

Resolution Updating the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan

WHEREAS, Skagit County performs comprehensive parks and recreation planning in order to guide and support future park and recreation programming, create the basis for capital improvement budgets, and to maintain eligibility for grants from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO); and

WHEREAS, the RCO requires that Skagit County's Parks and Recreation Plan (Plan) be updated every six years, be adopted by resolution of the Skagit County Board of County Commissioners, and address the following elements: Goals and Objectives; Surveys and Public Meetings; Level of Service (LOS) Analysis, Use Patterns, Analysis of Needs, Recommendations, and Implementation Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Plan was last adopted in 2013 and is in need of an update; and

WHEREAS, the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board spent the past two years updating the Plan to meet the County's needs, and comply with the RCO requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department and Advisory Board have completed their review of the Plan through a public engagement process, including surveys, LOS comparisons, and public meetings, and the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department and Advisory Board recommends that the Skagit County Board of Commissioners adopt the updated Plan as presently proposed; and

WHEREAS, there will be further opportunities for public review and comment on the Plan in 2020 as the Plan moves through the Skagit County Planning Commission process during the next docketing cycle, and before being adopted by reference into the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Skagit County hereby approves and adopts the updated Skagit County Parks and Recreation Plan (Plan). A full, true, and correct copy of the updated Plan is attached hereto to this resolution, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

PASSED this 3 day of February, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Ron Wesen

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Lisa Janicki

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Attest:

Amber Enos

Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form (Resolution only):

[Signature] 1/30/20
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Approved as to Content:

[Signature]
Department Head

2020

Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan



Skagit County Parks and Recreation
1730 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

SKAGIT COUNTY



Parks and Recreation

January 2020

Bcc-CA-1

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	iv
Executive Summary	vi
Chapter 1 – Introduction	1-1
Chapter 2 – Community Profile	2-1
Chapter 3 – Existing Recreational Facilities	3-1
Chapter 4 – Existing Operations	4-1
Chapter 5 – Goals and Objectives	5-1
Chapter 6 – Surveys and Public Meetings	6-1
Chapter 7 – Level of Service Analysis	7-1
Chapter 8 – Use Patterns	8-1
Chapter 9 – Analysis of Needs	9-1
Chapter 10 – Recommendations	10-1
Chapter 11 – Implementation Strategy	11-1
Appendix A – Open House Comments	AA-1
Appendix B – Public Input Survey Results	BB-1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Skagit County would like to acknowledge all of those individuals who gave their time and energy to developing this Comprehensive Plan.

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE

Brian Adams, SCPR Director

Pauli Mickelson, SCPR Administrative Manager

Tony Tewalt, SCPR Recreation Manager

Timm Manns, SCPR PRAB Member

Jason Benson, SCPR PRAB Member

John Semrau, SCPR PRAB Member

Patrik Dylan, eccosDesign LLC, Consultant

COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Alex Knighton	LaConner	District 1
Jason Benson	Edison	District 1
Mike Elde	LaConner	District 1
Liz- McNett-Crowl	Mount Vernon	District 2
John Semrau	Mount Vernon	District 2
Tim Manns	Mount Vernon	District 2
Chris Allen	Sedro-Woolley	District 3
Kevin Loy	Sedro-Woolley	District 3
Elizabeth Detillion	Sedro-Woolley	District 3

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Brian Adams	Director
Pauli Mickelson	Administrative Manager
Tony Tewalt	Recreation Manager
Mike McCutchin	West County Lead
Rusty Regan	East County Lead
Dave Barber	Parks Maintenance
Erik Rantschler	Parks Maintenance
Scott Perry	Parks Maintenance
Shelby O'Malley	Ranger/Parks Maintenance
Mark Lucas	Parks Maintenance
Patrick O'Brien	Facility Maintenance
Aric Gaither	Fair Coordinator

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS CONTINUED

SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Lisa Janicki	Commissioner	District 3
Kenneth A. Dahlstedt	Commissioner	District 2
Ron Wesen	Commissioner	District 1

SKAGIT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Trisha Logue

SKAGIT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Seat	District	Commissioner
1	1	Kathy Mitchell
2	1	Mark Lundsten
3	1	Ann Marie Lohman
4	2	Amy Hughes
5	2	Joe Woodmansee
6	2	Tim Raschko
7	3	Tammy Candler
8	3	Hollie Del Vecchio
9	3	Marth Rose

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Skagit County Parks and Recreation Plan updates the 2013 plan. It is intended to lay the groundwork for the future of the County park system. The plan inventories existing parks and identifies current and future park needs. It explores potential park development and/or improvements and prioritizes strategies to meet a level of service (LOS) which fits the needs of County residents. The plan also describes existing and potential funding sources that will be needed to meet project needs and maintain park facilities and recreation services. In addition, the plan sets forth several goals and objectives to help guide county staff and elected officials in implementing the park plan.

The plan establishes project priority by analyzing: **1) LOS standards**, which provide service levels from other Washington State Counties and provide guidance in establishing LOS standards in Skagit County; **2) Public Input - Survey and Open Houses**, which provides direct and fundamental information from those who use facilities and programs in Skagit County and indicate facility or program need; **3) Use Patterns**, Review of the Statewide Recreation and Conservation Plan which provides information on statewide trends in recreation and from those who oversee facilities and programs in Skagit County and indicate facility or program need; **4) Other Factors**, which provide a category for integrating other input that should be factored into analysis.

Skagit County grew in population grows at an annual rate of about 1.1% and grew by about 7% between 2013 and 2019. Future projections indicate similar growth may occur during the next 25 years. As a growing rural community with higher densities, there will be an increase in the need for parks and recreational facilities. The changing pattern of projected growth may require that the County's priorities and strategies related to the growth of park and recreation facilities will need to adapt in several ways. As a county parks provider, it's important we anticipate site specific population trends and locate our facilities centrally.

The parks plan includes a discussion of sources available to fund the maintenance and expansion of the County parks system; a system that must meet the growing needs of an increasingly urbanized area. These sources should include a variety of grants, tax revenues, user fees, mitigation fees, state, federal, and private sources. While the plan makes general recommendations regarding specific funding options, it assumes that most existing sources will continue to be available. Other potential sources will allow the County to be flexible and consider future funding options as circumstances evolve. The park plan builds upon historical data to ensure that assumptions regarding projected facility and program needs are realistic.

The park plan contains an inventory of county facilities: parks, recreation, open space areas, trails, and related sites. The inventory is supplemented by a description of other facilities available to County residents; specifically, sites and facilities owned or controlled by state or federal agencies, as well as sites owned by municipalities and school districts. Inventories provide the quantity of facilities but provide no real information as to the condition of the facilities. Inventories on their own aren't sufficient for making adequate comparisons and determining need.

The "level of service" standards used for this plan are derived from an average of three Washington State counties. The counties used for comparison are Whatcom, Snohomish, and Spokane and are aggregated into what is referenced as the "Tri-County Aggregate." Level of Service (LOS) standards are often derived by the number and size of facilities without accounting for the facility conditions. The condition of facilities becomes important for making proper comparisons in service levels. It is one of the reasons SCPR incorporates other factors into the equation when determining priorities.

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 complex. For example, 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 the facility needs 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 are enough fields county-wide. Because of all 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. This level of analysis is handled in the category of "Other Factors."

The focus of this Comprehensive Plan Update is to chart the course for the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department for the next six years. The update will also allow continued SCPR eligibility for Recreational Conservation Office (RCO) grants. A high priority of the plan update is to make sure adequate public facilities that maintain a consistent level of park and recreational services are being provided; and with focus ensure the needs of Skagit County residents are being met. Although challenges may force County Parks and Recreation to deviate slightly from the charted course as outlined in chapter #10, our goal of providing for the people of Skagit County persists. With determination, we are committed to ensuring you have beautiful places to visit and an abundance of places to recreate.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

It is the mission of the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department to provide high quality recreational services, facilities and parks to our customers and the citizens of Skagit County. This is exemplified through professional staff, cost effectiveness, community leadership and customer service.

A strong park and recreation system is essential for a thriving community. Outdoor recreation benefits us as individuals, as well as society as a whole—both mentally and physically. Studies by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) confirm that communities rich in park and recreational activities have less crime, decreased health care and insurance costs, less heart disease, stronger economies, and a healthier environment.

The residents of Skagit County have long valued the beautiful region in which they live. Whether walking the dog at Northern State Recreation Area, playing pickle ball at the new YMCA, or enjoying a picnic at Steelhead Park, our engagement with the natural environment and our neighbors and community in recreational activities is intrinsically valuable. Skagit County residents a wide variety of ways to immerse themselves in a region rich with parks and recreation opportunities.

But there are other benefits as well! Areas with rich park and recreation opportunities enjoy greater benefits from the activities they are engaged in, including the following:

- *Controlling Weight.*
- *Reducing blood pressure.*
- *Decreasing risk for type 2 diabetes, heart attack, and colon cancer.*
- *Reducing symptoms associated with depression and anxiety.*
- *Easing arthritis pain and disability.*
- *Preventing osteoporosis and improving balance.*

Here in Skagit County, we are blessed with a wide variety of outdoor recreation settings—from western Fidalgo and Guemes Island, the wild and scenic rivers, and our eastern alpine cascade meadows—the greater Skagit region is an unrivaled haven of the Pacific Northwest. Countywide, a variety of agencies provide the conduit for accessing our unique geographical oasis. Skagit County Parks and Recreation, with 2400 acres of park land and hundreds of

thousands of annual participation hours in its parks and programs, is a key provider in helping to ensure the availability of passive and active recreational opportunities to people of all ages.

This Park and Recreation Plan update is the primary document for addressing the need for public access to natural areas, providing services to newly established sub areas, and meeting the park and recreational needs of County residents. The park and recreation plan is Skagit County's foundation for the park system of the future. It reflects the changes in both supply and demand for parks since the previous comprehensive plan update (2013). Our primary focus for the next six years is to maintain and improve the recreational infrastructure we currently have, while establishing project priorities for the next six years or more, as depicted in the needs analysis chapter of this comprehensive plan update.

Purpose of the Plan

This plan will redefine policies and establish a sense of direction for Skagit County Parks and Recreation (SCPR) to follow in serving the recreational needs of its residents. The update fulfills grant funding eligibility requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), while establishing goals and objectives which will provide SCPR with central project priorities. The plan provides direction for SCPR in regard to property acquisition, park development, capital improvement planning, and programs for the next six years.

The elements contained in this plan include:

- **An assessment of the community's population and setting**
- **An exploration of existing parks, open space areas and trail facilities**
- **An analysis of existing department operations**
- **An evaluation of recreation and facility needs**
- **Recommendations for the acquisition and development of parks, open space and trail systems**
- **Recommendations related to management, administration, and other aspects of providing park and recreation services**
- **Recommendations for funding and implementing the plan**

PLAN ORGANIZATION

The plan establishes project priority by analyzing: **1) Level of Standards (LOS)**, which describe service levels from other Washington State Counties and provide guidance in establishing LOS standards in Skagit County; **2) Public Input - Survey and Open Houses**, which provides direct and fundamental information from those who use facilities and programs in Skagit County and indicate facility or program need; **3) Use Patterns**, which provides trends in recreation as reported from those who oversee facilities and programs in Skagit County and indicate facility or program need; **4) Other Factors**, which provides other input that should be factored into analysis as well as integrating the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

The initial step was to gather public input by holding “*open house forums*” throughout all regions of the County. The meetings served as a forum for listening to the concerns and desires of County residents. In addition, a survey was developed and distributed electronically to help the public communicate their park needs.

The “*level of service*” standards used for this plan are derived from an average of three Washington State Counties. The counties used for comparison are Whatcom, Snohomish, and Spokane. Level of Service (LOS) standards are often derived by the number and size of facilities without accounting for the facility conditions. The condition of facilities becomes important for making proper comparisons in service levels. It is one of the reasons SCPR is incorporating other factors into the equation when determining priorities.

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 SCPR in formulating plans to better serve County residents. Although the opinion 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 to more adequately decipher County residents’ priorities.

Public Involvement

Public participation in this type of study is critical because local needs vary, depending upon the values local residents place on their region. As a result, public involvement in the planning process was essential and was gathered through various means.

Key Mechanisms

Skagit County Parks receives input from the general public. The flow of input comes in many forms including, but not limited to **Surveys, Public Meetings, and SCPR Staff Input**. In addition there are other arenas such as :

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

Skagit County Parks and Recreation has a 9-member advisory board which meets monthly. The Board reviews acquisitions, makes policy recommendations, develop master plans, and provide input into development projects. Over the next six years, the Park Board will continue to provide a sounding board for the public to provide input about a variety of park issues.

Site Master Plan Processes:

Park sites with significant development opportunities are typically subjected to a master plan process. This process incorporates input from a variety of park users, neighbors, and the general public in developing the future vision for a given park. As such, it is a good vehicle for residents to express their park interests.

Local User Groups:

Skagit County Parks and Recreation staff has contact with their clientele on a daily basis. This contact provides a forum for staff to receive recurring advice, criticism, comments, assessment, analysis, and/or praise from park users. Letters, electronic mail, phone calls, and other types of correspondence come in regularly. This information is often presented and discussed at SCPR staff meetings. This informal type of feedback from the public is taken in earnest and is another piece of the formula which contributes to everyday decisions and long range planning.

CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY PROFILE

Skagit County is located in the northwestern part of Washington, stretching from Puget Sound to the crest of the Cascade Mountains (Figure 2.1). It is bordered by Whatcom County to the north, Okanogan and Chelan Counties to the east, and Snohomish County to the south. Rectangular in shape, the County covers about 1,735 square miles and measures about 24 miles from north to south, and 95 miles from east to west. The City of Mount Vernon serves as its County Seat.



Figure 2.1 Regional Location

Interstate 5 travels north and south, through the County, providing direct and easy linkage to Vancouver, BC to the north, and the Seattle metropolitan area to the south. State Highway 20 (North Cascades Highway) provides west and east linkage through Skagit County. It also provides a major tourist route as it bisects Interstate 5 as visitors travel towards Anacortes and the San Juan Islands to the west or the North Cascades National Park to the east. The east-west configuration of Skagit County is unusually long, with driving distance from Deception Pass (southwest edge of County) to the eastern border measuring 115 miles. Driving distances from Mount Vernon to other destinations are listed in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Distances from Mount Vernon

City	Distance
Anacortes, WA	21 miles
Marblemount, WA	46 miles
Bellingham, WA	30 miles
Seattle, WA	60 miles
Vancouver B.C.	75 miles
Tacoma, WA	92 miles
Winthrop, WA	132 miles
Yakima, WA	193 miles
Portland, OR	225 miles
Spokane, WA	334 miles

Burlington-Northern Railroad utilizes several rail lines in Skagit County for commercial commerce, while Amtrak uses many of the same routes for travel. A large portion of the east-west route is rail-banked and used as a non-motorized transportation route. The Port of Anacortes boasts a natural deep water port, ideally situated for shipping to the Pacific Rim, Canada, and Alaska. Located midway between Seattle and Vancouver they have excellent access to inland transportation. The Port also operates the Anacortes Airport, a small, one-runway facility. The Skagit Regional Airport contains three runways and is located in Burlington. The airport is an important hub for moving people throughout the San Juan Islands. There is also a small airport in Concrete. Most county residents still travel to Bellingham, Everett, Sea-Tac, and Vancouver for most air travel.

NATURAL FEATURES

Moving from west to east in Skagit County, one encounters the leeward islands of the San Juan Archipelago, the broad delta and floodplain of the Skagit River, an extensive valley punctuated by intermittent hills, rolling foothills on up to the glaciated peaks of the North Cascade Mountains. Elevations range from sea level along Skagit County's tidal border, to just over 9,000 feet at the peak of Mount Logan in North Cascades National Park.

The Skagit River is the largest river in the County, and the second-largest in the State. Originating in Manning Provincial Park, British Columbia, it flows about 90 miles through the County to its outlet at Fir Island, just south of Mount Vernon. Major tributaries to the Skagit River include the Cascade, Sauk, Suiattle, and Baker Rivers (Figure 2.2). Approximately 160 miles (almost 35,000 acres) of the Skagit, Sauk, Cascade, Illabot Creek and Suiattle Rivers are included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Other notable rivers in the County include portions of the Samish and Nooksack. Major lakes include Shannon, Cavanaugh, Big, Clear, McMurray, Campbell, Heart and Erie. There are also numerous sloughs throughout the valley, including Wiley and Swinomish. Numerous wetlands adorn the county, along with the waters of Puget Sound including the salt water bodies Padilla, Burros, Similk and Skagit Bays.



Figure 2.2 Major Waters of the Region

Though land conversions have occurred over the last century and a half, Skagit County's landscape remains rich habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including deer, elk, bear, mountain goats, cougar, and numerous birds and small mammals. Species of interest in the County include the Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Marbles Murrelet, Trumpeter Swan, Orca Whale and many more. Anadromous fish species include Chinook, Coho, Sockeye, Silver and Chum Salmon, as well as Shad and Steelhead. Resident fish species include several trout species, bass, perch,

crappie, sturgeon, catfish, and whitefish. Grizzly bear and Gray Wolf are known to inhabit areas of the Cascades.

Western Skagit County's climate is typical of the Puget Sound Trough. Located in the rain shadows of the Olympic Mountains, the county receives a rainfall average of 32 inches per year, less than most other western Washington counties. The average annual minimum temperature is slightly over 40 degrees; the average maximum is about 60 degrees. Summer temperatures typically average 65 to 75 degrees. Marine air moderates temperature extremes in the west portion of the county, with the effect decreasing to the east. Precipitation is lowest in the Fidalgo Island region and increases in the eastern portion of Skagit County.

HISTORY

Prior to historical settlement, eleven Native American groups inhabited the area now known as Skagit County. These groups included the Chobahabish, Kikialius, Nooquachamish, Mesekwigulise, Sbaelech, Misskaiwhwa, Sahkumehhu, Noowhatah, Squinahmish, Swinomish, and Samish. Descendants of these groups have a very significant presence in Skagit County today. The area making up Skagit County was formerly a part of Whatcom County. Skagit became its own county in 1883.

The first non-native people to the area built a small number of cabins on Fidalgo Island in 1858. Settlement spread to the head of Fidalgo Bay, with diking opening the tidal flats to farming. The first trading post was established in the LaConner area in 1867. By 1870, the lower Skagit Valley was seeing the beginnings of full-scale settlement. In 1874, monthly steamboat services began between Seattle and "Skagit City".

In 1890, there was speculation that the Fidalgo Island town of Anacortes would become a terminus for a transcontinental railroad. The conjecture generated a growth boom which increased the town's population from 200 on January 1st to 2000 by mid-March. Although Anacortes never became a terminus, it nevertheless was soon bustling with shingle mills, fish

plants, lumber mills, and a box factory. By 1903, there were four shingle mills, and three sawmills. Sloan's Shipyard on Guemes Island built ships during World War I and employed 600 people in the spring of 1917.

Settlement of the area near and above what we know now as Mount Vernon was limited due to two large log jams on the Skagit River. In 1874, dismantling of the log jams began, opening up portions of the channel to navigation. Ten years later, the channel was fully cleared. Soon the City of Mount Vernon was founded and supported by the local timber industry. By 1889, steamboat service had expanded to no less than 15 boats, which ran between Seattle and Mount Vernon. In 1891, the Great Northern Railway was extended to Mount Vernon.

With navigation of the upper Skagit River possible, timber harvest and mining increased, and settlement expanded into the upriver area. The towns of Sedro (a Spanish reference to the large cedars in the area) and Woolley (named after the founder of a lumber mill) merged to form the city of Sedro-Woolley. By this time, the old growth fir and cedar were being cut and sold at a furious pace and the new town flourished.

An 1882 logging camp was the first development in the Burlington area with several shingle mills soon to follow. By 1891, the railway through the area made Burlington a center of transportation. Lyman was settled in the early 1870's with a lumber mill and shingle mill being its earliest employers. Coal and iron deposits brought Hamilton's first residents, and the lumber industry turned it into an early 1900's boom town, with over 2000 inhabitants.

In 1909, Concrete was founded (yes, named for its principal product), and boasted a cigar factory, stores, theater and confectionery. Concrete boasted the State's largest cement plant until it's closing in 1968. The Superior Cement Plant supplied almost half of the cement for the Grand Coulee Dam, as well as materials for other nearby dams.

Rockport was founded in 1901 and served as the terminus of the rail line from Anacortes. It was a popular stop-over during the construction of Diablo and Ross Dams. Marblemount began

as a tent saloon (and later trading post) during the gold rush of the 1890's. Many miners came upstream by canoe to prospect along the Skagit River and the mountains above the Cascade River. Silver devaluation brought an end to that era for the community.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

According to the US Census, county and state population, growth rates have fluxuated. Growth in Skagit County has in large outpaced state-wide growth (Table 2.2).

Table 2.2: Historical Population Growth, 1980 - 2018

Area	1980	1990	Percent Change (1980-1990)	2000	2010	Percent Change (2000-2010)	2018	Percent Change (2010-2018)
WA State	4,132,253	4,866,692	18%	5,894,121	6,724,540	14%	7,530,552	12%
Skagit County	64,138	79,555	24%	102,979	116,901	14%	125,619	7.5%
Anacortes	9,013	11,451	27%	14,557	15,778	8%	16,953	7%
Burlington	3,894	4,349	12%	6,757	8,388	24%	8,783	5%
Concrete	592	735	24%	790	705	-11%	729	3%
Hamilton	283	228	-19%	309	301	-3%	309	3%
LaConner	660	656	-1%	761	891	17%	939	5%
Lyman	285	275	-4%	409	438	7%	468	7%
Mount Vernon	13,009	17,647	36%	26,232	31,743	21%	35,051	10%
Sedro Woolley	6,110	6,031	-1%	8,658	10,540	21%	11,838	12%
Total (Cities)	33,846	41,372	22%	58,473	68,784	18%	75,070	9%

The US Census provides information for areas within counties, called subdivisions. Skagit County has been divided into many such areas, 8 of which are shown in Figure 2.3.



Figure 2.3: Census Tracts

Average household income in Skagit County was about \$54,000 in 2010 and \$56,000 in 2018. Average national household income in 2018 is about \$59,000. State and National household incomes increased annually since the local recession in the 1980's, but then declined with the national average in 2008 corresponding with the "Great Recession".

Age distributions are important because age is a major determinant of recreation interests and levels of participation within a county. In general, as a population ages, relative participation in active or competitive recreation activities declines. Overall, youth (younger than 18) tend to participate more frequently than any other age group, and tend to favor more strenuous and competitive activities, relative to other age groups. Young adults (ages 18 to 34) are also active, and form the core of adult competitive sports.

Adults (ages 35 - 64), on the other hand, appear to have less time to devote to recreational activities. They tend to maintain their homes and jobs more. Recreational time is at a premium and often limited to weekends and occasional evenings.

The senior population (age 65 and over) has more available time for recreation. As a group, they tend to favor more passive activities, such as walking, gardening, picnicking, boating, and swimming.

As shown in Table 2.3, Skagit County has a decrease in the younger demographic over the last 10 years, while the population of those 45 and over is increasing. The median age in Skagit County was 38 in 2000, 37 in 2010, and 41 in 2018.

Table 2.3: Age Distribution in Skagit County, 2000 - 2017

	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age	of People	of Total	of People	of Total	of People	Of Total
Group	2000	2000	2009	2009	2017	2017
Under 20	30,099	29.2%	32,059	27%	30,584	24%
20 - 44	33,573	32.6%	44,183	37.6%	44,038	35%
45 - 59	20,036	19.5%	14,744	12.4%	16,818	13%
60 and over	19,271	18.7%	27,347	23%	34,179	28%

As shown in Table 2.4 below, Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic group in Skagit County.

Table 2.4: Ethnic Distribution in Skagit County, 2010-2017

Ethnic Group	Number of People 2010	Percent of Total 2010***	Number of People 2017	Percent of Total 2017***
TOTAL	115,231		121,100	
White	102,410	89%	105,866	87%
Black	1,734	1.5%	1,763	1.4%
Asian and Pacific Islander	3,392	3%	5,069	4.2%
Native American/Alaskan Native	3,578	2%	3,929	3.2%
Hispanic Origin (Can be of any race)	17,995	15.6%	21,851	18%

***totals do not equal 100% as race was reported alone or in combination with one or more other races

Source: factfinder.census.gov

Despite recent economic diversification, Skagit County's economy remains heavily resource dependent, with primary sectors being agriculture and food processing, lumber and wood products, oil refining, tourism, retail, and marine-related industries (fishing, processing, boat building and repair). The unemployment rate was over 15 percent from 1981-1987, but has remained less than 10 percent since. The 1995 jobless rate was 8.9 percent; in 2000 it was 6.8 percent, and 9 percent in 2011. In May of 2018, the Skagit County unemployment rate was at

5.0% with the State rate hovering at 4.7%. Historically, the Skagit County unemployment rate has generally been slightly higher than the Washington State average.

POPULATION GROWTH

In most communities, one of the primary elements affecting recreation demand is population growth. Table 2.5 shows county population for the year 2010 and forecasts through 2035. As shown, population growth is expected to remain near its current rates. In relative terms, Skagit County is expected to grow at a much higher annual rate than the State of Washington. State-wide growth is projected to grow at an approximate annual increase of 1.1 percent between 2010 and 2020, with projected County growth averaging above 2 percent. The Skagit County population is expected to grow at roughly twice the rate of the State during the next 12 years.

Table 2.5 Population and Projected Increases

Year	Total Population	Average Annual Increase
2018	125,619	--
2020	130,600	2%
2025	144,200	2%
2030	159,300	2%
2035	178,800	2%

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Parks and recreation bring people together, connecting them with nature, their community, and each other.

Parks provide an important framework for the community. Our parks, open spaces, and recreation programs help us in maintaining a full and meaningful life, keeping us healthy, reducing our stress, and promoting positive social interactions. Participating in leisure activities and enjoying nature provide us with a way to alleviate life's stressors.

SCPR PARKS

Skagit County Parks and Recreation (SCPR) owns and/or manages 2235 acres of parkland, both developed and undeveloped. SCPR managed parklands provide opportunities for active recreation, lands for leisure activities, facilities for events and habitat for wildlife. They range from small neighborhood parks to large areas of open space, representing the many unique recreational opportunities available to the citizens of Skagit County and its visitors.

Table 3.1
Summary of Park and Recreation Areas in Skagit County
Skagit County

(source: SC UGA Open Space Plan, B-47)

Agency	Acres
Cities and Towns within Skagit County:	3,799
Skagit County Park System	2,235
State of Washington	18,602
National Forests/Parks:	555,200
Other Agencies	473
Total	580,158

PARK ADDITIONS SINCE 2013 PLAN

Since the last plan, SCPR has worked to add to the existing park inventory in a meaningful and sustainable manner. The following facilities were either added or expanded.

Centennial Trail	9 acres
Pressentin Park - (added to existing)	6 acres
Tursi Trail	2.5 acres
Padilla Bay Shore Trail	1 acres

In addition, Skagit County has completed these projects since 2013:

Northern State Recreation Area: We have paved the Helmick Road parking lot and improved trails. Grants have been acquired to bring in waterlines, septic systems, create a mile of ADA trail, add a restroom, and build the Veterans Plaza.

Centennial Trail: All properties have been acquired to connect Big Rock to Clear Lake. The plans are being engineered and permits are being obtained to place two miles of trail.

Sares Bluff Trailhead: The trails have been expanded to include a southern loop trail. The Washington Trails Association has made improvements to the trails and a connection to Rosario Beach is being sought.

Clear Lake Beach Park: The park has been completely renovated with a new bathroom, expanded lawn area, and improved fencing.

Skagit Playfields: All fields have new drainage, dugouts, backstops, fencing, and bleachers. The parking lot will need to be chip-sealed and restriped.

Howard Miller Steelhead Park: The infrastructure of the park is being updated to meet the growing demands of the park users.

Evergreen Trail: The Tursi Trail was completed in 2016 allowing us to complete the longest reigning project in our comprehensive plan.

Cleveland Park: The playground equipment was updated to be ADA compliant and safer for all users.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

SCPR park land is classified by the way it serves its users, which may include size, service area and type of use. Tables 3.2 through 3.5 list all 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

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	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Restrooms	Showers	Soccer	Hiking/Jogging	ADA	Reservations
Burlington-Sedro-Woolley Trail	7	sc							x							x	x	
Cascade Trail (23 mi.)	301	sc							x	x			x			x		
Centennial Trail	81	sc							x									
Conway Park	7	sc	x		x			x	x			x				x		
Grandy Lake	22	sc			x	x		x	x	x			x					
Howard Miller Steelhead Park	110	sc		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x
Northern State Recreation Area	726	sc						x	x	x	x		x			x		
Padilla Bay Shore Trail (4 mi.)	11	Sc /p							x	x			x			x	x	
Pomona Grange & Trail	17	sc		x					x	x			x			x	x	x
Samish Beach Access	2	p							x									
Sauk Park	30	sc				x		x	x	x			x			x		
Skagit Valley Playfields	30	p	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, and smaller than regional parks. They can 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. Passive recreational development includes boardwalks, nature trails, picnicking facilities, shelters, park benches, picnic tables, environmental, cultural or historical interpretive facilities, and parking. Natural areas include streams, wetlands, forestlands, or a unique natural feature.

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									x		x			
Donovan Park	3	sc		x				x	x	x	x	x				x	
Campbell Lake Boat Launch	3	p			x			x	x	x		x					
Tursi Trail	2.5	sc							x	x					x		
Clear Lake Beach Park	1	sc		x			x	x	x	x	x	x				x	
Lake Erie Boat Launch	1	p			x			x	x	x		x					
Schoolhouse Park-Guemes	4	sc	x	x			x		x	x	x	x		x			
Samish Island Park	2	sc	x	x			x		x	x		x				x	

sc = Skagit County Owned

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

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. Active uses may include basketball, tennis or playgrounds. Passive uses include open areas. Age appropriate needs of the surrounding neighborhood, such as play equipment, should be emphasized at a neighborhood park.

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					X	

sc = Skagit County Owned

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

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. Open space parks may also feature natural or conservation areas. They may also function as a greenbelt or view shed with no public access.

Table 3.5: Open Space & Undeveloped Parks

Open Space & Undeveloped Parks Quick Guide	Acres	Ownership	Barbecues	Boat Launch	Camping	Courts	Fishing	Nature Area	Picnicking	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Restrooms	Hiking/Jogging	ADA	Reservations
Big Rock (Hoag Memorial Park)	13	sc						x							
Cascade Park	41	sc						x							
Frailey Mountain Park	400	sc					x	x	x				x		
Ann Wolford Park	33	sc					x	x	x						
Pilchuck Forest Trail	81	sc						x					x		
Pressentin	54	sc						x	x	x			x		
Centennial Corridor	45	sc						x							
Rexville Rock Overlook Park	.5	sc						x							
Sharpe Park/Montgomery-Duban Headlands	115	sc	x				x	x	x			x	x		
Squires Lake Park and Trail	57	Sc /p						x	x			x	x		

sc = Skagit County Owned

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

SPECIAL USE PARKS OR FACILITIES

These park lands are acquired to provide for park activities that have specific needs that may or may not be compatible with typical park use. Examples include land acquired for development as a golf course, off-road vehicle facilities, or for regional events. The Skagit County Fairgrounds is a good example of a Special-Use Facility. The facility is used for special events, including the Skagit Fair, SICBA Home Show, MS Bike Ride, Master Gardener Plant Sale, and many other community occasions and gatherings.

Special Use Facilities 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
Fairgrounds	20	sc								X			X				X	X

EXISTING PARK INVENTORY

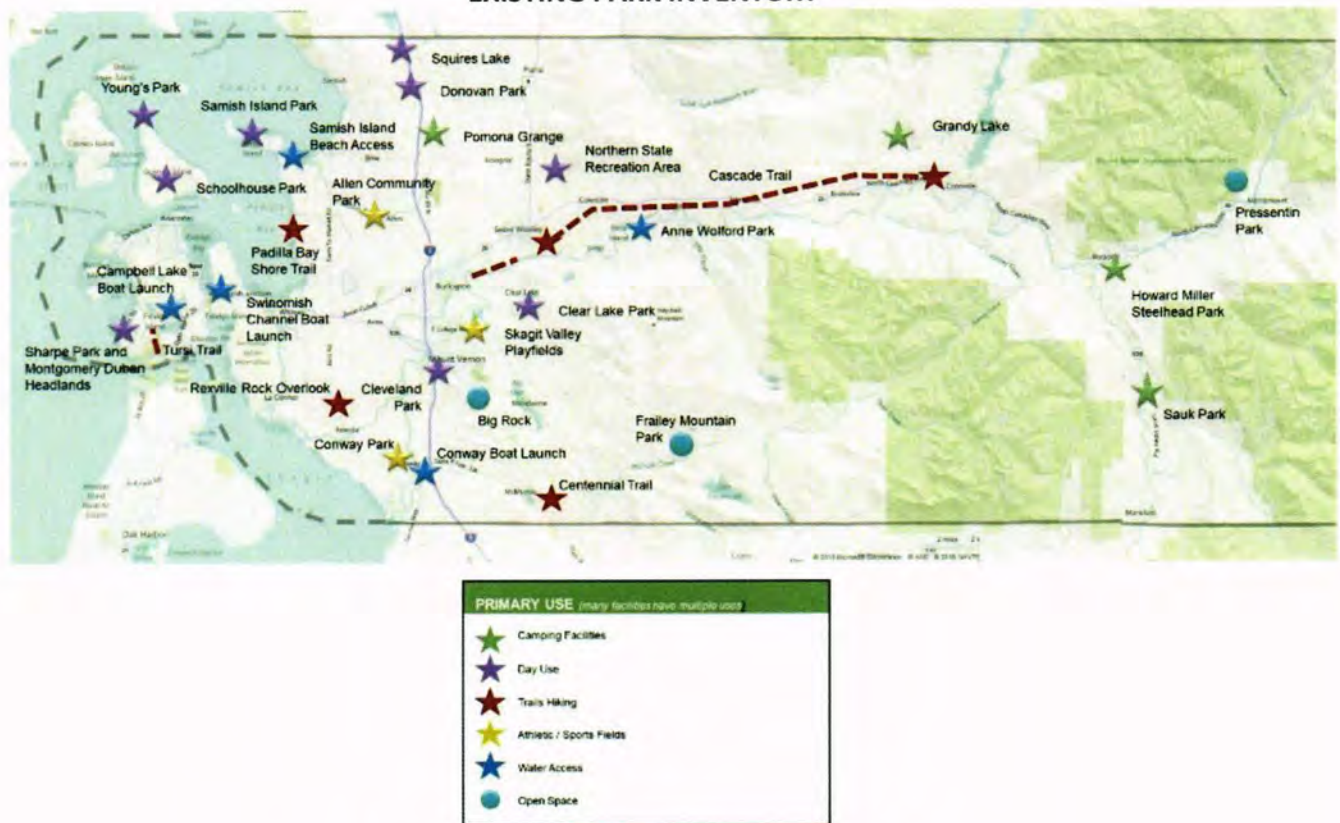


Figure 3.1: Park Locations in Skagit County

SCPR'S REGIONAL PARKS

Burlington to Sedro-Woolley Trail

Three miles of hiking/jogging trail covering 7 park acres. This linear trail divides Highway 20 and the Burlington Northern Railway and provides for recreational and non-motorized transportation. Portions of the trail are asphalted. Completing the connection to the Cascade Trail is a goal of both Skagit County and the Sedro-Woolley Parks and Recreation Departments.



