

Chapter Nine RECREATION

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This chapter provides policies for park and recreation facilities designed to serve Whatcom County as a whole. It does not focus extensively on open space resource areas which are addressed under land use. Nor does it address neighborhood parks which are also discussed under land use in the urban growth area section. This chapter also adopts by reference the entire Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan which includes background information, standards for park and trail development, recreation and senior service programs and an action plan for providing park and recreation facilities. The policies in this plan repeat most of the policies found in the *Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan*. In addition, this chapter also adopts, by reference, the entire Whatcom County Bicycle Plan.

Process

In August 1989, Whatcom County adopted a *Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan* as an official element of the county's comprehensive plan. Subsequently, in July 1991, the Whatcom County Council adopted *Preserving a Way of Life: A Natural Heritage Plan for Whatcom County*. This plan has some overlap with the *Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan* but focuses primarily on preserving and protecting natural areas in the county without necessarily assuming they need to be in public ownership. The *Natural Heritage Plan* was adopted by resolution with reference to specific goals; several goals were modified and others deferred to future consideration. In preparation for this plan, the Parks Commission recommended some updated policies from the 1989 *Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan*. These have been incorporated here and in the parks plan. This plan specifically adopts the updated *Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan*, while utilizing the *Natural Heritage Plan* as a background document.

GMA Goals, County-Wide Planning Policies, and Visioning Community Value Statements

This chapter addresses Growth Management Act (GMA) Goal #9, Open Space and Recreation, and GMA Goal #12, Public Facilities and Services, directly by addressing park and recreation needs. Habitat and other open space needs are also addressed, but more completely, elsewhere in this plan. Similarly, this chapter addresses Section H, Open Space/Greenbelt Corridors of the County-wide Planning Policies (CWPP). It also partially addresses CWPP Policy K (1) by identifying needs for recreation facilities. This chapter also addresses value statement #1 under Open Space and Recreation which encourages retention/development of recreational opportunities along with other open space categories.

GMA Requirements

The Growth Management Act specifies recreation as an optional element of the comprehensive plan.

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Leisure time is a relatively new concept to Americans. It was not too long ago that the average American worked 48 hours per week and children had daily chores. Today more leisure time is generally available.

However, too much leisure time can be a problem if not channeled wisely. Our rapidly changing lifestyles have brought about many frustrations which frequently manifest in juvenile delinquency, alcohol and drug abuse and other misuses of leisure time. For the younger generation, especially those who find it difficult to obtain gainful and meaningful employment, it is a real challenge to make wise use of leisure time. If Americans are provided with opportunities to use leisure time in socially and personally satisfying ways, many problems can be avoided. Recreation not only provides a diversion and refreshment from the pace of our complex lives, but it also enriches our mental health.

With the existence of two National Forests, the North Cascades National Park, Washington State Department of Natural Resources land, three state parks and land held by private timber companies within Whatcom County, it is hard to believe there is an additional need for public open space.

However, most public land cited above is located in the eastern two-thirds of the county and little public land is available near the population centers. With the county now undergoing a major shift towards urban development, the public is becoming aware of the lost opportunities for close-in public open space. Added to this concern is the fact that while Whatcom County has more than 130 miles of saltwater shoreline, only about 6% is currently accessible to the public. Nearly everyday the opportunity for additional public access is reduced as land is developed.

In years past, the primary responsibility of Whatcom County Department of Parks and Recreation has been to offer recreation programs and manage park facilities. With the need to preserve and manage open space, the department could soon become a steward of the land.

It is with the need to preserve open space and shoreline access and to expand recreation services for a growing population that the recreation chapter of the comprehensive plan is adopted, as the county has undergone considerable population growth and new concerns for the environment and livability have become prominent.

ISSUES, GOALS, AND POLICIES

The following policies and design standards apply to the acquisition and/or development of day use parks, multi-use camping areas, trail systems, specialized facilities, shoreline access areas and recreation resource management areas (**Maps 22 and 23**).

