

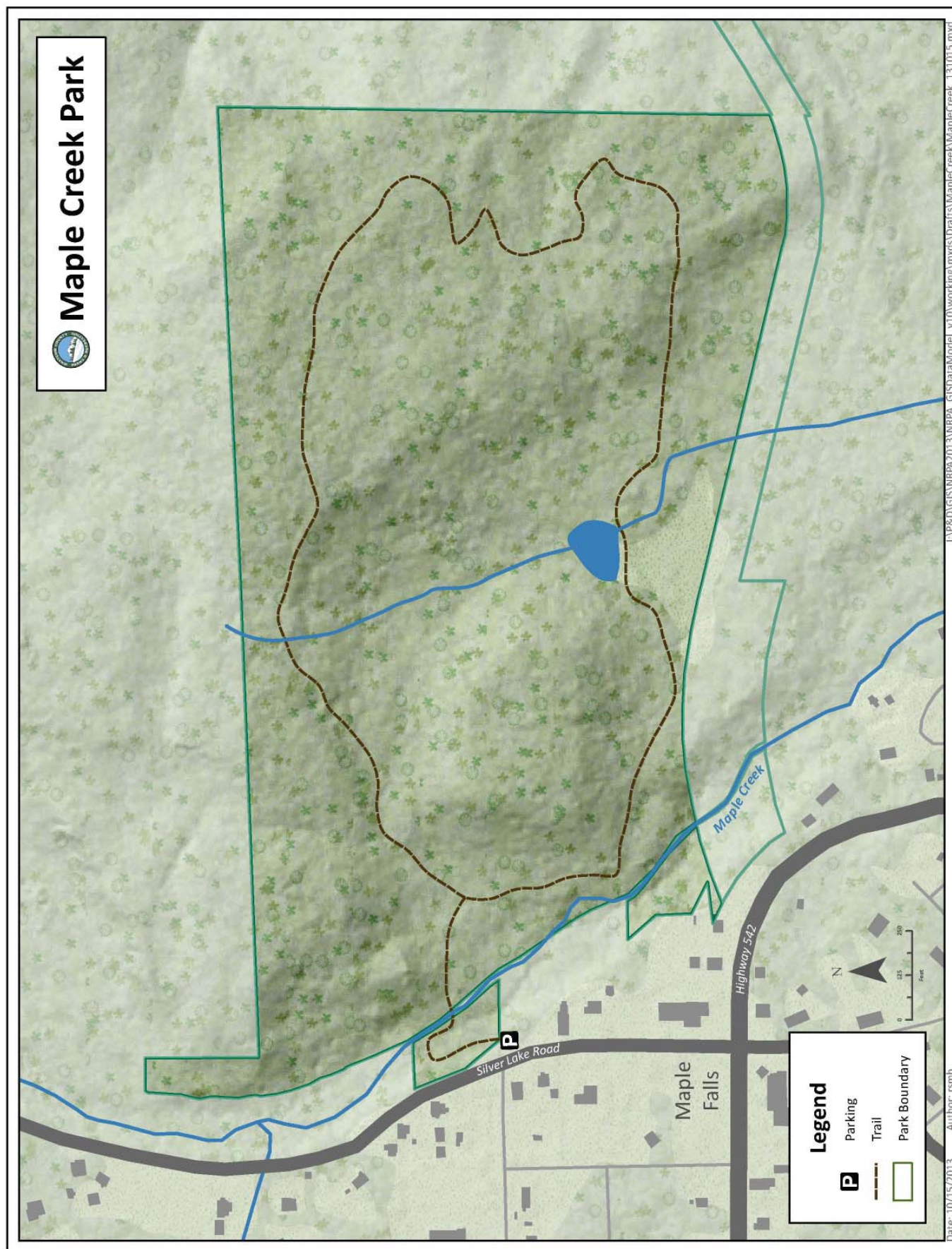
Lookout Mountain Reconveyance West Area

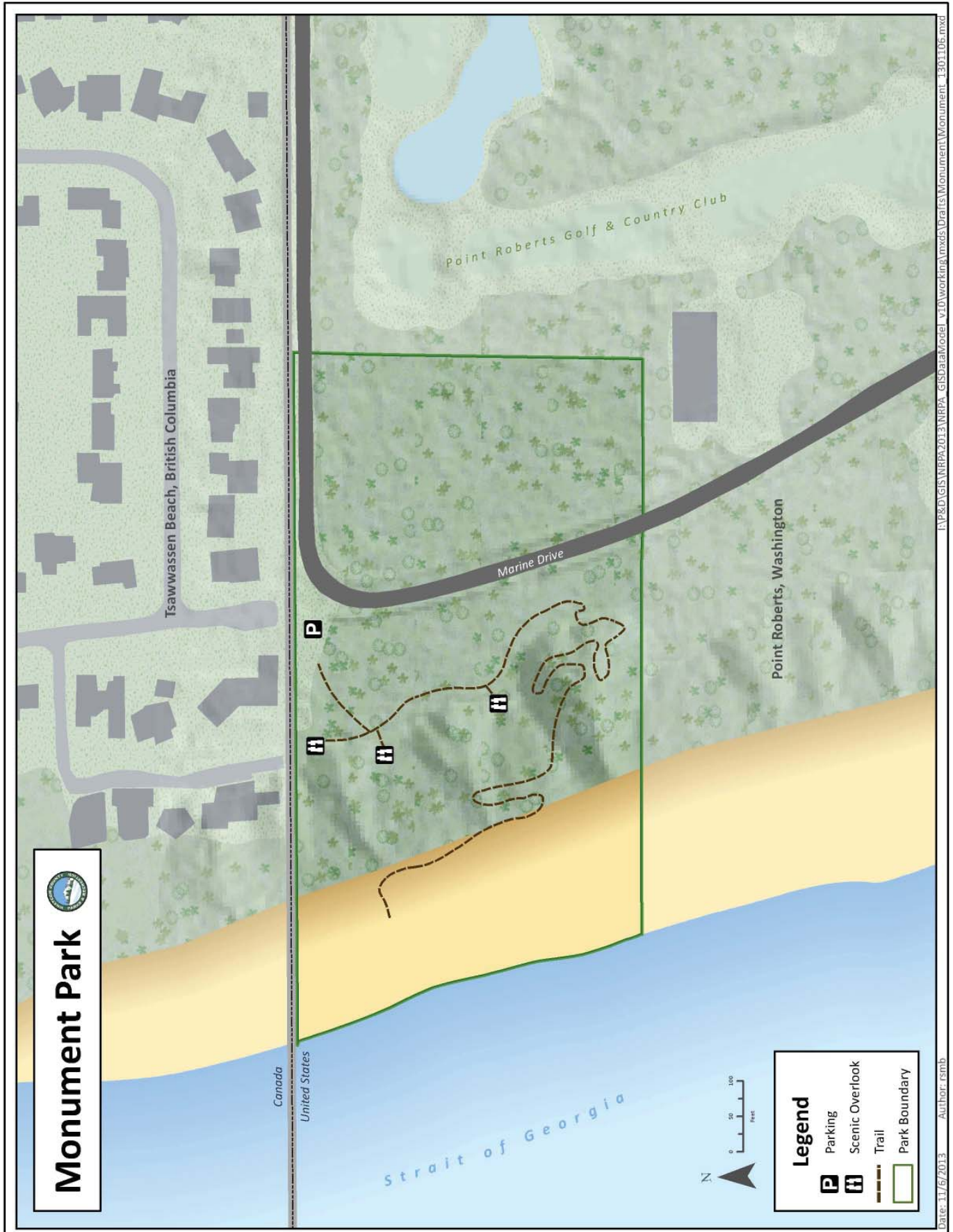


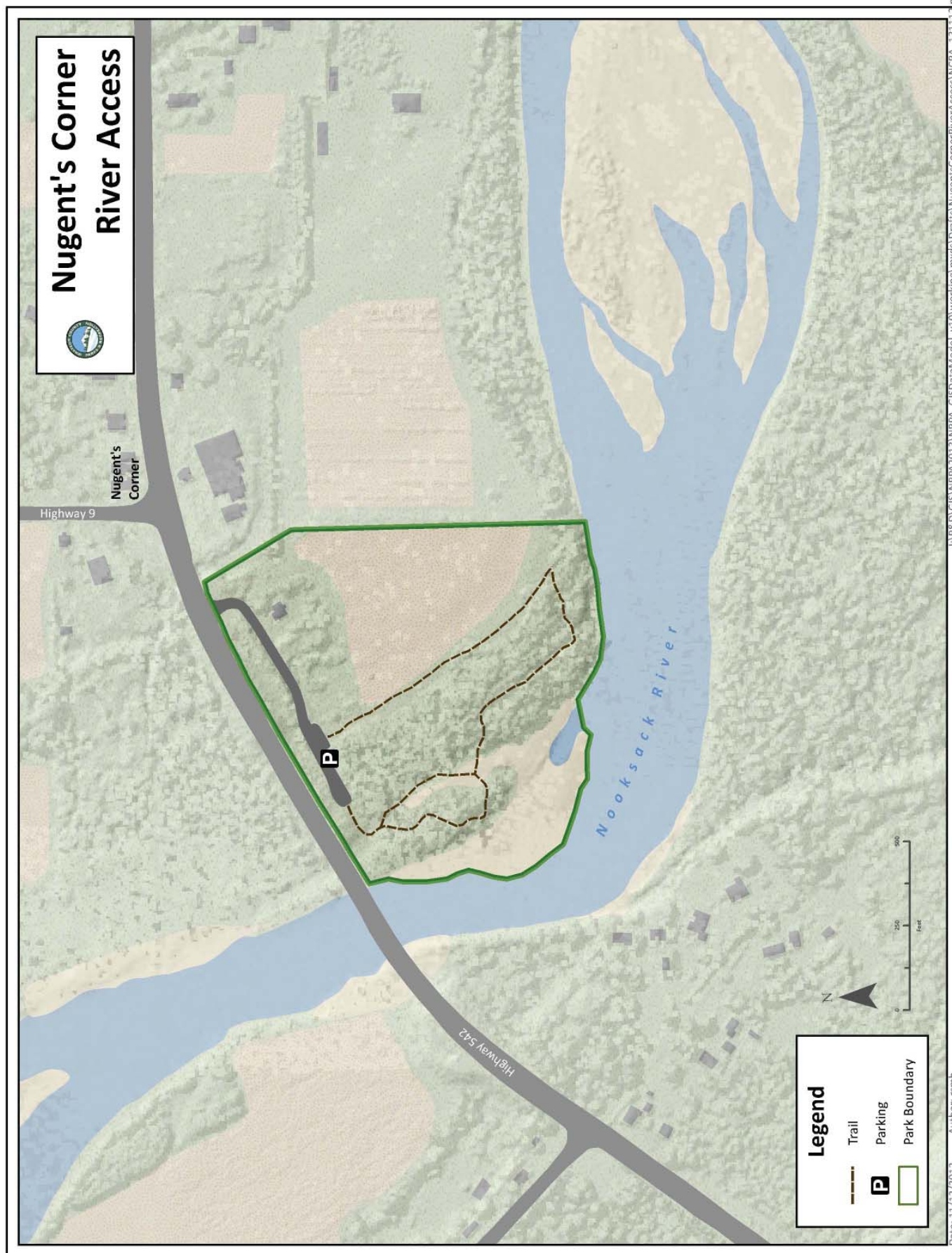
Lake Whatcom Park Reconveyance East Area

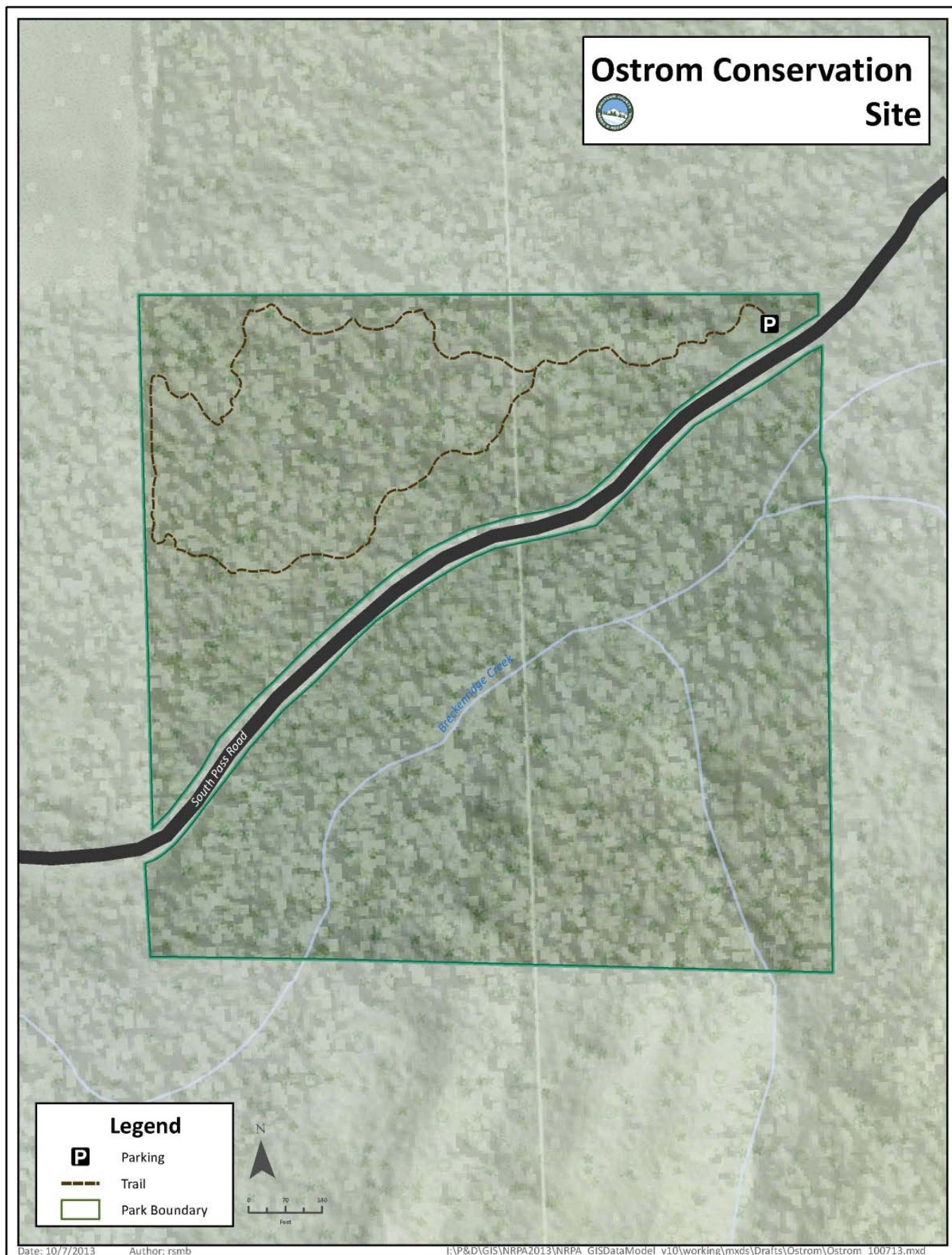


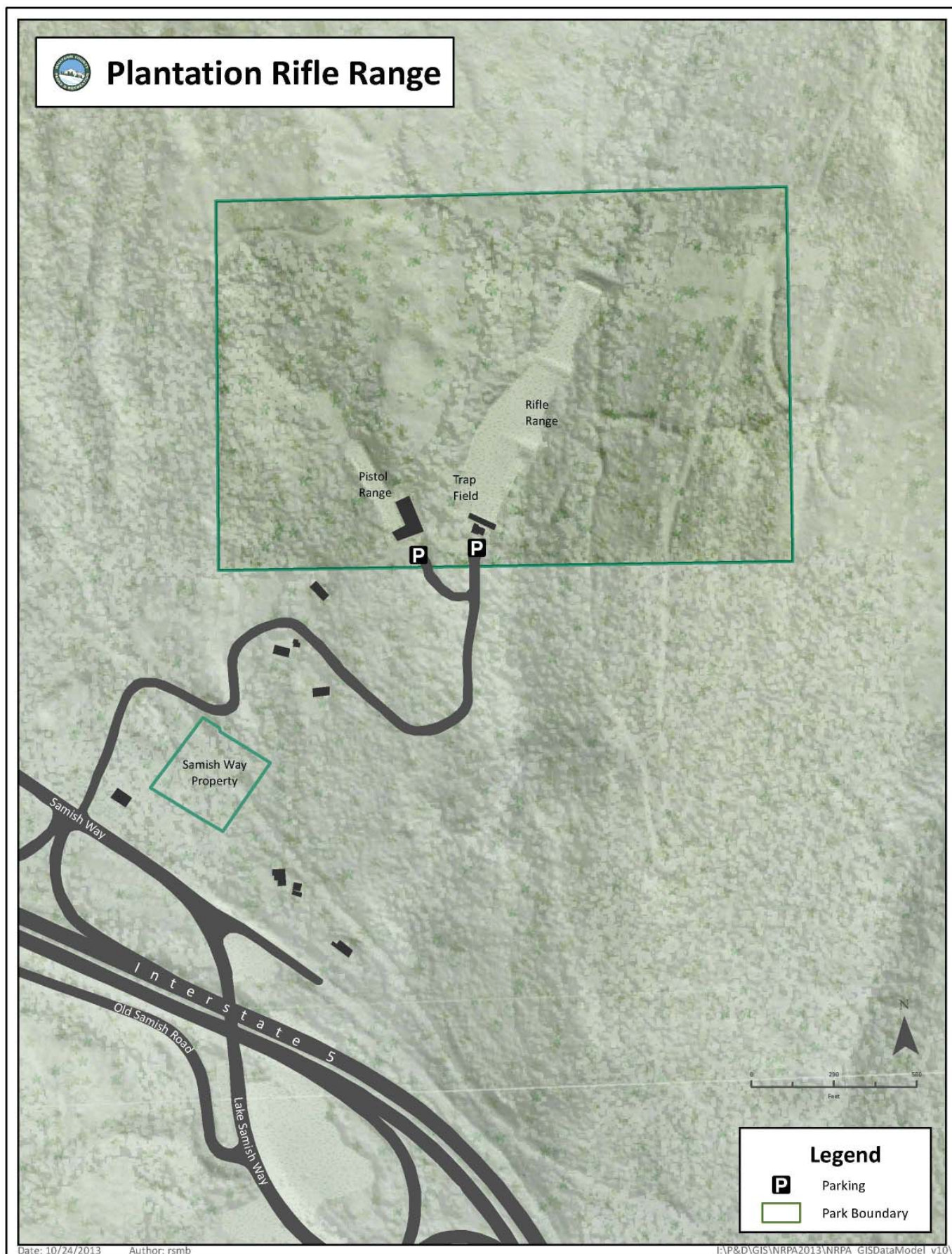


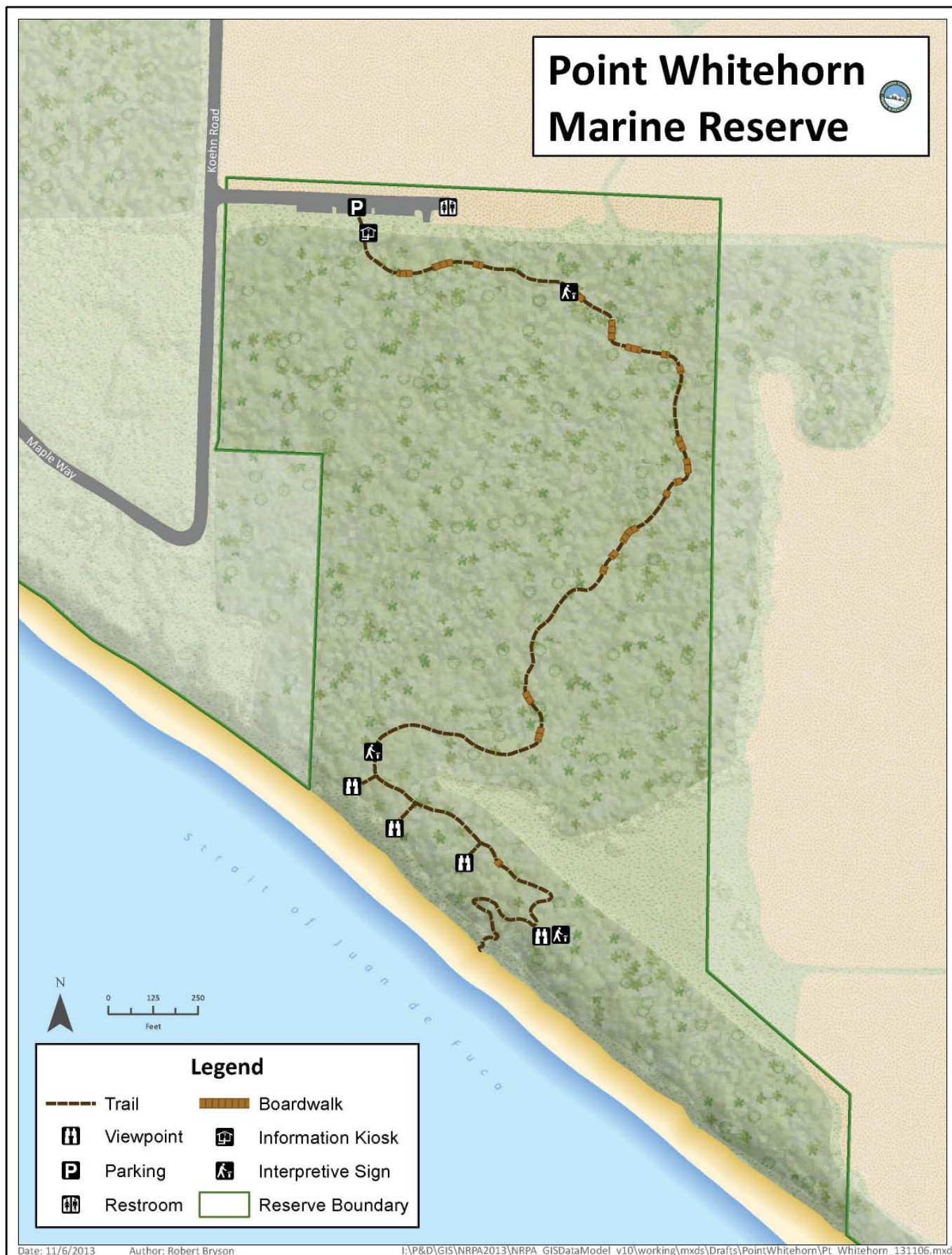


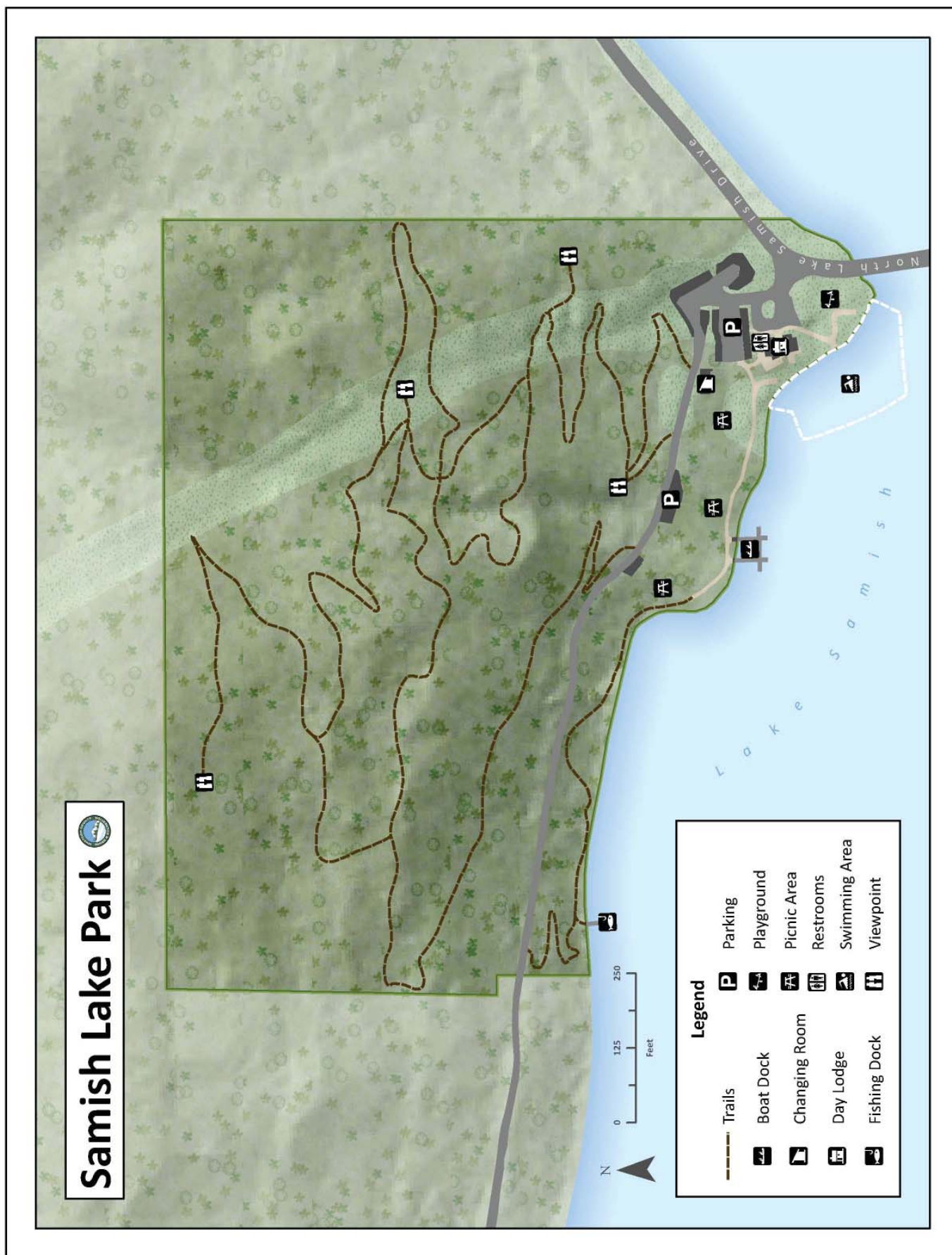


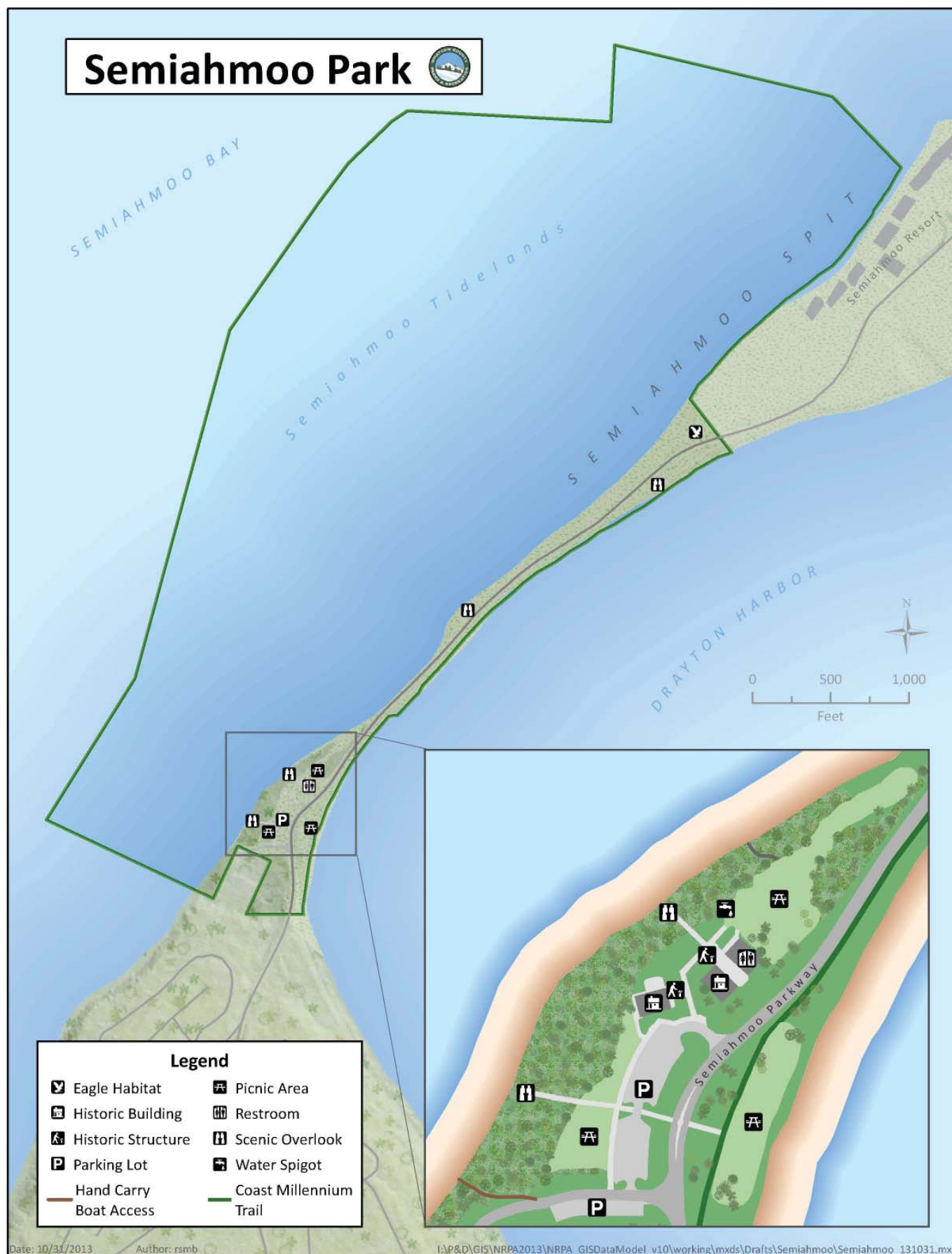


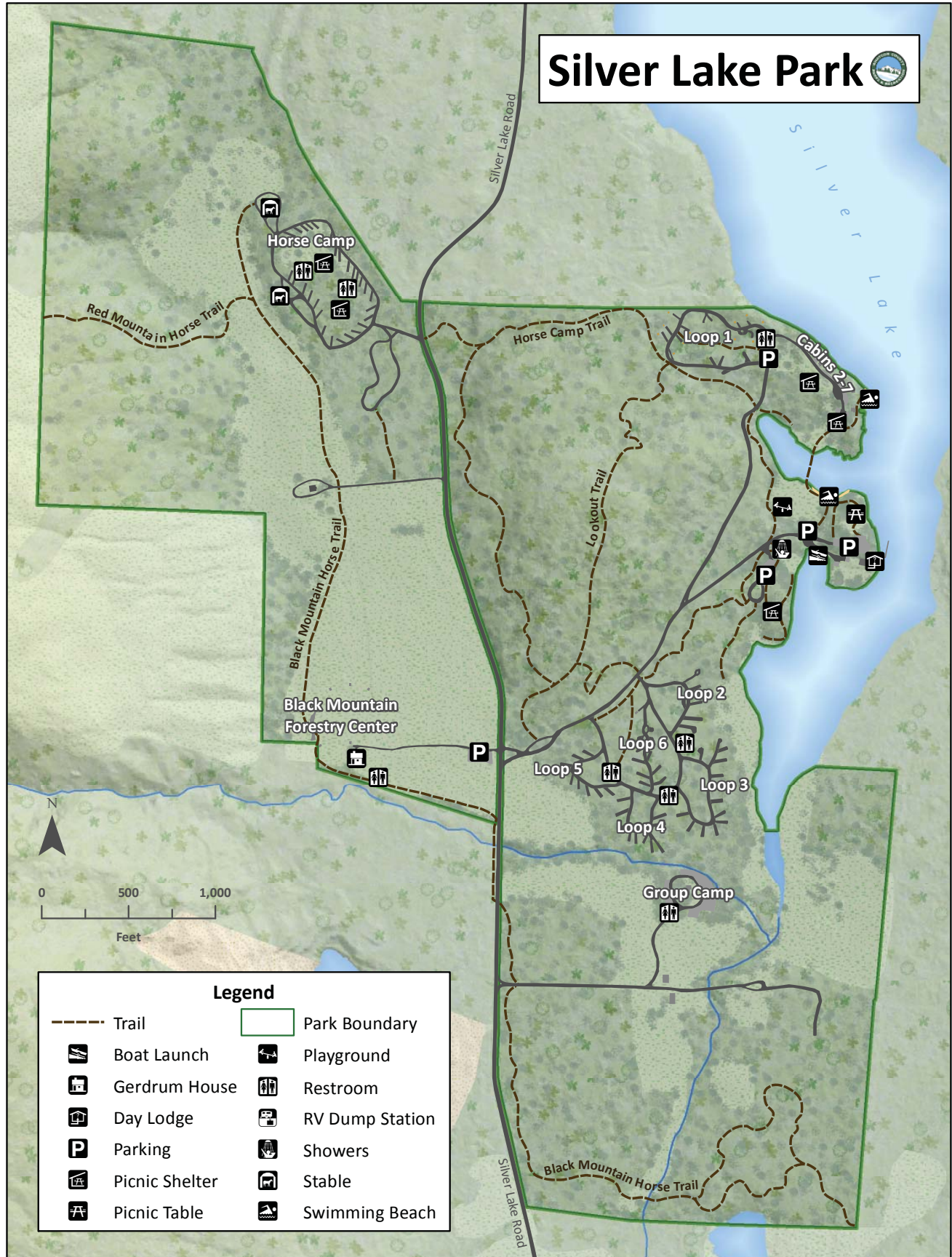


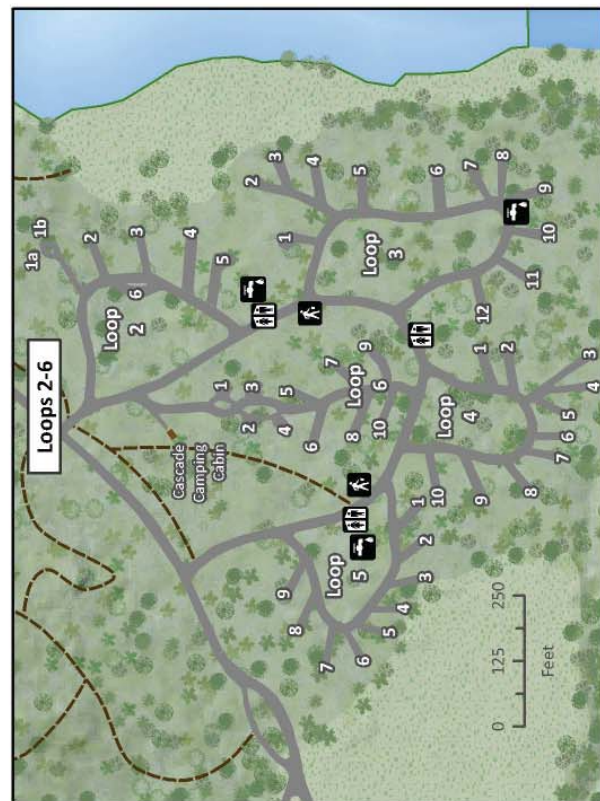
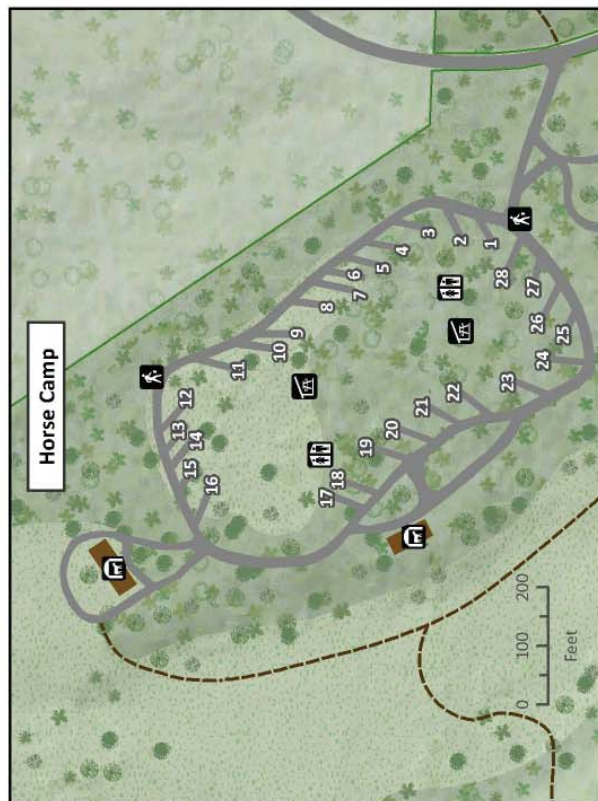
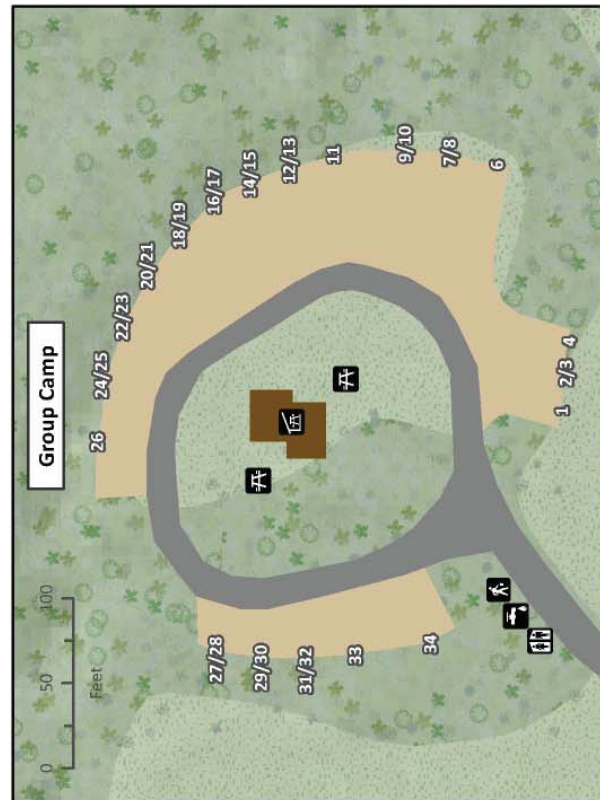
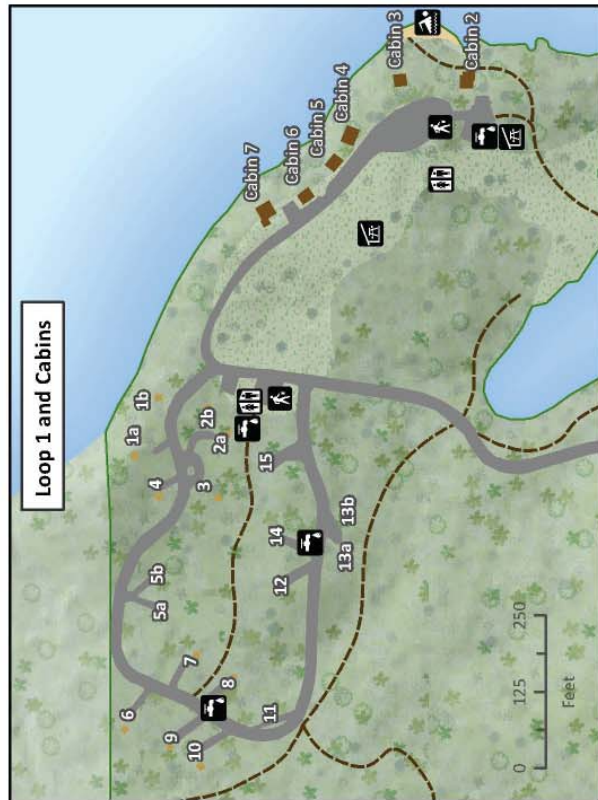




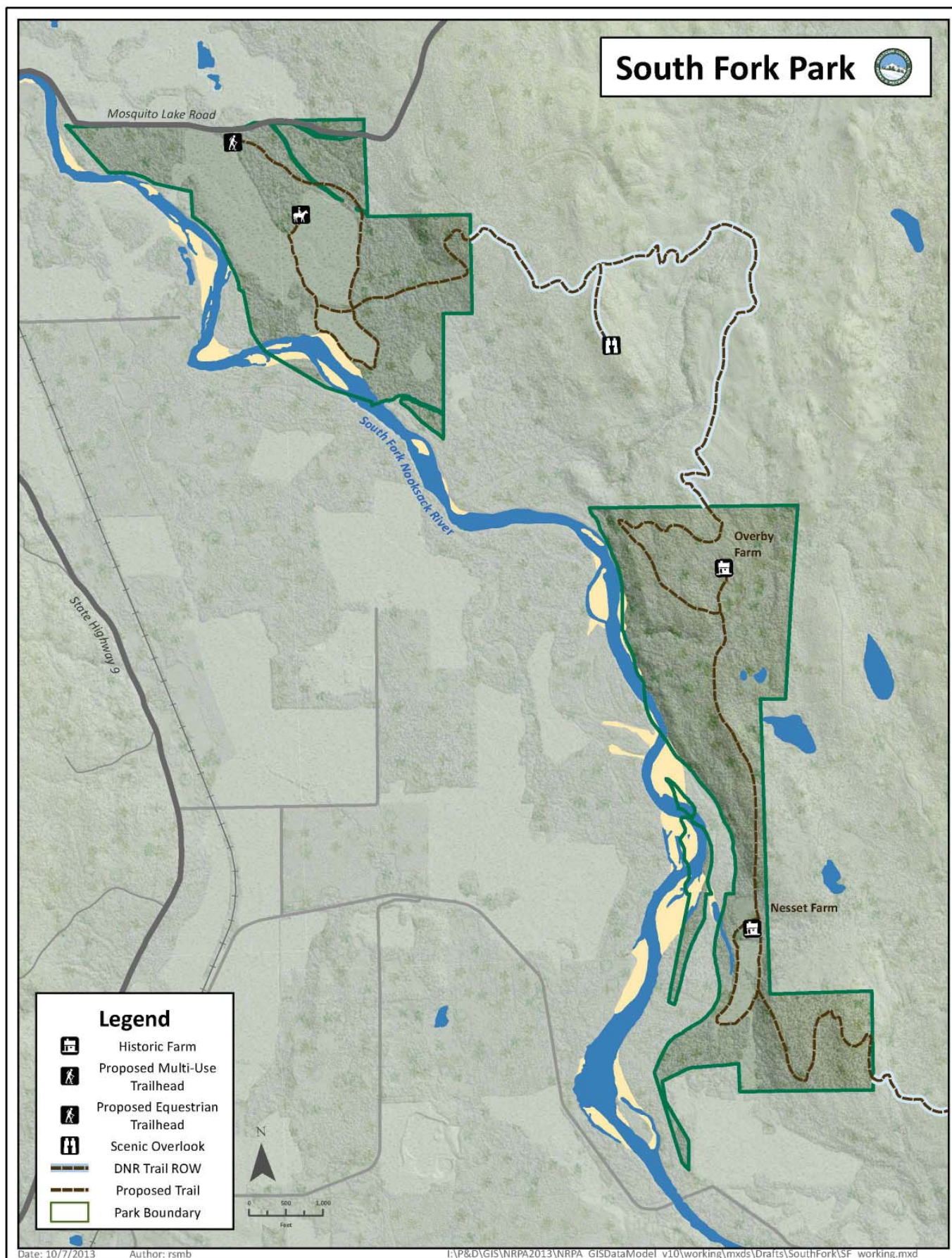


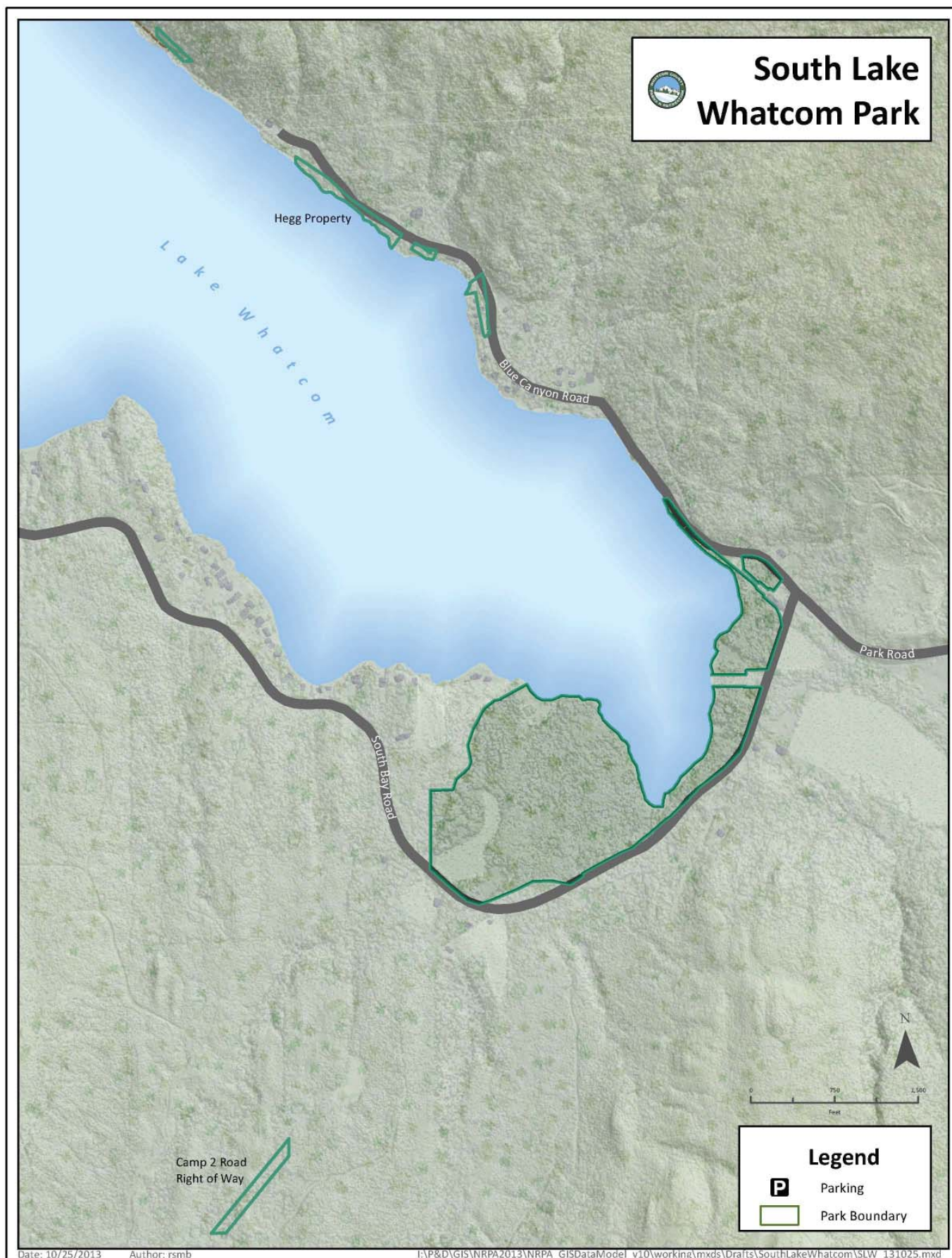


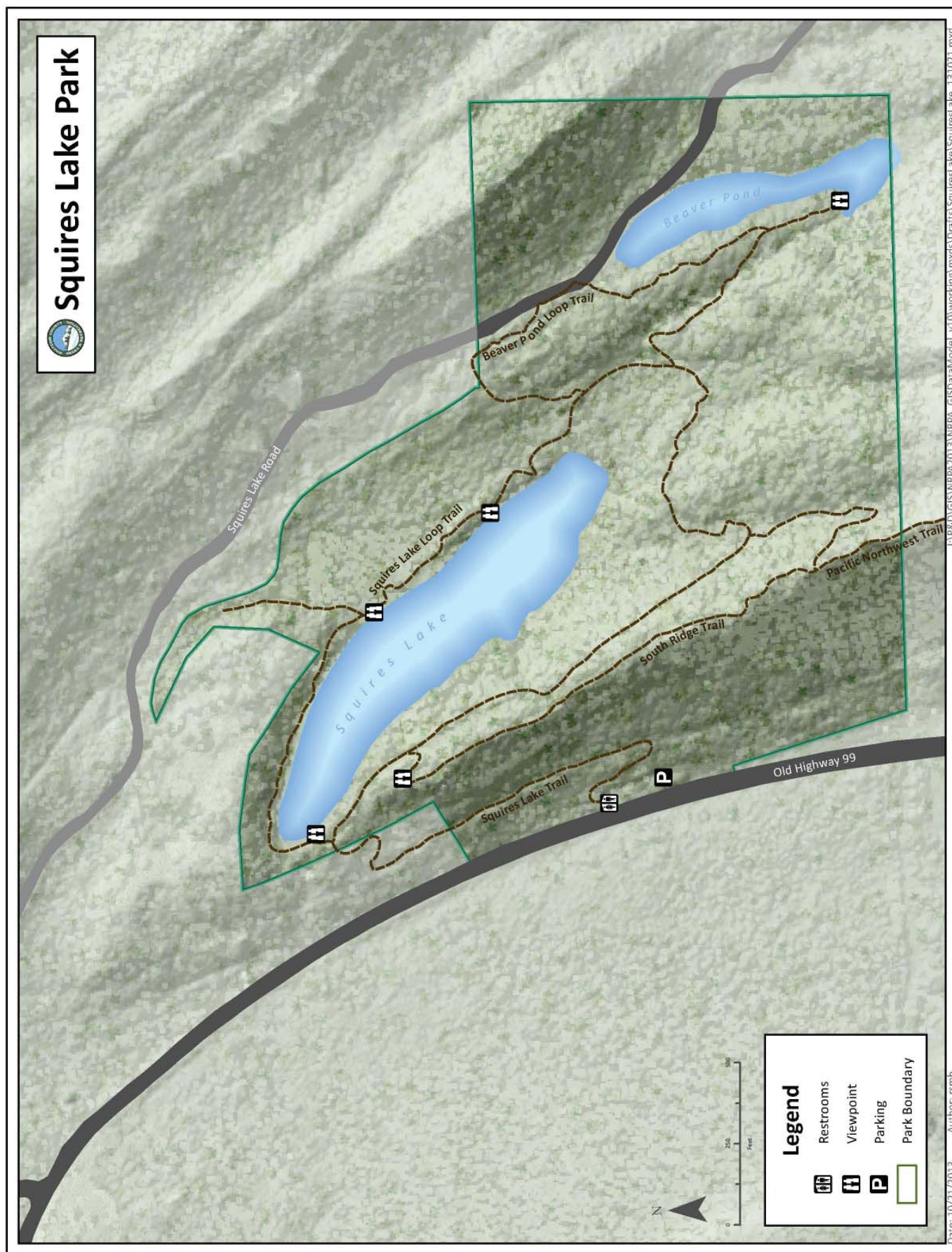


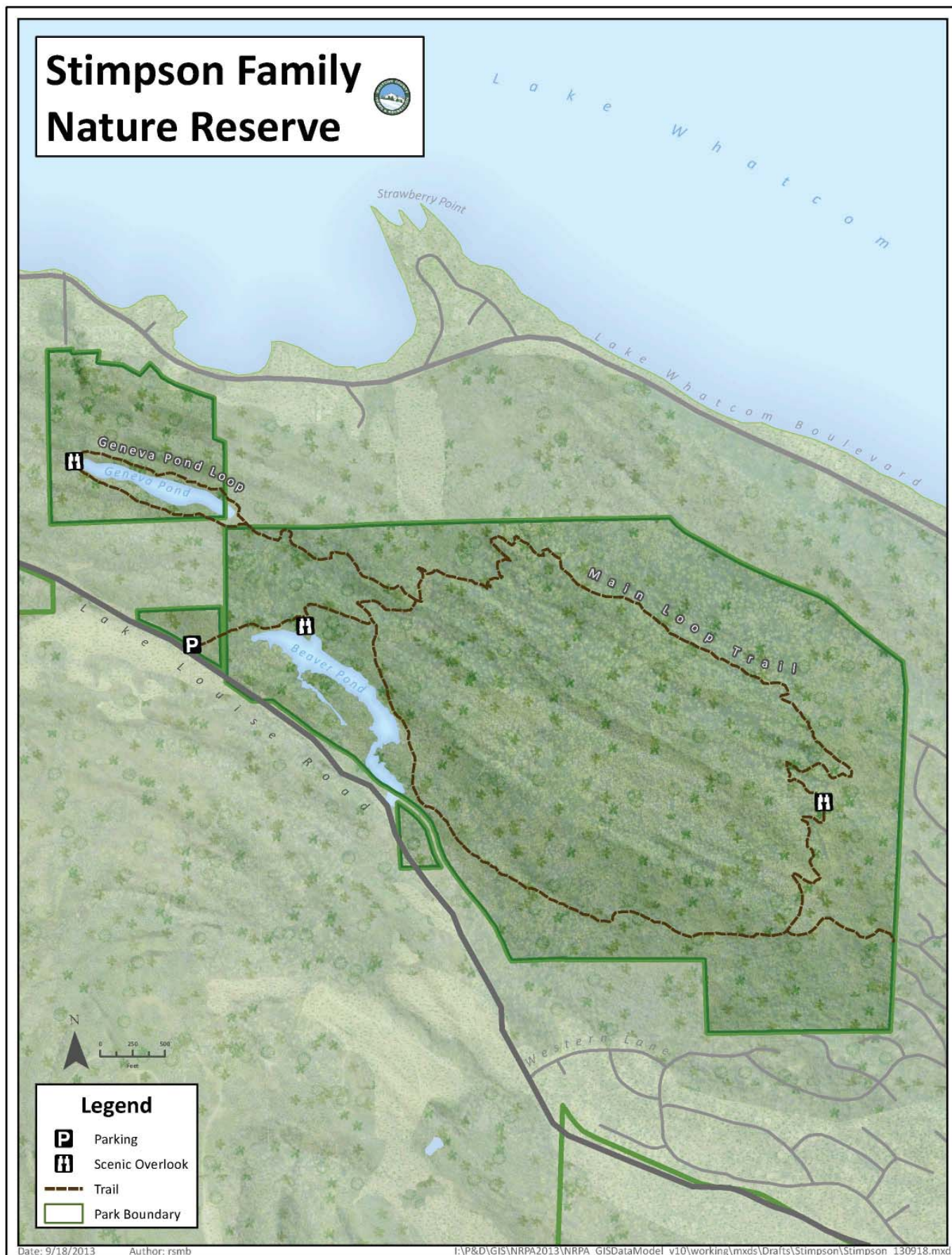


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Date: 10/31/2013
Author: Robert Bryson

