

CHAPTER 9

USE PATTERNS

The household survey results and LOS standards combine to give SCPR Staff a greater comprehension as to the recreational needs of Skagit County residents. They offer an objective method for SCPR to better distinguish the needs of Skagit County residents and aid in SCPR formulating plans to better serve County residents. Although the survey and LOS standards provide the greatest means of understanding resident needs, there are many variables these methods have difficulty in accounting for. To fully account for the missing information, knowledge from those using or overseeing the programs is needed. This “use pattern” information will be combined with additional public input and more adequately decipher County residents’ priorities. This added information will provide the link and ultimately merge the surveys and LOS standards into a recommendation.

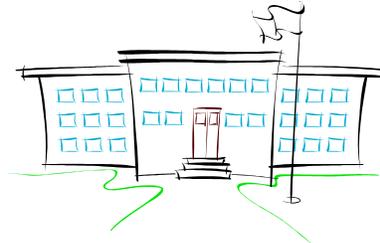
Use patterns can be analyzed in a variety of ways. Lack of facility space, a shortage of campsites, or an overrun trail system may lead SCPR staff and/or Parks Board members to easily conclude needs are not being met. In other cases, the analysis may be more difficult. The fact that a facility is being used under capacity may lead some to believe the needs are being sufficiently met. Whereas, the real reason the facility is being under used may be due the facility is in need of maintenance, in need of expansion, or in some other way may be inadequate. In other situations, there may be a surplus of baseball fields on the west side of the county but a shortage on the east side, even though the LOS standards indicate there is sufficient amount of fields’ county-wide. Because of all of these variables, it becomes necessary for SCPR Staff/Board to look at every facility and/or program “site specifically” to determine if in fact the needs of the community are being met. SCPR staff/board oversees facility use, has a current knowledge of the inadequacies and/or deficiencies of these facilities, and is the best resource for making this determination.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Skagit County started offering organized Recreation programs for the public in 1976. Recreation program growth has been steady since its inception. Comparing 1996 to 2002, overall participation in Recreation Programs has increased 6.4% overall. The largest growth in participation has been in youth sports activities. Youth Leagues, Tournaments and Camps have averaged a 25% growth rate in participation hours since 1996. Additionally, since 1996, Recreation Program Revenue has increased 18.5% and is a direct result of the rising costs associated in offering Recreation Programs to the Skagit County citizens (i.e. increased staff costs, facility rentals, equipment, contracted sports officials etc). Recreation Programs are non-subsidized by the Skagit County General Fund (taxes),

thus program costs, including some administrative costs associated with programs are directly passed along to participants through program fees and charges. The one exception to this is funds received from the state's Juvenile Justice Grant to operate weekend late-night Open Gym activities for youth.

Schools are the primary facilities used for Recreation programs, including all 7 Skagit County school districts. Skagit Valley College gym is the most used indoor facility, with Skagit Playfields the primary outdoor (softball) facility.



Recreation programs are divided into three main categories – Sports, Enrichment and Open Activities. The Sports programs consist of Adult Leagues, Youth Leagues, Tournaments, Special Events and Youth Camps. Skagit County's sports programs, including youth and adult leagues and tournaments, have become regional programs i.e. they have regular team participation from adjacent counties, including Snohomish, Whatcom, San Juan and Island counties, as well as Skagit County. The Enrichment programs consist of and Youth, Teen, Family and Adult Enrichment programs which include a variety of Classes, Trips, Outdoor Programs and (non-sports oriented) Youth Day Camps. Open Activities include managing Clear Lake Swim Beach (summer) and grant funded Open Gyms.

SPORTS PROGRAMS

Adult Sports Leagues

Overall, Adult Leagues have remained an important part of Recreation Programs since the Skagit County Parks & Recreation Departments inception. Adult Leagues have the most participants and bring a large part of the Recreation Division yearly revenue. Though Participation Hours have decreased slightly since the 1996 census (down 5%), Adult Leagues remain the backbone of Recreation Programs. The decrease in participation hours can be attributed a couple things: 1) because of increasing program costs (facility rentals and staffing primarily) rather than increase program fees, it was decided to reduce the number of games played for some league schedules, thus keeping entry fees from increasing 2) Volleyball leagues reached a peak in 1996 with 72 fall league teams---too many teams for what facilities were available to offer adult volleyball. Capacity for leagues is now set at around 40 teams, pending available facilities.