Campbell Lake Boat Launch

This 3 acre site contains a boat launch, parking, vault restroom facility and day-use area. The park is part of a partnership between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and SCPR. The WDFW maintains the boat launch, parking area and vault toilet, while SCPR mows the grass and empties the garbage. Permits have been obtained to replace the launch, pave the parking area, and add a day-use shelter.



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. The trail is open year-round, meandering along the Skagit River and through the farmlands. Viewpoints along the way provide for wildlife viewing opportunities. Trail amenities include portable toilets at trailheads and rest areas. The trail encompasses 300 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 by the county. Skagit PUD and SCPR are partnering on a project to extend a waterline and create three miles of trail. In all, the trail system is contained along 81 acres of county parkland.



Donovan Park

This site is 3 acres large and is located on Friday Creek, in the Alger area. It is very popular with local communities, especially in the summer months. The park includes a picnic area, barbeques, a playground, vault toilet, and parking.



Grandy Lake Park

This primitive camping site is located off Baker Lake Road about five miles northwest of Highway 20. It is enjoyed by hunters, anglers, picnickers, and campers. Camping is seasonal. A group camp can be reserved. The Scott Paper Timber Company donated this 22-acre site on December 18, 1979, to be used solely for public recreational purposes.



Howard Miller Steelhead Park

This 110-acre campground and natural area is at the doorstep of the Cascade Mountains in Rockport. The park has a historical display of the old Rockport ferry, homestead cabin, and dug-out canoe. Bird watching, rafting, and fishing are very popular activities in and around the park. Steelhead park has a substantial shelter for entertaining large gatherings. Facilities include: 7 Tent sites, 54 full hook-up sites, 2 Adirondacks, 2 camping cabins, 3 restrooms (two have showers), a clubhouse, a seasonal interpretive center, and a waste station. Most of the park is open space lands with nature trails.



Lake Erie Boat Launch

This site is 1 acre. It has a boat launch, parking area, vault toilet, and bankside fishing. The park is part of a partnership between the WDFW and SCPR. The WDFW maintains the boat launch and lake, while SCPR provides turf management and waste removal services.



Northern State Recreation Area

Northern State Recreation Area is a 726 acre park northeast of Sedro- Woolley. In 2001, a Masterplan was created for long-range goals of trails, ball fields, campground, equestrian center, environmental education and interpretation sites, and a restored alluvial fan as sediment storage and salmon habitat. In 2018 the construction of Veterans Park as NSRA was begun with the installation of utilities and a picnic shelter. Natural resources on the site include Hansen Creek with associated wetlands and tributaries and Red Creek. Over 500 acres of the site will remain undeveloped to support wildlife.



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 among SCPR, Dike District 13, and the Department of Ecology. Hunting is allowed from the trail.



Pomona Grange Park

A 17-acre park bordered by Friday Creek and the state fish hatchery, this park is used as an outdoor classroom for students. There is an interpretive nature trail, portable toilets, living roof kiosk, picnic shelter, BBQ, and picnic tables.



Samish Island Beach Access

The Beach Access on Wharf Street is very popular during the summer months for accessing shellfish beds, especially during minus tides. This site has become increasingly well known among birders as a place to see a variety of wintering marine bird species, including some that are fairly rare. The parking is limited and access is by a marine-grade stairway. Park visitors are asked to respect the neighboring properties.



Sauk Park

A primitive 30-acre overnight camping park (May 1 - Oct 31). There are magnificent views, fishing, natural areas, a picnic area, hiking and portable toilets, as well as Sauk River frontage.



Skagit Valley Playfields

This 25 acre park in the backyard of Skagit Valley Community College has 4 softball fields, a senior league baseball field, one soccer field, BBQ's, picnicking, picnic shelter, playground, restrooms, concessions building, jogging/hiking trail, and ADA access.



Twin Bridges Boat Launch

This 3 acre park is located below the twin bridges on SR 20. It is a popular launching point for crabbing, fishing, gunk-holing, or island hopping. The park has a picnic area, restrooms, a large parking area, a dock and two boat ramps. The dike across the channel is being promoted for use as a birding trail. The dike along the channel's west side interfaces with Tribal farmlands and is a prime viewing area for waterfowl, including Snow Geese and Trumpeter Swans.



Young's Park

This park is located at the northern shoreline 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, a trail, 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. The site is maintained in partnership with the Burlington School District. It includes primitive youth softball fields, youth baseball fields, soccer fields, two parking areas and a portable restroom. The field also provides a practice facility for lacrosse.



Clear Lake Beach Park

Clear Lake Beach is open year-round. Park amenities include a fishing pier, BBQ grills, picnic shelter, playground, and restrooms. The lake boasts a diversity of fish, including Rainbow and Cut-Throat Trout, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, and Catfish. It's a popular place for splashing and sunbathing during the warm summer months.



Conway Park & Conway Ball Fields

This park is located adjacent to the bridge over the South Fork of the Skagit River near Conway. It has 3 acres of Little League ball fields on the South Fork Skagit River frontage, a boat launch, fishing, a picnic area and a seasonal restroom. The boat launch is very popular during fall salmon migrations. It is the furthest downstream maintained boat launch with parking available on the South Fork of the Skagit River.



Schoolhouse Park

This park is located near the intersection of Guemes Island Road and Eden's Road. A former school site, Skagit County took ownership in 1978. It contains an ADA accessible playground, a picnic shelter, tennis court, youth baseball field, grass volleyball court, basketball court, a Philip McCracken sculpture, parking, and an outdoor stage.



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 by 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, picnicking area, and a playground. The park provides parking for large events at the fairgrounds and a place for the neighboring guests from the senior center to enjoy the outdoors.



SCPR'S OPEN SPACE & UNDEVELOPED PARKS

Big Rock: Richard M. Hoag Memorial Open Space Park

Approximately 13-acres of rocky hilltop amid surrounding lowlands. There are beautiful 360 degree views from the top. The property desperately needs safe and reliable access which we are actively pursuing with the Skagit Land Trust. To the native Noo-quah-chamish people this rock pinnacle was of special significance and legend.



Cascade River Park

The forest of this park was harvested more than twenty years ago. The land is bisected by the Cascade River and could be an important place for trails and river access in the future. The riverfront parcel is comprised of 40-acres of natural area parkland. The land was replanted and is regenerating nicely.



Frailey Mountain Park

This park is 400 acres in size and was acquired for use as a shooting and training range. The open space lands are surrounded by DNR lands and are managed under the condition of recreational use.



Tursi Trail

The Tursi Trail concept arose from a long-time vision of connecting Deception Pass with the Anacortes Community Forestlands. In partnership with the Skagit Land Trust, the vision has come to fruition. The access easements and trails were completed in 2016. The trail meanders past an old mine shaft, the largest tree on Fidalgo Island, and incredible vistas.



Pilchuck Forest

This 81-acre property was managed as timberland before being donated to Skagit County. The property through the lower basin is primarily deciduous with tall cottonwood, numerous willow and alder, and along the upper terrace, scattered evergreens. A portion of the Centennial trail corridor meanders through the property. This is prime mitigation property as it has significant wetland function and value.



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 Rock Overlook

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. There is adequate area for a small parking area, trail, and viewing platform.



Sharpe Park /Montgomery-Duban Headlands

A loop trail of 2 ½ miles throughout 115 acres of natural open space featuring excellent wildlife and scenic viewing opportunities as it meanders along an open wetland and on to a rocky bluff. The park contains a picnic area, benches, hiking, and toilets.



Squires Lake Park

A 57 acre day-use hiking trail wrapping around Squires Lake. The park is managed through a greater partnership agreement with Whatcom County Parks and Recreation. There are hiking trails, respites, foot bridges, and wetlands.



Ann Wolford Park

This 33-acre County park was the result of a partnership between Skagit Land Trust and Skagit County. Located just west of Lyman, this property along the Skagit River protects important existing salmon habitat and provides recreational river access to our community.



COUNTYWIDE RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

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.

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. Many 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 25 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 40 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 20 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. There has been expressed interest in having picnic shelters of various sizes at most Skagit County Parks.

Currently, there is a total of 20 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 are limited to 2 Public Swimming Pools.

Outdoor Swimming Areas:

Skagit County no longer provides for sanctioned swimming at Clear Lake. Numerous lakes throughout the county present unsanctioned summer swimming opportunities for people who choose to swim at their own risk.

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 owned and managed by a variety of agencies.

Public Shoreline:

There are 17 locations for saltwater shoreline access 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 30 shoreline access points on Skagit County waters.

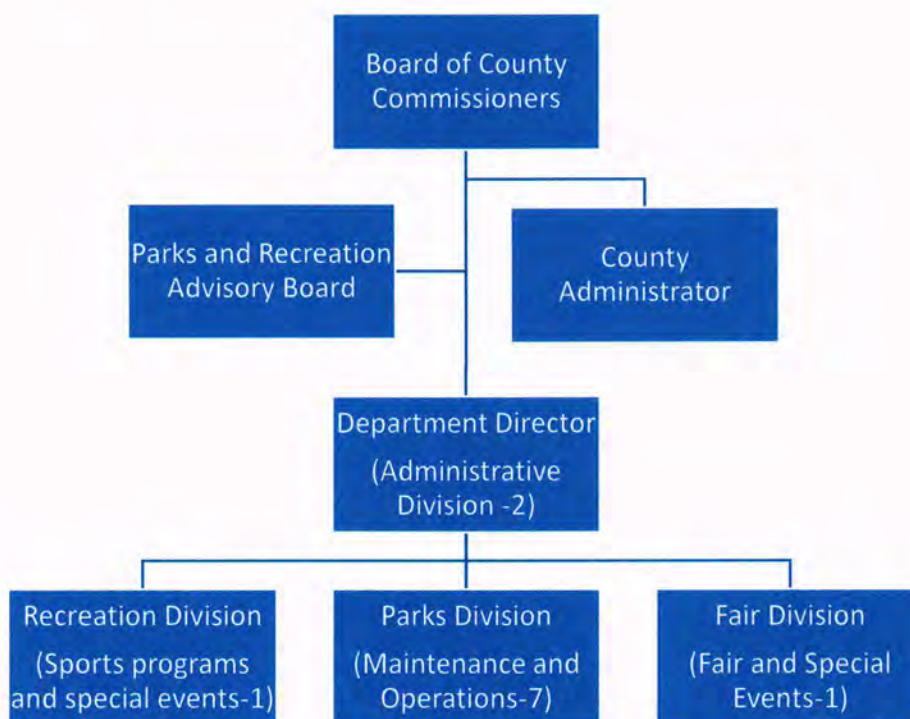
CHAPTER 4: EXISTING OPERATIONS

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department was established by the Board of County Commissioners in 1964 to provide a formal means of facilitating activities and opportunities for the residents of Skagit County. The department hired its first parks director in 1974. The Department Director reports to both the Skagit County Administrator and Board of County Commissioners. The Director is responsible for planning and administering the park and recreation programs, as well as the operations of the Fairgrounds.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was created in 1964 by Commissioner resolution to assist the Director by reviewing and recommending policies related to Parks and Recreation facilities and operations. The Advisory Board has three representatives from the three County Districts.

The Parks and Recreation Department is outlined below:



**Figure 4.1: Parks, Recreation and Fair Structural Chart and number of full time employees
Parks and Recreation Department**

Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department (SCPR) currently employs 11 full-time employees. This is a significant decrease from staff levels prior to the 2009 recession. The 2003 comprehensive plan indicates a peak of 21 full time employees in the parks and recreation division, with 2 additional full-time employees staffing the Fairgrounds. In addition to fulltime staff, there are generally a dozen part-time employees assisting operations during the summer months. SCPR supplements full-time and part-time staff with over 250 contracted employees over the course of a calendar year. Contract employees are responsible for temporary functions, including refereeing basketball, umpiring baseball, staffing events, and assisting programs.

ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

The Administration Division is responsible for overseeing personnel, purchasing, contract administration, budget and the management and supervision of the other divisions. This division is also involved with planning, acquisition, design, development, special projects, grant preparation, and coordination of capital projects.

PARKS DIVISION

The Parks Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of existing County Park and Recreation facilities. The Division is also responsible for the purchase and upkeep of maintenance materials, equipment and vehicles, fee collection at county park sites and park security.

RECREATION DIVISION

The Recreation Division manages the County's recreation program, including youth and adult sports leagues and tournaments, youth skills camps, and other activities. SCPR uses every available facility in the area for their athletic activities, including courts at the Skagit Valley College, local school district gyms, the YMCA, and various other private and public facilities. Programs offered operate on a balanced budget without any reliance on the general fund. That is, program fees entirely offset all program expenses. In some cases, adult programs recover revenue above operating costs and help subsidize youth programs which may not have full cost recovery.

FAIR DIVISION

The Fair Division manages the fairground activities. In addition to the annual County Fair, there are other events, including those managed by outside entities. Fair staff hosts two “barn market” type events and as lessors, oversees the annual Home Show, MS Bike Ride, Garden Sale, and other events. The Fair ran a 150k-200k deficit annually prior to 2010. The Fairground budget has been unsubsidized since 2010 and has created a substantial cash reserve that is being used to renovate/replace buildings and rebuild failing infrastructure.

OPERATING BUDGET FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

The gross expenditure for park and recreation services averaged approximately 1.80 percent of the County's overall budget prior to the 2009 recession and dropped to 1.06 percent by 2019. To put this in some context this budget number is compared to Whatcom, Snohomish and Spokane counties.

Whatcom and Snohomish are referenced as they are adjacent to the north and south of Skagit County, while Spokane County is used as it is a mixture of urban and rural communities similar to Skagit. By comparison to other counties that provide park and recreation services, Skagit County has a smaller percentage of funds dedicated to this purpose. For example, for 2019 the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Department budget represented 4.6 percent of the overall Snohomish County expenditures. The Whatcom County Parks and Recreation department represented 1.8 percent of that county's overall expenditures, and the Spokane County Parks and Recreation budget represented 1.4 percent of its county's total expenditures. For 2019, these three county park budgets average 3.7 percent of their overall county expenditures compared with Skagit County's 1.1 percent. That being noted, some rural counties have chosen not to fund a parks and recreation department. Unlike public health and law enforcement, Washington State law does not consider parks and recreation an essential service.

Table 4.1: Parks Operating Budget to Total County Expenditures - 2019

Area	2019 Park and Rec Expenditures	2019 County Expenditures	Percentage of Park Expenditures to County Expenditures
Spokane County	\$2,586,994	\$184,058,315	1.4 %
Snohomish County	\$44,990,292	\$983,128,172	4.6 %
Whatcom County	\$4,383,264	\$243,653,253	1.8 %
Tri-County Average	17,320,183	470,279,913	3.7%
Skagit County	\$1,737,081	\$163,689,906	1.1 %

COST OF PARK AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Another means of analyzing an agency's level of park and recreation services is to compare operating costs on a per capita basis. The gross cost per capital is the total cost of the services divided by the number of persons in the service area. However, this is not necessarily the true cost to the taxpayer, because it does not reflect the net cost after revenue is deducted. Both costs are shown below for Skagit County in 2019. This assumes a 2019 county population of 125,690 persons. Table 4.2 shows gross expenses going up by 4.3 percent per year but net expense only increasing by 2.9 percent. This is due to revenue increases outpacing expenses.

Table 4.2: Parks and Recreation Cost Per Capita - 2010 - 2019

<u>Item</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Yearly Percent Change 2010-2019</u>
Gross Expenses	\$1,212,806	\$1,737,081	+2.6%
Net Expenses (after program fees, campground revenue and other income)	\$717,702	\$920,548	+1.5%

Table 4.3: Park Revenue Comparison - 2010 and 2019

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Percent Change 2010-2019</u>
Swinomish Launch	\$26,095	\$26,654	+2.1%
HMSP	\$169,154	\$244,981	44.8%
Fairgrounds	\$344,006	\$ 491,180	42.8%
Grandy Lake	\$10,068.	\$18,967	88.4%
Sauk Park	\$4,515	\$6,562	45.4%
Recreation	\$317,198	\$540,158	70.3%
TOTAL (All Activities)	\$860,979	\$1,328,502	+54.3%

RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Skagit County offers a wide range of recreation activities, using its own buildings as well as school and college facilities. The tables below (4.4 and 4.5) summarize recreation participation levels and revenues generated. The numbers represent participant hours," meaning one person participating in one activity in hours. For example, one person participating in an activity for 4 hours equals 4 participant hours.

Table 4.4: Recreation Participation Hours Comparison - 2010 - 2019

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Percent Change</u> <u>2010-2019</u>
Adult Leagues	169,737	128,198	-24%
Youth Leagues	114,670	225,457	+97%
Tournaments	54,931	59,327	+8.0%
Special Events	8,392	0	N/A
Youth Camps	9,718	7,567	-22%
TOTAL (All Activities)	357,448	420,549	+18%

Table 4.5: Recreation Revenue Comparison - 2010 and 2019

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Percent Change</u> <u>2010-2019</u>
Adult Leagues	\$118,816	\$ 87,140	-27%
Youth Leagues	\$98,672	\$196,410	+99%
Tournaments	\$43,945	\$ 48,885	+11%
Special Events	\$13,986	0	NA
Youth Camps	\$21,596	\$16,175	-25%
TOTAL (All Activities)	\$297,015	\$348,610.00	+17.0%

SUMMARY

Participation in recreation programs and activities since 2010 has increased by 18 percent while revenues have increased approximately 17 percent. Revenues for recreational activities continue to slightly outpace expenditures.

No general fund dollars are used to subsidize the recreation division. Informal polls taken by the Washington Recreation and Parks Association indicate no other recreation department across Washington State touts this accomplishment.

Skagit County Parks and Recreation's overall expenses for the department remain below the 2008 pre-recession level and have increased by about 3 percent per year since 2010.

The Fair division also remains unsubsidized since 2010.

CHAPTER 5: SCPR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department to provide high quality recreational services, park facilities, and open spaces to our residents and visitors of Skagit County. This is exemplified through community leadership, customer service and professional staff.

A. Vision and Overall Goal:

- Provide a wide variety of well organized, cost effective, community enriching, and valued recreation programs for all Skagit area residents.
- Develop, renovate, and acquire a system of parks, recreational facilities, and natural areas that are attractive, safe, functional, and accessible to citizens and visitors of Skagit County.

B. Priority Goals:

Skagit County residents value the many benefits of parks and recreation. It is important for the public to connect with the outdoors and our natural environment, while providing for passive and active recreation activities for our community. This is done by acquiring, maintaining, and/or preserving a network of parks that provide diverse recreational opportunities for all residents.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION GOALS

Provide the support and leadership necessary for all staff to conduct excellent work within the Parks, Recreation & Fair missions.

Director Objectives:

- Create and facilitate a unified department whereby all divisions (Parks, Recreation, and Fair) are linked through a central mission of the Parks and Recreation department.
- Empower and lead department personnel to achieve professional success.
- Listen and respond to the needs and concerns of the community as it relates to Parks and Recreation issues.
- To ensure financial integrity of the department that encourages fiscal discipline.

- Seek and create departmental efficiency by pursuing additional funding sources.
- Promote a vision of the Parks and Recreation department to meet the needs and interests of our community.
- Encourage community support through positive and responsive image of the Skagit County Parks and Recreation department.

Administrative Management Objectives:

- Ensure successful facilitation of division goals and expectations.
- Maintain quality control in all aspects of the Department.
- Provide support, guidance and staff development for division personnel.
- Develop and maintain protocols and procedures necessary to meet County government directives and public expectations.
- Develop and maintain new programs and events in response to department goals.

Administrative Services Objectives:

- Provide professional and accessible customer service to the public and in a professional, competent and timely manner.
- Adhere to county procedures and protocol in performing day to day support functions that include but are not limited to customer service, registration, scheduling, payroll, purchasing, and community coordination.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING GOALS

Develop, renovate, and acquire a system of parks, trails, recreational facilities, and natural areas that are attractive, safe, functional, and accessible to all residents of Skagit County.

Project Planning Objectives:

- Work with citizens to clearly identify opportunities for improvements and new facilities.
- Develop multi-year plans that can be realistically implemented and funded.
- Incorporate community input throughout project development and planning.
- Identify regional standards and trends in recreation for consideration in park planning.
- Engage in ongoing dialogue with city, state, and federal government to insure a coordination of policy plans, goals, and objectives.

Project Implementation:

- Complete capital projects in a timely manner and within budget and scope.
- Use parks operation staff where feasible to provide project cost saving.
- Help sustain local economic interests by not duplicating services that are being met by the private sector.

Community Relations:

- Communicate with the community on the status of current and projected projects.
- Work with community partners to facilitate project ownership, and possible cost savings.

Project Funding:

- Identify and secure grant sources for acquisition and park development.
- Work with private, non-profit, and public partners to share cost and use of facilities.
- Establish consistent revenue stream for project development and maintaining facilities/programs.

RECREATION DIVISION GOALS

Provide safe and affordable community recreation programs that offer indoor and outdoor, active and passive recreational opportunities for all residents. Be both visionary and responsive in developing new programs and identifying community recreation needs. Work with parks division to develop and enhance recreation facilities for community use.

Recreation Division Objectives:

- Increase the participation hours in recreational programs.
- Expand revenue generating programs.
- Increase revenue opportunities i.e. donations, fees, and grants as market allows.
- Form partnerships with other agencies and/or non-profits where feasible to assure the needs of Skagit County residents are being met.
- Seek opportunities to meet indoor recreation gym space

PARK FINANCE GOAL

Develop financing strategies to address the need for regional and community park acquisition, development, maintenance, and stewardship.

Park Finance Objectives:

- Develop a GMA-based impact mitigation fee ordinance.
- Continue to seek voluntary park impact fees from new developments.
- Explore funding partnerships with public and private sources to assist in efforts for park acquisition, development, programs and maintenance.
- Work with non-profits to promote shared investments in park acquisition and development.
- Work with the community to develop a new Parks, Recreation, and Fair Foundation to help support the department's objectives.
- Seek funding for new facilities and improvements to existing facilities through a variety of fund sources including capital reserves, real estate excise tax, grants, contributions, bonds, and/or levies.
- Consolidate services with educational institutions and other community park providers.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Provide a multi-use regional trail system, which connects to other county and municipal parks and community trail systems.

Trail Development Objectives:

- Work with other county, state, and city parks to establish links and connecting trails.
- Provide trails for pedestrians (including, where feasible, access for persons with disabilities), bicyclists, equestrians, and other trail users.
- Provide for linkages of population centers, community facilities, workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, recreation areas, open space and cultural/historical areas.
- Coordinate with other agencies to ensure a comprehensive approach to trail planning.
- Separate recreational trails from motorized vehicle traffic where feasible.
- Create a management policy for SCPR operated trails.

- Coordinate with regional planners to insure trail connectivity.

NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS

Recognize Skagit County Parks has significant value as a natural habitat in addition to supporting public recreation. The existence of this habitat and the opportunity to visit it are in themselves public benefits. Skagit County Parks & Recreation will promote preservation of natural areas to provide appropriate public access, offer environmental education opportunities, conserve open space, and protect fish, wildlife and native plant habitat and corridors. The department will also protect park infrastructure and visitors from foreseeable hazards.

Wildlife Habitat and Public Objectives:

- Promote acquisition, preservation and responsible stewardship of wildlife habitat on Skagit County park lands.
- Incorporate potential fish and wildlife habitat enhancements into park site development and redevelopment, where possible. For example, where increased wildlife use is compatible with site objectives, incorporate native plantings, non-structural bank stabilization methods, access controls, removal of barriers to fish passage, invasive plant removal, and other measures to enhance habitat.
- Work with county natural resource employees to address fish and wildlife habitat concerns.
- Where relevant, coordinate with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to develop and operate Department lands and facilities in accordance with management recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats and Species.
- Restore critical habitat for Chinook Salmon for aiding in the stabilization and recovery of the resident orca whale populations.
- Cooperate with public and private efforts to identify and acquire key habitat parcels that help to preserve critical corridors, protect habitat for sensitive species, and showcase the natural diversity of Skagit County.
- Coordinate trail planning and development with the appropriate agencies to ensure that the impact of trail corridors to wildlife habitat is appropriately mitigated and, where possible, ensure that trail corridors support safe wildlife movement as well as recreation by people.
- When building trail connections, Skagit County should always take into consideration the need for simultaneously providing enough corridors for supporting the movement of wildlife.

- Encourage partnerships with public and private organizations to assist in monitoring and researching impacts on sensitive county park lands and in implementing solutions to minimize these impacts.

Environmental Education Objectives:

- Utilize parklands, facilities, and programs to promote environmental education and encourage park visitors to become stewards of Skagit County's natural resources.
- Provide improvements at County parks, recreational open space areas, and trails to support environmental education such as viewing blinds, interpretive signs, and access controls that encourage non-obtrusive wildlife viewing, exploration, and self-guided learning.
- Maximize access to educational opportunities by providing accessible facilities.
- Support partnerships with environmental education organizations to provide programs at outdoor classrooms and other appropriate gathering places in Skagit County parks.
- Ensure that education and viewing areas at SCPR facilities are sized to accommodate class groups, and design parking areas to accommodate at least one small school bus or three passenger vans.
- Include information on ecological processes, wildlife, habitat, non-obtrusive viewing, and conservation efforts at facilities.

Managing Natural Hazards Objectives:

- Work with appropriate agencies and other county departments to maintain a hazard mitigation plan for Skagit County park properties, including but not limited to fire risk and hazard tree assessment.
- Work with the Department of Natural Resources and local fire districts to coordinate fire suppression strategies for county park properties in or near at-risk urban-rural interface areas.
- Work with local fire marshals to ensure campground infrastructure meets code and that seasonal fire restrictions are implemented.

OPEN SPACE GOAL

Conserve Open Space corridors within and between urbanizing areas to define communities, provide recreation, and protect habitat.

Open Space Objectives:

- Participate with other county, state, federal, and non-profit agencies to develop a vision for habitat and open space corridors within urbanizing areas (inside or outside of UGA's) for use in planning, regulating, and developing livable communities.
- Coordinate planning efforts and initiate projects that meet multiple objectives, such as urban area greenway planning, transportation planning (including non-motorized), and storm water facility planning.
- Coordinate with partners to insure open space objectives are being met.
- Recognize in park planning the importance of open space lands to the aesthetic appeal and environmental value.

WATER ACCESS GOAL

Provide opportunities for water access and activities throughout the County.

Water Access Objectives:

- Identify future sites and partnerships to acquire additional salt water access sites along the Salish Sea.
- Identify future opportunities for appropriate lakefront water activities at new park sites.
- Evaluate opportunities to develop new sites or redevelop existing parks to expand water dependent activities at appropriate locations.
- Designate, maintain and promote aquatic trail opportunities and recreational experiences for users of kayaks, canoes, inflatable boats, pleasure boats, and small-non-motorized watercraft.
- Develop a plan to assess river access needs on the Skagit River, utilizing partnerships with other agencies and providers.
- Acknowledge that the residents of Skagit County consistently rank waterfront connectivity as a primary need by working to increase access for all types of water.

SPECIAL USE GOALS

Provide facilities or dedicated use areas for single-use, indoor, emergent and/or specialized recreational uses, where feasible.

Special Use Objectives:

- Inventory and analyze developed parks and undeveloped park land for the feasibility of providing off leash dog areas.
- Support opportunities for indoor recreation.
- Identify opportunities to generate revenue through special use recreational facilities and programs.
- Work with planners to address code conflicts that encumber the ability to provide a sanctioned and accessible recreational shooting facility.
- As zoning and development expands in the south Mount Vernon area, consider options for expanding and evolving the fairgrounds into a parklike facility with greater access to the community.

CULTURAL/HISTORICAL GOALS

Promote the cultural and historic resources of Skagit County through parks and programs.

Cultural Historical Objectives:

- Work with communities, tribes and historical organizations to identify culturally and historically significant landscapes appropriate for inclusion into the Skagit County park system.
- Use site history and culture to create development themes and interpretive materials within existing SCPR operated parks.
- Highlight the historical significance of the Northern State Recreational Area (NSRA) from the various groups that have used the park over time, including native wildlife, the Tribes, hospital patients, hospital farm-workers, and recreationalists.
- Reference landscape architectural firm Olmstead Bros. plans and site designs for NSRA to ensure the components of their vision is preserved and carried forward.

ATHLETIC FACILITY GOALS

Provide youth and adult athletic facilities throughout the county.

Athletic Facility Objectives:

- Pursue partnerships with local cities, school districts, special service districts and qualified nonprofit organizations to provide local youth and adult athletic facilities.
- Identify opportunities for partnerships with local school districts for the capital construction and maintenance of youth athletic facilities at local schools that can also be used by all residents.
- All partnerships shall ensure that open public access will be provided to land and facilities in public ownership. Limitations on public access, however, may be placed upon the facility subject to design considerations, and/or preferential scheduling of the organization involved.
- Partner with the local college to ensure adequate facilities are made available for youth sports. College athletic programs for young adults should be supported solely by the college.

ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Acquire and develop parks, recreation facilities and open space areas to meet the needs of the public within available resources.

Acquisition and Development Objectives:

- Coordinate and cooperate with both public and private sector interests to further park and recreation opportunities.
- Coordinate park planning and land acquisition efforts across jurisdictional boundaries and consider existing and planned infrastructure, population served, environmental constraints, and available resources.
- Work with non-profit recreation providers to enhance the quality and quantity of available recreation facilities.
- Make acquisition and development of water property for parks, trails, and open space a high priority.
- Acquire and develop regional parks and secure open space in rural areas as opportunities to meet the other goals set forth in this plan.

- Assure the acquisition of parkland for community parks, water access and trails in Urban Growth Areas and rural subareas.
- Ensure new sites respond to community's needs and/or demands, and are unique and/or are part of linked open spaces.
- Consider acquisition which provides habitat and/or recreation connectivity.
- Acquire lands and place them into open space reserves until they can be adapted to fit future uses.
- Find a dedicated funding source for acquiring parklands and forestlands.

CHAPTER 6: PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

There are several tools we use to acquire input from the public. It is our goal to obtain information from a wide sample of residents and not just rely on those who are more vocal than the County as a whole. This chapter contains the summaries of comments we obtained through our interface with the public.

Identifying recreation needs is a difficult task because every region is different and community values vary according to many internal factors. Identifying recreation needs is the process of the comparing the supply of existing facilities and programs against the demand for facilities and programs by residents. In Skagit County, it is somewhat more complicated because the region also attracts significant users who live beyond the County boundary. Two of the sources of information used to quantify community desires and establish program and facility priorities were a month-long public input survey and a series of community workshop meetings. A detailed data table of the input from the countywide public meetings and the public input survey is found in appendices of this Comprehensive Plan.

SUMMARY OF THE 2018 HOUSEHOLD PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY

For the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update, Skagit County Parks and Recreation (SCPR) prepared a public input survey that was delivered via the internet. This survey was open for the entire month of November 2018. The overall goal of the study was to provide SCPR with estimates of residents' preferences for parks and recreation facilities development and priorities for future planning. This survey was open to all residents of the county and was advertised in the following ways

1. Two press-releases and subsequent public service announcements in the Skagit Valley Herald,
2. An invitation was sent to the entire customer database of the Parks Department;
3. A link listing on the Skagit County splash page as well as the Parks Dept splash page;
4. An invitation was sent to all city planning departments and all city parks departments;
5. An invitation was sent to Parks Advisory Board for re-distribution to other user groups;
6. The survey was advertised during the public meetings held in 2018;
7. The survey was advertised on TV channel Skagit 21.
8. The survey was mentioned on local radio stations KSVR, KAPS, and KBRC.

At the conclusion, 806 households completed the survey. Once a household (computer) had completed the survey, software allowed the survey to be modified but not taken a second time. This placed some sidebars on attempts to complete more than one survey.

It is acknowledged that the public input survey is limited as use for representative data because participation was self-selecting. This sampling of self-chosen participating households was just another tool utilized for obtaining input from the public. It is an augmentation of all other means of obtaining the public's recreational needs.

2018 PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY FINDINGS

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS:

Most people who participated in the opinion survey were from Skagit County. As is often the case with public input, the senior population participated in a greater proportion than the general population. It is interesting to note that 51% of respondents were age 50 or older. See the demographic summary below.

