

San Juan County

Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan

2011 - 2016

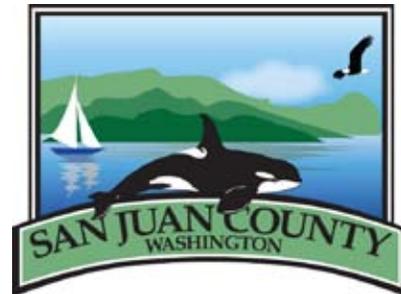


December 2010

San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan 2011 - 2016:

Building an integrated parks, trails, and natural areas system for the people of San Juan County

December 2010



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
CFP	Capital Facilities Plan
DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Island Rec	San Juan Island Park and Recreation District
LIFRC	Lopez Island Family Resources Center
NPS	National Park Service
REET	Real Estate Excise Tax
SJPT	San Juan Preservation Trust
TPL	The Trust for Public Land
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UW	University of Washington
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation

2030 VISION FOR PARKS, TRAILS, AND NATURAL AREAS

We envision an interconnected integrated system of parks, trails, and natural areas that provides easy access to the water and natural areas; facilitates safe, nonmotorized travel throughout the community; celebrates island culture, character, and a healthy environment; and is delivered through well-funded, efficient County programs and innovative partnerships.



The San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan provides a long-term vision and six-year plan to guide action and investment in a wide variety of outdoor spaces and facilities managed by San Juan County. Over the course of one year, San Juan County worked with The Trust for Public Land to assess community needs, engage the public, and craft a plan that strengthens the parks system and charts a clear future for San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works, which are the three County departments charged with overseeing County parks, trails, and natural areas facilities.

This Plan substantially updates the 2005-2010 Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Preserved Lands for San Juan County and is designed to maintain San Juan County's eligibility for state-based park and recreation grant funding. While this Plan builds on the 2005 Plan, some significant updates and enhancements include:

- **Comprehensive Assessment of Community Needs.** A variety of public involvement methods were used to engage the public in the planning process and accurately gauge community needs and priorities. By doing so, the Plan describes needs in greater detail and presents goals, strategies, and actions designed to address those needs.
- **Park, Trail, and Natural Area Inventory and Classification System.** The Plan significantly updates the County's inventory of parks, trails, and natural areas, as well as other public land ownership throughout the County. A new classification system was also developed to categorize County facilities and provide a framework for future evaluation of the parks system.
- **Collaborative Mission and Long-term Community Vision.** The Plan introduces a collaborative mission statement for County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works as well as a 20-year community vision for the parks system.
- **Detailed Six-year Action Plan.** The Plan includes a detailed six-year action plan that identifies key partners, timelines, and geographic areas for implementation of actions and projects that align with the Plan's goals and strategies.

Key Issues

The planning process revealed a number of key issues that impact the County's parks, trails, and natural areas and provide a foundation for the overall focus and direction of this Plan. Key issues include:

- **An Aging Population and Older Demographic.** The County's population is growing, and the fastest-growing age group is 50 and older. As indicated in community survey results discussed in Chapter 4, the older generation enjoys the outdoors in a relatively low-impact manner, mainly through hiking, walking, wildlife-watching, and relaxing in nature. Although 98 percent of the broader community values parks, trails and natural areas as critical to the County's quality of life, balancing the facility needs of the older generations with those of a shrinking, but important, younger demographic is and will continue to be a challenge for the County.
- **Impact of Tourism.** Tourism drives the local economy. During the summer months - the height of the tourist season - County facilities are heavily visited by tourists, especially in areas of high popularity such as the west side of San Juan Island. The relatively short, intense

burst of use often exceeds the capacity of many facilities. For example, campsite reservations at San Juan County Park have approached 100 percent during the peak summer season for the past several years, which places severe strains on park facilities, maintenance, and staff. Accommodating such seasonal peaks in use remains a major challenge for the County due to limited staff capacity and revenue to meet the short-term need.

- **Limited Funding and Staff Capacity.** Like most counties throughout the state, San Juan County has limited funding to support parks, trails, and natural areas programs. County departments have been successful in leveraging local funding with state and federal grants and developing innovative ways to meet maintenance needs and staffing shortfalls. In 2009, the County Parks Department began using volunteers to maintain some facilities rather than having to close them. All County Departments have operated on lean budgets for many years. To meet the myriad needs identified in this Plan, an expansion of revenue streams—from local, state, and federal sources—will be required.
- **Funding and Leveraging Available Resources.** Collaboration is now expanding to other public agencies, such as the town of Friday Harbor and the Port Districts, which further leverage resources to achieve common community goals. Additionally, the network of County parks, trails, and natural areas makes extensive use of donated lands, facilities and easements (see Appendix F). However, strong and timely pursuit of the most promising projects and partnership opportunities identified in this plan (see Appendix A) will require additional funding and a willingness of partners to expand project collaboration.
- **County Department Roles and Functions.** In recent years, San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works have collaborated more closely on meeting park, trail, and natural area needs. While this Plan outlines an even more collaborative approach, one key area of need that falls between County departments is trails. A clear definition of department leadership and dedication of funding will be required to meet the community's desire for trails identified in this Plan.

Community Needs and Priorities

Through discussion with staff, review of past planning documents, and findings from public outreach efforts, four top-tier areas of community need have been identified:

- **Trails.** As captured in previous parks plans and illustrated by the growth and evolution of local trails groups, trails for biking, walking, and improved connectivity are a top-tier priority for residents. Over 90 percent of residents ranked trails as a key priority, and the request for trail facilities was the most frequent and pronounced of any other recreational amenity. To date, the County has played a limited role in trail development with County Parks and Land Bank developing trails on their respective properties and Public Works developing trails within road right-of-ways. A significant investment and expansion of collaboration with public agencies, trails groups, and volunteers will be needed to meet the recommended actions presented in this Plan.
- **Land Protection.** Protection of the natural beauty and character of the San Juans is also a top priority for residents. The Land Bank and San Juan Preservation Trust have played lead roles in meeting this need for years, often working in close collaboration. While a significant majority (88 percent) of residents support further land protection, 63 percent also indicated that not enough land is managed for conservation and public use. Looking forward, the Land Bank is well positioned to continue its successful track record working with landowners, other public agencies, and conservation groups if the County's conservation real estate excise tax is renewed by 2014.



- **Water Access.** Overall, residents do not feel well served with water or marine access opportunities. Fewer than 25 percent of community survey respondents from Lopez, Orcas, and Shaw believe there is “enough” access. From expanding shoreline access road ends and shoreline parks to acquiring new waterfront lands, County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works can all play a role in improving shoreline access. Opportunity also exists to work with other public agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and Washington Department of Natural Resources to improve access to existing public lands on the shore.
- **Stewardship and Maintenance.** San Juan County residents recognize the importance and challenge of stewardship and maintenance. County Parks and the Land Bank have been innovative in meeting stewardship and maintenance needs over the years. Opportunity exists to further engage the community in caring for parks, trails, and natural areas throughout the County, and to identify resource-sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies.

Plan Framework

The foundation of this Plan—the plan framework—is the collaborative mission, community values and long-term vision, and key goals presented in Chapter 5. This framework provides a context for implementation of this Plan, through the recommended actions and projects presented in Chapter 6.

Core Values

Overall, five community values establish the core for the vision and goals of the Plan:

- **Quality of Life:** We value the role parks, trails, and natural areas play in maintaining the health and well-being of our community.
- **Accessibility:** We value creating, enhancing, and expanding opportunities for the community to access our parks, trails, and natural areas.
- **Natural Integrity:** We value maintaining and protecting the natural integrity of our unique island environment.
- **Stewardship:** We value being responsible stewards of the natural environment and providing well-maintained facilities and spaces for future generations to enjoy.
- **Sustainability:** We value taking a sustainable approach to operations and facility development that provides adequate funding to meet community needs while protecting the integrity of our natural resources.

Goals

Seven key goals provide a road map for achieving the community's long-term vision for parks, trails, and natural areas:

1. **Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas System.** Provide a quality, diversified parks, trails, and natural areas system that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences and conserves and respects natural resources and island character.
2. **Trail Planning and Development.** Provide a multipurpose system of trails and corridors that meets the recreational and transportation needs of the community and connects parks, natural areas, activity centers, and other areas of interest.
3. **Land Protection.** Acquire high-priority lands that preserve open spaces, improve access to water, conserve natural resources, maintain island character, and improve and expand recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.
4. **Stewardship and Maintenance.** Develop and sustain stewardship and maintenance programs that efficiently protect resources, emphasize sustainable methods and design, respond to local needs, and adequately plan for the future.
5. **Funding.** Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the parks, trails, and natural areas system.
6. **Partnerships and Collaboration.** Foster partnerships and Countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers to improve the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas and supporting services and recreational programs.
7. **Community Engagement.** Engage San Juan County residents in the planning and stewardship of parks, trails, and natural areas, and provide effective communication to improve awareness and support of County services.

Implementation

This Plan captures San Juan County residents' needs and desires for the County natural areas, parks and trail systems. The Plan identifies clear goals, strategies, and priority actions and projects to guide the County toward meeting myriad needs and opportunities. The capital facilities plan (CFP) presented in Chapter 6 proposes nearly \$15 million in capital projects over the next six years. More than \$10 million of these projects are land acquisition projects led by the Land Bank, while the remainder includes development and renovation projects, primarily led by San Juan County Parks and Public Works.

While the CFP presents an ambitious list of capital projects and the six-year action plan presented in Chapter 6 and Appendix B captures a wide-ranging list of priority actions to pursue, it is likely that many projects and actions will not be completed due to funding limitations and other resource constraints. To ensure priority needs are met, community support and ongoing collaboration among residents, volunteer groups, the County Council, County departments, other public agencies and a variety of other partners is required.

Key Recommendations

- Identify existing public lands that could provide enhanced public access opportunities, especially public lands with water access.
- Work with private and public landowners to protect high-priority lands using a variety of tools such as land or development right purchase, exchange, and private donation.
- Explore opportunity to develop a comprehensive countywide trails plan and update the Non-motorized Transportation Plan to reflect trail corridor priorities in conjunction with the update of the transportation element of the County comprehensive plan.
- Prioritize the backlog of maintenance projects and secure funding to implement top-priority projects and emphasize low impact development and sustainable design techniques in the design and construction of future facilities.
- Pursue agricultural land-protection opportunities in the Crow, Center, and San Juan Valleys and explore expansion opportunities at San Juan County Park and Odlin County Park.
- Pursue the renewal of Conservation REET by 2014 to support Land Bank operations, stewardship, and acquisitions.
- Pursue and enact consistent capital improvement funding sources, such as the second 0.25 percent REET to support renovation and enhancement of the parks and trails systems.
- Encourage volunteer stewardship and maintenance projects on County lands through a variety of groups such as Lopez Conservation Corps and other service clubs.

This Plan establishes a clear vision and direction for San Juan County parks, trails, and natural areas for the next six years and beyond. Continued collaboration, commitment, ingenuity, and innovation is essential to turning recommended actions and projects into completed success stories.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

The *San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan* provides a long-term vision and six-year plan to guide action and investment in a wide variety of outdoor spaces and facilities overseen by San Juan County. Over the course of one year, San Juan County worked with The Trust for Public Land to assess community needs, engage the public, and craft a plan that strengthens the parks, trails, and natural areas system and charts a clear future for San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works.

This chapter provides an overview of the approach and process used to create this Plan, a review of its organization, and a discussion of its relationship to other County plans.

Purpose and Approach

Every six years, San Juan County revisits and updates its parks and recreation plan to ensure it responds to community needs and desires and provides clear direction for the identification, development, and management of parks, trails, and natural areas. A County-approved six-year parks plan not only establishes clear priorities, it also makes the County eligible for important state grants that fund the majority of proposed parks, trails, and natural areas projects. Therefore, this Plan is designed to meet the eligibility requirements for grants administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for a six year period from 2011-2016.

Collaborative Approach

The San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan is a collaborative effort between the three County departments that play a role in the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas: San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works. (See Chapter 2 for an overview of the three departments.) While the three departments have worked together on previous plans, they have taken a more collaborative approach—dedicating more time and resources toward the effort—in the development of this Plan than ever before. While each department has its own mission, a joint mission statement has been developed to guide the implementation of this Plan:

Work collaboratively to protect the natural beauty and character of the islands and respond to community needs through the provision of quality parks, trails, and natural areas and responsible stewardship of the natural environment and County facilities.

Over the course of one year, the County worked with The Trust for Public Land (TPL)—a national land conservation organization committed to helping communities plan for and protect parks and open space for people to enjoy—to accomplish four key planning objectives:

- Assess community needs, desires, challenges, and opportunities for parks, trails, and natural areas through a variety of public involvement methods;
- Update, consolidate, and refine County inventory information on parks, trails, and natural areas;
- Research viable local, state, and federal funding opportunities to fund implementation of priority projects and actions; and
- Develop a long-term vision and six-year action plan that charts a clear future for County lands.

Planning Process

Working together, the County and TPL designed a planning process that heavily emphasized public involvement through a variety of methods. Launched in July 2009, the 12-month planning process involved four key project phases, consisting of the components below.

Project Phases

- **Phase 1: Asset and Opportunity Identification.** The purpose of Phase 1 was to identify the key assets and opportunities of the parks, trails, and natural areas system. Key tasks included: Conduct supporting background research to establish the planning context; review and update the facility inventory; and identify big-picture opportunities through preliminary outreach.
- **Phase 2: Vision and Needs Assessment.** In Phase 2, a variety of public involvement methods were used to capture the community's vision, values, needs, and hopes for the parks system. Mapping was also used to capture opportunity areas for trails, water access, and land conservation.
- **Phase 3: Goal, Strategy, and Action Development.** Information gathered through Phases 1 and 2 provided the foundation for the development of the framework of the plan, including key goals, strategies, and actions. A capital facilities plan and review of public funding options was also completed to guide implementation of the Plan. Recommended goals, strategies, actions, and projects were refined through the public involvement process and staff review.
- **Phase 4: Plan Adoption and Implementation.** The final phase of the planning process involved completing the final Plan through staff review and public comment. Final adoption and implementation of the Plan is anticipated by fall of 2010.

Public Involvement

Stakeholder Interviews

In July and August 2009, TPL interviewed more than 20 individuals representing a wide variety of organizations and interests throughout the County. Information gathered through the interviews was used as a foundation for the public workshops and survey. (See Appendix B for a list of stakeholder organizations and questions.)

Public Workshops

Two rounds of public workshops were held at the start and close of the project to solicit public input and feedback on various plan components. Four workshops were held in November 2009 on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands to capture community input on the key needs and priorities of the Plan. In April 2010, three workshops were held on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands to gather feedback on the draft plan framework. In total, the workshops attracted more than 275 citizens. (See Appendix C for workshop results.)

Community Survey

In November 2009, a community survey was mailed to 3,000 randomly selected households on the four ferry-served islands. The purpose of the survey was to collect statistically significant information on current use of facilities, preferred activities, and support for future improvements. Ultimately, nearly

600 surveys were returned, providing a 20 percent response rate and an accurate gauge of residents' opinions. (See Appendix D for survey results.)

Facility Inventory and Classification

The County owns and operates a wide variety of parks, trails, and natural areas, mostly concentrated on the four ferry-served islands of San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw. To assess conditions and needs at County facilities, site visits and evaluations were conducted for the majority of facilities. Findings informed the development of the six-year capital facilities plan. A classification scheme detailing facility type and description was also developed for all County facilities, establishing a framework for future evaluation of the park system (see Chapter 3 for more information).

Supporting Research

TPL conducted supporting research focused on potential tools and strategies employed by other communities to meet challenges similar to those facing San Juan County as well as potential conservation funding options at the local, state, and federal level (see Appendix E for the Conservation Finance Feasibility Study).

Plan Organization

The San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan is composed of 6 chapters and 7 appendices:

- **Chapter 1. Introduction.** Provides an overview of the approach and process used to create this Plan, a review of its organization, and a discussion of its relationship to other County plans.
- **Chapter 2. Planning Area Overview.** Provides an overview of San Juan County's landscape, highlighting key features, habitats, and land use and development trends; San Juan County's community, highlighting key demographic and economic trends; and the network of public agencies that play a role in providing spaces and programs for outdoor recreation and natural area protection.
- **Chapter 3. Existing Resources.** Provides a detailed summary of San Juan County parks, trails, and natural areas facilities, including a review of a new inventory classification scheme as well as a more detailed facility inventory and assessment.



- **Chapter 4. Community Needs.** Provides an overview of the activities and major findings of the public involvement process.
- **Chapter 5. Mission, Values, Vision, Goals, and Strategies.** Presents the Plan's core planning framework, including mission, values, vision, goals, and strategies.
- **Chapter 6. Implementation: Recommended Actions and Projects.** Provides a roadmap for plan implementation, including a review of top- and second-tier actions for the next six years, a six-year capital facilities plan, and a summary of funding opportunities for implementation.

Relationship to Other Plans

The San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan establishes a long-term vision, new goals and strategies, and a six-year action plan for the parks, trails, and natural areas of San Juan County for 2011 to 2016. This Plan substantially updates the 2005-2010 Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Preserved Lands for San Juan County and includes policy guidance from several past County plans. RCO requires cities and counties applying for RCO grants to have a current park, recreation, and open space plan that complies with all RCO requirements.

Although the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan does not contain a separate parks and recreation element, the land use element does establish broad goals and policies for recreation, natural resource conservation, open space and scenic resources, and access to public lands and facilities that relate to goals and strategies set forth in this Plan. This Plan is intended to amplify the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and may be used as a foundation for the development of a separate park and recreation element in a future Comprehensive Plan update.

Other County plans discussed below provide additional community context and support the goals, strategies, and implementation priorities set forth in this Plan. While the following plans were completed prior to this Plan, they provide further context and detail for some of the recommended actions and projects.

- **San Juan County Nonmotorized Transportation Plan (2005).** The Nonmotorized Transportation Plan provides the goal and policy framework for nonmotorized transportation needs of the County. The plan outlines potential bicycling corridor and pedestrian access projects throughout the County, some of which have been completed.
- **San Juan Island Trails Plan (2006).** The San Juan Island Trails Committee completed a trails plan for San Juan Island in 2006 in partnership with San Juan County Parks, Island Rec, and the National Park Service. The plan outlines a long-term vision and prioritized list of trail projects across the island. Some projects have been implemented while others are still in the conceptual phase.
- **San Juan County Land Bank Habitat Conservation Plan (2008).** San Juan County Land Bank completed the Habitat Conservation Plan in 2008 to guide the land protection efforts of the Land Bank. The plan highlights several opportunity areas and potential projects intended to guide Land Bank work through 2014.

CHAPTER 2. PLANNING AREA OVERVIEW

To thoroughly plan for parks, trails, and natural areas in San Juan County, an understanding of the environment, major demographic and economic trends, and the larger network of local, state, and federal recreation providers is essential. This chapter provides an overview of:

- San Juan County’s key landscape features, habitats, land use and development trends;
- San Juan County’s community profile, including demographic and economic trends; and
- The network of local, state, and federal agencies that play a role in providing spaces and programs for outdoor recreation and natural area protection.

The Landscape

San Juan County is located in the northwestern portion of Washington State in Puget Sound, composing a buffer of islands between mainland Washington and the southern end of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. To the west lies Haro Strait and Boundary Pass, marking the international boundary between Canada and the United States; to the east lies Rosario Strait; and to the south the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Figure 2.1).

An island County made up of no fewer than 743 islands, reefs, and rocks at low tide, San Juan County is truly unique. The total land area is approximately 180 square miles with about 375 miles of shoreline abutting 600 square miles of inland sea. The San Juan Island group includes several

Figure 2.1: San Juan County Regional Context



islands on the eastern archipelago that belong to Skagit and Whatcom counties, including Cypress, Guemes, Sinclair, and Lummi islands.

In San Juan County, about 20 islands have year-round residents, but most live on the four ferry-served islands of Lopez, Orcas, San Juan, and Shaw, with about half of the county's population living on San Juan Island.

The Town of Friday Harbor on San Juan Island is the commercial center of the islands as well as the County seat and only incorporated municipality in the County. The villages of Eastsound on Orcas Island and Lopez Village on Lopez Island serve as smaller commercial centers.

The Natural Environment

The islands of San Juan County represent the highest points of a submerged mountain range that once connected Vancouver Island with the mainland. In the rainshadow of the Olympic Mountains, the islands enjoy a temperate climate that supports a wide variety of habitats, species, and rare plant communities. Combined with the unique marine environment of rocky intertidal areas, cliffs, sand dunes, estuaries, and other priority habitats, San Juan County encompasses rich, diverse ecological systems despite having the smallest land area of Washington's 39 counties.

As documented in the San Juan County Land Bank's Habitat Conservation Plan, five focal habitat types cover many of the County's rare species and communities, and all are threatened by current and projected development trends. These focal habitat types include: undeveloped shoreline; large, intact forests; coastal prairies; oak woodlands; and high-quality wetlands. Other core conservation areas include eelgrass, kelp beds, and other nearshore marine areas.

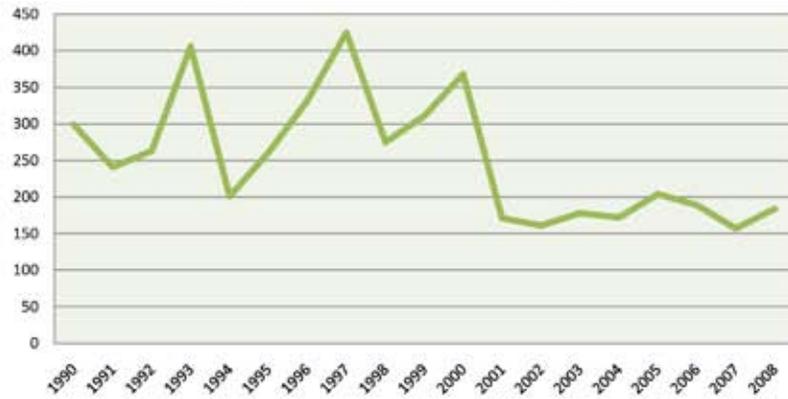
Land Use and Development

Sparsely populated and characterized by rolling hills, fertile farmland, forested hillsides, and miles of marine shoreline, San Juan County is a rural county with an economy based in recreational tourism, second-home development, and the retirement industry. While the 1990s and early 2000s brought a wave of new development, since 2005, the market has slowed as illustrated by a decrease in residential building permits and homes sales (Figure 2.2 and 2.3, respectively). A slowing real estate market has resulted in a surplus of unsold homes in the islands, driving down the cost of housing; the median price of a single-family home in San Juan County dropped from a high of \$563,250 in 2007 to \$443,500 in 2009—a 21.3 percent drop in two years.¹¹ However, the cost of housing in the islands has seen a meteoric rise over the past 15 years, increasing 175 percent from 1995 to 2008—a rate much higher than the state average (Figure 2.4).

Land use in the San Juan Islands is dominated by resource lands, which includes lands designated as agricultural or forestry resource, rural farm forest, or conservancy; approximately 86 percent (96,639 acres) of land use falls into this category, contributing to the rural and nature-rich atmosphere of the islands (Table 2.1). Rural residential makes up eight percent (9,086 acres) of the land use in the County, with the greatest proportion of rural residential land use on Shaw and San Juan islands.

¹¹ http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/realestate/2011038959_realsanjuans14.html

Figure 2.2: Single Family Residential Building Permits, 1990-2008



Source: Washington State University, Washington Center for Real Estate Research

Figure 2.3: Existing Home Sales, Seasonally Adjusted, 1993-2009



Source: Washington State University, Washington Center for Real Estate Research

Figure 2.4: Median Home Prices, 1995-2008

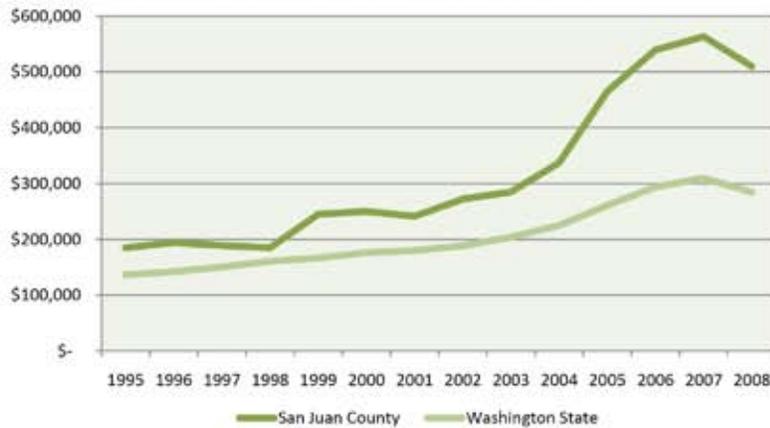


Table 2.1: San Juan County Land Use Summary (Acres)

Island	Rural Residential	Incorporated/Resort	Rural Industrial	Resource Lands	Other	Total
Orcas	1,291	113	100	33,092	2,409	37,005
San Juan	3,866	1,586	5	29,760	322	35,539
Lopez	791	-	10	17,582	554	18,937
Shaw	857	-	-	4,035	-	4,892
Outer Islands	2,281	-	19	12,170	1,440	15,910
Total	9,086	1,699	134	96,639	4,725	112,283

Source: San Juan County

The Community

The islands of San Juan County have a culture and charm that has attracted visitors and residents for over a century. The economy of the islands has always been based on the abundance of local natural resources—lime, timber, and salmon in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and fisheries and natural amenity-driven industries in modern times. The beauty and lifestyle of the islands drive the local economy today, as local commerce is based on the tourist and retirement industry.

Some significant trends, explored in more detail below, influence the role of parks, trails, and natural areas in San Juan County:

- **An older, retiring population.** The County’s population is growing, and the fastest-growing age group is 50 and older. The majority of growth can be attributed to migration into the County, influenced greatly by the large number of residents moving to the islands to retire. As indicated in community survey results discussed in Chapter 4, the older generation enjoys the outdoors in a relatively low-impact manner, mainly through hiking, walking, wildlife-watching, and relaxing in nature.
- **Part-time population.** The County has a high part-time population that lives in the County on a less-than-full-time basis. While some “part-timers” are deeply involved in the community, anecdotal evidence suggests this portion of the population is not as heavily invested in local issues as full-time residents, which may have implications for support of County parks, trails, and natural areas efforts.
- **Seasonal influx of tourists.** Tourism drives the local economy, and people visit the San Juans to experience the outdoors and the unique beauty of the islands. During the summer months—the height of the tourist season—County facilities are heavily visited by tourists, especially in areas of high popularity such as the west side of San Juan Island. The relatively short, but burst of intense use often exceeds the capacity of many facilities.
- **High cost of living and housing affordability.** The influx of a wealthier, generally older generation has increased the cost of living in San Juan County. While basic goods such as food and construction materials have always been more expensive in the islands, the dramatic increase of a population sector that can pay higher prices for homes and attendant services has created a large disparity between working-wage earners and retirees. Subsequently, more workers are spending a growing portion of their income on meeting basic needs, hoping to simply “make ends meet,” while fewer families are able to save for the future. The parks, trails, and natural areas open to the public are a critical resource for these families who can not afford to vacation or recreate elsewhere.

Population

San Juan County was officially “discovered” as a wonderful place to live, work, and play in the 1990s. The county experienced exponential growth during that decade, increasing 40 percent from 10,000 to 14,000—a growth rate surpassed only by Clark County. Since 2000, population growth has slowed, but still increased more than 20 percent totaling over 17,000 in 2010, making San Juan County one of the state’s top-five, fastest-growing counties.

Based on growth projections of 2.3 percent per year, the county’s population is forecasted to grow to 22,513 by 2025, a 40 percent increase from 2008. As shown in Table 2.2, nearly half of the population growth is allocated to San Juan Island, with the concentration of new residents residing within the

Table 2.2: Population Allocations, 2008-2025

Island	2008 Population	2025 Population	% Change 2008-2025	% Population By Island (2008)	% Population By Island (2025)
San Juan (unincorp.)	5,232	6,866	31.2%	32.5%	30.5%
Friday Harbor	2,425	3,829	57.9%	15.0%	17.0%
Orcas	5,073	7,091	39.8%	31.5%	31.5%
Lopez	2,495	3,489	39.8%	15.5%	15.5%
Shaw	257	360	40.1%	1.6%	1.6%
Outer Islands	631	878	39.1%	3.9%	3.9%
Total	16,113	22,513	39.7%		

Source: San Juan County Housing Needs Assessment, Updated 2009

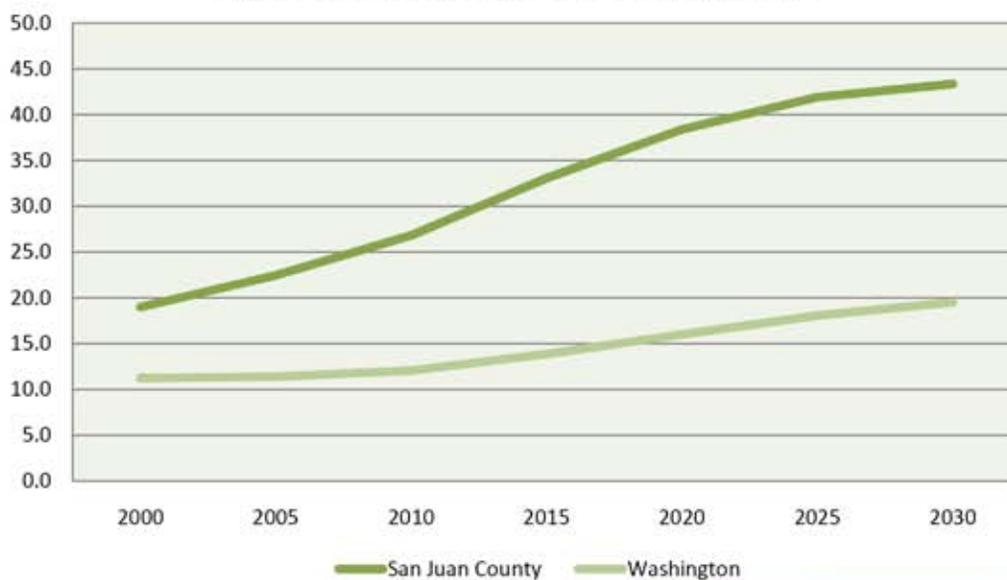
urban growth area of Friday Harbor. By 2025, Orcas Island’s population is forecasted to increase to over 7,000, accounting for more than 30 percent of forecasted growth. Lopez, Shaw, and the county’s outer islands will grow apace with the county, averaging a 40 percent increase in population.

For the past 20 years, the County’s growth can be attributed mainly to migration into the County. From 2000 to 2009, the population increased by 2,223 with the number of deaths outweighing the number of births, and a net migration of 2,347¹². With the steady migration of new residents to the County, a strong trend of an older population can be seen. Figure 2.5 shows the growth of the 65 and older age group from 2000 and forecasted to 2030. By 2030, this age group is forecasted to make up 43 percent of the total population, more than double that of the state average; by 2030, 60 percent of the population is forecasted to be 50 and older—an extreme disproportion of a retiring and retired population.

Part-time Residents

As the county’s total population has grown over the past 15 years, so too has the number of part-time residents. According to 2000 Census figures, 66 percent of all housing units are occupied, while 34 percent are vacant with the majority of those being used on a seasonal basis (i.e., not being rented out). Based on 2009 County assessor data, there are over 10,000 households, with 43 percent of those households using an out-of-County mailing address, indicating some level of less-than-full-time

Figure 2.5: Percent of Population over 65, 2000-2030



12 2009 Washington State Data Book, <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/default.asp>.

residential status. Table 2.3 shows the distribution of households throughout the islands as well their estimated residential status. The smaller, outer islands have the highest incidence of part-time residences, while San Juan Island has the greatest number of full-time residents.

Table 2.3: Residential Status of San Juan County Households

Island	Total Households	Full-time Residences	Part-time Residences	% Full-time Residences	% Part-time Residences
San Juan	4,863	3,276	1,587	67.4%	32.6%
Orcas	3,421	1,712	1,709	50.0%	50.0%
Lopez	2,031	1,021	1,010	50.3%	49.7%
Shaw	237	103	134	43.5%	56.5%
Outer Islands	254	23	231	9.1%	90.9%
Total	10,806	6,135	4,671	56.8%	43.2%

Source: 2009 San Juan County Assessor Data

Tourism

Tourism in San Juan County has mirrored the county’s steady growth in population over the last 15 years, albeit at a slightly slower rate. From 2002 to 2009, ferry ridership remained steady, with an average annual ridership rate of 1.7 million.¹³ While the exact number of tourists is difficult to calculate, during the peak of the tourist season, the county’s population increases roughly 60 percent, having a significant impact on the infrastructure of a relatively small, rural county. According to a recent tourism study for San Juan County, tourism spending has gradually increased since 2003, totaling nearly \$130 million in 2008.¹⁴

The county is recognized as a top travel destination in Washington, which also includes the State Scenic Byway Designation for San Juan and Orcas Islands. In 2009, Lonely Planet recognized the San Juan Islands as one of the world’s top ten cycling routes.¹⁵ And in 2009, the San Juan Islands ferry ride was identified as one of the world’s top ten ferry rides by the Society of American Travel Writers.¹⁶ The islands continue to be highlighted as a must-experience destination, especially by popular lifestyle magazines such as *Sunset* and *Outside*.

Economy

As discussed above, the retirement and tourist industries drive the economy of San Juan County. According to the Washington State Data Book, the Accommodation and Food Service industry is the largest in the County, employing 21 percent of all employees, followed by Government (19 percent), Construction (14 percent), and Wholesale/Retail Trade (13 percent). Of all the industries, the Government sector is the most stable and best-paying. The service industry, which makes up 32 percent of the County’s economy, is notoriously low-paying and highly seasonal.

Income

Although San Juan County has one of the highest per capita income levels in the state at \$56,879 in 2008 (second only to King County at \$58,141 in 2008)¹⁷, the figure is misleading because of the

13 Washington State Department of Transportation, San Juan County Ferry Ridership Statistics, 2002-2007, http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/traffic_stats/

14 Dean Runyan and Associates, Washington Travel Impacts Data, accessible at <http://www.deanrunyan.com/WATravelImpacts/WATravelImpacts.html#> (accessed May 19, 2010).

15 “Lonely Planet Names San Juan Islands To World’s Top 10 Cycling Routes,” <http://www.visitsanjuans.com/articles/index.cfm?action=view&articleID=92§ionID=3&filter=1&menuID=83> (accessed May 19, 2010).

16 “San Juan Islands: #4 on List of World’s Top 10 Ferry Boat Rides,” <http://www.visitsanjuans.com/articles/index.cfm?action=view&articleID=22§ionID=3&filter=1&menuID=83> (accessed May 19, 2010).

17 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov.

high proportion of retirees in the community. The average earnings per job in 2008 was \$25,160—less than half the per capita income and less than half of the state average earnings per job of \$52,365. Table 2.4 shows a breakdown of personal income from 1995 to 2008, distinguishing between labor and non-labor sources of income. From 1995 to 2008, personal income increased by 70 percent in the County, but that increase can be mostly attributed to the 90 percent increase in income from non-labor sources. In 2008, 66 percent of all personal income came from non-labor sources—dividends, interest, and personal transfer receipts, nearly all associated with retirement income; this figure does not include any distributions earned from other retirement income such as a personal 401k.

Table 2.4: Labor and Non-labor Sources of Personal Income

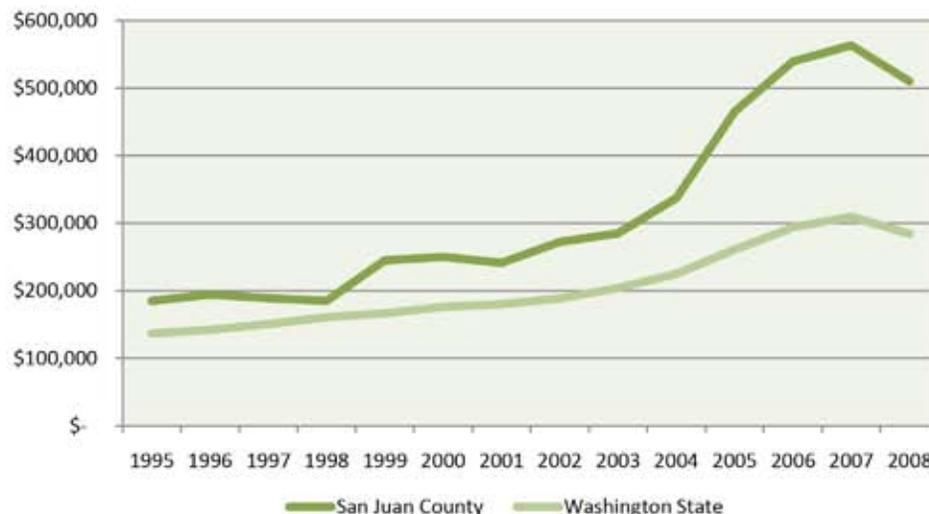
<i>All income in 2008 dollars</i>	1995	2000	2005	2008	% Change 1995-2008
Personal Income (total)	517,218	685,943	823,021	879,464	70%
Labor Component	211,195	278,708	291,607	288,882	37%
Non-labor Component	305,314	398,239	522,841	581,599	90%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Affordability

The growing income disparity in the San Juan Islands—that between retirees and wage-earning residents—has resulted in San Juan County being the least affordable place to live in the state. In 2008, approximately 57 percent of households were considered low to very low income, earning less than 80 percent of the median household income.¹⁸ Households that earn the median household income of \$55,898¹⁹ can simply not afford the median home price of \$443,500.²⁰ Figure 2.4 shows the growth in median home prices from 1995 to 2008—the county has followed a much more exaggerated trend than that of the state. As highlighted in the 2009 San Juan County Housing Needs Assessment, a family would need to earn at least \$150,000 per year and have an additional \$100,000 for a down payment to afford the median-priced home in the county.

Figure 2.4: Median Home Prices, 1995-2008



18 2009 San Juan County Housing Needs Assessment.

19 2008 estimate from U.S. Census, www.census.gov.

20 median household price, Washington State University Center for Real Estate Research, www.wcrer.wsu.edu.



Local Park, Trail, and Natural Areas Providers

The various parks and open spaces of San Juan County are the primary attraction for visitors to the islands. From national parks that offer sweeping views and historical relics to state parks that provide boaters with access to entire islands open to the public, the network of public parks, trails, and natural areas—including those owned and operated by the county—is a community asset. Map 2.1 shows public land ownership, illustrating the patchwork of public lands that provide some level of recreational opportunity for county residents and visitors. An overview of the major providers of parks, trails, and natural areas throughout the county is provided below.

San Juan County

As presented in the introduction of this Plan, San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works all play a role in providing parks, trails, and natural areas in the County. A thorough inventory of County facilities is presented in Chapter 3.

County Parks

San Juan County Parks provides 17 parks totaling 240 acres for the public to enjoy on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands. These parks provide visitors with the opportunity to experience the natural environment and outdoors with opportunities for camping, boat launching, building rental, and special facility use. The Parks department has a staff of 11, composed of full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees. The department is assisted by the seven-member volunteer Parks and Recreation Commission appointed by the County Council; commission members serve six-year terms.

San Juan County Land Bank

Established by San Juan County voters in 1990, San Juan County Land Bank preserves areas with environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic or low-intensity recreation value. The Land Bank provides 5,286 acres of preserved and protected land throughout the County. Approximately 3,500 acres are open to the public, providing unique recreational opportunities on all of the islands. The Land Bank has a staff of seven full- and part-time employees and is overseen by a seven-member commission appointed by the County Council; commission members serve four-year terms.

San Juan County Public Works

San Juan County Public Works is responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance of all County roads, docks, boat ramps, marine floats, and other marine access facilities. Public Works also plays a role in the stewardship of shoreline access road ends

and development of walking paths and biking amenities in the public right-of-way. Public Works currently provides or has jurisdiction over 8 miles of public right-of-way trails, 21 marine access facilities, and 30 shoreline access road ends throughout the county.

Town of Friday Harbor

The Town of Friday Harbor operates five small parks to serve the residents of the town. These include two small plazas near the marina and three neighborhood parks with open lawn areas and basketball courts. Town rights-of-way also accommodate walkers in the commercial downtown core and cyclists seeking cross-island transportation routes.

Other Recreational Providers

Other recreation programs and providers bolster County parks, trails, and natural areas. On San Juan Island, the San Juan Island Park and Recreation District (Island Rec) provides a host of recreational programs for all ages throughout the year. The district also operates four facilities including the Fairgrounds Family Park, Skate Park, Eddie and Friends Dog Park, and the LaFarge Property, a primitive area open to the public for walking. Island Rec also oversees the volunteer San Juan Island Trails Committee, which actively leads trails efforts on the island.

On Orcas Island, the Orcas Island Recreation Program provides a host of recreation programs for Orcas residents. The program is run by San Juan County Parks, but is funded largely by fees, grants, and donations. In 2009, County voters also approved the creation of the Orcas Island Park and Recreation District. The newly elected five-member park district board is developing a levy proposal for the voters in 2010; the County's goal is to have the district assume the role of providing recreation and enrichment programs for Orcas Island. Additionally, Orcas Pathways collaborates with the County to develop trail projects on the island.

While no park and recreation district exists on Lopez or Shaw Island, school districts and non-profit organizations provide some recreation and enrichment programs in these communities. In addition to County-operated parks on Lopez, County Parks works with the Chamber of Commerce and the Lopez Island Family Resource Center (LIFRC) to operate and maintain the island's skate park and Village Park in the center of Lopez Village. The LIFRC also provides recreational and educational programs for the island's youth.

State Agencies

State Parks

Washington State Parks operates 15 parks totaling 5,300 acres in San Juan County, with Moran State Park on Orcas Island being the largest and most visited of all state parks. These parks play a key role in providing camping and shoreline access opportunities. Parks such as Spencer Spit, Obstruction Pass, and Jones Island provide important recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Washington Department of Natural Resources

While Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversees millions of acres of forestland, agricultural land, and aquatic resources across the state, the state agency has gradually transferred or is the process of transferring much of its land in San Juan County to other public agencies. The most recent transfer of 320 acres on San Juan Island will be added to the San Juan Island National Historic Park (English Camp) and future transfers will add more than 100 acres to Odlin Park on Lopez

Island. The Land Bank also recently acquired Lopez Hill on Lopez Island, a key recreational resource. DNR will continue to own and oversee a patchwork of aquatic lands throughout the county.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) owns little land (less than five acres) in San Juan County, but does oversee fish and wildlife management of state resources and operates some recreational facilities—mainly water access sites—on some of the county’s freshwater lakes. WDFW plays a key role in partnership with other federal agencies in enforcement of state and federal marine laws and fisheries management.

Federal Agencies

National Park Service

The National Park Service operates the San Juan Island National Historic Park, totaling 1,680 acres, on San Juan Island. The park is composed of two major areas, American Camp and English Camp. These lands provide ample recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

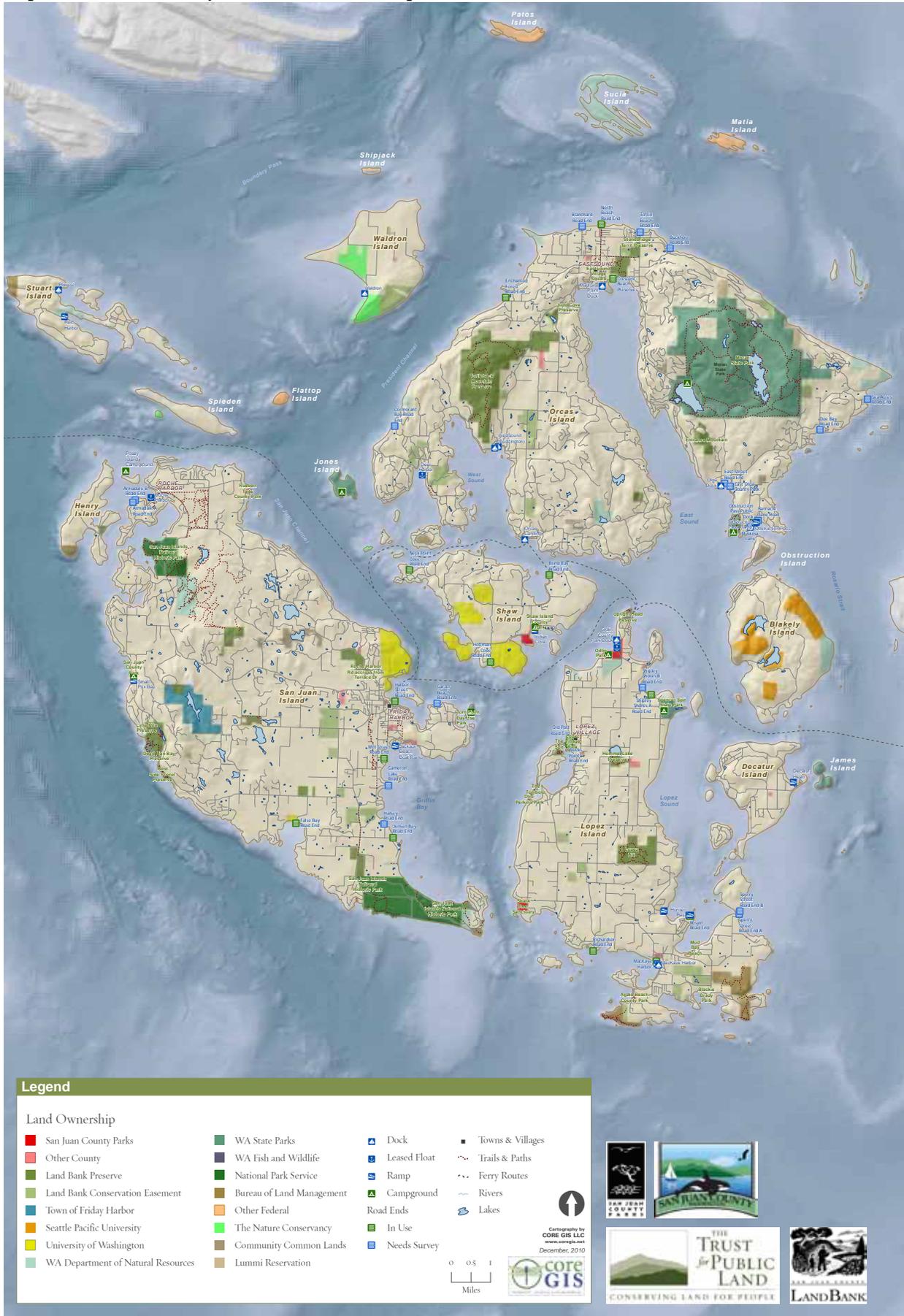
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Of the 700 or so islands, islets, rocks, and reefs that make up the San Juan Islands, 83 are part of the San Juan Island National Wildlife Refuge. Of these, 81 have been designated wilderness since 1976 and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These islands, totaling almost 450 acres, were set aside to protect colonies of nesting seabirds, but they also attract a variety of other wildlife, including bald eagles and harbor seals. To help maintain the natural character of these islands, all the refuge islands except Matia and Turn are closed to the public.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns approximately 1,000 acres of land in San Juan County, 500 acres of which is located on Lopez Island, mainly composing Watmough Bay and Iceberg Point. All of BLM’s lands in San Juan County are designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, which emphasizes the conservation of the natural character of the land, with a minor recreational component. With a full-time office on Lopez Island, partnership opportunities between the BLM and San Juan County Parks and Land Bank have expanded in recent years.

