Long-range plans have many audiences: fellow planners, neighboring jurisdictions, state boards and commissions, funding sources, the media; and, our most important constituency—the families and individuals who use our parks, walk our trails and participate in our recreational programs. We hope that in the following pages, you’ll find a clear and comprehensive account of your county park system. The best plans are not static, but dynamic and responsive to change. A plan is not so much a conclusive document, but an invitation to an ongoing conversation. We welcome and encourage your participation in that conversation. Your support is our most valuable asset!

Thank you,

The Thurston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
By the Numbers:  
Your Parks at a Glance

5 Developed Parks: Burfoot Park, Frye Cove Park, Kenneydell Park, Off Leash Dog Park and Griffin Athletic Fields

6 Preserves

3 Historical Sites

47.8 Trail System miles

2,645 Acres of parkland, trails and preserves

288 Acres of developed facilities

1,000 Feet of freshwater frontage

2,500 Feet of saltwater frontage
Thurston County Parks & Recreation’s mission is to be the regional steward of parks, open space, and natural resource lands and waterways dedicated to public use for recreation and leisure enjoyment.

We provide a diverse range of recreation resources, programs, and activities throughout the county and promote the preservation and interpretation of Thurston County’s historical and cultural resources, natural areas, and wildlife resources.

Our focus is the regional recreation needs of Thurston County. Parks and Recreation Services’ highest priorities focus on the acquisition and development of district, regional, and special use recreation resources and facilities.
Since 2002

The decade between 2002 and 2012 witnessed major changes and challenges including a rapidly growing and aging population, a global recession and, in 2009, a major reorganization of county departments. Parks administration, operations and maintenance moved into the Public Works Department, while Recreation Services became a part of the newly constituted Resource Stewardship Department. Just a few of the many accomplishments since 2002 include:

- Added 20.5 miles of developed trail to trails system.
- Planted more than 1,500 trees along county trails.
- Pedestrian/bicyclist bridges constructed over Martin Way and I-5. Construction of the third bridge in the “Bridging the Gap” project will span Pacific Avenue, linking the Chehalis Western Trail with the Woodland Trail and I-5 Bike Trail.
- Opened the county’s first off leash dog park at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center on Hogum Bay Road in Lacey.
- Installed dog waste pick-up bags, signage and stations at all developed park sites and trails.
- Between 2002-2009, Recreation Services provided fun runs, sports leagues, youth and adult fitness programs, summer day camps, the free summer food program, after school enrichment programs at seven schools, Special Olympics, and year-round recreation programs for the disabled, serving thousands of area children and their families.
- Thurston County was one of the first jurisdictions in the state to implement a full-scale recycling program (including food waste) in a public park (Burfoot).
- Facilitated approximately 30 Eagle Scout projects, and 50 volunteer projects that provided thousands of volunteer hours in parks and on trails.
- Constructed trailhead at the City of Rainier. Facility includes an information kiosk and benches.
- Added energy saving measures (such as motion activated lighting in restrooms, energy efficient bulbs and timer-activated fans) to all park sites.
- Renovated Kenneydell lodge with new windows, carpets, and gas fireplace.
- Offered Hand-in-Hand summer day camp, the only program in the region that integrates children with and without disabilities.
Thurston County’s attractive, well managed parks, trails, nature preserves, and recreation programs enhance the quality of life and nurture the health and well being of our people, our community, our environment, and our economy.

In partnership with our citizens, we ensure that our parks, trails, preserves, and programs are accessible and responsive to changing needs within our communities.

We provide respite from urbanization; preserve the environment; foster understanding of our natural, cultural, and historic assets; and provide opportunities for recreation that meet the needs of the community. The focus on preserving open space region-wide continues, with a strong emphasis on connecting people to the land, water, and each other.
Goals

Numbering does not indicate priorities.

1. Secure adequate funding for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the county’s recreational programs, parks, trails, and nature preserves through the implementation of sustainable funding strategies.

2. Operate and maintain the parks, trails, nature preserves, and recreation programs in a safe, clean, and environmentally responsible manner.

3. Expand educational and interpretational opportunities of the natural, historical, cultural, and artistic heritage within the county’s parks, trails, and nature preserves.

4. Provide connectivity, where feasible, between open spaces, parks, preserves, trails, and wildlife corridors.

5. Promote community by expanding the county’s regional trail system to connect the county’s urban and rural communities.

6. Promote and celebrate community by providing opportunities for independent play as well as organized recreation, special events, and group/family activities.

7. Provide opportunities for recreation, learning, and growth for individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities through Specialized Recreation.

8. Coordinate county parks and recreation programs with the county Health Department’s health and wellness programs to foster the well being of our citizens.

9. Improve public access to the county’s freshwater and marine shorelines through acquisition, easements, and lease arrangements.

10. Acquire and develop parklands to maintain a level of service that keeps pace with population growth, and demographic change in the county.

11. Be responsible stewards of the county’s natural, historic, cultural, and artistic resources for current and future generations by acquiring and protecting areas of significance.

12. Work with other park, recreation, and open space providers (including public, non-profits, and private entities) to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective approach to meeting the region’s recreation and natural resource preservation needs.

13. Protect the recreational and environmental value of existing parks, trails, and preserves.

14. Create a safe, productive, and rewarding workplace which emphasizes teamwork, communication, and interdepartmental coordination.
## Policies

### Acquisition

1) Ensure that the ability to operate and maintain both existing and new assets is factored into decisions on acquisition of parkland, trails and greenways, cultural resources, nature preserves, and other properties.

2) Acquire land and corridors proactively to deliver needed services. This includes acquiring the following:
   a. Environmentally sensitive lands and resources that preserve wildlife habitat;
   b. Sites of historical and cultural significance;
   c. Marine shoreline and river access sites;
   d. Lands surrounding parks, preserves, and trails to protect natural, recreational, and cultural values, and,
   e. Parkland in configurations that maximize accessibility and minimize conflicts with surrounding land uses.

3) Maintain ability to react to property acquisition opportunities that emerge.

4) Use trails and greenways where practicable to link county, city, and regional parks and preserves.

### Planning, Development, and Improvement

1) Assess county needs and demands through annual review of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Update the plan every five years. During the five-year update of the plan, evaluate undeveloped properties to assess merits for meeting county needs and/or their sale/exchange value.

2) Use green design and low-impact methods in developing parks and facilities, including county adopted Integrated Pest Management principles.

3) Solicit community input in the development of parks, trails, facilities, programs, and services.

4) Ensure park design and development guidelines conform to local ordinance and accepted state and federal standards.