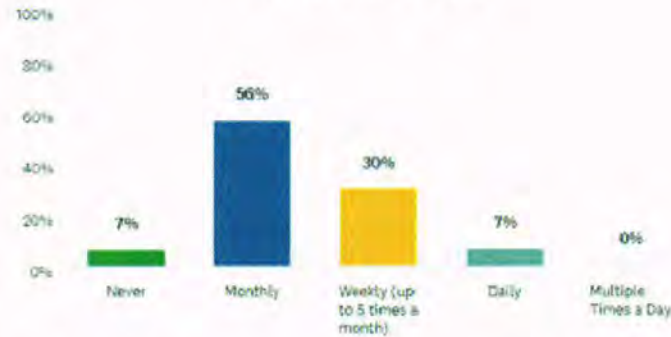
Table 6.1
Demographics
N= 806 HOUSEHOLDS

Age		Children at home	
17 or younger	0%	Yes	54%
18-20	2%	No	46%
21-29	7%		
30-39	21%	Residency	
40-49	20%	Resident of Skagit County	94 %
50-59	19%		
60 or older	20%		
70 or older	12%		

Park Usage:

Nearly all (93%) of the respondents reported their household had used a park facility in the past 12 months. Of those, 30% reported they use a park on a weekly basis and 86% use a park at least monthly. (Figure 6.1)

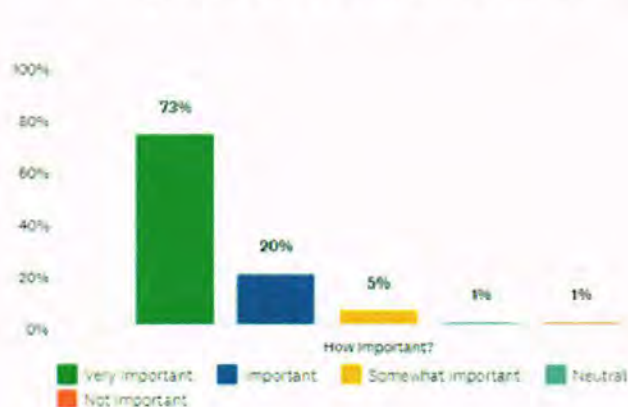
Figure 6.1
Frequency of Park Use



Of those who do not use Parks and Recreation Services (7%), the most prevalent reasons were that (1) busy/more important things to do, (2) activities at parks are not conducive to older or disabled users with limited mobility, (3) county parks are not close to where they live. (See Comments in Appendix 3).

Nearly all respondents (93%) ranked Parks and Recreation Services as Important or Very Important to maintaining the quality of life in our community (Figure 6.2).

Figure 6.2
Importance of Parks and Recreation Services



Ranked Priorities

Respondents were asked to RATE the importance or UN-importance of different programs and facilities to determine what was perceived as important. The table below reports the percentage of respondents that said the following activities or facilities were very important or somewhat important.

Table 6.2
Importance of Facilities and Programs

Facilities/Programs	Very or Somewhat Important
Parks (General)	94%
Trails and Pathways	91 %
Open Space or Natural Areas	88 %
Public Beach / Water Access	85 %
Children's Play Equipment / Playground	81 %
Sports Fields	73 %
Community Events	69 %
Camping (car/ tent / bike)	67%
Sports Courts	65 %
Swimming Pool or Aquatic Center	62 %
Exercise/Fitness	61 %
Boat Launch Area	60 %
Gym Space	56 %
Dog Parks	51 %
Small Boat Facility	47 %
Mountain Bike Skills Area	45 %
Camping (RV areas)	43 %
Shooting Range	29 %
Disc Golf	25 %

Residents were then asked to RANK the top three priorities from the list above. These results are summarized in Table 6.3.

Table 6.3
RANKED Importance of Facilities and Programs

Facilities/Programs	
1. Trails and Pathways	HIGHEST
2. Open Space or Natural Areas	
3. Public Beach / Water Access	
4. Sports Fields	
5. Parks (general)	
6. Children's Play Equipment / Playground	
7. Pool (swimming or aquatic facility)	
8. Community Events	
9. Sports Courts	
10. Gym Space	
11. Camping (car/ tent / bike)	
12. Mountain Bike Skills Area	
13. Dog Parks	
14. Boat Launch Areas	
15. Shooting Range	
16. RV Camping	
17. Exercise Fitness Area	
18. Disc Golf	
19. Other	
20. Small boat facility	LOWEST

The most important facility in the 'other' category was 'pickle ball courts' mentioned 9 times.

It was anticipated that trails, sports fields, and sports courts would be important to the community so each of these areas had a follow up question regarding prioritized preferences.

Trail Type Priorities

Table 6.4
RANKED Trail Type Priorities
N=652 Households

Facilities/Programs	Number of respondents listing as top category
1. Nature Trail	500
2. Regional Linear Trails	407
3. Waterfront Trails	360
4. Soft Surface Walking Trails	318
5. Hardened or ADA compliant Trails	157
6. Mountain Bike Trails	154
7. Sidewalks	134
8. Horse Trails	97
9. Motorized Trails	81
10. Other	17

Sports Fields Priorities

Table 6.5
RANKED Sports Field Priorities
N=498 Households

Facilities/Programs	Number of respondents listing as top category
1. Soccer	355
2. General Open Field Space	353
3. Baseball	250
4. Softball	195
5. Football	115
6. Lacrosse	52
7. Other	44

Sports Court Priorities

Table 6.6
RANKED Sports Court Priorities
N=473 Households

Facilities/Programs	Number of respondents listing as top category
1. Basketball	355
2. General Open Gym Space	318
3. Tennis	240
4. Volleyball	206
5. Pickle Ball	165
6. Other	22

Community Satisfaction:

Another important factor queried in the survey was satisfaction with the current parks system. In general, the community appears satisfied with the conditions and activities of the parks in Skagit County. Of the five largest facilities managed by Skagit County, the Skagit Playfields, which is heavily used, is at the top. At the bottom is Clear Lake Beach Park.

This area of the public input survey garnered a lot of individual comments that are summarized in Appendix A3.

Table 6.7
Existing Park Satisfaction
N=366-436 Households

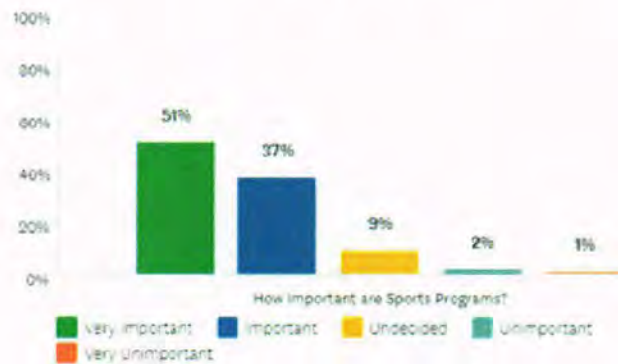
Location	Very Satisfied/Satisfied with Activities	Very Satisfied/Satisfied with Condition
Skagit Playfields at SVC	72%	73%
Howard Miller Steelhead Park	60%	65%
Cascade Trail	64%	65%
Northern State Rec Area in SW	57%	55%
Clear Lake Beach Park	43%	40%

Recreation Programs:

Beyond facilities, interest in sports and recreation programs was surveyed. Most residents (88%) feel these programs are important.

Figure 2.3
Recreation Programs

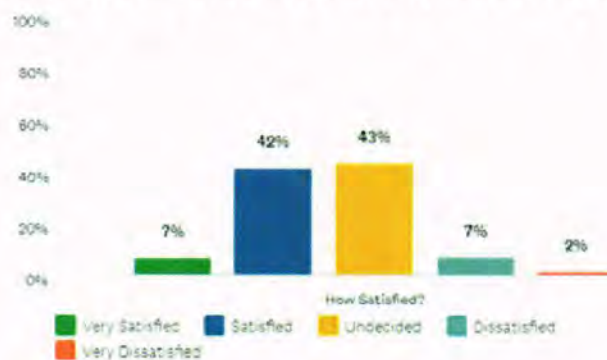
How important do you feel sports programs to youth and adults alike, are to quality of life



The follow-up question related to satisfaction with the selection of recreation activities offered by SCPR. There is greater satisfaction than not, but the greatest response is neutral or undecided.

Figure 2.4
Sports Programs Satisfaction

How satisfied are you with the selection of sports programs currently offered by SCPR?



There was an open-ended text follow-up question asking people what types of sport programs they would like to see more of. Table 6.8 shows the most requested program offerings.

Table 6.8
Open Ended Requested Offerings
Only suggestions with 5 or greater responses are listed
N=190 households

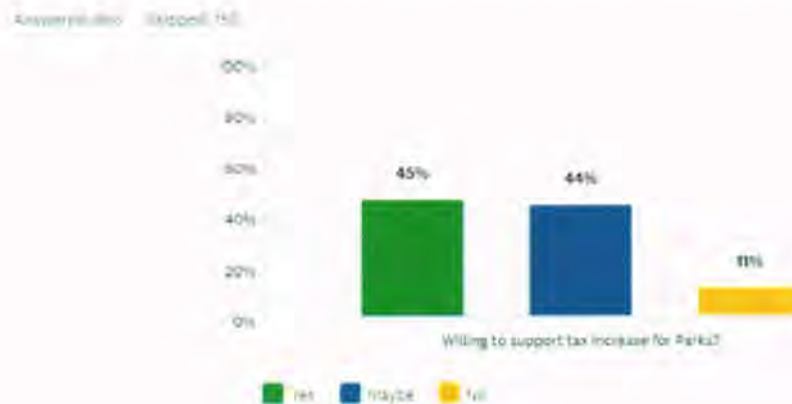
classes, sport programs and enrichment activities	Number times of requested
Pickleball	34
Low Impact Activities (hiking, yoga, fitness, walking)	18
Basketball	15
Volleyball	10
Tennis	14
Baseball	11
Disc Golf	9
Cycling/biking	7
Swimming	7
softball	7

Park Funding:

Understanding how to pay for any increase in level of service is an important component in considering any desire for more park facilities. This survey asked respondents to consider a tax increase in the form of a levy. In other words, are people willing to “back their respective responses with their money.” The data may have significant value if Skagit County residents ever decided to form a taxing district to support parks.

Figure 2.3
Park Funding

Some communities have chosen to tax themselves to increase the number of parks and recreation in their community. Would you support increased taxes or levies to support expansion of parks or park facilities, or maintenance and replacement of park infrastructure in Skagit County?



PUBLIC MEETINGS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Four public meetings were held in the County during the Plan Update process for the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update. These meetings were multi-purpose: to inform people of what the existing system consists of at this time, to provide an overview of the activities of the past 6 years, (including improvements, program changes and acquisitions), and to hear issues, concerns and feedback on the services provided.

The meetings were held “open house” style with a series of boards placed around the room where participants could see a listing of facilities within a various ‘park type’ (IE campgrounds OR trails OR sports fields, etc.). At each of these stations, participants were given the chance to ask any specific questions and comment about the type of facilities they preferred. Prompts were asked in different ways to allow participants to talk both about their “likes” and dislikes. “For example, prompts included questions such as: “What I like about ‘Campgrounds’ in the parks system is....” Or “What I would like to see different about ‘Campgrounds’ in the park system is...”. Participants were also welcome to register their open comments and a fair amount of people contributed with suggestions, comments, and/or support of park facilities, events, and offerings.

A number of those attending were there to promote a specific concern or recommend a specific interest be met. For example, Veterans Park advocates attended the meeting in Sedro-Woolley to promote

their interest in seeing a park devoted to accommodating their needs. Meeting participants in Rockport showed a focused interest in enhancing Howard Miller Steelhead Park. The complete list of comments can be found in the appendices.

Table 6.9
Open House Comment Summary on Facilities

Facility or Use	What I like most...	What I would like to see different...
Open Space/Natural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances walking experience • Appreciate NSRA as OS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more • Connect to trails • Add parking where there is none
Linear Parks and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of appreciation for trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire links/connections between trails (largest comment) • Many trails are too steep • Add more at NSRA • More natural trails • More bike trails • Partner for maintenance • Partner for development • Develop Centennial Trail in Skagit • Concern about safety • Add trails where they make the most sense; avoid 'double' trails.
Sports Leagues / Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear Lake triathlon appreciated • Programs appreciated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Soccer fields • More for seniors
Day Use and Neighborhood Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pomona interpretive great 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more inclusive ADA elements • Edison and Bow do not have enough • Outdoor classrooms • Add historical info • Build Veterans park
Athletic Fields / Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More for youth • SVP well maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upriver past Concrete needs these type of facilities
Water Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathrooms at water access points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more shoreline access • Add more launch areas • Kayak launch at Pressentin
Campgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMSP great 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More closer to where people live • More at parks that already have them • HMSP has enough • Coin shower needed
OTHER		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with other agencies for many things • Add more online info

CHAPTER 7 - LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of service standards are a quantifiable planning tool used in defining the minimum number of desired parks and facilities based on the needs and expectations of the community.

Level of Service (LOS) analysis has traditionally been included in park and recreation plans as a useful way to inventory park and recreation facilities and to measure services against specific standards. Historically, a LOS value was published by the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) for each park and facility category based on population and then local amounts were compared to this national standard. The practice of comparing quantified local levels of service to a national standard has not proven to be beneficial or justifiable, as each city, county or state's needs are unique to their specific values and resources. As such, planning for parks and recreation amenities and services must arise from the capacity and goals of each respective jurisdiction. The National Recreation and Park Agency ceased publishing a national LOS for setting local standards more than two decades ago.

For this plan, the SCPR LOS is compared with a compilation of three Washington State Counties, including Whatcom, Snohomish, and Spokane, otherwise referred to as the "tri-county average". Whatcom and Snohomish Counties, two of the counties in the collective LOS, were chosen due to their proximity to Skagit County, as they neighbor us to the north and south respectively. Spokane County was chosen as the third county due to available data, having both urban/rural communities, and due to the similarities in services provided.

The average LOS levels are a part of the overall formula used for building our analysis and ranking/prioritizing projects.

LOS standards are often derived from the number and size of facilities without accounting for the facility conditions. The condition of facilities becomes important for making accurate comparisons in service levels. Because of the potential for imperfections in the LOS comparison, Skagit County also uses a variety of other measurements for evaluating community needs and establishing park priorities.

QUANTIFYING NEED THROUGH LOS

To quantify park and facility needs, Skagit County Parks and Recreation (SCPR) made comparisons with three other Washington State counties and from these comparisons, developed a level of service standard. It should be noted that the standard for recreation lands applies to County facilities only. Local cities and towns have developed (or should develop) their own LOS standards for recreation lands under their jurisdiction. Table 7.1 shows the LOS of Skagit County as well as the tri-county average. By comparing service levels, Skagit County can determine its deficiencies and project future needs.

Table 7.1 - Comparative Level of Service Standards

(The following data are for selected comparable counties in acres/1000 population)

Park Type/ Park Facility	Snohomish LOS	Spokane LOS	Whatcom LOS*	Tri-County Average	Skagit LOS	Skagit Difference
Regional Parks	7.17	6.72	<u>15.55</u>	<u>9.81</u>	9.68	-.13
Community Parks	1.03	.49	.11	.54	.26	-.28
Neighborhood Parks	.43	0	.04	.16	.01	-.15
Open Space	3.27	16.06	<u>55.86</u>	<u>25.06</u>	6.44	-18.62
Campgrounds (# site/1000)	.58	.07	.56	.40	.86	0
Total Park Acreage	26.34	23.26	74.02	42.21	17.25	-24.96

*lookout mtn & Lake Whatcom moved from Regional Park to Open Space for better comparison

Using Skagit County's current LOS specified in Table 7.1, it is possible to make comparisons to analogous counties in Washington State. Skagit County LOS standards are based on a population of 130,700 in 2020.

PARK AND FACILITY NEEDS

From these comparisons in service levels, Skagit County has arrived at a standard for determining current needs and projecting future needs for the next six years. The standard is based on deficiencies/sufficiency in relation to the aggregate county average. The baseline standard is summarized in Table 7.2.

**Table 7.2 -
Park Classification
Tri-County Average LOS Standard 2020**

Park Classifications	Tri-County Average (in acres/1000 people)
Regional Parks	9.81
Community Parks	.54
Neighborhood	.16
Open Space & Undeveloped	25.06
Total	42.21

Using the standards identified in tables 7.2, the actual amount of park acreage required for each park type in Skagit County is shown in table 7.3.

Park Classification Existing Inventory and Need: Table 7.3 uses the tri-county average LOS to forecast Skagit County acreage needs in 2026 with a projected population of 140,000 in order to meet the average LOS.

Table 7.3

Park Classifications	Existing Inventory Existing Acres	Year 2026 Demand* Acres (Based on 2020 Tri-County Average LOS)
Regional	1266	1619
Community	56	89
Neighborhood	1	24
Open Space & Undeveloped	843	3508

* Based on a 2026 population of 140,000

Current Level of Service for Skagit County: Table 7.4 provides Skagit County's current service levels and general definitions in relation to service areas for the various park classifications.

Table 7.4 - Current LOS for Park Types

Population 130,700 in 2020

Category	Description	Service Area & Size	Skagit County Inventory & LOS
Regional Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of natural or ornamental quality • for outdoor recreation • (e.g. hiking, picnicking, boating, beach activities). • Contiguous to or encompassing natural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracts several communities • Attracts use from outside county • Generally larger than community parks 	1 266 Acres 9.68a/1000
Community Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities specifically designed to serve community with diverse activities: courts, ball fields, day-use areas, etc. • Usually have on-site parking. • Easily accessed by automobile from more distant neighborhoods. • May include natural features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracts several neighborhoods • Generally larger than neighborhood parks and smaller than regional parks 	34 Acres .26a/1000
Neighborhood Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All uses designed to serve both passive and active activities for the immediate residential area (ca 5000 people). • Designed for intensive use and accessible/visible from surrounding area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, attracts within a 5-mile radius • Generally smaller than community parks 	1 Acres .01 a/1000
Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and management of natural cultural environment with recreation use such as trails and other low impact activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be of any size • The service area can vary • Generally, attract from throughout the county 	843 Acres 6.44 a/1000
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loop trails and liner trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Standard 	44.4 Acres .34 a/1000
Campsites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RV or Tent sites available. 		112 sites .86 sites/1000

Future Level of Service for Skagit County: Table 7.5 provides the number of acres of park types which Skagit County has, compared to the tri-county average, but then projected six years forward. The difference between this projected amount and current amount is then calculated

Table 7.5 – Future* Demand and Need for Park Facilities

Regional Parks

Current SCPR LOS (acres/1000 pop.)	9.68
SCPR Existing Acreage	1266 acres
Aggregate LOS (acres/1000 pop.)	9.81
Projected SCPR Need (2026)	1619 acres
Difference in Acreage (2019-2026)	353 acres

Community Parks

Current SCPR LOS (acres/1000 pop.)	.26
SCPR Existing Acreage	34 acres
Aggregate LOS (acres/1000 pop.)	.54
Projected SCPR Need (2026)	89 acres
Difference in Acreage (2019-2026)	55 acres

Neighborhood Parks

Current SCPR LOS (acres/1000 pop.)	.01
SCPR Existing Acreage	1 acre
Aggregate LOS (acres/1000 pop.)	.14
Projected SCPR Need (2026)	17 acres
Difference in Acreage (2019-2026)	16 acres

Open Space

Current SCPR LOS (acres/ 1000 pop.)	7.12
SCPR Existing Acreage	843 acres
Aggregate LOS (acres/1000 pop.)	25.06
Projected SCPR Need (2026)	3508 acres
Difference in Acreage (2019-2026)	2665 acres

* Based on a 2026 population of 140,000

Change in Level of Service for Skagit County: Table 7.6 looks at changes which have occurred since the last Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. The most significant change is the increase in the amount of Regional Park acreage and decrease in the amount of Open Space. This is explained by the re-categorization of the Northern State Recreation Area as a Regional Park instead of Open Space due to the establishment of a successful disc golf course, installation of water and septic utilities, and the pending development of the Veterans Plaza and trailhead improvements.

Table 7.6 - LOS change since previous plan

Park Classifications	Previous Plan 2010	Current Plan 2020	Change in acre
	LOS per 1000	LOS per 1000	LOS per 1000
Regional	4.64	9.68	+5.04
Community	0.42	0.26	-0.16
Neighborhood	0.01	0.01	0
Open Space & Undeveloped	13.42	6.44	-6.98

SUMMARY OF LEVEL OF SERVICE

LOS standards provide a means of comparing service levels in Skagit County to those in other counties in Washington State. The comparisons are not the only measure for determining need, as several other criteria play into factoring the recreational requirements of Skagit County residents.

For the purpose of this plan update, the final needs analysis will be done by assimilating information obtained through public input as well as observations by parks staff. Public input comes from surveys, public meetings, letters from the community, the SCPR Parks Advisory Board, and informal conversations with concerned residents.

CHAPTER 8 - USE PATTERNS

The household survey results and LOS standards combine to provide Skagit County Parks and Recreation (SCPR) Staff a greater understanding of Skagit County residents' recreational needs. Surveys and LOS comparisons provide an objective tool for measuring the needs of Skagit County residents and assist the SCPR team in formulating plans to better serve the people of Skagit County. Although the public opinion survey and the LOS data provide a significant means of understanding community 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 necessary. The *use pattern* information from this chapter will supplement the public input survey and LOS data for building a more comprehensive tool for measuring needs. Use patterns are an essential component in the overall needs analysis.

Statewide Use Patterns

The State of Washington regularly publishes the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (RCP). This document was previously referred to as the SCORP. This document is described as:

The Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State provides a strategic direction for how local, regional, state, and federal agencies, together with tribal governments, and private and non-profit partners, can assure the effective and adequate provision of outdoor recreation and conservation to meet the needs of Washington State residents. It lays the foundation and context that help guide decisions and determine how to direct limited funding towards the most important park, recreation and conservation needs.

Local Use Patterns

On a local level, lack of facility space, a shortage of campsites, or an overrun trail system may lead SCPR staff, Parks Board and / or County Commissioners to accurately conclude that specific recreational needs are not being met. In other cases, the analysis may need further exploration. The fact that a facility is being used below capacity may lead some to believe the needs are being sufficiently met. Whereas, the real reason the facility is being underutilized may be because the facility needs maintenance, needs more appropriate equipment, or in some other way failing to meet public need. 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 are enough fields county-wide. Because of all 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. The SCPR staff along with the advisory board, are in a front seat role for observing facility use, attaining knowledge of the inadequacies and/or deficiencies of the facilities, and in the best position for reaching conclusions and/or making recommendations.

STATEWIDE RCP USE PATTERNS

The top ten outdoor recreation activities in Washington State remain consistent with previous plans.

The most popular outdoor activities emphasize nature, walking, and water access.

Table 8.1 –RCP Top Outdoor Recreation Activities*

Walking in a park or trail setting	84%
Visiting Rivers or Streams	66%
Visiting a Beach or Tidepool	60%
Attending an outdoor concert or event	58%
Gathering or collecting things in a natural setting	54%
Day Hiking	53%
Sightseeing at a scenic or wilderness area	51%
Wildlife or Nature viewing	50%
Swimming / wading at a freshwater beach	50%
Driving or Motorcycling for Pleasure	46%

*2017 RCP Resident Survey Report

Beyond the top ten activities, the following table shows the state wide participation level of activities deemed to have 'high' level of participation defined as greater than 20%

Table 8.2 –Other Top Outdoor Recreation Activities*

Bicycling on paved or gravel Trail	20%
Tent camping with a car or motorcycle at a developed campground	22%
Motorboating other than personal watercraft	22%
Biking on road or streets	25%
Off Trail Hiking	25%
Visiting a Nature Interpretive Center	25%
Visiting Wetland	25%
Hiking with Dog	26%
Outdoor Photography	27%
Sightseeing a Public Facility (Dam, lock, fish ladder, bridge, etc.)	27%
Outdoor Cultural or Historical facility	28%
Swimming in an outdoor pool	30%
Swimming / wading at a saltwater beach	36%
Playing in a Park	41%
Family Gathering at a Park	42%
Visiting a zoo, garden, arboretum	42%
Picnicking / BBQ in a Park	46%

*2017 RCP Resident Survey Report

Beyond the participation levels identified in the Resident Survey, the overall RCP is divided into five sub plans that review specific areas of recreation. These plans include Athletic Facilities, Trails, Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle, and Recreational Boating. These plans are summarized as follows:

Athletic Facilities Use

Adults and children play sports at a high rate. Overall, almost 2.5 million people play sports in Washington State. Athletic facilities that serve adults and children, rather than facilities designed only for children, will better meet the needs of a variety of age classes.

About 57 percent of children under 18 are involved in one outdoor sport or another. The level of participation is slightly higher than the most recent national study of children's outdoor activities, which

found almost 50 percent of children participate in team sports and 40 percent in individual sports such as golf and tennis.

Forty-eight percent of adults also play sports. Interestingly, adults who have children are more likely to play sports themselves. Forty percent of adults without children participate in outdoor sports compared to 63 percent of adults with children. The most popular adult sports are golf, basketball, ping pong, and soccer (2018-2022 Recreation Conservation Plan).

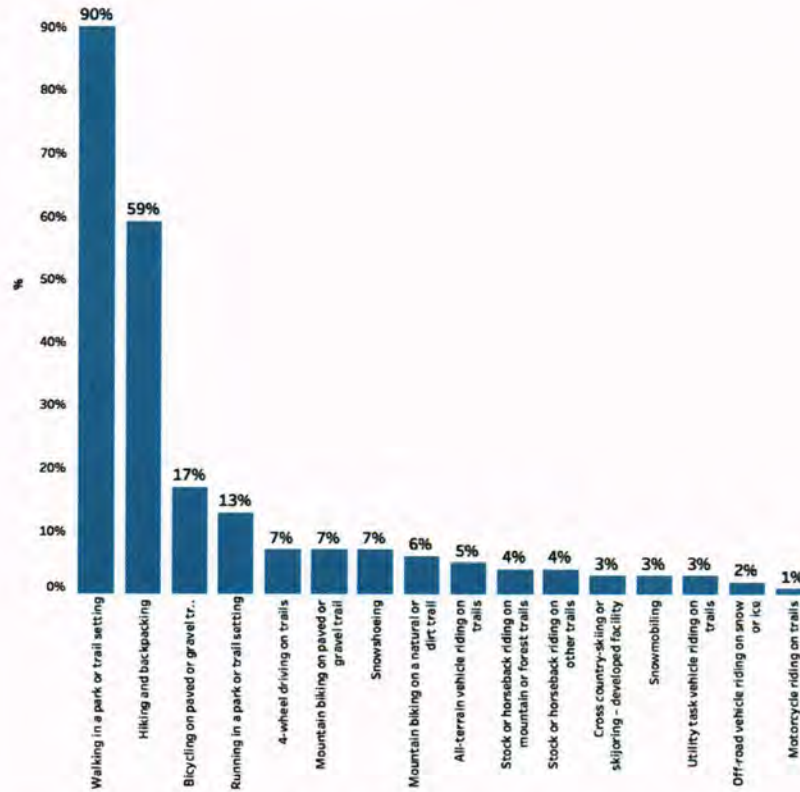
Table 8.3 - 2018-2022 RCP Percent of Adult Participation of Outdoor Sports

ACTIVITY	PERCENT
Overall	48%
Golf	17%
Basketball	11%
Mini golf	11%
Ping pong or table tennis	11%
Soccer	9%
Baseball	7%
Football	7%
Tennis	7%
Volleyball	7%
Softball	6%
Disc golf	5%
Kickball	3%
Multi-sport race	3%
Paintball	3%
Dodgeball	2%
Foot golf	2%
Pickleball	2%
Ultimate Frisbee	2%
Lacrosse	1%
Rugby	0%

The 2018-2022 RCP did not compile information on youth in this document due to privacy requirements related to gathering information on minors. Future plans anticipate providing this information.

Trail Use

The RCP reports trails are particularly popular as they support several types of outdoor recreation. According to the State of Washington 2017 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report, walking, hiking, bicycling and running are the most popular types of recreation occurring on trails. See the figure below for a list of all trail related recreation activities.



**Figure 8.1 - Percent of Population who Recreate on Trails
(2018-2022 RCP)**

Non-Highway and Off-Road Vehicle Use

The off-road vehicle plan showed high satisfaction with opportunities in this category of recreation.

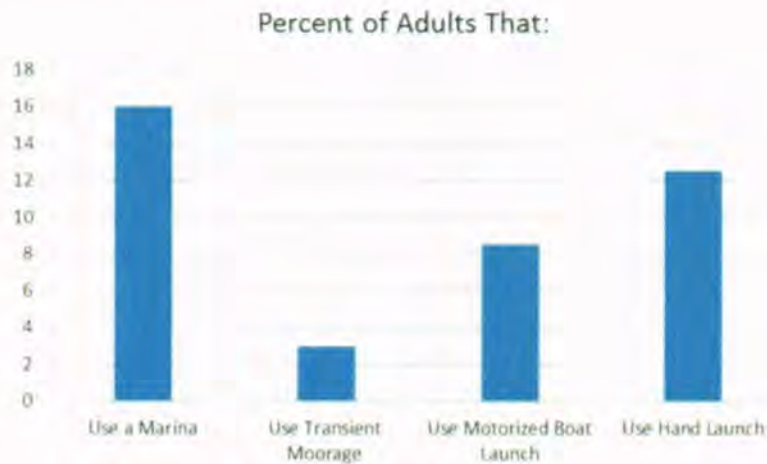
Participation rates are reported as follows:

Table 8.4 - 2018-2022 RCP Percent of Adult Participation of ORV Activities

ACTIVITY	PERCENT
Overall	11%
4 wheel drive vehicles on trails	7%
ATV on trails	6%
Snowmobiling	4%
UTVs or side-by-side ATVs on trails	3%
ATV at a developed area	2%
4 wheel drive vehicles at developed area	2%
Motorcycles on trails	2%
Motorcycles at developed area	1%
UTVs or side-by-side ATVs at developed area	1%

Recreational Boating Use

The recreational boating use plan showed a very high satisfaction rate with regard to boating experience and facilities in the state. Overall there is more motorboating on freshwater than on saltwater, with smaller boats (less than 26 feet) more likely to be on freshwater; while larger boats tend to use fresh and salt water at about the same rate. RCO Estimates that around 23% of Washington's population participated in paddle sports in 2016, up from 12% in 2013. Below is the percent of adults in Washington that use some sort of launch or moorage.



**Figure 8.2 - Percent of Population who Uses Boat Launches or Moorage
(2018-2022 RCP)**

LOCAL USE PATTERNS

Skagit County started offering organized Recreation programs for the public in 1976. Recreation program growth has been steady since its inception. Since the last comprehensive plan, participation in Skagit County Parks & Recreation Department continues to climb, with youth sports activities experiencing the highest rate of growth. Recreation Programs are fully paid for by the by participant fees.

The Skagit County Parks & Recreation Department breaks down Recreation programs into the following categories – Adult Leagues, Youth Leagues, Tournaments, Special Events and Youth Camps. Skagit County's sports programs 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 SWISH basketball league has the largest youth participation of any league north of King County.

The seven Skagit County School Districts provide the primary locations for active recreation programs. The Skagit Valley College gym is the most utilized indoor facility for Skagit County active recreation programs, with Skagit Playfields serving as the primary outdoor (softball) facility. In 2019 the Skagit YMCA came online with several elementary school sized basketball courts and these recreation sized courts will be used when possible.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Adult Sports Leagues

Overall, Adult Leagues have remained an important part of Recreation Programs since the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department's inception. Adult Leagues have the most participants by category and bring in a large portion of the Recreation Division revenue each year. Participation Hours have experienced significant increases since 2013. Adult Leagues such as Adult Softball, Volleyball and Basketball are the backbone of our Recreation Programs and brought in \$371,531 in Program Revenue in 2018. This was a 15% increase from the \$323,727 brought in during 2013.

Each year there are also 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).

Table 8.5 Adult Sports League Participation

	2010		2018	
	Participation Teams / Hours	Revenue	Participation Teams / Hours	Revenue
Basketball	25 / 25,250	\$10,700	30 / 30,300	\$13,100
Volleyball	55 / 55,555	\$12,175	60 / 30,300	\$13,500
Softball	89 / 89,890	\$51,185	76 / 30,300	\$43,200

Youth Sports Leagues

The Skagit County Parks & Recreation Department runs extensive Youth Leagues that allow participants the opportunity to participate in organized programs at a reasonable price. The Boys & Girls S.W.I.S.H. (Skagit, Whatcom, Island, Snohomish Hoops) League is the largest basketball program in Northwest Washington. This league offers opportunities for both boys and girls in the 4th-8th grades regardless of skill level. The higher costs of select sports has driven families towards the more affordable SWISH league. For many communities, SWISH is replacing school and city basketball leagues.

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 as well as competitive high school basketball and there is a Girls High School Fastpitch League which has continued to receive strong support from the local community.

Table 8.6 Youth Sports League Participation

	2010		2018	
	Participation Teams / Hours	Revenue	Participation Teams / Hours	Revenue
SWISH- boys and girls	150 / 60,000	\$70,870	201 / 78,000	\$149,865
Boys BB Masters	9 / 5,000	\$3,375	4 / 3,500	\$1,760
HS BB Leagues	79 / 36,000	\$34,920	70 / 30,000	\$33,950
Girls Fastpitch	8 / 4,000	\$2,280	9 / 5,000	\$1,950

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 Kickball Tournament) while others are seasonal events (i.e. A.S.A. Championship Softball Tournaments) that may change in scope from year to year. Since 2013 there has been an increase in both Participant Hours and Program Revenue with the bulk of the increase associated with growing interest in youth and high school basketball tournaments. Increasing the size of current tournaments or adding additional tournaments is now limited by the availability and size of current facilities.