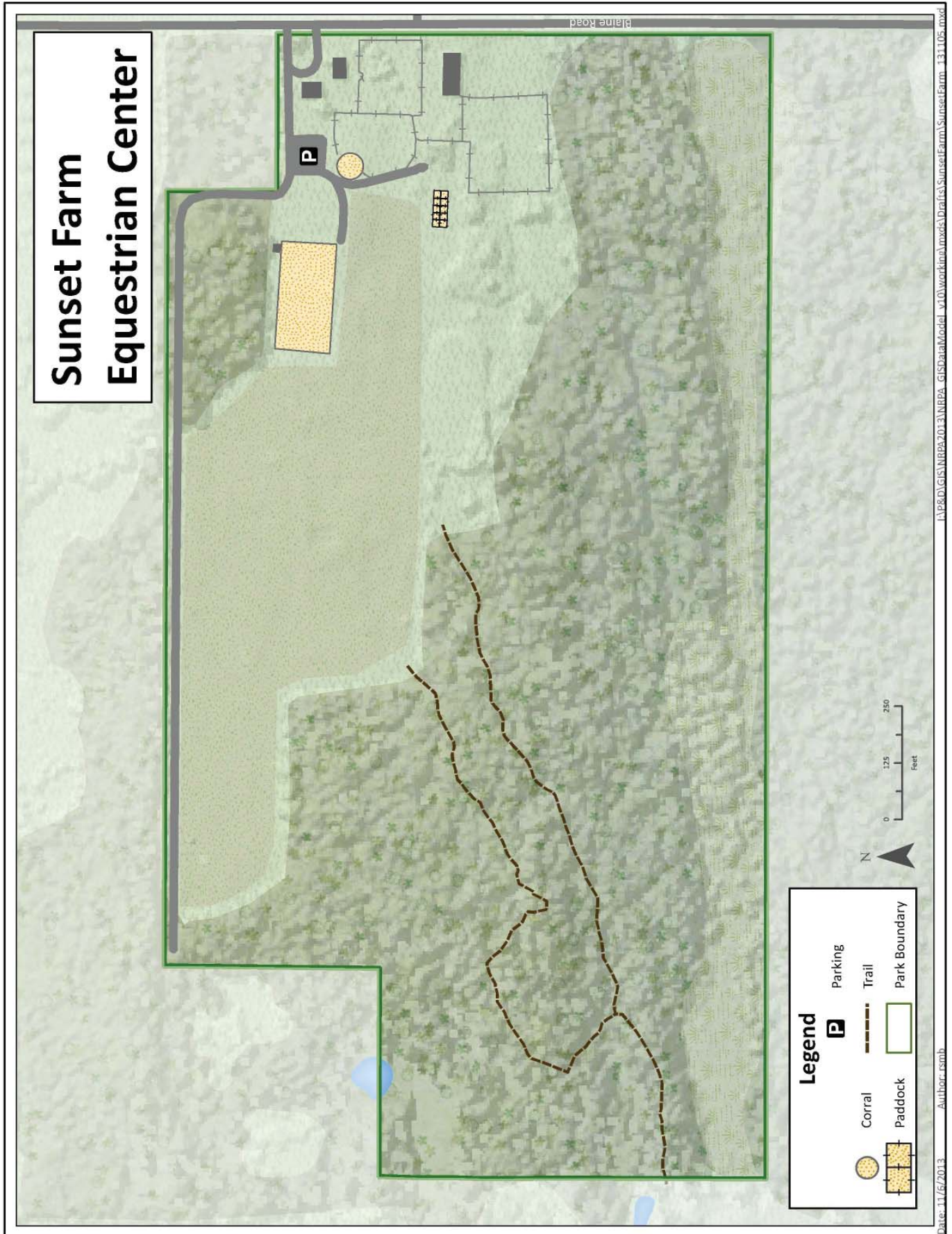


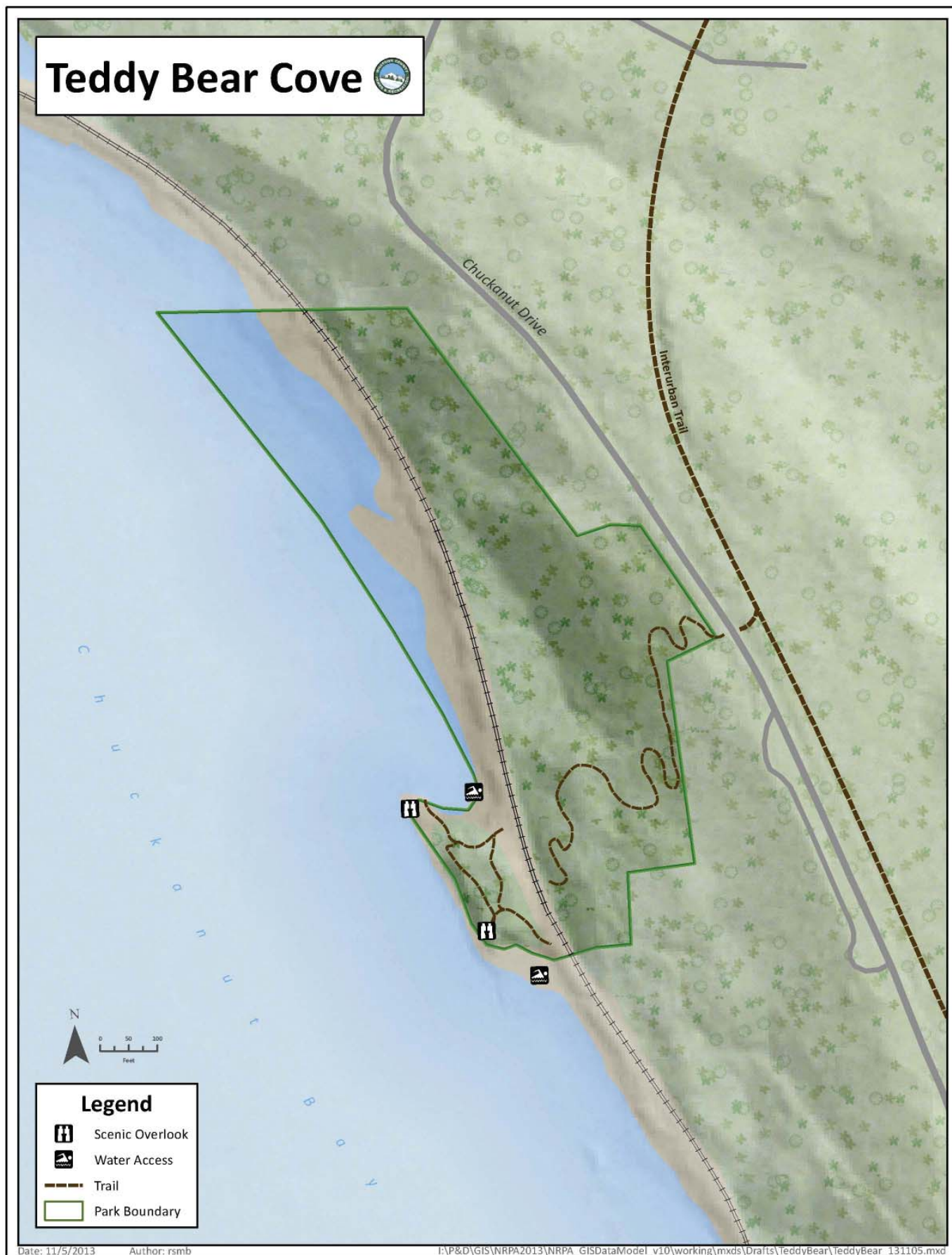
















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Washington
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Reference Desk

Reference Desk	Location Search	Rare Plants	Rare Animals	Communities
GIS	Field Guides	Publications	Natural Heritage Plan	

Washington Natural Heritage Information System
List of Known Occurrences of Rare Plants in Washington
July 2013

Whatcom County

A key to status fields appears below. If a scientific name is underlined you may click on it to go to a field guide page (pdf format, average size 300 kb) for that taxon.

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status	Federal Status	Historic Record
<u>Agoseris elata</u>	tall agoseris	S		
<u>Anemone patens var. multifida</u>	pasqueflower	T		H
<u>Bidens amplissima</u>	Vancouver Island beggar-ticks	R1		H
<u>Botrychium ascendens</u>	triangular-lobed moonwort	S	SC	
<u>Botrychium pedunculatum</u>	stalked moonwort	S	SC	
<u>Carex capitata</u>	capitate sedge	R1		H
<u>Carex comosa</u>	bristly sedge	S		
<u>Carex flava</u>	yellow sedge	S		
<u>Carex heteroneura var. epapillosa</u>	smooth-fruit sedge	S		
<u>Carex macrochaeta</u>	large-awned sedge	T		
<u>Carex magellanica ssp. irrigua</u>	poor sedge	S		
<u>Carex pauciflora</u>	few-flowered sedge	S		
<u>Carex pluriflora</u>	several-flowered sedge	S		
<u>Carex scirpoidea ssp. scirpoidea</u>	Canadian single-spike sedge	S		H
<u>Carex stylata</u>	long-styled sedge	S		
<u>Carex vernacula</u>	foetid sedge	R1		
<u>Chaenactis thompsonii</u>	Thompson's chaenactis	S		
<u>Cicuta bulbifera</u>	bulb-bearing water-hemlock	S		
<u>Cimicifuga elata</u>	tall bugbane	S	SC	
<u>Draba aurea</u>	golden draba	S		
<u>Eurybia merita</u>	Arctic aster	S		
<u>Eutrochium maculatum var. bruneri</u>	spotted Joe-Pye weed	X		H
<u>Gentiana glauca</u>	glaucous gentian	S		H
<u>Hypericum majus</u>	Canadian St. John's-wort	S		
<u>Impatiens noli-tangere</u>	western jewel-weed	T		
<u>Lobelia dortmanna</u>	water lobelia	T		H
<u>Lycopodiella inundata</u>	bog clubmoss	S		
<u>Lycopodium dendroideum</u>	treelike clubmoss	S		
<u>Nymphaea tetragona</u>	pygmy water-lily	X		H
<u>Orthocarpus bracteatus</u>	rosy owl-clover	E		H
<u>Oxytropis campestris var. gracilis</u>	slender crazyweed	S		H
<u>Platanthera aquilonis</u>	Sheviak's bog orchid	R1		H
<u>Platanthera obtusata ssp. obtusata</u>	small northern bog-orchid	S		

<u><i>Rotala ramosior</i></u>	lowland toothcup	T	H
<u><i>Salix sessilifolia</i></u>	soft-leaved willow	S	
<u><i>Saxifraga hyperborea</i></u>	pygmy saxifrage	S	
<u><i>Subularia aquatica</i> var. <i>americana</i></u>	water anemone	R1	H
<u><i>Wolffia columbiana</i></u>	Columbia water-meal	R1	

Description of Codes

Historic Record:

H indicates most recent sighting in the county is before 1977.

State Status

State Status of plant species is determined by the Washington Natural Heritage Program. Factors considered include abundance, occurrence patterns, vulnerability, threats, existing protection, and taxonomic distinctness.

Values include:

E = Endangered. In danger of becoming extinct or extirpated from Washington.

T = Threatened. Likely to become Endangered in Washington.

S = Sensitive. Vulnerable or declining and could become Endangered or Threatened in the state.

X = Possibly extinct or Extirpated from Washington.

R1 = Review group 1. Of potential concern but needs more field work to assign another rank.

R2 = Review group 2. Of potential concern but with unresolved taxonomic questions.

Federal Status

Federal Status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (USESA) as published in the Federal Register:

LE = Listed Endangered. In danger of extinction.

LT = Listed Threatened. Likely to become endangered.

PE = Proposed Endangered.

PT = Proposed Threatened.

C = Candidate species. Sufficient information exists to support listing as Endangered or Threatened.

SC = Species of Concern. An unofficial status, the species appears to be in jeopardy, but insufficient information to support listing.

Washington Natural Heritage Program - www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/NaturalHeritage/Pages/amp_nh.aspx/ [back to top](#)

Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, PO Box 47016, Olympia, WA 98504-7016

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The Lake Whatcom Watershed is home to a variety of fish and wildlife species. As a result of years of habitat loss and development within the Lake Whatcom Watershed, several species that once lived in the watershed are no longer found here and many other species that currently live in the watershed may also be in danger.

Fish

Lake Whatcom supports a variety of fish including native and introduced, cold and warm water species. Some fish species that can be found in Lake Whatcom include:

- Salmonids:
 - Kokanee (Native) (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)
 - Cutthroat trout (Native) (*Oncorhynchus clarkia*)
- Other:
 - Longnose sucker (Native) (*Catostomus catostomus*)
 - Peamouth chub (Native) (*Mylocheilus caurinus*)
 - Largemouth bass (Illegally introduced) (*Micropterus salmoides*)
 - Brown bullhead (Illegally introduced) (*Ictalurus nebulosis*)

Wildlife

Lake Whatcom supports a large variety of wildlife species but many of these are considered to be "species of interest" because there is concern over the future of their populations in the area due to habitat loss. Several of the species that have been recorded in and around Lake Whatcom are included below.

- Amphibians (10 species)
 - northwestern salamander (*Ambystoma gracile*)
 - pacific giant salamander (*Dicamptodon ensatus*)
 - Oregon Ensatina (*Ensatina eschscholtzi oregonensis*)
 - western redback salamander (*Plethodon vehiculum*)
 - roughskin newt (*Taricha granulosa*)
 - western toad (*Bufo boreas*)
 - pacific tree frog (*Hyla regilla*)
 - tailed frog (*Ascaphus truei*)
 - red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*)
 - bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)

- Reptiles (2 species)
 - northwestern garter snake (*Thamnophis ordinoides*)
 - common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)

- Birds (125 species)
 - common loon (*Gavia immer*)
 - pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)
 - eared grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)
 - western grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)
 - double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)
 - great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*)
 - green-backed heron (*Butorides striatus*)
 - Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*)
 - wood duck (*Aix sponsa*)
 - green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*)
 - mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
 - northern pintail (*Anas acuta*)
 - gadwall (*Anas strepera*)
 - American wigeon (*Anas americana*)
 - ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*)
 - lesser scaup (*Aythya affinis*)
 - common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)
 - bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)
 - hooded merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)
 - common merganser (*Mergus merganser*)
 - turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
 - osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
 - bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
 - northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)
 - sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)
 - Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)
 - northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
 - red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
 - golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
 - American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)
 - merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
 - peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
 - gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)
 - blue grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*)
 - ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)
 - Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola*)
 - sora rail (*Porzana carolina*)
 - American coot (*Fulica americana*)
 - killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)
 - spotted sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)
 - common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
 - ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*)
 - glaucous-winged gull (*Larus glaucescens*)
 - rock dove (*Columba livia*)
 - band-tailed pigeon (*Columba fasciata*)
 - mourning dove (*Senaida macroura*)
 - common barn owl (*Tyto alba*)
 - western screech owl (*Otis kennicottii*)
 - great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*)
 - snowy owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*)
 - northern pygmy owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*)
 - barred owl (*Strix varia*)

- long-eared owl (*Asio otus*)
- northern saw-whet owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)
- common nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)
- black swift (*Cypseloides niger*)
- Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi*)
- rufous hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)
- belted kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*)
- red-breasted sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*)
- downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)
- hairy woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)
- northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)
- pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)
- olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*)
- western wood-pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)
- Pacific slope flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*)
- tree swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)
- purple martin (*Progne subis*)
- violet-green swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*)
- northern rough-winged swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)
- barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
- gray jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*)
- Stellar's jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)
- American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)
- common raven (*Corvus corax*)
- black-capped chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*)
- chestnut-backed chickadee (*Parus rufescens*)
- bushtit (*Psaltirparus minimus*)
- red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*)
- brown creeper (*Certhia americana*)
- Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)
- house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)
- winter wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)
- marsh wren (*Cistothorus palustris*)
- American dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*)
- golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)
- ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*)
- Townsend's solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)
- Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)
- American robin (*Turdus migratorius*)
- varied thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)
- cedar waxwing (*Bombycillia cedrorum*)
- northern shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)
- European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
- solitary vireo (*Vireo solitarius*)
- Hutton's vireo (*Vireo huttoni*)
- warbling vireo (*Vireo gilvus*)
- orange-crowned warbler (*Vermivora celata*)
- Nashville warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*)
- yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)
- yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*)
- black-throated gray warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)
- Townsend's warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*)
- MacGillivray's warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*)
- common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)
- Wilson's warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*)
- western tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)
- black-headed grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)
- spotted towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)
- chipping sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)
- fox sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)
- song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)

- golden-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)
 - white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)
 - dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*)
 - red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
 - Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)
 - brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)
 - purple finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*)
 - house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)
 - red crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)
 - pine siskin (*Carduelis pinus*)
 - American goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*)
-
- Mammals (49 species)
 - Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*)
 - Pacific water shrew (*Sorex bendirii*)
 - water shrew (*Sorex palustris*)
 - vagrant shrew (*Sorex vagrans*)
 - Trowbridge's shrew (*Sorex trowbridgii*)
 - shrew-mole (*Neurotrichus gibbsii*)
 - Pacific mole (*Scapanus orarius*)
 - Townsend's mole (*Scapanus townsendii*)
 - big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)
 - silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)
 - hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)
 - California myotis (*Myotis californicus*)
 - Long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*)
 - little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*)
 - long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)
 - Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*)
 - Townsend's big-eared bat (*Plecotus townsendii*)
 - coyote (*Canis latrans*)
 - red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)
 - black bear (*Ursus americanus*)
 - raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)
 - river otter (*Lutra canadensis*)
 - striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)
 - ermine (*Mustela erminea*)
 - long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*)
 - mink (*Mustela vison*)
 - spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*)
 - mountain lion (*Felis concolor*)
 - bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)
 - black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*)
 - mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa*)
 - northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*)
 - Townsend's chipmunk (*Tamias townsendii*)
 - Douglas' squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*)
 - beaver (*Castor canadensis*)
 - bushy-tailed woodrat (*Neotoma cinerea*)
 - deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*)
 - southern red-backed vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*)
 - long-tailed vole (*Microtus longicaudus*)
 - Oregon vole (*Microtus oregoni*)
 - Townsend's vole (*Microtus townsendii*)
 - muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)
 - house mouse (*Mus musculus*)
 - Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)
 - Pacific jumping mouse (*Zapus trinotatus*)
 - porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*)

Species of Concern in Washington State

Include those species listed as State Endangered, State Threatened, State Sensitive, or State Candidate, as well as species listed or proposed for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service.








Does not include [State Monitored Species](#)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Animal Type	Species Status	
			State ?	Federal ?
American white pelican Annual Report	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Bird	SE	none
Bald eagle ? Annual Report Status Report	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bird	SS	FCo
Beller's ground beetle	<i>Agonum belleri</i>	Other Insect	SC	none
Black Rockfish ?	<i>Sebastes melanops</i>	Fish	SC	none
Black-backed woodpecker Annual Report	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	Bird	SC	none
Black-tailed jackrabbit Annual Report	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Blue whale Annual Report	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Bluegray Taildropper	<i>Prophysaon coeruleum</i>	Mollusk	SC	none
Bocaccio rockfish ?	<i>Sebastes paucispinis</i>	Fish	SC	FE
Bog idol leaf beetle	<i>Donacia idola</i>	Other Insect	SC	none
Brandt's cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	Bird	SC	none
Brown pelican Annual Report Status Report	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Bird	SE	FCo
Brown rockfish ?	<i>Sebastes auriculatus</i>	Fish	SC	none
Bull Trout ?	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Burrowing owl ? Annual Report	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Bird	SC	none
California floater	<i>Anodonta californiensis</i>	Mollusk	SC	none
California mountain kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis zonata</i>	Reptile	SC	none
Canary Rockfish ?	<i>Sebastes pinniger</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Cascade red fox Annual Report	<i>Vulpes vulpes cascadenis</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Cascade torrent salamander	<i>Rhyacotriton cascadae</i>	Amphibian	SC	none
Cassin's auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>	Bird	SC	None
Cathlamet Pocket Gopher - Mazama Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Thomomys mazama louiei</i>	Mammal	ST	FCo
China Rockfish ?	<i>Sebastes nebulosus</i>	Fish	SC	none
Chinook salmon (Lower Columbia)	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Chinook salmon (Puget Sound)	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Chinook salmon (Snake R. Fall)	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Chinook salmon (Snake R. Sp/Su)	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Chinook salmon (Upper Columbia Sp)	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Fish	SC	FE
Chinquapin hairstreak	<i>Habrodais grunus herri</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	none

Chum salmon (Hood Canal Su) Recovery Plan	<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Chum salmon (Lower Columbia)	<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Clark's grebe Annual Report	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	Bird	SC	none
Coho salmon (Lower Columbia/SW WA)	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	Fish	none	FT
Columbia clubtail (dragonfly)	<i>Gomphus lynnae</i>	Other Insect	SC	none
Columbia oregonian	<i>Cryptomastix hendersoni</i>	Mollusk	SC	none
Columbia pebblesnail	<i>Fluminicola columbiana</i>	Mollusk	SC	none
Columbia River tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela columbica</i>	Other Insect	SC	none
Columbia spotted frog	<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	Amphibian	SC	none
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	Bird	ST	none
Columbian white-tailed deer Annual Report	<i>Odocoileus virginianus leucurus</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Common loon 🦉 Annual Report Status Report	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Bird	SS	none
Common murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Bird	SC	none
Common Sharp-tailed snake	<i>Contia tenuis</i>	Reptile	SC	none
Copper Rockfish 🦉	<i>Sebastes caurinus</i>	Fish	SC	none
Dalle's Sideband	<i>Monadenia fidelis minor</i>	Mollusk	SC	none
Dunn's salamander	<i>Plethodon dunni</i>	Amphibian	SC	none
Eulachon	<i>Thaleichthys pacificus</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Ferruginous hawk Annual Report Recovery Plan	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Bird	ST	none
Fin whale Annual Report	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Fisher 🦉 Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Martes pennanti</i>	Mammal	SE	FC
Flammulated owl Annual Report	<i>Otus flammeolus</i>	Bird	SC	none
Giant Palouse earthworm Annual Report	<i>Driloleirus americanus</i>	Annelid	SC	none
Golden eagle 🦉 Annual Report	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Bird	SC	none
Gray whale Annual Report Status Report	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	Mammal	SS	none
Gray wolf 🦉 Annual Report Recovery Plan	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Gray-tailed vole	<i>Microtus canicaudus</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Great arctic	<i>Oeneis nevadensis gigas</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	FCo
Greater Sage-grouse Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Bird	ST	FC
Green sea turtle Annual Report	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Reptile	ST	FT
Green Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	Fish	none	FT
Greenstriped Rockfish 🦉	<i>Sebastes elongatus</i>	Fish	SC	none

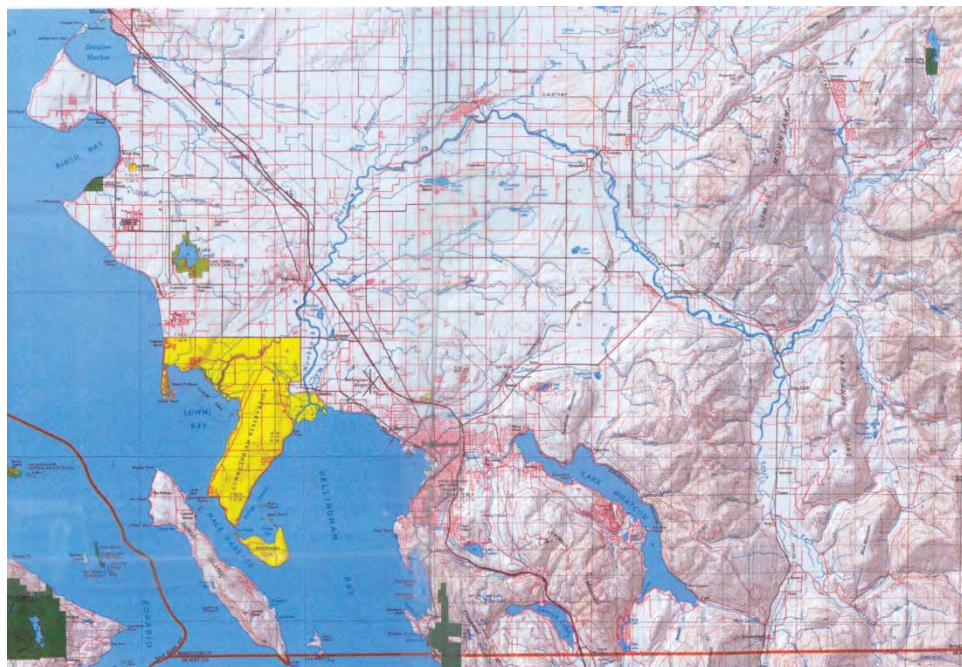
Grizzly bear Annual Report	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Mammal	SE	FT
Harbor porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Hatch's click beetle	<i>Eanus hatchi</i>	Other Insect	SC	none
Humpback whale Annual Report	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Island Marble 🦋 Annual Report	<i>Euchloe ausonides</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	FCo
Johnson's hairstreak	<i>Mitoura johnsoni</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	none
Juniper hairstreak	<i>Mitoura grynea barryi</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	none
Keen's myotis Annual Report Recovery Plan	<i>Myotis keenii</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Killer whale 🦋 Annual Report Status Report	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Lake Chub	<i>Couesius plumbeus</i>	Fish	SC	none
Larch Mountain salamander Annual Report Status Report	<i>Plethodon larselli</i>	Amphibian	SS	none
Leatherback sea turtle Annual Report	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Reptile	SE	FE
Leopard dace	<i>Rhinichthys falcatus</i>	Fish	SC	none
Leschi's Millipede	<i>Leschius mcallisteri</i>	Arthropod	SC	none
Lewis' woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Bird	SC	none
Loggerhead sea turtle Annual Report	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Reptile	ST	FE
Loggerhead shrike Annual Report	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Bird	SC	none
Lynx Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Mammal	ST	FT
Makah copper	<i>Lycaena mariposa charlottensis</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	none
Mann's Mollusk-eating Ground Beetle	<i>Scaphinotus mannii</i>	Other Insect	SC	none
Marbled murrelet 🦋 Annual Report Status Report	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Bird	ST	FT
Mardon skipper Annual Report Status Report	<i>Polites mardon</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SE	FCo
Margined sculpin Annual Report Status Report	<i>Cottus marginatus</i>	Fish	SS	none
Mazama (Western) pocket gopher Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Thomomys mazama</i>	Mammal	ST	none
Merriam's shrew	<i>Sorex merriami</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Mountain Sucker	<i>Catostomus platyrhynchus</i>	Fish	SC	none
North Pacific Right Whale Annual Report	<i>Eubalaena japonica</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Bird	SC	none
Northern leopard frog Annual Report Status Report	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Amphibian	SE	none
Northern Spotted Owl Annual Report Status Report	<i>Strix occidentalis</i>	Bird	SE	FT
Olympia oyster	<i>Ostrea lurida</i>	Mollusk	SC	none

Olympia Pocket Gopher - Mazama Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Thomomys mazama pugetensis</i>	Mammal	ST	FT
Olympic marmot Annual Report	<i>Marmota olympus</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Olympic mudminnow Annual Report Status Report	<i>Novumbra hubbsi</i>	Fish	SS	none
Olympic Pocket Gopher - Mazama Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Thomomys mazama melanops</i>	Mammal	ST	FCo
Oregon silverspot butterfly Annual Report Status Report	<i>Speyeria zerene hippolyta</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SE	FT
Oregon spotted frog Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Rana pretiosa</i>	Amphibian	SE	FT
Oregon vesper sparrow Annual Report	<i>Pooecetes gramineus affinis</i>	Bird	SC	none
Pacific clubtail	<i>Gomphus kurilis</i>	Other Insect	SC	none
Pacific cod (S&C Puget Sound)	<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>	Fish	SC	FCo
Pacific hake (Pacific-Georgia Basin DPS)	<i>Merluccius productus</i>	Fish	SC	FCo
Pacific Herring	<i>Clupea pallasii</i>	Fish	SC	none
Peregrine falcon Annual Report Status Report	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Bird	SS	FCo
Pileated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Bird	SC	none
Pinto (Northern) abalone 🦞	<i>Haliotis kamtschatkana</i>	Mollusk	SC	none
Poplar oregonian	<i>Cryptomastix populi</i>	Mollusk	SC	none
Preble's shrew	<i>Sorex preblei</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Puget blue	<i>Plebejus icarioides blackmorei</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	none
Purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Bird	SC	none
Pygmy rabbit 🦞 Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Pygmy Whitefish Annual Report Status Report	<i>Prosopium coulteri</i>	Fish	SS	none
Quillback Rockfish 🦞	<i>Sebastes maliger</i>	Fish	SC	none
Redstripe Rockfish 🦞	<i>Sebastes proriger</i>	Fish	SC	none
River lamprey	<i>Lampetra ayresi</i>	Fish	SC	FCo
Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog	<i>Ascaphus montanus</i>	Amphibian	SC	none
Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher - Mazama Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Thomomys mazama glacialis</i>	Mammal	ST	FT
Sage thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	Bird	SC	none
Sagebrush lizard	<i>Sceloporus graciosus</i>	Reptile	SC	none
Sagebrush Sparrow	<i>Artemisiospiza nevadensis</i>	Bird	SC	none
Sand-verbena moth	<i>Copablepharon fuscum</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	none
Sandhill crane Annual Report Recovery Plan	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Bird	SE	none
Sea otter Annual Report Recovery Plan	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	Mammal	SE	FCo
Sei Whale Annual Report	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Shelton pocket gopher - Mazama Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Thomomys mazama couchii</i>	Mammal	ST	FCo
Shepard's parnassian	<i>Parnassius clodius shepardii</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	none

Short-tailed albatross	<i>Phoebastria albatros</i>	Bird	SC	FE
Shortface lanx	<i>Fisherola nuttalli</i>	Mollusk	SC	none
Silver-bordered fritillary	<i>Boloria selene atrocostalis</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	none
Slender-billed white-breasted nuthatch Annual Report	<i>Sitta carolinensis aculeata</i>	Bird	SC	none
Snowy plover  Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>	Bird	SE	FT
Sockeye salmon (Ozette Lake)	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Sockeye salmon (Snake R.)	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	Fish	SC	FE
Sperm whale Annual Report	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Steelhead (Lower Columbia)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Steelhead (Middle Columbia)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Steelhead (Puget Sound)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Fish	none	FT
Steelhead (Snake River)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Steelhead (Upper Columbia)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Steller sea lion  Annual Report Status Report	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	Mammal	none	FCo
Streaked horned lark Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Eremophila alpestris strigata</i>	Bird	SE	FT
Striped whipsnake Annual Report	<i>Masticophis taeniatus</i>	Reptile	SC	none
Taylor's checkerspot Annual Report Status Report	<i>Euphydryas editha taylori</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SE	FE
Tenino Pocket Gopher - Mazama Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Thomomys mazama tumuli</i>	Mammal	ST	FT
Tiger Rockfish 	<i>Sebastes nigrocinctus</i>	Fish	SC	none
Townsend's big-eared bat Annual Report Recovery Plan	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Townsend's ground squirrel Annual Report	<i>Urocitellus townsendii townsendii</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Tufted puffin  Annual Report Status Report	<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>	Bird	SE	none
Umatilla dace	<i>Rhinichthys umatilla</i>	Fish	SC	none
Upland sandpiper Annual Report Recovery Plan	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Bird	SE	none
Valley silverspot	<i>Speyeria zerene bremnerii</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	none
Van Dyke's salamander	<i>Plethodon vandykei</i>	Amphibian	SC	none
Vaux's swift Annual Report	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	Bird	SC	none
Walleye pollock (So. Puget Sound)	<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>	Fish	SC	none
Washington ground squirrel  Annual Report	<i>Urocitellus washingtoni</i>	Mammal	SC	FC
Western gray squirrel  Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	Mammal	ST	none
Western grebe Annual Report	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Bird	SC	none
Western pond turtle  Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	Reptile	SE	none

Western toad	<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>	Amphibian	SC	none
White-headed woodpecker Annual Report	<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>	Bird	SC	none
White-tailed jackrabbit Annual Report	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Widow Rockfish 	<i>Sebastes entomelas</i>	Fish	SC	none
Wolverine Annual Report	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Mammal	SC	none
Woodland caribou Annual Report	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Mammal	SE	FE
Yellow-billed cuckoo Annual Report	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Bird	SC	FPT
Yelloweye rockfish 	<i>Sebastes ruberrimus</i>	Fish	SC	FT
Yellowtail Rockfish 	<i>Sebastes flavidus</i>	Fish	SC	none
Yelm Pocket Gopher - Mazama Annual Report Status Report Recovery Plan	<i>Thomomys mazama yelmensis</i>	Mammal	ST	FT
Yuma skipper	<i>Ochlodes yuma</i>	Butterfly and Moth	SC	none

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This is your chance to let us know your opinions and priorities.
Please review the enclosed materials and complete the telephone survey
to indicate your priorities about park, recreation, and open space
opportunities and finances. Help us create a long-range plan for Whatcom
County.

July 2013

Dear Whatcom County Resident,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our survey.

The goal of this survey is to get your opinions and priorities concerning park, recreation, and open space possibilities in Whatcom County. Your opinions will help us (Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department and the County Council) fashion a final plan and financing strategy that reflects the desires of Whatcom County residents.

To obtain meaningful results, we need to hear from 200 registered county voters. So **YOUR RESPONSE IS VERY IMPORTANT** if the survey is to be a good reflection of how Whatcom County residents feel about the county's parks and recreation programs.

Please review the survey questions and the graphics that identify existing park facilities and possible projects - these correspond to the question numbers. The complete and original color plan graphics may also be viewed on our website at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/parks/development/comprehensive.jsp> .

Complete the survey. Detach the survey questions and mail them back to us.

Please contact Michael McFarlane, Director, Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department, at 360-733-2900 or mmcfarla@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have any questions about the plan or this survey.

Sincerely,

WHATCOM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Michael McFarlane, Director

Whatcom County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan

Parks and recreation program priorities and financing options

1	Have any household members used recreational programs, parks, or trails provided by Whatcom County in the last year?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes
		<input type="checkbox"/> no

Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following activities and facilities available in Whatcom County that are provided by the county, cities, park districts, and port on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the very lowest satisfaction and 5 is the very highest satisfaction level?

		satisfaction level lowest / highest				
	Conservation and preservation of natural resources					
2	Preservation of undeveloped natural areas and forests?	1	2	3	4	5
3	Preservation of wetlands?	1	2	3	4	5
4	Preservation of agricultural land?	1	2	3	4	5
5	Open space and scenic area preservation?	1	2	3	4	5
	Interpretive programs					
6	Nature, wildlife, and environmental exhibits, centers, walks, programs and events?	1	2	3	4	5
7	Gardens and landscape exhibits, walks, programs, and events?	1	2	3	4	5
8	Historical, cultural and heritage exhibits, walks, programs and events?	1	2	3	4	5
9	Historical homes, museums, and farms?	1	2	3	4	5
10	Farm and agricultural exhibits, programs, and events?	1	2	3	4	5
	Shoreline and waterfront					
11	Freshwater access to lakes, rivers and streams?	1	2	3	4	5
12	Shore fishing opportunities?	1	2	3	4	5
13	Boat launching facilities?	1	2	3	4	5
14	Saltwater beach access and beach combing?	1	2	3	4	5
15	Shell fishing opportunities?	1	2	3	4	5
	Picnicking and camping					
16	Picnic areas?	1	2	3	4	5
17	Campsites and camping opportunities?	1	2	3	4	5
	Trails					
18	Pet exercise and off leash areas?	1	2	3	4	5
19	Hiking and walking trails?	1	2	3	4	5
20	Mountain bike trails?	1	2	3	4	5
21	Horseback trails?	1	2	3	4	5
22	Multiuse trails (bicycle, walking)?	1	2	3	4	5
23	Off road motorized opportunities?	1	2	3	4	5
	Athletic courts and fields					
24	Playgrounds?	1	2	3	4	5
25	Athletic and play fields?	1	2	3	4	5
26	Athletic events and tournaments?	1	2	3	4	5
	Firearms					
27	Firearms use and safety classes?	1	2	3	4	5
28	Shooting opportunities?	1	2	3	4	5
	Supporting services and facilities					
29	Directional and way finding signs?	1	2	3	4	5
30	Restrooms?	1	2	3	4	5
31	Parking areas?	1	2	3	4	5
32	Bicycle accommodations?	1	2	3	4	5
33	Handicapped accessibility accommodations?	1	2	3	4	5
34	Food and vending concessions?	1	2	3	4	5
	Rental facilities					
35	Rental of canoes, paddle boats, and kayaks?	1	2	3	4	5

36	Rental of cabins and overnight lodges?	1	2	3	4	5
37	Rental of picnic lodges and shelters?	1	2	3	4	5
38	Rental of historic homes, activity centers and similar facilities for weddings, retreats, meeting and events?	1	2	3	4	5
Activities and events		lowest / highest				
39	Music and art exhibits, concerts and events?	1	2	3	4	5
40	Outdoor skill and safety instructions (backcountry camping, first aid, bicycling, and horseback riding)?	1	2	3	4	5
41	Volunteer opportunities in the parks?	1	2	3	4	5
42	Geocaching/orienteering?	1	2	3	4	5
43	Outdoor swimming opportunities?	1	2	3	4	5
44	Running and walking events?	1	2	3	4	5
45	Bicycle and mountain bike rides and events?	1	2	3	4	5
46	Ultimate Frisbee and disc golf opportunities?	1	2	3	4	5
47	Winter activities snowshoeing, X-country skiing, snowmobiling?	1	2	3	4	5
48	Senior activities?	1	2	3	4	5

If it requires more money than can be budgeted from Whatcom County resources to provide future recreation programs, how would you rate the following methods of paying for them?

County recreation program financing options		lowest / highest				
49	<u>Reduce the number</u> - of programs to control costs?	1	2	3	4	5
50	<u>Reduce the content, variety, and duration</u> - of programs to control costs?	1	2	3	4	5
51	<u>Increase user fees for non-residents</u> - to finance program services?	1	2	3	4	5
52	<u>Increase user fees for everyone</u> - to finance program services?	1	2	3	4	5
53	<u>Increase county taxes</u> - to finance needed program services?	1	2	3	4	5

Facility priorities in general

In general, how would you rate the existing inventory of all park, recreation, and open space facilities provided in Whatcom County by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, and other park providers on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the poor and 5 excellent?

		poor / excellent				
54	<u>Quantity</u> - the number, size and location of existing park and trail sites to serve the existing population?	1	2	3	4	5
55	<u>Quality</u> - of maintenance conditions and furnishings including parking, restrooms, trails, campsites, shelters, cabins, and other facilities in existing parks?	1	2	3	4	5

How would you rate the need for the following additional facilities within the county in general whether provided by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, or another park provider where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest priority?

Conservation needs		lowest / highest				
56	Water resources and watershed protection areas?	1	2	3	4	5
57	Wildlife habitat, conservation, and natural areas?	1	2	3	4	5
58	Forestland conservation areas?	1	2	3	4	5
59	Farmland conservation areas?	1	2	3	4	5
60	Open space and scenic area preservation?	1	2	3	4	5
61	Historical and cultural buildings and sites?	1	2	3	4	5
Regional park needs		lowest / highest				
62	Shore fishing areas and docks?	1	2	3	4	5
63	Waterfront access and beach use sites?	1	2	3	4	5
64	Cartop boat (kayak/canoe) launch sites?	1	2	3	4	5

65	Powerboat launching and moorage facilities?	1	2	3	4	5
66	Picnic tables, play areas, and shelters	1	2	3	4	5
67	Tent, yurt, RV campsites, group camps, and cabins?	1	2	3	4	5
68	Concessions for food and beverage, bait sales, etc	1	2	3	4	5
	Trail needs	lowest / highest				
69	Handicap accessible trails and facilities within parks?	1	2	3	4	5
70	Cross-country walking and hiking trails?	1	2	3	4	5
71	Cross-country horse trails?	1	2	3	4	5
72	Cross-country mountain bike trails?	1	2	3	4	5
73	Snowshoe, skiing, and snowmobile trails?	1	2	3	4	5
74	Multipurpose (hike/bike/horse) trails?	1	2	3	4	5
75	On-road bicycle routes?	1	2	3	4	5
76	Dog parks, exercise areas, and trails?	1	2	3	4	5
77	Off-road ATV, motorcycle, and ORV parks?	1	2	3	4	5
78	Remote backcountry campsites?	1	2	3	4	5
	Recreational facility needs	lowest / highest				
79	Soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball athletic fields?	1	2	3	4	5
80	Golf course and driving ranges?	1	2	3	4	5
81	Community classrooms and meeting facilities?	1	2	3	4	5
82	Daycare facilities?	1	2	3	4	5
83	Youth and teen activity centers?	1	2	3	4	5
84	Senior activity centers?	1	2	3	4	5
	Supporting facilities	lowest / highest				
85	Restrooms?	1	2	3	4	5
86	Access and parking areas?	1	2	3	4	5
87	Interpretive and wayfinding signage?	1	2	3	4	5

Development plan proposal priorities

Under the proposed park plan, the county, cities, school districts, port, and other park providers may **jointly conserve and develop** wildlife and open space preservations, waterfront parks, picnic and camping facilities, trails, athletic fields, meeting facilities, and other activities within the county. How would you rate the following proposals - **as shown on the attached preliminary concept graphics that correspond with the question numbers?**

	Conservancy parks - see graphics 1-2	lowest / highest				
88	<u>Conservancies watershed</u> - protect the proposed water resource and watershed areas of the county?	1	2	3	4	5
89	<u>Conservancies wildlife</u> - protect the proposed wildlife habitat areas of the county in and around fresh and saltwater areas, wetlands, and woodland areas?	1	2	3	4	5
90	<u>Conservancies forestland</u> - protect the proposed mature and old growth forested areas of the county from logging in and around urbanizing areas and in backcountry sites?	1	2	3	4	5
91	<u>Conservancies farmland</u> - protect the proposed historical and productive farmlands of the county from subdivision and development?	1	2	3	4	5
92	<u>Conservancies scenic</u> - protect the proposed scenic areas, viewpoints, and vistas of the county along fresh and saltwater shorelines, farmlands, and wooded hilltop and ridgelines (see graphic 13)?	1	2	3	4	5
93	<u>Conservancies historical</u> - protect the proposed farms, sawmills, railroads, mines, and other heritage sites from demolition and development?	1	2	3	4	5
	Regional parks - see graphics 3-5	lowest / highest				
94	<u>Saltwater access</u> - acquire/develop the proposed additional saltwater access sites for fishing, beachcombing, and walking?	1	2	3	4	5

95	Freshwater access - acquire/develop the proposed additional freshwater access sites for fishing, swimming, and boating?	1	2	3	4	5
96	Motorized boat launches - saltwater - develop the proposed additional boat launching facilities at saltwater sites?	1	2	3	4	5
97	Motorized boat launches - freshwater - develop the proposed additional boat launching facilities at freshwater sites?	1	2	3	4	5
98	Non-motorized cartop (kayak/canoe) launch sites - develop the proposed additional access and launch sites at salt and freshwater sites?	1	2	3	4	5
99	Picnic shelters and group activity sites - develop the proposed additional picnic shelters and group picnic facilities at major regional park sites?	1	2	3	4	5
100	Campsites and cabins - develop the proposed additional tent and RV campsites, yurts and cabins, and group camp sites at major regional park sites?	1	2	3	4	5
Trail systems - see graphics 6-13		lowest / highest				
101	Water trails - develop the proposed cartop boat put-in, take-out, and overnight campsites along navigable salt and freshwater paddling routes?	1	2	3	4	5
102	Shoreline trails - develop the proposed cross-country network of saltwater beach and shoreline walking areas and trails?	1	2	3	4	5
103	Hiking trails - develop the proposed cross-country network of on and off-road day and backpacking cross-country hiking trails?	1	2	3	4	5
104	Horse trails - develop the proposed cross-country network of horse stables, riding areas, and trails?	1	2	3	4	5
105	Off-road mountain bike trails - develop the proposed cross-country network of riding trails?	1	2	3	4	5
106	Multipurpose trails - develop the proposed off-road cross-country network of hike, bike, and horse trails?	1	2	3	4	5
107	Winter trails - develop the proposed cross-country network of snowshoe, skiing, and snowmobile trails?	1	2	3	4	5
108	On-road bicycle routes - develop the proposed cross-country system of on-road routes using road shoulders and designated bike lanes?	1	2	3	4	5
109	Scenic roads - designate the proposed system of cross-country back-road scenic routes with viewpoints, interpretive signage, and other exhibits?	1	2	3	4	5
110	ATV/motorcycle riding areas - support the continued private party operation of ATV/motorcycle riding areas (no graphic provided)?	1	2	3	4	5
Facilities - see graphics 14-15		lowest / highest				
111	Athletic fields - acquire and lease the proposed network of sites to athletic league organizations for the development of a regional system of public playing fields for youth and adults?	1	2	3	4	5
112	Meeting facilities - develop and lease the proposed network of community facilities throughout the county to non-profit organizations for the operation of teen, senior, and other public activities and events?	1	2	3	4	5
113	Enterprise facilities - where user fees and/or self help efforts will support, acquire and lease or develop the proposed gun ranges, equestrian facilities, conference facilities and retreats, at select regional properties throughout the county (no graphic provided)?	1	2	3	4	5

Note - Whatcom County, like all jurisdictions in Washington State, must restructure fiscal policies to reflect recently adopted restraints on the use of property, license, and other taxes for the financing of general governmental

services. The following questions outline a number of alternative methods for delivering park, recreation, and open space facilities and programs in the county for your evaluation. County Council could adopt some, most, or all of the following ways and methods for restructuring the way the county delivers and finances park and recreation facilities and services depending on the results of this survey, and in some cases subsequent voter approvals.

Joint venture opportunity and partner options

Besides Whatcom County – cities, school districts, athletic organizations, private operators, and a variety of other public and private agencies own and operate park facilities and recreational programs within the county. How would you rate joint venture projects with the following organizations?

Park facility development		lowest / highest				
114	With other public agencies – like cities, school districts, and the port for the <u>development</u> of parks, trails, and athletic fields?	1	2	3	4	5
115	With nonprofit organizations – for the <u>conservation</u> of sensitive environmental areas or the <u>preservation</u> of historical areas or the <u>development</u> of athletic fields for public use?	1	2	3	4	5
116	With for-profit organizations – for the <u>development</u> of specialized facilities like campgrounds, marinas, and conference centers for public use for a fee?	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation program operation		lowest / highest				
117	With other public agencies – like cities, school districts, and park districts for the <u>operation</u> of recreational programs at regional park sites for public use?	1	2	3	4	5
118	With nonprofit organizations – for the <u>management</u> of sensitive environmental areas or the <u>operation</u> of childcare, teen, senior, or other community programs?	1	2	3	4	5
119	With for-profit organizations – for the <u>operation</u> of specialized facilities like campgrounds, marinas, and conference centers for public use paid with a user fee?	1	2	3	4	5

Organizational and financing alternatives

County Council could institute alternative methods of organizationally managing and financing **regional versus local** park, recreation, and open space improvements within the county. How would you rate the following alternatives?

Local park facilities using recreational service areas – County Council could institute a limited short-term (3-5 year) property tax levy as a means of financing the acquisition, development, and/or operation of **local** park, recreation, and open space facilities and/or programs within specified areas of the county. Recreation service areas can be established for a single facility for a single benefit area, such as scenic preservation for county waterfront areas - or for multiple facilities for a specified portion of the county, such as athletic fields and indoor gymnasiums for a city or an urban growth area (UGA).

Once proposed, the county residents within each **local** recreation service area vote to determine whether to assess a limited short-term property tax increment to finance acquisition, development, and/or operation of the proposed facilities and programs within the proposed **local service area**. How would you rate the following methods?

Recreation service areas		lowest / highest				
120	Specific facilities – organizing recreation service areas to finance specific facilities and programs, such as the preservation of scenic areas?	1	2	3	4	5

121	Specific areas - organizing recreation service areas to provide a mixture of facilities and programs within a specific local area, such as a city or school district or urban growth area?	1	2	3	4	5
		Amount per year				
122	If a levy were to be put on the ballot <u>to finance local park facilities and programs within your local area (which could include a city area)</u> , how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?	\$-----				

Real estate excise and fuel tax, and license fee options

Subject to voter approval, County Council could institute a variety of optional fees and taxes to be used **instead of or in addition to** the regional/local organizational financing approaches defined in the above (as a way of reducing the use of property taxes for park financing). How would you rate each of the following optional approaches?

Optional dedicated fees and taxes		lowest / highest				
123	Real Estate Excise Tax (REET-3) - an additional 0.25% assessment of the sales price of all real estate property (equal to \$250 per \$100,000 of sale price) paid by the purchaser to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of park and open space?	1	2	3	4	5
124	Local Option Vehicle License Fee - an additional \$15.00 per vehicle license registered in the county to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of trail improvements?	1	2	3	4	5
125	Local Option Fuel Tax - an additional \$0.023 per gallon sales tax to be paid by residents and tourists to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of trail improvements?	1	2	3	4	5
126	Local Option Sales Tax - an additional 0.1% sales tax (equal to \$0.10 for a \$100 purchase) to be paid by residents and tourists to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of park and open space?	1	2	3	4	5

General obligation bond options

Subject to voter approval, County Council could also propose a variety of optional bonds as a means of financing park, recreation, and open space improvements for specific projects. This option could be used **instead of or in addition to** the options defined in the above. How would you rate the following?

General obligation bond - County Council could submit a general obligation bond for voter approval to finance **acquisition and development** of specific park, recreation, and open space improvements. The bond, which can not be used to finance operation and maintenance, would be financed over a 20-year period.

		Amount per year				
127	If a bond were to be put on the ballot <u>to finance the highest priority projects</u> , how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?	\$-----				

Population growth impact management options

In the next 20 years the county population is projected to increase by another 61,840 people or 23% more than the existing population of 203,500 persons.

128	In your opinion, will <u>existing park and recreation facilities (not including any of the plan's proposals)</u> within the county, cities, and school districts systems be enough to provide for this population increase?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> don't know
-----	---	--

The existing inventory of county park and recreational facilities is estimated to be worth about \$900 per person or \$2,000 for an average single family house. This amount is the cost required for additional park facilities for new housing residents if the county is to maintain the same standards for park, recreation, and open space facilities that are currently provided existing residents. Given this fact, how would you rate the following methods for dealing with the impact of new population growth on parks and the methods existing residents may be using to finance park improvements?