5) Provide educational/interpretive signs to foster public stewardship of the environmental, historical, and cultural features of parks, preserves, and trails. Use universal design standards for signs and facilities.

6) Work with other parks/recreation and open space providers (public, private, and non-profit organizations) to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective approach to meeting the region’s park, recreation, and preservation needs.

7) In collaboration with other jurisdictions, explore potential recreational uses of undeveloped public lands.

### Financial Resources and Regional Partnership

1) Ensure stable funding for Parks and Recreation services, operation and maintenance. Diversify revenue base by pursuing additional funding sources including enterprise initiatives, support from tribes and foundations, grants, and partnerships. Work with regional partners to assess feasibility of creating a Metropolitan Park District.

2) Work with local, state, and federal jurisdictions to evaluate impacts of proposed legislation on parks and recreation and/or to draft new legislation that supports the department mission.

3) Work with other parks and recreation providers within Thurston County to identify opportunities for mutual gain. When feasible, use interagency agreements for financing acquisition, facility development, and operation and maintenance to reduce costs and retain financial flexibility.

4) Work with other public and private park and recreation providers to avoid duplication of services, improve facilities, and reduce costs through coordinated planning and development.
Recreational Programming and Services

1) Ensure county recreational programs offer recreational and leisure opportunities for citizens with physical and/or developmental disabilities.

2) Operate recreation facilities and programs under county control in an entrepreneurial manner when possible.

3) Meet recreation needs and avoid duplication of services through sound planning and coordination with other recreation providers in our community.

4) Promote community and regional events that use county park facilities as a base for county sponsored events and activities.

5) Include environmental, historic and cultural education, and opportunities for the arts as integral components of the park and recreation experience. Provide special events that celebrate the cultural heritage of Thurston County.

6) Promote health and wellness through Parks and Recreation programs.

7) Collaborate with the local hospitality community to promote local events and activities and enhance outreach in support of Thurston County’s Agri-Tourism efforts.

Operation and Maintenance

1) Develop a comprehensive program that identifies maintenance needs for all parklands, trails, nature preserves, facilities, and equipment.

2) Maintain property and assets in a manner that
   a. Maintains safety and reduces liability.
   b. Supports ecological functions and minimizes disturbances to natural vegetation and wildlife habitats.

3) Manage and conserve natural preserves based on sound scientific principles. Manage vegetation through use of Integrated Pest Management Program.

4) Use on-site caretakers in park and recreation facilities as a security and maintenance resource whenever feasible. Encourage residents, community organizations, and other volunteers to share responsibility for parks by giving them a role in park stewardship.

5) Define park use rules and regulations through the county’s park ordinances. Park use rules and regulations should maximize access and ensure safety and the protection and preservation of public assets.

6) Follow training and safety awareness standards as prescribed by the American Public Works Association Manual adopted by Thurston County Public Works.

7) Expand cooperation with other parks/recreation agencies to operate and maintain facilities, including alignment of equipment purchases when practicable.
Burfoot Park in northeastern Thurston County covers 50 acres of property with 1,100 feet of saltwater beach frontage on Budd Inlet. In the top photo, support teams welcome the landing of 98 traditional native canoes during the Paddle to Squaxin 2012 journey.
Frye Cove Park in northwestern Thurston County features 1,400 feet of saltwater beach, nature walks, a playground, and a magnificent view of Mount Rainier.
Kenneydell Park, a 40-acre site on Black Lake, features 1,000 feet of freshwater beach, trails, playgrounds, covered shelters, a rental lodge, and a swimming area.
Off Leash Dog Park

This five-acre facility, managed by the county’s Public Works Department, features a special area for shy and small dogs, water stations, sand and gravel for digging, paths, and fencing. See parks map in Appendix for location.
Glacial Heritage in central Thurston County preserves more than 1,000 acres of endangered prairie habitat. Photos are from the 2012 Annual Prairie Appreciation Day when the site is open to the public to explore and enjoy.
Each year, thousands of people of all ages and physical abilities walk, run, and bike on the county’s more than 40 miles of paved trails. Linking communities and jurisdictions, the trails provide an excellent opportunity for residents to exercise and enjoy nature. Trails are included in Appendix maps.
Historic Sites

The county proudly maintains three historic sites: Fort Eaton, the Mima Mounds Pioneer Cemetery, and the George Washington Bush Monument. Locations are featured in a map of county parks in Appendix.
Undeveloped Parkland

Parks & Recreation maintains a number of undeveloped sites, ranging from the 155-acre Deschutes Falls property in southeast Thurston County to the 32-acre Cooper Point property in the northwest part of the county. See map in Appendix for locations of all undeveloped properties. Plans for developing these and other sites are discussed on page 30.

Photo: Deschutes Falls property
Recreation

The Hand in Hand Summer Camp for ages 6-13 has been the only day camp in the area that serves children with special needs and the only one that fully integrates disabled and non-disabled campers. In addition to music, games, arts and crafts, and swimming, the day camp features field trips to local fairs, zoos, amusement parks, and sporting events. A Teen Camp designed for disabled youth ages 14-21 is also offered. Want to join the fun? Visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/parks/index.htm or call (360) 786-5595.
The county also provides year-round recreation for developmentally disabled individuals 16 years and older. Activities include bowling, bingo, movie and pizza nights, concerts, field trips, swimming, and more. Details at www.co.thurston.wa.us/parks/rec-specialized-rec.htm or (360) 786-5595.
Community Input: What We Heard from You

Process: In June of 2012, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board hosted four community conversations to solicit public input on the vision and future of Thurston County parks. We also encouraged people to leave comments on our website and by phone. Conversations were held at the Tenino Fire Station, the Griffin Fire Station on Steamboat Island Peninsula, the Thurston County Fairgrounds near Lacey, and the North Olympia Fire Station on Boston Harbor Road. While turnout was low, conversations were robust and engaged, confirming much of what we’ve heard from parks and recreation users and community members through the years.

We asked participants three basic questions:

1. What do you value in parks and recreation programs?
   This question wasn’t limited to county facilities, but to what people value in parks and recreation programs anywhere—in other counties, cities, states, and countries.

Responses

Access

• Access to parks and trails for all, including those who don’t drive or have a motor vehicle.
• Access within parks for visitors with limited mobility.
• Access to water and shorelines, especially in areas where access is privatized.
• Access to nature, particularly for those who don’t have access in other ways.
• Connectivity between parks, preserves, and trails is extremely important.

Health and Well Being

• Respite from urban intensity.
• Special Needs Recreation—“a Godsend!”
• Play, both organized and independent.
• Spaces for children to be “wild.”
• Parks and recreation programs encourage healthy lifestyles.

Community and Family

• Parks bring diverse people together. Unplanned connections that take place in parks build community, rising above things that separate us in other situations.
• Parks strengthen intergenerational connections.
• Parks provide places to celebrate.
• Parks bring families together, especially around events such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, reunions, and other celebrations.
Preservation

• Preserving and protecting open space is essential
• Ecological and environmental preservation: “Keep the wild places wild.”
• Parks also provide the opportunity to preserve local history and culture.

Participants also listed the following desired amenities:

• Water and shoreline access
• Off leash dog areas
• Bike park
• Disc golf course
• Snack bars/tea house
• Swimming pool/water park
• Arts and cultural events

2. How do we translate values into action?

Responses

• Practice a regional approach in providing parks and recreation services.
• Continue to foster partnerships and coordination with other governmental agencies, schools, private groups, tribes, and businesses to maximize parks and recreations services.
• Work with public transit to provide access to parks and trails for those who don’t drive.
• Improve safety in potentially dangerous and/or challenging locations, possibly through the use of more signage and more significant barriers.
• Improve personal safety through lighting and increased staff coverage.
• Improve access within parks by improving staircases and providing signage indicating appropriate routes for individuals with mobility challenges.
• Create connections between all public parks, trails, and open spaces, regardless of “who owns what.”
• “Volunteers are gold. Give them important jobs and recognize them.”
• Increase education in parks. Environmental education is a way to develop citizens who will be more likely to support parks and recreation. Education can also prevent environmentally harmful behavior in parks and on trails.
• Increase informal education with improved interpretive signage.
• Open up parks to events, such as an Arts Festival at Burfoot.
• Balance sizes of parks (large and small); balance use (single/multiple use; ballfields; active/passive).
• Look to where future population centers are predicted to be to determine location of new parks.

3. How do we get there?

Response to this question focused on funding. Suggestions included:

• “Can’t do it alone.” County Parks & Recreation needs to partner with other agencies.
• Tribes are possible funding partners
• Grants and corporate philanthropy
• User fees, taxes, vehicle tabs (with “opt out” box)
• Create a “friends” or “benefactors” of the parks foundation.
• Annual fundraising events
• Adopt-a-Park program
• Event rentals
• Use volunteers to provide services and reduce costs.
## Aligning Goals and Policies with Values

Following the community conversations, we used values identified by the public to inform and revise goals, policies, and other guiding documents. The information below demonstrates how Parks & Recreation goals support public values. For a complete text of departmental Goals, Policies, Mission Statement, and Vision Statement, please see pages 7-9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Values</th>
<th>Corresponding Goals</th>
<th>Supporting Policies</th>
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</table>
| Access to parks, trails and recreational programs for all | Goal #10. Acquire and develop parklands to maintain a level of service that keeps pace with population growth and demographic change.  
#7. Provide opportunities for recreation, learning, and growth for individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities through Specialized Recreation. | Policy #2c. Acquire…parkland in configurations that maximize accessibility and minimize conflicts with surrounding land uses. (Acquisition)  
#1. Ensure county recreational programs offer recreational and leisure opportunities for citizens with physical and/or developmental disabilities. (Recreational Programming and Services) |
| Access to water and shorelines | #9. Improve public access to the county’s freshwater and marine shorelines through acquisition, easements, and lease agreements. | #2c. Acquire… shoreline and river access sites. (Acquisition)  
#2a. Acquire… environmentally sensitive lands and resources that preserve wildlife habitat. (Acquisition) |
<p>| Access to nature | #13. Protect the recreational and environmental value of existing parks, trails, and preserves. | #2a. Acquire… environmentally sensitive lands and resources that preserve wildlife habitat. (Acquisition) |
| Access within parks for visitors with limited mobility | #2. Operate and maintain the parks, trails, nature preserves and recreation programs in a safe, clean, and environmentally responsible manner. | #5. Park use rules and regulations should maximize access, and ensure safety and the protection and preservation of public assets. (Operations &amp; Maint.) |</p>
<table>
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<th>Community Values</th>
<th>Corresponding Goals</th>
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</table>
| Connectivity between parks, preserves and trails | Goal #4. Provide connectivity, where feasible, between open spaces, parks, preserves, trails and wildlife corridors throughout the county.  
#5. Promote community by expanding the county’s regional trail system to connect the county’s urban and rural communities. | Policy #4. Use trails and greenways where practicable to link county, city and regional parks and preserves. (Acquisition) |
| Health and well being | #8. Coordinate county parks and recreation programs with the county Health Department’s health and wellness programs to foster the well being of our citizens. | #6. Promote health and wellness through Parks & Recreation programs. (Prog. & Svcs.) |
| Community and Family: Bringing diverse people together; strengthening intergenerational connections; providing places to celebrate and play; bringing families together. | #3. Expand educational and interpretational opportunities of the natural, cultural, and historical heritage, and the arts within the county’s parks, trails, and nature preserves.  
#6. Promote and celebrate community by providing opportunities for independent play as well as organized recreation, special events, and family activities. | #4. Promote community and regional events that use county park facilities as a base for county sponsored events and activities. (Prog. & Svcs,)  
#5. Provide environmental, historical, and cultural education, and the arts as an integral part of the park and recreation experience. Provide special events that celebrate the cultural heritage of Thurston County. (Prog. & Svcs) |
<p>| Preservation | #11. Be responsible stewards of the county’s natural, historic and cultural resources, and the arts for current and future generations by acquiring and protecting areas of significance. | #2b. Acquire… sites of historical and cultural significance. (Acquisition) |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Values</th>
<th>Corresponding Goals</th>
<th>Supporting Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Preservation     | Goal #13. Protect the recreational and environmental value of existing parks, trails, and preserves. | Policy #2. Use green design and low-impact methods in developing parks and facilities, following county adopted Integrated Pest Management principles. (Planning, Development & Improvement)  
#5. Provide educational/interpretive signs to foster public stewardship of the environmental, historical and cultural features of parks, preserves and trails. (Plan./Dev. & Improvement)  
#2. Maintain property and assets in a manner that a. Maintains safety and reduces public liability; b. Supports ecological functions and minimizes disturbances to natural vegetation and wildlife habitats. (Ops. & Maint.) |
Thurston County’s population grew by nearly 45,000 people between 2000 and 2010. Forecasters predict that in the next 20 years our population will increase by more than 100,000 people, placing ever greater demands on parks and recreation providers. (Charts are derived from data featured in the Thurston Regional Planning Council’s 2011 edition of The Profile.)

**Age**

This chart illustrates percentages of Thurston County population by age group according to the 2010 Census. More than a quarter of county residents are 55 years or older, while more than half the population is 35 years or older.
Our Aging Population

A critical statistic for park and recreation planners is the rate of growth per age groups. This chart shows a rate of growth for those 55-69 years of age that’s nearly three times as much as the next highest age group and almost six times as high as those for teens and children. These statistics underlie the importance of a balanced offering of services that recognizes the importance of providing recreation opportunities for an aging population.
Park Classifications and Inventory

Public parks are classified by the recreational opportunities they provide. Classifications used by Thurston County are consistent with guidelines recommended by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office and the National Recreation Park Association. Guided by this system, the county provides the middle ground between facilities operated by cities and local entities and the expansive recreation areas administered by state and federal governments—in a word, “regional.”

Regional Parks provide a combination of passive/leisure recreation and active, enterprise opportunities. Serving large geographic and metropolitan areas as well as tourists and visitors, these parks often include shorelines, water access, trails, and educational/interpretative features. Thurston County parks classified as Regional:

- Burfoot Park: 60 acres
- Frye Cove Park: 86 acres
- Kenneydell Park: 40 acres

Undeveloped regional sites:

- Deschutes Falls Park: 155 acres
- Deschutes River Park: 50 acres
- Guerin Park: 40 acres
- Louise H. Meyers Park: 38 acres
- Rainier View Park: 54 acres
- Ruth Prairie Park: 35 acres
- Cooper Point Park: 32 acres

Special Use Parks meet the demands for a particular activity or special event. Currently the county has one such facility, the five-acre Off Leash Dog Area, maintained by Thurston County Public Works.

School/Parks combine the resources of two public agencies to provide recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Thurston County has partnered with the Griffin School District in such an arrangement. The Griffin Athletic Fields comprise 40 acres.

Historic Sites
- Mima Pioneer Cemetery: two acres
- Fort Eaton Monument: one acre
- George Washington Bush Monument: one acre

Trails
Residents value the ability to travel throughout the county by non-motorized means. The exercise provided is a key component of the community’s overall health and wellness. Thanks to the commitment of local, state, and federal officials as well as community groups and individuals, the vision of a county-wide trail system linking urban and rural Thurston County is becoming a reality. Our trails include:

- Chehalis Western Trail: 27.5 miles, 182 acres
- Yelm-Tenino Trail: 14.5 miles, 400 acres
- Gate-Belmore Trail (in development): 12.5 miles, 243 acres
Preserves/Natural Resources
This classification focuses on preserving and restoring wilderness, special natural habitat, and open space over the long term for education and research purposes with limited public access. County preserves include:

- Glacial Heritage Park: 1,020 acres
- Woodland Creek Wetlands: 75 acres
- Johnson Point Wetlands: 26 acres
- Black River Natural Area: 13 acres

Other Park Classifications

County parks are complemented by parks owned and operated by the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and other jurisdictions within the county. Thurston County collaborates with other local jurisdictions to offer a wide variety of park and recreation opportunities while minimizing duplication of services. The following summarizes classifications of non-regional parks within the county.

Community Parks provide outdoor and indoor recreation for a defined service area (generally within a 10-15 mile radius).

Neighborhood Parks provide recreation space for an immediate neighborhood or cluster of neighborhoods (generally within a one mile radius).

Mini-Parks (or pocket parks) are typically play lots or playgrounds providing space for parental-supervised recreation for toddlers and young children.

Special Use Parks meet the demands for a particular activity or special event. Examples include dog parks, bike parks, disc golf courses, and swimming pool/water parks.

Greenspaces: State and federal agencies manage about 50,000 acres in the county. This acreage is comprised of state parks, preserves, and recreational sites within the state’s Capitol Forest, the Nisqually and Black River wildlife refuges, and other habitat sites.
Meeting the Need

Level of Service

An assessment of recreation needs was conducted to establish an appropriate Level of Service (the number of park acres per 1,000 persons) for Thurston County. Recreation needs are defined as “how people like to spend their recreation time, what types of activities they choose to pursue, and how often they participate.”

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), in collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and other agencies and academic institutions, has established standards and procedures for estimating recreation needs. These procedures, used by the county to establish a sense of the community’s recreational needs, included public input meetings. Facilitated by Parks & Recreation, the public meetings were used to identify community preferences and priorities regarding recreation needs. The information gathered was combined with other elements, including an inventory of existing public recreation resources, agency input, population projection data, demographics, and the socio-economic structure of Thurston County. The following organizations were also consulted or provided data that was combined with public input and other elements to establish Thurston County’s recreation needs:

Amateur Softball Association  Bicycle Manufacturers Assoc.  Boys and Girls Club
Boy Scouts of America  Girl Scouts of America  Specialty Vehicle Inst.
National Basketball Association  National Bowling Council  National Hockey League
National Endowment of the Arts  National Golf Foundation
U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis  U.S. Commerce Statistical Abstract

NRPA Level of Service (LOS) standards have evolved in recent decades. Current methodology calls on jurisdictions to determine their own LOS based on the blend of natural, social, and economic characteristics and to define a LOS that’s achievable within available land and financial resources. The demand from municipalities on county parks, though not quantifiable, is significant. Thus the entire population of Thurston County is factored into estimating a current LOS.

In 2008 the county determined an LOS of 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents. This number is achievable after considering all of the previously mentioned criteria, including the recreational needs of the community, an inventory of existing resources, population projections and demographics, and the financial and land resources. The existing LOS in 2008 was 2.9 acres per 1,000, making the current 3.5/per 1,000 LOS a realistic goal. Since there has been little change in the parkland owned by the county since 2008, the 3.5/per 1,000 LOS remains a well-considered estimate of the land base needed to meet the community’s recreational needs.
Proposed Actions

Thurston County’s Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) for 2013-2018 outlines a proposed year-by-year approach to meet LOS objectives, dependent on adequate funding. See the Appendix for a year-by-year projection of estimated CFP funding sources and project costs. The entire plan is available at www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/cap-facilities-plan/cap_facilities_home.htm It is important to note that the CFP is a planning document, not a budget. The following summarizes proposed projects.

Trails

1. Chehalis Western: begins at Woodard Bay in north Thurston County and extends 20.8 miles south to Vail Cut-off Road.

- Construction of bridge over Pacific Avenue to connect northern and southern portions of trail.
- Construction of facilities at 89th Avenue trailhead, at two sites along the Deschutes River and at Vail trailhead.
- Two additional miles of paved trail and a trailhead facility at Stedman Road.
- Project helps develop park sites along the way and addresses public desire for connectivity.