Adult Softball, Volleyball and Basketball leagues remain the backbone of Recreation Programs and brought in \$104,000.00 in program fees in 2002. This was a 15.8% increase from the \$87,000.00 brought in during 1996. Each year there are new dynamics presented to the Skagit County Parks & Recreation Department staff in meeting the needs of participants in Adult Leagues (i.e. an active aging population, lack of adequate facilities, and family oriented activities for participants with children).

Youth Sports Leagues

The Recreation Division runs extensive Youth Sports Leagues. The Boys & Girls S.W.I.S.H. (San Juan, Whatcom, Island, and Snohomish County Hoops) Basketball League is the largest basketball program in Northwest Washington with 110 teams participating in 2002. This league offers opportunities for both boys and girls in the 4th-8th grades regardless of skill level. With a high participation rate, there are enough teams in the S.W.I.S.H. Leagues to split into divisions that best match the overall skill level of teams. Team as well as individual registrations are accepted.

There are also opportunities for high school aged participants. Skagit County Parks & Recreation runs a Boys Masters Basketball League each school year that caters to high school aged boys that do NOT play on a high school basketball team. This league has remained popular over the years with sixteen teams in 2002. There are also competitive high school basketball leagues offered for players (boys and girls divisions) from school teams in the fall, spring and summer totaling normally over 75 teams. These leagues are steadily growing.

With Youth Basketball Leagues now offered nearly year around, the biggest challenge is securing enough gym space, particularly during the winter and early spring months, when the school sports programs are taking place, thus taking priority over Recreation Division programs. In addition to gyms in all 7 Skagit County School Districts and Skagit Valley College, Recreation Division has often scheduled games in gymnasiums outside of Skagit County (Stanwood, Friday Harbor, and Ferndale etc).

In the summer of 2003 Skagit County Parks & Recreation started a Girls High School Fastpitch League with six teams in the inaugural season. This league has strong support from the local community and was created to fill the void of a lack of any previous fastpitch league in the area. Games were played primarily at Janicki Fields in Sedro Woolley, owned by the Sedro Woolley School district.

Fees and charges pay for costs of running Youth Leagues, mostly through team fees that are collected. Individual registrations are also taken. Youth from low income families may apply for Scholarships that allow them to register/participate at a reduced or no fee.

Tournaments

Skagit County Parks & Recreation offers various tournaments throughout the year for both adult and youth sports programs. Some tournaments are annual events (i.e. Gobblers Classic Volleyball Tournament, Boys & Girls Tulip Basketball Tournament, and Spring Opener Softball Tournament) while others are seasonal events (i.e. A.S.A. Championship Softball Tournaments) that may change in scope from year to year. Since 1996 there has been an increase in both Participant Hours (+31.5%) and Program Revenue (+20.4%) with the bulk of the increase associated with growing interest in youth basketball tournaments, as well as large A.S.A. State/Regional Junior Olympic/Adult Softball Championship Tournaments. Increasing the size of current tournaments or adding additional tournaments is now limited by the availability and size of current facilities. Worth noting is the revenue tournaments bring into communities through tourism dollars. Studies done by the Amateur Softball Association have shown weekend softball tournaments bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars to communities from participants through their spending for motels, food, gas, shopping etc.

Special Events

Special Events that the Recreation Division offers such as Pink Cheek Fun Run in December, the Clear Lake Triathlon in July, Youth Hershey Track and Field Championships, which have been yearly events for a number of years (in the case of the Pink Cheeks Fun Run 20+ years). These events bring in participants from throughout Western Washington. Weekly All-Comers Track Meets were started in 2002 and totaled approximately 1,000 participants. Howard Miller Steelhead Park concert series and Clear Lake Beach concerts are events started in 2001. The annual “Penguin Dip” is a New Year’s morning plunge into Clear Lake that now attracts around 200 participants annually. Some programs that used to be defined as Special Events have now been redefined into areas such as Tournaments, which skews the comparison from 1996 a bit. Generally, some special events run their cycle and may be dropped (example La Conner Fun Run, Padilla Bay Biathlon etc) for various reasons, with new ones periodically added.



