging from agricultural to residential and is designed to maintain a low density, rural character. In Rural zones, the base density for residential units is one dwelling unit per five acres.

North of Highway 525 the Unity of Whidbey church owns property that is west of the 40-acre Trustland Trails parcel, and it has plans to build a facility at this location in the near future. South of SR 525 on the west side of the Trustland Trails is Pioneer Park Subdivision. Nine residential parcels directly abut the property, each about five acres in size. Additionally, the House of Prayer's church and facilities are located on a little over five acres of land directly south of Highway 525 and west of the property. All land west of the property is zoned Rural.

Northeast of the Trustland Trails much of the land is open space, mostly forest and agricultural land, and is zoned Rural Forest. Rural Forest zoning allows for long term productive use of locally significant forest land resources by implementing commercial forest management practices. It

recognizes that recreational opportunities, scenic open space, wildlife habitat and watershed management can be compatible uses.

Properties along the east side of the Trustland Trails are zoned Rural, with the exception of 20 acres zoned Rural Forest and 20 acres zoned Rural Agriculture. The Rural Agriculture classification allows for commercial farming practices. Like the Rural Forest classification, secondary purposes (e.g., scenic open space, wildlife habitat and watershed management) are allowed as long as they are consistent with the primary purpose. Under Rural Forest and Rural Agriculture, the base density for residential units is one dwelling per ten acres. Additional residential density can be accomplished through Planned Residential Developments (PRDs) approved by the county, as long as a property is at least 20 acres.

South of the Trustland Trails is mostly forest. The properties are zoned Rural and currently have no development on them. Recently, land abutting the south side has been harvested for timber.



Figure 7. Parcel Map (partial)



Sword Fern



Banana Slug



Oregon Grape

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

A. Issues and Considerations

Before determining what the Trustland Trails will look like and how it will be used in the future, some specific issues should be considered. Evaluating concerns as well as opportunities will help develop a vision for the future and appropriate guiding principles and strategies. The considerations recognized by the Working Group are divided into three main areas: Trail Users, Wildlife Habitat, and Liability Issues.

Trail Users

The Working Group expects Trustland Trails to be a day-use-only area serving several different user groups such as walkers, runners, mountain bikers, and horse riders. Each group has associated needs and concerns. The existing trail has long been familiar to local hikers and equestrians. Whidbey is also home to many active bicyclists, and it is expected that this user group will be attracted to Trustland Trails. Its close proximity to Highway 525, the ferry, and public transit means the trail system will be easily accessible to visitors as well as to local residents.

A hallmark of existing trails on Whidbey Island has been how well the various user groups share resources. The Trustland Trails will follow that tradition by serving the needs of a wide variety of non-motorized users.

Wildlife Habitat

Besides being a place historically used by hikers and equestrians, Trustland Trails is also 200 acres of valuable wildlife habitat. Currently, land to the east and south is relatively undeveloped, providing an extended area of unfragmented habitat. Under current zoning regulations however, potential future development in these areas could create barriers to wildlife corridors. Over time, as surrounding properties are managed and developed, the Trustland Trails property will become a refuge for wildlife. At the same time, trails affect habitat and can disturb both plants and wildlife. With this in mind, trail design and activity should be planned in a way that values the relationships between trail users and wildlife, and considers the space and habitat needs of wildlife.



Pileated Woodpecker

Liability Issues

Public input (Appendix 1) made it clear that there are concerns that increased traffic and public use of the Trustland Trails may lead to additional trespassing and vandalism of private property. Such concerns about security and trespass must be taken seriously. Every attempt will be made to maintain an undeveloped buffer of land between trails and private property to help keep visitors

away from private land. Signage, vegetative screening, or fencing can also be used for this purpose. If conflicts arise, the Parks District will work directly with the affected landowner to identify a mutually agreeable solution.

Other recommendations for managing the system to ensure the privacy and security of adjacent landowners:

- Limit trails to non-motorized use only.
- Implement a volunteer “trail steward” program.
- Educate users about private property rights through signs, brochures and outreach.
- Keep open lines of communication between the District and adjacent landowners with a “good neighbor” policy.
- Notify all adjacent landowners of any development plans or changes in policy.

B. Vision, Guiding Principles and Strategies

Envisioning how the property will be used and what it will look like in the future is important for guiding actions and decisions that may impact the resources and other values of the site.

According to the DNR’s Trust Land Transfer documents, including the conveyance deed to the District, the allowed uses for the property are wildlife and riparian habitat, open space, and low impact recreation. The property’s large size, mature forest, and riparian habitat are described as features of significance (Appendix 8).

The Working Group sought a vision for the property that would ensure long-term protection of wildlife habitat while allowing opportunities for recreation and education. Group members were asked to write down words or short sentences describing how they viewed the property. From these statements they identified common themes and synthesized the Vision statement. Guiding Principles and Strategies provide further guidance for how the vision can be achieved.

The Vision

Trustland Trails will be recognized as a community asset. Users with diverse interests will visit the property for a variety of activities and be respectful of their natural surroundings. People will enjoy visiting the property because it is safe and well maintained. For some, there will be places within the forest to find solitude; for others, trails will be designed to be sensitive to wildlife while accommodating different types of non-motorized recreational activities. Trails also will be linked to the community’s larger non-motorized and recreational trail system and related public facilities. The property’s dense forest canopy, native plants, wildlife, and location at the headwaters of the Maxwellton Watershed will provide educational opportunities to learn about local history, natural sciences, and the importance of protecting the property’s natural environment in perpetuity.

Guiding Principles and Strategies

Guiding Principles are broad recommendations to help achieve the overall vision. They are designed to guide decision-making and policy creation regarding actions that affect the property. Based on priorities they identified as the most important elements of the property and its use, the

Working Group created five principles, each with a series of related strategies that should be implemented.

- 1. Provide opportunities for low-impact, non-motorized recreation that minimizes human pressures and impacts on wildlife, the natural landscape, and neighbors.**
 - Design and create trails that are sensitive to wildlife habitat and riparian areas and that require minimal alteration to the property's landscape.
 - Review conceptual Trail Plan map with a certified wildlife biologist and adjust final trail design and construction to be consistent with the biologist's recommendations.
 - Provide adequate buffers between trails and neighboring properties to prevent users from trespassing onto adjacent private land.
 - Establish and enforce policies regarding day use operation, permitted uses, and dog leash requirements.
- 2. Offer facilities for self-directed and directed exploration, education, and personal renewal.**
 - Provide a trail system that is consistent with the conceptual trail map and design recommendations, accommodates a variety of non-motorized uses, and minimizes conflicts between the different uses.
 - Develop signage to guide users through the property and educate them about permitted uses and resources found on the property.
 - Locate facilities such as benches, shelters and kiosks in appropriate locations.
 - As opportunities arise, explore potential off-site facilities that would complement the property.
- 3. Ensure appropriate access and connectivity.**
 - Provide access onto the property so that entryways, parking areas and trailheads are located in places where they can be accessed easily and safely and still be sensitive to the natural area.
 - Develop educational materials such as signage, brochures, and other outreach materials to inform users about private property rights.
 - Communicate future development plans or changes in policy in advance to adjacent landowners.
 - Design the property's trail system in a way that can link easily to existing and future publicly-accessible land and trails.
- 4. Respect the health and integrity of Maxwellton Creek and its headwaters.**
 - Work with partnering groups and agencies to provide classes, workshops, and written materials that educate users about the watershed and about "leave no trace" practices.
 - Monitor property to ensure that trails are being used only for their permitted uses and that users are not straying off the trail and damaging habitat and riparian areas.
 - Develop a volunteer steward program to monitor and maintain the portion of Maxwellton Creek that is located on the property.

