

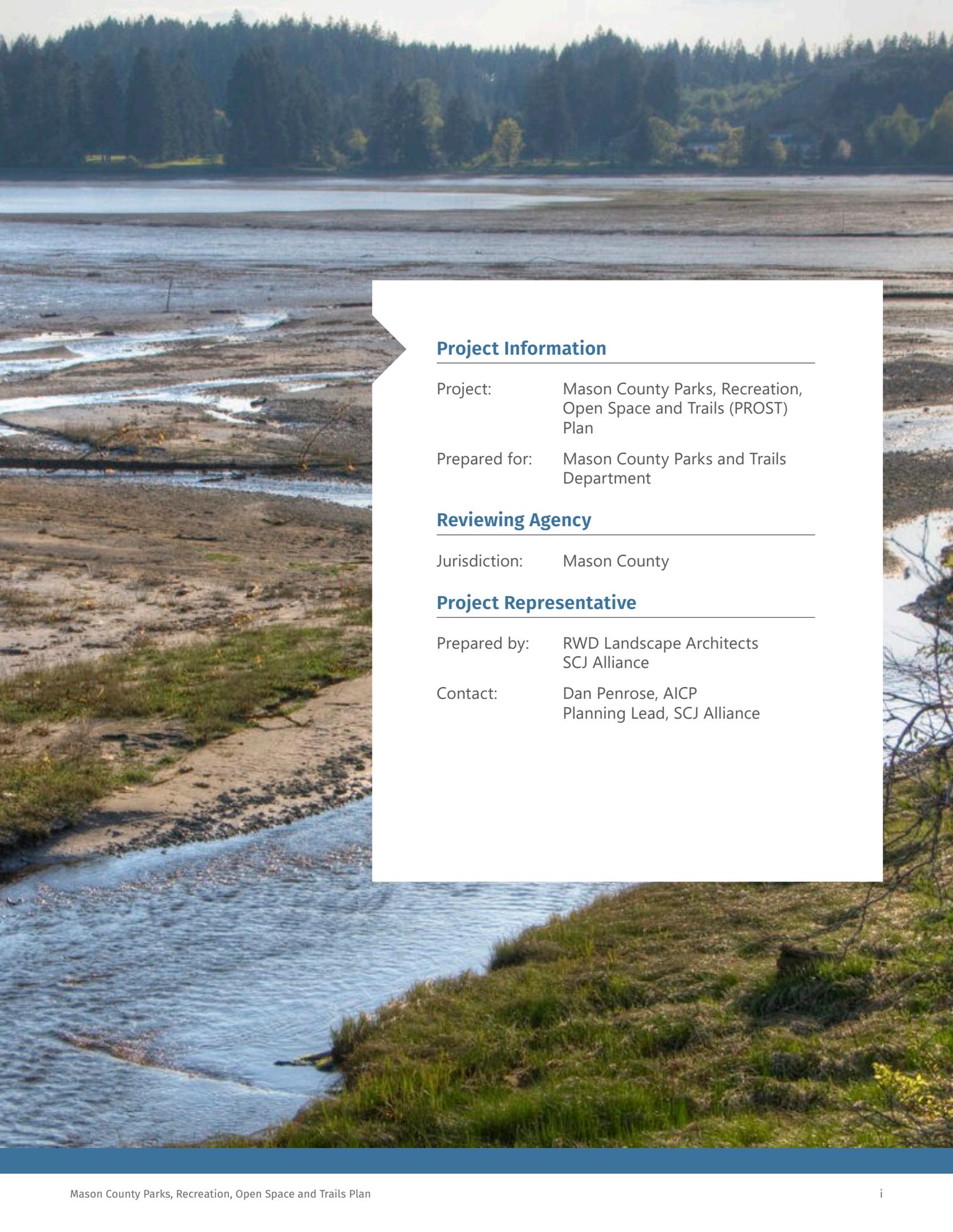


MASON COUNTY

Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Plan

Adopted March 2022





Project Information

Project: Mason County Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) Plan

Prepared for: Mason County Parks and Trails Department

Reviewing Agency

Jurisdiction: Mason County

Project Representative

Prepared by: RWD Landscape Architects
SCJ Alliance

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MISSION STATEMENT

Provide a diverse system of safe, attractive, and professionally maintained parks, facilities, trails and recreation opportunities designed to enhance the quality of life for all who reside in and visit Mason County.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mason County greatly appreciates the efforts of community members and advisory members, county staff, and other county leaders who contributed to this planning effort. Your interest and support will continue to foster the success of our system of parks, recreation, open space and trails for years to come.

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1

Healthier lifestyles through physical activity are becoming an important component of people’s lives. In recent decades, programs such as the Healthy People Initiative through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have placed a strong emphasis on increasing physical activity. These programs suggest regular physical activity and the reduction of sedentary activities to promote health, psychological well being, and a healthy body weight.

The adult obesity rate in Mason County is 33% compared to the State’s 27%, and Mason County is ranked 20th out of Washington’s 39 counties with regard to health outcomes. As Americans increase their level of physical activity, there is in turn an increased demand for healthier leisure-time activities, including parks and outdoor recreation. As more and more people participate in outdoor activities, the increased pressure on existing parks and recreational facilities may endanger the environmental qualities that residents and nonresidents are attracted to in the first place.

Consequently, there is a need to provide for increasing recreational demand while at the same time improving quality of life, enhancing property values and protecting natural resources for future generations.

The National Park and Recreation Association (NPR) actively promotes parks and recreation to enhance the quality of life for all people. In line with the values of NPR, Mason County believes that parks and recreation organizations can:

- ◆ Enhance human potential by providing facilities, services and programs that meet the emotional, social and physical needs of communities;

- ◆ Articulate environmental values through ecologically responsible management and environmental education programs;
- ◆ Promote individual and community wellness that enhances the quality of life for all citizens;
- ◆ Utilize holistic approaches to promote cultural understanding, economic development, family public health and safety, by working in coalitions and partnerships with allied organizations; and
- ◆ Facilitate and promote the development of grassroots, self-help initiatives in communities across the country.

Planning for parks and recreation also addresses the County’s need for capital investments in public lands and recreation resources, contributes to individual and social development including a healthy, active populace, improves the health and well-being of children, youth and families, and ensures stewardship and protection for our County’s natural resources.

There is a need to provide for increasing recreational demand while at the same time improving quality of life, enhancing property values and protecting natural resources for future generations.

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The **Mason County Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Plan** (referred to as the **PROST Plan**) will serve as a guide in the development of parks and outdoor recreation and will enable the County to satisfy the planning requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A.020). Local agencies, such as Mason County, are required to update their Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plans every six years.

The GMA establishes a number of requirements for local comprehensive planning. It identifies specific goals that the comprehensive plans are to achieve, prescribes the elements each plan is to contain, establishes requirements for regulations, mandates the “urban growth area,” and requires local governments to demonstrate how they will pay for the improvements and facilities called for in their plans. The act requires extensive public participation in the planning process.

This plan will also provide a document that can be used to solicit a variety of grant sources, including the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) with grant categories under the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program account (WWRP), the Boating Facilities Program (BFP), The Non-Highway and Off Road Vehicle Program (NOVA) and the federal Land and Water Conservation Funding (LWCF) through the Department of the Interior. Completion and adoption of this plan will provide Mason County with grant eligibility from 2022 through 2027 with the RCO. The RCO also requires public and/or community input as part of the planning process.

This plan will provide a document that can be used to solicit a variety of grant sources for parks planning and maintenance.

The plan contains a capital improvements element that recommends selected park and trail improvements from 2022 through 2027 and lists potential park improvements beyond the planning period over the next 20 years (through 2042).

The recommendations in the capital improvements element were derived from the data collected from the Parks and Trails Advisory Board, public meetings, the survey results, and staff input.

The efforts and dedication of many people should be recognized in the development of this plan. Some of these individuals are listed as acknowledgements and includes staff, citizens, appointed and elected participants in the planning process.

Intent

This PROST Plan is the result of hours of staff and volunteer time in preparation, drafting, working with the public, tabulating survey results and guiding the plan through the formal adoption process. We believe that the community has provided invaluable information and insight for park planning in Mason County. This document is now the primary parks planning tool for Mason County. It establishes specific policies and strategies for all County parks related to land acquisition, facility and program development, funding, and management. This plan is intended to:

- ♦ Articulate the County’s Vision and Mission Statement for Mason County parks, facilities, trails and outdoor recreation;
- ♦ Provide an inventory of all parks within the County;
- ♦ Analyze recreational trends in Mason County as acquired through the Mason County Parks questionnaire and community workshops;
- ♦ Describe the methods for inviting citizen participation in the planning process and summarizes the key issues and recommendations that citizens provided; and
- ♦ Discuss future development plans for existing parks, possible new additions to the park system, and the protection of park resources through policies and ordinances.

1.2 Setting and Context

Mason County was named for Charles H. Mason, territorial secretary and governor. Mason County is one of 39 counties in Washington, and the City of Shelton is the county seat. Mason County is situated along the southwestern portion of Puget Sound and encompasses roughly 961 square miles. The County borders with Jefferson County to the north, Grays Harbor County to the west and southwest, Thurston County to the southeast, Pierce County to the east, and Kitsap County to the northeast.

Mason County remains a predominantly rural County despite urban spillover from both Thurston

and Kitsap Counties. The City of Shelton, the only incorporated area in Mason County, includes approximately 5.76 square miles, or less than one percent of the County's total land area. There are two unincorporated Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) in Mason County, the Allyn UGA and the Belfair UGA in the northern area of Mason County. Two Native American Tribes, the Skokomish Tribe and the Squaxin Island Tribe, have reservations within the boundaries of Mason County.

Landscape

Three geological provinces combine to form Mason County. They include the Puget Sound lowland, the Olympic Mountains, and the Black Hills. Additionally, seven watersheds exist within Mason County. They include Case Inlet, Chehalis, Lower Hood Canal, Oakland Bay, Skokomish, Totten-Little Skookum, and West Hood Canal. Mason County also includes over 350 miles of shoreline and nearly 100 freshwater lakes. The larger of these bodies are Lake Cushman, Mason Lake, Lake Limerick, Isabella Lake, Timberlakes and Spencer Lake. Hood Canal and Puget Sound account for most of Mason County's 90 square miles of water. Two-thirds of Hood Canal runs through Mason County. One fork of the Skokomish feeds Lake Cushman and the hydroelectric power plant at Potlatch (built by the City of Tacoma). Other notable rivers in Mason County are the Satsop and Hamma Hamma.

Mason County's rich natural resources and open spaces dominate the County's landscape. Combined national, state, and private forests currently account for over 80% of the County's land. Mineral deposits support 18 operating surface mines. Agriculture and aquaculture areas contribute both to the County's beauty and its economy. Mason County also includes substantial open space. Open space within the County hosts wildlife habitat, undeveloped natural areas, and many developed park and recreation sites. These open space areas include over 100 sites managed by federal, state, county, municipal and private interests. Within Mason County, designated long-term commercial forest lands, National Park lands and National Forest lands are not available for development. Those three classifications combined account for approximately 56.8% of the land within Mason County.

Climate

Mason County's climate can be characterized as moderate-maritime, influenced by the Pacific Ocean, yet sheltered by the Olympic Mountains. Average temperatures range from a high of 77°F in July to 33°F in January. The average daily temperature in Mason County is 51°F. The County receives an average of 66 inches of precipitation annually, with average monthly rainfalls ranging from a low in July of 0.9 inches to a high of 10.4 inches in January.



There is a yearly average of 136 sunny days, with 161 days of precipitation annually.

The marine shorelines in Mason County cover about 217 linear miles including the inner shores of inlets, embayments, and estuaries. Elevations in the County range from 6,400 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in the foothills of the Olympic Mountains, to sea level along the coastline of Puget Sound and Hood Canal. Additionally, the communities in Mason County that are low-lying and located adjacent to South Puget Sound and Hood Canal could be affected by sea level rise.

Climate change happens on scales ranging from decades to centuries. Sea levels in Puget Sound are projected to rise between 3.0 inches and 22.0 inches by 2050 (Mote, 2008). All of these fluctuations can have an impact on ecological conditions in the shoreline environment.

Population

Mason County's 2021 population is estimated at 65,750 by the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) and is expected to grow to as many as 73,991 by 2027 and to 86,147 people by the year 2042. In fact, seasonal population is higher when tourism is at its peak. The population can increase by 30-35% during the height of the season. Historically, the bulk of Mason County's population growth has occurred in the unincorporated areas of the County. The City of Shelton and the Urban Growth Areas of Allyn and Belfair, however, are expected to attract a larger share of Mason County's population growth in the future.

Economy

Mason County consistently experiences a higher unemployment rate than the statewide rate, though in recent years employment has rebounded to pre-recession rates. Natural resource industries currently support Mason County's economy and are expected to be important in the future. Rural lands cover over 60% of the County. Employment in Mason County is still largely resource based, with a strong history of

forestry and a growing aquaculture industry leading the nation in shellfish production.

The County is highly specialized in the production of forest and aquaculture commodities. This specialization focuses on both raw materials and value-added products in these industries. Heavy construction and government service also anchor the County's economy. Economic highlights for Mason County, as identified by the State Employment Security Department (ESD), include the following:

- ◆ In 2019, the largest job holder age group in Mason County was the 55 and older age category, making up 26.1 percent of employment across all industries. The next largest share was among people aged 35 to 44 with 21.4 percent of employment.
- ◆ In 2019, the county's workers mirrored state patterns with workers aged 14 to 24 dominating the accommodation and food services jobs in the county with 29.2 percent of the positions. This age group was also well represented in arts, entertainment and recreation and retail trade.
- ◆ Workers in the 55 year and older age category were prevalent in educational services, transportation and warehousing, real estate and rental and leasing and other services.
- ◆ Females made up 51.1 percent of the labor force in Mason County with males making up the difference at 48.9 percent in 2019. Men were more often represented in higher paying industries:
 - Male-dominated industries included mining (93.4 percent), agriculture (73.3 percent), construction (78.4 percent), manufacturing (72.9 percent) and transportation and warehousing (75.5 percent).
 - Female-dominated industries included finance and insurance (79.9 percent), healthcare and social assistance (79.9 percent) and educational services (71.8 percent).



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Chapter 2

The goals and objectives presented here set the trajectory for the long-term vision for Mason County's parks, recreation, open space, and trail facilities and outline the steps to make it successful. They emerged from the values and priorities expressed by the Mason County community through surveys, community meetings, and written comments throughout the public process.

Goals described in this chapter identify the community's aspirations; objectives are more measurable and describe how the goal can be achieved.

These goals and objectives will also be incorporated into the Parks and Recreation element of the county's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan contains framework goals that guide countywide policies for the transportation system, public safety, parks, recreation, and other important facets of the community to create a consistent, unified plan for the county's future.

“We have such an opportunity to be a destination area for enjoyment of our natural resources (beautiful outdoors, salmon, shellfish, hiking, etc.)”

– public survey comment

2.1 Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Administration

Quality professional personnel guided by innovative strategies to acquire, build, operate and maintain the community and regional parks, special use areas, natural areas and a County-wide trail system to effectively serve the County in the realization of this plan.

- ◆ Indicators: By 2027, assessments by an *ad hoc* planning advisory group verify that planned activities included in the PROST Plan have been successfully completed.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Assessment Report on file in Director's Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: Funding is provided as budgeted.

Objective 1.1: Leadership

The Mason County Parks and Trails Department leadership is effectively linked with and responsive to the citizens.

- ◆ Indicators: By the conclusion of 2027, feedback obtained from individuals and citizen groups indicates a high level of satisfaction with MCPR management.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Documented feedback from citizen groups on file in Director's Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: The director is not assigned additional, non-Parks and Recreation duties

Objective 1.2: Staff

Superior and accessible customer services are provided to the public and all departments in a professional, informative and timely manner.

- ◆ Indicators: By the end of 2027, survey data and information obtained from interviews with those who use MCPR facilities and services show a high level of satisfaction with the available facilities and with services provided.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Survey data and summaries of interviews on file in Director's Office
- ◆ Assumptions: Staffing levels are not reduced; budgets are adequate.

“It would be nice if staff was available, present and seen during busy nights at MCRA. More often than not, no one is around to address issues. Maybe adjust staffing schedules to be present at the facility when people are there with the most need.”

– public survey comment

Goal 2: Parks and Trail Projects

Engagement of Mason County residents in planning and stewardship of park and trail resources increases public awareness and use of the park and trail system.

- ◆ Indicators: By the end of 2027, random surveys of parks and trails as well as reports by coaches of teams using athletic facilities show an increase in use by the public.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Survey notes and reports on file in Director's Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: Citizen participation in planning, use and additional development of the trail system.

Objective 2.1: Project Implementation

Facilities are developed to meet as many identified needs as possible at community and regional park sites.

- ◆ Indicators: By 2027, at least three of the needs identified through the 2021 Parks and Trails Survey and identified by the advisory board as doable priorities have been completed.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Project reports and minutes of Advisory Board meetings.
- ◆ Assumptions: Reliable funding sources.

Objective 2.2: Community Relations

Citizen planning committees and stewardship programs which identify conceptual short- and long-term use, management and maintenance procedures and are developed and supported.

- ◆ Indicators: By 2027, recommendations obtained from committee meetings and stemming from input of those involved in stewardship programs are considered, prioritized and implemented.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Project reports and minutes of Advisory Board meetings
- ◆ Assumptions: Committees meet regularly

Objective 2.3: Future Projects

Creative approaches are applied in investigating and pursuing potential resources for providing future parks, trails and recreation facilities.

- ◆ Indicators: By 2027, at least three new resources have been utilized to provide funding and/or support for parks, trails, and recreation facilities.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Records of resource allocations on file in Director's Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: Donors have funds and are interested in supporting the development of parks and facilities.

“I understand how some might feel we need to spend our resources on construction of facilities, but it seems to me the bottom line is limited by land being available for parks. If it is not acquired now, if we wait too long, the land will simply not be available. Growing the inventory of publicly owned land is essential.”

– public survey comment

Objective 2.4: Coordination

Cooperation, coordination and communication with appropriate public and private agencies, organizations and individuals are promoted as part of continuing efforts to maximize public recreational opportunities, minimize duplication, and enhance service to the entire community.

- ◆ Indicators: By June 2023, all stakeholders engaged in planning for and supporting the development of public recreational opportunities have developed a mutual understanding of short- and medium-term priorities and have outline steps to enhance service to the citizens of and visitors to the County.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Agreed short- and medium-term priorities and action steps on file in the Director's Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: Existing partner agencies continue to support parks and recreation efforts.

Goal 3: Parks Benefits

The Mason County Parks and Trails Department actively promotes the individual, community, health, economic cultural and environmental benefits of parks and recreation services and facilities for all residents of and visitors to Mason County.

- ◆ Indicators: By 2023, the MCPR has completed the development of promotional materials and activities geared toward engaging and informing individuals and communities of the benefits of parks and recreation services and facilities.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Materials on file in the Director's Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: Continued cooperation with local cultural entities e.g. Native American, Hispanic and Asian.

Objective 3.1: Multiple-Use System

The system of parks, trails, recreation facilities and natural areas are resource effective and distributed community-wide to provide multiple benefits to the Mason County citizens and visitor.

- ◆ Indicators: By 2023, the development of parks and recreation facilities and natural areas developed in the 6-year plan period reflect expenditures and developments that are distributed among the three commissioner districts.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Parks & Recreation budgets, development plans, meeting minutes on file in the Directors Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: Needs adequate appropriation to fund projects.

Objective 3.2: Trails/Pedestrian Linkage

A regional system of connected, coordinated linkages to major recreational areas, public facilities, cultural/environmental features, parks, open spaces, via trails, paths, bicycle routes and other travel corridors that separate vehicular traffic and non-vehicular traffic identified, investigated and developed where feasible..

- ◆ Indicators: By the end of 2023, a master plan identifying potential off street links between parks, open spaces, public facilities and areas of interest is drafted.

- ◆ Means of Verification: Off Street Corridor Master Plan draft on file in Director’s Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: Public support and on- going use of off street trails and where right of way is obtained.

“I would love to see more biking trails. Many parks have walking trails that could double as biking trails but it seems frowned upon. I think some simple signage would make these trails more inclusive to biking.”

– public survey comment

Objective 3.3: Natural Resource Areas

Actions to preserve natural areas, protect fish and wildlife habitat corridors, conserve land, provide appropriate public access and offer environmental education opportunities are promoted.

- ◆ Indicators: By the end of 2023, strategies and materials for promoting the preservation of natural areas, protecting fish and wildlife habitat and for providing access and educational opportunities are drafted and reviewed by representatives of the public.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Strategies and materials on file in Director’s Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: No major pollution events.

Objective 3.4: Water Access

Opportunities for water access and activities are provided throughout the County.

- ◆ Indicators: By 2023, potential areas for providing access to water bodies are identified and a committee established to visit and assess each.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Maps and committee reports on file in Directors Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: Some of the current potential access areas are available.

“We really need more water access around here. It is a real shame we have no trail from the Salmon Center to Belfair Park.”

– public survey comment

Objective 3.5: Cultural

Cultural and historic resources are preserved and promoted wherever they exist in parks and on trails throughout the County.

- ◆ Indicators: By 2023, as a matter of policy, new park, trail and natural areas that may have potentially important cultural or historical significance are identified and plans made to preserve them.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Signage and maps in parks and on trails call attention to sites of cultural or historical importance.
- ◆ Assumptions: Vandalism is minimized.

“I like the conversation of funding and building parks and estuary type wetlands as I feel nature to this area is super important.”

– public survey comment

Objective 3.6: Athletics

Youth and adult athletic recreation facilities are provided throughout the County.

- ◆ Indicators: By the end of 2027, based on priorities identified through public surveys and other forms of input, at least two new recreational areas are identified and developed.
- ◆ Means of Verification: Plans, maps and documents on file in the Directors Office.
- ◆ Assumptions: Grant funding is available to augment county funds.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Chapter 3

Public involvement is critical to understanding the use, demands and popularity of Mason County's parks, recreation, and open spaces. As staff at RCO will say, "The people who show up, get to make the decisions." Over the past five months the Mason County community has actively participated in the PROST Planning process through a series of online events, Parks and Trails Advisory Board (PTAB) meetings and engagement techniques.

The intention behind the public involvement approach used was to maximize an equitable distribution of needs, wishes, and even ideas from the public. To accomplish this, we implemented a process that, in its most simplified form asked a series of questions to gather the pulse of the community:

- ◆ Where do residents live?
- ◆ What parks do they frequent?
- ◆ What do residents like about Mason County parks?
- ◆ What improvements or changes would residents like to see?
- ◆ Where specifically do you wish these improvements would happen?

The intention behind the public involvement approach was to maximize an equitable distribution of needs, wishes, and ideas from the public.

Public participation and engagement with the PTAB has been the driving force behind this plan and the ideas, goals, and objectives presented within are

representative of the perspectives and ideas of the community from the beginning.

3.1 Engagement Effort

The engagement effort began on July 29, 2021 with a review of the scope of work for the plan update. While this date represented the official starting line for the outreach and community engagement effort, actions had already been set in motion to ensure public transparency, a diversity of respondents, and a range of flexible opportunities for respondents to offer local community insights on a timeline compatible with their unique schedule and preferred participation medium.

A public participation strategy was developed in September to ensure Mason County residents were well informed of the opportunity to provide an assessment and analysis of how parks and recreational facilities were performing in their current state and how they could be improved upon in the future. In total, the engagement included an online community survey, a virtual open house and public mapping workshop, email and social media blasts, and flyer distribution to the community centers and hubs throughout the County.

3.1.1 Parks and Trails Advisory Board

Instrumental throughout this effort, the PTAB convened on a monthly basis to collectively review, offer direction, and comment on plan elements ranging from the vision and mission statements, goals and objectives, to the determined levels of service and eventual plan adoption. Members graciously donated their time while working collaboratively with County staff and other content

experts to ensure the elements of the plan were not only consistent, but reflective of their community.

3.1.2 Engagement Summary

Table 3.1 summarizes the total engagement received at each meeting, workshop, or survey deployed over the course of the PROST planning process.

Table 3.1 Public Engagement Summary

Event	Type	# of Participants	Comments Received
Five PROST Meetings with PTAB members	Public Meeting	37	Yes
Survey #1	Online Survey	790	Yes
Maptionnaire	Online Visioning and Mapping Workshop	41	61

3.1.3 2021 Online Survey Results

Building off initial questions asked within the first two PTAB public meetings, an online survey was conducted over a six-week period to boost the reach of the initial outreach and offer a more flexible schedule for respondents to engage in the effort

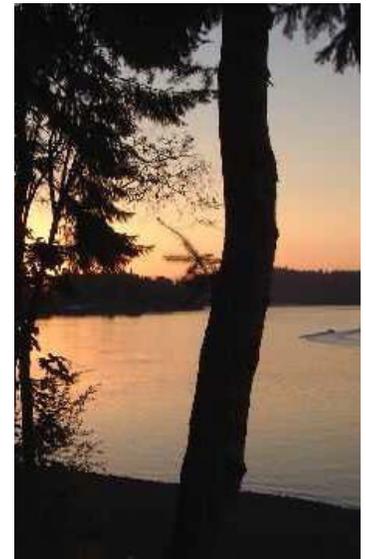
The survey was made available in both hard copy and electronic formats with press releases, County website links, social media blasts, in-person offerings, newsletters, and project flyers distributed across the County. While a summary of survey responses has been included below, the entire report can be found in Appendix D.



Sunset Bluff Park

Location

In total, 790 individuals provided comments as part of this outreach effort with locational responses reflecting more densely populated areas of the County. Responses from the city of Shelton accounted for the highest number of comments within the survey at 37.5% and represents the most populous area within Mason County. Of those who provided feedback within



Walker Park

the survey, only 5.8% of respondents identified themselves as living outside the County.

Nearly 3% of respondents stated they visit Mason County parks and recreational facilities at least once a week, with about 1% identifying themselves as daily park visitors. The most popular and frequently visited park is Mason Lake County Park, with over 53% of respondents reported visiting the park within the last year. Mason County Recreation Area and Union Boat Ramp were two other popular choices.

Popular Amenities

When asked about the types of facilities respondents currently use, the top five were:

1. Unpaved nature trails
2. Walking and biking trails
3. Open space and natural habitats
4. Canoeing/kayaking/paddleboarding
5. Neighborhood parks

Open ended responses within this question identified wish list amenities including better access to water and improved amenities at existing parks.

Greatest Need

Survey takers were asked how they might distribute parks and recreation resources over a ten-year period. The leading needs within the community were identified as acquisition and/or development of trails (46%) and acquisition or development of sites to access waterbodies (46%). The other main

focus of resource allocation within the next decade was on maintaining and improving existing parks and facilities.

Greatest Barrier

A large number of respondents identified that they were unaware of the location of park facilities (59%) and therefore didn't use these facilities. This was followed by safety and security (39%), proximity of amenities (30%) and poor maintenance/cleanliness (28%) as other common reasons given for not using facilities and programs.

“I don't visit a lot of these parks because I don't know where they are or how to access them. A map with all of these areas and where to park/how to get to them would be great!”

– public survey comment

3.1.4 Maptionnaire Online Workshop

In recognition of scheduling conflicts, public health advisories, and accessibility limitations, an online tool employing Public Participation GIS was developed to work in tandem with other outreach efforts to lessen participation barriers and make the project and ongoing discussions accessible at the individual level while out in the community.



Watson Wildwood View Park

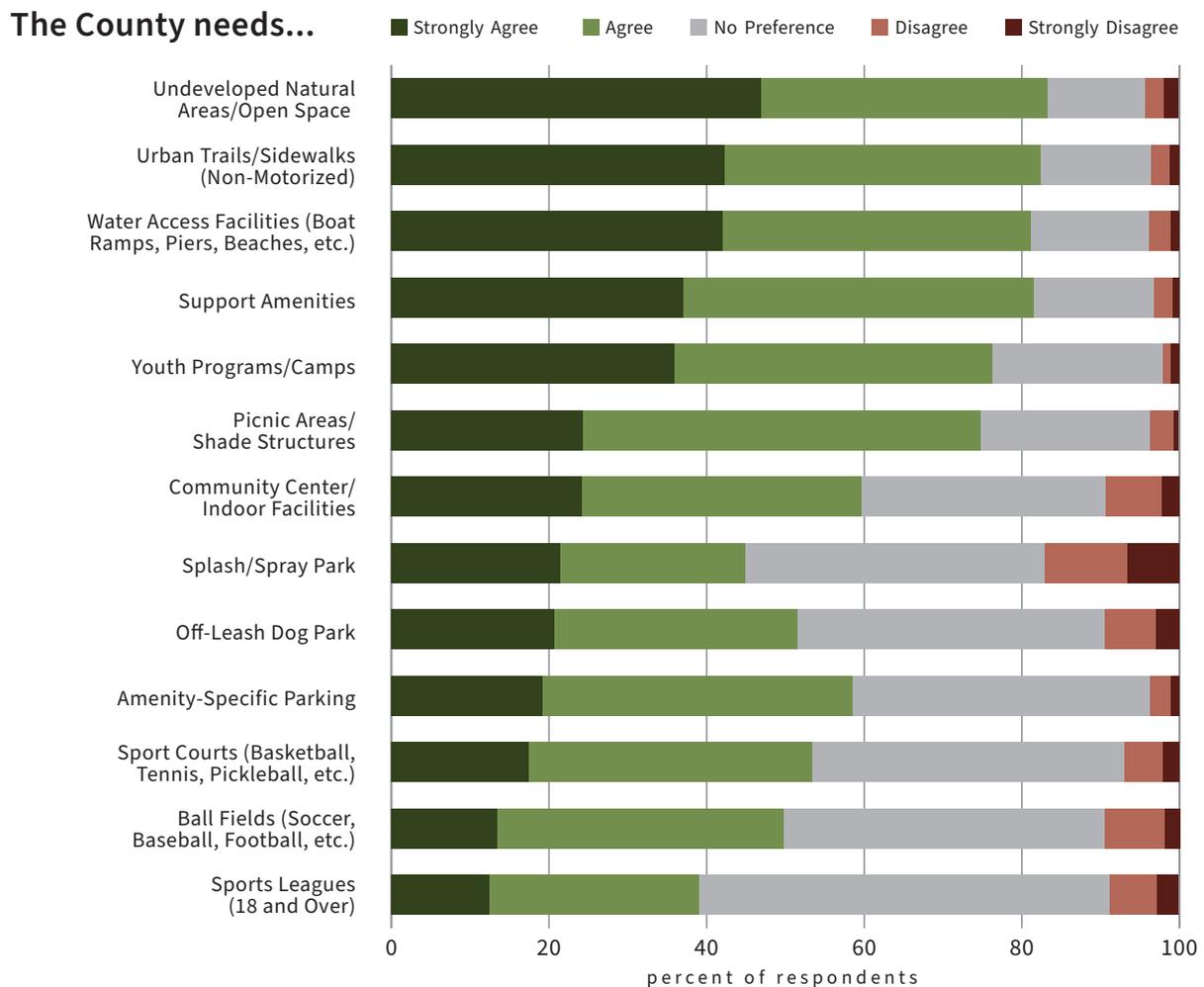
The virtual workshop employed location services and GIS mapping to empower community members to provide location specific insights, pinpoint concerns, share comments, upload images, and have meaningful discussions with other community members all while operating on their own individual timelines and comfort levels. In this way, participants were able to take the workshop with them while actively engaging with the locations and facilities they were discussing. While a summary of fielded comments has been included below, the entire report can be found in Appendix D.

3.2 Public Engagement Findings

The following sections contain a graphic summary of the survey responses collected during the public engagement efforts.

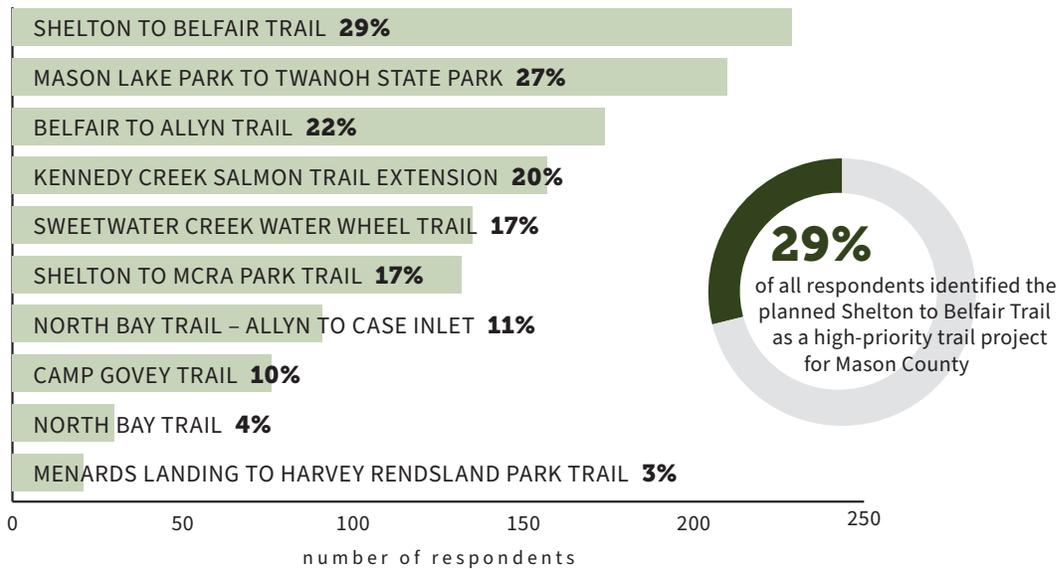
3.2.1 County Parks and Recreation Needs

HOW STRONGLY DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?