Map 2.1: San Juan County Public Land Ownership



CHAPTER 3. EXISTING RESOURCES

This chapter provides a detailed summary of San Juan County’s parks, trails, and natural areas facilities. All facilities presented in this chapter are managed and operated by San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, or Public Works. This chapter is composed of two parts:

- **Inventory Classification System.** San Juan County developed a new classification system for all County facilities composed of four primary classifications: parks, marine access, natural areas, and trails. Detailed definitions of each classification are provided below.
- **Facility Inventory and Assessment.** Detailed assessments of many County facilities are provided in the second part of this chapter. A summary of management issues and recommendations for County parks is also provided.

Inventory Classification System

To organize the County’s inventory of parks, trails, and natural areas and to provide a structure for future review and assessment of County facilities, the planning team developed an inventory classification system consisting of four primary classifications: (1) Parks; (2) Marine Access; (3) Natural Areas; and (4) Trails.

Parks

The “Parks” classification encompasses four subcategories: pocket park, local park, regional park, and special use facility. County Parks operates the majority of these facilities. Table 3.1 provides a summary of facilities classified as “Parks.”

Pocket Park

Pocket parks are small and provide passive and play-oriented recreational opportunities. Examples can include a children’s play area with play equipment, a viewpoint, or waterfront/beach access area. A small plaza or civic recognition project may also be considered a pocket park. Restrooms and parking are often not provided.

Local Park

Local parks are small- to medium-sized parks that provide passive and active recreational opportunities, preserve unique landscape features, or provide waterfront access. Local parks range in size from 0.25 to 2 acres, and while no maximum or average size is recommended, their size depends on a variety of factors including need, physical location and opportunity. Additionally, these parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites.

Generally, local parks may be developed with picnic facilities, playground areas, and support facilities such as parking and restrooms. Recognizing that local park development may proceed in phases,

Table 3.1: Parks Classification Summary

Property Name	Classification	Island	Acreage
San Juan County Park	Regional Park	San Juan	12
Shaw Island County Park	Regional Park	Shaw	91
Odlin County Park	Regional Park	Lopez	78
		Subtotal	181
Agate Beach County Park	Local Park	Lopez	4
Eastsound Waterfront Park	Local Park	Orcas	1
Lopez Village Park	Local Park	Lopez	<1
Otis Perkins Day Park	Local Park	Lopez	1
Reuben Tarte Park	Local Park	San Juan	5
Turn Point County Park	Local Park	San Juan	1
		Subtotal	12
Blackie Brady Park	Pocket Park	Lopez	<1
Eagle Cove County Park	Pocket Park	San Juan	2
East Olga County Park (Buck Bay)	Pocket Park	Orcas	<1
Library Park	Pocket Park	Orcas	<1
Mud Bay Beach	Pocket Park	Lopez	1
Viewpoint Park	Pocket Park	Orcas	<1
		Subtotal	4
Eastsound Village Square	Special Facility	Orcas	1
Lopez Village Skate Park	Special Facility	Lopez	1
		Subtotal	2
		Total Acreage	199

Table 3.2 identifies the minimum park amenities recommended for local parks, along with other park elements that may be installed based on specific site uses, community input, or the site master plan.

Table 3.2: Minimum Amenities for Local Parks

Minimum Amenities Recommended	Other Acceptable Amenities
Picnic shelters, tables and benches	Natural areas and interpretive elements
Pathways, paved or other ADA-compliant hard surface	Community gardens
Open lawn area	Sports courts (e.g., basketball, volleyball, tennis)
Signage: park name, rules, wayfinding	Dedicated on-street or off-street parking
Other site furnishings (e.g., trash receptacles, bike racks, barbeques, etc.)	Playground (preferred size: 5,000 - 6,000 sq. ft.; serving ages 2-5 and 5-12)
	Irrigation and landscaping
	Other active recreation elements (e.g., skateboard park or spots, horseshoe pits, etc.)

Regional Park

Regional parks are larger areas that provide diverse recreational activities and are designed to accommodate a large number of users. Facilities may include sports fields, extensive trail systems, large picnic areas, playgrounds, group and individual campsites, or large picnic areas. Regional parks often include passive recreation space and unique features such as significant natural areas or waterfront access. Support services include parking areas, restrooms, and utilities. In areas without local parks, regional parks can also serve as local parks.

In general, regional park facilities are designed for organized or intensive recreational activities and sports, although passive components such as pathways, picnic areas and natural areas are highly encouraged and complementary to active-use facilities. Since regional parks serve a larger number of users (including tourists) and offer more facilities than local parks, parking and restroom facilities are provided. Table 3.3 identifies the minimum park amenities recommended for regional parks, along with other typical or acceptable elements that may be developed.

Table 3.3: Minimum Amenities for Regional Parks

Minimum Amenities Recommended	Other Acceptable Amenities
Picnic shelters (minimum 1 large and 1 small per park)	Lighting
Picnic tables and benches	Sports courts (e.g., basketball, volleyball, tennis)
Open lawn area	Natural areas and interpretive elements
Pathways, paved or other ADA-compliant hard surface	Shared-use bicycle/pedestrian trails
Restrooms (minimum 4 stalls)	Stage or community performance area
Off-street or dedicated parking	Dog park or off-leash dog area
Irrigation and landscaping	Caretaker's facility
Signage: park name, rules, wayfinding	Water play feature or sprayground
Other site furnishings (e.g., trash receptacles, bike racks, barbeques, etc.)	Athletic fields for practice and/or games (e.g., soccer, baseball, softball, football, lacrosse)
	Other active recreation elements (e.g., BMX, skateboard park or spots, climbing feature, etc.)
	Playground (preferred size: 10,000 - 12,000 sq. ft.; serving ages 2-5 and 5-12)
	Maintenance or storage facilities

Special Use Areas

Special-use facilities include single-purpose facilities that accommodate special recreational or community uses. Examples can include skateparks, fairgrounds, community centers, and public plazas in or near town centers. Additionally, publicly accessible sport fields and play areas of public schools are classified as special facilities. While they often serve as proxies to public parks, school sites have restricted daytime access and offer limited recreational use during non-school hours. No standards are proposed or recommended concerning special-use facilities, since facility size is a function of the specific use.

Marine Access

The “Marine Access” classification encompasses three subcategories: dock/float, boat launch/ramp, and shoreline access road end. Public Works operates the majority of these facilities. Table 3.4 provides a summary of facilities classified as “Marine Access.”

Dock/Float

Docks and floats are landings provided for mooring watercraft. Docks may be accessed by a small or large pier built out from the shore into the water. At certain locations, parking, restrooms and utilities (water and electricity) may be provided. Off-shore moorage may also be provided.

Boat Launch/Ramp

A boat launch or ramp is a developed area for launching watercraft that often includes concrete access ramps and occasionally docks. Parking, restrooms and utilities (water and electricity) may be provided.

Shoreline Access Road End

A shoreline access road end is a public right-of-way that extends from an improved roadway to the shoreline. Road ends may be developed or improved to facilitate public use and access and may provide opportunities for viewing the water and/or launching hand-carry watercraft.

Table 3.4: Marine Access Sites (Property Name)

Property Name	Classification	Island
Decatur Head	Boat Ramp	Decatur
Indian Cove (Shaw County Park)	Boat Ramp	Shaw
Jackson Beach	Boat Ramp	San Juan
Reid Harbor	Boat Ramp	Stuart
Small Pox Bay (San Juan County Park)	Boat Ramp	San Juan
Dock and Ramp (name unknown)	Dock & Boat Ramp	Lopez
Hunter Bay Dock	Dock & Boat Ramp	Lopez
MacKaye Harbor	Dock & Boat Ramp	Lopez
Obstruction Pass	Dock & Boat Ramp	Orcas
Odlin County Park Dock	Dock & Boat Ramp	Lopez
Westsound (Boddington)	Dock	Orcas
Eastsound Madrona Dock	Dock	Orcas
Olga Dock	Dock	Orcas
Orcas Landing	Dock	Orcas
Stuart Dock	Dock	Stuart
Waldron Dock	Dock	Waldron
Armada A Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	San Juan
Armada B Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	San Juan
Barnacle Lane Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Blanchard Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Blind Bay Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Shaw
Buckhorn Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Cameron Lane Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	San Juan
Carter Beach Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	San Juan
Cormorant Bay Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Deer Harbor Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Doe Bay Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Enchanted Forest Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
False Bay Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	San Juan
First Street Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Halsey Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	San Juan
Hoffman Cove Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Shaw
Jensen Bay Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	San Juan
Lopez Village Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Lopez
Mukosa Lane	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Neck Point Cove Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Shaw
North Beach Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Port Stanley Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Lopez
Richardson Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Lopez
Roslyn Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Lopez
Sea Acres Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Shipley Shores A R/E	Shoreline Access Road End	Lopez
Shipley Shores B R/E	Shoreline Access Road End	Lopez
Sperry Street Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Lopez
Terrill Beach Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Orcas
Weeks Point Road End	Shoreline Access Road End	Lopez

Natural Areas

The “Natural Areas” classification encompasses two subcategories: natural areas preserve and conservation easement lands. The Land Bank operates the majority of these facilities. Table 3.5 and 3.6 provide a summary of facilities classified as “Natural Areas.”

Natural Area Preserve

Natural area preserves are managed with the objective to preserve natural features, habitat, biodiversity, and vistas, including farmland. These sites may be open to the public and provide limited, passive, low-impact recreational opportunities, where appropriate, such as walking, hiking, wildlife observation, and respite. Preserves range in size from small pocket beaches to large forested tracts. Developed improvements may include soft-surface or boardwalk trails, parking, restrooms, and signage.

Table 3.5: Natural Areas (Property Name)

Property Name	Classification	Island	Acreage
Cady Mountain Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	San Juan	80
Crescent Beach Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	Orcas	231
Deadman Bay Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	San Juan	65
Deer Harbor Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	Orcas	2
Diamond Hill	Natural Area Preserve	Orcas	40
Entrance Mountain Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	Orcas	128
Fisherman Bay Preserve: The Spit	Natural Area Preserve	Lopez	29
Fisherman Bay Preserve: The Tombolo	Natural Area Preserve	Lopez	10
Fisherman Bay Preserve: Weeks Wetland	Natural Area Preserve	Lopez	24
Hummel Lake Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	Lopez	102
Judd Cove Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	Orcas	11
Limekiln Preserve and Westside Lake	Natural Area Preserve	San Juan	63
Lopez Hill	Natural Area Preserve	Lopez	397
Mt. Ben	Natural Area Preserve	San Juan	21
Shark Reef Sanctuary	Natural Area Preserve	Lopez	39
Stonebridge Farm - Terril Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	Orcas	60
Third Lagoon Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	San Juan	20
Trout Lake Watershed	Natural Area Preserve	San Juan	40
Turtleback Mountain Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	Orcas	1,580
Upright Head Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	Lopez	26
Watmough Bay Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	Lopez	8
Westside Scenic Preserve	Natural Area Preserve	San Juan	18
		Subtotal	2,994
Alderman	Natural Area Preserve (Farmland)	San Juan	10
Beaverton Marsh Preserve	Natural Area Preserve (Farmland)	San Juan	134
False Bay Creek	Natural Area Preserve (Farmland)	San Juan	39
Fowlers Pond Preserve	Natural Area Preserve (Farmland)	Orcas	50
Fraser Homestead Preserve	Natural Area Preserve (Farmland)	San Juan	110
King Sisters Preserve	Natural Area Preserve (Farmland)	San Juan	58
		Subtotal	401
		Total Acreage	3,395

Conservation Easement Lands

Conservation easement lands are privately owned properties protected by a conservation easement intended to conserve important natural values such as wildlife or farmland. These lands do not provide public access, but may maintain scenic views, habitat, or working landscapes valued by the public.

Trails

The “Trails” classification encompasses three subcategories: road right-of-way trail, rustic trail, and bike trail. Table 3.7 provides a summary of County facilities classified as “Trails.” Descriptions provided below were informed by a number of state and federal trail design manuals.¹¹

Road Right-of-Way Trail

Road right-of-way trails are located within the public road right-of-way. Trail surfaces within urban growth areas are typically concrete; all others may be concrete, stabilized gravel, or native material depending on adjacent roadway traffic volumes. Trail widths vary from 4 to 5 feet and shall be ADA compliant when possible.

¹¹ Trail design manuals published by state and federal transportation agencies that may provide additional guidance on trail design include:
 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, USDOT, FHWA; as adopted and modified by Chapter 468-95 WAC “Manual on uniform traffic control devices for streets and highways” (MUTCD).
 Selecting Roadway Design Treatments to Accommodate Bicycles, USDOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), 1994.
 Standard Plans for Road, Bridge, and Municipal Construction (Standard Plans), M 21-01, WSDOT.
 Understanding Flexibility in Transportation Design – Washington, WSDOT, 2005.
 Design Manual, Chapter 1520 Bicycle facilities, M 22-01, WSDOT, June 2009.

Table 3.6: Conservation Easement Lands Summary

Property Name	Classification	Island	Acreage
Bluebells Spring Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Orcas	N/A
Buck Bay West Conservation Easement/SJPT	Conservation Easement	Orcas	0.41
Carney Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Orcas	109
Clapp Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Orcas	160
Coffelt Farm	Conservation Easement (Farmland)	Orcas	195
Cole Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Lopez	245
Golithean Preserve Conservation Easement/SJPT	Conservation Easement	Orcas	N/A
Gudgell Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Orcas	31
Harris-Pressenda Lee Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Lopez	50.6
Helwig Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Lopez	N/A
Heritage Farm Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement (Farmland)	San Juan	39
Hogback Mountain Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Orcas	50
Howard Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	San Juan	N/A
Hunt Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	San Juan	N/A
Johnson Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Lopez	40
Lee Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Lopez	N/A
Lower Argyle Historic Lots	Conservation Easement	San Juan	N/A
Mosquito Pass	Conservation Easement	Henry	20.5
Mulno Cove Farm	Conservation Easement	San Juan	78
Oak Knoll Farm Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	San Juan	N/A
Olga Community Club Park	Conservation Easement	Orcas	0.38
Orcas Artworks Historic Building and Grounds	Conservation Easement	Orcas	N/A
Orcas Village Tidelands	Conservation Easement	Orcas	N/A
Plum Tree Farm Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Orcas	55
Point Disney Preserve/San Juan Preservation Trust	Conservation Easement	Waldron	171
Pole Pass	Conservation Easement	Crane	N/A
Portland Fair Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	San Juan	22
Shaefer Stretch Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Orcas	133.6
Shaw Island/Department of Natural Resources	Conservation Easement	Shaw	30
Stonebridge Farm	Conservation Easement (Farmland)	Orcas	34
Stonecrest Farm Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement (Farmland)	Lopez	N/A
Tharald Homestead Historic Preservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Shaw	N/A
Trumble and Gibbs Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	Orcas	N/A
Twigg-Smith Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement	San Juan	N/A
Waldron Community Land Trust	Conservation Easement	Waldron	13
W. Sundstrom Farm	Conservation Easement (Farmland)	San Juan	120
Warm Valley Farm Conservation Easement	Conservation Easement (Farmland)	Orcas	78
		Total Acreage	1,675

Table 3.7: Trails Classification Summary

Property Name	Classification	Island	Length (mi)
Argyle Rd Path	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	0.2
Cattle Point DNR 8	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	0.2
Deer Harbor Loop Trail	Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	0.6
Eastsound Trails	Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	0.7
Enchanted Forest Road Path	Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	0.3
Fisherman Bay Rd	Right-of-Way Trail	Lopez	0.5
Golf Course Rd Trail	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	0.3
Lime Kiln Land Bank	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	1.6
Lime Kiln Land Bank - Brinks Trail	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	0.1
Lopez Rd Path	Right-of-Way Trail	Lopez	0.5
North Beach Road Path	Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	1.0
San Juan County Park	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	0.3
Weeks Rd Path	Right-of-Way Trail	Lopez	0.3
		Subtotal	6.4
Cattle Point Rd Rustic Trail	Rustic Trail	San Juan	1.3
Eagle Cove Trail	Rustic Trail	San Juan	0.1
Reuben Tarte Park	Rustic Trail	San Juan	0.1
Swale Trail	Rustic Trail	Orcas	0.2
		Subtotal	1.7
		Total Mileage	8.1

Rustic Trail

A rustic trail is a soft-surface trail appropriate for pedestrian, equestrian, or off-road bicycle use that provides connection through or between neighborhoods or within natural areas or parks. Depending on use, location, and underlying conditions, the surface material may be native soil, forest duff, wood chips, or crushed rock and width ranges from 1-½ to 4 feet.

Bike Trail

A bike trail is a paved trail designated for preferential bicycle use and identified by signage and/or pavement markings. Bike trails are established along road corridors with current or anticipated bicycle demand and along corridors where it would be risky for bicyclists to ride in the travel lane. Bike trails are different than right-of-way or rustic trails in that their principal focus is on safe and efficient transportation. Typical bike trail users include bicycle commuters, fitness enthusiasts, and competitive athletes; their emphasis is on speed, which can create conflicts with recreation-type trails and their respective user groups.

Signed bike trails are typically a minimum of 5 feet wide, per Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) standards; additional width is desirable, particularly where motor vehicle operating speeds exceed 40 miles per hour.

While San Juan County has some road shoulders with a width of 4 feet (considered adequate for bikes, per WSDOT), there are no established bike trails within the County.

Facility Inventory Overview

The park, trail, and natural area inventory identifies all County-owned recreational assets. San Juan County provides nearly 5,800 acres of public land distributed among 136 County-owned sites. Table 3.8 summarizes the land inventory in San Juan County and Maps 3.1 through 3.4 show existing park, trail, and natural area resources as classified per the inventory classification system.

In addition to the County-owned facilities, local, state, and federal public lands are also enjoyed by the public, adding to the recreational opportunities available throughout the county. Some of the major non-county, public open spaces include Moran State Park on Orcas Island, San Juan Island National Historic Park on San Juan Island, lands held by the University of Washington on San Juan and Shaw islands, and BLM's Iceberg Point and the Watmough Bay Preserve on Lopez Island. Additionally, the schools of the San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Island School Districts provide open space and active recreational opportunities for the County's youth through athletic fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and playgrounds.

Facility Inventory and Assessment

The inventory on the following pages addresses site-specific recommendations for public parks managed by San Juan County. Inventory data were gathered from field assessments completed in the summer of 2009. The management issues and recommendations noted are the result of site assessments, previous inventory efforts, staff and project team considerations, and public comments. A summary of other County properties is provided in Appendix F.

Table 3.8: Facility Inventory Summary

Property Type	Quantity	Total Acreage (%)
Park	Acres	Percent
Regional Park	181.3	3.1%
Local Park	11.8	0.2%
Pocket Park	4.2	0.1%
Special Facility	1.5	0.0%
Subtotal (acres)	198.7	
Natural Areas	Acres	Percent
Natural Area Preserve	3,444.3	59.6%
Conservation Easement	2,135.2	37.0%
Subtotal (acres)	5,579.6	
Trails	Miles	
Right-of-Way Trail	6.4	
Rustic Trail	1.7	
Subtotal (miles)	8.1	
Marine Access	Number	
Docks	11	
Shoreline Access Road Ends	30	
Boat Launch/Ramps	10	
Subtotal (sites)	51	

Regional Parks

San Juan County Park

This 12-acre park is located on the west side of San Juan Island on Smallpox Bay. The park is one of three County campgrounds designated as Cascadia Marine Trail campsites. The park is popular with kayakers and other boaters, and boater amenities include a concrete ramp, parking for 9 car/trailer combinations. The upper campground includes 20 campsites, plus a group camp area exists in the lower area that accommodates an additional 5 sites. Flush toilets are available in both the main campground and the lower boat launch area. Day-use amenities include the beach, small picnic shelter, picnic tables, barbecue grills, benches, and walking paths/viewpoints along a wooded high bank. The view is across Haro Strait to Vancouver Island and the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Park has registered cultural sites and historic cabin.

Inventory

- 2 Restrooms
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Camp sites
- Concrete boat ramp
- Rustic walking path on bluff
- Shelter
- Open lawn area
- Bike rack
- Water access
- Trash receptacles
- Visitor station, office, and residence



Management Issues and Recommendations

- Develop master plan
- Conduct preservation activities to Brann Cabin on State Historic Register
- Install dumpster enclosure near lower parking lot
- Renovate or replace shelter near upper field
- Acquire adjacent land for park expansion
- Renovate or replace the office and residence

Odlin County Park

This park is located on the north shore of Lopez Island just south of Upright Head and is approximately one mile south of the Lopez ferry landing. Major features of this 80-acre park include the campground, picnic areas, covered pavilion, and a long, sandy beach. The park is also a designated Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. The campground has 30 sites, including 1 group site, 5 hiker/biker sites, and one “care-to-share” campsite. Several camping sites are located along the beachfront, and each campsite includes a picnic table and fire ring. The day-use area includes a ball field and picnic area with a covered pavilion and picnic tables. Additional picnic tables, grills and a barbecue pit are located near the pavilion. Approximately 15 day-use parking spaces are available. Boating amenities include a concrete boat ramp, parking for eight car/trailer combinations, five off-shore mooring buoys, and one dock located at the north end of the park with a restroom.

Inventory

- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Camp sites
- Rustic walking paths
- Pavilion
- Ball field with backstop
- Open lawn area
- Water access
- Boat ramp
- Dock
- Parking
- Flush and vault toilets
- Bike rack
- Drinking water
- Trash receptacles
- Visitor station, office, and residence



Management Issues and Recommendations

- Renovate the park per the site 2006 Master Plan
- Install directional and wayfinding signage

- Replace and mount bike racks
- Renovate or replace the office and residence
- Acquire adjacent land to south (~103 acres)
- Prepare a management plan for Odlin South
- Construct fireplace/stove in pavilion
- Move maintenance shop across park road

Shaw Island County Park

This park is located on the south end of the island along Indian Cove. The park is 59.75 acres with 4,610 feet of shoreline and includes a campground, day-use area, sandy beach and boat ramp. The park provides the only public outdoor recreation facilities on Shaw Island. The campground offers 11 primitive campsites designed primarily for tents, and the park is a designated Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. The day-use area includes a picnic shelter with cook stove, picnic tables, barbecue grills, vault toilets, and drinking water. The boat ramp accommodates small, lightweight, shallow draft vessels only.

Inventory

- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Camp sites
- Water access
- Wooden boat ramp
- Rustic walking path
- Vault toilet (closed)
- Trash receptacles



Management Issues and Recommendations

- Renovate the park per the site 2008 Master Plan

Local Parks

Agate Beach County Park

According to an on-site historical marker, the land for Agate Beach County Park was presented to San Juan County in 1948 by Seth Richy who came to Lopez Island in 1884. This four-acre park with 594 feet of wide, gravelly beach is located along Outer Drive on south Lopez. It is a day-use park with a vault toilet, bike rack, picnic tables and parking for up to eight cars. The park lacks ADA accessible facilities. Stairs lead to the beach at the north end of the park. The park has a beautiful, quiet setting with a nice view toward Iceberg Point. Recreational opportunities include beachcombing, picnicking, and walking.

Inventory

- Vault toilet
- 2 Picnic tables

- 1 Bench
- Rustic loop trail
- Bike rack
- Earthen parking lot
- Entry and boundary signs
- Beach stairway
- Water access



Management Issues and Recommendations

- Develop site master plan
- Add culvert or bridge over 'V' ditch at southern trail entrance
- Replace toilet
- Upgrade parking
- Replace staircase to water and signs
- Install ADA-accessible picnic tables with hard surface pathway

Eastsound Waterfront Park

Located on the main entrance road to Eastsound Village, the Land Bank's first acquisition in 1993 added 0.45 acres and 100 feet of shoreline to the existing County park. The property preserves views of the water from the village and allows public access to the shoreline and to the nearby, publicly owned Indian Island. In 2003, the Land Bank acquired an adjacent one-acre parcel and 356 feet of waterfront. An additional 0.45-acre property abutting the eastern boundary of the park was acquired in 2004, further expanding the size of the park and increasing water frontage by another 100 feet.

Inventory

- Bike rack
- Picnic table
- Open lawn
- Water access
- Street front parking



Management Issues and Recommendations

- Install interpretive panel/kiosk and bench

Lopez Village Park

Located on the west edge of Lopez Village, this park offers a public restroom and shower, picnic tables and open lawn. Ample parking is provided along Tower Road to support the park and the nearby business district.

Inventory

- 6 Picnic tables
- 3 Benches
- Pavilion
- On-street parking; 30 stalls, plus 2 ADA stalls
- Open lawn area

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Upgrade to provide ADA access to tables and picnic area, include hard surface pathway
- Renovate restroom and shower

Otis Perkins Day Park

Located on a spit with Fisherman Bay to the northeast and San Juan Channel to the west, this park looks across to Griffin Bay and is a good spot for bird and wildlife viewing. The portion of the park on the east side of the road contains a lagoon frequented by great blue herons and other birds. The park includes approximately 220 feet of gravel beach and an unpaved pull-off area with space for about ten cars. Amenities are limited to one picnic table and a portable toilet.

Inventory

- 1 Picnic Table
- Memorial Bench
- Water access
- Earthen parking area

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Update park sign
- Install portable toilet with enclosure or concrete pad



Reuben Tarte Day Park

This four-acre day use park is located east of Roche Harbor on the north end of San Juan Island. The park, located along San Juan Drive, features a northeast-facing forested slope and two small beaches on either side of a rocky peninsula. Visitors may park in the parking area (accommodates up to 12 cars) at the top of the hill or drive down the steep, chip-sealed road to a drop off at a small turn-around at the bottom of the hill. A gate installed at the top of the access road can be closed if needed to control use. The amenities of this park include two beaches, a (seasonal) portable toilet, and a walking path/viewpoint atop the small peninsula. The view across Rocky Bay includes Jones, Yellow, and Orcas Islands.

Inventory

- Parking area (upper and lower)
- Portable toilet

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Upgrade (gravel or pave) lower parking area and turn around
- Upgrade/pave ADA parking stall and connection to portable toilet
- Replace existing portable toilet with ADA-accessible unit
- Install interpretive signage
- Replace deteriorating benches



Turn Point County Park

This park is at the end of Turn Point Road before it turns into Pear Point Road. It includes a gravel parking lot for eight vehicles and a 200-foot, flat walking trail to a low-bank viewpoint with three viewing benches. Beach access provides opportunities for launching hand-carry boats. Potential future improvements include adding ADA accessibility with a paved parking stall and trail to the viewpoint.

Inventory

- 3 Benches
- Earthen parking area
- Water access

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Install entry and wayfinding signage
- Install portable toilet with enclosure or concrete pad

Pocket Parks

Eagle Cove County Park

This day-use area is a 40-foot road end that provides beach access in a residential area along Eagle Cove Drive, located immediately west of American Camp in south San Juan Island. The area is marked by a blue public access sign and provides parking for up to six cars. A 250-yard gravel/earthen walking trail extends to the beach.



Inventory

- On-street parking
- Rustic walking path
- Water access

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Install entry and wayfinding signage
- Install stairs leading to beach
- Improve beach access

East Olga County Park (Buck Bay)

This County-owned site is on the east side of Buck Bay along E.J. Young Road and is also known as Orcas Buck Bay Park. The site is approximately one acre in size and offers approximately 650 feet of shoreline. It includes a high-bank area that runs between E.J. Young Road and the beach. Virtually undeveloped, the property includes a staircase to the beach and remnants of an old dock.

Inventory

- Staircase to beach
- Water access

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Install entry and wayfinding signage
- Renovate beach staircase

Library Park

This single-lot park adjacent to the library on Prune Alley was donated to the County in 1998 and developed by citizen volunteers. The park consists of a short walking path, landscaping and benches. It is maintained by a citizen group and funded through an endowment held by the Orcas Island Community Foundation.

Inventory

- Benches

- Rustic walking path
- Memorial plaque

Viewpoint Park

This small pocket park is adjacent to Eastsound Waterfront Park and provides a viewpoint and overlook of Indian Island.



Inventory

- Viewpoint with bench and seatwall
- On-street parking, 4 stalls
- Water access
- Water access via rock stairway

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Install additional shrubs and landscaping to reduce erosion

Other Sites

Shark Reef Sanctuary

Previously owned by the Department of Natural Resources and transferred to the County in 2005, the site consists of 40 wooded acres on the west side of Lopez Island, south of Fisherman Bay on Shark Reef Road. The main attraction of this park is the 600-foot trail that leads through the forest to a bluff above a rocky shore with views of a large seal rookery. Signs mark the park property boundary on north side. The park entrance includes on-street parking, entry sign, bike rack, picnic tables, and two vault toilets. The site does not provide ADA access at this time.

Inventory

- 2 Vault toilets
- 2 Picnic tables
- Bike rack
- Wood chip trail
- On-street parking
- Water access
- Entry signage



Management Issues and Recommendations

- Replace toilets for ADA compliance
- Conduct trail and shoreline restoration in areas of wear and erosion
- Install interpretive signs

Eastsound Village Square (Special Facility)

The park is located in the center of Eastsound, adjacent to the Orcas Island Historical Museum. The site hosts many community events such as the Library Fair, Orcas Island Farmers' Market, performances, and holiday celebrations. The site consists of a 1.2 acre grassy area with bandshell and stage, picnic tables, a public restroom, and nine heirloom apple trees.

Inventory

- Award-winning, custom band shell
- Restroom
- Bike rack
- 7 Picnic tables
- On-street parking, 10 stalls
- Trash receptacles
- Open lawn



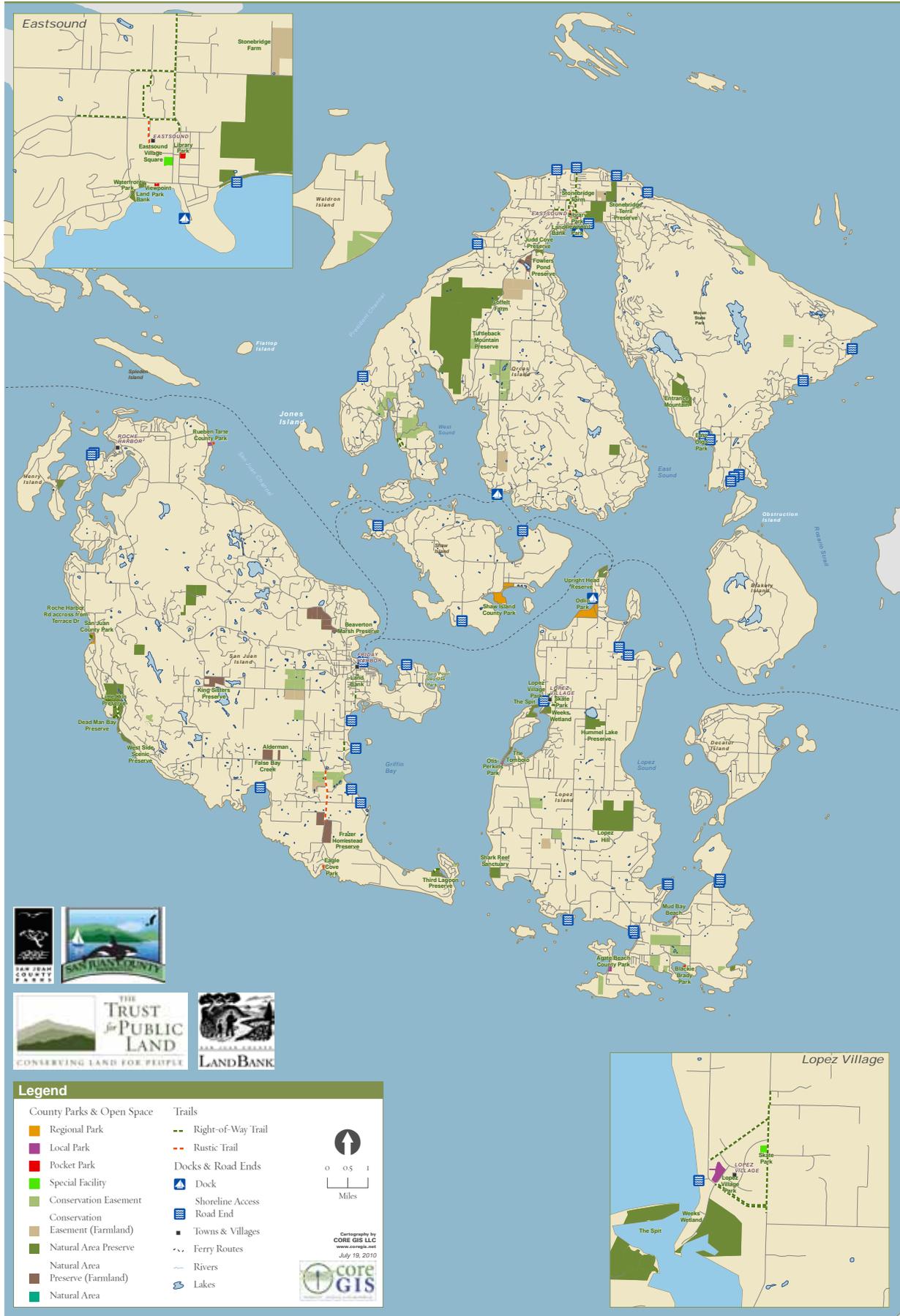
Management Issues and Recommendations

- Paint and repair restroom
- Install park entry sign
- Install dumpster enclosure
- Plant street trees along frontage
- Upgrade handicapped parking with ramp to sidewalk
- Upgrade 3-4 benches for ADA accessibility with connecting hard surface pathway
- Provide hard-surface connection to bandstand
- Upgrade and mount bike racks

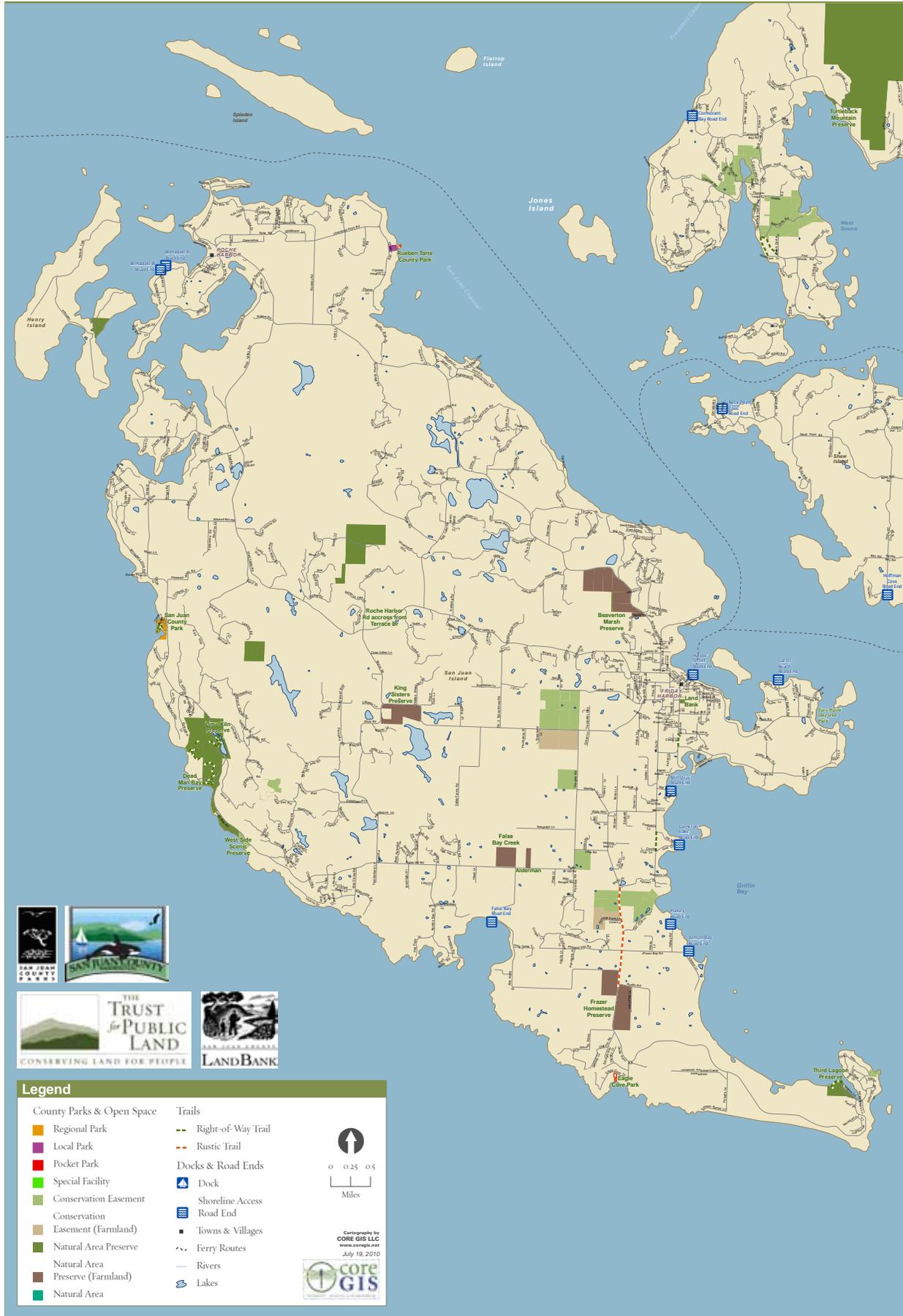
Extended County Facility Inventory

The County currently has more than 130 sites included in its parks, trails, and natural areas inventory. Due to the sheer number of County facilities, site assessments could only be conducted for a handful of sites, which are discussed in detail above. The majority of the remaining parks, trails, natural areas, and marine access facilities on the ferry-served islands of Lopez, Orcas, San Juan, and Shaw are described in greater detail in Appendix F.

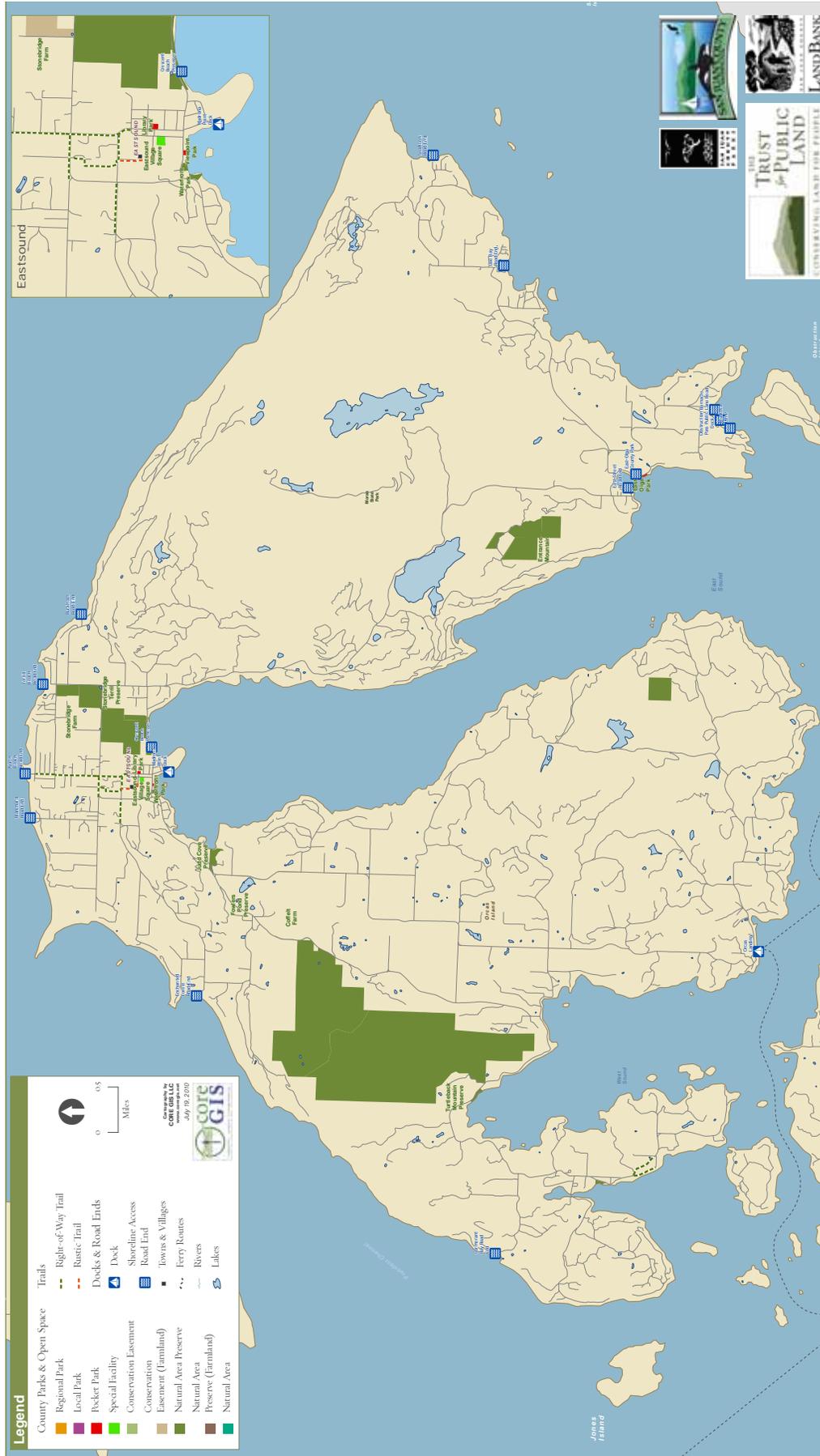
Map 3.1: San Juan County Inventory Classification



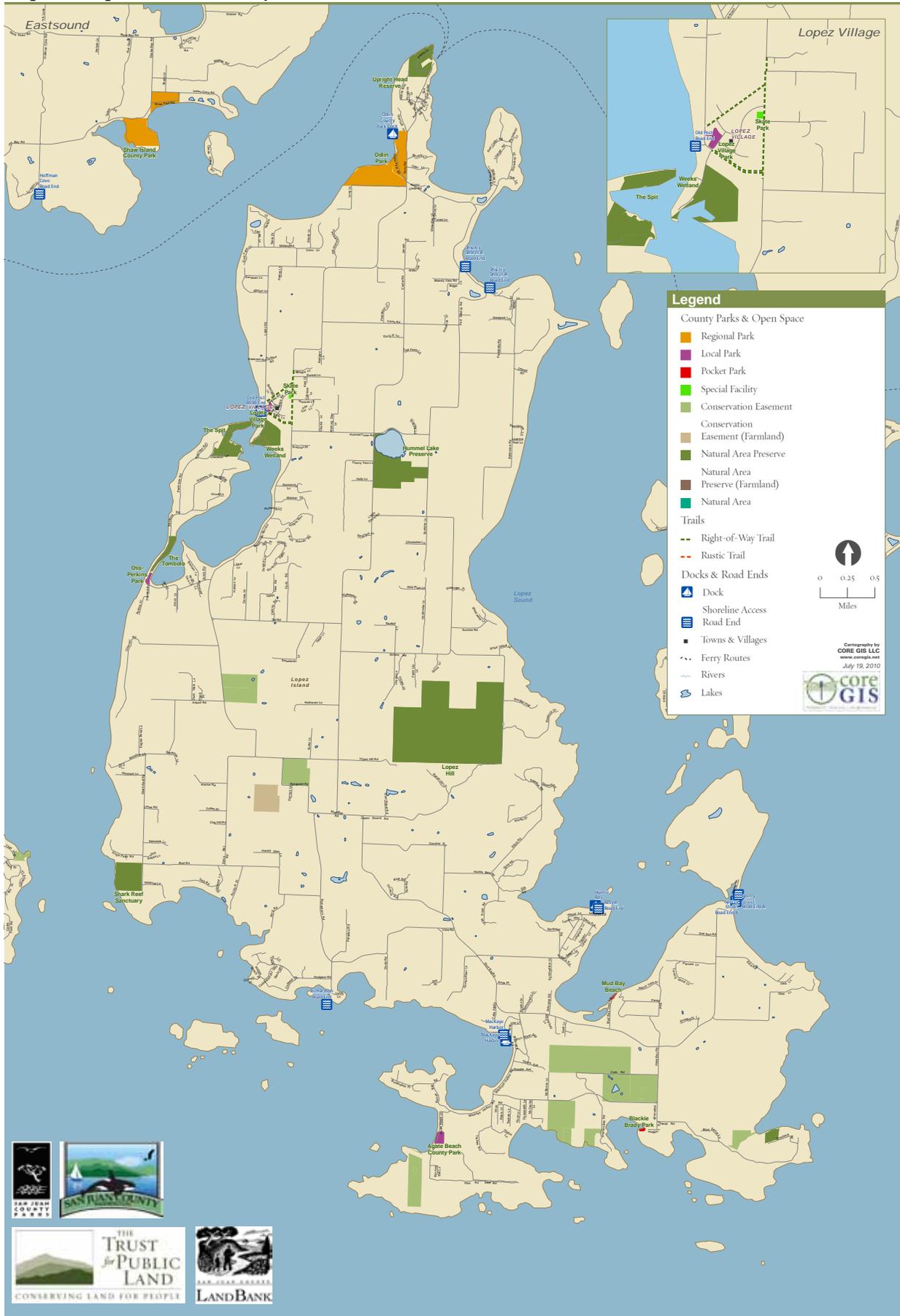
Map 3.2: San Juan Island Inventory Classification



Map 3.3: Orcas Island Inventory Classification



Map 3.4: Lopez Island Inventory Classification



CHAPTER 4. COMMUNITY NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

One of the most challenging and important tasks in developing any community plan is engaging the public in the planning process to adequately capture community needs and priorities. While it can be difficult to conduct a thorough public involvement process in a county composed of several islands—each with unique needs and priorities—San Juan County and TPL used a variety of public involvement methods to identify community needs and opportunities for parks, trails, and natural areas.