5. Protect fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource values.

- Permit only recreational activities that are compatible with the ecological health and functioning of the watershed.
- Organize events around special days like National Trails Day and Public Lands Day to provide educational outreach to the public about the property's resources and its significance in the watershed.
- Develop a volunteer trail steward program to maintain designated trails and overall quality of the property.

C. Trail System and Access

Access and Parking

Currently, access is provided by the House of Prayer church, which owns an adjacent property. During the summer of 2008, the Parks District will begin work on a trailhead parking lot off Craw Road (Appendix 11). It is designed to accommodate equestrians with horse trailers and hikers with automobiles or bicycles. This parking lot will allow for ADA parking and an ADA accessible loop trail, from which there will be a connector to the current established trail..

Since the trailhead will be near business and shopping areas, it will be convenient for families with young children. It also is located close to the South Whidbey Senior Center, and a short, paved loop trail is proposed that will be appropriate for those with some mobility impairment. Developing longer circumference trails will provide an excellent opportunity for runners and joggers, who often prefer a softer, unpaved surface.

The parking area will be designed for use by horse trailers so that equestrians can continue to use the existing Cross-County trail. Members of Backcountry Horseman, who have helped to maintain the existing trail over the years, have offered to educate both equestrians and the general public in Leave No Trace methods and proper trail etiquette around horses. The HOPE Therapeutic Riding Program will make use of the equestrian trail.

Amenities

With promotion and increased visibility of the property for public uses, there will be more users. Providing amenities, such as educational signage and restrooms, will help lessen detrimental impacts on the property. Interpretive signage will be used throughout the property for education about the forest environment and to call attention to special features.

Trail users will be directed by appropriate signage to recycling and garbage containers. There is no immediate plan for a permanent restroom building, but rather a seasonal portable toilet at the parking area off Craw Rd. Future development of a vault toilet or restroom will depend on level of property use and on funding.

Low-Impact Development techniques will be considered to minimize stormwater runoff from parking areas and trail surfaces. Preliminary parking area designs (Appendix 11) call for rain catchment systems and a rain garden for environmental benefits.

An information kiosk may be located in or near the parking area. A simple shelter may eventually be built to enhance educational opportunities on the land.

Elements for consideration at trailheads include: parking (for single cars and vehicles with trailers), hitching posts, bike racks, unloading ramps, horse turnarounds, toilets, trashcans, recycling containers, and minimal regulatory signage.

Visions for the Trail System and Phasing

Although at present only the old logging road trail is available for the public, the Working Group and Parks District envision additional trails with varying levels of difficulty to serve a variety of users. Included in the appendices is one system of recommended trail criteria (Appendix 9) and a gradient of five trail classification types (Appendix 10). The Working Group recommended minimal alteration to the natural landscape and moderate trail width to preserve the habitat and protect against canopy disruption. Maintaining a closed tree canopy over forested trails is important to preserving native wildlife and avoiding invasive species.

The Conceptual Trails Plan (Appendix 12) suggests a system of loops and through trails. The trail system may also include a small number of cross-over trails or spur trails (Class 2 or 3, Appendix 10). These should be designed to discourage off-trail wandering and prevent proliferation of informal (Class 1) trails.

Proposed Trails

1. **Accessible Loop** (two parallel green lines on map, nearest parking lot; approx. ½ mile long)
 - Concept only; Class 4 or 5 type trail (Appendix 10)
 - Paved trail with direct connection to parking area
2. **Discovery Loop** (solid grey line adjacent to the east boundary and linking with Cross Country trail; approx. 1¼ miles long)
 - Concept only; Class 3 type trail
 - Provides extended loop from Accessible trail
 - May have interpretive signage for important landmarks and widened gathering spaces for educational groups
 - Open to all non-motorized uses except equestrian
3. **Challenge Loop** (solid red-brown line running off of Discovery Loop and near the west boundary line; approx. 2 additional miles)
 - Concept only; Class 2 trail
 - Offers greatest distance and most challenging terrain
 - Open to all non-motorized uses except equestrian
4. **Cross Country / Equestrian Trail** (hatched orange line; approx. 1 mile.)
 - Existing trail, established on old logging road; Class 3 type trail
 - Eventual through-connection to other trails
 - Open to all non-motorized uses including equestrian

Implementation

A. Management and Operations

Management and operations will be the sole responsibility of South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District. This includes the management of trailhead parking, amenities and trails. Beginning in June 2008, SWPRD will begin development of the parking facility and grooming of the Cross Country/Equestrian Trail.

Multiple Use on Trails

A wide range of people and groups usually want to take advantage of the benefits offered by trails. It is important to realize who is using the trail(s) and to determine if multiple uses of the trail are reasonable.

Factors to consider when deciding on permitted uses should include:

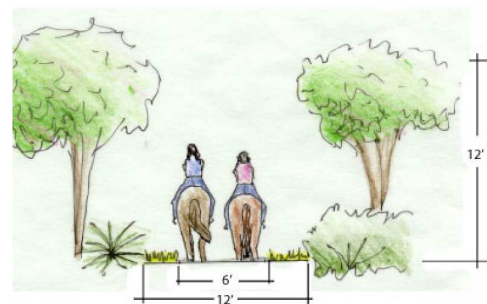
1. Natural terrain
2. Influence on other permitted uses
3. Public demand
4. Ability to safely partake in this use
5. Effect of this use on integrity of wildlife habitat

Equestrian Use

Riding horses on trails can create hazards if other trail users are not aware of equestrian use. The idea of a horse and rider sharing the trail with cross country runners can quickly bring to mind some hazardous consequences.

Where equestrian use of the trail is allowed, efforts should be made to ensure that all trail users are informed of this fact and are taught how to share the trail. While the owner or rider of the horse has responsibility for the actions of their mount, the owner of the trail has a responsibility to warn of the variety of users on the trail.

Horseback riding and hiking are compatible where trail sight distance of 50-100 feet, passing room, and dry surface conditions can be provided. Where the trail becomes wet for short distances a separate trail should be provided and the split well marked.



Double-track / Two way equestrian trail.
Figure 8. Sample equestrian trail standards

Horseback riding and mountain biking may be compatible on trails of considerable width with flat to moderately flat terrain for sight distance and passing room. This combination should be provided on primarily low-use trails. Right-of-way rules and instructions for users on how to pass each other should be clearly displayed and enforced when possible. For example, bikers must yield to horses by stopping completely and moving to the side of the trail. Bikers should be cautioned about the likelihood of frightening a horse and the safety implications to both rider and biker.

In general a pathway 4 to 6 feet wide with ideally 8 to 12 feet of clearing from shrubs and trees should be provided. (A track width of 2 to 4 feet for one-way/single track is recommended, and 5 to 6 feet for two-way/double track. In addition clearing width should be 6 to 12 feet and the overhead clearing height should be 8 to 12 feet in height.)

A natural dirt trail surface, wood chips, or crushed gravel is preferred. Any surface should be as well drained as possible, particularly if trail is open to other uses, e.g., hiking.

Inspection Policy and Inspection Form

As owners of the land where trails exist or are developed, SWPRD needs to establish a Trail Inspection Policy to ensure the quality of trails and reduce hazards on them.

Incident / Accident Reports and Form

Through proper monitoring of activities on Trustland Trails, information can be gathered to identify specific areas of concern and to measure the effectiveness of risk management initiatives as well as trail operations.

In the event a trail user group or staff is advised of an incident or accident occurring on the trail, a report should be completed providing details of the event. These reports should then be reviewed by the District director and maintenance supervisor and a decision made on the appropriate course of action.

Through the collection of such information, the District will not only be able to identify potential problems and correct same, but also to measure the effectiveness of the District's risk management initiatives.

Signs

Signage will play a crucial role in ensuring successful trail use. Residents and visitors alike will require orientation, guidance and information about permissible trail uses. Development of a sign plan is encouraged to avoid clutter and to help create a trail identity. Elements to include in the sign plan are: establish and use a consistent logo to identify the trail; standardize construction materials; and create a 'family' of sign designs. Various types of signs might include:

- Trail Identifier: Identify the Trustland Trails system in name and with a logo. This should be posted at trailheads and other access points.
- Property Boundaries: Use to keep people on the trail and away from private property.
- General Information: Basic trail information will be needed at trailheads. This will include an overall trail system map showing locations of trailheads, parking, and restrooms. Other information to consider includes hours of operation, accessibility information, and who to contact in emergency situations.
- Trail Etiquette: General guidance about using and sharing the trail (e.g., Stay on Trail, Pets on Leash, Pack It In/Pack It Out) should be provided.

- Trail Rules: Post rules and regulations, e.g., hours of operation, non-motorized uses only, illegal use of drugs, alcohol and firearms, etc.
- Transition Points: Directional signage to inform trail users about the location of the trail. For instance, at a “T” intersection, a directional arrow may be needed to inform the user which way the trail goes.
- Mile Markers: Mile markers should be provided to allow users to track where they are on the trail.
- Interpretation/Education: Interpretive signs to enhance nature education might be added to some trails such as the Accessible and Discovery Loops.
- Safety: Signs should be used to warn of a danger. If user(s) report or the Parks District has knowledge of a danger, the District has an obligation to protect others from that danger. Sometimes the search for perfect sign language results in a sign that reads like a legal document. People, especially children, will not take the time to read a sign that is long in text. Create simple, clear signs and use standardized, recognized symbols.



Figure 9. Sample Trail Marker (Four Springs County Park)

Not only should signs communicate clearly to young and old alike, they should also do so to those who speak any language. The primary purpose of a safety sign is to prevent an accident, not to avoid liability.

The location of a sign can be as important as the wording. Safety signs should be in clear view and located in a manner that they can be seen by anyone approaching a hazard.

1. The safety sign is to PREVENT accidents
2. Keep it SIMPLE
3. Locate it where it serves the PURPOSE

Maintenance

Maintenance of signs and trails will be the responsibility of the SWPRD. A volunteer trail stewards program can be a great support. Good trail management includes:

- Trash pick-up
- Monitoring to protect adjacent property
- Repair or replanting of privacy screening materials
- Enforcement to exclude unauthorized users
- Cleaning of trailhead facilities (if applicable)
- Prevention and repair of vandalism
- Erosion control or repair
- Native plant restoration
- Wildlife habitat protection

B. Recreational or Environmental Programming

Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreational Programming will be the sole responsibility of SWPRD. Although there are no plans for the District to develop its own environmental education curriculum for this site, partnerships with all educational institutions will be explored.

C. Funding for Trail Development and Amenities

As a junior taxing district of Island County, the District is able to tax the residents \$0.15 for every one thousand dollars of assessed value of each home on the District tax rolls. That taxing system covers the maintenance and operating expenses for the District over a two, four or six year period. Any additional monies the District wants for capital expenses such as equipment or construction must be raised through a special funding bond or through grants or partnerships.

Other potential sources of assistance include:

- Grants from Federal, State or County sources or from private businesses and foundations
- In-kind contributions
 - Volunteers
 - Americorps, Youth Conservation Corps
 - Prison Crews, Juvenile Adult Offenders
- Fundraising, e.g., local service clubs and organizations
- Donations – individual and corporate sponsors

In February 2008 the voters approved a Park Improvement Bond initiative which included money for development of the new trailhead parking and amenities.



APPENDICES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments came from neighbors sharing property lines with the Trustland Trails.

Privacy and security:

- “There has been some history of hikers trespassing into private yards. [I have a] concern that ease of access to the rear of adjoining properties could lead to unwanted visitation by trespassers.”
- “Need a map and signage in the parking lot that clearly designates park boundaries and cautions users to ‘Respect our neighbors, don’t go on to private land.’
- [It will be important to] “clearly communicate private boundaries to the public – that beyond this is private property and should not be accessed.”
- “As the Plan states, it will be essential to maintain a buffer between properties that adjoin the Trustland Trails, and appropriate signing and fencing ... to ensure the privacy and security of adjacent landowners.”
- Request for rules banning all off-leash dogs and hunting or trapping. Neighbors “have chickens, ducks, geese and sheep that could be harassed or killed by dogs or hunters straying from park land onto private property.”
- “The Plan commits to ‘After hours monitoring by county park employees and/or law enforcement’ and ‘Rules banning all off-leash dogs and hunting and trapping.’ ... A candid and prudent assessment of the availability of law enforcement personnel for “enforcement and monitoring” needs to be made.”

Proposed parking access:

- “A parking lot that is easily visible and accessible may attract vandalism, dumping of trash, thefts from cars, and use by drug dealers—problems that have plagued other similar sites.”
- Will require “After hours monitoring by park employees and/or law enforcement, to ensure that the parking lot is closed” and “to ensure that those seeking entry do not use nearby private roads instead.”
- “We feel the current WA-DOT corner at the end of Craw Road, the over-grown paved section of the old highway, provides an excellent entrance and parking area to the Park District’s new trail system. Locating the entrance a safe turning distance just off the highway creates easy and obvious public access, essential for its use. We appreciate that the plan uses the existing asphalt entry, and that the parking area will not be seen from the road. The locking gate feature, enforcing daylight hour use, will help deter evening noise and vandalism in this area.”

Trail development:

- “On the ground implementation will require feasibility studies, engineering design, more detailed environmental assessments... Detailed evaluations need to be done before any of the trails are developed.”

Appendix 1. Public Comments

- “Avoid use of switch backs which tend to result in short-cutting.”
- “I hope you will fulfill commitment in Plan to ‘design and create trails that are sensitive to wildlife habitat... and require minimal alteration to the property’s landscape’ and ‘Provide adequate buffers between trails and neighboring properties to prevent users from trespassing onto adjacent private land.’ And ‘Monitor property to ensure that trails are being used only for their permitted uses.’
- Concerns were expressed about Challenge Loop Trail, “which as proposed passes less than 100 ft from private property. If built to Class 3 or 4 level, seems in conflict with the concerns for natural habitat preservation and maintenance of privacy and security of adjoining neighbors.”

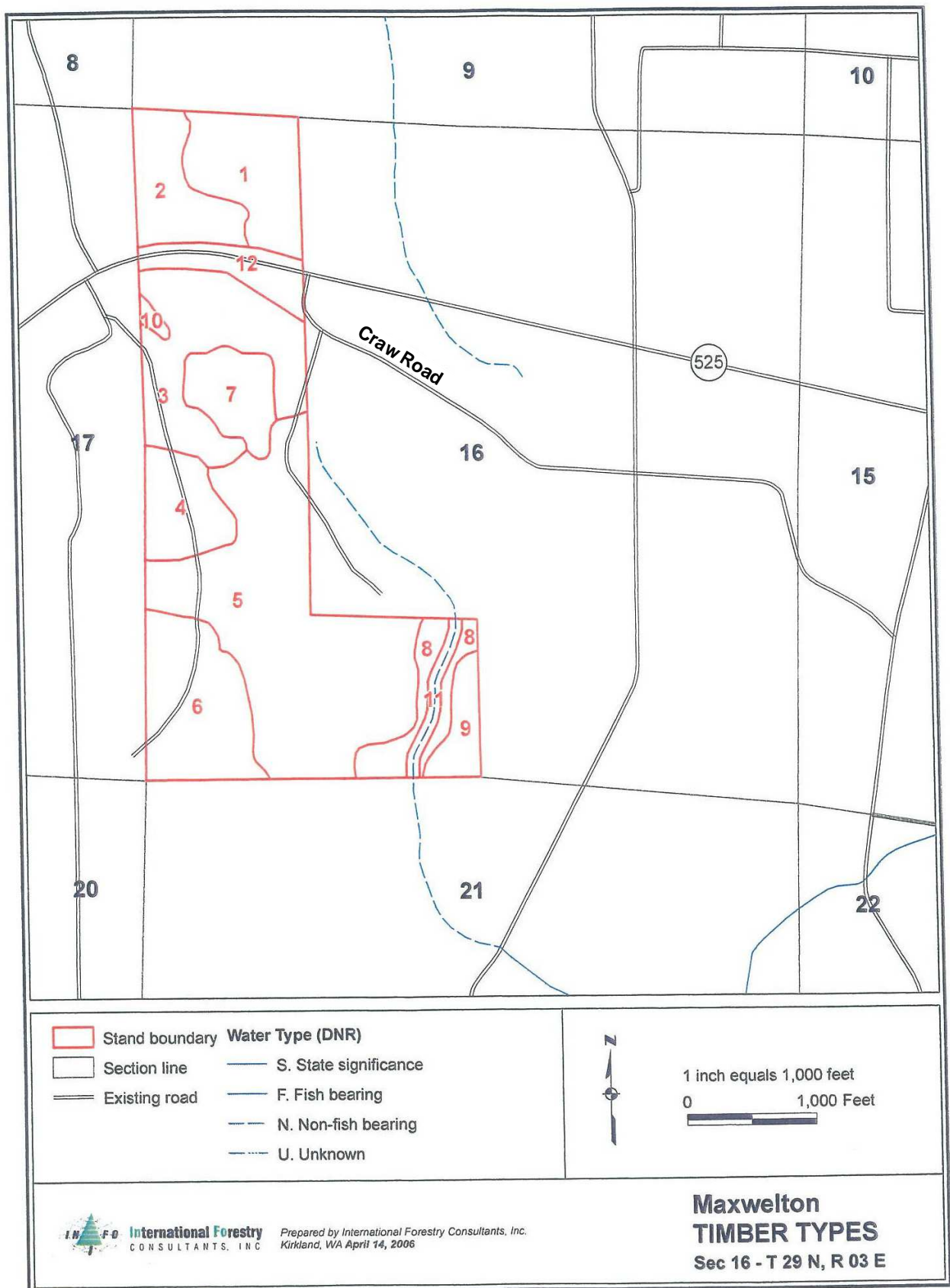
Wildlife habitat:

- Consider creating “snag top” to any trees that need to be topped out for safety or view-scape reasons
- “I’m reassured by Plan’s clear language and acknowledgement of the importance of the preservation of natural habitat within the Trustland Trails property. It states the awareness that potential negative impacts can occur for wildlife as a result of trail development.”

General comments:

- “This an exemplary Draft Plan [that came out of] a process that has encouraged open, fair and insightful thought and dialog.”
- “We are delighted that your plan assures that we will not see clear-cut logging, ball fields, housing development, or motor vehicles on that land.”
- “We are grateful for your efforts to include neighbor input in this development.”
- “It is hard to imagine how the plan could be improved in theory and in guiding principles. The ultimate measure of its success will be the accomplishment in practice of what the Draft Plan proposes in theory within the guiding principles stated.”
- Strong support for these commitments in plan:
 - “that the best use of the Trustland Trails property is habitat preservation, low impact hiking and equestrian access along the existing logging road”
 - “access would be limited to daytime non-motorized use, that leash laws and other public safety regulations would be enforced, that preserving the privacy and security of adjoining properties was a commitment and that timely maintenance would be part of the development and management plan”
- “If the Draft Plan is implemented and operates in accordance with its Guiding Principles, Trustland Trails will be a resounding success and an exemplary accomplishment. It will show what can be achieved through the robust partnering that has attended the acquisition and development of this property, no small accomplishment on the part of the many contributors listed in the first few pages of the Plan. If, on the other hand, whether through mere good intentions or lack of anticipation of consequences, the plan fails to achieve in practice what it proposes in theory, then we will not experience the benefit that this wonderful natural resource offers to our families and community. Which outcome we experience will depend on the wisdom and follow through that begins now.”

Appendix 1. Public Comments



Appendix 2. Timber Types on Property

Summary of Responses to District's 2005 Needs Assessment Survey

South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District would like your input to help determine park and recreation priorities for your community. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

1. Overall, how would you rate the availability of South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District parks, trails and other outdoor areas for the residents?

Excellent	37.3%
Good	45.0%
Average	8.8%
Poor	1.5%
Don't know, never visited	7.4%

2. Overall, how would you rate the quality of South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District parks, trails and other outdoor areas for the residents?

Excellent	35.3%
Good	46.2%
Average	10.1%
Poor	.5%
Don't know, never visited	7.9%

3. Which of the following amenities and facilities have you or your family used at South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District parks (Community Park on Maxwellton Road and

- Sports Complex on Langley Road) in the past year? (check all that apply)

Walking trails	67.5%
Playground	55.3%
Picnic shelter	45.5%
Special events	38.2%
Open space activities	26.7%
Soccer fields	25.8%
Baseball/softball fields	23.1%
Skateboard area	15.7%
Basketball court	7.2%

4. How often do you visit Community Park or Sports Complex?

At least once a week	16.5%
Never, don't know where they are	7.6%
A few times per month	18.8%
Never, don't have anything that interests me	14.0%
At least once per month	43.1%

5. What other parks have you visited in the past year? _____

6. What types of park facilities do you feel the residents of South Whidbey Island need? For each type of feature or facility, **PLEASE RATE THEM ON A 5 POINT SCALE WITH 5 BEING EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND 1 BEING NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT. CIRCLE YOUR RESPONSE.**

Park Features and Facilities	Extremely Important	Very Important	Important	Less than Important	Not at all Important
A. Water access and parking	53.5%	24.3%	15.4%	4.7%	2.1%
B. Picnic shelters and picnic areas	28.2%	33.4%	30.0%	6.8%	1.6%
C. Multi-purpose trails (paved)	16.2%	20.0%	31.1%	25.0%	7.6%
D. Hiking trails (gravel or natural surface)	43.6%	28.6%	20.4%	5.5%	1.9%
E. Playgrounds	33.7%	28.3%	26.8%	6.7%	4.4%
F. Expanded parking	10.3%	17.6%	37.5%	27.6%	7.0%
G. Restrooms	39.2%	29.0%	26.5%	3.9%	1.3%
H. Swimming pool/Aquatic center	37.1%	15.6%	18.8%	16.3%	12.1%
I. Recreation center	18.3%	24.4%	29.0%	19.6%	8.7%
J. Open spaces	35.3%	28.8%	25.5%	7.1%	3.2%
K. Baseball fields	13.9%	24.7%	34.5%	18.5%	8.3%
L. Soccer fields	15.0%	24.0%	34.3%	16.9%	9.8%
M. Tennis courts	9.3%	20.3%	39.3%	21.6%	9.5%
N. Basketball courts	7.9%	21.0%	40.2%	21.5%	9.4%
O. Other – list _____					

7. Which **TWO** of the features or facilities listed above are the most important to you and your household?

First

Hiking Trails	23.6%
Swimming pool/Aquatic center	22.6%
Water access and parking	22.1%

Second

Hiking Trails	16.8%
Water access and parking	15.1%
Swimming pool/Aquatic center	11.3%

8. What should the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District's priority be for acquiring parks and open space for the community in regards to the following types of parks? **CIRCLE YOUR RESPONSE.**

<i>Park Types</i>	<i>High Priority</i>	<i>Medium Priority</i>	<i>Low Priority</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
Neighborhood Parks (5 acres or less)	35.5%	40.6%	18.1%	5.8%
Athletic Field Parks (5-40 acres)	15.8%	39.5%	36.9%	7.7%
Natural Areas (40-200 acres)	55.2%	25.5%	13.3%	6.0%
Greenways (linear parks connected by a trail network)	50.2%	29.5%	14.0%	6.3%

9. Would you support the development of environmental and nature related facilities and programs?

Yes 79.6% No 13.9% Did not answer 6.5%

10. What type of outdoor and nature related programs would interest you and your household? **CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**

Day trips	47.0%	Festivals and special events	51.1%
Astronomy programs	42.8%	Overnight trips to wildlife and environmental areas	18.3%
Wildlife programs	64.4%	Native American programs	30.9%
Seasonal events	51.3%	Outdoor skills (camping, orienteering, cooking, fishing, etc.)	37.8%
Environmental education	45.1%	Historical programs	43.1%
Canoeing	3.0%	Nature arts and crafts	30.0%
Archeological programs	41.1%		

- Would you support the development of a multi-purpose recreation center?

Yes—go to question #12 62.7% No—skip question #12 and 13 29.3% Did not answer 8.0%

12. The following is a list of recreation activities or features that could be offered in the design of a recreation center. **PLEASE RATE THEM ON A 5 POINT SCALE WITH 5 BEING EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND 1 BEING NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT. CIRCLE YOUR RESPONSE.**

<i>Recreation Center Features and Facilities</i>	<i>Extremely Important</i>	<i>Very Important</i>	<i>Important</i>	<i>Less than Important</i>	<i>Not at all Important</i>
A. Gymnasium for basketball, volleyball, etc.	24.4% 16.4%	30.9% 20.7%	29.2% 19.6%	11.8% 7.9%	3.6% 2.4%
B. Computers and after school study area	15.1% 10.1%	19.7% 13.2%	34.5% 23.0%	20.4% 13.6%	10.3% 6.9%
C. Multipurpose program rooms and class rooms	15.0% 9.8%	21.0% 13.7%	39.7% 26.0%	19.1% 12.5%	5.2% 3.4%
D. Day care center	12.3% 6.5%	16.5% 10.9%	36.7% 24.1%	24.5% 16.1%	9.9% 6.5%
E. Aerobics and dance rooms	13.0% 8.6%	19.9% 13.2%	41.6% 27.5%	20.8% 13.7%	4.7% 3.1%
F. Arts and crafts rooms	9.5% 6.2%	21.8% 14.2%	40.7% 26.5%	23.0% 15.0%	5.1% 3.3%
G. Restaurant and snack area	7.2% 4.7%	11.3% 7.4%	27.1% 17.7%	37.3% 24.5%	17.1% 11.2%
H. Fitness area featuring cardio and weight training equipment	21.1% 14.0%	27.6% 18.2%	30.5% 20.1%	16.6% 11.0%	4.2% 2.7%
I. Indoor racquet courts	10.5% 6.9%	16.0% 10.5%	32.9% 21.6%	29.4% 19.3%	11.1% 7.3%
J. Indoor swimming and aquatic center	57.2% 38.9%	16.5% 11.2%	14.5% 9.8%	8.2% 5.6%	3.5% 2.4%
K. Training clinic area for sports and/or meeting area	6.6% 4.2%	14.3% 9.2%	39.2% 25.2%	29.9% 19.2%	10.0% 6.4%
L. Indoor running/walking track	20.2% 13.4%	20.2% 13.4%	24.9% 16.5%	23.9% 15.8%	10.7% 7.1%
M. Indoor stage and performing arts area	8.4% 5.5%	14.3% 9.4%	26.4% 17.3%	30.8% 20.1%	20.1% 13.2%
N. Rock climbing wall	9.2% 6.1%	13.9% 9.2%	31.0% 20.4%	29.8% 19.6%	16.0% 10.5%
O. Sauna/steam rooms	14.5% 9.6%	21.5% 8.2%	20.9% 13.8%	30.4% 20.1%	21.6% 14.3%
P. Games room with pool table, foosball, table tennis, etc.	15.5% 10.3%	21.2% 14.1%	32.9% 21.9%	21.3% 14.2%	9.1% 6.1%

13. From the list in question #12, which **THREE (3)** of these features or activities do you think would be most important to include in an indoor recreation center at Community Park. Please indicate by writing the appropriate letter in the spaces below.

<u>Most Important</u>		<u>2nd Most Important</u>		<u>3rd Most Important</u>	
Indoor swimming	54.9%	Gymnasium	14.5%	Fitness area	13.4%
Gymnasium	15.4%	Fitness area	13.5%	Games room	11.8%
Fitness area	5.3%	Indoor running	11.6%	Indoor running	11.3%

14. If new park and recreation facilities are needed, how should they be funded? **CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**

Through tax dollars	24.6%
Combination of tax dollars and user fees from persons who use the facilities and programs	67.2%
Only user fees from persons who use the facilities and programs	21.1%
Private fund raising	54.7%
Don't know	5.3%

15. Please indicate which of the following activities you and your household currently participates in and/or those you would be interested in participating. **PLEASE CHECK THE BOXES.**

<i>Type of Activity</i>	<i>Currently Participate In South Whidbey</i>	<i>Currently Participate Outside South Whidbey</i>	<i>Interested in Participating</i>
General activities – walking, jogging, biking, picnicking	76.1%	20.8%	7.9%
Youth team sports – basketball, baseball, soccer, football	20.0%	3.8%	6.2%
Aquatics – swimming lessons, competitive swimming, leisure pool swimming	18.2%	12.6%	27.9%
Structured programs – arts/crafts, camps, tennis, dance	12.6%	5.7%	19.8%
Teen activities – skateboarding, inline skating, wall climbing, BMX, concerts, making/mixing music	7.1%	3.7%	11.7%
Adult athletic programs – basketball, volleyball, tennis, softball, golf	9.9%	6.3%	15.7%
Adult art programs – dancing, acting, writing, drawing	10.6%	3.3%	22.9%
Adult fitness and health programs – aerobics, fitness classes, martial arts	23.8%	7.8%	28.3%
Family outings – ball games, trips, cultural events	20.8%	19.7%	13.5%
Nature related outings – whale watching, birding trips, wildlife viewing	23.7%	17.7%	27.8%
Environmental education programs for children and adults	7.9%	6.2%	29.4%

16. Select from the following reasons that keep you or other members of your household from participating in more South Whidbey Parks & Recreation Districts' activities and programs. **CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**

Not enough time	45.7%	Facilities need improvement	6.2%
No transportation to get there	2.2%	Overcrowded	2.5%
Too far away	5.4%	Feel unsafe at facility	1.4%
No one to go with me	8.9%	Class sizes are too large	.6%
Personal health	11.5%	Too expensive	9.2%
Age	21.7%	Closed out of ones that I wanted to sign up for	1.6%
Don't know what programs are available	31.3%	Other – list _____	
Don't have programs that interest me	24.5%	Do not participate or no reason	12.3%
Times are not convenient	15.9%		

**17. How do you learn about programs and activities being conducted by the South Whidbey Island Parks?
CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**

Spring/Summer Newsletter	10.7%	Flyers from school	6.8%
Fall and Winter brochure	8.8%	Park web site	2.3%
Word of mouth	14.4%	Whidbey Marketplace	23.8%
South Whidbey Record	27.5%	None – not aware of their programs and services	5.8%

18. Overall, how would you rate the programs offered by the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation?

Excellent	10.0%	Average	17.7%
Good	37.5%	Poor	1.1%
Don't know, never participated in a program 33.8%			

19. In the future, which methods would be the most effective in providing you with information about the parks and recreation programs and services? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

Radio	1.4%	Internet web site	11.2%
Word of mouth	6.0%	E-newsletter – information emailed to your address	14.9%
Cable television	1.4%	Direct mail	14.8%
South Whidbey Record	27.1%	Bulletin board	5.0%
Flyers from school	6.8%	Signs in area businesses	11.5%

THE NEXT SET OF QUESTIONS IS STRICTLY FOR CATEGORIZING YOUR RESPONSES.

20. Are you a registered voter?

Yes 96.2% No 3.8%

21. In which zip code do you reside?

98236 – Clinton 34.3% 98249 – Freeland 27.8% 98260 – Langley 37.1% Other .8%

22. What is your age?

18 – 24 .8%	45 – 54 24.0%	75 and over 9.1%
25 – 34 4.8%	55 – 64 27.9%	
35 – 44 16.3%	65 – 74 17.0%	

23. Counting yourself, how many people live in your house?

1—14.8% 2—51.8% 3—14.1% 4—13.3% 5—4.0% 6—1.5% 7—.2%

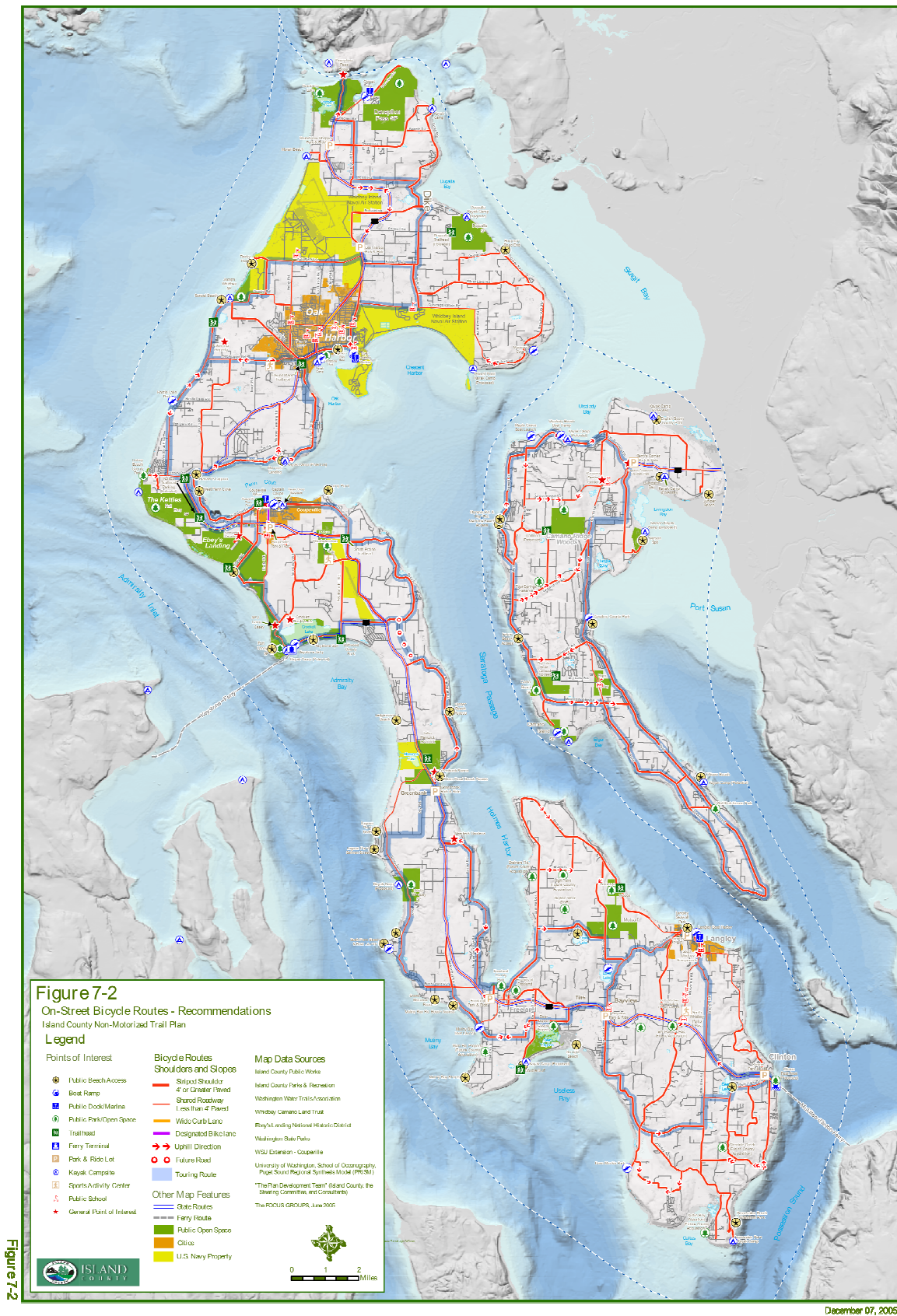
24. Please indicate how many are in each age group.

under 5 years 1: 6.2%, 2: 2.6%, 3: .6%	25 - 34 years 1: 5.8%, 2: 2.7%, 3: .1%
6 - 9 years 1: 9.7%, 2: 1.8%, 3: .6%	35 - 44 years 1: 11.7%, 2: 8.9%
10 -14 years 1: 9.0%, 2: 2.7%, 3: .2%	45 - 54 years 1: 19.8%, 2: 11.0%
15 - 17 years 1: 7.0%, 2: 1.3%, 3: .1%	55 - 64 years 1: 19.2%, 2: 14.9%, 3: .1%
18 - 24 years 1: 5.4%, 2: 1.3%, 3: .2%	65 + years 1: 15.9%, 2: 14.6%, 3: .1%

25. What is your gender?

Male 37.0% Female 60.9% Both 2.1%

Thank you very much for your time and your valuable input. Please return your completed survey in the enclosed addressed and stamped envelope by November 4, 2005



Appendix 5. Island Co. Trails Plan – On-Street Bicycle Routes



Whidbey Audubon Society
Post Office Box 1012
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

For: South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District
Terri Arnold, Director
PO Box 136
Langley, WA 98260

Date: May 25, 2008

Subject: Bird Surveys

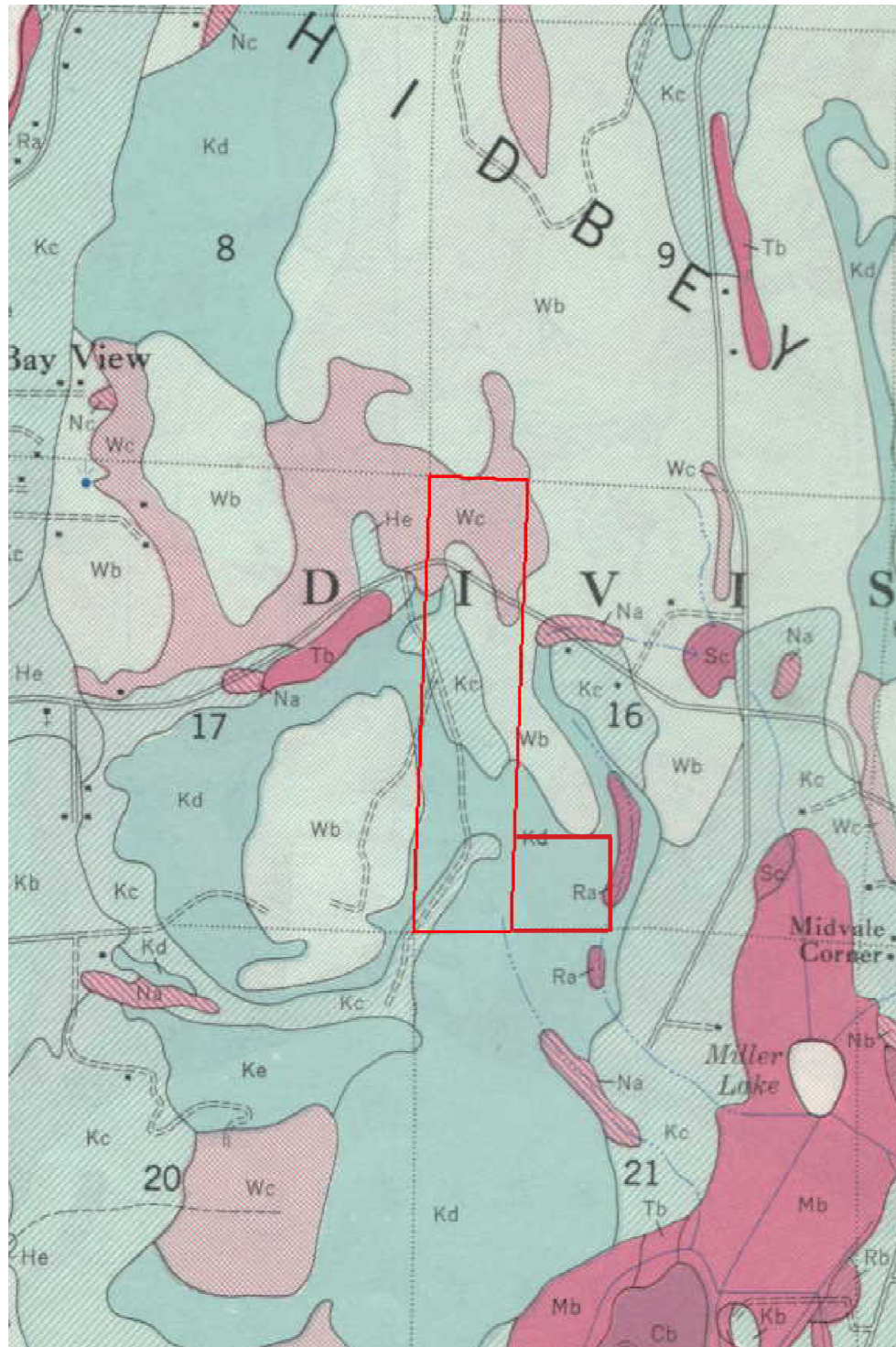
On April 26, 2007, May 22, 2008, and some additional field trips, members of Whidbey Audubon Society walked Trustland Trails to identify birds using the property. A total of 41 species has been recorded to date. Chief compilers of the species list were Craig Johnson and Frances Wood.