Special Events

Since 2009 special events run by the recreation division have been eliminated. One new event has been added in 2018 with our new Fall Training Basketball.

Youth Sports Camps

Youth Camps have become less preferred with an increased demand for more leagues with competitive games. Youth camps that focus on the fundamentals, skills, and sportsmanship, are still available during summers, when in the past they were a winter offering as well. Baseball and Softball/Fastpitch Camps that focus on the fundamentals of fielding, hitting and a spin off Pitchers Camp that focuses on the intricacies of pitching mechanics remain popular.

Additional Youth Camps throughout the year involve a Summer Basketball Camps w/ Burlington-Edison High School Boys & Girls teams and a Junior Golf Camp that takes young golfers from the aspects of course etiquette and how to grip a club all the way through to playing a round of golf at the conclusion of camp. Both of these camps are run at facilities not operated by the Skagit County Parks & Recreation Department, which require additional program fees to cover rental costs.

PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITY USE

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, boating, and wildlife viewing.

Boat Launches and Waterfront Connectivity

Skagit County provides a number of water access opportunities for recreational connectivity to lakes, rivers, creeks, and The Salish Sea. In addition to County provided access points, the state and local municipalities provide areas to salt and fresh water boat launches, fish, hike, or otherwise enjoy our waterways. The popularity of these access points and the growing popularity of boating reveal a growing shortage of adequate opportunities for watercraft enthusiasts. Adding to the shortage has been the decline in the number of water access points along Skagit County Rivers as Washington State Fish and Wildlife Department have decommissioned many of their Boat launches along the Skagit River.

Lake access is also very important, as the population grows and previously vacant lands are developed. The steady influx of new homes can create a barricade around important waterways, limiting connectivity to areas accessed informally in the past. Developing public access with suitable facilities reduces the pressure on private land, thus protecting property rights. The overall condition of existing boat ramps in Skagit County is moderate. 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 our local rivers is partly due to the fact river ramps are much more susceptible to erosion. SCPR with the WDFW are currently partnering on a maintenance improvement to the Campbell Lake Boat Launch.

Skagit County also has a number of road right-of-ways that lead to waterways, which are used for launching kayaks and other small watercraft. These access points are open to the public and cannot be vacated as per Washington State RCW. Despite the protections, many of these access points have been encroached upon by neighboring property owners, who often place landscaping and position large objects in the thoroughfares as barriers. To ensure ongoing access, the County attorneys have had to intervene on the behalf of the public on many occasions.

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. Also, pre-prepared camping units such as camping cabins and yurts are becoming increasingly popular throughout the Pacific Northwest. Skagit County has two Adirondack style cabins, two traditional cabins within its inventory at Howard Miller Steelhead Park and these are

rented continuously through the summer. The Rockport area of the North Cascades Scenic Corridor is served adequately while shortages persist along the majority of the corridor. There is a great need for a campground on Lake Shannon. The overall condition of County campgrounds is fair to excellent depending on the site. SCPR campgrounds at Sauk River and Grandy Lake have been recently upgraded, although they are still very primitive. Steelhead Park is up to capacity during the summer months and there is a need for additional overnight opportunities in the area. A primitive walk-in campground is proposed for Pressentin Park in Marblemount. Bike Route 10 is along the park and bicyclists would benefit greatly by a respite before their long journey over the Cascade Pass.

Group Picnic Areas

Group picnic areas are needed throughout our community and regional parks. The public has emphasized the need for covered facilities with cooking capabilities. Skagit County provides covered picnic shelters at the Skagit Playfields, Northern State Recreation Area, Pomona Grange Park, Clear Lake Beach, Steelhead Park, Schoolhouse Park and Pressentin Park. Picnic shelters provide recreationists with a shaded place to sit, eat and/or relax while using the park facilities. They also provide a gathering place for families, informal office parties, and visiting with friends. With the growing health risks of extended exposure to the sun, picnic shelters are becoming more of an assumed feature in parks. Donovan Park hosts a lot of family activities and is used to capacity by a diverse demographic during the summer months. The Latino community has called on many occasions in their pursuit of a shelter with cooking capabilities. Culturally, large park gatherings places are very popular with the growing diverse demographic in Skagit County.

Public Shoreline

Skagit County shares a shoreline with the surrounding Puget Sound waters, is bisected by splendid valley rivers, and is peppered with a multitude of lakes. These 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 developed and residents are finding fewer places to recreate along the shorelines.

Recreation Trails

Trails continue to be the most requested recreational need in Skagit County. County residents are interested in loop, destination, and linear type trails. While numerous trails exist throughout the county, residents covet 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. Residents of the county continue to ask for trails that connect regional trail systems. Linear trail systems such as the Centennial and Tursi trails have missing links and the acquisition of land or easements will be necessary to see them for completion. Recent development projects on the Centennial Trail in Snohomish County is elevating pressure on Skagit County to continue acquiring and developing a north/south separated paved path for recreation and non-motorized transportation. Because of their popularity and lower cost per use, SCPR will

continue to provide trails when opportunities arise. Motorized trails are currently being provided for at an adequate level. If Walker Valley trail closures become a normal occurrence, there will be renewed pressure to accommodate off-road needs. The DNR is better equipped for addressing motorized trail needs in Skagit County.

Environmental/Interpretive Learning Center

Skagit County is a hub of environmental learning opportunities. Local business is beginning to spring up throughout the county to find economic benefit from Skagit County's diverse and beautiful landscapes. The Eagle Festival, Birds of Winter, whale watching, rafting, environmental youth camps, Tulip Festival, and other tourist trade oriented businesses have opened a need for a permanent Environmental and/or Interpretive Learning Center. This type of facility would better allow businesses to better capitalize on this growing industry. With the North Cascades Institute facilities representing the upper reaches of the Skagit River watershed, prime locations for a center would be on Fidalgo Island, the Marblemount area, and/or the lower valley/foothill interface. A temporary interpretive facility currently operates at Howard Miller Steelhead Park (in a house adjacent to the park). The facility is currently used for disseminating educational and interpretive information via lectures and material distribution, especially during the eagle season. The development of an environmental learning center at Northern State is included on the master plan and if one day constructed, may reduce the need for such a facility elsewhere. Any interpretive center would have to be part of a greater cross-agency partnership, including public, non-profit and private sectors.

ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES

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

Gymnasium Space

Population growth has led to a reduction of available gym space. With youth leagues growth at 20% since 2013, and youth basketball leagues offered year-round, there is a growing deficiency of available indoor facilities. 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. In addition to shortages, local school districts continue to raise gym rental rates. The new YMCA, which opened in 2019 has several elementary sized basketball courts which is expected to provide some relief.

Senior Baseball Fields

In Skagit County, the senior youth baseball programs are managed by several organizations. Although the county is deficient in the number of senior baseball fields, the pressure to build more is being primarily directed toward municipalities. Skagit County recently turned over its Senior Baseball facility (the Dream Field) to the Skagit Valley College. This field is currently used primarily and almost exclusively by college teams. To properly maintain the baseball fields, resources will need to be continually available. There is a growing demand for Cal Ripken Fields, which are close to the same size as a regulation softball field. The Skagit Playfields will be retrofitted for Cal Ripken leagues with funding made available through their recent YAF grant.

Youth Baseball Fields

In Skagit County, there are several organizations involved in youth baseball. Currently, the local needs are being met, although the conditions of several fields need improvement. Lighted fields are increasing in demand and are needed throughout the county. There is a need for complexes with the ability for tournament play and school district play-offs. The improvements at the Skagit Playfields will increase the demand for their use.

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, non-profit, and private groups. Soccer fields have a lower Maintenance and Operation costs than other sports fields but locating suitable sites is nearly impossible. Farmlands are ideally situated and geographically uniform but ag-zoned lands unavailable for sports fields. Other agencies have found this out the hard way. A local school district bought ag-zoned land with the intention of amending the zoning for developing a school. After pursuing the change for several years they finally gave up, losing hundreds of thousands of dollars. A changing demographic has increased the need for soccer fields in the Mount Vernon area.

The condition of the field Skagit Valley College field is very good. The City of Burlington is currently meeting the regional need for soccer fields in Skagit County but there is a facility emphasis on larger tournaments. Localized needs are not currently being met.

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 Parks and Recreation is a regional provider of Adult Softball leagues in Skagit County with its large and central complex. Recent capital projects include the completion of all four field dugouts, drainage, fencing, backstops, and bleachers. A need for softball fields exist in sub-regions throughout the county. A 2019 YAF grant will provide the funding for synthetic infields which will eliminate the need for chalking lines, pesticides, and grooming fields. The infields have been a limiting factor, contributing to most game cancellations, seasonal delays, and slower turnaround for game scheduling. The changes will make the field more readily available for youth baseball as well.

Swimming Pool

Skagit County had been deficient with aquatic facilities for many years. The new YMCA in Mount Vernon has satisfied this long overdue need. The facility is centrally located and within a half an hour drive for the Mount Vernon, Burlington, and Sedro-Woolley residents. Anacortes has had a multi-purpose park district pool for many years. In addition, there is a small pool for health club members in Mount Vernon. Shelter Bay on South Fidalgo Island has a pool available to their residents. With the recent construction of the YMCA, there is no longer a deficiency of aquatic facilities in Skagit County.

Special Use

Special-use facilities are provided by the private and public sectors, often via partnerships. Golf courses are being provided by the private sector and the need is currently being met. A shooting range has long been sought by the Skagit Sportsmen. The private sector provides for pistols but long-range rifle opportunities are in demand. Motorized trails are being provided for by the DNR and municipalities (such as the Anacortes Community Forest Lands). Skagit County provides horse arena opportunities for 4-H groups and competition during the annual Fair. Partnerships with equestrian user groups should be pursued. Other activities and facilities such as hang gliding, skateboard parks, disc golf, etc. will be continually monitored for status of need.

CHAPTER 9 - ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

Utilizing a singular means for analyzing needs falls short of providing the full picture. To determine Skagit County Parks and Recreation program and facility needs, SCPR has adopted a comprehensive approach. The scores derived from four measuring elements are used for establishing project priorities. In this chapter, “park type” is analyzed first, followed by “programs and facilities”. The four measuring elements are:

1. **Level of Service (LOS) Standards**, which look at service levels in other Washington Counties and provide guidance in establishing LOS standards for Skagit County.
2. **Public Input - Survey Results**, a month long public opinion survey to learn the recreational desires of Skagit County residents.
3. **Use Patterns**, review of the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Plan (RCP) for statewide trends combined with Skagit County Parks Department input which provides fundamental information from those who use or oversee facilities and programs in Skagit County and indicate facility or program need.
4. **Other Factors** Input comes in many forms: park advisory board meetings, informal conversations, letters addressed to Skagit County staff, field experience, and special meetings. This ensures a wider opportunity for public participation. Geographic dispersion of facilities and financial constraints are recurring concerns with the public and are factored within this category.

The analysis is based on the following formula:

1. Skagit County **Level of Service** as compared to Snohomish, Whatcom, and Spokane County (SWS) aggregate.
 - a. SCPR service levels are below those of the aggregate (5 points)
 - b. SCPR service levels are essentially the same as the aggregate (<10%) (3 points)
 - c. SCPR service levels exceed the aggregate (1 point)
2. Needs as expressed in the **Public Opinion Survey and Public Meetings**
 - a. Highest level of need (5 points)
 - b. Moderate need (3 points)
 - c. Low level of need (1 point)

3. **Use Patterns** based on Skagit County's existing programs and facilities and Statistically Valid recreation trends reported in the WA State Recreation and Conservation Plan (RCP).

- a. High Level of Use / Use Patterns exceed capacity of facility/program. (5 points)
- b. Moderate Level of Use / Use Patterns mostly met by facilities/programs. (3 points)
- c. Low Level of Use / Use Patterns are fully met by facilities / programs. (1 point)

4. **Other Factors**

- a. Factors warrant significant increase. (5 points)
- b. Moderate increase is necessary. (3 points)
- c. No current need to increase capacity (1 Point)

Combined element scores

The scores will be combined and averaged to make a final determination of need for facilities and/or programs. The scores will indicate the needs based on the following levels of need:

4.0-5.00	High level of need.
2.0-3.99	Moderate level of need
1.0-1.99	Low level of need

Analysis of elements

With the above information, a consensus driven process made up of a planning team consisting of SCPR Staff and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members analyzed the need components to derive a score which will represent SCPR priorities. The scores for park types are listed in Table 9.1.

ANALYSIS OF "PARK TYPES"

Skagit County parks are currently made up of four different "park types" as defined below. These parks are analyzed as to how they rank according to the data available. The rankings will help determine priorities.

Table 9.1
Point Rankings of Park Needs

Park Type	LOS	Public Input Survey	Use Patterns	Other Factors	Total	Average
Regional	3	5	5	3	16	4.0
Community	5	3	3	3	14	3.5
Neighborhood	3	1	3	1	8	2.0
Open Space	5	5	3	3	16	4.0

Point rankings of park needs: According to the analysis, there is a high level of need for increasing the LOS of regional parks and open space in Skagit County. There is a moderate to high need for community parks and open space. Neighborhood park rankings indicate a low need.

REGIONAL PARKS

Average Score: 4.0

Level of Need: High

Regional Parks are generally larger sites, that offer a variety of unique features or recreational experiences that serve the entire county population. 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.

1)Level of Service: The current LOS in Skagit County is 9.68 acres/1000 people and the LOS of the tri-county aggregate is 9.81 acres/1000 people.

2) Public Input Survey: The public input survey shows a high level of need for regional park type by specifying needs which are generally accommodated by such a facility. This regional park need includes trails (walking, hiking, and biking), shoreline access, park and picnic areas, indoor recreation facilities, pool, and camping facilities. All these facilities would fit well within the definition of a Regional park.

3) Use Patterns: Use patterns at current regional parks indicate a facility need in Skagit County to accommodate athletic fields, gymnasiums, open space lands with water access, recreational vehicle camping units, and trails. Local gymnasiums are occupied to full capacity in the winter months, reducing program services for basketball and volleyball programs. Campgrounds are full during weekends for most of the summer months. This deficiency also limits SCPR's ability to obtain important revenues.

4) Other Factors: The East Skagit community has stressed the importance of drawing tourists off of the Highway 20 scenic corridor. This would increase the economic benefit to Sedro-Woolley, Concrete, Marblemount and other communities along the North Cascades Highway. Tourists often drive the corridor on their way east of the mountains. Adding destinations on the west side of the mountains increases the amount of economic gain from an increased tourist base. A regional park could help an economy that suffered a setback when the timber industry declined. Other contributing factors include the need for affordable vacations close to home. Regional Parks will provide close and affordable destinations for residents and out of county visitors.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Score: 3.5

Level of Need: Moderate+

Community Parks are generally bigger than Neighborhood Parks, and host a larger number and type of ball fields, facilities and a variety of activities such as open space, BBQs and picnic areas for larger gatherings.

1) Level of Service: The current LOS of Skagit County Community Parks is .26 acres/1000 people. By comparison, the aggregate county LOS is .54 acres/1000 people. Skagit County's service level is approximately 50% of the aggregate.

2) The survey: The survey showed a moderate level of need for community parks by demonstrating needs for facilities/programs that are generally provided at this type of park. Surveys have shown a strong need for group picnic areas, playgrounds, wetland and wildlife viewing and other community park type activities and facilities.

3) Use Patterns: The RCP report indicates a high need for sports fields, waterbody connectivity, nature viewing, picnicking, and fishing, all appropriate community park activities. Unincorporated urban growth areas or other concentrations of residential housing increase the need for parks in site specific areas.

4) Public Input and Other Factors: Skagit County residents need parklands near their homes. Community Parks are distributed disproportionally throughout Skagit County, reducing our ability to adequately serve the community equitably.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Score: 2.0

Level of Need: low

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, including sports courts and play structures. Passive uses include open play areas and green spaces. Age appropriate needs of the surrounding neighborhood should be emphasized.

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.

1) Level of Service: The LOS shows Skagit County to be deficient in neighborhood park land in comparison to the aggregate service level. Although most county governments continue to have neighborhood parks within their inventories, most are not looking to add more. Municipalities are better positioned to provide neighborhood parks. Rural villages and other areas with unincorporated concentrations of population need to be considered when opportunities for adding recreational facilities arise.

2) Public Input Survey: The survey shows Skagit County residents like playgrounds, and site specific needs for neighborhood parks should be considered. Overall, the need for neighborhood parks may be higher for municipalities than for the county. The SCPR need is low to moderate.

3) Use Patterns: Skagit County neighborhood parks are used moderately. The state RCP indicates several activities associated with neighborhood parks rank high. These activities include walking, using sport courts, and picnicking.

4) Public Input and Other Factors: SCPR recognizes that provision of neighborhood parks will ultimately be the responsibility of cities. SCPR is reluctant to add neighborhood parks to county inventories. However, SCPR is receptive to helping guide small communities and neighborhood associations in developing neighborhood parks. As cities push out their Urban Growth boundaries, they need to make sure designated areas for parks are proactively set aside. Once UGA's have been annexed, the land and park construction should be the responsibility of the city.

OPEN SPACE

Score: 4.0

Level of Need: High

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 in the form of hiking, wildlife viewing and various other day-use activities.

1) Level of Service: The aggregate LOS of comparable counties indicates current open space acreage in Skagit County is deficient. These numbers have recently changed as Skagit County develops land previously inventoried as open space. NSRA is an example of land that is being reclassified as a part of this plan.

2) Survey: The surveys show strong support of open space lands in Skagit County, with Open Space and Natural Areas listed as the second most important priority.

3) Use Patterns: Open Space lands with trails are popular and utilized actively in Skagit County.

4) Public Input and Other Factors: Open Space Lands with trails serve an important, expressed need of Skagit County residents. A deficiency in the amount of open space is somewhat offset by the amount of open space there is in the thousands of acres federally/state managed lands in Skagit County.

The acquisition of open space lands in Skagit County has many avenues. Local non-profit agencies such as Preservation Trusts, Skagitians to Preserve Farmland, Skagit Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Seattle City Light, and others have been involved with acquiring open Space Lands. Partnerships reduce or eliminate the burden of Skagit County taxpayers while still allowing Skagit County residents to reap the benefits of the acquired open space lands. Because of these factors, SCPR staff and Advisory Board will carefully evaluate each potential acquisition as to the cost/benefits to the residents of Skagit County.

ANALYZING PROGRAM AND FACILITY NEEDS

Park types serve as the vessel for programs and facilities. For the purpose of analyzing program and facility needs, an analogous formula for establishing specific facility/program needs will be used. LOS comparisons for programs and facilities were inventoried by the counties with which SCPR is making comparisons. The data held by other agencies varies greatly, so comparisons are difficult. Due to these data incompatibilities, SCPR ranks program/facility need by evaluating public input, use patterns and survey results rather than relying on comparisons to other counties. LOS comparisons are not part of the table 9.2 equation.

Facility Type	Public Input Survey	Use Patterns	Other Factors	Total	Average
Non-motorized Trails and Pathways	5	5	5	15	5
Public Beach and Water Access	5	5	5	15	5
Soccer Fields	5	3	5	13	4.3
Gym Space / Sport Courts	3	5	3	11	3.7
Boat Launch Areas	3	3	5	11	3.7
Children's Play Equipment	5	3	3	11	3.7
Mountain Bike Areas	3	3	5	11	3.7
Camping - RV and Tent	5	3	3	11	3.7
Day Use / Picnicking /Parks General	5	3	3	11	3.7
Softball Fields	3	3	3	9	3
Dog Park/hiking with Dog	3	3	3	9	3
Swimming Pools	3	3	1	7	2.3
Motorized Trails	1	3	3	7	2.3
Shooting/Training Facility	1	3	3	7	2.3
Disc Golf	1	3	3	7	2.3
Baseball Fields	3	3	1	7	2.3
Equestrian Activities	1	1	3	5	1.3

Non-motorized Trails and Pathways Score Derivation

1. **Survey Results:** The survey shows a strong desire for the addition of trails in Skagit County. The surveys consistently rate trail facilities as the highest need with nature trails the top need and regional linear trails the second ranked need.
2. **Use Patterns:** The statewide patterns is consistent with local information, trails are the top ranked activity. Trails provide opportunities for wildlife viewings, bike riding, hiking, photography, walking pets, transportation, etc.
3. **Other Factors:** Trails continue to be the number one park need of both Skagit County and Washington State residents. People like to have an array of trail choices throughout the County. Linear Trails often provide connectivity from parks, towns, resources, and other locations. With adequate widths, they can also provide important wildlife corridors. With adequate surfacing they can provide non-motorized transportation. Additional ADA trails are needed in Skagit County. There are three types of trails that recreationalists specify in their needs analysis: linear transportation trails, loop trails, and destination trails.

Public Beach and Water Access Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** Water access, public beach, shoreline access, a boat launch areas are all highly ranked.
2. **Use Patterns:** Water activities, fishing and nature viewing are top RCP activities.
3. **Other Factors:** When river fish are running, the SCPR department is inundated with phone calls and visits from concerned recreationalists about the deficiency regarding river access. Currently there are almost 50 miles of public shoreline in Skagit County. Of the fifty miles, about 30 are saltwater, 5 miles are lake, and 13 miles are River/Creek. Most of the public shoreline is in the western portion of Skagit County, and along the Skagit River in the eastern portion of the County. There is a deficiency in the amount of public shoreline access in Skagit County, especially in regards to lakes and rivers. Fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding, sailing, canoeing, water skiing, and many other recreational activities are connected to water access.

Soccer Field Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** Soccer field is the highest ranked field in the survey.
2. **Use Patterns:** Burlington fields generally satisfy the need for regional soccer fields in Skagit County but due to the demand for tournaments, they are often used to capacity, especially on weekends. The current supply of soccer fields is not meeting demand in the Mount Vernon area. The fees associated with the renting fields can be cost prohibitive for many leagues.
3. **Other Factors:** Soccer is popular with the Latino population and demand increases as their local numbers increase. Hispanics are the largest growing ethnic group in Skagit County, creating needs that are higher than those neighboring counties with lower Hispanic populations. It's important for a complex to be centrally located.

Gym Space / Sports Courts Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** Surveys indicate a strong desire for sports courts and gym space. This survey was completed before the new YMCA opened their doors.
2. **Use Patterns:** Gymnasium space is used to full capacity and the lack of space has limited SCPR's ability to run basketball and volleyball programs at desired levels. Historical partnerships between the YMCA and school districts will provide greater enrichment opportunities to Skagit County youth. However, access to school facilities has become more limited due to the County's growing population and the increased scheduling constraints of the facilities. The RCP indicates most popular sports are golf, basketball, soccer and ping-pong.
3. **Other Factors:** The new YMCA recreation center with multipurpose rooms are providing space for enrichment programs. The benefit of the additional elementary sized basketball courts at the YMCA should unfold over the next few years

Boat Launch Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** surveys show a strong demand for additional and/or improved boat ramps.
2. **Use Patterns:** Water Based Activities are a highly rated RCP activity. River access is declining as many sites have become inoperable. The sites that do exist are distributed sporadically.
3. **Other Factors:** Puget Sound boating for fishing, wildlife viewing, and general pleasure is increasing in popularity statewide. As the state age demographic is changing toward an older and retired population, the demand for this type of recreation is increasing. The San Juan's are especially popular and launching sites can be used to capacity at peak season. The Swinomish Boat Launch serves many of the crabbers. River access is becoming scarce as previous sites are in poor condition, and improvements are difficult due to current permit requirements. Lake access is also declining as development around the lakes increase and access sites that were once thought to be public but were privately owned are becoming more restrictive.

Children's Play Equipment

1. **Surveys:** surveys show a strong ranking of Children's Play Equipment.
2. **Use Patterns:** RCP ranked playing in park highly. SCPR is often requested to add and improve play areas.
3. **Other Factors:** Playgrounds are a facility that can easily be added to many other existing facilities as an additional use.

Mountain Bike Score Derivation

4. **Surveys:** surveys show a strong demand for mountain bike trails and areas.
5. **Use Patterns:** Trail bike riding is a highly ranked RCP activity. Information about mountain bike riding areas is a consistent request of SCPR.
6. **Other Factors:** Mountain Bike riding in Whatcom County is incredibly popular. Galbraith Mountain is filled with bikers throughout the week and of riders of all ages. Mountain Bike Riding is a growing sport at the high school level as well with several teams in Skagit County competing throughout the state. Mountain Biking is also an activity which attracts tourism and can help the local economies as is the case in the nearby Methow Valley.

Camping: RV and Tent Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** Surveys point to a consistent and high desire for campgrounds in Skagit County.
2. **Use Patterns:** Camping is a priority in the RCP plan. There is a deficiency in the number of sites in Skagit County, but this deficiency is somewhat offset by the amount of primitive camping opportunities there are in the thousands of acres federally/state managed lands in Skagit County. RV and cabin camping remain as modest recreational demands in Washington State. There is a need for adequate camping facilities at Lake Shannon to accommodate anglers and summer visitors.
3. **Other factors:** Although there is an abundance of primitive camping opportunities, RV camping is less available. Ready-made facilities such as yurts and camping cabins are being provided for in neighboring counties with great success. Campgrounds provide more than just recreational opportunities. They also attract tourism and help the local economies. Camping opportunities situated along the Highway 20 corridor attract tourists who may otherwise make a non-stop trip through Skagit County on their way to the east side of the mountains. Camping opportunities in the Marblemount area are needed.

Day Use / Picnicking / Parks General Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** Surveys indicate the highest desire for parks in general.
2. **Use Patterns:** RCP has picnicking, family gathering, attending an event or concert ranked as a top priority.
3. **Other Factors:** The residents of Skagit County like to see picnic shelters as a part of their regional and community park facilities. There are 18 large group picnic areas in Skagit County. Skagit County shelters are often reserved to capacity during the summer months. There is also a need for shelters with "kitchen type" cooking capabilities. The growing Hispanic population is increasing the need for picnic shelters. Shade is a health/safety issue and shelters should be strongly considered as a necessary amenity at most park properties.

Softball Field Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** surveys indicate a modest desire for softball fields in Skagit County.
2. **Use Patterns:** RCP ranks 6% of the population using softball fields.
3. **Other Factors:** The Skagit Valley Playfields are a regional draw for league play and tournaments. The fields are used to capacity the summer months. The number of leagues and teams are showing trends of flattening. The Janicki Fields in Sedro-Woolley have reduced the need for fields at Northern State Recreation Area. A reduced parks staff won't allow for the maintaining of additional fields without a third party agreement.

Dog Park / Hiking with Dog Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** Surveys have shown a moderate interest in Dog Park facilities.
2. **Use Patterns:** RCP shows a moderate level of popularity of hiking with a dog.
3. **Other Factors:** Dog parks are traditionally provided for in more urban settings and may be best left to cities. It is possible that some trail areas may have off-leash sections for those wishing to have that type of hiking experience.

Swimming Pools Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** Past surveys shows a desire for a large indoor pool. Though lower than in past years, there is still a strong interest in pools and aquatic centers.
2. **Use Patterns:** Swimming is a highly popular activity in the RCP.
3. **Other Factors:** The YMCA Pool has fulfilled a long need for a centrally located pool facility.

Motorized Trails Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** Surveys show a lower priority for motorized trails.
2. **Use Patterns:** Motorized trails are available in The Anacortes Community Forest Lands and Walker Valley. The current trails adequately provide for the users. RCP reports an 11 percent Off Road Vehicle participation rate. Most popular are 4x4 vehicles, followed by All Terrain Vehicles, and finally snowmobiling.
3. **Other Factors:** Walker Valley periodically shuts down trails for motorized use. If the trails are permanently closed to County residents, a void will be created. Motorcycle/ORV use is constrained by the availability of desirable land and facilities. Much of the public trail inventory, for example, is closed to motorcycle/ORV use.

Shooting/Training Facility Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** The surveys indicate a medium ranking of a shooting/training facility in Skagit County.
2. **Use Patterns:** Approximately 7 percent of the Washington State population participates in shooting/hunting. These percentages are generally much higher in rural counties. Without a

safe public facility for shooting/training, many County residents are forced to use private timberlands and quarries, public open space, and residential properties to accommodate their recreational interest.

3. **Other Factors:** A shooting range may help alleviate safety concerns that currently exist as gun owners often discharge their weapons in unsanctioned areas. A need is especially evident for long-range shooting opportunities.

Disk Golf Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** Surveys have shown a lower ranking for disc golf facilities.
2. **Use Patterns:** RCP does not comment on disc golf. Use patterns at existing courses indicated a high level of use, comparable to trail usage.
3. **Other Factors:** This use is attractive in that it can be a low impact overlay use on trails or open space, providing recreation with a minimal investment. The new course at NSRA was built almost exclusively by user group volunteers. The NSRA course is being recognized nationally and has hosted national tournaments with some of the best throwers from Canada and US.

Baseball Fields Score Derivation

1. **Surveys:** Indicate a continual higher ranking for baseball fields.
2. **Use patterns:** The use and needs are mostly being met in Skagit County.
3. **Other Factors:** Little League size fields are traditionally provided for by municipal park departments. Elite select leagues and little leagues are often competing for fields. There may be an adequate number of fields but the quality of the fields vary. A focus should be placed on fixing up the fields with deficiencies. Skagit County should let municipalities fill this niche. A reduced parks staff won't allow for the maintaining of additional fields without a third party agreement.

Equestrian Facilities Score Derivation

1. **Survey:** Survey respondents indicate a lower ranking of equestrian facilities.
2. **Use Patterns:** RCP ranks participation as low. A small percent of the Washington State population participates in equestrian activities. This is not a use currently featured in the Skagit County inventory other than multi-use trails.
3. **Other Factors:** Cost and urbanization are likely contributing to what is becoming a niche activity. Though the percentage of equestrian users is modest, the location of such a large amount of state and federal public lands in Skagit County makes equestrian use, particularly back-county equestrians use, logical and attractive. Private and public partnerships should be explored. The meetings we had throughout the County were attended heavily by equestrian enthusiasts. The 4-h horse groups are very active and have strong participation.

CHAPTER 10 - RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION LIST

The following projects are based on the needs compiled from the surveys, use patterns, level of service comparisons, public input, and other factors. Project priorities are sorted in order of preference as to which programs/facilities the project encompasses and how those projects/facilities rank using the needs formula (analysis-chapter # 9). In sorting projects by priorities, financial issues are also considered. Considerations can include constraints due to a lack of resources (staff, funds) required to develop, maintain and operate facilities. The ability to draw revenue from the proposed development, facility, and/or program is also factored in. Within a broad range of project priorities, the county needs to be flexible to changing conditions and opportunities as they arise. The priorities are categorized as follows:

Level 1 Need (High Priority):

Projects in this category typically fall under the department's first priority of "taking care of what we have." In addition, these projects may have demonstrated the highest level of need in some or all of the categories of public input use patterns, level of service, or survey results (from chapter 9 needs rankings). Finally, economic feasibility or potential cost recovery is considered.

Level 2 Need (Moderate to High Priority):

Projects in this category have a moderate level of need as measured by a composite of public input, level of service analysis, survey results, and/or economic feasibility.

Level 3 Need (Low to Moderate Priority):

Projects in this category have some level of need as measured by a composite of public input, level of service, survey results, and/or economic feasibility.

Level 4 Need (No to Low Priority):

Projects in this category have no projected need as measured by a composite of public input, level of service, survey results, and/or economic feasibility. These projects are not listed in the analysis.

INDEX TO RECOMMENDATIONS & RANKINGS

Level 1:

Northern State Recreation Area Trails Plan	Trails
Centennial Trail	Trails
Skagit Valley Playfields Improvements	Sports Facilities
Big Rock Access and Parking	Open Space / Trails
Pressentin Park Improvements	Parks /Shoreline Access
Howard Miller Steelhead Park Improvements	Parks / Shoreline Access
Other Trail Development and/or acquisitions	Trails
Other Water Access Park Development and/or acquisitions	Shoreline Access

Level 2:

Similk Bay Shoreline Access	Shoreline Access
Sharpe Park Trail Development	Trails / Shoreline Access
Rexville Overlook Development	Open Space
Smokehouse Trail	Trails
Indoor Gym Space	Sports Facilities
Evergreen Trail	Trails
Northern State Recreation Area Development	Parks
Burlington to Sedro-Woolley Trail	Trails
Other Open Space Development and or/acquisitions	Open Space

Level 3:

Lake Shannon Trail	Trails
Cascade Trail Maintenance and Upgrades	Trails
Lake Shannon Park Development	Parks / Shoreline Access
Northern State Recreation Area Ball Field	Sports Facilities
Shooting/Training Range	Parks
Grandy Lake Development	Parks / Shoreline Access
Sauk Park Development	Parks / Shoreline Access

PROJECT AND RENOVATION DESCRIPTIONS

Following is a description of the above recommended projects. To assist in comparison they will be presented within the following categories.

- 1. Trail Plans**
- 2. Park Development Plans**
- 3. Open Space Plans**
- 4. Shorelines Plans**
- 5. Sports Fields Plans**

1. TRAILS PLAN

Trails continue to be the recreational facility most asked for by Skagit county residents. The 2018 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (RCP) surveys indicated similar trends. The (RCP) document makes recommendations for local agencies and encourages trail opportunities. The plan specifically states, “If there is a weakness in the local response statewide, it may be in addressing high-participation activities that take place away from a traditional park, especially bicycling and walking. Health professionals increasingly regard walking and bicycling, both for recreation and transportation, as valuable tools that can help people build healthier lifestyles. Community oriented trails, paths, and routes for walking and cycling can encourage people to participate in health oriented activities; encourage children to walk or bicycle to school; and encourage adults to commute without a car”.

Trails and paths, therefore, can provide multiple benefits for the state’s citizens including recreation, health, and transportation. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) encourages local government to work more closely with transportation and health professionals on non-traditional recreation projects such as bicycle lanes and walking routes to and from schools and businesses. They also encourage local governments to consider outdoor recreation sites and facilities as integral elements of the public infrastructure, as important to the public health and welfare as utilities and roads. The safety of trail-users will continue to be a priority.