Growth management financing		Lowest / highest				
129	<u>Lower standards</u> - for the number of park facilities provided to future populations?	1	2	3	4	5
130	<u>Collect a one-time growth impact fee from new housing development projects</u> - to pay for park improvements?	1	2	3	4	5
131	<u>Increase county taxes</u> - to acquire and develop park facilities to offset population growth impacts?	1	2	3	4	5
Growth impact fees		Percent of cost				
132	<u>If a park growth impact fee were to be collected from new housing development projects</u> , what percent of this cost would you recommend be charged for every new single family house to be developed in the county? (The county does not currently charge growth impact fees.)	100%=	\$2,000			
		75%=	\$1,500			
		50%=	\$1,000			
		25%=	\$ 500			
		10%=	\$ 200			
		0%=	\$ 0			

Your characteristics

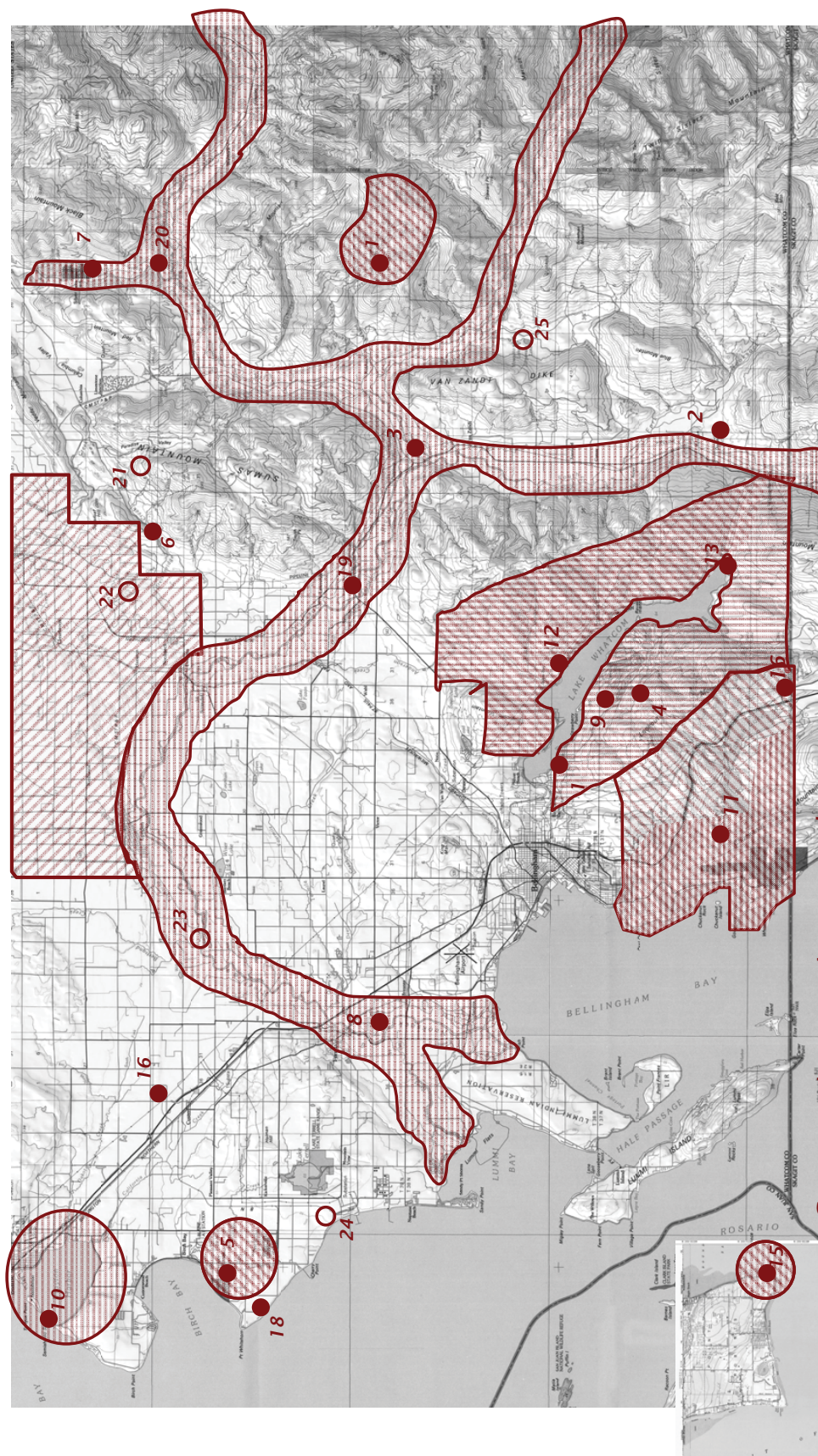
133	Which area of the county do you live in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Point Roberts area <input type="checkbox"/> Lummi Island area <input type="checkbox"/> Blaine area <input type="checkbox"/> Birch Bay area <input type="checkbox"/> Lynden area <input type="checkbox"/> Sumas/Nooksack area <input type="checkbox"/> Foothills area <input type="checkbox"/> South Fork Valley area <input type="checkbox"/> Ferndale area <input type="checkbox"/> Bellingham area <input type="checkbox"/> Other county area
134	How long have you lived in the county?	0-1 2-5 6-10 10+ years
135	What type of housing do you live in?	own rent
136	What age group are you in?	18-24 25-34 35-49 50-64 65+

Comments

137 Do you have any specific comments or recommendations to make about the proposed park plan or this survey?

Please contact Michael McFarlane, Director, Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department, at 360-733-2900 or mmcfarla@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have questions about the plan or this survey.

Graphic 1 - Questions 88-92



Conservation - environmental

Existing county conservancies

- Watershed impact zone
- Wildlife impact zone
- Forestland impact zone
- Farmland impact zone
- 1 Canyon Lake Community Forest
- 2 South Fork Park
- 3 Deming Homestead Eagle Park
- 4 Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve
- 5 Birch Bay Conservancy Area
- 6 Ostrom Conservancy Site
- 7 Silver Lake Park
- 8 Tennant Lake

- 9 Stimpson Family Nature Reserve
- 10 Semiahmoo Park
- 11 Chuckanut Mountain
- 12 Lake Whatcom Park
- 13 South Lake Whatcom
- 14 Squires Lake Park

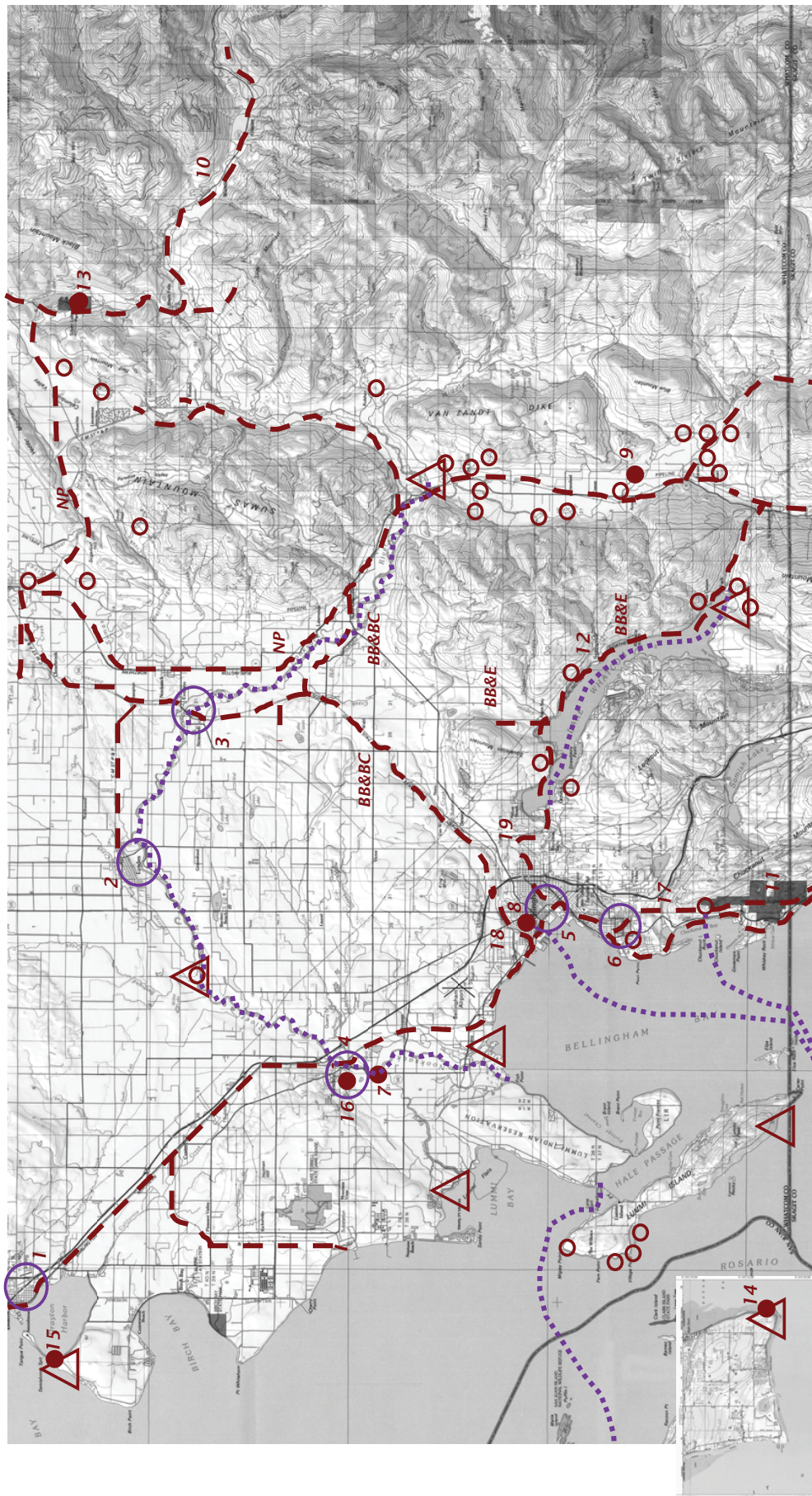
- 15 Lily Point Marine Reserve
- 16 Jensen Family Forest Park
- 17 Euclid Park
- 18 Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve
- 19 Nugent's Corner River Access
- 20 Maple Creek Park

Proposed county conservancies

- 21 Sumas Mtn
- 22 Historic farmland acquisitions
- 23 Nooksack River - Fishtrap
- 24 Cherry Point
- 25 Mosquito Lake

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Graphic 2 – Question 93



Conservation – historical/cultural

- Native American sites
- Sawmills/mines/farms
- Historical railroads and interurban trolley
- Steamers/ferry routes

Historical districts

- 1 Blaine
- 2 Lynden
- 3 Everson
- 4 Ferndale
- 5 Whatcom
- 6 Fairhaven

Existing county historical sites

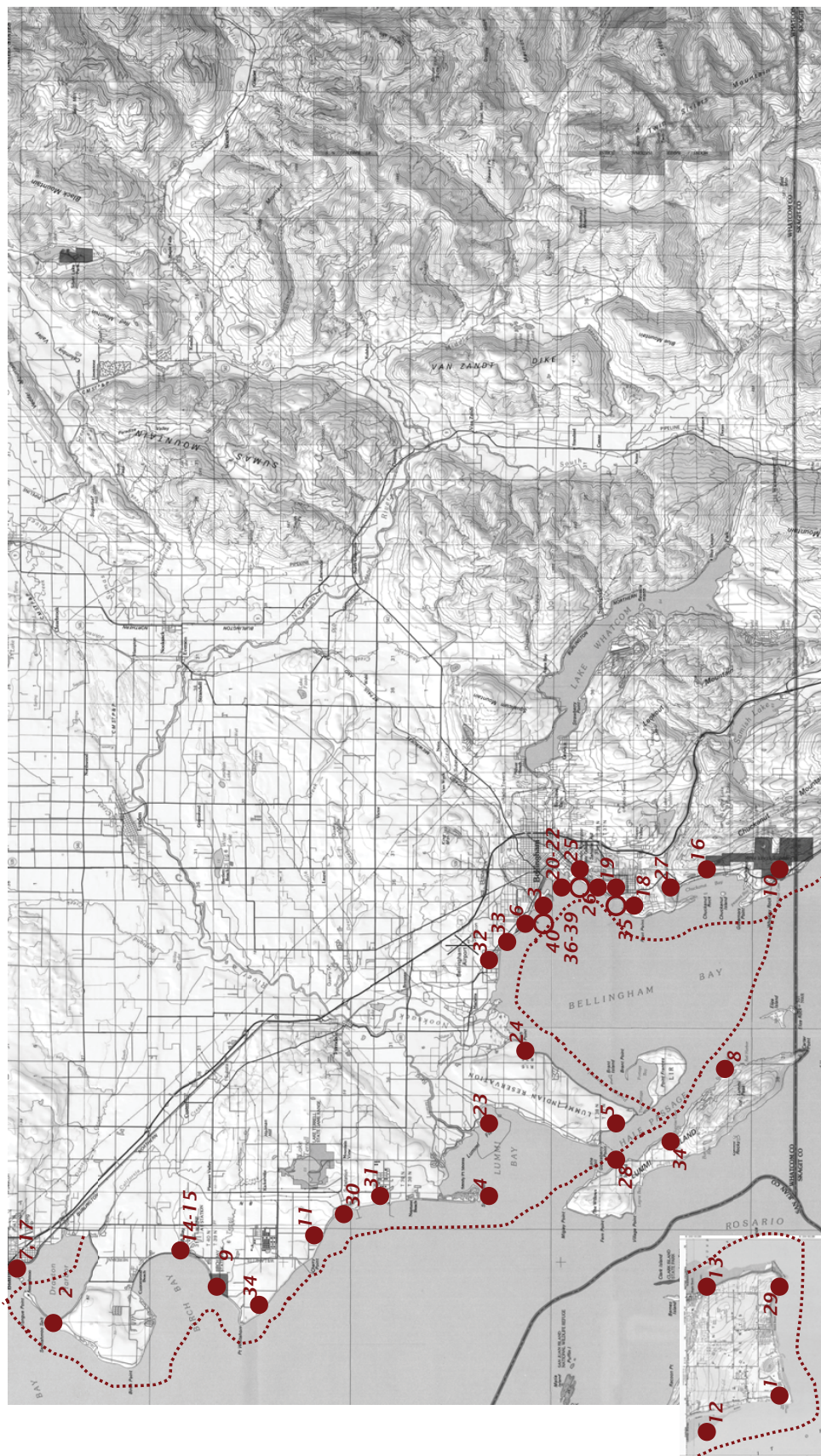
- 7 Hovander Homestead
- 8 Roeder Home
- 9 Neset Farm
- 10 Maple Falls to Glacier Trail - BBBC
- 11 Interurban Trail
- 12 Lake Whatcom Trail - BBE
- 13 Gerdrum House - Silver Lake
- 14 Lily Point Marine Park
- 15 Semiahmoo Park

Other agency historical sites

- 16 Pioneer Park - Ferndale
- 17 Interurban - Bellingham
- 18 Bay to Baker Trail - Bellingham
- 19 Whatcom Creek Trail - Bellingham

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Graphic 3 - Questions 94-96



- Proposed access**
- 20 Squaticum - I&J Waterway
 - 26 Old Colony Wharf
 - 35 Fairhaven - Industrial Park
 - 36 Squaticum - CP Lagoon
 - 37 Squaticum - Cornwall Avenue
 - 38 Squaticum - GP Plant Site
 - 39 Citizen's Dock - Central Ave
 - 40 Marine Drive
- Existing site
○ Proposed site
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- 32 Bancroft Road Access
- 33 Locust Road Access
- 34 Point Whitehorn

- 23 Lummi Bay - Aqua Dike
- 24 Fish Point Park
- 25 Old Colony Wharf
- 26 Boulevard Park
- 27 Chuckanut Bay
- 28 Lummi Island Beach 224
- 29 Lily Point Access
- 30 Cherry Point Beach
- 31 Unick Road Access

Water trails - saltwater

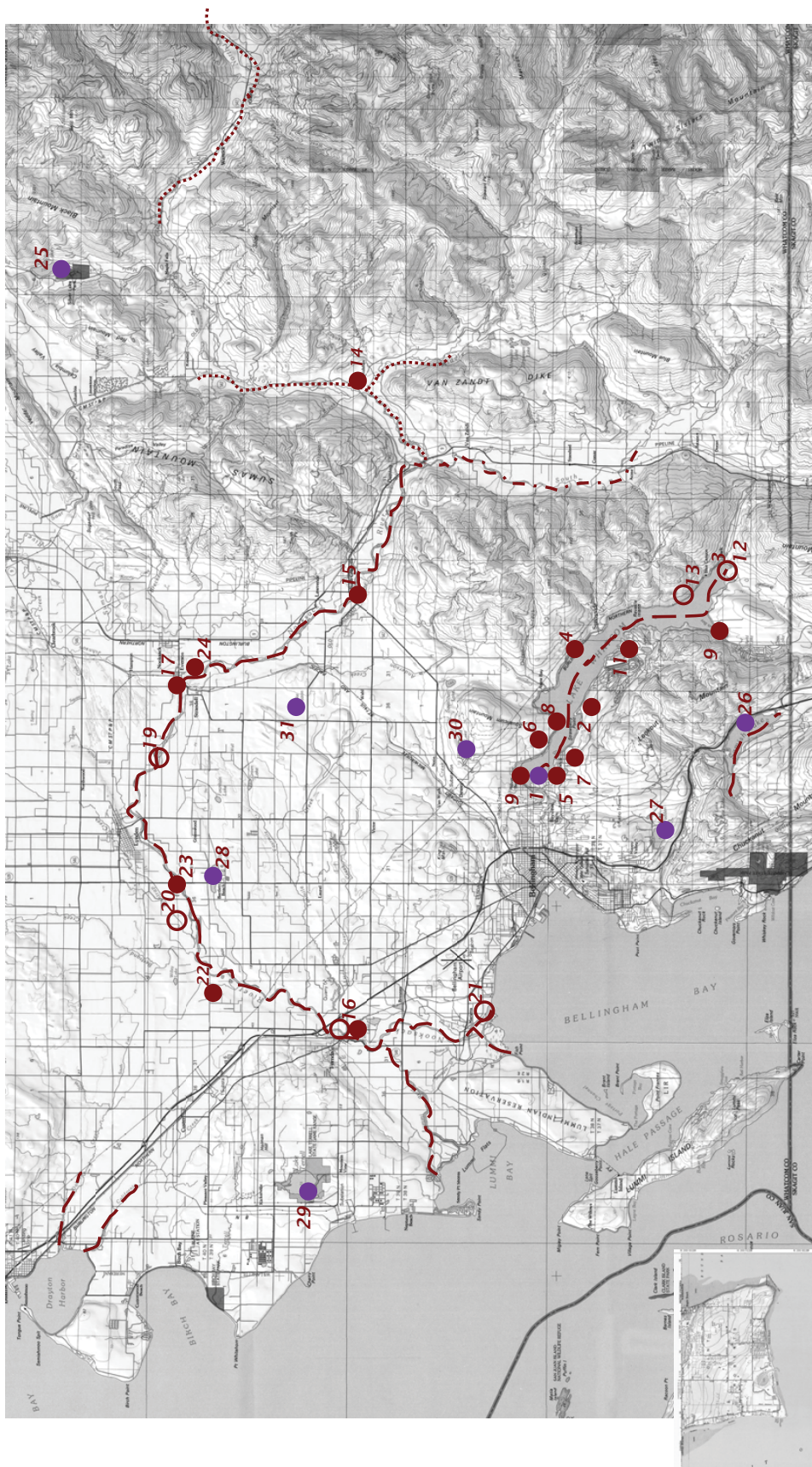
Existing access

- 11 Cherry Point
- 12 Monument Park
- 13 Maple Beach Tidelands
- 14 Birch Bay Shoreline
- 15 Birch Bay Tidelands
- 16 Teddy Bear Cove
- 17 Blaine Harbor
- 18 Fairhaven - Marine Park
- 19 Fairhaven - Padden Lagoon
- 20 Squaticum - I&J Waterway
- 21 Squaticum - Harbor Launch
- 22 Squaticum - Zuanich Park

Existing trailheads

- 1 Lighthouse Marine Park
- 2 Semiahmoo Park
- 3 Little Squaticum Beach
- 4 Sandy Point
- 5 Lummi Beach
- 6 Tilbury Pier
- 7 Marine Park
- 8 Lummi Island NRCA
- 9 Birch Bay State Park
- 10 Larrabee State Park

Graphic 4 - Questions 97-98



Water trails - freshwater

Lake Whatcom

Existing trailheads

- 1 Bloedel Donovan Park - CoB
- 2 WWU - Lakewood

Proposed trailheads

- 3 South Lake Whatcom

Existing access

- 4 Sunnyside Landing
- 5 Connecticut Street-End

Proposed access

- 12 South Lake Whatcom
- 13 Hegg

Nooksack River

Existing trailheads

- 14 Welcome Bridge Access
- 15 Nugent's Corner River Access
- 16 Hovander Homestead Park
- 17 Riverside Park

Proposed trailheads

- 19 Nooksack River - Everson
- 20 Nooksack River - Lynden
- 21 Nooksack River - Delta

Existing access

- 22 Nooksack River - Harksell Rd
- 23 Nooksack River - Guide Merdn
- 24 Nooksack River - Everson

Other launch sites

Existing sites

- 25 Silver Lake - county
- 26 Lake Samish- WDFW
- 27 Lake Padden - CoB
- 28 Wiser Lake - WDFW

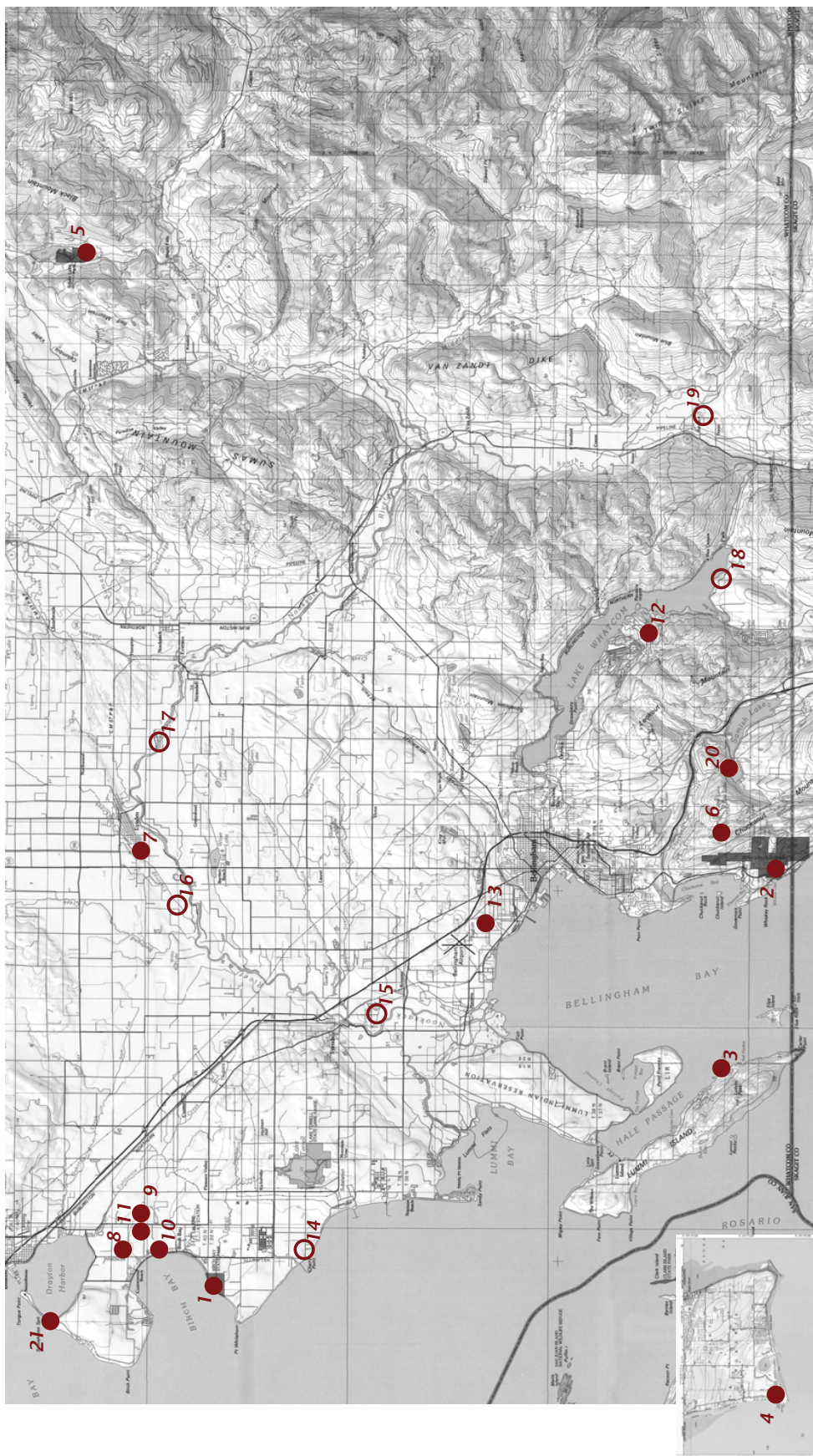
- 29 Terrell Lake - WDFW
- 30 Toad Lake - WDFW
- 31 Lake Fazon - WDFW

- Power/handcarry craft
- Whitewater kayak
- - - Inner tubing

- Developed boat launch
- Existing access site
- Proposed site

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Graphic 5 – Questions 99-100



Regional Parks – campgrounds and group picnic facilities

Existing state parks with camping

- 1 Birch Bay State Park
- 2 Larrabee State Park
- 3 Lummi Island – DNR

Existing county parks with camping

- 4 Lighthouse Marine Park
- 5 Silver Lake Park
- 6 Chuckanut Mountain (Pine & Cedar)

Other regional campgrounds

- 7 Lynden KOA
- 8 Thousand Trails/NACO West
- 9 Plaza Park RV
- 10 Beachside RV Park
- 11 Seabreeze RV Park
- 12 Wildwood – Sudden Valley Rsr
- 13 Bellingham RV Park

Proposed campgrounds

- 14 Cherry Point Park
- 15 Hovander Homestead Park
- 16 Nooksack River – Lynden
- 17 Nooksack River – Everson
- 18 South Lake Whatcom
- 19 South Fork Park

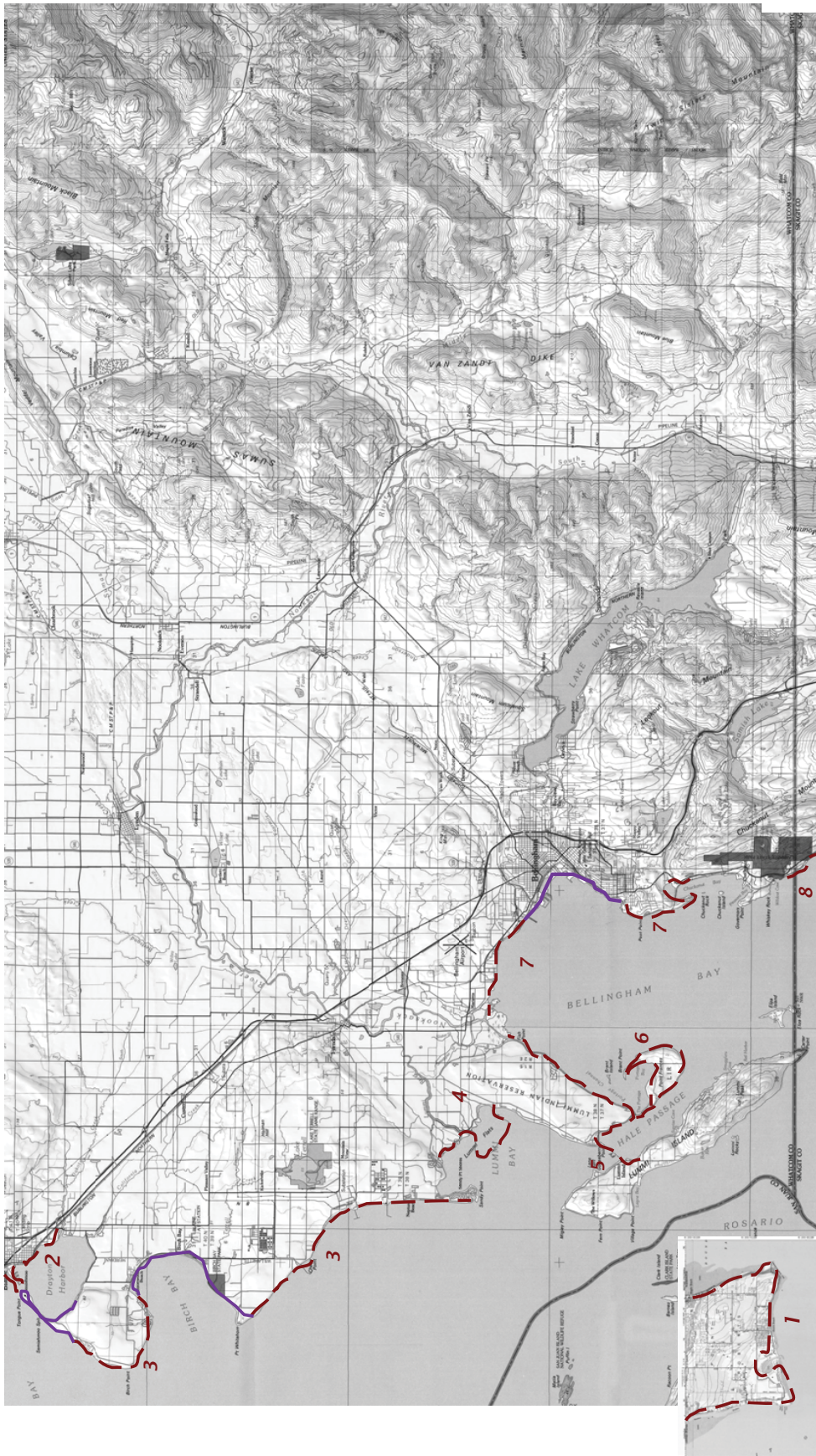
Existing group picnic facilities

- 5 Silver Lake Park
- 15 Hovander Homestead Park
- 20 Samish Park
- 21 Semiahmoo Park

- Existing site
- Proposed site

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Graphic 6 – Question 102



Shoreline trails – beach, boardwalk, and over water

- Designated beach walks
- - - Proposed beach walks

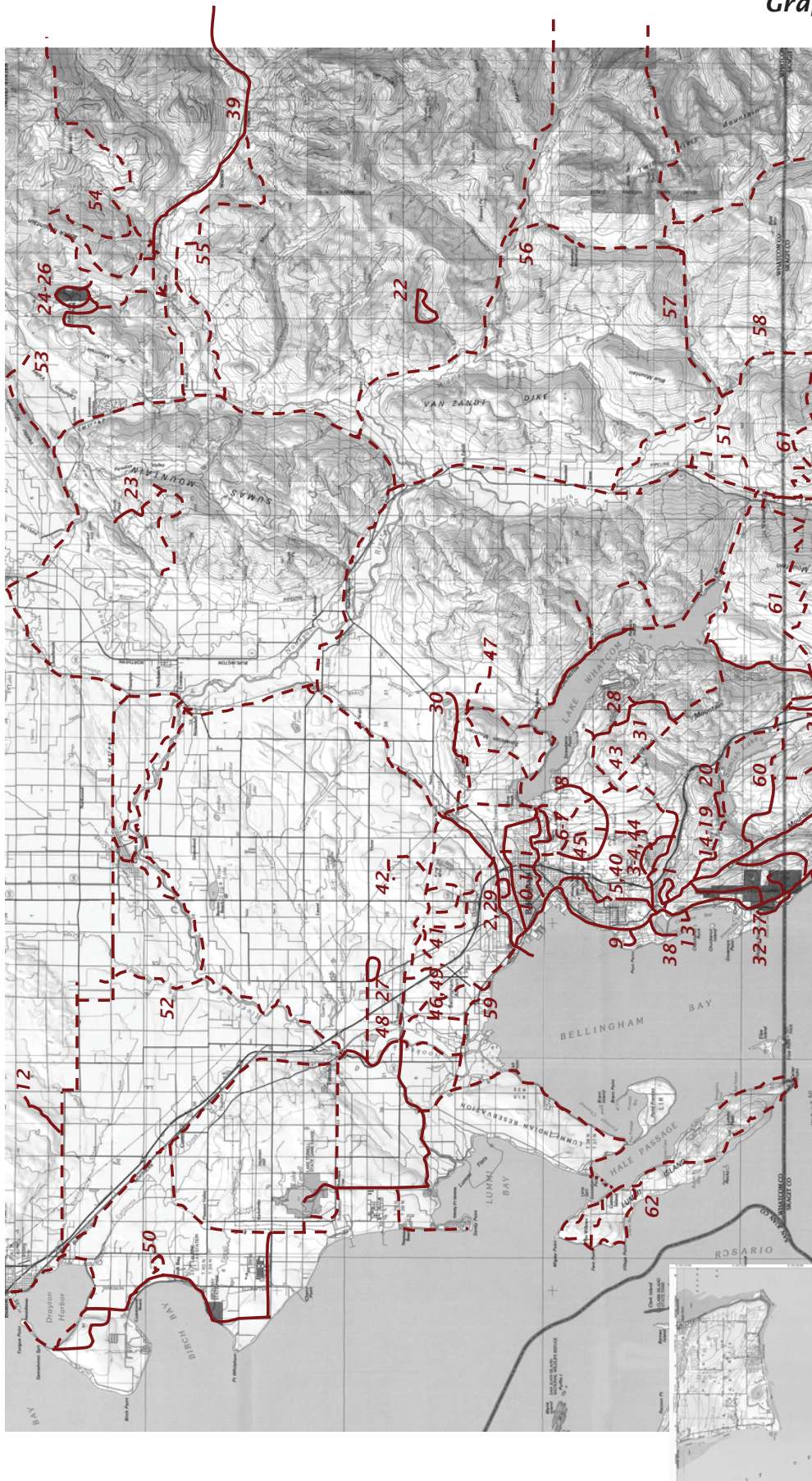
Proposed trails

- 1 Point Roberts – connections
- 2 Drayton Harbor East
- 3 Semiahmoo to Sandy Point
- 4 Lummi Bay
- 5 Lummi Island to Bellingham Bay
- 6 Portage Island

- 8 Bellingham Bay-CP Site
- 9 Bellingham Bay-Lummi Rsvrtn
- 10 Cornwall Ave/Boulevard Park

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Graphic 7 - Question 103



Hiking trails

Existing trails

- 1 Arroyo Park Trail
- 2 Cornwall Park Trail
- 3 Lake Padden Loop Trail
- 4 Lake Padden Trails
- 5 Selkome Hill Arboretum Trail
- 6 Whatcom Falls Park Trail
- 7 Whatcom Falls Waterline Trail
- 8 Lookout Mountain Trail
- 9 Lower Padden Creek Trail
- 10 Lower Whatcom Creek Trail
- 11 Upper Whatcom Creek Trail
- 12 Blaine Watershed

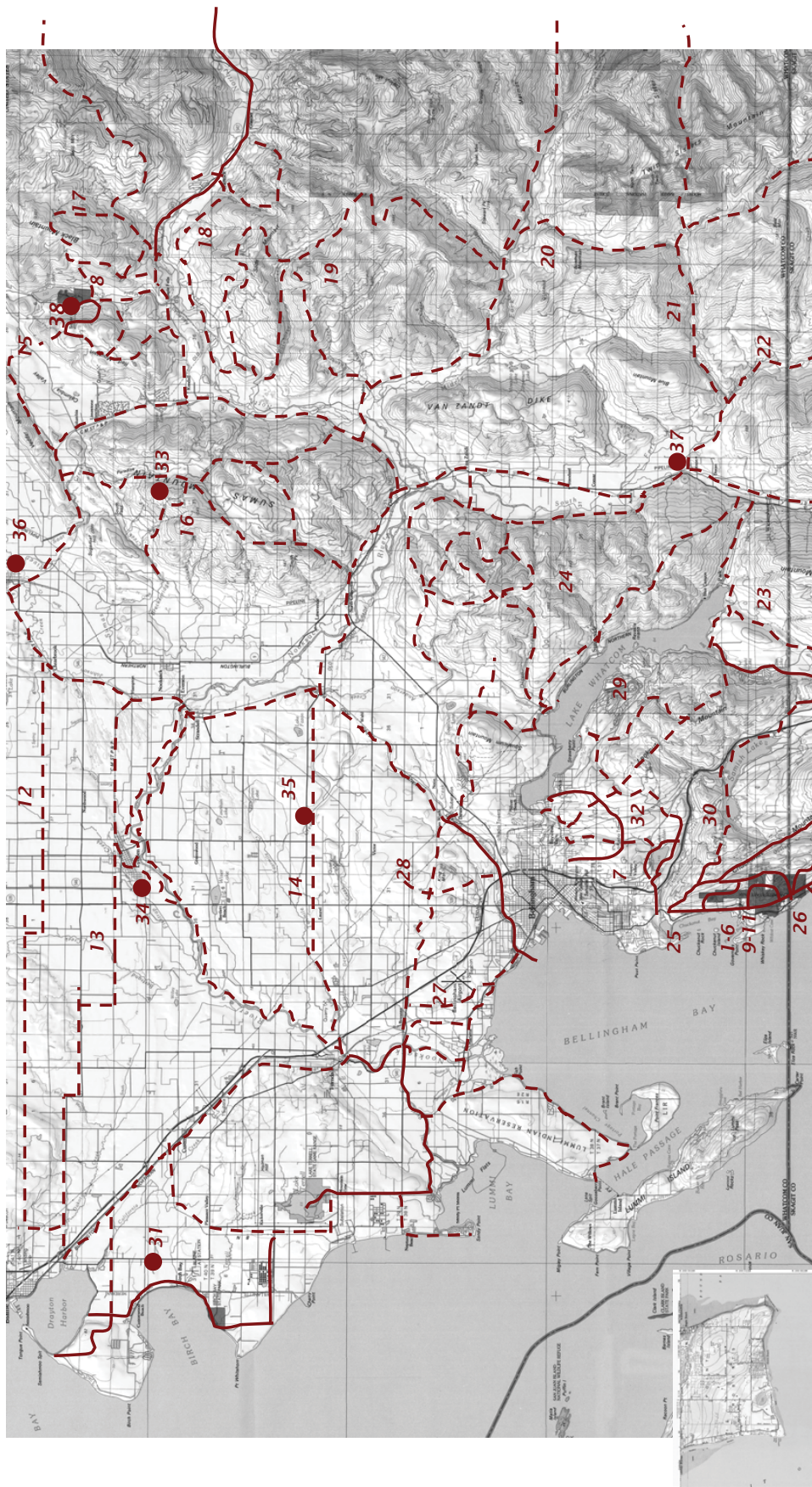
Proposed trails

- 13 Teddy Bear Cove Trail
- 14 Chuckanut Mtn - Hemlock
- 15 Chuckanut Mtn - Huckleberry
- 16 Chuckanut Mtn - Salal
- 17 Chuckanut Mtn - Madrone
- 18 Chuckanut Mtn - Pine & Cedar
- 19 Chuckanut Mtn - Lost Lake
- 20 Samish Park Trail
- 21 Squires Lake Trail
- 22 Canyon Lake Cmty Forest
- 23 Ostrom Conservation Site
- 24 Silver Lake - Black Mountain
- 25 Silver Lake - Lookout
- 26 Silver Lake - Horse Camp
- 27 Smith & Northwest Sports
- 28 Stimpson Family Nature
- 29 Bug Lake Trail
- 30 Toad/Emerald Lake Trail
- 31 Lookout Mt. Forest Preserve
- 32 Larrabee State Park-Ridge
- 33 Larrabee State Park-Cleator
- 34 Larrabee State Park-Fragrance
- 35 Larrabee State Park-Lost Lake
- 36 Larrabee State Park-Cyrus
- 37 Larrabee State Park-Summit
- 38 Clark's Point Open Space
- 39 Maple Falls-Glacier trail
- 40 Connelly Creek-Sehome
- 41 Cordata Trail
- 42 King-Queen Mountain
- 43 Lookout-Galbraith
- 44 Padden Trail
- 45 Samish Hill Trail
- 46 Silver Creek Headwaters
- 47 Squallicum Mtn Trail
- 48 Smith Road Trail
- 49 West Silver Creek Trail
- 50 Sunset Farm Park

- 51 South Fork Park
- 52 Bertrand Creek-Berthusen
- 53 South Pass Road
- 54 Black-Bald Mountain
- 55 Nooksack River - North
- 56 Nooksack River - Middle
- 57 Skookum Creek Trail
- 58 Stewart Mountain
- 59 Airport Trail System
- 60 Chuckanut Mtn-East/West
- 61 Pacific Northwest Trail
- 62 Lummi Island

Existing trails
Proposed trails
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Graphic 8 - Question 104



Horse trails

Existing trails - backcountry

- 1 Chucanut Mtn - Hemlock
- 2 Chucanut Mtn - Huckleberry
- 3 Chucanut Mtn - Salal
- 4 Chucanut Mtn - Mardrona
- 5 Chucanut Mtn - Pine & Cedar
- 6 Chucanut Mtn - Lost Lake
- 7 Lookout Mtn Trail
- 8 Silver Lake/Black Mountain
- 9 Larrabee State Park-Clearor
- 10 Larrabee State Park-Lost Lake
- 11 Larrabee State Park-Summit

Proposed trails - backcountry

- 12 H Street-Haverstock Road
- 13 Birch Bay-Lynden-Berthusen
- 14 Smith Road Trail
- 15 South Pass Road
- 16 Sumas Mtn Trails
- 17 Black-Bald Mountain Trail
- 18 Nooksack River-South Side
- 19 Slide Mountain Trails
- 20 Nooksack River-Middle
- 21 Skookum Creek Trail
- 22 Stewart Mountain

Existing trails - urban

- 23 DNR Anderson Mountain Trails
- 24 DNR Stewart Mountain Trails
- 25 Interurban Trail - Bellingham
- 26 Interurban Trail - Whatcom

Existing trails - in parks

- 27 Airport Trail System
- 28 King-Queen Mtn Trail
- 29 Lookout-Galbraith Mtn
- 30 Samish Hill Trail
- 31 Sunset Farm Park

Proposed horse camps

- 31 Sunset Farm Park
- 33 Sumas Mountain
- 34 County Fairgrounds
- 35 4-H arena
- 36 Sumas Rodeo
- 37 South Fork Park
- 38 Black Mountain

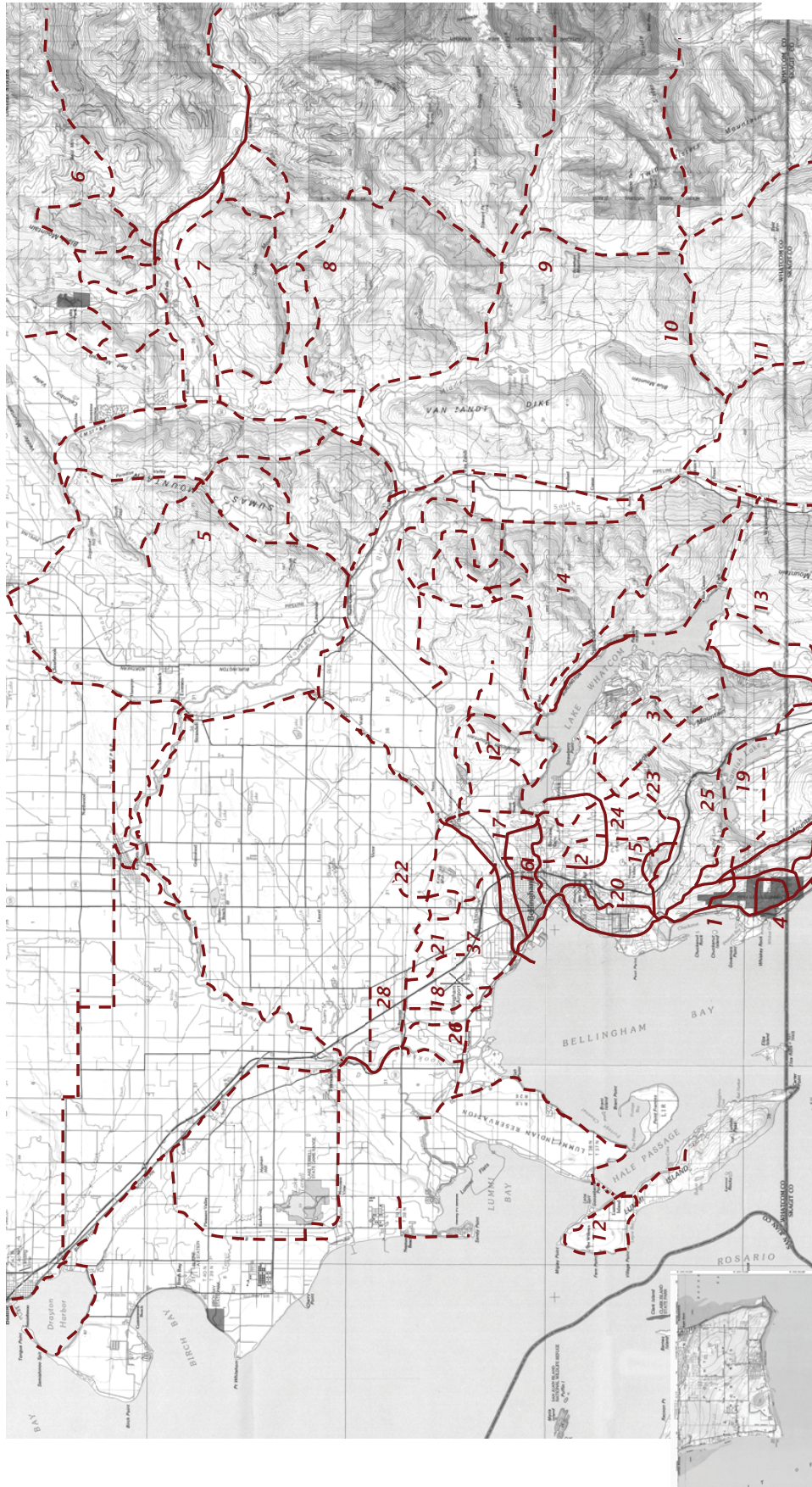
Proposed trails - in parks

- 32 Lake Padden Trails

— Existing trails
- - Proposed trails

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Graphic 9 – Question 105



Off-road mountain bike trails

Existing trails

- 1 Chuckanut Mountain trails
- 2 Lookout Mountain
- 3 DNR Lookout-Gallbraith
- 4 Larrabee State Park

Proposed trails

- 5 Sumas Mountain Trails
- 6 Black-Bald Mountain
- 7 Nooksack River – North
- 8 Slide Mountain Trails
- 9 Nooksack River – Middle
- 10 Skookum Creek Trail
- 11 Stewart Mountain
- 12 Lummi Island

- 13 DNR Anderson Mtn Trails
- 14 DNR Stewart Mtn Trails

Existing trails - urban

- 15 Lake Padden
- 16 Whatcom Falls Park Trail
- 17 Upper Whatcom Creek Trail

Proposed trails - urban

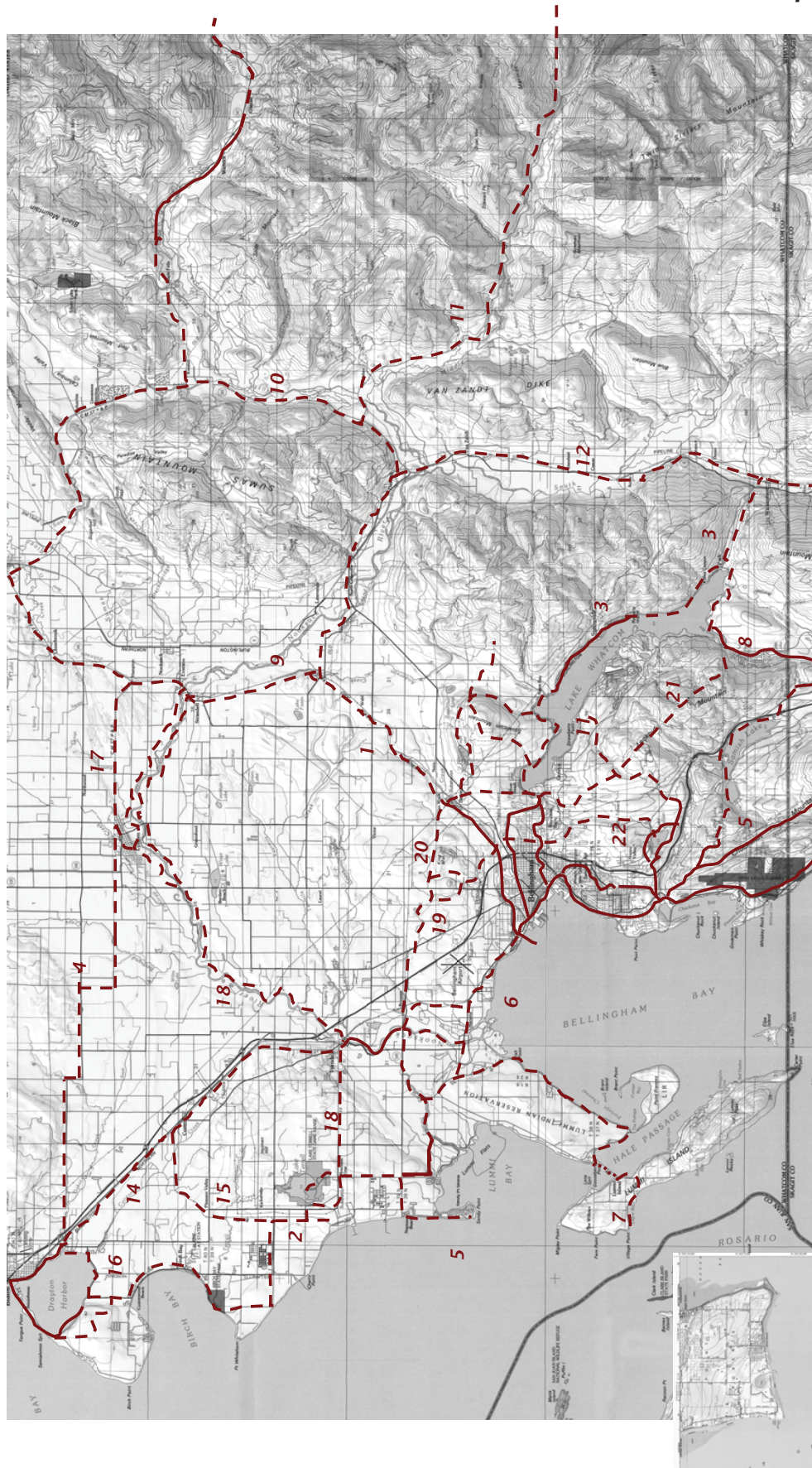
- 18 Airport Trail System
- 19 Chuckanut Mtn – East/West
- 20 Connelly Creek-Selome
- 21 Cordata Trail
- 22 King-Queen Mtn Trail
- 23 Lookout-Gallbraith Mtn

- 24 Padden Trail
- 25 Samish Hill Trail
- 26 Silver Creek Headwaters
- 27 Squilicum Mtn Trail
- 28 Smith Road Trail

— Existing trails
- - - Proposed trails

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Graphic 10 - Question 106



Multipurpose hike/bike/horse trails

Existing trails
Proposed trails

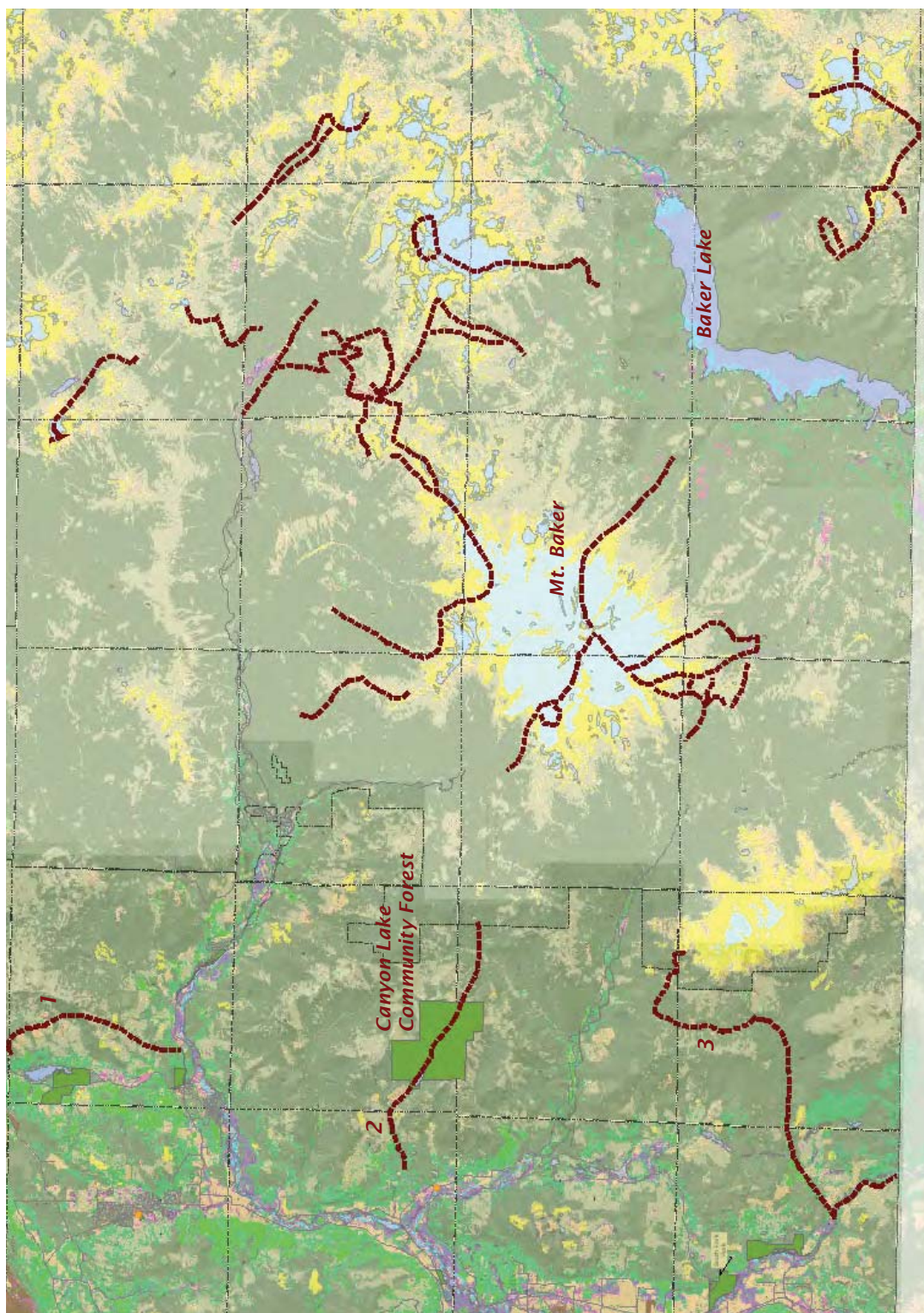
- 1 Bay to Baker - linkage
- 2 Coast Millennium - linkage
- 3 Lake Whatcom - Blue Canyon
- 4 Blaine/Lynden Trail
- 5 Sandy Point
- 6 Bellingham Bay
- 7 Lummi Island
- 8 Nooksack - Delta-Everson
- 9 Nooksack - Goshen-Deming
- 10 Nooksack - North Fork