2. Gate-Belmore Trail: begins near 81st Avenue SW, runs parallel to Littlerock Road and continues to Gate, about three miles south of Littlerock.

- Paving of 12.5 miles of trail.
- Trailhead facility.
- Will link southwestern Thurston County to Kenneydell Park.
- Project helps develop park sites along the way and addresses public desire for connectivity.

3. Yelm-Tenino: south Thurston County, from Highway 510 in Yelm to Tenino City Park.

- Restroom facilities, parking areas.
- Historic site at McIntosh Lake.
- Project helps develop park sites along the way and addresses public desire for connectivity.

Parks

1. Deschutes Falls, 155 acres: at the end of Bald Hills Road, about 15 miles southeast of Yelm.

- Features ¾ mile river frontage.
- Potential development includes parking, trails, picnic areas, fencing, restrooms, and other facilities.
- Addresses LOS goals; establishes park in underserved area of county.

2. Cooper Point, 32 acres: about three miles north of Cooper Point Road and 46th Avenue NW.

- Will feature access to Budd Inlet, addressing public desire for more shoreline access, and for even distribution of parks throughout the county.
3. Kenneydell, 40 acres: 66th Avenue and Fairview Road on the southeastern shore of Black Lake.

- Additional trails, picnic areas, restrooms, and parking.
- Additional playfield.
- Addresses LOS goals.


- Public access to shoreline, docks, restrooms, picnic areas, trails, and parking.
- Close to Kenneydell Park and Gate-Belmore Trail.
- Addresses public desire for access to freshwater; provides opportunity for non-motorized boating.


- Currently under review for acceptance as a donation. If acquired, the park will be developed as grants, donations, and other funding sources become available.
- Close to Chehalis Western Trail.
- Addresses LOS for trail system support facilities.

**Griffin Athletic Fields**

Parks & Recreation has partnered with the Griffin School District in the northwestern part of the county to develop public recreation facilities on district property. This partnership is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the county and the school district. Development of additional facilities can be factored into this agreement.

**Major Maintenance and Repair**

This action will repair or replace park infrastructure to ensure facilities remain safe and accessible. Maintenance and Repair will take place at various sites throughout the county’s park and trails system. Specific projects will be determined based on need and available resources. Recent Maintenance and Repair projects include:

- Full-scale recycling program at Burfoot Park
- Installed energy-savings measures to all park sites: motion activated lights, energy efficient bulbs, timer-activated fans.
- Informational kiosks on trails
- Installed trailhead with kiosk, benches, signs, and trash cans in City of Rainier.
- New interiors and fixtures in all restrooms
- Added one mile of trail in Frye Cove Park.
- Installed new windows, carpets, and gas fireplace in Kennydell Lodge.
Estimated Expenditures and Revenue

Parks & Recreation Structure and Governance

Until March of 2009, Thurston County Parks & Recreation was a stand-alone county department with a director, support staff, and an independent budget. Departmental decisions were informed by a citizen Parks & Recreation Advisory Board governed by a set of bylaws adopted in 1989.

In 2009, the county reorganized and streamlined its departmental structure, going from 16 departments to nine. In this restructuring, management and maintenance of the physical assets, including parks (developed and undeveloped), trails and historical preserves was transferred to the Public Works Department. Responsibility for managing and delivering the county’s recreational offerings was transferred to the Community Services Division of the Department of Resource Stewardship. Recreation programs are supported by emergency funding on a year-to-year basis.

Operations and Maintenance

Parks & Recreation’s operating budget pays for everyday operations and programs. Thurston County Public Works administers funding to meet administrative, staffing, operations and maintenance, contract service, and capital expenses. The county’s Resource Stewardship Department manages recreational programs. Revenue comes from the county’s General Fund, fees and licenses, grants, and other sources.

2012 Operations & Maintenance Budget (Public Works): $1,042,588

2012 Recreation Services Budget (Resource Stewardship): $409,397

Total: $1,451,985

Capital Expenditures

The capital budget for Parks & Recreation funds acquisition and development of Thurston County’s parks and trails. The 2013-18 Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) proposes an investment of $11.8 million in 12 projects, dependent on adequate funding. The chart on the next page illustrates expenditures by project. The CFP also includes expenditures to produce Master Plans, a critical part of the planning process as well as a requirement for grant applications. More details on proposed yearly project expenditures are in the Appendix. The entire plan is available at www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/cap-facilities-plan/cap_facilities_home.htm
Estimated Expenditures by Project: $11.8 Million

Revenue Sources

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 2) may only be levied by cities and counties that are required to or choose to plan under the Growth Management Act. "Capital project" means those public works projects of a local government for planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of streets, roads, highways, sidewalks, street and road lighting systems, traffic signals, bridges, domestic water systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, and planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks. [RCW 82.46.035(5)]

As per HB 1953, Ch. 354, passed in 2011, 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.
Conservation Futures is a 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 within Thurston County. These funds, acquired through a property tax levy, are used to purchase land or the rights to future development of land.

Impact Fees. The Thurston Board of County Commissioners is currently considering an ordinance that would adopt Development Impact Fees. Impact fees are a type of one-time charge developers pay to help finance their proportionate share of the cost of the roads, parks, schools, and other facilities necessary to serve their new developments.

Impact fee revenue can’t be used for operation, maintenance, repair, alteration, or replacement of existing capital facilities and can’t be added to general revenue. Public parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities can receive funds generated by impact fees, which can be spent on system improvements. More information on impact fees is available at the county’s Planning Department website, www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/impact/impact_home.html

Grants are typically available for the acquisition, construction, or development of parks and other forms of recreation facilities. The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has been a major source of funding for these types of improvements to county facilities. Other grant sources will continue to be pursued. Grants available to parks and recreation agencies are typically not a source for Operations and Maintenance funding.

Bonds provide the borrower with external funds to finance long-term investments, or, in the case of government bonds, to finance expenditures.
**Bonds** $6.9 M

**REET** (Real Estate Excise Tax) $1.9 M

**Impact Fees** $0.6 M

**Grants** $2.3 M

*Estimated Revenue for Six-Year Projects: $11.8 Million*

**Metropolitan Parks Districts** (MPDs) are an additional potential source of funding for Parks & Recreation. An MPD is a junior taxing district which is established by a vote of the people. Legislation adopted in Washington in 2002 made establishing an MPD a reasonably straightforward process. The advantages of an MPD include:

- Flexible structure. May include both city and county jurisdictions.
- Formed by a simple majority vote of the electorate.
- A property tax levy of up to $0.075 per $1,000 in home value can be assessed.
- MPDs create a reliable revenue source for parks and recreation.

Funds generated by this taxing source could be used for land acquisition, development, and maintenance, as well as for general operations of parks and recreation programs. Since 2002, nearly 20 new MPDs have been created in Washington. As a general rule, parks and recreation agency staffing levels, along with programming levels, increase in MPD areas.

The Board of County Commissioners, staff, and the Parks & Recreation Citizen Advisory Board are aware of the requirements for establishing an MPD and the potential impact a dedicated funding source could have on the county Parks & Recreation system. Internal analysis and dialogue with other jurisdictions regarding potential MPD partnerships is ongoing.
RESOLUTION NO. 14-23

A RESOLUTION Adopting An Updated Thurston County Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan.

WHEREAS, the current version of the Thurston County Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan was adopted in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the plan is typically slated for review and update on regular basis; and

WHEREAS, the Thurston County citizen Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, supported by staff, has been working on an update of the plan for a 14 month period; and

WHEREAS, the Thurston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (made up of citizen volunteers), supported by staff, has set up numerous opportunities for the public to provide input to the proposed plan update, including: four community meetings; an on-line comment section on the Parks and Recreation website; an open phone comment telephone line; and time for public comment at each Parks and Recreation advisory board meeting over the past 14 months; and

WHEREAS, the Thurston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, supported by staff, has held four works sessions and one public hearing before with the Thurston County Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Thurston County Planning Commission voted 7 to 1 in favor of the proposed updates to the Thurston County Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan that will be included with the county’s overall comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the Thurston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has held four briefing sessions with Thurston Board of County Commissioners on the proposed update to the Thurston County Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan, each time receiving positive feedback and direction to continue progress; and

WHEREAS, the Thurston County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed update to the Thurston County Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan on December 4, 2013 and heard no public concern that would prevent adoption; and

WHEREAS, county departments affected by the plan, including Public Works, Planning and Resource Stewardship support the proposed update to the plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Thurston County Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan has been positively reviewed by the state Recreation and Conservation Office and the state Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Nonsignificance for the...
proposed plan was issued on November 19, 2012 and not appealed.

NOW, THEREFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THURSTON COUNTY DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The update to the Thurston County Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan as set forth in Attachment A is hereby adopted.

Section 2: Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this Resolution, or its application to any person is, for any reason, declared invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, in whole or in part by any court or agency of competent jurisdiction, said decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

Section 3: Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

Adopted: December 11, 2012

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

Chair

Vice-Chair

Commissioner

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JON TUNHEIM

KAREN VALENZUELA

SANDRA FORRESTER

Page 2 of 2
### REVENUES FOR PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>$1,162,000</td>
<td>$1,260,000</td>
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### EXPENDITURES FOR PROJECTS

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<th>Project Name</th>
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<th>Fund Source</th>
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<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$225,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gate - Belmore Trail</td>
<td>Dev</td>
<td>B, R, G</td>
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<td>Gibson Reclamation Project</td>
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<td>$25,000</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$162,000</td>
<td>$737,000</td>
<td>$1,162,000</td>
<td>$1,260,000</td>
<td>$4,225,000</td>
<td>$3,250,000</td>
<td>$11,886,000</td>
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### DEBT SERVICE AMOUNT

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Future Bonds</td>
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<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$2,975,000</td>
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<td>$6,975,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total Debt Service</strong></td>
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<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$2,975,000</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$6,975,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### LEGEND:

- **B** Bonds (See Note #1)
- **D** Donations
- **G** Grant
- **I** Impact Fees
- **R** Real Estate Excise Tax
- **TR** Thurston Regional Planning Council
- **W** Washington State Department of Transportation
- **CF** Conservation Futures

**NOTE:**
1. These projects would be funded if a source for repaying bonds is found (e.g., property tax approved by the voters, existing revenue sources, Conservation Futures or a combination).
2. The Griffin Athletic Fields are a joint project with the Griffin School District and are being constructed on school district property.
3. Turnwater UGA
4. See the Conservation Futures Table 6-10 for information on Parks projects funded by Conservation Futures.
I. BASIS FOR SELECTING PROJECTS FOR THE CFP

A. Need: Thurston County citizens have expressed a high level of interest in preserving open space and unique natural areas and insuring there are adequate park and recreation facilities in the county to meet the needs of a diverse and growing population. The highest priority needs have been defined as interconnecting trail systems, water access sites, picnic areas, and nature preserves. Thurston County currently owns 33 park sites, including 12 active parks, 6 preserves, 3 historic sites, and 12 trails/trail properties — 2,645 acres in all. Only 5 of the county’s active parks, and 34.3 miles of the 47.8-mile trail system are fully or partially developed. There is an ongoing program for developing existing park and trail facilities, as well as some continued acquisition of sites to meet current deficiencies and future growth needs. The major focus is on facilities that contain special features intended to be used regionally by all residents of the county, inside and/or outside cities.

B. Criteria or Basis for Setting Priorities:

1. From Plans:

   The Thurston County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan defines several goals oriented to preserving open space and natural areas, interconnecting trails, alternative forms of transportation, and adequate recreation opportunities. The Plan, first adopted in 1989 and most recently updated in 2002, defines a high priority for providing the same recreational opportunities and achieving more specifically the goals defined in the County Comprehensive Plan. Each local jurisdiction in the county also has an adopted Parks Plan that defines land preservation and use for recreation as a high priority. These plans generally underscore the priorities defined in the County Park Plan, with the addition of neighborhood parks in the urban areas.

2. From Six-Year and Annual Priority Setting:

   The six-year plan is developed following four basic criteria:
   - First, where do the deficiencies in opportunities lie based on what the public has defined as a priority (i.e. trails, water access, preservation).
   - Second, what projects are currently underway through a phased development plan and need to be completed in order to meet current and future needs and demands?
   - Third, what unique opportunities arise to acquire a valuable asset for current and/or future park and recreation or preservation needs?
   - Lastly, the availability of grant or other funds may help set priorities for acquisition and/or development.
- Each year the project priorities are reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Park Board and recommendations are made based on the above noted criteria. Every five years the Comprehensive Parks Plan is reviewed and updated to insure Levels of Service and community and plan goals are met.

II. PROJECT LIST IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Priority/Why Needed</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chehalis Western Trail Development</td>
<td><strong>Priority #1</strong> - Interconnecting trails provide alternative forms of transportation. High priority in Parks Plan as defined by community. Links Cities of Olympia &amp; Lacey with outlying areas. The trail links the urban and rural county with several recreation sites and connects with the Yelm-Tenino Trail. A bridge will be constructed over Pacific Avenue to connect the northern and southern portions of the trail. Park sites get developed with trail development.</td>
<td>Phase I completed in 1999. Phase II completed in 2004 including the construction of seven additional miles of trail and connection to the Yelm-Tenino Trail. Phase III construction of a trailhead facility at 89th Avenue will occur in 2015. State and federal funds will be used in 2013 to complete the “Bridging the Gap” Project as a part of phase III. Grant funding is critical to continue progress. Phase IV funding to be sought in 2015. Phase IV will provide two additional miles of paved trail and construct trailhead facilities at Stedman Road. Phase V will construct two trailhead sites along the Deschutes River. Phase VI will construct the Vail Trailhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Maintenance &amp; Repair</td>
<td><strong>Priority #2</strong>. Repair of existing facilities and the infrastructure and utilities within these facilities is needed to protect the investment made in facilities.</td>
<td>Annual allocations of the 2nd quarter percent of the Real Estate Excise Tax revenues as well as trail permit fee revenue have been used to fund Major Maintenance and Repair beginning in 2007.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Plans</td>
<td><strong>Priority #3</strong> Master plans are required as part of the development process as a means to identify the scope of work involved in the development as well as setting the parameters for construction time-frames and the estimated costs associated with the project. Allows to seek grant funding as the project has scope, time-frame, and estimated costs.</td>
<td>Master plans are needed as part of the development process for Gate-Belmore Trail, Deschutes Falls Park, Cooper Point. With the exception of the Chehalis Western Trail, these 3 projects are listed as the top 3 priorities for development and will require Master Plans to proceed as funding is sought.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Priority/Why Needed</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gate - Belmore Trail</td>
<td><strong>Priority #4</strong> - Connects Kenneydell Park with Glacial Heritage Preserve, Black River &amp; South County. Completes development of countywide trail system. Park sites get developed with trail development.</td>
<td>Grant funding is critical to continue progress. Phase I to include acquisition and development of approximately 4 miles of trail beginning at Kenneydell Park. Construction to begin in 2014 and continue through 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelm-Tenino Trail Development</td>
<td><strong>Priority #5</strong> - Interconnecting Trails provide alternative forms of transportation. High priority in Parks Plan and as defined by community. Links Yelm, Rainier and Tenino communities with recreational opportunities. Connects with the Chehalis Western Trail and thus links with urban cities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater, and several recreation sites. Park sites get developed with trail development.</td>
<td>Phase I development from Yelm to Rainier completed in 2000. Grant funding is critical to continue progress. Phase II development from Rainier to Tenino was completed in 2005. Phase III development will occur in 2015 if voter-approved bonds are secured. Otherwise, Phase III funding to be sought in 2014 for 2015. Phase III will construct trailhead facilities in Tenino and at McIntosh Lake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deschutes Falls Park Development</td>
<td><strong>Priority #6</strong> - No developed facilities in SE part of county. Site is in high demand by public for use. Preservation of property as unique interpretive site. Site unique to Thurston County. Development is a high priority in the Parks Plan.</td>
<td>Delayed due to non-availability of funding. Park currently undeveloped and closed to public use because of liability and ecological issues. Development would provide for public access and use. Development to include utilities, parking areas, trails, restrooms and other support facilities, caretaker residence and meeting facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Priority/Why Needed</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper Point Park</td>
<td><strong>Priority #7</strong> - Development of a 32-acre park site on the Cooper Point peninsula. Provides upland passive recreational opportunities and controlled access to Budd Inlet.</td>
<td>Currently there are no park facilities in the Cooper Point area that meet the criteria of a regional county facility. Master planning is needed to help as funding sources are sought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneydell Park</td>
<td><strong>Priority #8</strong> – Provide additional parking, picnic facilities, trails, and a play field.</td>
<td>Phase III development. To be funded with grants and other sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guerin Park Development</td>
<td><strong>Priority #10</strong> – Historically significant site with freshwater access. Located in residential area. High demand for site to provide public boating access for rowing, canoeing, kayaking and other non-motorized boating activities. Need to provide additional facility in SW county to address rapid population growth in area and provide additional access to freshwater site. It was acquired in 1973 and is one of oldest undeveloped sites owned by county.</td>
<td>Phase I development, which is grant and private funding dependent, to begin in 2016 will include water access, trails, restroom and picnic facilities, parking and other recreational facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Priority/Why Needed</td>
<td>Status</td>
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<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monarch Park</td>
<td><strong>Priority #11</strong> – Thurston County Commissioners have expressed an interest in accepting this 9 acre property as a donation. Site has potential to be used as a trailhead/amenity to the Chehalis Western Trail, which runs adjacent to the property.</td>
<td>This property is not currently in the Parks inventory. Initial funding for this project will come from grants, bonds, donations, or other sources not currently in the Parks budget. Funding will be used to add infrastructure improvements such as signage, fencing, and road frontage improvements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibson Reclamation project</td>
<td><strong>Priority #12</strong> – Negotiations with WA St Dept of Transportation are ongoing to detail the transfer of this 52 acre property to the County as a donation. Site has been identified as a location where a park is needed.</td>
<td>This property is not currently in the Parks inventory. Initial funding for this project will come from grants, bonds, donations, or other sources not currently in the Parks budget. Funding will be used to add infrastructure improvements such as signage, fencing, and road frontage improvements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Open Space Acquisition of Property</td>
<td><strong>Priority #13</strong> - The Thurston County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan defines several goals oriented to preserving open space and natural areas. The focus is on properties that contain special features intended to be used regionally by all residents of the county, inside and/or outside cities.</td>
<td>Conservation futures has been identified as a funding source to purchase property to allow the county to remain in compliance with the Parks Comprehensive Plan in terms of acreage per 1000 residents and to allow for purchase of properties that may become available with the purchase being time-sensitive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THURSTON COUNTY PARKS
LAND ACQUISITION EVALUATION

Site Evaluated: __________________ Date: ______________

Evaluation performed by: _____________________________

The land is available as a;
Donation ___ Purchase ___ Other (explain) ________________

1. Is a funding source available for purchase? Yes __ No __ N/A__
2. Will acquisition leverage other funding sources? Yes __ No ___
3. Is the site suitable for enterprise or public/private partnership development? Yes __ No ___
4. Is the zoning in the area conducive to the location of a park site? Yes __ No ___
5. Will the site support the proposed park uses, programs, or activities? Yes __ No ___
6. Does the property have the potential to satisfy an identified or anticipated need for a program or facility? Yes __ No ___
7. Does the site contain desirable trees and other natural vegetation and natural resources? Yes __ No ___
8. Is the site location desirable for the majority of the intended users? Yes __ No ___
9. Is the general surrounding physical and natural environment aesthetically pleasing? Yes __ No ___
10. Does acquisition of the property aid in protecting the health of the eco-system? Yes __ No ___
11. Does the land drain properly and are the general conditions and topography acceptable for site improvements? Yes __ No ___
12. Are utility services available such as water/electricity? Yes __ No ___
13. Is there a relationship of the site to existing parks, trails, or conservation areas? Yes __ No ___
Based on this evaluation, are you in favor of proceeding with this acquisition?

Yes ___ No ___

Basis/Rational for decision:

This form is subject to revision by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Proponent: Thurston County
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Building #1
Olympia, WA 98502
Contact: Roger Griebelhaus, Parks, Public Works (360) 867-2343

Description of Proposal: This SEPA review is for the proposed adoption of the 2013 Thurston County Parks and Recreation Plan. Additional information is available on the County website at: http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/PLANNING/parks/parks-home.html

Because the proposed code amendments are not associated with a specific development proposal, they are being reviewed as a Non-project Action, in accordance with the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Location of Proposal:
Section/Township/Range: Thurston County
Tax Parcel No.: N/A

Threshold Determination: The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact upon the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C). This decision was made after review by the Lead Agency of a completed Environmental Checklist and other information on file with the Lead Agency. This information is available to the public on request.

Jurisdiction: Thurston County
Lead Agency: Development Services
Responsible Official: Mike Kain, Planning Manager

Date of Issue: November 19, 2012
Appeal Deadline: December 4, 2012

Cynthia Wilson, Environmental Review Officer

This Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340. The lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issue or until the appeal period has passed, if applicable. No permits may be issued, and the applicant shall not begin work until after the comment and any appeal periods have expired and any other necessary permits are issued. If conditions are added, deleted, or modified during the 14 day review period, a modified DNS will be issued. Otherwise, this DNS will become final after the expiration of the comment deadline and appeal period, if applicable.

APPEALS: Threshold determinations may be appealed pursuant to TCC 1709.160 if: (1) a written notice of appeal, meeting the requirements of TCC 17.09.160(4), and the appropriate appeal fee is received by the Thurston County Development Services Department within fourteen calendar days of the date of issuance of the threshold determination or, if there is a comment period under WAC 197-11-340, within seven calendar days of the last day of the comment period; and (2) the person filing the appeal meets the requirements of TCC 17.09.160(2).

NOTE: The issuance of this Determination of Nonsignificance does not constitute project approval. The applicant must comply with all applicable requirements of Thurston County Departments and/or the Hearing Examiner prior to receiving permits.

Thurston County Development Services, Cynthia Wilson
Building #1, Administration
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502 (360) 786-5475

Department of Ecology – SEPA Section
Roger Griebelhaus, Parks, Public Works
Chehalis Tribe
Nisqually Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe
Thurston County Regional Planning
Thurston County BoCC
Cliff Moore, Director, Thurston County Resource Stewardship
Thurston Co Environmental Health Dept
Thurston Co Public Works
City of Lacey Community Development
City of Olympia Long Range Planning
Roger Griebelhaus, Parks, Public Works

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Mike Kain, Planning Manager
Scott Clark, Planning Director
Thurston County Development Review
Washington Department of Transportation
City of Tenino
City of Yelm
Town of Rainier, Mayor
Town of Bucoda, Mayor
Thurston County Parks Department
City of Tumwater, Planning Department
Cami Petersen, all sub areas
THURSTON COUNTY
Parks, Recreation,
and Open Space Lands

County Trails
- Developed Trail
- Future Trail
- Trailheads

County Parks & Preserves
- Park
- Preserve

Chelahide Western Trail
1. Wespied Bay
2. 4th Avenue
3. Chambers Lake
4. 6th Avenue
5. Fir Tree Road

Yelm-Tenino Trail
6. Tenino City Park
7. Active
8. Yelm City Trail
9. Undeveloped
10. Gate to Baltimore Trail

Id	Park Name
1	Burfoot Park
2	Cooper Point Park
3	Deschutes Falls Park
4	Deschutes River Park
5	Frye Cove Park
6	Griffith Sports Field
7	Queen Park
8	Kenny Bay Park
9	Lake Lacamas Park
10	Lake Samish Park
11	Lake Coast Ecological Reserve
12	Rainier View Park
13	Ruth Prairie Park

Coastal Stream Trail

Yelm-Tenino Stream

Yelm-Tenino Stream Trail

Id	Park Name
14	McClellan Park
15	Port Elbridge
16	Montlake Cut
17	Lake Samish Park
18	Lake Samish Park
19	Lake Coast Ecological Reserve
20	Rainier View Park
21	Ruth Prairie Park
22	Black River Natural Area
23	Port Elbridge
24	Forest Heritage Preserve
25	Indian Road
26	Johnson Pk Wetlands
27	Mira Prairie Pioneer Cemetery
28	Smith Lake Preserve
29	Woodland Creek Wetlands
30	George Washington-Burn Historic Site

Coastal Stream Trail

Cowlitz River Trail

Id	Park Name
31	Cowlitz River Preserve
32	Cowlitz River Preserve
33	Cowlitz River Preserve
34	Cowlitz River Preserve
35	Cowlitz River Preserve
36	Cowlitz River Preserve
37	Cowlitz River Preserve
38	Cowlitz River Preserve
39	Cowlitz River Preserve
40	Cowlitz River Preserve

Coastal Stream Trail

Mima Prairie Pioneer Cemetery

Id	Park Name
41	Cowlitz River Preserve
42	Cowlitz River Preserve
43	Cowlitz River Preserve
44	Cowlitz River Preserve
45	Cowlitz River Preserve
46	Cowlitz River Preserve
47	Cowlitz River Preserve
48	Cowlitz River Preserve
49	Cowlitz River Preserve
50	Cowlitz River Preserve

Coastal Stream Trail

County Parks

Id	Address	Status
1	6027 NE Benton Herton Road	Developed
2	50th Avenue NE	Undeveloped
3	2500 SE Bald Hill Road	Undeveloped
4	Stedman Road SE	Undeveloped
5	4500 SW 161st Avenue NE	Undeveloped
6	6030 Hark Street SW	Developed
7	6745 Parana Road SW	Undeveloped
8	17530 SW Pleasant Lake Drive	Undeveloped
9	5900 NW Cabaret Street	Developed
10	2418 Haysam Bay Rd	Undeveloped
11	Val Cut-Off Road SE	Undeveloped
12	Lawrence Lake Road SE	Undeveloped

Coastal Stream Trail

Commercial Activity
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Prepared for: Thurston County

Map Created by: cpl on 11/12/2012

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