Trails need to be provided at every opportunity. Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley identified proposed trail corridors in their Park Plans as well as connection points to the County-wide system. Anacortes is actively pursuing extending the Guemes Channel Trail in areas where there are gaps. Skagit County residents have identified a need for additional primitive trails. Burlington

has proposed these types of trails on Burlington Hill, and Mount Vernon has recently expanded their trail system on Little Mountain. Anacortes has over 50 miles of primitive trails in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. Skagit County has proposals for more trails at Sharpe Park and Northern State Recreation Area, possibly extending into Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) property. The county is making progress in the development of the Centennial Trail. The City of Sedro-Woolley has been promoting the extension of the State Route 20 Trail between Burlington and Sedro-Woolley. ADA paved routes are proposed for sections of this trail. There is also a mile of ADA trail proposed at Lake Shannon as a part of the day-use park project at the Lake Shannon Boat Launch.

The recommended recreational trails plan includes a combination of loop, destination and linear type trails. To complete these sections will require, in some cases, access easements or outright purchase of property. In other cases where no other options exist, the route may need to utilize existing road rights-of-way to complete a segment. A description of the major recreation trails found in the plan is presented below.

Skagit County will work to find regional trail links between trails on county lands and those on public property managed by other agencies. City, County, State, Ports, and Federal agencies should continue to work together to assure a healthy and user-friendly trail system in Skagit County.

Trail Design Guidelines

Trail Corridors – The trails are to be routed so as to maintain a natural setting, to avoid unnecessary disturbance to private landowners adjacent to the trail and to preserve wildlife habitat and important vegetation. While a target minimum acceptable trail easement is 20 feet, wider in many instance is more practical and desirable. In riparian areas the recommended corridor width is 100 feet for greater flexibility in locating a trail with as much sensitivity to wildlife at possible.

Road Crossings – Road crossings should occur at points of good visibility, perpendicular to the roadway when possible. Signage on the trail should be well designed to maximize the safety of trail users. Signage on roads is largely governed by WSDOT.

Signage – Trails should be signed at road crossings and all other public access points with signs that define uses and restrictions. More primitive trails should be signed only at the main entrances. These signs should describe uses, trail surface conditions, and limitations (such as ADA degree of access).

Northern State Recreation Area Trails Plan

Level 1

The NSRA trails component is the development of an integrated non-motorized trail network throughout the Northern State Recreation Area property providing for at least six miles of trail with plans for another three miles in the coming three years. Trails were identified as the highest priority type of facility to include at NSRA in the countywide survey administered in the NSRA planning process. Several trail types are included in the master plan for NSRA, including multiple use trails, interpretive trails, limited use trails, and exercise trails. Connecting neighborhoods to the NSRA trail system is a priority. The new berm trail around the alluvial fan will be an interpretive trail and, with some additional work, this trail will be at ADA standards. Connecting the interpretive berm trail to form a loop has been mentioned by park users as something they would like to see accomplished. Finally, with the old Northern State Hospital grounds are being opened to the public, access points between these two properties should be prioritized. Reestablishing the Olmstead paths and reconnecting the Port property to NSRA are public priorities. In addition, there has been strong sentiment to see connectivity to the DNR lands to the north and east of NSRA. Whatcom County has seen a large flux in recreational tourism because of trails on Galbraith Mountain, Lookout Mountain, the Chuckanut Mountains, and Lake Padden. Snohomish County is actively pursuing similar trails for mountain bike enthusiasts on DNR lands with relatively steep terrain. Green tourism is being recognized for the economic dollars it brings in and as a recruitment tool for businesses.

Centennial Trail

Level 1

The Centennial Trail is a regional trail system with the potential to be continuous through Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties. These neighboring counties have been actively buying and creating connections with monies dedicated within their capital facility plans, and for the most part these trails are fully developed and open for use. The Skagit portion is divided into two segments. The northern segment between Sedro-Woolley and Whatcom County will follow State Route 9. Because this segment is within the road corridor, it will probably be used primarily for bicycling. South of Sedro-Woolley, the planned route of the Centennial Trail follows an abandoned railroad corridor. The County has purchased approximately nine miles of this route but anticipates that the remaining portion of the trail could be located within street rights-of-way, at least in the near-term. This is an excellent opportunity to create multi-use trails for bicyclists, walkers, horseback riders and other users. A first phase of development is in the planning stages between Big Rock and Clear Lake, and completion of this should

be one of the highest priorities. The Centennial Trail is envisioned to be part of an overall off-street trail one day connecting British Columbia to Seattle. Snohomish County owns a parcel of land at their northern boundary which has been developed as a trailhead for the Centennial Trail.

Sharpe Park Trail Development

Level 1

Sharpe Park encompasses conifer lowland forest, a wetland, rocky balds, a seasonal stream, and coastline. These combined land characteristics make the property unique biologically due to the habitat interface of these differing features. Sharpe Park is also a vital connecting link between shoreline and the Montgomery-Duban Headlands. Together, Montgomery-Duban Headlands and Sharpe Park comprise a 110-acre natural area including almost a mile of rugged, natural shoreline on Rosario Strait. The property features a spectacular view, encompassing most of the Olympic Range, the straits, and Lopez, Allan, Burrows, and other islands. A community group has approached SCPR to financially partner on the potential purchase of a land-locked parcel at the south end of the park. This could allow a trail connection between Sharpe Park and Deception Pass State Park, which would be very desirable.

Other Proposed Trail Development and/or acquisition

Level 1

In addition to the major trail routes described above, trails should be developed and improved in existing parks, open space and day-use areas. Some of the specific areas should include:

- Cascade Trail
- Squires Lake
- Chuckanut Mountain Area
- Skagit River Access
- Anne Wolford Park
- Pressentin Park
- Sauk Park
- Swinomish Channel Smokehouse Trail
- Fidalgo Island Evergreen Trail
- Other publicly owned lands and/or open space areas.
- Separated paths within state highway corridors connecting towns in Skagit County

There is considerable public interest in having more access onto this region's dike and levee systems for recreational walking. Skagit County parks should continue to be open to opportunities to assist and partner with the local dike districts to facilitate appropriate access onto the dike systems.

Evergreen Trail and Sharpe Park to Deception Pass Connectivity

Level 2

This is a cross-island corridor trail concept for Fidalgo Island. It would link Anacortes, San Juan Ferry Terminal, Washington Park, Heart Lake, Campbell Lake, Mount Erie, Sharpe Park and Deception Pass State Park. Most of the linkages would utilize existing public land. Additional linkages need to be acquired and some physical obstacles need to be addressed. This trail program should be a coordinated effort between the City of Anacortes, Washington State Parks, Skagit County, non-profit organizations, and private landowners. Moving people safely from Donnell Road just north of Deception Pass State Park to the Anacortes Forestland Trails should be an initial focus. A safe route along Heart Lake Road would provide non-motorized transportation for commuters and recreationists. Connections can be made in a number of creative ways, including but not limited to:

- Private gifting of conservation or trail easements.
- Development of a revolving "conservation" fund that could purchase available properties and resell them after placing appropriate easements on the property.
- Purchase of available properties or trail easements in critical areas in cooperation with the City of Anacortes, Skagit Land Trust, and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. WSPRC currently has some property in this area designated as potential acquisitions.

Wildlife corridors between the Anacortes Community Forest Lands, Sharpe Park, Tursi Trail, and Deception Pass State Park should always be considered. A wildlife corridor helps accommodate the movement of wildlife between the public lands. Wildlife corridors are important for the long-term genetic health of island wildlife by providing links for subpopulations. Such an Open Space Corridor can be created by purchasing properties, by retaining rural zoning, by conservation easements, etc. Habitat connectivity in this part of Fidalgo Island is very important for the long-term health of the biotic community. Since there will be more and more pressures to develop these properties on Fidalgo Island, the pursuance of wildlife corridors is important. Once these lands are lost to development, the

opportunities may be lost forever. Potential funding in partnership with a local land trust should be pursued.

Burlington to Sedro-Woolley Trail

Level 2

Completing the connection between the towns would provide recreational and transportation opportunities. Since these two towns have growing populations, an emphasis should be placed on hardened surfaces, more typically looked for in urban areas. Attracting top employees is dependent on a strong infrastructure of trails, greenspaces, and parks. The Port of Skagit Business Park (SWIFT Center) would benefit from the ability for people to get to work via non-motorized means. This would be a very attractive carrot for local businesses to attract young professionals and laborers.

Smokehouse Trail

Level 2

The creation of a four mile berm trail along the Swinomish Channel would provide the longest contiguous shoreline trail in Skagit County. The interpretive trail would celebrate the Swinomish Tribe's culture and history. Interpretive information explaining the ecological value of restoring the brackish wetlands and estuarine habitat would provide educational opportunities. The trail meanders through farm habitat where Trumpeter Swans and Snow Geese gather during the winter months. Connectivity to La Conner and Anacortes would create a great opportunity for the hiking and biking public.

Cascade Trail Maintenance and Upgrades

Level 3

The Cascade Trail will need some improvements made to trestles and pedestrian bridges in the coming years. Plans are being put together to regularly look at the structural integrity of the structures and prioritize maintenance needs based on the reports that come from these visits. Skagit County should work with partners to find a funding opportunity for fixing the ongoing issues with the trail and enhancing Wiseman Creek area as better Salmon habitat. Skagit County has entered into these agreements in the past with great results. The trail should maintained and enhanced to a higher standard near towns and cities.

Lake Shannon Trail

Level 3

A short ADA loop trail is planned for the Lake Shannon Boat Launch area. Also, a linear trail linking Concrete with Lake Shannon from the confluence of Skagit/Baker River, and Baker Lake may be possible with a long-term adaptive management fund made available through a recent Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

relicensing process. Skagit County should remain involved with PSE, Town of Concrete and other recreational providers in the area to ensure the needs of County residents are being met.

2. PARK DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Pressentin Park Development

Level 1

This regional park is located off Highway 20 in Marblemount. It was acquired in 1990 with the assistance of an RCO grant. More acreage was added in 2009 and 2018. Pressentin is comprised of three distinct areas, an upper forested shelf, a middle open meadow, and lower (across a drainage swale) floodplain terrace. The community has long asked for a park with walking trails, playground, day-use area and primitive camping. A partnership project with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group has been funded via several grant sources. The project is scheduled for completion in 2020.

The river island opposite the site belongs to the Skagit Land Trust and is maintained as eagle wintering habitat (specifically, nighttime roosting area). This site is dedicated as wildlife habitat.

In 2017 an RCO grant was secured to purchase more land and add park amenities. The expanded park will be comprised of a day use area, two large picnic shelters, a primitive bike camp area, foot bridges, and additional trails. Habitat enhancement includes a side channel restoration project for salmon. This project is scheduled for completion in 2020.

Northern State Recreation Area Development

Level 2

A master plan has been prepared for this site and includes about 525 acres of natural open space. Other recommended facilities include a trail system, a softball/baseball complex, a Veterans day-use park, equestrian facilities, environmental education center, camping area, an event center and campground. In 2019 grant funds will become available to install a restroom at the main parking area, a one mile ADA trail, and a Veterans Plaza. Subsequent development is dependent upon the availability of funds and ability to properly provide adequate maintenance. A cross-country course has been developed here and is used by local schools. A dedicated citizens group, the Skagit Trail Builders, has begun developing and improving trails and built a bridge over Hansen Creek connecting the SWIFT center to the NSRA area. The Hansen Creek salmon habitat restoration project at the south end of NSRA accommodates over 100 species of birds and has become a destination for local and regional birders and birding organizations. In

2011 a disc golf course was developed. In partnership with the private sector, the historic buildings should be renovated and preserved. Some buildings are beyond repair and will be lost. The architecture should be assimilated into all new construction. A strong focus should remain on expanding trails and equestrian/bicycle opportunities. The property was purchased with RCO funds and need to be protected for recreational uses that fit within the guidelines of those grants.

Howard Miller Steelhead Park Development

Level 2

Thirteen acres of this site are currently highly developed with the remaining 80 acres lying across a small stream channel to the west, all of which is in flood plain. Mowed paths provide access to some of the undeveloped part of the park and provide visitors with a recreational opportunity in a natural setting. The existing developed site includes picnic areas, picnic shelters, a dump station, a rail trail, boat launch, 54 RV units, an office building, two Adirondack shelters, two camping cabins and tent sites. HMSP has a club house and an interpretive center. With the addition of a new rail car bridge across Rusty Water Creek, low impact uses may expand to the west end of the park. The park receives many regular users from outside the region (upwards of 80%).

There are currently two entrances to the park, one from Sauk Valley Road and the other through the local neighborhood on Alfred Street. During the Eagle Festival and the eagle viewing season, 200 or more cars may attempt to park on the site. This heavy use period occurs mostly on weekends from December to March. Customers of many commercial raft vendors park their cars on the site prior to being transported upriver to a boat launch area. The location of a portion of the developed site in the Skagit River floodway and noise from the nearby tavern are occasional disruptions to public enjoyment of the park.

Consideration should be given to providing greater access and recreation opportunities in the open meadow located west of the developed portion of HMSP. Expansion of the park is limited due to the constraints of the floodplain. For future expansion, all acquisition opportunities along Park Road should be considered as lands become available.

The forested portion found at the furthest west end of the park should not be developed and remain as a wildlife corridor linking riparian habitat with other surrounding land. One of the most important tasks

to complete should be an overall park site plan addressing office space, restrooms, upgraded interpretive center, parking, a gated entrance system, interpretive signage, and a possible amphitheater for educational purposes.

Indoor Gym Space

Level 2

The new YMCA is meeting the need for a central indoor recreation center and pool, but with just three middle school sized basketball courts there is still a need for additional gym space to support the county sports leagues as well as local community athletic organizations.

Community groups are advocating for a lower budget metal field house for providing indoor gym space, similar to the Sports N Skills complex in Lynden, WA.

Shooting/Training Range:

Level 3

The need for a shooting range has become apparent because of unsanctioned shooting in sand and gravel quarries or other unmanaged areas. Because of the concern for safety, shooting in most informal areas is now restricted. Hunting license sales in the State have remained steady and hunters have a need to practice their skills at an organized, safe, and reliable facility.

3. RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE PLAN

Depending upon one's point of view, the definition of Open Space varies widely. For some it includes land designated primarily for the preservation of wildlife habitat or agricultural farmland. To others, it may include environmentally sensitive areas, lands used to buffer, and space to create a sense of seclusion.

In this report, Recreational Open Space (ROS) is defined as undeveloped land left primarily in its natural condition and used for non-consumptive recreational purposes, creation of separation and seclusion, and as buffers between urban uses. Sites designated primarily for agricultural farmland and wildlife habitat are not considered in this category of Open Space. ROS is further defined as large parcels of land that because of unique or scenic quality should be carefully monitored, planned and used. They may

permit a variety of land uses as long as open space qualities are conserved. The maximum development in such areas would be low impact day-use activities and trails.

Currently, most public open space acres and some wildlife habitat and environmentally sensitive areas in the County are managed by state and federal agencies or the City of Anacortes. Both Burlington and Mount Vernon have proposed open space corridors in their comprehensive plans. LaConner has policies related to open space areas but no specific areas have been set aside. The largest open space area in the County is the corridor of the Skagit Wild and Scenic River System managed by the US Forest Service.

Skagit County currently has some undeveloped park sites which function as recreation open space. These are sites which permit public access but provide little or no facilities or services. Some of them will eventually be developed, providing both recreational open space and active play areas. Some of the County park sites are not anticipated to be developed for a long period of time and will remain as reserves for future generations.

The Skagit County Planning Department has full review of potential open space areas. The UGA Open Space Concept Plans was forwarded to the Planning Commission and approved by the Board of County Commissioners in 2009. The plan should act as an extension of this parks and recreation plan.

There are a variety of tools available to protect other open space areas. Acquisition is an option and most likely necessary to provide broad public access. Other options include scenic and access easements, development restrictions, etc. It will be necessary to work closely with Skagit County Planning and Development Services to ensure appropriate land use controls are in place to achieve open space objectives. It should be kept in mind that much of the natural open space now exists as critical areas and will be preserved through current land use regulations. Therefore, it isn't often necessary for the county to purchase these parcels when other mechanisms now exist as protection.

Rexville Overlook Development

Level 1

This site is located off Bradshaw Road, in the community of Rexville. The glacially deposited rock is on the site of the former Rexville School. An area adjacent to the rock provides parking opportunities. A short climb up the moderate slope provides expansive views across patterned agricultural lands to the distant coastline and islands. Skagit County should develop this property as a park, including a viewing

platform with picnic tables. The cost to develop this park is nominal. The deed has a condition for returning the land if it isn't used for recreational purposes.

Big Rock Park Improvements

Level 1

Permanent, safe, and legal access needs to be established to this park. Although the property is currently landlocked, it was given to the County with the intention for recreational use. Formal parking and a trailhead will also need to be established. Skagit County should stay engaged with Mount Vernon Planning processes to ensure the creation of a safe and legal access to the Big Rock property. Adjacent development proposals should be looked at for trail access opportunities that will benefit the neighbors and general public. Future properties need to be acquired with the necessary safe and legal access.

Other Open Space Development and/or Acquisition

Level 2

Opportunities to acquire open space lands should be pursued when possible. Skagit County should coordinate and cooperate with both public and private sector interests to further park and recreation opportunities. Park planning and land acquisition efforts should consider existing and planned infrastructure, population served, environmental constraints, and available resources. Partnerships with local land trusts and other non-profit agencies should be pursued as a way to find recreational opportunities at a low cost to Skagit County taxpayers. A dedicated fund should be established for acquiring potential parks, trails, and open space lands.

4. SHORELINES PLAN

The ability of Skagit County residents to gain access to their shorelines has been a persistent challenge over the past couple of decades. The loss of public shoreline access has come with the rising population and subsequent development. Concern has been growing that the public will lose the ability to enjoy their favorite waterbodies as more and more traditional access points are lost to development. And due to zoning anomalies, the private sector has the ability to develop their sites while the public properties are restricted from building some of the same amenities the private property owners enjoy. Private property rights are protected when the public has the same ability to enjoy public lands as in the residential areas. Demand for public access seems to be rising as participation in recreational boating, fishing, and shellfish harvesting grows. As development increases, traditional access sites and affordable shorefront lands suitable for access diminish. Clearly, public access to Skagit County's shorelines is an issue that will not go away. Once lands are developed, developing public access to shorelines becomes much more difficult and expensive. Because of the popularity of shorelines and the diminishing ability to access these areas, the priority for the acquisition and enhancement of these properties ranks high.

Our County abounds with tideland recreational resources—miles of beaches and many important estuaries, in particular at the mouths of the Skagit and Samish Rivers. These resources are the legacy of the Skagit Valley we want to appreciate and preserve. To that end, we recommend and support working with local governments and non-profit agencies in finding ways to acquire intertidal lands for the enjoyment of our public. In the past decade, we partnered with the WDNR and The Skagit Land Trust to keep tidelands on Samish Island available to the public. We will continue to look for creative ways to protect similar properties in the years to come.

Similk Bay Shoreline Access

Level 1

This proposed shoreline access area is currently owned by the Swinomish Tribe. In the distant past, the site was a highly utilized resort, featuring a restaurant, public areas, and restroom facilities. Until the 90's, the intertidal area was used for aquaculture. A partnership with the Swinomish Tribe should be pursued for the benefit of the public. An opportunity to improve fish habitat with a provision of public access would be a great grant opportunity. Formal parking, interpretive signs, garbage receptacles, and portable toilet facilities should be made available in partnership with the Swinomish Tribe. The site is currently used informally by the public.

Other Water Access Park Development and/or Acquisition

Level 1

Lakefront recreational resources are extremely rare in Skagit County. A long-term objective of SCPR and its partners has been to develop a major regional park on a centrally located lake in Skagit County (Big Lake or Clear Lake would best fill this void). Skagit County is blessed with a number of beautiful lakes, but public access is limited. The site should include an array of day-use opportunities. The public needs to have the same opportunities as the private sector. Public property rights are protected when adequate public lands are provided.

Lake Shannon Park Development

Level 3

Baker Lake, in Whatcom County, has a variety of recreational developments, while Lake Shannon to the south has a primitive recreational site with no legal road access to the lake. At Lake Shannon, surrounding lands are mostly in private ownership (except DNR lands on the western shore) and shorelines are steep. Osprey and Loons regularly use the lake and shoreline. The site should include day-use facilities, trails, and a boat ramp. Lakefront recreational resources are extremely rare in Skagit County. Survey results indicate shoreline access to be a primary need of County residents. Standards developed for public access in this plan should focus on the types and scale of facilities developed at other Northwest reservoirs. The formation of this lake has created a demand for its use. Almost 1.5 million dollars were set aside in the Baker River Hydroelectric Project relicensing process for recreational amenities.

Grandy Lake Development

Level 3

This primitive camping area is located off Baker Lake Road about five miles northeast of highway 20. This site includes picnic tables, a portable restroom building, and undeveloped parking spurs. The site is used to capacity on the opening weekends of fishing and hunting season. The site has become an overflow to the Baker River recreational developments and many of the users of the Baker Lake facilities stop by to use the rest rooms. A group camp site was constructed in the past decade. Expansion is going to be necessary in the coming years. Howard Miller Steelhead Park is at full capacity and satellite overnight park facilities are growing in demand. This park has become more and more popular with each year.

Sauk Park Development

Level 3

This existing site is located about ¼ of a mile north of Lower Government Bridge off Sauk Valley Road. About half of the site is located on the upland side of the road. The park currently provides primitive camping opportunities but is very minimally developed. Changes to the site occur with each flood event. A boat launch once existed on the site but later eroded away during high-water, and now provides good walking access to a broad, sandy riverside area. This sand bar grew with past flood events and provides a very nice day-use area for picnicking, fishing, and walking. Camp units are mostly situated along the river bank. Camping continues to grow in popularity at this campground and more sites may become necessary in the coming years. Uncontrolled access from units to the river has caused some bank erosion, resulting in steepening gradients in some areas. A group site camp or horse camp area should be considered in the future for the upland area.

The site is adjacent to DNR lands, which abuts National Forest lands. A power line crosses the roadway just north of the site. Though timber harvest and management is active in the area, there are trail opportunities. A master plan should be developed for this site. Careful consideration should be given to equestrian opportunities when developing the site plan.

5. SPORTS FIELDS PLAN

Considerable analysis was given to evaluating the role the County should take in managing and maintaining sport fields. While organized sports have historically been the function of local communities, Skagit County assumed this role because a clear need was expressed.

Since there is a great demand for more sport fields and the County is already managing a major complex, it is recommended that the County continue with managing the fields they currently have, while supporting agencies that are making efforts to create new fields.

Skagit Valley Playfields Improvements:

Level 1

Skagit County obtained 25 acres of land in 1979 through a long-term year lease with Skagit Valley College. The soccer field and baseball fields were transferred to the College a decade ago. The site once hosted more than 20 weekends of softball tournaments per year. Those numbers have dropped in the past decade. SCPR adult softball leagues play weeknights on all 4 softball fields up to 55 games per week. The softball fields are used for league play from the first of March through the middle of October. Drainage problems have been resolved in the outfields. An RCO grant in 2019 provides for the installation of synthetic turf on the infields. The long-term plan is to expand on the ten acres adjacent to the playfields. There is a strong demand for soccer fields in this area.

Site recommendations include:

- Increase the number of paved parking stalls
- Install LED lighting and expand the area of synthetic field turf.
- Improve internal pathways, including ADA accessibility.
- Build soccer and lacrosse fields
- Build an indoor gym

Northern State Recreational Area Ballfields

Level 3

The NSRA masterplan includes an area dedicated for youth and adult sports fields. The Janicki Fields currently fill the current demand but as the population grows, the need for more fields will grow accordingly. The plan includes parking, concessions, restrooms, maintenance facilities, and picnic areas. The ball field component includes the following elements:

- 5 youth/adult softball fields
- 4 youth baseball fields
- 1 youth/ adult baseball field
- Adequate parking for the fields
- Sufficient space for maintenance and operations
- Adequate concessions
- Play areas

There is not currently adequate funding or staff to care for the build out of the sports fields and development of these fields would require a commitment of additional full time staff. A bathroom is being planned and developed as a part of the 2020 Trailhead project.

MEETING ADA REQUIREMENTS

In 1990, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The intent of this law was to strengthen the accessibility requirements for all facilities used by the public. As it relates to park and recreation facilities, the law is intended to insure that a person with a disability has the same opportunity to achieve their recreation goals as those without a disability.

Essential to the ADA is the belief that services, programs and facilities shall be provided in the most integrated setting possible. A public agency is not obligated to guarantee participation but to provide the opportunity. In addition, structural changes are not necessarily required if other methods will result in equal access.

The definition of disability varies widely and includes a variety of impairments and limitations. This includes mobility impairments, visual limitations, hearing impairments, mental disabilities, learning impairments and emotional disabilities. In addition, it includes elderly citizens as well as people with temporary disabilities, such as a broken arm or leg. It is estimated that 57% of the population has some sort of disability or physical limitation.

MEETING ADA REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING FACILITIES

The approach to meeting accessibility requirements for existing parks and recreational facilities is based on the significance and/or relative level of development of the site. The more significant and intensively used a recreation area becomes, the greater the accessibility must become. Recreation areas that are highly developed such as neighborhood parks, community parks or special use areas require a high level of accessibility. These types of recreation areas should be accessible to people with all types of disabilities. In contrast, a very passive area, such as natural open space that has little development and is seldom used, requires less accessibility.

Where evaluation of existing facilities becomes difficult is when an accommodation would result in a substantial economic burden on the parks department or would require a major change to the nature of service. Under these conditions, a park and recreation agency may decline to make the accommodations. However, determining a substantial economic burden is difficult.

Factors that should be considered include: the cost of change as it relates to the overall operating budget of the agency, the actual cost of the change, the number of individuals who would benefit and the availability of existing funds within the current operating budget.

MEETING ADA REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW FACILITIES

Meeting ADA requirements for new development is easier and slightly different from retrofitting existing development. The development of new parks and recreation facilities allows a greater flexibility in terms of design opportunities for people with disabilities. Because the intent of ADA is to provide a disabled person with the opportunity to experience a full range of recreational opportunities, new park and recreation facilities should be designed to provide experiences for all ability levels. Individuals with disabilities who enjoy a challenge should be accommodated as well as those who prefer easier outdoor recreation experiences. Ideally, individual sites should provide a full range of opportunities for those with disabilities.

However, due to the size and physical characteristics of some sites, offering a variety of ability levels is not always possible. Larger sites often have a greater opportunity for accommodating varying levels of development and as a result may require greater accessibility. In general, recreational facilities should provide the highest practical level of access to people with disabilities, though sometimes, that access to facilities may be limited due to physical features of the site.

ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following are the basic accessibility requirements as identified by the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards. These standards should be modified according to the level of accessibility required of the site.

1. Parking/Access Routes

- a. One designated handicapped space per 25 total spaces
- b. Eight-foot wide parking spaces with 5-foot wide access aisles for cars and 8-foot access aisle for vans.
- c. 50% of handicap spaces for cars and 50% spaces for vans.

2. Pathways/Trails/Ramps

- a. A handicap accessible pathway must be provided to all major features of the park.
- b. Ramp required if slope is greater than 1:20 (5%).
- c. Maximum slope on ramp is 1:12 (8%).
- d. Ramp landings 5 feet by 5 feet for every 30 inch rise.
- e. Ramp width is 3 feet minimum.
- f. Two inch high curbs are required along edge of ramp.

- g. Ramp must have a hard non-slip surface.
- h. Handrails are required on ramps and trails with steep cross slopes.
- i. Pathways and trail grades should not exceed 1:20 (5%).
- j. Width of pathways and trails for one-way access is 4 feet and for two-way is 5 feet.
- k. Tactile warnings should be provided along surfaces of potentially dangerous areas.

3. Fishing Facilities

- a. The connection between the fishing pad and pathway should be hard surfaced.
- b. A curb and/or railing should be provided at water's edge.
- c. Two accessible fishing stations are required for each accessible parking space.
- d. Each fishing station should consist of a 30 inch wide and 48 inch deep designated area on a dock or 5 linear feet of fishing area on shore pads.
- e. If there is a guardrail or handrail on the dock, it should be lowered to 34 inches at the designated station.

4. Boating Facilities

- a. Docks, piers and gangways must meet accessible pathway and ramp requirements.
- b. Curbs and/or railings are required.

5. Restrooms

- a. Connection between restrooms and pathways should be hard surfaced.
- b. Facilities such as toilets, stalls and sinks should be designed to meet accessible requirements.

6. Playgrounds

- a. ZERO barrier equipment should be installed in addition to ADA compliant equipment.
- b. Connection between playground and parking should be hard surfaced and meet required design standards.
- c. Entrance to the playground should be appropriately signed.
- d. Pathway from the entrance of the playground to the primary play area shall be fully accessible.

- e. At least 30% of the play equipment shall be accessible and easily reached from the playground path of travel.
- f. The playground equipment should encourage interaction between children with and without disabilities.
- g. The sensation of activity (such as swinging, spinning, etc.) shall be equally available to those with disabilities.
- h. Surface material beneath the play equipment should be firm and level to permit unassisted travel by a person in a wheelchair.

7. Picnic Areas

- a. Locate on level grade
- b. Pad beneath the picnic table or shelter should be hard surfaced
- c. Connection between picnic pad and pathway should be hard surfaced
- d. Facilities such as tables, benches and grill should be designed to meet accessible requirements.

8. Beach/Waterfront

- a. Some portion of the beach must be firm to the water's edge.
- b. Access into the water must be firm and safe.

9. Information/Signage

- a. Site information related to accessibility should be made available in public documents and on websites
- b. If the park has an entrance that is not accessible, then a sign must be provided indicating where an accessible entrance is located.
- c. Site signage is required that designates if the park is accessible for those with disabilities.

CHAPTER 11 - IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Recommendations for park improvements were discussed in the prior chapter. Funding these improvements is always a challenge, but with the right partners and creativity Skagit County Parks and Recreation (SCPR) will continue to find ways to accomplish the goals of our park plan. The intent of this chapter is to identify a strategy for funding park and recreation improvements. The acquisition of land has long been a challenge. Whereas many counties have established County funds for real estate acquisition and capital projects, Skagit County has no dedicated source. Most Counties dedicate Conservation Futures Funds (CFF) for funding parklands. In addition, many Counties and Cities utilize impact fees for funding acquisitions. In Skagit County, Conservation Future Funds are exclusively used for the Farmland Legacy Program and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. Impact Fees for Parks are voluntary and have not generated revenue in years. Because of this, Skagit County Parks and Recreation is required to find creative means for acquiring lands. Funding can come from various sources including grants and non-profit organizations. SCPR is constantly looking for ways for funding both acquisition and development projects. Some of those potential sources are listed in this chapter.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following themes will guide the implementation of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan:

Parks Will:

- Focus on the maintenance of and improvements to existing park facilities for the public.
- Pursue opportunities for expanding park use to meet identified needs.
- Pursue opportunities to expand parklands, preserve open space lands, protect critical areas and acquire lands for recreational opportunities as population increases.
- Develop and maintain partnerships to improve the delivery of regional and community parks and natural areas.
- Explore innovations in planning, development, and ongoing stewardship/management of parks and recreation.
- Seek community input and support through programming and public involvement.
- Work with the Skagit Land Trust, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit Conservation District, Skagit County Natural Resource staff and others to partner in land acquisition and protection.
- Work with various community groups, agencies, individuals, and other partners as we acquire and develop parklands.

Acquisition Priorities

- Acquisition to expand and improve existing parks and trails.
- Acquisition of property and/or facilities that fill priority needs of Skagit County residents.
- Acquisition of critical habitat and natural areas.

CAPITAL FACILITY PLANNING

Capital improvement projects funded by Skagit County are inventoried annually in the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP). The CFP is the major planning tool for park related facilities including parkland acquisition, development, redevelopment and renovation. The CFP is a 6-year financing plan, evaluated and updated every year by the Skagit County Board of Commissioners.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL FACILITY PLANNING

When the Growth Management Act was adopted, it fundamentally changed the way in which public infrastructure is provided. This includes public parks. The GMA requires jurisdictions to identify necessary infrastructure needs and develop clear funding strategies to meet those needs. Listed below are some of the potential funding sources.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

1. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:

A special source of public funding supported by a coalition of recreation and wildlife groups with the intent of preserving wildlife habitats and open space and developing recreation areas. For the 2019-2020 Biennium, the legislative appropriation for RCO projects hit a high-water mark of \$100 million.

2. Property Transfer Excise Tax (Real Estate Excise Tax - REET):

A tax assessed on the sale of property and administered by local counties and cities. Revenue can only be used to finance capital facilities specified in the local government's Capital Facilities Plan. The second quarter percent of REET is available for capital projects in parklands whereas the first quarter percent is dedicated solely for road infrastructure. A recent legislative adjustment allows for a percentage of REET II to be used for affordable housing.

3. County General Fund:

This category includes general funds allocated to the Skagit County Department of Parks and Recreation for annual expenditures and capital development. The use of general funds has decreased from its peak years.

4. Park Impact Fees:

Development fees imposed by a county or city can be used for parkland acquisitions and development. Fees charged to developers are typically based upon a set amount per residential

unit. This amount is calculated to represent the development's share of public improvements in relation to growth.

Credits can be given to developers that contribute land, improvements or other assets. Funds must be used for capital facilities required by growth, and not for current deficiencies in levels of service. Fee revenues cannot be used for operations.

This fee is currently voluntary in Skagit County and does not represent a significant revenue stream. In the public opinion survey conducted as part of this plan, 82% of the respondents indicated "YES" when asked the question "Recognizing that it may increase the cost of new housing, should Skagit County require developers to pay a fee for parks, open space and trail systems." More intensely zoned subareas, including Planned Unit Developments (PUDS), should set aside land and pay for adequate park construction in their developments.

5. Short Term Special Levy:

A property tax for construction and/or operations levied for a set number of years (typically 1-3 years). A special levy requires a 60% voter approval.

6. General Obligation Bond:

A property tax for the sale of construction bonds. The tax assessment can be levied up to 30 years. Passage requires a 60% majority approval of 40% of the voters who voted at the last election. This approach is usually used for large scale projects.

7. Revenue Bonds:

Revenue from the operation of a facility pays for the capital cost and debt service. This does not require a vote of the people.

8. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):

Grants are distributed from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund established in 1965 using revenues from offshore oil and gas leases. Grants provide matching funds for the cost of parkland acquisition and development. At one time, this was a major funding program for recreation programs. The program is administered locally by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The Skagit County Parks Department should partner with the Public Works Natural Resource Division to identify and acquire lands that fit within the needs of both departments.

9. Department of Ecology:

Grant monies are available from the Coastal Zone Management account and pay up to 50% of the project cost. They are primarily used for shoreline acquisition and public access.

10. HUD Grants:

Grant monies are available from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for a wide variety of projects. Most are distributed in the lower income areas of the community. Grants can be up to 100% of project cost. Funds may not be used for maintenance or operation of existing facilities.

11. Aquatic Land Enhancement Fund:

This program, funded by the State Department of Natural Resources, provides funding for acquisition and development of waterfront parks, public access and environmental protection. Within this fund is the "Wetland Stewardship Grant Program." This program will fund acquisition of locally significant wetlands.

12. Youth Athletic Facilities

The program focuses on serving youth through the age of 18, who participate in sports and athletics

13. Boating Facilities Program

Created in 1964, the Boating Facilities Program provides grants to acquire, develop, and renovate facilities for motorized boats and other watercraft, including launching ramps, guest moorage, and support facilities.

14. Certificates of Participation:

This is a lease purchase approach in which a City or County sells Certificates of Participation (COP's) to a lending institution. The City or County pays off the loan from revenue produced by the facility or from its own general operating budget. The lending institution holds title to the property until the COP's are repaid. This procedure does not require a vote of the public.

15. Volunteer Efforts:

Volunteers can be quite effective in terms of contributing cash, materials, or labor.

16. Transfer of Development Rights:

This is a process wherein the development rights on a specific parcel of desired open space land is transferred to a second parcel of land more suitable for development. The second parcel is then permitted a higher level of development. If the two parcels are owned by two different landowners, the increased value of the second parcel is given to the owner of the first parcel.

17. Work Release Program:

An alternative to jail time, this program is for offenders to provide community services such as working on a park maintenance crew.

18. Conservation Futures Levy:

Counties can levy up to \$0.065 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for the acquisition of shoreline and open space areas. The money cannot be used for development and/or maintenance. In Skagit County, these funds have been levied for the preservation of farmland only. A percentage of these dollars should be considered for park and open space acquisition.

19. Centennial Clean Water Program:

This is a state program administered by the Department of Ecology and financed by a tax on cigarettes. The program is designed to provide grants and loans on projects that will enhance water quality. Typical projects related to parks and open space could include storm water retention, wetland enhancement and other water quality mitigation measures. Grants are available for planning, design and construction up to 70% of the total project cost.

20. Utility Tax:

Counties can charge a tax on the gross receipts of electric, gas, garbage, telephone, cable TV, water/sewer, and storm-water service providers. Revenue can be used for capital facilities acquisition, construction and maintenance.

21. Urban Forestry Grants:

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers two funding grant programs in the art of urban forestry. The first is funded by the US Small Business Administration and provides grants to purchase and plant trees. Urban street tree planting programs are sometimes funded by this method. A 25% match is required. The second program is for educational and technical assistance and is funded by the US Forest Service. A local match is also required for this program.

22. Fast Act:

The "Fast Act of 2015" provides a portion of its funding for bicycle transportation facilities, including new or improved lanes or paths, traffic control devices, shelters and parking facilities.

23. Donations/Foundations:

Private donations and foundations can be important sources of funding for park projects.

24. Councilmatic Bonds:

Bonds issued by a City or County. Issuing these bonds does not require a vote of the people, but they must be paid out of the annual operating budget.

25. User Fees:

Cities, counties, and special purpose districts can charge fees for use of facilities or participating in programs. They are often entrance fees or registration fees. Since 2009, our recreation programs and fairgrounds have paid their own way in Skagit County.

26. Transportation Improvement Account:

Cities, counties, and transportation benefit districts can apply for these funds through the State Transportation Improvement Board. Funding is provided annually for projects to alleviate and prevent traffic congestion caused by economic development or growth. The proposal should be multi-agency, multi-modal, congestion related, related to growth, and have a 20% local match.

27. Local Option Vehicle License Fee:

Counties can charge up to \$15 per vehicle registered in the county, with proceeds to be used for "general transportation purposes". Revenues are distributed back to the county and its cities on a weighted per capita basis-- unincorporated areas receive a larger share, per capita, than do cities. The state parklands have used "optional" licensing fees for their park budgets.

28. Life Estate or Living Trusts:

This is the donation of a property to a public agency with the provision that the donor may live on the site as long as desired or until end of life.

29. Resource Management:

The County can acquire and dedicate the revenues of specified properties to certain programs or departments. For instance, revenues from timber sales, grazing leases, concessions, etc. could be allocated to recreation programs or used to acquire and develop park properties.

30. Hydroelectric Relicensing Opportunities

Projects that generate hydroelectric power fall under the regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Any new hydroelectric project, or one requiring relicensing, must submit a license application. Part of the application process includes a plan for mitigating open space and recreation opportunities lost as a result of the project.

Local regulatory authority over hydropower development falls under the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58). The Skagit County Department of Planning and Development Services and the State Department of Ecology have entered into a Coastal Zone Management Grant Agreement addressing amendments to the Skagit County Shoreline

Management Master Program relating to the siting and development of hydropower generation facilities.

The rationale behind this agreement lies in the intention of a for-profit corporation to use Skagit County resources to generate a service for residents living outside the County. As a result, these corporations are asked to pay for the right to use the County's resources. Lake Shannon has been created by hydroelectric companies, and these companies should create and maintain adequate recreation facilities at this site.

Summary of Public Meetings / Open Houses

Appendix A

April 25 th , 2018		
Anacortes Senior Center		
6:30 – 8:00		
Category	What I like most about this...	What I'd like to see different
Open Space / Natural Areas	Habitat enhancements in parks add to walking experience	No feeding of deer
	Value opens space and would like to see more	
	Like open space for habitat conservation. Preserve Frailey Mountain for wildlife	
Trails and Pathways	Like to hike in parks	Would like safer trails at Montgomery Duban Headlands. Many are too steep.
	Like to see connectivity to Deception Pass or Rosario. Please respect private property rights.	Safer passage along roads
	More trails at NSRA	
	Trail to DNR land AT NSRA!	
	More historical displays at NSRA	
	Snohomish County has a great trail, centennial. How about Skagit?	
	NSRA can prove awesome connection to old hospital site	
	Find access for Big Rock	
	Like native trails as opposed to asphalt	
	Like taking the cascade trail to Annies Pizza. This is a nice asset	
	Trail on Guemes road would be nice	
Day Use / Picnic Areas / Playgrounds	Pomona classes for 4 th graders is great. Interpretive signs and education make great learning	
Athletic Fields / Courts	Need athletic fields like the fields near the college	
	Youth need fields	
Sports Programs / Leagues	none	
Water Access	none	
Campgrounds	none	

May 10 th	Mount Vernon Senior Center	6:30 – 8:00
Category	What I like most about this...	What I'd like to see different
GENERAL		Would like to see county city partnership for acquisition of property across little mountain
		Kayak access for Padilla Bay
Sports Programs/Leagues	Provide a great access to all kids regardless of skill level.	Need more activities for adults especially seniors.
	Keep up the clear lake triathlon its great	More activities for senior sports and free activities that are organized.
	Keep the clear lake triathlon	
	My kids have enjoyed the programs	
Water Access	Appreciate bathroom facilities	Edison water access would be great for kayaks
		Would love more access to water for all uses
		Please increase access to marine shoreline, both trail access, wild life view, kayak launches beaches and picnic areas.
		Edison water access for kayaks
		How about a Swinomish trail on slough
		Access for metal detecting
		Please clean the bathrooms and take away boat launch fees.
		More access for rock hounding
		More gold panning areas
		Continual maintenance on county boat launch
		More access to marine shorelines and waterways for wildlife viewing places to sit and watch. Access for kayaks and canoes.
Open Space / Natural Areas	I heart the frof course at northern state.	More open space
	Appreciate the continued opening up and development of the northern state rec area.	Better transit to outdoor rec areas for poor college kids
		Mountain sensitive trail design
		Consider opening up Big Rock, it is a great place but there is no access to it
		No access to big rock
		Need to maintain lowland forests in western Skagit county such as devils mountain, butler hill. Areas where development is sprawling in. promote

		trail systems.
		Develop the continental trail. We need to connect from north Snohomish to the cascade trail.
		Open up Big Rock Park for hiking access
		Centennial and cascade trail need to be complete
		We need more open space and dedicated funding.
		Trail head at big rock and access to centennial and big rock
		NEED 1) open pace nature areas 2) more trails 3) how great would it be if parks worked together to develop dike trails 4) 100 year plan: partner county, city, and environmental groups to turn the clear-out hidden lakes into a community Forrest park with trails etc. It could look like little mountain in 100 years.
		The Highway 9 parking access to big rock trail false perception that the park is closed when it is actually open to use
Trails and Pathways	I really like the existing trails	We need more trails.
	It is very encouraging to see the centennial trail continuing north	Find Access to Big Rock
	The Increased maintenance and improvements over the past few years	Please link the cascade and centennial trails to the Yakashma Barn
	Love that the riverfront walking path is being expanded and improved, would love it to be longer	Trails connecting urban areas such as mount Vernon to Sedro Woolley
	Pleased to see there will be some progress on the centennial trail.	Dikes in Skagit County are an untapped resource
	Love the trail builder sessions.	Padilla Bay trail should be used as an example of what can be done on the other parks in the County on dikes
	Thank you for all you do and this process.	Can the trail building sessions happen more frequently? Can we use high schools where community service is required?
	I really enjoy the trails at sharp park.	More trails through natural areas. Please vision one development of the hidden lakes clear out across from little mount into a community forest parkland with trails, picnic tables, involvement of all ethnicities in Skagit County in replanting trees, restoring wetlands, designing trails, partner with city county conservation organizations to buy before it is sold for

		development. Develop the centennial trail through Skagit County ASAP. The trail through Snohomish county is well used by walkers, cyclists, skaters of all ages, sizes and ethnicities. Develop dike conservation wildlife trail along dikes south of Conway that pass through wetlands and farm lands to Skagit bay. Partner with Snohomish city, BNSF, EDASC, and conservation organizations. It will bring tourists to walk it, bird watch, and provide wonderful walks for local residence.
		Maintain collaborative public private partnerships for parks and trails.
		Could we have more multi use trails?
		Consistent surface material. Changes from sawdust to small gravel to hard gravel. (Skagit valley playfields)
		Please work to open up dikes to pedestrian use. There are almost no public use trails in the flats and along marine shoreline.
		Would like to see more multi use trails on northern state.
		Extend centennial trail to Sedro Woolley.
		Would like to see the centennial trail connect into Skagit County.
		Need more connectivity between existing trails.
		Really would be great to develop Skagit county's sections of the centennial trail from north Snohomish county to the cascade trail.
		Would like to see more bike trail connections from urban areas to county parks.
		Would like to see more bike trail connects in the city parks.
		Wish there was a way to limit the homeless and drug community from inhibiting the parks and the paths. Like the new river walk path. It feels weird bring my kids down there.
		Find a way to open up the dikes to public access.
		Work with the dike districts to open up the dikes. Would be great benefit to locals.
		More access to dikes for walkers and bikers
		Connecting more of the trails in the area.
		Emphasize the continuity of trails in

		the county, include trails in city, state lands, require and development to include trails in their plans.
		Public access to levy's- IT IS TIME
		Please do not allow hunting along the Padilla bay trail. Thank you.
		Encourage the development of the centennial trail from Snohomish to Skagit
		Invest in trails. Centennial (across county) cascade to coast (across county)
		Skagit Valley Playfields isn't listed here but many including school use trail for cross country/ running
		More bike trails are needed.
		Connecting NSRA property to DNR should be a high priority
		Would love to see info about centennial trail through Skagit
Athletic Fields / Courts	Love that the Skagit Playfields are a draw for our geographic region for multi-state tournaments(ultimate Frisbee and soccer)	There is often a shortage of soccer fields. It would be great to have a space available for tournaments
	Accessible and well maintained	I have never heard of School house park.
		More soccer Fields would be great
Day Use / Picnic Areas / Playgrounds	Enjoy campground near the water	Inclusive playgrounds, Accessible ADA, Equal opportunity, Variety, Integration
	They are great	Not even aware of what Cleveland park, school house park, young's park
	We have great trails	NEED Inclusive playgrounds, Accessible ADA, Equal opportunity, Variety, Integration
		Edison and bow need more local park access.
Campgrounds	Love the level of development at steelhead	More parks closer to where people live.
	I like that Howard miller has area for walking and additions to camping	More awareness building so people know about the parks. Especially Sauk park.

May 24th	Marblemount Community Center	6:30 – 8:00
Category	What I like most about this...	What I'd like to see different
GENERAL		Local daycare preschool in one of these houses.
		Eagle watching sites December and January
		Good foods have a visitor center with small food out left local sales
		Online info on presentin park and the comp plan would be great.
		Marble Mount Needs Jobs
Day Use / Picnic Areas / Playgrounds	Trails at steelhead park are amazing.	Outdoor classroom for schools
		Interruptive signs with history and information about the area.
		Historical pictures and information. Old marblemount and logging
		Day use is great but we need more campsites
		Better bathrooms, interruptive history sign, volunteer open for info and hand outs and information.
		Improve and enlarge day use.
		Bathrooms in marblemount
Water Access	Love the views on the trails at Howard Miller	I like the idea of having access to Skagit during all seasons in marblemount for view WA life
		Drinking fountains would be nice on trails.
		Kayak access at pressentin
Campgrounds		Not sure if campground is necessary with all the other options in the area
		Concerned about lack of management at Sauk park in the off season.
		Publicly accessible coin showers would be appreciated.
		Continue to develop camping spaces and fire pits.
		More campgrounds
		I like the idea of bike camping and bikes enjoying the beautiful Marblemount
		More campsites needed.

Open Space / Natural Areas	Allows imagining and building your own memory. Exploring.	Habitat natural area next to the highway. Keeps marblemount rural and woodsy
		A fishing area for 16 and younger
		Connect trail at steelhead park with Sauk. Could be railroad grade the whole way.
Trails and Pathways	Thank you for keeping the trails at pressentin and Howard Miller	All trails need signs plus do not get close to the river
		More publicity about cascade trail
		Native identifier, native American stories signs and land use
		Make sign and trash bear proof
		Need a campers and travelers shower for all rec users. It would help tourists stay longer
		Maintain and improve connectivity of existing trails with other local and regional trails. Especially cascade trail.
		Plan to maintain the road grade along the river in the west section of Howard miller. The trail needs to be cut into the hill where it was washed away.
		History
		Local wildlife knowledge
		Bridge to Skagit land trust property adjustment to pressentin
		MORE staffing
Athletic Fields / Courts		Acquire concrete school district property in marblemount and maintain ball field there.
		Maybe a baseball and soccer field and area for ice skating.
Sports Programs / Leagues		Possible connection with school property, a park to have a community game field.
		Have hear good food to check out equipment.

June 7 th , 2018 Sedro Woolley Community Center 6:30 – 8:00		
Category	What I like most about this...	What I'd like to see different
General		I want to see the Veterans Park in my lifetime.
		You need to publish the trails controlled by other entities so you have accurate and correct inventory of trails in the county.
		Embarrassing to see side by side trails (Hwy 20 west of SW to Fruitdale Rd.) Waste of tax payer money. Cascade west of bike route 10. Waste of tax dollars.
		Develop trails within parks such as NSRA trails.
		Connecting the NSRA Resource to port and DNR land should be a high priority. Trail Connectivity.
		Need a way to get past the wet area by Minkler lake. It is impassible during winter and early spring
		Connect to marry port, Padilla, and cascade trails.
		Tulip Loop Trail
Athletic Fields / Courts		
Sports Programs		
Day Use	I really appreciate this little park. Our family has used it for years. These little parks are gems. Samish island park	Partner with Edison outdoor foundation at new track to build vault toilet. Recreation center area in center of track
	Clear lake beach is great	Establish a tiny park/public toilet in downtown Edison. Edison has become a very busy tourist destination. The school and town are very busy on the weekend.
		Sedro Woolley will need a lacrosse field soon.
		A water park for young children would be a nice addition.
Water Access		
Campgrounds		Camping at Pressentin
		Camping at Pressentin
Open Space / Natural areas		Need a map of trails on northern rec area.
		Big rock parking and trail.

		Walking trails should not be in the middle of Frisbee spaces.
Trails and Pathways	The hiking trails are really nice and very clean!	Encourage healthy programs.

APPENDIX B

SURVEY RESULTS

In the month of November 2018, citizens were invited to participate in an internet-based community opinion survey. Results were limited to one per computer. Just over 800 households responded.

Skagit County is updating its Parks and Recreation Plan and is seeking your input. The purpose of this plan is to assist the County as we plan improvements to the Parks and Recreation system over the next 6 years. We value citizen input because it helps shape the work we do. Some of the types of questions you will be asked include:

- Does the County need more park space? If so what kind?
- What are the most important types of recreation and events for you and your family?

We ask that each person only submit one completed survey as the software will only allow one survey per computer.

The survey should take approximately 10 to 12 minutes to complete. We ask your help in letting your neighbors and friends know about this survey and encouraging them to complete it as well.

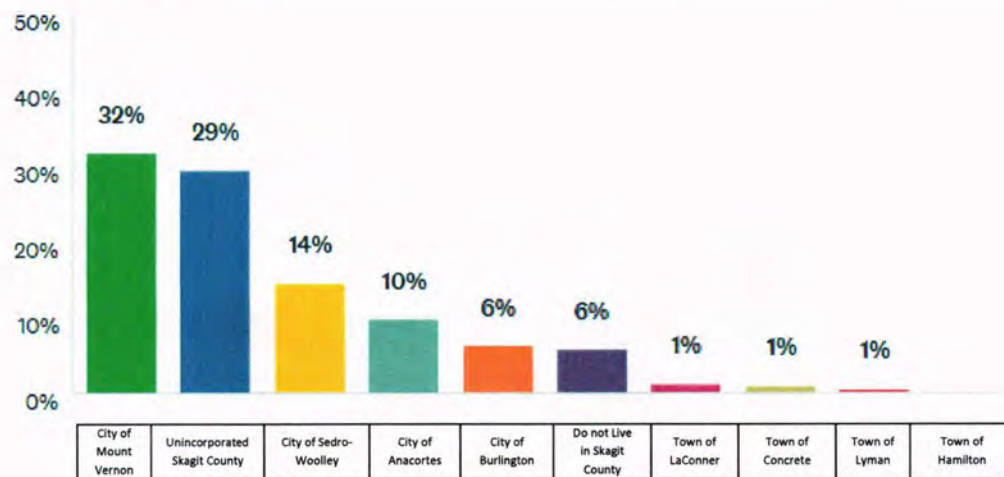
Please be aware that there are many providers of parks and recreation in Skagit County, from our local cities and towns, to the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service. This survey is focused on parks that are owned and managed by Skagit County Government, which may or may not include your favorite park facility. For a complete listing of Skagit County Park facilities see below:

This survey is scheduled to close on December 1, 2018. You are welcome to come back and edit your responses as many times as you like before that date. However, only the last entry will be counted.

If your neighbor does not have access to a computer and needs a printed copy, please request one at the Parks Dept Office at 1730 Continental Pl, Mt Vernon, WA , 360-336-9414.

Question One

Where is your Home Located?

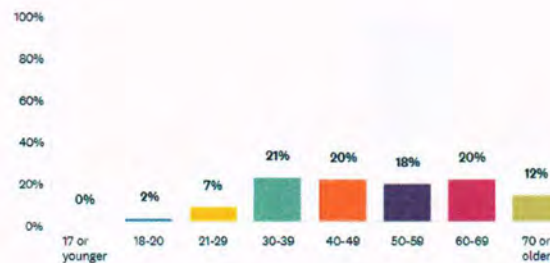


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City of Mount Vernon	32%	253
Unincorporated Skagit County	29%	235
City of Anacortes	14%	115
City of Sedro-Woolley	10%	77
City of Burlington	6%	50
Do not live in Skagit County	6%	46
Town of LaConner	1%	10
Town of Concrete	1%	7
Town of Lyman	1%	4
Town of Hamilton	0%	0
TOTAL		797

Question Two

Which category below describes your age group?

Answered: 801 Skipped: 5

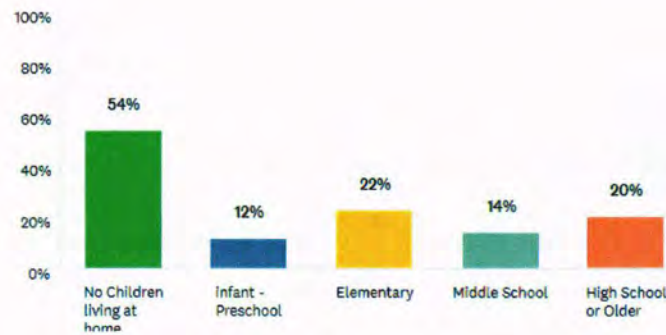


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 or younger	0%	2
18-20	2%	14
21-29	7%	56
30-39	21%	167
40-49	20%	159
50-59	18%	144
60-69	20%	160
70 or older	12%	99
TOTAL		801

Question Three

If there are children living in your home, what age group describes them best?
(check all that apply)

Answered: 777 Skipped: 29

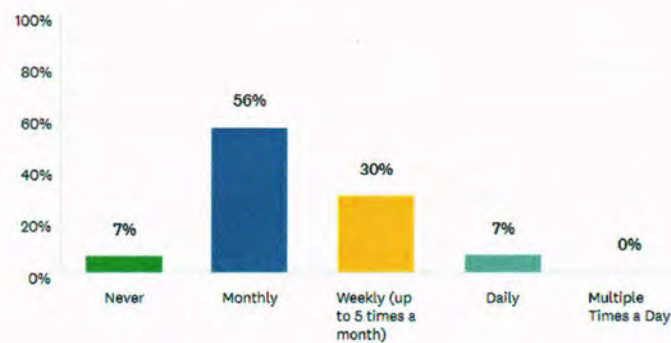


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ No Children living at home	54%	417
▼ Infant - Preschool	12%	90
▼ Elementary	22%	174
▼ Middle School	14%	110
▼ High School or Older	20%	156
Total Respondents: 777		

Question Four

In the last 12 months, how many times have you visited a Skagit County Park?

Answered: 759 Skipped: 47

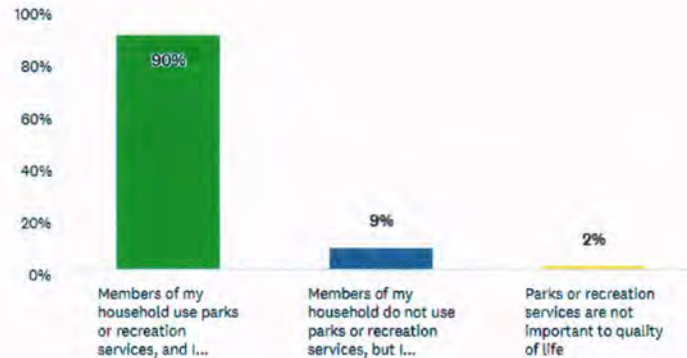


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Never	7%	51
▼ Monthly	56%	428
▼ Weekly (up to 5 times a month)	30%	226
▼ Daily	7%	52
▼ Multiple Times a Day	0%	2
TOTAL		759

Question Five

Which ONE of the following statements comes closest to the way you feel about Skagit County parks or recreation services in our community,

Answered: 755 Skipped: 51



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Members of my household use parks or recreation services, and I believe these services are important to quality of life.	90% 678
Members of my household do not use parks or recreation services, but I believe these services are important to quality of life.	9% 65
Parks or recreation services are not important to quality of life	2% 12
TOTAL	755

Question Six

If members of your household do not use parks or recreation services, and/or you do not believe these services are important to quality of life, please explain why in the box below.

Responses shown below:

1. You didn't give a choice of between monthly and never. I've taken my grandkids to multiple Skagit Parks and school playgrounds, but not monthly as they don't live with me.
2. We use the parks in Anacortes
3. Single
4. I spend most of my time at Hillcrest Park. All of the Tennis courts are lines for Pickleball. I play lots of Pickleball.
5. Living in rural Skagit Co. is living in a park without the crowding.
6. We don't participate in those kinds of settings other than a picnic once in a great while.
7. have other more important things to do
8. camp in more remote locations or on a boat
9. We have busy lives and we enjoy the scenery but don't feel we need more parks. We have tons.
10. With the implementation of Discovery Pass, and the re-introduction of wolves and other animals into this area, I feel that my money (both Discovery Pass and tax dollars) are not well served
11. I have woods of my own to walk in and enjoy
12. Too busy
13. What is a "service"? If you mean parks, yes we walk in parks and on trails, watch birds, take pictures, picnic.

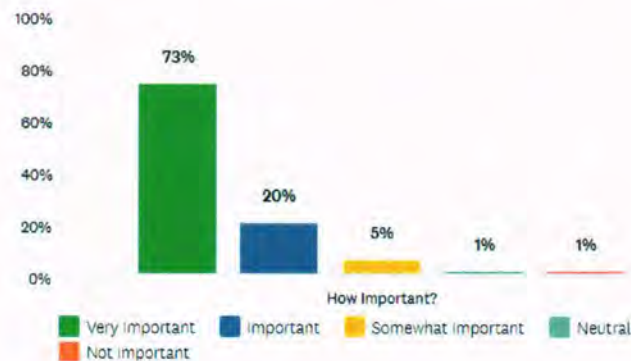
14. I live in Camano Island but work in mt Vernon. I play pickleball in mt Vernon and would like more places to play
15. Locations
16. Teens. Non sports players. Parks in our area do not have an appeal.
17. Not close to my ur home and children no longer in household
18. my Question is what does parks and rec got to do with quality of life?
19. Lately using city parks in Mt. Vernon and Anacortes or private rec sites
20. Don't know
21. We use city and state parks regularly, And only used a county Park once
22. No pickleball courts.
23. We feel the Mt Vernon parks are for small children
24. No option to select 5-6 times a year. We are hoping to get some Pickleball courts in our county parks!
25. Highschool is a busy stage of life. Just don't have time right now.
26. D/A
27. I spend my free time plying Pickleball.
28. My household is one person, I have ample outdoor space at home.
29. We use the hill crest pickleball courts in the evening because they have lights...
30. I usually forget about the county parks, usually using city or state parks instead (Little Mountain, Washington Park, Chuckanut or Deception Pass area, etc...)
31. We don't have kids but we have 2 dogs. If there were more/nicer off leash dog parks then we would use the parks more.
32. There are no special needs activities for adults to support physical activity or social activities
33. Children live in other states and wife is fighting bone cancer.
34. Disabled, not enough time
35. We do use them, just not frequently
36. We have plenty of parks and recreation services on the island.
37. I live closest to Anacortes City trails, too far from the Skagit County parks to want to drive when I can access such nice parks within 10 minutes or less of where I live.
38. Distance from our home.
39. I don't use them as much as I like. Work and chores take up a large part of my life. I tended to go to them more when my children were young
40. Lack of ADA access for trails & lack of adequate benches for those that cannot walk long distances. Need places to rest.
41. Not safe, vandalism, drug needles/dealings
42. For the past year and a half I have been in crutches/assistive devices and some of these parks only have me sitting around so we have not gone to parks as much as before.
43. The rain. Lack of age appropriate facilities.
44. We do use more than never, but your option is 'monthly' or 'never' We use about twice a year. Also your ranking is flawed - cannot use the same number twice.
45. these answer is for my great grandkids in all parts of Skagit county.
46. Don't do outside activities too much.
47. Needles, garbage, scary looking young men in parks during the day, bathrooms are filthy .
48. We use the parks, however a major factor on which ones we use are on how accessible/inclusive they are. My daughter wears leg braces or is pushed in a stroller/chair, both are not compatible to parks often which is very sad to us that she can't access places she should be able to access.
49. We live on samish island, do everything here or on the sailboat.
50. No time
51. too busy.
52. There are times we don't use parks due to health issues, and I suspect as we age further, that will be true more often.
53. Walking, running and hiking.
54. Family members have grown up and moved out.
55. We utilize City of Anacortes resources more frequently.
56. Not appealing. Need more benches, tables, statues, flowers.....things that make you want to go and enjoy the space.

57. We usually stay in Anacortes and use the facilities here.
58. We did when our kids were in school- so the decline in usage is recent. We are also farmers so have access to open space private lands.
59. Nothing close by
60. Other parks and facilities are closer
61. I play pickleball and there are no courts at the county parks
62. We have a busy active life without the need of public parks.
63. Too many liberals
64. I wish more was invested in making better and more parks in Skagit County, especially up-river.
65. Limited options on Guemes Island.
66. Plenty of parks within Anacortes city limits to enjoy that are close to home.
67. work schedules conflict with opportunities available
68. There are no county parks in Anacortes (your list records one park, but I am not familiar with it)
69. There are limited trails dedicated to mountain biking.
70. One is severely restricted in movement amount and time.
71. because they are free. and everything else costs me money that I don't have.
72. schedule issues with 2 young kids
73. We're not residents of Skagit County
74. No household members.
75. we have our own land that we recreate on
76. Wife Likes to hike Tommy Thompson Trail in Anacortes
77. Can't afford a parking/park pass .

Question Seven

Using the following scale, how important do you believe Skagit County parks and recreation services and facilities are in maintaining the quality of life in our community?

Answered: 756 Skipped: 50

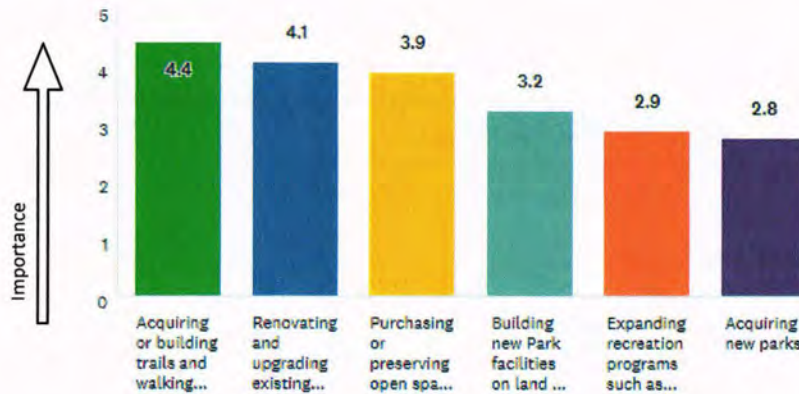


	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
How Important?	73% 553	20% 148	5% 41	1% 8	1% 6	756	4.63

Question Eight

If Skagit County were going to expand its parks or recreation services to meet the needs of the growing population. Rank in order of priority each of the following areas. (1 being the highest priority and 6 being the lowest priority)

Answered: 739 Skipped: 67



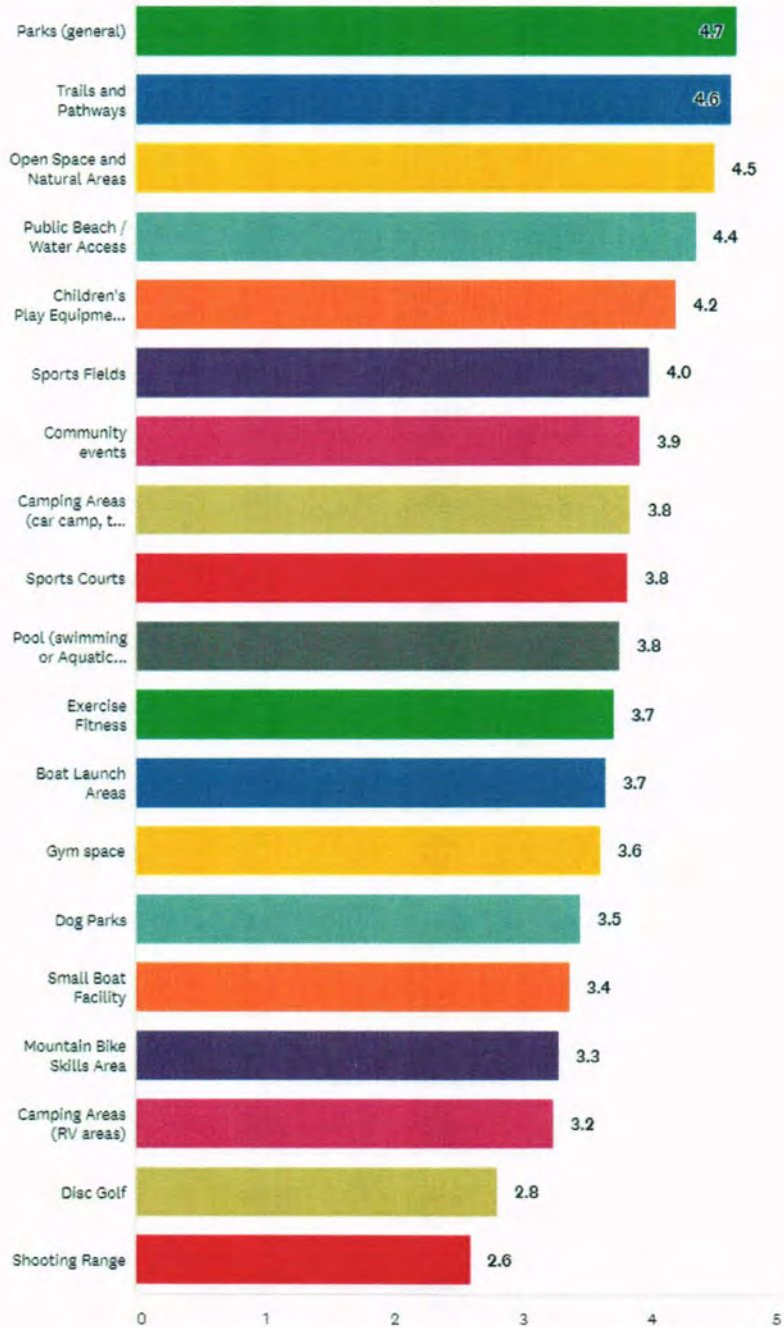
	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
Acquiring or building trails and walking paths	35% 244	22% 149	15% 105	12% 85	9% 63	7% 45	691	4.42
Renovating and upgrading existing parks and trails	21% 150	25% 183	18% 130	16% 113	15% 110	4% 32	718	4.08
Purchasing or preserving open space and natural areas	22% 152	23% 158	15% 105	13% 89	15% 104	12% 81	689	3.89
Building new Park facilities on land we own	8% 52	12% 83	19% 131	28% 195	23% 158	10% 71	690	3.22
Expanding recreation programs such as community events or sports leagues	14% 98	11% 79	14% 100	11% 79	13% 95	38% 272	723	2.88
Acquiring new parks	3% 24	9% 64	21% 144	19% 134	21% 146	26% 181	693	2.76

Question Nine

A larger number indicates greater importance...