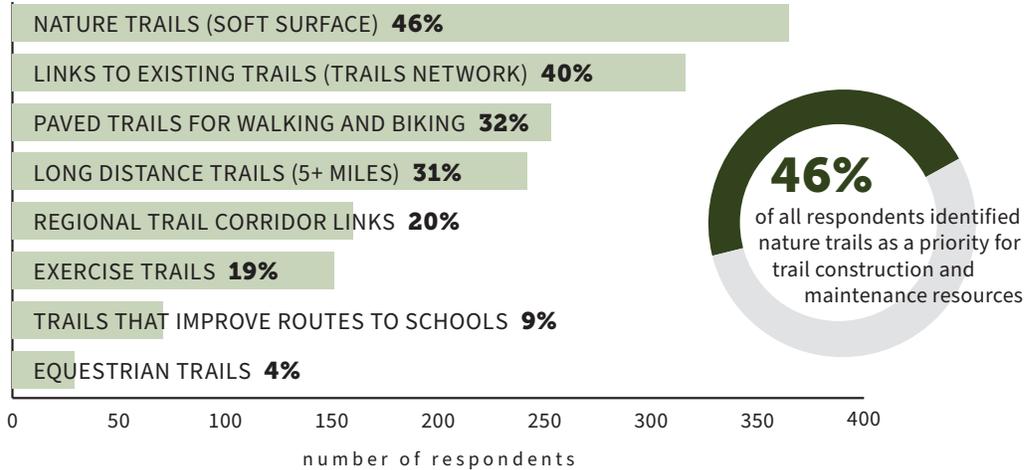


3.2.2 Trail Project Prioritization

WHICH OF THESE PLANNED/PROPOSED TRAIL PROJECTS SHOULD THE COUNTY PRIORITIZE?



WHERE SHOULD THE COUNTY FOCUS ITS RESOURCES FOR MAINTAINING AND CONSTRUCTING TRAILS?



3.2.4 Resource Distribution

OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, HOW SHOULD THE COUNTY DISTRIBUTE ITS PARKS & RECREATION RESOURCES?



INVENTORY

Chapter 4

4.1 Existing Facilities

In order to manage the most effective and efficient park system, the existing inventory is defined by different types of parks. Each classification provides for a specific type of recreation experience and opportunity. The parks and recreation system provides benefits that affect property values, tourism, health and fitness, community cohesion, clean water/air and provides overall value to quality of life.

The following collection of inventory data provides a view of the system for understanding of the dynamics of the Mason County Parks and Trails Department. Table 4.1 summarizes parks owned and managed by the Department. Currently, Mason County owns and manages 21 sites with 1014.46 acres of developed and undeveloped park property. The park system offers a wide range of active and passive recreational opportunities including ball fields, picnic areas, walking, biking and water trails, boat launches, natural area and wildlife habitat open spaces.

4.1.1 County Parks

Mason County has four classifications of parks, which include:

- ◆ Neighborhood Parks
- ◆ Community Parks
- ◆ Regional Parks
- ◆ Natural Areas

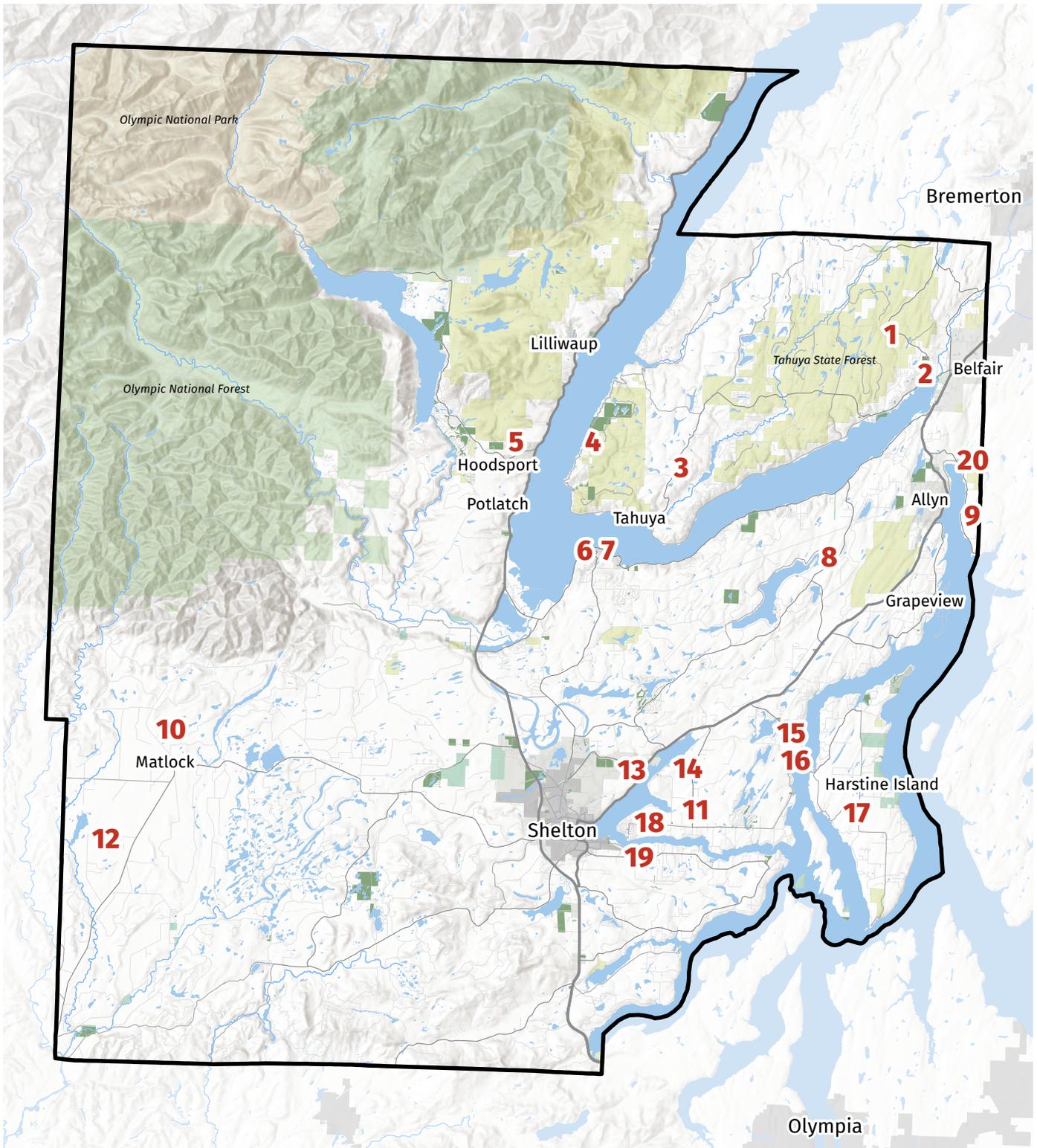
Following is a description of each park type and a summarized inventory of each park site. Detailed descriptions of each of the County’s parks, listed by recommended classification with details of existing

Table 4.1 Existing Mason County Parks

Map #*	Park	Acreege
Neighborhood Parks		
5	Foothills Park	10.00
2	Hunter Park	0.15
6	Union Park	1.92
Total – Neighborhood Parks (3 sites)		12.07
Community Parks		
20	Coulter Creek	113.00
3	Harvey Rendsland Park	15.00
18	Jacoby/Shorecrest Park	2.80
16	Latimer’s Landing Boat Launch and Overflow Parking (2 sites)	5.00
8	Mason Lake Park	17.36
4	Menards Landing (Boat Launch)	7.40
15	Phillips Lake Park	0.40
11	Sunset Bluff Park	36.00
10	Truman Glick Park	35.46
7	Union Boat Ramp	0.16
19	Walker Park	5.04
Total – Community Parks (11 sites)		237.62
Regional Parks		
13	Mason County Recreation Area	40.00
14	Oakland Bay Park	81.87
1	Sandhill Park	30.00
Total – Regional Parks (3 sites)		151.87
Natural Open Space		
12	Decker Creek	500.00
5	Foothills Park	70.00
17	Harstine Island Park	6.90
9	Watson Wildwood View Park	36.00
Total – Natural Open Space (4 sites)		612.90
Total Acreege (21 sites)		1014.46

* Refer to location map (Figure 4.1) on following page

Figure 4.1 Mason County Park Location Map



- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Sandhill County Park | 8 Mason Lake County Park | 15 Phillips Lake County Park |
| 2 Hunter Park | 9 Watson Wildwood View Park | 16 Latimers Landing County Park |
| 3 Rendsland County Park | 10 Truman Glick County Park | 17 Harstine Island Park |
| 4 Menards Landing | 11 Sunset Bluff Park | 18 Jacoby/Shorecrest County Park |
| 5 Foothills County Park | 12 Decker Creek Park | 19 Walker County Park |
| 6 Union County Park | 13 Mason County Recreation Area | 20 Coulter Creek Park |
| 7 Union Boat Ramp | 14 Oakland Bay Historical Park | |

conditions, inventory, and future capital needs, can be found in Appendix A.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks serve a ½-mile distance to most citizens and provide a local destination for nearby communities. They are used for non-supervised play and typically accommodate a variety of activities including children’s playgrounds, picnic tables, open grass for passive use, outdoor basketball court and restrooms. Table 4.2 lists the neighborhood parks in Mason County and the facilities at each park.

Community Parks

Community parks are designed to serve as a focal point for community-wide or suburban/rural areas of the County. They are smaller than regional parks and often include unique or specific uses with special features. They allow for an active recreation with fields, lighting, parking and vehicle traffic. The Mason County Community Parks offer playgrounds, picnic areas, passive use areas, trails, boat launches, restrooms and ball fields. Table 4.2 lists the community parks in Mason County and the facilities at each park.

Regional Parks

Regional Parks have significant acreage and serve the entire County population. These parks allow for recreational use, with special features that may have a unique offering focusing on active and passive recreation. In Mason County there are three major regional parks: Mason County Recreation Area (MCRA) near Shelton in south-county, the Oakland Bay Park is north Shelton and south of Belfair and Sandhill Park near Belfair in the north. Table 4.2 lists the regional parks in Mason County and the facilities at each park.

Natural Open Space Areas

Natural open space parks can vary in size and function and can include significant acreage. They are defined as land or water left primarily in its natural state. Left generally undeveloped they provide habitat value or serve as preservation areas for protected habitat and species. Waterfront parks are linked to the adopted Shoreline Master Plan. Passive recreation includes hiking, bird watching, boating, fishing, picnicking, beachcombing, wildlife viewing and other activities. Table 4.2 lists the open space parks in Mason County and the facilities at each park.



Oakland Bay Park

Table 4.2 Mason County Parks Inventory

Park	Acreeage	County Ownership	Ball Fields	Barbecues	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Sport Courts	Fishing	Nature Areas	Picnic Area	Play Area	Restroom	Walking /Jogging	ADA Accessible	Picnic Reservation	Skateboard	Passive Recreation	Dogs Allowed
Neighborhood Parks																		
Foothills Park	10.00	x		x			x		x	x	x	x		x				x
Hunter Park	0.15	x								x				x			x	x
Union Park	1.92	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Neighborhood Parks Total	12.07																	
Community Parks																		
Coulter Creek	113.00							x	x	x		x		x			x	x
Harvey Rendsland Park	15.00	x						x	x	x			x				x	x
Jacoby/Shorecrest Park	2.80	x			x			x		x							x	x
Latimer’s Landing Boat Launch and Parking	5.00	x			x			x		x		x		x				x
Mason Lake Park	17.36	x		x	x			x	x	x		x		x			x	x
Menards Landing (Launch)	7.40	x		x	*	x		x		x			x				x	x
Phillips Lake Park	0.40	x			x			x				x						x
Sunset Bluff Park	36.00	x						x	x								x	x
Truman Glick Park	35.46	x		x		x		x	x	x	x	x			x		x	x
Union Boat Ramp	0.16	x			x			x										x
Walker Park	5.04	x		x	*	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Community Parks Total	237.62																	
Regional Parks																		
Mason County Recreation Area	40.00	x	x							x	x	x	x	x				
Oakland Bay Park	81.87	x								x		x	x	x			x	
Sandhill Park	30.00	x	x							x		x	x	x				
Regional Parks Total	151.87																	
Natural Open Space																		
Decker Creek	500.00	x															x	
Foothills Park	70.00	x							x	x							x	x
Harstine Island Park	6.90	x							x								x	x
Watson Wildwood	36.00	x							x								x	x
Natural Open Space Total	612.90																	
Mason County Parks Total	1014.46																	

Notes:

* = boat launch is hand carry only

4.1.2 County Recreation Facilities

Mason County offers a variety of recreation and sport facilities within its parks which adds opportunities and experiences for citizens and visitors to the County. Table 4.3 lists the major facilities maintained by the Parks and Trails Department.

4.1.3 State, Federal, Shelton, County, Special District, and State Recreation Resources

There are a number of other governmental agencies which own and manage park property in Mason County. Table 4.4 shows the various landowners, acreage or number of sites, and park amenities at each park location. There are over 5,000 acres of parkland owned and managed by other government agencies within the boundaries of Mason County.

Table 4.3 Mason County Facilities Inventory

Facility Type	Number of Facilities
Basketball Court	3
Barbecues	65
Ball fields	14
Batting Cages	2
Boat Launch	4
Fishing	7
Hand Carry Boat Launch	6
Nature Area	7
Picnic Shelter	3
Picnicking	11
Playgrounds	5
Restrooms	11
Walking/Jogging	6

Table 4.4 Other Parklands in Mason County

Facility	Acreage	Amenities Available
<i>Private Non-Profit Sports Clubs</i>		
South Mason Soccer Park	10.4	6 soccer fields, plus modified-field area for small side games, restroom and concession. Built/maintained by South Mason County Youth Soccer Club.
<i>Washington State Parks</i>		
Belfair State Park	65	Camping, 118 tent sites, 47 utility sites, trails, trailer dump facility, recreation and picnic area, 3,780-ft. tidelands
Harstine Island State Park	310	Undeveloped, 3,100 ft. of tidelands
Hoodsport Trails	80	Natural area with trails
Hope Island	106	Undeveloped, 8,540 ft. of tidelands; boat access only
Jarrell Cove	106	Camping, 22 tent sites, group site, picnic area, marine pump station, 2 docks with 500 ft. of moorage, 14 mooring buoys, 3,500 ft. of tidelands, trails
Lake Isabella	193.75	Undeveloped, no development plans
Lilliwaup Tideland	0	4,100 ft. of tidelands for public use, no amenities
McMicken Island	11.45	Undeveloped, 1,660 ft. of tidelands, boater destination. Could be developed in the future with 5-8 camping sites and composting toilet. Boat access only
Potlach State Park	57	Camping, 39 serviced sites, 40 standard sites, 3 primitive sites, underwater park, trailer dump, 9,570 ft. of tidelands
Schafer State Park	119	Group camping for 100, Day use campsites for 100 max, picnic and BBQ, day use, trailer dump
Stretch Point	4.2	Natural area, day use, 5 mooring buoys no development plans, 610 ft. of tidelands
Twanoh State Park	182	Camping, 30 tent sites, 9 utility sites, primitive sites, 3,167 ft. of tidelands
<i>Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife</i>		
Aldrich Lake	0.5	Boat launch, 15 parking spaces
Benson Lake	78.8	Boat launch, beach access, 100 parking spaces 1 toilet
Cady Lake	1.6	Boat launch, 10 parking spaces, porta-potty
Clara Lake	9	Boat launch, 30 parking spaces, 1 toilet
Cushman Lake	44	Boat launch, 100 parking spaces, 1 toilet (Kokanee)
Decker Creek	2.3	Water Access on Satsop River, no developed facilities
Devereaux Lake	1.3	Boat launch, beach access, 40 parking spaces, 1 toilet
Haven Lake	4.1	Boat launch, 10 parking spaces, 1 toilet /County PW ROW: Agreement for Use of Land to WDFW
Highway 101		Undeveloped access on the Skokomish River
Isabella Lake	1.6	Boat launch, 20 parking spaces, 1 toilet
Island Lake	1	Boat launch, 1 toilet
Lake Limerick	0.5	Boat launch, beach, 30 parking spaces, 1 toilet
Lost Lake	1.3	Boat launch, 40 parking spaces, 1 toilet
Maggie Lake	1.3	Boat launch, 10 parking spaces, 1 toilet
Nahwatzel Lake	1	Water access, undeveloped
North Bay	2.3	Shellfish /Puget Sound, 15 parking spaces, 1 toilet
Oakland Bay	2	Walk-in only, 1 toilet

Table 4.4 (continued) Other Parklands in Mason County

Facility	Acreage	Amenities Available
<i>Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife</i>		
Panhandle Lake	20	Undeveloped
Panther Lake	3	Boat Launch, 30 parking spaces, 1 toilet
Phillips Lake	1	Boat launch, beach, parking for 40 vehicles, 2 toilets, co-managed with Mason County
Sherwood Creek	102	Undeveloped water access on Case Inlet
Skokomish Wildlife Area	45	George Adams Hatchery along the river
Skokomish River/Smith	104	30.6 ft. of riverfront, shore access, 20 parking spaces, 1 toilet
Spencer Lake	2	Boat launch, beach, 50 parking spaces, 1 toilet
Tahuya River	2.9	4,400 ft. of riverfront, 10 parking spaces
Tee Lake	3.6	Boat launch, 20 parking spaces
Theler Wetland Trails	135	Partnership with WDFW/4 separate trails, Exhibit Center, Native Plant Demonstration Garden
Trails End Lake (Pricket)	0.5	Boat launch, parking for 30 vehicles, 1 toilet
Twin Lake	3.6	Boat launch, 15 parking spaces
Union River Access #1	0.5	Parking, Hood Canal/Union River Access waterfowl access
Union River Estuary	61.8	8,098 ft. of riverfront, 10 parking spaces
Union River Wetlands	215	Parking, Duck Blinds/water fowl hunting, hand boat launch
Wildberry Lake	10	Undeveloped
Wooten Lake	1	Boat launch, 60 parking spaces, 1 toilet.
<i>Washington State Department of Natural Resources</i>		
Aldrich Lake Camp	24	1,700 ft. of waterfront, hand boat launch, picnic area, day use, fishing, 16 parking spaces
Camp Spillman	10	800 ft. waterfront, 10 campsites, 1 group site, toilet, covered picnic area
Effendahl Pass Staging Area	5	Staging area, 6 picnic sites, self-contained RVs permitted, toilets, 1 covered picnic area, Effendahl Pass 4x4 Trailhead
Howell Lake		Day use only, hand boat launch, toilets, picnic area, and 20 parking spaces
Kamenga Campground		4x4 trailhead, toilet, 6 campsites, 8 RV areas, 8 tent sites, picnic tables and fire rings
Mission Creek Trailhead	1	Staging area for motorized trail access
Robbins Lake	1.1	175 ft. waterfront, hand boat launch, picnic area, toilets, day use only
Tahuya River Horse Camp	12	1,600-ft. waterfront, 11 campsites, 1 group campsite, toilets, water, 20-horse corral
Twin Lakes		Day use only, picnic, toilet, fishing, hand boat launch
Melbourne Lake		1,000 ft. waterfront, day use only, walk-in, toilets
Lilliwaup Creek Campground		500-ft. waterfront, day use only, walk-in
Public Tidelands: 24, 33, 43, 44, 46-48		Water access, selected clamming, oysters, crabbing, fishing
Eagle Creek Tidelands		Access, clamming, crabbing
Rendsland Creek Tidelands	5	Access, clamming

Table 4.4 (continued) Other Parklands in Mason County

Facility	Acreage	Amenities Available
Skokomish Tribal Nation		
Skokomish Park at Lake Cushman	600	3-boat launches, 41,500' fresh-waterfront, 100 parking sites, 50 tent camp sites, 30 trailer sites, 2 primitive camp sites, group camping, group shelter, picnic sites/shelter, 3 toilets.
Skokomish Light Saltwater Park (transfer from Tacoma City Light)		Park and Lake Kokanee boat launches/restrooms for public use.
City of Shelton Parks and Recreation		
Brewer Park	0.3	Picnic area, mature vegetation, on-street parking
Callanan Park	6.9	Ball field, play equipment, restroom, natural area, basketball court, restrooms, informal trails, basketball court
City Park	1.75	Undeveloped
Huff and Puff Trail	5.0	2 miles walking/jogging trail with exercise stations on wooded property, 20 parking spaces at trailhead
Johnson Park	0.5	Basketball court, mature trees, 10 parking spaces
Kneeland Park	3.9	Large play area, restroom, group picnic shelter, horseshoes, open play area, landscaping, street-parking for 25 vehicles
Loop Field	4	2 tennis courts, ball field, athletic field, play structure, jogging trail, group picnic area, restroom, 100 parking spaces
Overlook Park	1.03	Historic marker overlooking downtown, Oakland Bay and mills with temporary parking
Pine St. Ramp	0.4	Unimproved boat launch on Oakland Bay
Sixth Street Park	0.14	Park closed for future rehabilitation in partnership with community/neighbors. Tentative reopening June 2013.
Port of Allyn		
Allyn Waterfront Park	2	400 ft. of waterfront, moorage, dock, picnic, gazebo, 20 parking spots, playground, boat launch, pump out.
Allyn Kayak Park	3	300' beach, hand launch, viewing, picnicking
North Shore Ramp Belfair	1.2	150-ft. waterfront, boat launch, dock, beach, 20 parking spaces
Port of Dewatto		
Dewatto River Campground		Camping, 60 campsites, 37 with electricity, no sewage dump, no garbage facilities, no running water, 4 toilets, trails, picnic area, fishing
Port of Hoodsport		
Ingvold Grunvold Waterfront Park	2	Dock, beach access, tidelands, restroom
Hoodsport Community Trail		Walking trail, wildlife viewing, interpretive signs
Port of Shelton		
Sanderson Field	1,170	Airfield, fairground (67 acres)
Oakland Bay Marina		Boat moorage and launch, pump-out, parking
Mason County Public Schools		
Belfair Elementary	0.5	Playground
Sandhill Elementary	2.2	Playground
Hood Canal School District		2 baseball backstops, 1 football field, playground, track, 30 parking spaces, plans to build a new K-8 school.
Pioneer Primary		Playground, track, athletic field, covered basketball backstop

Table 4.4 (continued) Other Parklands in Mason County

Facility	Acreage	Amenities Available
<i>Mason County Public Schools</i>		
Pioneer Intermediate/Middle		Playground, baseball field, 2 play fields, covered, basketball backstop, tetherball poles
Grapeview Elementary		Playground
Southside Elementary		1 baseball field
Bordeaux	3	Playground, One open multi-Use Field
Evergreen Elementary	1.5	Playground
Mountain View Elementary	6	Playground, One open multi-use field.
Shelton High School	6.5	5 tennis courts, 1 baseball field, 4 practice football/soccer field combinations, 1 football field, 1 swimming pool, 1 diving well, 1 track
Mary K. Knight District		2 baseball fields, 1 football field, playground
Oakland Bay Junior High	6	5 football/soccer fields, 1 landscaped courtyard
Olympic Middle	6.5	Multi-use Field, Basketball hoops
Hawkins Middle	3.5	Playground, athletic field
North Mason High School	8.54	2 baseball fields, 2 tennis courts, football field, soccer field, playground, track
<i>Department of the Interior / Olympic National Park</i>		
Olympic Nat. Park – Staircase Camp		Picnic area, 50 campsites, 60 parking spaces
<i>USDA / Olympic National Forest</i>		
Big Creek Campground	6	Loop campground with 78 campsites, no reservations, trail access to Mt. Ellinor and intersects with Big Creek Loop
Browns Creek Campground	1	Browns Creek Nature Loop Trail, campsites RV's under 21' max, vault toilet (3), potable water, along south fork of Skokomish River and confluence of Browns Creek.
Hamma Hamma Campground	5	14 single sites, vault toilet, potable water, tents, trailers and RV's.
Lower Lena Lake Campground	6	40 campsites, hike in, vault toilet
Upper Lena Creek Campground	7	13 single sites, vault toilet, potable water, RV's max 21'; climbing, fishing, and picnicking.

4.2 Existing Operations / Park Maintenance

Mason County currently operates 21 parks with a variety of recreation facilities totaling 1014.46 acres. These parks range from natural areas to intensive use areas. At the present time, Mason County does not offer any department-sponsored recreation programs or special events at any of its parks. These structured recreation programs are offered by local youth sports associations, non-profit organizations or by the Shelton Metropolitan Park District.

The Mason County Parks and Trails Department is separated into divisions providing administration, park maintenance and operations and facility services. The general administration includes the Senior Accounting Technician, the division manager and the Department Director. This division is responsible for general customer service, facilities scheduling, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, general administration, park planning, grant administration, park development, and special projects. The park division provides maintenance and operation of all the County parks. Park staff in this division includes one Park Maintenance V and one Park Maintenance IV full-time maintenance employees. The previous chart illustrates the current organizational structure of Mason County Parks and Trails Department.

The Parks and Trails Department administrative offices are located at Mason County Recreation Area (MCRA). The maintenance staff also stages all operations from the MCRA in the course of performing their daily operations and maintenance. Staff travel long distances throughout the County to maintain parks at various locations. In the southern area of the County is Truman-Glick Park, located west of Matlock while on the north area of the County near Tahuya is Menard's landing and Harvey Rendsland Jiggs Lake Park. These two locations require the most travel time but fortunately they are low-maintenance park facilities.

The Mason County Parks and Trails Department also utilizes caretakers and park host attendants. The caretakers are located at Walker Park, MCRA, and Sandhill Park. Park caretakers at some locations live in on-site housing supplied by Mason County. They are responsible for general customer service and light maintenance, including restroom cleanup and litter control. However, the greatest benefit they provide is site security.

County park hosts are currently at Foothills Park, Truman Glick Park and Mason Lake Park. The park hosts are responsible for security, opening and closing park facilities, and general clean-up during their contractual period. Park hosts are invaluable to the County because of the geographic dispersion of Mason County's park system.

Administrative and Maintenance objectives encourage the promotion of professional staff that is effective and responsive in sustaining quality services and exploring opportunities to enhance the benefits and function of the park system. Goal 1 identifies the need to have quality staff that effectively serves the County park system.

Project and Planning Goals promote citizen engagement in stewardship objectives in the park plan address the need to develop facilities that reduce maintenance costs with established maintenance standards for efficiency and safety with realistic multi-year plans that can be implemented and funded. Goal 2 summarizes this effort which is to "Plan, acquire and develop parks, trails and recreation facilities which provide public opportunities that maximize identified needs, minimize duplication and enhance recommended park services throughout Mason County."

Goal 3 actively promotes the individual, community, health, economic cultural and environmental benefits of parks and recreation services and facilities for all residents of and visitors to Mason County.

Through annual appropriation, the Mason County Facilities, Parks and Trails Department can receive through the annual budget process, capital funding through the Mason County Real Estate Excise Tax funding (REET). As described in detail in Chapter 7, REET is an optional tax of the property's sale price. One-half of one percent for REET #1 can be used for capital acquisition and the second half of one percent which is REET #2, can be used for capital development only.



DEMAND AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Chapter 5

The purpose of the demand and needs analysis is to evaluate, quantify and understand both the facility and recreational demand and identify the existing and future needs for providing parkland, facilities, open spaces from now and into the future. The definition of needs includes both preservation of existing services/resources as well as the needs into the future. The current update, presented here, reflects the needs, desires and recommended priorities that set the foundation for the next 15 to 20 years.

The 2022 determination of the need for park facilities and open space is based on public input and the community's vision for the County system. Interpreting that vision for Mason County involved multiple tasks, including identification of existing park and facility inventory, public involvement, review of trends, geographic analysis, identified data and use demand and calculations with application of standards for analysis.

Standards are based on the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) guidelines. Adequate land is at a minimum based on a "core" system of parklands, with "adjunct" parklands that reflect Mason County as compared to other demands identified in Local Park and recreational systems throughout the Pacific Northwest. This plan assesses the recreational demands of Mason County starting with the national and state standards and trends, past levels of service standards, public involvement that identified County-wide needs. Based on our analysis and after a review with County staff, current agreements (both formal and informal) with adjacent partnering agencies, PTAB members, and County Commission, it was determined that the outdoor recreation opportunities that exist on county and public school lands should be included in the County's total parks and recreation inventory.

5.1 Scope and Purpose

The NRPA also defines a classification system of parks which include neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks and natural open space.

Parks vary in size, function, and service area depending on the classification. The NRPA has also developed demand standards as a guideline for the number of parks facilities needed per population.

Levels of Service (LOS) are quantifiable measures of the amount of public facilities that are provided to the County. Typically, LOS measures are expressed as ratios of facility capacity to demand. For the Mason County PROST Plan, LOS is expressed in acres of parkland or facilities per 1,000 people.

Because the vision, values, and needs of each community are different, planners have acknowledged that simply quantifying local LOS to a national standard is not an effective means of evaluating a community's unique needs and a community's vision. Accordingly, NRPA's LOS standards have evolved in recent decades. While LOS provides a helpful benchmark for comparison, a community that relies solely on LOS for determining recreation needs fails to identify community-specific issues such as a facility's quality, residents' satisfaction with the existing facilities, or the uniqueness of a community's intrinsic character and heritage. Therefore, a variety of methods and conditions were used to help determine a more realistic LOS demand and need for parks and open space facilities. However, while quantitative data was used to derive some comparisons, due to the variety and impact of recreational facilities at Olympic National Park, Potlatch State Park, Jarrell Cove State Park and many other regional park complexes, it became clear that LOS used would be qualitative.

5.2 Population Projections

Mason County is the sixth fastest growing County in the state with a current population growth rate of approximately 2% per year. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) predicts population projections under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to accommodate growth over the next 20 years. The total population of Mason County in 2021 is estimated by OFM to be 65,750 (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1 Mason County Current and Forecasted Population

Year	Population
2021	65,750
2027	73,991
2042	86,147

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM)

The population density in Mason County is 63.3 persons per square mile as compared to the average population density of 113.4 persons per square mile for the state of Washington. This plan uses 65,750 as the population for the existing level of service analysis. The OFM population projections presented in Table 5.1 are used to project future demand – a population of 73,991 by the end of the 6-year planning period (2027) and 86,147 by the end of the 20-year long-term planning horizon (2042).

5.3 Demand and Need Analysis

A demand and need evaluation is the investigation and measurement of how well the parks and recreation needs of the community – how people like to spend their recreation time, what types of activities they choose to pursue, and how often they participate – are being met. As part of this plan update, a joint quantitative and qualitative demand

Table 5.2 NRPA Guideline Standards for Population

Park Type	Guideline
Neighborhood Park	1-2 acres/1,000 pop.
Community Park	5-8 acres /1,000 pop.
Regional Park	5-10 acres/1,000 pop.
Natural Open Space	Variable
Recreation Facilities	Guideline
Baseball/Softball Fields	1 field/5,000 pop.
Playgrounds	1 playground/3,000 pop.
Soccer Fields	1 field/10,000 pop.
Tennis Courts	1 court/2,000 pop.
Trails (miles)	0.5 miles/1,000 pop.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

and needs evaluation was conducted to establish an appropriate level of service (LOS) standard for Mason County Parks based on the recreation needs of the community. However, while quantitative data was used to derive some comparisons, due to the variety and impact of recreational facilities at Olympic National Park, Potlatch State Park, Jarrell Cove State Park and many other regional park complexes, it became clear that LOS used would be qualitative.

LOS standards are quantifiable measures of the parkland and recreation facilities that are provided to the community, often expressed on a per capita basis (e.g., the number of park acres per 1,000 residents). The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks, recreation, and conservation, established a set of LOS standards in the 1980s to help communities evaluate their recreation needs. Since then, LOS has been used as a planning tool to compare a local community’s facilities against those of other communities, agencies, and national standards.

Table 5.3 NRPA Service Area Guideline Recommendations

	Recommended	Acceptable	Minimum
Neighborhood Park	½ mile	½ mile	1 mile
Community Park	1 mile	2 mile	3 mile
Regional Park	15 miles	20 miles	25 miles
Natural Open Space	County-wide	County-wide	County-wide

Source: National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

The demand and needs analysis is detailed in sections 5.2 and 5.3 for parkland and facilities. The process includes inventory reviews to determine the existing need (what the citizens want/identify) and future demand (calculations/comparisons). Development of the statement of “need” is dependent on local values, financial resources and desired level of service (LOS). This analysis represents a combination of results from the 2021 Parks and Trails Survey, Community Workshops and state and national standards and trends related to existing inventory, as well as current and future population which forms a statistical standard to meet demand. The NRPA guideline standards for parks and recreation facilities by population can be found in Table 5.2, and the service area guideline recommendations can be found in Table 5.3.

Because the vision, values, and needs of each community are different, planners have acknowledged that simply quantifying local LOS to a national standard is not an effective means of evaluating a community’s unique needs and a community’s vision. Accordingly, NRPA’s LOS standards have evolved in recent decades. While LOS provides a helpful benchmark for comparison, a community that relies solely on LOS for determining recreation needs fails to identify community-specific issues such as a facility’s quality, residents’ satisfaction with the existing facilities, or the uniqueness of a communities intrinsic character and heritage. Therefore, a variety of methods and conditions were used to help determine a more realistic LOS demand and need for parks and open space facilities.

Based on our analysis and after a review with County staff, current agreements (both formal and informal) with adjacent partnering agencies, PTAB members, and County Commission, it was determined that the outdoor recreation opportunities that exist on county and public school lands should be included in the County’s total parks and recreation inventory.

5.3.1 LOS Evaluation Methods

This plan takes both a quantitative and qualitative approach to identifying community-specific park needs within Mason County. Evaluation of the community’s recreational needs was conducted using a variety of methods, including an assessment of national and state recreation guidelines, comparison of the County parks standards and facilities with those of peer communities, inclusion

of county, state and school facilities, analysis of demographic trends and population projections, and input from community members.

National Recreation Guidelines as a Quantitative Measure

Comparing the County’s parks and recreational spaces to those across the nation provides a quantitative benchmark and a starting point to measuring the performance of its park system. NRPA studies national recreation trends and frequently publishes support documents and recommendations for public municipalities.

The NRPA level of service guidelines originally developed in 1983 offered guidance suggesting that “a park system, at minimum, be composed of a core system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population”. While this has since become a relatively accepted target benchmark, it is important to note that NRPA offers this range of ratios as a comparative guide only. Since the development of some statistical baselines, various publications have updated and expanded upon possible park standards, several of which have also been published by NRPA. In 2017, NRPA published an updated performance review of 925 park agencies across the nation. This review revealed that the typical US park agency that serves a jurisdictional population of less than 20,000 has a median ratio of 10.5 acres of parkland to 1,000 residents. Rather than a one-size-fits-all acres to population standard, NRPA now recommends that each community develop its own standards based on local goals, priorities, and conditions.

Washington State Recreation Guidelines

Washington State’s Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) offers additional insights on how to enact level of service standards to guide parks and recreation planning.