- 11 Nooksack - Middle Fork
- 12 Nooksack - South Fork
- 13 Lake Whatcom/Chuckanut
- 14 BNSF Rail Trail - Blaine
- 15 BNSF Rail Trail - Cherry Pt
- 16 Coast Millennium Trail
- 17 BNSF Spur Trail
- 18 Mtn View Trail/Nooksack Loop
- 19 Silver Creek-Cordata-Spring
- 20 Toad Creek Trail

- 21 Lookout Mtn Trail
- 22 Samish Hill-Lake Padden

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Graphic 11 - Question 107



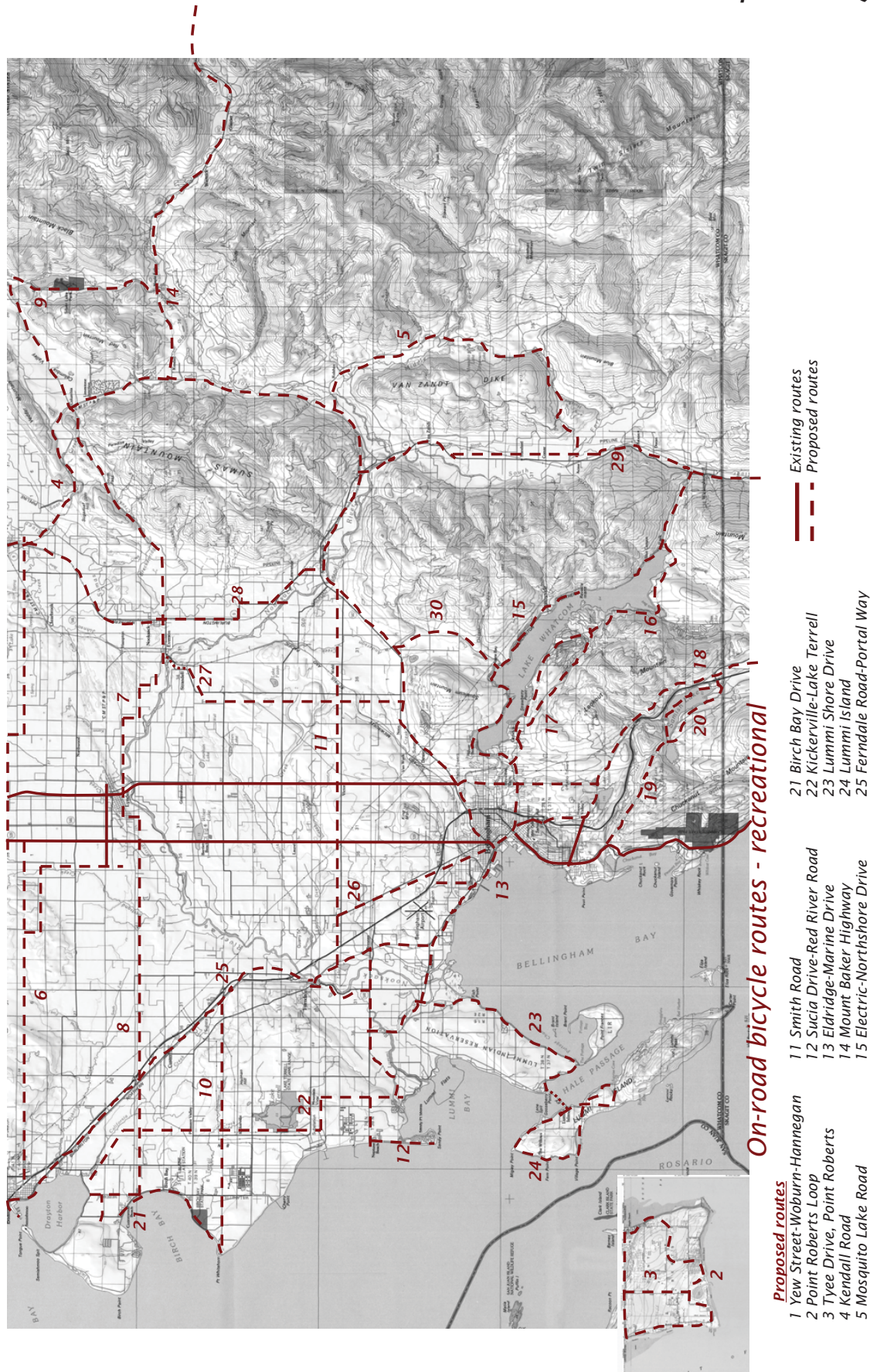
Winter trails - cross-country skiing and snowmobile

Proposed trails - xcountry ski

- 1 Black Mountain
- 2 Skookum Creek
- 3 Canyon Lake Mountain

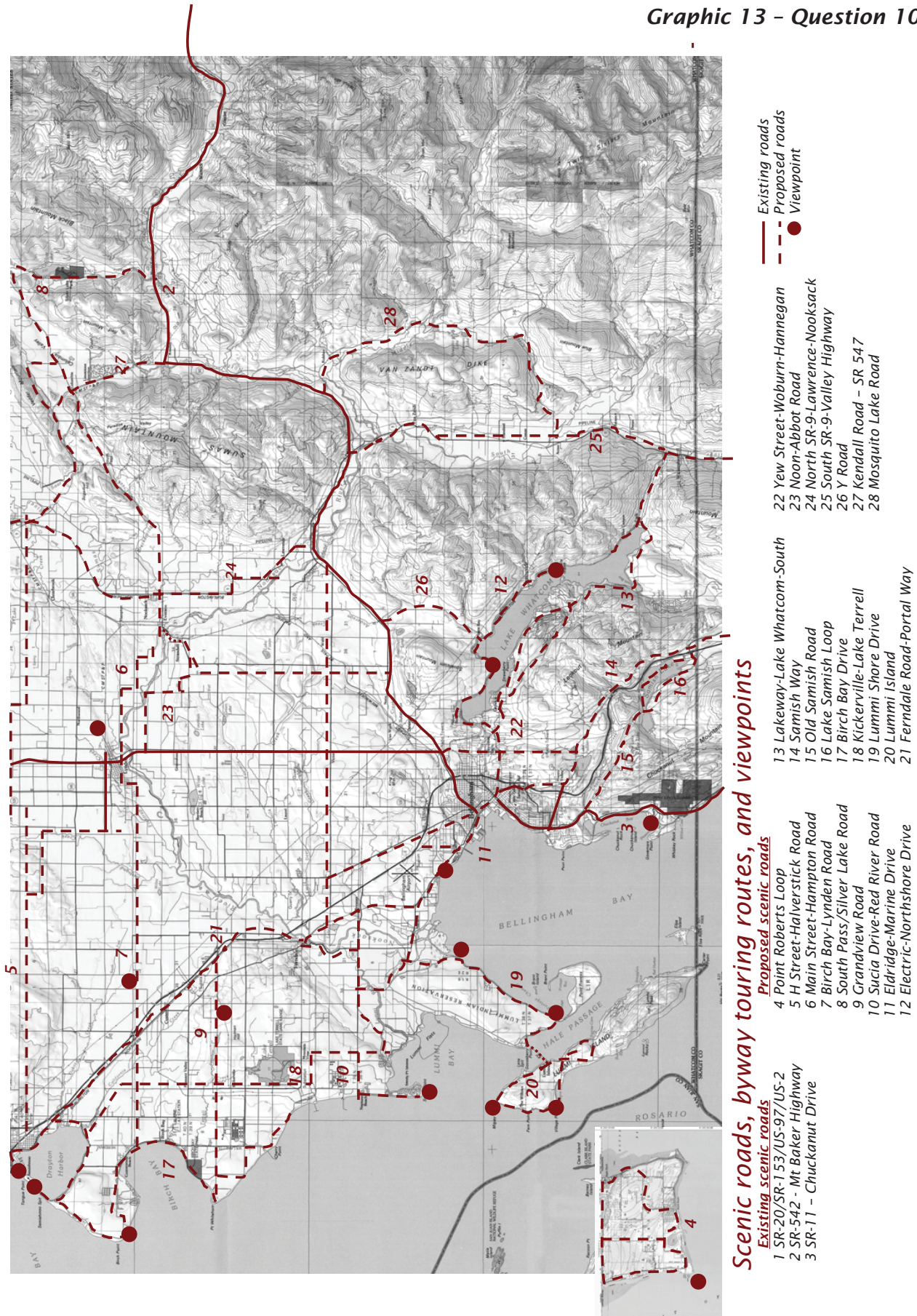
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Graphic 12 - Question 108



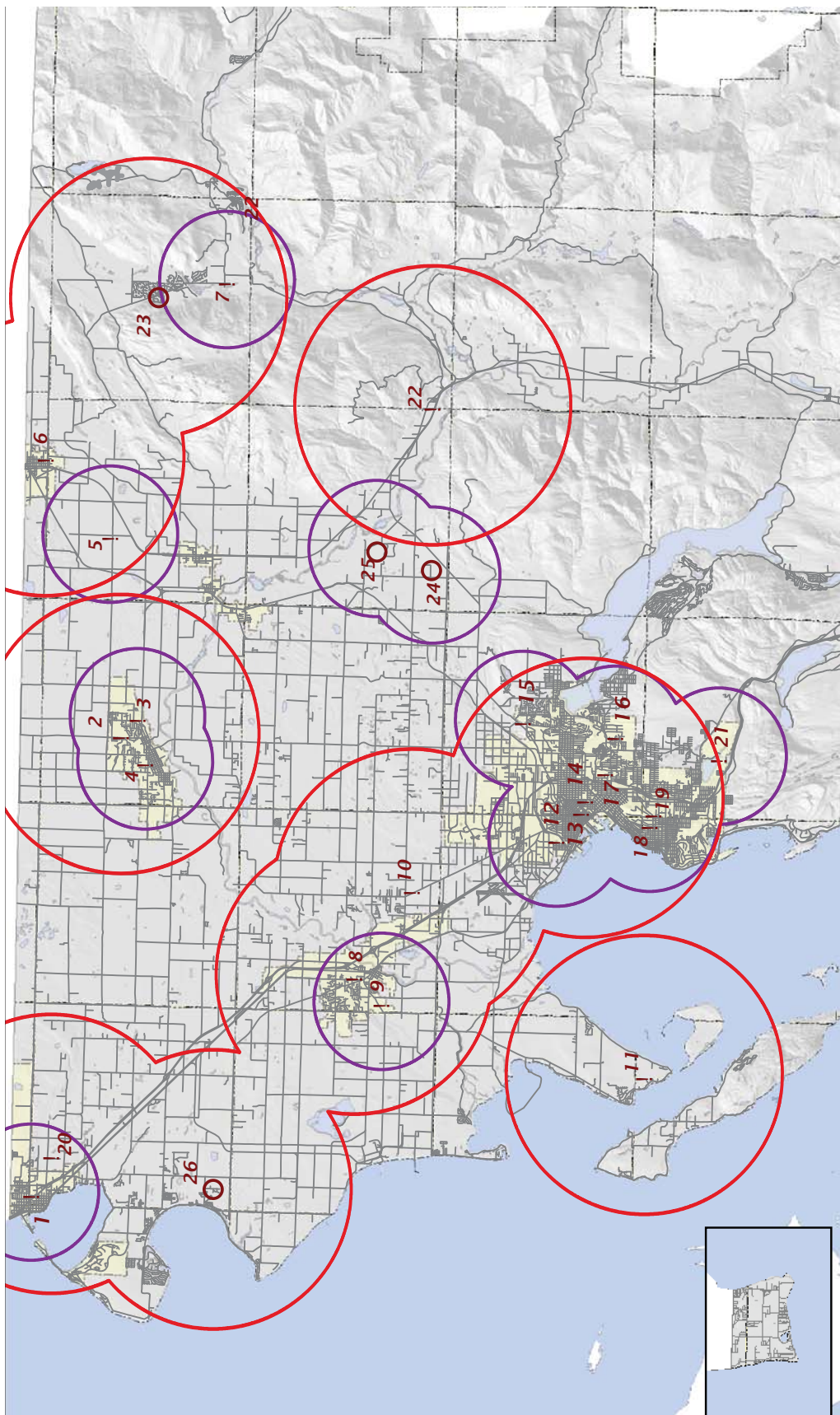
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Graphic 13 - Question 109



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Graphic 14 - Question 111



Athletic parks - regional soccer or baseball fields

Existing fields

- 1 Blaine MS/HS
- 2 Bender Ballfields
- 3 Lynden HS
- 4 Lynden MS
- 5 Nooksack Valley HS
- 6 Easterbrook Road Park
- 7 Kendall Elementary School
- 8 Ferndale High School
- 9 Pioneer Park
- 10 Northwest Soccer Park

Proposed softball fields

- 11 Lummi High School
- 12 Shuksan MS
- 13 Battersby Field
- 14 Bellingham HS
- 15 Squalicum HS
- 16 Kulshan MS
- 17 Civic Field Park
- 18 Western Washington Univ.
- 19 Sehome HS
- 20 Pipeline Athletic Complex

Proposed soccer fields

- 21 Lake Padden Park
- 22 Mt Baker HS
- 23 East Whatcom Regional Rsrc Ctr
- 24 Mt Baker Highway-Nooksack
- 25 Deming Logging Showground
- 26 Bay Horizon Park

Proposed baseball fields

- 23 East Whatcom Regional Rsrc Ctr
- 24 Mt Baker Highway-Nooksack
- 25 Deming Logging Showground
- 26 Pacific Concrete Site
- 27 Northridge Park
- 28 Bay Horizon Park

- 24 Mt Baker Highway-Nooksack
- 26 Bay Horizon Park



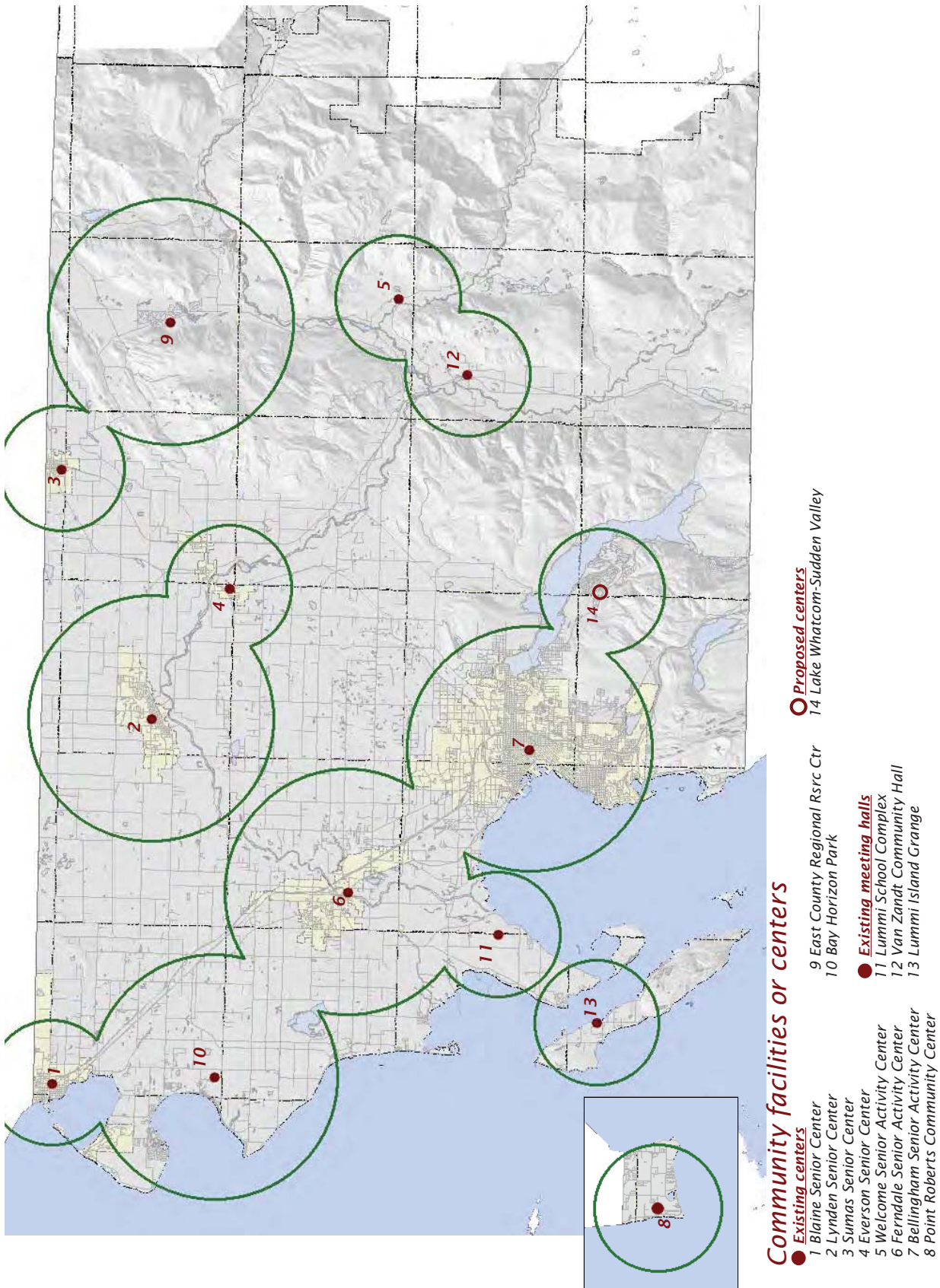
Community field service area



Regional field service area

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Graphic 15 - Question 112



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Whatcom County, Washington 2013 Park, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Survey



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Whatcom County 2013 Parks, Recreation, & Open Space (PROS) Plan Survey

Parks and recreation program priorities and financing options

Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department recruited a random sample of registered voter households in August 2013 on a countywide basis to participate in a controlled sample survey concerning park, recreation, and open space needs and priorities.

800 households agreed to participate and were emailed an invitation to take the survey on-line or mailed a copy of a survey and background graphics. Survey results were compiled for all households that completed the survey on-line and by the mail back option.

Surveys were completed on-line by 122 respondents and by the mail-back option by another 65 respondents or a total of 187 surveys that are accurate to within +/-8% of the opinions of the general registered voter population.

The statistics are rounded and may not add to 100% and do not list undecided, do not know, or refused a response (which generally ranged from 0-7% depending on the question). The question numbers for the mail-back option are listed in the left column and began with number 1.

Following are the summary results of the survey ranked in priority on a scale of 1 to 5 where 4-5 is the best condition or highest priority and 1-2 is the poorest condition or least priority. For analysis purposes, a 3 rating is considered to be an average condition or priority where the survey respondents could go in either direction (50:50 split) should a specific policy, plan, or program be proposed at this time. The undecided, did not know, or refused were not included in this summary analysis.

Survey participant characteristics

133	Which area of the county do you live in?	0% Point Roberts area				
		1% Lummi Island area				
		2% Blaine area				
		4% Birch Bay area				
		7% Lynden area				
		3% Sumas/Nooksack area				
		5% Foothills area				
		1% South Fork Valley area				
		10% Ferndale area				
		59% Bellingham area				
		9% Other county area				
134	How long have you lived in the county?	0-1	2-5	6-10	10+ years	
		0%	5%	9%	86%	
135	What type of housing do you live in?	own	rent			
		94%	6%			
136	What age group are you in?	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
		0%	5%	11%	44%	39%

Place of residence - the distribution of survey participants closely approximates the distribution of households across the county with larger percentages residing in Bellingham and Ferndale compared with the smaller cities and rural areas.

Length of residence - heavily favors long time residents, which is likely to be typical of frequent voters.

Tenure - survey occupants were predominantly owners, which is also likely to be typical of frequent voters.

Age groups - were heavily represented in the middle to senior age spans (50+) compared to young to middle age adults (18-49) which is partly a reflection of longer length of residence and the voting populations of the county.

1	Have any household members used recreational programs, parks, or trails provided by Whatcom County in the last year?	90% yes 10% no
---	--	---------------------------------

Park users - survey respondents were predominately park facility and recreation program users which is likely to be higher than is typical of the general population.

Existing program conditions

Survey respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the following activities and facilities available in Whatcom County that are provided by the county, cities, park districts, and port on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the very lowest satisfaction and 5 is the very highest satisfaction level. Following is a rank order list reflecting the highest percent given a 4-5 or high satisfaction score.

		satisfaction level lowest / highest		
Conserve/preserve natural resources		1-2	3	4-5
Very high to high satisfaction				
19	Hiking and walking trails?	5%	17%	78%
16	Picnic areas?	4%	28%	67%
2	Preservation of undeveloped natural areas and forests?	10%	24%	66%
22	Multiuse trails (bicycle, walking)?	8%	28%	65%
24	Playgrounds?	7%	28%	65%
25	Athletic and play fields?	7%	31%	62%
5	Open space and scenic area preservation?	9%	28%	62%
11	Freshwater access to lakes, rivers and streams?	14%	26%	59%
44	Running and walking events?	13%	30%	58%
9	Historical homes, museums, and farms?	11%	33%	56%
3	Preservation of wetlands?	12%	32%	56%
39	Music and art exhibits, concerts and events?	12%	33%	54%
26	Athletic events and tournaments?	14%	31%	54%
7	Gardens and landscape exhibits, walks, programs, and events?	12%	35%	53%
6	Nature, wildlife, and environmental exhibits, centers, walks, programs and	13%	34%	53%

20	events?			
20	Mountain bike trails?	13%	36%	51%
31	Parking areas?	9%	41%	50%
High to moderate satisfaction				
33	Handicapped accessibility accommodations?	8%	42%	49%
17	Campsites and camping opportunities?	12%	38%	49%
8	Historical, cultural and heritage exhibits, walks, programs and events?	12%	38%	49%
45	Bicycle and mountain bike rides and events?	16%	35%	49%
32	Bicycle accommodations?	17%	35%	49%
13	Boat launching facilities?	17%	34%	49%
29	Directional and way finding signs?	10%	43%	47%
14	Saltwater beach access and beach combing?	20%	34%	46%
30	Restrooms?	13%	43%	45%
4	Preservation of agricultural land?	22%	35%	44%
18	Pet exercise and off leash areas?	20%	37%	43%
21	Horseback trails?	21%	39%	40%
41	Volunteer opportunities in the parks?	12%	48%	39%
47	Winter activities snowshoeing, X-country skiing, snowmobiling?	22%	39%	39%
43	Outdoor swimming opportunities?	21%	40%	38%
37	Rental of picnic lodges and shelters?	14%	50%	36%
10	Farm and agricultural exhibits, programs, and events?	17%	46%	36%
12	Shore fishing opportunities?	19%	46%	35%
27	Firearms use and safety classes?	25%	40%	35%
48	Senior activities?	23%	43%	34%
Moderate to low satisfaction				
15	Shell fishing opportunities?	20%	47%	33%
38	Rental of historic homes, activity centers and similar facilities for weddings, retreats, meeting and events?	23%	43%	33%
46	Ultimate Frisbee and disc golf opportunities?	26%	43%	32%
28	Shooting opportunities?	29%	39%	32%
40	Outdoor skill and safety instructions (backcountry camping, first aid, bicycling, and horseback riding)?	24%	45%	30%

Low satisfaction

23	Off road motorized opportunities?	36%	36%	27%
35	Rental of canoes, paddle boats, and kayaks?	32%	44%	24%
34	Food and vending concessions?	36%	42%	22%
42	Geo-caching/orienteering?	26%	53%	21%
36	Rental of cabins and overnight lodges?	31%	52%	18%

Very high satisfaction (above 50% scoring 4-5) - survey respondents were most satisfied with hiking and walking trails (78% scored 4-5), picnic areas (67%), preservation of undeveloped natural resources (66%), multiuse trails (65%), playgrounds (65%), athletic and play fields (62%), open space and scenic area preservation (62%)...

Very low satisfaction (under 30% scoring 4-5) - conversely, survey respondents were of mixed opinions with equal or slightly higher percentages giving 1-2 score for rental of cabins and overnight lodges (18% score 4-5), geo-caching and orienteering (21%), food and vending concessions (22%)... However, significant percentages of some of these features received average or score 3 assessments indicating substantial portions of the population were ok with though not highly satisfied or dissatisfied with existing conditions on a countywide basis regardless of facility sponsor.

Survey respondents were asked to rate the following methods of paying for recreation programs **if it requires more money than can be budgeted from Whatcom County resources to provide future recreation programs.**

		lowest / highest		
County recreation program options		1-2	3	4-5
51	Increase user fees for non-residents - to finance program services?	18%	20%	61%
52	Increase user fees for everyone - to finance program services?	36%	29%	36%
50	Reduce the content, variety, and duration - of programs to control costs?	37%	29%	35%
49	Reduce the number - of programs to control costs?	35%	31%	34%

53	Increase county taxes - to finance needed program services?	58%	18%	23%
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A significant majority gave increasing user fees for non-residents the highest preference (61% score 4-5) for financing future recreation programs if additional monies are required above what can be budgeted from Whatcom County resources.

Respondents were equally divided in support and opposition to using increased user fees for everyone (36%), reducing the content, variety, and duration (35%), and reducing the number of programs (34%) to maintain costs within Whatcom County resources.

A majority of respondents (58% score 1-2), however, were opposed to increasing county taxes as a means of financing any recreational program shortfalls.

Facility priorities in general

Respondents were asked to **rate the existing inventory of all** park, recreation, and open space facilities provided in Whatcom County by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, and other park providers in general on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the poor and 5 excellent.

		poor / excellent		
		1-2	3	4-5
54	Quantity - the number, size and location of existing park and trail sites to serve the existing population?	4%	19%	77%
55	Quality - of maintenance conditions and furnishings including parking, restrooms, trails, campsites, shelters, cabins, and other facilities in existing parks?	4%	26%	70%

A significant majority of all respondents gave excellent ratings (4-5) to the quantity (77%) and quality (70%) of all park, recreation, and open space facilities provided by all providers in the county.

Respondents were asked to rate the need for the following additional facilities within the county in general whether provided by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, or another park provider where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest priority.

		lowest / highest		
	Very high to high priority	1-2	3	4-5
63	Waterfront access and beach use sites?	16%	21%	64%
85	Restrooms?	12%	30%	58%
58	Forestland conservation areas?	17%	28%	55%
57	Wildlife habitat, conservation, and natural areas?	19%	25%	55%
56	Water resources and watershed protection areas?	22%	23%	55%
60	Open space and scenic area preservation?	18%	28%	53%
59	Farmland conservation areas?	18%	30%	52%
	High to moderate priority			
66	Picnic tables, play areas, and shelters	14%	38%	49%
70	Cross-country walking and hiking trails?	20%	31%	49%
86	Access and parking areas?	14%	38%	47%
83	Youth and teen activity centers?	17%	39%	43%
75	On-road bicycle routes?	29%	31%	39%
84	Senior activity centers?	18%	43%	38%
67	Tent, yurt, RV campsites, group camps, and cabins?	24%	38%	38%
61	Historical and cultural buildings and sites?	25%	38%	38%
79	Soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball athletic fields?	25%	40%	35%
74	Multipurpose (hike/bike/horse) trails?	28%	36%	35%
62	Shore fishing areas and docks?	28%	38%	34%
	Moderate to low priority			
69	Handicap accessible trails and facilities within parks?	21%	48%	31%
64	Cartop boat (kayak/canoe) launch sites?	28%	41%	31%
87	Interpretive and wayfinding signage?	26%	43%	30%
	Low priority			

76	Dog parks, exercise areas, and trails?	35%	37%	28%
78	Remote backcountry campsites?	48%	30%	24%
81	Community classrooms and meeting facilities?	35%	42%	23%
73	Snowshoe, skiing, and snowmobile trails?	39%	39%	22%
72	Cross-country mountain bike trails?	43%	35%	22%
82	Daycare facilities?	49%	31%	19%
65	Powerboat launching and moorage facilities?	44%	37%	18%
71	Cross-country horse trails?	49%	37%	13%
68	Concessions for food and beverage, bait sales, etc	53%	34%	13%
80	Golf course and driving ranges?	58%	31%	11%
77	Off-road ATV, motorcycle, and ORV parks?	69%	22%	9%

Very high priorities (above 50% scoring 4-5) – included waterfront access and beach use sites (64% scoring 4-5), restrooms (58%), forestland conservation areas (55%), wildlife habitat, conservation, and natural areas (55%), water resources and watershed protection areas (55%)...

Very low priorities (under 30% scoring 4-5) – included off-road ATV, motorcycle, and ORV parks (9%), golf course and driving ranges (11%)...

Development plan proposal priorities

Under the proposed park plan, the county, cities, school districts, port, and other park providers may **jointly conserve and develop** wildlife and open space preservations, waterfront parks, picnic and camping facilities, trails, athletic fields, meeting facilities, and other activities within the county. Respondents were asked to rate the following proposals shown in attached preliminary concept graphics.

		lowest / highest							
		1-2	3	4-5					
Very high to high priority									
88	Conservancies watershed – protect the proposed water resource and watershed areas of the county?	14%	21%	65%	93	Conservancies historical – protect the proposed farms, sawmills, railroads, mines, and other heritage sites from demolition and development?	23%	31%	47%
92	Conservancies scenic – protect the proposed scenic areas, viewpoints, and vistas of the county along fresh and saltwater shorelines, farmlands, and wooded hilltop and ridgelines (see graphic 13)?	15%	22%	63%	95	Freshwater access – acquire/develop the proposed additional freshwater access sites for fishing, swimming, and boating?	21%	34%	46%
91	Conservancies farmland – protect the proposed historical and productive farmlands of the county from subdivision and development?	16%	23%	60%	108	On-road bicycle routes – develop the proposed cross-country system of on-road routes using road shoulders and designated bike lanes?	27%	29%	43%
90	Conservancies forestland – protect the proposed mature and old growth forested areas of the county from logging in and around urbanizing areas and in backcountry sites?	18%	21%	60%	99	Picnic shelters and group activity sites – develop the proposed additional picnic shelters and group picnic facilities at major regional park sites?	19%	41%	40%
94	Saltwater access – acquire/develop the proposed additional saltwater access sites for fishing, beachcombing, and walking?	14%	26%	59%	98	Non-motorized cartop (kayak/canoe) launch sites – develop the proposed additional access and launch sites at salt and freshwater sites?	28%	34%	37%
89	Conservancies wildlife – protect the proposed wildlife habitat areas of the county in and around fresh and saltwater areas, wetlands, and woodland areas?	15%	26%	59%	109	Scenic roads – designate the proposed system of cross-country back-road scenic routes with viewpoints, interpretive signage, and other exhibits?	31%	32%	36%
102	Shoreline trails – develop the proposed cross-country network of saltwater beach and shoreline walking areas and trails?	15%	27%	58%	Low priority				
103	Hiking trails – develop the proposed cross-country network of on and off-road day and backpacking cross-country hiking trails?	16%	31%	53%	100	Campsites and cabins – develop the proposed additional tent and RV campsites, yurts and cabins, and group camp sites at major regional park sites?	27%	38%	34%
High to moderate priority					111	Athletic fields – acquire and lease the proposed network of sites to athletic league organizations for the development of a regional system of public playing fields for youth and adults?	29%	37%	34%
					106	Multipurpose trails – develop the proposed off-road cross-country network of hike, bike, and horse trails?	31%	36%	34%
					Low priority				

101	Water trails - develop the proposed cartop boat put-in, take-out, and overnight campsites along navigable salt and freshwater paddling routes?	31%	41%	28%
112	Meeting facilities - develop and lease the proposed network of community facilities throughout the county to non-profit organizations for the operation of teen, senior, and other public activities and events?	33%	41%	26%
113	Enterprise facilities - where user fees and/or self help efforts will support, acquire and lease or develop the proposed gun ranges, equestrian facilities, conference facilities and retreats, at select regional properties throughout the county (no graphic provided)?	38%	37%	25%
107	Winter trails - develop the proposed cross-country network of snowshoe, skiing, and snowmobile trails?	44%	33%	23%
105	Off-road mountain bike trails - develop the proposed cross-country network of riding trails?	45%	33%	22%
96	Motorized boat launches - saltwater - develop the proposed additional boat launching facilities at saltwater sites?	45%	36%	19%
97	Motorized boat launches - freshwater - develop the proposed additional boat launching facilities at freshwater sites?	54%	34%	12%
110	ATV/motorcycle riding areas - support the continued private party operation of ATV/motorcycle riding areas (no graphic provided)?	66%	22%	11%
104	Horse trails - develop the proposed cross-country network of horse stables, riding areas, and trails?	50%	41%	10%

Very high priorities (above 50% scoring 4-5) - included conservancies watershed (65%), conservancies scenic (63%), conservancies farmland (60%), conservancies forestland (60%)...

Very low priorities (under 30% scoring 4-5) - included horse trails (10%), ATV/motorcycle riding areas (11%)...

Generally, respondents gave the highest priority to conservancies and shoreline and hiking trails and the lowest priorities to specialty recreational and park interests like horse trails, ATV/motorcycles, and motorized boat launches.

The priorities generally reflect recreation participation rates where the greatest percent of the population engages in conservancy activities including shoreline and hiking trails and the smallest percents engage in specialty activities like equestrian, ATV, motorcycle, motorized boats, etc.

Therefore, countywide park facility financing proposals will be most successful where the measures implement high priority and high participation activities as opposed to specialty interests. This does not mean specialty or low participation rate activities are not provided, but rather they will need to be financed by other than countywide resources such as user fees, self help, and other means.

Joint venture opportunity and partner options

Whatcom County, like all jurisdictions in Washington State, must restructure fiscal policies to reflect recently adopted restraints on the use of property, license, and other taxes for the financing of general governmental services.

The survey outlined a number of alternative methods for delivering park, recreation, and open space facilities and programs in the county for respondent evaluation. For example, County Council could adopt some, most, or all of the following ways and methods for restructuring the way the county delivers and finances park and recreation facilities and services depending on the results of this survey, and in some cases subsequent voter approvals.

Besides Whatcom County – cities, school districts, athletic organizations, private operators, and a variety of other public and private agencies own and operate park facilities and recreational programs within the county. Respondents were asked to rate joint venture projects with the following organizations.

		lowest / highest		
		1-2	3	4-5
Park facility development				
115	With nonprofit organizations – for the <u>conservation</u> of sensitive environmental areas or the <u>preservation</u> of historical areas or the <u>development</u> of athletic fields for public use?	14%	35%	51%
114	With other public agencies – like cities, school districts, and the port for the <u>development</u> of parks, trails, and athletic fields?	13%	39%	48%
116	With for-profit organizations – for the <u>development</u> of specialized facilities like campgrounds, marinas, and conference centers for public use for a fee?	33%	38%	29%
Recreation program operation				
117	With other public agencies – like cities, school districts, and park districts for the <u>operation</u> of recreational programs at regional park sites for public use?	15%	27%	58%
118	With nonprofit organizations – for the <u>management</u> of sensitive environmental areas or the <u>operation</u> of childcare, teen, senior, or other community programs?	15%	31%	55%
119	With for-profit organizations – for the <u>operation</u> of specialized facilities like campgrounds, marinas, and conference centers for public use paid with a user fee?	34%	36%	30%

Survey respondents were comfortable joint venturing park facility development with nonprofit organizations (51% scoring 4-5) and other public agencies (48%) but ambivalent about for-profit organizations (29%).

Likewise, survey respondents were comfortable joint venturing recreation program operations with other public agencies (58% scoring 4-5) and nonprofit organizations (55%) but ambivalent about for-profit organizations (30%).

Organizational and financing alternatives

County Council could institute alternative methods of organizationally managing and financing **regional versus local** parks, recreation, and open space improvements within the county.

Local park facilities using recreational service areas – County Council could institute a limited short-term (3-5 year) property tax levy as a means of financing the acquisition, development, and/or operation of **local** parks, recreation, and open space facilities and/or programs within specified areas of the county. Recreation service areas can be established for a single facility for a single benefit area, such as scenic preservation for county waterfront areas - or for multiple facilities for a specified portion of the county, such as athletic fields and indoor gymnasiums for a city or an urban growth area (UGA).

Once proposed, the county residents within each **local** recreation service area vote to determine whether to assess a limited short-term property tax increment to finance acquisition, development, and/or operation of the proposed facilities and programs within the proposed **local service area**. Respondents were asked to rate the following alternatives.

		lowest / highest		
		1-2	3	4-5
Recreation service areas				
120	Specific facilities – organizing recreation service areas to finance specific facilities and programs, such as the preservation of scenic areas?	37%	38%	25%
121	Specific areas – organizing recreation service areas to provide a mixture of facilities and programs within a specific	34%	42%	23%

	local area, such as a city or school district or urban growth area?	
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Survey respondents were ambivalent to opposed to using recreation service areas for specific facilities (25% scoring 4-5) or specific areas (23%).

Survey respondents were asked to indicate the amount per year they would be willing to pay to fund local facilities and programs.

		Amount/year
122	If a levy were to be put on the ballot to finance local park facilities and programs within your local area (which could include a city area), how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?	\$0 - \$1,200 median @\$100

The results varied from \$0 to \$1,200 per household per year where 104 or 56% of the respondents provided an answer. The median amount or middle number of the range would be about \$100 - though an accurate response would depend on surveying a specific proposal for a specific facility or program for a specific area.

Real estate excise and fuel tax, and license fee options

Survey respondents were advised that subject to voter approval, County Council could institute a variety of optional fees and taxes to be used **instead of or in addition to** the regional/local organizational financing approaches defined in the above (as a way of reducing the use of property taxes for park financing). Survey respondents were asked to rate each of the following optional approaches.

		lowest / highest
	Optional dedicated fees and taxes	1-2 3 4-5
126	Local Option Sales Tax - an additional 0.1% sales tax (equal to \$0.10 for a \$100 purchase) to be paid by residents and	49% 21% 30%

	tourists to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of park and open space?			
123	Real Estate Excise Tax (REET-3) - an additional 0.25% assessment of the sales price of all real estate property (equal to \$250 per \$100,000 of sale price) paid by the purchaser to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of park and open space?	54%	17%	29%
124	Local Option Vehicle License Fee - an additional \$15.00 per vehicle license registered in the county to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of trail improvements?	59%	17%	24%
125	Local Option Fuel Tax - an additional \$0.023 per gallon sales tax to be paid by residents and tourists to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of trail improvements?	62%	16%	23%

In principal and without specific facility or program proposals, survey respondents were opposed to all of the options giving all of them less than 30% score 4-5 and at least 49% score 1-2.

General obligation bond options

Survey respondents were advised that subject to voter approval, County Council could also propose a variety of optional bonds as a means of financing parks, recreation, and open space improvements for specific projects. This option could be used **instead of or in addition to** the options defined in the above. Survey respondents were asked to rate the following.

General obligation bond - County Council could submit a general obligation bond for voter approval to finance **acquisition and development** of specific parks, recreation, and open space improvements. The bond, **which cannot be used to finance**

operation and maintenance, would be financed over a 20-year period.

		Amount/year
127	If a bond were to be put on the ballot to finance the highest priority projects, how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?	\$0 - \$1,200 median @ \$100

Like the previous question on local park facility and program levies, the results varied from \$0 to \$1,200 per household per year where 102 or 55% of the respondents provided an answer. The median amount or middle number of the range would be about \$100 – though an accurate response would depend on surveying a specific proposal for a specific facility or program on a countywide basis.

Population growth impact management options

Survey respondents were advised that in the next 20 years the county population is projected to increase by another 61,840 people or 23% more than the existing population of 203,500 persons.

128	In your opinion, will existing park and recreation facilities (not including any of the plan's proposals) within the county, cities, and school districts systems be enough to provide for this population increase?	37% yes 63% no
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The existing inventory of county parks and recreational facilities is estimated to be worth about \$900 per person or \$2,000 for an average single family house. **This amount is the cost required for additional park facilities for new housing residents if the county is to maintain the same standards for parks, recreation, and open space facilities that are currently provided existing residents.**

Given this fact, survey respondents were asked to rate the following methods for dealing with the impact of new population growth on

parks and the methods existing residents may use to finance park improvements.

		lowest / highest		
		1-2	3	4-5
130	Growth management financing <u>Collect a one-time growth impact fee from new housing development projects</u> - to pay for park improvements?	19%	18%	63%
131	<u>Increase county taxes</u> - to acquire and develop park facilities to offset population growth impacts?	54%	22%	24%
129	<u>Lower standards</u> - for the number of park facilities provided to future populations?	59%	28%	13%

A majority of the survey respondents would impose a one-time impact fee from new housing developments (63% score 4-5) while clear majorities would oppose increasing county taxes (54% score 1-2) or lowering standards (59%).

	Growth impact fees	Percent of cost	
132	<u>If a park growth impact fee were to be collected from new housing development projects,</u> what percent of this cost would you recommend be charged for every new single family house to be developed in the county? (The county does not currently charge growth impact fees.)	100%= \$2,000 75%= \$1,500 50%= \$1,000 25%= \$ 500 10%= \$ 200 0%= \$ 0	19% 8% 21% 18% 24% 9%

When asked how much to charge, 48% of the survey respondents would charge above 50% of current value or \$1,000 per single family house and 51% would charge below \$1,000.

Comments

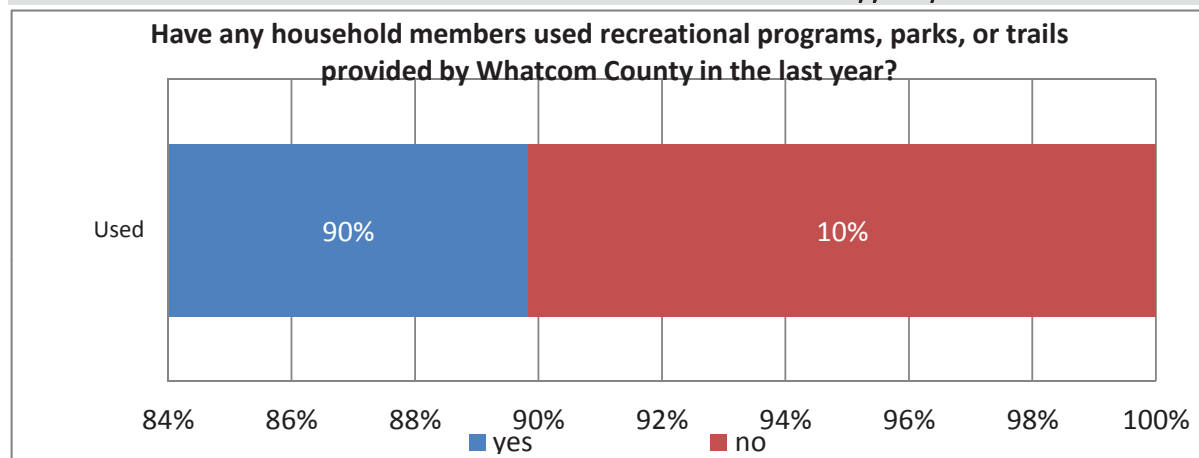
137 Do you have any specific comments or recommendations to make about the proposed park plan or this survey?

Survey respondents were given an opportunity to provide written comments or recommendations, of which 109 or 58% did. The comments varied widely and are documented in the appendix.

Whatcom County PROS Plan

Have any household members used recreational programs, parks, or trails provided by Whatcom County in the last year?

Answer Options	no	yes	Response Count
Used	10%	90%	100%
<i>answered question</i>			187
<i>skipped question</i>			9

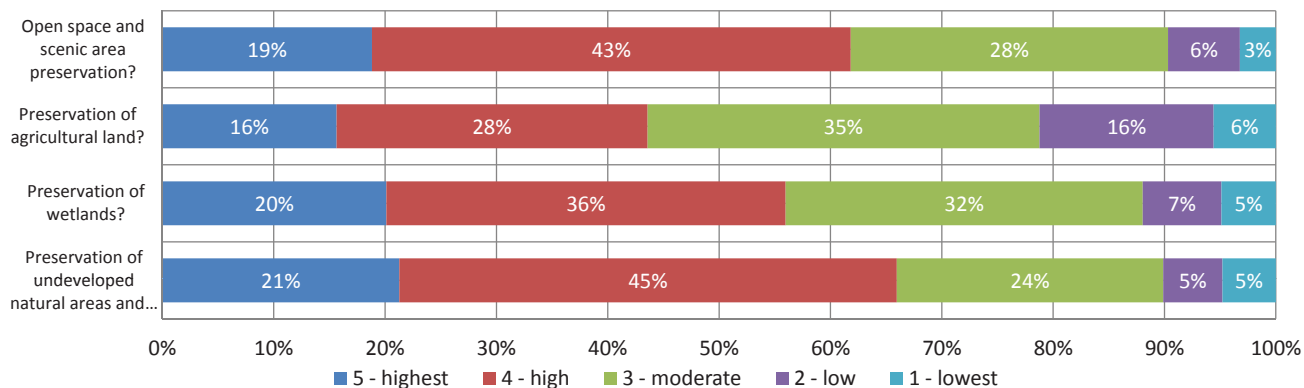


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following activities and facilities available in Whatcom County that are provided by the county, cities, park districts, and port on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the very lowest satisfaction and 5 is the very highest satisfaction level? Conservation and preservation of natural

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Preservation of undeveloped natural areas and forests?	5%	5%	24%	45%	21%	100%
Preservation of wetlands?	5%	7%	32%	36%	20%	100%
Preservation of agricultural land?	6%	16%	35%	28%	16%	100%
Open space and scenic area preservation?	3%	6%	28%	43%	19%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						188
<i>skipped question</i>						8

Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following activities and facilities

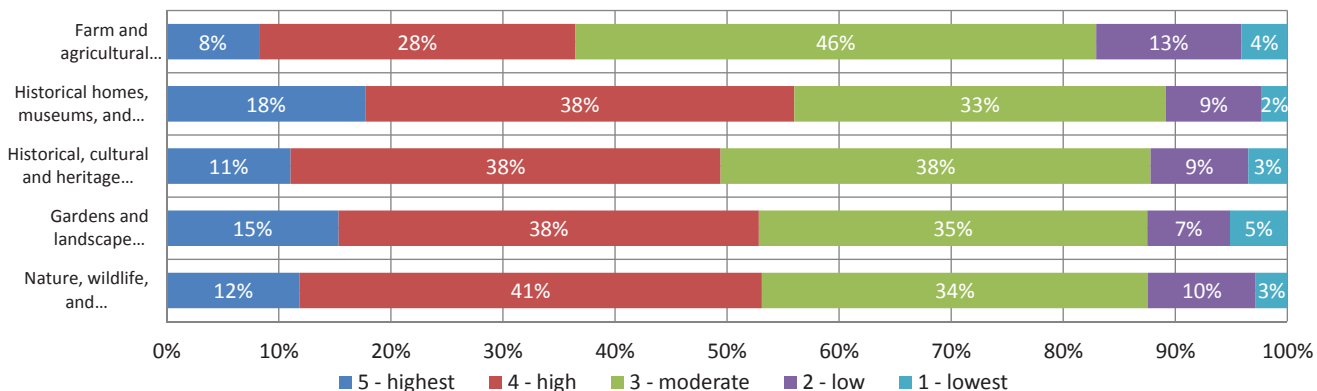


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Interpretive programs:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Nature, wildlife, and environmental exhibits, centers,	3%	10%	34%	41%	12%	100%
Gardens and landscape exhibits, walks, programs, and	5%	7%	35%	38%	15%	100%
Historical, cultural and heritage exhibits, walks, programs	3%	9%	38%	38%	11%	100%
Historical homes, museums, and farms?	2%	9%	33%	38%	18%	100%
Farm and agricultural exhibits, programs, and events?	4%	13%	46%	28%	8%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						181
<i>skipped question</i>						15

Interpretive programs:

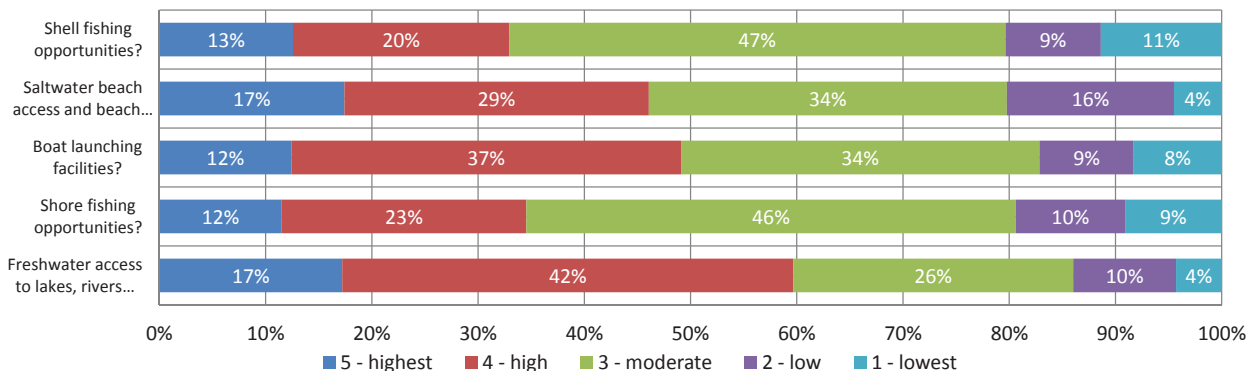


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Shoreline and waterfront:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Freshwater access to lakes, rivers and streams?	4%	10%	26%	42%	17%	100%
Shore fishing opportunities?	9%	10%	46%	23%	12%	100%
Boat launching facilities?	8%	9%	34%	37%	12%	100%
Saltwater beach access and beach combing?	4%	16%	34%	29%	17%	100%
Shell fishing opportunities?	11%	9%	47%	20%	13%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						187
<i>skipped question</i>						9

Shoreline and waterfront:

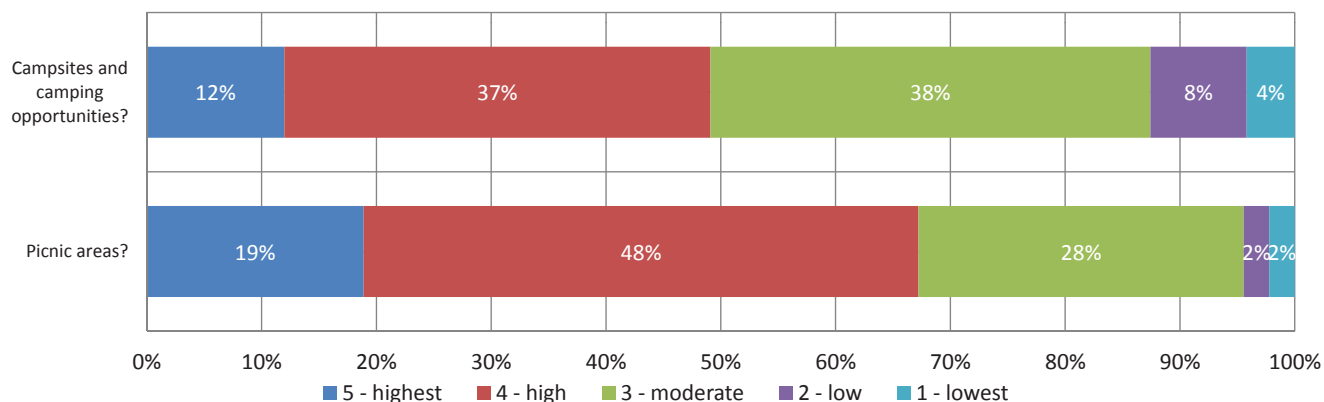


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Picnicking and camping:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Picnic areas?	2%	2%	28%	48%	19%	100%
Campsites and camping opportunities?	4%	8%	38%	37%	12%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						184
<i>skipped question</i>						12

Picnicking and camping:

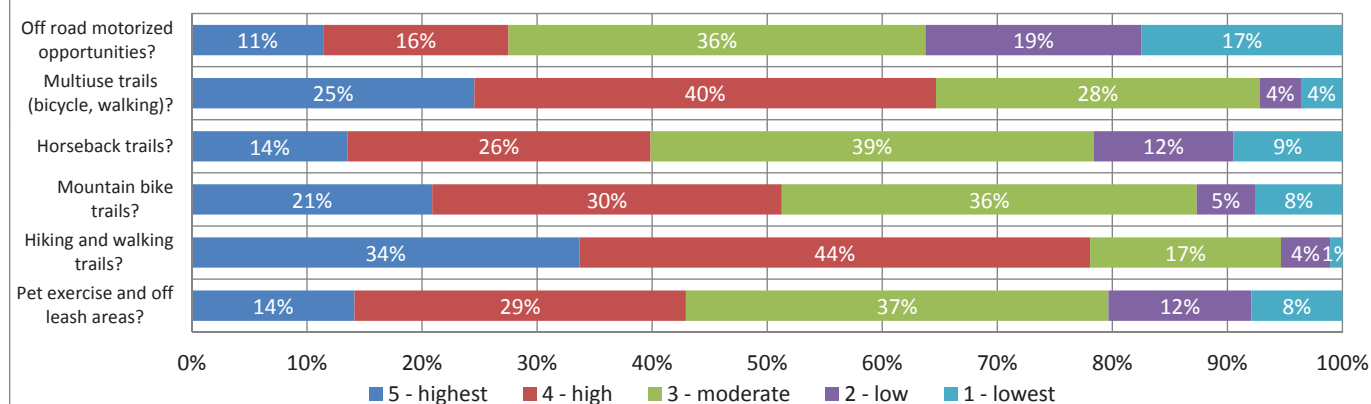


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Trails:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Pet exercise and off leash areas?	8%	12%	37%	29%	14%	100%
Hiking and walking trails?	1%	4%	17%	44%	34%	100%
Mountain bike trails?	8%	5%	36%	30%	21%	100%
Horseback trails?	9%	12%	39%	26%	14%	100%
Multiuse trails (bicycle, walking)?	4%	4%	28%	40%	25%	100%
Off road motorized opportunities?	17%	19%	36%	16%	11%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						189
<i>skipped question</i>						7

Trails:

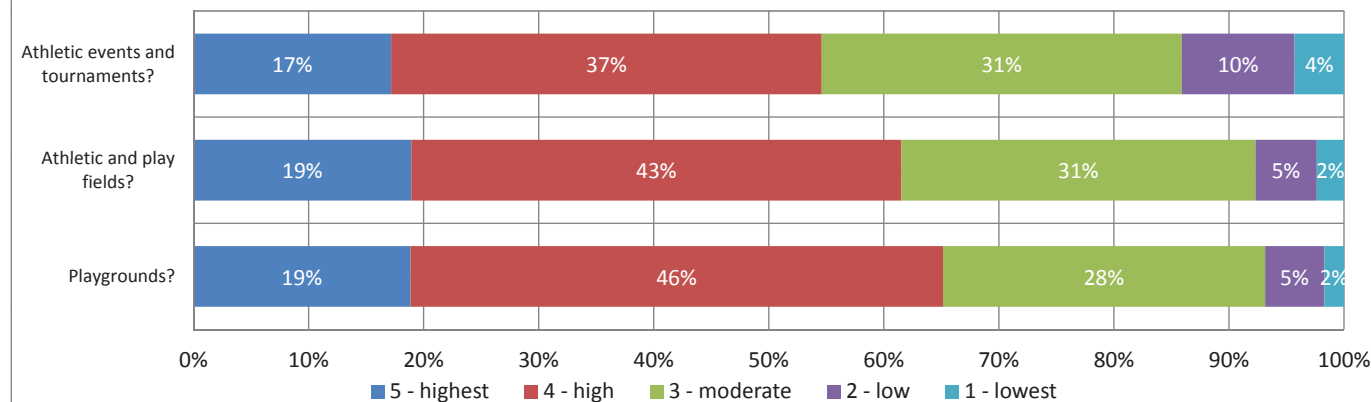


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Athletic courts and fields:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Playgrounds?	2%	5%	28%	46%	19%	100%
Athletic and play fields?	2%	5%	31%	43%	19%	100%
Athletic events and tournaments?	4%	10%	31%	37%	17%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						176
<i>skipped question</i>						20

Athletic courts and fields:

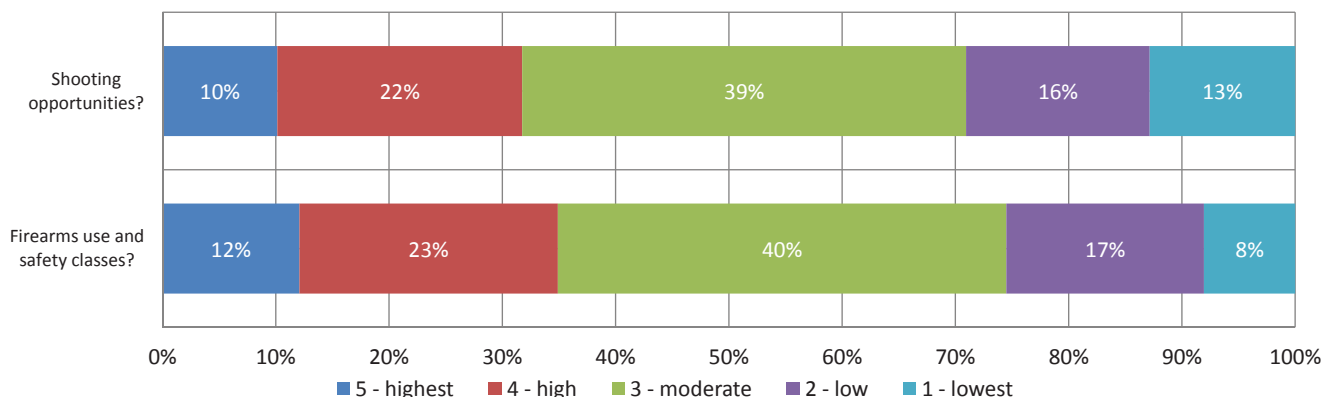


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Firearms:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Firearms use and safety classes?	8%	17%	40%	23%	12%	100%
Shooting opportunities?	13%	16%	39%	22%	10%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						152
<i>skipped question</i>						44

Firearms:

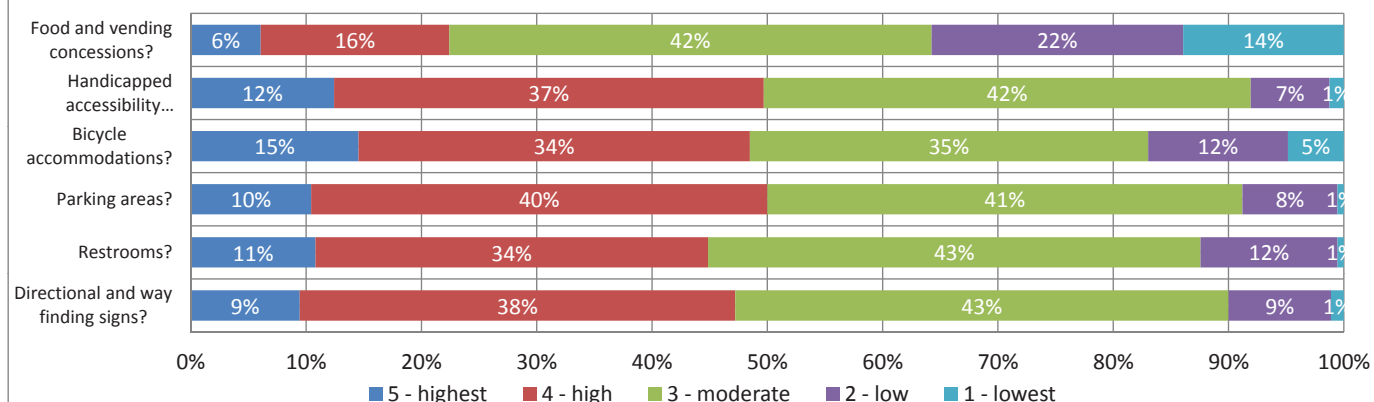


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Supporting services and facilities:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Directional and way finding signs?	1%	9%	43%	38%	9%	100%
Restrooms?	1%	12%	43%	34%	11%	100%
Parking areas?	1%	8%	41%	40%	10%	100%
Bicycle accommodations?	5%	12%	35%	34%	15%	100%
Handicapped accessibility accommodations?	1%	7%	42%	37%	12%	100%
Food and vending concessions?	14%	22%	42%	16%	6%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						187
<i>skipped question</i>						9

Supporting services and facilities:

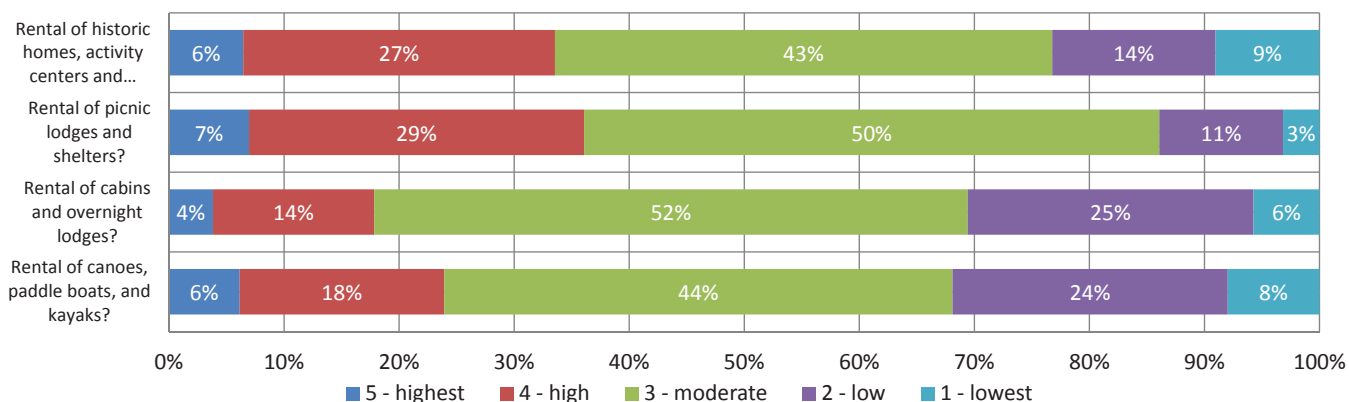


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Rental facilities:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Rental of canoes, paddle boats, and kayaks?	8%	24%	44%	18%	6%	100%
Rental of cabins and overnight lodges?	6%	25%	52%	14%	4%	100%
Rental of picnic lodges and shelters?	3%	11%	50%	29%	7%	100%
Rental of historic homes, activity centers and similar	9%	14%	43%	27%	6%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						168
<i>skipped question</i>						28

Rental facilities:

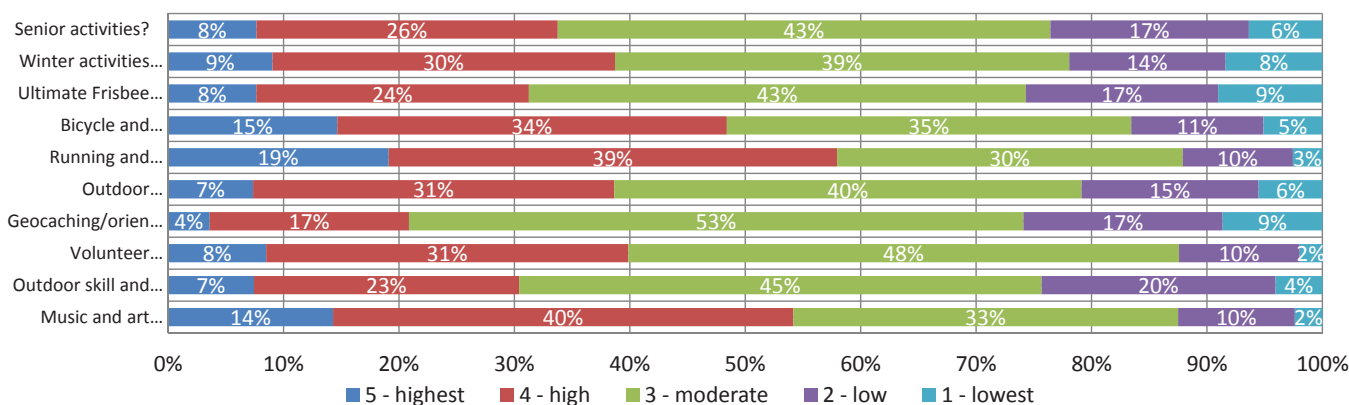


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Activities and events:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Music and art exhibits, concerts and events?	2%	10%	33%	40%	14%	100%
Outdoor skill and safety instructions (backcountry	4%	20%	45%	23%	7%	100%
Volunteer opportunities in the parks?	2%	10%	48%	31%	8%	100%
Geocaching/orienteering?	9%	17%	53%	17%	4%	100%
Outdoor swimming opportunities?	6%	15%	40%	31%	7%	100%
Running and walking events?	3%	10%	30%	39%	19%	100%
Bicycle and mountain bike rides and events?	5%	11%	35%	34%	15%	100%
Ultimate Frisbee and disc golf opportunities?	9%	17%	43%	24%	8%	100%
Winter activities snowshoeing, X-country skiing,	8%	14%	39%	30%	9%	100%
Senior activities?	6%	17%	43%	26%	8%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						177
<i>skipped question</i>						19

Activities and events:

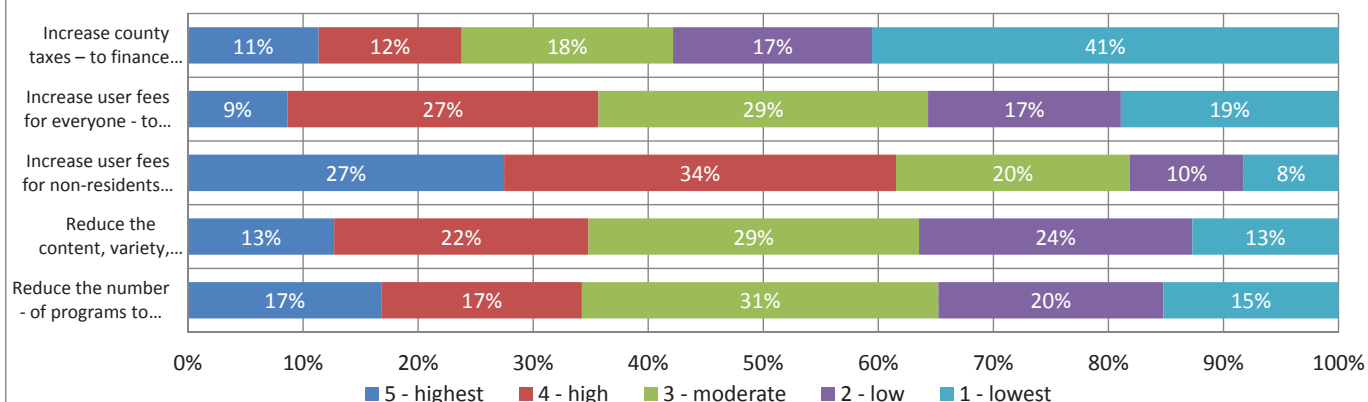


Whatcom County PROS Plan

RECREATION PROGRAM FINANCING If it requires more money than can be budgeted from existing Whatcom County resources to provide future recreation programs, how would you rate the following methods of paying for them?

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Reduce the number - of programs to control costs?	15%	20%	31%	17%	17%	100%
Reduce the content, variety, and duration - of programs	13%	24%	29%	22%	13%	100%
Increase user fees for non-residents - to finance program	8%	10%	20%	34%	27%	100%
Increase user fees for everyone - to finance program	19%	17%	29%	27%	9%	100%
Increase county taxes - to finance needed program	41%	17%	18%	12%	11%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						188
<i>skipped question</i>						8

If it requires more money than can be budgeted from existing Whatcom County resources to provide future recreation programs, how would you rate the following methods of paying for them?

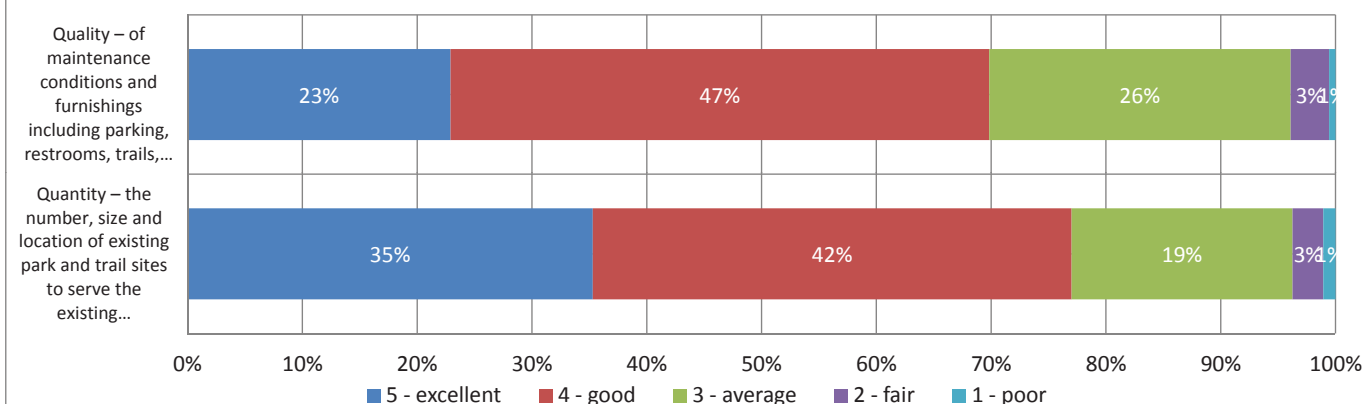


Whatcom County PROS Plan

PARK FACILITY PRIORITIES IN GENERAL In general, how would you rate the existing inventory of all park, recreation, and open space facilities provided in Whatcom County by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, and other park providers on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the poor and 5 excellent?

Answer Options	1 - poor	2 - fair	3 - average	4 - good	5 - excellent	Response Count
Quantity - the number, size and location of existing park	1%	3%	19%	42%	35%	100%
Quality - of maintenance conditions and furnishings	1%	3%	26%	47%	23%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						187
<i>skipped question</i>						9

PARK FACILITY PRIORITIES IN GENERAL In general,

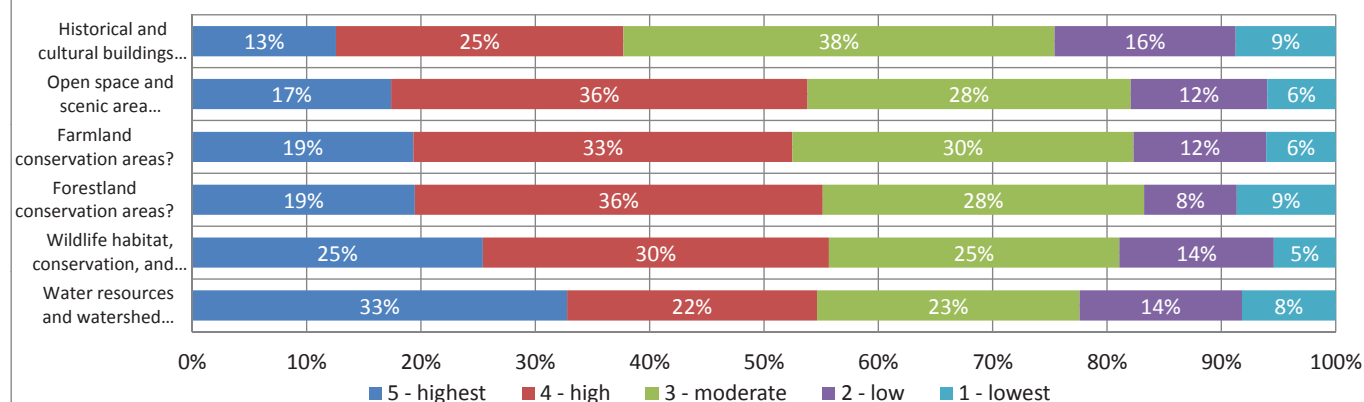


Whatcom County PROS Plan

How would you rate the need for the following additional facilities within the county in general whether provided by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, or another park provider where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest priority? Conservation needs:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Water resources and watershed protection areas?	8%	14%	23%	22%	33%	100%
Wildlife habitat, conservation, and natural areas?	5%	14%	25%	30%	25%	100%
Forestland conservation areas?	9%	8%	28%	36%	19%	100%
Farmland conservation areas?	6%	12%	30%	33%	19%	100%
Open space and scenic area preservation?	6%	12%	28%	36%	17%	100%
Historical and cultural buildings and sites?	9%	16%	38%	25%	13%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						187
<i>skipped question</i>						9

How would you rate the need for the following additional facilities within the county in general whether provided by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, or another park provider where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest priority? Conservation needs:

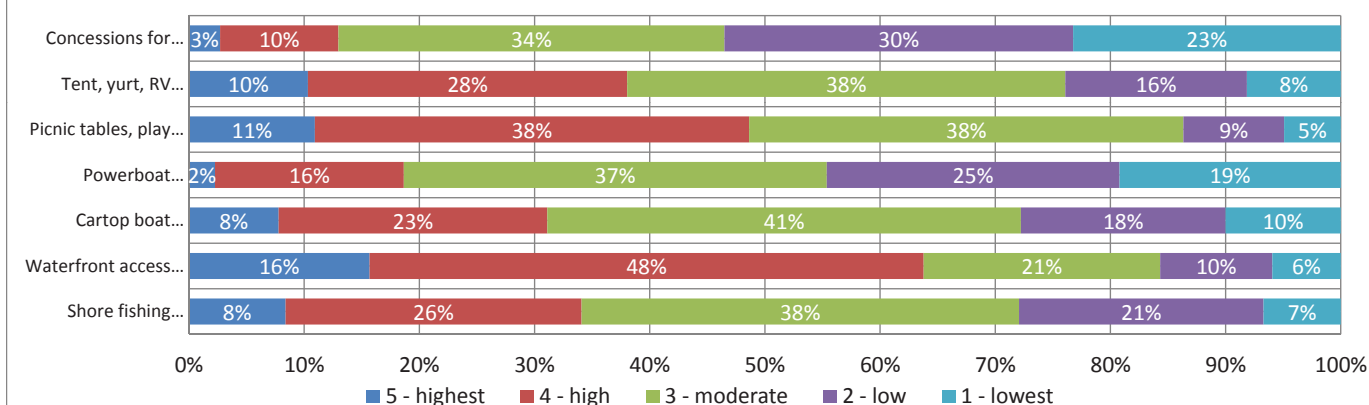


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Regional park needs:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Shore fishing areas and docks?	7%	21%	38%	26%	8%	100%
Waterfront access and beach use sites?	6%	10%	21%	48%	16%	100%
Cartop boat (kayak/canoe) launch sites?	10%	18%	41%	23%	8%	100%
Powerboat launching and moorage facilities?	19%	25%	37%	16%	2%	100%
Picnic tables, play areas, and shelters	5%	9%	38%	38%	11%	100%
Tent, yurt, RV campsites, group camps, and cabins?	8%	16%	38%	28%	10%	100%
Concessions for food and beverage, bait sales, etc	23%	30%	34%	10%	3%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						188
<i>skipped question</i>						8

Regional park needs:

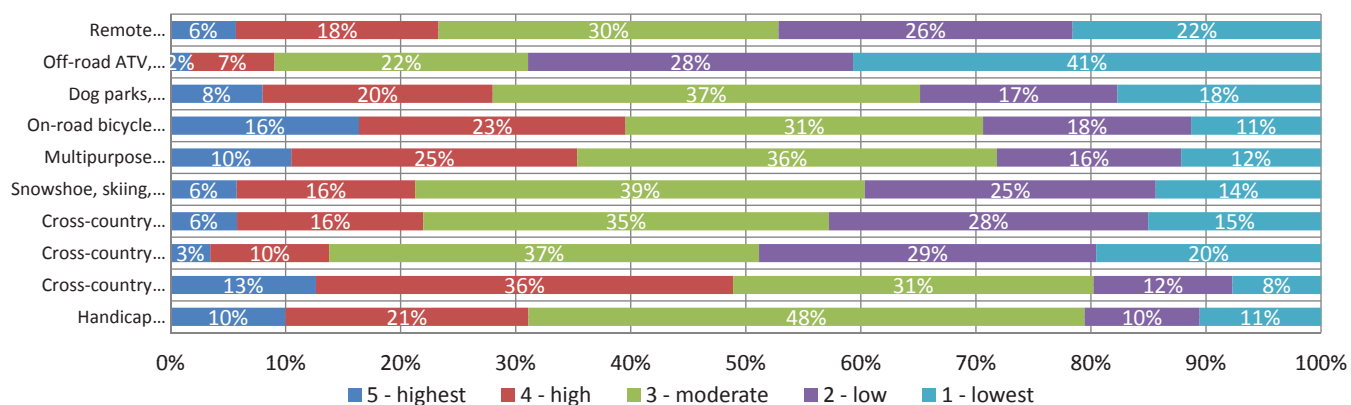


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Trail needs:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Handicap accessible trails and facilities within parks?	11%	10%	48%	21%	10%	100%
Cross-country walking and hiking trails?	8%	12%	31%	36%	13%	100%
Cross-country horse trails?	20%	29%	37%	10%	3%	100%
Cross-country mountain bike trails?	15%	28%	35%	16%	6%	100%
Snowshoe, skiing, and snowmobile trails?	14%	25%	39%	16%	6%	100%
Multipurpose (hike/bike/horse) trails?	12%	16%	36%	25%	10%	100%
On-road bicycle routes?	11%	18%	31%	23%	16%	100%
Dog parks, exercise areas, and trails?	18%	17%	37%	20%	8%	100%
Off-road ATV, motorcycle, and ORV parks?	41%	28%	22%	7%	2%	100%
Remote backcountry campsites?	22%	26%	30%	18%	6%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						184
<i>skipped question</i>						12

Trail needs:

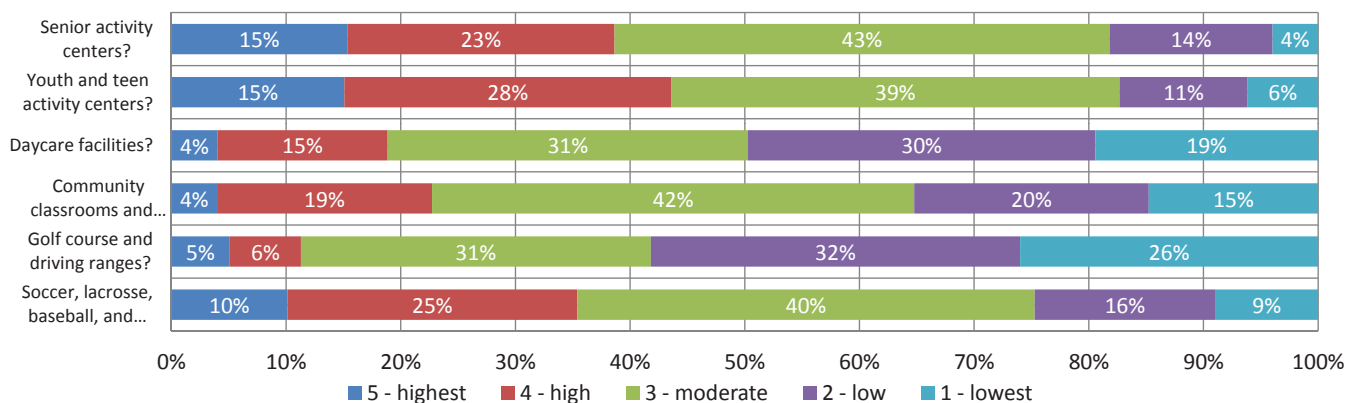


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Recreational facility needs:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball athletic fields?	9%	16%	40%	25%	10%	100%
Golf course and driving ranges?	26%	32%	31%	6%	5%	100%
Community classrooms and meeting facilities?	15%	20%	42%	19%	4%	100%
Daycare facilities?	19%	30%	31%	15%	4%	100%
Youth and teen activity centers?	6%	11%	39%	28%	15%	100%
Senior activity centers?	4%	14%	43%	23%	15%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						182
<i>skipped question</i>						14

Recreational facility needs:

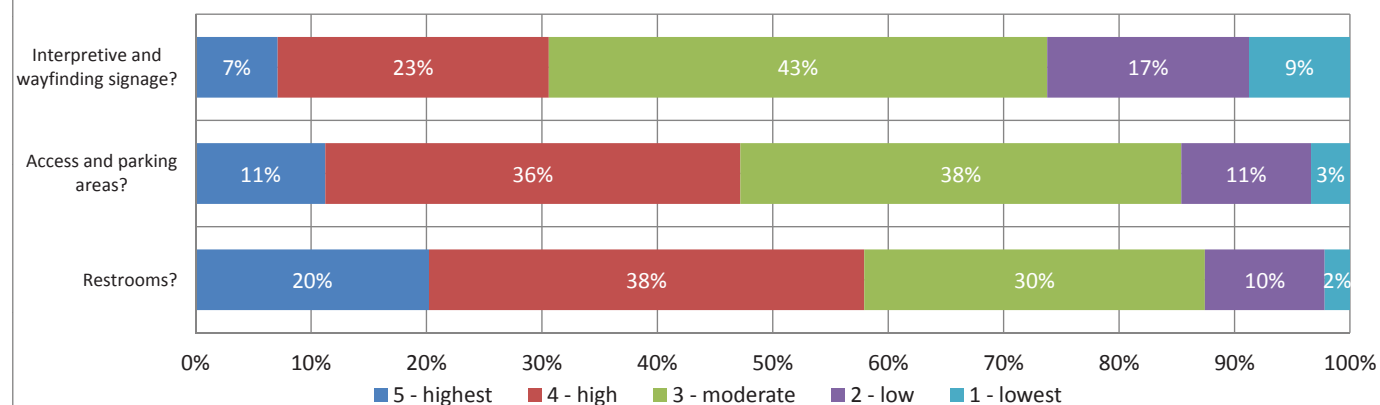


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Supporting facilities:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Restrooms?	2%	10%	30%	38%	20%	100%
Access and parking areas?	3%	11%	38%	36%	11%	100%
Interpretive and wayfinding signage?	9%	17%	43%	23%	7%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						185
<i>skipped question</i>						11

Supporting facilities:

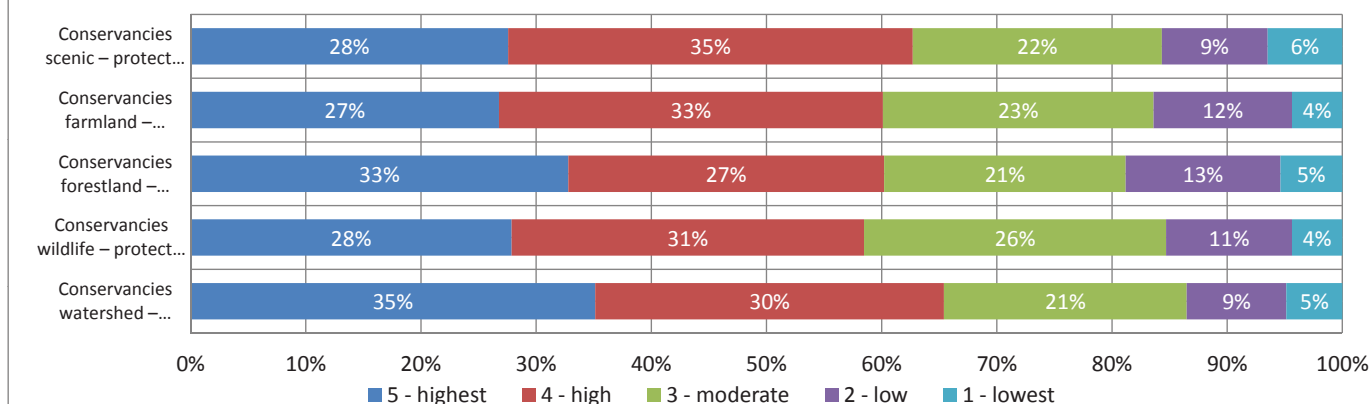


Whatcom County PROS Plan

PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN PROPOSAL PRIORITIES Under the proposed park plan, the county, cities, school districts, port, and other park providers may jointly conserve and develop wildlife and open space preservations, waterfront parks, picnic and camping facilities, trails, athletic

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Conservancies watershed - protect the proposed water	5%	9%	21%	30%	35%	100%
Conservancies wildlife - protect the proposed wildlife	4%	11%	26%	31%	28%	100%
Conservancies forestland - protect the proposed mature	5%	13%	21%	27%	33%	100%
Conservancies farmland - protect the proposed historical	4%	12%	23%	33%	27%	100%
Conservancies scenic - protect the proposed scenic	6%	9%	22%	35%	28%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						186
<i>skipped question</i>						10

PARK, RECREATIO

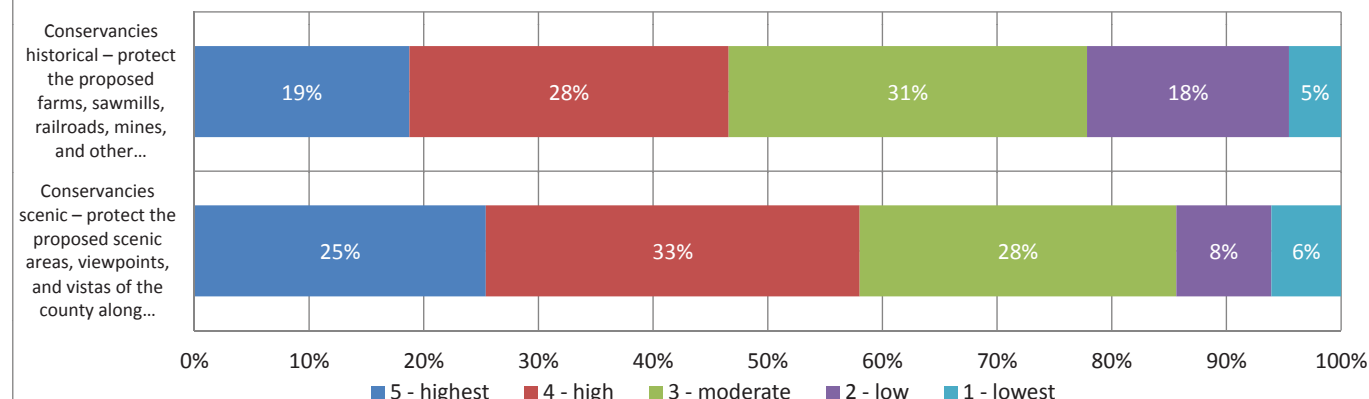


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Conservation needs - historical and cultural (see following graphic):

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Conservancies scenic - protect the proposed scenic	6%	8%	28%	33%	25%	100%
Conservancies historical - protect the proposed farms, sawmills, railroads, mines, and other...	5%	18%	31%	28%	19%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						182
<i>skipped question</i>						14

Conservation needs - historical and cultural (see following graphic):

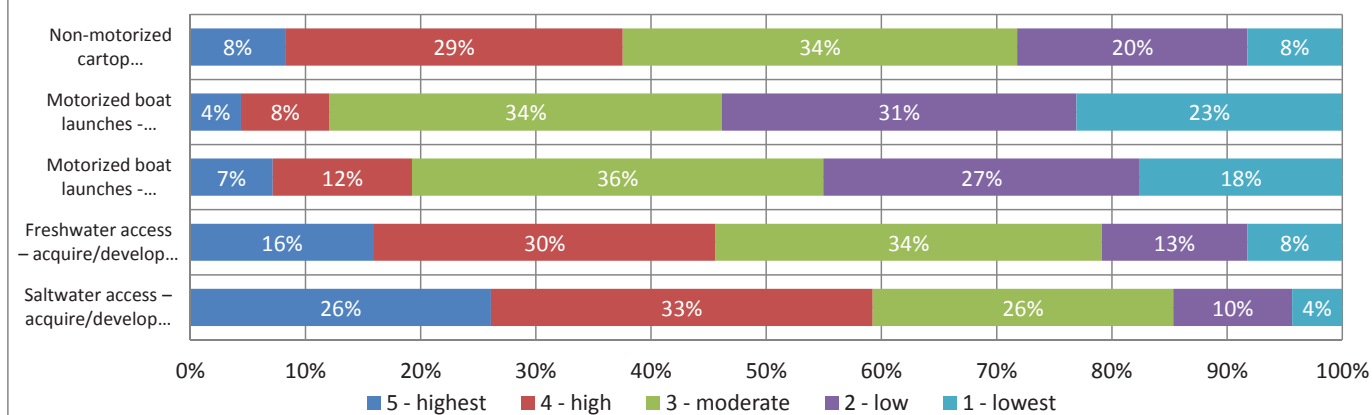


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Regional park needs - saltwater and freshwater access (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Saltwater access - acquire/develop the proposed	4%	10%	26%	33%	26%	100%
Freshwater access - acquire/develop the proposed	8%	13%	34%	30%	16%	100%
Motorized boat launches - saltwater - develop the	18%	27%	36%	12%	7%	100%
Motorized boat launches - freshwater - develop the	23%	31%	34%	8%	4%	100%
Non-motorized cartop (kayak/canoe) launch sites -	8%	20%	34%	29%	8%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						185
<i>skipped question</i>						11

Regional park needs - saltwater and freshwater access

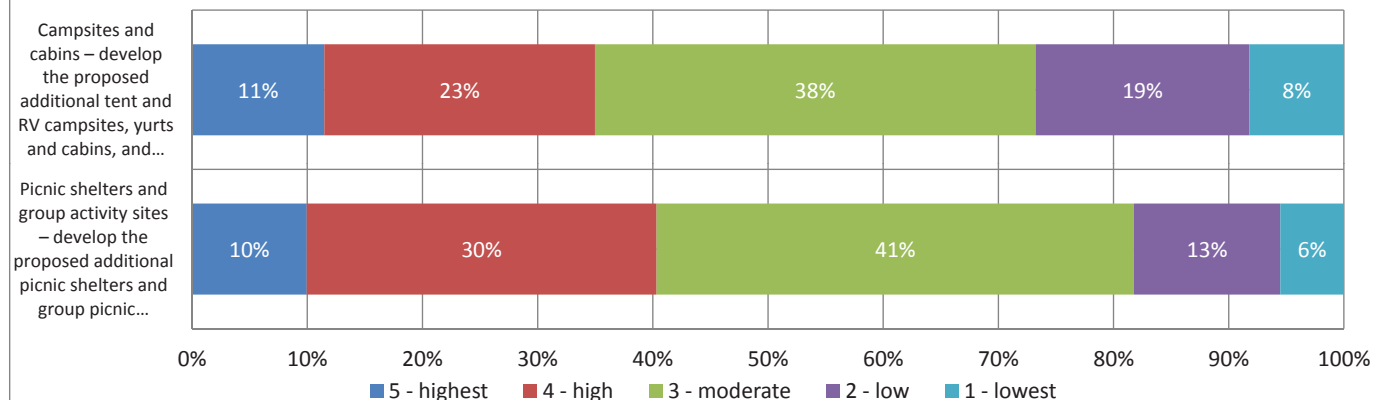


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Regional park needs - campgrounds and group picnic facilities (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Picnic shelters and group activity sites - develop the	6%	13%	41%	30%	10%	100%
Campsites and cabins - develop the proposed additional	8%	19%	38%	23%	11%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						183
<i>skipped question</i>						12

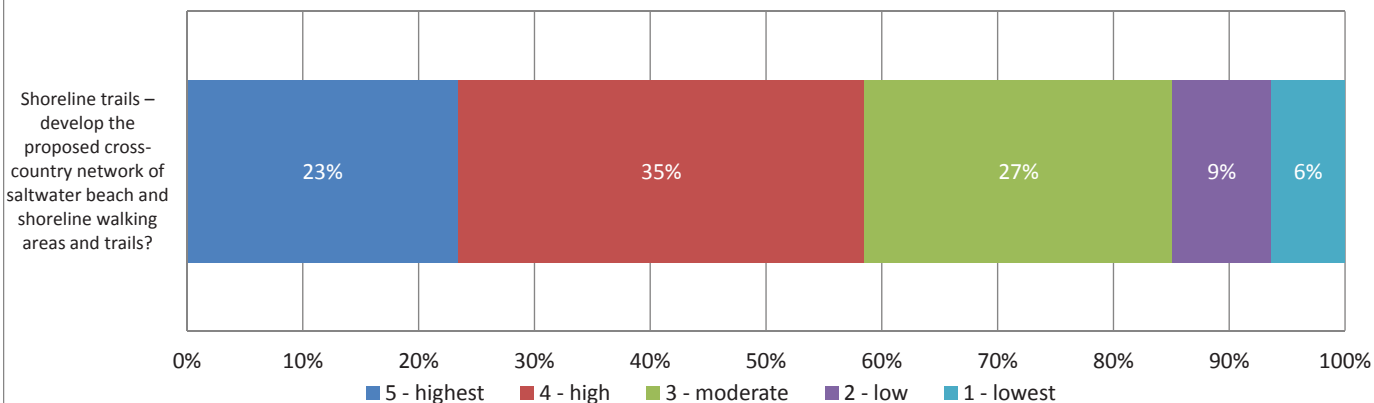
Regional park needs - campgrounds and group picnic facilities



Trail systems - shoreline (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Water trails - develop the proposed cross-country	17%	14%	41%	20%	8%	100%
Shoreline trails - develop the proposed cross-country	6%	9%	27%	35%	23%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						188
<i>skipped question</i>						8

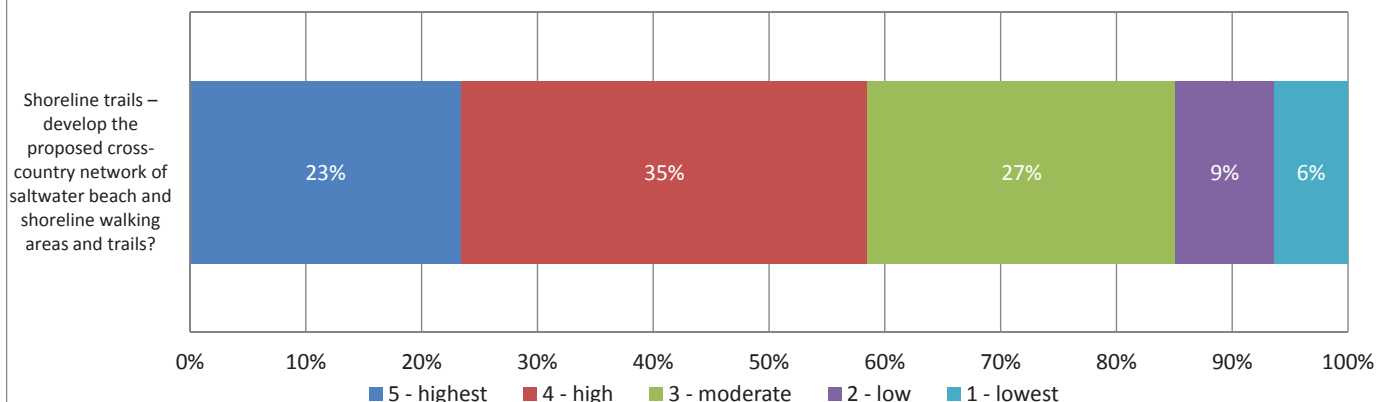
Trail systems - shoreline (see following graphic)



Trail systems - shoreline (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Water trails - develop the proposed cross-country	17%	14%	41%	20%	8%	100%
Shoreline trails - develop the proposed cross-country	6%	9%	27%	35%	23%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						188
<i>skipped question</i>						8

Trail systems - shoreline (see following graphic)

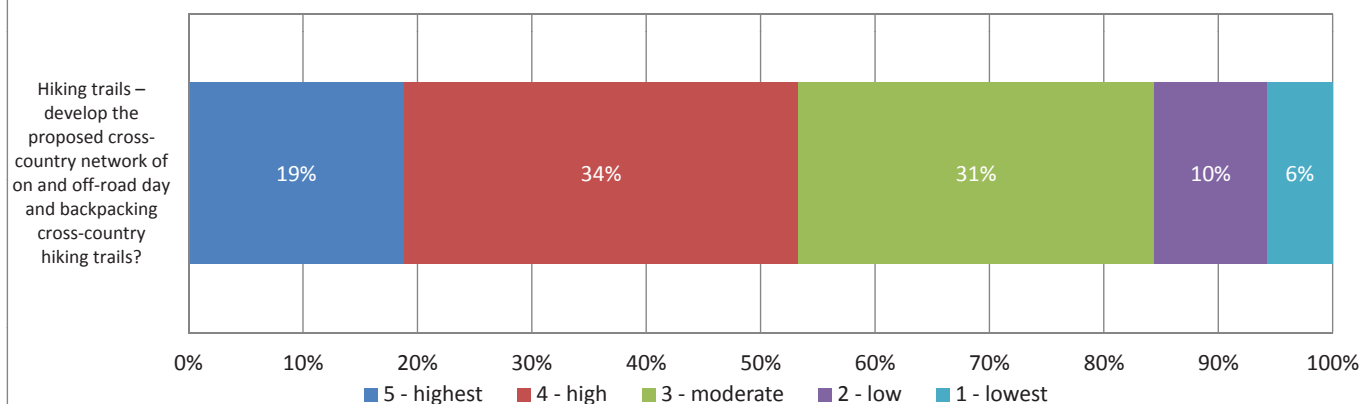


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Trail systems - hiking (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Hiking trails - develop the proposed cross-country	6%	10%	31%	34%	19%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						186
<i>skipped question</i>						10

Trail systems - hiking (see following graphic)

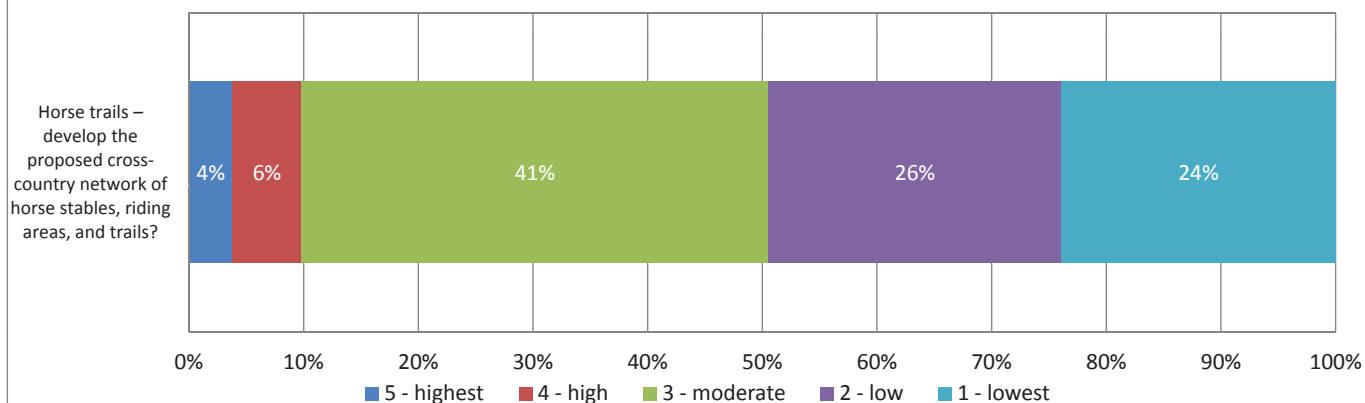


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Trail systems - horse trails (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Horse trails - develop the proposed cross-country	24%	26%	41%	6%	4%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						184
<i>skipped question</i>						12

Trail systems - horse trails (see following graphic)

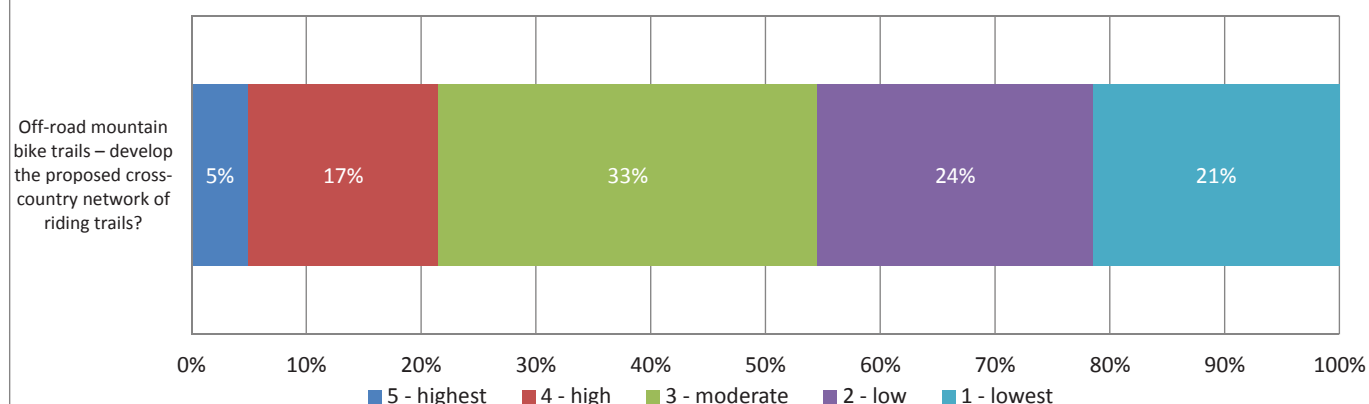


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Trail systems - off-road mountain bike (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Off-road mountain bike trails - develop the proposed	21%	24%	33%	17%	5%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						185
<i>skipped question</i>						11

Trail systems - off-road mountain bike (see following graphic)

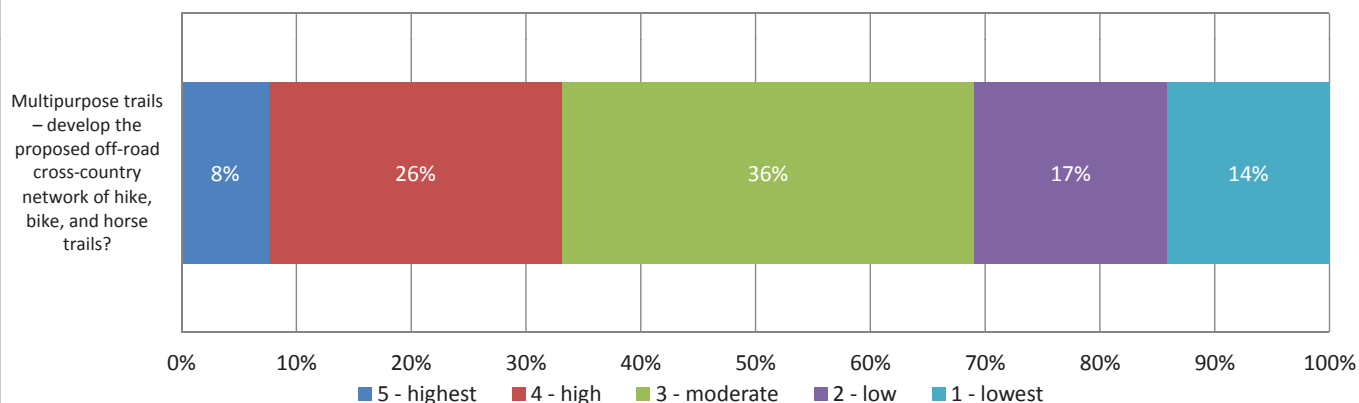


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Trail systems - multipurpose hike/bike/horse (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Multipurpose trails - develop the proposed off-road cross-	14%	17%	36%	26%	8%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						184
<i>skipped question</i>						12

Trail systems - multipurpose hike/bike/horse (see following graphic)

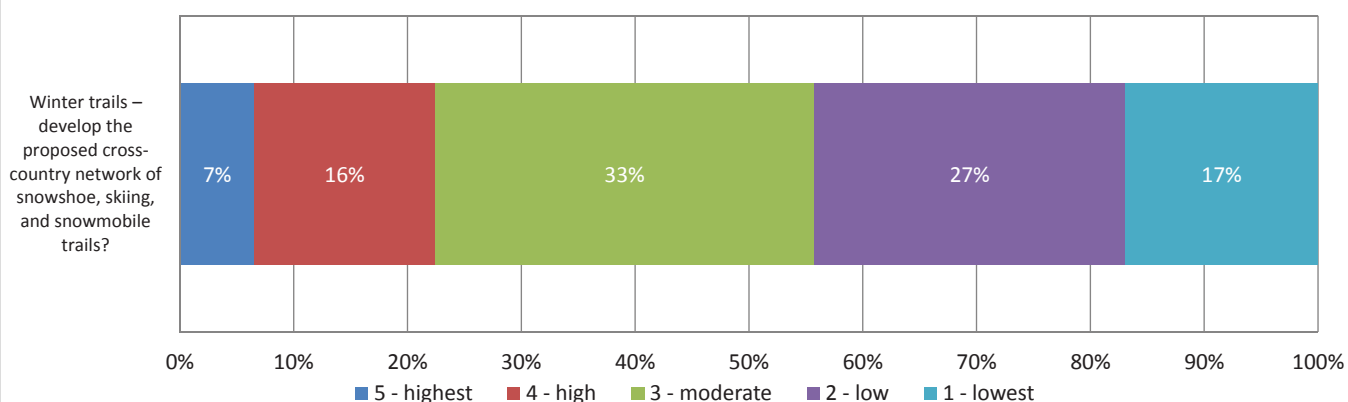


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Trail systems - winter trails (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Winter trails - develop the proposed cross-country	17%	27%	33%	16%	7%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						183
<i>skipped question</i>						13

Trail systems - winter trails (see following graphic)

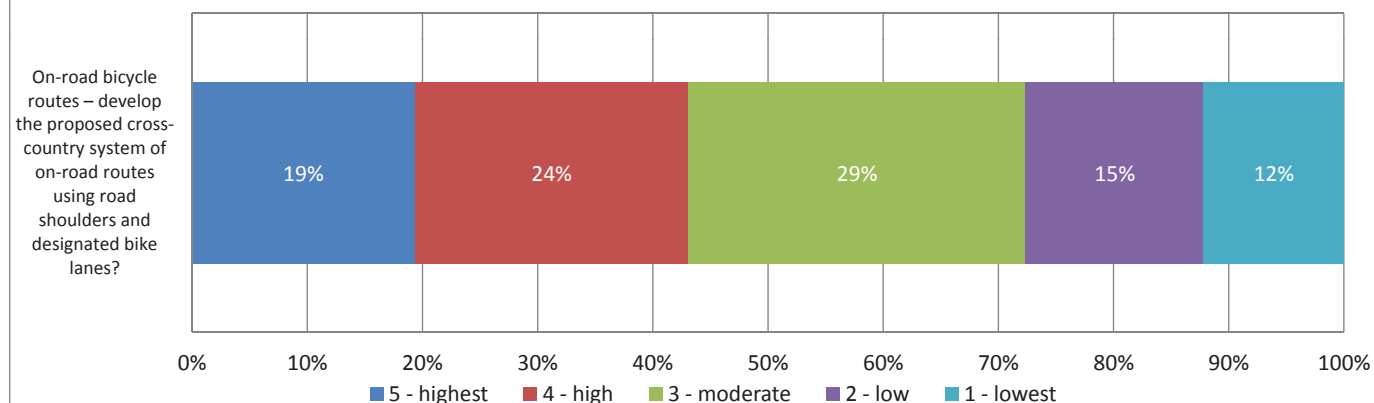


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Trail systems - on road bicycle routes recreational (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
On-road bicycle routes - develop the proposed cross-	12%	15%	29%	24%	19%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						181
<i>skipped question</i>						15

Trail systems - on road bicycle routes recreational

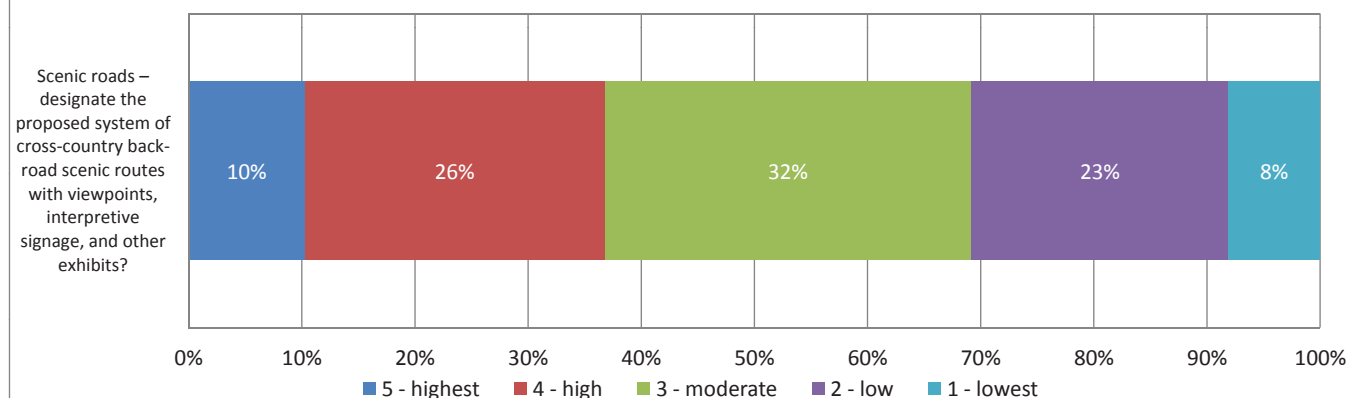


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Scenic roads, byway touring routes, and viewpoints (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Scenic roads - designate the proposed system of cross-	8%	23%	32%	26%	10%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						185
<i>skipped question</i>						11

Scenic roads, byway touring routes, and viewpoints

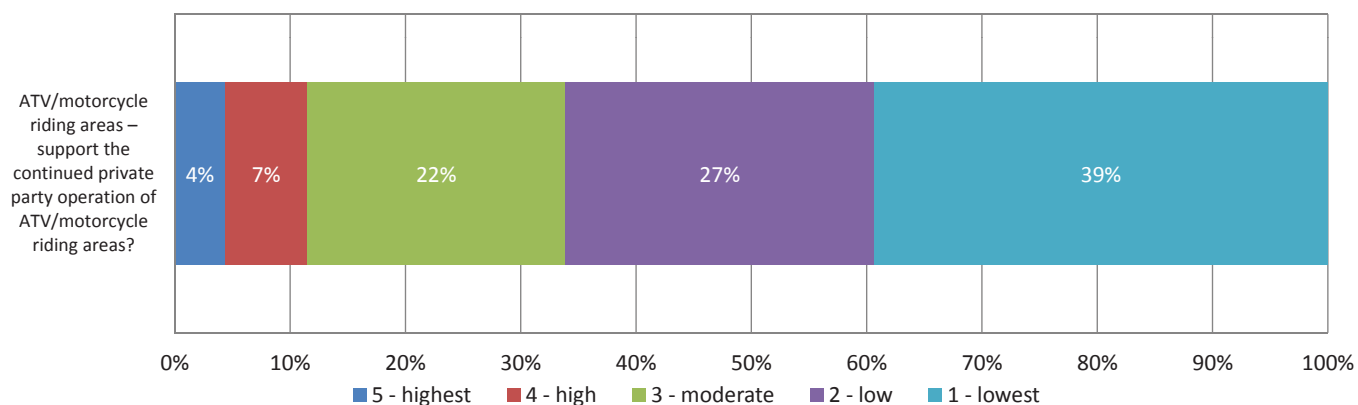


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Trail systems - ATV/motorcycle riding areas (no graphic provided)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
ATV/motorcycle riding areas - support the continued	39%	27%	22%	7%	4%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						183
<i>skipped question</i>						13

Trail systems - ATV/motorcycle riding areas (no graphic provided)

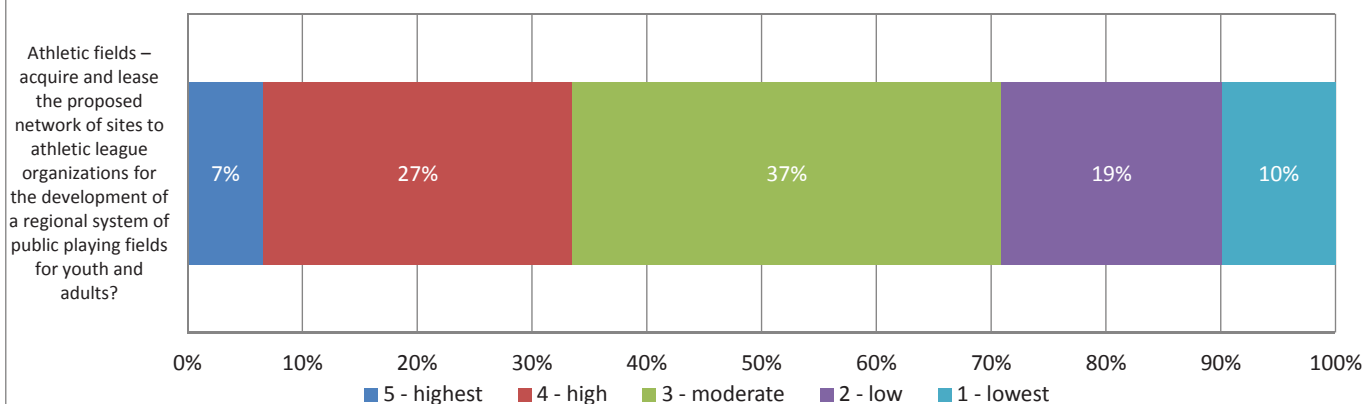


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Athletic parks (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Athletic fields - acquire and lease the proposed network	10%	19%	37%	27%	7%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						182
<i>skipped question</i>						14

Athletic parks (see following graphic)



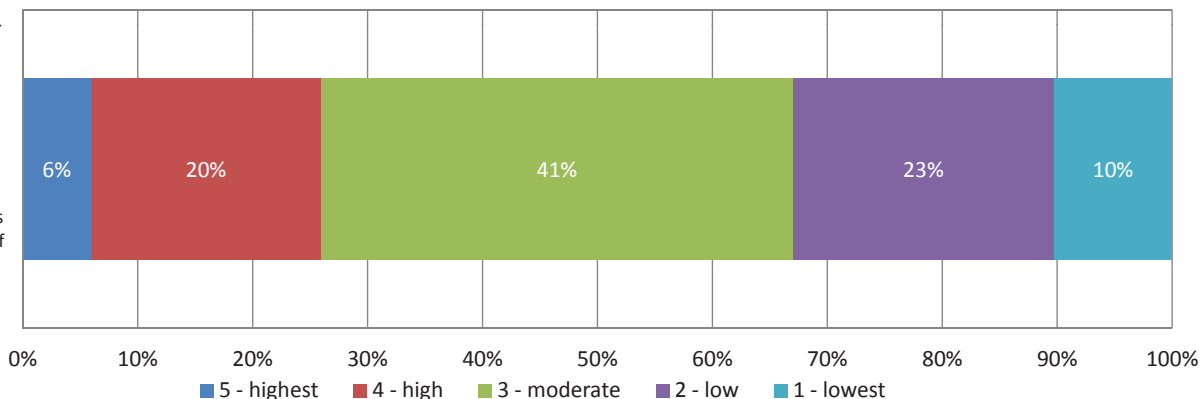
Whatcom County PROS Plan

Community facilities or centers (see following graphic)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Meeting facilities - develop and lease the proposed	10%	23%	41%	20%	6%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						185
<i>skipped question</i>						11

Community facilities or centers (see following graphic)

Meeting facilities – develop and lease the proposed network of community facilities throughout the county to non-profit organizations for the operation of teen, senior, and other public activities and...