Youth Sports Camps

Youth Camps (generally ages 5-12) focus on the fundamentals, skills, sportsmanship, and fun that prepare young athletes to participate later in competitive or recreational Youth Sports programs should they desire. Youth Camps include various Basketball Camps, Boys Baseball, Girls Softball, Youth Soccer, Golf, Track and Field, Baseball Pitchers, Softball Pitchers. Camps are run at school

(college) and SCPR facilities, with Golf held at a local private course. Camp coaches generally are hired from local school programs (college/high school students as well as school coaches) with Recreation Staff in some cases directed the camps. Program fees offset expenses. Local service clubs and some business are solicited to provide donations with provide low income families to apply for Camp Scholarships.

Overall, Youth Camps have continued to be a strong aspect of the Sports program. Youth Camps increased in participation from 1996 through 2002 by close to 20%. This is a great tribute to the quality of the Youth Camps that the Recreation Division offers with the ever increasing opportunities for the recreation dollar of youth participants. Anacortes, Burlington and Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation Departments all offer programs that somewhat compete (some directly and some indirectly) with what Skagit County Parks & Recreation is offering with its Youth Camps, yet this area continues to show an increase in Participant Hours and Participant Revenue (+33.3% since 1996).

Open Activities

Clear Lake Swim Beach: One acre beach property with restrooms, changing rooms, a concession stand, a basketball court, volleyball court, playground and 100' by 150' swim area with docks and slides. There are additional accessories such as paddle boat rentals, a blow up water dog, and a covered tent that can be rented for birthday parties and private picnics.

The beach is open for supervised (certified life guards) summer activity from Father Day in June through Labor Day weekend. Clear Lake Beach is the only outdoor swim facility in Skagit County with life guards. Other summer staffing includes gate and concession workers, for a total of 8-14 summer staff employed (primarily high school and college students). Daily visitors charged a fee of \$2.00 per day for entry. Fees collected are used to offset the cost of beach summer staff. The remainder of the year Clear Lake Beach is open for the free enjoyment of the citizens of Skagit County free of charge. Swim lessons are also offered in the summer months for a fee and have been very successful.

Recent years have been especially good with a record number of participants and revenue for the Clear Lake Beach in 2002 and 2003, with over \$40,000 in revenue and over 16,000 visitors both years. Contrast to the larges years prior (\$29,000 tops) this is a substantial increase. Concessions have been contributed substantially to the revenue, generating close to 1/3 of total revenue yearly, though limited by not having a regular concession stand (concessions are operated out of the garage area). CLB was upgraded recently with new slides and a water circulation system that is run at night and circulates fresh water into the facility. The beach had been closed some days in prior years due to high bacteria count. Canadian geese have been somewhat of a problem, contributing to the high

bacteria. A high bacterium has not been a problem since installation of the water circulators. Water quality is monitored by the county health department, and received high marks for water quality the past two years.

There are still several improvements that need to be made to this facility for better summer operations. Additional storage is needed for the staff and supplies associated with the summer operation, as well as a permanent concession stand. Staff feels a new concession stand could contribute greatly to the overall beach operations and provide a source for more revenue.

Late Night Open Gyms are offered at various county school gyms. These are open to youth 12 through 18 and have been funded through the state Juvenile Justice Grant. No fees are charged, and equipment and snacks are provided through the grant. Concrete, Burlington, Conway, Sedro Woolley have been regular sites. The future of this funding may be in question as the state has budgetary constraints.

Recreational programs and facilities are divided up into three categories. These three categories are enrichment programs, passive recreation facilities, and active recreational facilities. They are defined as follows:

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Enrichment: Activities educational, social, or cultural in nature.

Classes

A wide variety of ever-changing classes are offered by the Recreation Division such as various levels of Yoga, Weight Conditioning, Sign Language, Karate, Dance, Crafts classes etc. There has been only modest levels of success in this program area, with lack of consistent facilities a hindering factor. Since the department does not have a facility of their own to hold such classes, a variety of facilities are used, including Senior Centers, schools, private facilities etc as available. Costs and lack of consistent availability of suitable facilities limit program offerings. Instructors generally are hired on a contracted basis for classes, with the class instructor being paid a percentage of the program fees revenue after normal expenses such as facility rent and supplies.



Trips

A variety of trips are offered and conducted through the Recreation Division. Sports trips such as Mariner and Seahawk bus trips (large 47 passenger bus) have been very success, with Mariner Trips regularly selling out 4 trips per season. Buses are chartered for these trips with game tickets and bus transportation included in the program cost. These are pretty much adult trips, but youths with parents are allowed. “Thursday in the Park” (TIP) trips are held Thursdays almost year around. The departments 15 passenger bus is generally used for these trips, with women over the age of 50 being the primary patron. Overnight trips are also popular, with trips to Leavenworth, Yakima vineyards etc held.

Best SELF Program

Best SELF program is an acronym that stands for **S**ummer **E**ducation **L**earning & **F**un. Skagit County created the Best SELF program in 1991 through a visionary partnership with Skagit County Government officials, school district administrators and local agencies invested in youth. A collective decision was made to invest seed money, received by the County for the criminal justice system, into a prevention program. By filling the void of summer with enrichment, recreation, education and nutrition the program builds on creating positive factors for at risk students ultimately reducing the potential number of juvenile and criminal offenders over time. A decade later that original investment that served 326 students in two districts grew to serve over 1700 in all seven Skagit County school districts. Twelve years later, Best SELF has become a highly regarded staple in the community.

Program Components

Education, Recreation and Service make up the three components and priorities of the Best SELF program. The educational component of Best SELF has seen positive results, as evidenced by the standardized math and literacy testing process that takes place in the program. Results reflect that the majority of participants not only maintain their learning levels over the summer but actually elevate them. Students return to school in the fall better prepared to learn. Recreational activities support the healthy lifestyle choices and encourage self-esteem through healthy living. Service is in many ways the heart and soul of the program. Staff and students alike are responsible for creating service projects that take them out into the community. Projects with learning objectives imbedded in them serve dual purposes building a sense of community while learning an academic lesson. Through a variety of service projects the community also receives acts of good will and investment from the staff and students. These acts of service build on community pride and ownership that solidify the student’s role in his/her community.



Students

Best SELF is an all-inclusive program that invites all Skagit County youth to participate. However, the sliding fee scale for tuition has ensured accessibility for families who would otherwise have no available options. 85% of Best SELF participating students are eligible for subsidized school meals. Forty percent of all Skagit County families are eligible for subsidized school meals.

Students are often referred to the program by local school districts for help with social, academic or behavioral decline. Many participating students are receiving additional services through DSHS, Special Education, Title I and At Risk Intervention Services.

Special Education	10% of Best SELF student enrollment
Title I	8% of Best SELF student enrollment
English Language Learners	11% of Best SELF student enrollment
At Risk Intervention clients	5% of Best SELF student enrollment
Migrant eligible students	28% of Best SELF student enrollment

Staff

Best SELF hires over 200 employees over the summer. Through rigorous screening and interview processes, qualified staffs are provided summer employment opportunities. Providing summer work experiences for community high school and college aged students helps to contribute to the local economy. Four member teaching teams are hired for each classroom of 25 students. Teaching teams consist of 1 certified teacher, 2 college assistants and 1 high school aide. Up to ten classrooms are hosted at seven different elementary schools throughout the County. Site Directors are hired to act as building principals; they are responsible for facilitating the program and ensuring staff success. A full week of training is provided for all staff prior to serving students. Staff is responsible for meeting program expectations in each of the program components including academics, recreation, and service learning. Best Self has established a role in providing education and passive recreational opportunities in Skagit County. The success of the program adds to the character of Skagit County and is a component of its uniqueness. An Indoor Recreation Center with a multi purpose room would give Best Self the ability to better provide for education and enrichment opportunities.