Day Use Parks

Day use parks are large regional parks designed to offer a wide range of passive day use activities. They often contain facilities or recreation opportunities that county residents are willing to travel some distance to reach. In most cases, they are located in the rural areas of the county, although there are some exceptions. Often a feature will dominate the site. Examples are the farmstead at Hovander Park, the nature interpretative areas at Tennant Lake and the lake shoreline at Samish Park.

- GOAL 9A: Address county-wide recreational needs by adequate provision of day use parks.**
- Policy 9A-1: Because the cities currently provide the highly developed urban parks, the county's role should be to provide rural day use parks that are centered around a unique feature or recreation opportunity.
- Policy 9A-2: Because of the unique features of the site, location within the county is not too important although they must have good road access.
- Policy 9A-3: Development standards will vary according to the use intended. For the intensive use park areas, all facilities and improvements should be built to a high standard and designed to be easily maintained.
- Policy 9A-4: All parks must be designed to create a minimal impact upon surrounding property and to the site itself.
- Policy 9A-5: Day use parks should be designed with one entrance and control point so that entrance fees can be charged.
- Policy 9A-6: If possible, day use parks should be located on an existing or proposed trail route.
- Policy 9A-7: The parks should be designed to accommodate a range of age groups and interests.
- Policy 9A-8: The county should only accept sites that meet the above standards.

Multi-Use Camping Parks

Multi-use camping parks provide camping opportunities in addition to other uses. Lighthouse Marine Park and Silver Lake Park fit this category. The type of camping can vary from primitive camp sites to the full-service RV site. It should be recognized that much of the camping activity use will be from non-county residents.

GOAL 9B: Provide multi-use camping parks to serve county resident needs as well as provide a tourism draw.

Policy 9B-1: All the policy statements and design standards for day use parks should also apply to multi-use camping parks.

Policy 9B-2: Because camping parks will attract many non-county residents, they should be recognized for their tourism value but at the same time county residents should not subsidize the cost of camping.

Policy 9B-3: A wide variety of camping types should be offered including primitive sites, tent sites, full-service RV sites and group camping areas.

Policy 9B-4: The camping areas should be physically separated from the other parts of the park with the ability to be closed off during winter months.

Policy 9B-5: Most large camping areas should be designed to a high standard with full-service hookups, flush toilets and rest rooms, showers, laundry and other support facilities.

Policy 9B-6: Future Park development should consider the financial ability of the county, and should focus on existing park lands before considering further acquisition.

Trail Systems

Trail systems include unpaved foot trails, paved and unpaved multi-use trails and paved bike paths. Multi-use trails are designed for two or more of the following activities: bicycle riding, mountain bike riding, walking and hiking, and horseback riding. Unpaved foot paths are primarily for walking and hiking, although a compacted gravel surface is suitable for mountain bikes as well.

While essentially all trails are suitable for foot traffic, bicyclists and horseback riders find many trails not adequately maintained or built to appropriate construction standards. Poorly built or maintained trails are less enjoyable to travel and can induce damage to the environment. User conflicts may occur between all three groups. Horseback riders often express concern with mountain bikes that suddenly appear at a bend or rise in the trail, spooking the animal and endangering both riders. Hikers complain about similar problems, but are generally more concerned with personal safety and damage to trails caused by the two rider groups. Motorized (ORV) use of trails is generally incompatible with non-motorized use for similar reasons. Noise and safety issues and environmental impacts preclude motorbikes from most of the trails identified in this plan. Solutions to user conflicts require some separation of use by designating specific loops or segments for particular users. Hikers comprise the largest user group, but tend to have the lowest impact on the trail. Although all trails are essentially available for hiking, trails that are particularly narrow, steep, or fragile, and those subject to heavy pedestrian use should be designated for hikers only. In

addition, trails, loops or alternate routes should be designated for the horseback and mountain bike rider groups where conditions warrant.

Properly built and maintained old logging roads in reforested areas provide some of the best riding trails since they are much wider than a footpath for easier passing, and their base is usually firm and less prone to damage. It is not enough, however, to simply direct horses and bikes to old road grades. They are often seeking the same views and aesthetic experience that hikers wish. Some trails will therefore need to be improved to a higher standard to accommodate the use. On shared routes, appropriate design elements need to be implemented to avoid conflicts and to enhance the trail experience for each group.