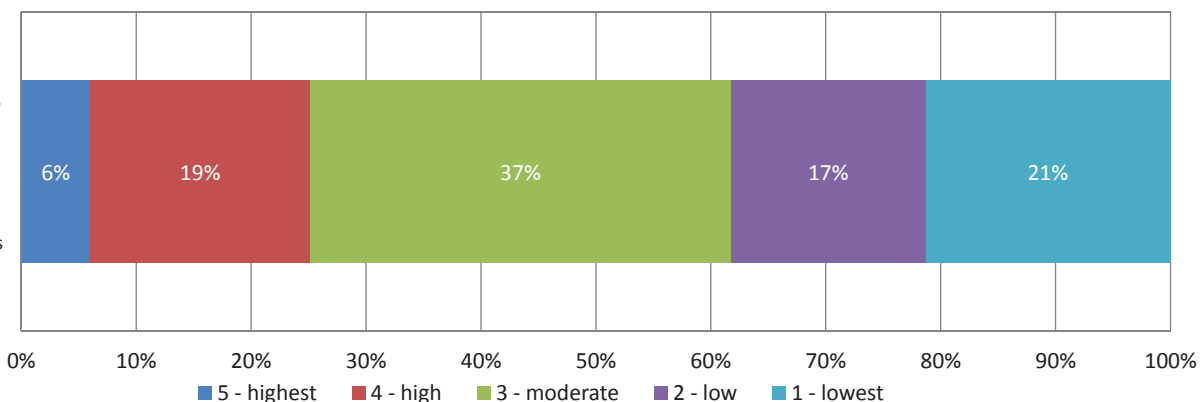
Whatcom County PROS Plan

Enterprise facilities (no graphic provided)

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Enterprise facilities - where user fees and/or self help	21%	17%	37%	19%	6%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						183
<i>skipped question</i>						13

Enterprise facilities (no graphic provided)

Enterprise facilities – where user fees and/or self help efforts will support, acquire and lease or develop the proposed gun ranges, equestrian facilities, conference facilities and retreats, at select regional properties...

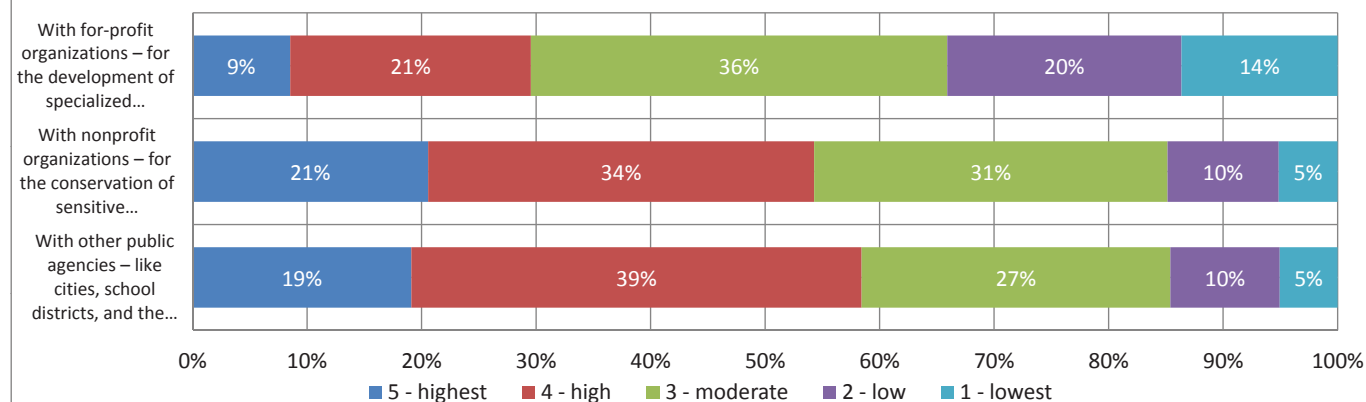


Whatcom County PROS Plan

JOINT VENTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND PARTNER OPTIONS Besides Whatcom County - cities, school districts, athletic organizations, private operators, and a variety of other public and private agencies own and operate park facilities and recreational programs within the county. How would you rate joint venture

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
With other public agencies - like cities, school districts,	5%	10%	27%	39%	19%	100%
With nonprofit organizations - for the conservation of	5%	10%	31%	34%	21%	100%
With for-profit organizations - for the development of	14%	20%	36%	21%	9%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						179
<i>skipped question</i>						17

Besides Whatcom County – cities, school districts, athletic organizati

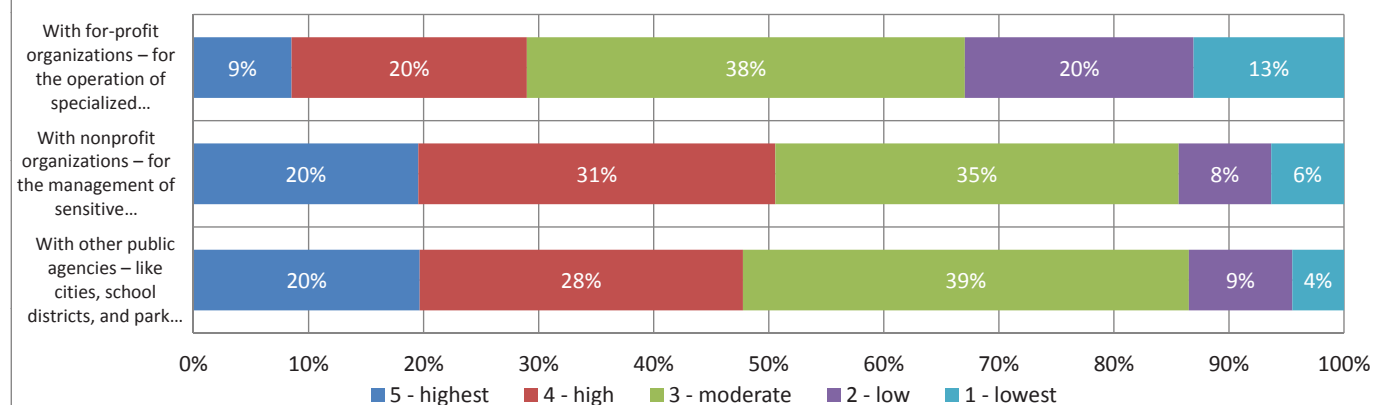


Whatcom County PROS Plan

Recreation program operations:

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
With other public agencies - like cities, school districts,	4%	9%	39%	28%	20%	100%
With nonprofit organizations - for the management of	6%	8%	35%	31%	20%	100%
With for-profit organizations - for the operation of	13%	20%	38%	20%	9%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						178
<i>skipped question</i>						18

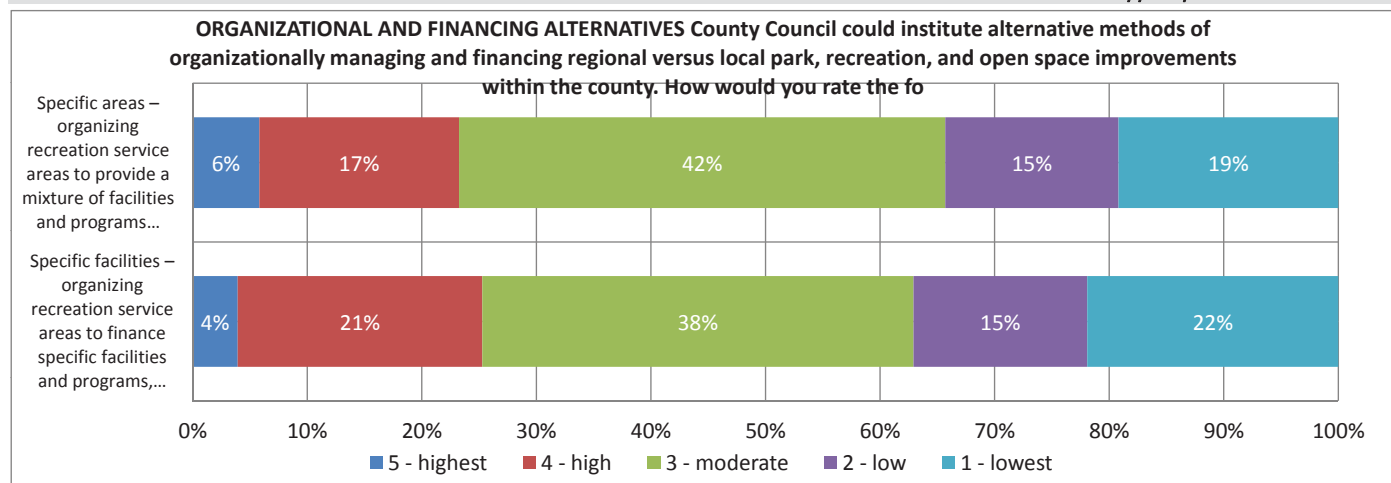
Recreation program operations:



Whatcom County PROS Plan

ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCING ALTERNATIVES County Council could institute alternative methods of organizationally managing and financing regional versus local park, recreation, and open space improvements within the county. How would you rate the following alternatives? Local park facilities using

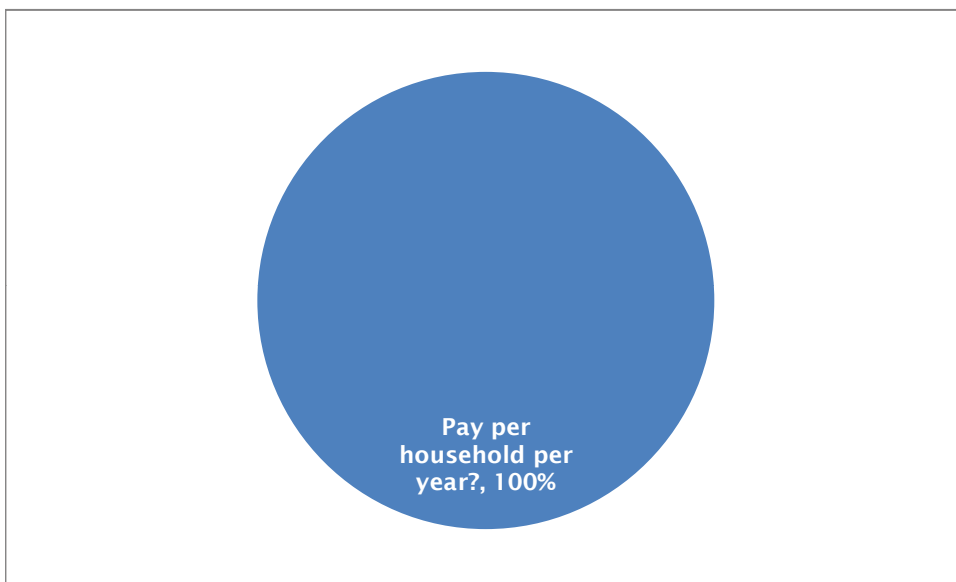
Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Specific facilities - organizing recreation service areas to	22%	15%	38%	21%	4%	100%
Specific areas - organizing recreation service areas to	19%	15%	42%	17%	6%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						178
<i>skipped question</i>						18



Whatcom County PROS Plan

If a levy were to be put on the ballot to finance local park facilities and programs within your local area (which could include a city area), how much, if anything, would your

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Pay per household per year?	100%	104
<i>answered question</i>		161
<i>skipped question</i>		35



Internet results - pay per household per year?	5	120
very little as we are on a fixed income with medical expenses	10	120
?	10	150 dollars
none	16	150
unknown	20	200
zero	20	200
dont understand	20	200
nothing more than we now pay	25	200
tie this to taxable federal income	25	200
none	40	250
currently nothing as i have nothing left. :(50	360
Retired/ very difficult with current levies and taxes	50	500
nothing We don't need any more trails or parks or anything of that sort in the county	50	500
few hundred a year	not much, less than \$50	600
we don't have any extra money - we are broke :(50	1000
\$500-1000	50	1200
\$50 - \$100	50	Mail-back survey results - pay per household per year?
15-20 dollars a year	50	25.00-50.00
0	50	0
0	50	0
0	52	0
0	70	0
0	75	0
0	75	0
0	80	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0.01	100	10
0.01	100	12
5	100	15
5	100	15

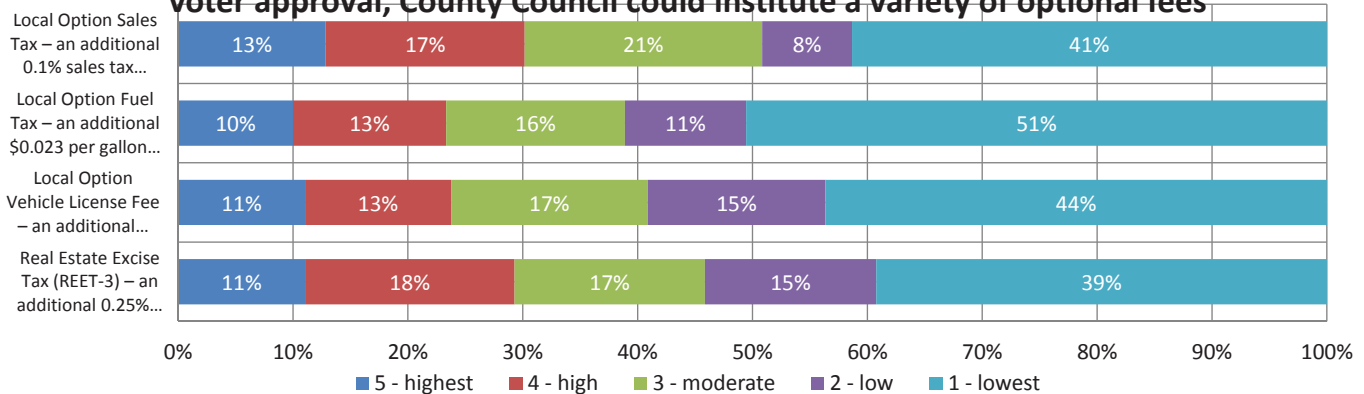
15	100	150
20	100	200
25	100	200
25	100	200
35	100	250
50	100	300
50	100	350
50	100	500
50	100	
75	120	
100	120	

Whatcom County PROS Plan

REAL ESTATE EXCISE AND FUEL TAX, AND LICENSE FEE OPTIONS Subject to voter approval, County Council could institute a variety of optional fees and taxes to be used instead of or in addition to the regional/local organizational financing approaches defined in the above (as a way of reducing the use of

Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Real Estate Excise Tax (REET-3) - an additional 0.25%	39%	15%	17%	18%	11%	100%
Local Option Vehicle License Fee - an additional \$15.00	44%	15%	17%	13%	11%	100%
Local Option Fuel Tax - an additional \$0.023 per gallon	51%	11%	16%	13%	10%	100%
Local Option Sales Tax - an additional 0.1% sales tax	41%	8%	21%	17%	13%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						181
<i>skipped question</i>						15

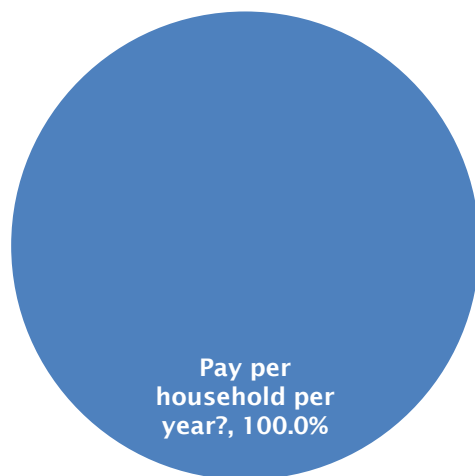
REAL ESTATE EXCISE AND FUEL TAX, AND LICENSE FEE OPTIONS Subject to voter approval, County Council could institute a variety of optional fees



Whatcom County PROS Plan

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OPTIONS Subject to voter approval, County Council could also propose a variety of optional bonds as a means of financing park, recreation,

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Pay per household per year?	100.0%	102
<i>answered question</i>		157
<i>skipped question</i>		39



GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OPTIONS Subject to voter approval, County Council could also propose a variety of optional bonds as a means of financing park, recreation, and open space improvements for specific projects. This option could be used instead of or in addition to the options defined in the above. How would you rate the following? General obligation bond - County Council could submit a general obligation bond for voter approval to finance acquisition and development of specific park, recreation, and open space improvements. The bond, which can not be used to finance operation and maintenance, would be financed over a 20-year period. If a bond were to be put on the ballot to finance the highest priority projects, how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?

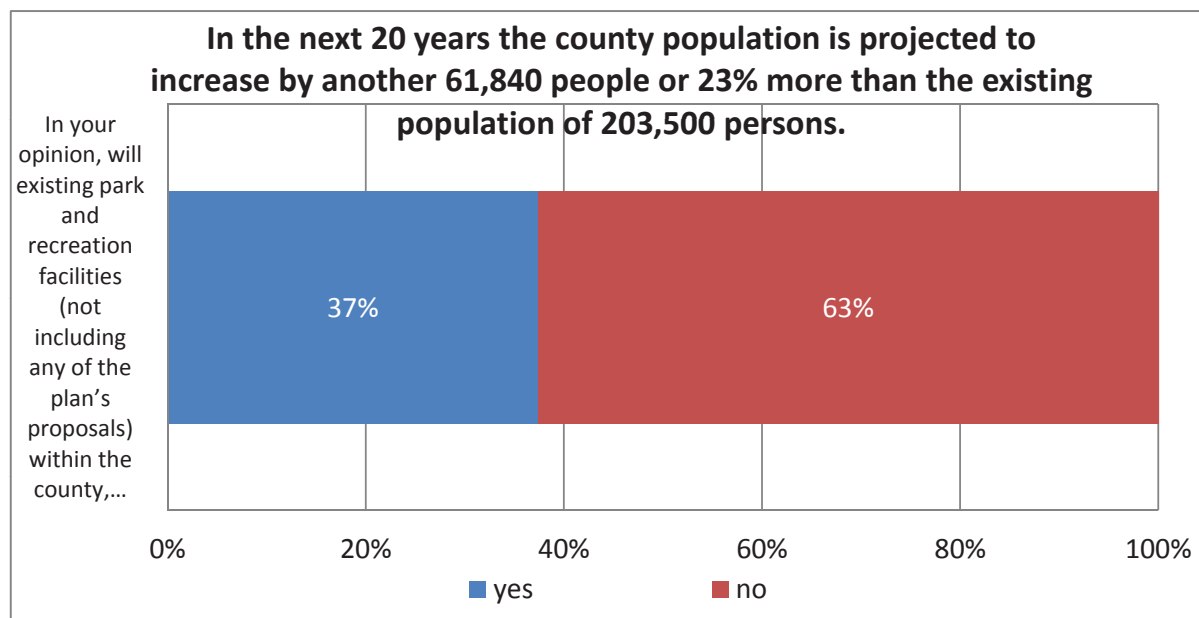
Internet results - pay per household per year?	0	100
none we are on a fixed income ?	0	100
none	0	100
unknown	0.01	100
don't understand	2	100
nothing we have enough parks	5	100
tie this to taxable federal income	5	100
yes	10.00 dollars	100
nothing	10	100
my household has nothing extra	10	100
?	15 dollars	100
Zero!	17	100
0-We do not need more trails	20	120
I don't understand how this is different from a levy - is it paid for by property owners only?	20	120
no idea	20	150
\$ 500-1000	25	200
\$50 - \$100	25	200
0	25	200
0	25	200
0	25	200
0	30	200
0	40	200
0	50	240
0	\$50.@00	250
0	50	300
0	Not Much, less than \$50	400
0	50	500
0	50	600
0	50	1000
0	50	1200
0	50	Mail-back survey results - pay per household per year?
0	50 dollars	?
0	50	25.00-50.00
0	50	20.00-30.00
0	52	0
0	75	0
0	80	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0
0	100	0

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300
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Whatcom County PROS Plan

POPULATION GROWTH IMPACT MANAGEMENT OPTIONS In the next 20 years the county population is projected to increase by another 61,840 people or 23% more than the existing population of 203,500

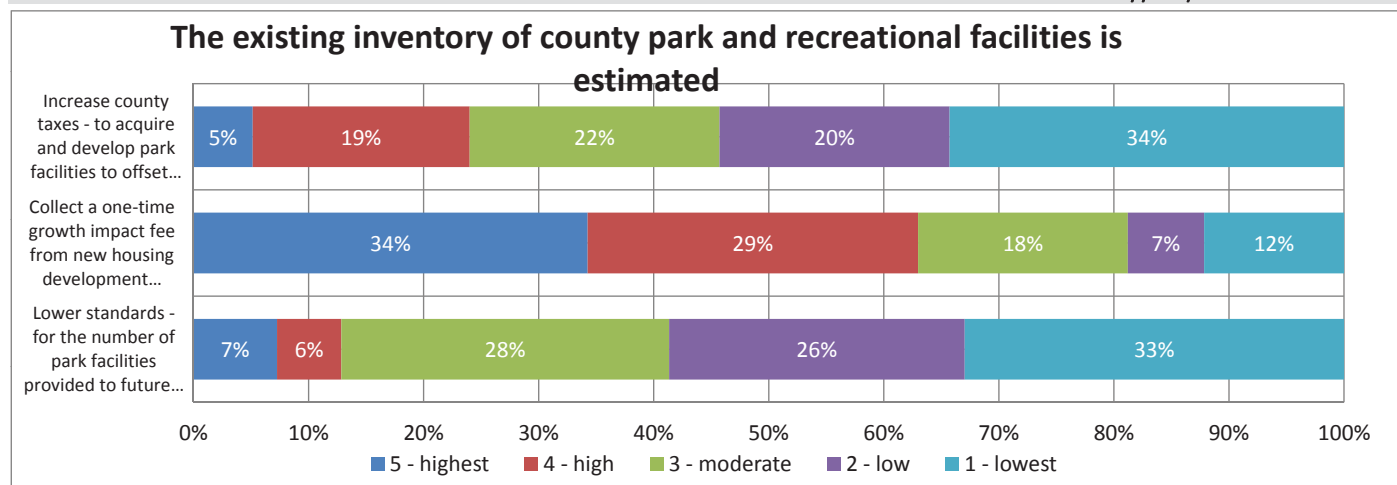
Answer Options	no	yes	Response Count
In your opinion, will existing park and recreation facilities	63%	37%	100%
<i>answered question</i>			159
<i>skipped question</i>			37



Whatcom County PROS Plan

The existing inventory of county park and recreational facilities is estimated to be worth about \$900 per person or \$2,000 for an average single family house. This amount is the cost required for additional park facilities for new housing residents if the county is to maintain the same standards for park, recreation, and

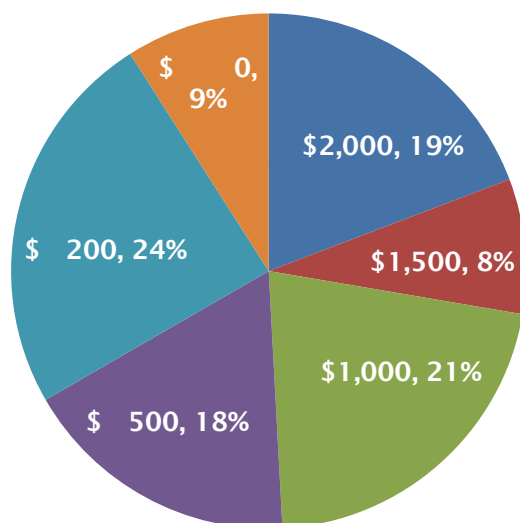
Answer Options	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Response Count
Lower standards - for the number of park facilities	33%	26%	28%	6%	7%	100%
Collect a one-time growth impact fee from new housing	12%	7%	18%	29%	34%	100%
Increase county taxes - to acquire and develop park	34%	20%	22%	19%	5%	100%
<i>answered question</i>						183
<i>skipped question</i>						13



Whatcom County PROS Plan

If a park growth impact fee were to be collected from new housing development projects, what percent of this cost would you recommend be charged for every new single family

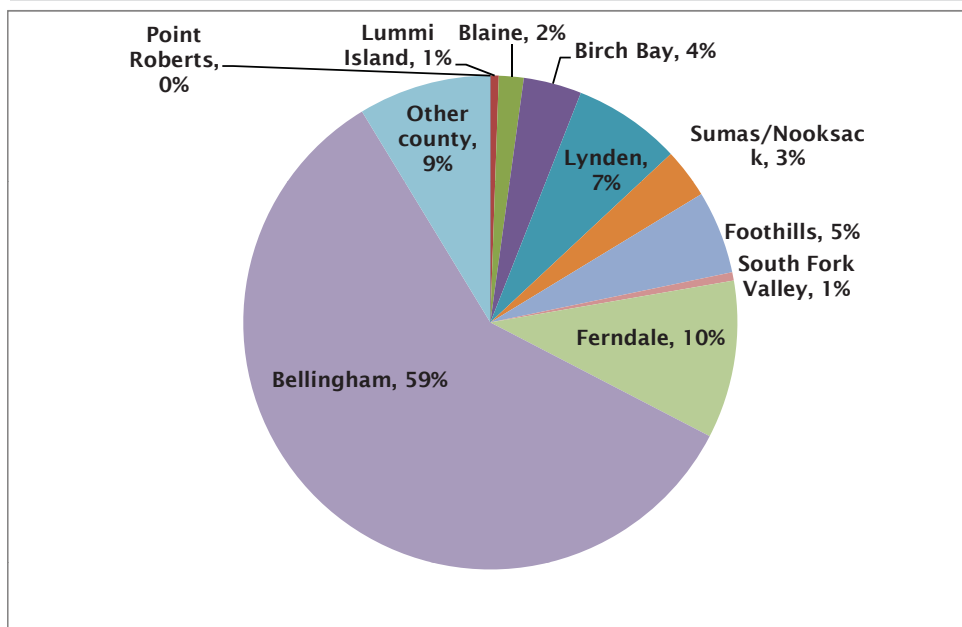
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
\$2,000	19%	34
\$1,500	8%	15
\$1,000	21%	38
\$ 500	18%	31
\$ 200	24%	43
\$ 0	9%	16
<i>answered question</i>		177
<i>skipped question</i>		19



Whatcom County PROS Plan

YOUR CHARACTERISTICS Which area of the county do you live in?

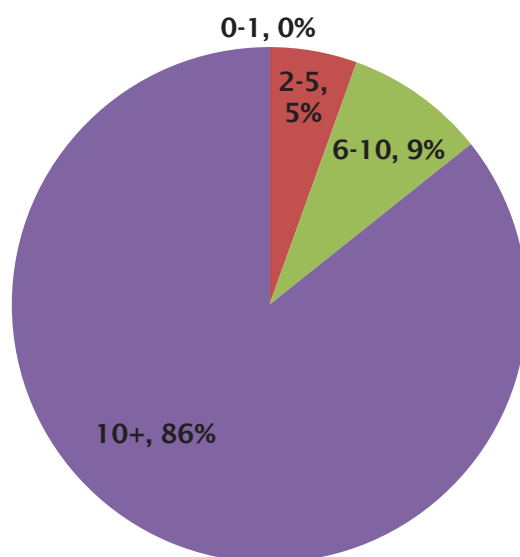
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Point Roberts	0%	0
Lummi Island	1%	1
Blaine	2%	3
Birch Bay	4%	7
Lynden	7%	13
Sumas/Nooksack	3%	6
Foothills	5%	10
South Fork Valley	1%	1
Ferndale	10%	19
Bellingham	59%	108
Other county	9%	16
<i>answered question</i>		184
<i>skipped question</i>		12



Whatcom County PROS Plan

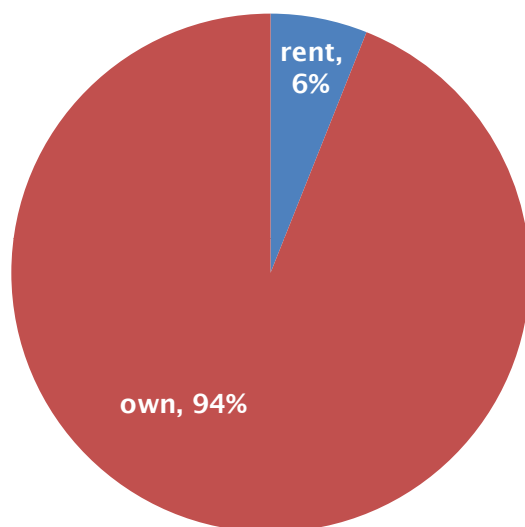
How many years have you lived in Whatcom County?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0-1	0%	0
2-5	5%	8
6-10	9%	10
10+	86%	105
<i>answered question</i>		182
<i>skipped question</i>		14



Whatcom County PROS Plan

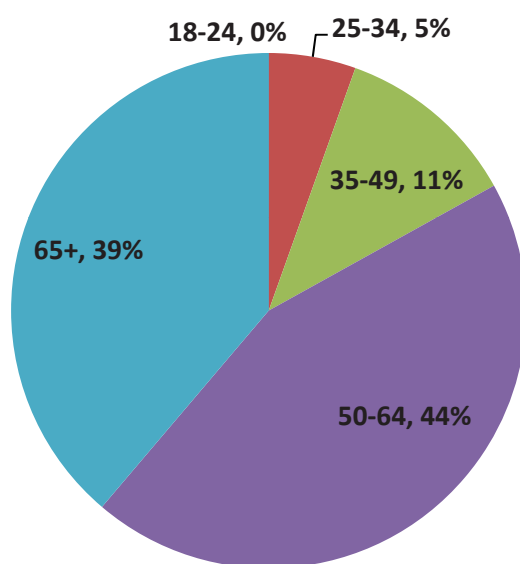
What type of housing do you live in?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
rent	6%	11
own	94%	171
<i>answered question</i>		182
<i>skipped question</i>		14



Whatcom County PROS Plan

What age group are you in?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
18-24	0%	0
25-34	5%	10
35-49	11%	21
50-64	44%	81
65+	39%	71
<i>answered question</i>		183
<i>skipped question</i>		13



Whatcom County PROS Plan

YOUR COMMENTS Do you have any specific comments or recommendations to make about this proposed park plan or this survey?

Answer Options	Response Count
	109
<i>answered question</i>	109
<i>skipped question</i>	87

Comments - from mail-back surveys

Questions 129-132. Fees should be adjusted by how much the buyer has already vested in our county. If they have not been a registered voter for (e.g.) 10 years they pay 50%. If new to our county they should pay 100%. Been here over 20 years - 0%. Survey does not address park programs that were cut in the last 10 years "because of the economy"! We want our facilities and programs back. I cannot in good common sense back the acquisition of new land that will be developed. Especially when the parks depart. Cannot offer programs they took away from us. In addition, adding, developing bathrooms, parking lots, trails and more use in areas we want preserved in a natural balance only creates increased polluting and degradation in areas that should be left underdeveloped. If you can't maintain past programs and exiting parks your priorities are not valid.

Need bike trail around Lake Samish - Very dangerous now. Need more parking at Lake Samish for the park - swimming.

I am grateful for the many hiking and snowshoeing opportunities in the county.

Moneys generated get diverted to other needs. Stop that practice!! Population increases will generate more taxes so #128 is inaccurate. I think most folks would pay for parks etc, if we could see a direct trail from taxes/fees to actual physical improvements, not additional staff, administrative purchased and studies. Marina's generate income. I did not see specific plans for additional salt water marinas. They would get my support. If a levy were to put on the ballot I would pay \$50.00 per year if we could count on the money being correctly applied and not used for other purposes. No General Fund crap. REET 3 should be an additional .15%. Exclusively is a work politicians cannot abide.

Let's work with volunteers and people who use the parks. Enforce laws already in place. The local option vehicle license fee should be \$15.00 per family not per vehicle.

In-depth survey! Nicely done! We have been here 35 years...lots of changes. Difficult for fixed incomes retirees to contribute a lot and use of facilities less than when family's home and younger ages. Difficult to really be objective when we use facilities seldom.

We have plenty of parks for an area this size. The sad part is that there are few one can visit alone in safety.

Multiple bike users on North Shore Rd. Not safe - badly need a bike lane! Very interested in the development of the Whatcom Rowing Assoc. at Bloedel Donovan Park.

I don't know the answers to most of the questions in the survey. I walk the trails and visit the beaches. They are excellent. I am sorry to see the boulevard park destruction during the summer season: if it isn't broken--why fix it. I don't feel safe on the "out of the way" trails I used to walk because of homeless campers and problem people so I don't walk them anymore. Bellingham has excellent parks and trails and beaches.

Thanks you for sending me the survey. However, we are not qualified to complete the enclosed questionnaire. In the past, we made great use of the hiking trails. Now I only use Lake Padden for kayaking and the slalom course on Whatcom Creek. Sorry that I cannot be of any help. Your survey is excellent. Manfred Parker

I am sorry. I could not see good enough to finish. I tried. I have two cataracts and macular degeneration in both eyes and everything runs together. I thought I could but I could not. Peggy Joy

I value parks and trails very much and hope the county finds ways to increase access to this beautiful area we live in.

Be sure to include category of "not applicable/no opinion" as not every person utilizes or is aware of all

the categories surveyed (i.e. non-camper, non-pet owner, etc). Most people are more likely to return a survey if an enclosed prepaid envelope is included.

More strict collection of fees from Canada Visitors. A fee could be assessed when they come over the border.

Prioritize development of new Bellingham Bay waterfront to allow for as much public access as possible with natural areas - not overdeveloped/business recreational facilities.

The park system we have is awesome! It needs to be protected before new additions are made that we may not be able to fund.

What is to be done with the park property on North Shore Rd. on Lake Whatcom? Use the property that is already owned and quit expanding.

I see lots of "acquire/develop" but what about maintenance? If you can afford it - do it. If you are already thinking of increasing taxes even if you want to call them fees - you can't afford it. Slow down - we have enough already.

A few small parks/play areas just north of north Bellingham would be great. No more parks in S. Bellingham.

I feel at this level we would be better off if we cut the buying of more land to develop more parks and trails and try to maintain the parks we have

It is hard to answer the levy and bond amounts. Need more info what spent now? What spend for other things in our taxes/We love to camp at Silver Lake and Point Roberts. We love to take walks and would appreciate more trails and beach access North of Bellingham. County Parks are for all of us and should be funded by the county as a whole, not localized taxes "Service areas". We are willing to fund parks through higher taxes. Pet exercise areas become (in effect) off-limits to people. It was confusing to have satisfaction versus need/priority level in same survey.

Hire managers that know what they are doing.

There are enough parks now and they are not being used to capacity now. Find better ways to utilize existing facilities.

Maintain for now. No new taxes until this recession is over. The public doesn't have it either.

You have your work cut out for you!

Your survey is the most convoluted I have encountered anywhere in the US. It also has a clear bias.

How come there are no picnic areas, parks or play areas for the people who live in the middle of the county? We have to drive at least 5 miles to get to the nearest park. Most are 8 miles or more away.

Good Job!!

Conservation and water issues should be addressed separately from parks and recreation. If park growth impact fees are collected from new housing development projects you repress the housing market.

No new taxes!

Most important part of plan is developing salt water trails from Blvd Park to GP site. Little Squalicum

needs to be developed for north side too. Walking is free. RV, boating, skiing, etc. costs money, perhaps use tax for these areas.

I grew up having a parcel of property to garden on, mow lawn and enjoy our own family "park". Unfortunately all properties are now divided and clustered. So the residents think they all need parks. This plan is not the best. Areas of dense housing should support their own parks. Property taxes are not the answer.

Trails and off-road trails/paths are good. On-road bike lanes pale to other cities of this size. Those we have are broken in sections (Lakeway) or are narrow (Barkley). Many are not safe for average biker. By the way, Cherry Point is zoned heavy industrial. Why would we want to develop this area for scenic/campground purposes?

Certainly one of the larger user groups of trails are runner. This survey does not reflect that fact. The permitting process for races is less friendly than in the past.

Fairhaven area needs more parking. I am age 66, would like to ride y bike but feel unsafe because of close car contact. Where are the senior activities? Beside the Senior Center I don't know about them. I am 66. We are paying enough taxes. We should NOT do what we do not have money to pay for. Period. We have enough parks already. Until the money/economy starts flowing again we should use our taxes to take care of existing parks and not expand. Water is a priority. We do not have the tax revenue to expand at this time. The economy will have to drastically improve for several years until we can build up our reserve accounts before we should start anything new. We should not be spending money by borrowing from the future. If all our debts were fully funded (pensions and health care for example) that would be different. Or if we already had the funds, plus upkeep funds, already in the bank. Don't spend what we don't already have saved!! No more taxes!! It is not fair for each county resident within each local recreation are to vote to determine whether to assess a limited short-term property tax increment. The South Side is pay for the property and improvements while everyone will have use of the area. Refer to own recent tax ballot. Regarding a levy, again. A bad area is taxed but all city/county/visiting people use it! No More Taxes! Live within our means! Quite spending and spending. If I were younger I would by a 20 year bond, possibly \$10,000.00. Collecting a onetime growth impact fee from new housing development projects is your most far plan/idea to pay for park-type areas. Adding a park growth impact fee to the cost of a new home would not impact the buyer because they would be paying it over the lifetime of their mortgage, not all at one time. They are the ones who will use the parks. 1). Do not spend money you do not have. @) keep all accounts fully funded so we don't become another bankrupt city. Do not promise anything without already having the money in the bank. 3) And most important: quit taxing!!! Some of us will have to sell our homes because we can't afford to pay the taxes. Homes we planned on living in the rest of our lives. Do you realize that you, Yes you, are potentially (yes & maybe even now) driving old people out of their homes because of over taxing? You may have a good dream but it is destroying some of us!!!

It would seem beneficial to develop "for profit" park features to finance the maintenance of these parks.

This was a well written comprehensive survey! Really caused me to think. Hope my answers help for the greater good!

Prioritize the proposal and scale down. Be conservative with our money and future generation's burdens.

Why on earth are we considering parks we cannot afford? People are hurting.

Bill Canadians!!

"Bancroft Road Access" does not exist. The limited access that was there has been blocked by a resident at the trailhead. In this area, we would like to see 1) access to the beach 2) boat launch 3) bike path all the way to Marietta 4) sidewalks for walking along Marine Drive.

We need to take better care of what we have before we add more - bicycles are hard on walking trails and several need maintenance and care and we need more accessible walking sites. I would also like to see someone/anyone enforce leash laws in our parks!

Parks and recreational opportunities contribute to the quality of life in this area, increasing tourism, property values and benefitting the economy in various ways. We should spare no expense in maintaining and expanding these programs.

These are big questions. I support acquisition for parks and trails (trails in particular) but I also emphatically respect the rights and views of property holders. Bellingham residents sometimes confuse environmentalism with lifestyle preservation. Handling of the 100 acre wood is one such example. Housing should have (can't read word here) there, if good land use was really the issue

We have enjoyed many opportunities to use WCP&\$ facilities, trails and sites for 24 years. Please do more S. Lake Whatcom development of trails and boat launching. We really like the Ken Hertz trail. I love our parks. The less commercial the better. More supervision required in certain urban parks including Cornwall Park - Frisbee players are out of control at times.

Whatcom County PROS Plan



1. RECREATION PROGRAMS Have any household members used recreational programs, parks, or trails provided by Whatcom County in the last year?

	no	yes	Rating Count
Used Whatcom County programs and parks?	3.0% (3)	97.0% (96)	99
answered question			99
skipped question			10

2. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following activities and facilities available in Whatcom County that are provided by the county, cities, park districts, and port on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the very lowest satisfaction and 5 is the very highest satisfaction level? Conservation and preservation of natural resources:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Preservation of undeveloped natural areas and forests?	1.0% (1)	7.6% (8)	24.8% (26)	53.3% (56)	13.3% (14)	105
Preservation of wetlands?	4.9% (5)	6.8% (7)	35.0% (36)	39.8% (41)	13.6% (14)	103
Preservation of agricultural land?	4.0% (4)	14.9% (15)	30.7% (31)	40.6% (41)	9.9% (10)	101
Open space and scenic area preservation?	1.0% (1)	11.4% (12)	22.9% (24)	46.7% (49)	18.1% (19)	105
answered question						105
skipped question						4

3. Interpretive programs:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Nature, wildlife, and environmental exhibits, centers, walks, programs and events?	3.3% (3)	12.1% (11)	49.5% (45)	26.4% (24)	8.8% (8)	91
Gardens and landscape exhibits, walks, programs, and events?	3.3% (3)	14.4% (13)	42.2% (38)	32.2% (29)	7.8% (7)	90
Historical, cultural and heritage exhibits, walks, programs and events?	3.4% (3)	14.8% (13)	48.9% (43)	25.0% (22)	8.0% (7)	88
Historical homes, museums, and farms?	4.6% (4)	16.1% (14)	41.4% (36)	31.0% (27)	6.9% (6)	87
Farm and agricultural exhibits, programs, and events?	5.7% (5)	17.0% (15)	50.0% (44)	19.3% (17)	8.0% (7)	88
answered question						91
skipped question						18

4. Shoreline and waterfront:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Freshwater access to lakes, rivers and streams?	4.0% (4)	20.0% (20)	31.0% (31)	30.0% (30)	15.0% (15)	100
Shore fishing opportunities?	8.9% (8)	18.9% (17)	41.1% (37)	24.4% (22)	6.7% (6)	90
Boat launching facilities?	9.9% (9)	14.3% (13)	40.7% (37)	24.2% (22)	11.0% (10)	91
Saltwater beach access and beach combing?	7.1% (7)	18.4% (18)	36.7% (36)	27.6% (27)	10.2% (10)	98
Shell fishing opportunities?	8.9% (8)	25.6% (23)	42.2% (38)	17.8% (16)	5.6% (5)	90
answered question						101
skipped question						8

5. Picnicking and camping:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Picnic areas?	3.2% (3)	9.6% (9)	38.3% (36)	39.4% (37)	9.6% (9)	94
Campsites and camping opportunities?	3.4% (3)	21.3% (19)	39.3% (35)	29.2% (26)	6.7% (6)	89
answered question						100
skipped question						9

6. Trails:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Pet exercise and off leash areas?	7.2% (7)	20.6% (20)	42.3% (41)	25.8% (25)	4.1% (4)	97
Hiking and walking trails?	2.0% (2)	5.1% (5)	27.6% (27)	48.0% (47)	17.3% (17)	98
Mountain bike trails?	26.8% (26)	23.7% (23)	21.6% (21)	17.5% (17)	10.3% (10)	97
Horseback trails?	9.8% (8)	14.6% (12)	54.9% (45)	13.4% (11)	7.3% (6)	82
Multiuse trails (bicycle, walking)?	6.2% (6)	22.7% (22)	29.9% (29)	33.0% (32)	8.2% (8)	97
Off road motorized opportunities?	34.5% (30)	20.7% (18)	26.4% (23)	12.6% (11)	5.7% (5)	87
answered question						105
skipped question						4

7. Athletic courts and fields:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Playgrounds?	5.6% (5)	11.2% (10)	40.4% (36)	34.8% (31)	7.9% (7)	89
Athletic and play fields?	2.2% (2)	15.4% (14)	38.5% (35)	36.3% (33)	7.7% (7)	91
Athletic events and tournaments?	5.6% (5)	19.1% (17)	44.9% (40)	27.0% (24)	3.4% (3)	89
answered question						92
skipped question						17

8. Firearms:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Firearms use and safety classes?	8.9% (7)	21.5% (17)	46.8% (37)	16.5% (13)	6.3% (5)	79
Shooting opportunities?	16.0% (12)	21.3% (16)	40.0% (30)	14.7% (11)	8.0% (6)	75
answered question						81
skipped question						28

9. Supporting services and facilities:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Directional and way finding signs?	3.1% (3)	11.5% (11)	53.1% (51)	24.0% (23)	8.3% (8)	96
Restrooms?	3.0% (3)	16.8% (17)	40.6% (41)	32.7% (33)	6.9% (7)	101
Parking areas?	4.0% (4)	10.1% (10)	41.4% (41)	39.4% (39)	5.1% (5)	99
Bicycle accommodations?	14.4% (14)	21.6% (21)	34.0% (33)	23.7% (23)	6.2% (6)	97
Handicapped accessibility accommodations?	8.8% (7)	10.0% (8)	42.5% (34)	28.8% (23)	10.0% (8)	80
Food and vending concessions?	9.9% (8)	33.3% (27)	40.7% (33)	11.1% (9)	4.9% (4)	81
answered question						103
skipped question						6

10. Rental facilities:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Rental of canoes, paddle boats, and kayaks?	4.8% (4)	32.1% (27)	41.7% (35)	17.9% (15)	3.6% (3)	84
Rental of cabins and overnight lodges?	7.5% (6)	25.0% (20)	41.3% (33)	21.3% (17)	5.0% (4)	80
Rental of picnic lodges and shelters?	6.1% (5)	11.0% (9)	47.6% (39)	29.3% (24)	6.1% (5)	82
Rental of historic homes, activity centers and similar facilities for weddings, retreats, meeting and events?	3.8% (3)	21.3% (17)	48.8% (39)	17.5% (14)	8.8% (7)	80
answered question						88
skipped question						21

11. Activities and events:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Music and art exhibits, concerts and events?	3.5% (3)	18.8% (16)	43.5% (37)	24.7% (21)	9.4% (8)	85
Outdoor skill and safety instructions (backcountry camping, first aid, bicycling, and horseback riding)?	8.0% (7)	29.9% (26)	40.2% (35)	17.2% (15)	4.6% (4)	87
Volunteer opportunities in the parks?	8.3% (7)	19.0% (16)	48.8% (41)	15.5% (13)	8.3% (7)	84
Geocaching/orienteering?	9.1% (7)	35.1% (27)	42.9% (33)	7.8% (6)	5.2% (4)	77
Outdoor swimming opportunities?	5.7% (5)	21.6% (19)	48.9% (43)	21.6% (19)	2.3% (2)	88
Running and walking events?	2.3% (2)	12.5% (11)	47.7% (42)	31.8% (28)	5.7% (5)	88
Bicycle and mountain bike rides and events?	20.7% (19)	26.1% (24)	31.5% (29)	14.1% (13)	7.6% (7)	92
Ultimate Frisbee and disc golf opportunities?	18.4% (14)	22.4% (17)	43.4% (33)	11.8% (9)	3.9% (3)	76
Winter activities snowshoeing, X-country skiing, snowmobiling?	10.2% (9)	31.8% (28)	30.7% (27)	21.6% (19)	5.7% (5)	88
Senior activities?	6.9% (5)	15.3% (11)	51.4% (37)	16.7% (12)	9.7% (7)	72
answered question						105
skipped question						4

12. RECREATION PROGRAM FINANCING If it requires more money than can be budgeted from existing Whatcom County resources to provide future recreation programs, how would you rate the following methods of paying for them?

