

RESOLUTION NO. 40-91

IN THE MATTER OF:

Approving an updated Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan for Mason County.

A resolution rescinding the 1979 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and adopting the new Mason County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan, setting forth goals, policies, and recommendations for the provisions of parks and recreation areas for Mason County residents; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this plan is to guide Mason County in its commitment to provide a diverse, multi-faceted system of parks and recreation areas; and

WHEREAS, the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan no longer adequately addresses the needs for parks and recreation areas; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners recognizes that parks and recreation areas are necessary for the well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan provides the necessary guidelines for the provisions of parks and recreation areas; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Mason County participated in the development of the plan through a Parks and Recreational Survey and public hearings to analyze citizen needs and demands, and

WHEREAS, technical data, inventories, and analysis were done to determine the condition of existing parks and recreation areas; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Planning Commission reviewed the plan and has recommended approval of the plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Mason County Commissioners hereby update the Mason County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan as follows: **(Attachment A)**

10
The Plan is updated and shall be in full force, and effective this date.

DATED this 19th day of March, 1991

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

William Hunter
Chairman

Michael D. Gibson
Commissioner

[Signature]
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rebecca S. Rogers
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Prosecuting Attorney



**MASON
COUNTY**

PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Prepared by the Mason County Planning Staff
for
Mason County Board of County Commissioners

February 1991

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MASON COUNTY
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SECTION 1.0

INTRODUCTION

The importance of leisure time has increased considerably over the past years resulting in a much greater need for parks and recreational opportunities in Mason County. The specific purpose of this document is to guide Mason County in its commitment to provide a diverse, multi-faceted array of parks and recreation opportunities to its citizens and visitors. This commitment will assist in fusing the rural character and urban needs of a dynamic and ever changing community.

A secondary purpose of this plan is to provide the county with a tool upon which to evaluate the needs and demands of county citizens and blend them in with the rapid growth that Mason County is presently experiencing and how that growth could impact recreational opportunities.

Finally, this plan is written in such a manner that it will comply with all requirements set forth by the Interagency Committee For Outdoor Recreation. The Interagency Committee For Outdoor Recreation is an important source of funding for parks and recreation projects. Obtaining additional funding was one of the many important reasons for developing the plan.

SECTION 2.0

GOALS AND POLICIES

2.1 Goals

1. To adopt, support and communicate the philosophy that recreation means any activity which contributes to the enjoyment, entertainment, education, and refreshment of the citizens and visitors of Mason County.
2. To properly maintain and create parks and recreational areas that are aesthetically pleasing and that promote public health, safety, and the general welfare of the individual user.
3. To promote family oriented park usage that will discourage illegal activities which lead to the degradation of recreational areas.
4. To locate, design, and construct parks and recreational areas in such a way that they are compatible and beneficial to the natural environment.
5. To promote parks and recreational areas that provide for a diversity of age and interest groups.
6. To promote the development of new multi-use parks and recreational areas that will provide for the rapidly growing population of the county.
7. To acquire shoreline and other land with recreational value in areas where there is limited recreational opportunities.
8. To develop and maintain a quality system of trails which will provide for uses such as bicycling, walking and jogging, ORV, and horseback riding.
9. To utilize and properly manage the many natural and scenic open space areas of Mason County for recreational activities.
10. To develop a more comprehensive Open Space Plan that will identify, preserve, enhance, and restore those areas which are becoming directly affected by urbanization which in return will maintain those areas of historical, cultural, and ecological significance thus preserving the rural character of Mason County.
11. To be responsive and adequately address the needs and demands of individuals and groups, and to actively seek public input in order to keep abreast of trends and changes of this rapidly growing county.

2.2 Policies

1. Parks and recreational facilities should be located, designed and constructed to be compatible with the surrounding natural environment.
2. The location, size and type of park and recreational facilities should be based on the needs and demands of the citizens in the the general vicinity where the facility would be located.
3. Parks and recreational facilities should provide a variety of recreational opportunities for a diversity of age groups and interest groups.
4. Recreation facilities should provide adequate provisions to keep park activities from adversely affecting adjacent properties.
5. Private enterprise should be encouraged to develop recreational facilities.
6. Parks and recreational facilities should be of a multi-use type.
7. Park and recreational facilities should prohibit the use of off road vehicles (ORV) unless the facility is specifically designed for those activities.
8. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan should be updated every 5 years.

2.3 Waterways and Beaches

Mason County has many miles of waterways and shorelines that are of recreational value. Therefore it should be a major priority to increase public access to those areas.

9. An effort should be made to acquire shoreline property in areas where public access is limited.
10. The Department of Natural Resources and Fisheries should be encouraged to provide public access.

2.4 Trails

Trail systems for various uses such as bicycles, walking and jogging, ORV, and horseback riding are of special interest in Mason County.

11. Trails should be constructed to provide for the growing population of the County.
12. Trails should traverse areas of natural beauty and

special interest but in no way destroy or degrade the naturalness of the surrounding environment.

13. Special areas should be acquired to provide trails for Off Recreational Vehicals.
14. Development of a Comprehensive Trail Plan should be considered.

2.5 Open Space

Open Space land is valuable because it provides open areas for recreational opportunities and is aesthetically pleasing and preserves rural character.

15. Open space has a high aesthetic value therefore it should be acquired to provide natural recreation areas and provide for wildlife habitat.
16. Plats, mobile home parks and R.V. Parks should provide greenbelts and common open space.
17. Conserving natural open space for recreational opportunities must be considered in parks projects.

2.6 Wetlands

Wetlands provide for water purification, flood protection, groundwater recharge, and habitat for fish and wildlife species. All of these functions provide value to a recreational system and therefore wetlands should be part of the parks and recreation plan.

18. Special consideration should be given to Mason County's extensive wetland resources in regards to educating the public on the importance of preserving these areas. Recreation in the form of viewing wildlife and waterfowl and other wetland organisms should be provided.

2.7 Active Recreation Areas

Mason County has a growing population with a diversity who need to have different active recreation opportunities. Therefore it should be a major priority to develop active recreation programs and facilities to support them.

19. Special consideration should be given to the need for the development of recreation programs for indoor activities such as basketball, raquet ball, swimming, and vollyball for all ages.
20. New facilities should be considered for construction as the need arises and funding becomes available.

SECTION 3.0

DESCRIPTION OF MASON COUNTY

3.1 Physical Setting

Mason County is located in the southeastern portion of the Olympic Peninsula. The County is bounded to the east by the waters of southern Hood Canal and Puget Sound and then adjoins with Pierce County to the east and Kitsap County to the northeast. The county also adjoins Jefferson County to the north, Grays Harbor County to the west and Thurston County to the south.

The total area of Mason County is approximately 1,027 square miles, including 937 square miles of land, 90 square miles of water with 190 miles of shorelines. The water areas include portions of lower Hood Canal, Puget Sound and numerous lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. Hood Canal, the major western arm of Puget Sound, penetrates nearly to the center of the County from the north and hooks to the northeast, forming the Kitsap Peninsula. The eastern arm of Puget Sound reaches into the County from east to west forming many bays, inlets and islands. This unique physical setting results in diversity of topography, climate, vegetation, fish and wildlife, and economics and population.

3.2 Topography

Mason County lies on the western side of the Puget Sound Trough which is a structural break between the Cascade and Olympic Mountain ranges. The northern portion of the county is relatively steep due to its location along the base of the Olympic Mountains. From sea level along Hood Canal the Olympics quickly rise to elevations of over 6,000 feet within six miles of the shoreline thus creating a very steep and scenic area. The high rising Olympics form many tributaries in the northern portion of County.

The Skokomish and Hamma Hamma Rivers are the principle drainages of the northern Mason County. The Skokomish River is the largest river system on the western side of Puget Sound, draining an area of 244 square miles and emptying into the southern end of Hood Canal.

The southern and eastern portions of the County are of low relief consisting of broad plains and low lying hills such as the Black Hills. This area contains many small lakes and natural wetland areas that are important for fish and wildlife.

The many miles of saltwater shorelines are characterized by steep slopes descending to a narrow strip of beach. As a

result of the unique shoreline character, waterfront development is rapidly increasing throughout the county. These shorelines provide magnificent views of the water bodies on which they are located, creating an aesthetically pleasing area in which to reside.

There are over 230 lakes in Mason County. Lake Cushman a man made reservoir 4,010 acres in size, is the largest and is located to the northwest in the Olympic mountains. Mason Lake is the largest natural lake at 997 acres. Most lakes range in size from 100 to 300 acres and are primarily located in the southern portion of the County.

3.3 Climate

Mason County's climate is heavily influenced by maritime air masses from the Pacific Ocean. A low level gap between the Olympic Mountains and the Willapa Hills allows these air masses to pass into the southern extent of the county without considerable interruption. The Olympics partially shield the northern County from the the more intense winter storms that strike coastal areas. Therefore, Mason County enjoys a mild west coast maritime climate with relatively mild to cool wet winters and warm dry summers.

The average annual precipitation decreases from the northwest portion to the southeast portion of the county. Precipitation ranges from 200 inches in the high mountains of the county's northwest corner to 100 inches in the Olympic foothills to 50 inches along the county's eastern border. Rainfall in the area is relatively gentle with many overcast and foggy days. Snowfall is mainly limited to the higher elevations with intermittent flurries in the lower elevations at times when polar air masses move in from the north.

Temperatures are relatively mild in the winter with short periods of cold temperatures. Summers are pleasant with temperatures seldom reaching above 85 degrees.

3.4 Vegetation

Prior to logging activities in the county, this area was largely an ancient coniferous type forest biome. The cutting of the forest has contributed to the area becoming a mixture of both coniferous and deciduous type trees resulting in the formation of a new extremely diverse forest ecosystem. This process is a direct result of man's activities.

The higher areas in the county, such as along the peaks of the Olympics are characterized by small shrubs, lichens, grasses, and an occasional coniferous tree.

The areas just below the high elevations are characterized by coniferous forests of douglas fir, pacific silver fir, mountain hemlock, western red cedar, and a few species of spruce. There are a substantial amount of deciduous type species also in this area such as alder and maple.

3.5 Fish/Wildlife

Prior to the appearance of the early settlers all indigenous fish, shellfish, and wildlife were abundant in their natural undisturbed state. A growing population inadvertantly led to increased pressure on the natural fish and wildlife resources of the area. However Mason County, due to its unique vegetation communities and its extensive water bodies, still supports a diverse population of both fish and wildlife.

Mason County has a diversity of fish species which use the numerous water resources of the area. There are presently seven species of anadromous fish using County waters. They are Chinook, Coho, Chum, and Pink salmon, Steelhead and Cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden. Resident fresh water fishes include Rainow, Cutthroat, and Brook trout, Dolly Varden; Kokanee, Largemouth and Smallmouth bass, Mountain Whitefish, and Yellow Perch. The principle marine fish are the Starry Flounder, numerous species of rockfish, Pacific Herring, Candlefish, and Dogfish.

The many miles of beaches and estuarine areas contain a wide variety of shellfish resources such as the pacific and native Oysters, Dungeness and Red Rock Crab; Little Neck, Horse, Butter, Steamer, Geoduck, and Cockle Clams, and various species of shrimp.

Wildlife is another important part of Mason County's natural resources. There are many different species of mammals, resident and migratory birds on the Olympic Peninsula. A large majority of these species are found in Mason County.

Important mammals include such big game as the Roosevelt Elk, Black-Tailed Deer, Bobcat, Black Bear, Mountain Goat and Mountain Lion. Smaller mammals include such furbearers as the Beaver, Mink, Muskrat, River Otter, Weasel, Skunk, Coyote, and Raccoon. Principle bird species include the Blue Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Mountain Quail, and the Bald Eagle.

The major waterfowl species that use the many water bodies and wetlands include Mallard, Pintail, Widgeon, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Merganser, Coot, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Goldeneye, and Green-Winged Teal Duck, Black Brant, Canada and Lesser Canada Goose.

The quality and quantity of the fish and wildlife resources in Mason County are an important aspect of the county's character in the recreationalists view.

3.6 History

Mason County has always had the benefits of its lush forests and fruitful wetlands, rivers, lakes and marine habitats. Large populations of deer, elk, bear, salmon, trout, oysters, clams, eagles, and various other species have thrived in these habitats. This productive environment first enabled settlement by a number of native tribes. Tribes that spoke the Twana language settled the shorelines and drainage areas of Hood Canal and the Skokomish River, while the shores of Puget Sound were settled by such tribes the Squaxins and Sawamish.

The first settlers came to this hospitable environment in the mid-1800's. They brought the frontier spirit in search of economic and life opportunities. The backbone of the local industry was then, as it is now, logging. The first settlements arose in the most strategic locations for the shipment of logs to populated cities with larger mills. These new settlements had such familiar names as Union, Hoodsport, New Kamilche, and Oakland. Improved mechanization and transportation for logging operations enabled more extensive logging operations and greater milling in the towns. In the 1920's three new mills were constructed on the Shelton waterfront. These new mills combined with the improved mechanization and better transportation of logs to town, made Shelton the central node of Mason County. The beautiful scenery and the diversity of outdoor opportunities gave birth to a tourist industry which drew greater numbers of seasonal residents. This trend along with increased diversity of the economy and the general growth of the Puget Sound area has resulted in a steadily growing population throughout the county.

3.7 Population Distribution

Most of Mason County's population is located in the eastern portion of the County. This area is dominated by saltwater inlets, lakes, and islands. In the southeast Totten and Skookum inlets are extensively used for aquaculture. These areas is experiencing steady growth from the Olympia area and Thurston County.

Shelton is the only incorporated city in Mason County which is situated on the west end of Hammersley Inlet. Twenty percent (20%) of the County's population resides in Shelton. Shelton has experienced steady growth in recent years as has the general vicinity around the city. The industry in Mason County is located mostly in and around Shelton. The fastest growing area of the county is the area around Belfair ranging down Case Inlet and into the Pickering Passage and the Hartstine Island area.

The Belfair and Allyn areas are the commercial centers for the northeastern portion of the county. This area with its traditional ties to Kitsap County and Bremerton has experienced a dramatic increase in population over the past few years with the expansion of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, the Trident Nuclear Submarine Base and other new commercial businesses in and around the area.

West and north of Belfair, within the Great Bend of Hood Canal, is the Tahuya Peninsula. The Department of Natural Resources owns large parcels in this area. The land is sparsely populated. However it is beginning to experience an increase in growth.

Portions of the northern shore of Hood Canal and almost all of the southern shore are densely populated along with the areas of Hoodsport and Lilliwaup on the western shore. Residential development along and near the shores of Lake Cushman is also becoming more densely populated.

To the south of the mountains at the southern extent of Hood Canal is the Skokomish River Valley, the county's richest agricultural land. To the south and west of the Skokomish River Valley is a plain cut by the Satsop River and its many small tributaries. The land is largely owned by cooperate forestry interests with small population centers, such as Matlock, Dayton, and Lake Nawatzel.

The following is a population demographics table for Mason County:

MASON COUNTY	1980	1984	1986	1988	1990	2000
Total Pop.	31,184	34,800	35,400	36,800	38,300	46,800
Unincorporated	23,555	27,200	27,850	29,270	30,680	
Incorporated	7,629	7,600	7,550	7,530	7,620	
Shelton	7,629	7,600	7,550	7,530	7,620	
% Population Increase		1980-1984 10.3%		1984-1990 9.1%		
		1980-1990 18.5%		1990-2000 27.3%(est)		

Land Area: 1,027 sq. mi.

Population per square mile 1980-30 1990-37 2000-47 (est)

Population figures were taken from the Office of Financial Management.

3.8 Economics

Mason County's largest single industry is the production of lumber and plywood products. Simpson Timber Company is the largest employer in the industry and employs about 1,000 people.

The second largest trade in the county is aerospace manufacturing which is the production of aircraft components. Certified Manufacturing currently employs about 340 people. Barnes Machine Shop also produces aircraft components and employs about 50 people.

Mason County is also known for its christmas tree production which makes up a considerable part of the county's economic base. The trees are transported all over the United States for sale.

Mason County is quickly becoming known for its extensive aquaculture industry. Shellfish growers in Totten and Little Skookum Inlet presently produce millions of pounds of shellfish products annually. Other Important areas for aquaculture are the North Bay and Case Inlet areas. Shellfish products are shipped all over the United States and to various parts of the world.

The dependence of growth, development, and economic stability on the lumber and plywood industry has decreased somewhat. New trades are beginning to move into the area because of the availability of space. Many people in the county commute to outside areas to work; for example, the Puget Sound Naval Shipyards in Bremerton. Olympia also provides employment opportunities for Mason County residents which creates growth for the southwestern portion of the county. The overall population of the county continues to grow even though its main economic base, the timber industry, continues to decline in size.

Mason County is projected to grow at a dramatic rate over the next decade resulting in economic growth. As a result, Mason County could become an economically feasible site for other businesses in the northwest.

3.9 Conclusions

All indications show that Mason County's population will increase at a dramatic rate over the next decade. This increase will be fueled by economic growth in neighboring counties and the rest of the Puget Sound area. Populations from the urban centers will continue to filter to the more rural setting resulting in an increased need for better parks and recreation areas in Mason County.

SECTION 4.0

INVENTORY AND EVALUATION OF EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS IN MASON COUNTY

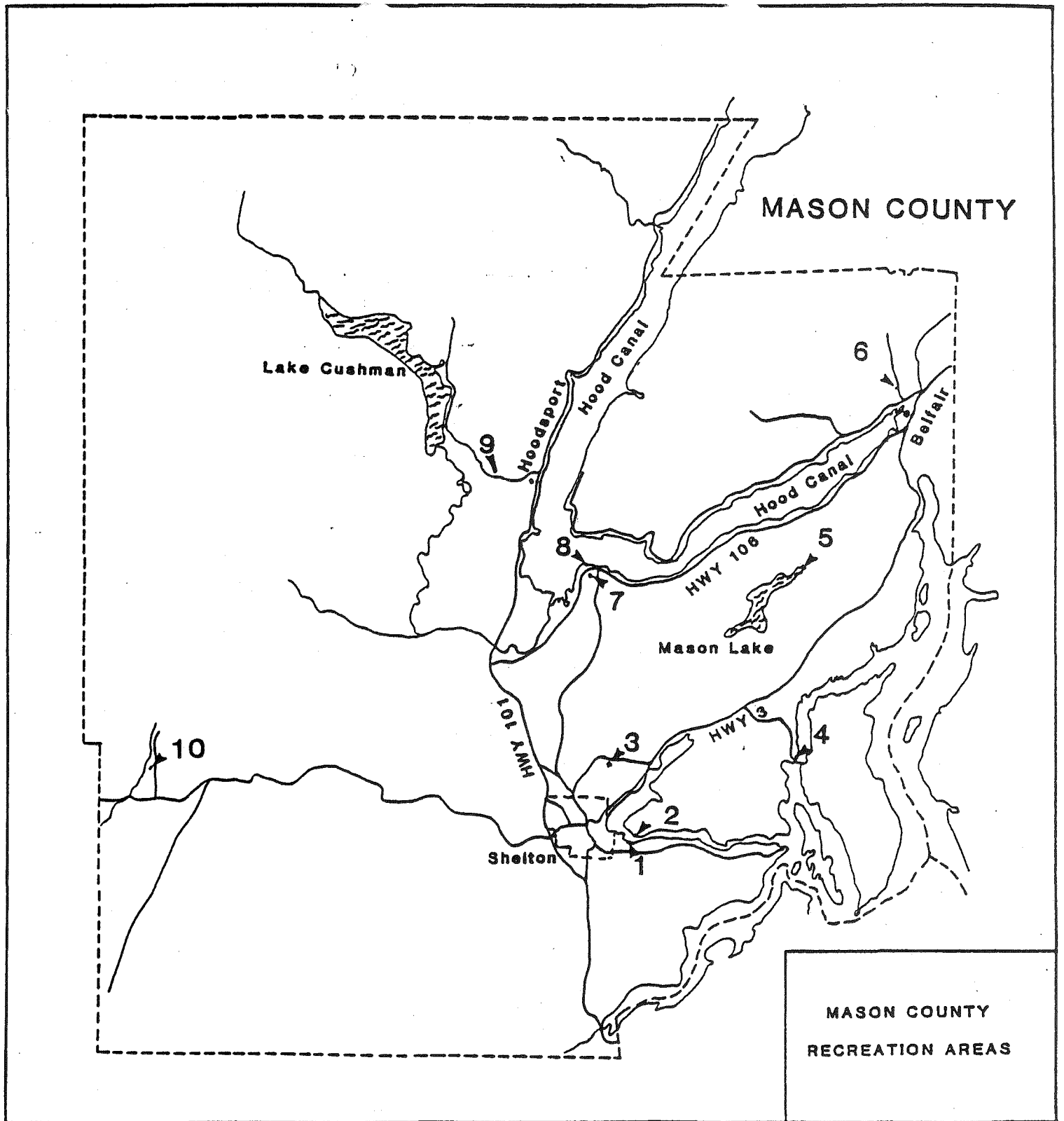
The primary responsibility of Mason County to its citizens in regards to parks and recreation is to provide recreational areas, facilities and activities when and where it is feasible.

Mason County's primary objective is to develop and maintain a well balanced system of parks and recreational areas for its citizens. The following section has been developed to show the existing parks and recreational areas available in Mason County.

In addition Mason County should further cooperate with the City of Shelton and other communities, adjacent counties, local, state, and federal agencies to acquire and administer park and recreational facilities for joint use and mutual benefit. Furthermore, Mason County should become a coordinating agency for urban and rural recreation planning, and to provide a valuable link between local planning and state and federal efforts.

4.1 County Owned Recreation Areas

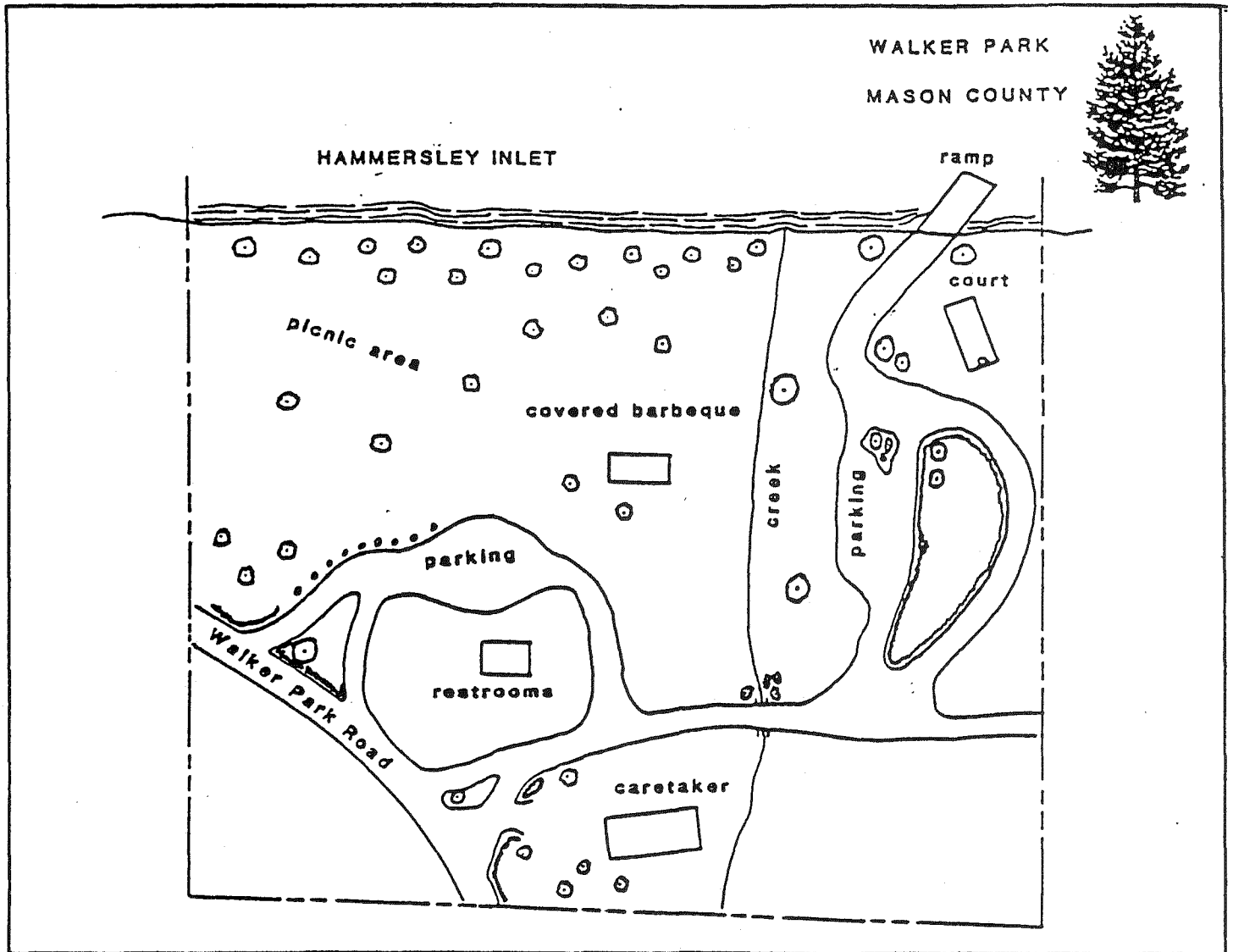
The maps on the following pages show a generalized layout of each park and recreation area that Mason County owns and maintains for its citizens and other potential users. These layouts are intended to serve as an interpretive tool for people who are looking for a certain type of park or recreation area.



**MASON COUNTY
RECREATION AREAS**

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 - Walker Park | 6 - Sandhill Park |
| 2 - Shorecrest Park | 7 - Union Community Park |
| 3 - M.C.R.A. | 8 - Union Boat Ramp |
| 4 - Latimer's Landing | 9 - Foothills Park |
| 5 - Mason Lake Park | 10 - Truman Glick Park |

WALKER PARK



WALKER PARK - 5.04 acres

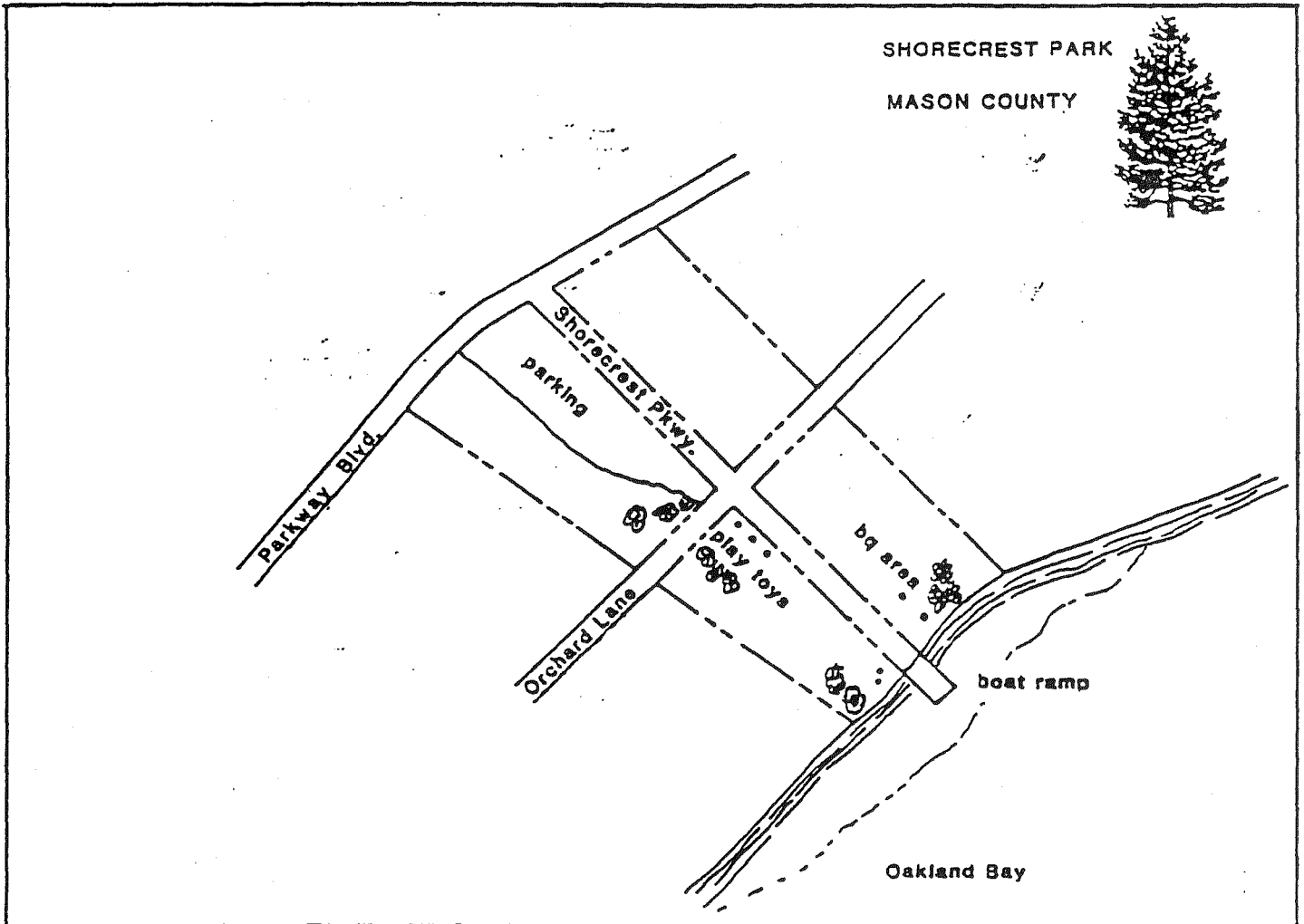
Location: approximately 3 miles east of the City of Shelton on Walker Park Road.

Walker Park is a small family orientated park with saltwater beach access. Favored activities include picnicking, beachcombing, scenic water view, and childrens play.

The park includes many picnic tables with one covered barbeque shelter, restrooms, childrens play area and boat ramp for small untraileded boats.

Physical setting includes heavy seclusion under large douglas fir, hemlock, ceder and Maple trees with a small creek flowing through the park into Hammersley Inlet.

SHORECREST PARK



SHORECREST PARK - 3.15 Acres

Location: approximately 11 miles northeast of the City of Shelton on the north side and west end of Hammersley Inlet in the Plat of Jacoby's Shorecrest.

Shorecrest Park is a family orientated park with saltwater beach access. Favored activities include boat launching for small boats up to 16 feet, picnicking, beachcombing, scenic water view, and childrens play.

The park includes 3 picnic tables, 1 barbeque pit, boat ramp and childrens play area.

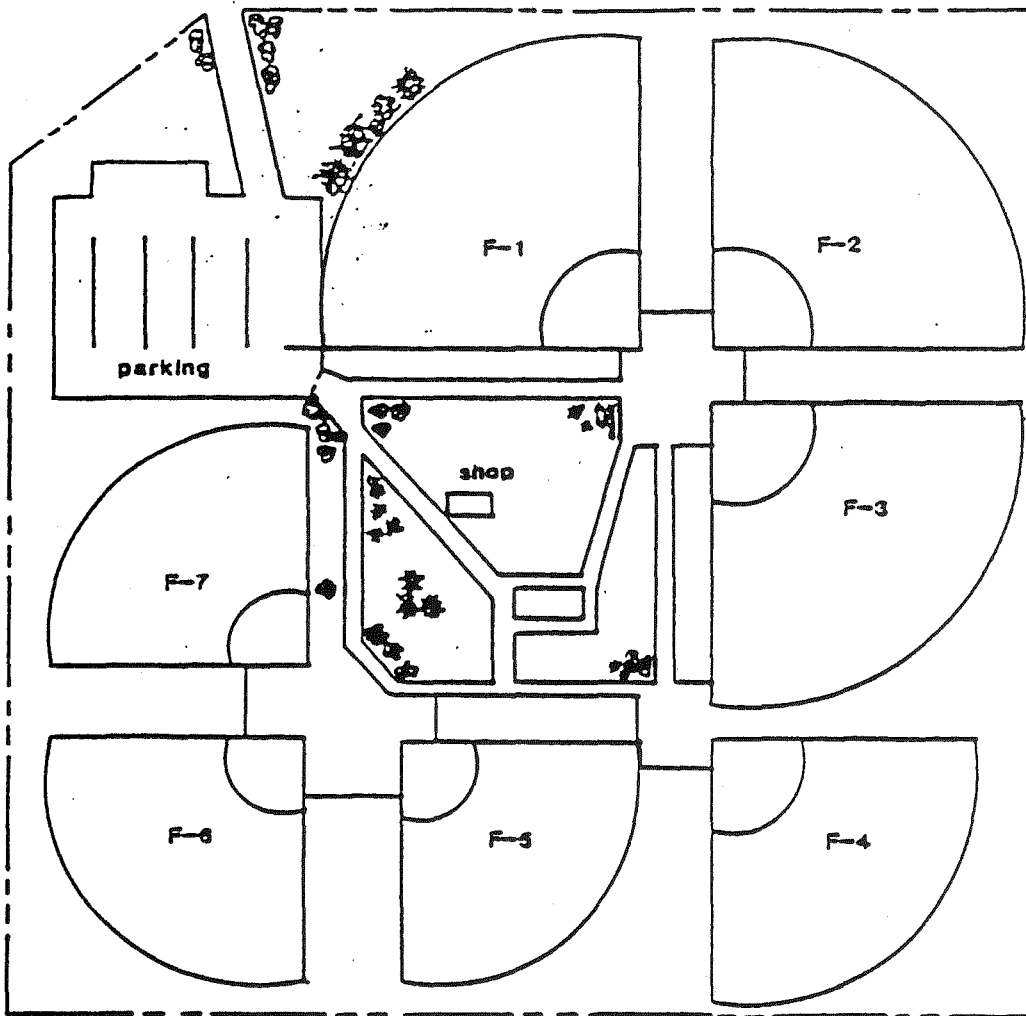
Physical setting includes sloping land to the beach and water with a few Fir and Alder trees.

M.C.R.A.

MASON COUNTY RECREATION AREA

MASON COUNTY

Johns Prairie Road



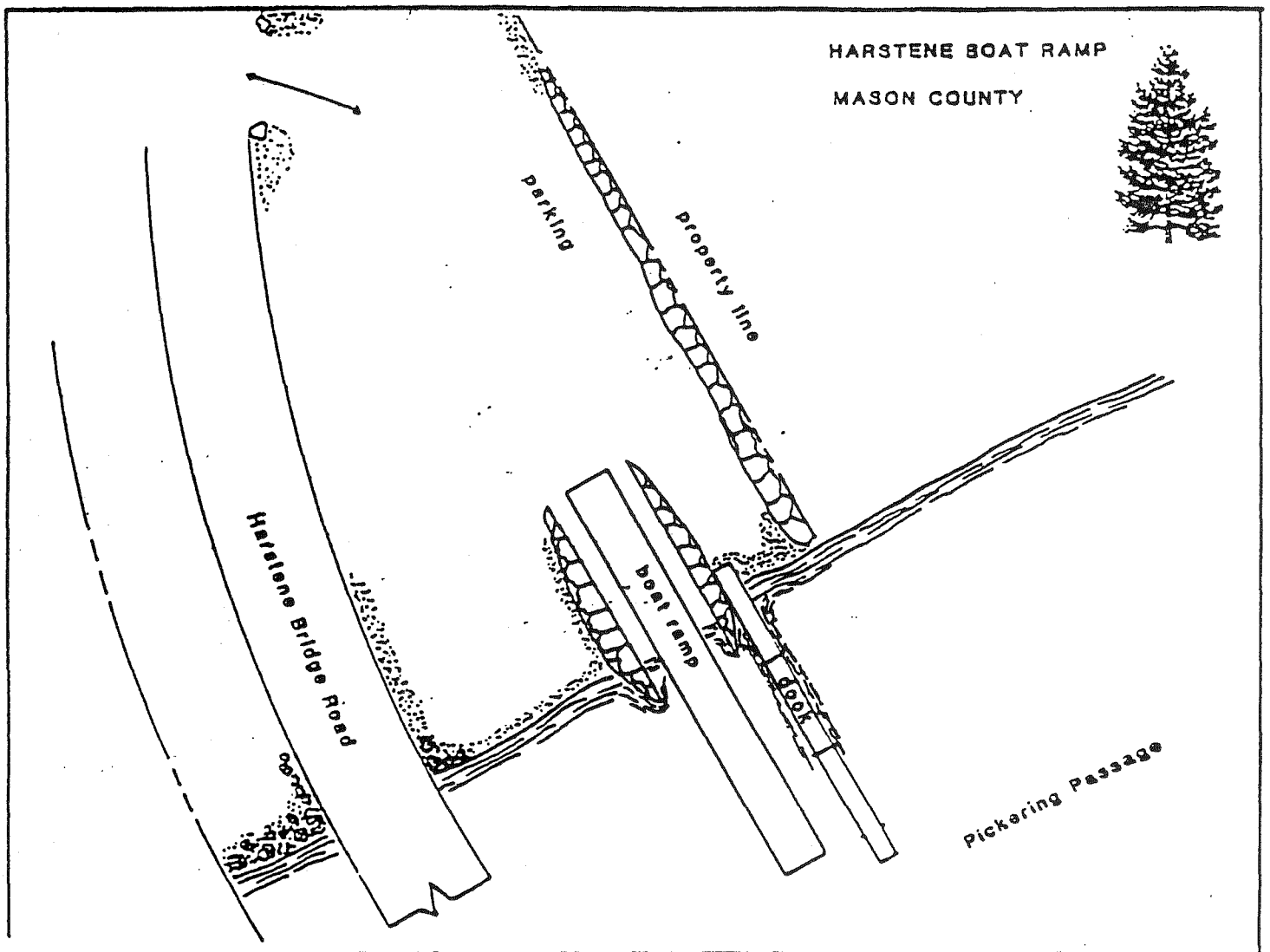
MASON COUNTY RECREATION AREA - 40 Acres

Location: approximately 6 miles north of the City of Shelton and approximately 2.5 miles out Johns Prairie Road.

M.C.R.A. is Mason County's largest athletic park with 7 baseball fields which are also used for softball and soccer. The park also includes restrooms, childrens play area, storage shop and a caretakers apartment. During periods of high use a small concession stand is often operated for the enjoyment of park users.

The park supports a number of user groups including Little League Baseball, girls softball, adult softball and youth soccer. Shelton High School also uses the park for its junior varsity, C-baseball and girls softball teams.

LATIMER'S LANDING



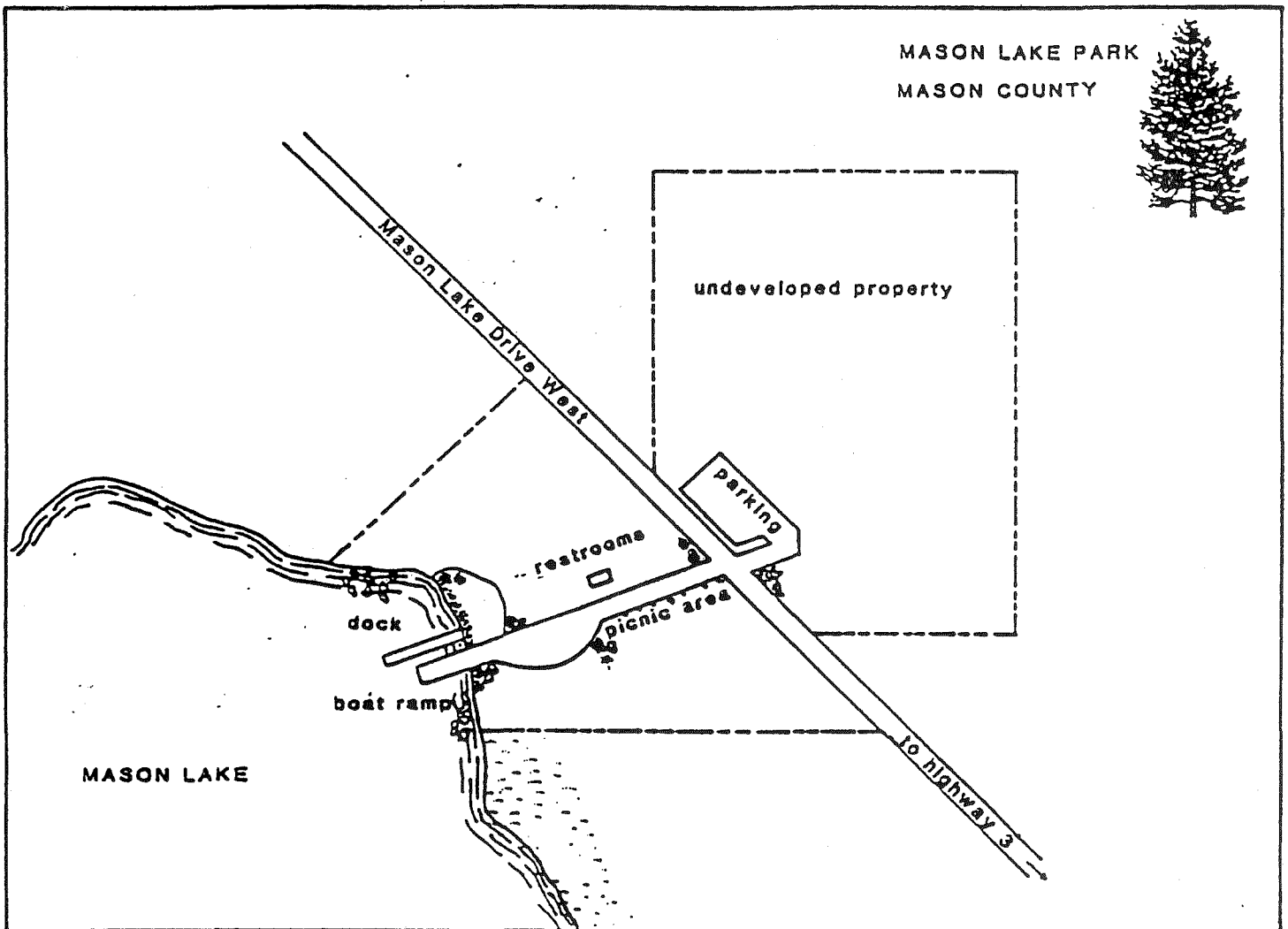
LATIMER'S LANDING - .59 Acres

Location: adjacent to the Hartstene Island Bridge on Hartstene Island Bridge Road on the east side of Pickering Passage.

Latimer's landing is a saltwater access site boat launch for boats up to 20+ feet in length. It is the only public boat launch in the area and has an extremely high use rate. Parking is often limited.

The park includes a small restroom, boat launch, user boat dock. Parking is limited.

MASON LAKE PARK



MASON LAKE PARK - 2.36 Acres

Location: on the northeast end of Mason Lake approximately 5 miles north of highway 3 on Mason Lake Drive West.

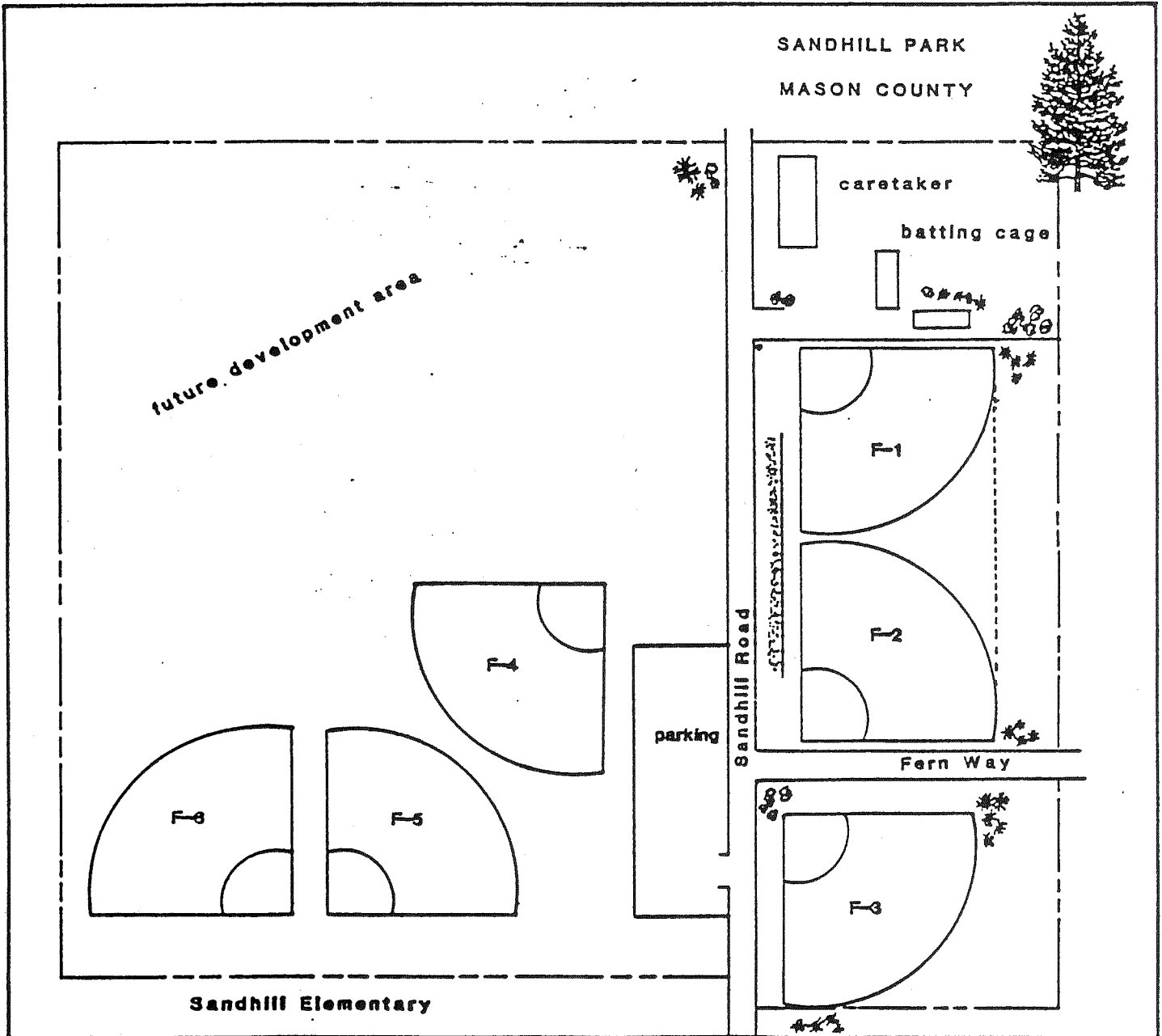
Mason Lake Park is the only freshwater access type park the county owns and maintains. It provides the public access to the northeast end of Mason Lake.

The park includes a boat launch for boats up to 18 feet, a dock, play area, restrooms, barbeque pit and an adequate parking area.

Due to shallow water it is sometimes hard to manuever boats and swim at this site.

SANDHILL PARK

SANDHILL PARK
MASON COUNTY



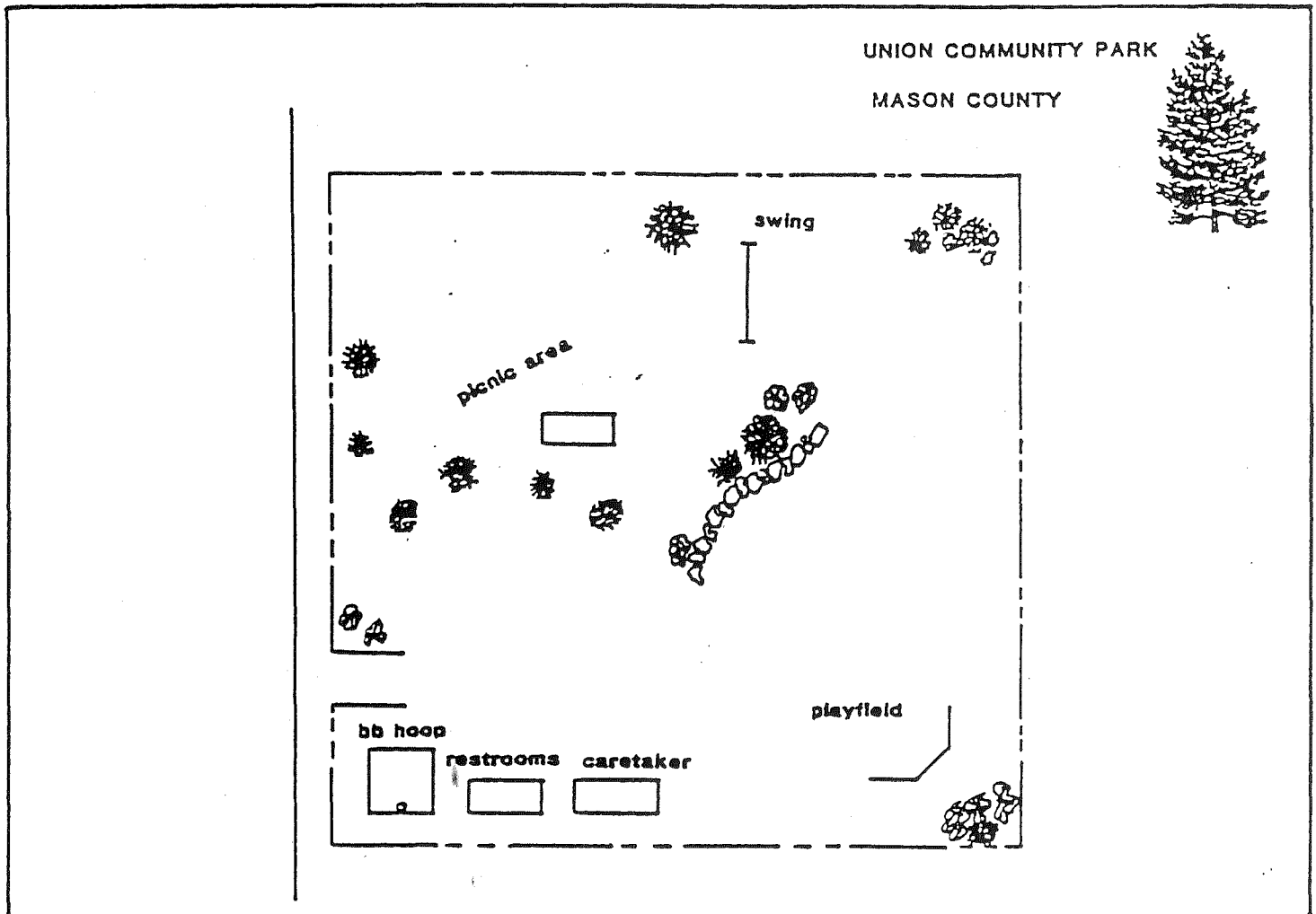
SANDHILL PARK - 30 Acres

Location: approximately 3 miles north of Belfair on Sandhill Road adjacent to Sandhill Elementary School.

Sandhill Park is the county's second largest athletic park which serves the North Mason Area. There are presently 6 baseball fields which are also used for softball and soccer. Future development of more fields is proposed.

Sandhill supports a number of athletic programs including Pee Wee and Little League Baseball, adult softball and soccer. This facility is extensively used and will need to be expanded as the growth of the Belfair area continues.

UNION COMMUNITY PARK



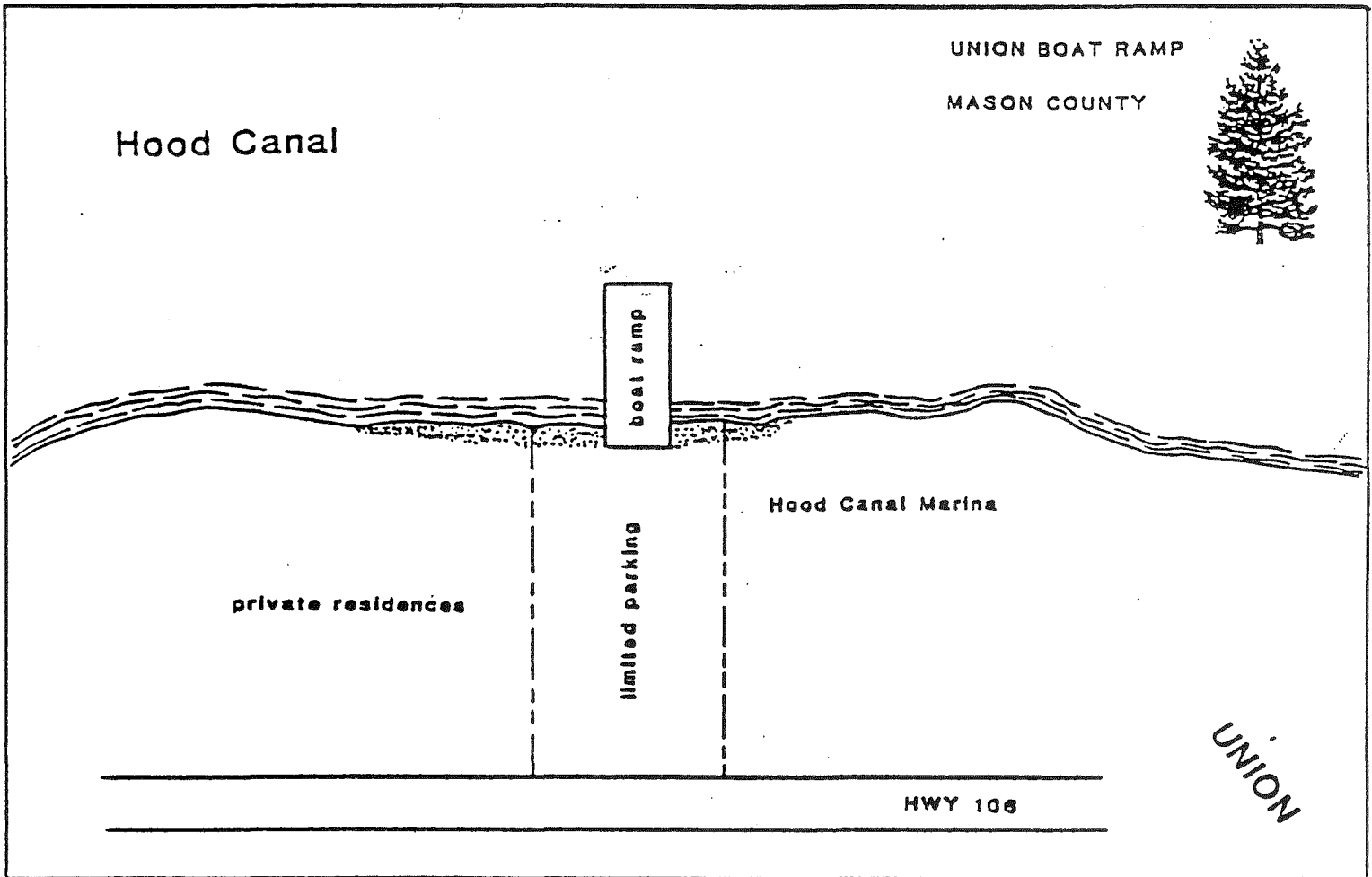
UNION COMMUNITY PARK - 1.92 Acres

Location: The park is located in the Community of Union along the south shore of Hood Canal on Port Townsend Street.

Union Community Park serves the Community of Union as a family orientated park. Favored activities include picnicking, childrens play and general liesure activities.

The park includes restrooms, childrens play area, small baseball diamond, picnic shelter, and a small basketball court.

UN. JN BOAT RAMP



UNION BOAT RAMP - .16 Acres

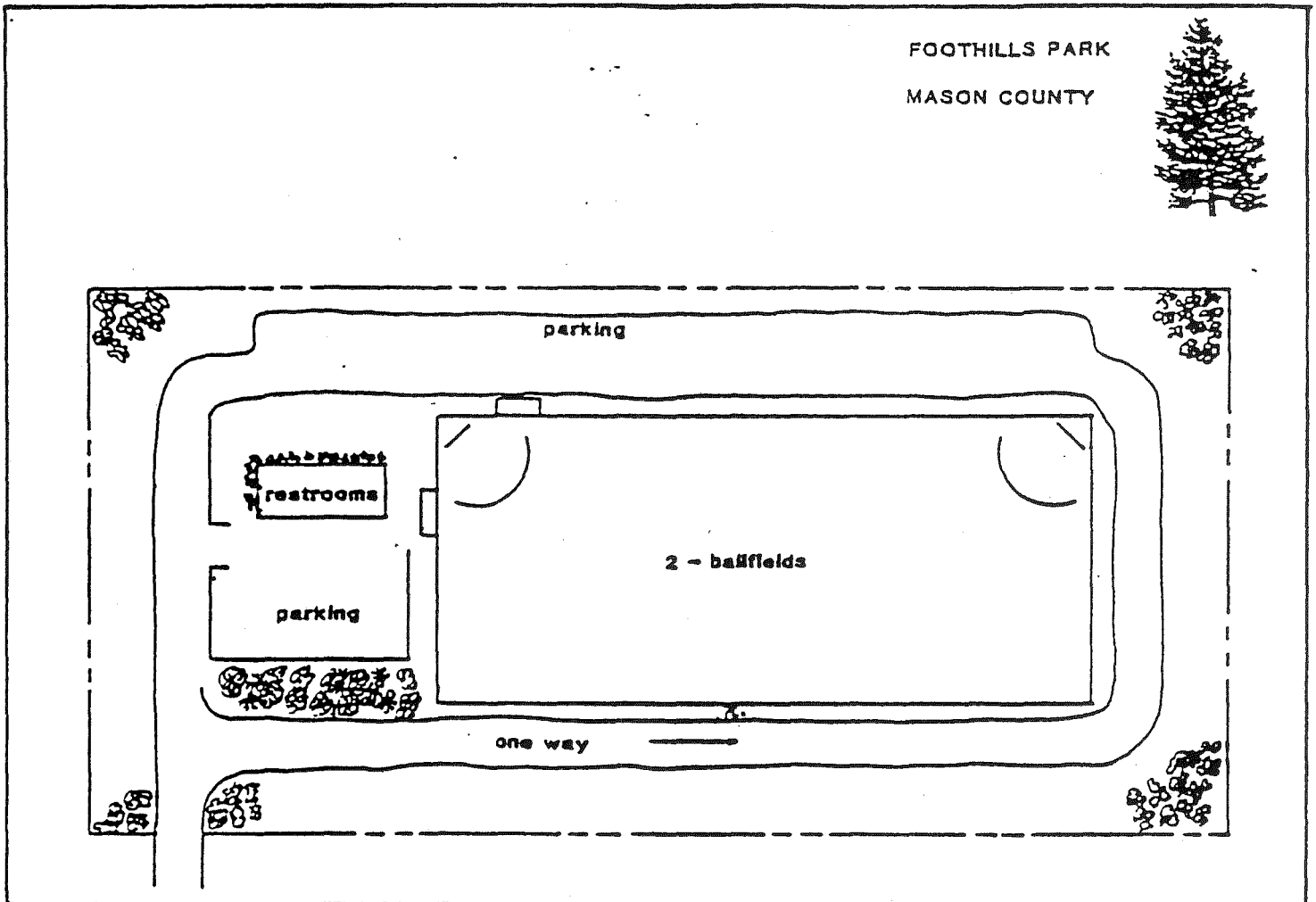
Location: on south shore of Hood Canal in the Community of Union just off of Highway 106 adjacent to the Hood Canal Marina.

The Union boat ramp serves as a boat access site to southern Hood Canal for boats up to 19 feet. There is very limited parking for this access.

Due to shallow water it is extremely difficult to launch at low tides.

FOOTHILLS PARK

FOOTHILLS PARK
MASON COUNTY



FOOTHILLS PARK - 80 Acres

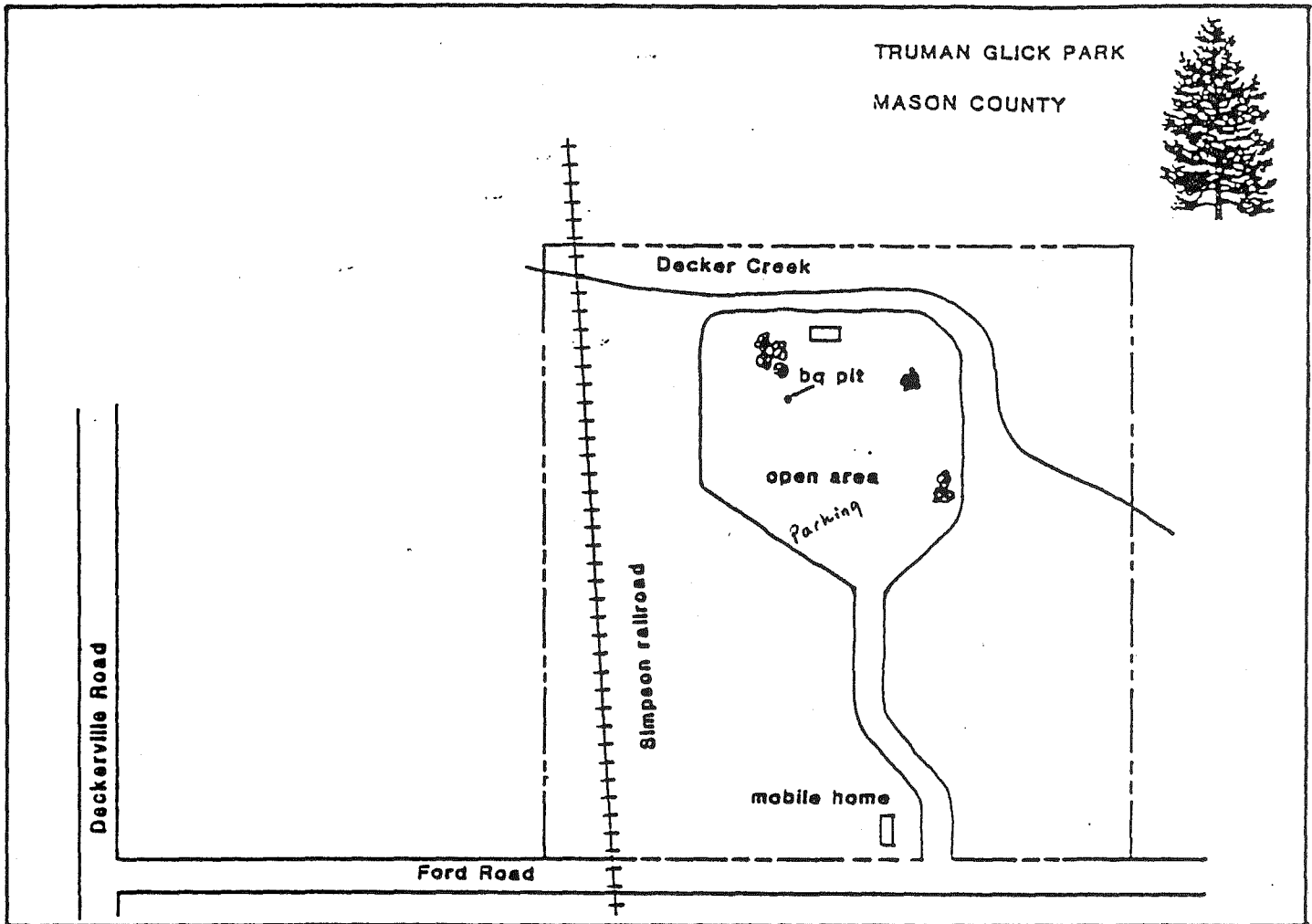
Location: approximately 2 miles northeast of Hoodsport right off Lake Cushman Road on Hoodsport Park Road.

Foothills Park serves the Hoodsport and Lake Cushman area. The park is an athletic park consisting of 2 baseball fields which are also used for soccer and football activities. It also provides restrooms and bleachers.

The park supports Little League Baseball and softball for the area.

The park will be expanded as funding becomes available.

TRUMAN GLICK PARK



TRUMAN GLICK MEMORIAL PARK - 40 Acres

Location: approximately 3 miles west of the Matlock General Store right off Deckerville Road on Ford Road.

Truman Glick is a nature orientated park for family picnicking and reunions. It is relatively undeveloped at this time. Decker Creek flows through the park and creates a very natural physical setting.

The park includes a freshwater creek, restrooms, barbeque pit, open space and plenty of nature observation area.

4.2 Mason County Programs and Park Usage

Mason County currently owns and maintains 3 athletic parks and recreation areas: Mason County Recreation Area (MCRA), Sandhill Park and Foothills Park. These parks provide for a variety of recreational programs including: Little League Baseball and Softball, Soccer, Football, Adult Softball and Coed Softball. These three parks are the basis for the county's athletic programs and are becoming areas of extremely high use.

MASON COUNTY RECREATION AREA (MCRA), located on Johns Prairie Road northeast of Shelton, serves the urban and rural areas of Shelton. The park provides 7 fields that are used for baseball, softball, soccer, and football for a variety of age groups. M.C.R.A. is used by the High Schools Junior Varsity and C baseball teams, and Girls Softball. The facility is also used by Boys Bigball, Little League Baseball, Soccer, Football, Adult Softball, Coed Softball, and Sponsored Softball Tournaments.

M.C.R.A. is Mason County's largest athletic facility and provided for the following numbers of people during the 1990 athletic season:

Group	Number of Participants	Annual Visits
Little League Baseball	800 avg.	20 avg.
Soccer & Football	500 avg.	10 avg.
Adult Softball	550 avg.	10 avg
High School Baseball Practice	30	13 games 30
Softball Tournaments	180	2

Using a 2 viewers to 1 participant ratio for all events resulted in estimated total of 82,000 park visits for participants and viewers for the 1990 athletic season.

M.C.R.A. events begin as early as January with the start of Little League practices and extend into early December with Soccer. The extreme high use period begins in April when the Shelton High School Junior Varsity and C-Team Baseball teams are using the park along with Little League and continues through September with Softball events. Park usage will continue to increase creating a need for improvements to accommodate growing needs.

SANDHILL PARK, located in the area north of Belfair, serves the Northeastern portion of the county. The park provides 6 ballfields that provide for a variety of activities including, Little League Baseball, girls softball, and some adult softball events.

There were an estimated 450 Pee Wee, Little League and girls softball participants in 1990 at Sandhill Park and there are adult softball as well. The Park experiences a high use period during the months of April, May and June.

Sandhill Park usage will continue to increase creating a need to improve the park on a yearly basis.

FOOTHILLS PARK, located northwest of Hoodsport serves the Hood Canal and northwest portion of the county. The park provides two baseball fields which can also be used for soccer and football activities.

Approximately 100 participants use Foothills Park for Little League, Soccer, and Football events.

Mason County's programs and activities are increasing the need for additional and more improved athletic facilities. The current facilities provide for baseball, softball, soccer and some football activities; however, the county lacks facilities for basketball, tennis, swimming and other indoor recreation activities. Today's programs and facilities will not meet future needs. Youth ages, families, senior citizens, handicapped and adults all represent growing segments of our expanding population with growing recreational needs. Active programs need to be a priority to provide for recreational needs.

4.3 County Recreational Inventory

A complete inventory of public and private recreation within Mason County is included in the following pages. The inventory is organized by the type of recreation. A list of acronyms for owners is provided below.

Private Squaxin	Privately owned Squaxin Indian Tribe
Mason City	Mason County City of Shelton
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
PRC	Washington State Parks and Recreation Comm.
WDF	Washington State Department of Fisheries
WDG/DOW	Washington State Department of Wildlife
ONP	Olympic National Park
USFS	United States Forest Service
TCL	Tacoma City Light
S 42	Southside School District
S 54	Grapeview School District
S 309	Shelton School District
S 311	Mary M. Knight School District
S 402	Pioneer School District
S 403	North Mason School District
S 404	Hood Canal School District
PoA	Port of Allyn
PoG	Port of Grapeview
PoH	Port of Hoodspout
PoS	Port of Shelton

Boat Launch Abbreviations

P	Paved
U	Unpaved
F	Fee

MARINE

Number	Owner		Acreege	Waterfront Footage	Launch	Moorage	Dock	Picnic	Beach Access	Playground	Camping	Hookups	Trails	# Parking	Road Access
1	Private	Rest-A-While			1P	X	X				X	X			
2	DNR	Bald Point Vista						X						10	
3	PRC	Belfair State Park	812	1302					X	X	X	X		147	
4	PoA	North Shore Park	2	50		X	X	X						10	
5	PRC	Twanoh State Park	182	3167	2P			X	X		77	10		223	
6	PRC	Potlach State Park	57	9510	1P				X					30	
7	TCL	Hydro Park Boat Launch	5	900	1P			X	X					30	
8	PRC	Jarrell Cove State Park	42.6	3056				X			20		X	15	
9	Mason	Jacoby's Shorecrest Park	2.8	320	1P			X	X	X				10	
10	Mason	Walker Park	6.5	1650				X	X	X				30	
11	Mason	Latimer's Landing	.59	60	1P		X		X					10	
12	Mason	Union Boat Ramp	.49	50	1P				X					4	
13	PoH	Hoodsport Dock		25		X	X								
14	Private	Hoodsport Marina				X									
15	Private	Beacon Point Resort			1P			X	X						
16	PoA	North Shore Ramp	1.2	150	1P				X					40	
17	Private	Sande's Tahuya Resort			1P										
18	Private	Hood Canal Marina Corp.					X								

Number	Owner	FRESHWATER CAMPING/PICNIC	Acreage	Waterfront Footage	Launch	Moorage	Dock	Picnic	Beach Access	Playground	Camping	Hookups	Trails	# Parking	Road Access
36	PRC	Lake Cushman State Park	603	41,500	3P			X			80	30	X	90	
37	DNR	Melbourne Lake Camp		1,000							5				no
38	DNR	Lilliwaup Creek Camp	7	500							13			13	
39	USFS	Brown Creek Campground	6								78				
40	USFS	Hamma Hamma Campground	5					X			12				
41	USFS	Lena Lake Campground	6								40				no
42	USFS	Lena Creek Campground	7					X			14				
43	ONP	Staircase Campground						X			50			60	
44	Private	Lake Cushman Resort	10.1	1,000	1P	X	X	X	X	X	75	30		95	
45	DNR	Aldrich Lake	24	1,700	1U			X			4			16	
46	DNR	Howell Lake			1U			X			11	4		20	
47	DNR	Camp Spillman	10	800				X			8	4		15	
48	DNR	Mission Creek	2	200				X			4	2		3	
49	DNR	Robbins Lake	1.1	175	1U			X						12	
50	DNR	Toonerville	5.7	570				X							
51	DNR	Tahuya River Horse Camp	12	1,600											
52	DNR	Kammenga Canyon		500							X			4	
53	DNR	Camp Pond									2				

Number	Owner	SPORTS and PLAYGROUNDS	Acreeage	Tennis Cts.	Baseball Backstops	Football	Soccer	Bleachers	Picnic Area	Covered Play Shed	Playground	Swim Pool	Golf (holes)	Track	Restrooms	# Parking
88	Mason	Foothills Park	80		2	X	X	X							X	50
89	Mason	M.C.R.A.	40		7		X	X	X						X	100
90	Private	Lake Cushman Golf Course													X	
91	S403	North Mason High School		2	2	1	1	X			X			X		
					1											
93	S304	Belfair Elementary School								X	X					
94	S403	Sandhill Elementary									X					
95	S403	Hawkins Middle School														
96	Mason	Union Community Park	.96		1				X		X				X	15
97	S404	Hood Canal Elementary/J. High			2	1	X	X		X	X			X		30
98	Private	Lake Limerick Golf Course											9			
99	Private	Alderbrook											9		X	
100	Private	Bayshore Golf & Country Club											9		X	
101	S402	Pioneer Elementary			2					X	X					
102	S54	Grapeview Elementary							X	X	X					
103	S42	Southside Elementary			1											
104	S309	Bordeaux Elementary				X	X			X	X			X		
105	S309	Evergreen Elementary								X	X					

4.4 Policies of other Agencies with
Recreational Facilities within Mason County

City of Shelton

Goals:

1. To meet the recreational needs and desires of community residents and visitors.
2. To improve the quality of life for community residents.
3. To make more effective use of existing parks.
4. To select and develop new park sites to best meet the needs and desires of the community.
5. To provide quality recreational programs desired by community residents.
6. To protect and maintain important natural, cultural, and historic resources for public use enjoyment.

Washington Parks and Recreation Commission

Policy:

The purpose of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is to contribute toward providing people an opportunity to enhance their lives through recreational leisure time experiences, and to cause our environment to be protected, our heritage preserved, and our natural resources conserved.

Goals:

1. Solicit citizen involvement and input in the decision making process.
2. Improve park operation and maintenance of existing areas and facilities to improve safety and to better serve park users.
3. Improve and/or increase public recreational opportunities through cooperative agreements with other public agencies and private enterprise.
4. Preserve cultural, historical and significant natural resources, including wetlands, natural areas, natural forest areas and areas with threatened or endangered species and/or ecological communities.

5. Educate and inform the public about recreational facilities, programs, and opportunities available in state parks. Increase public awareness of the importance of outdoor recreation opportunities to both the tourism industry and the quality of life of state residents and visitors.
6. Increase outdoor recreation opportunities through special services such as the campsite reservation, camping pass and volunteer programs.
7. Provide locations for people to practice leisure time pursuits.
8. Provide employees the opportunity to develop skills to achieve their maximum potential and enhance personal career development.
9. Provide youth employment and job training opportunities through park maintenance and development projects.
10. Coordinate and provide opportunities for winter recreation activities.
11. Provide effective internal management practices to ensure maximum public service through the efficient use of public funds.
12. Provide park and recreational consultation services to local government and other public agencies.
13. Encourage boating safety for all recreational boaters using the waters of Puget Sound.
14. Educate boaters about the effects of boat wastes on water quality, marine and human health.
15. Minimize public and staff exposure to hazardous wastes.
16. Protect selected outstanding scenic river beaches.
17. Interpret parks natural and cultural resources to better inform the park visitor.

Plans:

The State purchased Hope Island in September of 1990 and will provide the 106 acre Hope Island as an open natural park until a management plan for the island can be developed.

Washington Department of Wildlife

Policy:

To provide wildlife-orientated recreation for the people of Washington.

Washington Department of Fisheries

Policy:

1. Develop the recreation potential of land and facilities already owned by the Department.
2. Acquire and develop tidelands and public access to these tidelands.
3. Acquire, develop, and redevelop boat launches and shore fishing areas including fishing piers.
4. Acquire, develop, and maintain areas critical to the conservation of fisheries resources.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Policy:

To conserve and enhance the natural resources of the Tahuya State Forest and any other Department of Natural Resources owned and managed lands while attaining the highest long term net income.

Public Use Goal:

Update and improve long-range public use management strategies for the the Tahuya State Forest.

Objectives:

1. Inventory the types and levels of public use and determine what uses will be accommodated consistant with trust obligations.
2. Define a balance between the many public use needs placed on the Tahuya State Forest and the capacity of the resources and the trust to support these needs and the trust.
3. Locate, design, and develop future recreation facilities based on identified needs through DNR's Recreation Evaluation And Review Statewide Action Plan.
4. Develop a recreation maintenance and operation plan for all recreation facilities.

5. Develop a law enforcement program and coordinate with other entities when appropriate.
6. Develop public use education/information programs.
7. Provide on site management and control of public uses.
8. Minimize the of impacts of public uses on neighbors.
9. Conduct a public education program on Tahuya Penninsula concerning urban interface/wildfire.
10. Facilitate delivery of emergency services in the Tahuya State Forest.

U.S. Park Service

Policy:

The Olympic National Park is administered as a wilderness area. Trails are open to hikers and horses only. The U.S. Park Sevices manages the Olympic National Park for public use.

SECTION 5.0

OPEN SPACE

5.1 Overview

The Open Space Act, RCW 84.34, permits counties to use property tax reduction as an incentive for the preservation of certain types of lands in their current use when such preservation will provide a public benefit. The purpose of this section is to set forth a strategy for Mason County to objectively apply this ability to lands within its borders.

5.2 Open Space

There are three kinds of open space land - private, common use, and public open space. Private open space consists of property surrounding single family residences or farms, forest lands and other large parcels of undeveloped land. Common use open space is land within a designated residential development for the common access and by the residents at the time of plat or site plan approval. Public open space is publicly owned land available for the recreational use of the entire community. An example is the Olympic National Forest.

Open space land is valuable to the public for a number of reasons. It provides recreational opportunities; it is aesthetically pleasing and it increases neighboring property values. It also creates natural boundaries which provide neighborhood identity and protects natural resources such as ground water recharge areas, streams, soils, tidal areas, wildlife, and agricultural lands.

Mason County still enjoys extensive open spaces. The Olympic National Park and National Forest occupy the northwestern portion of the county. In addition, there are large tracts of forest land in the western and northern parts of the county which are part of large land holdings by private timber companies or the Department of Natural Resources. There are also many forested lands in the more populated areas north of Shelton and northeastern Mason County. Farmlands in river valleys, particularly the Skokomish, also provide open space. The increasingly rapid growth in Mason County is consuming open space where it is needed most -- major residential areas. New strategies for the preservation of open space must be identified in order to retain adequate open spaces in the more heavily populated areas of the county.

5.3 Goals for Preserving Open Space

1. To develop guidelines for a more definable Open Space Plan.
2. To identify, restore, preserve and enhance those sites of historical, cultural, and ecological significance as a means of enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations.
3. To promote programs which preserve and conserve open space.
4. To encourage organized private groups to provide park, recreation and open space facilities and services.
5. To encourage open spaces within urban centers to compensate for higher residential densities.
6. To analyze and support applications for current tax use exemption in open space areas for their recreational value to the public.

5.4 Conclusions

Mason County's open space is a major recreational aesthetic and natural resource. One major concern at this time is the need to maintain open space in major residential areas. Therefore, the county should design a separate open space plan which includes the provisions for greenbelts and open space in residential developments along with preserving natural open space areas throughout the undeveloped lands of Mason County.

SECTION 6.0

ANALYSIS OF NEED AND DEMAND

6.1 Methodology

The Mason County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan has been designed in relationship with the following procedures:

1. Analysis of a 1990 countywide mail survey to determine the perceived quality of existing Mason County parks and recreation areas, and to determine more specific needs and demands for park and recreation areas in Mason County.
2. Analysis of a 1988 countywide mail survey to determine the perceived quality of existing Mason County parks and recreation areas and to determine more specific needs and demands for park and recreation areas in Mason County.
3. Review of an analysis of Mason County growth, and analysis of population projections supplied by the Office of Financial Management.
4. Analysis of existing Mason County parks and recreation areas including physical observations and analysis of each area to determine quality and need for enhancement.
5. Input from the general public and special interest groups during Planning Commission Public workshops on November, 19, 1990 and December 17, 1990 and a scheduled Planning Commission Public Hearing on January 22, 1991 in which the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the plan as written.
6. Written input from Park Advisory Boards and the public from press releases to local newspapers on August 23 and 30, 1990, November 1, 1990, January 3, 1991, January 31, 1991 and the press release for the Board of County Commissioners hearing March 14, 1991.
7. Comparing space standards vs. population.
8. Comments were received from school districts per telephone conversations.

The survey questions have been included and an analysis completed. Question design and specific survey methodology was a cooperative effort between Mason County and the Washington State University Cooperative Extension Office.

6.2 Analysis of Public Input

PUBLIC SURVEY 1990

During September of 1990, Mason County conducted a countywide mailout survey to assess the recreational needs of its county citizens. This survey was conducted by mailing out a designed questionnaire to all Mason County school districts, community service groups and special interest groups. The survey was also published as a mail-in survey in the Shelton-Mason County Journal. These surveys requested suggestions and ideas on how Mason County should go about providing a quality system of parks and recreation for its citizens.

1. Of those surveyed, 63% felt Mason County parks and recreation areas are not adequate to support the needs of county citizens.
2. Eighty six percent felt that Mason County parks and recreation areas needed to be enhanced to provide a greater diversity of park and recreational activities.
3. There was a need (85%) for more saltwater and freshwater access.
4. The question of a special tax to support a more diverse parks and recreation program received considerable support (81%).
5. There is a need for a swimming facility in the North Mason area.
6. There is a need for more areas for senior citizen activities such as nature trails for walking, sightseeing, and beach activities near the more urban areas of Shelton and Belfair.
7. If the population of Mason county grows at a rate projected by the Office of Financial Management (27.3%) over the next 10 years, there will be a need for more athletic facilities such as baseball, softball, and soccer fields.

PUBLIC SURVEY 1988

In 1988 Mason County conducted a countywide survey to assess the recreational needs of its citizens. This survey began the process of updating the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Although this information was completed two years ago it is still considered an important source of citizen input. The following conclusions are a result of the survey:

1. Most people thought there was a need for more liesure and active parks in Mason County.
2. There was a need (68%) for more public access to the shorelines and waters of Mason County.
3. There was a desired need (59%) for more boat launch and moorage type facilities along the shorelines of Mason County.
4. A majority of the people (69%) in Mason County owned a boat, and 62% of these people used their boats in saltwater most of the time.
5. A majority (60%) of the people surveyed felt Mason County parks and recreation areas were not adequate and felt that they should provide a wider diversity of recreational activities.

PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS

Park Advisory Board Meetings are usually held on a monthly basis. There was a great deal of input from these meetings that was analyzed and directly implemented into the plan. As noted above, the development of the parks and recreation comprehensive plan began as far back as 1988. Input from park advisory boards was directly implemented into the plan by evaluating meeting minutes from 1988 to the present. Mason County's park manager also received verbal input from these boards. At each meeting the boards commented and provided direction for the needs of their parks.

The Walker Park Advisory Board requested projects that would enhance their park and make it more desireable in the surrounding community. Such projects included better beach access, picnic facilities, and removal of some of the heavy canopy cover to allow for more sunlight.

The Sandhill Park Advisory Board also requested more enhancement of their park. The population around Sandhill Park is growing rapidly, creating a greater need for a better park in that area. The Union Community Park group requested similar enhancement projects. All of these groups along with the other park groups realized and emphasized the need to enhance the county's existing parks and recreation areas.

With this information Mason County was able to analyze their requests and establish a list of projects that adequately addressed their needs and demands. This information proved to be very useful in the drafting of this plan.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

A series of public meetings were held during the review and development process of this plan. Meetings and workshops were held before the Mason County Planning Commission and The Board of Mason County Commissioners. At these meetings and hearings these bodies and the public provided valuable comments and input into this plan.

The Mason County Planning Commission held public meetings on November 19, 1991 and December 17, 1991 to review the draft plan. At these meetings public input was taken. These meetings were very useful in gathering additional comments and information which lead to several revisions of the draft. On January 22, 1991 the Mason County Planning Commission held a public hearing to take final comments and to officially forward their recommendation to the Board of Mason County Commissioners. The public in attendance commented on the plan and generally felt it would meet the needs of the county. These needs are to enhance all county owned parks and to focus on those with salt and freshwater access and athletic facilities. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan as written.

The Board of Mason County Commissioners held a public hearing on February 26, 1991 to consider the proposed plan for adoption. The hearing was continued until March 19, 1991 to further address additional comments. At that time, the Board of Mason County Commissioners adopted the Mason County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan.

NEWSPAPER SURVEY AND ARTICLES

Over the course of the public process the plan received excellent newspaper coverage. The articles addressed key issues and increased residents' awareness to the plan. These articles solicited for comments and were a key component in gathering public input.

Comments received from the public through newspaper solicitation were directed towards enhancing existing county owned parks. Many residents around the south Shelton area said they would like to see Walker Park enhanced so that it would become more desirable to family orientated users.

Other comments received from this particular input process focused on the need to update existing county parks particularly Sandhill Park, Union Community Park, Latimer's

Landing, and Shorecrest Park.

PERSONAL MEETINGS

On many occasions public citizens visited the Mason County Planning Department to directly submit comments on the plan. These visits often turned into short meetings where planners could learn more about the needs and demands of interested citizens. These meetings were very useful in the planning process. Approximately 20 different meetings of this type were conducted. Eighty percent of those surveyed through these meetings wanted to see Mason County enhance its existing parks in order to make them more desirable for public use. Another important issue that regularly came up in these meetings was the need to acquire additional land for future freshwater and saltwater access for recreation sites.

6.3 Population compared with Park and Recreational Land Acreage

Through the public input process a great deal was learned about the needs and demands of county citizens and interested parties. The number of parks that Mason County had to offer was a repeated question on the process. Most people felt that there were enough parks but they were in poor condition. Therefore the Planning Department did an evaluation on park land acreage.

The Interagency for Outdoor Recreation suggested comparing our existing facilities with established minimum local recreational standards as developed by Michigan State University. By using the minimum standards the following needs would be apparent:

Based on a population of 30,680, which does not include the population inside the Shelton city limits, and on a minimum local recreation standard for county's of 10 acres per 1000 persons, Mason County would need 307 acres to provide adequate recreation for its citizens.

At present Mason County owns approximately 235 acres which is utilized as some type of recreational facility. This leaves Mason County with a 72 acre deficit in park and recreational land acreage. However, one must take into consideration that the Mason County area offers many other recreational opportunities with State Parks, Department of Natural Resources Recreational areas, and the access to the Olympic National Park and Forest.

Mason County is close to providing the minimum acreage as suggested by the chart developed by Michigan State University. Top priority will be to enhance parks and recreation areas that are currently provided by Mason County and then look to acquire the additional acreage that would

accommodate the growing population.

Mason County's population is projected to grow at a rate of 27.3% over the next 10 years which will result in an approximate population of 39,000 not including the population of the city of Shelton. The projected population figure would create a need based on minimum local recreation standards for 390 acres. Therefore Mason County should look to acquire additional park and recreational lands to accommodate a growing need after enhancing existing parks and recreation areas.

6.4 Critical need to update Mason County Parks

Upon evaluation of conclusions drawn from the surveys, public meetings, and the parkland acreage comparison Mason County has determined that existing county owned parks shall undergo an extensive updating process in order to provide a quality system of parks and recreation areas for its citizens. The county will ensure this determination with the following list of projects which was derived from the 1990 and 1988 countywide mail in survey, Park Advisory Board meetings, written input from press releases through the Shelton/Mason County Journal, The Daily Olympian, and The Bremerton Sun; Planning Commission workshops on November 19, 1990 and December 17, 1990; Planning Commission public hearing on January 22, 1991; and Board of County Commissioners public hearing on March 5, 1991.

PROJECTS

1. WALKER PARK BEACH STABILIZATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Walker Park beach stabilization and enhancement project was derived from input obtained through the 1990 and 1988 countywide survey and through monthly Walker Park Advisory Board meetings which were coordinated by George Harmon, Parks Manager. Upon evaluation of the surveys, Advisory Board requests, and additional information from the parks manager it has been determined that Walker Park needs a bulkhead to ensure the stabilization of the bank and beach access areas. The bank is beginning to erode and could endanger picnic areas on the top of the bank. The park also needs a new small boat launching area. The small boat launching area is recommended by the Walker Park Advisory Board. Enhancement of the existing structures and recreation areas will also be part of the project due to the abundance of requests by the public, through the survey, to enhance the park so it was more desirable to use.

2. SANDHILL PARK IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND EXPANSION PROJECT

Through numerous meetings with the Sandhill Park advisory Board and evaluation of the 1988 and 1990 public survey it

has been determined that Sandhill Park must have an irrigation system installed to keep the ballfields in a playable condition throughout the summer. Enhancement of the park structures such as restrooms, new fields, storage shed and possibly the addition of an aquatic center were also requested by the Advisory Board and through the public input process.

3. UNION COMMUNITY PARK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Union Community Park needs a gazebo, storage shed, childrens play area, chain link fencing, security lighting, and a new baseball field. The areas and structures currently present are quite degraded. This project was derived from Union Community Park Advisory Board meetings and the public surveys.

4. LATIMER'S LANDING PARKING AND EXPANSION PROJECT

Latimer's Landing is a very high use saltwater access facility to Pickering Passage in Puget Sound. This area currently has limited parking. This project would include increasing the parking area and extending the dock for a fishing area. Also a new restroom and shower facility will be part of the project.

5. MASON LAKE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Mason Lake Park needs another boat launch to provide for increased summer usage. The area around the launch and dock needs to be dredged out so that boats and swimmers can adequately use the area.

6. SHORECREST PARK BOAT RAMP AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Shorecrest Park will undergo an extensive upgrade which will include a new boat launch, turnaround, new picnic structures, and rip-rap bulkhead to stabilize the eroding bank. These enhancements were requested by local residents through the survey and by telephone.

7. FOOTHILLS PARK CONTINUANCE OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Continue to develop this park into a county sports recreation area.

8. MASON COUNTY RECREATION AREA CONTINUANCE PROJECT

Continue to upgrade and develop this park to meet growing needs of the rapidly growing county population.

9. TRUMAN GLICK MEMORIAL NATURE AREA PROJECT

This park is a secluded recreation area in the western

portion of the county and would be an excellent nature recreation area. The project would include designating overnight camping areas, creating a trail system, constructing a new shower and restroom facility, construct an interpretive center, and provide creek access sites.

10. UNION BOAT RAMP PARKING AND EXPANSION PROJECT

The major concern for this recreation area is the limited parking. The main goal here is to increase parking provide a better boat launch.

This list is not an unchangeable schedule of commitment but does stipulate a set of projects for the county to follow in its endeavors to enhance its parks and recreation areas.

6.5 Conclusion

In summary, County residents have expressed the need to enhance the existing parks and recreation areas owned and maintained by Mason County. Residents also see a need to accommodate a growing population with the development of additional park and recreation areas.

Mason County residents emphasized that they want more saltwater and freshwater access areas so they can enjoy the shorelines and waters of the county. Other needs commonly expressed by residents were for walking, nature observation and bicycling trails; senior recreational activity areas, swimming facilities, ballfields, indoor recreational opportunities, soccer fields, and a golf course.

* Samples of the conducted surveys are provided in the appendix to this plan.

SECTION 7.0

MASON COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM

The primary purpose of this plan is to provide the guidelines to develop and administer a quality system of parks and recreation areas within Mason County. This chapter outlines general actions to be taken by the county to develop a parks and recreation program.

The action program is only a guideline. As the needs and demands of county citizens change this action program should be reviewed and when necessary amended to reflect the changes.

7.1 Enhancement of Existing Parks and Recreation Areas

The primary responsibility of Mason County will be to maintain and enhance existing county owned parks and recreation areas. Guidelines for fulfilling these responsibilities should be as follows:

1. To maintain existing parks and recreation areas in such a way as to promote their use.
2. To make improvements and additions to areas that citizens identified as very important to them in the survey. These improvements have been listed in sections 6 and 8.
3. To greatly enhance existing parks, recreation, and publicly owned areas with saltwater or freshwater access.

7.2 Future Parks and Recreation Areas.

The secondary responsibility of Mason County will be to develop county owned properties to meet future needs and demands for parks and recreation.

1. Development and/or acquisition of properties near existing parks and recreation areas for possible expansion of existing parks and recreation areas.
2. Development of county properties with saltwater or freshwater access should be a priority.

7.3 Acquisition of Additional Land for Parks and Recreation

In order for Mason County to deal with the future needs and demands for parks and recreation areas the acquisition of additional land is important. The following is a list of guidelines the county should follow for the acquisition of additional land.

1. Acquire lands that are strategically located in the highest growth areas.
2. Acquire lands with saltwater or freshwater access.
3. Acquire lands which provide buffer zones between land uses in order to absorb noises and activities associated with parks and recreation areas.

7.4 Additional Planning Efforts

In addition to basic guidelines for park improvements, new development, and park land acquisitions, additional planning efforts are needed. The following is a list of planning efforts that will greatly enhance the parks and recreation program:

1. As park and recreation demands increase, it would be essential to appoint a parks and recreation coordinator to organize park uses, enhancement projects, and to prepare for future recreational needs.
2. As parks and recreation demands increase, it would be essential to hire additional personnel to facilitate the increasing work load.
3. Mason County should study the impact of tourism on county parks and recreation areas.
4. Mason County should explore different funding sources for enhancement projects. Special consideration should be given to a tax specifically for parks and recreation. Acquiring grant money should be of high priority.

SECTION 8.0

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The following is a six year capital improvement program that is intended to carry out the primary responsibilities of the county as set forth by the action program of this plan. The program will include a description of proposed areas and facilities to be enhanced and a list of the specific enhancement projects. An official project description, list of capital costs and time schedule will be formulated to be submitted to potential funding sources.

The primary focus of this six year capital improvement plan is to improve Mason County's existing parks and recreation areas. This policy of action will provide county citizens and the general public with higher quality parks and recreation areas.

The following is a list of park projects that will be the focus of the capital improvement program. This list is not an unchangeable schedule of commitment and can be changed to meet additional concerns and needs.

1. - Walker Park
2. - Sandhill Park
3. - Union Community Park
4. - Latimer's Landing
5. - Mason Lake Park
6. - Shorecrest Park
7. - Foothills Park
8. - Mason County Recreation Area
9. - Truman Glick Memorial Park
10. - Union Boat Ramp

The above projects will be prioritized and detailed further as eligibility for additional funding from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation and other sources is attained with the adoption this plan. These projects are what Mason County needs to accomplish in the next 6 years in order to have an adequate parks system. They have been broken down into more detail on the following pages.

8.1 Improvements List

1. - Walker Park

Proposed Improvements:

- * Rip-Rap bulkhead on beachfront and bank stabilization.
- * Construct steps to beach in concrete with safety rails.
- * Remove all hazardous trees.
- * Provide safer access to park entrance.
- * Rebuild old boat ramp and make it accessible for small hand trailered boats.
- * Develop new parking lots to accomodate new users.
- * Construct new kitchen shed or gazebo.
- * Build interpretive center for marine information.
- * Construct new foot bridge across creek.
- * Clear and grade location for childrens play area.
- * Purchase large childrens play toy.
- * Develop park land across Walker Park Road into nature area for hiking and etc.

2. - Sandhill Park

Proposed Improvements:

- * Install new irrigation system at fields 1-2-3
- * Install extension of irrigation system from field 5 to 6 & 7.
- * Build restroom and shower facility, with septic system.
- * Stabilize bank behind fields 1-2-3.
- * Build park equipment storage shed and small office with telephone.
- * Establish an Aquatics Center.
- * Purchase and installation of chain link fence throughout park.
- * Terrace and landscape parking lot barrier.
- * Designation of new football and soccer fields.
- * Acquisition of additional bleachers.

3. - Union Community Park

Proposed Improvements:

- * Remove brush, grade and level newly acquired land next to existing park.
- * Construct new baseball and soccer field.
- * Retrench drainage ditch behind restroom facility.
- * Designate and construct childrens play area.
- * Construct gazebo for group outings.
- * Build park equipment storage shed.
- * Install new irrigation system for entire park and drinking fountains.
- * Install chain link security fencing around park.

4. - Latimer's Landing

Proposed Improvements:

- * Acquire additional land to expand park.
- * Construct new restroom and shower facility with septic system.
- * Provide a fishing platform off existing dock.
- * Install marine information board.
- * Expand parking lot.
- * Install telephone Booth.
- * Extend docks to accommodate additional users.

5. - Mason Lake

Proposed Improvements:

- * Construct additional boat ramp next to existing ramp.
- * Extend dock to accommodate new users.
- * Further develop parking lot area and provide safer foot access.
- * Construct stepped access to parking lot.
- * Provide additional lighting to park.
- * Designate and construct day-use picnic area.
- * Provide swimming area next to dock and dredge out.
- * Develop hiking trails.

6. - Shorecrest Park

- * Rip-Rap bulkhead of beachfront.
- * Retrench creek bed and drainage ditch.
- * Remove old boat ramp and construct new boat ramp to access water at low tides.
- * Construct dock for boaters and fisherman.
- * Construct restroom and shower facility with septic system.
- * Develop parking lot to accommodate boat trailers.

7. - Foothills Park

Proposed Improvements:

- * Construct two tennis courts.
- * Designate and construct picnic areas.
- * Designate and construct childrens play area.
- * Clear and grade additional parking area.
- * Construct park equipment storage shed.
- * Purchase and install ballfield scoreboard.
- * Continue development of parkland.
- * Landscape and beauty of entire park.

8. - Mason County Recreation Area

Proposed Improvements:

- * Purchase and install childrens play toys with security fencing and gates.
- * Provide night lighting at fields 6 and 7.
- * Acquire additional park land behind fields 5, 6 and 7.
- * Construct batting cages.
- * Purchase new full size soccer goals and mobile bleachers.
- * Update of irrigation system and electronics.
- * Remodel clubhouse and restroom facility.
- * Construct player dug-out area.

9. - Truman Glick Memorial Park

Proposed Improvemnts:

- * Establish overnight camping locations with picnic tables, fire pits, and tenting area.
- * Establish group camp-out area with covered gazebo.
- * Build restroom and shower facility. Install septic system.
- * Establish interpretive center for nature park.
- * Provide additional freshwater access locations.
- * Install adequate security lighting throughout park.
- * Build bridge across creek to access nature areas and hiking trails.
- * Construct exercise areas along trail routes.

10. - Union Boat Ramp

Proposed Improvements:

- * Construct new boat ramp to access water at low tides.
- * Acquire additional land to accommodate for much needed parking space.
- * Construct shellfish identification board.

This capital improvement program will be used to guide Mason County in its efforts to provide a quality system of parks and recreation areas for its citizens and the general public. Capital costs will be calculated and a time schedule set for each project prior to all scheduled submission dates for anticipated funding sources.

8.2 Future Projects and Aquisitions

The following is a list of future projects and aquisitions that would help Mason County create better parks and recreation areas for its present and future citizens. These projects and acquisitions are suggestions and do not set forth any committment by the county. These suggestions are taken from public comment and county staff.

1. Enhance and develop county owned street ends in Union and Lilliwaup for public picnic areas.
2. Acquire additional 40 acres adjacent to Foothills Park future expansion of the park.
3. Consider acquiring part or all of Simpson owned land on the north side of Lake Nawatzel for a county recreation area.
4. Consider acquiring and developing a recreation center in the North Mason area that could provide recreation for all ages in the form of swimming, walking, jogging, basketball, tennis, and soccer.
5. Consider acquiring and developing a site for a public fishing dock or pier in the Pickering Passage and Case Inlet areas to provide fishing opportunities for people who do not have access to a boat.
6. Expand and develop Mason County recreation programs.
7. Consider the development of a centralized county recreation and aquatics center.