This chapter provides an overview of the activities and major findings of the public involvement process. It also incorporates guidance from staff, commission members, and findings from previous plans to gain an accurate assessment of community needs. The needs and opportunities described here provide a foundation for the vision, goals, and strategies presented in Chapter 5.

Public Involvement Overview

To ensure the San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan adequately meets community needs and captures the community’s vision, the planning process heavily emphasized public involvement through a variety of methods detailed below.

Public Involvement Activities

Stakeholder Interviews

In July and August 2009, TPL interviewed more than 20 individuals representing a wide variety of organizations and interests throughout the county such as the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, and Land Bank and Parks and Recreation Commission members. Interviews focused on identifying core values and long-term vision, key trends and opportunities, and major issues and priorities. Information from the interviews was used as a foundation for the public workshops and survey. (See Appendix B for a list of stakeholder organizations and questions.)

Public Workshops

Two rounds of public workshops were held at the start and close of the project to solicit public input and feedback on various plan components. Workshops held in November 2009 on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands captured the community’s vision, specific facility recommendations, and input on key priorities of the Plan. In April 2010, three workshops held on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands gathered community feedback on the draft vision, values, goals, strategies, and recommended actions. In total, the workshops attracted more than 275 citizens. Workshops were advertised through press releases in local news sources, posters on local message boards and at local businesses, electronic invitations, and postcards sent to full-time residents on the ferry-served islands. (See Appendix C for workshop results.)

Community Survey

Drawing from the County’s voter database, a 27-question community survey was mailed to 3,000 randomly selected households on the four ferry-served islands in November 2009. The survey collected statistically significant information on current use of facilities, preferred activities, and support for future improvements. Nearly 600 surveys were returned, providing a 20 percent response rate, low margin of error, and an accurate gauge of residents’ opinions. To improve survey returns, a reminder postcard was sent to the 3,000 households two weeks after the initial mailing. (See Appendix D for survey results.)

Public Involvement Results

Community Vision

Through stakeholder interviews and community workshops, residents and key stakeholders expressed a 20-year vision for the County's parks, trails, and natural areas. Overall, residents expressed a desire for building on the successful elements of the current system, and shaping a more expansive system that provides additional opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and protect the unique island character and culture. The most commonly shared vision elements include:

- An interconnected system of trails and open space for all users
- Natural, unspoiled, wild, healthy outdoor spaces
- More open spaces, trails, and access to water
- Well-funded, efficient County programs
- Productive agricultural lands
- An engaged community
- Diverse recreational opportunities
- Preservation of island character and culture
- Responsiveness to community needs and desires

Community Participation and Satisfaction

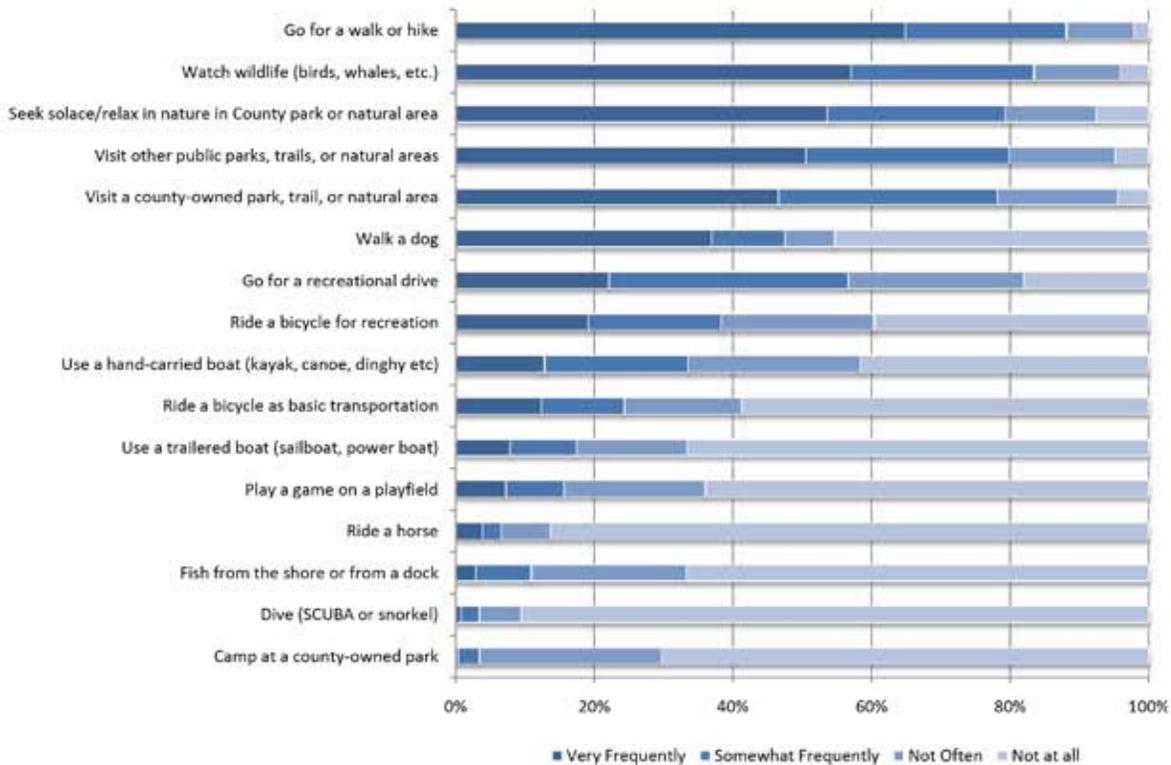
San Juan County residents are truly nature lovers—they greatly appreciate the role parks, trails, and natural areas play in the area's high quality of life. These spaces help facilitate a lifestyle that is rooted in the natural beauty of the islands, providing abundant opportunities for experiencing the natural environment. As explored below, the population, while skewed toward older residents, greatly enjoys the outdoors and highly supports activities that facilitate enjoyment of parks, trails, and natural areas.

Popular Activities

For the past ten years, the most popular recreational activity in the state has been walking or hiking.¹¹ Based on community survey results for San Juan County, walking or hiking is also the top activity, with 88 percent of respondents participating on a frequent basis. While the second-most popular statewide activity is team or individual sports, residents in San Juan County participate more frequently in more passive activities such as watching wildlife, relaxing in nature, walking dogs, and visiting local parks. Figure 4.1 shows a breakdown of participation in outdoor recreation in San Juan County. Overall, the outdoor-oriented, low-impact nature of the most popular activities is indicative of the older, but nature-loving population that dominates the island community.

¹¹ 2007 Participation Survey Results, 2008 Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning document, available online at http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/rec_trends/SCORP_2008.pdf (accessed May 21, 2010).

Figure 4.1: Outdoor Participation



Community Satisfaction and Support

According to community survey results, more than 98 percent of respondents indicated County parks, trails, and natural areas are important to the community’s overall quality of life, whether they actually use these spaces or not. The recognition of the intrinsic value of these spaces to the community’s well-being is significant. The majority (81.2 percent) of residents are also generally satisfied with the operation and condition of County-owned parks.

As far as priorities, 89 percent of respondents ranked the provision of open space and natural areas as the County’s highest priority service, with hiking and walking trails (87 percent), and shoreline access (82 percent) as nearly as important. Respondents also indicated the following as the three most-needed improvements: (1) more trails (includes hiking trails and bike lanes); (2) more shoreline access; and (3) better maintenance of facilities.

Major Community Needs

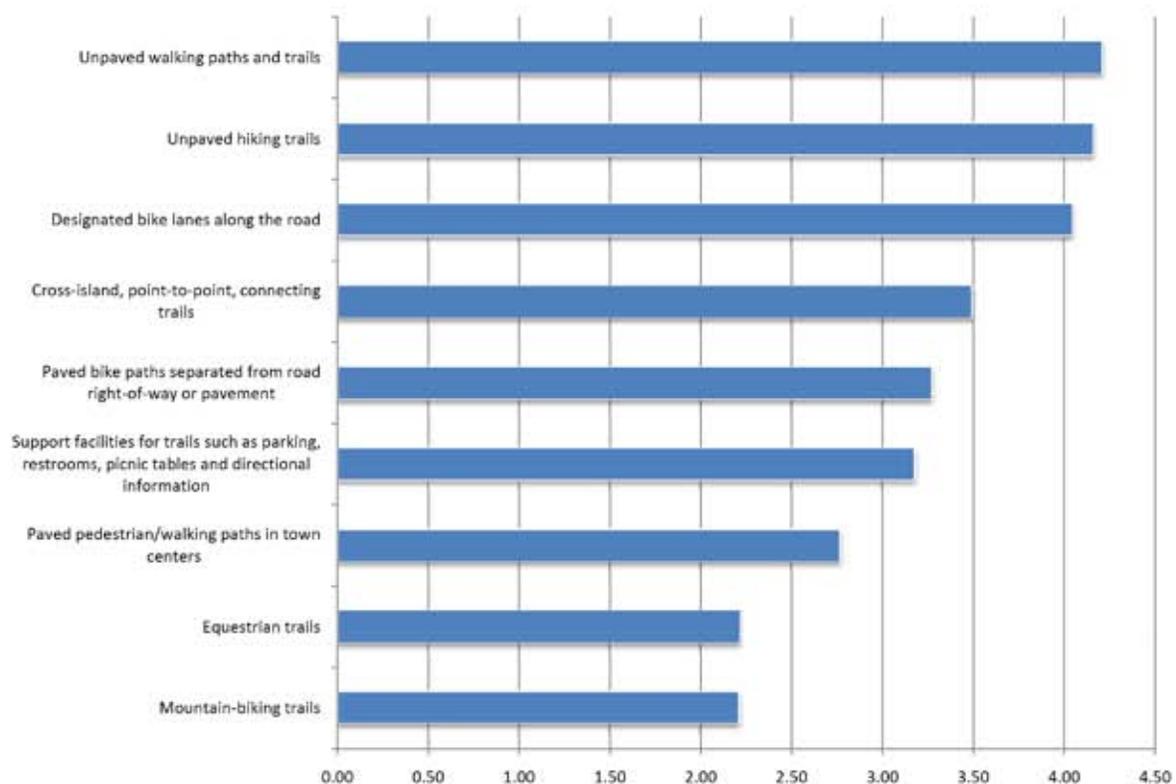
Through discussion with staff, review of past planning documents, and findings from public outreach efforts discussed above, seven major areas of community need have been identified. These areas of need can be broken into primary and secondary tiers, based on demonstration of demand compared to expected resources. Top-tier needs include: Trails, Land Protection, Water Access, Stewardship and Maintenance, and Funding; second-tier needs include: Program Coordination and Development and Community Involvement. Each area of need is described in greater detail below.

Trails

As captured in the previous parks plan and illustrated by the growth and evolution of local trails groups on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands, trails are a top-tier need in the community. Currently,

the County has 8 miles of rustic and right-of-way trails currently overseen by Public Works. Residents and visitors also enjoy countless miles of trails on other public lands, such as Iceberg Point on Lopez Island, Moran State Park on Orcas Island, American Camp on San Juan Island, and numerous trails on Land Bank properties. Nonetheless, survey respondents highlighted more trails—inclusive of hiking trails and bike lanes—as the top most-needed improvement to the County parks, trails, and natural areas system. Also, at public workshops held in November, attendees identified trails and paths as the top priority focus area for the County. Figure 4.2 shows the level of community support on a five-point scale (1 is very low priority and 5 is very high priority) for different types of trail facilities, with unpaved walking paths, unpaved hiking trails, and designated bike lanes garnering the most support.

Figure 4.2: Community Support for Trails



Land Protection

San Juan County residents continue to support land conservation activities for a variety of purposes, such as improving public access and protecting sensitive habitat. This is clearly illustrated by the creation and ongoing support of the San Juan County Land Bank and other local preservation groups such as the San Juan Preservation Trust. Currently, more than 30,000 acres of land (27 percent of the County’s land area) are in public or protected ownership. Of this total, approximately 17 percent of land is in public ownership, and 10 percent is held as private but protected (with a conservation easement). Despite having the highest percentage of land in private protection status of the 12 Puget Sound counties, San Juan County has one of the lowest rates of public land ownership.

Survey respondents and workshop attendees showed high support for land protection and acquisition activities. November workshop attendees ranked land acquisition as one of the County’s top five focus areas, while survey respondents allocated the highest portion (17 percent) of a hypothetical budget to the purchase of land for parks, trails, and natural areas. Survey respondents were also highly

supportive of renewal of the real estate excise tax that funds the Land Bank, showing 88 percent support for renewal efforts; this support was strongest on Orcas and Lopez islands.

Water Access

While the opportunity to access the water is a benefit of everyday life for many San Juan County residents, it is also a necessity for interisland transport of goods. Boat ramps, shoreline access road ends, public docks, public beaches, and scenic bluffs all play a role in providing residents with some level of access to the water. Overall, residents do not feel well served with water or marine access opportunities. Fewer than 25 percent of survey respondents from Lopez, Orcas, and Shaw believe there is “enough” access. In terms of type of water access most favored by residents, beach and tideland access is the most desired.

Table 4.1 shows a breakdown of water accessibility in San Juan County. To provide a more accurate account of access to the water, public shoreline on the four ferry-served islands has been refined to distinguish between: (1) simple public shoreline, or land in public ownership that has waterfront; and (2) publicly accessible shoreline, which is public land that provides public access to the shore from the existing road network and is also managed (to some degree) for public access (Map 4.1). Distinguishing between the two levels of public shoreline provides a more accurate sense of how well the public can access the water from the land.

Table 4.1: San Juan County Water Access Summary

Water Access Characteristic	San Juan	Orcas	Shaw	Lopez	Outer Islands	Total
Public Docks	-	5	-	4	2	11
Public Boat Ramps	2	1	1	4	2	10
Shoreline Access Road Ends	7	12	3	8	-	30
<i>Road Ends Available for Use</i>	4	4	3	6	-	17
<i>Road Ends Needing Survey and Development</i>	3	8	-	2	-	13
Total Public Shoreline (Miles)	18.0	10.4	8.5	11.5	55.2	104
<i>% Total Public Shoreline</i>	26%	14%	36%	19%	36%	27%
Total Accessible Public Shoreline (Miles)	10.9	1.5	1.1	7.2	N/A	21
<i>% Total Accessible Public Shoreline</i>	16%	2%	5%	12%	N/A	5%
<i>Total Shoreline (Miles)</i>	69.2	72.6	23.5	61.5	153.7	380

Map 4.1: Publicly Accessible Shoreline



Currently, Shaw Island has the highest percentage (36 percent) of publicly accessible shoreline, but only 5 percent is actually accessible since the University of Washington land is quasi-public and provides very limited public access. San Juan Island has the highest percentage of publicly accessible shoreline, with nearly 11 miles (16 percent). Orcas Island has the lowest percentage of publicly accessible shoreline with only 1.5 miles (2 percent) of the island's 70 total miles of shoreline defined as publicly accessible; these areas are concentrated around Eastsound, Obstruction Pass, and Deer Harbor. As far as other water access facilities such as public boat ramps, docks, and shoreline access road ends, Orcas and Lopez have the most boat ramps and docks; however, Orcas Island has only one public boat ramp while San Juan and Shaw have no public docks. While shoreline access road ends currently provide some level of public access to the water, half of them need to be surveyed to delineate ownership boundaries, and many need to be enhanced to accommodate parking and provide more controlled public access.

To further assess water access needs, the distribution of various public water access opportunities and residential density was evaluated (see Appendix G for methodology and detailed tables). Approximately 30 percent of residents live within one mile of a shoreline access road end, while 24 percent live within a mile of publicly accessible shoreline. As discussed above, access on Orcas Island is most limited, with only 17 percent of residential dwellings located within one mile of publicly accessible shoreline. Access to public boat ramps and docks is most limited, with no public docks on San Juan or Shaw and 66 percent of residents living more than three miles from public boat ramps on all of the islands (with more than 90 percent of residents on Orcas Island).

Stewardship and Maintenance

Residents also recognize the need to maintain existing funding levels for parks, trails, and natural areas. At the November public workshops, attendees identified stewardship and maintenance as one of the County's top three focus areas and as well as one of the top three funding priorities. Survey respondents also identified "better maintenance of facilities" as one of the top three most-needed improvements to the County's parks, trails, and natural areas system. Citizens involved in public outreach have also anecdotally shared that the County should be able to maintain and properly care for existing facilities before expanding or acquiring new facilities. To pay for budget priorities given current financial constraints, survey respondents were quick to identify the use of volunteers for maintenance activities (82 percent; 4.14 on a five-point scale); 70 percent of respondents also indicated a high level of support for potentially asking voters to approve a funding mechanism to maintain and operate parks at existing levels.

Funding

There is high recognition among residents of the need to maintain existing funding levels for parks, trails, and natural areas. Information gathered through stakeholder interviews and at community workshops showed residents recognize the impact of current budget constraints and appreciate the efficiency and ingenuity of the Land Bank and County Parks in operating facilities and meeting community needs. At the November workshops, attendees identified funding as one of the County's top five priorities. Regarding specific funding mechanisms, workshop attendees showed greatest support for the renewal of the Land Bank real estate excise tax (REET) levy and least support for charging for parking or instating user fees (Figure 4.3). While the full menu of funding options were

not directly discussed in the survey or workshops, the public's favorable response to the need for parks, trails and natural area funding is encouraging and should facilitate near-term action by the County to consider and adopt funding measures in support of these programs.

Other Needs

Second-tier needs shared by the community that support the areas of need discussed above include program coordination and development and community involvement. More specifically, residents shared the need to improve collaboration and coordination among County departments as well as other public agencies and organizations working on similar issues. Residents also stressed the importance of continuing to involve the community in program activities and efforts.

Meeting Community Needs: Areas of Opportunity and Action

With an accurate gauge of priorities, the goals, strategies, actions, and projects presented in the following chapters strive to meet these needs, while recognizing County capacity and resources.

Opportunity Areas

Trails

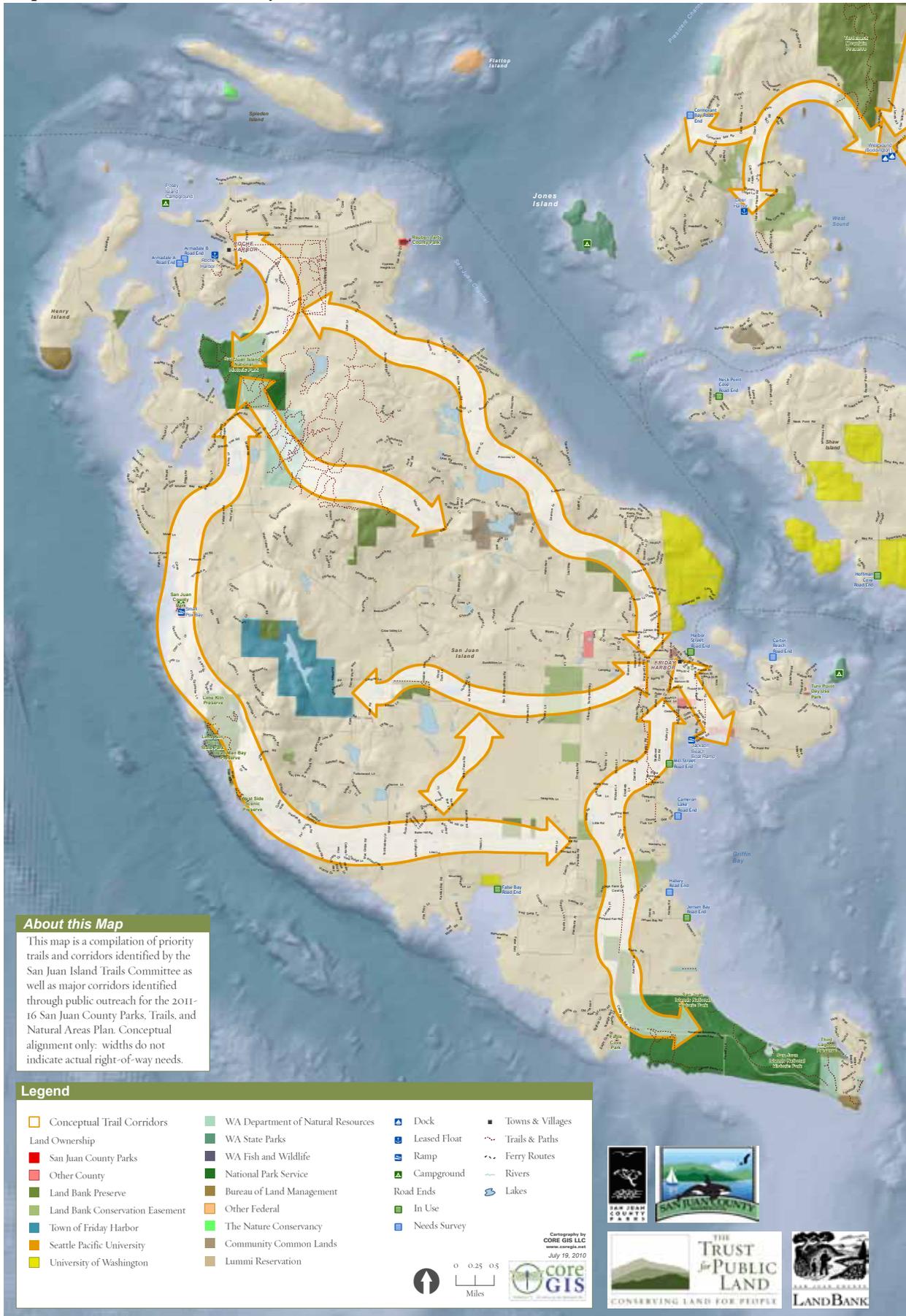
Trails are a top priority on nearly all of the ferry-served islands. Citizen-driven trail groups—in various stages of development—are active on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands, and they have each identified priority corridors for future trail development. These corridors, along with ideas captured through public workshops, are presented in Maps 4.2-4.4. Priority corridors travel along major thoroughfares, accommodating alternative modes of transportation, as well as between popular recreational areas such as on the west side of San Juan Island. The goal of many of these corridors is to promote nonmotorized transportation, provide safer conditions for biking and walking, and improve connectivity between popular sites.

Although trails are a top priority for citizens, the County faces significant challenges in responding to this demand due to staff and resource limitations. To date, County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works have played a limited role in trail development and a significant resource investment will be needed to meet the needs and recommended actions presented in this Plan.

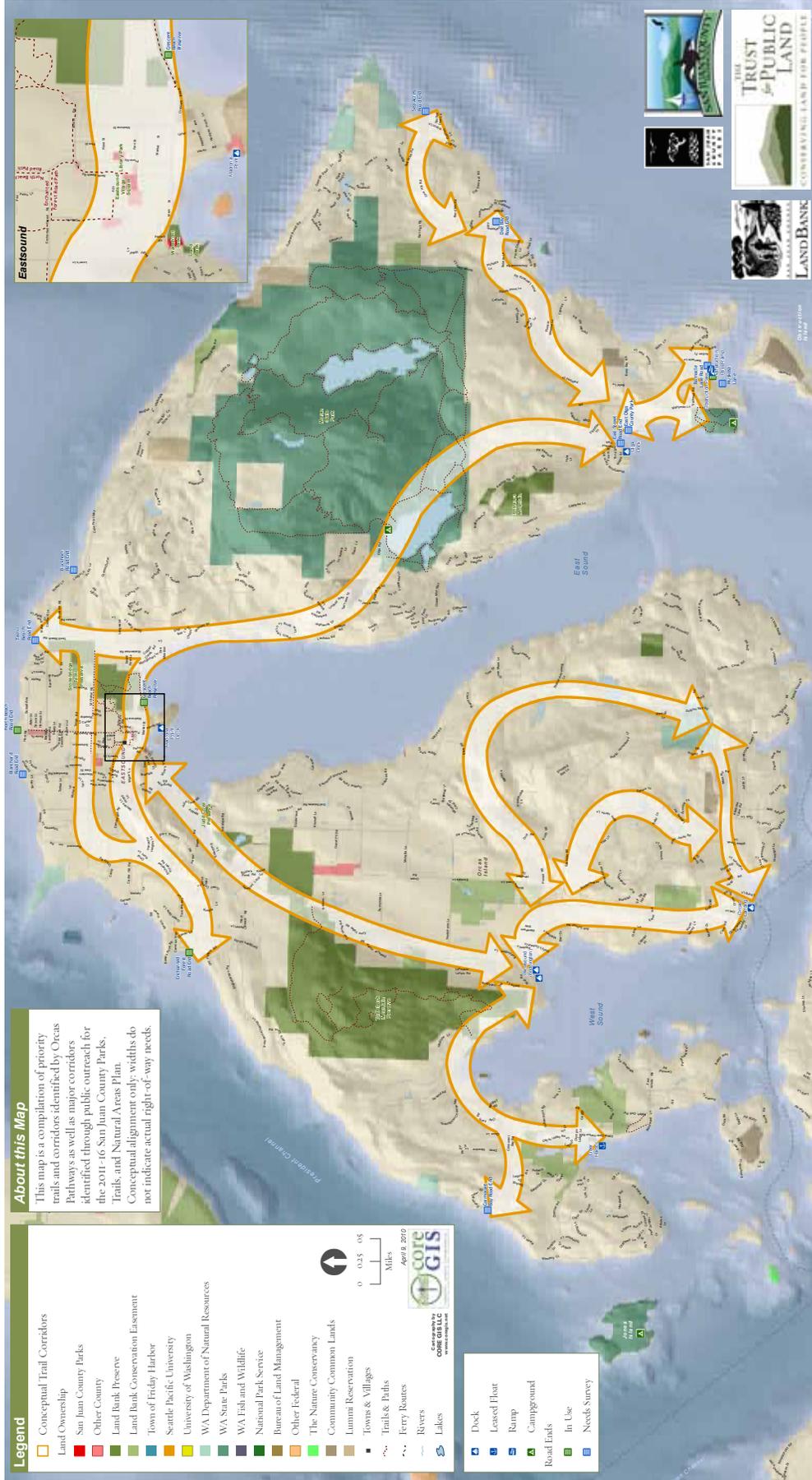
Land Protection

Protection of the natural beauty and character of the San Juans is a top priority for many residents. The Land Bank and San Juan Preservation Trust have played lead roles in meeting this need for years, often working in close collaboration. In recent years, agricultural land preservation has emerged as a community priority, as a means to protect the agricultural history of the islands and provide local sources of food and fiber. Map 4.5 captures future land protection opportunity areas throughout the County, drawing from conceptual priority areas established in the Land Bank's Habitat Conservation Plan as well as the major agricultural centers of San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands. While willing landowners and available funding ultimately dictate which parcels of land are protected, the conceptual priority areas provide general guidance for future opportunity areas.

Map 4.2: San Juan Island Priority Trail Corridors



Map 4.3: Orcas Island Priority Trail Corridors



Map 4.4: Lopez Island Priority Trail Corridors



Map 4.5: Conservation Opportunity Areas



The Land Bank is well positioned to continue its successful track record in land protection if the Conservation Area REET levy is renewed by 2014. If renewed, the Land Bank will continue to be an effective partner with landowners, other public agencies, and conservation groups, efficiently meeting the land protection needs throughout the county.

Water Access

The ability to access the shoreline is essential in an island community. Across the islands, water access varies greatly due to land ownership, topography, and land development patterns. Map 4.6 captures future areas of opportunity for improving water access based on an analysis of the distribution of marine facilities (docks and ramps), shoreline access road ends, and public land accessible from the county road network. Concentration of residential dwelling units, topographic constraints, and existing public access sites such as shoreline access road ends were also considered in defining broad areas of opportunity. Orcas Island has the most opportunity areas identified due to the limited amount of existing public access.

From expanding shoreline access road ends and shoreline parks to acquiring new waterfront lands, County Parks, Land Bank and Public Works can all play a role in improving access to the shoreline. There is also opportunity to work with other public agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and Washington Department of Natural Resources to improve access to existing public lands on the shore.

Other Areas of Opportunity

Other areas of opportunity include expanding funding options for parks, trails, and natural areas and continuing to improve stewardship and maintenance of existing facilities.

To take advantage of the opportunities above, the County will need to identify and secure consistent funding from a variety of sources. Several options exist to support park, trail, and natural areas efforts and are explored in greater detail in Chapter 6. The adoption of the second quarter percent real estate excise tax (REET2) can provide critical funding in support of this Plan's capital program. Additionally, the renewal of the conservation areas REET levy by 2014 is essential for continued Land Bank efforts to protect important lands across the county; without renewal, the future of the Land Bank and the land it stewards is uncertain. More funding is essential to truly respond to the system expansion, stewardship and maintenance needs expressed through the planning process.

San Juan County Land Bank and Parks have been innovative in meeting stewardship and maintenance needs over the years. The Land Bank has established a stewardship fund and active volunteer corps to maintain and upkeep lands into the future, and County Parks has used volunteers to meet maintenance needs in recent years. Opportunity exists to further engage the community in caring for parks, trails, and natural areas, and identify resource-sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies. It is also crucial to continue to evaluate capital facility needs on a regular basis, planning for scheduled upgrades or improvements and addressing accessibility (e.g., ADA), access, and equity deficiencies.

Park, Trail, and Natural Area Guidelines

While several communities planning for parks, recreation, and open space establish level of service standards to measure the amount and quality of parks and recreation facilities, developing such traditional standards for San Juan County is difficult due to the unique nature of the county. The

large tourist population, marine environment, part-time population, and general island environment inhibits the county from taking a one-size-fits-all approach.

The new classification system outlined in Chapter 3 addresses the four major facilities types. The following priorities have been established for each:

- **Marine Access.** Marine access facilities should (1) be prioritized in areas of limited public access; (2) accommodate multiple uses and activities, as appropriate; and (3) facilitate beach or tideland access, as appropriate.
- **Trails.** Trail facilities should (1) be prioritized along the right-of-way based on road reconstruction projects, user traffic, funding, and local trail group priorities; (2) be prioritized within parks and natural areas based on demand, site feasibility, and level of existing access; (3) accommodate multiple user groups, as appropriate; and (4) facilitate connectivity within the trail network.
- **Parks.** Park facilities should (1) be upgraded to meet American Disability Act requirements as funding and site conditions allow; (2) meet the recreational needs of the community as defined in this Plan; and (3) provide a range of recreational and outdoor experiences for a variety of user groups.
- **Natural Areas.** Natural area facilities should (1) protect the natural qualities and character of the land; and (2) provide opportunities for low-impact public access, as appropriate.

Implications of Community Needs and Opportunities

The needs and opportunities presented in this chapter lay the foundation for the direction of this Plan. Although the County does not currently have the capacity to immediately respond to all of these, the strategies and actions presented in the following chapters provide the necessary policy framework and prioritization to guide County action and investment for years to come.

CHAPTER 5. MISSION, VALUES, VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

This chapter presents the Plan's core planning framework including mission, values, vision, goals, and strategies. The framework provides a context for implementation of this Plan, through the recommended actions and projects presented in the following chapter. The elements discussed below have been refined through the public involvement process.

Mission

For the first time, San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works developed a joint mission statement to guide implementation of this Plan:

Work collaboratively to protect the natural beauty and character of the islands and respond to community needs through the provision of quality parks, trails, and natural areas and responsible stewardship of the natural environment and County facilities.

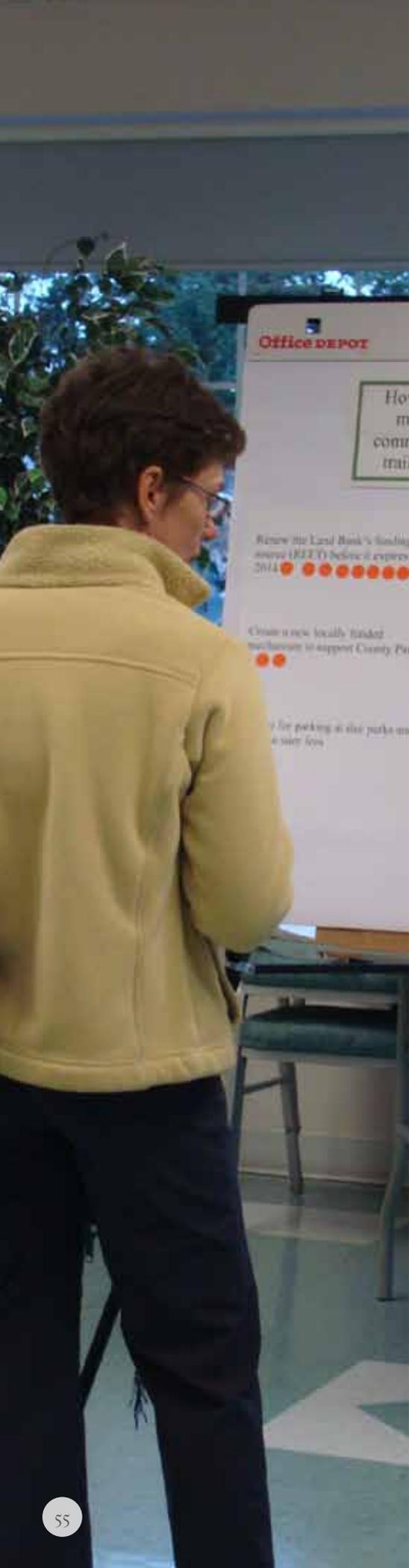
The statement affirms the collaborative working relationship among the departments and emphasizes the common goals of protecting the natural environment, meeting community needs, and being responsible stewards of the environment and County facilities. The collaborative mission statement provides a common lens through which County departments will work to implement this Plan.

Values

Throughout the planning process, citizens shared what they valued most about the parks, trails, and natural areas system and what they would like to see enhanced and emphasized over the long term. Overall, five core values establish the foundation for the vision and goals of this Plan:

- **Quality of Life:** We value the role parks, trails, and natural areas play in maintaining the health and well-being of our community.
- **Accessibility:** We value creating, enhancing, and expanding opportunities for the community to access our parks, trails, and natural areas.
- **Natural Integrity:** We value maintaining and protecting the natural integrity of our unique island environment.
- **Stewardship:** We value being responsible stewards of the natural environment and providing well-maintained facilities and spaces for future generations to enjoy.
- **Sustainability:** We value taking a sustainable approach to operations and facility development that provides adequate funding to meet community needs while protecting the integrity of our natural resources.

Together, these values provide direction to achieve the collaborative mission presented above and work toward the community's preferred vision for its parks system.



2030 Vision

The community's long-term vision for the parks, trails, and natural areas of San Juan County captures a vision of success in 20 years and is grounded in the core values discussed above:

We envision an interconnected, integrated system of parks, trails, and natural areas that provides easy access to the water and natural areas; facilitates safe, nonmotorized travel throughout the community; celebrates island culture, character, and a healthy environment; and is delivered through well-funded, efficient County programs and innovative partnerships.

The 2030 vision statement provides a critical foundation for the goals, strategies, and actions presented in this Plan. It will guide the development of the parks, trails, natural areas system and provide the community with a critical compass to guide action and investment for years to come.

Goals and Strategies

The goals and strategies presented below provide a roadmap for the community to achieve its long-term vision. The goals capture the broad outcomes to be attained through implementing this Plan, and the strategies provide more specific steps to achieve long-term goals and the community's overall vision for the parks system.

The actions and projects presented in Chapter 6 implement the goals and strategies presented here. Goals and strategies were developed and refined based on community input and staff guidance.

Goal 1: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas System

Provide a quality, diversified parks, trails, and natural areas system that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences and conserves and respects natural resources and island character.

- Protect lands with significant natural resource value such as views or vistas, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, and shoreline resources.
- Provide a diversity of active and passive recreation opportunities accessible to a variety of individuals.
- Improve and expand shoreline access opportunities through the provision or enhancement of community docks, boat ramps/launches, access points, viewpoints, and waterfront parks and open spaces.
- Improve and expand trail connections along priority corridors and within existing parks and natural areas to adequately meet community demand.

- Coordinate with other public agencies, park and recreation districts, and other park and recreation service providers to ensure an adequate range and supply of recreation facilities and programming.
- Maintain public lands in public ownership and explore opportunities to improve access to existing public lands.
- Invest in necessary infrastructure to improve public awareness, support appropriate public use, and facilitate public enjoyment of County parks, trails, and natural areas.

Goal 2: Trail Planning and Development

Provide a multipurpose system of trails and corridors that meets the recreational and transportation needs of the community and connects parks, natural areas, activity centers, and other areas of interest.

- Expand the capacity of San Juan County to coordinate, plan, and implement countywide trail efforts.
- Provide a diversity of trail opportunities including hard- and soft-surfaced trails, point-to-point trails, loop trails, and trails with a variety of access points and lengths.
- Provide adequate trail-support facilities including interpretative and directional signage, restrooms, viewpoints, and parking areas.
- Coordinate with other agencies, organizations, and private landowners to support trail development and maintenance throughout the county.
- Explore public and private funding opportunities to support County trails planning and development efforts.
- Foster the development and capacity of local volunteer trail groups to help with trails planning efforts, garner community support, leverage community resources, and play a role in stewardship and maintenance of trail facilities.
- Work with public agencies and private landowners to secure trail easements to facilitate connections along priority corridors.
- Raise awareness of existing trail network and other significant trail issues and opportunities.

Goal 3: Land Protection

Acquire high-priority lands that preserve open spaces, improve access to water, conserve natural resources, maintain island character, and improve and expand recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.

- Identify and prioritize potential lands for public land acquisition or private protection efforts based on alignment with the vision, goals, and objectives of this Plan as well as other County-adopted plans.
- Identify and secure funding from a diversity of public and private sources to support land protection efforts.
- Facilitate coordination and communication among public agencies and private organizations to identify common land protection targets.

Goal 4: Stewardship and Maintenance

Develop and sustain stewardship and maintenance programs that efficiently protect resources, emphasize sustainable methods and design, respond to local needs, and adequately plan for the future.

- Implement existing master and management plans and identify planning needs.
- Invest in preventative maintenance and upgrades to facilities to maximize long-term benefits.
- Design facilities and amenities to be respectful of island culture and character and physically and geographically accessible to all individuals.
- Consider and plan for long-term maintenance costs associated with acquisition, development, and renovation of parks, trails, and natural areas.
- Maintain, enhance, and restore native vegetation, habitat function, and other ecological values on County lands.
- Expand ability to steward and maintain land through building stewardship networks on all of the islands.
- Support and encourage the development of volunteer programs to help maintain and steward County parks, trails, and natural areas.

Goal 5: Funding

Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the parks, trails, and natural areas system.

- Consider and adopt funding measures to support parks, trails, and natural areas programs¹¹.
- Enhance County capacity to coordinate, research, apply for, and secure public and private grants for expansion, maintenance, and development of parks, trails, and natural areas.
- Develop partnerships with other public and private agencies including school districts, park and recreation districts, and state and federal agencies to leverage funding to support parks, trails, and natural areas activities and programs.
- Raise community awareness of funding shortfalls and major issues that hinder the implementation of this Plan.

Goal 6: Partnerships and Collaboration

Foster partnerships and countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers to improve the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas and supporting services and recreational programs.

- Facilitate coordination of County park and service providers to share and coordinate goals and projects.
- Facilitate inter-county departmental coordination and project completion through regular meeting of department leadership.
- Explore Scenic Byway partnership opportunities.

Goal 7: Community Engagement

¹¹ While the full menu of funding options were not directly discussed in the survey or workshops, the public's favorable response to the need for parks, trails and natural area funding is encouraging and should facilitate near-term action by the County to consider and adopt funding measures in support of these programs.

Engage San Juan County residents in the planning and stewardship of parks, trails, and natural areas, and provide effective communication to improve awareness and support of County services.

- Provide and foster opportunities for public education about local history, culture, and natural history at County facilities.
- Involve residents and stakeholders in the planning, design, and development of County park, trail, and recreation facilities.
- Increase awareness of activities through a variety of methods including community events and effective use of print and online media.
- Support the development of strong community-based programs that foster citizen participation and garner support for County programs.

CHAPTER 6. IMPLEMENTATION: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

The community's long-term vision, goals, and strategies for San Juan County's parks, trails, and natural areas can only become a reality with the implementation of a realistic plan that establishes a clear road map of priority actions and projects to be completed over time. This chapter provides that road map by including the following elements:

- **Implementation Actions.** The actions presented below implement the Plan's goals and strategies through specific on-the-ground actions and projects over a six-year period and beyond. Actions have been prioritized based on County resource limitations.
- **Six-year Capital Facilities Plan.** The Capital Facilities Plan lists all park, trail, and natural area projects proposed for the next six years. Projects have been prioritized based on criteria discussed below.
- **Summary of Funding Opportunities.** A brief overview of local, state, and federal funding sources provides a snapshot of the universe of funding opportunities available to implement the priority actions and projects presented in this Plan.

Action Items

As discussed in Chapter 4, the public involvement process provided a clear assessment of community needs and priorities, stressing the importance of trails, water access, land protection, stewardship and maintenance, and funding. The planning framework presented in Chapter 5 provides a foundation to comprehensively address the majority of these needs. The actions and projects presented here implement the long-term vision, goals, and strategies that form the foundation of this Plan.

To provide a realistic six-year work plan for the County, the actions presented below have been prioritized based on the County's present and anticipated resource capacity:

- **Top-tier Actions.** Top-tier actions are considered a top priority for the County; the County likely has the resources at hand to implement these actions or is committed to finding the resources given the high level of community demand.
- **Second-tier Actions.** Second-tier actions are priority items that exceed current or anticipated short-term capacity for the County, but require additional resources to be completed.

Top- and second-tier actions are organized by goal area below. A detailed six-year action plan is included in Appendix A, detailing lead organization, supporting partners, and an estimated timeline for implementation.

Goal 1: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas System. *Provide a quality, diversified parks, trails, and natural areas system that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences and conserves and respects natural resources and island character.*

Top-Tier Actions

- Work with private and public landowners to protect high-priority lands using a variety of tools such as land or development right purchase, exchange, and private donation.

- Continue collaboration with federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service to enhance and expand facilities and partnership opportunities, such as Agate Beach to Iceberg Point and extension of Cattle Point Rustic Trail.
- Maintain public ownership of DNR trust lands in San Juan County through interagency cooperation and implementation of the 2003 multi-agency transfer package.
- Collaborate with other public agencies, such as the Town of Friday Harbor and Port Districts, to leverage existing resources and pursue funding opportunities to attain common goals associated with various parks, trails and natural areas.
- Identify existing public lands that could provide enhanced public access opportunities, especially public lands with water access.
- Implement existing master plans for Odlin and Shaw County Parks.
- Continue to invest in new signage and basic infrastructure (parking, bike racks, stairs, restrooms) as identified in the capital facilities plan and as demonstrated by regular site assessments.

Second-Tier Actions

- Identify specific opportunities for developing children's play areas near village activity centers, especially at Lopez Village and Eastsound.

Goal 2: Trail Planning and Development. *Provide a multipurpose system of trails and corridors that meets the recreational and transportation needs of the community and connects parks, natural areas, activity centers, and other areas of interest.*

Top-Tier Actions

- Better define roles of San Juan County Public Works and Land Bank in meeting community trails needs.
- Update the Non-motorized Transportation Plan to reflect trail corridor priorities within road right-of-ways in conjunction with the update of the transportation element of the county comprehensive plan.
- Construct priority trail projects established in San Juan County Land Bank management plans.
- Prioritize needed trail-support facilities (e.g., restrooms, parking) in areas of high traffic and use.
- Encourage collaboration among volunteer trail groups to facilitate sharing and leveraging of knowledge and resources.
- Expand San Juan County Land Bank's role in acquisition and holding of trail easements to facilitate trail development.

Second-Tier Actions

- Develop and provide countywide trail and public land maps for public distribution.
- Hire a trails coordinator to explore feasibility of countywide trails plan, which includes definition of recreational bicycle and pedestrian trails, establish coordination system with County departments and other agencies, research grant funding opportunities, and be the overall point of contact for trail inquiries.
- Explore opportunity to develop a comprehensive countywide trails plan.

- Develop simple, recognizable “brand” for San Juan County trails to ensure consistency and user-friendliness across facilities.
- Convene a meeting between relevant county staff and the Orcas, San Juan and Lopez trails groups, the Town of Friday Harbor, and Port Districts on each island to review highlights of the Plan and discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Encourage and support the provision of publicly accessible recreational trails on private land throughout the county.
- Convene a meeting between relevant County staff and the Orcas, San Juan, and Lopez trails groups to review highlights of this Plan and discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Work with local trails groups to identify priority corridors for trail easements and explore feasibility of developing a “trail easement toolkit” to help landowners make educated decisions about donation of trail easements.

Goal 3: Land Protection. *Acquire high-priority lands that preserve open spaces, improve access to water, conserve natural resources, maintain island character, and improve and expand recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.*

Top-Tier Actions

- Explore park expansion opportunities at San Juan Island County Park and Odlin County Park.
- Purchase DNR-leased lands such as Lopez Hill and Odlin South on Lopez Island.
- Pursue agricultural land protection opportunities in Crow Valley on Orcas Island, Center Valley on Lopez Island, and San Juan Valley on San Juan Island.
- Expand opportunities for public shoreline access on Orcas Island, specifically along each side of Eastsound and in the North Beach area.
- Pursue additional land protection opportunities in areas of high habitat value as identified in the Land Bank’s 2008-2014 Habitat Conservation Plan.

Second-Tier Actions

- Convene regular meetings with state and federal agencies and local private organizations with County land protection interests to identify common opportunities.

Goal 4: Stewardship and Maintenance. *Develop and sustain stewardship and maintenance programs that efficiently protect resources, emphasize sustainable methods and design, respond to local needs, and adequately plan for the future.*

Top-Tier Actions

- Implement master plans for Shaw and Odlin County parks.
- Develop master plans for San Juan County Park, Agate Beach County Park, and other County day parks with identified issues and needs.
- Develop management plans for Lopez Hill, Cady Mountain, Odlin South, and Mt. Ben.
- Prioritize backlog of maintenance projects and secure funding to implement top-priority projects.

- Continue to invest in the Land Bank’s stewardship fund to ensure funding is available for future maintenance and stewardship needs.
- Identify inter-county departmental resource-sharing opportunities to meet stewardship needs.
- Coordinate with trails groups on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez to maintain and steward existing trails.
- Encourage volunteer stewardship and maintenance projects on County lands from a variety of groups such as Lopez Conservation Corps and other service clubs on County lands.

Second-Tier Actions

- Emphasize “low-impact development” and sustainable design techniques in the design and construction of future facilities.
- Plan for meeting disability access standards in the upgrade and future development of facilities.
- Maintain and periodically update capital facilities plan to reassess priority and cost of planned projects.

Goal 5: Funding. *Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the parks, trails, and natural areas system.*

Top-Tier Actions

- Pursue renewal of the Land Bank levy by 2014 to support Land Bank operations, stewardship, and acquisitions.
- Pass real estate excise tax funding (type 2) to support park capital funding.
- Maintain current levels of County funding for parks, trails, and natural areas programs.
- Regularly assess existing fee structures to ensure adequate revenue generation.
- Continue to pursue state and federal grants and leverage local funding to support planned park, trail, and natural area projects.

Second-Tier Actions

- Conduct further research into local funding options to support County parks and trail development efforts.
- Explore opportunities to cultivate local philanthropic support through means such as capital campaigns for special park, trail, and natural area projects.
- Utilize local media and education materials to strategically raise awareness and educate the community about funding issues and opportunities.

Goal 6: Partnerships and Collaboration. *Foster partnerships and Countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers to improve the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas and supporting services and recreational programs.*

Top-Tier Actions

- Identify resource-sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies operating in the County to improve service delivery and make operations more efficient.
- Hold regular leadership meetings between San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works to coordinate projects and stay updated on issues and opportunities of mutual interest.
- Establish subcommittee meeting of members of the Park and Recreation Commission and Land Bank Commission.
- Coordinate with the Scenic Byway on project implementation opportunities following the completion of the Byway's Corridor Management Plan.

Second-Tier Actions

- Hold biennial forum of park and recreation service providers, at a minimum gathering County Parks, Land Bank, park and recreation districts on San Juan and Orcas islands, and relevant state and federal agencies.

Goal 7: Community Engagement. *Engage San Juan County residents in the planning and stewardship of parks, trails, and natural areas, and provide effective communication to improve awareness and support of County services.*

Top-Tier Actions

- Create a webpage on the county website that provides an overview of this Plan, and includes updates on progress toward goals, strategies, and actions.
- Provide regular communication and updates through the county website on volunteer opportunities and events.
- Provide regular public meetings and comment opportunities on county plans and activities.

Second-Tier Actions

- Implement environmental education program at San Juan County Park to take advantage of high visitor use.
- Expand citizen participation in the Parks Department and Land Bank volunteer programs.

Capital Facilities Plan Overview

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) lists all County park, trail, and natural area projects proposed for the next six years. All projects included in the CFP work toward meeting the recommended goals, strategies, and actions of this Plan. The CFP is reflective of community feedback, acting on residents' near-term priorities such as land stewardship, water access opportunities, and trail development. The CFP also includes a significant land acquisition program, led by the Land Bank, to facilitate the

protection and preservation of natural areas, vistas, and other resource lands. The following action areas provide a framework under which specific CFP projects can be organized:

- **Trail Planning and Development.** Projects implement trail priorities including securing easements and/or expanding rights-of-way, improving interdepartmental and interagency coordination, and/or developing support facilities such as trailheads, restrooms, and signage.
- **Land Protection.** Projects expand public ownership and/or protection of high-priority lands.
- **Water Access.** Projects define, expand, and/or promote public access to the water through acquisition or expansion of public land and the development of marine access facilities.
- **Funding.** Projects support funding renewal efforts (e.g., Conservation REET) and show long-term needs for sustainable funding sources.
- **Stewardship and Maintenance.** Projects meet stewardship and maintenance needs of County facilities including implementing scheduled improvements and upgrades and addressing accessibility (e.g., American Disability Act access), access, and equity deficiencies.
- **Public Information.** Projects improve or expand public information about park, trail, and natural area locations and amenities, along with public water access sites.

Capital Facilities Plan

The CFP presented below proposes nearly \$15 million in capital projects for the next six years. More than \$10 million of these projects are land acquisition projects led by the Land Bank, while the remainder includes development and renovation projects, primarily led by San Juan County Parks and Public Works (Tables 6.1 and 6.2). The CFP is a compilation of (1) new projects suggested through public feedback; (2) projects included in previously adopted County plans and capital project lists; and (3) desired projects that act as important placeholders for yet-to-be-defined projects such as acquisition of a water access site. All of the projects included in the CFP are County-led projects that affect County facilities.

Table 6.1: Capital Facilities Plan Summary by Project Type

Project Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Acquisition	\$ 500,000	\$ 910,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 10,160,000
Development	\$ 616,500	\$ 696,000	\$ 709,000	\$ 443,000	\$ 509,000	\$ 274,000	\$ 3,247,500
Renovation	\$ 104,000	\$ 154,000	\$ 412,200	\$ 567,500	\$ 364,000	\$ 100,500	\$ 1,702,200
Total	\$ 1,220,500	\$ 1,760,000	\$ 2,121,200	\$ 2,760,500	\$ 3,873,000	\$ 3,374,500	\$ 15,109,700

Table 6.2: Capital Facilities Plan Summary by Project Lead

Lead	Estimated Cost
County Parks	\$ 2,476,200
Public Works	\$ 2,327,000
Land Bank	\$ 10,306,500
Total	\$ 15,109,700



The CFP presents an ambitious list of capital projects, averaging nearly \$2.5 million per year over the course of six years. It is likely that many projects proposed in the CFP will not be completed due to funding limitations and other resource constraints. To help with decision-making moving forward, the planning team developed criteria to assign a priority level (low, medium, or high) to each project proposed in the CFP; the more criteria a project meets, the higher the priority:

- **Community Need and Public Safety.** The project meets identified community needs and ensures public safety.
- **Effective Stewardship.** The project preserves or extends the life of existing facilities and implements existing master or management plans.
- **Cost Efficiency.** The project utilizes and maximizes available resources through leverage, alternative funding, and partnerships.
- **Equitable.** The project ensures equitable distribution of facilities and resources.

The following CFP (Table 6.3) provides a detailed project list, which includes brief project descriptions, and designation of lead agency, funding options, and priority ranking. The project list will assist staff in the preparation of future capital budget requests.

San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan
2011-2016 Capital Facilities Plan

Property Type	Island	Park Site and Project Description	Activity	Agency	Priority	Funding	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017-2030	
Regional Park	San Juan	Brann Cabin Preservation Park Truck	R	CP	H	GF,Pr,Gr	\$ 40,000	\$ 30,000						
			D	CP	H	GF,R			\$ 25,000					
			R	CP	M	GF,R		\$ 6,000			\$ 25,000			
			A	CP	M	GF,R*,Gr,Pr					\$ 300,000			
			R	CP	L	GF,R								
			R	CP	L	GF,R								
			D	CP	H	GF,R,Gr,Pr		\$ 397,000						
			A	CP	H	GF,R*,Gr,Pr			\$ 200,000					
			R	CP	H	GF,R			\$ 10,000					
			D	CP	M	GF,R			\$ 30,000					
Regional Park	Lopez	Odlin Park Master Plan Renovation 2 Acquire adjacent land to south (~103 acres) Odlin South Management Plan Park Truck	R	CP	M	GF,R			\$ 6,000					
			R	CP	M	GF,R			\$ 1,200		\$ 200,000			
			D	CP	M	GF,R								
			R	CP	M	GF,R								
			D	CP	M	GF,R,Pr							\$ 20,000	
			D	CP	M	GF,R,Gr,Pr								\$ 500,000
			D	CP	M	GF,R								
			D	CP	M	GF,R								
			D	CP	M	GF,R,Gr,Pr								
			D	CP	M	GF,R,Gr,Pr								
Regional Park	Shaw	Shaw Park Mini Truck Master Plan Renovation	R	CP	H	GF				\$ 10,000				
			D	CP	M	GF,R,Gr,Pr					\$ 300,000	\$ 400,000		
Local Park	Lopez	Agate Beach Develop master plan Add culvert or bridge over 'v' ditch at southern trail entrance Replace Toilet, Upgrade Parking, Replace Stairs and Signs Install ADA-accessible picnic tables with hard surface pathway	D	CP	M	GF,R		\$ 25,000						
			R	CP	M	GF,R		\$ 1,000						
			D	CP	M	GF,R,Gr,Pr				\$ 80,000				
			R	CP	M	GF,R				\$ 5,000				
Local Park	Lopez	Otis-Perkins Park Update park sign Install porta-potty with enclosure or concrete pad	R	CP	M	GF,R	\$ 1,000							
			D	CP	L	GF,R			\$ 5,000					
Local Park	Orcas	Eastsound Waterfront Park Install interpretive panel/kiosk	D	CP	M	GF,R,Gr,Pr		\$ 20,000						
			D	CP	M	GF,R,Gr,Pr								
Local Park	Lopez	Lopez Village Park Provide ADA access to tables and picnic area, include hard surface pathway Renovate restroom and shower	R	CP	H	GF,R			\$ 15,000					
			R	CP	M	GF,R						\$ 100,000		
Local Park	San Juan	Reuben Tarte Memorial Park Upgrade (gravel or pave) lower parking area and turn around Upgrade / pave ADA parking stall and connection to porta-potty Replace existing porta-potty with ADA-accessible unit Install interpretive signage	D	CP	M	GF,R					\$ 12,000			
			D	CP	M	GF,R					\$ 6,000			
			R	CP	M	GF,R					\$ 8,000			
			D	CP	L	GF,R,Gr,Pr						\$ 4,000		
Local Park	San Juan	Turn Point Day Use Park Install entry and wayfinding signage Install porta-potty with enclosure or concrete pad	D	CP	L	GF,R,Gr		\$ 2,000						
			D	CP	L	GF,R	\$ 5,000							

Property Type	Island	Park Site and Project Description	Activity	Agency	Priority	Funding	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017-2030
Pocket Park	Lopez	Blackie Brady Park Install entry and wayfinding signage	R	CP	M	GF,R,Gr			\$ 2,000				
		Repair / replace stairs	R	CP	M	GF,R			\$ 5,000				
Pocket Park	Orcas	Viewpoint Park Install additional shrubs and landscaping to reduce erosion	R	PW	L	GF,R				\$ 1,000			
Pocket Park	Orcas	East Olga County Park Install entry and wayfinding signage	R	CP	M	GF,R,Gr			\$ 2,000				
Pocket Park	San Juan	Eagle Cove Shore Access Install entry and wayfinding signage	D	CP	L	GF,R,Gr			\$ 2,000				
		Install stairs	D	CP	L	GF,R			\$ 5,000				
Special Facility	Orcas	Eastsound Village Square Paint/Repair Restroom	R	CP	H	GF,R	\$ 10,000						
		Park entry sign	R	CP	M	GF,R	\$ 2,500						
		Install dumpster enclosure	R	CP	M	GF,R		\$ 3,500					
		Plant street trees along frontage	R	CP	M	GF,R			\$ 1,500				
		Upgrade handicapped parking with ramp to sidewalk	R	CP	M	GF,R				\$ 3,000			
		Upgrade 3-4 benches for ADA accessibility with connecting hard surface pathway.	R	CP	M	GF,R				\$ 10,000			
		Provide hard surface connection to bandstand	D	CP	L	GF,R				\$ 3,000			
		Upgrade and mount bike racks	R	CP	L	GF,R				\$ 1,500			
Special Facility	Lopez	Lopez Village Skate Park Fixture replacements	R	CP	M	GF,R					\$ 30,000		
Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	Mt. Baker Road Trail North Beach Road to Terrill Beach Road	D	PW	H	GF,RF,R,Gr	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 350,000				
Right-of-Way Trail	Lopez	Lopez Island Trail Expansion TBD	D	PW	M	GF,RF,R,Gr				\$ 100,000			
Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	San Juan Island Trail Expansion TBD	D	PW	M	GF,RF,R,Gr					\$ 100,000		
Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	Channel Road Trail Deer Harbor Rd to Spring Point Rd	D	PW	M	GF,RF,R,Gr						\$ 30,000	\$ 130,000
Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	Deer Harbor Road Trail Phase 1-3	D	PW	M	GF,RF,R,Gr						\$ 150,000	\$ 250,000
Shoreline Access R/E	Orcas	TBD Survey and develop shoreline access road ends	D	PW	M	GF,RF,R				TBD			
Shoreline Access R/E	San Juan	TBD Survey and develop shoreline access road ends	D	PW	M	GF,RF,R					TBD		
Shoreline Access R/E	Lopez	TBD Survey and develop shoreline access road ends	D	PW	M	GF,RF,R						TBD	

Property Type	Island	Park Site and Project Description	Activity	Agency	Priority	Funding	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017-2030
Dock	San Juan	North Islands Dock, Float, and Gangway Construct marine facilities for public access	D	PW	H	GF,RF,R	\$ 95,000	\$ 500,000					
Dock	Orcas	Obstruction Pass Float and Pile Replacement Upgrade dock facilities and add shoreline amenities	D	PW	H	GF,RF,R	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 200,000				
Dock	Orcas	Orcas Village Marine Access and Visitor Area Upgrade dock facilities per structural report Develop amenities as described in the Master Plan	R D	PW PW	M M	GF,RF,R GF,RF,R	\$ 32,000 TBD	\$ 63,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 7,000		
Dock	Lopez	Odin Float and Pile Replacement Upgrade dock facilities	R	PW	M	GF,RF,R		\$ 15,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000			
Dock	San Juan	Griffin Bay Marine Access Boat ramp and dock	D	PW	L	GF,RF,R						\$ 70,000	\$ 250,000
Preserve	Lopez	Shark Reef Sanctuary ADA Toilet, parking, signs Trail / Shoreline Restoration Install interpretive signs	D R D	CP CP CP	M M L	GF,R,Gf,Pr GF,R,Gf GF,R,Gf,Pr			\$ 60,000 \$ 40,000			\$ 6,000	
Preserve	Lopez	Iceberg Point Acquire formal access and entry	A	LB	M	GF,R*,Gf,Pr,CF,CR				Unknown			
Preserve	Lopez	Fisherman's Bay: Weeks Point Trail enhancement/boardwalk	D	LB	H	GF,CR,Gf	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,500					
Preserve	Lopez	Fisherman's Bay: Tombolo Parking	D	LB	H	GF,CR	\$ 500						
Preserve	Lopez	Famland Acquisition	A	LB	H	CF,CR,Pr,Gf,GF	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000			
Preserve	Lopez	Hummel Lake New Trails/signage	D	LB	H	GF,CR,Gf	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000				
Preserve	Lopez	Lopez Hill Signage	R	LB	H	GF,CR,Gf	\$ 3,000						
Preserve	Orcas	Turtleback New South loop trail	D	LB	H	GF,Pr,Gf	\$ 5,000						
Preserve	Orcas	Fowler's Pond Fence and bike/pedestrian overlook	D	LB	H	CR,Gf,Pr	\$ 12,000						
Preserve	San Juan	Famland Acquisition	A	LB	H	CF,CR,Pr,Gf,GF	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000				
Preserve	San Juan	Westside Pullouts	D	LB	H	GF,CR	\$ 35,000						
Preserve	San Juan	False Bay Creek Pond construction	R	LB	H	GF	\$ 15,000						

Property Type	Island	Park Site and Project Description	Activity	Agency	Priority	Funding	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017-2030
Preserve	Orcas	Shoreline access Acquisition	A	LB	H	CF,CR,Pr,Gr,GF		\$ 200,000		\$ 500,000			
Preserve	San Juan	King Sisters Trail maintenance	R	LB	H	GF,CR		\$ 5,000					
Preserve	Orcas	Coffelt Farm Fence/Trail	R	LB	M	GF,R,Pr		\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000			
Preserve	Lopez	Fisherman's Bay Spit Dock replacement	R	LB	M	GF,R,CR			\$ 225,000				
Preserve	Orcas	Famland Acquisition	A	LB	M	CF,CR,Pr,Gr,GF				\$ 500,000			
Preserve	Lopez	Forestland Acquisition	A	LB	M	CF,CR,Pr,Gr,GF				\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000		
Preserve	Lopez	Shoreline Acquisition	A	LB	M	CF,CR,Pr,Gr,GF					\$ 500,000		
Preserve	Orcas	Forestland Acquisition	A	LB	M	CF,CR,Pr,Gr,GF					\$ 1,000,000		
Preserve	San Juan	Cady Mountain Trail	D	LB	M	GF,R,Pr		\$ 2,500					
		Road maintenance	R	LB	M	GF,CR		\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Preserve	San Juan	Mt. Ben Trailhead/parking/signage	D	LB	M	GF,CR		\$ 4,000					
Preserve	San Juan	Limekiln Trail reroutes/signage	D	LB	M	GF,CR			\$ 4,000				
Preserve	Shaw	Shoreline Acquisition	A	LB	M	CF,CR,Pr,Gr,GF			\$ 750,000				
Preserve	San Juan	Shoreline Acquisition	A	LB	M	CF,CR,Pr,Gr,GF					\$ 500,000		
Preserve	Outer Islands	Forestland Acquisition	A	LB	M	CF,CR,Pr,Gr,GF					\$ 500,000		
Preserve	San Juan	Forestland/connector Acquisition	A	LB	M	CF,CR,Pr,Gr,GF						\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Preserve	Outer Islands	Shoreline Acquisition	A	LB	M	CF,CR,Pr,Gr,GF							\$ 750,000
Subtotal							\$ 1,220,500	\$ 1,760,000	\$ 2,121,200	\$ 2,760,500	\$ 3,873,000	\$ 3,374,500	\$ 5,780,000
Cumulative 6-Yr Total													\$ 15,109,700

Activity Key:
A = Acquisition
D = Development
R = Renovation/Replacement

Agency Key:
CP = County Parks
PW = County Public Works
LB = San Juan County Land Bank

Priority Key:
H = High Priority
M = Medium Priority
L = Low Priority

Funding Key:
R = REET (1st or 2nd 1/4%)
CR = Conservation REET (1%)
CF = Conservation Futures
Pr = Private / Donations / Dedications / Partners

GF = General Fund
RF = Road Fund
Gr = Grants

NOTES:
R* denotes REET 1 only (1st 1/4%)

Implementation Funding Options

An essential step to realizing the community's vision for the County's parks, trails, and natural areas is identifying and securing funding to implement priority projects and actions. While some funding may already be secured to move specific projects or actions forward, additional resources need to be secured or reallocated to ensure project completion.

Given the County's limited operating and capital budgets, the implementation measures identified below primarily discuss non-general fund options. A more thorough review of potential funding options is included in Appendix E: Conservation Finance Feasibility Study, which describes in detail local financing options and relevant federal and state grant and conservation programs.

Local Funding Opportunities

While a variety of approaches exists to support individual projects or initiatives, the broader assessment of community needs suggests that additional, dedicated funding will be required to finance renovation and growth in the County parks system. Local sources of funding at the city or county level are playing an increasing role in fulfilling park and recreation objectives across the U.S.. Such funding sources provide critical leverage to grant money offered through state and federal programs.

In San Juan County, four potential mechanisms—explained in greater detail below—may be used to support park and natural area acquisition and development, trail development, and general park facility upgrades: (1) property tax levy lid lift; (2) general obligation bonds; (3) real estate excise tax; and (4) the conservation futures lid lift. While these approaches require further review and a detailed assessment of potential revenue, political willingness, and potential voter support, they present realistic local funding opportunities to implement the projects and actions detailed in this Plan.

Property Tax Levy Lid Lift

San Juan County may ask voters to increase the regular County property tax via a levy lid lift, which requires majority approval of voters at a general or special election. For example, a 0.1 percent increase in the property tax levy would generate just under \$800,000 annually at a cost of \$43 per year to the average homeowner in the county.

Although voters approved a lid lift in the fall of 2009, taxing capacity still remains available for an additional lid lift. This will require significant political will and support from voters to succeed. Property tax rates in San Juan County are the lowest in the state, and conversely, average home prices are the highest in the state which results in relatively large tax bills for many homeowners in the county. Also, a significant portion of county land is enrolled in open space programs resulting in some shift of tax burden to other landowners. Arguably, the open space properties provide a public benefit to county residents and usually require fewer public services at taxpayer expense.

General Obligation Bonds

San Juan County could issue general obligation bonds and levy property taxes to pay the debt service on the bonds. For unlimited tax general obligation bonds, 60 percent of the electorate must approve issuance of general obligation bonds, which must be validated by a voter turnout of at least 40 percent of those who voted in the last general election. A \$10 million general obligation bond, payable over 20 years, would cost the average homeowner approximately \$43 annually. San Juan County historically has carried relatively little debt and currently has no voted general obligation debt outstanding. As such, it has ample capacity under statutory debt limits to issue bonds for parks and open space.

Real Estate Excise Tax

Counties may impose three types of real estate excise tax (REET) to fund capital projects, conservation areas, and affordable housing. San Juan County currently imposes two of the three increments of the REET: the first 0.25 percent REET and the third 1.0 percent Conservation Area REET.

The funds generated by the first 0.25 percent REET may be used only for construction of capital projects as identified in the capital facilities plan element of the comprehensive plan and includes acquisition of parks, recreational facilities, and trails. This first increment of REET is paid by the seller.

Funds generated by the third REET increment, the Conservation Area REET, are used exclusively for the acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas and, unlike the first two increments of REET, are paid by the buyer. San Juan County is the only county in Washington that has exercised its authority to levy this conservation area REET. Currently, the County assesses the maximum statutory limit of 1.0 percent. The current Conservation REET assessment supports the operations of the San Juan County Land Bank and is pending renewal in 2014 by county voters and the County Council. At or before that time, the Council may choose to renew the tax at the current rate or a revised lower rate.

The County does not currently assess the additional (or second) 0.25 percent REET, and this presents a potential funding opportunity to facilitate the planning and development of many projects listed in the CFP. While the second REET increment is similar to the first increment inasmuch as the tax is paid by the seller, its uses are more restrictive than the first increment of REET. The second REET increment may not be used for the acquisition of parks, recreation facilities, and trails, but eligible capital projects include the “planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks” among others listed in the state code.

Conservation Futures Lid Lift

San Juan County may also request a levy lift for the Conservation Futures Tax to the maximum rate of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 of assessed value (or \$6.25 per \$100,000 value). The County currently levies this tax at \$0.0331. Revenues generated from the Conservation Futures Tax may be expended for the acquisition of development rights and other real property rights and interests of any open space, farm and agricultural, and timber land and the operation and maintenance of such lands. Implementing this tax at the full \$0.0625 levy (an increase of 0.0295) would generate roughly \$235,000 annually and cost the average homeowner \$13 per year.

Federal and State Opportunities

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including those through the state Recreation and Conservation Office, namely the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and Transportation Enhancement Program. San Juan County has had success securing grants from a number of these sources to fund land acquisition, park development and renovation, and marine access facility development projects.

While these programs and others provide valuable sources of funding for local park and open space projects, they are not a panacea for financing park system needs. All of these grant programs are competitive, non-recurring, and often require a significant percentage (up to 50 percent in some programs) of local match funding. They also require significant staff resources to pursue due to

application, monitoring, and reporting requirements. The County should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Volunteer and Community-based Action

The public process for this Plan has demonstrated that many residents want to be involved in improving the County's parks, trails, and natural areas system. To date, the County has been successful in engaging volunteers in a number of activities to enhance stewardship and maintenance capacity. There may be more opportunity to engage residents, local service groups, or other civic or "friends" groups in meeting various volunteer-appropriate stewardship and maintenance needs identified in this Plan.

It is also worth noting the private philanthropic capacity of residents of the San Juan Islands, and the opportunity to direct private philanthropic efforts to benefit local parks, trails, and natural areas priorities. The recent Turtleback Mountain campaign is a successful example of leveraging public and private dollars to protect a keystone property in the San Juan Islands. The Land Bank contributed \$10 million to the project by bonding against future revenues, while the San Juan Preservation Trust and The Trust for Public Land raised the remaining \$8.5 million from private sources.

APPENDIX A. SIX-YEAR ACTION PLAN

GOAL, STRATEGY AREA, AND ACTIONS	Island				Lead Organization	Supporting Partners	Timeline			
	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw			Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	6+ years
PARKS, TRAILS AND NATURAL AREAS SYSTEM: Provide a quality, diversified parks, trails, and natural areas system that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences and conserves and respects natural resources and island character.										
LAND PROTECTION										
Work with private and public landowners to protect high-priority lands using a variety of tools such as land or development right purchase, exchange, and private donation	●	●	●	●	Land Bank	SJPT, Public agencies	●	●	●	●
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY										
Identify specific opportunities for developing children’s play areas near village activity centers, especially at Lopez Village and Eastsound	●	●			Parks	COC, local orgs		●		
SHORELINE ACCESS										
Survey undeveloped shoreline access road ends and adjacent tidelands to verify property boundaries and evaluate opportunity for development as water access sites	●	●	●	●	Public Works	LB, CP, landowners		●		
COORDINATION										
Continue collaboration with federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service to enhance and expand facilities and partnership opportunities	●	●	●		Land Bank, Parks	Public agencies	●	●	●	●
Work with University of Washington to explore public access opportunities on San Juan and Shaw islands			●	●	UW	LB, citizens			●	
PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP										
Maintain public ownership of DNR trust lands in San Juan County through interagency cooperation and implementation of the 2003 multi-agency transfer package	●	●	●		Land Bank, Parks	DNR, user groups	●	●	●	
Identify existing public lands that could provide enhanced public access opportunities, especially public lands with water access	●	●	●	●	Land Bank,	Public agencies, TPL		●		
INFRASTRUCTURE										
Implement existing master plans for Odlin and Shaw County Parks	●		●	●	Parks	Citizens	●	●	●	
Continue to invest in new signage and basic infrastructure (parking, bike racks, stairs, restrooms) as identified in the capital facilities plan and as demonstrated by regular site assessments	●	●	●	●	Land Bank, Parks	Local orgs	●	●	●	●
TRAIL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: Provide a multipurpose system of trails and corridors that meets the recreational and transportation needs of the community and connects parks, natural areas, activity centers, and other areas of interest.										
CAPACITY BUILDING										
Define roles of San Juan County Public Works and Land Bank in meeting community trails needs	●	●	●	●	Public Works, Land Bank	Trail orgs	●			
Expand San Juan County Land Bank’s role in acquisition and holding of trail easements to facilitate trail development	●	●	●	●	Land Bank	PW, trail orgs		●		

GOAL, STRATEGY AREA, AND ACTIONS	Island				Lead Organization	Supporting Partners	Timeline			
	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw			Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	6+ years
Hire a county trails coordinator to explore feasibility of countywide trails plan, establish coordination system with county departments and other agencies, research grant funding opportunities, and be the overall point of contact for trail inquiries	●	●	●	●	County	LB, trail orgs		●		
TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES										
Explore opportunity to develop a comprehensive county-wide trails plan	●	●	●	●	County	LB, PW, CP, trail orgs		●		
Update the Nonmotorized Transportation Plan to reflect trail corridor priorities in conjunction with the update of the transportation element of the county comprehensive plan	●	●	●	●	Public Works	Trail orgs		●		
Construct priority trail projects established in San Juan County Land Bank management plans	●	●	●		Land Bank	Trail orgs	●	●	●	●
TRAIL SUPPORT FACILITIES										
Prioritize trail-support facilities (e.g., restrooms, parking) in areas of high traffic and use	●	●	●	●	County	Trail orgs		●	●	●
Develop simple, recognizable “brand” for San Juan County trails to ensure consistency and user-friendliness across facilities	●	●	●	●	County	Trail orgs			●	
COORDINATION										
Convene an annual trails forum to gather public land and trail interests to discuss opportunities for collaboration and improved coordination	●	●	●	●	Trail orgs	County, public agencies		●	●	●
Encourage and support the provision of publicly accessible recreational trails on private land throughout the county	●	●	●	●	Land Bank	Trail orgs, citizens	●	●	●	●
VOLUNTEER GROUPS										
Convene a meeting between relevant county staff and the Orcas, San Juan, and Lopez trails groups to review highlights of this Plan and discuss opportunities for collaboration	●	●	●		County	Trail orgs		●		
Encourage collaboration among volunteer trail groups to facilitate sharing and leveraging of knowledge and resources	●	●	●	●	LB, CP, PW, Island Rec	Trail orgs	●	●	●	●
TRAIL EASEMENTS										
Work with local trails groups to identify priority corridors for trail easements and explore feasibility of developing a “trail easement toolkit” to help landowners make educated decisions about donation of trail easements	●	●	●	●	County, LB	PW, trail orgs		●		
PUBLIC INFORMATION										
Develop and provide countywide trail and public land maps for public distribution	●	●	●	●	Public Works	LB, CP, public agencies	●			
LAND PROTECTION: Acquire high-priority lands that preserve open spaces, improve access to water, conserve natural resources, maintain island character, and improve and expand recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.										

GOAL, STRATEGY AREA, AND ACTIONS	Island				Lead Organization	Supporting Partners	Timeline			
	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw			Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	6+ years
IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION										
Explore park expansion opportunities at San Juan Island County Park and Odlin County Park	●		●		Parks	LB, landowners	●			●
Purchase DNR-leased lands such as Lopez Hill and Odlin South on Lopez Island	●				Parks, Land Bank	DNR, local orgs		●	●	
Pursue agricultural land protection opportunities in Crow Valley on Orcas Island, Center Valley on Lopez Island, and San Juan Valley on San Juan Island	●	●	●		Land Bank	SJPT	●	●	●	●
Refine and pursue opportunities to improve public shoreline access on Orcas Island		●			Land Bank	PW, CP, public agencies	●	●	●	●
Pursue additional land protection opportunities in areas of high habitat value as identified in the Land Bank's 2008-2014 Habitat Conservation Plan	●	●	●	●	Land Bank	SJPT, TPL, landowners	●	●	●	●
COORDINATION										
Convene regular meetings with state and federal agencies and local private organizations with county land protection interests to identify common opportunities	●	●	●	●	Land Bank	Public agencies, SJPT		●	●	●
STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE: Develop and sustain stewardship and maintenance programs that efficiently protect resources, emphasize sustainable methods and design, respond to local needs, and adequately plan for the future.										
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT										
Implement master plans for Shaw and Odlin county parks	●			●	Parks	Local orgs	●	●		
Develop master plans for San Juan County Park, Agate Beach County Park, and other county day parks with identified issues and needs			●		Parks, Land Bank	Citizens		●	●	●
Develop management plans for Lopez Hill, Cady Mountain, Odlin South, and Mt. Ben	●		●		Land Bank, Parks	Citizens			●	
PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE										
Prioritize backlog of maintenance projects and secure funding to implement top-priority projects	●	●	●	●	Parks, Land Bank	PW		●		
FACILITY DESIGN										
Emphasize "low-impact development" and sustainable design techniques in the design and construction of future facilities	●	●	●	●	CP, PW, LB	RCO, other NGOs	●	●	●	●
Plan for meeting disability access standards in the upgrade and future development of facilities	●	●	●	●	CP, PW, LB		●	●	●	●
COST PLANNING										
Continue to invest in the Land Bank's stewardship fund to ensure funding is available for future maintenance and stewardship needs	●	●	●	●	Land Bank		●	●	●	●

GOAL, STRATEGY AREA, AND ACTIONS	Island				Lead Organization	Supporting Partners	Timeline			
	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw			Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	6+ years
Maintain and periodically update capital facilities plan to reassess priority and cost of planned projects	●	●	●	●	CP, PW, LB		●	●	●	
COORDINATION										
Identify inter-county departmental resource-sharing opportunities to meet stewardship needs	●	●	●	●	CP, PW, LB		●			
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS										
Coordinate with trails groups on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez to maintain and steward existing trails	●	●	●		Land Bank	CP, PW, trail orgs	●	●	●	
Encourage volunteer stewardship and maintenance projects on county lands from a variety of groups such as Lopez Conservation Corps and other service clubs on county lands	●	●	●	●	CP, Land Bank	CP, PW, service orgs	●	●	●	
FUNDING: Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the parks, trails, and natural areas system										
OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL FUNDING										
Pursue renewal of the Land Bank levy by 2014 to support Land Bank operations, stewardship, and acquisitions	●	●	●	●	Citizens	LB		●		
Pass real estate excise tax funding (type 2) to support park capital funding	●	●	●	●	County Council	CP, citizens	●			
Maintain current levels of county funding for parks, trails, and natural areas programs	●	●	●	●	PW, CP, LB	Citizens	●	●	●	
Conduct further research into local funding options to support county parks and trail development efforts	●	●	●	●	CP, PW	SJISB, TPL, trail orgs, citizens		●		
Regularly assess existing fee structures to ensure adequate revenue generation	●	●	●	●	Parks			●	●	
FUND DIVERSITY										
Continue to pursue state and federal grants and leverage local funding to support planned park, trail, and natural area projects	●	●	●	●	PW, CP, LB		●	●	●	
Explore opportunities to cultivate local philanthropic support through means such as capital campaigns for special park, trail, and natural area projects	●	●	●	●	PW, CP, LB	SJPT, citizens	●	●	●	
COMMUNITY AWARENESS										
Utilize local media and education materials to strategically raise awareness and educate the community about funding issues and opportunities	●	●	●	●	PW, CP, LB	Local media	●	●	●	
PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION: Foster partnerships and countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers to improve the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas and supporting services and recreational programs.										
COORDINATION										
Hold biennial forum of park and recreation service providers, at a minimum gathering County Parks, Land Bank, park and recreation districts on San Juan and Orcas islands, and relevant state and federal agencies		●	●		Parks	LB, OPRD, IR, FH, public agencies		●	●	

GOAL, STRATEGY AREA, AND ACTIONS	Island				Lead Organization	Supporting Partners	Timeline			
	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw			Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	6+ years
Identify resource-sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies operating in the county to improve service delivery and make operations more efficient	●	●	●	●	PW, CP, LB	Public agencies		●		
Hold regular leadership meetings between San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works to coordinate projects and stay updated on issues and opportunities of mutual interest	●	●	●	●	PW, CP, LB		●	●	●	●
Establish subcommittee meeting of members of the Park and Recreation Commission and Land Bank Commission	●	●	●	●	Land Bank, Parks			●	●	●
Coordinate with the Scenic Byway on project implementation opportunities following the completion of the Byway's Corridor Management Plan	●	●	●	●	Public Works, Parks	SJISB		●		
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Engage San Juan County residents in the planning and stewardship of parks, trails, and natural areas, and provide effective communication to improve awareness and support of county services.										
EDUCATION										
Implement environmental education program at San Juan County Park to take advantage of high visitor use			●		Parks	Whale Museum, volunteer orgs		●		
COMMUNICATION										
Create a webpage on the county website that provides an overview of this Plan, and includes updates on progress toward goals, strategies, and actions	●	●	●	●	Parks	PW, LB	●			
Provide regular communication and updates through the county website on volunteer opportunities and events	●	●	●	●	PW, CP, LB		●	●	●	●
PARTICIPATION										
Provide regular public meetings and comment opportunities on county plans and activities	●	●	●	●	PW, CP, LB		●	●	●	●
Expand citizen participation in the Parks Department and Land Bank volunteer programs	●	●	●		LB/CP	Volunteer orgs	●	●	●	●

COC	Chamber of Commerce
DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
FH	Town of Friday Harbor
IR	Island Rec
Land Bank (LB)	San Juan County Land Bank
OPRD	Orcas Island Park and Recreation District
Parks (CP)	San Juan County Parks Department
Public Works (PW)	San Juan County Public Works Department
SJISB	San Juan Islands Scenic Byway
SJPT	San Juan Preservation Trust
TPL	The Trust for Public Land

APPENDIX B. STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW LIST AND QUESTIONNAIRE

Stakeholder Interview Participants

Bureau of Land Management

County Parks and Recreation Commission

Discovery Kayaks

Friends of Lopez Hill

Friends of the San Juans

Land Bank Commission

Lopez Chamber of Commerce

Lopez Island Family Resource Center

OPAL Community Land Trust

Orcas Chamber of Commerce

Orcas Pathways

Port of Lopez

San Juan Community Home Trust

San Juan County Visitor's Bureau

San Juan Island National Historical Parks

San Juan Island Park and Recreation District

San Juan Island Scenic Byway

San Juan Island Trails Committee

San Juan Preservation Trust

Town of Friday Harbor

The Whale Museum/Soundwatch

Washington State Parks

Wildlife Cycles

WSU Beachwatchers Program

Stakeholder Interview Questions

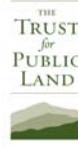
1. What is the mission or purpose of your organization and how does it relate to this planning process?
2. What role have you or your organization played in activities or actions of San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, or Public Works?
3. What is most special to you or your organization about parks, trails, and natural areas in San Juan County? Are there key features or places you/your organization values?
4. What is your impression of residents' interest in parks, trails, and natural areas and/or the services and spaces San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, or Public Works provides?
5. Over the past 5-10 years, what trends have most negatively affected parks, trails, and natural areas or services provided by the County?
6. What trends have had the most positive impact?
7. In the coming years, what is the single greatest challenge facing the County that will have an impact on parks, trails, natural areas and County services? What is the single greatest opportunity?
8. In your opinion, what does County Parks, Land Bank, and/or Public Works do well? What could be improved?
9. In terms of user demand, what trends have you seen? What facilities are most/least used? What do residents/visitors want more of? What's needed to meet future demand?
10. How well do you think Parks, Land Bank, Public Works and others have done working toward 2010 goals? Where is there room for improvement?
11. Given your interests, what do you think the County's priorities should be for 2016?
12. If the County's efforts could focus on only one thing over the next five years, what should it be?
13. If you left the San Juans and came back in 20 years, what would you hope a system of parks, trails, and natural areas would look like? What would be key features?
14. Given the role you/your organization has played in Parks, Land Bank, or Public Works activities to date, how do you envision your role changing in the future? Are there any opportunities for collaboration or better coordination on key issues?
15. Is there anything else you'd like to share?

APPENDIX C. PUBLIC WORKSHOP RESULTS

Two rounds of public workshops were held at the start and close of the project to solicit public input and feedback on various plan components:

- **Fall 2009 Workshops.** Held in November 2009 on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands, the fall workshops captured the community's vision, specific facility recommendations, and input on key priorities of the plan.
- **Spring 2010 Workshops.** In April 2010, three workshops held on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands gathered community feedback on the draft vision, values, goals, strategies, and recommended actions of the plan.

In total, the workshops attracted more than 275 citizens. Workshops were advertised through press releases in local news sources, posters on local message boards and at local businesses, electronic invitations, and postcards sent to full-time residents on the ferry-served islands. Summary results from each workshop are included in this appendix.



SAN JUAN COUNTY PARKS, TRAILS AND NATURAL AREAS OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2009, San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works held open houses on Orcas, Lopez, Shaw, and San Juan islands to capture residents' ideas and priorities for parks, trails, and natural areas. Approximately 175 residents attended the interactive meetings, providing input through a variety of methods including voting with dots, drawing on maps, and posting comments on flipcharts. Overall, the open houses provided residents with the opportunity to meet county staff and provide input on a variety of important topics, which will help shape the future for parks, trails, and natural areas in San Juan County.

This summary provides an overview of major findings from each island open house based on the evaluation of information¹ collected at each interactive station. While each open house gathered island-specific information and ideas, several overarching themes emerged, including:

- ✓ Residents highly value the county's outdoor spaces for rest, relaxation, and the enjoyment of nature and wildlife.
- ✓ Residents greatly appreciate the work of County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works and see opportunities for improving the facilities and services they provide.
- ✓ Residents value the mission and work of the Land Bank and are generally supportive of future land acquisitions and the renewal of the real estate excise tax.
- ✓ Residents are greatly intrigued by the potential role of Public Works in providing more public water access via road ends as well as developing trails and paths.



TPL's Kitty Craig answers a participant's question at the Lopez Island Open House. The open house design helps to capture input from residents about what is important to them in their community. Attendees commented that having the opportunity to anonymously submit comments allowed them to speak their mind.

¹ The raw data used to determine the results presented in this summary are available on www.trailparkland.org. Please check the website for updates and progress notes on the project.

- ✓ Residents are interested in the future of trails and paths in providing better connections between major activity centers and parks and open space as well as providing safe transportation alternatives.

Some key areas of opportunity also emerged from the open houses, including:

- ✓ Trails and Paths. Trails and paths topped the charts of priorities on nearly every island. There is opportunity for development of new trails and paths along priority corridors; signage to help with navigation, awareness, and education; and complementary facilities such as rest areas and restrooms.
- ✓ Collaboration. While collaboration is a broad area of opportunity, there are several areas that County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works could gain more from working together than alone, such as developing new trails and paths, improving public information on county facilities such as public land and road ends, and improving waterfront access opportunities on all of the islands.
- ✓ Land Acquisition. In general, residents support the future acquisition of land for water access, agricultural preservation, and protection of natural character and keystone properties (like Turtleback Mountain).
- ✓ Funding. To support community priorities for parks, trails, and natural areas, generating new funding will be essential. While the Land Bank will seek renewal of its levy in the coming years, there is also opportunity to explore new sources of funding to support County Parks, and the development of trails and paths.

ISLAND WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

ORCAS ISLAND

The Orcas Island workshop was held on November 5 at the Senior Center in Eastsound and attracted more than 30 attendees. For two and a half hours, attendees had the opportunity to visit eight stations, mingle with fellow neighbors, and ask county staff pertinent questions.

STATION #1: VISION AND ACTIVITIES

When asked “How do you use county parks, trails, and natural areas?” Orcas residents indicated “rest, relaxation, or enjoyment of nature” and “water access” as the most common uses. Looking to the future, residents stressed the need to better connect communities through trails and pathways for hiking and biking as well as safe, non-motorized transport between communities. Residents also stressed the desire for more beach and water access.

STATIONS #2-4: COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

The county department stations provided residents with the opportunity to learn more about the services and facilities of County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works. Simple information—compliments and potential improvements—was gathered at each station.

PARKS

While some residents used “parks” as a catch-all for all of the open spaces on the island, other residents shared their appreciation for the variety of open spaces, trails, views, and opportunities for water access provided by County Parks. In terms of improvements, residents indicated the need for more water access, public information about facilities, and general upkeep and maintenance.

Some specific improvements detailed include:

- Make maps of parks, trails, and beach access available at the Chamber of Commerce
- Hire park employees for shoreline parks
- Manage Madrona Point in partnership with the Land Bank
- Provide more trash cans to help foster better stewardship of the parks



Road ends were a popular topic at the Orcas Island Open House. Key discussion points included the limited information available to the public about road ends and how Public Works could better communicate this information.

LAND BANK

Residents expressed their appreciation for the work the Land Bank has done to preserve the premier lands of the island for public access, views, and environmental protection. In terms of improvements, residents noted the need to improve access and trails at some Land Bank properties as well as improvements to the public information available at the preserves.

Some specific improvements suggested include:

- Develop more trails on Turtleback
- Develop more trails, kayak access at Judd Cove and other properties
- Develop more horse trails
- Provide better etiquette information to educate the public about “leave no trace” and low-impact recreation in the natural environment

PUBLIC WORKS

Residents expressed their appreciation for the paths, trails, docks, and barge landing sites Public Works operates around the island. As far as potential improvements, residents emphasized the opportunity to share more information about public road ends (and public access opportunities), make roads safer for bikes (wider shoulders, bike lanes), and improve access to the shoreline through new ramps or docks.

Some specific improvements suggested include:

- Sign and utilize Hawkins road end
- Provide access to Point Doughty and Lawrence
- Provide access to Madrona Point

STATIONS #5-8: POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS FOR 2016

To help define the major focus areas for the 2016 parks plan, residents were asked to rank seven potential focus areas using colored dots. Table 1 shows “Trails and Paths,” “Stewardship and Maintenance,” and “Shoreline Access” as the top potential focus areas.

TABLE 1: ORCAS ISLAND STATION 5 RESULTS

Potential Focus Area	Total Score
Trails and Paths	51
Stewardship and Maintenance	49
Shoreline Access	44
Land Acquisition	24
Community Education and Engagement	17
Public Information and Internal Coordination	16
Funding	16

TRAILS AND PATHS

The Trails and Paths station provided residents with the opportunity to share how and where they currently use paths and trails on the island and where they’d like to see trails in the future. The station captured information by drawing on maps and sharing information on flipcharts. When asked which trails residents use now, Turtleback Mountain Preserve and Crescent Beach Preserve were two popular responses. As far as future trails, residents suggested several potential trails connecting the hamlets on the island, stressing the need for safe corridors for hikers, bikers, and walkers. Some priority stretches are from the ferry to Eastsound, the Mount Baker Loop, and around Olga.

LAND ACQUISITION

When asked “Where would you like to see more land preserved and why?,” residents emphasized the need to acquire more land to provide better access to the shoreline. Specific suggestions were drawn on the map provided.

FUNDING

To get a sense of potential funding priorities, residents were asked to identify their top four priorities from a list of ten. Based on total scores, the top four priority areas selected by residents are shown in the table below.

TABLE 2: ORCAS ISLAND STATION 8 RESULTS

Priority Funding Area	Total Score
Land Acquisition	28
Bicycle Facilities	27
Trails and Paths	26
Stewardship and Maintenance	17

When asked to propose ways in which to generate funding for meeting community goals for parks, trails, and natural areas, the most popular method suggested was “Capture more tax dollars from tourists who use county facilities,” and in close second, “Renew the Land Bank’s funding source (REET) before it expires.”

LOPEZ ISLAND

The Lopez Island workshop was held on November 6 at Woodman Hall and attracted more than 35 attendees. Attendees had the opportunity to visit eight stations, mingle with fellow neighbors, and ask county staff pertinent questions about the work needed in their community.

STATION #1: VISION AND ACTIVITIES

When asked “How do you use county parks, trails, and natural areas?,” Lopez residents indicated “rest, relaxation, or enjoyment of nature” and “wildlife viewing” as the most common uses. “Water access” and “exercise” are popular, but not as common. Looking to the future, residents stressed the need to maintain and protect the natural environment of the island and weave together the park, trails, and natural areas on the island into a connected system.

STATIONS #2-4: COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

The county department stations provided residents with the opportunity to learn more about the services and facilities of County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works. Simple information—compliments and potential improvements—was gathered at each station.

PARKS

Overall, residents expressed an appreciation for the variety of parks on the island. Water access, camping, wildlife, and good employees are valued features of the system. In terms of improvement, residents emphasized the need for some improved facilities such as parking and picnic shelters, and the opportunity to expand parks such as Odlin and Shark Reef.

Some specific improvements suggested include:

- Control parking at Agate Beach and share parking with Iceberg Point hikers
- Better trail maintenance at Shark Reef
- Provide a toddler/small kid area at Village Park

LAND BANK

Residents greatly appreciate the Land Bank preserves on the island, especially the variety of the preserves and the low-impact, “natural” state of the land. The trails, level of maintenance, signage, and distribution of preserves are all valued features of the preserve system. Several residents recommended improvements to Lopez Hill such as better trail maps and signage as well as securing permanent access to Iceberg Point.

Some specific improvements suggested include:

- Buy Lopez Hill and Odlin South
- Finish Upright Head so it can be used and enjoyed by the public
- Develop a day-use small dock (8-10 boats) at Fisherman Bay Preserve
- Connect lands through trail easements
- Get more general information out there —don’t hide these gems



Open houses provided time to catch up with friends and colleagues as well as learn about the process for the new parks plan.

PUBLIC WORKS

Residents expressed appreciation for local Public Works employees and the various boat ramps around the island. In terms of improvement, residents are interested in learning more about the road ends on the island and using those facilities for water access. Residents are also interested in safer routes for walking and biking throughout the island.

Some specific improvements recommended by residents include:

- Have rules for boat ramp use
- Use low-impact development techniques
- Verify the location of road ends and mark them with signage
- Preserve smelt-spawning beach at Hunter Bay dock
- Promote safer biking conditions along busy roads

STATIONS #5-8: POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS FOR 2016

To help define the major focus areas for the 2016 parks plan, residents were asked to rank seven potential focus areas using colored dots. Table 3 shows “Trails and Paths,” “Shoreline Access,” and “Funding” as the top potential focus areas.

TABLE 3: LOPEZ ISLAND STATION 5 RESULTS

Potential Focus Area	Total Score
Trails and Paths	93
Shoreline Access	69
Funding	62
Land Acquisition	56
Stewardship and Maintenance	43
Public Information and Internal Coordination	34
Community Education and Engagement	14

TRAILS AND PATHS

The Trails and Paths station provided residents with the opportunity to share how and where they currently use paths and trails on the island and where they’d like to see trails in the future. The station captured information by drawing on maps and sharing information on flipcharts. When asked which trails residents use now, Watmough Preserve, Iceberg Point, and Lopez Hill were the three most popular responses. As far as future trails, residents suggested several potential trails throughout the island connecting popular recreation areas and main thoroughfares. Some priority stretches are from the ferry to Lopez Village, Odlin Park to Lopez Village, and Mud Bay to Mackaye Harbor. Many residents noted the need for better trail information at Lopez Hill.

LAND ACQUISITION

When asked “Where would you like to see more land preserved and why?,” residents emphasized five priorities: expanding Shark Reef and Odlin Park, securing permanent access to Iceberg Point, acquiring Lopez Hill, and protecting farmland on the island. Specific suggestions were drawn on the map provided.

FUNDING

To get a sense of potential funding priorities, residents were asked to identify their top four priorities from a list of ten. Based on total scores, the top four priority areas selected by residents are shown in the table below.

TABLE 4: LOPEZ ISLAND STATION 8 RESULTS

Priority Funding Area	Total Score
Trails and Paths	80
Land Acquisition	51
Stewardship and Maintenance	46
Recreational Programs	25

When asked to propose ways in which to generate funding to meet community goals for parks, trails, and natural areas, the most popular method suggested was “Renew the Land Bank’s funding source (REET) before it expires,” and in close second, “Capture more tax dollars from tourists who use county facilities.”

SHAW ISLAND

The Shaw Island workshop was held on November 7 at the Shaw Community Building and attracted nearly 20 attendees on a Saturday afternoon. Attendees had the opportunity to visit eight stations, mingle with fellow neighbors, and ask county staff pertinent questions.

STATION #1: VISION AND ACTIVITIES

When asked “How do you use county parks, trails, and natural areas?,” Shaw residents indicated “rest, relaxation, or enjoyment of nature” and “water access” as the most common uses. Residents also indicated they use the county’s outdoor spaces for “community/family gathering,” which speaks to the unique role Shaw County Park plays in the community. Looking to the future, residents stressed the need for more trails in the community as well as more beach access.

STATIONS #2-4: COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

The county department stations provided residents with the opportunity to learn more about the services and facilities of County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works. Simple information—compliments and potential improvements—was gathered at each station.



Maps showing locations of public land sparked much debate on Shaw Island. With local knowledge, we were able to identify some common use trails and areas for future conservation.

PARKS

Overall, residents expressed a great appreciation for Shaw County Park. The community uses the park to access the water and beach, walk, hold community/family gathering events, and camp. The park provides important access to the south, “sunny” side of island. Residents suggested some potential improvements for the park:

- Control erosion on the bluff
- Rebuild stairway to the beach
- Create more campsites inland
- Close Old Squaw Bay Road to cars

LAND BANK

The Land Bank does not currently own any land on Shaw Island. Residents expressed great opportunity to involve the Land Bank in efforts to acquire the Hoffman Cove property to secure more public land on the south side of the island.

PUBLIC WORKS

Similar to the Land Bank, Public Works doesn’t have a significant presence on Shaw Island. Residents suggested several opportunities for expanding Public Works presence through building a public barge site, community docks, improved parking at the Hoffman Cove Road End, improved access to the water via road ends, and bike/walking paths along the roads.

STATIONS #5-8: POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS FOR 2016

To help define the major focus areas for the 2016 parks plan, residents were asked to rank seven potential focus areas using colored dots. Table 5 shows “Trails and Paths,” “Shoreline Access,” and “Land Acquisition” as the top potential focus areas.

TABLE 5: SHAW ISLAND STATION 5 RESULTS

Potential Focus Area	Total Score
Trails and Paths	43
Shoreline Access	32
Land Acquisition	25
Funding	19
Stewardship and Maintenance	19
Public Information and Internal Coordination	15
Community Education and Engagement	10

TRAILS AND PATHS

The Trails and Paths station provided residents with the opportunity to share how and where they currently use paths and trails on the island and where they’d like to see trails in the future. The

station captured information by drawing on maps and sharing information on flipcharts. When asked which trails residents use now, UW Labs property and Shaw County Park were noted as the most popular trails on the island. As far as future trails, residents suggested several improvements to trails on the south end of the island that could better connect Shaw County Park to UW lands. Expanding the “Rue Glison” trail to create a loop trail connected to the county park was also a popular idea. Residents also suggested creating safe cross-island biking/walking paths to provide an alternative to walking/biking on the roads.

LAND ACQUISITION

When asked “Where would you like to see more land preserved and why?” residents emphasized focusing on protecting more land on the south end of the island such as the Hoffman property and the land in between county park land and UW property. Specific suggestions were drawn on the map provided.

FUNDING

To get a sense of potential funding priorities, residents were asked to identify their top four priorities from a list of ten. Based on total scores, the top four priority areas selected by residents are shown in the table below.

TABLE 6: SHAW ISLAND STATION 8 RESULTS

Priority Funding Area	Total Score
Stewardship and Maintenance	35
Trails and Paths	32
Land Acquisition	24
Renovations	17

When asked to propose ways in which to generate funding to meet community goals for parks, trails, and natural areas, the most popular method suggested was “Create a new locally funding mechanism to support County Parks” with “Renew the Land Bank’s funding source (REET) before it expires” and “Capture more tax dollars from tourists who use county facilities” in a tie for second.

SAN JUAN

The San Juan Island workshop was held on November 10 at the Senior Center in Friday Harbor and attracted more than 90 attendees. For three hours, residents had the opportunity to visit eight stations, mingle with fellow neighbors, and ask county staff pertinent questions.

STATION #1: VISION AND ACTIVITIES

When asked “How do you use county parks, trails, and natural areas?” San Juan residents indicated “exercise” and “rest, relaxation, or enjoyment of nature” as the most common uses. Looking to the future, residents stressed the need for more protection of natural areas and water access on the island as well as the creation of safe trails on busy thoroughfares and more interconnected trails and open spaces.

STATIONS #2-4: COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

The county department stations provided residents with the opportunity to learn more about the services and facilities of County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works. Simple information—compliments and potential improvements—was gathered at each station.

PARKS

Residents expressed an appreciation for the variety and distribution of parks throughout the island and the views, water access, and access to nature they provide. In terms of improvements, residents stressed the need to find more consistent and stable funding to support county parks, meet the maintenance needs of existing parks, provide more camping and water access opportunities, and connect parks with trails throughout and between the open spaces on the island.



San Juan Island had the largest turn out with about 100 attendees. Participants had a lot to say about bike safety and what kind of trails they wish to see in the future to increase non-motorized travel.

Some specific improvements include:

- Improve Eagle Cove trail access at beach
- Install porta-potty at Turn Point and remove post in drive that restricts access
- Cooperate with public to create trailhead at the south end of San Juan County Park
- Promote regional talks at the parks by local naturalists and experts

LAND BANK

Overall, residents expressed a deep appreciation for the work and mission of the Land Bank. The protection of beautiful spaces for the public to enjoy resonates with many residents. Protection of natural character, views, and public access are all key features of Land Bank lands. As far as improvements, residents suggested opportunities for more land acquisition and the development of more trails on and off of preserve lands (open to bikes and horses as well).

Some specific improvements suggested include:

- Allow mountain biking on trails
- Build more trails around the lakes above Lime Kiln
- Mark trails clearly noting distance and direction and have clear, easy-to-use maps
- Help secure Mar Vista as a public access area

PUBLIC WORKS

Residents expressed an appreciation for Public Works support of trails efforts and the cooperation of the department in working with community groups. Residents appreciate the access road ends provide (and could provide if further developed). Residents suggested several improvements for Public Works, most of which focused on improving public information on existing facilities and developing signage on public road ends.

Some specific improvements suggested include: Provide more public access at Jackson Beach

- Sign Carter Beach Road End as public low-bank water access
- Open more road ends—like Harbor Street in town for pedestrian access
- Make a public map available of road ends and trails
- Collaborate with the Trails Committee and Land Bank on Cattle Point Road Trail

STATIONS #5-8: POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS FOR 2016

To help define the major focus areas for the 2016 parks plan, residents were asked to rank seven potential focus areas using colored dots. Table 7 shows “Trails and Paths,” “Shoreline Access,” and “Land Acquisition” as the top potential focus areas.

TABLE 7: SAN JUAN ISLAND STATION 5 RESULTS

Potential Focus Area	Total Score
Trails and Paths	174
Shoreline Access	112
Land Acquisition	112
Stewardship and Maintenance	110
Community Education and Engagement	100
Funding	88
Public Information and Internal Coordination	48

TRAILS AND PATHS

The Trails and Paths station provided residents with the opportunity to share how and where they currently use paths and trails on the island and where they’d like to see trails in the future. The station captured information by drawing on maps, and sharing information on flipcharts. When asked which trails residents use now, Lime Kiln Preserve, Mitchell Hill, and Roche Harbor Trails were the most popular trails on the island. As far as future trails, residents indicated the Cattle Point Rustic Trail (between Friday Harbor and American Camp) and a Cross-island Trail as potential priorities, with a “Pipeline Trail” along San Juan Valley Road as a popular option as well.

Residents shared several specific ideas for trails on the island, many dealing with improving signage for trail users, creating separate paths (and/or bike lanes) for safer biking, and incorporating water trails into the larger trail concept. Some specific ideas include:

- Hire a county trails coordinator

- Improve bike safety on the west side of the island
- Triage county road improvements to main routes used by bicyclists in the summertime
- Develop more signage for bike awareness and safety
- Develop trail from Jackson Beach to Friday Harbor

LAND ACQUISITION

When asked “Where would you like to see more land preserved and why?” residents suggested several specific acquisitions with particular emphasis on the Mar Vista property. Protection of farmland, more land in the Trout Lake watershed (that could be publicly accessible), and lands to facilitate trail development were also suggested.

FUNDING

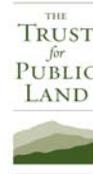
To get a sense of potential funding priorities, residents were asked to identify their top four priorities from a list of ten. Based on total scores, the top four priority areas selected by residents are shown in the table below.

TABLE 8: SAN JUAN ISLAND STATION 8 RESULTS

Priority Funding Area	Total Score
Bicycle Facilities	121
Trails and Paths	120
Land Acquisition	101
Stewardship and Maintenance	98

When asked to propose ways in which to generate funding to meet community goals for parks, trails, and natural areas, the most popular method suggested was “Renew the Land Bank’s funding source (REET) before it expires,” and in close second, “Capture more tax dollars from tourists who use county facilities.”





SAN JUAN COUNTY PARKS, TRAILS, AND NATURAL AREAS PLAN, 2011-2016

APRIL 2010 OPEN HOUSE RESULTS

In April 2010, San Juan County held three open houses on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands to gather community feedback and input on the draft components of the 2011-2016 Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan for San Juan County. More than 100 citizens attended the meetings; the San Juan and Lopez open houses drew the majority of attendees. Each open house started with a welcome by San Juan County Parks Director, Dona Wuthnow, and a brief presentation by Kitty Craig, program manager with The Trust for Public Land, which is providing technical assistance and grant funding to complete the plan. The presentation provided an overview of the planning process, progress to date, major findings from public outreach, and an introduction to the open house (visit www.TrailParkLand.org to download the presentation). A short question-and-answer period followed the presentation, allowing the planning team—San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works—to answer attendees' questions.

Each open house presented four interactive stations to gather community feedback: (1) 2030 Vision and Core Values; (2) Goals and Strategies; (3) Implementation: Actions and Projects; and (4) Map Gallery. Citizens were encouraged to provide feedback and indicate priorities at each station through the use of post-it notes and dots. Results from stations at each open house are included in this summary and will be used to refine the draft components of the Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan.

Overall, open house findings emphasize the following themes:

- **Development of more trails for hiking, biking, and improving community connections.** As public outreach results have shown, there is great community support and demand for the development of more trails for hiking, biking, and other recreational uses. There is a desire to improve connections within the community—between existing parks, natural areas, community activity centers and facilities—to facilitate safe travel and alternative modes of transportation.
- **Stewardship of natural resource values and protection of important natural resource areas.** The community greatly supports the protection of high natural resource value lands and the continued stewardship and maintenance of these areas.
- **Provision of more water access sites and ways to get to the water.** The demand for more access to the water is greatest on Orcas island, where it is currently most limited. But all islands support the provision of more water access sites and trail corridors and connections to facilitate getting to the water.
- **Provision of adequate funding to support community goals for parks, trails, and natural areas.** The community recognizes the need to consistently provide funding from a variety of sources to support park, trail, and natural area efforts.

- **Involvement of the community in park, trail, and natural area efforts.** Citizens and community groups—such as the volunteer trail organizations on each island—are interested in getting more involved and learning more about various park, trail, and natural area efforts. The level of interest and support in getting more involved is a testament to the inherent community volunteer ethic and passion for parks, trails, and natural areas.

STATION 1: VISION AND CORE VALUES

At this station, citizens were asked to share to what extent the 2030 Vision and Core Values captured their sentiment for the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in San Juan County. Citizens shared their feedback on the post-it notes provided at the station. Overall, recommendations to improve the 2030 Vision statement focused on emphasizing the importance of interconnectivity to facilitate alternative travel and recreational corridors throughout the community.

2030 Vision

We envision an interconnected system of parks, trails, and natural areas that provides easy access to the water; celebrates island culture, character, and a healthy environment; and is delivered through well-

Core Values

Quality of Life: We value the role parks, trails, and natural areas play in maintaining the health and well-being of our community.

Accessibility: We value creating, enhancing, and expanding opportunities for the community to access our parks, trails, and natural areas.

Natural Integrity: We value maintaining and protecting the natural integrity of our unique island environment.

Stewardship: We value being responsible stewards of the natural environment and providing well maintained facilities and spaces for future generations to enjoy.

Sustainability: We value taking a sustainable approach to operations and facility development that provides adequate funding to meet community needs while protecting the integrity of our natural resources.



<i>Comment</i>	<i>Island</i>	Do the vision and core values capture your sentiment for the future of SJC's parks, trails, and natural areas?
1	<i>SJ</i>	Is it necessary for hunting to be permitted in the former DNR lands?
2	<i>SJ</i>	Public/private partnerships
3	<i>SJ</i>	. . . that provides easy access to the water AND NATURAL AREAS
4	<i>SJ</i>	Stewardship is important, not just for people but for the health of the ecosystem and the wildlife that depends on it
5	<i>SJ</i>	Agree - only concern is "interconnected funding" so not one part of the whole is neglected and weakens the vision
6	<i>SJ</i>	Please do not change any of the currently permitted equestrian usage
7	<i>SJ</i>	Parks and natural areas should be accessible by bike or on foot - not just by car
8	<i>SJ</i>	Does this include teaching people to pick up after themselves?
9	<i>SJ</i>	Please preserve horse usage on Mitchell Hill and on as many trails and areas as possible
10	<i>SJ</i>	OK, but not just access to water, we need trails to get around without cars
11	<i>SJ</i>	Yes, if horse trail usage is not curtailed
12	<i>SJ</i>	Important to maintain balance between access and stewardship of wildlife and habitat. Some areas may be too sensitive to be access by hikers/bikers/riders, particularly during the nesting season
13	<i>SJ</i>	Values good remember who pays for this
14	<i>SJ</i>	Natural Integrity: Include maintaining significant sub elements of the environment
15	<i>SJ</i>	Maintenance plans essential
16	<i>SJ</i>	As long as equestrian usage is unchanged or expanded
17	<i>SJ</i>	What about ag land? Preservation and availability for food production
18	<i>SJ</i>	Designated areas and trails for equestrian use need to be included
19	<i>SJ</i>	Please include equestrian usage for trails
20	<i>SJ</i>	Want to keep current equestrian access that is available to us today
21	<i>SJ</i>	Equestrian access is important to us horse people. Thanks.
22	<i>SJ</i>	Not just "easy access to water". What about recreation, health, and transportation?
23	<i>SJ</i>	Trails to connect areas of the island - not just access to water
24	<i>SJ</i>	Yes, unless it involves cutting down trees
25	<i>SJ</i>	Vision ok as long as landowners rights are respected - we are the taxpayers
26	<i>SJ</i>	Vision - should include system that connects various parts of the island - transportation is important
27	<i>SJ</i>	Non-motorized assets? And for whom? Ie, walkers, bikers, and horseriders
28	<i>SJ</i>	Yes, would appreciate horse use where feasible
29	<i>SJ</i>	Need to include education/public info/ or what/where use is allowed, etc.
30	<i>SJ</i>	Bike trails for people who can't walk because of foot problems
31	<i>SJ</i>	Horseback riders already maintain trails on DNR land - encourage others to bring clippers when they use teht rails and handsaws in the winter months for downed trees
32	<i>Orcas</i>	Yes
33	<i>Orcas</i>	Mostly might add economic values
34	<i>Orcas</i>	What about educational element?
35	<i>Lopez</i>	Yes. Emphasis on low impact trails/paths as connections of places
36	<i>Lopez</i>	Acquire as much land as possible!
37	<i>Lopez</i>	Yes!
38	<i>Lopez</i>	Interconnectivity too
39	<i>Lopez</i>	Vision - yes. Values - try to use local materials and craftpeople to build future structures to keep the \$\$ in the islands.
40	<i>Lopez</i>	Yes. No hunting on island. Keep making new trails.
41	<i>Lopez</i>	Yes. . . Values we continually express - need to be activated.
42	<i>Lopez</i>	Make walking easier on Lopez and other islands through network of trails
43	<i>Lopez</i>	Yes! Right on, I like the focus on sustainability - how are we going to share these values with our children's children.
44	<i>Lopez</i>	Core values: Natural Integrity - we value (improving) , maintaining and protecting. . .
45	<i>Lopez</i>	A well-maintained environment should include hunting and fishing
46	<i>Lopez</i>	Also provide easy access to the village
47	<i>Lopez</i>	2030 vision: . . . Builds and sustains a healthy environment; and is delivered. . .
48	<i>Lopez</i>	Trails should provide a safe and pleasant way to walk to town, school, etc.

<i>Comment</i>	<i>Island</i>	Do the vision and core values capture your sentiment for the future of SJC's parks, trails, and natural areas?
49	Lopez	I endorse the vision and core values. I notice though that it leans on the recreation side of park, trail, and natural areas. Trails and bike paths also have a real practical aspect that will become more important as reliance on cars becomes more problematic.
50	Lopez	Might include the concept of physical exercise in the core values
51	Lopez	No hunting
52	Lopez	Yes, hunt in moderation, safely. No need for "absolutes" for or against.
53	Lopez	Add: providing access for future generations
54	Lopez	I support the core values with emphasis on stewardship and sustainability. Too often I have seen a push to develop parks, trails, etc. and then there is no money left to maintain these areas properly. Any development should include clear funding for the long term.

STATION 2: GOALS AND STRATEGIES

At this station, citizens were asked to indicate their top priority strategies for each of the seven goal areas using the dots provided. Citizens were also encouraged to share additional strategies using the post-it notes provided. The tables below show the results from each island, with the overall top strategies presented in descending order. Overall, the community showed support for strategies that emphasize protection of natural resource values, development of new trails, involvement of and support for local volunteer trail groups, maintenance of public land and public access, and the development of adequate funding sources to support park, trail, and natural area efforts.

Parks, Trails, & Natural Areas

Goal: Provide a quality, diversified parks, trails, and natural areas system that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences and conserves and respects natural resources and island character.

Protect lands with significant natural resource value such as views or vistas, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, and shoreline resources

Provide a diversity of active and passive recreation opportunities accessible to a variety of individuals

Improve and expand shoreline access opportunities through the provision or enhancement of community docks, boat ramps/launches, access points, viewpoints, and waterfront parks and open spaces

Coordinate with other public agencies, park a recreation districts, and other park and recreation service providers to ensure an adequate range and supply of recreation facilities and programming

Maintain public lands in public ownership and explore opportunities to improve access to existing public lands

Invest in necessary infrastructure to improve public awareness, support appropriate public use, and facilitate public enjoyment of county parks, trails, and natural areas

Trail Planning & Development

Goal: Provide a multipurpose system of trails and corridors that meets the recreational and transportation needs of the community and connects parks, natural areas, activity centers, and other areas of interest.

Explore public and private funding opportunities to support county trails planning and development efforts

Foster the development and capacity of local volunteer trail groups to help with trails planning efforts, garner community support, leverage community resources and play a role in stewardship and maintenance of trail facilities

Work with public agencies and private landowners to secure trail easements to facilitate connections along priority corridors

Raise awareness of existing trail network and other significant trail issues and opportunities

Expand the capacity of San Juan County to coordinate, plan, and implement countywide trail efforts

Provide a diversity of trail opportunities including hard and soft-surfaced trails, point-to-point trails, loop trails, and trails with a variety of access points and lengths

Provide adequate trail-support facilities including interpretative and directional signage, restrooms, parking areas and viewpoints

Coordinate with other agencies and organizations to support trail development and maintenance throughout the county

Community Engagement

Goal: Engage San Juan County residents in the planning and stewardship of parks, trails, and natural areas, and provide effective communication to improve awareness and support of county services.

Provide and foster opportunities for public education about local history, culture, and natural history at county facilities

Involve county residents and stakeholders in the planning, design, and development of county park, trail, and recreation facilities

Increase awareness of county activities through a variety of methods including community events and effective use of print and online media

Support the development of strong community-based programs that foster citizen participation and garner support for county programs

Land Protection

Goal: Acquire high-priority lands that preserve open spaces, improve access to water, conserve natural resources, maintain island character, and improve and expand recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.

Identify and prioritize potential lands for public land acquisition or private protection efforts based on alignment with the vision, goals, and objectives on this Plan as well as other county-adopted plans

Identify and secure funding from a diversity of public and private sources to support land protection efforts

Facilitate coordination and communication among public agencies and private organizations to identify common land protection targets

Funding

Goal: Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the parks, trails, and natural areas system.

Provide sufficient operations funding to support county residents' desired level of service for parks, trails, and natural areas

Maintain a diversity of funding sources to support acquisition, development, and maintenance of county facilities and services

Enhance county capacity to coordinate, research, apply for, and secure public and private grants for expansion, maintenance, and development of parks, trails, and natural areas

Develop partnerships with other public and private agencies including school districts, park and recreation districts, and state and federal agencies to leverage funding to support parks, trails, and natural areas activities and programs

Raise community awareness of funding shortfalls and major issues that hinder the implementation of this Plan

Stewardship & Maintenance

Goal: Develop and sustain stewardship and maintenance programs that efficiently protect resources, emphasize sustainable methods and design, respond to local needs, and adequately plan for the future.

Maintain, enhance, and restore native vegetation, habitat function, and other ecological values on county lands

Expand ability to steward and maintain land through building stewardship networks on all of the islands

Support and encourage the development of volunteer programs to help maintain and steward county parks, trails, and natural areas

Implement existing master and management plans and identify additional master or management planning opportunities

Invest in preventative maintenance and upgrades to facilities to maximize long-term benefits

Design facilities and amenities to be respectful of island culture and character and physically and

Partnerships & Collaboration

Goal: Foster partnerships and countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers to improve the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas and supporting services and recreational programs.

Facilitate coordination of county park and service providers to share and coordinate goals and projects

Facilitate inter-county departmental coordination and project completion through regular meeting of department leadership

Explore Scenic Byway partnership opportunities geographically accessible to all individuals

Consider and plan for maintenance costs and staffing levels associated with acquisition, development, renovation of parks, trails, and natural areas



Photo: TPL

YOUR TOP STRATEGIES. For each goal area, which 2-3 strategies are a priority for you?

Dot Tally	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Goal Area	Strategy
40	11	3	26	Parks, Trails, Natural Areas System	Protect lands with significant natural resource value such as views or vistas, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, and shoreline resources
32	11	2	19	Trail Planning and Development	Provide a diversity of trail opportunities including hard- and soft-surfaced trails, point-to-point trails, loop trails, and trails with a variety of access points and lengths
28	5	0	23	Trail Planning and Development	Foster the development and capacity of local volunteer trail groups to help with trails planning efforts, garner community support, leverage community resources, and play a role in stewardship and maintenance of trail facilities
26	4	1	21	Stewardship and Maintenance	Maintain, enhance, and restore native vegetation, habitat function, and other ecological values on county lands
26	6	1	19	Partnerships and Collaboration	Facilitate coordination of county park and service providers to share and coordinate goals and projects
25	6	2	17	Land Protection	Identify and prioritize potential lands for public land acquisition or private protection efforts based on alignment with the vision, goals, and objectives on this Plan as well as other county-adopted plans
24	4	1	19	Funding	Maintain a diversity of funding sources to support acquisition, development, and maintenance of county facilities and services
23	5	1	17	Stewardship and Maintenance	Consider and plan for maintenance costs and staffing levels associated with acquisition, development, renovation of parks, trails, and natural areas
22	6	1	15	Land Protection	Identify and secure funding from a diversity of public and private sources to support land protection efforts
21	3	1	17	Parks, Trails, Natural Areas System	Maintain public lands in public ownership and explore opportunities to improve access to existing public lands
20	4	1	15	Trail Planning and Development	Work with public agencies and private landowners to secure trail easements to facilitate connections along priority corridors
19	3	0	16	Community Engagement	Involve county residents and stakeholders in the planning, design, and development of county park, trail, and recreation facilities
17	3	1	13	Funding	Enhance county capacity to coordinate, research, apply for, and secure public and private grants for expansion, maintenance, and development of parks, trails, and natural areas
16	2	4	10	Parks, Trails, Natural Areas System	Improve and expand shoreline access opportunities through the provision or enhancement of community docks, boat ramps/launches, access points, viewpoints, and waterfront parks and open spaces
16	3	3	10	Stewardship and Maintenance	Support and encourage the development of volunteer programs to help maintain and steward county parks, trails, and natural areas
14	5	1	8	Community Engagement	Provide and foster opportunities for public education about local history, culture, and natural history at county facilities
14	2	1	11	Community Engagement	Support the development of strong community-based programs that foster citizen participation and garner support for county programs
10	2	1	7	Funding	Provide sufficient operations funding to support county residents' desired level of service for parks, trails, and natural areas
10	5	0	5	Funding	Develop partnerships with other public and private agencies including school districts, park and recreation districts, and state and federal agencies to leverage funding to support parks, trails, and natural areas activities and programs
9	3	0	6	Trail Planning and Development	Coordinate with other agencies and organizations to support trail development and maintenance throughout the county
9	4	1	4	Land Protection	Facilitate coordination and communication among public agencies and private organizations to identify common land protection targets
9	3	0	6	Stewardship and Maintenance	Invest in preventative maintenance and upgrades to facilities to maximize long-term benefits
9	6	2	1	Partnerships and Collaboration	Explore Scenic Byway partnership opportunities
7	2	0	5	Parks, Trails, Natural Areas System	Provide a diversity of active and passive recreation opportunities accessible to a variety of individuals

YOUR TOP STRATEGIES. For each goal area, which 2-3 strategies are a priority for you?

Dot Tally	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Goal Area	Strategy
7	5	1	1	Parks, Trails, Natural Areas System	Coordinate with other public agencies, park and recreation districts, and other park and recreation service providers to ensure an adequate range and supply of recreation facilities and programming
7	2	0	5	Parks, Trails, Natural Areas System	Invest in necessary infrastructure to improve public awareness, support appropriate public use, and facilitate public enjoyment of county parks, trails, and natural areas
7	5	0	2	Trail Planning and Development	Expand the capacity of San Juan County to coordinate, plan, and implement countywide trail efforts
7	1	0	6	Trail Planning and Development	Explore public and private funding opportunities to support county trails planning and development efforts
7	1	1	5	Partnerships and Collaboration	Facilitate inter-county departmental coordination and project completion through regular meeting of department leadership
7	6	0	1	Community Engagement	Increase awareness of county activities through a variety of methods including community events and effective use of print and online media
5	2	1	2	Trail Planning and Development	Provide adequate trail-support facilities including interpretative and directional signage, restrooms, viewpoints, and parking areas
5	0	0	5	Stewardship and Maintenance	Design facilities and amenities to be respectful of island culture and character and physically and geographically accessible to all individuals
5	1	0	4	Stewardship and Maintenance	Expand ability to steward and maintain land through building stewardship networks on all of the islands
5	2	0	3	Funding	Raise community awareness of funding shortfalls and major issues that hinder the implementation of this Plan
4	1	0	3	Trail Planning and Development	Raise awareness of existing trail network and other significant trail issues and opportunities
3	0	0	3	Stewardship and Maintenance	Implement existing master and management plans and identify additional master or management planning opportunities

Comment	Island	What strategies would you add to this list?
1	SJ	Always invite representatives from the town and National Parks to these meetings, please! (One ditto)
2	SJ	The horse community has helped support the trails through helping with trail clean up and maintenance. To continue our use at present level or expand our access to trails, we'd be willing to pay an annual access fee/user fee
3	SJ	Continue to allow horseback riding in former DNR land - no park designation
4	SJ	Cooperative public/private development of trail and recreation opportunities - involve SJPT
5	SJ	#1 Funding should be to develop what we do own already; #2 should be purchasing more
6	SJ	Education of property owners re: voluntary easements and public ownership of rights of way
7	SJ	Who is paying for this?
8	SJ	I might suggest a door to door rather than your selected 3,000
9	SJ	Why should I give up my property/rights for a stranger to walk through?
10	SJ	As long as equestrian access is unchanged or expanded, the majority of us are in favor of a "usage" fee to help with revenue
11	SJ	If the equestrian community and the bike riders did not use the trails in the DNR land they would become overgrown and eventually disappear
12	SJ	Recognize that there are some areas that are too sensitive to have trails
13	SJ	Include Island Rec in planning (one ditto - especially gravel pit)
14	SJ	Quality of life for unborn - our property taken away; our shoreline taken away; privacy taken away.
15	Orcas	Purchase Ram Island
16	Lopez	Interconnectivity lessen need to drive
17	Lopez	More natural areas! Leave it alone.
18	Lopez	Safe off-road hiking "clean-up crew"
19	Lopez	Trails @ Odlin South
20	Lopez	"Natural" can be impenetrable. Why not see beauty within?
21	Lopez	Make sure you have the funding for long-term maintenance before you develop new trails

<i>Comment</i>	<i>Island</i>	What strategies would you add to this list?
22	<i>Lopez</i>	The LB, PW, and CP should be one organization/group
23	<i>Lopez</i>	Include BLM with county and Land Bank coordinated system
24	<i>Lopez</i>	Funding - critical to convert leased DNR land to purchase and protect forever (Odlin South, Lopez Hill)
25	<i>Lopez</i>	Build less trails - leave it natural.

STATION 3: IMPLEMENTATION–ACTIONS & PROJECTS

Station #3 provided a detailed summary of proposed actions and projects to implement the goals and strategies presented in Station #2. Citizens were asked to share their top ten actions and/or projects and suggest additional actions or projects to add to the list. The tables below summarize the feedback gathered at this station. Overall, several citizens participated in this activity, but feedback provided at the open house indicated the amount of information was overwhelming for most to process. Nonetheless, actions that garnered the most support dealt with collaborating with local trail groups, protecting important lands, maintaining public land in public ownership, surveying road ends, and addressing funding needs.

YOUR TOP ACTIONS/PROJECTS: What are your top 10 actions and/or projects for implementation?					
Total Votes	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Draft Action/Project (By #)	Draft Action Statement/Project
18	2	3	13	28	Work with local trails groups to identify priority corridors for trail easements
17	4	2	11	1	Work with private and public landowners to protect high-priority lands using a variety of tools such as land or development right purchase, exchange, and private donation
16	1	1	14	8	Maintain public ownership of DNR trust lands in San Juan County through interagency cooperation and implementation of the 2003 multi-agency transfer package
15	1	1	13	33	Purchase DNR-leased lands such as Lopez Hill and Odlin South on Lopez Island
12	3	3	6	30	Develop and disseminate countywide trail maps that show land and water trail access
11	2		9	6	Continue collaboration with federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service to enhance and expand facilities and partnership opportunities
11	2	2	7	16	Explore opportunity to develop a comprehensive county-wide trails plan
11		1	10	55	Coordinate with trails groups on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez to maintain and steward existing trails
11	4	1	6	74	Create a webpage on the county website that provides an overview of this Plan, and includes annual updates on progress toward goals, strategies, and actions
10		3	7	3	Survey undeveloped shoreline access road ends to verify property boundaries and evaluate opportunity for development as water access sites
10	2		8	29	Explore feasibility of developing a “trail easement toolkit” to help landowners make educated decisions about donation of trail easements
9	3		6	24	Research and pursue viable public funding opportunities at the local, state, and federal level
9	3	1	5	34	Pursue agricultural land protection opportunities in Crow Valley on Orcas Island, Lopez Valley on Lopez Island, and San Juan Valley on San Juan Island
9	2		7	38	Continue to pursue state and federal grants and private philanthropic support for land protection efforts
9	2		7	43	Prioritize backlog of maintenance projects and secure funding to implement top-priority projects
9			9	57	Initiate research and campaign to renew the Land Bank’s real estate excise tax levy by 2012
9	2		7	62	Continue to pursue state and federal grants and leverage local funding to support planned park, trail, and natural area projects
8	3		5	14	Explore expansion of San Juan County Land Bank’s role in acquisition and holding of trail easements to facilitate trail development
8	1	1	6	32	Explore park expansion opportunities at San Juan Island County Park, Shark Reef Sanctuary, and Odlin County Park
8	2		6	37	Pursue renewal of the Land Bank levy by 2012 to support Land Bank operations

Total Votes	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Draft Action/Project (By #)	Draft Action Statement/Project
7	1	1	5	15	Hire a county trails coordinator to explore feasibility of countywide trails plan, establish coordination system with county departments and other agencies, research grant funding opportunities, and be the overall point of contact for trail inquiries
7	3		4	36	Pursue additional land protection opportunities in areas of high habitat value as identified in the Land Bank's 2008-2014 Habitat Conservation Plan
7	2		5	58	Pass renewal of real estate excise tax funding (type 2) to support park capital funding
7	3		4	67	Utilize local media and education materials to strategically raise awareness and educate the community about funding issues and opportunities
6	1	1	4	9	Identify existing public lands that could provide enhanced public access opportunities, especially public lands with water access
6	2	1	3	17	Implement trail priorities established in San Juan County's 2005 Nonmotorized Transportation Plan
6	1		5	19	Implement trail priorities established in San Juan County Land Bank management plans
6	1		5	45	Emphasize "low-impact development" techniques in the design and construction of future facilities
6	2	1	3	56	Encourage volunteer stewardship and maintenance projects on county lands from a variety of groups such as Lopez Conservation Corps and other service clubs on county lands
5	2		3	13	Define roles of San Juan County Public Works and Land Bank in meeting community trails needs
5	1		4	21	Develop simple, recognizable "brand" for San Juan County trails to ensure consistency and user-friendliness across facilities
5	1		4	50	Develop management and restoration plans for all county-owned natural areas
5			5	60	Conduct further research into local funding options to support county parks and trail development efforts
5	1		4	69	Identify resource-sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies operating in the county to improve service delivery and make operations more efficient
5			5	78	Expand citizen participation in the Parks Department and Land Bank's volunteer programs
4		1	3	5	Continue to work with the Washington Department of Natural Resources to update and refine public tideland data
4	1		3	10	Implement existing master plans for Odlin and Shaw County Parks and consider development of new master plans for parks such as San Juan County Park and Agate Beach County Park and other county day parks with identified issues and needs
4	1		3	20	Prioritize trail-support facilities in areas of high traffic and use
4	1	1	2	31	Develop an online presence for countywide trails efforts, potentially through San Juan County Public Works webpage
4			4	40	Implement master plans for Shaw and Odlin county parks
4	1		3	59	Maintain current levels of county funding for parks, trails, and natural areas programs
3	1	1	1	11	Continue to invest in new signage and basic infrastructure (parking, bike racks, stairs, restrooms) as identified in the capital facilities plan and as demonstrated by regular site assessments
3	1	1	1	18	Update the 2005 Nonmotorized Transportation Plan in conjunction with the transportation element of the county comprehensive plan
3			3	48	Continue to invest in the Land Bank's stewardship fund to ensure funding is available for future maintenance and stewardship needs
3			3	52	Identify stewardship and maintenance groups on each island that could help meet county needs
3	2		1	75	Provide regular communication and updates through the county website on volunteer opportunities and events
3	1		2	77	Provide regular public meetings and comment opportunities on county plans and activities
2			2	2	Identify specific opportunities for developing children's play areas near village activity centers, especially at Lopez Village and Eastsound
2		1	1	7	Work with University of Washington to enhance controlled public access to land on San Juan and Shaw islands

Total Votes	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Draft Action/Project (By #)	Draft Action Statement/Project
2		1	1	35	Refine and pursue opportunities to improve public shoreline access on Orcas Island
2			2	41	Develop master plans for San Juan County Park, Agate Beach County Park, and other county day parks with identified issues and needs
2			2	44	Develop a consistent and recognizable “brand” for county parks and future county-wide trail efforts
2	1		1	66	Explore opportunities for meeting mutual goals and leveraging resources through special joint-partnership activities
2	1		1	70	Hold regular leadership meetings between San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works to coordinate projects and stay updated on issues and opportunities of mutual interest
2	1		1	72	Coordinate with the Scenic Byway on project implementation opportunities following the completion of the Byway’s Corridor Management Plan
2			2	73	Implement environmental education program at San Juan County Park to take advantage of high visitor use
1		1		4	Evaluate opportunities for providing additional public docks and boat ramps on San Juan, Orcas, and Shaw islands
1		1		22	Convene an annual trails forum to gather public land and trail interests to discuss opportunities for collaboration and improved coordination
1			1	23	Engage and cultivate local volunteer or stewardship groups in maintenance efforts of local public trails
1			1	25	Explore opportunity to raise funding from bike/trail users through means such as tour group fees and bicycle licenses
1			1	26	Convene a meeting between relevant county staff and the Orcas, San Juan, and Lopez trails groups to review highlights of this Plan and discuss opportunities for collaboration
1			1	46	Plan for meeting disability access standards in the upgrade and future development of facilities
1			1	53	Identify inter-county departmental resource-sharing opportunities to meet stewardship needs
1	1			54	Explore opportunities to improve coordination between county department volunteer programs
1			1	63	Explore opportunities to cultivate local philanthropic support through means such as capital campaigns for special park, trail, and natural area projects
1			1	65	Utilize contractors as necessary to pursue viable grant opportunities and explore opportunities for cultivating local support for funding
1			1	68	Hold biennial forum of park and recreation service providers, at a minimum gathering County Parks, Land Bank, park and recreation districts on San Juan and Orcas islands, and relevant state and federal agencies
1	1			76	Develop an annual newsletter that provides important updates on park, trails, and natural areas efforts throughout the county; consider including it as an insert to the Land Bank’s annual report (as a first step)
0				12	Conduct cursory site assessments of county facilities at least every two years
0				27	Encourage collaboration among volunteer trail groups to facilitate sharing and leveraging of knowledge and resources
0				39	Convene regular meetings with state and federal agencies and local private organizations with county land protection interests to identify opportunities
0				42	Develop and update management plans as needed for Land Bank lands
0				47	Prioritize facility upgrades based on areas of need identified in this Plan
0				49	Maintain and regularly update capital facilities plan to reassess priority and cost of planned projects
0				51	Implement and update Land Bank management plans for all Land Bank properties
0				61	Regularly assess existing fee structures to ensure adequate revenue generation
0				64	Explore opportunity to fund county grant development to facilitate grant research and writing needs
0				71	Hold annual retreat of Park Board and Land Bank Commission

Capital Facilities Plan Priorities (*Note: Only two votes were provided on specific capital facility projects)

Total Votes	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Draft Action/ Project (By #)	Item from DRAFT Capital FacilitiesPlan
1			1	103	Acquire Odlin South
1			1	121	Lopez Skate Park fixture improvements

Comment	Island	What additional actions/projects would you add to the list?
1	SJ	Would appreciate you considering horse use when considering trails
2	SJ	Multi-use trails - please add them back in
3	SJ	Include the town of Friday Harbor in long-range planning
4	SJ	Coordinate across agencies to develop trail projects
5	SJ	Add back in the "Park to Park" trail
6	SJ	The first section of the Action Plan re: system does not include any trail-focused items - it should
7	SJ	Increasing the amount of paved bike shoulders and lanes is a huge safety issues and important priority
8	Orcas	Make our public road ends accessible - many are blocked and are not open to the public. More access to ocean!
9	Orcas	Enjoy green spaces at North Beach/Prune Alley intersection needs identification
10	Orcas	Educate public about importance of visitors to the economy. Bikers spend more money, make roads safe.
11	Orcas	Bike trail from ferry to Eastsound
12	Orcas	Orcas roads need wider shoulders for bikers and signs alerting drivers about bikers
13	Orcas	Have open invitation work parties 2-3 times a year to do maintenance - pack a lunch, meet people!
14	Orcas	To improve access to beaches - for ex., at road ends, might the county council pass an ordinance or signs that limit beach access? I believe we need such clarification in the beach signs because many existing signs (as at the end of Blanchard Road and North Beach Rd) appear to prohibit public access to the beaches and tidepools.
15	Orcas	Potential beach sign language: 1) private beach above the high tide line; 2) Private beach by ownership of rights to raise shellfish on all tidal exposed land
16	Orcas	Provide better turnaround and parking areas on Blanchard Rd, Orcas and at West Beach Rd
17	Lopez	Walking trails to connect areas of Lopez and N-to-S trail
18	Lopez	Bike, walking, horse trails from southend to northend possibly next to existing road
19	Lopez	Parks district for Lopez/whole county to further these objectives
20	Lopez	Bike trails for children to and from school and village
21	Lopez	We need help bridging public/private trail ownership divide. The public sector could help private owners to allow trails across their property by providing a structure to receive "permission to pass" documents and/or receive or buy trail easements. Also to create a public interest in interconnecting trails.
22	Lopez	Lopez Trail Network
23	Lopez	BLM - NCA suggest
24	Lopez	Odlin South and Lopez Hill - own them, not lease them
25	Lopez	Incorporate youth/school to build trails
26	Lopez	Trails - ferry to Odlin and Odlin to town
27	Lopez	Better signage for allow/not allow motorized vehicles on trails
28	Lopez	Build trails
29	Lopez	Trail from ferry to village for walkers/bikers
30	Lopez	Start building trails
31	Lopez	The Agate Beach Road is near collapse. When is the beach going to be armored? Or will the road be moved, and if so, where?
32	Lopez	Odlin South/Trail ferry to village/Trails from school
33	Lopez	Visitors to Iceberg Point are trespassing on private land to get there - when will this be fixed?
34	Lopez	Trails connecting public areas like Hummel Lake to Spencer Spit
35	Lopez	Renew Land Bank
36	Lopez	More emphasis on wild areas. We do not need to develop every protected area.
37	Lopez	Buy Lopez hill
38	Lopez	I am dismayed by the Draft Plan for Capital Facilities - where are funds for trails? Easements? Etc? On Lopez

STATION 4: MAP GALLERY

At Station #4, draft maps were presented for participants to review and share feedback and comments. Maps included:

- **County Inventory Maps.** Showed county park, trail, and natural area facilities based on the county's new parks classification scheme.
- **Opportunity Maps.** Showed 3 areas of opportunity for future development of facilities and spaces for parks, trails, and natural areas: Potential Trail Corridors, Water Access Opportunity Areas, and Land Conservation Opportunity Areas.

<i>Comment</i>	<i>Island</i>	Share any comments or thoughts you have about the maps
1	<i>SJ</i>	Need maps and specific info for use of water access - where to park, what is private vs. what is public
2	<i>SJ</i>	Please consider equestrian use on appropriate rustic trails. Our areas of use keeps getting squeezed. Really need to keep DNR trails open for that use.
3	<i>SJ</i>	Need for designated equestrian trails; Equestrian trail in former DNR land need to be honored.
4	<i>SJ</i>	Want to keep the equestrian we currently have on rustic trails important!
5	<i>SJ</i>	Please keep the current level of equestrian access available to the horse people
6	<i>SJ</i>	Please keep horse use in mind. We've lost so many trails over the years. Used to ride from West Valley to town or American camp without going on roads.
7	<i>SJ</i>	What rustic trails will be designated to include horseriding?
8	<i>SJ</i>	Note that rustic and ROW trails can be part private, part public and interconnected
9	<i>SJ</i>	Nothing on the maps about bike trails off side of road/separated from vehicular traffic
10	<i>SJ</i>	Very informative. These need more public distribution and ongoing visibility.
11	<i>Orcas</i>	Orcas island has only one publicly accessible boat ramp - obstruction pass - could there be more?
12	<i>Orcas</i>	Engage community members to help SJC stand up for rights to beach access and end of county roads
13	<i>Orcas</i>	Better (but subtle) signage for public access to beach or waterfront
14	<i>Orcas</i>	Purchase Ram Island
15	<i>Orcas</i>	Rather than "road end" sign how about some more encouraging public access statement
16	<i>Orcas</i>	Can we get signage for public access beach front - Terrell Beach and why is there a gate?
17	<i>Orcas</i>	Coordinate trails with OPALCO
18	<i>Orcas</i>	On future open space planning maps, might you show the boundary of Moran State Park or. . .
19	<i>Orcas</i>	Bike trail: ferry to Eastsound
20	<i>Orcas</i>	Crow Valley Rd (example) - Add shoulders @ curves and blind spots, etc.
21	<i>Orcas</i>	Lopez: Odlin Park. The Ballfield is extremely useful for team from other islands; a quick bikeride from the ferry.
22	<i>Orcas</i>	Denote bikeable trails - make more available
23	<i>Orcas</i>	Beach access at end of Terrill Beach Road - private owner has put a gate - is this legal?
24	<i>Orcas</i>	Would like to see possible bike lanes/trails on map
25	<i>Orcas</i>	Hawkins Road end, what gives? It's impossible to get definitive information about it. There is apparently a small piece of public land adjacent, but no good access (actually no access)
26	<i>Orcas</i>	If as a county we can't afford to fight attorneys hired by private landowners can't we employ the assistance of state attorney general's office?
27	<i>Orcas</i>	Signage (subtle) for Land Bank property that may be accessed by the public
28	<i>Orcas</i>	End of EJ Young Road, East Olga Park - please mark this for public use
29	<i>Orcas</i>	Sea Acres Road End: Completely healed over, one would never know that it belongs to us. We should define all of our road ends here on Orcas.
30	<i>Orcas</i>	Beach access at Terrill Beach Road End
31	<i>Lopez</i>	Farmland conservation very important - trail corridors look great
32	<i>Lopez</i>	We need bike trails on all the islands
33	<i>Lopez</i>	Preserve and own Odlin South and Lopez Hill. Public Dock access in Fisherman Bay.
34	<i>Lopez</i>	Trail corridors map is fantastic visual! Would like to see more beach access!
35	<i>Lopez</i>	Very exciting! Terrific!
36	<i>Lopez</i>	Great trails vision but, I'd like to see more trail access to beach walking opportunities

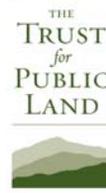
<i>Comment</i>	<i>Island</i>	Share any comments or thoughts you have about the maps
37	<i>Lopez</i>	Water access opportunity areas: Beach access important, access to shellfish, low-impact development
38	<i>Lopez</i>	Conservation opportunity areas: Great - working on easements to preserve farmland and wildlife corridors is very important!
39	<i>Lopez</i>	Explore water access at Lopez Sound Road powerline station - partner with OPALCO?

For More Information, please visit www.TrailParkLand.org



Photo TPL

APPENDIX D. COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



SAN JUAN COUNTY PARKS, TRAILS, AND NATURAL AREAS PLAN, 2011-2016

COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY RESULTS

METHODOLOGY

In November 2009, San Juan County mailed a 27-question community survey¹ to 3,000 residents on Lopez, Orcas, San Juan, and Shaw islands to assess recreational needs, preferences, and priorities. A random sample of addresses was extracted from the county's current, registered voters database and weighted based on the relative population of each of the four islands as compared to the 2009 Washington Office of Financial Management and 2000 Census figures. A single reminder postcard was mailed to the entire dataset and a parallel survey was developed online to offer residents another option for completing the survey (note: the online survey version was not publicized or made publicly available). The survey closed on December 11th, and data entry occurred between December 21st and January 5th.

A total of 593 completed surveys were recorded, representing a 20% response rate, which is a sufficient sample size to assess community opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups including gender, age, and residency. The margin of error for these results is 3.96%. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

The following table compares San Juan County's demographic information from the community survey and Census 2000. While the responses generated from this survey were similar in demographics to that of census data, certain distinctions are evident. As mail surveys do not facilitate a controlled collection protocol, response quotas by age or gender can not be managed through this type of survey. In addition, the most current voter database was used as source data for the mailing. As a result, responses on this survey are skewed to slightly older residents, and more women are represented.

¹ The mailed survey is included at the end of this report.

Demographics

Demographic Group	US Census (2000 Population)	Survey (N=593)
Gender		
Female	51%	60%
Male	49%	40%
Age		
18-34	13%	4%
35-54	44%	30%
55 and above	43%	66%
Household Information		
Households with children under age 18	23%	17%
Residency Type		
Own	66%	88%
Rent	34%	12%

Aside from the overall demographic similarities noted above, the survey responses received were also nearly identical to the proportion of households per island. Question 1 of the survey asked about the respondent’s island of residence. The table below summarizes responses and compares them to Census 2000 household split between the islands. Survey results by island are significantly similar to census data and show a slightly greater response rate from Lopez Island.

Household Share by Island

Island	Responses (#)	Responses (%)	Household Split (2000)
San Juan	249	40.7%	46.1%
Orcas	179	30.8%	32.4%
Lopez	150	25.6%	19.2%
Shaw	15	2.8%	2.2%

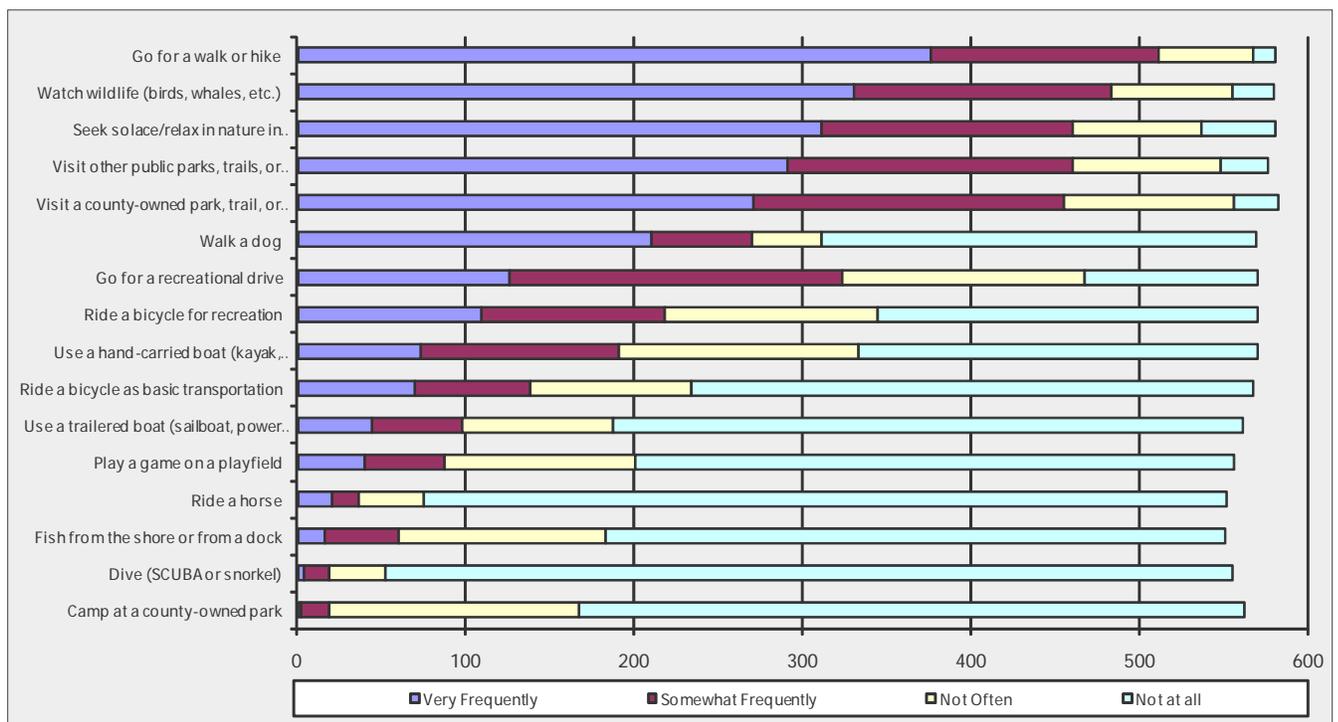
KEY FINDINGS

PUBLIC USE OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Participation In Outdoor Recreation

Residents were asked how frequently over the past year they or a member of their household participated in outdoor recreation opportunities in San Juan County (Q4). The top 5 activities on the islands include:

- Go for a walk or hike (88.1%)
- Watch wildlife (birds, whales, etc.) (83.4%)
- Visit other public parks, trails, or natural areas (79.9%)
- Seek solace/relax in nature in County park or natural area (79.3%)
- Visit a county-owned park, trail or natural area (78.2%)



Sentiment Toward Services & Programs

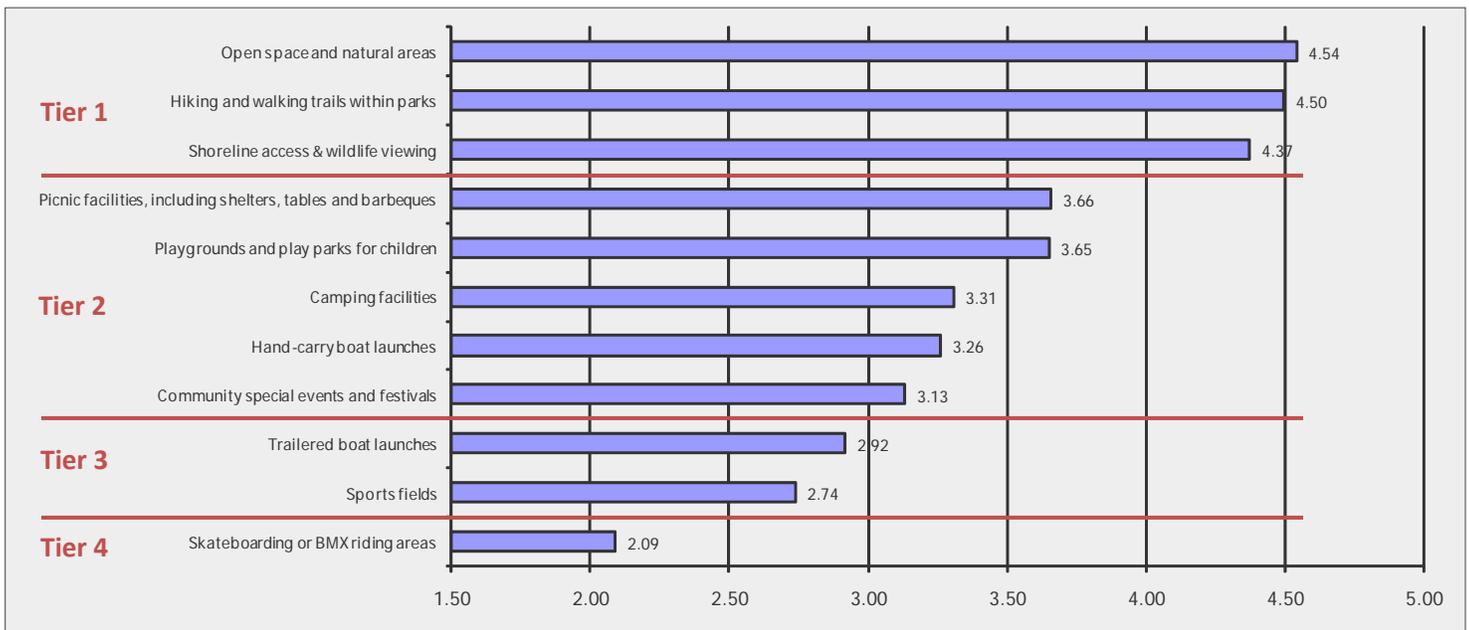
A majority of residents (81.2%) noted general satisfaction with the operation and condition of county-owned parks. Residents of San Juan Island and Lopez Island were more satisfied with the condition of facilities than other islands (88.8% and 89.9%, respectively). No significant gender or age differences were noted in the results.

Response Option	Overall	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Shaw
Completely Satisfied	35.3%	33.7%	36.5%	37.2%	40.0%
Moderately Satisfied	45.9%	55.1%	45.9%	52.7%	40.0%
Not Satisfied	3.1%	3.4%	5.4%	0.8%	6.7%
Don't Know	8.6%	7.8%	12.2%	9.3%	13.3%

In responding to a series of statements to elicit a sentiment toward the value of parks, trails and natural areas, respondents placed significant value (98%) on these resources for the community’s quality of life. Again, no significant gender or age differences were noted in the results.

98.4%	64.8%	Members of my household frequently use county parks, trails and/or natural areas, and I believe these spaces are important to my community's quality of life.
	33.7%	Although members of my household do not frequently use county parks, trails and/or natural areas, I believe these spaces are important to my community's quality of life.
	1.6%	Parks, trails and/or natural areas are not important to my community's quality of life.

Overall, respondents ranked the provision of open space and natural areas (91%; 4.54 on 5-point scale) as the county’s highest priority service, with hiking and walking trails (90%; 4.5 on 5-point scale) and shoreline access (87%; 4.37 on 5-point scale) as nearly as important (Q5). No gender differences appeared in the responses, but several age and location distinctions arose. Those in the 35 to 44 age group were more likely (4.77) to view open space as a priority, while those in the 18 to 24 age group ranked this weaker (3.6). Also, the 35 to 44 age group more strongly supported shoreline access (4.51) and sport fields (2.95). Those in the 25 to 34 age group more strongly supported skateboard facilities (2.76) over their peers. Residents on Shaw Island more strongly supported camping facilities (3.73), and residents on Lopez favored hand-carry boat launches (3.5) more than the other islands.



Respondents identified their highest priority improvements to the County parks system (Q6). The top 3 most needed improvements are:

1. More trails (includes hiking trails & bike lanes)
2. More shoreline access
3. Better maintenance of facilities

Additionally, several other common items were listed, including the need to secure more funding, restrooms, benches along trails and spending less (not spending taxpayer money).

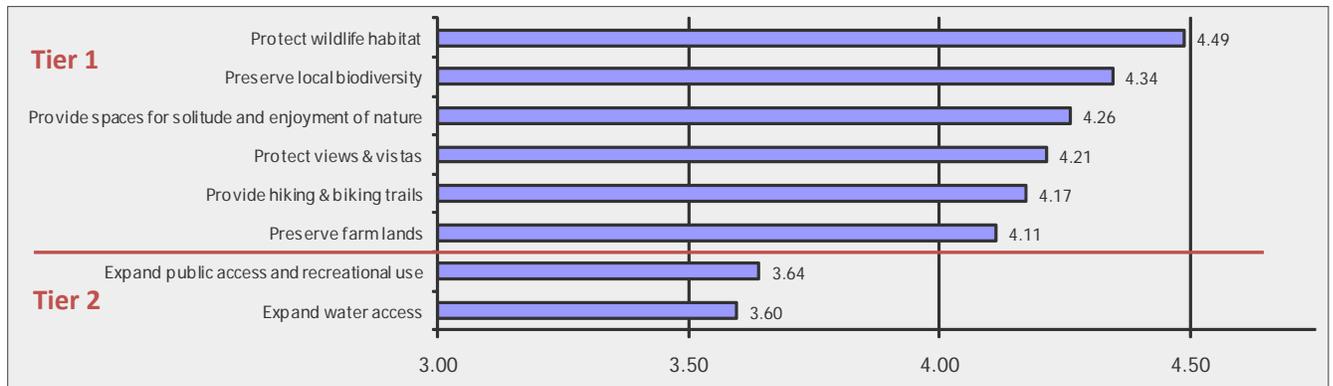
Respondents also graded a number of County facilities for maintenance and upkeep (Q7). Responses to this question were limited, as respondents would note grades for only familiar sites. As such, the data is useful as anecdotal information but does not have strong statistical correlation to the sentiment of the general public. Overall, respondents ranked county sites with B and B- (on an A-F scale).

Land Conservation

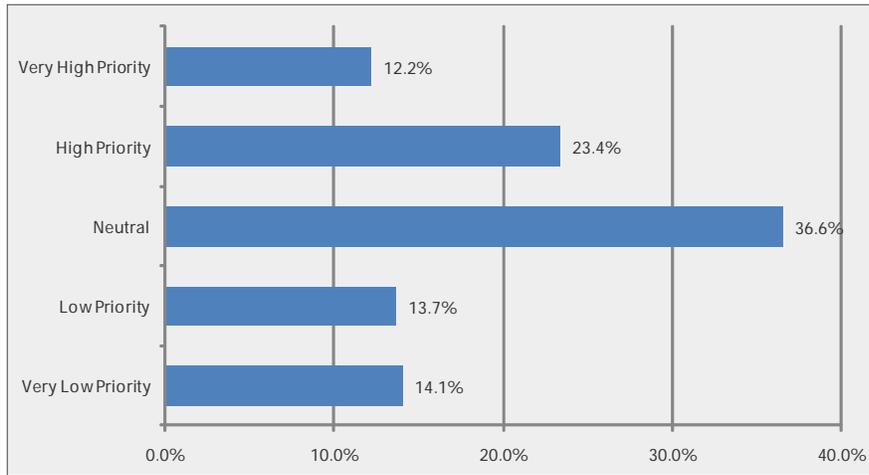
Residents were asked about their sentiment regarding the quantity of public land managed for conservation and public use (Q8). A majority (63%) of respondents indicated that not enough land is managed for public use, and this sentiment is significantly higher for respondents from Lopez Island (73%). Also, women (65%) shared this sentiment slightly more than men (61%). Generally, about one-quarter of respondents felt the right amount is currently protected.

Response Option	Overall	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Shaw
Too Much	4.0%	6.7%	3.1%	1.5%	0.0%
Right Amount	23.4%	27.3%	24.8%	16.7%	23.1%
Not Enough	62.9%	59.3%	59.0%	72.7%	61.5%
Don't Know	9.7%	6.7%	13.0%	9.1%	15.4%

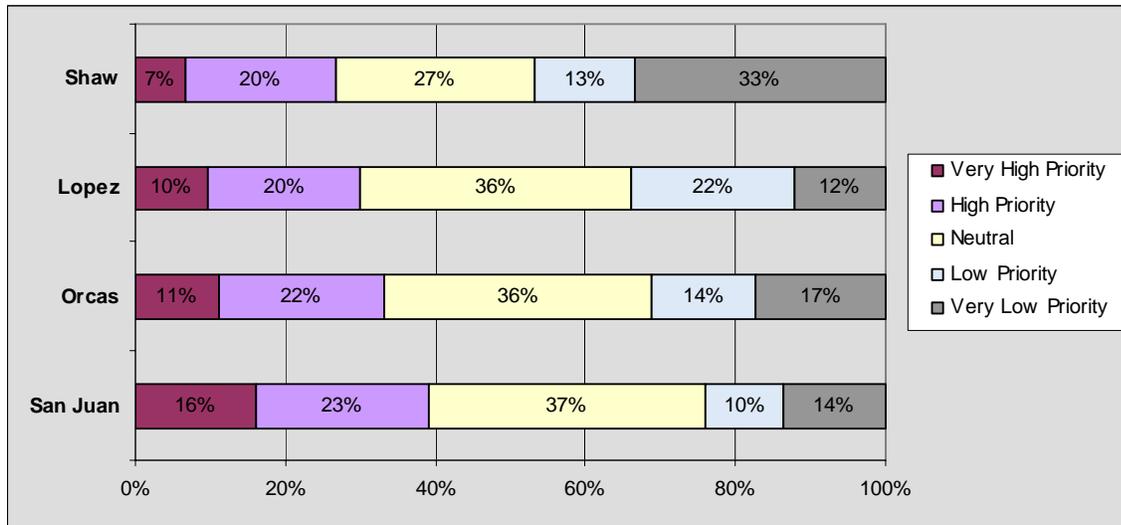
Factors related to land conservation were also tested (Q9). No significant differences existed in responses by age or gender; however, those respondents ages 35 to 44 had slightly higher marks than their peers for protecting wildlife habitat (4.69) and for preserving local biodiversity (4.72). Overall, these responses indicate a high degree of public awareness of and about a range of factors pertaining to land conservation and the potential social and environmental benefits thereof.



With regard to public access on conservation lands (Q10), approximately equal numbers of respondents were neutral (36.6%) to the notion or perceived it as a priority (35.7%). Men felt that access was a very high priority over women by two-to-one (18% and 9.1%, respectively).



Additionally, residents of Shaw Island (33%) were the least likely to see public access of conservation lands as important. San Juan Island residents were the most likely to view this issue as a priority (39%) over the other islands.



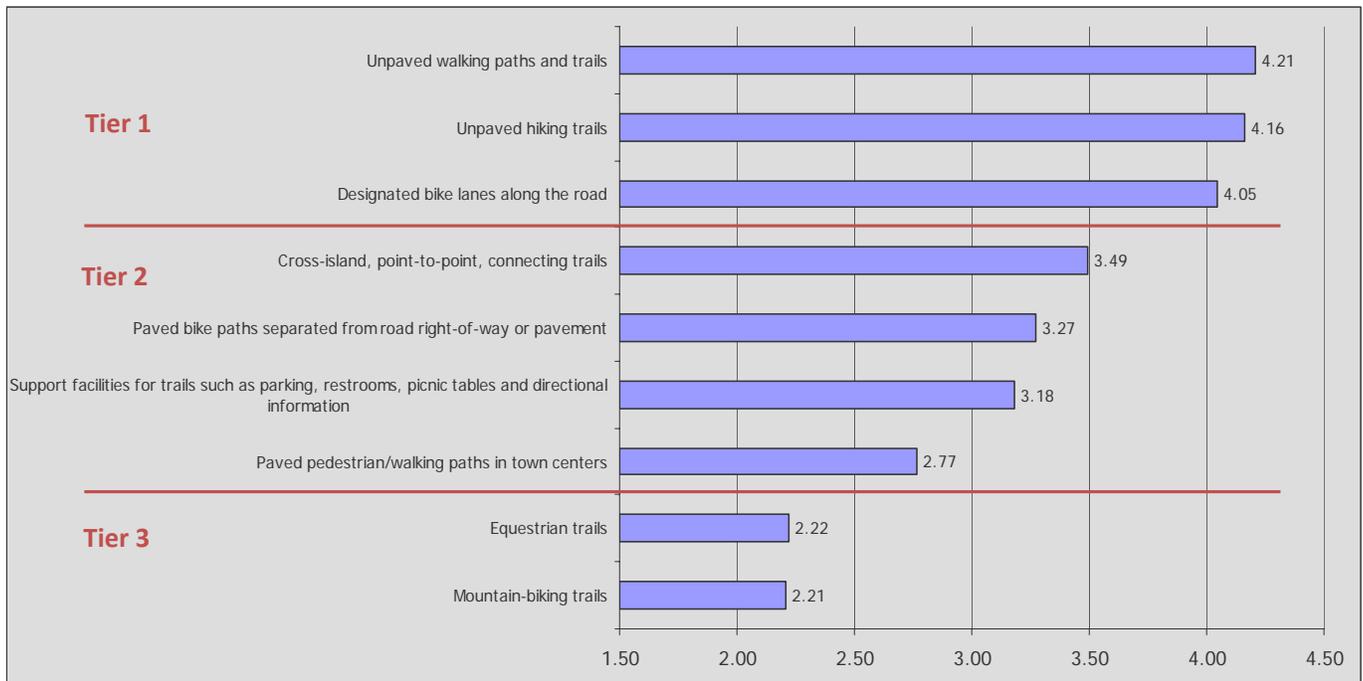
Trails

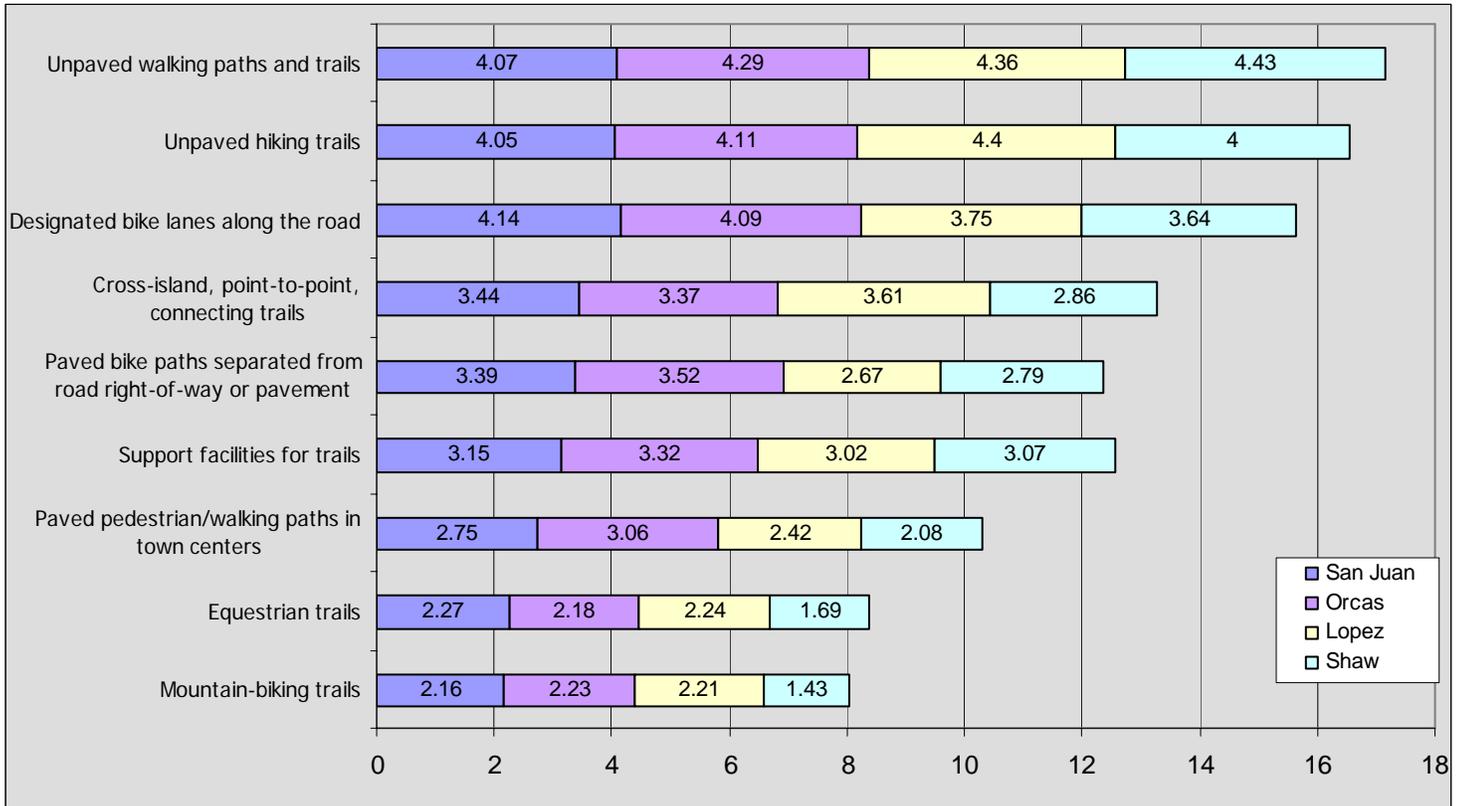
A majority of respondents (58%) favored all listed approaches for expanding the County’s trail system (Q11), and very few distinctions exist in opinions between residents of different islands. One exception is that San Juan Island respondents were less interested in limiting future trail development to those areas with existing rights-of-way. Additionally, respondents in age groups 35 to 44 (70.3%) and 45 to 55 (60.6%) were slightly more inclined to support all of the options over their peers. Also, those in the 45 to 55 age group (18.3%) were more interested in future acquisition of easements to facilitate trail development.

Response Option	Overall	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Shaw
Trail development should occur within existing rights-of way and/or on county property	20.0%	16.4%	24.7%	23.0%	6.7%
The County should focus trail efforts where donated lands are provided	10.9%	11.1%	10.8%	11.1%	26.7%
The County should request and/or purchase additional easements or rights-of-way to facilitate new trail development	11.6%	12.1%	10.1%	13.5%	13.3%
All of the above	57.5%	60.4%	54.4%	52.4%	53.3%

With regard to the different types of trail facilities (Q12), unpaved routes including walking paths (84%; 4.21 on 5-point scale) and hiking trails (83%; 4.16 on 5-point scale) ranked as the most desired type of trails. Also designated bike lanes (81%; 4.05 on 5-point scale) were strongly supported.

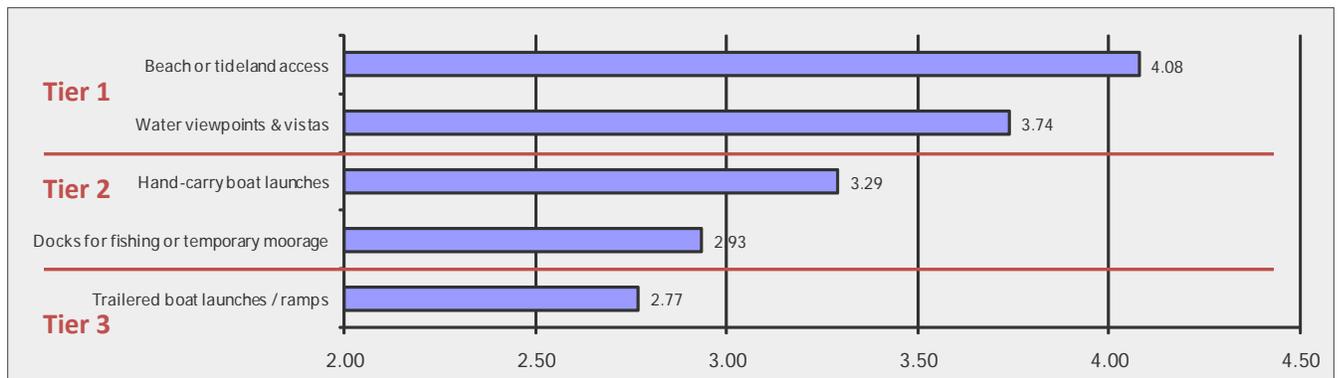
Few differences in ranking appeared in comparing responses from each island. On Shaw Island, unpaved walking paths (4.43) were more strongly desired than the overall average and as compared to the other islands. On Lopez Island, unpaved hiking trails (4.4) ranked the strongest compared to other islands. Also, respondents from San Juan Island favored designated bike lanes (4.14) more strongly than on the other islands. Additionally, no significant distinctions appeared in rankings or relative strength of each item between age groups or gender.



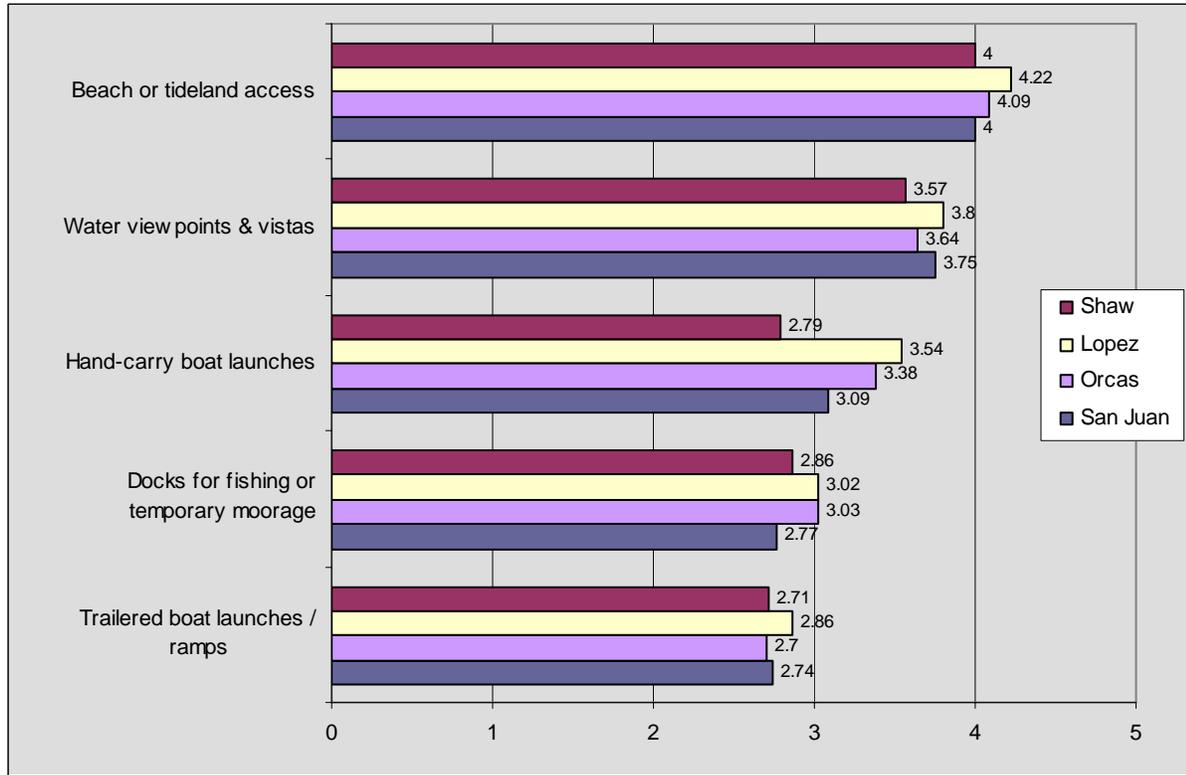


Marine & Water Access Opportunities

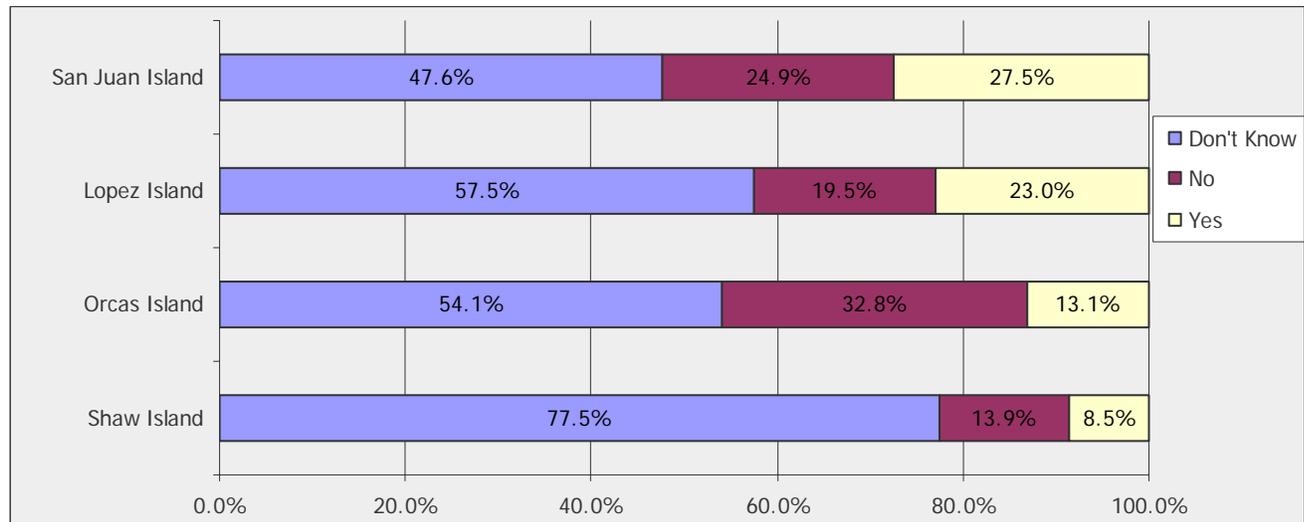
Residents were asked about the overall need for water and marine access for a variety of types (Q13). Beach and tidal access was noted as the most needed facility type, as shown in the following table.



The responses were also sorted by island of residency, as shown below. Overall, the island-specific responses parallel those of the aggregated group, with one exception: residents on Lopez and Orcas islands noted a higher relative need for hand-carry launches.



When asked about whether there are enough marine/water access facilities on each island (Q15), the majority of responses recorded for each island was “don’t know,” which may be related to responses given for Questions 19 & 20 regarding the availability of information about recreation resources. Women responded with “don’t know” nearly two-to-one to men.



Overall, residents do not feel well served with water/marine access opportunities. Fewer than ¼ of respondents from Lopez, Orcas, and Shaw believe there is enough access.

Regarding specific recommendations for sites where marine access could be improved (Q14), several respondents provided feedback. The list below represents the most commonly cited locations per category.

Beach access	Boat ramps	Docks or floats
North Beach (10)	Westsound (9)	Fisherman Bay (10)
Orcas Island - general (10)	Eastsound (9)	Eastsound (6)
Country Roads Ends (6)	Fisherman Bay (8)	County parks - general (4)
Shark Reef (5)	North Beach (4)	Day use moorage (3)
Shark Reef (5)	Deer Harbor (3)	Jackson Beach (3)
	Jackson Beach (3)	
	Maintain what we have (3)	

Additionally, residents offered general feedback about access and maintenance:

“Community docks for other islands to reduce dock proliferation”

“More access to County Parks and communities”

“There should also be more places for a few parked cars and kayak launching”

“We need a dock closer to the village in the summer for dinghies”

“Improve what already exists & make more accessible”

FINANCING & FUNDING PRIORITIES

Residents were asked to allocate \$100.00 among ten different parks and recreation facilities (Q16). The highest single portion of the \$100.00 was allocated to the ***purchase of land for parks, trails and natural areas*** (\$17.60).

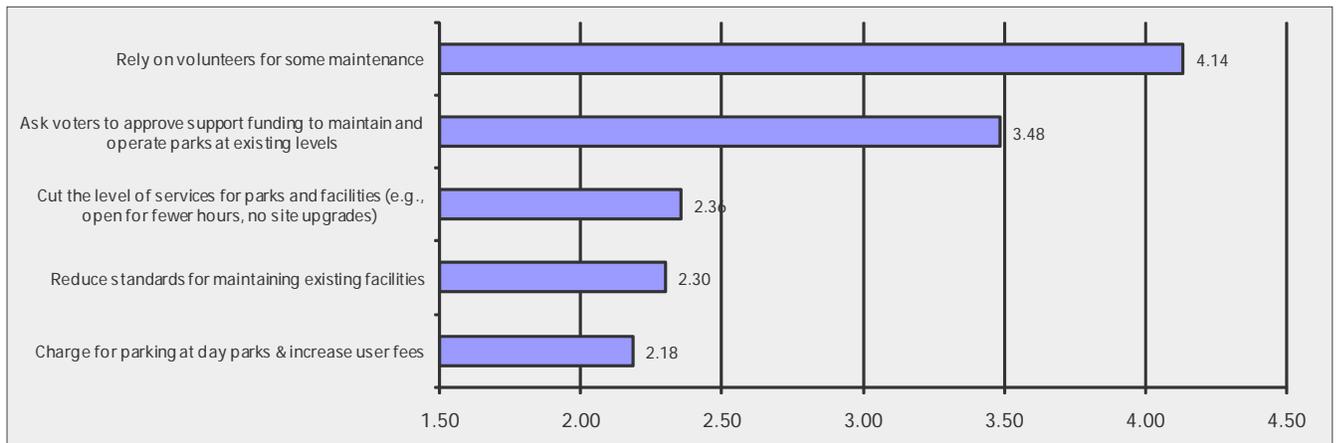
Parks, Trails and Natural Areas	Allocation of funds (Average)
Purchase land for parks, trails, natural areas	\$17.60
Develop off-street trails for walking & biking	\$15.01
Develop on-street bicycle lanes	\$13.84
Upgrade and renovate existing facilities	\$12.18
Improve access to the water/beach	\$11.21
Develop an environmental education program	\$7.23
Offer recreational programs	\$6.50
Acquire or improve athletic fields	\$5.97
Provide spaces for community events or performances	\$5.76
Improve information on parks, trails and natural areas	\$4.71
TOTAL	\$100.00

Nearly one-half (\$45.54) of the \$100.00 budget was allocated to the acquisition or expansion of recreational spaces. This included **purchasing lands** (\$17.60), **improving access to the water** (\$11.21), **acquiring/building athletic fields** (\$5.97) and **providing spaces for events** (\$5.76). In addition, \$28.85 was allocated to **developing on-street and off-street trail facilities**. Those ages 18 to 44 (\$19.50) were slightly more likely to allocate a higher portion of the budget to purchasing more land compared to those ages 45 and up (\$17.11). Conversely, those ages 45 and up (\$12.62) were slightly more likely to allocate a higher portion of the budget to upgrading and renovating existing facilities compared to those ages 18 to 44 (\$10.05).

With regard to the potential reauthorization of REET for the Land Bank, respondents were supportive (88%) of the renewal. Support for the renewal was strong across each island, but is especially strong on Orcas and Lopez islands (90.4% and 89.9%, respectively). Men and women are equally supportive (89% and 87.8%, respectively) of the REET renewal.

Response Option	Overall	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Shaw
Strongly Oppose	6.6%	9.0%	5.1%	5.4%	6.7%
Somewhat Oppose	5.2%	5.2%	4.5%	4.7%	20.0%
Somewhat Support	14.2%	14.3%	14.6%	13.2%	20.0%
Strongly Support	74.0%	71.4%	75.8%	76.7%	53.3%

When asked about how to pay for budget priorities given current financial constraints, respondents were quick to identify the use of volunteers for maintenance activities (82%; 4.14 on 5-point scale). Again as with the REET question, there were no significant distinctions in responses between men and women. Additionally, relatively strong support for the potential of voter support was noted (70%; 3.48 on 5-point scale).

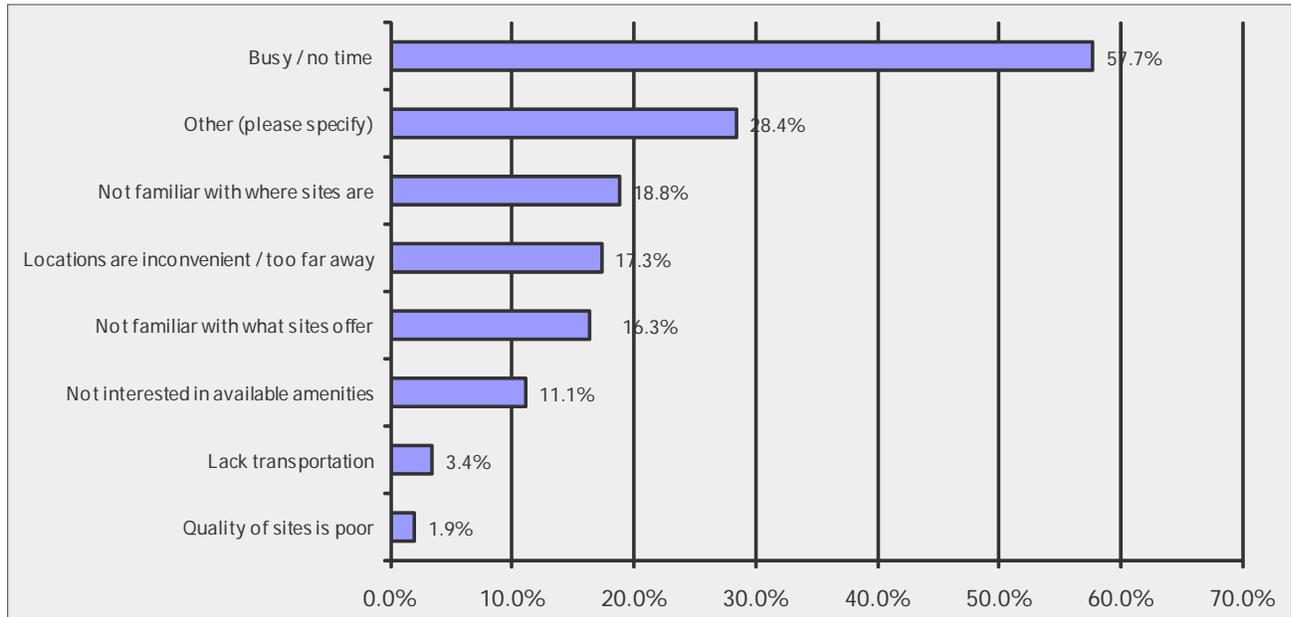


USE OF & INFORMATION ABOUT PARKS, TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS

The final set of survey questions pertaining to visitation to and information about county parks and natural areas had, on average, lower response rates than the rest of the survey and may not reflect the sentiment of the general public. While the data may be informative, the responses may need to be validated against other measurements.

Over half (58%) of the respondents noted being too busy or having no time to have visited a county park or natural area over the past year. Nearly one-in-five are not familiar with the location of county sites (19%), what they offer (16%) or feel the sites are too far away or inconveniently located (17%).

Reasons for not visiting county sites over the past year



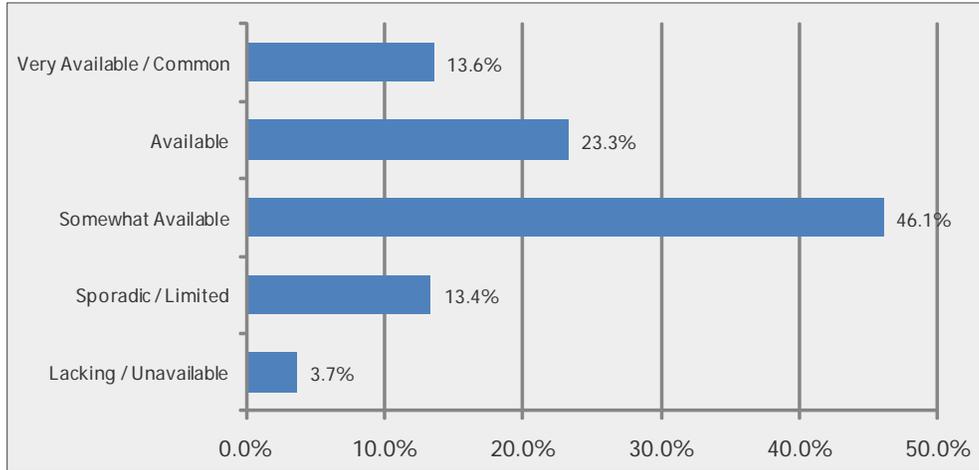
Approximately one-quarter of respondents offered alternative comments for not visiting county sites in the past year, as noted below. Only 35% of respondents offered feedback on this question (Q19).

Representative Comments:

- “Own property is my park”*
- “Live next to American Camp”*
- “I grew up here - just having the soles of my feet on the island suffices”*
- “Cost of ferry to other islands”*
- “Don't need more than my home + land”*
- “Too old, don't walk easily”*
- “Too crowded in summer”*

With regard to the availability of information (Q20) about county parks, trails, and natural areas, nearly one-in-five respondents (17%) commented that information was not available or only sporadically available. This percentage is similar to that of responses in the previous question of those who noted a lack of familiarity with county sites, 17.1% to 18.8% respectively. A strong plurality (82%) of respondents noted that information is available.

Information Availability



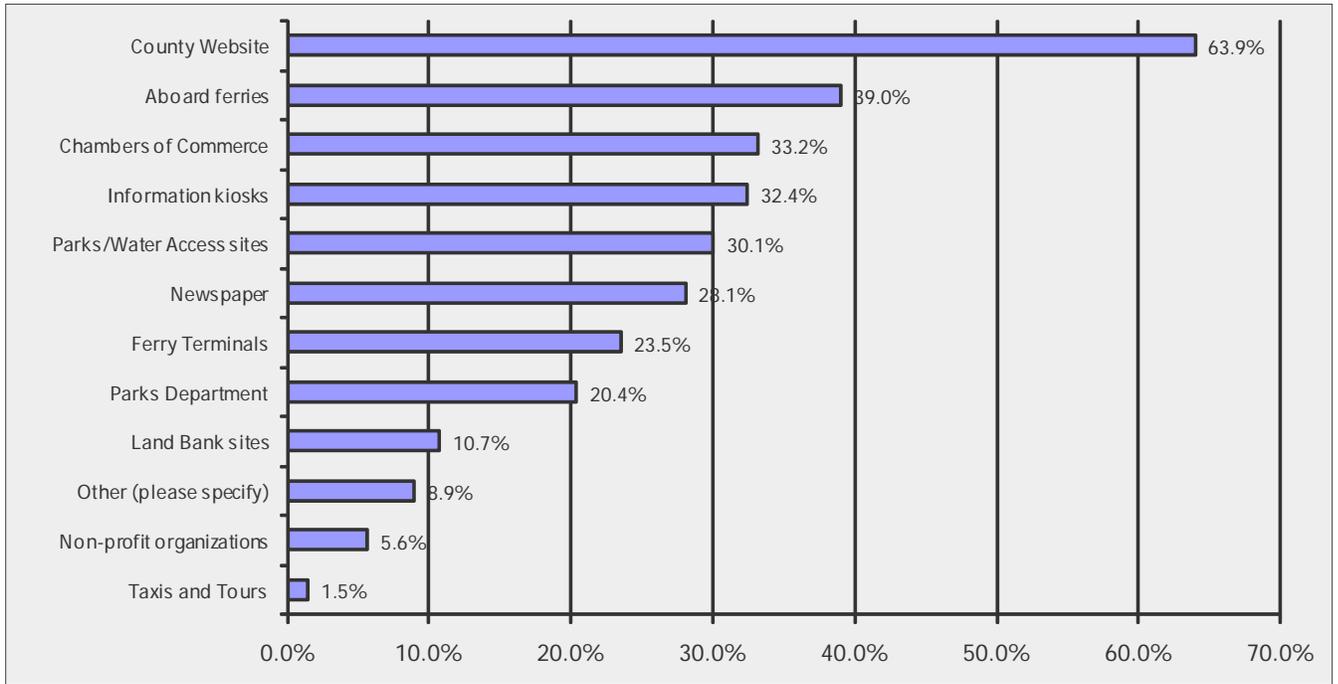
In reviewing the data by island, respondents from Orcas and Shaw indicated with greater frequency that information about county sites was limited.

Information Availability (by Island)

Response Option	San Juan	Orcas	Lopez	Shaw
Lacking / Unavailable	2.0%	9.0%	0.8%	6.7%
Sporadic / Limited	12.8%	14.8%	8.9%	26.7%
Somewhat Available	41.4%	47.7%	54.8%	46.7%
Available	26.1%	17.4%	22.6%	13.3%
Very Available / Common	17.7%	11.0%	12.9%	6.7%

A variety of options were presented as potential locations to post more information about county sites (Q21). More than half (64%) of respondents indicated interest in more information posted to the county website. Additionally, respondents offered a variety of suggestions, including the post office, schools and non-governmental locations such as the San Juan County Tourism website and restaurants/bars.

Recommended Venues



San Juan County Parks, Trails, & Natural Areas Plan, 2011-2016 Community Survey

November 9, 2009

Dear San Juan County Resident:

We would like to invite you to help set the direction for the county parks, trails, and natural areas programs over the next 6 years. In a collaborative effort, San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works (in partnership with The Trust for Public Land) are surveying a random sample of residents throughout the county. What do you value most, for yourself, your family, and our island community?

We want to understand what is most important for each island and where we should focus our limited county resources. The information you provide, along with feedback from a series of public workshops, stakeholder interviews, and individual public comments, will all be used as we develop county priorities for the next 6 years.

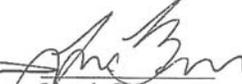
The *San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan 2011-2016* will establish a road map for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities throughout the county. The plan will also keep San Juan County eligible for a variety of state grant funding programs.

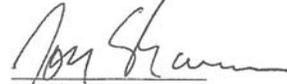
Citizen input does drive policy. During the last plan update process in 2004, citizens expressed concerns over park care, access to marine waters, trails, bikeways, and open space preservation. That input resulted in park upgrades, road end improvements for marine access, natural area preservation, and new trails and bikeways.

Your answers will be kept confidential and only shared publicly in summary form. We will not share your name with anyone. Please help us by taking a few minutes to share your opinions.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Please call San Juan County Parks, 378-8420. Thank you very much for your participation.


Dona Wuthnow
Parks & Rec Director


Lincoln Bormann
Land Bank Director


Jon Shannon
Public Works Director

The survey consists of 27 questions regarding your current use of facilities, preferred activities, and support for future improvements. It takes about 10 minutes to complete, and all responses will be kept strictly confidential.

For convenience, this survey is also available online at www.sanjuan.co.com/parksurvey. Feel free to take the survey electronically or mail this postage-paid survey back to County Parks.

Please mail your survey by December 11

GENERAL OVERVIEW

1. On which island do you live? San Juan Orcas Lopez Shaw

2. Overall, how satisfied are you with the operation and condition of county-owned parks, trails, and natural areas?

Completely satisfied Moderately satisfied Not satisfied Don't know

3. Which one of the following three statements comes closest to the way you feel about parks, trails and natural areas in your community?

- Members of my household frequently use county parks, trails and/or natural areas, and I believe these spaces are important to my community's quality of life.
- Although members of my household do not frequently use county parks, trails and/or natural areas, I believe these spaces are important to my community's quality of life.
- Parks, trails and/or natural areas are not important to my community's quality of life.

4. In a year, how frequently do you do the following activities in San Juan County?

	Very Frequently (~30x/yr)	Somewhat Frequently (~10x/yr)	Not Often (< 5x/yr)	Not at All
Camp at a county-owned park				
Dive (SCUBA or snorkel)				
Fish from the shore or a dock				
Go for a walk or hike				
Use a hand-carried boat (kayak, canoe, dinghy etc)				
Use a trailered boat (sailboat, power boat)				
Go for a recreational drive				
Play a game on a playfield				
Ride a bicycle as basic transportation				
Ride a bicycle for recreation				
Ride a horse				
Visit a county-owned park, trail, or natural				
Visit other public parks, trails, or natural				
Walk a dog				
Watch wildlife (birds, whales, etc.)				
Seek solace/relax in nature in a County park or natural area				

COUNTY FACILITIES & SERVICES

5. San Juan County is reviewing some of its services and programs. Using a scale of 1 (low priority) to 5 (high priority), please rate each of the following. Keep in mind that while you may feel all of these services are important, funding is limited and San Juan County will have to prioritize services and programs.

	(1 = Low Priority)			5 = High Priority)	
Camping facilities	1	2	3	4	5
Hand-carry boat launches	1	2	3	4	5
Trailer boat launches	1	2	3	4	5
Picnic facilities, including shelters, tables and barbeques	1	2	3	4	5
Playgrounds and play parks for children	1	2	3	4	5
Open space and natural areas	1	2	3	4	5
Hiking and walking trails within parks	1	2	3	4	5
Sports fields	1	2	3	4	5
Skateboarding or BMX riding areas	1	2	3	4	5
Community special events and festivals	1	2	3	4	5
Shoreline access and wildlife viewing	1	2	3	4	5

6. What do you believe are the three most needed improvements to the County parks system?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

7. In general, how satisfied are you with the maintenance and upkeep of the following areas? Please use a grading scale (just like school!) with A, B, C, D and F.

___ Agate Beach (Lopez)	___ Shark Reef Sanctuary (Lopez)	___ Rueben Tarte Park (San Juan)
___ Odlin County Park (Lopez)	___ North Beach Road End (Orcas)	___ Eagle Cove Beach (San Juan)
___ MacKaye Harbor Dock (Lopez)	___ Eastsound Waterfront Park (Orcas)	___ San Juan County Park (San Juan)
___ Otis Perkins Park (Lopez)	___ Obstruction Pass Dock (Orcas)	___ Shaw County Park (Shaw)
___ Blackie Brady (Lopez)	___ Eastsound Library Park (Orcas)	___ Other _____
___ Hunter Bay Dock (Lopez)	___ Eastsound Village Square (Orcas)	___ Other _____
___ Mud Bay Beach (Lopez)	___ Turn Point (San Juan)	___ Other _____

LAND CONSERVATION

8. Today, approximately 18% of San Juan County’s land area is publicly owned and managed for conservation and public use. A number of counties in western Washington have 50% or more in public ownership. Does the County have too much, the right amount, or not enough public land managed for conservation and public use?

- Too much Right Amount Not Enough Don't Know

9. Please evaluate the following factors related to land conservation in San Juan County. With a scale of 1 (not important) to 5 (very important), how important is it to conserve land to:

(1=Not Important 5=Very Important)

Expand public access and recreational use	1	2	3	4	5
Expand water access	1	2	3	4	5
Protect wildlife habitat	1	2	3	4	5
Protect views and vistas	1	2	3	4	5
Preserve local biodiversity	1	2	3	4	5
Preserve farm lands		2	3	4	5
Provide hiking and biking trails	1	2	3	4	5
Provide spaces for solitude and enjoyment of nature	1	2	3	4	5

10. Land conservation occurs mainly in two ways: The property can be purchased outright (like when you buy a house) or a conservation easement can be purchased which eliminates development rights, but keeps the land in private ownership. Typically conservation easements cost less, but prohibit public access.

Using a scale of 1 (low priority) to 5 (high priority), how important is providing public access on conservation lands if doing so limits the use of easements and requires more outright purchases?

Lowest Priority		Medium Priority		Highest Priority
1	2	3	4	5

PATHS & TRAILS

11. Trail development often requires purchasing easements or right-of-way lands to accommodate trail alignment for safety and separation of uses. Which one of the following statements comes closest to your views on how the County should focus their efforts?

- Trail development should occur within existing rights-of way and/or on county property
- The County should focus trail efforts where donated lands are provided
- The County should request and/or purchase additional easements or rights-of-way to facilitate new trail development
- All of the above

12. Using a scale of 1 (low priority) to 5 (high priority), please rate the need for each type of trail facility.

	(1 = Low Priority)			(5 = High Priority)	
Unpaved walking paths and trails	1	2	3	4	5
Unpaved hiking trails	1	2	3	4	5
Paved pedestrian/walking paths in town centers	1	2	3	4	5
Equestrian trails	1	2	3	4	5
Mountain-biking trails	1	2	3	4	5
Designated bike lanes along the road	1	2	3	4	5
Paved bike paths separated from road right-of-way or pavement	1	2	3	4	5
Cross-island, point-to-point, connecting trails	1	2	3	4	5
Support facilities for trails such as parking, restrooms, picnic tables and directional information	1	2	3	4	5



WATER ACCESS

13. On a scale of 1 (low need) to 5 (high need), what is the overall need for water/marine access for the following?

	(1 = Low Need)			(5 = High Need)	
Water viewpoints and vistas	1	2	3	4	5
Hand-carry boat launches	1	2	3	4	5
Trailer boat launches/ramps	1	2	3	4	5
Docks for fishing or temporary moorage	1	2	3	4	5
Beach or tideland access	1	2	3	4	5

14. Are there specific sites or areas where access could be provided or improved for:

Beach access _____
 Boat ramps _____
 Docks or floats _____

15. Are there currently enough marine/water access facilities on each of the following islands?



San Juan Island	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
Shaw Island	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
Orcas Island	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
Lopez Island	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know

PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

16. If you had \$100 to spend on San Juan County parks, trails, and natural areas, how would you allocate the funds? The overall total must equal \$100 dollars and you can spend any amount between \$0 and \$100 on each. What dollar amount would you allocate to...?

Offer recreational programs	\$ _____
Upgrade and renovate existing facilities	\$ _____
Purchase land for parks, trails, natural areas	\$ _____
Improve access to the water/beach	\$ _____
Develop an environmental education program	\$ _____
Develop on-street bicycle lanes	\$ _____
Develop off-street trails for walking and biking	\$ _____
Provide spaces for community events or performances	\$ _____
Improve information on parks, trails and natural areas	\$ _____
Acquire or improve athletic fields	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$100.00



17. If it came to a choice due to limited budgets, how would you prioritize the following measures to address funding shortfalls?

	Your Rank (1 = Lowest Priority 5 = Highest Priority)
Rely on volunteers for some maintenance	
Cut the level of services for parks and facilities (e.g. open fewer hours, no site upgrades)	
Reduce standards for maintaining existing facilities	
Ask voters to approve funding to maintain and operate parks at existing levels	
Charge for parking at day parks and increase user fees	

18. The San Juan County Land Bank has successfully preserved a number of places throughout the county, including Turtleback Mountain on Orcas, areas along the west side of San Juan, and Fisherman Bay Spit on Lopez. The Land Bank's primary local funding source (1% Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)) is set to expire in 2014. As of today, would you support or oppose a renewal of the 1% REET for the Land Bank?

- Strongly Oppose
 Somewhat Oppose
 Somewhat Support
 Strongly Support



OTHER INFORMATION

19. If you have not visited a County park or natural area in the past year, what are your main reasons for not visiting more often? Please check the two most common reasons.

<input type="checkbox"/> Busy / no time	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality of sites is poor
<input type="checkbox"/> Not familiar with what sites offer	<input type="checkbox"/> Not familiar with where sites are
<input type="checkbox"/> Not interested in available amenities	<input type="checkbox"/> Locations are inconvenient / too far away
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____



20. Using a scale of 1 (unavailable, lacking) to 5 (very available, common), how would you rate the availability of information about county parks, trails, and natural areas?

Unavailable, Lacking		Somewhat Available		Very Available, Common
1	2	3	4	5

21. If better information were available, where should it be? Please check the three most important locations to post information about county park, trail, and natural area facilities.

<input type="checkbox"/> County Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks Department	<input type="checkbox"/> Information kiosks
<input type="checkbox"/> Ferry Terminals	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks/Water access sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxis and Tours
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboard ferries	<input type="checkbox"/> Chambers of Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Bank preserves
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

DEMOGRAPHICS: (for statistical purposes and will be kept confidential)

22. Gender: Female Male

23. What is your age range?

- 18 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 44 45 to 54 55 to 64 65 and older

24. Are you a full-time resident of San Juan County? Yes No

25. Do you own or rent your home? Own Rent

26. How many children under age 18 currently live in your home? _____



27. In what age range are the children? (Select all that apply)

- 4 and younger 5 - 10 11 - 13 14 and older

**APPENDIX E. SAN JUAN COUNTY
CONSERVATION FINANCE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

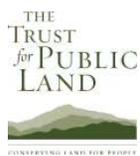
CONSERVATION FINANCE FEASIBILITY STUDY :: MAY 2010

SAN JUAN COUNTY, WA



THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



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INTRODUCTION

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and natural areas. Since 1972, TPL has conserved more than 2.4 million acres of land nationwide. In Washington, TPL has helped protect more than 78,000 acres.

To help state agencies and local governments acquire land, TPL assists communities in identifying and securing public financing. TPL's Conservation Finance program offers technical assistance to elected officials, public agencies and community groups to design, pass and implement public funding measures that reflect popular priorities.

Overall, voter support of local conservation finance measures in Washington has been mixed. Roughly 47 percent of measures (17 of 36) on the ballot between 1998 and 2009 have been approved, though the record has improved in recent years with 78 percent of measures (7 of 9) passing since 2006. Success at the ballot is hampered somewhat in the state by the high approval threshold (60 percent of the vote) required for local bond measures. TPL and its affiliate The Conservation Campaign¹ have supported 16 local conservation finance measures in Washington, 11 of which were approved.

This brief study presents a variety of public funding options potentially available to San Juan County for financing the acquisition and maintenance of land (or development rights) for conservation, trails and parks purposes. There are a number of potential funding options that can be “knit together” to protect land and increase access to public land in the county. While state, federal, local, and private sources all have a role to play in achieving parks and conservation objectives, the most reliable form of funding over the long-term is local funding. State, federal, and private funding often serve as supplements or incentives to local funding due to the competitive funding environment.

This report starts with a summary of relevant state and federal conservation and recreation funding programs that may be leveraged by local governments. This information is followed by an examination of the options for generating and dedicating local revenue for conservation and parks including the revenue raising capacity and costs of several financing tools.² Together, the information on the following pages will provide a guide for considering public finance options to fund the provision of additional parks, access to recreation opportunities, and the protection of open spaces in the county.

Next steps should include narrowing funding options to those that match the needs identified in the county's planning processes and testing voter attitudes toward a specific set of funding proposals. TPL recommends conducting a public opinion survey that tests ballot language, tax tolerance, and program priorities of voters in San Juan County.

¹ The Conservation Campaign (TCC) is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization affiliated with TPL. TCC mobilizes public support for ballot measures and legislation that create public funds to protect land and water resources.

² The contents of the report are based on the best available information at the time of research and drafting (spring 2010), with much of the data compiled from Internet resources and direct communication with appropriate, local, state and federal agencies.

PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE PROVIDER OVERVIEW

Parks, recreation, and open spaces are provided and maintained by several different entities within San Juan County. Local government departments and agencies include: the San Juan County Land Bank, Parks and Recreation Department, and Public Works Department; Island Rec District on San Juan Island; and Orcas Island Recreation and Orcas Park and Recreation District on Orcas Island. San Juan County also works in partnership with federal and state conservation agencies as well as private entities such as the San Juan Preservation Trust to achieve recreation and conservation objectives.³

San Juan County Parks

The San Juan County Parks, Recreation and Fair Department with assistance from the Parks & Recreation Commission has the authority and responsibility for providing parks and recreation to county residents. The county parks funding comes primarily from fees for services (49%), such as camping, commercial and event permits; lodging tax funds (20%); and county property tax levy (31%). In 2009, county voters approved a proposal to raise county property taxes to fund several public services including parks.

San Juan County Land Bank

In 1990 San Juan County voters approved funding the establishment of the Land Bank through a one-percent real estate transfer tax for a 12-year period. This tax is paid by purchasers of property in the county. In 1999, by a nearly 73 percent majority vote, the Land Bank program was renewed for 12 more years (from 2002 to 2014). The current authorization sunsets in 2014. Land Bank funds are used to purchase land for conservation purposes, and some of these lands may be developed by the county for passive recreation. Decisions about how to spend Land Bank funds are made by a commission of seven citizens representing all the islands. Land Bank Commissioners are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and serve four-year terms.

The Land Bank receives about \$2 million each year, mostly from the one-percent real estate transfer tax. Often the Land Bank leverages these funds with grant funding secured from private organizations and the state or federal government. The Land Bank funds its management costs by setting aside money in a special stewardship fund each time a property is acquired. This fund generates interest income used to manage and maintain Land Bank preserves and conservation easement properties.

³ While the scope of this funding report is to review relevant public funding options to fulfill conservation and recreation objectives, it is important to note the important role private philanthropy plays in achieving conservation objectives in every community, especially San Juan County. The San Juan Preservation Trust has played a significant role in raising funding from local private sources to complement funding secured from local, state, and federal sources. Local Land Bank projects such as Turtleback Mountain, Watmough Bay, and the Wade Sundstrom purchase would not have been possible without the match funding provided through local philanthropic efforts. (Source: Personal communication with Lincoln Bormann, 4/7/2010.)

San Juan County Public Works

San Juan County Public Works' mandate is to maintain the county's public infrastructure, including recreation facilities such as boat ramps and docks, trails and paths along the right-of-way, and road ends. Trails largely have been funded with County Road funds with some additional support from state and federal grant programs.

San Juan Island Park and Recreation District

Known locally as "Island Rec," the San Juan Island Park and Recreation District was established in 1984 as a junior taxing district for San Juan Island, governed by an elected board of five commissioners. In 2009, voters approved the six-year renewal of San Juan Island Park and Recreation District's ten-cent operating levy, generating roughly \$226,000 to support the district's programs. Island Rec's district budget is supplemented by sponsorships, donations, program fees and reserve funds.

Orcas Park and Recreation District

San Juan County Parks Department operates the Orcas Island Recreation Program that is funded largely by fees, grants and donations. In 2009 county voters approved the creation of the Orcas Island Park and Recreation District. The voter-approved district is separate from the county-run recreation program. No funding was included in the voter-approved proposition creating the district, however, the newly elected five member park district board is developing a levy proposal for the voters in 2010. The county's goal is to have the park district assume the role of providing recreation and enrichment programs for Orcas Island.

Lopez Island and Shaw Island

While no park and recreation district exists on Lopez or Shaw Island, school districts and non-profit organizations are providing some recreation and enrichment programs in these communities. In addition to county operated parks on Lopez, County Parks works with the Chamber of Commerce and the Lopez Island Family Resource Center to operate and maintain the island's skate park and Village Park in the center of Lopez Village.

FUNDING FOR PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

State Programs

In many respects, the State of Washington is a model of consistency and commitment toward land conservation and recreation activities among the 50 states. Year in and year out, through difficult economic times and ever-changing priorities, state legislators have, since 1990, continued to approve between \$35 million and \$60 million toward conservation and recreation programs each year. And millions more from federal sources leverage this funding. In the most recent biennium, the legislature approved \$72 million for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) projects. In the 2007-9 biennium, the legislature approved \$100 million for WWRP—the largest single two-year investment in land conservation in the state's history.

Most of the programs that administer these funds encourage the use of matching funds, if possible, to stretch each program's funding base and maximize the goals of the program. Local government programs throughout the state aggressively seek state and federal matching funds available through a variety of conservation and recreation programs. State programs such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the Salmon Recovery Board, the stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund program (in funded years), and the Division of Historical Resources Special Category Grants; and federal programs like the Endangered Species (Section 6), federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Transportation Enhancements program, to name a few, offer match-funding opportunities, though the dollar amounts available through these programs are usually quite limited.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

For most local governments seeking substantial funding and/or partnerships for parks, trails and recreation purposes, the programs that receive funds from the state's Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) are at the top of the list.

The Recreation and Conservation Office is a state agency that serves the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). RCO's primary land conservation program is the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), which was created by the Legislature in 1989. WWRP funding primarily comes from the sale of state general obligation bonds, with the legislature establishing funding levels on a biennial basis. The eight-member RCFB makes funding allocations for WWRP.

State and local agencies are eligible for funding through WWRP, although a fifty percent match is required from local agencies. According to state statute, WWRP funds must be distributed equally between Outdoor Recreation and Habitat Conservation. Grants are offered once every two years.

In 2009, the Governor's proposed budget reduced amounts in key land acquisition accounts such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation program, estuary, and salmon recovery funds. Specifically, in WWRP, the governor proposed \$50 million for the upcoming biennium—a substantial decrease from the last biennial capital appropriation of \$100 million for WWRP. The Washington legislature ultimately appropriated \$72 million in WWRP for the 2009-11 bienniums,

or \$36 million/year, and another \$10 million in other conservation programs, for a total of \$82 million.

The WWRP programs most relevant to San Juan County's Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan are listed below, along with total grant funding for 2009-2011 are listed below.

- Outdoor Recreation - \$26.1m for state and local parks, trails, and shorelines.
 - Local Parks - \$7.8m
WWRP Local Parks grants fund the acquisition, development, and renovation of neighborhood parks, ball fields, skate parks, swimming pools, and other recreation areas.
 - Trails - \$5.2m
WWRP Trails grants fund the acquisition and development of cycling, pedestrian, equestrian and cross-country ski trails. Projects may include trailheads, parking, restrooms, and picnic areas.
 - Water Access - \$4.3m
WWRP Water Access grants fund public access to beaches, lakes, and rivers for fishing, swimming and non-motorized boating. At least 75 percent of funds in this category are for acquisition, while 25 percent or less are for development.
- Habitat Conservation - \$26.1m for natural areas, urban and critical habitat and land stewardship.
 - Critical Habitat - \$10.5m
 - Natural Areas - \$7.8m
 - Urban Wildlife Habitat - \$5.2m
- Riparian Habitat Protection - \$9.7m for acquisition or restoration of marine and fresh-water habitat areas.
- Farmland Preservation - \$5.8m for conservation or restoration of working farms.

A summary of WWRP awards in San Juan County is provided below⁴:

2009 Funded Projects

[Statewide Inholdings and Adjacent Properties 2008](#) - State Parks - \$750,000

1990 - 2008 Funded Projects

[Buck Recreational Park](#) - Orcas Island School Dist - \$300,000

[Cattle Point NRCA 96](#) - Dept of Natural Resources - \$1,219,874

[Cattle Point NRCA 96](#) - Dept of Natural Resources - \$1,219,874

[Deadman Bay](#) - San Juan County Land Bank - \$438,912

[Fisherman Bay Spit Acquisition & Development](#) - San Juan County Land Bank - \$1,177,825

[Inholdings & Adjacent Properties - 1996](#) - State Parks - \$550,000

[Inholdings & Adjacent Properties - 1998](#) - State Parks - \$500,000

⁴ Source: Washington Wildlife Recreation Coalition, http://wildliferecreation.org/wwrp-projects/counties/San%20Juan_county/

[Inholdings & Adjacent Properties - 2000](#) - State Parks - \$500,000
[Lime Kiln Point - PH 2 Development](#) - State Parks - \$179,912
[Lime Kiln Point, Ph. 1](#) - State Parks - \$775,997
[Lopez Island Community Tennis Courts](#) - Lopez Island School Dist #144 - \$69,450
[Moran State Park-Cascade Lake \(Acquisition\)](#) - State Parks - \$699,840
[Peregrine Falcon Habitat Ph. 2](#) - Dept of Fish & Wildlife - \$566,788
[Sunken Park](#) - San Juan Island Park District - \$48,947

Additional Washington State Conservation and Recreation Grant Programs

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account - \$5m for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes. Grant funds also may be used to provide or improve public access to the waterfront state and local parks, trails and shorelines. For local agencies, at least 10 percent of the total project cost must come from a non-state, non-federal contribution. Since 1984, 255 ALEA grants totaling more than \$46 million have been awarded in 32 of Washington's 39 counties. In FY 2010 the state awarded San Juan County \$650,000 from this program for Judd Cove acquisition and restoration.
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program- \$200k to develop and renovate boating facilities targeting recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Grants also may be used for boater education. A 25 percent match is required for all projects. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board has awarded more than \$3.7 million for 11 projects since the start of the program in 1998.
- Boating Facilities Program - \$4m to acquire, design, build, and renovate motorized boating facilities. Program funds projects that provide facilities for recreational, motorized boats less than 26 feet in length. Grant recipients must provide a 25 percent match. To date, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board has awarded more than \$99 million for 589 projects in 37 of the state's 39 counties.
- Recreational Trails Program - \$1.8m to rehabilitate and maintain recreational trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience. Local agencies, special purpose districts, tribes, and non-profit organizations must provide 20 percent match for each project, and at least 10 percent of the total project cost must be from a non-state, non-federal contribution.

Other State Funding Programs

- Trust Land Transfer Program - transfers school trust lands suitable for natural or wildlife areas, parks, outdoor recreation, or open space to appropriate ownership while providing funding to schools equal to the timber or lease value of the transferred land.
- The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) was created in 1999 by the state legislature to grant funds to protect or restore salmon habitat and assist related activities and receives funding from the state and federal governments. The SRFB administers two grant programs, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP). For Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants cities, counties, non-profits, private landowners working on their own land, conservation districts, tribes,

special purpose districts and regional fisheries enhancement groups are eligible applicants and 15 percent matching funds are required. State agencies may apply but must have a local partner. The FFFPP is directed at small forest land owners who harvest from their own land and meet eligibility as described in Section 11 of SSHB 1095 and match is determined by cost estimate (see RCO requirements). The SRFB grant program is coordinated by a local lead entity and other regional organizations.

In San Juan County, SRFB provided funding for acquisition (\$465,000) of the Meng parcel at Watmough Bay on Lopez Island, and \$200,000 for a conservation easement along Cascade Creek on Orcas Island.⁵

Federal Programs

All programs discussed in this section are administered by federal agencies but vary in how funds are delivered for on-the-ground conservation projects. For example, some of these program funds are directed to the states, which in turn decide what projects to fund, while other program funds are granted by a federal agency through a competitive process. In still other cases, Congress may “earmark” funds for individual projects. The descriptions provided below are meant to provide a broad overview of funding sources. TPL can provide additional information on program rules and accessibility.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

U.S. Department of the Interior (varies by agency)

Created in 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is the largest source of federal money for park, wildlife, and open space land acquisition. Specifically, LWCF provides funding to assist in the acquiring, preserving, developing, and ensuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources, including but not limited to open space, parks, trails, wildlife lands, and other lands and facilities desirable for individual active participation. The program’s funding comes primarily from offshore oil and gas drilling receipts, with an authorized expenditure of \$900 million each year. Under this program, a portion of the money is intended to go to federal land purchases and a portion to the states as matching grants for land protection projects.

LWCF – Stateside

(National Park Service through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office)

<http://www.rco.wa.gov/rcfb/grants/lwcf.htm>

The stateside LWCF program provides a 50-percent match to states for planning, developing, and acquiring land and water areas for natural resource protection and recreation enhancement. Funds are distributed to states based on population and need. Once the funds are distributed to the states, it is up to each state to choose the projects, though the National Park Service has final approval. Eligible grant recipients include municipal subdivisions, state agencies, and tribal governments, each of whom must provide at least 50 percent matching funds from nonfederal sources in either cash or in-kind contributions and a detailed plan for the proposed project. Annual appropriations to the fund have ranged from a high of \$369 million in 1979 to four years of zero funding between 1996 and 1999. Slightly under \$27 million was provided for the program in 2009.

⁵ Personal communication with Lincoln Bormann, 4/7/2010.

In Washington, the program is administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office, which anticipates \$1 million in funding for the biennium. An applicant must submit a plan including goals and objectives, inventory, and a description of the public involvement process used. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) must accept the plan at least three months before the meeting in which the applicant's project is first considered for funding. Applications are usually due in the spring and are evaluated in a competitive process by an advisory committee. Applications are evaluated based on the technical merits of the project, public/private partnerships, and how the project addresses the identified needs and priorities of Washington's statewide comprehensive plan (also called the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or SCORP). The advisory committee submits a ranked list to the RCFB for approval.

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson Act)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://federalasst.fws.gov/wr/fawr.html>

Implemented in 1938, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, or more commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, provides funding from the Department of the Interior for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research, and the distribution of information produced by the projects. Funds are derived from an 11-percent excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment and a 10-percent tax on handguns. Funds are apportioned to appropriate state agencies on a formula based on the total area of the state and the number of licensed hunters in the state. Each state wildlife agency determines the best use of their apportioned funds and grants awards to projects based on these priorities. Grants can be awarded for wildlife management, to conduct habitat research, population studies and surveys, or hunter education programs, as well as to acquire lands for both wildlife and public access.

The program is a cost-reimbursement program in which the state applies for repayment of up to 75 percent of approved project expenses. The state must provide at least 25 percent of the project costs from nonfederal sources.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Keystone) Initiative Grants & Special Grants Programs

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs.cfm>

In 1984, Congress created the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to benefit the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitat on which they depend by attracting diverse investments to conservation and encouraging locally supported stewardship on private and public lands. Through their Keystone Initiatives Grant Program, NFWF funds projects to conserve and restore bird, fish, and wildlife habitats. The Foundation awards matching grants to projects that address priority actions laid out by their strategic plan, work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests, leverage funding, serve multiple objectives, involve strong partnerships, and fit into a larger ecosystem approach to conservation. The most successful applications display the long-term environmental benefits of a project that yield high-quality conservation returns.

Eligible grantees include federal, tribal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and nonprofit conservation organizations. Grants range from \$50,000 to \$300,000 and typically require a 2:1 nonfederal match. Project proposals are received on a year-round, revolving basis with two decision cycles per year.

In addition to the Keystone Initiative matching grants, the Foundation administers a variety of special grant programs with specific conservation objectives, programmatic guidelines, and timelines. *(See the Foundation's website for more information on these numerous grant opportunities or call NFWF's Western Partnership Office at (503) 417-8700.)*

State Wildlife Grants

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>

Created by Congress in 2001, the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program is a matching grant program available to every state in support of cost-effective, on-the-ground conservation efforts aimed at restoring or maintaining populations of native species before listing under the Endangered Species Act is required. In order to maximize the effectiveness of this program, Congress requires each state to develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy for the conservation of the state's full array of wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend. These plans identify species and habitats of greatest conservation need and outline the steps necessary to keep them from becoming endangered. The SWG program provides matching funds used to implement the conservation recommendations outlined in these state wildlife action plans.

Funds appropriated under the SWG program are allocated to every state according to a formula based on a state's size and population. Each state then determines the best use of their grant funds with the understanding that the money must be used to address conservation needs, such as research, surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring, identified within a [State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan/Strategy](#). These funds may also be used to update, revise, or modify a State's Strategy. Each state has its own process for the prioritization and distribution of these funds. Since its inception in 2001, Washington has received almost \$11 million in matching funds from this program.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm>

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was passed in 1989 to provide matching grants for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of wetland ecosystems for the benefit of waterfowl and other wetland dependent migratory species. Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, grants are available to nonprofit organizations, state and local agencies, tribes, and private individuals in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Two types of grants are awarded; small grants for up to \$75,000 and standard grants for up to \$1 million. There is a 1:1 non-federal match requirement for each grant although the average match of successful proposals is over 2:1.

In December 2002, Congress reauthorized the Act and expanded its scope to include the conservation of all habitats and birds associated with wetlands ecosystems. Congress also increased the appropriation authorization of the grant program \$75 million. The Congressional appropriation to fund the Act's Grants Program in FY 2010 is \$47,647,000. Additional program funding is expected to bring the total funding available to approximately \$89 million in FY 2010.

Since 1990, over 4,000 partners have been involved in over 1,940 NAWCA standard and small grant projects, affecting 25.5 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands across the continent.

In Washington, the 34 approved projects (either individually or as part of a multistate project) have received \$30.2 million in Act grants to date.

Transportation Enhancements

U.S. Department of Transportation

www.enhancements.org

<http://wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/GRANTS/ENHANCE.HTM>

The federal Surface Transportation Program provides states with funding for highway projects. States are allocated funds based on a combination of population, transportation systems, miles of roads, and other factors. Each state must reserve at least 10 percent of its Surface Transportation Program dollars for transportation enhancement (TE) activities. These enhancement projects include historic preservation, rails-to-trails programs, easement and land acquisition, transportation museums, water pollution mitigation, wildlife connectivity, and scenic beautification. All projects must be related, in some way, to transportation.

In each state, TE projects are selected through a competitive process. Applications are submitted by local government entities, often in partnership with nonprofit organizations. The federal government provides 80 percent of the funds and the municipalities need to contribute a 20-percent match.

In Washington, each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), lead county agency, or Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) establishes its own criteria and selects projects up to the amount of TE funds sub-allocated to the region. Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) statewide project selection criteria are used as a basis for regional selection procedures. Additionally, each MPO and RTPO submits its regionally selected list, plus up to five additional local project proposals not funded with regional TE funds, to WSDOT for competition in a statewide selection process. A statewide TE Selection Committee, consisting of representatives from WSDOT; cities; counties; Indian Nations; and pedestrian, bicycle, trail, and historic/scenic groups reviews these projects, ranks them, and makes final selections for funding. The federal government gives final approval to the projects and distributes the funds directly to the municipalities or nonprofits on a reimbursement basis.

In 2007, San Juan County received a Transportation Enhancement grant of \$156,000 for Fisherman Bay Road pedestrian improvements.

National Scenic Byways

U.S. Department of Transportation

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/ScenicByways/call.htm>

The National Scenic Byways Discretionary Grant program, administered by Federal Highway Administration, provides funding for byway-related projects each year that will help Washington State meet its transportation goals. FHWA asks for WSDOT's ranking of the grant applications. However, FHWA may choose to fund any applications that are submitted to them. All projects must be within two miles of a designated Scenic and Recreational Highway.

National Scenic Byway (NSB) grants are available on an annual basis. Funding levels for this program have averaged about \$30 million in recent years. Traditionally, Washington funds about eight projects each year. Transportation Enhancement grants are another funding source to which scenic byway groups, and others, may apply. Projects may include improvements to a scenic byway that will improve access for the purpose of recreation including water-related recreation and to

protect scenic, historical, recreational, cultural, natural, and archeological resources in an area adjacent to a scenic byway.

The San Juan Islands Scenic Byway (SJISB) is Washington's first marine route. Designated in 2009, the byway consists of a 30-mile marine route and an 85-mile land route. It begins at the Anacortes ferry dock and travels through the San Juan Islands and around the islands of San Juan and Orcas.

The SJISB has received several federal grants through the NSB program for implementation and marketing, including \$154,000 in 2009 to develop a corridor management plan (CMP), which is slated for completion in fall 2010. A CMP identifies strategies for stewardship, protection, and enhancement of the byway's unique qualities, as well as actions for promoting the byway and improving visitor experience.

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/welcome.html>

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) funds pass-through grants to states and local governments for fee or easement acquisition in a state's coastal zone, and/or as provided for in a state's coastal conservation plan. CELCP was created in order to "protect those coastal and estuarine areas with significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values, or those that are threatened by conversion from their natural state to other uses," and lands purchased through this program must generally be maintained in or restored to their natural state. Public access is a general requirement, and the program requires a 1:1 non-federal match, which can be in many forms, including restoration and land-value donation. CELCP is administered through NOAA. The funding and project selection process begins with each participating state soliciting project proposals, and picking no more than three to submit to the national process. NOAA will then create a national ranking, with the top projects receiving funding via the annual appropriations process.

CELCP was funded at approximately \$20 million in FY10, \$8 million in FY08 and \$21 million in FY07.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/coastal/?viewPage=hom>

Established by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act of 1990, the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program is a matching grant program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire, restore, and enhance the wetland ecosystems of coastal states and territories. Projects in states bordering the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific, and Great Lakes are eligible for funding. Projects are given priority if consistent with the criteria and considerations outlined in the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan; are located in states with dedicated funding programs to acquire coastal wetlands and open spaces; are located in maritime forests on barrier islands; benefit endangered species; encourage cooperative efforts among diverse partnerships; and benefit other ongoing conservation efforts.