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Reduce the number - of programs to control costs?	20.4% (20)	28.6% (28)	29.6% (29)	9.2% (9)	12.2% (12)	98
Reduce the content, variety, and duration – of programs to control costs?	13.5% (13)	34.4% (33)	32.3% (31)	9.4% (9)	10.4% (10)	96
Increase user fees for non-residents – to finance program services?	7.9% (8)	4.0% (4)	25.7% (26)	42.6% (43)	19.8% (20)	101
Increase user fees for everyone - to finance program services?	11.0% (11)	16.0% (16)	32.0% (32)	33.0% (33)	8.0% (8)	100
Increase county taxes – to finance needed program services?	22.4% (22)	10.2% (10)	27.6% (27)	21.4% (21)	18.4% (18)	98
answered question						102
skipped question						7

13. PARK FACILITY PRIORITIES IN GENERAL In general, how would you rate the existing inventory of all park, recreation, and open space facilities provided in Whatcom County by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, and other park providers on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the poor and 5 excellent?

	1 - poor	2 - fair	3 - average	4 - good	5 - excellent	Rating Count
Quantity – the number, size and location of existing park and trail sites to serve the existing population?	4.0% (4)	11.9% (12)	25.7% (26)	45.5% (46)	12.9% (13)	101
Quality – of maintenance conditions and furnishings including parking, restrooms, trails, campsites, shelters, cabins, and other facilities in existing parks?	3.1% (3)	8.2% (8)	38.8% (38)	40.8% (40)	9.2% (9)	98
answered question						102
skipped question						7

14. How would you rate the need for the following additional facilities within the county in general whether provided by the county, cities, school districts, port, state, or another park provider where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest priority? Conservation needs:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Water resources and watershed protection areas?	8.2% (8)	15.5% (15)	18.6% (18)	23.7% (23)	34.0% (33)	97
Wildlife habitat, conservation, and natural areas?	9.3% (9)	12.4% (12)	17.5% (17)	34.0% (33)	26.8% (26)	97
Forestland conservation areas?	6.2% (6)	13.4% (13)	19.6% (19)	37.1% (36)	23.7% (23)	97
Farmland conservation areas?	8.5% (8)	21.3% (20)	28.7% (27)	29.8% (28)	11.7% (11)	94
Open space and scenic area preservation?	8.3% (8)	12.5% (12)	27.1% (26)	28.1% (27)	24.0% (23)	96
Historical and cultural buildings and sites?	10.3% (10)	24.7% (24)	34.0% (33)	25.8% (25)	5.2% (5)	97
answered question						98
skipped question						11

15. Regional park needs:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Shore fishing areas and docks?	12.6% (12)	23.2% (22)	38.9% (37)	17.9% (17)	7.4% (7)	95
Waterfront access and beach use sites?	4.1% (4)	7.2% (7)	23.7% (23)	43.3% (42)	21.6% (21)	97
Cartop boat (kayak/canoe) launch sites?	7.4% (7)	14.7% (14)	38.9% (37)	26.3% (25)	12.6% (12)	95
Powerboat launching and moorage facilities?	27.7% (26)	23.4% (22)	37.2% (35)	8.5% (8)	3.2% (3)	94
Picnic tables, play areas, and shelters	7.4% (7)	14.7% (14)	37.9% (36)	31.6% (30)	8.4% (8)	95
Tent, yurt, RV campsites, group camps, and cabins?	5.2% (5)	16.5% (16)	44.3% (43)	23.7% (23)	10.3% (10)	97
Concessions for food and beverage, bait sales, etc	34.4% (33)	30.2% (29)	27.1% (26)	6.3% (6)	2.1% (2)	96
answered question						99
skipped question						10

16. Trail needs:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Handicap accessible trails and facilities within parks?	10.6% (10)	26.6% (25)	34.0% (32)	18.1% (17)	10.6% (10)	94
Cross-country walking and hiking trails?	8.2% (8)	13.4% (13)	27.8% (27)	30.9% (30)	19.6% (19)	97
Cross-country horse trails?	25.6% (23)	20.0% (18)	35.6% (32)	12.2% (11)	6.7% (6)	90
Cross-country mountain bike trails?	14.0% (14)	10.0% (10)	21.0% (21)	21.0% (21)	34.0% (34)	100
Snowshoe, skiing, and snowmobile trails?	7.4% (7)	16.0% (15)	40.4% (38)	24.5% (23)	11.7% (11)	94
Multipurpose (hike/bike/horse) trails?	9.1% (9)	11.1% (11)	20.2% (20)	33.3% (33)	26.3% (26)	99
On-road bicycle routes?	9.6% (9)	10.6% (10)	30.9% (29)	28.7% (27)	20.2% (19)	94
Dog parks, exercise areas, and trails?	13.8% (13)	12.8% (12)	42.6% (40)	21.3% (20)	9.6% (9)	94
Off-road ATV, motorcycle, and ORV parks?	40.6% (39)	24.0% (23)	13.5% (13)	5.2% (5)	16.7% (16)	96
Remote backcountry campsites?	18.8% (18)	15.6% (15)	28.1% (27)	20.8% (20)	16.7% (16)	96
answered question						104
skipped question						5

17. Recreational facility needs:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball athletic fields?	18.1% (17)	23.4% (22)	39.4% (37)	16.0% (15)	3.2% (3)	94
Golf course and driving ranges?	51.6% (48)	29.0% (27)	14.0% (13)	4.3% (4)	1.1% (1)	93
Community classrooms and meeting facilities?	15.2% (14)	22.8% (21)	44.6% (41)	15.2% (14)	2.2% (2)	92
Daycare facilities?	25.3% (23)	28.6% (26)	27.5% (25)	15.4% (14)	3.3% (3)	91
Youth and teen activity centers?	8.6% (8)	15.1% (14)	30.1% (28)	33.3% (31)	12.9% (12)	93
Senior activity centers?	9.9% (9)	18.7% (17)	33.0% (30)	27.5% (25)	11.0% (10)	91
answered question						95
skipped question						14

18. Supporting facilities:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Restrooms?	6.3% (6)	13.5% (13)	29.2% (28)	31.3% (30)	19.8% (19)	96
Access and parking areas?	3.1% (3)	16.5% (16)	32.0% (31)	38.1% (37)	10.3% (10)	97
Interpretive and wayfinding signage?	10.6% (10)	21.3% (20)	33.0% (31)	28.7% (27)	6.4% (6)	94
answered question						100
skipped question						9

19. PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN PROPOSAL PRIORITIES Under the proposed park plan, the county, cities, school districts, port, and other park providers may jointly conserve and develop wildlife and open space preservations, waterfront parks, picnic and camping facilities, trails, athletic fields, meeting facilities, and other activities within the county. How would you rate the following proposals – as shown on the following preliminary concept graphics? Conservation needs - environmental (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Conservancies watershed – protect the proposed water resource and watershed areas of the county?	6.2% (6)	10.3% (10)	13.4% (13)	28.9% (28)	41.2% (40)	97
Conservancies wildlife – protect the proposed wildlife habitat areas of the county in and around fresh and saltwater areas, wetlands, and woodland areas?	6.4% (6)	13.8% (13)	17.0% (16)	25.5% (24)	37.2% (35)	94
Conservancies forestland – protect the proposed mature and old growth forested areas of the county from logging in and around urbanizing areas and in backcountry sites?	6.3% (6)	9.5% (9)	17.9% (17)	23.2% (22)	43.2% (41)	95
Conservancies farmland – protect the proposed historical and productive farmlands of the county from subdivision and development?	8.5% (8)	14.9% (14)	20.2% (19)	35.1% (33)	21.3% (20)	94
Conservancies scenic – protect the proposed scenic areas, viewpoints, and vistas of the county along fresh and saltwater shorelines, farmlands, and wooded hilltop and ridgelines?	7.4% (7)	18.1% (17)	14.9% (14)	28.7% (27)	30.9% (29)	94
answered question						97
skipped question						12

20. Conservation needs - historical and cultural (see following graphic):

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Conservancies scenic – protect the proposed scenic areas, viewpoints, and vistas of the county along fresh and saltwater shorelines, farmlands, and wooded hilltop and ridgelines?	7.6% (7)	10.9% (10)	21.7% (20)	30.4% (28)	29.3% (27)	92
Conservancies historical – protect the proposed farms, sawmills, railroads, mines, and other heritage sites from demolition and development?	10.9% (10)	18.5% (17)	25.0% (23)	37.0% (34)	8.7% (8)	92
answered question						93
skipped question						16

21. Regional park needs - saltwater access (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Saltwater access – acquire/develop the proposed additional saltwater access sites for fishing, beachcombing, and walking?	4.4% (4)	17.6% (16)	23.1% (21)	29.7% (27)	25.3% (23)	91
Motorized boat launches - freshwater – develop the proposed additional boat launching facilities at saltwater sites?	25.8% (23)	28.1% (25)	34.8% (31)	9.0% (8)	2.2% (2)	89
Non-motorized cartop (kayak/canoe) launch sites – develop the proposed additional access and launch sites at salt and freshwater sites?	7.8% (7)	15.6% (14)	36.7% (33)	25.6% (23)	14.4% (13)	90
answered question						91
skipped question						18

22. Regional park needs - freshwater access (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Freshwater access – acquire/develop the proposed additional freshwater access sites for fishing, swimming, and boating?	4.4% (4)	17.8% (16)	26.7% (24)	33.3% (30)	17.8% (16)	90
Motorized boat launches - freshwater – develop the proposed additional boat launching facilities at freshwater sites?	30.3% (27)	32.6% (29)	25.8% (23)	10.1% (9)	1.1% (1)	89
Non-motorized cartop (kayak/canoe) launch sites – develop the proposed additional access and launch sites at salt and freshwater sites?	5.6% (5)	20.2% (18)	31.5% (28)	31.5% (28)	11.2% (10)	89
answered question						90
skipped question						19

23. Regional park needs - campgrounds and group picnic facilities (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Picnic shelters and group activity sites – develop the proposed additional picnic shelters and group picnic facilities at major regional park sites?	5.7% (5)	20.5% (18)	47.7% (42)	20.5% (18)	5.7% (5)	88
Campsites and cabins – develop the proposed additional tent and RV campsites, yurts and cabins, and group camp sites at major regional park sites?	9.0% (8)	19.1% (17)	38.2% (34)	22.5% (20)	11.2% (10)	89
answered question						90
skipped question						19

24. Trail systems - shoreline (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Shoreline trails – develop the proposed cross-country network of saltwater beach and shoreline walking areas and trails?	2.2% (2)	6.5% (6)	20.7% (19)	39.1% (36)	31.5% (29)	92
answered question						92
skipped question						17

25. Trail systems - hiking (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Hiking trails – develop the proposed cross-country network of on and off-road day and backpacking cross-country hiking trails?	3.2% (3)	11.6% (11)	21.1% (20)	29.5% (28)	34.7% (33)	95
answered question						95
skipped question						14

26. Trail systems - horse trails (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Horse trails – develop the proposed cross-country network of horse stables, riding areas, and trails?	22.7% (20)	26.1% (23)	34.1% (30)	9.1% (8)	8.0% (7)	88
answered question						88
skipped question						21

27. Trail systems - off-road mountain bike (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Off-road mountain bike trails – develop the proposed cross-country network of riding trails?	7.9% (8)	16.8% (17)	21.8% (22)	18.8% (19)	34.7% (35)	101
answered question						101
skipped question						8

28. Trail systems - multipurpose hike/bike/horse (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Multipurpose trails – develop the proposed off-road cross-country network of hike, bike, and horse trails?	3.0% (3)	17.0% (17)	15.0% (15)	30.0% (30)	35.0% (35)	100
answered question						100
skipped question						9

29. Trail systems - winter trails (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Winter trails – develop the proposed cross-country network of snowshoe, skiing, and snowmobile trails?	7.4% (7)	20.2% (19)	34.0% (32)	28.7% (27)	9.6% (9)	94
answered question						94
skipped question						15

30. Trail systems - on road bicycle routes recreational (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
On-road bicycle routes – develop the proposed cross-country system of on-road routes using road shoulders and designated bike lanes?	10.5% (10)	6.3% (6)	20.0% (19)	30.5% (29)	32.6% (31)	95
answered question						95
skipped question						14

31. Scenic roads, byway touring routes, and viewpoints (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Scenic roads – designate the proposed system of cross-country back-road scenic routes with viewpoints, interpretive signage, and other exhibits?	13.3% (12)	21.1% (19)	33.3% (30)	21.1% (19)	11.1% (10)	90
answered question						90
skipped question						19

32. Trail systems - ATV/motorcycle riding areas (no graphic provided)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
ATV/motorcycle riding areas – support the continued private party operation of ATV/motorcycle riding areas?	36.5% (35)	26.0% (25)	11.5% (11)	12.5% (12)	13.5% (13)	96
answered question						96
skipped question						13

33. Athletic parks (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Athletic fields – acquire and lease the proposed network of sites to athletic league organizations for the development of a regional system of public playing fields for youth and adults?	10.8% (10)	28.0% (26)	36.6% (34)	21.5% (20)	3.2% (3)	93
answered question						93
skipped question						16

34. Community facilities or centers (see following graphic)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Meeting facilities – develop and lease the proposed network of community facilities throughout the county to non-profit organizations for the operation of teen, senior, and other public activities and events?	13.5% (12)	21.3% (19)	39.3% (35)	20.2% (18)	5.6% (5)	89
answered question						89
skipped question						20

35. Enterprise facilities (no graphic provided)

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Enterprise facilities – where user fees and/or self help efforts will support, acquire and lease or develop the proposed gun ranges, equestrian facilities, conference facilities and retreats, at select regional properties throughout the county?	19.3% (17)	21.6% (19)	37.5% (33)	18.2% (16)	3.4% (3)	88
answered question						88
skipped question						21

36. JOINT VENTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND PARTNER OPTIONS Besides Whatcom County – cities, school districts, athletic organizations, private operators, and a variety of other public and private agencies own and operate park facilities and recreational programs within the county. How would you rate joint venture projects with the following organizations? Park facility development:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
With other public agencies – like cities, school districts, and the port for the development of parks, trails, and athletic fields?	3.3% (3)	11.1% (10)	30.0% (27)	28.9% (26)	26.7% (24)	90
With nonprofit organizations – for the conservation of sensitive environmental areas or the preservation of historical areas or the development of athletic fields for public use?	9.6% (9)	5.3% (5)	20.2% (19)	38.3% (36)	26.6% (25)	94
With for-profit organizations – for the development of specialized facilities like campgrounds, marinas, and conference centers for public use for a fee?	14.3% (13)	19.8% (18)	36.3% (33)	22.0% (20)	7.7% (7)	91
answered question						95
skipped question						14


37. Recreation program operations:

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
With other public agencies – like cities, school districts, and park districts for the operation of recreational programs at regional park sites for public use?	5.7% (5)	6.8% (6)	34.1% (30)	29.5% (26)	23.9% (21)	88
With nonprofit organizations – for the management of sensitive environmental areas or the operation of childcare, teen, senior, or other community programs?	8.0% (7)	9.1% (8)	26.1% (23)	39.8% (35)	17.0% (15)	88
With for-profit organizations – for the operation of specialized facilities like campgrounds, marinas, and conference centers for public use paid with a user fee?	14.9% (13)	18.4% (16)	39.1% (34)	21.8% (19)	5.7% (5)	87
answered question						89
skipped question						20

38. ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCING ALTERNATIVES County Council could institute alternative methods of organizationally managing and financing regional versus local park, recreation, and open space improvements within the county. How would you rate the following alternatives? Local park facilities using recreational service areas – County Council could institute a limited short-term (3-5 year) property tax levy as a means of financing the acquisition, development, and/or operation of local park, recreation, and open space facilities and/or programs within specified areas of the county. Recreation service areas can be established for a single facility for a single benefit area, such as scenic preservation for county waterfront areas - or for multiple facilities for a specified portion of the county, such as athletic fields and indoor gymnasiums for a city or an urban growth area (UGA). Once proposed, the county residents within each local recreation service area vote to determine whether to assess a limited short-term property tax increment to finance acquisition, development, and/or operation of the proposed facilities and programs within the proposed local service area. How would you rate the following methods for using local recreational service areas?

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Specific facilities – organizing recreation service areas to finance specific facilities and programs, such as the preservation of scenic areas?	18.8% (15)	12.5% (10)	40.0% (32)	23.8% (19)	5.0% (4)	80
Specific areas – organizing recreation service areas to provide a mixture of facilities and programs within a specific local area, such as a city or school district or urban growth area?	17.3% (13)	9.3% (7)	42.7% (32)	22.7% (17)	8.0% (6)	75
answered question						81
skipped question						28


39. If a levy were to be put on the ballot to finance local park facilities and programs within your local area (which could include a city area), how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Pay per household per year?		100.0%	72
		answered question	72
		skipped question	37

40. REAL ESTATE EXCISE AND FUEL TAX, AND LICENSE FEE OPTIONS Subject to voter approval, County Council could institute a variety of optional fees and taxes to be used instead of or in addition to the regional/local organizational financing approaches defined in the above (as a way of reducing the use of property taxes for park financing). How would you rate each of the following optional approaches?

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Real Estate Excise Tax (REET-3) – an additional 0.25% assessment of the sales price of all real estate property (equal to \$250 per \$100,000 of sale price) paid by the purchaser to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of park and open space?	26.4% (23)	12.6% (11)	14.9% (13)	21.8% (19)	24.1% (21)	87
Local Option Vehicle License Fee – an additional \$15.00 per vehicle license registered in the county to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of trail improvements?	21.8% (19)	14.9% (13)	25.3% (22)	20.7% (18)	17.2% (15)	87
Local Option Fuel Tax – an additional \$0.023 per gallon sales tax to be paid by residents and tourists to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of trail improvements?	30.2% (26)	10.5% (9)	15.1% (13)	17.4% (15)	26.7% (23)	86
Local Option Sales Tax – an additional 0.1% sales tax (equal to \$0.10 for a \$100 purchase) to be paid by residents and tourists to be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition and development of park and open space?	23.0% (20)	12.6% (11)	17.2% (15)	27.6% (24)	19.5% (17)	87
answered question						88
skipped question						21

41. GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OPTIONS Subject to voter approval, County Council could also propose a variety of optional bonds as a means of financing park, recreation, and open space improvements for specific projects. This option could be used instead of or in addition to the options defined in the above. How would you rate the following? General obligation bond - County Council could submit a general obligation bond for voter approval to finance acquisition and development of specific park, recreation, and open space improvements. The bond, which can not be used to finance operation and maintenance, would be financed over a 20-year period. If a bond were to be put on the ballot to finance the highest priority projects, how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Pay per household per year?		100.0%	68
	answered question		68
	skipped question		41







42. POPULATION GROWTH IMPACT MANAGEMENT OPTIONS In the next 20 years the county population is projected to increase by another 61,840 people or 23% more than the existing population of 203,500 persons.

	no	yes	Rating Count
In your opinion, will existing park and recreation facilities (not including any of the plan's proposals) within the county, cities, and school districts systems be enough to provide for this population increase?	74.7% (68)	25.3% (23)	91
	answered question		91
	skipped question		18












43. The existing inventory of county park and recreational facilities is estimated to be worth about \$900 per person or \$2,000 for an average single family house. This amount is the cost required for additional park facilities for new housing residents if the county is to maintain the same standards for park, recreation, and open space facilities that are currently provided existing residents. Given this fact, how would you rate the following methods for dealing with the impact of new population growth on parks and the methods existing residents may be using to finance park improvements?

	1 - lowest	2 - low	3 - moderate	4 - high	5 - highest	Rating Count
Lower standards - for the number of park facilities provided to future populations?	44.4% (40)	21.1% (19)	23.3% (21)	6.7% (6)	4.4% (4)	90
Collect a one-time growth impact fee from new housing development projects – to pay for park improvements?	13.7% (13)	3.2% (3)	9.5% (9)	33.7% (32)	40.0% (38)	95
Increase county taxes - to acquire and develop park facilities to offset population growth impacts?	19.4% (18)	18.3% (17)	29.0% (27)	23.7% (22)	9.7% (9)	93
answered question						96
skipped question						13





44. If a park growth impact fee were to be collected from new housing development projects, what percent of this cost would you recommend be charged for every new single family house to be developed in the county? (The county does not currently charge growth impact fees.)

		Response Percent	Response Count
\$2,000		26.4%	24
\$1,500		7.7%	7
\$1,000		22.0%	20
\$ 500		20.9%	19
\$ 200		7.7%	7
\$ 0		15.4%	14
answered question			91
skipped question			18



45. YOUR CHARACTERISTICS Which area of the county do you live in?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Point Roberts		1.0%	1
Lummi Island		5.8%	6
Blaine		1.0%	1
Birch Bay		3.8%	4
Lynden		1.0%	1
Sumas/Nooksack		2.9%	3
Foothills		7.7%	8
South Fork Valley		1.9%	2
Ferndale		1.9%	2
Bellingham		63.5%	66
Other county		9.6%	10
answered question			104
skipped question			5






46. How many years have you lived in Whatcom County?

		Response Percent	Response Count
0-1		5.8%	6
2-5		10.6%	11
6-10		19.2%	20
10+		64.4%	67
answered question			104

47. What type of housing do you live in?

		Response Percent	Response Count
rent		20.4%	21
own		79.6%	82
answered question			103
skipped question			6

48. What age group are you in?

		Response Percent	Response Count
18-24		1.9%	2
25-34		22.1%	23
35-49		27.9%	29
50-64		36.5%	38
65+		11.5%	12
answered question			104
skipped question			5

49. YOUR COMMENTS Do you have any specific comments or recommendations to make about this proposed park plan or this survey?

	Response Count
	54
answered question	54
skipped question	55

Page 2, Q39. If a levy were to be put on the ballot to finance local park facilities and programs within your local area (which could include a city area), how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?

1	100.00	Oct 25, 2013 10:51 PM
2	100.00	Oct 25, 2013 4:13 PM
3	100.00	Oct 14, 2013 9:18 PM
4	100	Oct 8, 2013 12:57 PM
5	A lot, but only if funding was toward conservation, not gun ranges and motorized/ATV courses.	Oct 7, 2013 10:28 AM
6	\$200.00	Oct 4, 2013 2:08 PM
7	\$200	Oct 4, 2013 12:13 PM
8	100.00	Oct 4, 2013 11:20 AM
9	2%	Oct 3, 2013 10:31 PM
10	\$100	Oct 3, 2013 9:20 AM
11	\$500	Oct 3, 2013 8:01 AM
12	500.00	Oct 3, 2013 7:32 AM
13	50	Oct 2, 2013 9:45 PM
14	\$200	Oct 2, 2013 8:53 PM
15	100.00	Oct 2, 2013 8:41 PM
16	0	Oct 2, 2013 8:38 PM
17	200	Oct 2, 2013 8:15 PM
18	\$50	Oct 2, 2013 7:02 PM
19	100	Oct 2, 2013 5:00 PM
20	0	Oct 2, 2013 2:56 PM
21	\$100	Sep 11, 2013 11:42 AM
22	1200	Sep 10, 2013 2:37 PM
23	\$50	Sep 10, 2013 12:20 PM
24	10.00	Sep 4, 2013 3:28 PM
25	would be willing to pay, but not sure what dollar amount	Sep 2, 2013 2:28 AM
26	\$500	Aug 27, 2013 3:10 PM

Page 2, Q39. If a levy were to be put on the ballot to finance local park facilities and programs within your local area (which could include a city area), how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?

27	50	Aug 23, 2013 1:54 PM
28	100.00	Aug 11, 2013 12:27 PM
29	80,000	Aug 7, 2013 3:15 PM
30	\$100	Aug 5, 2013 8:22 AM
31	\$50	Aug 1, 2013 11:40 PM
32	\$100.00	Aug 1, 2013 4:29 PM
33	100.00	Jul 31, 2013 12:29 PM
34	\$40	Jul 27, 2013 11:55 PM
35	0	Jul 27, 2013 8:13 AM
36	\$50	Jul 25, 2013 9:07 PM
37	200 additional to GW	Jul 24, 2013 9:38 AM
38	0	Jul 23, 2013 3:43 PM
39	100.00	Jul 19, 2013 2:14 PM
40	?	Jul 18, 2013 11:00 PM
41	100	Jul 18, 2013 3:46 PM
42	\$10.00	Jul 14, 2013 11:57 PM
43	0.00	Jul 12, 2013 3:37 PM
44	\$20	Jul 12, 2013 8:57 AM
45	\$150	Jul 11, 2013 11:56 PM
46	\$50	Jul 11, 2013 9:45 PM
47	100	Jul 11, 2013 11:36 AM
48	100.00	Jul 10, 2013 10:42 PM
49	0	Jul 9, 2013 8:27 AM
50	\$200.	Jul 8, 2013 5:54 PM
51	\$400.00	Jul 8, 2013 1:19 PM
52	0	Jul 8, 2013 12:30 PM

Page 2, Q39. If a levy were to be put on the ballot to finance local park facilities and programs within your local area (which could include a city area), how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?

53	\$100.	Jul 6, 2013 8:23 PM
54	\$100	Jul 6, 2013 1:08 PM
55	I want a consolidated annual user fee based permit for access to all facilities, parks, trails, etc	Jul 6, 2013 1:03 PM
56	\$\$0.00 we already have a lot of parks	Jul 1, 2013 11:30 AM
57	0	Jun 27, 2013 5:52 AM
58	0	Jun 24, 2013 9:30 PM
59	\$100	Jun 24, 2013 1:42 PM
60	none	Jun 24, 2013 1:14 AM
61	50.00	Jun 22, 2013 11:06 AM
62	\$50	Jun 22, 2013 9:28 AM
63	0	Jun 21, 2013 9:13 PM
64	0.00	Jun 21, 2013 5:45 PM
65	0	Jun 21, 2013 5:31 PM
66	200.00	Jun 21, 2013 1:35 PM
67	\$100	Jun 21, 2013 11:47 AM
68	\$100	Jun 21, 2013 10:24 AM
69	200	Jun 21, 2013 9:46 AM
70	\$100.00	Jun 21, 2013 8:46 AM
71	\$100	Jun 20, 2013 12:51 PM
72	25	Jun 20, 2013 9:06 AM

Page 2, Q41. GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OPTIONS

Subject to voter approval, County Council could also propose a variety of optional bonds as a means of financing park, recreation, and open space improvements for specific projects. This option could be used instead of or in addition to the options defined in the ...

1	100.00	Oct 25, 2013 10:51 PM
2	100.00	Oct 14, 2013 9:18 PM
3	100	Oct 8, 2013 12:57 PM
4	\$100	Oct 7, 2013 10:28 AM
5	\$100	Oct 4, 2013 2:25 PM
6	\$100.00	Oct 4, 2013 2:08 PM
7	\$200	Oct 4, 2013 12:13 PM
8	\$500	Oct 3, 2013 8:01 AM
9	500.00	Oct 3, 2013 7:32 AM
10	50	Oct 2, 2013 9:45 PM
11	\$200	Oct 2, 2013 8:53 PM
12	100.00	Oct 2, 2013 8:41 PM
13	0	Oct 2, 2013 8:38 PM
14	200	Oct 2, 2013 8:15 PM
15	\$50	Oct 2, 2013 7:02 PM
16	100	Oct 2, 2013 5:00 PM
17	0	Oct 2, 2013 2:56 PM
18	1500	Oct 2, 2013 2:47 PM
19	\$100	Sep 11, 2013 11:42 AM
20	1200	Sep 10, 2013 2:37 PM
21	\$50	Sep 10, 2013 12:20 PM
22	0	Sep 4, 2013 3:28 PM
23	would be willing to pay, but not sure what dollar amount	Sep 2, 2013 2:28 AM
24	\$500	Aug 27, 2013 3:10 PM
25	50	Aug 23, 2013 1:54 PM
26	200	Aug 7, 2013 3:15 PM

Page 2, Q41. GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OPTIONS

Subject to voter approval, County Council could also propose a variety of optional bonds as a means of financing park, recreation, and open space improvements for specific projects. This option could be used instead of or in addition to the options defined in the ...

27	\$100	Aug 5, 2013 8:22 AM
28	\$50	Aug 1, 2013 11:40 PM
29	\$100.00	Aug 1, 2013 4:29 PM
30	0	Jul 31, 2013 12:29 PM
31	\$40	Jul 27, 2013 11:55 PM
32	0	Jul 27, 2013 8:13 AM
33	\$50	Jul 25, 2013 9:07 PM
34	100	Jul 24, 2013 9:38 AM
35	0	Jul 23, 2013 3:43 PM
36	100.00	Jul 19, 2013 2:14 PM
37	?	Jul 18, 2013 11:00 PM
38	100	Jul 18, 2013 3:46 PM
39	\$10.00	Jul 14, 2013 11:57 PM
40	0.00	Jul 12, 2013 3:37 PM
41	\$20	Jul 12, 2013 8:57 AM
42	\$150	Jul 11, 2013 11:56 PM
43	\$50	Jul 11, 2013 9:45 PM
44	100	Jul 11, 2013 11:36 AM
45	100.00	Jul 10, 2013 10:42 PM
46	0	Jul 9, 2013 8:27 AM
47	U/K	Jul 8, 2013 1:19 PM
48	5	Jul 8, 2013 12:30 PM
49	\$100.00	Jul 7, 2013 1:15 PM
50	\$100	Jul 6, 2013 1:08 PM
51	\$0.00 really bad idea / general obligation bonds should not be considered	Jul 1, 2013 11:30 AM
52	0	Jun 27, 2013 5:52 AM

Page 2, Q41. GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OPTIONS

Subject to voter approval, County Council could also propose a variety of optional bonds as a means of financing park, recreation, and open space improvements for specific projects. This option could be used instead of or in addition to the options defined in the ...

53	0	Jun 24, 2013 9:30 PM
54	\$100	Jun 24, 2013 1:42 PM
55	none	Jun 24, 2013 1:14 AM
56	50.00	Jun 22, 2013 11:06 AM
57	\$50	Jun 22, 2013 9:28 AM
58	0	Jun 21, 2013 9:13 PM
59	0.00	Jun 21, 2013 5:45 PM
60	0	Jun 21, 2013 5:31 PM
61	100.00	Jun 21, 2013 1:35 PM
62	\$80	Jun 21, 2013 11:47 AM
63	100	Jun 21, 2013 10:59 AM
64	\$100	Jun 21, 2013 10:24 AM
65	200	Jun 21, 2013 9:46 AM
66	\$100.00	Jun 21, 2013 8:46 AM
67	\$100	Jun 20, 2013 12:51 PM
68	0	Jun 20, 2013 9:06 AM

Page 2, Q49. YOUR COMMENTS**Do you have any specific comments or recommendations to make about this proposed park plan or this survey?**

1	Being a lifetime resident, I grew up surrounded by wild areas. Frequent outings to the Nooksack River, hiking Mt. Baker forest trails, camping at Silver and Douglas Fir campgrounds, playing in Squalicum Creek. I am hoping that future generations will enjoy the gift of outdoor recreation. Some activities are gone, succumbing to population pressures. Thankfully, our county council approved the reconveyence so more land is available. Maybe someone with money could buy the 3000+ acres on Galbraith and gift it to the people of Whatcom County for even more recreation.	Oct 25, 2013 10:51 PM
2	We need to get more mountain bike trails authorized on public lands, it is a big part of Bellingham tourism and businesses.	Oct 25, 2013 4:13 PM
3	We need more mountain bike trails! Please realize that mountain bikers are large contributors to the communities they visit and live in. Also, with the rise in childhood obesity and other problems that plague our youth today, our society cannot afford to take away the positive impacts of the growing sport of mountain biking. Kids love bikes and are very willing to put away the video games and not only ride trails, but to spend hours trail building. They just need the opportunity.	Oct 22, 2013 7:01 AM
4	The Road Bike lanes need to be drastically improved. It's becoming dangerous to ride on the road. NW Ave, is a great example of how other roads i bellingham ought to be. The Mt. Bike Trails need to be expanded on Public Land.	Oct 4, 2013 2:08 PM
5	More mountain bike trails!	Oct 4, 2013 11:45 AM
6	As a homeowner and planned long term resident of Bellingham and Whatcom County, I believe we need maintained mountain bike trails to support this energetic community. I believe we need to build and maintain mountain bike trails on public lands.	Oct 4, 2013 11:20 AM
7	Skiing and snowshowing should not be combined with snowmobiles.	Oct 3, 2013 10:31 PM
8	I couldn't read the maps because they were too small so I couldn't comment on those question.	Oct 3, 2013 9:20 AM
9	I would appreciate mtn. Bike opportunities to be realized in our park planning.	Oct 3, 2013 8:01 AM
10	looking forward to working together between non-profit groups such as the WMBC and the County to help establish and steward new trails in the county. Mountain bikers don't have a legal place to ride in county parks at this time and it would be great to have legitimate access and make our county a recreational hotspot, which will make our town even more attractive to fostering real community, and economic growth. Our user group has many participants that are willing and able to work together and do much of the heavy lifting to get these recreation areas running and act as long term stewards. I believe that empowering people (user groups) is the best way to create positive long-term access...and helps keep damaging user groups at bay. Let's do this!	Oct 2, 2013 9:57 PM
11	More mountain bike trails and orv use trails!	Oct 2, 2013 9:45 PM
12	Need more mountain biking opportunities.	Oct 2, 2013 8:53 PM

Page 2, Q49. YOUR COMMENTS**Do you have any specific comments or recommendations to make about this proposed park plan or this survey?**

13	Thank you for reaching out the public. The mountain bike community had been underserved by the County Parks for far too long. Compared with the relative user populations of other sports in our community the need for more mountain bike trails must be addressed. The eidea of backcountry remote camps accessible by mt. bike or hiking is great. Utilize user groups to help construct and maintain facilites.	Oct 2, 2013 8:41 PM
14	More mt bike trails and use of experienced mt bike trail building groups.	Oct 2, 2013 8:15 PM
15	My family would like to see more mountain bike and motorized bike opportunities. These recreational opportunities retain residents and draw new quality residents.	Oct 2, 2013 7:02 PM
16	Work with volunteer groups such as the WMBC. They work hard for free!	Oct 2, 2013 5:00 PM
17	Please partner with local non-profit organizations and provide streamlined processes to these groups who are willing to donate dollars and labor to achieve their goals. The WMBC (Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition) is on of the few organizations who walk the talk when it comes to providing volunteer labor and funding for certain projects. Government estimates are generally so inflated they are a deterrent for discussion. If project estimates were more reasonable from the get go by working with local organizations I believe many more projects could be completed without a large strain on government resources. Thank you!	Oct 2, 2013 2:57 PM
18	Allow the user groups like mountain bikers to build and maintain their own trail system on property that would otherwise be very sparsely used. The cost is zero to the taxpayer. Thanks	Oct 2, 2013 2:56 PM
19	I believe that the parks can become more effective by working with groups like the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition to help build, pay for and maintain trails and facilities. Their volunteer base is huge, they have expert trail builders in their group and they've got a long history in Whatcom County of building world class trails.	Sep 11, 2013 11:42 AM
20	I would like to see livestock and real farming brought back to Hovander Park. I was so disappointed the last time I visited the park - there were only two goats - no chickens or ducks or guinea fowl or horses or cows. In years past there has been virtually a whole farm petting zoo and the kids in our community really benefit from getting these kinds of hands-on, up-close experiences. The garden was also very small and I think having a park that is a working farm as well would be such an asset for Whatcom County. I also miss all of the awesome interpretive environmental education programs at Tenant Lake.	Sep 10, 2013 12:20 PM
21	Use volunteers. It's my understanding that some volunteer projects have been dismantled because of politics. That's wrong. If folks are are turning up their own sleeves and opening their pocketbooks privately why stop that? I clean up trash and am told not to because of liability. If citizens want to improve things, let them, encourage them, don't stop them.	Sep 4, 2013 3:28 PM
22	I believe that outdoor activity opportunities are very important and should be supported, whether by bond options, user fees or by one or more tax revenues.	Sep 2, 2013 2:28 AM

Page 2, Q49. YOUR COMMENTS**Do you have any specific comments or recommendations to make about this proposed park plan or this survey?**

23	I think Whatcom County has the opportunity to show the rest of the Pacific Northwest what it means to care about the well being of its citizens. By supporting parks and recreation we are directly supporting the ability of people in Whatcom County to relieve stress and spend quality time with their families. People in the Northwest are more apt to look to the outdoors for fun than in nearly any other place in America. If we want those people to continue to live here and pay taxes, they should be paid back by the provision of recreation areas (not necessarily athletic areas and golf courses because many in the community are geared for a different kind of adventure). If we look north to our neighbors in British Columbia, we see that outdoor sports and hobbies are what fuel many economies and can be a great boon to the county if the natural setting and aesthetic is maintained.	Aug 27, 2013 3:10 PM
24	Public access to Nooksack River and its three major forks is a particular need.	Aug 23, 2013 1:54 PM
25	Survey is much too long and dense for the average internet user. I'm quite invested in this stuff and ran out of steam.	Aug 11, 2013 12:27 PM
26	Mountain biking!!!!	Aug 7, 2013 3:15 PM
27	Parks expansion is good, but I prefer to see some upgrades (e.g., toilets, parking) to existing facilities so that that all the Parks facilities can be used by other than just local residents.	Aug 5, 2013 8:22 AM
28	Use for profit companies/business' to operate the recreation areas, they can do it more efficiently and cost effectively.	Aug 3, 2013 8:56 AM
29	Keep Whatcom County Green!	Jul 25, 2013 9:07 PM
30	The signage need to be improved, specially for the greenbelt trails. Horses and mountain bikes don't mix. Narrow winding trails need to be designated for mt bikes or horses.	Jul 18, 2013 11:00 PM
31	stop increasing taxes, stop demolishing trees to benefit the construction of housing, preserve the evironment (trees and water)	Jul 18, 2013 3:05 PM
32	You need some help in designing surveys such as these as given the length I am not sure that you are going to achieve what you want	Jul 12, 2013 4:38 PM
33	Do Not Raise Taxes Please	Jul 12, 2013 3:37 PM
34	Glad for the survey. Investments in parks is one of the most valuable investments we can make.	Jul 11, 2013 11:56 PM
35	Nothing will matter in regard to coastal parks if the coal terminal is permitted and the industrial area continues to move toward massive exports, rail and shipping. There will be no recreational opportunities left.	Jul 11, 2013 9:45 PM
36	safety and infrstructure first. Beautification projects should go to the back of the line	Jul 11, 2013 11:36 AM
37	This survey has no opportunity to say "I have no experience in this area."...Plus it's much too long. My computer had difficulty loading it. Sorry!	Jul 9, 2013 4:07 PM

Page 2, Q49. YOUR COMMENTS**Do you have any specific comments or recommendations to make about this proposed park plan or this survey?**

38	Lean the organization, be more cost effective. Don't raise taxes, population will increase tax base. Focus on trails and water activities. Thx	Jul 9, 2013 8:27 AM
39	Gull darn it - what do you mean by PROGRAMS - is this a government term? I think of it as workshops and classes, etc but as I worked thru this survey your wording implied something else I know not what so my answeres are likely skewed. Bummer. This takes too long. Have thoughts to share but no time to complete, sorry, you should have recommended a suggested time allotment at the beginning?	Jul 8, 2013 5:54 PM
40	Question #44 asks for a percentage, but provides only \$ amounts. More population would demand lower per household taxes, not more. Unanswered questions mean I don't use those specific facilities.	Jul 8, 2013 1:19 PM
41	We don't need so many parks. We need to bring public land back to the public instead of gating roads and closing areas. Why do we need to increase taxes if population is increasing? More people = more tax revenue. New taxes are not needed; using the tax dollars efficiently however is in desperate need.	Jul 8, 2013 12:30 PM
42	The parks, waterfront areas and trail systems are what make Whatcom County a northwest treasure and what bring visitors and new residents here. Please don't allow commercial development and train traffic to ruin that.	Jul 6, 2013 1:08 PM
43	I like the idea of new house development to contribute to new parks, etc. For existing upkeep, as I stated above I think a comprehensive user fee permit to access trails/parks, etc makes sense and of course charge additional for campsites/special use/special programs/etc.	Jul 6, 2013 1:03 PM
44	Currently Whatcom County has a lot of park land. Most of it is undeveloped. If having adequate park land available for public use and having the money to pay for development of the park to facilitate parking, restrooms, campsites, etc, the please consider lowering your standards or selling off excess land to bank the funds needed to develop and maintain the parks. Currently the costs of owning or purchasing property are skyrocketing due to, too much public land that doesn't pay into the tax base needed to keep housing affordable for lower and middle class income earners/families.	Jul 1, 2013 11:30 AM
45	We need trails in this county that connect our communities and parks. I think that should be the number one priority - by far.	Jun 27, 2013 3:41 PM
46	We have enough parks and services..... Stop spending	Jun 27, 2013 5:52 AM
47	Keep up the good work! We are an outdoor city/county (despite the rain) and we need our lands cared for by everyone.	Jun 25, 2013 8:19 PM
48	Parks Department has enough land and trail now and does not need any more. The department needs to take care of the senior centers along with the land it now owns. No new land, no reconveyance land is needed	Jun 24, 2013 1:14 AM
49	You have over 16,000 acres of park. That's too much already. You said you could pay for it, we don't want to give you a penny more!!!! Hate what Whatcom County Parks has been doing. Insufferable.	Jun 21, 2013 9:13 PM

Page 2, Q49. YOUR COMMENTS**Do you have any specific comments or recommendations to make about this proposed park plan or this survey?**

50	Park expansion needed in East Whatcom County	Jun 21, 2013 1:35 PM
51	We essentially have no parks on Lummi Island, nor do we have a public boat launch of any kind. It would be good for the growth of Lummi Island to have both.	Jun 21, 2013 10:24 AM
52	Thank you! excellent survey.	Jun 21, 2013 9:46 AM
53	I do not support any additional firearm park resources - this is just too dangerous in an area such as ours with an increasing population. I do support being taxed for more parkland and preservation of agricultural land. It should be noted that Lummi Island does not have enough public park space or shoreline access for the size of it's population. I believe that County Parks should attempt to acquire land for parks there or develop public road ends for waterfront viewing.	Jun 21, 2013 8:46 AM
54	I think we must promote multiple use (hike, bike, horse) as much as possible on all trails and facilities on which it is practical.	Jun 20, 2013 12:51 PM

Comments - from internet response

Preserve land, improve runoff control on roads and trails, increase sanitation at current properties, access to protected land from a rustic trail is OK.

People in our age group do not use most of the facilities mentioned so please do not raise our taxes any more than they are already.

Thank you for asking our opinions. Our best to you in making these tough decisions.

I hike five days a week in the Chuckanuts and take occasional long bike rides, so that skewed my answers. I think it would have been a good idea to ask what activities the respondent actually used and which he/she thought would be a good idea in general. I neither boat nor shoot, so those facilities have little interest for me and I'm not sure what exists already. But I am a dancer, and what I would really like to see is a multi-purpose building near Bellingham with a wooden dance floor that folks could rent for a reasonable price.

The county should collect all impact fees required. Parks, schools, health, safety, roads all have costs and should be shared with those that live here now (taxes) and those coming (impact fees). Fees should be higher in the county than in the cities to help curb sprawl.

Any new apartment or condos that want to be built should have playgrounds for kids, a neutral meeting area for all tenants. Maintain the parks we have to the standards from years past before building more new ones. Do acquire the land ahead of time.

While it has been the easiest procedure to collect fees and taxes from homeowners and motorized vehicle drivers, this class is not always the typical USER of these facilities. What option is there to collect from bicycle riders, e.g.? Also, there is an abundance of trails and parks, etc., in the County; visit other communities and notice that there doesn't NEED to be numerous parks in every single neighborhood, nor do there NEED to be multiple interurban trails, catering to each class of user. What ideas are there to collect fees from the actual users? What ideas are there to encourage the user to clean up after them self? While I enjoy a pristine park experience, groomed trails throughout the season, and multiple options of parks, trails, etc., for the mood I'm in--this isn't reality for the long term--it's just spending money not there. It's always easier to pay someone to keep up our park atmosphere (vs. expecting the user to clean up after them), yet does our county have the money for this? If not, let's just admit that, not only do we need to NOT acquire any more land and maintenance expense, but we need to cut down the maintenance of what we do have.

People should pay as they go. So, new developments should help pay for new roads, parks, and recreation areas to support their new needs. Thanks

no

The recreational opportunities in Whatcom county far exceed those in any of the other places I have lived (Illinois and Texas). It would be nice to be all things to all people, but an additional tax burden is not fair to a sizeable segment of the population who does not or cannot take advantage of these opportunities. Need to prioritize and invest where you get the most bang for your buck. More athletic fields made of turf fielding so the maintenance is low and if it rains it will not ruin the fields and cancel games. Take a look at the Seattle areas that have made big multipurpose fields that you can use for soccer, lacrosse, and baseball fast pitch.

The questions are very unclear, and there is no way to say not applicable, for instance if I am not interested in gun activities.

We came from Walla Walla 2002 / Compared with that community-county, Bellingham-Whatcom

provides many more Park-Recreational opportunities throughout the area. [Not too many trail walkers @105 degrees!] At the present time, coming out of the recession, I would suggest taking care of the really necessary items in Bellingham-Whatcom and delaying the "wished-for" "liked" items.

The transferred forest land should be managed, including forest health timber cutting, income to offset park plan, just letting it go natural is unwise because of fire, safety from falling trees, inability to manage. We can't afford this plan. Too big, many projects, can't afford to maintain what is in current inventory. Too many restrictions and regulations should permit more use. Specialty users, like me a boater, should have annual user fees to meet costs or reform the spending. This system is very inefficient and ineffective...we are not doped up hippies anymore; You should stop spending other people's money like you did in the past. Smart and effective is possible, even in Whatcom county. You should learn how to do it.

More dog stations(for waste bags) and garbage cans along the trails

It feels like we have more parks and open space than many counties much larger than ours. I think we should maintain what we have and stop acquiring more assets that require more annual operating expenses to maintain. Please don't forget all the "taxes" that are being paid on our water & sewer bills to purchase Whatcom watershed property.

Many families in Bellingham are hurting and cannot afford any more taxes or fees. We need to utilize what we have or charge fees to those coming from outside the county to use our recreational areas.

The county needs to get some local mothers to go over the proposed budget to show you how to cut your costs. I do not believe we have a revenue problem, but a spending problem that could be easily overcome.

One of the weaknesses of this survey is that respondents do not have an option to indicate little or no familiarity with specific questions. For example, the questions about ATV opportunities are out of my field of experience.

Some of the park uses I am unfamiliar with because we do not use them as a family. The maps are hard to see they do not get bigger on my screen. So they were hard to interpret.

There are more than enough parks and recreation areas already to support triple the population we now have. The money wasted and the mismanagement could support the parks with no additional fees for the next 100 years.

Increasingly, Canadians are coming to enjoy our park facilities. This is ok, but I think they should help pay. Options that include non-resident user fees, or allow for taxation of tourists, would help.

I was crippled for life by a Golf Frisbee in Cornwall Park in 2001 - DO NOT ALLOW THE USE OF Golf Frisbees WHERE THEY MAY STRIKE SOMEONE WHO IS NOT PLAYING Frisbee Golf!

Our household does not believe we need more parks, trails, etc. in the county. The county spends way too much and the citizens are overtaxed. Let's stop this and enjoy what we have.

I'd like to see many areas for authorized beach fires in the sand. People will build fires, legally or illegally, because that's an essential beach enjoyment activity.

Property taxes ought not to be increased to pay for facilities that will be used primarily by tourists. Gas tax is paid by everyone; local sales tax is paid by everyone. The cost would be more fairly shared in that manner. Impact cost to new home development and even so new business development is a direct cost that ought to be paid by those who are impacting the cost. Levies, Bonds, etc...Paid by locals who do not use the tourist facilities, etc is not fair. Overall, the facilities that exist are above average and can be lessened at this point, but rising costs to maintain and impact costs from new residents should be paid

by those new residence and a minimal tax in gas and sales will not affect anyone as a burden but will be shared by everyone who will benefit from population growth in increased sales, etc .and maintain the level we have now. WE DO NOT NEED ADDITONAL SERVICES TO BE ADDED. However, the 'on road' bicycle lanes ought to be a focus as the population increases. Added Bicyclers and added traffic create an enormous hazard to human life as I have observed. This hazard will only increase exponentially as the population will inevitably grow.

Whatcom co parks and programs are well utilized because of the variety and accessibility. We need to continue to support the Whatcom County park system both financially and politically so that future residents and visitors can enjoy and appreciate this fabulous part of the country. Thank you for asking for public feedback in such a detailed survey.

Pay for these items with user fees by out of county users.

This survey is too general and I believe the results will be interpreted any way you want. Nowhere does it ask if we think we should be more efficient with what we have.

Phew, I've developed surveys and this one is way too long. I know how important it is to get feedback and am guessing that people didn't answer your survey because it takes a half hour to complete.

I truly appreciate all the work being done to continue in the future the wonderful parks and recreational opportunities we enjoy in Whatcom County! Thank you!

Park and recreation areas in Whatcom County are plentiful. Acquiring more is not necessary. Making full use of what is already here is more than adequate for daytime, sports or recreational use. There are few good sites for backpackers and long term campers and off-road recreational vehicles, but those types of park facilities do not need expensive development or maintenance.

Better bike paths (lots of bikers and not enough bike lanes to support it). Keep Galbraith Mountain a biking and hiking/running destination (we moved here for that). Keep the bathroom facilities open year round. Bellingham has year round use of its parks and trails. Good luck and thanks for allowing me to give my household's opinion!!!!

We are happy with the parks and recreation facilities in Whatcom County. We do NOT need more parks. We do NOT need the GP area to have more parks. We DO need more marina space.

Whatcom County offers a variety of places for residents to enjoy already. Educating existing residents and maintaining what already is I believe is sufficient in an economy that does not allow for extra \$\$\$. Impact fees should have been instituted years ago, and education of the role each resident can play is essential. Just saying...

I think that the out of county visitors to the parks should pay their share of the costs and not burden any more the local residents.

Stop making your parks unfriendly to dogs. In many places there are more dogs than children; consider your constituency. # 44 is not a percent. The impact fee should be based on the impact of the development - the bigger the development the larger the fee, in relationship to the probable increase in population

Couldn't read the graphics, the print was too small and I was unable to enlarge. I have no experience with some of the recreational activities listed, so a category outside of the 1-5 to reflect that would be appropriate.

Parks & Recreation (PNR) does a great job right now from my prospective. Since I own a recreation facility (Golf Driving Range) which requires my full time commitment (24/7) I do not have the opportunity to use any facility the PNR operates. My involvement and familiarity with PNR is the PNRd2 sponsored

"Teach Me to Golf" programs run at my facility for the past three years. So, most of my responses to the first series of questions were in the middle to average rating since a not-applicable rating was not available. I would like to see many of the PNR projects developed and operated by independent entities primarily since it would involve financial risk of an individual rather than public monies. Public monies come out of my pocket for way too many things I do not have the opportunity to use. Since my email is used to track this survey feel free to contact me. Thanks, Roger Cook

Your most critical responsibility is to protect the watershed. Don't be afraid to be assertive to get the motorized boats and yard chemicals out of it.

Bellingham residents tax themselves park impact fees. Unincorporated county residents should do the same. Hopefully the Bellingham residents wouldn't get double-taxed, though (i.e. COB parks taxes plus county parks taxes).

Taxes and fees are high enough in this time of rampant unemployment, increased cost of living and below standard wages. Parks and recreation are the least of our worries. Try cutting your expense budgets and get volunteers to help keep up the facilities already developed.

We may have more parks now than we can afford!!!

No, not really... except I was born and raised here in Whatcom County and have watched how it's grown over the years and it really blows me away at how things everywhere have changed so much that I barely recognize some areas. But it's all for all of our sake that things need to be changed/or fixed, etc...

Thank you for doing this and for making parks and recreational areas a priority. We need to preserve land for quality of life on many levels.

As far as I am concerned Whatcom County has enough Park land to satisfy the needs of the county for the next 100 years. If you are going to spend money on the parks, spend what you have on what you have. The present system is continually looking for ways to spend someone else's money like all governments. Entities. I don't get to spend other people's money; I have to make do with what I have. I can't add what I need to someone's building permit fee so I can do more things. You ask earlier how long I had lived in Whatcom County, I moved here in 1969. I was a building contractor and construction superintendent until I retired. I will soon be 78 years old. I built a 2800 square foot, two story home on 5 acres in Ferndale (Whatcom County) in 1975, and the building permit cost \$148. Adding a little \$ to every permit that's issued will bring you to where we are today. Do some research and see what my permit would cost today! Paul A. Ring

Awfully long. I know you seek info but many folks will fall asleep before they finish this. Might be worth abbreviating in the future, if only to get more valuable info. For our part, tax us more. Really. Be fearless. Taxes buy services; austerity buys...well...sterility. Who wants to live in LA? I've already done that and it sucks. Charge fees. Screw the folks that don't want to invest in services. We only get one chance to protect our heritage for our children. If we skimp now, we give them more development, more parking lots, larger Wal-Mart's and fewer outdoor experiences. You are our advocates. Protect and enhance our parks and recreation, especially experiences that don't require fossil fuels.