The RCO level of service guidelines focus on a community’s success in setting and meeting its recreation and open space goals and proposes that jurisdictions measure level of service based on several criteria, including distance, means of access, support of “muscle-powered” recreation, condition of facilities, sustainability, and public satisfaction.

Additionally, the RCO releases a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Programming (SCORP) document every five years, which includes

survey results identifying recreation demand and trends, both statewide and by region; the document was last updated in 2017. These survey results clarify broader recreation trends and understanding how the County's needs fit into a larger picture.

The SCORP document includes Mason County in the southwest region stretching from Pierce County down the I-5 corridor to the Oregon state line. Notably, the SCORP survey identifies the activity with the highest participation rate, both regionally and statewide, as "walking in a park or trail setting" (82% statewide, 86% southwest region). This result holds true across all ages, genders, races, and incomes. Since the previous survey from RCO (2012), walking as a recreational activity has seen an increase in participation. Boating and swimming have also seen an increase in participation between 2012 and 2017; swimming is now a top 10 activity in the state's Southwest region. Other top 10 recreation activities in the Southwest region include nature activities (e.g., visiting rivers, streams, beaches; wildlife or nature viewing), attending an outdoor concert or event (e.g., farmer's markets, fairs, sporting events), and day hiking. This PROS planning outreach results related to walking/hiking opportunities and nature-based activities are consistent with those identified in state surveys.

Comparison of Other County LOS

PIERCE COUNTY

An update of Pierce County's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was recently completed and adopted in 2020. This plan analyzed several data points to help focus the needs of the park system and determine where best to add capacity as population grows. These data points include public input, recreation trends, demographics, facility distribution, peer community comparisons, and level of service targets. The county's LOS targets differ based on how they defined facility types:

- ◆ Developed Park Acres: 6.7 acres per 1,000 people
- ◆ Open Space Acres: 7.5 acres per 1,000 people
- ◆ Trail/Walking Path Miles: 0.11 miles per 1,000 people
- ◆ Sport Courts and Fields: 0.20 facilities per 1,000 people
- ◆ Family Activities: 0.09 facilities per 1,000 people

THURSTON COUNTY

Thurston County's Parks Open Space and Trails plan was updated in 2020 and included a similar qualitative approach to Level of Service. Thurston County determined a LOS of 3.0 developed acres per 1,000 residents and the per capita LOS as described in the 2020 Park Impact Fee Study. The demand from municipalities on county parks, though not quantifiable, is significant; and therefore used the entire population of Thurston County to factor into current estimates. To quote "while LOS provides a helpful benchmark for comparison, a community that relies solely on LOS for determining recreation needs fails to identify community-specific issues such as a facility's quality, or residents' satisfaction with the existing facilities. Therefore, a variety of methods were used to help determine Thurston County's demand and need for parks, open space, and trail facilities."

KITSAP COUNTY

Kitsap County's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan was last updated in 2018 and an update is currently underway. This plan does not implement any qualitative metrics; its goals and strategies are developed using community input to identify areas for improvement. The PROS Plan provides a six-year plan as well as a 20-year vision for Kitsap County's park system

5.3.2 Trends

Recreational Popularity

Recreational popularity is difficult to predict for future demands and new forms of recreation may rise and fall in popularity across very short time frames. The State of Washington surveys and documents recreation interests in the Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) report. This guide, most recently prepared in 2018, provides a generalized summary of participation in various activities. Notable to this planning effort, and echoed in the Public Involvement section of this report, is the plan's identification of mobility-based recreation (walking/running/hiking), organized team sports, and nature-based activities all receiving the highest levels of public participation. The fact that Mason County does not directly support or fund organized team sports or youth recreation programs is a direct conflict with these statewide trends.

Table 5.4 Service Area Guidelines and Existing Need

	NRPA/RCO Guideline	Mason County LOS*	Existing Parkland	Parkland (in Acres)					
				Need			Deficiency		
				2022 ¹	2027 ²	2042 ³	2022 ¹	2027 ²	2042 ³
Neighborhood Park	1 acre/1,000	0.33 acres/1,000	12.07	21.7	24.4	7.3	19		
Community Park	5 acres/1,000	3 acres/1,000	237.62	197.3	222.0	0	64		
Regional Park	5 acres/1,000	3.5 acres/1,000	151.87	230.1	259.0	60	106		
Natural Open Space	No Standard	10 Acres/1,000	612.90	657.5	739.9	0	200		

Notes:

1. 2022 = current
2. 2027 = six-year planning period
3. 2042 = long-term planning horizon

* See Tables 5.5 through 5.8 for existing levels of service (LOS)

Investments in Park Infrastructure Will Rise

Across other municipal agencies statewide, investment in state and local infrastructure, which have been depressed since the Great Recession of 2008, have been increasing because of increased revenues from local tax receipts that fund much of park and recreation infrastructure expenditures, such as buildings, restrooms, and roads.

State and local spending is up nearly 10 percent from last year, according to data from the Commerce Department, and spending on capital outlays continues to grow. The Commerce Department data also show that spending on amusement and recreation facilities is up 31 percent from a year ago. It appears that economic conditions will remain favorable for new investments in park and recreation infrastructure if local and state tax collections continue to rise and interest rates remain relatively low. Building on the momentum of the past few years, local and state governments will make even more park and recreation infrastructure investments in 2019 in buildings, playground equipment, roads and bridges, and capital repairs to aging infrastructure, topping the highest level of infrastructure spending since the recession of 2008.

Canines

With more than 90 million dogs in the United States and growing, dog parks are one of the fastest growing types of parks in the country. Larger dog parks have become destinations and can contribute significantly to agency revenues and tourism. Increasingly, for many, dogs are regarded not just as part of the family but as children and families, especially those in the urban environment, are constantly looking for new places to take Fido.

Funding Threats and Availability

Funding for parks and municipal recreation services has been forced to into a creative shift as municipalities have been forced to seek additional ways to fund operation and improvements. Long-standing grant and funding assistance programs have repeatedly come under threat at both the federal and state level. Congress let the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) expire in 2015 for the first time in 50 years. In response to public outcry, several members in Congress fought for a short-term solution: an emergency authorization of three years. In 2016, Congress had another opportunity to permanently reauthorize LWCF, thanks to legislation championed by Washington’s own Senator Maria Cantwell in the Energy Bill. Unfortunately, the House and Senate failed to find agreement and the Energy Bill was unable to pass.

Community Participation

Citizen advisory groups are providing a more significant interaction with park districts, and agencies are working to cultivate relationships with citizen advisors. Many of these groups or commissions ultimately have been tasked with helping to find additional dollars from the private sector to fund capital improvements.

5.4 Parkland and Open Space

The NRPA definitions of parkland will be used in this report which reflects the definitions used in the November 2010 RCO Statewide LOS Recommendations Report. Table 5.4 provides a summary of the defined parkland inventory and the existing need, which is detailed in the following sections.

5.4.1 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are typically developed on a County-wide basis, located near residents to provide an important and convenient access to visit a park in localized neighborhoods.

Neighborhood parks are not as efficient to maintain and operate as larger community parks. However, they can be maintained by volunteers or local non-profit community groups.

Mason County has three neighborhood parks comprising 12.07 acres.

There are three neighborhood parks consisting of 12.07 acres in the Mason County planning area:

- ◆ Foothills Park
- ◆ Hunter Park
- ◆ Union Park

Service Area

The acceptable service area for neighborhood parks is a ½-mile to 1-mile radius from local residents. Mason County has a 1-mile service area for Neighborhood Parks.

Trends

- ◆ The neighborhood parks located near residents provide the opportunity to get outside, be active and play at a park that is within close proximity to their homes.
- ◆ In some localized areas throughout the County a neighborhood park or playground site is popular as they are relatively inexpensive to build and can serve specific communities.
- ◆ However, on a per acre basis, neighborhood parks are very expensive to maintain and provide limited services, especially if they are located within an area that lacks easy access.

Table 5.5 Recommended LOS – Neighborhood Parks

Existing inventory	12.07 acres
Existing number of sites	3 sites
Existing LOS	0.19 acres/1,000 population
Recommended LOS	0.33 acres/1,000 population

Demand and Need

Mason County has a current LOS that provides neighborhood park benefit to three communities. Existing and recommended LOS for neighborhood parks can be found in Table 5.5.

To meet the LOS standard of 0.33 acres/1,000 population at Mason County's current population of 65,750, the County would need to have 21.7 acres of neighborhood park lands. With the existing inventory of 12.07 acres, that equates to a current deficit of 9.6 acres.

By the end of the six-year planning period (2027), the County would need to have 24.4 acres of neighborhood park lands – with the existing inventory, that equates to a deficit of 12.3 acres.

By the end of the 20-year long-range planning horizon (2042), the County would need to have 28.4 acres of neighborhood park lands – with the existing inventory, that equates to a deficit of 16.4 acres.

For the County, as the population grows, the value of neighborhood parks added along pathways and trail access points or as entrances to natural open space areas may become a more effective option to providing neighborhood parks. Foothills Park is an example of a neighborhood park located in an area that provides benefit to the local neighborhoods. Three additional sites could be added that serve as trail or natural open space entrance or access sites.

Observations

- ◆ Relying on General Fund tax-supported funding is potentially not sustainable into the future.
- ◆ The three neighborhood parks are spread all over the County and require costly travel time for maintenance. These parks should be maintained through local non-profit or community support or neighborhood associations.
- ◆ Neighborhood parks can serve as connection sites for residents using public transportation through the Mason County Transit system to regional locations.

5.4.2 Community Parks

Mason County community parks provide fairly even coverage throughout the County. There continue to be a few gaps, including the western and northern portions of the County, which are currently served by neighborhood parks. Community parks are generally smaller than 20 acres (although Truman Glick Park is 35 acres) and provide a variety of amenities that make them popular. Historically, many of the types of park features typically requested by the public are found in a standard community park. These include picnic facilities, passive areas, sports fields, walking paths, boat launches, and fishing opportunities. Community parks are generally very popular, experience moderate to high use, and are generally maintenance-friendly. In Mason County, community parks provide parking, restrooms, picnicking areas, play areas, and in a number of cases, waterfront access and boat launches.

Mason County has 11 community parks comprising 237.62 acres.

There are eleven community parks consisting of 237.62 acres in the Mason County planning area:

- ◆ Coulter Creek
- ◆ Harvey Rendsland Park
- ◆ Jacoby/Shorecrest Park
- ◆ Latimer's Landing Boat Launch and Park
- ◆ Mason Lake Park
- ◆ Menards Landing
- ◆ Phillips Lake Park
- ◆ Sunset Bluff Park
- ◆ Truman Glick Park
- ◆ Union Boat Ramp
- ◆ Walker Park

Service Area

The community park service area is recommended at between 1-3 mile radius. The GIS service area mapping depicts the County service area of 5-miles for community parks. The GIS map shows that the southern central part of the County is currently not being served by County/community park function, but this area also includes the Shelton Metropolitan District with local park service areas.

Mason County has a combined total of some 350 miles of shoreline and in excess of 100 freshwater lakes. While blessed with an abundance of land that fronts both fresh and saltwater, public access to this shoreline is limited due to physical constraints and private property restrictions.

Because survey results identified public access to shorelines and water as a priority, strategies to increase this access should be pursued. Those strategies may include:

- ◆ The purchase of waterfront properties
- ◆ The purchase of easements or licenses
- ◆ The conversion of road ends with limited park development that provide water access from public rights-of-way road ends to park sites
- ◆ Acquisition through transfer or exchange of properties
- ◆ Acceptance of donations
- ◆ Creation of partnerships with non-profit organizations to acquire property and facilitate shoreline and water access
- ◆ Acquisition of access as a condition of development approval

Trends

- ◆ Kansas State University researcher Andrew Kaczynski's research shows children living within a half-mile of a park or playground were five times more likely to be a healthy weight, rather than overweight, as compared to children who didn't have a park with a playground nearby.
- ◆ Community parks provide a wider range of opportunities for activities and serve a larger multi-service area in many communities.
- ◆ As population density increases, community parks will serve residents with a variety of functions, which include organized active recreation, spectator events and passive recreational opportunities.
- ◆ It is known that youth need to have greater opportunities to experience the outdoors and research has shown that kids are spending less time outdoors than they did 20 years ago.
- ◆ The Centers for Disease Control recommends that children and adolescents participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity most days of the week.

Table 5.6 Recommended LOS – Community Parks

Existing inventory	237.62 acres
Existing number of sites	11 sites
Existing LOS	3.6 acres/1,000 population
Recommended LOS	3.0 acres/1,000 population

Demand and Need

The existing and recommended LOS for community parks is shown in Table 5.6. To meet the recommended LOS of 3.0 acres/1,000 population, Mason County needs a total of 197.3 acres of community park lands. With the existing inventory of 237.62 acres, the County currently has a surplus of 40.4 acres.

By the end of the six-year planning period (2027), the County would need to have 222.0 acres of community park lands – with the existing inventory, that equates to a surplus of 15.6 acres.

By the end of the 20-year long-range planning horizon (2042), the County would need to have 258.4 acres of community park lands – with the existing inventory, that equates to a deficit of 20.8 acres.

Observations

Identifying the need for four additional community parks is one benefit resulting from planning analysis, community input, and survey results. Other benefits include:

- ◆ Filling gaps in existing levels of service.
- ◆ Planning for park acquisition or development that provides water access or swimming.
- ◆ Designing areas for new community parks that emphasize active use, fields, sports courts, picnicking, and open grass fields.



Coulter Creek

- ◆ Planning for multi-use paths and trails, and other fitness-related facilities.
- ◆ Developing master site plans for selected community parks.

Geographically there is the need for a community park in the southwest area of the County, preferably with freshwater access. One park would be sufficient in the southwest area of the County due to its population density, even though the five- to ten-mile radius analysis could support two sites in that area. No County parks are located in the general area of Star Lake, Lost Lake, Lake Harvey, or Lake Nahwatzel and Cloquallum Road where another park could be located.

Future park locations to address need could include partnering with Green Diamond Resources to acquire property in the area of Lake Nahwatzel and working with Washington State Parks to acquire property that the Parks and Recreation Commission may decide is surplus or donate Lake Isabella.

5.4.3 Regional Parks

Regional parks provide outdoor recreation facilities with regional significance. They are generally over 200 acres and can serve several communities with natural habitat sites and outdoor recreation opportunities. Facilities at regional parks can include recreation sport facilities, boating, camping, water access, and trail use.

Mason County has three regional parks totaling 151.87 acres within the planning area:

- ◆ Mason County Recreation Area
- ◆ Oakland Bay County Park
- ◆ Sandhill County Park

The Mason County Recreation Area (MCRA) has seven baseball-softball fields used for multiple use and adult ball leagues. Shelton High School uses these fields and over the season various tournaments are scheduled throughout the summer.

The Oakland Bay Regional Park is 81.87 acres and was purchased in 2005 in cooperation with the Capital Land Trust. Through matching RCO grants, the park has been developed with passive recreation, wildlife viewing areas, environmental education and interpretation, and recreational trails. The access road improvements provide an improved park entry road with a staging area, bus turnaround, and sanitary facilities. Oakland Bay is listed on the Washington Water Trails Association points of interest for water access.

Mason County has three regional parks comprising 151.87 acres.

Oakland Bay Park has been a focal point for volunteer partnerships for restoration and site improvements from the Mason County 4-H, the Shelton and Pioneer School Districts, the Squaxin Tribe, Cascade Land Conservancy, Audubon Society, and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. The historic homestead has an old home built in the 1890s. In 2012, this site was listed on the Washington Heritage of Registered Historic Places. A conservation easement with the Capital Land Trust limits further development in the park. The conservation easement defines buffer zones along Oakland Bay and Malaney Creek to facilitate environmental protection of the park.

Another regionally significant private-nonprofit site is the South Mason Soccer Park which was built and is maintained by the South Mason Youth Soccer Club. It is 10.4 acres with six soccer fields. There is a mod-field area for small side games. SMSP is not included in the County LOS calculations, but is referenced as a significant regional facility to meet the demand and need for recreational soccer use. The North Mason area is also in need of additional soccer facilities. Currently soccer is played using modified fields on North Mason school facilities.

Service Area

Regional parks provide a variety of recreation amenities and are located within a 15-mile radius or within one hour driving time to most residents. Regional parks attract citizens and visitors from a regional service area. In Mason County, the service area for regional parks has been established as a 15-mile radius around the park site and, in many cases, beyond.

Trends

- ◆ Counties are primary providers of community and regional parks which are more efficient to maintain on a per-acre basis than the smaller neighborhood parks.
- ◆ Increased cost for vehicle travel and long auto trips will create a demand for local regional park opportunities that provide less travel and localized access to regional facilities and trails.

Demand and Need

Public input revealed existing and future needs by respondents. These include trails, paths, water access, swimming areas, sports fields, and even a shooting range. The regional parkland inventory today is below the former acreage recommendation of 3.5 acres per 1,000 population (LOS 3.5/1,000). To meet this identified need, the County could acquire property suitable for the development of a regional park by purchasing it, by transferring from another government agency, or by partnering with local private interests.

Table 5.7 Recommended LOS – Regional Parks

Existing inventory	151.87 acres
Existing number of sites	3 sites
Existing LOS	2.3 acres / 1,000 population
Recommended LOS	3.5 acres / 1,000 population

As most of the waterfront areas, whether saltwater or freshwater, are already developed, finding affordable and suitable land for a regional park may prove to be challenging. One possible option would be to begin discussions with Washington State Parks regarding selected undeveloped state parks in Mason County or current existing parks such as Schafer State Park or Lake Isabella.

The existing and recommended LOS for community parks is shown in Table 5.7. To meet the recommended LOS of 3.5 acres/1,000 population, Mason County needs a total of 230.1 acres of regional park lands. With the existing inventory of 151.87 acres, that equates to a current deficit of 78.3 acres.

By the end of the six-year planning period (2027), the County would need to have 259.0 acres of regional park lands – with the existing inventory, that equates to a deficit of 107.1 acres.

By the end of the 20-year long-range planning horizon (2042), the County would need to have 301.5 acres of community park lands – with the existing inventory, that equates to a deficit of 149.6 acres.

This additional parkland could provide a needed regional park site inclusive of the amenities desired by County residents. The park would serve the entire County and would enhance recreation opportunities for County residents and visitors.

5.4.4 Natural Open Space

Mason County recognizes that natural areas and open space are a vital component of the health and well-being of the County and provide natural resources for habitat protection. Preserving and protecting these properties is essential to retaining the abundance of recreational opportunities in the region. Mason County desires to work with interested organizations to achieve this goal. The County can also partner with non-profit organizations such as the Trust for Public Land, the Conservation District, and Capital Land Trust to retain natural areas and open space.

Currently, Mason County owns and manages four sites as natural open space:

- ◆ Decker Creek
- ◆ Foothills Park
- ◆ Harstine Island Park
- ◆ Watson Wildwood Park

Mason County, which is a rural area, is fortunate to have an abundance of natural areas and open space. Currently, in addition to inventory owned by the County, there is a significant quantity of natural areas and open space owned by Washington State Parks, the Department of Natural Resources (Tahuya State Forest), the National Park Service (Olympic National Park), and the US Department of Agriculture (Olympic National Forest). Green Diamond Resources and the Manke Company are owners of private natural areas, a large portion of which are managed for timber resources. The Theler Wetlands and associated Salmon Center near Belfair are also a very popular destination of statewide significance.

Mason County has four natural open space areas comprising 612.9 acres.

Washington State Parks has several tracts of land that provide significant open space, including Harsine Island (310 acres), Hope Island (106 acres), and Lakd Isabella (193 acres), and are currently studying the long-range plans and use for some of their parks and natural areas.

Service Area

The NRPA guidelines do not specifically define the service area for natural open space parks. These sites provide opportunities to preserve and protect natural areas that have unique natural features or historical significance, as well as provide habitat areas that need to have protection and preservation with the need for minimal improvements. Natural open space parks provide benefit and value to the entire County and active recreational use is minimized and secondary to the protection and preservation of natural features. Trails, wildlife viewing, and education are the primary recreational opportunities in natural open space parks.

Trends

- ◆ Research continues to confirm that well-tended natural resources attract businesses.
- ◆ Using parks, greenways and trails to connect to each other and to natural, recreational and heritage assets are discovering new economic development and revitalization opportunities.
- ◆ Key to the creation and implementation of a plan is the identification of natural spaces for

trails and to list trail linkages throughout the County.

- ◆ Regulatory laws regarding natural open space areas and habitat protection are guided by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Forest Management Act, and the Northwest Forest Plan. While there are additional regulatory laws, these provide some idea of the regulatory climate.
- ◆ Partnerships with organizations such as the Capital Land Trust, the Trust for Public Lands, and the Conservation District will continue to be very important for Mason County to acquire and preserve natural open space in the future.

Demand and Need

Mason County is expected to grow over the next 20 years, so it is important to preserve the rural character of the County to the greatest degree possible. The County currently owns 612.9 acres of natural areas and open space, which equates to a current demand standard of 9.4 acres per 1,000 population.

The existing and recommended LOS for open space is shown in Table 5.8. To meet the recommended LOS of 10 acres/1,000 population, Mason County needs a total of 657.5 acres of open space lands. With the existing inventory of 612.9 acres, that equates to a current deficit of 44.6 acres.

By the end of the six-year planning period (2027), the County would need to have 739.9 acres of open space lands – with the existing inventory, that equates to a deficit of 127.0 acres.

By the end of the 20-year long-range planning horizon (2042), the County would need to have 861.5 acres of open space lands – with the existing inventory, that equates to a deficit of 248.6 acres.

The County may acquire additional natural areas and open space land through partnerships or property transfers. Some of this property may even be appropriate for development of trail corridors, as Mason County does not currently own any suitable land options for regional trails. These trail corridors could provide linkages between parks or facilities.

Table 5.8 Recommended LOS – Natural Open Space

Existing inventory	612.9 acres
Existing number of sites	4 sites
Existing LOS	9.4 acres / 1,000 population
Recommended LOS	10 acres / 1,000 population

Observations

- ◆ Mason County’s inventory of natural areas and open space should continue to increase over the next six years to meet the County’s needs.
- ◆ It is recommended that the County continue to work to procure natural areas and open space to preserve environmentally sensitive areas (e.g. hillsides, riparian areas, common hiking and access areas with trails, waterfront property) to retain its rural character.
- ◆ Collaboration with adjoining private enterprise, public agencies, and private non-profit conservation trusts will be instrumental to maintaining and increasing natural areas, open space, wildlife habitats, and corridor connections to state and federal lands in Mason County.
- ◆ The County should also pursue state and federal matching grants in partnership with public and private parties to preserve and secure natural areas and open spaces.
- ◆ Approve Conservation Futures property tax levy to provide a reliable and predictable source of funds to help acquire interests in open space, habitat areas, wetlands, farm, agricultural and timberlands for conservation. A portion of the tax levy can be dedicated to the cost of maintaining and operating the properties.

5.5 Recreation Facilities

On the following pages, specific needs for recreation facilities are presented. The assessed need reflects existing inventory, public input, and priority interest from national or state trends.

The categories of recreation facilities include:

- ◆ Sports Fields
- ◆ Trails
- ◆ Children’s Play Areas
- ◆ Other Recreation Facilities
 - Shooting Sports
 - Boat Ramps and Docks
 - Group Picnic Areas
 - Basketball Courts/Outdoor Sports Pads

Establishing the recreation facility needs was determined through several analytical approaches, including public input through the questionnaire survey, comments received at community workshops and input of the Parks and Trails Advisory Board.

5.5.1 Sports Fields

Sports fields with competitive play generally require more staff time and a higher level of maintenance than other facilities, especially during the playing season. The placement of synthetic turf on the infields at MCRA has diminished maintenance costs and increased playability of the fields during wet weather conditions. The baseball fields are used for play ranging from Little League Baseball (60-ft. bases) to full size baseball fields (90-ft. bases). If a field was not sufficient for organized practice or game play, the field was not included in the current inventory. Softball fields include adult softball fields and fields used for competitive girls’ fastpitch or softball leagues.

Mason County does not have soccer fields, but works cooperatively with local school districts and the private non-profit soccer association in the provision of soccer play throughout the County¹.

Table 5.9 lists the inventory of sports fields for Mason County, the City of Shelton, area school districts and private nonprofits.

Table 5.9 Existing Sports Fields in Mason County

Facility Type	Inventory (Number of Sites)		
	Mason County	Shelton/Schools/Private	Total
Baseball fields	2	2	4
Softball/ baseball fields	12	7	19
Soccer fields	0	15	15

Service Area

The recommended NRPA service area guidelines for sports fields is a one-mile radius for residents around the sports fields (County, school, and private).

Trends

- ◆ Team and individual sports are popular at the statewide level.
- ◆ Children participating in active lifestyles outside of a team are more likely to end up participating in team sports at some point in their life as there is a correlation to general physical fitness and an enjoyment of any type of play centered around physical motion/ activity, and part is a result of exposure to a diverse mix of activities.
- ◆ By being physically active on a regular basis, playing sports such as soccer, youth may be able to avoid or delay health problems associated with obesity and related conditions.

Demand and Need

The demand standard applicable to this plan requires that a team should have sufficient field space to play games and practices each week. Based on the current inventory, sports fields appear to be adequate but this will not be sustained into the future. This is especially true since the recent placement of all-weather synthetic turf at two of the MCRA fields and renovations at Sandhill County Park. These renovations provide consistent and increased play on the fields.

The existing and recommended LOS for sports fields is shown in Table 5.10. For baseball fields, to meet the recommended LOS of 1 field per 5,000 population, Mason County needs a total of 13

¹ Shelton and North Mason High Schools, Pioneer and Hawkins Middle Schools, and Shelton Youth Soccer Club Association.

Table 5.10 Recommended LOS – Sports Fields

	Baseball	Softball/ Baseball	Soccer
Existing number of facilities	4	19	15
Existing LOS	0.30 / 5,000 population	1.44 / 5,000 population	2.28 / 10,000 population
Recommended LOS	1 / 5,000 population	1 / 5,000 population	1 / 10,000 population

baseball fields. With the existing inventory of 4 fields, that equates to a current deficit of 9 baseball fields.

By the end of the six-year planning period (2027), the County would need to have a total of 15 baseball fields; with the existing inventory, that equates to a deficit of 11 fields. By the end of the 20-year long-range planning horizon (2042), the County would need to have 17 baseball fields; with the existing inventory, that equates to a deficit of 13 fields.

For softball/baseball fields, the recommended LOS is 1 field per 5,000 population. With the existing inventory of 19 fields, the County currently has 6 more fields than needed to meet the recommended LOS – so no additional fields are currently needed. By the end of the six-year planning period (2027), the County will still have 4 more fields than needed, and by the end of the 20-year long-range planning horizon (2042), the County will still have 2 more fields than needed.

With regard to soccer fields, the recommended LOS is 1 field per 10,000 population. With the existing inventory of 15 fields, the County currently has 8 more fields than needed to meet the recommended LOS – so no additional fields are currently needed. By 2027, the County will still have 7 more fields than needed, and by 2042 the County will still have 6 more fields than needed, if basing this determination solely on a population basis. However, the existing soccer fields are largely concentrated in the southern end of the County; on a geographic basis, the need for soccer fields in north Mason County remains.

Observations

- ◆ Youth leagues are continuing to grow, thus increasing demand for practice space and fields suitable for games.
- ◆ Youth leagues are struggling throughout the County with limited resources and growing demand.
- ◆ Local schools may have existing fields that could be improved to an acceptable standard or land that could be developed for new fields.
- ◆ Based on available information, there will be more demand as the County continues to grow.
- ◆ One option is investigating the installation of sports field lighting on existing fields to increase use, especially in the fall season.
- ◆ The Youth Soccer Association currently provides the soccer needs for the county. If the Association discontinues providing soccer, the demand and need will have to be addressed by Mason County Parks or a future not for profit sports association.

5.5.2 Trails

In 2008, the Mason County Parks and Trails Advisory Board worked with the Department of Community Development and completed the Mason County Regional Trails Plan. This plan developed policies and general guidelines relating to trails, and identified actual trails for development with recommended potential trail routes, corridors, and on-ground trail standards. There are various types of trails available for public use. These include significant regional trails, multiple-use trails, local trails, bike routes, and water trails, all of which are available at some level of use and development throughout Mason County.

Significant **regional trails** in Mason County include the Department of Natural Resources Tahuya State Forest Trails, the Theler Wetlands Trail in Belfair, the Port of Hoodport (former State Park) Trails, and Olympic National Forest and Park trailhead access points.

Multiple-use regional trails are generally non-motorized and serve bicyclists, walkers, joggers, skaters, equestrians, and even cross-country skiers and snowshoers depending on the trail surfacing. In the case of Mason County, possible trail connections to communities, parks, points of interest, neighboring counties, the Olympic National Forest, and Olympic National Park should be investigated. Listed below are suggested multi-use regional trails that were included as options for future trails in the 2021 Parks and Trails Survey:

- ◆ Shelton to Belfair Trail
- ◆ Shelton to MCRA Park Trail
- ◆ North Bay Trail – Allyn to tip of Case Inlet
- ◆ Mason Lake Park to Twanoh State Park
- ◆ Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail Extension
- ◆ Camp Govey Trail
- ◆ Menards Landing to Harvey Rendsland Park Trail

Currently, the County has a very small inventory of **local trails**. Local trails are categorized as trails that are developed primarily within County park properties or do not have any geographic connections in common with regional trails. Local trails are generally single or double track trails

with dirt, gravel, or chipped wood surface. Trail use depends on the site, but would primarily be non-motorized. The current inventories of local trails are listed below, as well as opportunities for potential development of local trails in existing County parks:

Existing

- ◆ Truman Glick Park (1 mile)
- ◆ Oakland Bay Park (1.5 miles)
- ◆ Coulter Creek (¾ mile)

Potential Development

- ◆ Foothills Park (create connection to State Parks Hoodport Trail)
- ◆ Harvey Rendsland Park
- ◆ Sunset Bluff
- ◆ Watson Wildwood Park
- ◆ Mason Lake Park

Favorite **bicycle routes** to ride in Mason County include the Harstine Island Loop (9.4 miles), the Mason Lake Loop (24 miles), and the Skokomish Valley Road (11 miles), the Kamilche- Bloomfield-Old Olympic Highway Loop (12 miles) and the Grapeview Loop Road (7.8 miles).

Water trails are becoming increasingly popular, and access to and from the water is critical to their development. You can put your canoe or kayak in at various Mason County Parks along the Washington Water Trails route. Access points are available at Walker Park, Jacoby/Shorecrest, Oakland Bay Park, Union Boat Launch, Latimer's Landing, Allyn Waterfront and Menards Landing to name a few. Mason County has developed policies for various parks that allow water trail users and, at some sites, the option of camping overnight with prior approval from the Parks and Trails Department. The County should work cooperatively with organizations like the Washington Water Trails Association (WWTA)¹ to develop additional safe water access points along Mason County shorelines for non-motorized watercraft.

In terms of maintenance, trails do not require the intensive maintenance that sports complexes and active recreation sites require. There is still maintenance required; therefore, forming partnerships with other governments, organizations,

¹ WWTP's Cascadia Marine Trail is one of the premier water trails for non-motorized boaters in the United States. The water trail covers over 140 miles and extends the length and width of Puget Sound, from the state capital in Olympia to the Canadian Border. Suitable for day or multi-day trips, the Cascadia Marine Trail has 66 campsites and 160 day-use sites to visit. People can boat to the campsites from many public and private launch sites and shoreline trailheads.

and non-profit groups helps defray maintenance and development costs.

Service Area

Regional trails and multiple-use trails have the same service area as that of regional parks (a 15-mile radius). They serve the entire County and also draw users from outside of the County. Following the demand standards established for community parks, local trails should be located within a 5-mile service area, but also draw users from the entirety of the County.

Trends

- ◆ Trails lead to a fit community: With the emphasis on health and fitness in today’s society, trails are becoming just as important as streets and sidewalks in our communities.
- ◆ There is an interest in developing trails in existing County parks, county-owned property, and on privately-owned lands.
- ◆ The community questionnaire stressed that it is a “priority to unify the County with a path”

Demand and Need

Mason County currently does not have demand standards for multi-use regional trails, as these types of trails have not yet been developed. A demand standard of 0.5 miles per 1,000 population is recommended in this plan. This translates to a total of 38 miles of trail that would be needed to meet the anticipated population demand in 2027 and beyond.

This recommended demand standard was determined by averaging the regional trail standards for Skagit and Jefferson Counties and the anticipated number of miles to establish an adequate regional trail system in Mason County. Applying this standard to the current (2021) population estimate of 65,750 indicates the County

Table 5.11 Recommended LOS – Trails

Existing inventory	N/A
Existing LOS	N/A
Recommended LOS	0.5 miles / 1,000 population

has a current deficiency of 28 miles of regional trails and a future need for 38 miles by 2027 and 45 miles by 2042.

The adopted Mason County Regional Trails Plan provides the guidelines and policies to develop trails in Mason County. The development and implementation of a comprehensive Regional Trails Plan will be vital as growth demands affect the potential level of need for trails. The Trails Plan also serves to provide opportunities for funding partnerships to complete the trails needed throughout the County.

Observations

- ◆ Citizens through the community input stressed a high importance of trail development primarily for exercise/recreation and to provide the opportunities for recreation. Therefore, trails are a high priority and the development of and funding for trails Countywide needs to be continued over the next planning period.
- ◆ Securing matching grant funds is an opportunity to match local dedicated funds to provide trail needs.
- ◆ As described there are a variety of types of trails, including natural trails, water trails, multi-use trails, bicycle trails for off-road and shared use with vehicles. Different types of trails have varying costs for development. The natural and soft-surface trails are less expensive, whereas the fully developed shared-use paths along public roads and highways cost more to develop using defined highway development standards.

5.5.3 Children’s Play Areas

Children’s playground equipment is maintained under the Playground Safety Standards with guidelines from the American Society of Testing Materials and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Mason County park maintenance staff is trained and certified under the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) National Playground Safety Training Program. Playground equipment must be inspected regularly for safety issues, making sure that each playground meets current safety standards and meets the requirements of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) for access. In Mason County, the continued priority should be renovating and/or replacing playgrounds at existing play areas to meet current standards. Mason County Parks currently has playground equipment located at five County park facilities (Table 5.12).

Table 5.12 Existing Play Areas in Mason County

Location	Number of Play Areas	Type
MCRA	1	Playground
Walker Park	1	Playground
Union Park	1	Playground
Foothills Park	1	Playground
Truman Glick Park	1	Playground
Total Play Areas	5	

Service Area

The service area for children’s play areas is the same as that of a neighborhood park, or a ½-mile to 1-mile radius from local residents.

Table 5.13 Recommended LOS – Play Areas

Existing inventory	5
Existing LOS	0.08 / 1,000 population
Recommended LOS	0.33 / 1,000 population

Trends

- ♦ Low-income families generally have less access to opportunities for physical activity. At the same time, many low-income rural communities lack access to sidewalks, parks and recreation facilities; all are possible barriers to leisure time physical activity.
- ♦ 1 of 3 children is obese or overweight before their 5th birthday. Obesity now affects 17% of all children and adolescents in the United States – triple the rate from just one generation ago.
- ♦ The Outdoor Industry Association (outdoor product providers) continues to advocate for communities in which all kids have places to play within walking distance from their homes.

Demand and Need

The County currently has a demand standard of 0.33 per 1,000 population, which reflects the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) recommended standard. Using the current inventory of five play areas and the population of 65,750 residents, the current ratio would be 1 play area per 13,150 population, or 0.08 per 1,000 population. Applying the current standard to the current population indicates the County should have 22 play areas, a current shortfall of 17. Since Mason County currently owns 21 parks, this standard would appear to be unreasonably high, as not all of the parks have appropriate space for play areas. Adjustment of this standard or partnerships with local community organizations or school districts could provide for the retention of the demand standard for playgrounds countywide.

5.5.4 Other Recreation Facilities

Shooting Sports

Mason County Parks does not have a shooting range within their system but there are two ranges in Mason County. The Bremerton Trap and Skeet Club is located north of Belfair across from the Kitsap Airport and the Mason County Sportsmen's Association range is located in Shelton at the Business Park. The student community workshop stressed the need for a "shooting range" and opportunities for "competition in shooting events/programs." An outdoor shooting range (Q-18a) in the open ended question was listed most often as an identified need. In Q-16 & 17 "shooting sports (archery, rifle, pistol)" ranked 6th out of 28 choices of currently involved in and 4th out of 29 of those that respondents would desire to participate in. In the community questionnaire, shooting sports and hunting rank higher compared to other communities. Shooting/archery range ranked 1st when asked (Q-9) what special facilities should be added to the park system (34%). Most recently as a recreational activity, there has been a wave of interest in archery in the rural states in the northwest.¹⁸ Archery skills is an interest project for Girl Scouts Skill Building and youth camps and ranges have seen a recent up-tick of interest in archery. Study of the feasibility of creating or partnering to provide increased opportunities for shooting sports should be of focus over the next planning period. The Recreation and Conservation Office offers grants funds for development and operation ranges under the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR).

Boat Launches

Currently there are four boat launches and six hand-carry boat launch sites managed throughout Mason County by the County parks system. Based on the needs assessment, public input and the

Mason County Shoreline Master Plan, water access continues to be of critical importance to Mason County. Water access facilities (boat ramps, piers, beaches, etc) ranked 2nd in the community questionnaire (Q-8) as what respondents thought were the needed facilities in the Mason County Park system (38%). The need for water access will continue to be one of the highest priorities countywide over the next 15 to 20 years. Nearly 40% of respondents in the community questionnaire (Q-10) indicated

that they were likely to use boater access through the use of a ramp or by way of a hand launch.

The community workshop pointed out the need for an improved County boat launch at Jacoby/Shorecrest Park and in Union. They also stated that access is important as there is an "increased need for kayaking". Opportunities to secure and develop access to public waterfront points for public use for boating, swimming and fishing will remain of vital importance.

Group Picnic Areas

Mason County Parks provides three sites with picnic shelters and eleven places for the public to picnic with family and friends. Simple picnic shelters create opportunities for shared-use with pedestrians and bicyclists or serve as a trailhead point of entrance for hikers and wildlife viewing areas. They can serve a dual purpose as interpretive centers or a waypoint that extends a children's play area. Group picnic shelters can provide opportunities for groups to rent a facility for a gathering and can provide a revenue return that helps offset maintenance costs at rural or larger community or regional park sites. 31% of the responses when asked what additional facilities are needed in the community questionnaire (Q-8) indicated that basic park features (play areas, picnic areas, etc) were most needed.

Partnerships with local service organizations, the Boy Scouts of America, or specialized work crews can help fund the cost of the construction of additional sites located throughout the countywide park system. Looking for future locations and project sites should be of importance over the next planning period. Suggested locations for shelters are Harvey Rendsland Jiggs Lake Park, Mason Lake Park and at Sunset Bluff.

Basketball Courts/Outdoor Sports Pads

Currently Mason County Parks has three basketball courts within the park system located at various park sites. Basketball courts or the placement of an outdoor pad are of value for residents that are located within the radius of need for neighborhood parks (within a 1/2-mile to 1-mile radius) or community parks (1-3 mile radius). When asked what additional facilities were needed (Q-8) 31% of the responses indicated that basic park features (play areas, picnic areas, etc) were needed. The community workshops pointed out that "youth sports have decreased because of family needs and

the downturn in the economy.” The basic basketball court pad and hoop provide the opportunity for citizens to enjoy a friendly game of basketball. On a national scale, interest in basketball has remained somewhat constant for the last 20 years.

When the need for additional neighborhood, community or regional parks is anticipated, designs that include a basketball court or pad would be recommended to meet the identified need.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIZATION

Chapter 6

This chapter of the PROST Plan discusses a summary of the recommendations for parks and facilities for managing and implementation, in order to accomplish the outcomes, guidelines and standards adopted in this plan.

Recommendations are listed in the following categories:

- ◆ Parkland and Natural Open Space
- ◆ Recreation Facilities
- ◆ Administration, Operations and Maintenance

6.1 Parkland and Natural Open Space

The ideal park system is made up of various types of parks and facilities to serve the community, as discussed in Chapter 5. Each type serves a basic function, but collectively the entire system serves the needs of the County. Knowing the interconnection, Mason County can develop an efficient and cost effective park system that meets most of the needs for the citizens. Also by providing design standards for each park type it helps to easily understand how the park is developed, maintained and used.

Attaining the basic system of parklands provides for neighborhood and community parks with regional and natural open space park sites. It is achieved by addressing the need of new site acquisitions and/or expanding and modifying existing parks and facilities.

6.1.1 Neighborhood Parks

Assessed Need

Based on the demand and needs analysis in Chapter 5, an additional 9.6 acres of neighborhood parks will be needed by 2027, for a total of 21.7 acres. By 2042, the additional need will increase to 16.4 acres, for a total of 28.4 acres of neighborhood parks.

Based on the average size of a neighborhood park – approximately 2 to 5 acres – two additional neighborhood park sites are recommended for acquisition by 2027, and up to a total of nine additional sites by 2042.

Recommendations

- ◆ Based on the geographic distribution of existing parks, neighborhood parks are most needed in the northern and southwestern areas of Mason County. Land for the two additional neighborhood parks needed by 2027 could be acquired in the locations listed in Table 6.1.
- ◆ In the longer term (over the 20-year planning horizon), seek to develop neighborhood parks in the following geographic areas to meet the future demand:
 - Allyn area
 - Star Lake area
 - Timberlands area

Table 6.1 Neighborhood Park Recommendations

Future Need	Location	Acreage
Northern UGA	Allyn Waterfront	5.00
North Mason County	Belfair	5.00
Southwest Area	Star Lake	5.00

- Lake Limerick area
- Mason Lake
- Belfair area
- Hoodsport
- Tahuya Peninsula
- Victor area

Implementation Policies

SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

Neighborhood parks in Mason County serve a 1-mile service area. If at all possible it should be easy access to local roads. Optimum size for neighborhood parks is not less than five acres, with flat usable areas located central to the neighborhood service area.

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Facilities that are appropriate to neighborhood parks include playgrounds, open play areas, basketball and tennis courts, picnic areas and shelters, trails and trail connectors.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Three additional sites could be added that serve as trail or natural open space entrance or access sites.
- Continue to work with public or private landowners to provide land or locations to meet the future need for three more neighborhood parks by 2027.

6.1.2 Community Parks

Assessed Need

Based on the demand and needs analysis in Chapter 5, no additional community parks acreage will be needed by 2027. By 2042, an additional 20.8 acres will be needed, for a total of 258.4 acres of community parks.

Based on the average size of a community park – approximately 15-17 acres – one to two additional community park sites are recommended for acquisition by 2042.

Recommendations

- Develop community parks in underserved areas to meet the future demand. Land for additional

community parks could be acquired in the locations listed in Table 6.2.

- The largest deficit is located in the west and southwest section of Mason County.
- Securing a possible future park near Star Lake, Lost Lake, Lake Nahwatzel, or Cloquallum Road would address the community park need.
- A park that provides swimming access would be most beneficial, addressing both the acreage deficit and the need for water access.

Table 6.2 Neighborhood Park Recommendations

Future Need	Location	Acreage
West Mason County	Schafer State Park	15.00
Southwest Mason County	Lake Isabella	15.00
North Mason County	Acquire/water access	15.00

Implementation Policies

SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

Geographically there is the need for a community park in the southwest area of the County, preferably with freshwater access. One park would be sufficient in the southwest area of the County due to its population density, even though the five- to ten-mile radius analysis could support two sites in that area.

Future park locations to address need could include partnering with Green Diamond Resources to acquire property on Lake Nahwatzel and working with Washington State Parks to acquire property that the Parks and Recreation Commission may decide is surplus.

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Facilities that are appropriate to Community parks include development of water access for boating and swimming. They provide opportunities for facilities such as BMX tracks, a skatepark, swimming facilities and performing arts venues.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Filling gaps in existing levels of service.
- Planning for park acquisition or development that provides water access or swimming.

- ◆ Designing areas for new community parks that emphasize active use, fields, sports courts, picnicking, and open grass fields.
- ◆ Planning for multi-use paths and trails, and other fitness-related facilities.
- ◆ Developing master site plans for selected community parks.

6.1.3 Regional Parks

Assessed Need

Based on the demand and needs analysis in Chapter 5, an additional 107.1 acres of regional parks will be needed by 2027, for a total of 259.0 acres. By 2042, the additional need will increase to 149.6 acres, for a total of 301.5 acres of regional parks.

Based on the average size of a regional park – around 100 acres – one additional regional park site is recommended for acquisition by 2027, and up to a total of two additional sites by 2042.

Recommendations

- ◆ The greatest need for regional parks is in southwest Mason County. Land for additional regional parks could be acquired in the locations listed in Table 6.3.
- ◆ Continue to pursue the potential option of securing parts of Lake Isabella State Park. It would be in the best interest of the County to retain this 190-acre park site under public ownership.
- ◆ Schafer State Park also is an ideal option for expansion of the regional park needs for Mason County through a partnership or agreement with State Parks.

Table 6.3 Regional Park Recommendations

Future Need	Location	Acreage
Southwest Mason County	Mason Lake Camp (owned by Green Diamond)	55.00

Implementation Policies

SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

There are deficits in Mason County based on a standard that residents reside within fifteen miles or one hour driving time to a regional park facility. The

value of regional parks is that they serve the entire County and provide opportunities that enhance recreation opportunities for County residents and visitors.

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Facilities that are appropriate to regional parks include natural historic and cultural areas, active sports fields and recreation facilities with skatepark, tennis courts, RV camping, regional trail connection, group picnic areas, performing arts and festival activities.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ To meet this identified need, the County could acquire property suitable for the development of a regional park by purchasing it, by transferring it from another government agency, or by partnering with local private interests.
- ◆ Finding affordable and suitable land for a regional park may prove to be challenging.
- ◆ A possible option would be to begin discussions with public and private landowners regarding partnerships or acquiring selected undeveloped lands in Mason County.
- ◆ This additional parkland could provide a needed regional park site inclusive of the amenities desired by County residents.
- ◆ The potential addition of 107.1 acres of natural areas during the 6-year planning period, and up to 149.6 acres over the long-term planning horizon, could come from property transfers, donations, or partnership agreements.
- ◆ The public input stressed the need to address maintaining existing sites, as well as the need to address the operation and maintenance costs for any new parkland additions.

6.1.4 Natural Open Space

Assessed Need

Based on the demand and needs analysis in Chapter 5, an additional 127.0 acres of open space areas will be needed by 2027, for a total of 739.9 acres. By 2042, the additional need will increase to 248.6 acres, for a total of 861.5 acres of open space areas.

Based on the average size of an open space area – around 200 acres – one additional open space site is

recommended for acquisition by 2027, with a total of two to three additional sites by 2042.

Recommendations

- ◆ The greatest need for open space areas is in south and southwest Mason County. Additional open space areas could be acquired in the locations listed in Table 6.4 to meet the future demand.
- ◆ Continue discussion on potential surplus public lands to meet the natural open space needs of the County – for example, State Parks has recently taken a close look at Harstine Island State Park (310 acres).

Table 6.4 Natural Open Space Recommendations

Future Need	Location	Acreage
South Mason County	Kennedy Creek Preserve	200.00
South Mason County	Harstine Island	200.00

Implementation Policies

SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

Natural Open Space parks provide natural areas and open space which is a vital component of the health and well-being of the County and provides natural resources for habitat protection. Sites should be selected that will preserve and protect properties that retain the abundance of out-of-doors recreational opportunities in the region.

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Selected property may even be appropriate for development of trail corridors, as Mason County does not currently own any suitable land options for regional trails. These trail corridors could provide linkages between parks or facilities.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Mason County’s inventory of natural areas and open space should continue to increase over the next six years to meet the County’s needs.
- ◆ It is recommended that the County continue to work to procure natural areas and open space to preserve environmentally sensitive areas (e.g.

hillsides, riparian areas, common hiking and access areas with trails, waterfront property) to retain its rural character.

- ◆ Approve Conservation Futures property tax levy to provide a reliable and predictable source of funds to help acquire interests in open space, habitat areas, wetlands, farm, agricultural and timberlands for conservation. A portion of the tax levy can be dedicated to the cost of maintaining and operating the properties.
- ◆ Collaboration with adjoining private enterprise, public agencies and private non- profit conservation trusts will be instrumental to maintaining and increasing natural areas, open space, wildlife habitats and corridor connections to state and federal lands in Mason County.
- ◆ The County should also pursue state and federal matching grants in partnership with public and private parties to preserve and secure natural areas and open spaces.

6.2 Recreation Facilities

6.2.1 Sports Fields

Assessed Need

Based on the demand and needs assessment in Chapter 5, 11 additional baseball fields will be needed by 2027 and 13 needed by 2042, or expanded use with all-weather turf or lighting improvements should be implemented as recommended. No additional softball/baseball fields or soccer fields are needed based on population; however, based on geography, additional soccer fields should be provided in the northern part of the County.

Recommendations

- ◆ Local schools may have existing fields that could be improved to an acceptable standard or land that could be developed for new fields.
- ◆ One option is investigating the installation of sports field lighting on existing fields to increase use, especially in the spring and fall seasons.
- ◆ Continue to explore opportunities to renovation infields with all-weather turf to expand play and field lighting to extend games.

6.2.2 Trails

Assessed Need

A demand standard of 0.5 miles per 1,000 population translates to a total need of 38 miles of trails by 2027 and 45 miles of trails by 2042. Trails were one of the most desired park and recreation facility priorities identified countywide in the 2021 Parks and Trails Survey.

Recommendations

- ◆ Implement and develop trails as guided through the adopted Mason County Regional Trails Plan.
- ◆ Mason County will need to acquire property to develop regional and multi-use trails into the future. This can be done through trail corridor acquisition, partnerships and other means such as easements.
- ◆ Working in partnership with the County Public Works Department, Port of Shelton and State Department of Transportation as well as the Mason County Health Department will be vital and critical to providing opportunities through complete streets, trails and facilities to make a positive impact on improved health for the citizens on a countywide basis.
- ◆ Part of the completed trails plan should include potential cross county courses, bicycle routes and frontage road routes throughout Mason County. All bicycle routes should be designated by signage, and be striped as bike lands if the road in question has the necessary right-of-way width and is free of on street parking. These bike lane projects should be implemented whenever their respective roadways are resurfaced.
- ◆ All types of trails are critical recreation facilities that need to be address over the next planning period and into the future. These include multiple-use regional trails, local trails, trail links to new large residential development projects (e.g. Shelton Hills to MCRA), bicycle routes, and water trails.
- ◆ To meet this deficit, selected Park Master Site Plans will need to incorporate trails into the development of parks.
- ◆ As identified through public input, the Shelton to Belfair Trail should be the first priority trail development for the County.

6.2.3 Children's Play Areas

Assessed Need

Applying the current standard of 0.33 per 1,000 to the current population, the County has a need for 22 play areas, which indicates a current shortfall of 17 play areas countywide.

Recommendations

- ◆ There is a need for children's play areas in the northern portions of the County.
- ◆ Additional play areas could be located at Shorecrest Park, Latimer's Landing, Mason Lake Park, Phillips Lake Park, Sunset Bluff, and Sandhill Park.
- ◆ Continue efforts to retain new and recently replaced playground equipment throughout the park system as monitoring is of critical importance to children's safety.
- ◆ Design playground with areas for toddlers, 6-12 year olds and for those 12 and beyond as required under the National Playground Safety Inspection Guidelines.
- ◆ All play areas need to meet the National Playground Safety with annual site inspection.
- ◆ All play areas need to be in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

6.2.4 Other Recreation Facilities

Shooting Sports

ASSESSED NEED

Mason County does not have a public shooting range (archery, rifle, and pistol) in the park system. This recreational sport was identified as a need and ranked #1 in the community questionnaire when asked "what special facilities should be added." There has been a recent wave of interest in archery in the northwest.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Study of the feasibility of creating or partnering to provide increased opportunities for shooting sports should be of focus over the next planning period. Identifying a site location will be critically important to the future project.
- ◆ Matching grant funds are available for the development and operation of shooting ranges from the Recreation and Conservation Office

(RCO) through the Firearm and Archery Ranges Funds (FARR) program.

Boat Launches

ASSESSED NEED

Based on the needs assessment, public input, and the Mason County Shoreline Master Program, water access continues to be of critical importance to Mason County. Water access facilities (boat ramps, piers, beaches, etc) ranked 2nd in the community questionnaire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Opportunities to secure and develop land and access to public waterfront points for public use for boating, swimming and fishing will remain of vital importance over the next planning period.
- ◆ Continue to look for waterfront access points for acquisition or development along all fresh and saltwater edges.
- ◆ Research matching grant funding to acquire and develop water access for boating and recreational activities and sporting needs.
- ◆ Continue to expand the water trails, working with the public and private partners to secure additional water access sites.
- ◆ Secure public road right-of-ways for park access points to the water and shorelines throughout the County.

Group Picnic Areas

ASSESSED NEED

31% of the responses, when asked what additional facilities are needed in the community questionnaire (Q-8), indicated that basic park features (play areas, picnic areas, etc) were most needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Looking for future locations and project sites should be of importance over the next planning period (e.g. Harvey Rendsland, Sunset Bluff and Mason Lake).
- ◆ Partner with local service organizations to help fund the construction.
- ◆ In designing renovation and new neighborhood and community parks, the inclusion of group picnic areas, shelters and facilities should be a part of the design elements.

Basketball Courts/Outdoor Sports Pads

ASSESSED NEED

Basketball courts or outdoor sports pads provide value to resident located near neighborhood parks (within ½-mile – 1-mile radius) or community parks (1-3 mile radius). Citizens indicated that when asked what additional facilities were “needed” (Q-8), 31% indicated that basic park features (play areas, picnic areas, etc.) were needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ When the need for additional neighborhood, community, or regional parks is anticipated, designs that include a basketball court or pad should be included as a recreation facility.

6.3 Administration, Operations and Maintenance

6.3.1 Administration

Director

RECOMMENDED WORK TASKS

- ◆ Create and facilitate a unified Department whereby all staff is linked through a central mission.
- ◆ Empower and lead Department personnel to professional success.
- ◆ Respond to the needs and concerns of the County issues.
- ◆ Ensure financial integrity of the Department by encouraging cost savings while sustaining quality services.
- ◆ Pursue additional funding sources to meet plan outcomes.
- ◆ Encourage community support through a positive and responsive vision and increased awareness of County parks, trails and recreational opportunities.
- ◆ Encourage staff training and educational opportunities to facilitate professional development.
- ◆ Strive for efficiency in the provision of department-wide operations.

Department Staff

RECOMMENDED WORK TASKS

- ◆ Coordinate staff efforts to maintain and enhance parks.
- ◆ Assist and participate in volunteer programs, stewardship groups or local organizations for development and enhancement.
- ◆ Explore opportunities to enhance or generate resources that benefit the functions and maintenance needs of the Department system.
- ◆ Research department sustainability through options such as the creation of a county Metropolitan Park District.

Park Finance

RECOMMENDED WORK TASKS

- ◆ Explore the creation of a Mason County Parks Foundation.
- ◆ Develop funding partnerships with public and private sources to assist in efforts for park acquisition, development, programs, and maintenance.
- ◆ Work with organizations that promote private investment in public park acquisition and development.
- ◆ Seek funding for new recreation facilities and improvements to existing facilities through a variety of fund sources including, but not limited to: donations, user fees, grants (public and private), capital reserves, REET (real estate excise tax), special district, contributions, bonds, levies, and partnerships.
- ◆ Explore implementation and use of Conservation Futures funding for natural open space acquisition and maintenance.
- ◆ Identify opportunities to generate revenue through recreation facility fees and program fees.
- ◆ Develop recreation facilities which reduce maintenance costs, such as synthetic turf fields.

6.3.2 Operations and Maintenance

Maintenance and Renovation

RECOMMENDED WORK TASKS

- ◆ Establish maintenance standards for all parks, trails, and recreation facilities.
- ◆ Encourage the efficiency of maintenance operations.
- ◆ Standardize signs, equipment, materials and other amenities where feasible.
- ◆ Maximize the skills and abilities of Department personnel through training and resource support.
- ◆ Reduce replacement costs and extend the usefulness of equipment and recreation facilities through preventative maintenance.
- ◆ Consider privatizing services as needed, as feasible for budget savings and increased efficiency.

Park Use: Security and Safety

RECOMMENDED WORK TASKS

- ◆ Design park, trail, and recreational facilities that meet all applicable safety standards and discourage unwanted activities.
- ◆ Educate users about acceptable behavior through appropriate signs, regulations, and public programs.
- ◆ Consider proper visibility, safety, and effective maintenance in design and development.

FUNDING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Chapter 7

This chapter of the PROST Plan identifies capital improvements priorities and strategies for funding proposed specific improvements. Appendix A identifies the Capital Improvements and Schematic Level Estimate of Probable Costs for each existing park. The Mason County Parks Advisory Board has organized these Priority recommendations for these Capital Improvements into three Priority Levels (Highest, Moderate, Low) over three Planning Horizons: 2022–2028, 2029–2036, and 2037–2042.

7.1 Project Priorities

The project guide criteria used to identify for recommendation with rank and schedule individual park projects included:

- ◆ The site's current level of deferred improvements or safety concerns.
- ◆ Results of the 2021 survey.
- ◆ Availability of funding, grants, and cooperative agreements.
- ◆ Projected or current level of use (higher use or potential use = higher ranking).
- ◆ Potential for active involvement of citizen groups, non-profit organizations, and other agencies.

The priority by project type is as follows:

1. Improvement to existing developed sites (redevelopment, renovation, and replacement)
2. ADA projects at all parks
3. Development that meets existing deficits in service or needs identified during public outreach
4. Development of existing undeveloped sites

5. Acquisition of new sites that serve geographic equity needs
6. Development of new sites that serve or meet geographic equity needs

High Priority

The recommended priorities for the short-term (2022–2028) Planning Horizon are as follows.

- ◆ Replace some of the Boarding Floats at Latimers Landing
- ◆ Prepare a master plan to guide ADA, parking, pathways and site furniture improvements at Foothills Park
- ◆ Replace renovate outfields for Fields 3, 4, 5, & 6, replace perimeter fencing, provide new playground, provide new Maintenance Shop Facility, and provide new Multi-purpose Soccer/ Football Field with illumination at Sandhill County Park
- ◆ Provide miscellaneous park upgrades at Truman Glick Memorial Park
- ◆ Provide pickleball striping, ADA Parking and Accessible Routes at Union Community Park
- ◆ Renovate Shelter and provide basketball/ pickleball court at Walker Park
- ◆ Provide interpretive signage and beach access pathway to beach at Menards Landing

Medium Priority

The recommended priorities for the medium-term (2029–2036) Planning Horizon are as follows.

- ◆ Provide lawn renovation and irrigation system at Foothills County Park
- ◆ Renovate Restrooms at Mason Lake County Park

- ◆ Provide stairs to Fields 4, 5 & 6 at Sandhill County Park
- ◆ Provide beach access path at Walker Park
- ◆ Provide picnic shelter at Rendsland Park

Low/Future Priority

The recommended priorities for the long-term (2037–2042) Planning Horizon are as follows:

- ◆ Provide new shelter at Union Community Park
- ◆ Provide Mountain Bike Trails at Watson Wildwood Park

7.2 Capital Improvement Plan

The funding strategies for implementing the recommendations outlined in Chapter 7 are identified in Appendix A. The proposed project estimated costs and potential revenue sources provide the identified sources to begin planning to fund the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) from 2022 through 2028 and beyond.

Key to funding the CIP is to understand that the total project costs are from a combination of

funding sources which include grants, general fund budgets, real estate excise taxes, and/or even general obligation bonds to list a few. Section 7.3 of this chapter provides funding options potentially available from a variety of sources that range from federal funding to local sources.

Over time, it is important to remember that priorities change, new funding sources become available and unfortunately legislative action can eliminate or shift funding sources. It is also important to understand that opportunities for the ability to acquire land or the option to develop a project can arise and change the proposed project list. Under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), the County reviews the CIP on an annual basis and can make a with the adoption of the annual budget.

The CIP is presented in Table 7.1. CIP costs for each Park Cost Item are based upon similar project comparison, judgement, and analogy and represents schematic maturity of planning and design. Further concept and preliminary design will be necessary to further define costs prior to funding requests.

Table 7.1 Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Capital Improvement Plan – 2022-2028

Park	Code*	Description	Capital Costs	Commissioner District
<i>Highest Priority Capital Projects</i>				
Foothills	R	Renovate & delineate parking area	\$102,000.00	2
Foothills	MP	Master Plan	\$20,000.00	2
Foothills	NF	Nature trail signage	\$6,800.00	2
Foothills	NF	ADA Parking	\$34,000.00	2
Foothills	NF	ADA Pathway from Shelter to Restroom	\$25,500.00	2
Foothills	NF	ADA Pathway from Parking to Playground	\$25,500.00	2
Foothills	NF	Picnic tables & Pads	\$30,600.00	2
Latimer's Landing	R	Replace Boarding Floats	\$680,000.00	1
Latimer's Landing	NF	Information Kiosk	\$17,000.00	1
Mason County Recreation Area	MP	Master Plan	\$20,000.00	3
Mason County Recreation Area	NT	Perimeter Trail Development	\$136,000.00	3
Sandhill County Park	R	Replace/renovate Outfield (fields 3, 4, 5 & 6)	\$408,000.00	1

*** Improvement Code Key:**

- R = Renovation NF = New Facilities
 MP = Master Plan NT = New Trails

Table 7.1 (continued) Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Capital Improvement Plan – 2022-2028

Park	Code*	Description	Capital Costs	Commissioner District
Sandhill County Park	R	Replace perimeter fencing	\$40,800.00	1
Sandhill County Park	NF	Synthetic Turf Football/Soccer Field with Illumination	\$3,969,500.00	1
Sandhill County Park	NF	New Playground	\$510,000.00	1
Sandhill County Park	NF	Maintenance Shop	\$1,530,000.00	1
Truman Glick Memorial Park	R	Shelter pad - level with surrounding grade	\$17,000.00	2
Truman Glick Memorial Park	R	Re-paint entrance gate	\$2,040.00	2
Truman Glick Memorial Park	NT	Interpretive trails & signage	\$85,000.00	2
Union Boat Ramp	MP	Master Plan	\$20,000.00	2
Union Community Park	R	Pickleball Striping on Basketball Court, New Net	\$42,500.00	2
Union Community Park	NF	ADA Parking	\$51,000.00	2
Union Community Park	NF	ADA Route to Restroom, Shelter & Playground	\$59,500.00	2
Walker Park	NF	Basketball/Pickleball Court	\$272,000.00	2
Walker Park	NF	Renovate Picnic Shelter	\$238,000.00	2
Menards Landing	NF	Interpretive signage	\$20,400.00	1
Menards Landing	NF	Beach access pathway & stairs	\$68,000.00	1
Highest Priority Capital Projects Total			\$8,431,140.00	
Moderate Priority Capital Projects				
Foothills County Park	R	Lawn renovation	\$7,500.00	2
Foothills County Park	NF	Irrigation system	\$212,500.00	2
Mason Lake County Park	R	Renovate Restrooms	\$221,000.00	1
Sandhill County Park	NF	Stair to Fields 4, 5, & 6	\$136,000.00	1
Walker Park	NF	Beach access pathway & stairs	\$102,000.00	3
Rendsland Park	NF	Picnic Shelter	\$170,000.00	1
Moderate Priority Capital Projects Total			\$849,000.00	
Low Priority Capital Projects				
Union Community Park	NF	Large Shelter & Lighting	\$374,000.00	2
Watson Wildwood Park	NT	Mountain Bike Trails	\$179,520.00	2
Low Priority Capital Projects Total			\$553,520.00	
CIP Projects Total			\$ 9,833,660.00	

*** Improvement Code Key:**

R = Renovation NF = New Facilities
 MP = Master Plan NT = New Trails

7.3 Potential Funding Sources and Acquisition Methods

Mason County's annual general government expenditures are derived from the combination of general fund, special revenue, capital projects funds and debt service. The following is a listing of suggestions for possible sources of funds for capital facility projects or sources of matching grants for implementation of current and future recommendations.

Capital projects can secure matching grant funds from a variety of sources, which include local taxes and County funding, as well as state and federal capital fund programs which are listed below in detail.

7.3.1 Funding Sources

Funding for park and trail development, recreation facilities, and acquisition projects comes from a variety of revenue sources described in this section, including local taxes, impact fees, bonds, and grants.

Local Funding Options

GENERAL FUND

This source primarily funds general operations and maintenance. Capital projects are occasionally funded from these sources when the capacity exists, usually via a transfer of funds to the Capital Improvement Program Fund (CIP).

This category includes general funds allocated to the Mason County Parks and Recreation Department for annual expenditures and capital development. Revenue is generated largely through sales and property tax.

SALES TAX

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of cities and counties to impose sales and use taxes at a rate set by the statute to help "carry out essential county and municipal purposes"¹. The authority is divided into two parts. Cities may impose by resolution or ordinance a sales and use tax at a rate of ½% on any taxable event within their jurisdictions. Cities may also impose an additional sales tax at a rate up to ½% on any taxable event within the city. In this case, the statute provides an

electoral process for repealing the tax or altering the rate.

REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX (REET)

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of counties and cities to impose excise taxes on the sale of real property within limits set by the statute. This authority may be divided into three parts relevant to park systems.

Real Estate Excise Tax 1 (REET 1)

A county may impose a real estate excise tax (REET 1) on the sale of all real property in the unincorporated parts of the county, at a rate not to exceed 0.25% of the selling price, to fund "local capital improvements," including parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, water systems, bridges, and sewers. REET 1 funds must be used "primarily for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan" (RCW 82.46.010).

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 2)

A REET 2 may only be levied by cities and counties planning under the Growth Management Act. REET 2 revenues must be used "solely for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan" (RCW 82.46.035). Cities and counties can use REET 2 revenues for operations and maintenance (O&M) of existing capital projects. The maximum amount of REET 2 that may be spent on O&M is the greater of \$100,000 or 35% of the available funds, not to exceed \$1 million. Counties may only use REET 2 revenues to pay existing debt service on capital projects listed in RCW 82.46.010(6) – the kinds of capital projects that may be done with REET 1 revenues. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2 receipts.

Real Estate Excise Tax – Local Conservation Areas

Boards of County Commissioners may impose, with majority voter approval, an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at rate not to exceed 1% of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. These areas include "open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna."

¹ <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.14>

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

Excess Levy

Washington law allows cities and counties, along with other specified junior taxing districts, to levy property taxes in excess of limitations imposed by statute when authorized by the voters². Levy approval requires 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election.

Regular Property Tax – Lid Lift

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property³. A city's maximum levy rate for general purposes is \$3.375 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall; however, in no case may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period.

CONSERVATION FUTURES TAX

Pursuant to RCW 84.34.210 and 84.32.220, the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) is a land preservation program that protects, preserves, maintains, improves, restores, and limits the future use of threatened areas of open space, timberlands, wetlands, habitat areas, culturally significant sites, and agricultural farmlands at the County level⁴. The CFT is a useful tool for counties to preserve land of public interest for future generations in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County. CFT funds, acquired through a property tax levy, are used to purchase land or the rights to future development of land. This provides a reliable and predictable source of funds to help acquire interests in open space, habitat areas, wetlands, farm, agricultural and timberlands for conservation. However, some counties have purchased regional parks and sites for trail use as well. A portion of the funds from the Conservation Futures tax levy can be

dedicated to the cost of maintaining and operating the property.

IMPACT FEES

Impact fees are charges placed on new development as a condition of development approval to help pay for various public facilities the need for which is directly created by that new growth and development⁵. Counties, cities, and towns may impose impact fees on residential and commercial "development activity" to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space and recreation facilities. Funds received must be spent on approved capital projects within 10 years of collection.

BONDS

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds⁶. Bonds provide the borrower with external funds to finance long-term investments or, in the case of government bonds, to finance expenditures.

Councilmanic Bonds

Councilmanic bonds may be sold by cities without public vote. The bonds, both principal and interest, are retired with payments from existing city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. The state constitution has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of 1-1/2% of the value of taxable property in the city.

General Obligation Bond

Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. The state constitution (Article VIII, Section 6) limits total debt to 5% of the total assessed value of property in the jurisdiction.

2 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.52.052>

3 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.55.050>

4 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.34>

5 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.02.050>

6 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.52.056>

Federal and State Grants and Conservation Programs

Most grant programs require a portion of the project cost to be provided by a local partner as match funding. Grants from State and Federal Agencies are generally available for the acquisition, construction, or development of parks and other recreation facilities.

AQUATIC LANDS ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT (ALEA)

In 1984, the Washington State Legislature created this grant program, managed through the RCO, to ensure that money generated from aquatic lands was used to protect and enhance those lands. Grants may be used for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes. They also may be used to provide or improve public access to the waterfront. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

BOATING FACILITIES PROGRAM (BFP)

This program was created in 1965 by a voter-approved initiative. The program provides grants to acquire, develop, and renovate boating facilities, including launching ramps, guest moorage, and support facilities on both freshwater and saltwater. Local and tribal government grant recipients must provide at least 25% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. The program is funded from a portion of the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by boaters and not refunded as allowed by law and is only applicable toward trailerable boating.

BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (BIG)

The Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program funds guest boating facilities for recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Grant recipients must provide at least 25% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. This program is funded from a portion of the federal Aquatic Resources Trust Fund, and is administered locally by the RCO.

ESTUARY AND SALMON RESTORATION PROGRAM (ESRP)

This program provides grants and technical assistance for projects that restore and conserve near-shore areas in Puget Sound. The goal is to ensure Washington's estuaries, bays, and shorelines

are intact, functioning, and resilient to climate change. This grant program is managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife with RCO administering the grants.

HERITAGE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (HCPF)

This competitive grant program was authorized in 1995 (RCW 27.34.330). Administered by the Washington State Historical Society, the purpose of HCPF is to interpret and preserve Washington's history and heritage. To meet the legislative intent of the HCPF, applicants for HCPF grants must be eligible entities with eligible projects. Heritage Capital Projects (HCP) grants can cover up to 1/3 of the cost of eligible capital projects that preserve and interpret Washington's history and heritage. Local agencies must match 50%.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

The LWCF provides grants to buy land and develop outdoor facilities, including parks, trails, and wildlife lands, for the public. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources. All property acquired or developed with these grants must be kept forever exclusively for public outdoor recreation use.

NONHIGHWAY AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ACTIVITIES (NOVA) PROGRAM

The NOVA program provides funding to develop and manage recreation opportunities for such activities as cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, motorcycling, and riding all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles. A portion of the funding also is available for education and enforcement programs that encourage environmentally responsible use of the outdoors. Except for off-road vehicle facilities, activities supported by this program must be accessed via a non-highway road, which is a public road that was not built or maintained with gasoline tax funding. Funding is awarded every other year and comes from a portion of the state gasoline tax and off-road vehicle use permits.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)

RTP provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range

of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and rerouting of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses. RTP is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and grants are administered locally by the RCO.

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION PROGRAM (WWRP)

Managed by the RCO, the WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties, and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails, and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year. The State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

YOUTH ATHLETIC FACILITIES (YAF) PROGRAM

The YAF Program provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified nonprofit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) PROGRAM

BUILD Grants are administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Eligible projects for BUILD Grants are capital projects that include trail and active transportation projects, as well as multimodal projects with trail and active transportation elements.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

This program provides landowners the opportunity to preserve, enhance, and restore wetlands and associated uplands. The program is voluntary and provides three enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 10-year

restoration costshare agreements. In all cases, landowners retain the underlying ownership in the property and management responsibility. Land uses may be allowed that are compatible with the program goal of protecting and restoring the wetlands and associated uplands. The National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) manages the program and may provide technical assistance.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)

These funds, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), are intended to develop viable urban communities by providing a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. CDBG Public Facilities and Improvements funds may be used for the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of public facilities, including parks, playgrounds, aesthetic amenities, and parking lots.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS

In past years, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has sought grant proposals from eligible applicants to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. Although currently not appropriated, this program may become available in future years.

RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE (RTCA) PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways⁷. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT GRANTS PROGRAM (USFW)

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations

⁷ <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/>

and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife⁸. Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute toward a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

Other Methods and Funding Sources

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

Metropolitan park districts may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. In addition to acquiring and managing their own lands, metropolitan districts may accept and manage park and recreation lands and equipment turned over by any city within the district or by the county⁹. Formation of a metropolitan park district may be initiated in cities of five thousand population or more by city council ordinance, or by petition, and requires majority approval by voters for creation.

PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities and must be initiated by petition of at least 15% percent of the registered voters within the proposed district¹⁰. Upon

completion of the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at the next general election. Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies and general obligation bonds. All three require 60% percent voter approval and 40% percent voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS / DONATIONS

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

INTERAGENCY OR INTER-LOCAL (ILA) AGREEMENTS

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

PRIVATE GRANTS, DONATIONS & GIFTS

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

8 <https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act/how-to-apply-for-a-nawca-grant.php>

9 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=35.61>

10 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.69>

7.3.2 Land Acquisition Tools and Methods

Like funding sources, a variety of tools and methods exist for acquiring land for future parks facilities.

Direct Purchase Methods

MARKET VALUE PURCHASE

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the county purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal.

Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

PARTIAL VALUE PURCHASE (BARGAIN SALE)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

LIFE ESTATES AND BEQUESTS

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the county, but reserves the right to continue to live on and use the property. At the time of the landowner's death, full title and control over the property is transferred to the county. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the county upon death. While a life estate offers the county some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the county in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

GIFT DEED

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessor's office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

OPTION TO PURCHASE AGREEMENT

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the county that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

In this agreement, the landowner grants the county the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the county. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Landowner Incentive Measures

DENSITY BONUSES

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows landowners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop

beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments (e.g., Mason County) may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the “sending” and “receiving” property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 EXCHANGE

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of likekind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031. This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the county.

CURRENT (OPEN SPACE) USE TAXATION PROGRAMS

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their “highest and best” use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Chapter 84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years’ worth of differential tax rates is waived. The amount of this tax liability can be part of the negotiated land acquisition from private to public or quasi-public conservation purposes.

Easements and Dedication

CONSERVATION AND/OR ACCESS EASEMENTS

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with their property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner’s promise not to exercise those rights.

This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the county that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection; the landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat.

PARK OR OPEN SPACE DEDICATION REQUIREMENTS

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Chapter 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law, developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development’s impact.

Other Land Protection Options

LAND TRUSTS AND CONSERVANCIES

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. Capitol Land Trust is a local organization accredited by the Land Trust Alliance working to conserve natural areas and working lands in southwest Washington. Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.

REGULATORY MEASURES

A variety of regulatory measures for land protection are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include Mason County’s Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Program; the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); and the State Hydraulic Code.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE UTILITY CORRIDORS

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some

utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.

7.4 New Parks / Trails

New Parks and Trails are listed in Appendix B. These facilities will require further Scoping and Feasibility Analysis to determine the type, size, location, environmental impacts, and capital/maintenance costs in order for the Commission to render decisions on these projects.

7.5 Projects Proposed by other Mason County Public Agencies

Several Mason County Public Agencies have proposed park, recreation and trail improvements separate from Mason County's PROST Plan; refer to list in Appendix B. Whereas these agencies intend to pursue these opportunities on their own, Mason County may consider endorsing and supporting these projects as they develop.

APPENDIX A

Facility Inventory

Appendix A provides history and describes conditions and planned development for each of the Mason County Parks.

Collectively, the ideal park system for Mason County is one that provides a variety of park types offering certain types of recreation and open space opportunities. Each park separately may serve a basic function, but together they provide a network of needs for the entire community. The Mason County park system is centered on the ideal that local areas across the county should have the ability to be served by regional or natural open space areas or have the opportunity to enjoy community parks and neighborhood parks that provides both passive and active recreational opportunities.

The parks and open space areas defined in this plan are intended to achieve a number of purposes that reflect the Mission Statement to *provide a diverse system of safe, attractive, and professionally maintained parks, trails and recreation opportunities designed to enhance the quality of life for all who reside in and visit Mason County.*

Inventory

The following individual park descriptions provide the basic elements of the each park with history, planned development, site improvements with a site photo and/or aerial location map. These facility inventory sheets are included for the following parks:

- ◆ Coulter Creek
- ◆ Decker Creek
- ◆ Harstine Island Park
- ◆ Harvey Rendsland/Jiggs Lake Park
- ◆ Hunter Park
- ◆ Jacoby/Shorecrest
- ◆ Menards Landing (Boat Launch)
- ◆ Oakland Bay Historical Park
- ◆ Phillips Lake Park
- ◆ Sunset Bluff
- ◆ Watson Wildwood View Park

Additionally, an in-depth analysis was completed on the following parks by Robert W. Droll and Associates. The Park Master Plan description includes vicinity and location maps, quantified assessment of existing park conditions, current and proposed improvements, capital funding cost estimates and identified capital funding amount and sources previously secured either for acquisition or development or for both acquisition and development of the park site. These Master Site Plans were completed for the following park sites:

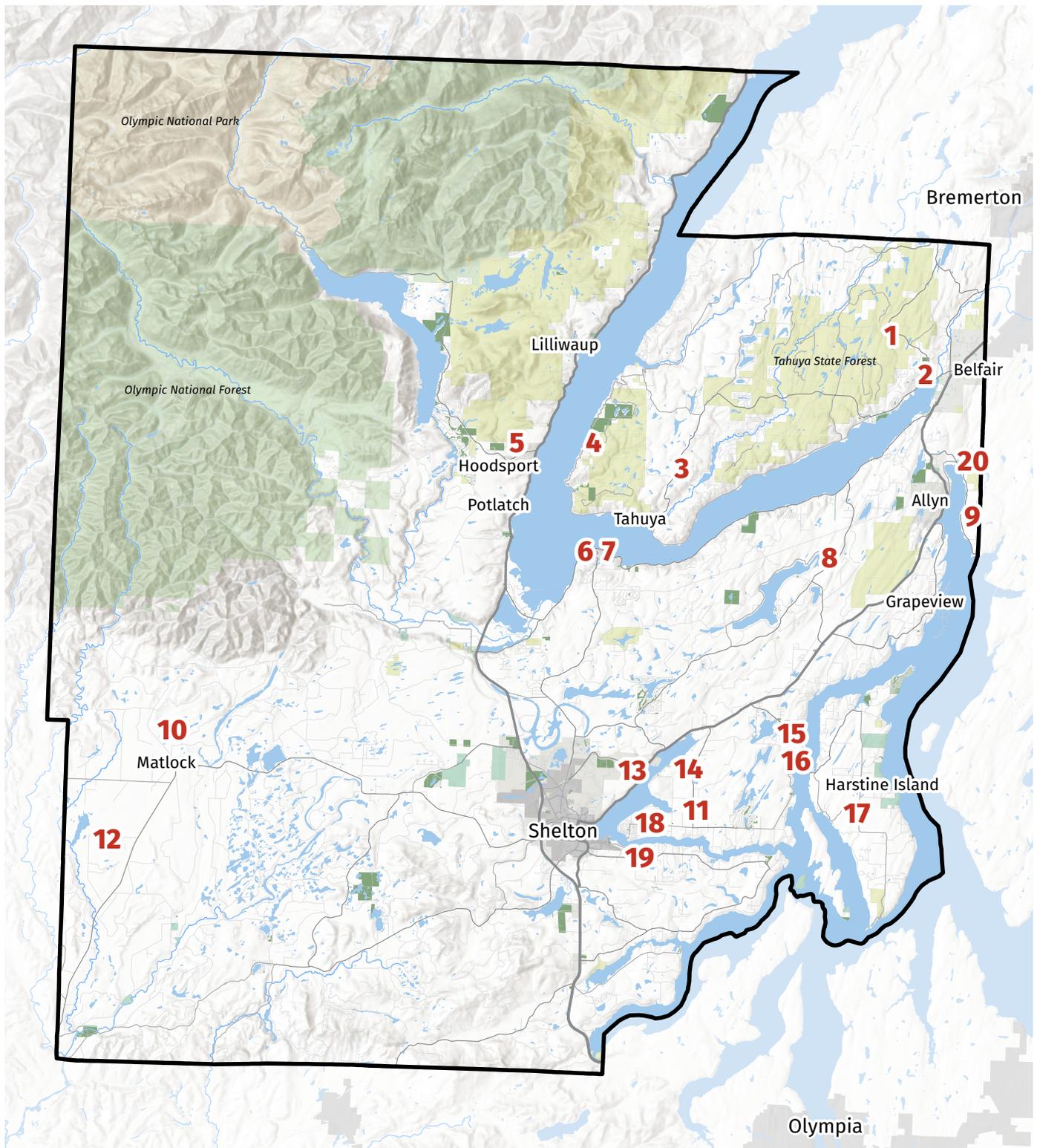
- ◆ Foothills County Park
- ◆ Latimer's Landing
- ◆ Mason County Recreation Area
- ◆ Mason Lake County Park
- ◆ Sandhill County Park
- ◆ Truman Glick Memorial Park
- ◆ Union Boat Ramp
- ◆ Union Park
- ◆ Walker Park

Index of Existing Mason County Parks (Alphabetical)

Map #*	Park Name	Park Type	Acreage
20	Coulter Creek Park	Community Park	113.00
12	Decker Creek Park	Natural Open Space	500.00
5	Foothills County Park	Neighborhood Park (10 acres) Natural Open Space (70 acres)	80.00
17	Harstine Island Park	Natural Open Space	6.90
3	Harvey Rendsland/Jiggs Lake Park	Community Park	15.00
2	Hunter Park	Neighborhood Park	0.15
18	Jacoby/Shorecrest County Park	Community Park	2.80
16	Latimer's Landing County Park	Community Park	5.00
13	Mason County Recreation Area	Regional Park	40.00
8	Mason Lake County Park	Community Park	17.36
4	Menards Landing (Boat Launch)	Community Park	7.40
14	Oakland Bay Historical Park	Regional Park	81.87
15	Phillips Lake County Park	Community Park	0.40
1	Sandhill County Park	Regional Park	30.00
11	Sunset Bluff Park	Community Park	36.00
10	Truman Glick Memorial Park	Community Park	35.46
7	Union Boat Ramp	Community Park	0.16
6	Union County Park	Neighborhood Park	1.92
19	Walker County Park	Community Park	5.04
9	Watson Wildwood View Park	Natural Open Space	36.00
Total			1014.46

* Refer to inventory map on the following page for park locations

Mason County Park Inventory Map



- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Sandhill County Park | 8 Mason Lake County Park | 15 Phillips Lake County Park |
| 2 Hunter Park | 9 Watson Wildwood View Park | 16 Latimers Landing County Park |
| 3 Rendsland County Park | 10 Truman Glick County Park | 17 Harstine Island Park |
| 4 Menards Landing | 11 Sunset Bluff Park | 18 Jacoby/Shorecrest County Park |
| 5 Foothills County Park | 12 Decker Creek Park | 19 Walker County Park |
| 6 Union County Park | 13 Mason County Recreation Area | 20 Coulter Creek Park |
| 7 Union Boat Ramp | 14 Oakland Bay Historical Park | |

Coulter Creek Park

Inventory Map #20

TYPE: Community Park

LOCATION: North Bay Road and State Route 302, Belfair (tip of Case Inlet)

SIZE: 114 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Developed

AMENITIES: Picnic tables, vault toilet, parking



PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ Fishing
- ◆ Water access
- ◆ Trails
- ◆ Wildlife viewing
- ◆ Natural areas
- ◆ Picnicking
- ◆ Restroom
- ◆ ADA
- ◆ Passive recreation
- ◆ Dogs allowed

Purchased in 2012 and 2016 with matching grant funds from the Recreation and Conservation Office. State matching grant #10-1601 WWRP-WA.

Decker Creek Park

Inventory Map #12

TYPE: Natural Open Space

LOCATION: West Mason County

SIZE: 500 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Undeveloped

AMENITIES: None

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ None planned

Purchased from Green Diamond Resource Company in 2010. State matching grants 06-1943 WWRP-RP-ACQ and 06-2151 SAL-PRG-FED.

Harstine Island Park

Inventory Map #17

TYPE: Natural Open Space

LOCATION: 2411 Harstine Island Road N, Shelton

SIZE: 6.9 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Undeveloped

AMENITIES: None

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ None planned

Purchased in December 2002. Harstine Island Park could possibly be leased to a group desiring to develop the Harstine Island Theater at the park site. Washington State Parks owns a 300-acre park that is located adjacent to Harstine Island Park. At the present time, Harstine Island Park is all natural and has not been developed.



Harvey Rendland (Jiggs Lake) Park

Inventory Map #3

TYPE: Community Park

LOCATION: 10991 NE Belfair Tahuya Road, Tahuya

SIZE: 15.0 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Undeveloped

AMENITIES: Entry road/water access, parking



PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ Picnicking
- ◆ Trails
- ◆ Additional parking
- ◆ Signage
- ◆ Picnic shelter

This park was transferred from Washington State Parks to Mason County in 2008. Currently undeveloped, the park consists of 15 acres and includes approximately 1,900 ft. of waterfront access to Jiggs Lake. A Master Plan with costs estimates has been completed.

Hunter Park

Inventory Map #2

TYPE: Neighborhood Park

LOCATION: Clifton Lane and Old Belfair Highway, Belfair

SIZE: 0.15 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Developed as bus stop area

AMENITIES: ADA, passive recreation, bench, bus stop

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ No current County capital plans
- ◆ Private project funding for bus shelter

Acquired in 1996. Smaller park located in Belfair that includes a major connecting regional route system from Mason County Transit. Connections to Bremerton/Seattle Ferry provide access to the greater Seattle services. The site has a bus stop, benches and a small amount of open space. In 2012 volunteers and private donors provided a new public art piece at the Park. The piece, titled "Beginning Again Once More" was created by artist James Kelsy.



Jacoby (Shorecrest) Park

Inventory Map #18

TYPE: Community Park

LOCATION: 120 E Shorecrest Parkway, Shelton

SIZE: 2.80 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Developed regional active sports park

AMENITIES: Boat launch, fishing, covered shelter, barbecue grills, restrooms, day use picnic area, children's play area, passive recreation, parking

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ None planned

Deeded to County on May 18, 1959 by Lillian Peterson, Marie Bloom, Retta Hultgren, Emerson and Evelyn White. Located along Hammersley Inlet. Park includes beach access, boat launch, picnic shelter, and play area.



Menards Landing (Boat Launch)

Inventory Map #4

TYPE: Community Park

LOCATION: 18931 NE North Shore Road, Tahuya

SIZE: 7.4 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Developed

AMENITIES: Hand carry boat launch, fishing, picnicking, walking and jogging, barbecues, picnic shelter, restroom, passive recreation, parking

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ Possible trailhead for trail to Harvey Rendsland Park

This small park was transferred to Mason County when the Port of Tahuya dissolved. Site improvements have been completed in partnership with the Washington Water Trails Association (WWTP). State matching grants 89-033 ALEA ACQ and 07-1406 RTP. The park provides beach access, a small boat launch for kayaks or canoes, picnic areas, and a gazebo. Also available at the site is a portable toilet and access to adjacent DNR tidelands.



Oakland Bay Historical Park

Inventory Map #14

TYPE: Regional Park

LOCATION: 1570 E Agate Bay Road, Shelton

SIZE: 81.87 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Developed phases and natural areas

AMENITIES: Walking/jogging, open space with limited paths/trails, picnicking, vault toilet, parking, access to Malaney Creek and Oakland Bay, site of Malaney Historical Homestead

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ Exterior restoration to historical home
- ◆ Bird watching platform/view point
- ◆ Environmental education area/shelter
- ◆ Interpretive information areas



Oakland Bay Park was purchased in a partnership arrangement with the Capital Land Trust in 2005. State matching grants 09-1396 LWCF. The park has waterfront access to Oakland Bay and is the site of an old homestead and orchard area. The park is mostly timberland with a gravel road accessing the home. In 2012 Oakland Bay Historical Park with the Malaney-O'Neill historic home was listed on the Washington Heritage Register of Historic Places. No pets are allowed at this park.

Phillips Lake Park

Inventory Map #15

TYPE: Community Park

LOCATION: 50 E Phillips Lake Loop Road, Shelton

SIZE: 0.40 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Developed water access

AMENITIES: Boat launch, fishing, small picnic area, restroom, parking

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ None planned

Deeded to County on August 19, 1951 by Edward Clifford for \$1.00. The park is adjacent to a boat launch owned by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Sunset Bluff Park

Inventory Map #11

TYPE: Community Park

LOCATION: End of Sunset Road, Shelton

SIZE: 36 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Undeveloped natural open space

AMENITIES: Fishing, water access, nature areas, passive recreation, parking

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ Access path and trail to beach
- ◆ Informational/interpretive signage
- ◆ ADA
- ◆ Restroom



Purchased from Trust for Public Lands in 2012. State matching grant Phase I #10-1061 LWCF.

Watson Wildwood View Park

Inventory Map #9

TYPE: Neighborhood Park

LOCATION: Highway 302/Watson Lane, Victor

SIZE: 36 acres

OWNERSHIP/DEED RESTRICTION: Mason County

STATUS: Undeveloped

AMENITIES: Parking, trails, picnicking



PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

- ◆ Access road and parking
- ◆ Vault toilet
- ◆ Trails
- ◆ Signage
- ◆ Viewpoint

Land donated in memory of John Houghton Watson and Alma Katherine Lowe Watson by their children John, Alan and Katherine in 2000. Located in Victor, this park is completely natural consisting of 36 acres of timberland.



Mason County PROS Plan

Foothills County Park

Inventory Map # 5

Address
Parcel Number
Size
Ownership/Deed Restriction
Status
Development Costs
Comments

241 N Foothills Park Road, Hoodsport
42210-40-60000
80.0 acres total: 10.0 acres Neighborhood Park / 70.0 acres Natural Open Space
Mason County
Developed/Natural Area
\$476,580
Foothills County Park has been Mason County owned since 1937, and was dedicated for park use on August 2, 1982. Dogs are currently allowed.

EXISTING FACILITIES			
Amenities	Condition		
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Multi-use field (baseball & soccer)			●
Basketball Court & Hoops	●		
Concrete Paths	●		
Natural Areas		●	
Restroom		●	
Platform/Stage Structure			●
Playground Equipment	●		
Parking Area			●
Picnic Table			●
Crushed Rock Roads		●	
Park Host Area	●		
Field Perimeter Fence		●	



Vicinity Map



Location Map



Basketball Court & Restroom



Multi-Use Field & Playground



Shelter Structure

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Amenities	Maintenance / Operations
<p>Signage for nature trails Park entry sign Reseed/sod turf in multi-use field Delineate parking area Pathway from play area to restroom New platform/stage structure New picnic tables New irrigation system for turf Renovate restrooms</p>	



Mason County PROS Plan

Latimer's Landing

Inventory Map #16

Address
Parcel Number
Size
Ownership/Deed Restriction
Status
Development Costs
Comments

Launch: 51 E Harstine Bridge Road, Shelton / Parking: 3291 Pickering Road, Shelton
22004-41-60040, 22004-41-00040, 22004-41-60090
3.0 acres total: 1.0 acre Boat Ramp / 2.0 acres Parking Area
Mason County
Developed
\$139,500
Latimer's Landing was purchased on July 18, 1968 for \$6,869.77.

EXISTING FACILITIES			
Amenities	Condition		
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Boat Launch	●		
Fishing Area	●		
Pier	●		
Dock	●		
Gangway	●		
Portable Toilet		●	
Picnicking Areas	●		
ADA Paths (Crushed Rock)	●		
Parking Lot	●		



Vicinity Map



Location Map



Parking Area



Day Use Park



Boat Launch

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Amenities	Maintenance / Operations
<p>Information kiosk Portable toilet enclosure No Parking sign for striped area Park entry sign Develop beach access</p>	<p>Garbage control</p>



Mason County PROS Plan

Mason County Recreation Area

Inventory Map # 13

Address
Parcel Number
Size
Ownership/Deed Restriction
Status
Development Costs
Comments

E 2100 Johns Prairie Road, Shelton
32005-40-60010
40.0 acres
Mason County
Developed Regional Active Sports Park
\$6,903,300

**Mason County Recreation Area was given to Mason County by the Port of Shelton-
dedicated on September 15, 1978.**

EXISTING FACILITIES			
Amenities	Condition		
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Ball Fields (baseball/softball) - Natural Turf (5)		●	
Ball Fields (baseball) - Synthetic Turf (2)	●		
Playground	●		
Restroom/Caretaker's Residence		●	
Parking Lot		●	
Picnicking Areas		●	
ADA Paths		●	
Batting Cages		●	
Concessions Area		●	
Storage Building		●	
Irrigation		●	



Vicinity Map



Location Map



Playground



Natural Turf Field



Synthetic Turf Field

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Amenities	Maintenance / Operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthetic infields (fields 6,7) Playground curb Canopy over bleachers Spray ground Pave all areas adjacent to fields Fence adjacent to pump house Field 5- cut/smooth lip & exp. to regulation size Field 6- replace dugout trim board/add flashing Replace backstop fence fabric Synthetic turf rings for practice areas New info kiosk, signage, entry sign, field numbers Lights on Fields 2 & 3 Perimeter walking paths Expand restroom Batting cage renovation New irrigation system New picnic shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refill wood chips in playground Clean restroom/caretaker's residence gutters Permanently attach park furniture Re-paint dugouts Re-side pump house Fill in field potholes Replace field sod where necessary Fix water fountain Pave & re-stripe parking lot Acquire new mowers Repair/replace irrigation system



Mason County PROS Plan

Mason Lake County Park

Inventory Map # 8

Address
Parcel Number
Size
Ownership/Deed Restriction
Status
Development Costs
Comments

E 6011 Mason Lake Drive W, Grapeview
22234-21-60010, 22233-51-00131
17.36 acres
Mason County
Developed Waterfront Park
\$159,375
Mason Lake County Park was deeded on August 20, 1951 by W.C. Madding for \$1.00.

EXISTING FACILITIES			
Amenities	Condition		
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Boat Launch	●		
Fishing Area	●		
Nature Areas	●		
Restrooms		●	
Parking Lots (main & overflow)	●		
Picnicking Area	●		



Vicinity Map



Location Map



Dock & Boat Launch



Overflow Parking Area



Restroom

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Amenities	Maintenance / Operations
<p>Information kiosk Park entry sign Renovate restroom</p>	<p>Silt removal on as-needed basis Pressure wash restroom roof Remove logs on beach</p>



Mason County PROS Plan

Sandhill County Park

Inventory Map # 1

Address
Parcel Number
Size
Ownership/Deed Restriction
Status
Development Costs
Comments

NE 1000 Sandhill Road, Belfair
12330-14-60000
30.00 acres
Mason County
Developed Regional Active Sports Park
\$2,498,935
Sandhill County Park was deeded to the County on May 4, 1982 by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

● Fields 1-3 ● Fields 4-7

EXISTING FACILITIES			
Amenities	Condition		
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Ball Fields	●●(3)		●(1,2)
Restroom/Concessions Building	●	●	
Picnicking Areas	●	●	
Walking/Jogging Paths	●		●
ADA Pathways	●	●	
Parking Lot	●●		
Caretaker's Residence		●	
Tunnel			●
Utility Building	●	●	
Fencing	●		●
Bleachers	●		●
Dugouts	●		●



Vicinity Map



Location Map



Field 3 Approach



Dugout



Field 3

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Amenities	Maintenance / Operations
<p>Ball field renovation (fields 1 & 2) Park entry sign Repair tunnel access Field 1- Replace stairs, backstop, infield Field 2- New backstop Field 3- Replace outfield Fields 1,2,3- New bleachers, outfields, fencing Develop stronger link between fields 1,2,3 Improve drainage- multiple fields Play Area Equipment New Multi-Purpose Synthetic Field w/ Lights P</p>	<p>Weed control Grafitti removal Dugouts level with surrounding grade Gopher control</p>



Mason County PROS Plan

Truman Glick Memorial Park

Inventory Map # 10

Address
Parcel Number
Size
Ownership/Deed Restriction
Status
Development Costs
Comments

W 1291 Ford Road, Matlock

62004-33-60000

35.46 acres

Mason County

Developed

\$190,800

Truman Glick Memorial Park was donated to Mason County, deeded on August 17, 1978.

EXISTING FACILITIES			
Amenities	Condition		
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Picnic Shelter	●		
Crushed Rock Drive	●		
Barbecues		●	
Playground	●		
Decker Creek Bridge		●	
Restroom	●		
Horseshoes Area			●
Nature Areas	●		
Walking/Jogging Trails		●	
Parking Area		●	
Open Field	●		
Park Entrance		●	
Utility Buildings		●	



Vicinity Map



Location Map



Field & Shelter



Memorial Marker



Decker Creek Bridge

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Amenities	Maintenance / Operations
<p>More prominent memorial marker Park entrance sign Develop trails with signage New picnic tables Redevelop horse shoe areas (4)</p>	<p>Weed control- lawn at park entrance & CR trails New paint- entrance gate Pressure wash bridge Pressure wash restroom & utility building roofs More wood chips for playground area Shelter level with surrounding grade</p>



Mason County PROS Plan

Union Boat Ramp

Inventory Map # 7

Address
Parcel Number
Size
Ownership/Deed Restriction
Status
Development Costs
Comments

E 5093 State Route 106, Union
00000-00-00000
0.16 acres
Mason County
Developed Water Access
\$1,193,000
No information.

EXISTING FACILITIES			
Amenities	Condition		
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Boat Launch			●
Fishing Area			●
Parking Area (limited)			●
Portable Toilet		●	
Access Drive		●	



Vicinity Map



Location Map

Union Boat Ramp



Access Drive



Boat Launch



Concrete Launch

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Amenities	Maintenance / Operations
<p>Pier / Dock Gangway New launch Pave access drive Improved parking San-i-can enclosure New park entry sign</p>	



Mason County PROS Plan

Union Park

Inventory Map #6

Address
Parcel Number
Size
Ownership/Deed Restriction
Status
Development Costs
Comments

E 61 Port Townsend Street, Union
32232-32-60010, 32232-52-03021
1.92 acres
Mason County
Developed Community Park
\$376,740
Union Park was deeded to the County on September 14, 1990 by Mural and Delmer Fassio for \$1.00.

EXISTING FACILITIES			
Amenities	Condition		
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Ball Field			●
Picnicking Areas	●		
Restroom		●	
Play Area	●		
Picnic Shelter	●		
Barbecues		●	
Basketball Court			●
Parking Area		●	
Crushed Rock Pathways	●		
Stone planters	●		
Fencing	●		



Vicinity Map



Location Map

Union Park



Basketball Court & Restroom



Play Area



Picnic Shelter

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Amenities	Maintenance / Operations
<p>Resurface basketball court Replace split rail fence New park entrance sign Renovate Restroom Renovate ballfield</p>	<p>Graffiti removal Weed control- lawn Power wash picnic tables Pressure wash building roofs More wood chips for play area Shelter level with surrounding grade</p>



Mason County PROS Plan

Walker Park

Inventory Map # 19

Address
Parcel Number
Size
Ownership/Deed Restriction
Status
Development Costs
Comments

SE 2400 Walker Park Road, Shelton

32021-43-60040

5.04 acres

Mason County

Developed Community Park

\$417,140

Walker Park was deeded to the County on November 2, 1916 by Puget Mill.

EXISTING FACILITIES			
Amenities	Condition		
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Hand Carry Boat Launch		●	
Fishing Area	●		
Picnic Shelter		●	
Picnicking Areas		●	
Barbecues		●	
Passive Use Areas	●		
Play Area	●		
Restrooms		●	
Walking/Jogging Paths		●	
Parking Area		●	
Caretaker's Residence		●	
Bridges		●	



Vicinity Map



Location Map

Walker Park



Hammersley Inlet Access



Picnic Shelter



Play Area

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Amenities	Maintenance / Operations
<p>New park entrance & interpretive signs New information kiosk Reconfigure entrance(s) New site furnishing- trash & water fountain Eliminate basketball court Utility shack- new roof & siding Replace chain link fence barrier Stairs or Ramp to the beach Renovate restrooms Road Culvert Replacement New picnic shelter (basketball court area)</p>	<p>Refill wood chips in play area Shelter- repaint & clean roof</p>

APPENDIX B

Proposed Parks and Trail Facilities

Mason County Proposed New Parks and Trail Facilities

Park Name	Scoping / Feasibility Cost	Commissioner District
Water Cooling Facility / Spray Court	\$15,000.00	To be determined
Shooting Range	\$30,000.00	To be determined
Lower Hood Canal Discovery Trail	\$15,000.00	2
Shelton to Belfair Trail	\$20,000.00	1, 3
Mason Lake to Twanoh State Park Trail	\$30,000.00	1
Belfair to Allyn Trail	\$30,000.00	1
Shelton to MCRA Trail	\$20,000.00	3
North Bay Trail	\$20,000.00	unknown
Camp Govey Trail	\$20,000.00	unknown
Total Scoping/Feasibility Cost	\$200,000.00	

Projects Proposed by Other Mason County Public Agencies

- ◆ Water Wheel / Sweetwater Park
- ◆ Indoor Sports Complex
- ◆ Kennedy Creek Trail Extension
- ◆ Romance Trail Extension

APPENDIX C

Public Participation Plan



Public Participation Plan

Mason County | Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan

Introduction

Parks and recreation contribute to a high quality of life by providing a full range of recreational opportunities for all segments of the population from competitive activities, such as sports and games, to more passive activities, such as walking and enjoying nature. Attractive, well-maintained recreation areas also contribute to the quality of life by providing open space, wildlife habitat, and ground water recharge areas.

Mason County is updating its Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) Plan as identified within the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) and in accordance with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan.

We believe that an inclusive planning process is vital to the success of any effort to provide recreation opportunities and outdoor amenities within our community. Planning that engages people, supporters and opponents alike, will help ensure that the right actions are taken for the right reasons at the right time.

Fundamental to good planning is the collection of local insights and perspectives. Good, quantitative information will strengthen the results of this effort, helping to inform decisions, and leading to the development of a plan that is truly representative of our community.

Who

The Mason County Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with local tribes, the Shelton Metropolitan Park District, local agencies and groups, elected officials, the Parks and Trails Advisory Board and the general public.

What

We're drafting an updated master Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) plan for Mason County. This plan will replace the 2013 Parks and Trails Comprehensive Plan with a single guiding document that will help in decision making, project priority and grant funding over the next 10 years.

When completed, the plan will include:

- A public involvement processes, including timely communications with citizens and elected officials through web updates, presentations and various forms of public outreach
- Community driven evaluation approaches and comprehensive needs assessment
- Identification of potential inter-agency and public/private partnerships
- Evaluation of land, facilities, and program needs, maintenance services, park management, operations funding, as well as recreation program evaluations
- Review of local population trends and regional inputs
- GIS Mapping with updated figures and reference documents
- An updated vision intended to guide identified goals and objectives as they relate to Mason County parks, trails, programs, and open space.

Why

1. Parks, recreation, open space and trails are important to our community.

Parks, trails, and open spaces are an essential part of each day for our community, as they provide opportunities for recreation, transportation, connecting with nature, and help maintain a healthy environment. Access to parks and recreation is an important right of every citizen in the community, and proximity to these resources is an important factor in increasing physical activity which results in a healthier population. In addition, the natural resources conserved by open lands help provide clean air and clean water in the region, as well as wildlife habitat and agricultural land that enrich our community.

2. It's time to update and integrate existing plans.

Currently, two primary plans guide the development of parks, trails and open space. The 2008 Mason County Regional Trails Plan and the 2013 Mason County Parks and Trails Comprehensive Plan. In the years since these two plans were adopted, Mason County has updated the Comprehensive Plan (2017) and drafted an update to adopted Parks and Recreation Plans to better address the roles of Open Space for public benefit (2018).

The Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has also been updated through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, complete with a 2021 manual for the development of planning policies and guidelines. At this same time, Mason County's undeveloped land is coming under greater pressure to accommodate new growth, and existing parks, trails, and open space are experiencing increasing recreational use.

3. Growing populations, levels of understanding and evolving needs.

Since 2010, some 8,000 new residents have moved into Mason County. In this same time, new studies have come out regarding level of service needs; the roles of corridors and buffer zones that provide wildlife movement between areas; changes in technology; environmental health; social equity; and changing demographics and associated needs.

We believe that it is our responsibility to respond to these changes. To better serve the community our guiding plans need to reflect the needs of our residents and their vision for the future. Many of our 2008 and 2013 goals and objectives have also been accomplished or shifted in the past 10 years. The new PROST plan will help Mason County to realize its goals while supporting environmental stewardship and sustainable, long-term growth.

When and How

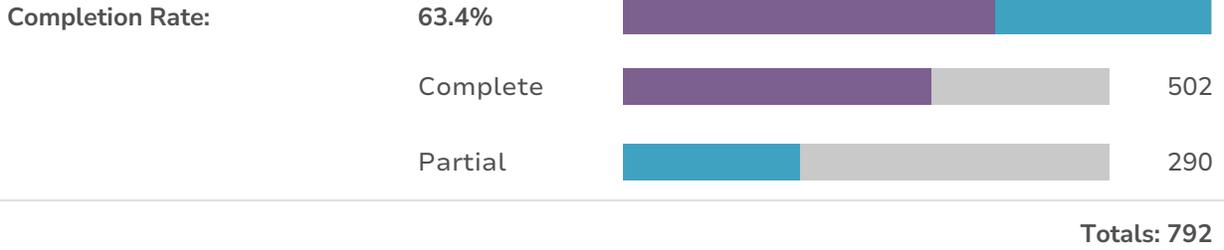
To launch this project, we are engaging in a multi-faceted outreach process that will provide County residents and patrons a variety of opportunities to participate in the plan development. In Fall of 2021, the County is hosting a range of community engagement events that will function as the public project kickoff and the start of the community outreach effort. Regular updates and opportunities for participation will also be made available on the Mason County website. The following page has a project timeline with a target adoption date in February 2022.

APPENDIX D

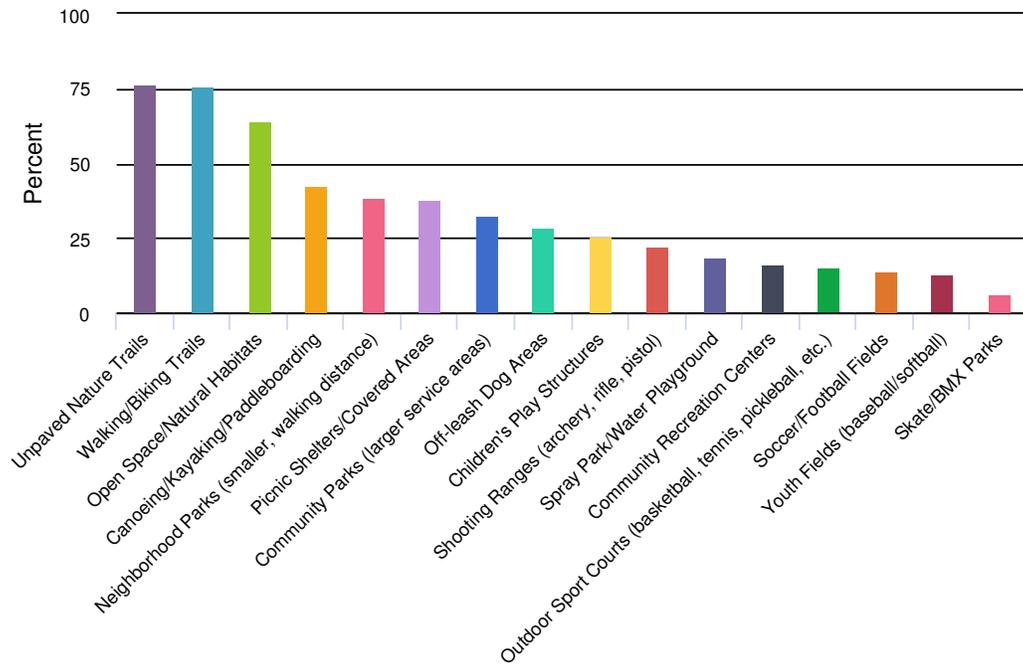
Public Involvement – Survey Responses



Response Counts



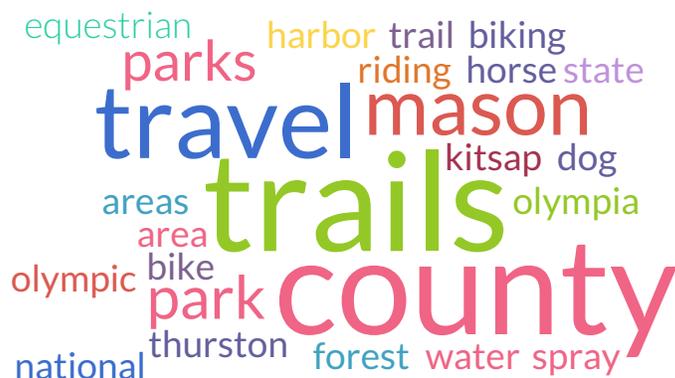
1. What are the types of recreational amenities/facilities that you most regularly frequent or use?(This question is not intended to be specific to Mason County. Please check all that apply for you/your household.)



2. What are the types of recreational amenities/facilities that you most regularly use and value?(Please check all that apply for you/your household) - Text Analysis

Value		Percent	Responses
Unpaved Nature Trails		76.4%	475
Walking/Biking Trails		76.2%	474
Open Space/Natural Habitats		64.5%	401
Canoeing/Kayaking/Paddleboarding		42.8%	266
Neighborhood Parks (smaller, walking distance)		38.6%	240
Picnic Shelters/Covered Areas		38.1%	237
Community Parks (larger service areas)		32.6%	203
Off-leash Dog Areas		28.6%	178
Children's Play Structures		25.9%	161
Shooting Ranges (archery, rifle, pistol)		22.0%	137
Spray Park/Water Playground		19.0%	118
Community Recreation Centers		16.6%	103
Outdoor Sport Courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)		15.1%	94
Soccer/Football Fields		13.8%	86
Youth Fields (baseball/softball)		13.0%	81
Skate/BMX Parks		6.4%	40

3. Let us know if you currently travel outside the Mason County for any of these amenities or any others we may have missed?



ResponseID	Response
15	Mostly outside of mason county. Mason county facilities are insufficient.
24	Olympic Peninsula trails and trailhead amenities, eg., toilet
28	Travel out of county for bike trails.
51	Sometimes
57	Pierce county for Foothills bike and walk trail . Also Gig Harbor for trails to sound same for discovery trail in Kitsap.
59	Kennedy Creek, Oyster bay,
70	We travel to Lake Sylvia in Montesano with our family as well.
75	hiking trails, senior volleyball
77	Yes, often to the west olympia spray park, lacey area dog park, and the lacey RAC fields and softball area.
80	Yes
85	Yes. Mason County needs water activities such as a spray park for kids and out door pool besides the YMCA
92	Yes.

ResponseID Response

99	State parks like ocean shores west port Schafer state lake sylvia
104	Handicap accessible shoreline & nature trails. Family friendly archery ranges!
105	Yes, particularly in the greater Olympia area
108	Yes. State parks for camping.
109	Yes
112	Olympic National Forest, Olympic National Park, and State Parks within Mason County
116	Blewett pass, Mt Rainier area, Naches, Mt St Helen's area
118	Yes, we travel out of county for these amenities
121	yes
122	I have to resort 5to open timber property or the forest for shooting.
126	Travel to Thurston County.
132	We spend most of our outdoor time in the Olympic National Forest/Park out of Lake Cushman area.
141	Yes-- McLane Nature Trail, Mt. Ellinor, Staircase,
142	Yes
146	yes, Olympia, nisqually and tacoma/ruston
147	Boat ramps are important along with parking.
149	I sometimes go to Friend's Landing, Preacher's Slough, Vance Creek Park or the Bishop Athletic Complex (Basich Trailway?) in Grays Harbor. I go to Schafer State Park in Mason County a couple times a week.
150	Thurston County's wonderful Chehalis Western trail for bike riding and walking. Off leash dog parks outside of Mason County. Water Parks outside Mason County
151	Out and about
152	I almost always travel out of Mason County to recreate. I did not know any of these parks existed. During the heat wave I found a state park on a lake in Mason County.

ResponseID Response

157	We visit the parks in Thurston and Pierce County regularly as well.
167	Yes, I currently travel outside of Mason County for these amenities.
171	None
178	I do, regularly
180	Restroom Facilities
193	RV camping
199	We travel to spray parks as well as shooting ranges.
204	Yes. Kitsap and Jefferson counties. I did not know most of these Mason county parks existed.
208	Boat ramps to salt and fresh water
215	Canoeing
217	Off road motorcycle riding at Tahuya.
219	Campgrounds in and outside of Mason county.
220	Spray park, youth fields
221	I have traveled to Lewis County for spray park for children
224	Disc golf courses. Swimming access.
226	I travel outside mason county to visit mountain biking and hiking trails, as well as large parks with walking trails and children's playgrounds.
227	Off leash dog park, splash pads, lots we don't have here in mason co
235	Yes
240	We travel outside Mason County to go to the Gateway 360 park and other parks for mountain biking. https://www.keypenparks.com/360-trails.html Mason County should have a park like Gateway 360. It would draw people to the county for recreation. Mason County should consider implementing conservation futures to acquire parks land. https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=84.34.240
243	Yes, we travel outside Mason County for these amenities.

ResponseID Response

246 We head to Olympia for their larger skate park.

247 I live in Mason County but a lot of the recreation I do is in Kitsap County because they have more facilities. I also use less busy roads in Mason County for bicycling and running because we don't have dedicated trails.

249 All of these things!!! I rarely stay in this county for my activities. Other than national parks

250 We travel to Olympia for the dog park.

251 Yes

252 Did it not occur to you to list "none of the above" as an option?

253 Bike Trails!

256 No, I don't travel outside the county for these amenities. I do enjoy scenic views when I drive outside the county and believe they contribute significantly to my enjoyment of the area.

258 South Kitsap Skate Park, Olympic National Forest/Park for trails.

261 We travel outside Mason county for walking trails, parks, great family areas that are family friendly and clean. We travel to yelm to use the family park-water park, we take our family to shooting areas out of our county that are accessible-safe!! We need a shooting range since Mason county is a country-hunting oriented area..We need safe clean family areas that are not being over ran by homeless. We play sports with our family at local fields, take our kids in the bathrooms to find naked homeless cleaning themselves or doing drugs...very family friendly

266 Yes

267 Yes, we travel outside the county for shooting ranges, spray water parks and bike trails.

272 Pretty much stay and play in Madom County!

273 Yes very limited shooting ra ges in Mason county.

275 Spray park

278 A good dog park. The one in shelton is ok, but needs a covered bench

279 Yes, travel to Thurston County- especially for play structures for kids

282 Yes, travel outside the county for hiking trails and unpaved walking paths

ResponseID Response

288	Archery range
289	To walk our 7 pound yorkie on nature trails we go to Silverdale. We can't wait for the dog friendly trails at Theler
290	Running walking trails
291	Bike trails
294	A walk path by the water downtown.
295	yes
301	Disc golf courses in and outside of Mason County.
304	Equestrian trails!!!! We will be losing access to Kennedy Creek soon. Mason County has a thriving equestrian community who love riding on trails.
305	Youth soccer fields
307	Equestrian trails
308	Horseback riding and camping
309	Bridle paths and hiking trails
311	I travel to open spaces to ride my horses. We need more trails for horseback riding.
312	Horseback riding trails.
313	We travel to Grays Harbor and Thurston county for many of these things. Definitely need trails that horses are allowed on.
314	Equestrian trail very large equestrian population in mason county that contributes a lot to cleaning and maintaining areas to keep safe for all horse bike hunting etc.
315	swimming pool
316	Equestrian trails and facilities
320	Yes I do travel outside mason county.
322	trails for horse back riding , public areas for Equestrienne events that were once held at Fairground arena. If Back Country Horsemen can get crews together to clear and maintain trails, so many do use them.

ResponseID Response

323 We travel all over to go horse riding. Thurston, Kitsap, Clark, Grays Harbor, etc and Eastern Washington and Oregon.

324 Why aren't there any horse trails listed? I want horse riding trails and I want our Fair back.

325 Yes sometimes. I love places to take my horses also. I noticed that wasn't listed

326 I come to Ride horses in the county. I travel from Indiana.

327 Horse camping and trail riding with horses

328 Horseback riding

329 Horse □ back riding? There are 60 people I no have horses some have 1. Some have 4.

331 Yes

332 Horse trails

333 We are Mason County Park Host - past, present and ongoing.

338 Equestrian trails.

339 Horse trails

340 yes

342 Horse trails

343 I travel to Kitsap for tennis courts and pickleball courts

345 Horse back riding on trails

347 I have travelled outside of Mason County often for safe walking/biking trails as well as for many of the other types of amenities/facilities.

351 Trails to ride my horse on. We travel all over Washington and Oregoen on trails for horses.

354 Free boat launch...

356 All of them I highlighted except for canoeing and kayaking.

359 Have traveled to Grays Harbor and Thurston county's trails for hikes.

ResponseID Response

361 Yes, horseback riding

363 Horseback riding trails that are nonmotorized access. Keep Kennedy creek area open to hiking, riding, biking

368 Yes I travel outside Mason county for equestrian friendly trails

375 Yes

377 I mostly recreate in Mason County but sometimes in Grays Harbor. They are close. There is nothing above that listed equestrians. We need more trails that we don't have to be concerned with running into a bicycle.

378 I often ho to the Chehalis Western trail to ride.

381 Grays Harbor , Thurston and Lewis County

382 Horse back riding in Mason county

383 Outside of country for horse trails for family and pleasure and trail events for computation events with log drop jumps.

385 Yes

390 multipurpose trails for horseback riding and bicycling

392 Main activities are horseback riding, mushroom hunting, hiking, and kayaking. I love that Lake Isabell park is not open to motorized vehicles and allows horses. I occasionally go to Capitol forest for the Equestrian facilities and mushrooms.

393 Regularly travel to Tacoma, Olympia or Gig Harbor to use the trails for running.

395 We currently go to Olympia to bicycle on the Chehalis Western trail. It would be nice to have something like that lower to us.

397 Yes and you missed horse riding trails

401 Spray/water park

402 I love visiting Twanoh because of the hiking trails

403 We frequently visit Olympia, Tumwater, Lacey and Gig Harbor for our toddler to play at playgrounds. We do visit MCRA as well.

410 Beach access and lakes. This is my number one concern.

ResponseID Response

412 Capital Forest for mountain biking and looking for safe roads to ridey road bike on

413 National Parks on occasion.

415 Yes, water parks.

418 We travel to olympia and Chehalis for their awesome spray parks! This would be a great addition to shelton

419 Equestrian trail. Non-motorized trails.

424 I use Walking and biking trails in Thurston county

427 Yes. Our family likes to hike all over Washington.

429 Horse back riding trails and indoor riding arenas.

430 Shooting range

431 A fully functional full length/lap swimming pool is definitely missing in Mason County. The high school pool is in a very poor and unhealthy condition and cannot withstand the increasing population of Mason County, and the new YMCA pool is not a lap pool. A full length/lap pool is something that everyone can benefit from no matter age or condition and has many uses: learning how to swim (a vital skill), water aerobics for elderly/less mobile, swimming team practice, water has a very calming effect (good for stress and anxiety), and it would provide the space needed for the population size. Therefore, a lap pool is in my opinion a very important investment for wellbeing in the community.

439 Yes, usually in the Olympic National forest area.

445 Yes, we routinely go outside the county to hike.

446 Youth football was played outside Mason County. I feel some of the games should have utilized our facilities!

451 Yes

452 Yes

455 Trail between Belfair library and the Salmon Center.

456 There are no bike routes that I have found in Mason Co where I feel comfortable biking with my children who are early learning riders and in bike carrier. We travel to the chehalis western trail. I would really love rails to trails out here.

ResponseID Response

457

Yes

458

Yes we travel to Thurston County.

468

I travel out of Mason County to bike on non-motorized biking trails.

469

I prefer to stay local.

472

We travel to Lacey to the large off leash dog park. The only dog park in Shelton is very small.

474

We travel for shooting ranges and spray Parks

476

I live in King County, but have a home in Hood Canal and spend as much time as possible there. In King Co. We have some great off leash dog parks. When I'm at Hood Canal, I love to hike in Twanoh state park and Alderbrook nature trails. We need lots more trails that are dog friendly like these. My kids are into mountain biking so trails for that would be great.

477

Dosewallips, Port Orchard, Port Angeles, Fort Warden, Manchester, Key Peninsula, Tacoma, Centralia, Elma, Chehalis, Washington/Oregon Coast

480

Yes, I go to Kitsap and Thurston county areas.

482

Yes

483

currently travel to Thurston county

488

Yes we do

491

We travel to Olympia for children's play structures and water play fountains

492

no we do not travel outside of mason county unless we are going to the ocean.

494

Community gardens!

495

NO

502

Yes, travel for walking trails and picnic area's

517

Swimming areas and Disc parks! We travel to Olympia for dog park large enough to accommodate large and small dogs.

523

McLane Nature Trail

ResponseID Response

527 Sometimes.. travel to the north because we don't have enough in North Mason. Need more parks / trails

530 This summer/fall I've traveled to Thurston, Grays Harbor and Kitsap counties to pursue outdoor activities.

532 We get all of this here but also up into the Olympics or down to the Portland area for these activities as well.

535 Yes

536 Olympic Forest and Olympia

537 Biking Trails, Spray Park, Outdoor Basketball Park, Children's Hands on Museum.

538 need shooting areas so people don't shoot in random spots, and dont let neighbors cry when they build next to a range

547 Yes, temporary winter ice skating rink, roller skating

549 Bike trails Go to western Chehalis bike trail. Paved and away from traffic.

552 yes

557 Yes Note: Outdoor Sports Courts field doesn't work

562 All over our beautiful Washington State

563 We have to go to olympia sometimes

566 handicapped parking, I frequently am shut out of parks due to a lack of parking, also would be fun to invite the steam mini railroad people to have tracks thru wooded areas without trails and demo gardens for food production and natural plants so that parts of the park are educational and inform about the eco system and what is happening with the park, plant id etc

569 dock fishing

579 Yes, we typically frequent many other amenities in other counties

583 Yes Do travel outside of Mason county for everything I checked above

591 We use a lot of state parks for access to water and trails. Hoodspout trails, Lilliwaup tidelands, Dosiwallup, and Twanoh

ResponseID Response

595	Yes, I leave Mason County to go to splash pads, playgrounds, and other walking trails.
596	Swimming pool in North Mason
598	Yes I travel to Kitsap, Pierce, And Thurston counties to visit these types of amenities.
600	Yes, we travel to Bremerton for some
604	Yes, we travel to Kitsap county.
605	Go out of town to a shooting range.
607	Mostly travel out of Mason County for most of them since North Mason is extremely under served, especially Tahuya.
614	Yes for all
615	Yes, Kitsap, Green Man, Pt. no pt., Birding areas
616	Also use kitsap county parks
620	Mt biking trails
623	Go to Olympic Nat'l Parks= Staircase, Second Beach, etc
631	Yes, often go to Gig Harbor.
637	Sometimes I have gone up to Clallam county for visits because there is more opportunity for walking up there, including the Olympic Discovery Trail.
649	Paved bike/roller-blading trails
652	Quiet and secluded hiking, not through people's yards.
653	I do.
658	I have to use these facilities in Kitsap County.
660	Disc golf courses are a great use of space and very family friendly. Shelton Springs is a great course and it would be nice to have one closer to Belfair. Mtn bike and walking trails we regularly visit in Kitsap, Thurston and pierce county.

ResponseID Response

672 Yes, since the elementary school closed their play area to the public, there are very few & extremely small play areas/structures for children in n. Mason unless you have a discover pass

677 Travel to Kitsap county

679 Port Orchard Howe Dog Park, Clear Creek walking trails in Silverdale, Belfair State Park

681 Sometimes

691 Do not travel outside of Mason County

694 Kitsap county, too

704 Yes.

705 I have to travel to port orchard for off lease

710 Disc Golf Courses

716 Yes, we have to because our area does not have enough of what we need we go into Kitsap Co. for many of the parks for children to enjoy.

717 I would like to see better waterway access as I have to travel to other areas for that

719 We travel to pierce county for children's play structures.

724 We go to natural areas in Kitsap, Jefferson, Thurston, and Gray's Harbor as well. Water and estuary access (without environmental damage).

725 Yes do travel outside of Mason County

734 We will travel outside of mason county for all of these things

735 I use bike trails in Lacey and Olympia.

742 Yes - there are NO parks (aside from trails) in the Belfair area. We HAVE to leave the area if we want to experience something other than the State park.

743 Open space/Natural Habitats, Unpaved Nature Trails, Walking/Bike Trails

744 No

747 No

ResponseID Response

752 yes we do

754 Yes we travel all over WA state

757 Disc golf

760 Disc golf courses

762 bike trails

764 Equestrian trails would be much appreciated and please don't put a lot of multi-use trails with bicycles. We are afraid to use trails in other areas when bicycles are included (like the 360 park on the Key Peninsula) with other users because they ride dangerously, run over walkers and horse riders. Please dedicate trails if bicycle users must be added. Or leave them out they already have so many places to go.

769 Yes for dog park and walk trails

772 Swimming and water access

774 Yes I do

778 Visit state parks, national parks and lands

783 yes. Particularly the National parks in Washington and across the nation

787 Olympic National Forest and Park

790 Bike trails for kids, spray park

791 Swimming pools / human interaction (all parks are dead in this county)

802 Capital Forest for Equine trails

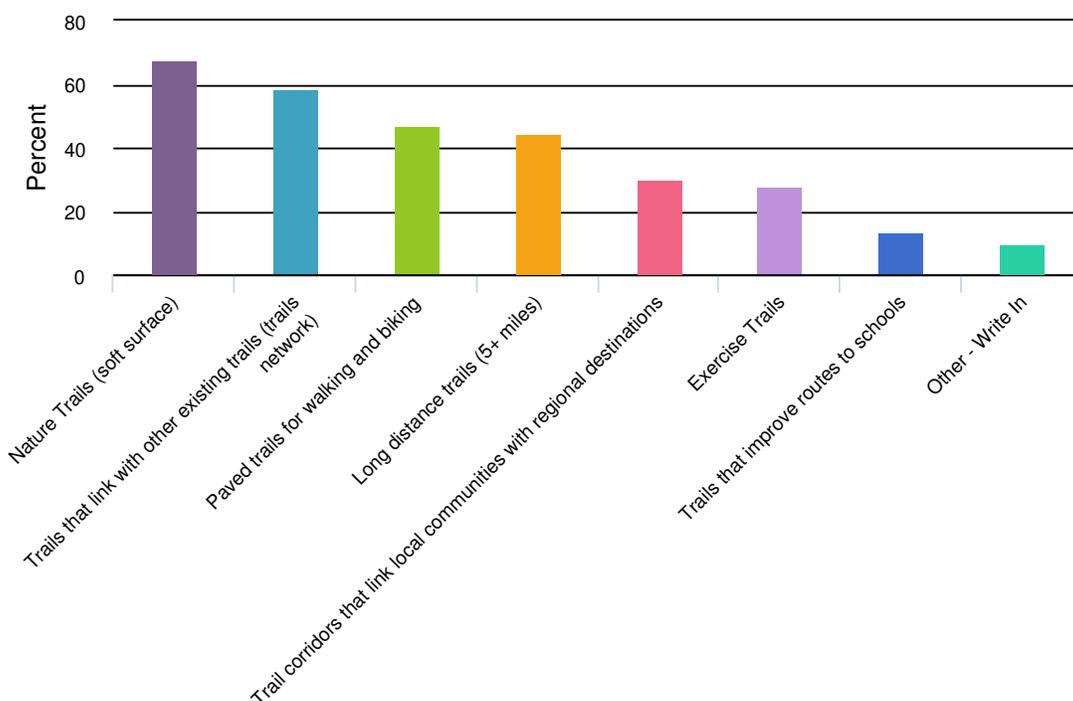
803 Please help the Sweetwater Creek Park.

4. How frequently do you visit the following parks or recreational facilities within Mason County?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Semi-yearly	Yearly	Rarely/Never	Responses
Sandhill County Park Count Row %	6 1.2%	32 6.6%	36 7.4%	39 8.0%	23 4.7%	349 72.0%	485
Hunter Park Count Row %	2 0.5%	5 1.1%	20 4.5%	20 4.5%	23 5.2%	371 84.1%	441
Rendsland County Park Count Row %	2 0.5%	2 0.5%	19 4.4%	25 5.8%	18 4.2%	364 84.7%	430
Menard's Landing Count Row %	3 0.7%	8 1.9%	20 4.6%	26 6.0%	30 7.0%	344 79.8%	431
Foothills County Park Count Row %	2 0.5%	3 0.7%	16 3.7%	24 5.6%	28 6.6%	354 82.9%	427
Union Boat Ramp Count Row %	3 0.7%	12 2.7%	44 9.8%	105 23.4%	51 11.4%	234 52.1%	449
Mason Lake County Park Count Row %	2 0.4%	6 1.3%	45 9.8%	109 23.7%	82 17.9%	215 46.8%	459
Watson Wildwood View Park Count Row %	1 0.2%	1 0.2%	9 2.1%	19 4.5%	13 3.1%	380 89.8%	423
Truman Glick County Park Count Row %	5 1.1%	13 3.0%	26 6.0%	32 7.3%	45 10.3%	315 72.2%	436

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Semi- yearly	Yearly	Rarely/Never	Responses
Sunset Bluff Park Count	1	3	18	22	26	357	427
Row %	0.2%	0.7%	4.2%	5.2%	6.1%	83.6%	
Mason County Skatepark Count	1	2	13	20	14	381	431
Row %	0.2%	0.5%	3.0%	4.6%	3.2%	88.4%	
Mason County Recreation Area Count	6	29	47	90	46	227	445
Row %	1.3%	6.5%	10.6%	20.2%	10.3%	51.0%	
Oakland Bay Historical Park Count	1	6	26	77	40	293	443
Row %	0.2%	1.4%	5.9%	17.4%	9.0%	66.1%	
Philips Lake County Park Count	2	6	19	35	32	340	434
Row %	0.5%	1.4%	4.4%	8.1%	7.4%	78.3%	
Latimer's Landing Park Count	1	10	34	39	37	320	441
Row %	0.2%	2.3%	7.7%	8.8%	8.4%	72.6%	
Jacoby Shorecrest County Park Count	1	4	16	22	22	362	427
Row %	0.2%	0.9%	3.7%	5.2%	5.2%	84.8%	
Walker County Park Count	2	15	54	80	39	260	450
Row %	0.4%	3.3%	12.0%	17.8%	8.7%	57.8%	
Coulter Creek Park Count	1	5	23	35	23	341	428
Row %	0.2%	1.2%	5.4%	8.2%	5.4%	79.7%	
Union County Park Count	5	6	36	41	39	296	423
Row %	1.2%	1.4%	8.5%	9.7%	9.2%	70.0%	

5. Where would you like to see Mason County focus its resources when working to maintain and construct trails?(please select up to 4 areas to prioritize)



Value	Percent	Responses
Nature Trails (soft surface)	67.7%	365
Trails that link with other existing trails (trails network)	58.8%	317
Paved trails for walking and biking	47.1%	254
Long distance trails (5+ miles)	44.9%	242
Trail corridors that link local communities with regional destinations	29.9%	161
Exercise Trails	28.0%	151
Trails that improve routes to schools	13.2%	71
Other - Write In	10.0%	54

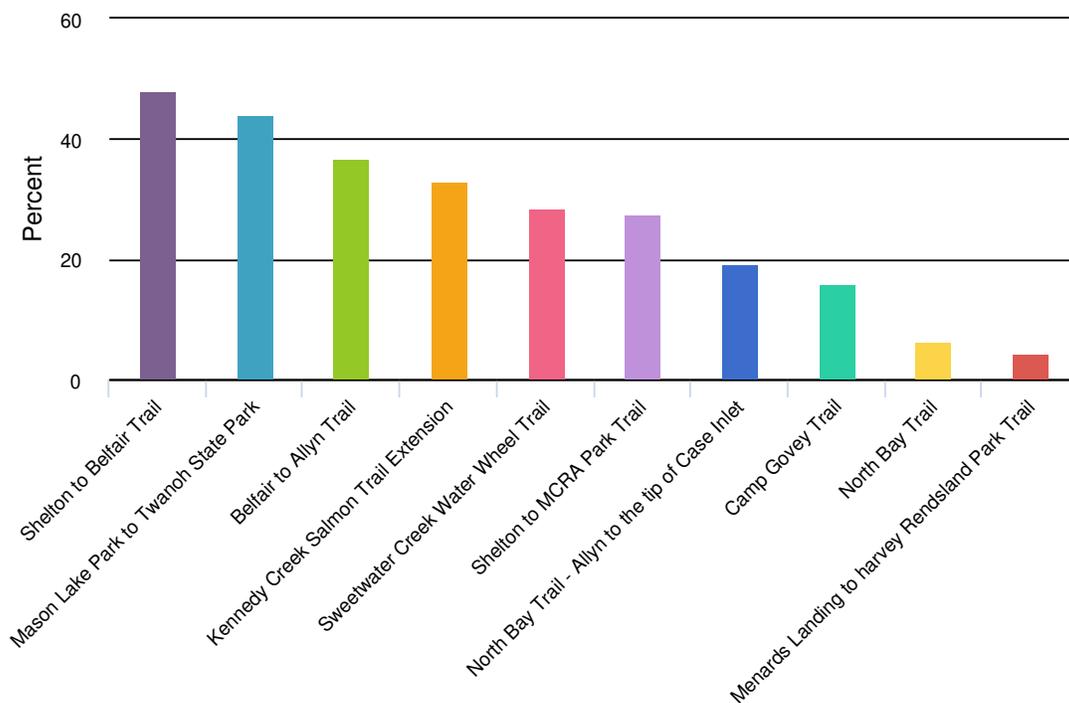
Other - Write In	Count
Horse trails	5
Totals	53

Other - Write In	Count
Equestrian trails	2
ACA access, short hikes	1
Abandoned Train tracks	1
All of the trail use listed	1
Bike path from Belfair State Park to town	1
Equestrian	1
Equestrian	1
Equestrian friendly trails	1
Equestrian trails	1
Equestrian use trails	1
Equine trails	1
Homeless issues	1
Horse	1
Horse Trails PLEASE	1
Horse riding trails	1
Horse trails-no bikes allowed	1
Horseback riding	1
Horseback riding	1
I would love to see a rails to trails from Shelton to Matlock/Mill 5	1
Improve pedestrian access to Walker Park along Walker Park Road	1
Links w/public transit	1
None!	1
Totals	53

Other - Write In	Count
ORV trails	1
Pave green diamond rr tracks	1
Paved shoulders on arterials, Brockdale/McReavy to Union as example.	1
Riding trails	1
Secure Sunset Bluff Park	1
Sweetwater Creek	1
Sweetwater Park	1
Swimming areas on lakes	1
Theler	1
Tie in old railroad tracks as transport areas	1
Trail from belfair state park into town to walk or bike from rec area	1
Trails that all horses	1
Trails that are kept up and monitored for illegal or harmful activities	1
Trails with access for equines	1
Walking paths along roadways like the North Shore Road	1
Want to see more horse trails please	1
anywhere a horse can go.	1
between Belfair library and the Salmon Center	1
dedicated horse and walker trails that don't include bikes.	1
equestrian	1
estuaries	1
horse trails	1
off road to include horseback riding	1
Totals	53

Other - Write In	Count
play scapes for all age children & families	1
waterfront areas, look at Ruston	1
Totals	53

6. Mason County has a working list of proposed or planned trails that we hope to construct in the future. Please help us prioritize these projects by identifying up to 3 of your top preferences.



Value		Percent	Responses
Shelton to Belfair Trail		48.1%	229
Mason Lake Park to Twanoh State Park		44.1%	210
Belfair to Allyn Trail		36.8%	175
Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail Extension		33.0%	157
Sweetwater Creek Water Wheel Trail		28.6%	136
Shelton to MCRA Park Trail		27.7%	132
North Bay Trail - Allyn to the tip of Case Inlet		19.3%	92
Camp Govey Trail		16.0%	76
North Bay Trail		6.3%	30
Menards Landing to harvey Rendsland Park Trail		4.4%	21

7. The County needs...

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Preference	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Responses
Amenity Specific Parking Count Row %	92 19.2%	189 39.4%	181 37.7%	13 2.7%	5 1.0%	480
Off-Leash Dog Park Count Row %	101 20.7%	152 31.1%	190 38.9%	32 6.5%	14 2.9%	489
Picnic Areas/Shade Structures Count Row %	121 24.5%	248 50.3%	106 21.5%	15 3.0%	3 0.6%	493
Undeveloped Natural Areas/Open Space Count Row %	234 46.9%	181 36.3%	63 12.6%	12 2.4%	9 1.8%	499
Support Amenities (bathrooms, lighting, recycling, bike racks, drinking fountains, etc.) Count Row %	185 37.0%	223 44.6%	76 15.2%	12 2.4%	4 0.8%	500
Ball Fields (soccer, baseball, football, etc.) Count Row %	65 13.5%	176 36.4%	196 40.6%	37 7.7%	9 1.9%	483
Sport Courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc.) Count Row %	85 17.5%	176 36.1%	192 39.4%	24 4.9%	10 2.1%	487
Youth Programs/Camps Count Row %	178 36.0%	199 40.3%	107 21.7%	5 1.0%	5 1.0%	494

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Preference	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Responses
Sports Leagues (18 and over) Count Row %	59 12.4%	127 26.8%	246 51.9%	29 6.1%	13 2.7%	474
Urban Trails/Sidewalks (non-motorized) Count Row %	212 42.2%	201 40.0%	71 14.1%	12 2.4%	6 1.2%	502
Splash/Spray Park Count Row %	103 21.4%	113 23.5%	183 38.0%	51 10.6%	31 6.4%	481
Community Center/Indoor Facilities Count Row %	119 24.2%	174 35.4%	153 31.1%	35 7.1%	11 2.2%	492
Water access facilities (boat ramps, piers, beaches, etc.) Count Row %	211 42.2%	195 39.0%	75 15.0%	14 2.8%	5 1.0%	500
Totals Total Responses						502

ResponseID Response

77 Natural space such as forested paths like the Huff and Puff, the Pandhandle lake trails, the big park at Lake Isabella, and Theller (allyn) park are fantastic. I wish we had more public areas to enjoy large areas of natural landscapes. It would also be ideal to have spray parks located around the county to help families enjoy cooling down without having to make an excessive drive. Lastly, some offleash dog parks would help keep other parks free from roaming dogs whose owners don't know where else to take them

81 Safety first, a bike lane is needed from Belfair State Park to town. The park is a destination for many travelers/walkers, and traffic is increasing in the area.

87 I don't think we need to duplicate the YMCA.

92 I think a safe place to ride bikes a lengthy distance would be great! Only problem is the homeless. They like to hang out on trails.

99 More swings and play grounds basketball hoops and pads

108 Indoor swimming is a must!

109 ?

112 Based on the popularity, and success, of the Discovery Trail, a network of trails for biking and hiking would be an asset for Mason County, not only for residents but for visitors as well.

122 Shooting sports facility open to the public on a fee based/liability waiver system

135 Expand the current walking path along Brockdale down to Oak Park. By providing a safe walking/biking space that could free up a bus route for the schools.

146 expand and areas unique to shelton, lakes, water ways, coves to make them inviting. a destination

147 Also tie in railroad tracks that are not being used for anything and are overgrown. They could be a very nice feature.

149 Your list of parks made me realize I needed to explore more. I live in SW Mason County and there is not too much out here aside from logging roads. Lucky to have Schafer State park nearby!

150 Rails to trails would be perfect for the old Simpson rail line from Shelton to Dayton or Matlock. I would love to see an off leash dog park and a water park.

ResponseID Response

151 Good hygiene recreation

157 Trails linking separate neighborhoods and shopping centers would be great, but would also love to see nature trails centered around green spaces developed as well.

171 They should improve the above-mentioned

175 I would love to see paved trails leading from our towns (incorporated and unincorporated) to the rural communities, especially if they parallel roadways. It would allow us safe walking and biking areas to go into town without having to drive a vehicle. Think a greatly expanded version of the Brockdale biking path. For example: a paved biking trail leading from Mason Lake Rec to Shelton, Allyn, or Belfair. I realize such a long path is an expensive, long term vision, but it could be done in phases.

178 Just keep doing good work. I appreciate your solicitation of input from the community

193 Develop RV camping!

198 I would love more opportunities for walking/hiking, sport courts, and adult rec indoor space and leagues.

199 A splash pad would be amazing as well as a soccer field. The one on Johns Prarie is in need of major help.

204 Hiking and biking trails for adults 3-20 miles

205 Recreational sights for families at lakes

208 The second questions states "Picnic Areas/Shade Structures" Most of the year they are acting as rain cover structures also. For example, the ones at Walker Park. These gazebos or shelters protect everyone from the rain so we can use our parks year round.

213 I would love to see an indoor 25 meter swimming pool.

216 For the ball fields, we have a fair amount, but the community needs higher quality(i.e. turf) fields that have open access, not just when the school district feels like it

217 Expand and even maintain existing trails at the extremely popular Tahuya ORV riding park. Sit in Safeway parking lot and see BIG business for Belfair every weekend,

219 More bike and walking trails. We also need public swim beaches for kids to swim in the many lakes we have.

ResponseID Response

220 We need more options in south Mason County

224 Consider negotiating management of the South Mason Youth Soccer Park (Port of Shelton land) to upgrade, develop, and maintain it as an extension of MCRA.

229 Mason county is growing, and needs amenities that attract regional tourists and young professional families looking to root. We have more open space than we know what to do with; we need developed parks and trails that have something to offer

233 Bocce ball courts.

235 A map to ALL the Mason County park properties. Many of these are news to me.

240 We need public freshwater swimming beaches. We need rails to trails bike paths. We need mountain bike trails.

246 The area is generally rich with space to recreate. however, being in a small town the opportunities for our kids to get together with other kids are lacking. As such community centers and youth programs are a priority for me. Anything that can help people to connect across our community, which tends to be quite spread out as we are rural.

247 I would like to see longer trails, connections to existing facilities, and bike lanes or wider shoulders on roads. There are very few good areas for long distance running or bicycling. I try to time my runs and bicycle rides to avoid traffic because we have very narrow shoulders and cars that don't slow down or move over.

249 Bike lanes! Walking from and around yacht club and city waterfront.

256 I would like to see the county work with Mason Transit authority to provide regular public transit access to all of the county parks.

261 Family areas, places for kids to have safe clean areas to have fun, relax. Yelm, Point Ruston has nice kids play area- water play area. Family has a Blast .we need a GUN-ARCHERY RANGE!!! that would also create revenue.

271 Public restrooms in many places.

278 It would be great to see a safe walking and or biking route somewhere in Union. Other than the Alderbrook trails, which are technically private, there is no safe place for walking.

ResponseID Response

282 Strong preference for outdoor exercise areas that don't require special equipment or special skills (such as tennis courts and ouckleball courts) that tend to attract a small minority of users on the upper middle class end of things. Would much rather see places that can & will be used by MANY people regardless of fitness level, income level. Trails, tracks, parks, open spaces.

289 My husband is an avid trail runner and there are very limited trails that are safe for his trail runs in the county. I worry he'll be hit by a motorcycle or ATV. I would love to see many trails throughout our beautiful county!

291 Water access from downtown Shelton

294 Park or trails along the water. Like how Olympia does down town.

296 Spray park - this will benefit poverty kids the most and that is greatest need. My kids had plenty to do because we could afford it.

297 I live by union park..someone took down the sign with park rules and ithas never been replaced..lots of issues with people staying well into the night..also found a guy sleeping there..lots of atv riding..drinking..parking is not confined to the lot and they have torn up my yard by parking streetside..grown adults standing on the kids slide casing my backyard over a six foot fence..with binoculars..drug deals at the end of park by the ball courts..

299 Walking and biking trails

307 Equestrian trails

309 Many equestriannes and dog walkers and hikers use the Kennedy Creek area for recreation. Currently the only parking is on the road. It would be nice to see a parking lot that would have a porta potty, horse trailer parking and car parking there. Maybe the newly aquired DNR land?

311 Bring back the mason county fairgrounds.

312 Horseback riding trails & horse trailer parking at trail heads.

314 Please keep equestrian in mind the majority of us are very responsible community members looking to maintain our beautiful forests and community

316 We truly need more equestrian trails/accessible areas. There are many horse owners in mason county looking for places to ride. Our trails are becoming slim and none.

320 Develop the fairgrounds for recreation

ResponseID Response

323 Trails and Camps for horses

324 Horse Trails, No motor motorcycle or bikes on same trails. Bring back our FAIR, Bring back being able to trail ride at the Fairgrounds. PLEASE 😊

325 I'd like to see motorized trails.. and places to hike with livestock and camp. Thanks

326 Equestrian trails

327 We horseback riders are slowly being excluded. We need to be considered too. We spend a lot of money on horse related goods which lead to more sale tax dollars. We also put in a lot of volunteer hours to keep horse trails open.

330 I would like more horse accessible areas , Connecting trails, water fountains or water access. It's so hard to find a place to play in the water that's not overflowing with people as it's usually a boat launch also, and not having to drive so far with the horses would be wonderful.

331 Walking trails around Union.

332 More horse friendly trails

333 Use of bathrooms year around. Lighting on valut toilets, inside and over the outside door and side or pathway night time ligthing.

337 Horseback riding needs good trails. We practice Leave No Trace and take pride and are thankful to be able to enjoy the outdoors with our beloved 4 footer friends

349 Since Mason County opted to take away the fairgrounds our youth need a better direction to go...

351 Trails for riding my horse and hiking with my dogs

359 I would love to see an extensive plan to coordinate trails and waterfront availability. We have so much waterfront but not available to non property owners. We have an abundance of forests, but lack trails to allow appreciation.

361 Horse trails

363 Kennedy Creek trails that were established by Back country Horsemen to be maintained, perhaps in a partnership with DNR, a green Diamond, mason county and back country horsemen; more education to those who use the space on where to avoid when logging.

ResponseID Response

368 Equestrian trails

377 There are a lot of places that are set up for hikers and bikers. What about equestrians?

378 I real would like paved trail to do long bike rides.

381 As a equestrian I support any trails open to horses.

382 Horseback trails

383 Your missing the horse ridercommunity.

393 Definitely need some trails in Mason County

398 Very few ADA trails, or trails flat and smooth enough to push someone on wheel chair at the north end of county. Not many boat ramps either.

402 I really wish there were better sidewalks and trails in the urban areas (especially near Mill Creek/Vic King road off the main highway

407 Adding paved shoulders to county roads, such as Brockdale/McReavy to Union, Cloquallum to Elma, Shelton to Matlock etc.

410 Boat ramps and swimming areas in both fresh and salt water areas

412 trail system for road bikes and mountain bike park

413 In totality of waterfront (salt and lake) I would like to see Mason County expand their footprint with more access and facilities.

419 Considering that Mason County is primarily a rural county I'm surprised there wasn't more mention made of the need for non-motorized trails to be shared by equestrians, hikers and mountain bikers.

421 Paved or unpaved trails using train tracks to a large reserve area with walking trails possibly. Maybe green diamond has an area near Goldsboro creek out Shelton Matlock their is a beautiful area that would just be perfect

424 The water access areas would be nice if they had a dedicated swimming area. People swimming around boat launches is dangerous.

429 Horseback riding trails and indoor riding facilities

ResponseID Response

431 A fully functional full length/lap swimming pool is definitely missing in Mason County. The high school pool is in a very poor and unhealthy condition and cannot withstand the increasing population of Mason County, and the new YMCA pool is not a lap pool. A full length/lap pool is something that everyone can benefit from no matter age or condition and has many uses: learning how to swim (a vital skill), water aerobics for elderly/less mobile, swimming team practice, water has a very calming effect (good for stress and anxiety), and it would provide the space needed for the population size. Therefore, a lap pool is in my opinion a very important investment for wellbeing in the community. I would also like to see more nature trails and soft ground trails.

456 We travel out of county for many youth programs.

457 Community center for youth is highest need in our community in North Mason county

470 I'd like to see walk/bike access into Belfair and Shelton. I see many people walking on the side of our narrow roads trying to access work or other necessities. A bike/walk Kane on the side or curb would be great!

476 I've never been to any of the parks mentioned a few questions back but would go if they had hiking trails. When I search on my All Trails app, these parks don't come up, at least not for hiking.

480 horseback riding areas

481 Mason county needs more public access to water that is not just for boats. We need public beaches and a water recreational area for families

491 We would really love a splash pad. There doesn't seem to be enough play options for younger children available in Shelton.

492 more amenities for seniors.

501 Camping places, picnic areas, covered areas

517 We like to walk Capital Land Trust at Bayshore. There are many others who, like us, bring their dogs for exercise. All owners are responsible and respectful.

518 A County shooting sports range... both indoor/covered pistol and outdoor rifle and shotgun ranges.

527 Focus on Belfair more... we always get overlooked. Sweetwater Creek / Waterwheel would be amazing but there's maybe two people working to block it. 100s donated to make it happen. But KVB works tirelessly on his no growth park & trail blocking efforts.

ResponseID Response

538 Fishing access and gun range

551 Mason County has so many Lakes, we need to provide more public access for swimming and picnics.

566 it would be nice to have a space for musicians to jam, used to do this at the library in carnation after hours, but there is no where for acoustic musicians to play and where young musicians can learn and people including us seniors to just sit and enjoy live music

567 I would like to see Mason County preserve what little is left of its old forests for hiking, camping and picnicking areas. If through hiking can also be supported by this, that is ok. Transit should support users of these areas much like trail direct in King county.

568 Bike / Walking path from Belfair to Twanoh State park and from Belfair to Belfair State Park

569 fishing docks/piers

570 Theler wetlands bridge repairs

591 I check paved trails as I believe we need more handicap accessible trails.

592 An indoor youth sports facility that has batting cages

596 Sweetwater Park Handicap accessible fising

597 Interconnecting trails that connect the parks together

598 Would love to see a park with a great playground area for kids, splash pad, picnic tables, large grassy area, and gazebo(s) to host birthdays and other events. I have three small kids and while I love Belfair and am enjoying raising my kids here, a nice park geared towards kids would be fabulous and make our quality of life so much better! I travel to Gig Harbor and Bremerton two times a week for play dates and to enjoy the parks they offer.

606 Public outdoor pickleball, 1/2 court basketball area. Specifically Belfair.

610 Great ideas!

615 So sad that Coulter Cr Mason Co Park gets trashed and has druggies hanging out in parking area. They trash rest room and leave garbage in parking area.

623 Since Mason CO is growing rapidly, we need to preserve more open space/forest, beach access, trails along Hood Canal. Sweetwater Park would be the ideal semi rural/urban Park and save a beautiful forested habitat!

ResponseID Response

637 I would like to see more community orchards and food forests, like the one at the Shelton United Methodist Church

652 Clean up. Holiday displays eg. Light-post decorations, seasonal "joy", more places to dispose of trash to keep the streets clean. Bright lights to keep illegal activities down. More patrol. Less bars and pot shops and maybe "a" real sit-down restaurant (maybe Italian or Mediterranean lol). Town is good at the size it is. The train bridge and road width limits the amount of traffic we can handle.

653 I'd like to see community food forests planted and maintained, bike paths for commuters around Mason County (especially between bus stations and major areas for work), and restoration of old growth forests.

661 Skate park/pool

673 We particularly need to have parks that preserve our local history and natural resources. Educational opportunities have been neglected recently.

679 Safety from homeless beggars and thieves. Adequate lighting. If you can't provide safety and security, we can't use the parks.

686 Would love to see year-round areas for kids and seniors. Can we have more indoor areas for inclement weather. Would love a pool in our area.

693 I/we would like to see the Theler Wetlands property acquired and restored into the beautiful, educational property it once was. It has historic significance, amazing birding, wild life, and nature observation opportunities and potential. Restoring all the trails to the aquatic sites to allow for safe access for walking, running, jogging. Photographers have endless opportunities for every imaginable photo if the entire trail system was restored and maintained. It would offer a destination for many, bringing tourists dollars to our local businesses. Please consider these suggestions.

699 Trail from state park into town that bike skateboard or etc could share with runners and walkers. Maybe continue down north shore as well with at least a path or sidewalk off the highway it is dangerous for walkers and bikes to share small edge of road.

708 Keep the homeless camp out of Shelton and clean up the one along the tracks behind Gillis Auto

714 Mason county needs large open areas for gatherings that are nice and maintained. And clean. With playgrounds and other outdoor activities.

716 Other places than in Shelton because Mason County is much larger than one city.

ResponseID Response

719	Continue to enhance the Thelar Wetland trails and play structure.
724	Development of nature spaces and access must be balanced with ecosystem restoration and conservation. Outdoor classroom support spaces for the encouragement and access for youth to understand the natural world they live in.
725	New Fairgrounds type area that can support multiple events, music venues, horse events, dog events, robotics, learning Center, technical and physical.
730	I would love somewhere to safely take my dogs for walks. There aren't any good places for walking in this area that aren't on trails.
734	More walking/hiking options and play grounds
737	Indoor recreational opportunities for the North Mason area.
741	Secure and Close Sunset Bluff Park during hours of darkness. Post signs reflecting the closures and warning signs. Finish turn around area at Park and place signs no Parking in Turn around area. I live several parcels from the park, and many of the visitors are using the park for it's intent.
743	Accommodations - hotels to support additional activities the county develops.
747	Would like to see a community size covered area @ Union County Park and improvements to the Union Boat Ramp such as porta potty, parking and swimming area.
754	Better bike trails, wider shoulders on high traffic roads
756	Belfair-Tahuya walk/bicycle loop trail Sweetwater Creek ADA park Other ADA trail/parks
757	More disc golf
758	There are no amenities in Drwatto!
762	people will use trails and bike paths if they exist, sports are important for all ages but ball fields and facilities need to be maintained. The popularity of electric bikes is expanding, ebike trails for the hills would be great.
764	Please consider all residents and don't dedicate the majority of resources to kids and bicycles. Happy or them to have their share but they seem to always benefit disproportionately. This is a rural county and I personally would like to preserve the rural character focusing on nature and trails and not on urban style splash parks and soccer fields.

ResponseID Response

765 Sidewalks!!!

771 Covered multi-use area in Union County Park

772 Walkable and Bikable safe passage throughout County. More Water access.

773 It would be great for our county to acquire the soccer park next to MCRA. The fields need experienced management. They are currently dangerous to play on. Our kids need better facilities to compete. Our kids play league year round and our fields our an embarrassment. Please consider this.

778 The Belfair area needs to provide access to it's natural amenities. We have plenty of ball fields and such that provide options for local sports leagues. It would be awesome for the County to support Belfair's popular Theler Wetlands by expanding access up Sweetwater Creek. This also would preserve a piece of our history.

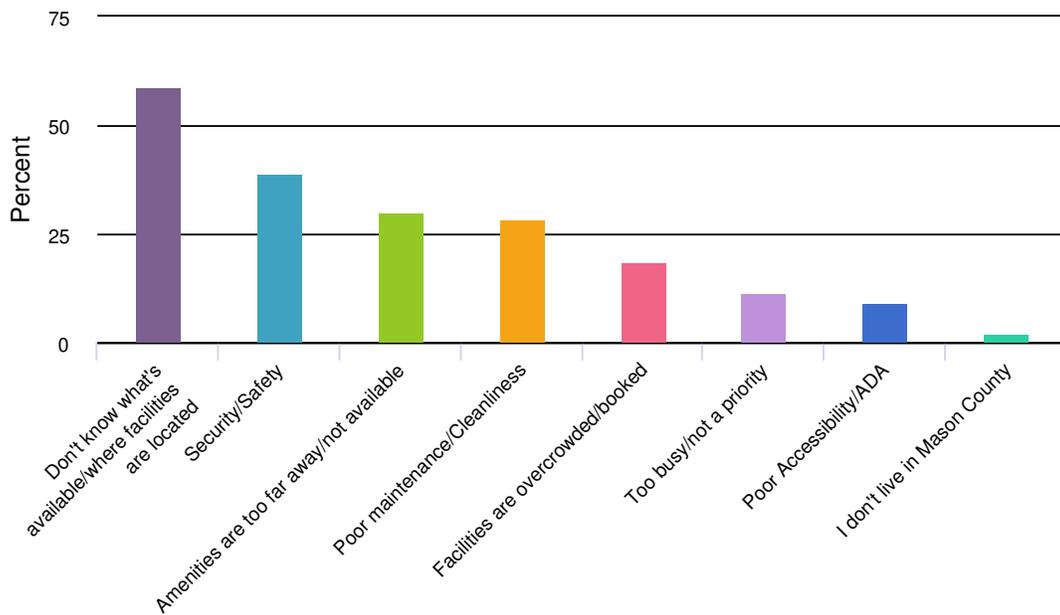
791 Hundreds of other improvements listed needed other than the ones mentioned. It's seems you mentioned all, but.

798 Mason county improvement should be focused on the needs of the natural habitat and endangered wildlife, as opposed to the wants of people.

802 Equine trail systems with adequate parking for many truck & trailers with bathroom facilities and mounting blocks, possibly temporary hitching area

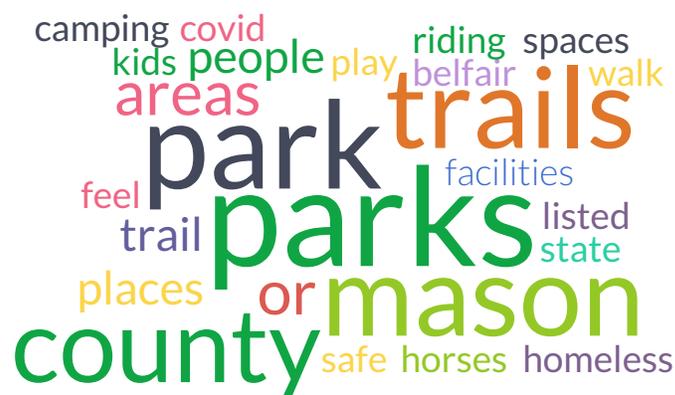
803 Please help the Sweetwater Creek Park.

9. What are some of the existing barriers or reasons why you may not use available recreational facilities or participate in hosted parks and recreational programs?



Value		Percent	Responses
Don't know what's available/where facilities are located		58.8%	288
Security/Safety		39.0%	191
Amenities are too far away/not available		30.0%	147
Poor maintenance/Cleanliness		28.4%	139
Facilities are overcrowded/booked		18.8%	92
Too busy/not a priority		11.6%	57
Poor Accessibility/ADA		9.2%	45
I don't live in Mason County		2.0%	10

10. Use the space provided to expand upon answers or identify any additional reasons we may have missed:



ResponseID	Response
12	Homeless is becoming an issue
15	Existing facilities are not well maintained. Goal appears to be develop more, don't take care of what we have. Make existing facilities functional, safe, and optimal before branching into new efforts. Focus on what we own and do it great.
57	All areas need more public open space.
58	All parks should be ADA compliant. Play equipment and splash pads that accommodate special needs kids would be really nice.
59	Awareness is a huge issue, marketing may be an answer. Perception of danger, distance, maintenance could be overcome.
66	I am unable to walk very far without being able to sit for a spell. Benches placed fairly near to each other would be a big help.
68	Many of the parks are too small and not worth the drive for what they offer. For example, 30 - 45 min drive for a 1/2 mile walk and no other use options.
70	Too many transients disrespecting facilities. Garbage left and theft is too prevalent. Give them a one way transit ticket out of town, send them to the state capital. Olympia loves them leaving garbage and drugs laying everywhere.

ResponseID Response

90	Don't know much about any trails. What I know, is that can't take dog with you. Plus, I don't normally go where bugs live on purpose.
91	facilities often don't meet the needs of our scouts i.e. camping, hiking distances, etc
99	Need to visit all parks nut I stay close to home covid seems to be a reason to not go far
150	I have lived in Mason County all my life and hadn't heard of some of the parks listed at the beginning of this survey, Now I need to go find them!
151	Safety
152	Mason County is low density so most of us live in outlying areas distant from current recreational resources. Trails that connect the county and allow more bike or hike travel would be great.
157	As a single person, I would love to be able to walk my dog more places in nature, but it simply is not safe because the trails are not frequented enough. I suspect others avoid them for the same reason.
167	No biking or hiking trails of any length.
171	Non
180	Having to pay for a park pass
192	Poorly marked trails. Physical signs on trail are needed, not GPS for cell phones.
198	I've lived in mason county about one year and frequent the wetlands, salmon center, and state parks, but hadn't even heard of most of the facilities listed in the survey.
199	The bathrooms are often filthy and only seemed to be clean once a week.
204	Not aware of most of these parks even though we frequent other parks (state & other counties) weekly. When I looked at Mason County parks online, most look not much bigger than a postage stamp. I am not aware of a single hiking or bike trail in Mason County.
205	I need all around facility swimming boating camping. Mason county has zero camping. It's private or state.
217	Loss of available ORV opportunities in Mason county.

ResponseID Response

224 Mason County's various small parks don't have amenities that draw us there. They are small and easy to forget about when thinking of something to do on the weekends. We've tried visiting parks but have been surprised by locked gates, which discourages future attempts.

228 Walking trail along Hwy 106 from Union to Belfair. So many people walk along the tiny edge of the road everyday. It's dangerous. It could be a county destination with the views!

243 We seem to always encounter issues with homeless folks abusing the areas/facilities.

246 Many parks listed in this survey I was not aware of. There is probably opportunity to increase visibility to already available spaces. Advertising what is available through community newsletters or something like that might help.

249 I don't know where most of the places you listed are. If there is a county park often it is unsavory and dirty. I need a bathroom.

256 I no longer have a dog, though when I did I visited the off-leash dog park regularly. Physical limitations mean I don't walk for huff and puff trail, though I used to enjoy it immensely. I do enjoy music in the park during the summer. But my active use of parks has diminished with age... I am now 76, and find activity enough around my home and yard to keep me busy. I vicariously enjoy a neighborhood park a block away from my home where children and neighbors gather regularly. What a wonderful asset a neighborhood park is.

275 Homeless

281 Difficult to find cohesive info online

282 Dont want to go to the same couple places over and over again. Plus in the summer they are super crowded because there are only a few places. MORE SWIMMING ACCESS please! Fresh water lakes, salt water, whatever.

288 Dogs prohibited

297 Please replace sign stating park hours....

307 Equestrian trails, need space to park, a little more access to kayaking spaces

312 No horse trails, trail heads.

314 People dumping trash and homeless

320 None are for horses!

ResponseID Response

322 the " Fiord" publication has included quite a few places to go hiking, so has Woytowich's column in localpaper, but need details of park's to plan well.

323 Tried to book on harstene and all reservable/electric spots gone for months ahead

324 No place for horses.

326 network trails for Equestrians. No dirt bikes. Bicycles. Quads. Hikers, horses. Dogs

329 Horse camping

333 A beautiful quaint bridge at Truman Glick Park could use a paved pathway for handicap usage to the bridge and to the creek.

345 Not many horse riding trails

357 I haven't even heard of most of these places. Publicity would be a good idea.

367 Some parks are over run with homeless...makes it feel unsafe

368 Not enough parking for big trucks/trailers

381 Not open to horses

383 again nothing close for horses

410 Security issues (patrolling and enforcement, lighting)

412 Lived in Mason County over 4 years and comparing to Snoqualmie area there are little safe bike trails or designated mountain biking areas

419 I primarily visit Mason Country for horseback riding at Kennedy Creek.

429 Limited places to ride. No indoor facility for riding or horse shows

431 I used to swim at the high school pool but stopped because it wasn't pleasant: cold water, pool paint flaking off, too much chlorine, uncomfortable changing room..

442 sunset bluff park attracts a lot of strange characters and druggies who vandalize adjacent properties

452 Covid-19 Pandemic

455 Bicycle locks

ResponseID Response

480 Not aware that any horseback riding areas exist in Mason--unless privately owned.

491 Heavy evidence of drug use in the places intended for children's play is very scary. Perhaps we need a needle exchange program to reroute these biohazards to appropriate locations.

521 The kids have schools and the YMCA to play. We need adult spaces to recreate as well. don't duplicate spaces for kids.

527 like the Twanoh and Belfair St. Park trails / walks along with Theler. The Sweetwater Ck trail over to Allyn would be incredible. It would be a game changer and it's already in our MC parks / trails comp plan and has been for almost 15 years

536 Working too many jobs but with the Governor stopping the Free rent moratorium with fake Covid affected renters, things are looking up!

538 shooting areas not available

548 Homeless people and unruly youth acting like we are trespassing on public lands, no enforcement available, it just doesn't feel safe

566 I have trouble walking and parking is frequently not available and I have to walk too far. I live near Lk Devoraux and to bring a chair and walk from parking area is too much, also people break beer bottles and police response is virtually non existant, so maybe volunteers can help with safety. Hunter park has no parking and is belfair needle park, so is great if you use drugs, not a place for kids or grandkids, It would be nice to have a great playground used to take grandkids to a park in shelton but that is a 40 min drive one way

567 Most of the existing facilities are not what I'm interested in. I prefer natural spaces over managed beaches, and educational areas over play fields.

585 Used to use more spaces frequently. COVID changed that but will want to use parks and trails more soon.

588 I use all there is to use

596 Not enough parks in North Mason Sweetwater Park would be a Jewel

598 I sometimes bring my kids to Belfair State Park. But don't feel safe going there alone with my kids. I've noticed interesting characters tend to hang out there.

607 There's not much info on services. Not much out in Tahuya.

ResponseID Response

615 People sleeping in parking areas, acting strangely, like keeping their backs to you. What are they hiding?

619 Only part time in mason county will use more in a coup,e years when we are full time

644 We do use available park facilities as much as possible

652 Crime and drugs have increased and the "clean up" has decreased.

663 I would like to see if bicycle trail between Belfair State Park and Belfair. I know of at least two children who have suffered permanent injuries riding their bikes between these two locations.

678 Dogs on leash not welcome.

691 DNR has lots of opportunities for trails, walking, etc. Mason County Parks needs to steer people to those existing facilities and perhaps work with DNR in more waking trail accommodations.

693 Numerous fishers owned, and maintained properties we have visited lack maintenance and offer no, or very limited sanitation facilities. This creates very unhealthy conditions as open defecation and urination contaminants the grounds, and trails. Leaving many beautiful areas undesirable to use or visit.

714 Clean bathrooms where no drug use is obvious.

716 Most are in Shelton and a 30 mile drive to go to a park one way is too long a drive for small children for an after school outing.

718 Enough state, BLM, Federal land available. Kids grown up.

724 Many of the parks listed were unknown to me. We have lived in Mason Co. 6 years and find nature spaces (low accessibility needs for our family) and love visiting parks like Truman Glick. I am interested in the county showcasing these parks.

734 I don't know the location of most of the parks that where listed

741 Sunset Bluff Park needs to be closed in the hours of darkness and routinely monitored in the hours of light. This park is a security and safety hazard for the property owners on Sunset Road.

743 Not clearly marked and marketed

ResponseID Response

754 Imlive on the road to sunset bluff but sometimes people in the park make me feel unsafe even though its the closest park to me. Also trails in the park lead into some private areas without any signage. I think some one was camping in the park last year along a trail

756 Most facilities are in South Mason County. I live in Belfair, on North Shore Rd, and there are few county resources here.

762 some trails appear to have unstable homeless people living in the woods, have seen drug use, possible drug sales and other odd behaviors. Very beautiful trails but uncomfortable to walk on.

764 I don't encounter the above issues except that facilities have sometimes been overused because of the pandemic.

772 Unsafe passage without a car.

778 I do not play on a ball field or wait for a bus. Those are our two parks. Sad.

787 Mason County needs to maintain the Parks/Trails it has before add new parks.

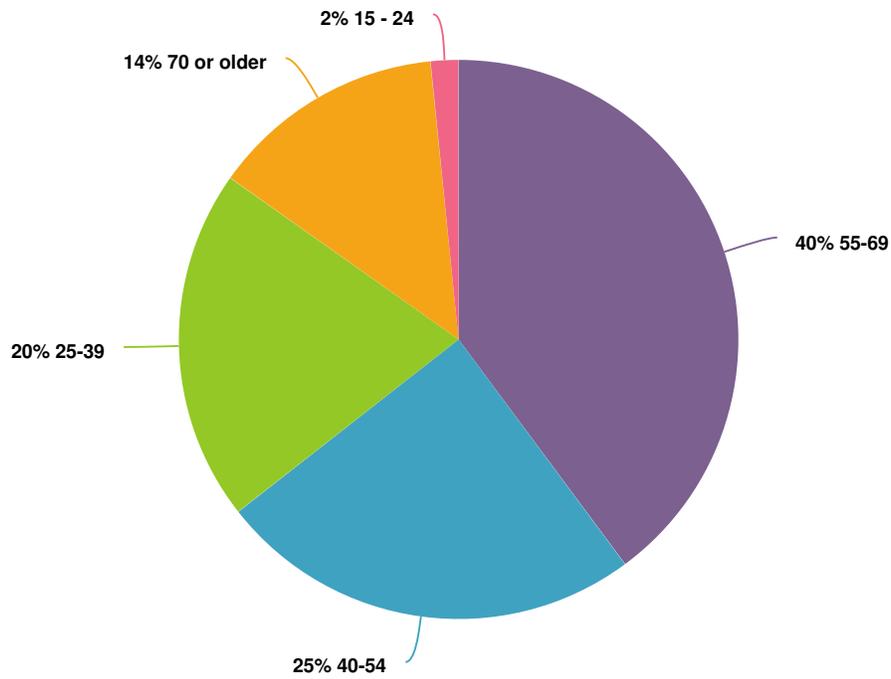
791 Places are completely vacant. Shows they must be interesting. I went to your "county parks" this year, and NO one was sledding during the storm. A mere 8 years ago, the Kitsap county parks were PACKED with sledders. Something is grossly psychologically wrong in this town.

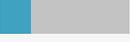
803 Please help the Sweetwater Creek Park.

11. Over the next ten years, how should Mason County distribute its Parks and Recreation resources?(Enter in values next to each option up to 100 percent of available resources. Please note, the total for this question can't go above 100%.)

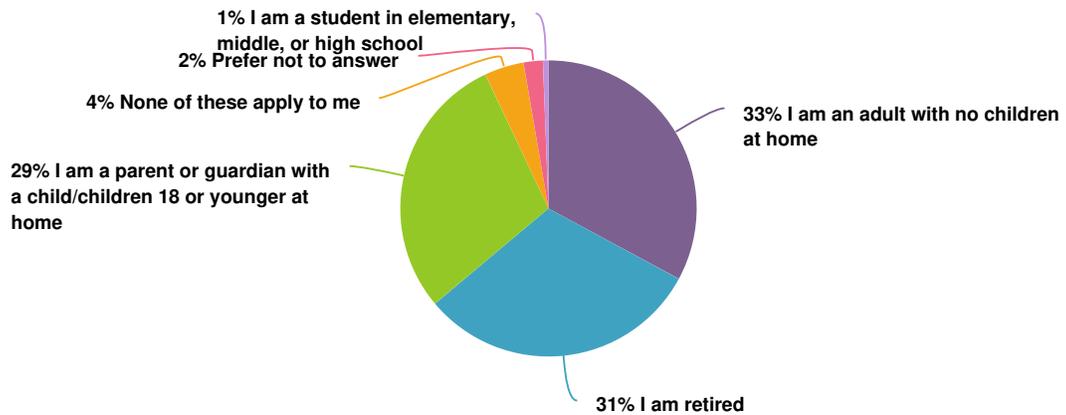
Item	Average	Min	Max	StdDev	Sum	Total Responses
Acquisition and/or development of walking and biking trails	21.0	0.0	1,000.0	46.1	11,312.0	538
Maintenance/Improvements of existing parks and facilities	20.0	0.0	100.0	19.7	10,729.0	536
Acquisition and/or development of sites to access waterbodies	16.7	0.0	1,000.0	46.0	8,905.0	534
Acquisition of new park land or natural areas	12.8	0.0	100.0	15.8	6,861.0	535
Development of new park facilities (playgrounds, shelters, etc.)	10.8	0.0	100.0	14.9	5,809.0	537
Construction of new athletic facilities (fields, courts, etc.)	7.5	0.0	100.0	13.2	3,986.0	532

12. What age range are you within?



Value		Percent	Responses
55-69		39.9%	200
40-54		24.6%	123
25-39		20.4%	102
70 or older		13.6%	68
15 - 24		1.6%	8
Totals: 501			

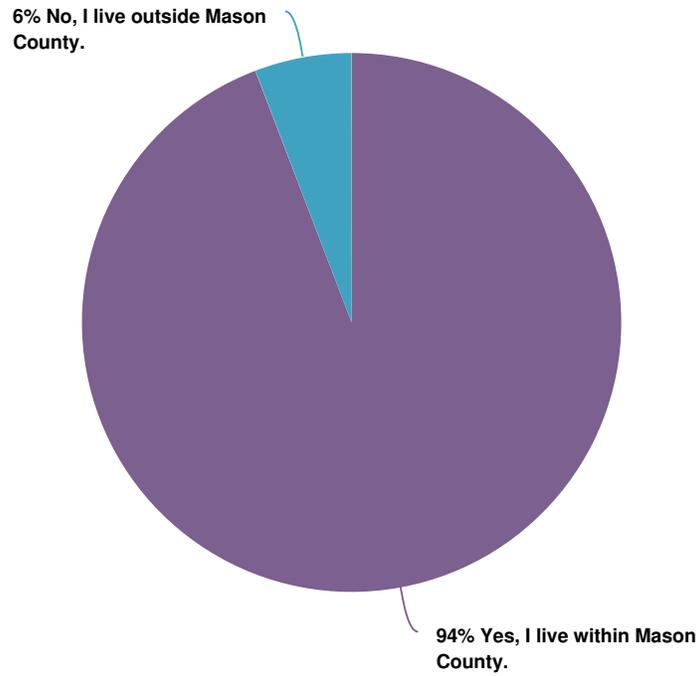
13. Which of the following best describes you?



Value	Percent	Responses
I am an adult with no children at home	32.9%	159
I am retired	31.0%	150
I am a parent or guardian with a child/children 18 or younger at home	29.1%	141
None of these apply to me	4.3%	21
Prefer not to answer	2.1%	10
I am a student in elementary, middle, or high school	0.6%	3

Totals: 484

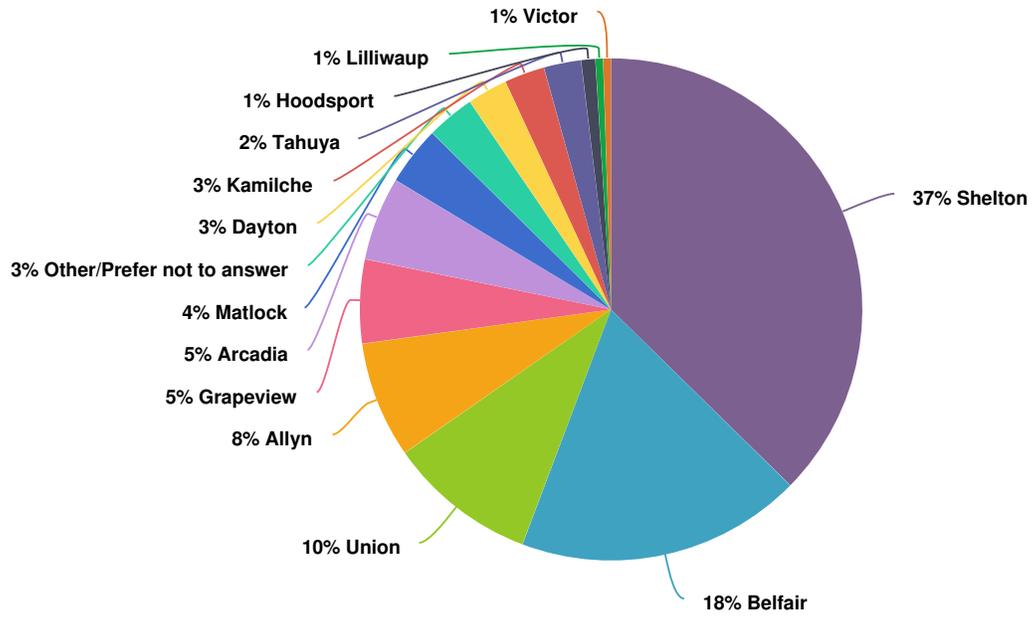
14. Do you live within Mason County?



Value		Percent	Responses
Yes, I live within Mason County.		94.2%	452
No, I live outside Mason County.		5.8%	28

Totals: 480

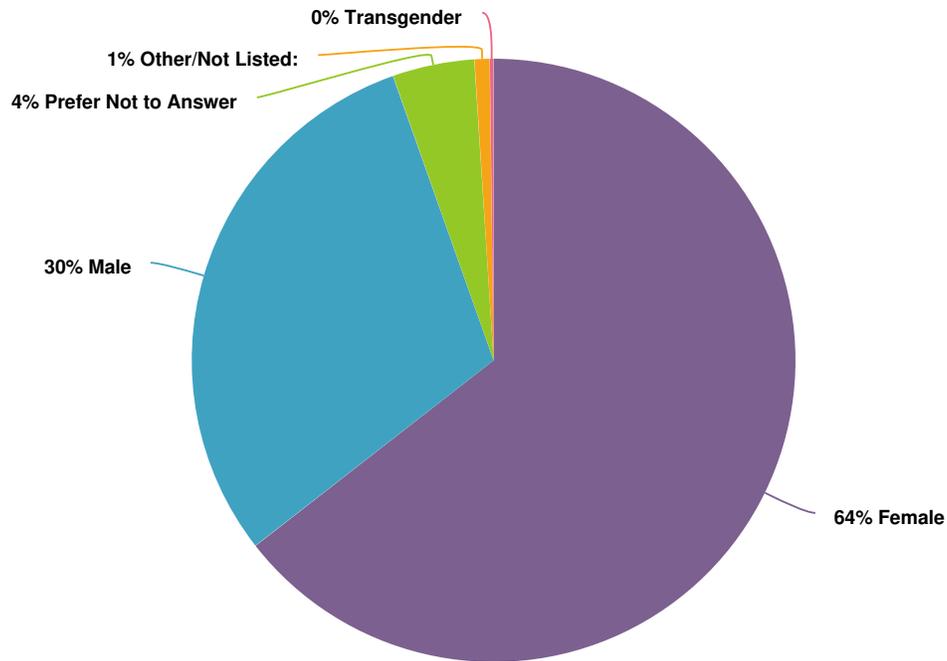
15. What community do you live within (or closest to)?



Value		Percent	Responses
Shelton		37.4%	159
Belfair		18.4%	78
Union		9.6%	41
Allyn		7.5%	32
Grapeview		5.4%	23
Arcadia		5.4%	23
Matlock		3.8%	16
Other/Prefer not to answer		3.1%	13
Dayton		2.6%	11
Kamilche		2.6%	11
Tahuya		2.4%	10
Hoodsport		0.9%	4
Lilliwaup		0.5%	2
Victor		0.5%	2

Totals: 425

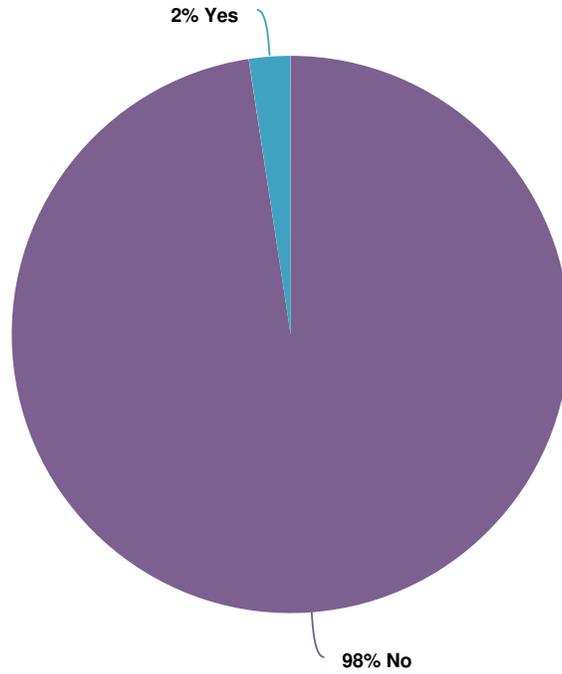
16. What gender do you identify with?



Value	Percent	Responses
Female	64.4%	306
Male	30.1%	143
Prefer Not to Answer	4.4%	21
Other/Not Listed:	0.8%	4
Transgender	0.2%	1
		Totals: 475

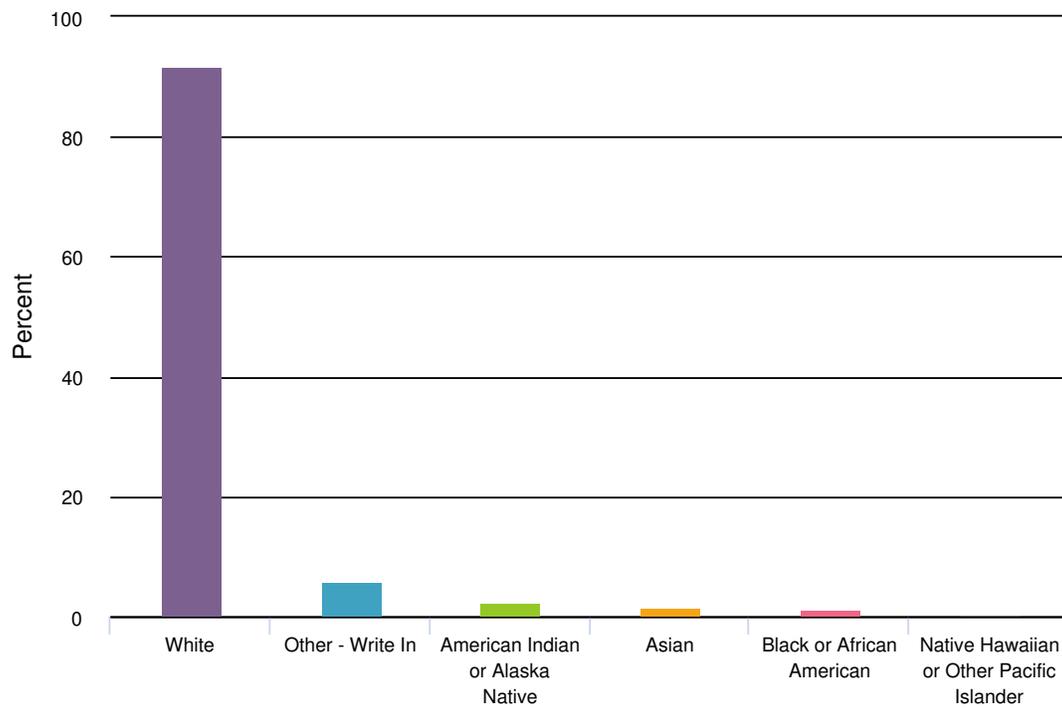
Other/Not Listed:	Count
This question is worded incorrectly.	1
gay	1
Totals	2

17. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?



Value	Percent	Responses
No	97.6%	450
Yes	2.4%	11
		Totals: 461

18. How would you describe yourself?



Value	Percent	Responses
White	91.8%	428
Other - Write In	5.8%	27
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.4%	11
Asian	1.5%	7
Black or African American	1.1%	5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	1

Other - Write In	Count
Human	5
American	2
Prefer not to answer	2
Scandinavian	2
human	2
11, 12 , 13 are not relevant these questions are offensive	1
Beautiful	1
English/Scottish/Irish	1
How dare you!	1
Jewish	1
Mixed	1
Native meaning born in usa, european	1
No	1
Northern European	1
Scottish	1
deplorable	1
norwegian	1
Totals	25

19. These answers will help to provide guidance in the development of the Mason County PROST Plan! Below is a space to share any additional information or comments we may have missed in the earlier sections of this survey.



ResponseID Response

12 Take care of what we have already paid for. More Staff presence would help the homeless issues

13 It would be nice if staff was available, present and seen during busy nights at MCRA. More often then not, no one is around to address issues. Maybe adjust staffing schedules to be present at the facility when people are there with the most need.

17 Boat ramps near Shelton

24 Mason County Commissioners need to identify dedicated ongoing funding to maintain what Mason County has and to make improvements and additions.

38 Truman Glick Park in Matlock is the only park in the area. MMK students where able to use this park during the school shutdown. We would like to see continued maintenance and availability for this community park.

42 I would like see sand hill upgrades in line with the mcra facilities in shelton

49 We need to again have an exclusive Parks & Trails Director, not a shared duty individual. John Keats was the greatest thing we ever had! Things have gone downhill ever since he left.

ResponseID Response

51 When trying to locate a facility I found it difficult to find a map on the Mason county website that provides driving directions to various facilities.

57 Team up with wash.DNR to open up timberlands for public access as to trails to walk bike and enjoy are outdoors.

59 Access by all citizens is a concern. Will this survey be in Spanish for our Latina population? And, is input sought from low income citizens - who likely need respite from Nature.

60 I would love to see more biking trails. Many parks have walking trails that could double as biking trails but it seems frowned upon. I think some simple signage would make these trails more inclusive to biking.

68 One are of the survey areas missed is "access" to National Forests and the Olympic National Park. Improvements can be made to connect to these areas. More partnership with Green Diamond on temporary land use for recreation. Mason County has high obesity and diabetes rates and there are very little bike trails or lanes and safe walking paths. Mason County is an "on the way" place and not a "destination" place. We have such an opportunity to be a destination area for enjoyment of our natural resources (beautiful outdoors, salmon, shellfish, hiking, etc.). Many people bike the Olympic Peninsula" that may stop more Mason County if the roads were more bike friendly, for example.

78 No new taxes

80 Keep rural character of county

83 You ask the question, how would you describe your self w a selection of different answers such as Native American, but you didn't list my community around my community, including Hoodspport? To get to the community, you have to drive through mine skokomish

92 FUN Exercise for all ages. Even visitors.

99 Out lying parks should be kept open all year

102 Thank you. Great survey. We didn't know about all of the parks!!

122 A Shooting sports failicty would promote safe recreational shooting across the entire county ans well as provide Parks a revenue source from fee based access and event leases. this would help resovle isses as we become a more populated county, as well as reduce the environmental impact on unimporved areas and private timberlands. There is RCO grant opportunities for just such a project.

ResponseID Response

147 Mason county needs to focus on getting out of the past and into the future. It is apparent that our thinking is outdated. Spend some time on economic development and polish the jewel we have to serve areas around us with housing and amenities/services.

150 I would love to see something similar to what the Chamber does for the "First Friday" program in December with a passport to the different businesses but do it for our Mason County Parks. Get a passport, visit the different parks and get a badge or some sort of small token for filling your "passport". Or maybe fill your "passport" and be put into a drawing for a free parking pass or something like that.

152 I gave acquisition priority over development because in the future opportunities to acquire land will diminish.

157 Our community needs safe GREEN spaces and access to the myriad of bodies of water just minutes from our doorsteps. Would love to see the Shelton waterfront cleaned up and useable for residents and visitors alike.

162 My husband and I feel it would be a huge community boost to acquire the current soccer park and install turf fields and build a indoor soccer and batting cages. Although, our child is almost an adult we have traveled to many facilities outside of our community and feel it is a great asset to a community.

193 RV camping and long term rental spots is at an all time high demand. Mason County should be taking advantage of its natural attractions to attract these campers.

199 Making the existing rail road tracks into bike path would be amazing!

205 We have beautiful lakes but there is no swimming or family friendly access to the lakes. I'm retired but I have grandchildren I would enjoy taking to the lake. I pay to be able to go to Mason lake.

215 Not sure

219 Kids need more places to swim. We need more biking paths.

224 Consider additional development of disc golf in Mason County. It's a rapidly growing support that has a strong foundation in the community thanks to the Shelton Springs course. Disc golf fits in with Pacific Northwest culture and brings in visitors.

ResponseID Response

240 Mason County needs income to acquire and protect some of the open spaces closest the majority of its residents (Hood Canal and Puget Sound area). Development in the next 20 years will cut off access to open spaces that residents currently take for granted. If the County acquires open space, protects it for habitat, and provides access to residents (parking and trails), it will be good for quality of life, recreational tourism, and ecological health. Implement Conservation Futures. <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=84.34.240>

245 We need walkways/safe sidewalks in Union along McCreavy road and 106.

246 On the maintenance/improvement line of the budget break out... this should be split apart. I have no idea what it costs to maintain parks, and I don't want anything over my guess to be interpreted as going towards improvements. I think current parks have sufficient amenities, should be maintained, but anything extra should go to development of community spaces where families can connect with one another.

249 When I am traveling I look at this as a way to determine the health of a community. I know a lot of bikers and there is no place to safely ride in the county. Bike Lanes!!

255 buy land now, prices will only increase. especially waterfront for non-motorized watercraft access like kayaks

256 I understand how some might feel we need to spend our resources on construction of facilities, but it seems to me the bottom line is limited by land being available for parks. If it is not acquired now, if we wait too long, the land will simply not be available. Growing the inventory of publicly owned land is essential.

261 Clean areas bathrooms, family friendly...fun areas for kids to play safely and sports areas

273 Oakland Bay tidelands adjoining Maloney creek should be purchased.

275 We also love the disc golf course

278 Marketing should be in the budget. Having brochures and park maps at the chamber visitor centers would be very helpful

281 Desire dog friendly hiking trails

291 Bike path along Cloquallum would be awesome

292 The name of the park in Union is wrong in your survey (or on Google)

296 Please focus on kids with most need. Spray park. Kid park in poverty areas.

ResponseID Response

297 Union park is out of control...three houses border this park...one family was just forced out..the othr listed her home recently becuse of park issues, and my house....i have lived in union forthirty five years..my street and the park are now unsafe and noisy cause ofkids on atvs etc.

299 Critical need for walking and biking trails.

302 It would be great to have more places to practice shooting.

307 I would love to see a fair grounds brought back to mason county. More equestrian access.

309 We need to bring back the Mason County Fair. It is such a great community gathering, and supports the kids 4H program.

311 Bring back Mason County Fairgrounds, The loss of our Countyfair has really affected our community and clubs like 4H.

313 The horseback riders in Thurston, Grays Harbor, and Mason county are looking for safe places to park our vehicles and ride. Most of us carry saws and know how to help keep the trails maintained or even make the trails.

314 Please stop trying to eliminate equestrian activity the majority of us are responsible members in this rural community. This is not seattle we should be embracing all the country aspects of small town living and remeber horses have been here for a long time and we will continue to be here . Stop banning horses in recreational areas we are just as important and you having a fog park. If you want us out if certain areas you should design an equestrian park for us. I work very hard in our community hospital to help our residents it's important I have an outlet from this demanding job as well with horses

316 Thank you for allowing for input. Please consider equestrian trails/facilities a necessity for mason county

320 Consider horse trails

322 As economic problems make some forms of recreation very expensive, it is even more important to make full use of our forests and trails to remain fit and functioning !

323 Horse people are under serviced. Timber companies are chargingus, as individuals, annual fees of \$125, in addition to their tax breaks

324 Bring our Fair back please. Places to ride horses.

326 trail maintenance

ResponseID Response

327 Not once has recreational horseback riding been brought up.

329 More boating and horse riding and camping

333 As Park Host, we hear people ask us to provide them year around access to parks facility usage. However, in order for this to occur, parks/trails would need to have the personnel to support this demand, the resources to maintain the current infrastructure. Granting the public full access year around today is not doable or viable for Mason County at this time. If the long term goal is to have Parks and Trails a priority for Mason County taxpayers, Commissioners should reinstate a Director of Parks and Trails to manage it's natural resources. A Director of Parks and Trails that would be qualified in knowledge of forest and shore management, consturction disciplines , feild/park maintenance, budget, revenue, staffing, grant writting, and have a vision.

337 Horseback riding trails are needed

349 Just feel that our youth is our future and outdoors recreation education and we need more areas to try to interest them in with more availability of outdoor activities

357 Where are most of these places? Any of these places? I am most upset that there are these places that I haven't even heard of. Publicity! Maybe a map with this survey? Please develop in ALL areas of the county not just Shelton area.

359 Would love to see unused railroad tracks converted to walking trails. We have lost the use of Mason lake due to Simpson charging their employees a yearly fee. It would be great to have something similar to Lake Sylvia/Millersylvania near the city.

363 Consider horseback riding and establish more areas (or develop a partnership with those who own areas, like Green Diamond and DNR) to offer safe, maintained trails for the equestrians in your community.

368 We need more equestrian friendly trails

370 We moved to Harstine Island last year & there is little information about outdoor areas.

377 As I stated earlier, there are not enough areas for equestrians. The ones we have NO amenities. It would be nice to have horse trails designated. I live real close to the Mason County line.

382 Would luke to see Horsemanship add to the list, equestrian trails, maybe even a public arena that time could be rented out.

ResponseID Response

383 I like horses and dogs to have a great area

385 I visited Sunset Bluff Park and found the trails to be in very poor condition. I currently volunteer at Harstine Island and Jarrell state parks and Bayshore Preserve.

402 I don't visit a lot of these parks because I don't know where they are or how to access them. A map with all of these areas and where to park/how to get to them would be great!

403 I think better utilizing the parks we already have could be helpful as well - example - in Union, there is a baseball field, but the baselines are not defined. Maybe add a soccer goal or two to the baseball outfield, Public WiFi would likely help attract visitors as well.

419 Please consider the creation/maintenance of non-motorized trails to be used by hikers, mountain bikers and horse back riders.

421 I think our community is doing the best they can with available people for the jobs. I like the conversation of funding and building parks and estuary type wetlands as I feel nature to this area is super important. I'd like to see more Native American inspired and themed projects as this was once all the local tribes land "squaxin"

429 We could use a facility to bring our vast horseback riding community together... for expeditions, shows, etc.... fairs etc. We also need to expand upon and save the riding trails that exist and keep them safe from motorized vehicles... and overgrowth...I am sure the riding community would help maintain them

442 residents of Sunset Road in the Agate area are upset with the vandalism that occurs with the evening/night use of Sunset Bluff park

453 The existing "beaches" here are a rocky mess, they aren't even really beaches. Mason County needs good large SANDY beaches and more public access. As an example, at Spencer Lake, there is very limited access except at the boat launch, and it's all Ricky and potholes out in th parking lot, the trash is always overflowing, etc. I understand this is a poor county, but in general the county administration isn't forward looking at all and doesn't want to see growth and improvement, which is a problem.

457 Indoor facility for youth needed Outdoor facilities for families needed

458 Roller skating, ice skating and bowling facilities would be a welcome addition to Mason County.

ResponseID Response

- 459 I feel strongly that the County is ignoring safety and maintenance issues related to the Sunset Bluff County Park. When the park property was aquired, the residents of Sunset Road were assured that the County would assume responsibility for the safety and maintenance of the new park. To date, the County has failed to meet this commitment. There are on-going issues with this unsupervised isolated setting that encourages vandalism and public safety. The need for a secure gate and fencing is absolutely imperative to assure the local community's safety. Issues that need addressed include proper signage addressing the issues of hunting, camping, and park hours. Issues created by the access to the park from Crestview Drive also need to be addressed. Hopefully, these neighborhood concerns will be addressed in the near future.
- 475 Why would you ask any race questions. What difference does it make? Any why ask a separate question about being Hispanic?
- 476 Even though My permanent home is in King County, I spend as much time as possible on Hood Canal, many weeks in the summer and several times a month year round
- 490 Security of parks during evening hours via locked gates to prevent vehicles entering parks. Maybe it would cut down on vandalism, drinking, drugs and traffic in parks and the neighborhoods adjacent to parks.
- 493 Sweetwater Park and trail area is owned by Port of Allyn. Mason County should not be involved.
- 510 You have a huge horse community in mason county, providing equine accessible trails would be very much appreciated.
- 517 During the summer months people are in search of a place to swim and picnic with their family. We have so many lakes but none with a public swimming area.
- 521 People are moving here, developers have found us and many open spaces will be gone in the blink of an eye. It's best to obtain land for parks now before it's gone or too expensive. The kids have the YMCA and schools to play in. Please preserve more open spaces for our future.
- 526 Parks should be and will need to be funded better. The community needs safe clean places for families to enjoy outdoor spaces.
- 527 Keep in mind... Mr. VanBuskirk's sole reason to participate in many, if not all of these exercises, is to try to kill the Sweetwater Ck park. He goes to Port meetings and state funding / granting sources and expends a bundle of energy to block... so take that into account when you read his biased feedback. That park has hundreds of folks who have donated both cash and 'in kind' to see it hannen.

ResponseID Response

533 You all should focus on the homeless issue. We would be able to enjoy our parks if we didnt feel like we needed to be armed to take our kids to the park or look for needles first.

535 A trail like the Western Chehalis walk/bike trail would be awesome!

536 Thank you for allowing input!

538 mason isnt king county, please for the lobe of god dont ruin it with bullshit parks and taxes

549 Just would like to see bike trails or lanes. Harstine island would make good bike lane around island.

561 More safe bike or walking trails on the North Shore road would improve my experience as well.

566 feel free to contact me am Jed Clampette on facebook

568 As Mason County is a rural area a lot of people go shoot in the woods. A designated and safe area for a shooting range that is away from residential areas would be beneficial to the community.

585 Thank you for providing this survey!

588 We really need more water access around here. It is a real shame we have no trail from the Salmon Center to Belfair Park.

589 Unleashed dog park

590 Keep up the good work. Steps to mitigate climate change are my highest priority. You seem to have struck the perfect balance at Thelar.

595 As a parent with young children - bathrooms & shelters are key amenities that make a park accessible to us. We like trails to walk but also playgrounds.

596 Sweetwater Park should be seriously looked at. What a beautiful addition to our community.

597 Sweetwater creek park as well as the community parks and trail systems like it that connect the areas together.

599 I maybe retired from Dentistry, but I am the only volunteer trail maintenance person for the Thelar wetland trails & the HCSEG trails

610 Love the idea of green energy investments in these amazing new project idea!

ResponseID Response

611 The gender question was unnecessarily politically correct BS

615 Mason County is under-birded. It would be nice to have some good pull outs or parking around Hood Canal and different birding areas also. Need restroom at Theler.

619 Will be here full time within next 24 monthes.

623 Sweetwater Park would also allow salmon to go up the Creek to spawn= critical!!

634 I am so happy to see that our Brian Peterson is again at the forefront of caring about Mason County. He is a blessing. I was not aware of all the PROST info. Thank you.

637 As I mentioned earlier, I would like to see expanded plantings of community food, especially native plants but also things like apple trees. The Shelton United Methodist Church and Hoodspport Timberland Library have both begun to develop this. It can be very cheap but high yielding for the community, and good for pollinators and wildlife.

649 Start investing money into BELFAIR! I'm tired of seeing She'll get all the priority.

652 Cleaning up what we already have will make it easier to assess better what we can afford by not spreading out the financial aspect of it, too thin and take note of what other areas may, or may not, be needed.

653 Thanks for the work you do! These facilities are so important, especially in the era of pandemics and climate change.

654 I am not familiar with many of the parks listed. A map or links to information would have been useful.

655 Showers at water front parks

669 With so much rural areas and bodies of water, more access should be available. With such a large rural county, walking/hiking trails, parks with shelters and more water access close to where people should be considered.

673 I am concerned that plans for the Sweetwater creek waterwheel park will not totally preserve the area. I hope that it is treated with care.

679 The description for the waterfall park doesn't say where it is in relation to hwy 3, how big it is, what's the source for fresh water fishing, how far to Theler?

ResponseID Response

685	Need more cycling trails, please! The roads as they exist are not safe riding places. Would love to see a Belfair to Shelton trail that allows cycling. Sorry that the trails at Theler do not allow bicycles.
693	Greatly improved maintenance and management of all county road shoulders is desperately needed. Presently it is un safe to traverse most all of our roads by foot or bicycle.
699	Sidewalks and or trails aling highways especially northshore into town alot of people walk and it is dangerous.
702	I support the Sweetwater / Wagonwheel land acquisition and redevelopment.
708	More parks the better! Greedy Diamond has all the land and the normal guy can't just go out in the woods anymore with his family without a permit..
714	We could use campgrounds with playgrounds and clean facilities
717	These parks and recreation areas needs to have better marketing to inform the public.
718	Spray parks in UGA would be great family amenity. Camping at county parks great revenue source and add to shortage of camping in area.
724	Your gender question separates Female, Male, and Transgender. This a. implies cis women and men are women and men and trans women and trans men are only trans. A fill in the blank answer box would fix this issue quite easily.
726	I have heard there is a proposal for the Sweetwater Creek Project with a trail from the Hood Canal to Case Inlet, I think this would be amazing and very needed.
734	A list of the parks and amenities somewhere easy to find, I didn't know most of parks listed
741	Please resource Sunset Bluff Park so it can be secured, signed and closed during the hours of darkness.
750	The Sweetwater park really sparks my family's interest. We have been on the Theler wetland trails many times.
756	More amenities (walk/bike trails, ADA accessible trails and parks,in North Shore!
759	We need a community pool.

ResponseID Response

764 I am worried that with the population growth and development the area will lose its rural character and become a bedroom community with suburban style parks.

765 Sidewalks and parks for children are needed

768 Safety is my biggest concern when going to parks!

778 Please put high priority on the Sweetwater Creek Project.

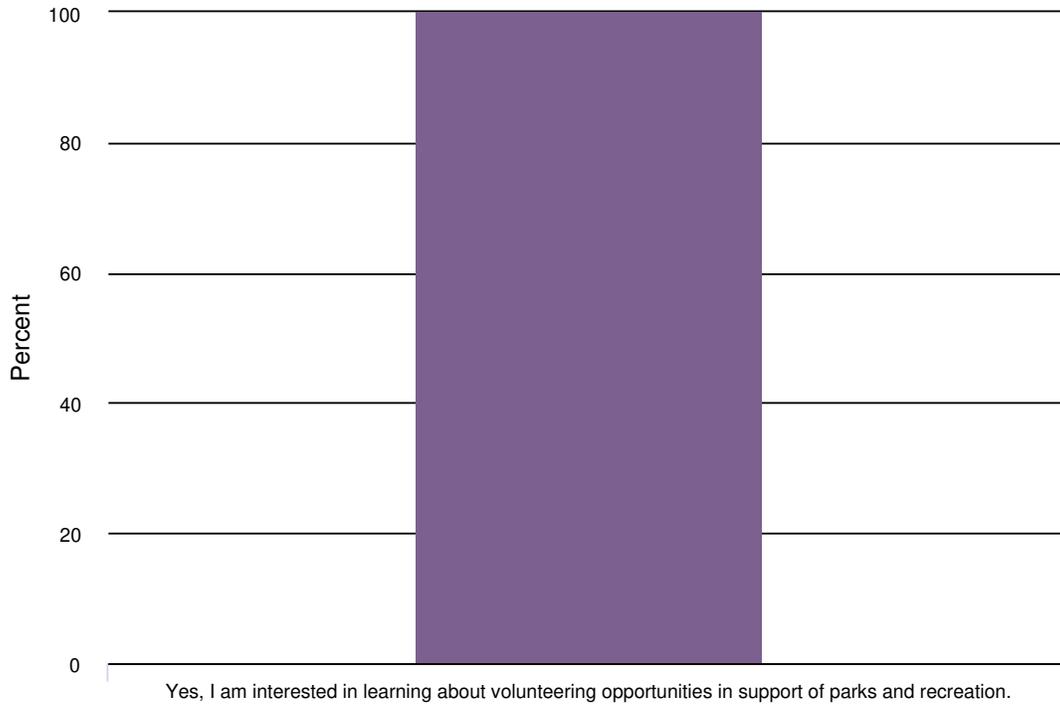
787 The County needs to dedicate REET 2 monies to Parks and Trails. The original Resolution imposing the REET 2 (Real Estate Excise Tax second .25 allowed in State law) was to operate Parks. Regrettably, not in perpetuity and after several years it has been used for every thing else. To a reasonable person, it would appear that Parks/Trails are not important to the County. Suggest impact fees for Parks be explored.

791 Every single question you've asked has doged the real problems with our park infrastructure, maintenance, and development. I feel I have grossly wasted my time completing this redundant surgery, that will add zero value to the input of our local parks system. Who wrote this? A high schooler?

796 I am not currently a Mason County resident, though I am in the process of relocating to the Shelton area and both my spouse and I work in this county.

803 Please help the Sweetwater Creek Park. It would be really nice to have a Park (waterfront if possible) on the Grapeview Loop.

21. Check the box below if you are interested in volunteering to improve park and recreational facilities within Mason County.



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes, I am interested in learning about volunteering opportunities in support of parks and recreation.	100.0%	114