The difficulties in obtaining continuous access through private lands is a major issue in trail development that can discourage citizens, planners and administrators from pursuing what might otherwise be a worthwhile project. Access is usually obtained by way of gift or purchase of an easement or parcel of land containing the trail corridor. On private timber land, access is normally permitted in most areas on an informal basis with the understanding that closures may occur due to logging, fire danger or other circumstances. Horse club volunteers have been successful in obtaining permission to construct new trails on private and state timber land with and without formal easements.

In developed areas of the county where multiple properties are involved, the task becomes more complicated since lack of participation by one landowner can obstruct the trail. Concerns range from vandalism, fire and nuisances to liability and invasion of privacy. In most cases, trail design, careful facility planning and public education will help avoid these problems. An existing statute (RCW 4.24.210) already protects landowners from liability where they allow public access to their land without charge. Where access is denied, an alternate needs to be considered.

A friendly alternative, the "handshake agreement," has been experimented with in some areas and found to be successful in most instances (see "Pathways Across America," Spring 1989 newsletter, by the American Hiking Society and the National Park Service). Here, a reluctant landowner is approached with the plan and asked to allow public access for an indefinite period, while retaining the right to close the trail at any time if problems should occur. The trail is closed once a year to help avoid problems with adverse possession. The experience has been that once a trail is developed, impacts to the landowner are found to be minimal or nonexistent, initial fears are dispelled and the trail remains open indefinitely. Rarely are the agreements withdrawn. Later, the land owner may find it advantageous to grant an easement or sell the property for permanent public use, thereby reducing property taxes.

In 2001, Whatcom County formed the Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee developed the Whatcom County Bicycle Plan. The Whatcom County Council adopted the Plan, by resolution, on May 6, 2003. The plan makes recommendations with regard to facility type, primary and secondary routes, design guidelines, safety and education. Additionally the plan includes strategies for implementation that addresses priority projects, acquisition, development, maintenance and administration of bicycle routes. This plan specifically adopts and incorporates the most recent Whatcom County Bicycle Plan.

GOAL 9C: **Expand outdoor recreation opportunities for county residents by providing enjoyable trails for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, walking, boating, and other trail activities in a safe environment.**

- Policy 9C-1: Trails should be interesting and attractive. Trails which follow natural water courses, pass significant natural resources, traverse interesting scenery or cross areas of outstanding beauty provide interesting and enjoyable experiences for the trail user.
- Policy 9C-2: Trails should be looped and interconnected to provide a variety of trail lengths and destinations.
- Policy 9C-3: Trails should link other recreational uses in the Foothills area and connect to existing trail systems in the National Forest and state land.
- Policy 9C-4: The wet climate of Whatcom County may preclude extensive multi-use of some trails or require seasonal limitations on their use. Trail routes should take into account soil conditions, steep slopes, surface drainage and other physical limitations that could impact the areas from over-use.
- Policy 9C-5: Bicycle trails should provide opportunities for the recreational rider as well as the touring and commuter bicyclist.
- Policy 9C-6: Bicycle routes and paths should minimize the conflicts between motorists and bicyclists.
- Policy 9C-7: Hiking trails should have a variety of lengths and grades for the casual stroller as well as the serious hiker.
- Policy 9C-8: Hiking trails should reach areas of natural beauty with the purpose of permitting the hiker to seek areas of solitude and get away from the built environment.
- Policy 9C-9: Equestrian trails should be accessible most of the year. Some equestrian trails should be close-in to the urban areas.
- Policy 9C-10: Adequate parking, signage trash receptacles, and toilet facilities should be provided at all major trailheads.
- Policy 9C-11: Where public funds are used to construct or maintain dikes, levees or revetments, public access should be encouraged for trail purposes, where appropriate.
- Policy 9C-12: Water trails for non-motorized boats should be identified with provisions made for parking, launching areas, and places of interest along the water route where boats can land.
- Policy 9C-13: Work toward partnering with other agencies and the public to accomplish recreational goals.
- Policy 9C-14: Investigate multi-solutions that will accommodate several county goals, such as recreation, water retention, and flood prevention measures, utilizing a similar piece of property.

- Policy 9C-15: Sharing of corridors for major utilities, trails and other transportation rights-of-way is encouraged when not in conflict with goals to protect wildlife, public health and safety.
- Policy 9C-16: Implement the goals, policies and recommendations of the latest Whatcom County Bicycle Plan and continue to update the plan as needs and conditions change.
- Policy 9C-17: Promote the integration of trails within subdivisions, planned unit developments and other development proposals that provide internal circulation and connect to nearby opportunities.
- Policy 9C-18: Acquisition of and planning for trail corridors should be encouraged as new subdivisions and development occurs, if the trail has been identified in a park, trail, open space or other plan adopted by Whatcom County.

Specialized Recreation Areas

Specialized areas include nature interpretative centers and small park sites, including those related to Urban Growth Areas, small towns, and neighborhood developments.

GOAL 9D: Provide specialized recreation areas taking advantage of unique opportunities to serve both county residents and visitors.

- Policy 9D-1: Because these facilities are unique, adopt specific standards for each one individually.
- Policy 9D-2: Explore need for neighborhood parks as undeveloped areas of county increase in density.
- Policy 9D-3: Encourage development of sport field complexes to meet the needs of organized recreation activities, using public and private partnerships where possible.
- Policy 9D-4: Promote the integration of recreational and open space opportunities in subarea planning, subdivisions and other development proposals.
- Policy 9D-5: The dedication and acquisition of open space and recreation opportunities should be encouraged as new subdivisions and development occurs.

Shoreline Access Areas

Shoreline access areas include saltwater beaches and bluffs, rivers and streams and lake frontage. Access may be via a public park area, a street end, or just a trail easement. Access includes both physical access to the water and visual access from points above (**Map 23**).

GOAL 9E: Recognize the shoreline as one of Whatcom County's unique assets and provide adequate physical and visual access for present and future generations.

- Policy 9E-1: As economically feasible, acquire for public use as much of the saltwater shoreline as possible. Public and private resources should be explored to further this policy. A reasonable goal is to acquire for public access a minimum of 15% of the saltwater shoreline and adjacent tidelands in Whatcom County.
- Policy 9E-2: Continue to review the Nooksack River Plan (Jones and Jones, 1973) and implement those elements which are beneficial, appropriate and economically feasible.
- Policy 9E-3: Provide pedestrian, interpretative and small boat access sites for a diversity of public shoreline.

Recreation Resource Management Areas

These open space areas are identified as large undeveloped parcels of land having unique or attractive natural features. Often they will also contain extensive trail systems. They lack distinct boundaries and are intended to emphasize open space and recreation values. The land may or may not be in public ownership. It is not intended for Whatcom County to acquire these parcels of land but rather to secure conservation and access easements to ensure that public access is maintained and unique scenic areas preserved.

GOAL 9F: Identify large undeveloped parcels of land with unique or attractive features and with the cooperation/coordination of public agencies and private landowners provide conservation opportunities and, where possible, public access.

- Policy 9F-1: Thoroughly study each of the Recreation Resource Management Areas (RRMA) identified in the *Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan* to identify their unique features, scenic quality and open space value. Studies should then be made to determine how these qualities can be preserved for future generations.
- Policy 9F-2: Trail systems within the RRMA's should be used for non-motorized trail activities only.
- Policy 9F-3: While Whatcom County will probably not own the land within the RRMA's, it should take on a major management role to ensure that its recreation and open space value is maintained.
- Policy 9F-4: A special advisory committee should be formed of users and land owners of the RRMA's. Their role will be to inventory, plan and prepare recommendations regarding the management of these areas.

Off-Road Vehicle Riding Areas

Recognizing that it is better to regulate and manage where off-road vehicle (ORV) riding may occur, the county attempted twice to develop an area for exclusive ORV use. Both proposals were met with controversy and not pursued. However, ORV riding still occurs and in many instances on land not suitable for that use and without the owner's permission. The end result is that ORV riding is

impacting neighbors and the land in which riding occurs, and is in general creating a problem for less intrusive recreational activities.

GOAL 9G: Coordinate with the DNR to provide ORV opportunities.

Policy 9G-1: Recognizing that there will continue to be a demand for ORV riding, the county should continue to assess its role in the ORV program. Between the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Service, some joint solution may be possible.

Activity Centers

Activity centers are indoor facilities which provide recreational opportunities. They include the existing senior/community centers, Plantation Rifle Range, and the Roeder Home, full scale indoor recreation centers (multi-purpose centers) and indoor aquatic facilities. Five of the eight senior/community centers managed by the county are owned by the Cities of Blaine, Everson, Lynden, Sumas, and the Pt. Roberts Park District. Combined, these eight facilities served over 206,546 visitors in 2003, 80% of whom were seniors. There is an increasing trend for use by different agencies and community groups and even church congregations who rent the facilities in Lynden and Bellingham. With appropriate scheduling, the existing senior/community centers have the capacity to absorb additional activity.

The Plantation Rifle Range includes two outdoor ranges, a trap field, an indoor range, and a meeting room which served 16,824 people in 2003. It is a unique facility which receives 60% of its use from law enforcement agencies.

The Roeder Home, donated to the County and on the National Historic Register, is a unique facility which provides space for meetings and wedding receptions, and serves as the center for cultural arts programs in the County. This facility served 33,042 people in 2003.

Whatcom County has a shortage of available indoor facilities such as swimming pools, gymnasiums, and activity centers. The only public pool in the county is the City of Bellingham pool. There are two YMCA swimming pools (Bellingham and Lynden) and one YWCA pool in Bellingham. As population numbers grow, the need for additional aquatic facilities should be re-evaluated.

Goal 9H: Encourage multi-use indoor activity centers to meet the needs of the population using public and private partnerships where possible.

Policy 9H-1: Support multi-use of the existing senior/community centers to maximize their full potential.

Policy 9H-2: Continue the cooperation between the County and the Cities and Point Roberts Park District on ownership and management of the existing senior/community centers.

Policy 9H-3: Evaluate the cost/benefit ratio of adding a multi-purpose facility on the property owned by the Parks Department at Smith and Northwest Roads to meet the expanding demand by all age groups in the Bellingham/Ferndale growth corridor.

- Policy 9H-4: Expand the Plantation Rifle Range to meet the needs of citizens and law enforcement agencies.
- Policy 9H-5: Acquire property for a buffer area around the Plantation Rifle Range to insure the ability to continue its use in the future.
- Policy 9H-6: Continue to utilize the Roeder Home as the cultural arts facility flagship while utilizing partnerships, leased space, or creative opportunities to accommodate program expansion.
- Policy 9H-7: Continue to monitor the need for additional aquatic facilities in the community, with the basic assumption that Whatcom County will not be an indoor aquatic provider in the near future.
- Policy 9H-8: Continue to search for partnerships with other public agencies and private groups in providing recreation facilities such as golf facilities, camping, and resort centers.
- Policy 9H-9: Expand the partnership concept to incorporate school buildings and other public or private facilities which can accommodate meetings and recreational functions.

RECREATION - ACTION PLAN

General Park and Recreation Services

1. Continue to monitor park and recreation service needs throughout the county and encourage others to provide the identified service needs.
2. Stress a good public image and the importance of public relations to all employees of the Parks and Recreation Department.
3. As economically feasible, and as need warrants, implement the recreation and service programs in Chapter VII of the *Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan*.
4. Continue to implement those elements of the Nooksack River Plan (Jones and Jones 1973) which are beneficial, appropriate and economically feasible.

Park Facilities

5. As economically feasible, and as need warrants, implement the *Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan* including the goals and policies and maps incorporated herein through adoption of the six-year capital improvement program.
6. Develop facilities and areas that will be particularly attractive to Whatcom County residents.
7. Develop and maintain facilities at a high standard. These standards should be established in accordance with the *Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan* and the *Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan*.
8. Design and develop recreation facilities for low maintenance.
9. In keeping with policies in other chapters of this plan, develop a mechanism for ensuring the provision of neighborhood parks in accordance with appropriate standards when residential areas are developed outside of incorporated areas. In the residential UGAs not associated with cities, suburban enclaves and small towns, mechanisms are needed for acquisition, development and subsequent maintenance and operations. Community Associations and Park Districts are options to be explored.
10. Develop a strategic plan for full utilization of the existing senior/community centers and partnerships to help absorb future need.
11. Develop a master plan for the property at Smith and Northwest Road, contingent upon funding, to include an indoor multi-purpose center.
12. Update and implement the master plan for the Plantation Rifle Range and Hovander Homestead Park.

13. Work with timber companies and other private property owners to acquire the land currently leased for the Plantation Rifle Range and a buffer around the rifle range.
14. Preserve additional cultural heritage sites such as the Hovander House, the Roeder Home, and Tennant Lake Interpretive Center for recreation purposes.
15. Galbraith/Lookout Mt. - Develop and implement a plan to acquire Rights of Way for trail corridors and purchase of additional park acreage, along with pursuit of formal usage agreements with private land owners, to preserve the recreational value for residents and tourists.
16. Stewart Mt. - Negotiate with Crown corporation to obtain formal usage agreements for access to logging trails, to open public access corridors between Lake Whatcom recreation areas and the South Fork Valley.

Preservation of Natural Areas

17. Complete the inventory and study of Recreation Resource Management Areas in accordance with policies under goal 9(F).
18. Make it advantageous to land developers and landowners to dedicate land for public use.
19. Develop design standards that provide for the integration of open space and recreation opportunities within subdivisions, planned unit developments and other development proposals.
20. Create alternative revenue sources and develop mechanisms to earmark funds to help pay for the acquisition, maintenance and operation of parks, open space and shoreline access.
21. Develop mechanisms for land banking of public open space.
22. Prime open space, and river corridors and natural areas should be designated and prioritized for future acquisition. River corridors will be evaluated for increased wetland/water storage areas for flood mitigation and fish and wildlife habitat and potential secondary use for reservoirs as park and open space attractions.
23. Develop specific implementation strategies for those elements of the *Natural Heritage Plan* that are appropriate, beneficial, consistent with this plan and within the County's fiscal capabilities. Review the Natural Heritage Plan annually and incorporate appropriate items in the Capital Facilities planning for parks and recreation in future years.
24. Continue the partnerships with other organizations, groups, or individuals consistent with the goals identified in the Natural Heritage Plan for Whatcom County.

Trails

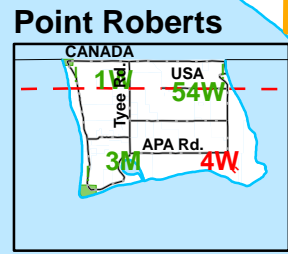
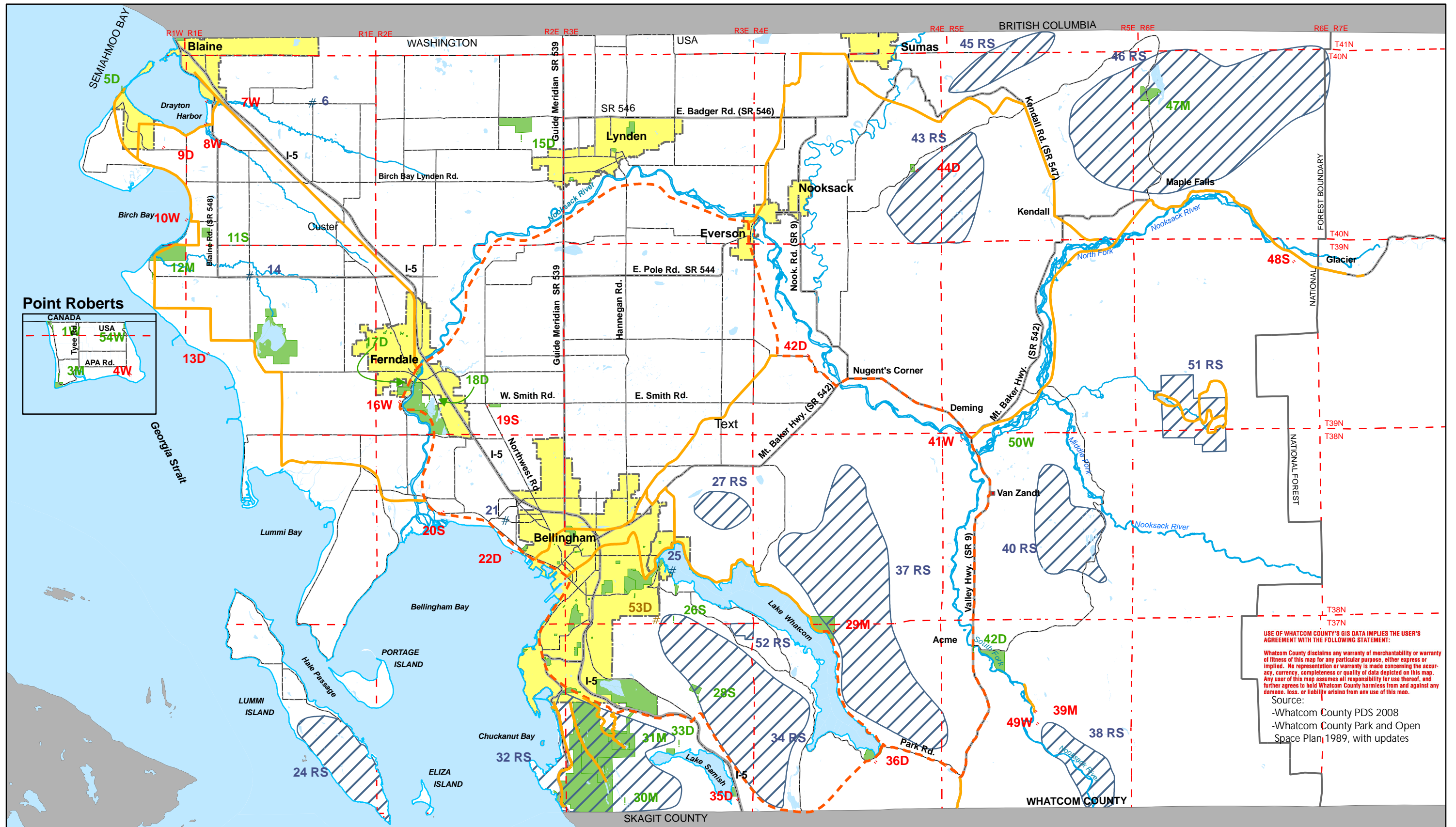
25. Incorporate existing and proposed trails into a comprehensive and integrated system of looped and interconnected trails which give users a wide choice of routes and environments.
26. Continue to update the trails inventory to identify all designated and non-designated trails in the county.
27. Work with private property owners and developers to acquire trail corridors or easements. Monitor land development proposals to ensure that existing trails are not lost.
28. Provide non-motorized access to regional recreational and outstanding scenic areas in the county.
29. Reduce conflicts between the various trail user groups and provide appropriate signage.
30. Provide bike lanes or wide shoulders where appropriate in conjunction with major road improvements.
31. Coast Millennium Trail - Continue to develop trail corridors, particularly off-road segments such as the airport connector and shoreline access.
32. Hertz North Lake Whatcom Trail Extension - Develop and implement a plan to either acquire Rights of Way for a trail corridor along the abandoned RR R/W between the existing North Shore Trail and Blue Canyon Road or pursue an alternative route to link these points.
33. Bay to Baker Trail - Develop and implement a plan to secure Rights of Way for trail segments along the abandoned RR R/W in conjunction with the Nooksack River Trail to achieve a contiguous trail system between communities and recreation areas.
34. Nooksack River Trail - Develop and implement a plan to acquire Rights of Way for a trail corridor and picnic areas along the Nooksack River between Ferndale and Glacier, to provide recreation opportunities, inter-community transportation and tourism development.
35. Implement the goals, policies and recommendations of the latest Whatcom County Bicycle Plan that are consistent with this plan and within the County's fiscal capabilities.
36. Continue to update the Whatcom County Bicycle Plan as needs and conditions change.
37. Develop a Growth Management Act based ordinance to encourage dedication of trail corridors in the consideration of park or transportation mitigation, as new subdivisions and development occurs, if the trail has been identified in a park, trail, open space or other plan adopted by Whatcom County.
38. Develop design standards that include the integration of trails within subdivisions, planned unit developments and other development proposals to provide internal

circulation and connect to nearby commercial and activity centers, and recreational opportunities.

Funding

Develop a stronger financial base for recreational services by:

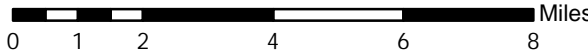
39. Designing future recreation facilities and areas with the ability to charge user fees.
40. Investigating new innovative methods of financing facility development, maintenance, and operating needs.
41. Considering joint ventures with private clubs, public agencies, commercial operations and other groups to build and maintain facilities.
42. Providing facilities that will encourage tourism.
43. Where timber needs to be removed due to disease, windfall or for park facility improvements, timber shall be harvested and sold using best management practices.
44. Consider the establishment of park impact fees based on the Growth Management Act.



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 Source:
 -Whatcom County PDS 2008
 -Whatcom County Park and Open Space Plan 1989, with updates



Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan
 June 2008 sbw.



Legend

- Existing Developed Parks
- Rec. Res. Mgmt. Areas
- Major Trails
- 70 Mile Trail Loop
- # Other Trails
- Proposed Major Improvements
- Proposed Minor Improvements
- # Deleted Parks Sites

- Multi-Use Camping Areas**
- 3M-Lighthouse Marine Park
- 12M-Birch Bay State Park
- 29M-Lk. Whatcom Property North
- 30M-Larrabee State Park
- 31M-Pine/Cedar Lakes
- 39M-Skookum/South Fork Site
- 47M-Silver Lake Park
- Day Use Parks**
- 5D-Semiahmoo Park
- 9D-Birch Bay Property
- 13D-Proposed Cherry Point
- 15D-Berthusen Park
- 17D-Hovander Park
- 18D-Tennant Lake Interp. Center
- 22D-Little Squalicum Park Site
- 33D-Samish Park
- 35D-Dittrich (E. Lake Samish Park)
- 36D-Lake Whatcom Park-South Bay
- 42D-Nooksack River Park
- 44D-Ostrom Property
- 53D-Lookout Mountain
- Specialized Facilities**
- 11S-Bay Horizon Park
- 19S-N.W. Soccer Park and Baseball/Softball Complex
- 20S-Nooksack Estuary Interp. Center
- 26S-Truax Park
- 28S-Plantation Rifle Range
- 48S-Bodigers Pond
- Waterfront Facilities**
- 1W-Monument Park
- 4W-Lily Point Access
- 7W-Dacota Creek Access
- 8W-California Creek Access
- 10W-Birch Bay Access
- 16W-Hovander Boating
- 41W-Proposed Major Boating Access
- 49W-Nessett/E. Acme Farm Complex
- 50W-Deming Homestead Eagle Park
- 54W-Maple Beach Park
- 55W-Teddy Bear Cove
- 56W-Squires Lake Park
- Recreation Resource Management Areas**
- 24RS-Lummi Mountain
- 27RS-Squalicum Mountain
- 32RS-Chuckanut Mountain
- 34RS-Lookout Mountain
- 37RS-Stewart Mountain
- 38RS-Nooksack/South Fork
- 40RS-Van Zandt Dike
- 43RS-North Sumas Mountain
- 45RS-Vedder Mountain
- 46RS-Red/Black Mountain
- 51RS-Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest
- 52RS-Stimpson Family Nature Reserve
- Deleted Park Sites**
- 6-Haynie Park
- 14-Pleasant Valley School
- 23-Proposed Lummi Island
- 25-Euclid Park
- 21-Birchwood Property

Map #22
 Plan Recommendations-
 Whatcom County
 Park and Open
 Space Plan