Keep up the good work and quality of our current facilities as expansion progresses.

There are so many older residents in this county that are on a fixed income and there should be a waiver for certain fees at 62 plus. We shouldn't have to pay a park usage fee when in most cases we don't enjoy the outdoor activities anymore.

We already have too much government owned and regulated land in the county. This is just a survey to promote a larger government. Stop and think where the taxes come from.

There are not nearly enough accommodations for elderly and disabled or handicapped. There is far too

much emphasis on those who are very young and very healthy - there are many places that people who have even a low level of handicap cannot access beaches and/or picnic areas. Consideration for handicapped people mostly consists of a few parking spaces - it seems that the county should have seniors on their advisory board who can give good ideas as to what actually constitutes handicap access. A parking spot near a steep trail or a large number of stairs is not really handicap access - there needs to be ways to access beaches especially - seniors can't clamber down rocks and steep cliffs to get to the beach - seniors can't always walk long distances to get to a pier or a walkway where they can enjoy the scenery. Many seniors are healthy and can access most areas - but since moving to Whatcom County 12 years ago we have found over and over that you must be young and physically fit to enjoy most of the outdoor activities in place for residents - it often saddens us when we want to stay in county facilities only to find that, for example, Silver Lake, that there are only 2 cabins with bathrooms - and those are hard to get reservations for. Some seniors can't make that trek in the dark to the toilets - but again, it is for the young and very healthy. We feel cheated many times by the lack of consideration for seniors. Thank you for listening.

I love where I live even though my husband and I don't use all of the current facilities. I want to support and encourage and further the quality of life for current and future residents, in particular families.

Limited income retired people such as I are strapped now with real estate taxes and cannot afford any increase.

Do not try to add or increase taxes!

I oppose the parks purchasing any further facilities in Whatcom County, aside from salt waterfront property. I feel that it places an unnecessary burden on the people who live here, and the parks should maintain what they have before acquiring more. The waterfront is a different story- it's a limited quantity, and I don't want to see it commercially developed.

The parks need to be better funded. You can't expect park staff to do more and more while reducing the budget. They are doing a great job, but they are overworked and underfunded.

If taxing anyone, then tax everyone like renters, users, etc. taxing home owners will not work. As a retired teacher on a fixed income I have to vote against any raise in fees of any sort.

We have many parks and 100 miles of trail in Whatcom County. The ONLY trail I see regular activity is the Boulevard park trail, we do not need more money sucking trails and parks when we need to start saving our history.

Rating my level of satisfaction from lowest to highest is not a fair representation. If I say lowest, you will want to spend more money there, if I say highest, you will want to continue spending at current levels. There should be a choice of not interested so you could stop spending money on that program.

This survey is a great idea. The many non-property owners need to contribute to the recreation facilities, in addition to property owners.

Why does Question 44 ask for a percentage but offer dollars? The Freshwater Trails link on your survey maps website leads to the saltwater trails map. On the Saltwater Trails map Trail #7 isn't listed in the legend. The survey is too long.

This survey was very poorly designed. The questions were poorly phrased. You do not know why I did not answer certain questions and did not give a Not applicable option. You should have asked if I used the facilities in addition to asking me to rank my support for them. As well, the link you provided to view the parks plan took me to a home page where the only plan I could find was the 2008 plan. The maps pasted in here were too small to be useful.

**Whatcom County**

3373 Mount Baker Hwy
Bellingham, WA 98226

**How Can We
Better Serve You?#**

Please take a moment to help us improve your experience at Whatcom County Parks & Recreation. When you're done, please drop the questionnaire in any survey or pay box located in the park, mail it to the above address or fax to 360.676.1180.

Date: _____ Time: _____ Park Location: _____

Rate Our Facilities

	Appearance			Cleanliness			Usable Condition		
	Good	Fair	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor
Gardens & Grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campsites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cabins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking Areas / Roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Docks & Boat Launch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rifle Range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signs & Markers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rate Our Staff

☐ Not Applicable ☐ Friendly, helpful and courteous ☐ Knowledgeable ☐ Professional

Rate Your Visit

☐ Great ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Comments: _____

Customer Information

What is your Zip Code: _____

How often do you use this park/trail/area? ☐ First Time ☐ Occasional User ☐ Regular User

Thank you for your participation!

www.whatcomcounty.us/parks

2015 Customer Survey Comments

- Thank You!
- We'll be back! Had a great visit & experience
- One word GOOSEPOO!
- Need a normal sized Fridge - that tiny one useless, also you need to supply mousetraps - especially when the fridge is too small
- Too many Candian geese & their droppings ruin grounds. Suggest letting dogs be off leash on a timed basis to scare them away from beaches, picnic areas & fields
- Not helpful - Not professional - lack of knowledge. No one was there th explain the rates or to state shich stities were reserved- Rate - confussing!!!!-Veteran discounts??? No one was there to help!!!!
- This is a beautiful, well-groomed park with an appropriate amount of "wild" to it. Your staff member serving today was perfectly
- Posting sign what NOT to feed the birds would be smart - watching family feed a loaf of bread to them now : (
- Hello! These 2 parks (&Pioneer) are GOLD of this Co. - ACT like u know better! Stop depending on mega volunteers!! PLZ! Pay more staff-This place is too INCREDIBLE to NOT pay for more staff!! Including PAY for staff to do tours for Homestead at least one day per week 1230-430.
- Wish the house was open. We were so sad
- Its been very nice coming here from Delta B.C. my son and I enjoy it very much.
- Emploiyies could use ceilings fans for hot wether / also should be able to wear black shorts
- Could not easily locate showers, poor signage. Rat poop in picnic shelter by cabins near pit toilets
- Not very helpful w/ information or very friendly. Overall good visit. It would have been great to have a wifi connection spider webs cleaned out of cabin and a little more knowledgeable friendly staff overall visit was fair
- We love the staff here! Thank you! :)
- We got excellent customer service from the Parks Dept. after overcharging ourselves while making reservations.
- We LOVE the cabins at Silver Lake. Everthing is perfect. Awesome!
- Never saw staff! Here for 3 days. Lots of spikey bushes on trails
- We didn't bring dishes/cookware because the website said fully stocked kitchen, so update site to say bring linens & cookware too. But we LOVED it here!
- Unhappy about the \$13.00 processing fee. This makes it more than state parks.
- Wonderful staff. Thank you for our memorable trip
- Cabin location is great, lake is beautiful. Cabin was in need of good cleaning. Bathroom & shower had not been cleaned since last guest.
- Lake is ok, we only caught 1 fish. Lots of frogs, toads owls
- Awesome time
- 2 showers broken Closer composting toilet near cabins 2 wifi in skuksan more signs about park office, boating
- Great park & staff & especially Ben I have camped for years in this spot do not like res fees when reservated was not needed /made/
- 32 years of great camping now retired & Mon - Fri only no extra reservation changes!
- Marksmanship class was great! Lots of hands-on help
- Too many bathrrooms were closed for cleaning at one time for very comfortable toileting - and smell of cleaner toxic! Otherwise lovely!
- \$13 "Reservation" fee - unfair. Much too high. We didn't reserve anyway. Unlevel campsite!
- the new lights over the beds are too low. Hit my head and broke glass on first night. Should be higher on the wall
- We had an awesome weekend!
- I'm sick! Had to lave early. Will call you
- Great visit - But new \$13 fee is a complete mistake. Short sighted cash grab focused on taxing your repeat / regular camper. Fee to reserve is one thing - but a user fee to "drop" in is very poor.
- We had a great experience and will be back many times this summer. Thanks you! :)
- The stupid \$13.00 fee is (obscenity) dumb in a huge way. Thank you.
- Jerry was very friendly. Very helpful with anything I needed. Hell of a guy!!! Love this rifle range.
- Barn needs to be open to the public

- Need new mattresses. It would be nice if the Tomyhoi cabin, which allows dogs, had a gate on the back porch. Great that dogs are leashed! We had a lovely, quiet visit. Thanks
- Bad placement of lights over bed we broke one but saw the same on other side. If we owe additional let us know my husband got cut pretty bad
- Provide new mattresses for cabins, taller chairs for tables in cabins. Flooring needs replacing in cabins. Longer curtains for windows for cabins. Kulshan
- Lodge tile in bath between sink and toilet
- great visit, great staff hook (drawing) like in Mt Baker bathroom behind door to hold clothes off floor. Kitchen light would help by stove
- Shuksan cabin-Need mirror in cabin. Mice in cabin. Waste paper basket in cabin. Handsanitizer in restroom.
- Proper Mattresses would be wonderful! Having a chiropractor bill because of a night in your cabins kinda sucks - even if you have to increase your rates - we will come back and recommend if new mattresses are brought in. New mattress please please please. Did we mention new mattresses?
- Couldn't rent boats since lobby was closed, couldn't do anything. Need new beds. Basically no staff since power was out.
- Always a pleasure. Baker cabin
- An extra bathroom for lodge would be awesome! Also seat on toilet is loose.
- Great but the power went out during the storm. It was awesome seeing the camp ranger out clean up the park removing harmful branches
- This is by far the best shooting range in western washington, great facility and staff! Thank you
- Fabulous- Kitchen faucet does have a drip that can be annoying at night - we managed just fine though :) - bi-annual cabin stay
- Very relaxing - beautiful views - very happy that it is fine with dogs - loved my stay
- We loved our visit! Thx so much for having us. We will be back soon.
- Bathroom door in Baker Cabin keeps locking.

WCP&R – Comments – TE – 7/18/13Whatcom County Recreation Plan Comments - 6/13/2013 – Bellingham Senior Activity Center (Groups)Topic # 1 - Parks and Conservancy Areas

Questions:

- How are conservancy areas created?
- How does County Parks administer conservancy areas?
- Whose job is it to build trails in conservancy areas?
- Where to go with Acme Park - AKA. South Fork Park (603 acres)?
- What are the long range ideas for these areas? (interconnected ring of parks including Outlook Mtn., Porter Creek Rd. Ridley Creek, and Canyon Lake)
- Access to DNR lands in the N. and M. Fork?
- How are we going to maintain all these parks?
- What type of plan is there for park maintenance?

Ideas/Statements:

- Locate facilities within short distance to all citizens (2-5 minute drive).
- Acme Park is central to an interconnected ring of parks including Outlook Mtn., Porter Creek Rd. Ridley Creek, and Canyon Lake.
- Link from Acme Park to Van Zandt Dyke and beyond for long distance recreation.
- Need to enlarge the Galbraith/Lk. Padden parking lot.

Topic # 2 – Trails

Questions:

- Are there trail standards?
- Is the ADA considered in the trail network?
- Does County Parks seek a wide variety of grants or does it go after the same grants year after year?

Ideas/Statements:

- IMBA (International Mountain Bike Assn.) use the best design standards and these are based on USFS standards.
- Trail connectivity is important.
- There should be trails for all types of citizens – gentle trails to gnarr.
- The Trail Plan includes City, DNR, and County Parks to create super-loops for hiking and biking, horses have more limited ranges.
- Emphasize connectivity and highlight great areas.
- Explore re-opening old road grade connecting the Hemlock Tr. To Raptor Ridge.

Kulshan Environmental Services
Master Comment List

- Silver Lake has no mountain bike trails.
- Black Mtn. behind Silver Lake has good mountain biking terrain but is private and DNR land.
- Specific use trails to eliminate or reduce user conflict.
- Mountain bikers seek to leave the horse trails above Y-Road to the horse riders and avoid conflict.
- Expect user groups to do the bulk of the trail work and maintenance.
- Map shows horse trail along Birch Bay Dr., could this be right? There are already lots of cars and pedestrians on that stretch of road.
- Map shows a horse/multiple use trail from Little Squalicum Beach out beyond Hannegan Rd.
- Better facilities (toilets, information kiosks) at major trailheads.
- Horse trailheads need to be large for drop-offs, turning around, and parking.
- Loops rather than out-and-back trails are preferred for biking and hiking.
- County Parks signage needs to be consistent with other land management agencies signage.
- Lost Lake Tr. needs better signage.
- Hold County Parks meetings at the parks.
- Trailheads and kiosks should have:
 - Up-to-date maps,
 - Postings of events and seasonal considerations,
 - List park partners, and
 - Make clear the appropriate activities for those trails.
- Need better recognition of user groups and volunteer orgs. at trail kiosks.
- Integrate trails with the transportation network.
- Encourage commuting on trail corridors.
- Site trails away from streams and other sensitive areas.
- Cohesive signage is needed.
- Trail standards and accountability of volunteer trail building – countywide.
- Site trails so they aren't susceptible to human access.

Topic #3 – Programs and Activities

Questions:

- Is there funding for multi-use sports fields?
- Could we explore artificial turf?
- Are we are "under-fielded" locally?
- Washington State Parks suggests a donation (beyond the fee structure), should Whatcom County Parks perhaps consider asking for donations?

Ideas/Statements:

- There are only three artificial surface facilities in the county.
- Rugby, soccer, and lacrosse are primary sports.
- These facilities cannot be done privately.
- A large multi-sport facility would need to be centrally located to the majority of users.
- Arne Hanna is too small.
- Consider the Langley, BC, facility as example of recreation center (Walnut Grove).
- No good egress from Silver Lake if site is used as a staging area for events.
- Economic development (business connections) can grow from networking through recreation.
- It is important to keep track of event numbers.
- Partner with Whatcom County Tourism Bureau.
- Map of where people go/what trails are used – count users.
- People come for the fun.
- Parking can be a problem when hosting “big events.”
- Re-institute Tenant Lake Interpretive Center.
- Education programs can happen at all parks.
- More interpretive signage on trails and in the parks.
- Disabled parking seems limited, and is perhaps too far from the actual trailheads to help disabled recreationalists.
- More rest stops needed for snacking and resting.
- Neighborhood parks and gardens – pocket sized

Topic # 4 – Water Access & Beaches

Questions:

- Who is responsible when swimming is a County Park activity? WA Fish and Wildlife, WADNR?
- How to manage for hygiene, safety, and garbage?
- How to promote swimming at sites overseen by multiple agencies?
- Swimming access on Lake Whatcom from Re-conveyance?
- What’s up with the dive park at the south end of Lake Whatcom?
- Canyon Lake access?

Ideas/Statements:

- Access to tidelands is a regional issue as noted with the closure of access to Clayton Beach (Larabee St. Park) by BNSF.
- Identify “swimmable” locations, other than saltwater.
- Birch Bay offers good warm water swimming.
- There are some 850,000 potential visitors in “Cascadia”, planning should include regional day and overnight visits.
- Coordinate Flood District projects with recreation planning.
- Need for public access below Glacier along N. Fork of Nooksack River.

- Handicapped access for kayaks and canoes at N. Shore of Lake Whatcom.
- Trade Pt. Roberts to Canada for Manning Park, BC.

Topic # 5 – General Topics

Questions:

- What about stewardship agreements?
- Dedicated fees for recreation?
- Partnering with the City of Bellingham?

Ideas/Statements:

- Temporary access for motorized vehicles on Stewart Mtn. for trail work.
- Explore alternate ways to get work done without spending money such as using volunteers.
- It is important to log man hours of volunteer work.
- Carefully logged man hours can be leveraged for donations and grant funding.
- Capital funds are easier to generate than funds for Maintenance and operations (M&O).
- Impact fees specifically dedicated to Whatcom County Parks for new development.
- Collecting impact fees takes money.
- Add Parks staff from proposed impact fees. Trails developer and grants manager positions suggested.
- New developments should be required to build playgrounds and create “wild space.”

Whatcom County Recreation Plan Comments - 6/24/2013 – Lummi Island GrangeTopic # 1 - Parks and Conservancy Areas

Questions:

- What became of the 2009-10 plans to open up access and views at public road ends on Lummi Island? Constitution and Blizzard Roads mentioned as road ends of interest.
- What are “Conservancy Areas”?
- Could County Parks be a vehicle for “Farmland Preservation”?
- Could County Parks utilize a different type of Transfer of Development Rights for Farmland Preservation?
- Is there study money available to expand Conservancy Areas on Lummi Island?
- Is the Salvation Army camp on Lummi Island a possible site for County Park and marine access?
- Is there any plan for boat launch site on Lummi Island?

Ideas/Statements:

- Thanks to Mike and County Parks for the good maintenance of Lummi Island’s Whatcom County Parks.
- Likes existing trails and wants more trails along all branches of the Nooksack River.
- Buy quarry for use as boat launch, ferry terminal, and County Park.

Topic # 2 – Trails

Questions:

- Can County Parks help with assembling easements for trail down center spine of Lummi Island?

Ideas/Statements:

- Legoe Bay Rd. and Seacrest Rd. are too narrow to promote biking as an activity for visitors.
- Hiking trails on south end of Lummi Island cross private property, require permission to use, and are not really advertised.
- DNR property on south end of Lummi Island can only be accessed on land by crossing private property.
- Loop road (Nugent Rd. and N. Shore Dr.) around north end of Lummi Island is narrow; make one- way vehicle traffic on inside lane and make outside lane a recreation path for bikes and walkers.
- Legoe Bay Rd. is frequently washed out, making it part of a one-way loop would cause traffic problems.
- Bald eagle rookery at Point Migley creates traffic hazard.
- Concerns about mountain bike disturbances of wildlife and other user groups.

Topic #3 – Programs and Activities

Questions:

- How many Senior Centers are there in the county?
- What are the demographics for Senior Centers, might Lummi Island qualify?
- Could County Parks' Senior Center program coordinate with the Elderberries program?
- How does Whatcom County compare to other counties in Washington State regarding County Parks' budget?
- Does County Parks have any community gardens?
- Can roads be widened utilizing Whatcom County right of ways (ROWs)?
- Can County ask for easements on private property to allow wider sections on dangerous stretches of Lummi Island roads? Speeders and ferry walkers make for a dangerous mix on the roads.

Ideas/Statements:

- Likes snowshoeing in the winter!
- Currently the Congregational Church on Lummi Island has the "Elderberries" program.
- Misses the Tennant Lake programs with Kurt.
- Asks County Parks to not expand any firearms programs and provide no additional shooting opportunities.
- Make sure that County Parks has staffing, time, and money to train volunteers.
- If volunteers are used in clearing road ends for access and views, planning still needs to be done to assure crowds and parking issues are considered.
- Speeders are a problem on Lummi Island's roads.
- Cut grass and brush for better sightlines along roads.
- Identify key points on Lummi Island north-end roads where safety is marginal.

Topic # 4 – Water Access & Beaches

Questions:

- Thanks County Parks for Sunset Beach; what is up with the sign?
- What's up with The Willows "Private" signs?
- Why is Frank's Beach listed by the Willows, as a public beach?
- Could there be a way to tie up boats at the old ferry dock site for visitors going to the restaurant?
- How many boat ramps are there in Whatcom County?
- How do we get a boat ramp on Lummi Island?
- How about the Salvation Army camp for a boat ramp?
- What happened to the plans for a kayak landing at the ferry dock?

Ideas/Statements:

Topic # 5 – General Topics

Questions:

- How can I find out about the history of Whatcom County Parks?
- How is progress on the trail starting from DNR (DFW) parking lot on Marine Dr. to Ferndale and onto Lynden going?
- How many miles is it from the Marine Dr. parking lot to Ferndale?
- I am surprised that there are available funds for boat ramps, are there other funds for other types of projects?
- Would it help potential County Park funding if Lummi Island residents got together to prioritize ideas and projects?
- What is the timeframe for County Parks planning process?
- Does County Parks do anything on the Lummi Nation regarding trails or marked travel routes along roadsides?
- How do we plan for Lummi Island's stake in the County Parks planning process?
- How have these planning meetings gone in other parts of the County? Any hostility?
- How much interest is there in visiting Lummi Island by other Whatcom County residents?

Ideas/Statements:

- The ongoing clam survey near the school is grant funded.
- Sunset Beach has a petrified tree visible at low tide that the school kids are shown.
- Thank you for putting on this meeting.

Whatcom County Recreation Plan Comments - 6/25/2013 – Lynden Community CenterTopic # 1 - Parks and Conservancy Areas

Questions:

- Could there be a County Park located closer to Lynden?
- Are there any new changes in rules for camping or boating at Silver Lake County Park?

Ideas/Statements:

- Abandoned gravel pits could be potential County Parks and there are several within a 5 mile radius of Lynden.
- The Van Zandt Community Park has been a tremendous success with the local population and helps bring the community together.
- As the Growth Management Act (GMA) asks for increased density within urban areas, Parks become a necessity under the GMA.
- Concern over not having enough staff to properly manage County Parks.
- Whatcom County has a good variety of County Parks that address most user groups.
- Misses the Roeder Home programs.
- Community and Senior Centers serve a vital service and help avoid the isolation of seniors.
- County Parks' funding is appreciated at the Lynden Community Center.

Topic # 2 – Trails

Questions:

- What's up with the Nooksack Loop Trail?

Ideas/Statements:

- The Bay-to Baker Trail would be an asset.
- Likes the idea of using the tops of dikes for trails.
- Aspirational trails – marking general loops on roadways prior to completing separate paths can help general interest in proposed routes.
- Ridley Creek Trail in the Middle Fork of the Nooksack should be maintained as part of the "Emerald Necklace" that would connect Acme to Park Butte on the south side of Mt. Baker.
- "Emerald Necklace" trail link could help that part of Whatcom County economically.

Topic #3 – Programs and Activities

Questions:

- Fieldhouse with pool and indoor fields centrally located in Whatcom County?

- What is happening with the Lynden Community Center – are there any County Parks employees on staff at the center?
- Does County Parks have any role in running the Lynden Community Center building?
- Is the current arrangement between County Parks and the Lynden Community Center best from Lynden's perspective?
- Does County Parks own the Bellingham Senior Center or is it owned by the County at large?
- Could funding be drawn in for "non-traditional" senior activities?

Ideas/Statements:

- Soccer programs could use more fields.
- Civic Field in Bellingham and Whatcom Community College artificial turf fields are frequently used by soccer programs.
- Best place for a Whatcom County sports complex would be at Smith Rd. and Hannegan Rd. or Smith Rd. and Guide-Meridian Rd.
- Such a sports complex would require lots of parking.
- Such a sports complex would likely be a public/private partnership.
- Wants to catch folks in their 50s and 60s to generate more interest in the Lynden Senior Program as these folks get ready to retire.
- Senior Programs must be welcoming to new arrivals.
- While the lunches at the Lynden Community Center are popular and a great way to connect with future users of the Center, these lunches are not heavily promoted because it would put the squeeze on local downtown restaurants for lunch business.
- Lynden Community Center is welcome to and visited by seniors from Bellingham, Sumas, and Everson.
- "Hat Night" was a resounding success and an example of the fun things seniors really remember.

Topic # 4 – Water Access & Beaches

Questions:

- How about using the County Parks property on the south end of Lake Samish for boating and swimming access?
- Are there any prohibitions on creating canoe/kayak access at the Nesbit property along the South Fork of the Nooksack River?
- What is reasonable access for canoes/kayaks on the S. Fork of the Nooksack?
- Where are the reasonable access/egress points on the Nooksack River in and near Lynden?
- Where are the reasonable access/egress points on the Nooksack River between Lynden and Ferndale?

Ideas/Statements:

Topic # 5 – General Topics

Questions:

- Could County Parks partner with Lynden Parks and Rec to upgrade the YMCA?

Ideas/Statements:

- The Lynden Parks and Recreation District ballot to fund a new YMCA was rejected.
- Lynden voters could not justify voting to support the YMCA after a recent vote had rejected funding for a new middle school.
- Parking was considered a problem with a proposal to build a new YMCA facility in downtown Lynden.
- Lynden Parks and Rec is primarily a funding mechanism and does not actually run any facilities.

Whatcom County Recreation Plan Comments - 6/26/2013 – Point Roberts Senior Activity CenterTopic # 1 - Parks and Conservancy Areas

Questions:

- The oyster bed at the base of the bluff at Lily Point was dismantled several years ago; can these be re-established for community use?

Ideas/Statements:

- Monument Park and Lily Point – people like the switchback trail down to the beach.
- Lily Point - people don't like the closing of paths and trails, and the gravel is loud for birding and uncomfortable underfoot.
- Lily Point – please leave open or re-open some of the “interior” trails (not along bluff).
- Many locals feel the closure of the older social (interior) trails at Lily Point has been a negative change.
- I miss the trail along the bluff at Lily Point.
- The majority of users at Lily Point are Canadians, not locals.
- Locals feel resigned to Lily Point as being a different experience than they remember.
- I have noted bike tracks right at the edge of the Lily Point bluffs and feel the safety of the old bluff trail was not acceptable.
- I like the new trails and the gravel at Lily Point and think it is good for multiple users.
- The situation at Lily Point is way better than before for trash and abuse of the resource.
- The bluff collapse on the 1990s could have been tragic... my dad was jogging on the trail moments before it collapsed.
- The Grave Robber Trail was closed but could be re-opened.
- Lily Point – people are divided about ½ and ½ over the fences at the viewpoints.
- Lily Point – people do like the bathrooms, trash cans, and the parking lot.
- Lily Point – people really like the historical signs.
- The local work, volunteering, and money that went into Lily Point seem wasted by locals that won't go any more; it is not what they thought it would be.
- Lighthouse Point is fine but I would like to see an actual lighthouse at the Park.
- Maple Beach needs parking and bathrooms.
- A section of County Park designated as an “off-leash” dog area would go a long way to helping people feel better about the changes at Lily Point.
- Lummi “First Catch” was brought to the spring at the north end of Lily Point.
- Place better signs along Maple Beach to educate Canadians about Lily Point.
- Kids are scaring birds, better signage at Maple Beach to alert visitors about acceptable behavior.
- Off-leash dogs are chasing birds; owners need education (signage) especially at Maple Beach to catch the walkers coming over from Canada.
- Label interior trails at Lily Point as “Conservation Area” or “Eagle Habitat.”

Topic # 2 – Trails

Questions:

Ideas/Statements:

- Please, **no** gravel trails. They are noisy, difficult to walk on, and hurt your legs. Wildlife is scared away by the noise. Dirt or woodchips are much nicer.
- Mix more “fines” into the gravel on the Lily Point paths to improve the trail conditions.
- Lily Point trails need more viewpoints.
- Horse poop should be picked up by the horse owners.
- Lily Point – trail down to the beach has a hairpin corner that is too sloped and poses a potential hazard.

Topic #3 – Programs and Activities

Questions:

- When will dog enforcement with citations start?

Ideas/Statements:

- People love the kids’ summer program but don’t know that it is free. (This is a local parks program.)
- People love the kayak program. (This is a local parks program.)
- Educational programs concerning wildlife would be nice.
- Wants programs about fish and wildlife up here in Point Roberts
- Likes having Ben the ranger looking after the parking lot at Lighthouse Point to see if there are any cars still in the lot after the time the boaters and paddlers should have returned.

Topic # 4 – Water Access & Beaches

Questions:

- Is there a beach access opportunity east of the marina in front of the condos?
- Lighthouse Point - what’s up with the boat pier?
- Lighthouse Point – is County Parks responsible for the design and construction of the marine access?
- Lighthouse Point – will the pilings be concrete or steel?
- Lighthouse Point – could a launch be placed on the south side of Point Roberts, east of the former and proposed location of the pier?
- Lighthouse Point – could the present pier design be changed to be a simple fishing pier and a separate small boat launching facility be placed to the east of the former and proposed site?
- Lighthouse Point – is the easement next to the marina County Park property?

- Lighthouse Point – is there a way to sign and restrict entry into the near-shore by native fishermen?
- Maple Beach – can more parking be put in?
- Monument Park – are there any long-range plans?

Ideas/Statements:

- Point Roberts needs a human powered water access; some place sheltered with auto access.
- The Lighthouse dock is a very dangerous place to launch and take out.
- Lighthouse Point – thanks for showing design plans for new pier.
- Lighthouse Point – people just want a pier to fish and launch boats from.
- Monument Park – cut the thimbleberries.
- Lighthouse Point – the removal of the old County Parks pier coincided with the Marina improving its services and charging more.
- Lighthouse Point – so much of the effort spent at maintaining and restoring eelgrass at this site seems wasted as native fishermen are purse-seining and eliminating the eel grass.
- Lighthouse Point – the kelp beds are also being impacted by native purse-seining.
- Lighthouse Point – Lingcod has been wiped out by native fishing.
- Lighthouse Point – with pier absent, the commercial fishermen are able to get closer to the near-shore.
- Lighthouse Point – there are lots of forage fish along the near-shore.
- Maple Beach – the NE corner could have 10-12 diagonal parking spots.
- Maple Beach – people like to go shoot pictures at the border marker.
- Maple Beach – the border marker has bent and twisted metal wrapped around its lower section, this should be removed so people don't get hurt.
- Monument Park – it is perfect the way it is!

Topic # 5 – General Topics

Questions:

- If a Point Roberts resident is a member of one or more of the Canadian First Nations, does she have any fishing rights off Point Roberts?

Ideas/Statements:

- Point Roberts needs a public swimming pool.
- County Parks needs more in tax funding from our property taxes.

Whatcom County Recreation Plan Comments - 6/27/2013– Ferndale Senior Activity CenterTopic # 1 - Parks and Conservancy Areas

Questions:

- The Discovery Pass goes to WDFW, St. Parks, and DNR to support recreation; can this type of program be developed on a local scale?
- Could the Nooksack Loop Trail on the Nooksack River dikes be potential access/egress for paddlers on Nooksack River?
- What do I need to do to get “open space”?

Ideas/Statements:

- Mayor Jensen notes that Ferndale Parks switched to emphasize trail building so home builders and developers can create trails at retail prices and have that value deducted from impact fees.
- Mayor Jensen also notes that the above system allows Ferndale to develop trail network without the expense of a “Greenways” type program.
- The urban and suburban trails being developed by Ferndale allow people to go hiking and walking without having to drive.
- Mike McFarlane notes that in Washington State, municipalities gain a high degree of “recreational immunity” by not charging fees; this makes funding projects and maintenance more difficult than other states. WA has exempted the DFW, St. Parks, and DNR from this so they can now charge for access and maintain their immunity.

Topic # 2 – Trails

Questions:

Ideas/Statements:

- Get big conceptual trail loops completed and out of the planning phase.

Topic # 3 – Programs and Activities

Questions:

- How about a Whatcom County Parks Recreation Center with indoor pool, all-weather surface ball fields, and a field house?
- Would County Parks consider opening the Interpretive Center at Tennant Lake?
- Will there be interns working at Tennant Lake this summer?
- Could a partnership with Western Washington University work for running and maintaining the Tennant Lake facility and programs?

Ideas/Statements:

- Imagine Ferndale, Lynden, and County Parks donating to a regional recreation district.

Topic # 4 – Water Access & Beaches

Questions:

- Will there be a “Nooksack River Trail” between Lynden and Ferndale?

Ideas/Statements:

- The WDFW boat launch in Ferndale is on County Parks land and needs maintenance. There are lots of agency hurdles that make fixing this site complicated.
- Fewer motorized watercraft are using the Ferndale/WDFW boat launch and many more canoes and kayaks.
- Mike McFarlane describes difficulty of managing sites in conjunction with the WDFW and while the local WA State Parks are excellent to work with, working the Olympia office involves longer timeframes.
- Upset that paddler reported activities at farm to Ecology that resulted in penalties. Incidents like this would likely make farmers unwilling to allow access/egress through their properties.

Topic # 5 –General Topics

Regarding the small turnout at several of these planning meetings:

Questions:

- Joe at KGMI has a show; could a County Parks employee go on the show to raise public interest in the planning process?

Ideas/Statements:

- The Bill Mize forum at the Rome Grange has also had far lower attendance than in past years.
- The political forum hosted by the Bellingham Herald in Bellingham has been poorly attended recently.
- I am concerned about the low attendance at these (County Parks) planning meetings.
- Joe at KGMI pisses off listeners with his tone.
- Actual public meetings have a chemistry that on-line surveys and telephone surveys cannot replicate. The interaction between attendees can lead to a form of collaborative problem solving and hatch new ideas.
- Actual public meetings get people in the room “to share hopes” with others.
- This meeting has been advertised and posted though the Ferndale Senior Center to some 300 people for the last week or so.
- Civic organizations are hurting for members these days.

Whatcom County Recreation Plan Comments - 7/8/2013 – Everson Community CenterTopic # 1 - Parks and Conservancy Areas

Questions:

- Where are the County Parks and Conservancy Areas in and near Everson?
- Could County Parks work with the City of Everson to develop sports fields?
- How does Everson get its funding request into County Parks?
- Could County Parks help with recreational trail easements where Everson cannot, such as to the north of Everson?
- Is the Re-conveyance moving ahead? I'm a big supporter of it!
- Does County Parks include RV camping as part of a regional system?
- I think the County Parks Plan has a mention of camping at the end of Van Dyck Rd.?
- How many campgrounds does County Parks run?

Ideas/Statements:

- Loves the Sumas Center.
- Concerned that Everson has no County Parks.
- Mayor explains that Everson City Parks funding comes from the General Fund and when the economy slows down, City Parks usually gets a cut in funding.
- Everson is considering an RV park at one of its riverside parks.

Topic # 2 – Trails

Questions:

- Is there a way to fix the bottleneck between Nooksack and Everson at Breckinridge Farms for safer bicycling?
- Is there a way to fix the bottleneck on South Pass Rd. at Tuxedo Gardens?
- What is the status of the hiking trail on Sumas Mountain at the Orville Larson property near Ostrom's?
- Lost Lake on Sumas Mountain is owned by the school district, how about working with the school district to gain hiking access?
- How about utilizing existing dikes from trails?

Ideas/Statements:

- I have come to state my support for the Bay-to-Baker Trail, especially the northern section.
- A good bicycle connection to Lynden would be helpful.
- The Bay-to-Baker Trail would be an economic lift for Everson.
- County roads are scary for bicyclists due the deep ditches and high-speed driving.
- Mark and maintain Goodwin Rd. and Telegraph Rd. as bicycle routes.

- Use 8-inch wide paint stripes to mark and clearly delineate the bicycle lane on roads.
- Road bicycling is extremely popular in northern Whatcom County.
- There are loads of Canadian bicyclists in northern Whatcom County.
- Everson is listed in several bicycle guidebooks.
- Wants a bicycle path between Lynden and Everson.
- Likes walking along the river.
- Likes walking to waterfall off North Pass Rd. (Racehorse Creek).
- Property near the end of Massey Rd. is for sale and the owners have approached the City of Everson about selling it to the City.
- Everson has the potential to draw visitors if there are trails for walking that are 3 miles or longer.
- Everson wants to get people to stop, shop, and do things here.

Topic # 3 – Programs and Activities

Questions:

- What are the “Programs” that County Parks runs?
- There are not many opportunities for programs in the north-County; could Senior Centers be used to host more programs?

Ideas/Statements:

- Loves the Sumas Senior Center.
- The Sumas Senior Center mixes its programs with the library it shares the building with.
- Collaboration between groups could result in Senior Center facilities being used more often for public events.
- Nature walks and similar programs can be expensive for County Parks to run; coordination with other groups could help make best use of limited resources.
- Audubon and the Native Plant Society offer lots of free programs; cross-posting of event listings could help.

Topic # 4 – Water Access & Beaches

Questions:

- Are the 13 acres located off the Massey Rd. a potential water access? (Yes)
- Are there any more boat launch sites at Lake Whatcom other than Bloedel-Donovan Park (City) or the site at the south end of the Lake?
- What’s up with Portage Island?

Ideas/Statements:

- In the Everson area there is a need to focus on water access.

- Boat launching along the Everson section of the Nooksack River has been looked at for years.
- The private boat launch site at McNulty Rd. is a mess.
- A potential boat launch located in Everson is thought to be used for drift boats and smaller craft.

Topic # 5 – General Topics

Questions:

- Are there restrictions on the hours the Senior Centers can operate?
- What is the current status of the Roeder Home?
- How does a group book an event at the Roeder Home?
- What happened to Senior Awards and the Ice Cream Social?

Ideas/Statements:

- Thinks we have beautiful County Parks and trails.
- Wants County Parks representation in Everson area.

Whatcom County Recreation Plan Comments - 7/10/2013 – Kendall-EWRRCTopic # 1 - Parks and Conservancy Areas

Questions:

- The local Water Commission has property in the area and can develop a park on its property but the park must be “water related”, can County Parks help with such a project?
- How about a “Special Parks District” for the Kendall/Maple Falls area?
- Does maintenance funding for a “Special Parks District” come out of the taxes paid for the “District”?
- How about insurance for a “Special Parks District”?
- Does County Parks own the Van Zandt Community Center?
- Was a trust fund created for maintaining the Van Zandt Community Center?

Ideas/Statements:

- Was at County Parks’ planning meetings six years ago and was asked, “What do you want out here”, we answered, and nothing has come from those requests for our community of 4,000 citizens.
- Need facilities for kids up here like ball fields but the emphasis on trails seems to have taken up all the attention of County Parks.
- A skate board park and a basketball court would be OK but younger kids also need facilities.
- Easy access for kids to get to any potential recreational facilities would be critical.
- In the planning for the EWRRC there was lots of interest in playgrounds and facilities for kids’ recreation.
- The Van Zandt Community Center hosted potlucks with meetings and created its facilities through community involvement with minimal County Parks assistance.
- Van Zandt involved high school students; the students did the math calculations for the designs in conjunction with the architect.
- Maple Falls is interested in turning its old burned down school into a community center.
- The local school board is hosting a meeting (7/11/13) to discuss the future of the old Maple Falls elementary school.
- Connect the Maple Falls Trail to the potential community center in Maple Falls.
- There are two new completed projects at the Van Zandt Community Center and there will be a party to celebrate their completion.

Topic # 2 – Trails

Questions:

- It is possible to link a trail from South Pass Rd. to a possible” Urban Trail.”
- How does the community go about working with developers to plan trails into their projects?
- Who at County Parks should we send the WADOT Concept Paper to?

- Is there any current plan for a trail from Maple Falls to Silver Lake Park?
- How about connecting the old Maple Falls school to the proposed Maple Falls/Silver Lake Park Trail?

Ideas/Statements:

- There are serious concerns about bicycle and pedestrian safety in the Maple Falls/Kendall area; the communities have met with WADOT and a “concept paper” is being created.
- Desires a pedestrian/bicycle trail down the Columbia Valley.
- A group working on a travel plan for the Maple Falls/Kendall area has been meeting for about a year.
- The local Water Commission has been considering developing an “Urban Trail” down the Columbia Valley; land is available for this.
- Tax liens on some parcels along a possible trail from South Pass through Columbia Valley may pose problems for gaining easements.
- The Eisenhardt section along the highway is now owned by a real estate company that has green belts in the Overland Tr. area.
- There are tax advantages for giving easements for the “Urban Trail.”
- Mike – Put ‘Urban Trail’ and better bicycle accommodations into this Whatcom County Parks Plan so they would more likely be considered when WADOT makes improvements in this area.
- The local group working with WADOT has been addressing highway safety education, school speed zones, and general community speed reductions including a 40 mph speed limit within the area on the state highways.
- Need a roundabout at the Kendall Church.
- The Sherriff’s Department has mapped all trails within the Columbia Valley and could be a good resource for trail planning.
- If illicit trails were used and advertised more by the public there would be less illicit behavior.
- Maintain the trail connecting Maple Falls to Glacier.
- The Harrison Family has donated a parcel to the WLT to develop 5 acre park/reserve for education and picnicking (near the Elementary School).

Topic # 3 – Programs and Activities

Questions:

- Could a senior program be run once per week at the EWRRC with transportation to and from?
- What senior programs does County Parks currently operate?
- Could County Parks help with programing for seniors including the food program?
- Would it be easier to start a senior program if a meal was not needed?
- Does Pt. Roberts pay for their senior center through its parks district?
- What might it cost to set up a “Special Parks District” in the Kendall area?

Ideas/Statements:

- Kendall area needs a Senior Center; there is little internet access, few cars, and many disabilities within the area's senior community.
- WTA and Transportation for America have been approached about providing transportation for seniors in the Kendall area.
- There are many marginalized seniors in the Kendall area.
- Social meetings for seniors without food could be a foot in the door for getting a program started.
- The Water Commission (District) just paid off its bonds this year; this frees community and could possibly help with creating a "Special Parks District."
- Five different urban density areas in eastern Whatcom County could be brought into a "Special Parks District".
- The downtown Bellingham senior center uses an honor system to fund its meals.
- The Kendall/Columbia Valley/Maple Falls UGA does not have enough business tax-base to support incorporation.
- Business development is in the future but not expected any time soon.
- There have been improvements and changes in Kendall with the new library, the fire department, gas stations, and the EWRRC, but we still need parks for the kids.
- Sheriff's deputy stopped when he saw two local kids lying in the road, when asked why they were doing this they replied that they were "bored."
- Basketball and volleyball courts needed.

Topic # 4 – Water Access & Beaches

Questions:

- Is the Nooksack River access that people use at Boulder Creek legal?
- Who has jurisdiction over the Middle Fork bridge off the Mosquito Lake Rd.?
- Could the camping area on the North Fork Rd. (off Mosquito Lake Rd.) also be a river access? (WLT and WDNR)

Ideas/Statements:

- There is not much accessible water in the area.
- The large goose population at Silver Lake's beach makes visiting there less fun.
- People stop in dangerous spots to get Nooksack River access between Glacier and Maple Falls.
- Mark the apparently legal access for the Nooksack River at Boulder Creek to reduce random and dangerous pull-overs at other spots.
- More Nooksack River access needs to be identified.
- An overall management strategy for river related uses is needed to address specific problems along the Nooksack River.
- Develop a partnership with the Nooksack Tribe for water access along Nooksack River.

- Two informal campsites at the Middle Fork bridge are becoming a public health problem.
- Steve (DNR) – DNR posts signs nearly every week and they are torn down almost instantly.
- Work needs to be done on the policy and regulations regarding “water use and safety” for the North, Middle, and South Forks of the Nooksack River.
- The group, American Rivers has been doing work on issues in the North Fork and could be brought in to help with other sections of the Nooksack River.

Topic # 5 – General Topics

Questions:

Ideas/Statements:

- County Parks must understand how much impact it has when there are cuts or changes in hours or policies at Silver Lake Park; local stores and businesses take a big hit.
- County Parks planning needs to include economic impacts.
- Cuts in boat rental hours and the closing of the small restaurant at Silver Lake Park were noticed, both drew lots of people to the Park.
- Local businesses in Glacier have benefited from the opening of the public restrooms as they get people to stop in the town.
- The Bay-to-Baker Trail appears to be well maintained.
- Appreciates that County Parks does not charge an admission fee.
- Need sand volleyball at Silver Lake Park.
- More programs and facilities are good for quality of life and business.
- Effort directed towards projects builds communities.
- Need youth programs.
- Needs funding for Boys’ and Girls’ Club or YMCA, a “Special Parks District” could help gain grants.

Whatcom County Recreation Plan Comments - 7/11/2013 – Bellingham Senior Activity CenterTopic # 1 - Parks and Conservancy Areas

Questions:

- Does Google Maps have accurate maps of the Chuckanuts and Galbraith Mtn.?

Ideas/Statements:

- Rode to Deming Homestead, it was great to see new park.
- Put both City and County Parks on maps to showcase the area.
- Include DNR and State Parks on area wide map.
- Private maps of this area that are sold should be vetted by agencies.
- Saw a woman out on the Chuckanut trails with a Google Map setup looking like she was gathering data.
- “Strava” is an I-Phone app that is good for establishing trail data.
- Wants a sand beach somewhere near Bellingham.

Topic # 2 – Trails

Questions:

- Is County Parks accountable for the 50 miles of planned trails a listed in the current County Parks Plan?
- Is there a communication person for County Parks?
- What is better, to begin signage and information presentation in the backcountry or at the trailheads?

Ideas/Statements:

- The boardwalks at Pine and Cedar Lakes need to be fixed and/or replaced.
- Better maintenance of boardwalks and/or better design would help with longevity.
- The COB Parks trail from Sussex St. to Squalicum HS has bums living on it and is not safe for even HS kids.
- The Chuckanut trails need a re-vamp due to horse use and other user groups.
- Many of the Chuckanut trails exceed a 20% grade.
- County Parks needs a Trails Supervisor that does outreach, maintenance, and planning.
- WADNR is starting from scratch with a trail inventory and is re-considering operations.
- We should re-visit the early-1990s multi-agency Chuckanut Plan.
- Establish trail management objectives for each trail.
- WADNR has had success doing daily trails updates on its website.
- Post County Parks planning process information at trailheads and kiosks.
- Establish a common naming process between agencies for trails.

- Kiosks are critical for sharing information and County Park objectives.
- The Hertz Trail needs better signage for handicap access.

Topic # 3 – Programs and Activities

Questions:

Ideas/Statements:

- COB Parks seem to have gone backwards in terms of services such as lifeguards and food services.

Topic # 4 – Water Access & Beaches

Questions:

- How many WDFW access points are there along the Nooksack River?

Ideas/Statements:

- Need an easy access beach for families that doesn't require a long walk.
- Any improvements in water access would be appreciated.
- County Parks should read the Ski-to-Sea comments for input on recreational needs and services that could be improved.
- Trails around Ferndale are poorly maintained.
- Need more saltwater kayak put-ins.
- Need better handicap marking for water access.

Topic # 5 – General Topics

Questions:

- Could COB, DNR, WA St. Parks, and Whatcom County share an information booth at Bellingham Farmers Market?

Ideas/Statements:

- It's hard to find information about local trails.
- It is important for County Parks staff to see other parks and how they operate.

Whatcom County Recreation Plan Comments - 7/15/2013 – Birch Bay Horizon Park GymnasiumTopic # 1 - Parks and Conservancy Areas

Questions:

- How does an element in a sub-area plan reflect in the County Parks Plan?
- Are local sub-area plans included in the County Parks Plan?
- Should we send in the elements of the local sub-area plan we think should be included in the County Parks Plan directly to County Parks?
- If the NW Park and Recreation District's next bond does not pass, could the Birch Bay Activity Center be listed in the County Park Plan to enable securing grants?
- Is the Deming Eagle Park used for tubing?
- What is Sunset Farm being used for?
- What are the chances of getting a place to park cars so people can get on their bikes and ride down to and along Birch Bay Dr.?
- What is the status of Halvorsen Park?

Ideas/Statements:

- The Birch Bay Sub-area Plan lists 2-3 parcels along Birch Bay Dr. that should be included in County Parks or NW Park & Recreation's park inventory.
- Wants better marked access along Nooksack River.
- The Deming Eagle Park needs better signage.

Topic # 2 – Trails

Questions:

- Are there any self-guided nature trails in Whatcom County?
- The electric manhole at Bay Horizon Park drains nearly all season out the top and wets a large area, could this be fixed and/or diverted?

Ideas/Statements:

- Need road improvements or separate route for bicyclists and pedestrians to get from Birch Bay to Blaine.
- The worst part of the current route to Blaine from Birch Bay is along Drayton Harbor.
- The City of Blain has property that could be utilized to fix the hazardous section along Drayton Harbor.
- Streets are in the Birch Bay Community Transportation Plan as conceptually safe for walking and bicycling in addition to automobile travel.
- There is currently a traffic count being conducted along Birch Bay Dr. by the Birch Bay community.

- If improvements are made to attract more visitors to Birch Bay, accommodation must be made for trash by adding more trash cans and more frequent trash collections.
- Three tons of trash including large quantities of fireworks debris was removed from Birch Bay shorelines after the July 4th holiday this year (2013).
- There will be two of the largest dumpsters used by SSC will be in place for next season's July 4th holiday in Birch Bay.
- Only one of the large dumpsters was on-site for this season's July 4th holiday at Birch Bay and it was beyond maximum capacity.
- The beach clean-up was a collaboration between Solid Waste for Whatcom County, SSC (hauling the waste at no charge), the Whatcom County Sheriff's Department (two deputies), and local volunteers.
- Bay Horizon Park (Birch Bay Activity Center) needs a wheelchair accessible self-guided nature trail.
- A self-guided nature trail should also be designed to accommodate blind people.
- A self-guided Nature trail should be surfaced with 3/8 fine compacted gravel.
- Birch Bay seems like it is a "Black Hole" for youth activities and recreation.

Topic # 3 – Programs and Activities

Questions:

- If a future school is considered for Birch Bay, could recreation facilities such as ball fields and a playground be constructed before the school is built or completed?
- Who is punching the road along the eastern edge of the Bay Horizon Park?

Ideas/Statements:

- The church group has programs for younger kids currently but wants to work with teens in the future.
- The kids programs in the Birch Bay area have not been as successful as anticipated.
- The local residents don't know about the kids programs and are similarly unknowledgeable about the NW Park and Recreation Dist.
- Blaine, being a city is more organized regarding recreation than Birch Bay.

Topic # 4 – Water Access & Beaches

Questions:

- Who is in charge of the road ends on Whatcom County roads?

Ideas/Statements:

- There is lots of water access in Birch Bay but there is a need for better services like trash removal.
- The southern end of Birch Bay Dr. is less of a commuter route than the northern portion and vehicle speeds are generally slower making access safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Locally a house got built before efforts were made to maintain public access at road ends and the owner fenced off the access to the public; nothing can now be done in this case but nowadays mitigation would be required to compensate for the loss of access.
- The open hours of the beaches at Birch Bay are being enforced much better this season.
- County Parks is doing a good job.

Topic # 5 – General Topics

Questions:

Ideas/Statements:

WHATCOM COUNTY

Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097
360-778-5900, TTY 800-833-6384
360-778-5901 Fax



J.E. "Sam" Ryan
Director

**SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)
Legal Notice**

To be published one time only on: **January 29, 2016**

CHARGE TO: Whatcom County Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, Washington 98226
Acct #451232

**WHATCOM COUNTY GIVES PUBLIC NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING SEPA
THRESHOLD DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) HAS BEEN
ISSUED TODAY SUBJECT TO THE 14 DAY COMMENT PERIOD
CONCLUDING ON, February 19, 2016.**

File: SEP2016-00005

Project Description:

The adoption of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space (CPROS) Plan– 2016 revision. The Whatcom County CPROS plan provides broad guidance to the County for the planning, acquisition, development and improvement of parks, trails, open space and natural areas in Whatcom County. This plan is also a requirement to qualify for funding from certain state grant programs.

A copy of the proposed Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan can be found at: <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/2277/2016-1st-Quarter>

Proponent: Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department / Michael McFarlane

Address and Parcel #: County-wide

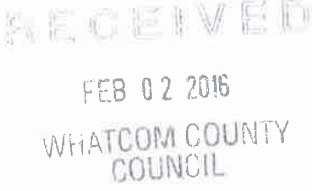
Lead Agency: Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

Zoning: County-wide **Comp Plan:** County-wide **Shoreline Jurisdiction:** County-wide

ANY PERSON OR AGENCY MAY APPEAL THE COUNTY'S COMPLIANCE WITH WAC 197-11 BY FILING AN APPEAL WITH THE WHATCOM COUNTY CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION LOCATED AT 5280 NORTHWEST DRIVE, BELLINGHAM, WA 98226. APPEALS MUST BE MADE WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE COMMENT PERIOD.

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2016-062A

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	MGM	1/28/16	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	2/09/16	Public Hearing
Division Head:				2/23/16	Council
Dept. Head:	MGM	1/28/16			
Prosecutor:	Lg	1/29/16			
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive: TKS		2/1/16			
TITLE OF DOCUMENT: Resolution Adopting the 2016 Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan					
ATTACHMENTS: Resolution					
SEPA review required? (X) Yes () NO SEPA review completed? (X) Yes () NO			Should Clerk schedule a hearing? (X) Yes () NO Requested Date: 2/9/16		
SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.) Request County Council adopts the 2016 Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.					
COMMITTEE ACTION:			COUNCIL ACTION: 2/9/2016: Public Testimony Received 2/23/2016: Approved 5-1, Brenner opposed, Res. 2016-005		
Related County Contract #:		Related File Numbers:		Ordinance or Resolution Number: Res. 2016-005	
Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.					

PROPOSED BY: Parks & Recreation Dept.

INTRODUCTION DATE: _____

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-005

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PARKS,
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department has requested the adoption of the updated 2016 Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan; and

WHEREAS, the public, agencies and others participated in numerous meetings, surveys, and discussions pertaining to the development of the plan; and

WHEREAS, The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board requires Whatcom County to have a qualifying Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan pursuant to Manual 2; Planning Policies and Guidelines dated February 14th, 2014 to maintain eligibility for certain grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's timelines and update of the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan do not coincide with the timelines of the County's Comprehensive Plan update; and

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act does not require that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's planning requirements be integrated into the County's Comprehensive Plan or Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, a Determination of Non-Significance was issued by the SEPA Official on January 29th, 2016 (no. SEP2016-00005);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that:

1. The Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is hereby adopted as a departmental planning document for the Parks & Recreation Department.
2. This plan will be used to provide guidance and direction to the Parks & Recreation Department in capital development and planning efforts.
3. The plan will be used to assist in informing the parks, trails and open space elements of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

4. The plan will assist the Parks & Recreation Department in providing a basis for calculating levels of service, programming and fees.
5. Adoption of the plan will maintain eligibility for grant funding through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.
6. This plan will provide direction to the County for recreation and open space planning through the year 2021.

APPROVED this 23rd day of February, 2016



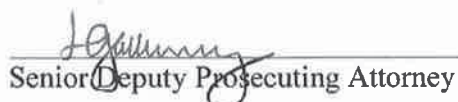
Dana Brown Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney