

CHAPTER 3

EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Parks and recreation bring people together helping them to connect with nature, their community, and each other.

A strong and healthy parks and recreation system can open up a number of opportunities for people to enhance the quality of their lives. Physical recreation and fitness contributes to a full and meaningful life, helps to keep people healthy, reduces stress, and promotes self-esteem and positive self-images. Participating in leisure activities and enjoying nature helps assist individuals in leading a balanced life.

Table 3.1
Summary of Park and Recreation Areas
Skagit County

Agency	Acres
Cities and Towns within Skagit County:	3,799.43
Skagit County Park System	1,710.28
State of Washington	18,602.05
National Forests/Parks:	555,200
Other Agencies	473
Total	5,79784.8

SCPR PARKS

Skagit County Parks and Recreation (SCPR) owns or manages 1,700 acres of parkland, both developed and undeveloped. SCPR operated parks come in an array of shapes and sizes and provide a variety of services. They range from small neighborhood parks to large areas of open space and represent the many unique recreational opportunities available to the citizens of Skagit County.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

SCPR park land is classified by several factors, which may include size, service area and type of use. Tables 3.2 through 3.5 list all of the Skagit County parklands, by various classifications. The initial classification is based upon park size and service area. These categories are as follows:

- Regional Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Open Space and Undeveloped Parks
- Special Use park land

The parks quick guides for each park classification can be found on the following pages.

SCPR REGIONAL PARKS

Regional Parks are generally larger sites that offer a variety of unique features or recreational experiences that serve the entire county population and beyond. These may include one-of-a-kind natural, cultural, or historic features, water access, or a concentration of facilities that can accommodate large-scale events. Regional parks and associated amenities are listed in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2
SCPR Regional Parks

Regional Parks Quick Guide	Acres	Ownership	Ball Fields	Barbecues	Boat Launch	Camping	Courts	Fishing	Nature Area	Picnicking	Playground	Restrooms	Showers	Soccer	Hiking/Jogging	ADA	Reservations
Burlington-Sedro Woolley Trail	7	sc													x		
Campbell Lake Boat Launch	3	p			x			x		x		x					
Cascade Trail (23 mi.)	279	sc							x			x			x		
Centennial Trail	22	sc															
Conway Park	7	s	x	x	x	x			x		x						
Donovan Park	3	sc		x					x	x	x	x				x	
Grandy Lake	22	sc				x		x	x	x		*					
Howard Miller Steelhead Park	93	sc		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Lake Erie Boat Launch	1	p			x					x		x					
Padilla Bay Shore Trail (4 mi.)	15	sc							x	x		x			x	x	
Pomona Grange & Trail	17	sc		x					x	x		x			x	x	x
Sauk Park	30	sc				x		x	x	x		*			x		
Skagit Valley Playfields	25	sc	x	x			x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Swinomish Boat Launch	3	p		x	x			x	x	x		x				x	
Young's Park	13	sc		x				x	x	x		x				x	

sc = Skagit County Owned

p = Partnership - property is owned and/or maintained by Skagit County and an additional agency

SCPR COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks are generally bigger than Neighborhood Parks, generally smaller than regional parks and host a larger number and type of ball fields, facilities and a variety of activities such as open space, swimming, BBQs and picnic areas for larger gatherings. SCPR Community parks and associated amenities are listed on table 3.3.

**Table 3.3
Community Parks**

Community Parks Quick Guide	Acres	Ownership	Ball Fields	Barbecues	Boat Launch	Camping	Courts	Fishing	Nature Area	Picnicking	Playground	Restrooms	Showers	Soccer	Hiking/Jogging	ADA	Reservations
Allen Community Park	17	p	x									*					
Burlington-Edison Regional Park	25	p	x	x						x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Clear Lake Swim Beach	1	sc					x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x
Guemes Island Playground	4	sc	x				x			x	x	x		x			
Samish Island Playground	2	sc		x			x			x		x				x	

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SCPR NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood Parks are generally small, pedestrian oriented and situated to serve residents of an immediate area. Recreational activities may include both passive and active uses as well as multipurpose facilities such as basketball, tennis or play equipment. Passive uses include open play areas. Age appropriate needs of the surrounding neighborhood, such as play equipment, should be emphasized as a neighborhood park.

Neighborhood parks may also feature natural or conservation areas. Passive recreational development includes boardwalks, nature trails, picnicking facilities, shelters, park benches, picnic tables, environmental, cultural or historic interpretive facilities, and parking. Natural areas include streams, wetlands, forestlands, or even a unique natural feature. Such neighborhood parks may also function as a greenbelt or view shed on which there is no public access. Skagit County recognizes the provision of neighborhood parks ultimately being the responsibility of local cities. Skagit County does not foresee adding to the one neighborhood park currently within its jurisdiction. Table 3.4 shows the neighborhood park affiliated with SCPR.

**Table 3.4
Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood Parks Quick Guide	Acres	Ownership	Ball Fields	Barbecues	Boat Launch	Camping	Courts	Fishing	Nature Area	Picnicking	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Restrooms	Showers	Soccer	Hiking/Jogging	ADA	Reservations
Cleveland Park	1	sc					x			x		x						

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SCPR OPEN SPACE

Open Space Parks and Undeveloped Parks are identified as available for passive outdoor recreation, offering trails for viewing, parking and other limited improvements. Open space and undeveloped Parks often allow for passive recreation opportunities in the form of sightseeing, picture taking, picnicking, beachcombing and other activities. Table 3.5 can be found on the next page.

**Table 3.5
Open Space & Undeveloped Parks**

Open Space & Undeveloped Parks Quick Guide	Acres	Ownership	Ball Fields	Barbecues	Boat Launch	Camping	Courts	Fishing	Nature Area	Picnicking	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Restrooms	Showers	Soccer	Hiking/Joggin	ADA	Reservations
Big Rock (Dr. R.H. Memorial Park)	13	sc							x							x		
Cascade Park	41	sc																
Hansen Creek Park	3	sc							x									
Marblemount Community Club	2							x										
Northern State Recreation Area	726	sc							x							x		
Pilchuck Forest	81	sc							x							x		
Pressentin	41	sc							x							x		
Rail Corridor - Misc.	45																	
Rexville Park	.5	sc							x									
Sharpe Park	75	sc		x				x	x				x			x		
Squires Lake Park and Trail	57	p							x				x			x		

sc = Skagit County Owned

p = Partnership - property is owned/maintained by Skagit County and an additional agency

SPECIAL USE PARK LAND

These park lands are acquired to provide for park activities that have specific needs that may or may not be compatible with other uses. Examples include land acquired for development as golf course, off-road vehicle facility, or shooting range. Although SCPR doesn't currently provide facilities which fit within this category, there are plans for a four hundred acre development which would contain a

shooting/training range, day-use area, and overnight camping. The development, known as the Frailey Mountain Shooting/Training Range, will be located in the southwest region of the county. According to the state comprehensive outdoor recreation planning document, shooting and hunting is enjoyed by 6.1% of the state population. The figures are higher for counties with a higher rural contingent. The proposed shooting/training range will satisfy the need for this recreation group and provide for training of local law enforcement groups.

EXISTING PARK INVENTORY



Figure 3.1
Park Locations in Skagit County

SCPR'S REGIONAL PARKS

Burlington-Sedro Woolley Trail

Three miles of hiking/jogging trail covering 6.8 park acres. This linear trail divides Highway 20 and the Burlington Northern Railway and provides for recreational and non-motorized transportation.



Campbell Lake Boat Launch

This site is 2.5 acres. It has a boat launch with parking, temporary restrooms and fishing opportunities. The park is part of a partnership between the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife, and SCPR. The USDFW maintains the boat launch and lake, while SCPR mows the grass and dumps the garbage.



Cascade Trail

This rails to trails conservancy project is 22.5 miles of multi-use trail that parallels the scenic State Route 20 corridor, connecting Sedro-Woolley and Concrete. Hiking, biking, and equestrian use are permitted on the path. No motorized vehicles are allowed. The trail is open year round and in places, meanders along the Skagit River. Viewpoints along the way provide for wildlife viewing opportunities. Trail amenities include portable toilets at trailheads and benches along the trail. The trail encompasses 280 acres of land.



Centennial Trail

The Centennial Trail is a regional trail system intended to eventually connect Snohomish and Whatcom County. Unlike the Cascade Trail, which is in a rails-to-trails conservancy as per federal legislation, this property has been purchased outright. The existing trail segment is approximately ½ mile long starting from south Lake McMurray off State Route 9. The trail ends at the Snohomish County line. In all, the trail system is contained within 22.04 acres of county parkland.



Donovan Park

This site is 3 acres large and is located on Friday Creek, in the Alger area. A former State Park site, it is a popular site with the local community. The park includes a picnic area, barbeques, a playground, year round restroom.



Grandy Lake Park

This primitive camping site is located off Baker Lake Road about five miles northwest of Highway 20. It is well used by hunters and anglers. Seasonal camping (May 1 - Oct 31) is on a first-come first-serve basis. The Scott Paper Company of Everett, Washington donated this 22-acre site to be used solely for public recreational purposes on December 18, 1979.



Howard Miller Steelhead Park

93-acre campground and open space in Rockport. Includes cultural artifacts, bald eagle viewing, and base camp for Upper Skagit Valley adventures. Site has BBQ's, boat launch, camping with hook-up sites, fishing, nature area, picnicking, covered picnic shelters, playground, restroom, showers, hiking, handicapped accessible, and reservations. Facilities include: 7 Tent sites, 3 RV sites w/o hookups, 30 RV sites with electric only, 19 RV sites with water & electric, 2 Adirondacks (up to 8 persons), 3 restrooms (two have showers), a clubhouse with sink and cooking facilities, a covered picnic area, and trailer waste station. There is a summer concert series. Approximately 80 acres of the park is open space lands with non-motorized trails.



Lake Erie Boat Launch

This site is 0.70 acres. It has a boat launch with parking, temporary restrooms and fishing opportunities. The park is part of a partnership between the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife, and SCPR. The USDFW maintains the boat launch and lake, while SCPR provides turf management and waste removal services.



Padilla Bay Shore Trail

This 15-acre site includes a 2.2-mile interpretive trail from Bay View along the dikes of Padilla Bay. Limited to hiking, biking, and non-motorized vehicles. There are portable toilets and ADA access. Parking is located at the North and South trailheads. This park property has a co-management agreement between SCPR and DOE. Hunting is allowed from the trail.



Pomona Grange Park

A 15-acre park bordered by Friday Creek and the state fish hatchery. Old growth forest environment, interpretive nature trail, portable toilets, picnic shelter, BBQ, and picnic tables.



Sauk Park

A primitive 30-acre overnight camping park (May 1 - Oct 31). Park has magnificent views, fishing, nature area, picnic area, hiking and portable toilets, as well as Sauk River frontage.



Skagit Valley Playfields

25-acre park with 4 championship softball fields, baseball field (Dream Field) and stadium, one soccer field, BBQ's, picnicking, picnic shelter, playground, restrooms, concessions building, jogging/hiking trail, and ADA access. Located at the northeast corner of Skagit Valley College, the playfields are accessed from Martin Road.



Swinomish Boat Launch

This park is located off Highway 20, below the east approach to the bridge over the Swinomish Channel. This site has a popular boat launch for recreating in the Puget Sound or exploring the San Juan Islands. It is 3 acres large and has Swinomish Channel frontage, a picnic area, restrooms, a large parking area and two boat ramps. Surrounding zoning includes both agricultural and Industrial.



Young's Park

This site is located at the northern edge of Guemes Island, off Guemes Island Road. It is a 13-acre day-use waterfront park with BBQ's, a nature area, picnicking, saltwater access, a seasonal restroom, ADA access, and a kayak launch. The San Juan Islands and Mount Baker can be viewed from the Northeast side of the park.



SCPR'S COMMUNITY PARKS

Allen Park

This park is situated on school property and is located on a triangular parcel between Chuckanut Road and Avon-Allen Road. Although this site is considered a County park, the school district retains ownership of the land. The school district also contributed funding to this site and provides facility mowing. The site includes a youth softball field, youth baseball fields, soccer fields, two parking areas and a portable restroom.



Burlington-Edison Park

25-acre park with athletic fields and 3/4 mile surfaced jogging trail. Site includes softball/baseball fields (primarily youth), soccer, tennis, fitness trail, shelters, picnicking areas, playground and restrooms.



Clear Lake Swim Beach

Skagit County Parks and Recreation operates Clear Lake Beach for public supervised swimming during the summer. The 1-acre park is open for supervised swimming from Father's Day Weekend until Labor Day Weekend. During this time a daily fee is charged. Park amenities include a seasonal boat/fishing dock, boat rentals, a snack bar, grills, basketball hoop, playground, volleyball court, three docks, two waterslides, and restrooms with lockers. The lake contains a diversity of fish, including Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Cutthroat Trout and Catfish.



Conway Park & Conway Ball Fields

This park is located adjacent to the bridge over the South Fork of the Skagit River near Conway. It receives considerable use as an informal fishing and camping area. It has 3 acres of Little League ball fields on the South Fork Skagit River frontage, a boat launch, seasonal camping (May 1 - Oct. 31), fishing, a picnic area and a seasonal restroom. The boat launch is very popular during fall salmon migrations. It is the last maintained boat launch with parking available on the South Fork of the Skagit River. In 1987 there were five public launches on the South Fork.



Guemes Island Playground

This site is located near the intersection of Guemes Island Road and Eden's Road. A former school site, the County took it over in 1978. It contains an ADA accessible playground and picnic area, a tennis court youth baseball field, grass volleyball court, basketball court, large metal sculpture, park and some undeveloped property to the south.



Samish Island Playground

This rural park is located off Halloran Road just west of Roney Road on Samish Island. The land was donated to the County from the Samish Island Community Club, whose members constructed the improvements. The site includes a playground, tennis court, basketball hoops, restroom building, picnic tables, and multi-purpose field.



SCPR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Cleveland Park

This 1-acre park consists of a full length basketball court, a playground and a picnic area.



SCPR'S OPEN SPACE & UNDEVELOPED PARKS

Big Rock: Richard M. Hoag Memorial Open Space Park

Approximately 13-acres of rocky hilltop in the midst of surrounding lowlands. There are beautiful 360 degree views from the top.



Cascade River Park

The timber on this property was recently harvested and replanted. The riverfront parcel includes 40-acres of undeveloped parkland.



Hansen Creek Park

This property contains 3-acres of undeveloped linear parkland with Hansen Creek frontage.



Northern State Recreation Area

Skagit County acquired the 726 acre Northern State Recreation Area northeast of Sedro Woolley, in 1990 from the State of Washington. In 2000, a Master Plan workshop lasting three days was conducted on the site to generate ideas and focus energy on a few specific improvements. A Master Plan was created from that meeting. Much of the development will depend on private funding. The facility will include trails, ball fields, play areas, campgrounds, equestrian center, and environmental education and interpretation sites. Natural resources on the site include Hanson Creek with associated wetlands and tributaries and Red Creek. Over 500 acres of the site will remain undeveloped to support the wildlife populations. The park will showcase the natural, historical and cultural character of the region while incorporating accessibility and sustainability. An extensive trail network will provide access to much of the property for a range of interests and physical ability levels. The site will address the education themes of Salmon Habitat Restoration, The Northern State Hospital Farm, Natural Habitats & Biodiversity, and Native American Continuity. Hansen Creek restoration was developed to decrease flooding and improve fish habitat. These themes will be presented in the Education Center, as well as along the trail system. Camping facilities will include a 40-acre site with 100 camping sites with various designs, including yurts for year-round camping, RV sites and group camping sites.



Pilchuck Forest

This 81-acre property was once owned by a timber company and is now in Open Space. The property is primarily deciduous with tall cottonwood, numerous willow and alder, and scattered evergreen. A portion of the Centennial trail meanders through the property.



Pressentin Park

This park is located off Highway 20, near Marblemount. The site is 40-acres and includes wooded areas, large open terraces, Skagit River frontage, and Highway 20 access. Pressentin has a network of meandering trails and is a popular destination for watching wildlife. Free parking is available at the Shell station nearby.



Rexville

This is a .5 acre rock outcrop overlooking the fertile Skagit Valley farmlands. It is currently undeveloped. The view of surrounding farmlands and Cascade Mountains would make for a picnic location.



Sharpe Park

A loop trail of 1 ½ miles throughout 75 acres of natural open space featuring excellent wildlife viewing opportunities as it meanders along an open wetland, on onto a rocky bluff. The park contains a picnic area, benches, hiking, and portable toilets.



Squires Lake Park

A 57.19 acres day-use hiking park with parking lot. The park is part of a partnership with Whatcom County with shared management. There are hiking trails, benches, the lake and wetlands.



The countywide recreational facilities inventory includes facilities managed by private, city, county, and state organizations. Most of the facilities reside within city and county owned parklands.

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

Senior Baseball Fields:

Senior baseball fields are regulation in size (90' base paths). In Skagit County, the senior baseball programs are managed by several organizations. SCPR manages the American Legion Tournaments. Organizations managing programs include Skagit Valley College, the local high school, Junior and Senior American Legion, Babe Ruth, Sandy Koufax, and Senior Little League. Currently, there is a total of 12 Senior Baseball Fields.

Youth Baseball Fields:

Youth baseball fields are little league sized (60' base paths). In Skagit County, there are several organizations involved in youth baseball. These include four Little League groups (South Skagit, Burlington-Edison, Sedro-Woolley, and Anacortes) and the YMCA. SCPR manages the summer

baseball camps. The majority of the inventoried fields are nothing more than playgrounds with a chain link backstop.

Currently, there is a total of 53 Youth Baseball Fields.

Softball Fields:

The softball program in Skagit County is managed by several organizations. This includes but is not limited to Skagit County Parks and Recreation, Skagit Valley College, the local high schools' fast pitch teams, The City of Mount Vernon, and private tournament providers.

Currently, there is a total of 24 Softball Fields, 7 of which are available to adults.

Adult/Junior Soccer Fields

The soccer program in Skagit County is managed by several Youth Soccer organizations. This includes but is not limited to Skagit Valley College and the local high schools teams, Skagit County, City of Anacortes, City of Burlington, and private groups.

Currently, there is a total of 36 Adult/Junior Soccer Fields.



Youth Soccer Fields:

The youth soccer program in Skagit County is managed by several youth soccer organizations. This includes but is not limited to the local high schools, Skagit County, City of Anacortes and private groups.

Currently, there is a total of 33 Youth Soccer Fields.

Football Fields:

The football fields in the county are being maintained and provided primarily by the city school districts.

Currently, there is a total of 11 Football Fields.

Day Use/Group Picnic Areas:

Description: There are 18 group picnic areas in Skagit County. Excluded in this inventory are individual picnic units. Individual picnic sites are difficult to inventory and can be added to almost any park or recreation area. Group picnic areas, on the other hand, are a larger investment and require more land than a traditional picnic unit.

Currently, there is a total of 18 Day Use/Group Picnic Shelters.

Public Swimming Pools:

There are two indoor swimming pools in Skagit County. In Anacortes, the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center operates year-round and is dependent on a special levy voted on by Fidalgo Island residents every six years. In Mount Vernon, the YMCA provides swimming opportunities at their facility. Year round swimming opportunities is limited to 2 Public Swimming Pools.

Outdoor Swimming Areas:

Skagit County provides supervised swimming opportunities at Clear Lake during the summer months. Clear Lake is the only outdoor county facility with lifeguards present. Numerous other lakes throughout the county provide unsanctioned summer swimming opportunities.

Indoor Recreation Center:

Although several multi purpose rooms, small indoor facilities, senior centers, and other spaces are used to stage recreational enrichment opportunities, there is an absence of facility space large enough for a multi-court gymnasium. A deficiency of available facilities for adequately hosting large events also is an ongoing concern of Skagit County residents. These deficiencies force county residents to adapt to substandard facilities all while the need for an adequate facility increases in proportion to population increases.

There are currently no adequate Indoor Recreation Centers in Skagit County.

Boat Launches:

There are at least 8 saltwater ramps, 9 river ramps, and 18 lake ramps available to Skagit County residents.

Currently, there are a total of at least 35 boat ramps.

**Public Shoreline:**

There are 15 locations for saltwater shoreline access areas in Skagit County, some of which are only available by boat. There are 7 locations to access lake shorelines, and at least 7 areas to access streams.

Currently, there is a total of at least 29 shoreline access points on Skagit County waters.