Use Patterns

Currently, Best SELF hosts 40 classrooms each summer for 7 consecutive weeks. Program hours include 50 per week. Each classroom serves an average of 25 students. As a “summer only” program, Best SELF averages 358,000 participant hours each year. Those hours have decreased over the last three years because as of the increased demand for facility maintenance and the need for school year faculty to report to work earlier. Without a facility to host a program Best SELF has had to reduce the program hours leaving families and participants looking for comparable services. With the recent (2003) partnership and subsequent move into the Parks Department, Best SELF has greater potential to increase year round services through creative collaboration with the recreation division. However available host sites and use of facilities remains a critical and limited component of meeting the service need.

Collaboration

The hallmark of Best SELF’s success is collaboration. School districts provide their facilities, food services and transportation which enable Best SELF to serve more students throughout Skagit County. Workforce Development Council refers youth and adults to work in the program. School districts refer students who may be declining socially or academically and working parents use the program as child care. Successful leveraging of funds is attributed to Best SELF’s collaborative partnerships whereby, facilities, resources, and grant awards are pursued and ultimately help to sustain the subsidized program. The history of collaboration and partnership has merited the program with significant support through granting agencies.

Keeping with the new educational standards, Best SELF has integrated the Washington State Essential Academic Requirements for as academic expectations in the program. Additionally, the program has integrated the stand alone migrant education program thereby consolidating resources and serving the communities needs.

While the program continues to evolve as new trends develop in the community, budget and facility constraints also dictate the level of service that can be provided. In response, active pursuit of educational and programming grants has helped to sustain the program. Obtaining an Office of Child Care license has also allowed eligible families to participate via an Office of Child Care subsidy.

Skagit County demographics have changed significantly since the inception of the Best SELF program, the number of families qualifying for subsidized meals programs in schools has risen to 40%, the Hispanic population has doubled in the last eight years and the influx of migrant families has helped to contribute to the elevated high school drop out rate. These are sobering challenges and realities for Skagit County to address. Filling a service niche for low income and at risk families

Best SELF has begun to address these issues. By creating positive learning and community environments for our students Best SELF nurtures the relationship between the student and their community, through service projects and community building.

A unique program, Best SELF has been replicated in two different Washington state counties; Whatcom and Yakima.

Awards Include:

- National Association of Counties - Multicultural/Diversity Award
- Senator, Patty Murray - Golden Tennis Shoe Award
- Erin J. Johnson Foundation - National Model Program Award

In 2003, Best SELF merged with the Skagit County Parks Department to create greater departmental efficiencies and strengthen both departments by sharing goals and resources. This has been an overwhelmingly positive venture for Best SELF as the goals of both former independent departments are mirrored.

This division will continue its leadership and support for his important public service.

With continued aggressive fund-seeking, the county's financial commitment has been reduced by 50% as compared to 95% funding in the beginning years.

Environmental/Interpretive Learning Center

Skagit County is a hub of environmental learning opportunities. The diverse landscape of coastal Puget Sound waters on the County's west side, to the high mountain wilderness areas to the east, Skagit County boasts the paramount of Pacific Northwest's exemplary beauty. Local business is beginning to spring up throughout the county to find economic benefit from Skagit County's majesty. Eco-tourism, eagle watching, whale watching tours, youth camps, and other tourist trade oriented businesses have opened a need for an Environmental and/or Interpretive Learning Center. This type of facility would better allow businesses to better capitalize on this growing business. With the North Cascades Institute facilities representing the upper reaches of the Skagit River watershed, a prime location for the center would be on Fidalgo Island, the Rockport area, and/or the lower valley/foothill interface. Possible sites include the south end of Fidalgo Island, the NSRA near Sedro Woolley, and Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport. The development of an environmental learning center at Northern State is included on the master plan and its construction may reduce the need for such a facility elsewhere.

PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITIES

Passive recreational activities involve recreational activities that although may be exertive, don't require a field or court and typically doesn't require the use of a ball. Also includes activities which require less energy, such as walking, picnicking, card games, chess, checkers, and similar table games.

Boat Launches

Skagit County provides a number of water access opportunities including Fidalgo Island lakes, The Skagit River, and Puget Sound. In addition to County access, the state and municipalities provide a number of areas to launch watercraft. The popularity of these access points and the growing popularity of boating reveal a shortage of adequate opportunities for watercraft enthusiasts. Also, there has been a decline in the number of water access points along the County Rivers over the last several years due to The Washington State Fish and Wildlife Department decommissioning many of their Boat launches. Lake access is also very important. There is a need for permanent and legal access to a boat launch on Shannon Lake. The overall condition of existing boat ramps is in Skagit County is moderate for area lakes. The condition of boat ramps for saltwater access is also moderate. The condition of boat ramps on local rivers is poor. The reason for poor boat launch conditions on local rivers is partly due to the fact river ramps are much more susceptible to erosion.

Camp Units

Skagit County has numerous lake, rivers, and saltwater shoreline areas which attract outdoor recreational enthusiasts. Numerous agencies in Skagit County provide overnight camping which provide for these recreationalists. According to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), primitive camping is declining in popularity while RV camping is one of the faster growing needs statewide. Also, pre-prepared camping units such as camping cabins and yurts are becoming increasingly popular throughout the Pacific Northwest. Skagit County has only two Adirondack style cabins at Howard Miller Steelhead Park and no yurts within its inventory. Adequate camping areas are clustered on the far west side of the county and distributed sporadically elsewhere. The Rockport area of the North Cascades Scenic Corridor is served adequately. Shortages persist along the majority of the corridor. There is a need for a campground on Lake Shannon. The overall condition of County campgrounds is fair. SCPR campgrounds at Sauk River and Grandy Lake are in need of funding for upgrade. Howard Miller is in need of road improvements. An adequate operation and maintenance fund is needed to properly care for these camp facilities.



Indoor Recreation Center

An indoor recreation center would serve both in an active and passive recreational capacity. Skagit County is limited in its ability to provide for passive recreational opportunities without an Indoor Recreation Center within its confines. Space that was once available for use by the county is no longer accessible due to capacity constraints caused by population growth. Indoor recreational activities such as yoga, knitting, dance, children arts and crafts, basket weaving, beading, puppetry, cultural events, slide presentations, and many other activities for all ages would be available if an Indoor Recreation Center existed within Skagit County. In addition, Best Self is deficient in facility space for youth education, especially in the non-summer months.

Group Picnic Areas

Group picnic areas are needed throughout our community and regional parks. The public has stressed a need for covered facilities with cooking capabilities. Also, there is a need for a picnic shelter on Lake Shannon. Skagit County has replaced a covered picnic shelter at Howard Miller Steelhead Park. Overall condition of local Group Picnic areas is fair.

Public Shoreline

Skagit County basks in the surrounding Puget Sound waters, is drenched with splendid valley rivers, and is peppered with a multitude of lakes. The surrounding waters characterize Skagit County as a unique and beautiful place. The enjoyment of County waters is crucial to its residents. Private landholdings continue to be swallowed up by development and residents are finding fewer places for recreate along the shorelines.

Recreation Trails

Trails continue to be the most requested recreational need in Skagit County. County residents are interested in loop and linear type trails. While numerous trails exist throughout the county, residents like trail systems within walking distances of their homes. Even though trails are prevalent throughout many of the neighboring counties, the number and mileage is inadequately inventoried and accurate comparisons are difficult. Citizens of the county continue to ask for trails that connect regional trail systems. Linear trail systems such as the Centennial and Evergreen trails have missing links and acquisition will be necessary to see them to completion. Trails are relatively cheap to build and maintain. Because of their low cost and popularity, SCPR will continue to provide trails at when opportunities arise. Motorized trails are currently being provided for at an adequate level. The Walker Valley Trails provided by the DNR were closed in the winter of 2002/2003 resulting in a shortage of facilities for local motorized trail enthusiasts. If the closures become a normal occurrence, there will be renewed pressure to accommodate their needs. SCPR will have to continually monitor the Walker Valley situation.