Please evaluate the importance of several types of facilities or programs.

Answered: 734 Skipped: 72



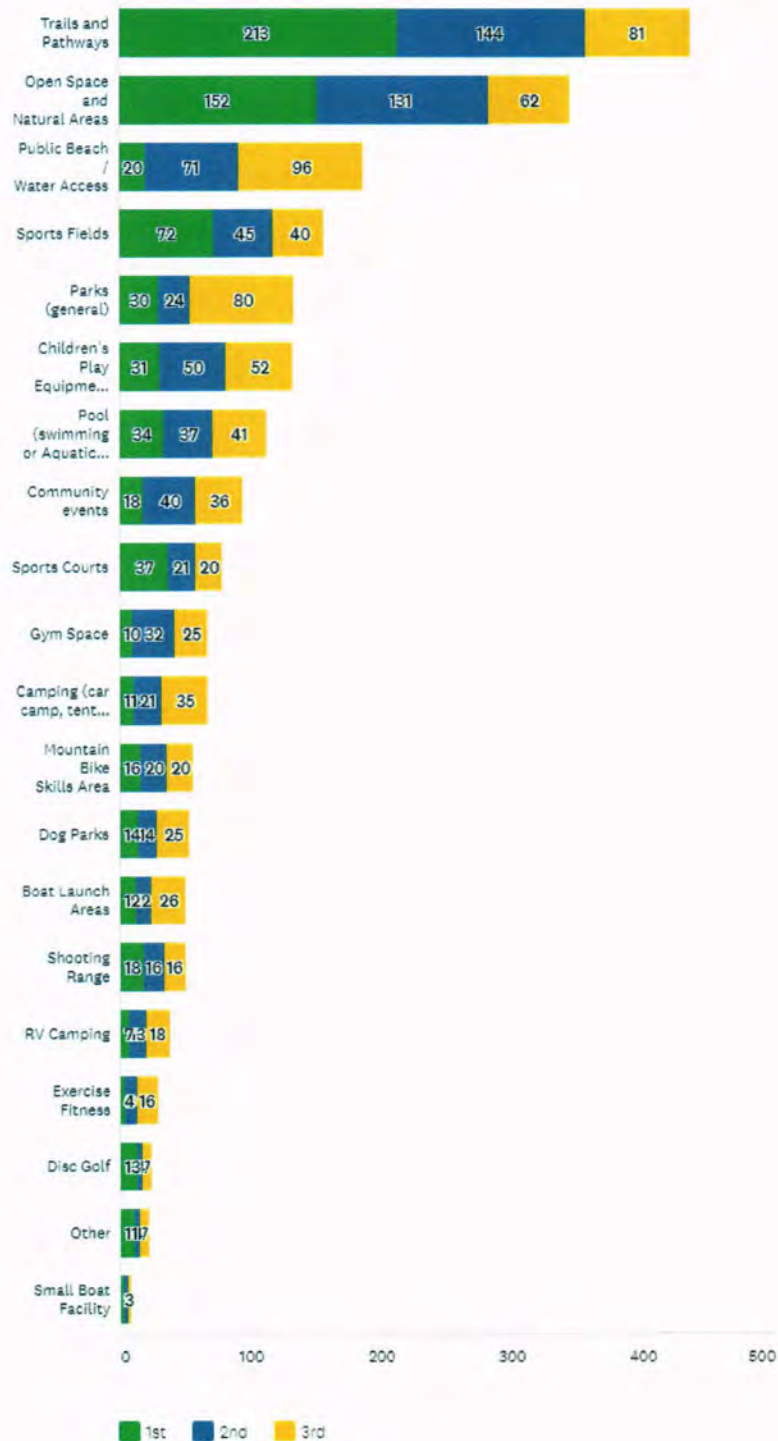
Q 9 continued – DATA TABLE

	▼ VERY IMPORTANT ▼	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT ▼	NEUTRAL ▼	SOMEWHAT UNIMPORTANT ▼	UNIMPORTANT ▼	TOTAL ▼	WEIGHTED AVERAGE ▼
▼ Parks (general)	73% 528	21% 152	5% 35	0% 1	1% 4	720	4.67
▼ Trails and Pathways	73% 530	19% 139	5% 36	1% 9	1% 10	724	4.62
▼ Open Space and Natural Areas	66% 480	22% 157	9% 65	2% 15	1% 7	724	4.50
▼ Public Beach / Water Access	55% 396	30% 219	12% 85	2% 11	2% 12	723	4.35
▼ Children's Play Equipment / Playground	43% 312	38% 274	15% 110	2% 12	2% 13	721	4.19
▼ Sports Fields	38% 272	36% 260	18% 133	4% 28	4% 30	723	3.99
▼ Community events	31% 220	38% 275	25% 179	5% 35	2% 11	720	3.91
▼ Camping Areas (car camp, tent camp, bike in camp)	31% 227	36% 258	22% 160	7% 48	4% 29	722	3.84
▼ Sports Courts	31% 226	34% 244	26% 185	5% 35	5% 33	723	3.82
▼ Pool (swimming or Aquatic facility)	32% 231	30% 219	26% 193	6% 46	5% 40	729	3.76
▼ Exercise Fitness	24% 173	37% 264	30% 220	5% 36	4% 30	723	3.71
▼ Boat Launch Areas	23% 164	37% 267	28% 203	7% 49	5% 38	721	3.65
▼ Gym space	26% 182	30% 215	30% 217	8% 56	6% 43	713	3.61
▼ Dog Parks	19% 137	32% 231	32% 235	10% 69	7% 54	726	3.45
▼ Small Boat Facility	16% 111	31% 223	37% 262	8% 59	9% 61	716	3.37
▼ Mountain Bike Skills Area	14% 102	31% 222	33% 240	12% 88	9% 68	720	3.28
▼ Camping Areas (RV areas)	17% 125	26% 190	31% 222	13% 96	12% 87	720	3.24
▼ Disc Golf	6% 45	19% 138	41% 295	15% 110	18% 129	717	2.80
▼ Shooting Range	14% 101	15% 105	24% 173	11% 79	36% 263	721	2.59

Question Ten

Please review the list again. What would you rank the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd priorities for Skagit County Parks. Only your top 3 votes will count.

Answered: 726 Skipped: 80



Q 10 continued -DATA TABLE

	1ST	2ND	3RD	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
▼ Trails and Pathways	49% 213		33% 144	18% 81	438 3.60
▼ Open Space and Natural Areas	44% 152		38% 131	18% 62	345 3.52
▼ Public Beach / Water Access	11% 20		38% 71	51% 96	187 2.19
▼ Sports Fields	46% 72		29% 45	25% 40	157 3.41
▼ Parks (general)	22% 30		18% 24	60% 80	134 2.25
▼ Children's Play Equipment / Playground	23% 31		38% 50	39% 52	133 2.68
▼ Pool (swimming or Aquatic facility)	30% 34		33% 37	37% 41	112 2.88
▼ Community events	19% 18		43% 40	38% 36	94 2.62
▼ Sports Courts	47% 37		27% 21	26% 20	78 3.44
▼ Gym Space	15% 10		48% 32	37% 25	67 2.55
▼ Camping (car camp, tent camp, bike in camp)	16% 11		31% 21	52% 35	67 2.28
▼ Mountain Bike Skills Area	29% 16		36% 20	36% 20	56 2.86
▼ Dog Parks	26% 14		26% 14	47% 25	53 2.56
▼ Boat Launch Areas	24% 12		24% 12	52% 26	50 2.44
▼ Shooting Range	36% 18		32% 16	32% 16	50 3.08
▼ RV Camping	18% 7		34% 13	47% 18	38 2.42
▼ Exercise Fitness	14% 4		31% 9	55% 16	29 2.17
▼ Disc Golf	54% 13		17% 4	29% 7	24 3.50
▼ Other	50% 11		18% 4	32% 7	22 3.36
▼ Small Boat Facility	38% 3		38% 3	25% 2	8 3.25

Q 10 continued – ‘Comments’:

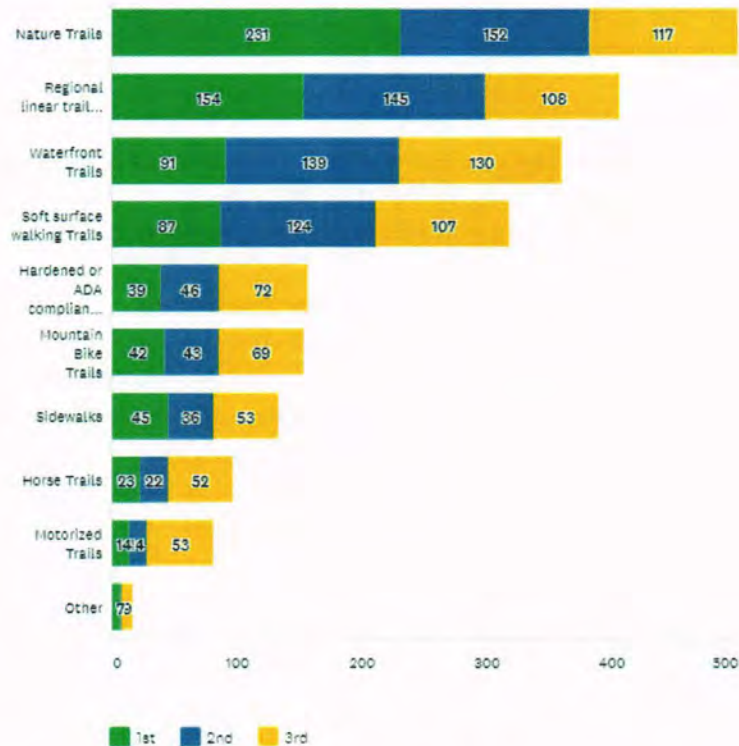
1. Pickleball, the players in Skagit County struggle to find places to play indoors.
2. Acquisition of lands for trail connectivity.
3. my #1 priority is equine, more trails and access for horses like Les Hilde & Blanchard Mtn.
4. Aquatic center
5. Both Indoor and Outdoor Pickleball courts
6. I don't see bike paths, but they are the greatest need in the county
7. pickle ball, fishing if you don't have a boat
8. Pickleball courts
9. pickleball courts
10. Pickleball court
11. indoor pickle ball
12. Historical markers
13. Pickle ball courts
14. Very interested in more pickle ball courts
15. Pickleball courts
16. Pickleball courts
17. quarter midget dirt track
18. Equestrian Facilities
19. Horse trails
20. Dog park with water/pond/fenced in beach access
21. Covered play areas
22. Children's play equipment.
23. Pickleball courts
24. Trails and pathways
25. horseback riding trails/facilities
26. Dedicated bike paths.
27. Bike paths
28. More actual trails; i.e. less paved
29. Equestrian facility
30. Equine trails and camping
31. Specifically with the rain we have we need indoor places children can be active when weather doesn't permit park enjoyment. Where they can plan and be physical
32. A restroom at the Edison Community Track
33. horse trails
34. swimming pool
35. Accessible to all, meaning an all-accessible playground and trails that wheelchairs can use.
36. Off leash trails so well behaved dogs and their owners can get exercise without being hassled.
37. Keeping spaces for both kid and adult activities, for example, how Little Mountain has trails labeled easy to hard to make use by new people safe.
38. additional Boat launches / Blanchard/ Samish island
39. TENNIS COURT/S - covered preferred :-)
40. Dog Parks
41. public beach/water access
42. Horse Facilities open
43. Horse camp facilities!
44. GOLF COURSE #1
45. BMX Pump track, indoor BMX racing track

46. There can never be too many parks!
47. Parks
48. More paved bike paths - like the Tommy T. Trail
49. Anacortes is in the extreme need of indoor sport courts. Contact the Port of Anacortes and make the property by the marina an indoor basketball, volleyball, rec center. Our town is lacking court space.
50. i dont want to rank the same information twice. you can figure the rankings out based on the responses to the previous page.
51. running, walking path at the edge of Bakerview park.
52. Equestrian Facilities
53. RV camping
54. Community Recreation Center, with pool & indoor recreation space
55. Camping
56. Public beach/water access

Question Eleven

There are many types of Trails in Skagit County. What would you rank the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Skagit County Parks TRAIL priorities. If you have no opinion please feel free to skip this question.

Answered: 652 Skipped: 154



	1ST	2ND	3RD	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
▼ Nature Trails	46% 231	30% 152	23% 117	500	3.46
▼ Regional linear trails (IE Cascade Trail or Centennial Trail)	38% 154	36% 145	27% 108	407	3.23
▼ Waterfront Trails	23% 91	39% 139	36% 130	360	2.78
▼ Soft surface walking Trails	27% 87	39% 124	34% 107	318	2.97
▼ Hardened or ADA compliant trails	25% 39	29% 46	46% 72	157	2.58
▼ Mountain Bike Trails	27% 42	28% 43	45% 69	154	2.65
▼ Sidewalks	34% 45	27% 36	40% 53	134	2.88
▼ Horse Trails	24% 23	23% 22	54% 52	97	2.40
▼ Motorized Trails	17% 14	17% 14	65% 53	81	2.04
▼ Other	41% 7	6% 1	53% 9	17	2.76

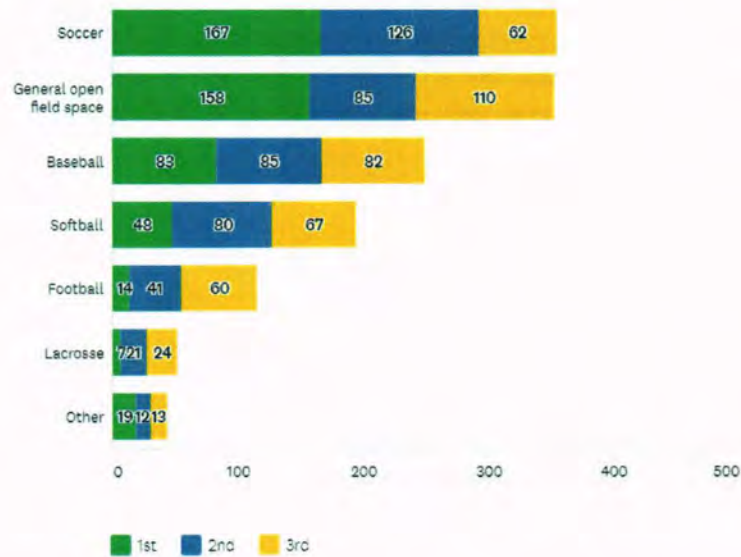
Q 11 continued – ‘Comments’:

1. Nature trails and Regional trails allow horses
2. Trails on dikes
3. Nature trails and waterfront trails should be the same
4. <https://www.bayareaparent.com/Article/Best-Special-Needs-Playground-in-the-Bay-Area/>
5. Soft surface walking trails
6. trail/bike path swinomish channel to laconner whidney
7. Long trails, along the dikes for example
8. Pacific Northwest Trail
9. Regional linear trails
10. Nature loop trail, especially around a lake (like Lake Padden in Bellingham, or Green Lake in Seattle)
11. This may fall under "hardened", but family friendly, stroller accessible, running cart accessible, etc.
12. Although not in my top three I would want cascade trail etc to stay safely maintained.
13. Regional linear trails
14. Trails that link cities that are separate from the roadway (for bikes and pedestrian)
15. A wide sidewalk all around Bakerview Park for walkers, runners, and bikes
16. We have many trail opportunities now that are needing maintenance. Am against further expansion because there is no enforcement or policing of the users of the trails with respect to the bordering private property.
17. short soft trails within existing parks. County already has too many miles of trails.
18. Trails that connect!
19. Linear trails are a great way to travel from town to town
20. Paved bike trails
21. hiking trails
22. Mountain Bike

Question Twelve

There are many types of sports fields in Skagit County. What would you rank the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Skagit County Parks SPORTS FIELDS priorities. If you have no opinion please feel to skip this question.

Answered: 498 Skipped: 308



	1ST	2ND	3RD	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
▼ Soccer	47% 167	35% 126	17% 62	355	3.59
▼ General open field space	45% 158	24% 85	31% 110	353	3.27
▼ Baseball	33% 83	34% 85	33% 82	250	3.01
▼ Softball	25% 48	41% 80	34% 67	195	2.81
▼ Football	12% 14	36% 41	52% 60	115	2.20
▼ Lacrosse	13% 7	40% 21	46% 24	52	2.35
▼ Other	43% 19	27% 12	30% 13	44	3.27

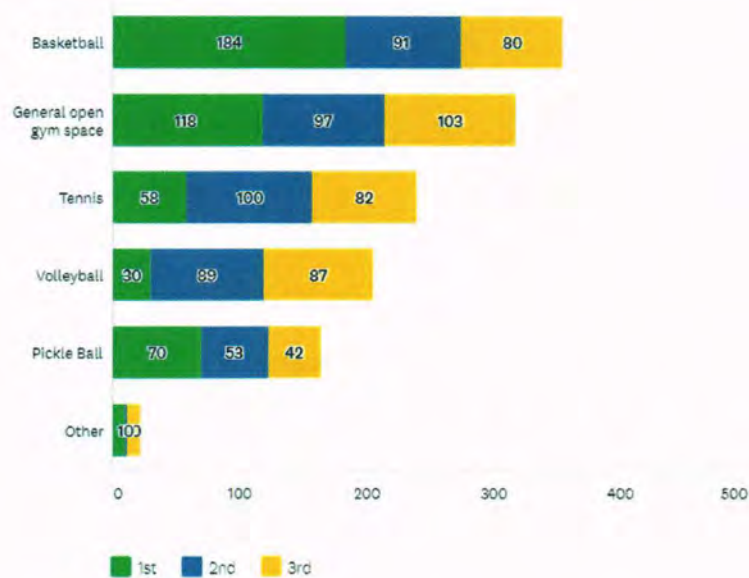
Q 12 continued – 'Comments':

1. general open field for soccer, football, lacrosse, ultimate
2. pickleball
3. R/C models
4. Free play areas a large undersigned grassy spaces for various family recreation
5. Places for community gathering and events
6. Pickleball Courts. The average age of pickleball players tends to be over 50. It would be nice is there were facilities for older citizens to help maintain their fitness and enjoy the county parks. Right now the most prevalent option is to sit and watch younger people play organized sports. Pickleball is generally considered to be the fastest growing sport in the country and communities that invest in pickleball courts see tremendous use of the facilities. How many dedicated pickleball courts are there in Skagit County? None.
7. Multi use wherever possible.
8. pickle ball
9. Pickle ball
10. Pickleball
11. Pickle ball courts
12. General open field space
13. Outdoor basketball court
14. Skate Parks
15. Bicycling
16. Football is a dangerous sport which has few redeeming qualities. It leaves men injured for life.
17. Dog agility
18. Polo
19. I'm not a sports person. I'm neutral.
20. Football
21. Disc golf
22. tennis and basketball courts
23. disk golf
24. Muti use fields Turf
25. Disc
26. Ultimate frisbee
27. foot golf
28. Tennis
29. provide a wide path around the fields for walkers, runners, and biking
30. Only put 2 becasue if they could be multi-use rather than single purpose it may be more economical.
31. Horse Arena
32. Cheer
33. GOLF
34. Skateboard Parks and Bike / Skills Parks
35. Disc golf
36. horse arena
37. Cross country or track
38. pickleball courts
39. multi use fields
40. TENNIS!!!
41. Disc Golf
42. disc golf
43. open grassy areas for mixed use

Question Thirteen

There are many types of courts in Skagit County. What would you rank the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Skagit County Parks SPORT COURT priorities. If you have no opinion please feel to skip this question.

Answered: 473 Skipped: 333



	1ST	2ND	3RD	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Basketball	52% 184	26% 91	23% 80	355	3.59
General open gym space	37% 118	31% 97	32% 103	318	3.09
Tennis	24% 58	42% 100	34% 82	240	2.80
Volleyball	15% 30	43% 89	42% 87	206	2.45
Pickle Ball	42% 70	32% 53	25% 42	165	3.34
Other	45% 10	9% 2	45% 10	22	3.00

Q 13 continued – “comments”:

1. You don't have a single pickleball court. America's fastest growing sport. Up to 35 players at Hillcrest park playing on tennis courts
2. Anything else
3. There needs to be far more places for teens and young adults to gather and do healthy things together. Schools are mostly cut sports so many teens stop playing sports in highschool.
4. Pickleball
5. Multi use
6. More basketball
7. Covered gym/play space
8. Indoor Soccer
9. badmitton
10. Gymnastics
11. Racquetball
12. Pickle ball
13. GaGa
14. Horseshoes
15. Sure would be nice to see a covered tennis or raquetball venue! :-D
16. walking and running inside for safety and weather conditions
17. Summer Day School / Camp for kids
18. GOLF
19. Specifically Girls basketball & volleyball
20. Frisbee Golf
21. horse arena
22. Multi Use Courts
23. Indoor soccer
24. Multi-use Sport Court, lined with pickleball, tennis, basketball, etc.... with lights?

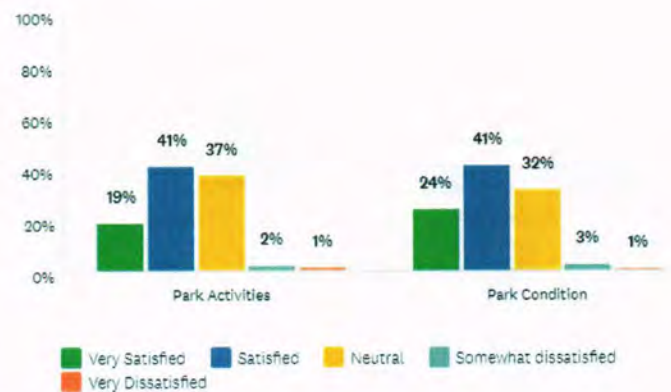
Question Fourteen through Nineteen

Comments associated with 14-19 are at end of this section

Park Activities and Condition

Howard Miller Steelhead Park

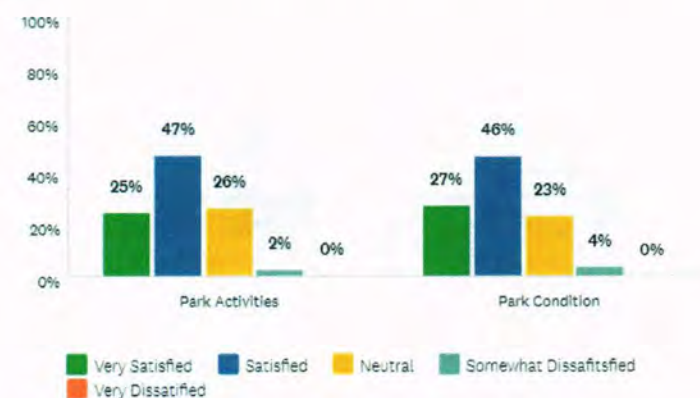
Answered: 366 Skipped: 440



	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Park Activities	19% 65	41% 142	37% 130	2% 7	1% 5	349
Park Condition	24% 85	41% 144	32% 111	3% 9	1% 3	352

Skagit Playfields (ballfields) at Skagit Valley College in MV

Answered: 436 Skipped: 370

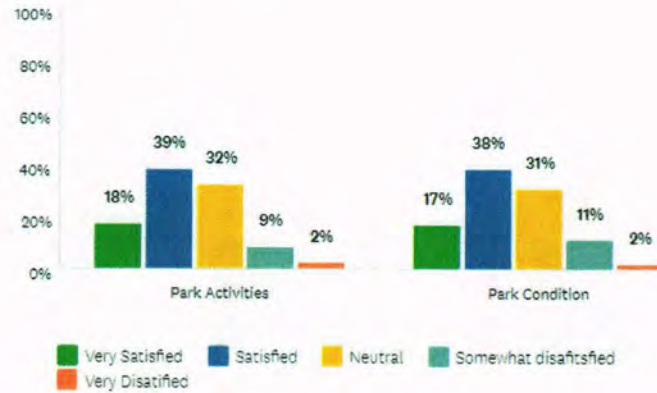


	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Park Activities	25% 101	47% 192	26% 106	2% 10	0% 2	411
Park Condition	27% 114	46% 195	23% 97	4% 15	0% 1	422

Park Activities and Condition (continued)

Northern State Recreation Area in SW

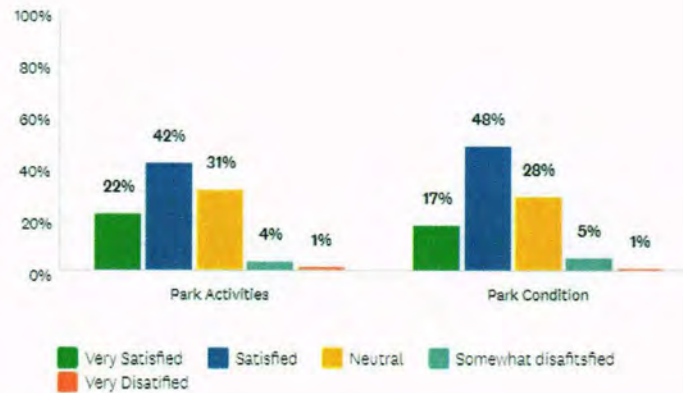
Answered: 390 Skipped: 416



	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT DISAITSFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Park Activities	18% 65	39% 142	32% 119	9% 32	2% 9	367
Park Condition	17% 64	38% 144	31% 117	11% 43	2% 8	376

The Cascade Trail

Answered: 424 Skipped: 382

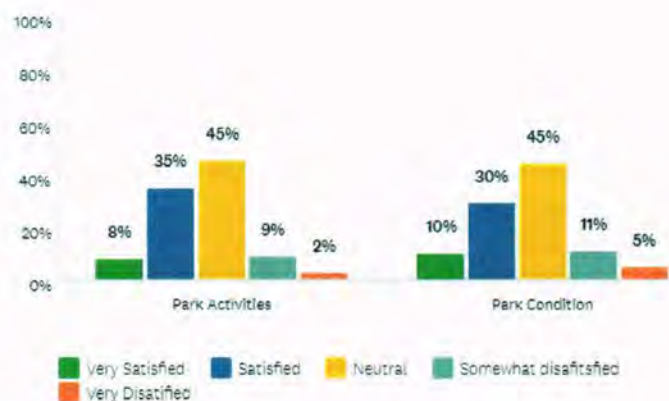


	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT DISAITSFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Park Activities	22% 89	42% 168	31% 125	4% 15	1% 6	403
Park Condition	17% 70	48% 193	28% 114	5% 20	1% 4	401

Park Activities and Condition (continued)

Clear Lake Beach Park

Answered: 364 Skipped: 442



	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Park Activities	8% 28	35% 123	45% 159	9% 32	2% 8	350
Park Condition	10% 34	30% 102	45% 153	11% 37	5% 17	343

Q 14 continued – Howard Miller Steelhead Park:

1. Beautiful Facility.
2. need online reservation
3. Loud religious rock music and yelling is pretty hard on the neighborhood one weekend each summer.
4. I haven't visited this Park
5. The reservation system is extremely frustrating and inadequate
6. Great Place!
7. This is a very well kept park and we have enjoyed RV camping and day use
8. Great rev park
9. I haven't been there for a while, but love this park!
10. Only been here once, but it seemed like a decent spot to stop and enjoy the river. Not sure what other activities there are there. Parking signs were coming. If there are fees, they're not well-explained.
11. I don't get up there very often.
12. Privacy is all it needs too open camping spaces
13. public restroom facilities are often times not as clean as they should be.
14. when I fished it was nice to have camping space for tents. now seems RV dominant. more camping space.
15. County residents should have priority for reservations
16. It's really weird that there is a tavern basically in the campground.
17. Not familiar with this park
18. Would be nice to upgrade the trails. Great camping area.
19. Nice small park; good place to have a snack or a pit stop while driving.
20. Buildings could use a remodel
21. Beautiful park. Nice facilities.

22. It is great that the west part is undeveloped. The RV park is already too big, so please don't make it any bigger. I wish the trail connected to Rockport State Park.
23. N/A
24. Nice park. Still very rural. That's a big plus.
25. Need more parks like Howard Miller more centrally located in Skagit Co.
26. Tenting facilities could be improved
27. haven't been there lately to see its condition
28. Great for large groups.
29. do not know this park
30. there are no "park activities" anymore! (we used to have concerts on the lawn in the summer, etc.) also, the day use public/locals can no longer access the restrooms!
31. I have only gone here very few times.
32. We would love to see an automated on line reservation system for howard miller similar to the state park system. It is difficult to make a reservation for a campsite. a system where you can see the sites available for the dates you are looking for
33. Nice location. Keep killing the blackberry and planting trees or it'll just become an unusable patch of weeds.
34. My family have been interested in visiting, but we haven't yet.
35. Playground equipment is surrounded by a large amount of weeds. Only one bench for adults to sit and watch their children.
36. Need trail maps and trail signs
37. none
38. Need to repair the river trail west to Sauk City Rd.
39. Needs an amphitheater, more parking, interpretive center, and more camping cabins..

Q 15 continued – Skagit Playfields in MV Comments:

1. One of nicest facilities in state.
2. I haven't visited this Park
3. I can see possible sites for pickleball courts north of the Dream Field and south of the parking lot.
4. We frequently use the walking trail.
5. Handicap accessible swing is great. I wish there were more options for children with disabilities.
6. Needs restroom facility
7. Nice park but nothing for older people to do. Pickle ball courts would be great.
8. This is not an park/trail that I am comfortable being alone on any more.
9. Have never used this facility
10. This is a Skagit County Park. Why won't they let girls fastpitch play here?
11. We use these often. Good place to stop and eat fast food, and let our son run around and play on the playground. Love that we can also go down to the river there. Lots of opportunity for activities at this park.
12. We have had birthday parties there and enjoyed the space. A few more picnic areas outside the shelter would be nice since we used the shelter and some other people didn't have a place to go while we used the space.
13. Very good for our young people!
14. Public bathrooms would be great. I love, to run at lunch
15. Needs more security, more lighting also
16. Playfields seem to be for specific and special interests. I like to support more more general uses that can serve many people .
17. Replacing grass with turf will help with usage and maintenance.
18. The covered patio is a little dingy.
19. "Gray to softball but nothing for baseball.

20. We need a turf facility like Anacortes has.
21. More play sets would be helpful since kids are waiting for their siblings to play sports
22. Clean, nice soft-surface trails
23. Pretty decent walking trail
24. Haven't heard of anything interesting to me happening there.
25. Play equipment needs to be cleaned
26. Excellent park. Big thanks to the people that keep it so awesome.
27. Parking is an issue when busy.
28. Should have more community recreation events there. Summer: outdoor yoga, taichi, etc.
29. River's Edge housing community, though :-(
30. I walk the trails around this park, so I use the trails and look at the ballfields, but don't use them.
31. Needs a new equipment upgrade
32. never been there
33. Uninterested.
34. The playfields are ok but the walking path around the playfields is scary, unkempt and I don't use it. It's important to walk with someone on these paths or ignore them. They are overgrown. There are secondary paths all throughout that should be gotten rid of. Used to go there all the time. Rarely now because paths are too secluded.
35. none
36. Expand trail-acquire adjacent land-mark trail with mileage
37. Feels like safety is always an issue
38. Please keep the park safe and free of unwanted activities - drugs, people in the bushes etc.
39. Parking?
40. I enjoy the disc golf course and baseball diamonds
41. could use synthetic infields to increase year round play.

Q 16 continued – Northern State Recreation Area in SW Comments:

1. So much potential.
2. no ballfields please
3. Too much area given over to disc golf.
4. I haven't visited this Park
5. Great upgrades!!
6. Not really aware of activities at subject location
7. Lock your car. Lights/ cameras
8. Need graffiti covered up more often
9. Lots of used/abandoned drug needles..
10. This is a huge gem for our county! I would love to see a lot more development of park facilities here.
11. More bathrooms, water fountains and upkeep/restore historical buildings please! Turn them into venues for public events perhaps, so they can produce income instead of falling to total disrepair for no good reason.
12. Wish buildings would be stabilized instead of allowed to further deteriorate and vandalism is rampant
13. The disc golfers take pride in keeping the park clean.
14. Thanks for letting us race Cyclocross there.
15. I'd like to see more signage about the farm. I would like someone to come in and clean it up and post security. It is a historical landmark.
16. I love having open space to walk near home, but I am also a mountain biker and think NSR has potential for an amazing trail system. There is a lot of standing water in this park that needs to be addressed first.
17. Would like to see more trails and upgraded to really use the area.
18. I use it all the time, and I love the natural state.