Birds Recorded at Trustland Trails Property

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mourning Dove | 22. Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| 2. Great-horned Owl | 23. Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| 3. Barred Owl | 24. Swainson's Thrush |
| 4. Rufous Hummingbird | 25. Varied Thrush |
| 5. Hairy Woodpecker | 26. American Robin |
| 6. Northern Flicker | 27. Cedar Waxwing |
| 7. Pileated Woodpecker | 28. Orange-crowned Warbler |
| 8. Olive-sided Flycatcher | 29. Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| 9. Willow Flycatcher | 30. Townsend's Warbler |
| 10. Pacific-slope Flycatcher | 31. Wilson's Warbler |
| 11. Hutton's Vireo | 32. Western Tanager |
| 12. Steller's Jay | 33. Spotted Towhee |
| 13. American Crow | 34. Song Sparrow |
| 14. Common Raven | 35. White-crowned Sparrow |
| 15. Violet-green Swallow | 36. Dark-eyed Junco |
| 16. Black-capped Chickadee | 37. Black-headed Grosbeak |
| 17. Chestnut-backed Chickadee | 38. Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 18. Brown Creeper | 39. Purple Finch |
| 19. Red-breasted Nuthatch | 40. Red Crossbill |
| 20. Bewick's Wren | 41. Pine Siskin |
| 21. Winter Wren | |

Appendix 6. Bird List

Soils Map



Code Description

Kc	Keystone loamy sand, 5 to 15 percent slopes
Kd	Keystone loamy sand, 15 to 30 percent slopes
Wb	Whidbey gravelly sandy loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes
Wc	Whidbey gravelly sandy loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes

Appendix 7. Soils Map

**Department of Natural Resources
2005-2007 TRUST LAND TRANSFER PARCELS**

UPPER MAXWELTON VALLEY

ACRES: 205

COUNTY: Island

TRUST: Common School

RECEIVING AGENCY: South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District

PROPOSED USE: Wildlife and riparian habitat, open space, and recreation

BENEFITS TO TRUST:

The property is very difficult to manage for income production because of strong demand for open space, wildlife habitat, trail use of the property and local concerns regarding timber harvest or residential subdivision.

At transfer, the timber value will be deposited to the Common School Construction Account, providing immediate revenue for school construction statewide. The land value will be used to acquire other Common School Trust property with greater revenue-generating potential in order to improve long-term revenue to fund school construction.

CHARACTERISTICS:

This area of mature forest includes the headwaters of Maxwellton Creek; one of three streams in Island County that is salmon bearing. Protection of the forested headwaters is the key to protecting the existing condition of the watershed while salmon restoration efforts continue. The parcel's large size, mature forest, and riparian habitat provide critical habitat for a variety of wildlife. The property is bisected by the state highway, which affords ready access and views of forested open space. The existing trail system could be extended in the future to connect to the larger, regional trail system. The watershed has been the focus of significant community-wide restoration efforts and is studied by local schools.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1: W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 16, Township 29 North, Range 3 East, W.M.
Parcel 2: Portions of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 10, Township 29 North, Range 3 East, W.M.

Appendix 8. DNR Description of Trustland Trails parcel (a.k.a. Upper Maxwellton Valley)

Washington State Parks Characteristic Trail Criteria

	Max. Sustained Grade	Max. Short Grade	For Max Distance of	Min. Clearing Width	Min. Clearing Height	Min. Tread Width	Tread Surface
PEDESTRIAN							
Universal Access	5%	10%	50'	72"	8'	48"	Firm, stable, slip resistant
Easy	12%	20%	50'	48"	8'	24"	Obstacle free
Moderate	15%	25%	200'	48"	8'	18"	Minor obstacles
Difficult	18%	30%	300'	36"	8'	12"	Negotiable obstacles OK
EQUESTRIAN							
Easy	10%	15%	200'	8'	10'	24"	Develop for stability
Moderate	15%	25%	300'	6'	8'	24"	Minor obstacles
Difficult	20%	30%	500'	6'	8'	18"	Negotiable obstacles OK
BICYCLE							
Easy	5%	10%	100'	60"	8'	24"	Mainly smooth
Moderate	8%	20%	200'	48"	8'	18"	Minor obstacles
Difficult	10%	30%	300'	36"	8'	12"	Negotiable obstacles OK

Trail Standards – Requirements for Varying Types of Trails

Trails come in many types for various users and in varied terrains. Their construction and maintenance is tied to their characteristics. The Working Group recommended minimal alteration to the natural landscape and moderate trail width to preserve the habitat and protect against canopy disruption. Maintaining a closed tree canopy over forested trails is important to preserving native wildlife and avoiding invasive species. The following is one type of classification system. It is referenced in the descriptions of proposed trails on page 19.

Class 1 – No development

Trails that exist in a rugged state and provide one-lane passage. Used primarily by hikers, these trails are rarely or never groomed and have a surface of rock, dirt, sand, and other natural materials. Such trails are informally created and can be a problem, disturbing sensitive habitat areas, causing erosion and presenting ungroomed, unsafe surfaces.

Class 2 – Minor development; one lane width

Developed trails that remain in a rugged or primitive state. These trails are often suitable for one lane of passage and will have frequent locations requiring reductions in speed or more care in maneuvering.

Signs on this type of trail will be limited to providing basic directions and environmental protection. If such trails provide a link as part of a designated trail, they should show the trail designation.

These trails may undergo some informal and infrequent grooming, and maintenance is usually done every few years to preserve trail or respond to concerns.

Class 3 – More development; two lane width

Trails that have been developed to allow many uses. Generally wide and suitable for two-way passage or equestrian use.

These trails must have signs to identify types of use, directions, traffic warnings, and trail identification.

Maintenance on these trails should be scheduled and completed annually as well as in response to problems.

Class 4 – Built with few irregularities

Built trails that are wide, often smooth and with few irregularities. Such trails may have multiple uses and usually consist of hard natural materials.

There is an expectation on such trails that signs will exist to advise of directions, information regarding trail use, designation, hazard warnings, etc.

These trails require maintenance at least once a year to ensure that the trail is cleared for use. It is recommended that user groups be recruited to assist in trail inspections and encouraged to report any problems.

Class 5 – Most developed, multiple users

Trails that are fully groomed and often paved or built of appropriate imported materials. These trails will be wide and usually provide for a wide variety of uses. Signs should advise of permitted and prohibited use as well as inform as to directions and information relevant to the trail. Users should be provided with a contact number via signs to bring problems or concerns to the attention of the trail authority.

On such trails maintenance should be scheduled monthly and users should be recruited and encouraged to assist in trail inspections and in bringing problems to the attention of the parks department.

Appendix 10. Sample Trail Classifications