Swimming Pool

Skagit County is deficient in pools for its residents. Anacortes has a multi-purpose pool, there is two small pools in Mount Vernon—one for health club members, and another at the YMCA. Shelter Bay on South Fidalgo Island has two pools for use by their homeowner association. There is a need for a pool to accommodate the people of central and East County. County surveys indicate a strong need for a multi-purpose swimming facility.

ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES

Active recreational activities generally involve a sport court or field and typically require the use of a ball.

Indoor Recreation Center/Gymnasium Space

An indoor recreation center would serve both in an active and passive recreational capacity. Skagit County is limited in its ability to provide for active recreational opportunities without an Indoor Recreation Center within its confines. An indoor recreation center would provide SCPR with the ability to better provide lucrative basketball and volleyball leagues/tournaments and increase important revenue potential.

Population growth has led to a reduction of available indoor recreation opportunities. With youth leagues growth at 25% since 1996, and youth basketball leagues offered year-round, there is a growing deficiency in available gymnasium space. This deficiency is further pronounced during the winter and early spring months when school sports programs are taking place. This has forced Skagit County to schedule games outside of the county. This problem keeps enrollment lower than what it may otherwise be. An indoor recreational facility would provide a year-round facility for youth sports camps and a much needed location for tournaments. In addition, adult volleyball and basketball league enrollment has declined due to a lack of available facilities. Adult sport leagues are a large contributor towards the yearly revenue and further declines will erode County revenue potential.

Senior Baseball Fields

In Skagit County, the senior youth baseball programs are managed by several organizations. This includes Skagit Valley College, the local high school programs, Junior and Senior American Legion, Babe Ruth, Sandy Koufax, and Senior Little League. Although the county is deficient in senior baseball fields, the pressure to build more is being primarily directed toward municipalities. Skagit County currently provides a Senior Baseball facility and is working towards adding another at Northern State. Central and western portions of the county are being adequately served at this time.

The east side of the County has deficiencies. The SCPR provided Dream Field is in excellent condition. To properly maintain the field, resources will need to be continually available.

Adult/Junior Soccer Fields

The soccer program in Skagit County is managed by several organizations. This includes but is not limited to Skagit Valley College, local high schools, Skagit County, municipalities, and private groups. Soccer fields have a lower cost of Maintenance and Operation costs than other facilities and because of this are more abundant. Currently, there are sufficient facilities to meet the demand in Skagit County. A growing Hispanic population may increase the future needs. The condition of the field SCPR provides at Skagit Valley College is good. Grandstands and lights would improve the field and extend its use.

Softball Fields

The softball program in Skagit County is managed by several organizations. This includes but is not limited to Skagit Valley College, local high schools, Skagit County, municipalities, and private tournament providers. Skagit County is a regional provider of Adult Softball leagues in Skagit County with its large and central complex. A need for softball fields exist in sub-regions throughout the county. Skagit County provides 3 lighted fields. A proper Operations and Maintenance fund will have to be established to properly care for The Skagit Playfields

Youth Baseball Fields

In Skagit County, there are several organizations involved in youth baseball. This includes four Little League programs (South Skagit, Burlington-Edison, Sedro-Woolley, and Anacortes) and the YMCA. Currently, the local needs are being met, although the conditions of several fields need improvement. Lighted fields are increasing in demand and are need throughout the county.

Special Use

Special-use facilities are provided by the private and public sectors. SCPR is in the process of establishing a shooting/training range for County gun enthusiasts. Skagit County provides for Snowmobilers by grooming trails. Golf courses are being provided by the private sector and the need is currently being met. Motorized trails are being provided for by state, county and municipalities. Other activities and facilities such as hang gliding, fountain parks, skateboard parks, horseshoe courts, etc. will be continually monitored for status of need.