19. Hard to find the trail paths
20. It's been a few months since I visited it, but there are areas where trails get quiet muddy. Adding more gravel/bark to these would be helpful.
21. Last few times out there has been an increased level of garbage and trash about. Perhaps an organized volunteer opportunity to tidy up would be nice.
22. Add trails for multi-use. But resist development of ball fields, RV facilities, buildings, vehicle access. Leave natural for obvious reasons. Develop other areas. Just count the fish return especially in odd years (pinks and coho) Returns have vanished due to changing land scape just north of highway 20. Millions spent to build dikes, divert water from Hanson Creek and what happened was stranded fish during fall and spring when water is low. Elk and deer love dense wooded areas and adapt to hikers, dogs, horses, etc, but RV-vehicle access is another thing. Enhance access for non motor. Encourage volunteers to help with trails. Very pleased that the developed considered a few years ago stopped. Pleased that some in leadership had the foresight to stop selfish development for private use on an island of natural beauty in Skagit County.
23. Needs more facilities.
24. Trails need help because they flood often. Nice park.
25. Not enough shade for summer walks. Interesting history.
26. more trails
27. Needs to be opened up with more trails. Few activities that I've heard about.
28. could use some gravel in the muddy areas in the SW corner and short paths to Hansen Creek, otherwise fantastic!
29. Needs restrooms facilities, and better maintained portables.
30. It is not maintained in a way that makes the area feel safe to take my kids.
31. Good blend of available uses
32. The existing trails need to be built up so that they are not under water during heavy rains. Future trails are also needed.
33. I am so glad that the motor-sports idea was shelved--what a horrible thing to do to an old farm! Please leave the undeveloped lands of the old farm the way they are. Don't "improve" them with facilities. It is a natural wonderland the way it is.
34. Dog poop litter
35. I think more or extended trails would be great
36. Where to begin? Dog poop and off leash dogs everywhere with zero apparent enforcement of laws to prevent this. This used to be a daily use park for me, but the off leash dogs running around everywhere has ruined it for me. That, and the little bags of dog poop that litter the trails. Why bag it if you're not going to throw it away? Please PLEASE start ticketing these people. There's a nice open space by the cemetery that has parking and an access road that would make an ideal fenced off leash dog area. I'd be happy to volunteer as a laborer to help make that happen. There are so many wonderful people doing great work in this park. Too bad the inconsiderate dog people have ruined it.
37. No comment. I have never used it.
38. Wish it wasn't so wet and Soggy to walk
39. It would be nice if there were a few benches on the side of the trail and maybe up by the barns.
40. Huge problems with off leash and out of control dogs despite multiple posted leash law signs. Have been harassed and attacked numerous times with no recourse due to remote area and lack of enforcement.
41. Better bathroom facilities.
42. It is gorgeous, but with young kids and frisbee golfers it is a little hazardous.
43. Also, parking! There were soooo many disc golfers in the afternoon they were parking in the driving lane and made it hard for us leave!
44. Need more walking paths that aren't dead ends! Remove round rocks that were put down on the upper walking path. They are hard on ankles and knees.

45. Nice place to walk and picnic, but needs improvements to buildings or new buildings.
46. This is a wonderful place to walk but sometimes horses muddy up the walking trails.
47. I have not used this area
48. Place to ride my horse but needs better use of the land. They could connect this trail system to more trails .
49. Want improvement
50. never been there
51. Great park and seems like it is headed towards being even better with more active recreation opportunities.
52. GOLF COURSE SHOULD BE BOUGHT AND UPGRADED BY COUNTY
53. There's dog poop EVERYWHERE.
54. This would be a wonderful park for a bike skills area.
55. Love all the trails, would love better maps and signage. The ability to explore the old buildings
56. Looking forward to connection with SWIFT. Could use more trail signage or maps
57. More trails, stabilize historic farm buildings
58. none
59. Expand trail system-restore historic barns and buildings-add interpretive signs-station a ranger to protect facilities
60. a playground would be nice, and maintained walking paths for the wet time of year when the trails are too nasty to use
61. More trails that connect to hills behind and DNR land
62. never go there
63. Bathrooms are horrendous. Enough people use the park I think a permanent bathroom could be installed
64. I help volunteer on the disc golf course, it's a ton of work for just a few people. But we love that place!
65. Would love to see the disc golf course expand
66. needs a bathroom facility, ADA trails, and a loop trail along the berms that connects along highway 20.

Q 17 continued – The Cascade Trail

1. Such a neat trail.
2. add the bridges back in that were washed out
3. Needs to be extended thru Burlington and beyond.
4. I haven't visited this Park
5. Needs some work in places but a great community amenity
6. Keep it maintained...clear downed trees and keep in good repair...no detours to hwy 20
7. Haven't used this facility
8. Haven't really used it, as far as I know, but may have a chance to start using a portion of it regularly.
9. Wish it connected to Centennial Trail. Also would like to see a plan to pave this trail in the future. In lieu of paving, ensure that the entire trail has a consistent, maintained surface, suitable for light duty bicycles (not necessarily narrow tired road bikes, but touring tires at least).
10. This trail is used by bikes and walkers. Signs posting etiquette (pass on left, ring bell, speak out when passing) for the cooperation and safety between both parties is needed. We've had many near misses with bikers who don't know/observe safe biking with walkers.
11. Restrooms would be nice...running 10 or 15 miles w/ no place to go is a drag!
12. Last time we rode on this trail, it was washed out not to far in.
13. Trails are good. They seem to be used by the largest variety of people.
14. Promote usage more...
15. sketchy at dusk and beyond. Better lighting at the entry and exit points of the trail at least until 8 p.m.
16. Wonderful-and thanks for the maintenance.

17. We do not use trails due to fear of our safety. Both human and wild animal danger keeps it out of our activity plans
18. Also needs work on areas prone to flooding. I was caught in a flooded area today and the real rains haven't even started yet!
19. Some segments in poor condition, still provides a quiet place for upriver residents to walk.
20. I would like to see more areas to park near the trail. Some of can't walk more than 5 miles or so but would like to explore other parts
21. Wish it connected Sedro to Burlington to enable more families to use biking for transportation
22. trail surface inconsistent
23. Is this the same as the Centennial Trail? Would love to see this completed all the way through Skagit County
24. Would like to see the bridges restore on the trail so that you do not have to go out onto the road to get around.
25. Sometimes a lot of trash scattered around
26. Increase enforcement to stop motorheads from driving on the trail with powered vehicles. The presence of these lawbreakers is the reason why I checked "somewhat dissatisfied"(also note that your survey misspelled the word "dissatisfied").
27. I don't use it.
28. I wish that folks with dogs were more respectful of the impact their animals have on other users - have animals under control.
29. So loud with traffic sound on the trail. Need more quiet areas to walk with longer distances like this trail.
30. Slides and treefall addressed timely and repairs well done!. But, bridges and decking are very dangerous for horses and should be upgraded. The gates prevent driving horse & wagon/buggy, which was an initial incentive in voting the rails-to-trails into existence. And please NEVER harden or pave the road/trail surface! We run and ride it over 500 miles annually and recently noticed survey hubs in the trail near Concrete - what are they for?
31. is this the east-west trail from SW? Where is the dike trail on here?
32. I have not used this area
33. Where is the parking for horse trailers?
34. Waste of tax dollars, always facing serious security issues due to its seclusion, very little public use.
35. Prompt repair of food damage is important to maintain trail continuity
36. Don't feel necessary or \$dollar wise
37. never been there
38. Perhaps encourage horse riders to use one portion of trail so the hooves don't tear up trail for bikes?
39. It would be great if future planning could incorporate connecting this trail to the city of Mount Vernon (and beyond!).
40. Keep expanding it to connect our communities and recreation areas!!
41. Skagit County NEEDs to bridge Sedro-Woolley with Burlington. It is time to complete this link!
42. Restroom facilities at trail heads (or at Least a few of them) would be greatly appreciated.
43. It would be really nice if there could be some way to connect the trail from Burlington to Sedro Woolley so that bicycle commuters could use that all along highway 20 instead of being forced into the road after lafayette st.
44. I just wish it hadn't been stolen from the farmers. I love the trailbut would love to see it be a no Spray zone and narrowed to give more land back to the farmers
45. Could use sweeping in the fall (leaves on pavement). Missing a section in the Lyman area.
46. Areas of trail are unsafe to walk/run on due to landslides.
47. trail need more maintenance
48. none

49. Upgrade trail especially in washed out areas-improved trailhead facilities-add restroom-expand trail to Anacortes
50. Need to fix section near Minkler Lake
51. "Pave it, or don't use such large crush
52. Need wider boardwalk, better water protection"
53. Could use better gravel, some new bridges, and stream reconfiguration (to keep water off of the trail).

Q 18 continued – Clear Lake Beach Park

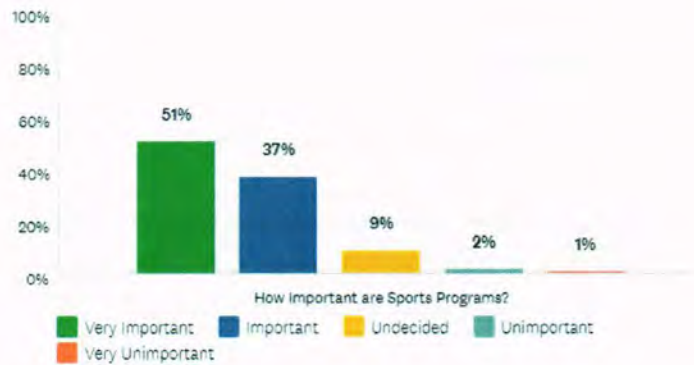
1. Love the upgrades.
2. Why is the new restroom smaller than the one that was removed?
3. I haven't visited this Park
4. Weeds in the water is a safety concern.
5. Last time I took my grandchildren, the park was full of dog poop. in the grass, on the sidewalk and on the sand of beach. Gross and unhealthy!
6. Needs the netting taken out of the water or replaced.
7. People often litter and don't clean up after their dogs.
8. Nice park, but very crowded in summer. Parking can be difficult.
9. Hope to see more access to bathrooms.
10. Would like to see it more like it was 25 yrs ago
11. Needs more trash cans, and more parking
12. Again as with the others the amount of trash that is about is more than should be allowed. it encourages litter to be left. The whole broken windows thing.
13. Needs to be safer and cleaner. Maybe charge \$ again to be able to enter.
14. It would be wonderful to have a walking path
15. Bathrooms dirty, needles found on grounds, stumps and garbage in swim area.
16. It was a favorite spot until this last year. "
17. I heard from other people that there was quite often cat feces in the sand but it has gotten better. That was a reason not to bring my family there.
18. The last time I was there... Kinda sad that the building that the bathrooms were in had been destroyed
19. Scary busy the last summer day I visited.
20. never been there
21. The activity that I have witnessed at this park are "less than savory" so to speak, and it has been every time we have been to this park over the last 7 years.
22. It's always so dirty!
23. It was better when there were water slides and fun equipment to play on
24. Are there boat rentals, canoes, kayaks? If so, needs to be easily accessible
25. I have not been here
26. It's been bad since it went public and everyone knows it. Litter, loud music, public drinking, etc. Wouldn't take my kids there.
27. Sometime the place is a mess.
28. lots of goose poop, unfortunately
29. a clean bathroom/porta-potty and clean the beach and grass - lots of misc. trash
30. have not been here
31. I wish outdoor cigarette smoking was banned or patrolled here. Taking our grand children here means getting a lungful of smoke in the summer.
32. I haven't been here for about 40 years, but think a swimming area for kids is very important.
33. Frequent beach flooding has become a major issue.
34. I would like more access to public swimming opportunities in Skagit county.

35. "This is a park with tremendous potential, but Skagit County ruined it when they removed the showers and slides. This is really the only safe natural swimming spot outside of Anacortes and it is being neglected. It is also gross to swim in that water and have no shower to rinse off at. I have been to public beaches all down the west coast and most have a outside rinse-off shower.
36. Also, it seems that you have a drug dealer across the street."
37. It can get pretty gross so we don't usually go there in summer
38. Spraying with poisons during swimming season and any other time
39. not enough parking.
40. none
41. Bring back the park it once was - swimming, docks, food
42. Did not know this existed!
43. Why did you remove the large bathroom to replace with a small bathroom?

Question 19

Skagit County provides sports programs to youth and adults alike. Youth activities include an extensive offering of sports leagues like the SWISH basketball league. Adult activities include several recreational sports leagues. Sports include basketball, volleyball, kickball, and softball. How important do you feel sports programs, and enrichment activities are to quality of life?

Answered: 682 Skipped: 124

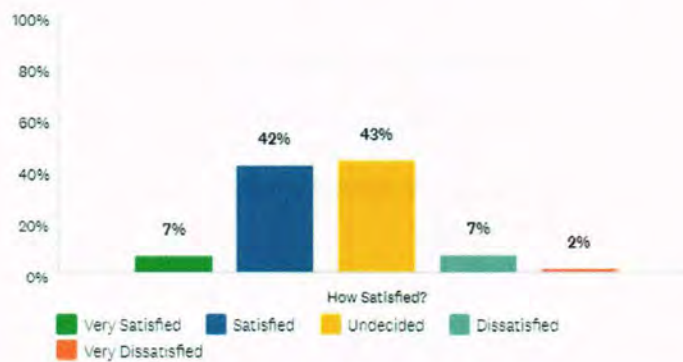


	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	UNDECIDED	UNIMPORTANT	VERY UNIMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
How Important are Sports Programs?	51% 346	37% 253	9% 61	2% 15	1% 7	682	4.34

Question 20

Thinking just about sports programs currently offered by Skagit County Parks and Recreation, how satisfied are you with the selection?

Answered: 642 Skipped: 164



	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	UNDECIDED	DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
How Satisfied?	7% 42	42% 267	43% 278	7% 44	2% 11	642	3.44

Question 21

What sports programs would you like to see offered?

1. Pickleball
2. Basketball
3. More leisure activities such as hikes
4. pickleball classes
5. Pickleball
6. Youth football
7. Adult volleyball
8. Lacrosse
9. More non competitive programs.
10. archery, fencing
11. We have had issues getting our concrete area involved in the programs due to distance and transportation costs
12. When my kids were younger there were many activities for them. As teens, barely any and they need them! Could you use highschool school gyms for after school bbball pick up teams. There is nothing active for teens to do in highschools often if they cannot make the key teams.
13. Archery, shooting sports, tai chi
14. Pickleball Rec Play/League Play
15. pickleball for all ages
16. Sailing
17. Pickleball
18. Look into the growth of Pickleball
19. Outdoor fitness
20. pickleball indoor and outdoor
21. Yoga
22. Equal access for all genders and ages
23. tennis for older people
24. Traveling baseball and basketball for 14/15 year olds
25. Indoor sports for kids during winter
26. More indoor and outdoor Pickle ball courts. Fastest growing sport in U.S. opportunity to make large amount of revenue for County.
27. "pickle ball
28. PS Question 8 is defective. Kept erasing my answers. I favored question 2."
29. pickleball leagues
30. Pickle ball
31. Pickle Ball
32. I would love to see more offered for the preschool age
33. Dedicated pickleball courts
34. pickleball
35. More soccer
36. Pickle ball

37. More basketball, volleyball for youth
38. Pickle ball
39. Adults basketball league in the summer.
40. Pickleball
41. Pickleball, teaching and tournaments
42. Pickle Ball
43. Dance, gymnastics- more than traditional soccer, baseball and football.
44. More pickleball option for winter time.
45. Pickleball
46. Shooting sports programs along with a shooting range.
47. More pickle ball courts.
48. Senior activities
49. maybe bmx
50. Co-Ed Curling
51. pickleball leagues
52. Swim, tball, baseball, gymnastics
53. Adult sporting activities
54. Special olympics, including soft ball, and track and field
55. Rugby
56. More youth (preschool age specifically) sports programs and teams.
57. Pickleball
58. Indoor Soccer
59. cheerleading, gymnastics, girls softball, competitive soccer league
60. Soccer
61. Boys volleyball in the spring. The only sports offered are baseball and lacrosse in the spring. Whenever we have done co ed volleyball it was 1 boy a team.
62. Dodgeball
63. Anyone for kite surfing?
64. Youth bicycling and/or mountain biking
65. Tennis leagues
66. More rural youth sports or activity programs
67. affordable programs for young families
68. Tennis, pickle ball, volleyball. Beginners classes. Drop in games. Take a look at South Whidbey Parks activity guide.
69. Cycling
70. Opportunities for the elderly to be outdoors, safely getting oxygen, exercise, laughter, meeting people.
71. More sailing, water sports, and nature programs
72. Senior swimming. Night swimming. Adult swimming.
73. Program for Older adults, walking, and such....
74. Hockey
75. more individual physical improvement: yoga, pilates, weight-lifting, gymnastics, sailing, wrestling, ones involving dogs,
76. Not into sports

77. Teen tennis league or drop in play: parkour for kids & teens: mtn bike skills class:
78. Unsure what is offered do to not seeing advertising
79. I don't hear about them that would help
80. A broader variety of adult programming with an emphasis on skill building, fun and interaction, especially for individuals. It seems like most sports programming is focused on team sports.
81. Pick up Adult lacrosse!
82. More young youth programs
83. I'd like to see better coordination between the County and the City in availability and accessibility of ball fields. I've seen some real perversion in the opportunities available for teams to have practice times due to capricious and self-imposed rules. This is not an effective use of public resources.
84. Volleyball, diving (pool)
85. Lacrosse, flag football
86. I'm not that interested in organized sports.
87. PickleballZ
88. Competitive Flag football as an alternative for tackle football for youth.
89. I think expanding soccer will be important over time. Feel like basketball is limited around here, but not everyone is a fan so who knows.
90. More comprehensive and almost free sorts programs for kids in grades 1-5. Leaving it up to the YMCA has created a poor participation and low quality experience.
91. Disc golf
92. pickle ball
93. Soccer, basketball, baseball/softball, tennis, Pickle ball, volley ball. in that order. just being selfish.
94. adult summer outdoor pick up soccer
95. What people want. I see hundreds over the week use the Cascade Trail and NSRA for walking, walking dogs and riding horses. I say encourage that and let sports groups use existing fields and school facilities.
96. More options for non sport programs ie dance, cooking, etc
97. Frisbee golf
98. Weightloss classes for kids and teenagers
99. Adult soccer/volleyball
100. Hockey
101. "Opportunity for higher level programs for basketball and baseball. Not just rec levels.
102. Also indoor facility for baseball to utilize when the weather is incimate and outdoor fields are closed.
103. Need more gym space for teams to be able to practice basketball."
104. Bicycle riding areas for beginners
105. Cheer
106. Volleyball and tennis and photography
107. Adaptive sports options- wheelchair basketball, etc.

108. No, but would like to see more coordination with local parks depts. that offer recreation programming and other youth sport organizations in Skagit Valley as to limit overlap of seasons, etc.
109. yoga, tai chi, native plant id, bird id, composting, pea patch w/ gardening workshops
110. Ultimate frisbee
111. Rugby
112. Pickle ball
113. Foot golf - yes it is real; a cross between kickball, soccer, and golf, and usually on an established golf course.
114. Volleyball, running groups, hiking information sessions
115. Variety for kids and adults who want to be involved but are not as athletic.
116. Toddler age
117. competitive baseball
118. Bocce ball. Games older people can play
119. Flag Football
120. Frisbee golf, pickleball
121. Running, Biking, and skateboarding Classes
122. Batting cages, Executive 9 golf course
123. I have not participated in these programs, but think it is great that you provide the opportunity
124. Ice Hockey
125. N/A
126. Racquet ball court's would be nice.
127. more adult leagues!
128. "ultimate
129. league softball
130. adult co/ed soccer
131. tennis, badminton
132. More swimming areas
133. I don't know what you offer. Is it publicized enough?
134. Some sports programs for adults over 50
135. Mountain biking
136. Tennis and/or racquetball. General gym or covered area/s are important with our weather, it rains half the year. YMCA opening soon in Mt.Vernon, so that can be our pool. But we need covered tennis!
137. chess club for elementary/middle school children
138. "Basketball year-round for all ability levels.
139. Homeschool organized activities would be great, too."
140. flag football
141. organized walking, hiking, and running groups for beginners on up
142. Adult sports league. More of them. Flag football, softball, etc.
143. Skiing
144. Tennis and swimming

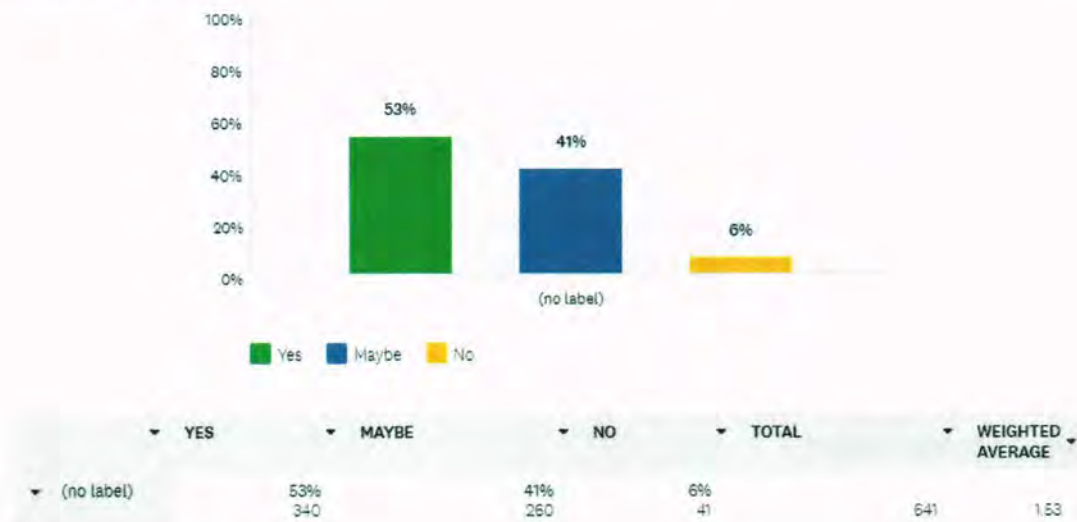
145. Greater focus on outdoor recreation and less on indoor sports, except in rural areas (Concrete)
146. Tennis and hiking clubs
147. Pickleball
148. no comment
149. soccer
150. Outdoor roller skating rink
151. Being a city dweller, I'm not familiar with what kinds of sports programs you offer.
152. GOLF
153. hiking
154. Ultimate Frisbee
155. BMX racing, BMX pump track, mountain biking, scooter/skateboarding
156. More arts and culture recreation, less sports.
157. Inclusive for special needs adults.
158. Ice skating rink
159. More basketball programs.
160. Any that aren't Baseball or Soccer - you got that covered.
161. Self defense classes.
162. Roller hockey including youth and adult leagues.
163. Just more times available
164. More opportunities for older elementary and middle school kids as school districts eliminate or limit their programs
165. Older citizen activities seem to be limited. Many of us are active and would love a senior basketball league, senior baseball, etc.
166. family sport league. Flag football for younger girls! American Ninja Warrior gym with obstacles to build self confidence, strength and have fun!
167. hockey
168. just more in general. or the opportunity to just join and not have to form your own league. Its really hard to meet 7 other people to form a team before you can sign up, what about an odd ball league where its just singles who sign up to be able to participate? pickleball, tennis, racketball, badminton, anything! also... can we make leagues affordable?
169. open track
170. no opinion
171. outdoor education
172. martial arts, mom & me classes (yoga, tai chi, etc.) self defense for all ages,
173. Adult soccer
174. More outdoor sports, like swimming, cycling, rowing, and sailing
175. More recreational activities for teens. Highschools have cut soorts so would be great if County could offer bbb etc for regular teens in winter
176. Public pool facility!
177. lacrosse
178. Pickleball
179. Water polo/swimming
180. "Disc golf

181. Adult racquet sports"
182. "Softball and tennis near Marblemount/Rockport
183. tennis, group fitness, group walking/jogging
184. Dish golf league
185. Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Softball
186. Ultimate frisbee, basketball, golf
187. More disc golf
188. Disc Golf!
189. Kickball or dodge ball for adults
190. Skagit County does a great job with SWISH basketball and softball leagues. What about Latino soccer leagues? MV is 50% Hispanic.

Question 22

Special events and recreation programs were eliminated from Skagit County Parks several years ago and are no longer provided. If funding were available, would you like to see these activities re-established?

Answered: 641 Skipped: 165



Question 23

What other community events would you like to see offered?

1. Not sure.
2. Snow shoeing, climbing, Pickering ball leagues, milfing
3. Bbq gathering
4. Maybe an event to recognize National Trails Day.
5. Neighborhood events
6. River festivals, concerts, kid friendly activities

7. Anything that brings the community together & provides opportunities for families to get out and enjoy nature.
8. Pickleball Tournament?
9. Offer something for people that cannot/do not want to play sports.
10. Outdoor fitness
11. day trips, educational hikes, go-cart derby, more all comers track meets,
12. More things for kids to do.
13. Pickle ball tournaments.
14. All community events. At least once a month. Participation in is there in our little community.
15. Pickle Ball tournaments.
16. Didn't we just have the pumpkin toss in Sedro?
17. Recreational pickle ball. Maybe a tournament, or instruction for beginners
18. Hispanic themed gatherings
19. Pickle ball
20. Large community events that bring people together from all over the county.
21. Concerts and entertainment
22. pickle ball
23. Pickle Ball tournaments
24. As many as possible. This is what builds community and a sense of belongings my. We NEED these events if our community wants to thrive!
25. Community picnics .like July 4th then fireworks
26. Campfire sing alongs
27. Block party/ community pot luck
28. "Social activities for our adult special.needs community members.
29. See Renton Community Center 'Thursday Club' program "
30. Arts
31. Learning new skills, exercise classes, fitness classes.
32. Maybe some more events related to local history.
33. Naturalist programs
34. Dancing lessons/community dances
35. We need sidewalks and bike lanes so children can safely participate in alternative modes of transportation....first and foremost!!!
36. Outdoor Concerts
37. Maximum opportunities for the elderly to safely get exercise.
38. Ethnic celebrations to educate and promote diversity.
39. Programs that work with our Senior population.
40. I believe that public restrooms should be a priority in existing parks and developing projects.
41. Dog training for helping owners have the basic skills.
42. Timed mountain bike races in the ACFL.
43. Education on Equine activities and Backcountry horsemen
44. Music, community potlucks, celebrations of our Mexican community involving food, dance, music, culture; and our Native American community, involving the same ideas as for the Mexican community; actually, celebrations each month for a cultural community that has found itself in Skagit county, along the lines of the Milwaukee, Wisc. cultural festivals:<https://www.visitmilwaukee.org/articles/events/cultural-festivals/>
45. Burlington seems to have a lot more classes for children. I would like to see art classes in Mount Vernon.
46. More physical activities for bad weather, places for young children to go

47. Outdoor recreation for wellness & fun, for all ages. We live in an outdoor rec. mecca, and it would be great for our Parks to be the leaders in engaging the locals in what is right here, not just on a court or in a gym.
48. Biking classes (safety, how to bike on road, etc) for kids and adults. Craft or music events.
49. Youth events
50. More weekend or Sunday fun runs and/or fitness events. Love the Burlington track Wednesdays in June. These promote community. Would love to see more such events. Would also like to see a county-operated pool aquatic center where memberships weren't a barrier for water sports.
51. Regular Group walks, special programs for kids with disabilities
52. That seems like a lot of resource allocation to a narrow segment of citizens. I like the idea of providing space and if there is enough grass roots interest, people will step up to support and volunteer. An example of this is the tremendous trailwork support at Little Mountain Park.
53. Dance classes - for kids, for adults, for both!
54. Anything to get kids outside please!
55. "Multicultural events that celebrate the beautiful human diversity we have here in the county.
56. Geographic events that celebrate the beautiful geographic diversity we have here in the county."
57. Maybe flag football outdoors. Maybe something cultural like music/dance.theater once in awhile. Outdoor and/or alternative recreation options. Outdoor/environment type classes during the summer. I guess we have some of that around here already but just brainstorming ideas.
58. All of them
59. Events for seniors and those living with disabilities should be a priority, I am going to be old one day and I want to be able to see the outside world rather than be stuck in some home all day long. Seniors and ADA folks need better representation.
60. Summer classes for kids and teens! Dance, cooking, arts, hiking, etc!
61. Music and movies in the parks
62. Rock painting and hiding; more sport teams for various sports (I often see just soccer)
63. Community hikes
64. I miss the winter run from the Allen School
65. More interpretive trails and signage to inform people about the natural world around them
66. General comment about park availability... we support a lot of dikes around the county. I'd like to see more also made available as public trails.
67. Art classes, toddler/parent classes
68. None, but would like to see coordination with other local parks depts. to put these events on.
69. pea patch management w/ workshops, gardening outreach, weed id, harvest potluck gatherings, harvest swaps
70. Equestrian
71. Community concerts
72. I would like our community to be more activities and for Parks and Rec to actively communicate with citizens for opportunities and events they provide. I don't know much about Parks and Rec in Skagit and have not been impressed with the lack of information as a new citizen.
73. Active kid friendly programs. Summer day-camps for kids with special needs and autism spectrum disorders.
74. Free or low cost events for families that have activities for the kids of ALL ages
75. Mom/Dad and Babies Programs, Mental/Disabled Programs, Music Programs, Summer Movies, Private Parties.
76. I would like to see more parks offer camping. Even if it is dry camping.
77. Organized park cleanup days. Community garage sale.
78. "More music

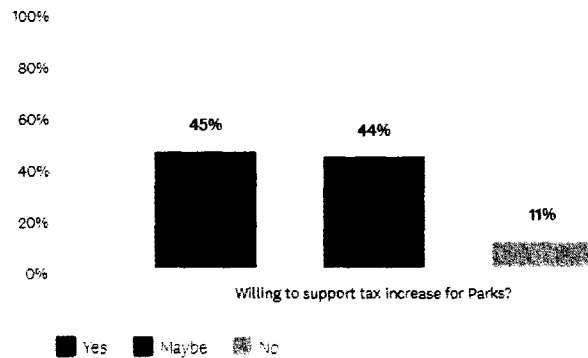
79. summer music in the parks
80. Yoga
81. More outdoor drinking events, quite honestly! Ones in which kids can be there too. More intermixing of Latino and White communities in community events.
82. free concerts, festivals
83. Land stewardship learning opportunities, beautification projects in cities and towns.
84. Grange dances/concerts. Dancing venue for all ages youth/teens - doesn't need to be a bar or a night club. It sounds silly, but when Max Dales and Cascade Pizza folded up, the dancing options disappeared from Skagit :-/
85. Chess Club
86. The cities have picked these up and that seems to be working well.
87. A walk-athon to raise money for local groups/projects like Spokane has Bloomsday - it's a great event and people of all ages participate!
88. get to know your services, i.e. fire dept, law enforcement, PUD, PSE, etc.
89. nature walks
90. communities picnics (upriver), guided nature walks, outdoor music nights (summer), day camps for kids (spring and winter breaks, etc.)
91. Work together with the cities to have combined goals.
92. The Clear Lake Triathlon was great fun.
93. Pickleball tournaments also indoor or covered pickleball facilities
94. no comment
95. A Family Fun Day which focuses on encouraging families to utilize their public park.
96. A place for community events will provide opportunity.
97. Partner with Skagit alpine club for intro to mountaineering classes? Our county has amazing alpine playgrounds
98. GOLF
99. BMX, scooter, skateboarding, equine themed events, fundraisers. I would love to see more cooperation with non-profits and have the County host an equine fundraiser for SAIN.
100. Somehow get folks from diversified cultures more interested in using parks in a variety of ways, i.e. not just for picnics or sporting teams. A kayak center would be fabulous!
101. The penguin dip was a perfect example of a cultural event Skagit County hosted.
102. Community art, dance and music programs.
103. More trail running events/races in Anacortes
104. Any
105. Shooting competitions.
106. It is very hard to access the catalogue online and I end up missing so many of the great events you offer. More covered sign areas(like at hillcrest) with upcoming events that was kept up to date would be awesome
107. dance classes. barn dances
108. Anything that encourages families to get active together. Martial Arts-Taekwondo in particular-teaches respect for everyone.
109. non-monetized events; events not designed specifically for profit. instead, festivals, faires, hosting games, etc.
110. ice skating/hockey venue
111. depends. there are lots of events already. ensure you are actually filling a community need. I cant think of what that is right now.
112. nonopinion
113. organized runs and hikes

114. nothing that duplicates events already offered in Mount Vernon, Burlington, Sedro-Woolley. Events in outlying areas would be nice.
115. Concerts, beer festivals, wine festivals, dog gathering events.
116. Outdoor concerts, fun runs, "Bite" event, more family events at the fairground year round?
117. family movie nights at the parks (east skagit valley)
118. Music etc. at Howard Miller
119. arts!!!!
120. Swim Lessons
121. Farmers market and some sort of kids play day doing activities with volunteers
122. Concerts at NSRA
123. fishing derby/contest for adults

Question 24

Some communities have chosen to tax themselves in order to increase the amount of parks and recreation opportunities in their community. Would you support increased taxes or levies to support expansion of parks or park facilities, or maintenance and replacement of parks infrastructure in Skagit County?

Answered: 656 Skipped: 150



	YES	MAYBE	NO	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Willing to support tax increase for Parks?	45% 298	44% 287	11% 71	656	1.65