To date, an estimated \$220 million in grant funding has been awarded to 25 coastal states and one U.S. territory to acquire, protect, or restore almost 258,000 acres of coastal wetland ecosystems across the country.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html>

Grants offered through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (authorized under [section 6 of the Endangered Species Act](#)) support participation in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed, and listed species.

“Non-traditional” Section 6 grants consist of three grant programs established in 2001 under the federal Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF). The three grant programs are: 1) Recovery Land Acquisition grants, 2) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition (HCP) grants, and 3) Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants.

These grant programs are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and provide funding to states for species and habitat conservation actions on non-federal lands. A state must have a cooperative agreement with the USFWS under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act to be eligible to receive funds under the CESCF. In Washington State, the non-traditional Section 6 grants are administered by the USFWS in conjunction with the state Departments of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Natural Resources (DNR).

In 2007 and 2009, the Washington DNR was awarded a total of \$1.75 million from US Fish and Wildlife Section 6 funds for acquisition of properties with golden paintbrush. San Juan County has not been able to utilize these funds due to insufficient funds to make successful offers for properties in the project area.⁶

⁶ Personal communication with Lincoln Bormann, 4/7/2010.

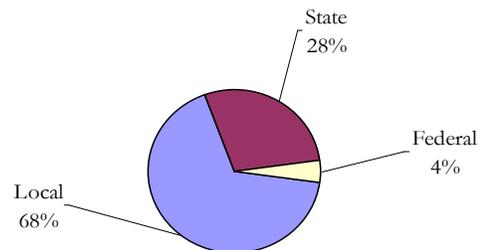
Local Financing Options

Most funding for parks and land conservation in America comes from local governments. Across the country between 1998-2005 there was a total of \$24 billion (annual average of \$3 billion) spent on land conservation at the local, state and federal levels of government. Sixty-seven percent of the total dollars spent comes from local governments, twenty-eight percent comes from state governments and only four percent is derived from the federal government.⁷ Therefore, a dedicated source of local revenue often serves as the key to long-range land conservation and planning for open space protection. A stable funding source also provides local matching funds to leverage grant money offered by the state and federal programs.

Public Land Conservation Funding in the United States (1998 – 2005)⁸

**Public Land Conservation Funding in the United States
(1998 - 2005)**

	Total	Annual Avg.	Share
Local	\$16 billion	\$2 billion	68%
State	\$6.75 billion	\$844m	28%
Federal	\$1.02 billion	\$128m	4%
Total	\$23.77 billion	\$2.97 billion	



State & federal = actual spending

Local = spending authorizations

Source: TPL Conservation Almanac, TPL LandVote Database

Choosing a Funding Strategy

Generally, there are three primary types of revenue sources available to local governments to pay for parks and land conservation: discretionary annual spending, creation of dedicated funding streams, and debt financing. The financing options utilized by a community will depend on a variety of factors such as taxing capacity, budgetary resources, voter preferences, and political will.

Significant, dedicated funding generally comes from broad-based taxes and/or the issuance of bonded indebtedness, which often require the approval of voters. In TPL's experience, local governments that create funding via the legislative process provide substantially less funding than those that create funding through ballot measures. As elected officials go through the process of making critical budgetary decisions, funding for land conservation often lags behind other public purposes, and frequently less than what voters would support. It is understandably often difficult to raise taxes without an indisputable public mandate for the intended purpose.

The power of conservation finance ballot measures is they provide a tangible means to implement a local government's vision. With their own funding, local governments are better positioned to secure scarce funding from state or federal governments or private philanthropic partners. Having a predictable funding source empowers the city or county to establish long-term conservation

⁷ Figures are derived from TPL's LandVote and Conservation Almanac databases.

⁸ Ibid.

priorities that protect the most valuable resources, are geographically distributed, and otherwise meet important community goals and values.

Nationwide, a range of public financing options has been utilized by local jurisdictions to fund parks and open space, including general obligation bonds, the local sales tax, and the property tax. Less frequently used mechanisms have included special assessment districts, real estate transfer taxes, impact fees, and income taxes. The ability of local governments to establish dedicated funding sources depends upon state enabling authority. In Washington, local government funding options for land conservation have primarily taken the form of budget appropriations, property taxes, general obligation bonds backed by property taxes, sales tax, and less frequently, impact fees and the real estate transfer tax. Many communities also have had success in leveraging local sources with funds from Washington's state conservation programs and some federal programs.

Overall, voter support of local conservation finance measures in Washington has been mixed. Roughly 47 percent of measures (17 of 36) on the ballot between 1998 and 2009 were approved, though the record has improved in recent years with 78 percent of measures (7 of 9) passing since 2006. Success at the ballot is hampered somewhat in the state by the high approval threshold (60 percent of the vote) required for local bond measures. TPL and its affiliate The Conservation Campaign⁹ have supported 16 local finance measures in Washington, 11 of which were approved.

Finally, conservation finance measures are not right for every local government or they might not be the right approach at the moment. Budget appropriations and other revenue sources that can be implemented through the legislative process may well serve as short-term funding options while conservation proponents develop a strategy and cultivate broad support for longer-term finance options. Some of the specific finance options available in San Juan County are described below.

County Revenue Options

Significant, dedicated funding generally comes from broad-based taxes and/or the issuance of bonded indebtedness. The following options present opportunities for financing parks, trails, and land conservation in San Juan County:

Property Tax. In 2009, the county asked voters to approve an increase of 0.60336 per \$1,000 to the property tax levy for tax years 2010 – 2015. The tax, which was approved with 57 percent voter support, will be used to keep parks open, reinstate public health programs, and support senior services and 4-H programs. However, despite the additional tax revenue of \$960,000 from the levy lid lift, the county is expected to have less revenue and provide fewer services than it did in 2008.

Property tax rates in San Juan County are the lowest in the state. In 2008 the state average property tax rate was \$9.72 per \$1,000. In San Juan County, the rate was \$5.52. Conversely, average home prices are the highest in the state which results in relatively large tax bills for many homeowners in the county. Also, a significant portion of county land is enrolled in open space programs resulting in some shift of tax burden to other landowners. Arguably, the open space properties provide a public benefit to the county residents and usually requires fewer public services at taxpayer expense.

⁹ The Conservation Campaign (TCC) is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization affiliated with TPL. TCC mobilizes public support for ballot measures and legislation that create public funds to protect land and water resources.

San Juan County may ask voters to increase the regular county property tax via a levy lid lift, which requires majority approval of voters at a general or special election. For example, a 0.1 percent increase in the property tax levy would generate just under \$800,000 annually at a cost of \$43 per year to the average homeowner in the county.

Estimated Revenue & Costs of Property Tax Increase			
Tax Rate Increase	Assessed Valuation	Annual Revenue	Cost / Avg. House
0.0295	\$ 7,976,669,632	\$235,312	\$13
0.10	\$ 7,976,669,632	\$797,667	\$43
0.15	\$ 7,976,669,632	\$1,196,500	\$64
0.20	\$ 7,976,669,632	\$1,595,334	\$86

Sources: Total county assessed value, San Juan County Assessor's Office; median home price \$427,500, Q4 2009, Washington Ctr for Real Estate, WSU

Conservation Futures Property Tax. San Juan County also may request a levy lift for the Conservation Futures Tax to the maximum rate of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 of assessed value (or \$6.25 per \$100,000 value). The county currently levies this tax at 0.0331.¹⁰ Revenues generated from the Conservation Futures Tax may be expended for the acquisition of development rights and other real property rights and interests of any open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timberland and the operation and maintenance of such lands. Implementing this tax at the full \$0.0625 levy (an increase of 0.0295) would generate roughly \$235,000 annually and cost the average homeowner \$13 per year. See the chart on the previous page for more detail.

Bonding. San Juan County could issue general obligation bonds and levy property taxes to pay the debt service on the bonds.¹¹ For unlimited tax general obligation bonds (G.O.), 60 percent of the electorate must approve issuance of general obligation bonds, which must be validated by a voter turnout of at least 40 percent of those who voted in the last general election. The county could also issue revenue bonds; however a revenue source must be identified to pay the debt service on these bonds. A \$10 million general obligation bond, payable over 20 years, would cost the average homeowner approximately \$43 annually.

San Juan County historically has carried relatively little debt and currently has no voted general obligation debt outstanding. As such it has ample capacity under statutory debt limits to issue bonds for parks and open space.

Bond Financing Costs for San Juan County			
20-year Bond Issues at 5.0% Interest Rate			
Assessed Value = \$ 7.9 billion			
Bond Issue Size	Annual Debt Svce	Tax Rate Increase	Cost/ Year/ \$428K House
\$5,000,000	\$401,213	0.05	\$22
\$10,000,000	\$802,426	0.10	\$43
\$20,000,000	\$1,604,852	0.20	\$86
\$30,000,000	\$2,407,278	0.30	\$129

Sources: Total county assessed value, San Juan County Assessor's Office; median home price \$427,500, Q4 2009, Washington Ctr for Real Estate, WSU

Sales and Use Tax. San Juan County currently levies the maximum one percent county sales and use tax.¹² Three other optional sales taxes are levied in the county as follows: 0.1 percent for mental health and 0.1 percent for criminal justice, and 0.1 percent for detention purposes. San Juan County does not have any

¹⁰ The county originally levied the conservation futures tax at the maximum levy allowed, but the "effective" rate has been lowered as a result of statutory revenue limitations (i.e. compressed). The county could use the levy-lid-lift process to increase the tax rate back to the maximum (or to some other increased amount) for a period of up to six years. Source: County Assessor & WA DOR.

¹¹ State law limits bonded debt to 2.5 percent of assessed value of taxable property in the county for general purposes.¹¹ This limit applies to voted (unlimited) and non-voted debt (limited). Of this limit, the Board of County Commissioners may, by resolution, authorize the issuance of limited tax general obligation bonds in an amount up to 1.5 percent of assessed value of taxable property without the vote of the people. Because limited tax general obligation bonds are payable from general government revenues which reduces the amount available for current operating expenditures and the financial flexibility of the Board of County Commissioners, limited tax general obligation bonds are usually used only for the most pressing capital needs.

¹² Two increases to the sales tax were imposed in 2007, raising the rate by 3/10ths of 1 percent.

capacity to impose additional sales and use tax for parks and open space, though it may dedicate a portion of existing sales tax revenue for parks and open space purposes. Visitors accounted for nearly 28 percent of all sales tax dollars generated in the county and nearly 42 percent of all local sales and lodging tax dollars that remained in San Juan County to support local services.¹³

Real Estate Excise Tax. Counties and cities may impose a basic REET rate of 0.25 percent of the selling price,¹⁴ as well as an additional 0.25 percent tax upon adoption of an ordinance after approval by a majority of voters.¹⁵ Counties may only impose these two increments of the REET in their unincorporated areas.

The funds generated by the first 0.25 percent REET may be used only for construction of capital projects as identified in the capital facilities plan element of the comprehensive plan and includes acquisition of parks, recreational facilities, and trails.¹⁶ Most cities and counties in Washington levy this first REET increment (267 out of 281 cities, and 37 out of 39 counties).¹⁷ The revenue from the additional 0.25 percent REET may be expended for a list of more narrowly defined capital projects that do not include the acquisition of parks, recreation facilities and trails (but does include “planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks”).¹⁸ To date, 132 cities and 19 counties implement this additional REET.¹⁹ San Juan County currently imposes the first increment of the basic REET. This increment is levied at a rate of 0.25 percent of the selling price, paid by the seller.²⁰

Counties may also impose an additional REET upon purchasers of real property in unincorporated areas of the county at a rate not to exceed one percent of the selling price for the acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas upon approval of a majority of voters.²¹ The money generated by the third increment (the Conservation Area REET) is used exclusively for the acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas, defined as “land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations, and includes, but is not limited to, open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna.”²² San Juan County is the only county in Washington that has exercised its authority to levy this conservation area REET. This tax is paid by the buyer.

Special Purpose Districts. Special purpose districts, such as park and recreation districts, park and recreation service areas, public facilities districts, public utility districts, and water-sewer districts, may levy property taxes and/or assessments, or issue general obligation bonds for parks and recreational facilities. A public facilities district may also levy sales taxes. In general, approval of 60 percent of 40 percent of voters who participated in the last preceding general election is necessary to implement these financing mechanisms. In some cases formation of a district requires a petition signed by registered voters in the proposed district and subsequent approval by a majority

¹³ San Juan Island Visitors Bureau, 2007 Annual Report.

¹⁴ §82.46.010.

¹⁵ §82.46.035(2).

¹⁶ §82.46.010(6). The revenue may also be utilized for housing relocation assistance.

¹⁷ Tax Reference Manual 2005.

¹⁸ §82.46.035(5).

¹⁹ http://dor.wa.gov/docs/reports/2010/Tax_Reference_2010/50rect.pdf

²⁰ §82.46.010.

²¹ §82.46.070.

²² §36.32.570.

of voters, though park and recreation service areas and public facilities districts may be initiated by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.

Currently there are two special parks districts within San Juan County, the San Juan Island Park and Recreation District which is funded by a voter-approved levy, and the Orcas Park and Recreation District. The Orcas district was created with voter approval in 2009, but as of yet does not have a dedicated funding stream.

Summary of Local Options

Of these options, the levy lid lift and general obligation bonds offer the opportunity to generate significant additional funds for parks, trails and open space in the county using familiar broad-based mechanisms that have been used by many communities for such purposes.

Next steps should include narrowing funding options to those that match the needs identified in the county's planning processes and testing voter attitudes toward a specific set of funding proposals. TPL recommends conducting a public opinion survey that tests ballot language, tax tolerance, and program priorities of voters in San Juan County.

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APPENDIX F. EXTENDED COUNTY FACILITY INVENTORY

This inventory includes the majority of County-owned parks, trails, and natural areas on the four ferry-served islands of San Juan, Shaw, Lopez, and Orcas. Sites are listed alphabetically, noting island location, classification, and the County department charged with operating the facility.

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Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Alderman	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This ten-acre parcel is located in the floor of the San Juan Valley fronting Bailer Hill Road. It is in agricultural use and provides views north into the San Juan Valley and south to the Olympic Peninsula. The Land Bank purchased the property as part of its goal to preserve farmland in San Juan Valley. This property will likely be resold at some future date encumbered by a conservation easement to protect its agricultural and open space value.
Armadales A Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Located on the north end of the island, access to this road end is via White Point Road; the road end is located on the north side of the third parcel to the north of Armadales B. The road ends several hundred yards before water's edge and a walking path to water is undeveloped but clear of trees. There is currently no parking, but there is potential to develop two parking spaces while maintaining the walking path.
Armadales B Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This road end is located at the intersection of Bazalgette Point Drive and Armadales Road near Armadales A road end. Access is via White Point Road. The road ends several hundred yards before water's edge. The area is wooded with a 20-foot wide rock bank. There is potential to develop two parking spaces and walking trail to water.
Barnacle Lane Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This road end is located at the southern tip on the eastern side of the island. The road ends 100 feet before the water's edge at the end of a narrow dirt road. The site provides a good view of Obstruction Island. Currently, there is no turnaround or parking at the site.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Beaverton Marsh Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Grazing cattle, rows of baled hay, open pasture and family memories closely link the 128-acre homestead to the agricultural heritage of the island. With nearly a mile of frontage on Roche Harbor Road, this property has outstanding scenic value as one of the gateways into the Town of Friday Harbor. The property includes a significant portion of one of the most expansive wetland systems in the county. Subsequent to the initial 128-acre acquisition, 7 additional acres of wetland immediately adjacent were acquired through 2 separate transactions. Wetlands provide vital hydraulic functions such as recharge, storage and purification. Wetlands also attract and sustain numerous species of wildlife. Rare Eurasian widgeons and the more common American widgeon have been spotted feeding here. Trumpeter swans, hooded mergansers and bufflehead ducks also visit the wetland in winter.
Blackie Brady Park	Lopez	Pocket Park	County Parks	This park has been occasionally identified as Hughes Bay Park. According to a historical marker at the park, this site is called "Blackie Brady Memorial Beach in honor of Floyd "Blackie" Brady whose dedicated research and tenacious spirit resulted in public access to this beautiful beach." The cove offers a secluded beach adjacent to private property. There is one picnic table, a wooden staircase, and a gravel turnaround at the top of the bluff. Public use issues include: the lack of directional signage to the park, and the disrepair of the wooden steps that descend to the water's edge due to storm damage.
Blanchard Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This road end extends to the water, but currently does not provide shoreline access due to steep topography.
Blind Bay Road End	Shaw	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Located on the north side of the island, Blind Bay Road ends at the ferry dock. A small, private beach located adjacent to the ferry dock was recently purchased by Shaw Landing Association to protect it from development. A 20' right-of-way exists on the rocks south of the Washington State Ferries dock. There are public restrooms nearby.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Bluebells Springs Conservation Easement	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This conservation easement, acquired through donation, protects an important stretch of scenic shoreline on the north shore of Orcas Island. The 66-acre property is a mixture of forest and meadow. The Twin Lakes seasonal outfall passes through the middle of the property and empties into Georgia Strait. Approximately 1,800 feet of shoreline is visible from the waters of the strait and some of the outer islands. This easement reduces development from 13 lots to five; eight potential shoreline lots will be limited to two.
Buck Bay West Conservation Easement/ San Juan Preservation Trust	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This small but precious .41-acre property dramatically affects the maritime setting of Buck Bay and the views from Pt Lawrence Road in Olga. Buck Bay is an active estuary, rich with marine life. The Land Bank acquired an easement from The San Juan Preservation Trust as part of an ongoing partnership to protect the ecological and scenic marine values of Buck Bay. The property features steeply sloping forest, 343 feet of high bank waterfront, and extensive tidelands. The conservation easement extinguishes all development potential and protects the land as forever wild.
Buckhorn Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Buckhorn Road extends east perpendicular to Terrill Beach Road at the north end of the island. The road end is 30 feet wide. The road end provides a beautiful view of the water and shoreline, with medium bank shoreline access.
Cady Mountain Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This 80-acre property features outstanding views, important garry oak habitat, mature forest and open meadows. It lies adjacent to a 40-acre former Department of Natural Resources property (which the Land Bank acquired in 2005). The Land Bank intends to combine the two acquisitions and create a unique preserve on Cady Mountain. Numerous opportunities for pedestrian trails exist as does the future potential for linked trails to other public lands.
Cameron Lane Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	The county road end stops short of the water in front of private residence, but the right-of-way bears west and ends at large rock. The site provides a nice view of bird nesting area on one of the small outer islands. A nice picnic site can be reached on foot.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Carney Conservation Easement	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Cayou Valley Lagoon is a fertile tidal inlet where blue heron and osprey frequently fish and red-tailed hawks breed. The Land Bank's conservation easement on 109 of Bob and Meg Connor's 131 acres, protects this wildlife habitat, and creates a wildlife corridor to an upland freshwater marsh known as the Frank Richardson Preserve. The land will be managed to sustain and enhance wildlife habitat such as perching and nesting trees, open fields, brush areas and woodlands.
Carter Beach Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This road end is located at the end of Carter Beach Road off of Turn Point Road on the north side of Turn Point Road. The road end leads to grassy area. The site is low bank and provides a good launching point for kayaks headed to Turn Island.
Cattle Point Road Rustic Trail	San Juan	Rustic Trail	Public Works	The trail leads from the Town of Friday Harbor to Golf Course Road. Work is underway to complete the remaining portion of trail.
Clapp Conservation Easement	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Clapp conservation easement provides an opportunity to substantially reduce density of an important stretch of scenic West Sound shoreline and to preserve natural features on the nearly 160-acre property. The easement permits 16 residences, as opposed to 58 that would be feasible under the current comprehensive plan. Ten potential shoreline lots will be limited to five, including the existing house.
Coffelt Farm Easement	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This 195-acre farm is nestled into Crow Valley between two of Orcas Island's major roads. Viewed from an open stretch along Horseshoe Highway, the farm provides sweeping views across lush hay fields to Turtleback Mountain. The easement ensures these views will remain unobstructed and that the open pasture can continue in productive agricultural use. The farm's potential building density has been reduced from nine residences to four. Guest houses and farm buildings are allowed. New houses are restricted in size and must be constructed in designated locations.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Cole Conservation Easement	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This 245-acre property is divided into a 193-acre farm and a 52-acre parcel of woodland waterfront on Aleck Bay. The gently rolling farmland stretches along Aleck Bay Road on the south end of Lopez Island. A well-known long-time local farmer, Howard Cole protected the farm with a conservation easement that allows for continued agricultural use of the property but limits the density to a maximum of two house sites. The waterfront lot includes 1,555 feet of rocky shoreline and a protected beach in Aleck Bay. The property provides habitat for the brittle prickly pear cactus, a species of local concern. Howard Cole donated nearly all of the value of the conservation easement on the shoreline piece.
Cormorant Bay Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This road end is located on the southwest side of the island on Cormorant Bay at the south end of President Channel. Approximately 1.7 miles of unpaved road leads to road end at water's edge. The road end has a steep bank, making it difficult to access the beach. A small turnaround exists just before road end, allowing parking up to three cars. The surrounding acreage is heavily wooded.
Crescent Beach	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Waterfront access on Orcas is a high priority for local residents. Crescent Beach, with its outstanding scenic values, ecological resources and potential for public access has been a top conservation priority for the Land Bank since the beginning of the program. An acquisition of 112 acres in 1998 included nearly 300 feet of no-bank beach waterfront and an extensive wetland system, including a large pristine Class I wetland adjacent to Crescent Beach. A subsequent acquisition in 2000, in which the Land Bank purchased a majority interest in the property with the right of first refusal for the remainder, added an additional 5 acres and 855 feet of waterfront. In 2002 and 2005, the Preserve expanded further with the addition of 13.75 acres and 968 more feet of shoreline providing new options for walking trails and off road parking.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Deadman Bay Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This property on the west side of San Juan Island provides public access to 1,600 feet of shoreline just south of Limekiln Point State Park. Visitors may walk along the gravel beach, watch for whales and other marine life from the shore overlooking Haro Strait. The property offers panoramic views across Puget Sound to Vancouver Island, the Olympic Mountains and north to Limekiln State Park and beyond.
Deer Harbor Loop	Orcas	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	- description pending -
Deer Harbor Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This 2-acre property with 650 feet of low-bank marine shoreline and associated tidelands, is located just north of the Deer Harbor hamlet. Mixed forest and an area of open meadow with a walking path provides public access to the shoreline and views across the harbor to the Wasp Islands. A variety of birds utilize this property, including bald eagles, osprey, kingfishers and hummingbirds. The Land Bank's restoration efforts at this site have improved important shoreline processes and habitat function to benefit forage fish essential to salmon.
Deer Harbor Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This road end is located in the community of Deer Harbor located at the south end of the western side of the island. The road ends at the intersection of Jack 'n Jill Lane and Deer Harbor Road. The area is currently used for parallel parking, but has no access to the beach. There is potential for a viewing deck, and potentially stairs, that extend from the road end to the high-bank waterfront area.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Diamond Hill	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	A prominent landscape feature viewed from Dolphin Bay Road and the waters of Eastsound and Harney Channel, Diamond Hill rises to over 600 feet. The Land Bank purchase of 40 acres of mature forest and open meadows near the summit will protect the significant ecological and scenic values of the property. Special features of this diverse and secluded property include grassy balds on the steep west-facing slopes; a quiet wetland that supports breeding amphibians; and strong stands Douglas-firs trees. This parcel is one of several acquired from the Department of Natural Resources as the DNR divests of its School Trust Land holdings in San Juan County. The property may be included in the Land Bank Conservation Buyer Program and resold with a conservation easement that allows for one residence. Restrictions would be designed to minimize the impacts of any future development.
Doe Bay Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	On the southeast shore of Orcas, the road ends in Doe Bay Resort. There is a public access sign at the entrance to resort and two signs at the road end indicate public shoreline. The area is high bank, but access to the beach is possible. Two picnic tables, a viewing bench, and parking area is used by resort visitors and the public.
Eastsound Madrona Dock	Orcas	Dock	Public Works	Madrona Point is a peninsula extending into South Sound just east of the community of Eastsound. The Eastsound Madrona Dock is located on this peninsula adjacent to Madrona Point Park, which is owned by the Lummi Council. A 150-foot fixed dock leads to a 40-ft seasonal floating dock. The floating dock is removed November 1 through April 1. Dock is in excellent condition. Public Works has identified a small beach adjacent to the dock but there is no access to this beach. Although there may be space available for developing parking, there are no other amenities and no public access signs off main road (Main Street).
Enchanted Forest Road Path	Orcas	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	- description pending -

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Enchanted Forest Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This road end is located on the northwest shore of Orcas overlooking President Channel. The chip seal road ends at beach level and currently serves as a viewpoint. The County owns the tidelands that extend from the road end. The road end is adjacent to West Beach Resort. There is no parking or turnaround. Development potential is low given space limitations and creek on south side, but it is a good launching point for kayaks.
Entrance Mountain Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	These three properties located on Entrance Mountain are important scenic and natural areas. One 48-acre parcel is located on the ridge-top and west-facing side of the mountain. This is the north knob of the mountain. A second 32-acre parcel is on the eastern face of the mountain and is highly visible from many locations on Mount Constitution. A third 10-acre parcel is on its northern flanks and is quite visible from Cascade Lake. This parcel may be included in the Land Bank Conservation Buyer Program and resold with restrictions in place to locate development where it will not be visible from Cascade Lake.
False Bay Creek	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The San Juan County Land Bank purchased 39 acres of pasture land along False Bay Creek, located at the intersection of Bailer Hill Road and False Bay Drive in 2008. False Bay Creek is the largest watercourse on San Juan Island, and one with high potential to support native fish, such as cutthroat trout or salmon. The agricultural use that adjoins the creek is another important aspect of the property. A pre-existing conservation easement held by the San Juan Preservation Trust doubly serves to protect the land for its agricultural, open space, and habitat values, by prohibiting residences and other structures.
False Bay Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Located at False Bay in south San Juan Island, this road end consists of an unimproved path to the University of Washington Biological Preserve and False Bay Tidelands. There is a small undeveloped pull-off area by the trailhead.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
First Street Road End (East Street Road End)	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This road end is located close to the community of Olga on the south end of the eastern portion of the island. Access is labeled "Ohlert Lane" (just past Heather Lane) and extends into a housing area and to the water. There is a significant hill with a public stairway and trail to the small pocket beach.
Fisherman Bay Preserve: The Spit	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This 29-acre property includes open meadows, woodlands, wetlands, approximately 1 mile of shoreline and an exquisite sandy spit marking the entrance to Fisherman Bay. The scenic setting is visible from numerous locations and travel ways, including Lopez Village, San Juan Channel and Fisherman Bay. The public has enjoyed traditional access to the property for many years. Community residents value this property for its recreational opportunities and unique landscape. The property contains important ecological and cultural resources. The Land Bank received a \$1,178,000 grant from the WA Wildlife and Recreation Program to help leverage the cost of this acquisition.
Fisherman Bay Preserve: The Tombolo	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This long, low tombolo was acquired for its extraordinary ecological, scenic and public access values. This natural geologic feature (connecting an island to another island) acts as a buffer between San Juan Channel and Fisherman Bay. The tombolo and its surrounding tidal flats and shoreline provide habitat for numerous wildlife, waterfowl and marine organisms.
Fisherman Bay Preserve: Weeks Wetland	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The 24-acre Weeks Wetland property with its unique saltwater wetland is adjacent to Lopez Village on Fisherman Bay. A rustic trail provides access to an observation deck overlooking the wetland. Visitors may discover the abundance of migratory birds and wetland plants, learn about life in the wetlands from interpretive signs, and watch boats enter and exit Fisherman Bay. Property acquisition and trail construction were funded in-part by a matching grant from the State Department of Natural Resources.
Fisherman's Bay Road	Lopez	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	This 0.5-mile pervious concrete path was constructed in 2009 with grant funds. The 5-ft wide path extends from Milagra Lane southward nearly to the intersection with Hummel Lake Road.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Fowlers Pond Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This Orcas Island landmark is a favorite scenic vista for travelers on both the Horseshoe Highway and Crow Valley Road. The property's 40.25 acres includes gently sloping grassy meadows, woodlands and two scenic ponds. Preserved together, these habitats provide a biologically rich environment. Some of the wildlife residents include common snipes, coots, rails and wood ducks; pacific chorus frogs, red-legged frogs and rough skin newts. Guided by public opinion, access to this wildlife preserve is by permission only. In 2006, an adjacent 9 forested hilltop acres known as 'Fowler's Knob' expanded the size of the preserve.
Fraser Homestead Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The 2003 purchase of the former Anderson property, 40 acres located west of Cattle Point Road and south of False Bay Road, served to protect part of the gateway into American Camp National Historic Park. It includes woodlands, meadows and wetlands. In 2006, the Land Bank expanded protection of this important view corridor with the acquisition of approximately 68 acres located across the road, on the east side of Cattle Point Road. The former Saunders property includes open agricultural lands and several Douglas fir groves. The property offers an opportunity to provide a trail link between adjacent American Camp and areas to the north. As with the former Anderson property, the Land Bank may recommend a portion of this property for resale through the Conservation Buyer Program.
Golithan Preserve Conservation Easement/San Juan Preservation Trust	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Golithan Preserve on Buck Bay is a pristine example of forested shoreline habitat. The Preserve includes 143 feet of shoreline along the eastern shore of Buck Bay and a prominent forested point quite visible from Point Lawrence Road. Protection of this forever wild nature preserve was a partnership effort between The San Juan Preservation Trust, who holds fee title ownership, and the Land Bank, whose conservation easement adds an additional layer of protection.
Golf Course Trail	San Juan	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	- description pending -

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Gudgell Conservation Easement	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Wally and Susan Gudgell donated a conservation easement protecting 31 acres of the eastern flank of Turtleback Mountain to the Land Bank. The easement extinguishes four potential house sites from the property, limiting development to only two house sites. The property is steep-sloped, forested and includes a prominent rock knob that is visible from many locations along Crow Valley Road and Horseshoe Highway.
Halsey Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Halsey Road runs perpendicular to Jensen Bay Road in southeast San Juan Island. The road ends 150 feet from high bank above the water. The area provides views across Griffin Bay to San Juan Channel, providing potential for development as a view point.
Harris-Pressenda Lee Conservation Easement	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This property consists of 50.6 acres of open fields, some woodlands and over 1,400 feet of frontage on Fisherman Bay Road. New development in the open fields of the property would be very visible. Continued agricultural use will be encouraged. The conservation easement preserves the scenic character of the property and its value as agricultural land.
Helwig Conservation Easement	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Hazel Helwig Trust donated a conservation easement on a dramatic 10.7-acre shoreline property on the southern end of Lopez Island. The property includes woodlands, pasture, an old orchard, a rocky headland covered by native grassland and 570 feet of shoreline on Aleck Bay. The easement includes building and siting restrictions designed to minimize future impacts to the scenic and open space values of the property. This gift enhances a network of conservation protection at the south end of Lopez Island.
Heritage Farm Conservation Easement	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Land Bank purchased a conservation easement on this scenic 39-acre farm to preserve in perpetuity its rural character and the opportunities for future farming enterprises. Jim & Christina raise hay and pasture-fed turkeys and chickens on their farm. A stout red barn houses a team of draft horses that are used to do much of the agriculture work. This working farm with its open expanse of pasture is quite visible from Cattle Point Road.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Hoffman Cove Road End	Shaw	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	The end of this road is the entrance to the University of Washington property on the south end of Shaw Island. The U of W property is open to low impact recreational use – bird watching, beach combing, and hiking. Although this is a popular spot with islanders, there are no provisions for parking.
Hogback Mountain Conservation Easement	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Hogback Mountain project marks the first cooperative venture between the San Juan County Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust. The 50 acres protected by two conservation easements include a prominent bald meadow, second-growth forest and a stream adjacent to the eastern boundary of Moran State Park. The Preservation Trust owns the northern 30 acres. A conservation easement on this parcel prohibits any residential development but allows for public pedestrian access from the adjacent park. The southern 20 acres is owned by a private landowner. The Land Bank also holds a conservation easement on this property. The easement limits development to two residential lots, with restrictions on building size and location.
Hummel Lake Preserve	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Located on the south end of Lopez Island’s largest freshwater lake, this 80-acre Preserve includes 1,450 feet of lakefront shoreline, wetland, meadow, forest habitat and a rare peat bog. An ADA-accessible trail disappears into a small cedar grove, meanders through the forest and continues along the edge between the forest and meadow eventually winding up at the floating dock. The acquisition occurred in 2 separate transactions.
Hunt Conservation Easement	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Acquired through donation, the first conservation easement gifted by the Hunts in 1995 protected 1.9 acres of woodland and shoreline at Cattle Pass. This stretch of shoreline is visible from Griffin Bay, Cattle Pass and the south shore of Lopez Island. A second gift of a conservation easement in 2002 protects an adjoining 1.5 acres that includes a salt marsh, a freshwater wetland and important habitat for fragile and unique native plants. The property is frequented by many species of birds, has numerous native wildflowers and the beach is regularly visited by marine mammals. The easement addresses the harvesting of native plants, introduction of non-native invasive plants, tree cutting, grazing and other activities. The goal of the easement is to preserve the property’s native and natural values.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Hunter Bay Dock	Lopez	Dock	Public Works	Hunter Bay Dock is located in a residential area at the end of Crab Island Road on the east side of Lopez Island near Islandale. The county facility includes a boat ramp, dock and parking. There is a portable toilet facility.
Jensen Bay Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This road end is 30 feet off Cattle Point Road on southeast San Juan Island. The road ends at a medium bank above water, but there is a trail to beach. There are private tidelands on both sides and posted "No Trespassing/Private Beach" signs. The road end provides a beautiful view of Griffin Bay.
Johnson Conservation Easement	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This 40-acre property abuts the prominent Iceberg Point on the south end of Lopez Island. Iceberg Point is owned by the Bureau of Land Management and has significant shoreline and ecological features. The Johnson property stretches along the east side of the Bureau of Land Management property and includes 660 feet of shoreline on Outer Bay. The conservation easement protects the shoreline, open meadows and upland forest. One guest house may be constructed on the property within a proscribed building envelope. A small portion of the property is also protected by a conservation easement held by the San Juan Preservation Trust.
Judd Cove Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Considered by many to be one of the jewels on East Sound, the Land Bank Commission purchased nearly 6 acres for its outstanding scenic value and the potential for public access to the shoreline in the year 2000. The land is mostly wooded and slopes gently to the water. This secluded, well-protected inlet provides habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl and a variety of marine life. In 2002, the purchase of an adjacent 2.5-acre upland parcel provided an opportunity to enhance the possibilities of public access, expand existing open space protection and provide an improved location for trailhead parking. The upland woodlands also offer an opportunity for an off-road footpath that link parking to the shoreline property.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
King Sisters Property	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Sixty acres of rolling pasture and woodlands with frontage along San Juan Valley and Wold roads were purchased from Maggie King and her sisters Pheobe, Mary Jean and Janet. The agricultural fields and scenic views long enjoyed by travelers along San Juan Valley Road, have been owned by the King family since at least the 1930s. The Land Bank and the King sisters put together a plan that addresses the family's needs and protects this important piece of island heritage. Following the creation of a conservation easement that will encourage continued agricultural use, the property will be included for resale in the Land Bank's Conservation Buyer Program. In this way, the Land Bank can stretch land protection funds while safeguarding the natural features, scenic values and rural ambiance of San Juan Valley.
Lee Conservation Easement	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This scenic farm and its open meadows and fields are bounded by three major county roads. The conservation easement protects the agricultural, scenic and open space values of the farm. With this conservation easement in place, the Land Bank has assisted with the preservation of the important agricultural value of the Central Valley.
Limekiln Preserve and Westside Lake	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This 174-acre property abuts Deadman Bay, surrounding Limekiln Point State Park to the east and stretches north along Westside Road. The Land Bank acquired this property because of its ecological, scenic and public access values. A dam impounds Westside Lake and controls the outflow of drainage into Deadman Bay. When the Land Bank purchased the Limekiln Preserve in 1997, it acquired approximately two-thirds of Westside Lake. Protection of the remainder of the lake and the drainage into Deadman Bay had been a priority for the Land Bank Commission. The acquisition of remainder of the ten-acre Westside Lake property three years later, secured complete ownership of the lake providing additional recreational access as well as habitat for waterfowl and other birds and wildlife.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Lopez Hill	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The 400-acre property known as "Lopez Hill" in the heart of Lopez Island is a unique forested area important for recreation, wildlife, and watershed protection. The DNR recently approved a 50-year lease to San Juan County for the property and the Land Bank is assigned as the managing department of the area. The Land Bank plans to issue an interim management plan for the site, then work with the community to develop a long-term management plan.
Lopez Road Trails	Lopez	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	A walking path on each side of Lopez Road was constructed in recent years with the installation of the storm drainage system. The paths extend westward from Fisherman Bay Road into the heart of Lopez Village.
Lopez Village Road End	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	A second road end in Lopez Village is located between Lopez Realty and Bay Café near the site of the old post office. It provides a public staircase to the beach as well as ample parking.
Lower Argyle Historic Lots	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	These undeveloped lots are located in the heart of the historic Lower Argyle Avenue neighborhood. Three lots were purchased outright and one lot was acquired through an exchange for the historic Roark House and \$55,000 (the difference between the appraised values of the Roark House and the one lot). These properties were acquired to protect the historic integrity of the oldest residential neighborhood in the Town of Friday Harbor. The lots will be included in the Land Bank Conservation Buyer Program, encumbered with historic preservation and conservation easements to restrict future uses and development that could compromise the historic and cultural integrity of the neighborhood and resold.
MacKaye Harbor	Lopez	Dock	Public Works	Located on the southern end of Lopez island, MacKaye Harbor is accessed off of MacKaye Harbor Road via Norman Road. Currently this facility offers a chip seal boat ramp turnaround with a concrete boat ramp. The turnaround area is adequate and the ramp was replaced in 2007. There is a small dock head and a new 60' float dinghy dock, as well as a large parking area. Unimproved parking for 12 car/trailers is located about 300 feet above boat ramp.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Mt. Ben	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The Land Bank partnered with the San Juan Preservation Trust to protect Mt. Ben's important scenic and ecological resources and to provide opportunities for public access. This 21-acre property on the south shoulder of Mt. Dallas, features outstanding views to the south across the San Juan Valley, the southern end of San Juan Island, the Strait of Juan De Fuca and beyond. The habitat includes mature forests and open meadows. There are numerous opportunities for pedestrian trails on this property. The Land Bank contributed \$250,000 and the Preservation Trust contributed \$100,000 to acquire a conservation easement in 2004. The owners gifted their remainder fee interest ownership to the Land Bank in early 2005.
Mud Bay Beach	Lopez	Pocket Park	County Parks	This .43-acre day-use park is accessed off Mud Bay Road. Although the road end along the east side of Mud Bay in south Lopez Island is undefined, it has been used for clam digging, crabbing, and dinghy access. There are no amenities, no parking, no signage, and no turnaround. There is a need to identify county-owned property and tidelands and assess potential for development.
Mukosa Lane	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Located to the south of 2075 Obstruction Pass Road, there is a 10-foot public access easement to the rocky beach. The entire beach from Obstruction Pass Dock to this point is public, but the proximity to the neighboring house is close.
Mulno Cove Farm	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Mulno Cove Farm consists of 78 acres of beautiful woodlands along Cattle Point Road, open agricultural fields, numerous ponds and 500 feet of shoreline along Griffin Bay. The farm has operated as a market garden contributing garden fresh produce to our local farmers' market and restaurants. The conservation easement reduces development from 16 lots to five with no development along the shoreline.
Neck Point Cove Road End	Shaw	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Located on Neck Point, the northwestern end of the island, this undeveloped road end leads to a beach area in a small bay. Although the site is unimproved, it is used for small boat launching, primarily for hand-carry boats and small cargo launch landings. It is adjacent to a private dock with moorage. The area is currently unsigned, but provides beach and tideland access. No public parking available.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
North Beach Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Located at the north end of North Beach Road just east of airport on the north end of the island. This 60-foot road end offers a beautiful view across the strait to Sucia Island. Currently there are no amenities. There is paved parking for up to 10 cars and a bench from which to enjoy the view. The tidelands extending from the road end are public.
Oak Knoll Farm	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Land Bank acquired this property to protect its important scenic and agricultural resources. Continued agricultural use is encouraged and additional farm buildings are permitted. The property features an exceptional stand of mature Garry Oak trees. Any new buildings or improvements will be sited in a manner to maximize protection of the Garry Oak habitat.
Obstruction Pass	Orcas	Dock	Public Works	Located in the community of Lieber Haven on the south end of the eastern side of the island, the road end is adjacent to Lieber Haven Resort. Amenities include a parking area for 5 trailers and 11 cars, 130-foot fixed pier, 45-foot floating dock, and low-tide concrete ramp. The dock is in excellent condition.
Olga Community Club Park	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	When a .38 acre wooded lot adjacent to the Community Club in the hamlet of Olga became available, residents launched an effort to purchase it for the community. The Land Bank assisted in the protection of the land with the purchase of a conservation easement that eliminates any future development and provides public access to the land in perpetuity.
Olga Dock	Orcas	Dock	Public Works	- description pending -

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Orcas Artworks Historic Building and Grounds	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Orcas Artworks building is significant to the agricultural history of Orcas Island. It embodies the story of rural life and farming in the depression era of the 1930s and during World War II. The building was constructed in the 1930s as a strawberry packing plant, where Orcas grown strawberries were processed, barreled and shipped to the mainland for market. The advent of WWII at the end of 1941 led to the demise of this island industry that was so dependent upon farm laborers. The Land Bank acquired an easement to maintain the historic character of the building and to preserve the open space quality of the surrounding grounds.
Orcas Landing	Orcas	Dock	Public Works	This facility was recently acquired by Public Works with the assistance of a state Recreational Conservation Office grant. The 0.75-acre site has been opened to the public and contains a pier, floating docks and picnic facilities.
Orcas Village Tidelands	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Adjacent to the Orcas ferry landing, the Orcas Village tidelands contain important eelgrass beds and marine habitat. They were the subject of a highly contested permit application for a proposed marina. The Save Orcas Bay Alliance purchased the tidelands and donated fee title to the Land Bank. A conservation easement was gifted to the private non-profit land conservation organization, The San Juan Preservation Trust, adding an additional layer of protection.
Plum Tree Farm	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Plum Tree Farm conservation easement protects 55 acres of open farmland and a small portion of forest in the scenic Crow Valley. The property lies along Horseshoe Highway and Nordstrom Lane and provides a viewshed of Turtleback Mountain to the west and the Crow Valley to the east. The Land Bank exchanged the 6-acre Miller property that it purchased in 1996 for \$55,000 for a conservation easement on the entire 55-acre farm. The Land Bank and property owners are working together to restore the overgrown fields to historic pasture. The conservation easement prevents residential construction in the viewshed and preserves the agricultural areas of the property.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Port Stanley Road End	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Located on Swifts Bay on the northeast end of the island, this road end provides access to the water on the northerly extension of the road before it turns westerly and continues around the bay. The county maintains public access signs at this location.
Portland Fair Conservation Easement	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Portland Fair Homeowners Association property is the wellhead site for the water system of the Portland Fair subdivision. The easement extinguishes all future development rights. These 22 acres of open pasture are part of a corridor of preserved agricultural lands along Cattle Point Road.
Richardson Road End	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Located in south Lopez just west of MacKaye Harbor, this county road ends at a old fuel dock with large fuel storage tanks. The road end is about 20 feet above the water and provides a nice view of the harbor.
Roslyn Road End	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This 40-foot undeveloped easement to Mud Bay is located off Islandale Road down an unmarked dirt road to the water. The site provides limited area for turnaround.
Sea Acres Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	The road ends on the northeast side of private property with a steep cliff to rocks and the water.
Shaefer Stretch	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This conservation easement protects 133.61 acres of the Crow Valley. The property has roughly 6,000 feet of road frontage on the Horseshoe Highway. A number of agricultural fields edged by woodlands are visible from the road. Through the easement, four house sites are allowed at locations that do not interfere with the agricultural and scenic value of the property.
Shaw Island/Department of Natural Resources	Shaw	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	An important bald eagle winter roost site on 30 acres of no access, upland forest and wetlands was purchased by the Land Bank from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources School Trust Land program. The property was then re-sold with a conservation easement held by The San Juan Preservation Trust that ensures “forever wild” protection for this biologically significant parcel near Hankin Point.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Shipleigh Shores A R/E	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Located on Swifts Bay on the northeast end of the island, this road end does not have public access signs and the boundaries are unclear. The site is approximately .25 miles from Shipleigh Shores B. The area needs public access signs, paved pull-off, parking for two cars, and a picnic table.
Shipleigh Shores B R/E	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This Shipleigh Shores road end is located on Swifts Bay on the northeast end of the islands. The site is approximately .25 miles from Shipleigh Shores A. This site is a 35-foot road end with public access signs. There is no parking.
Sperry Street Road End	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This road end is within a short walking distance from Sperry Road and provides views of the mud flats and Lopez Sound.
Stonebridge Farm - Terril Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This 20-acre property includes undeveloped woodlands with significant wetlands throughout. The property was the subject of litigation between the previous owners and the County. Part of the settlement agreement called for the Land Bank to acquire the property. The acquisition costs were shared by the County Road Fund and County Risk Pool. The property will be managed for its open space and habitat values.
Stonecrest Farm Conservation Easement	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Bob and Catherine Clemens donated a conservation easement on 39 acres of gently rolling farmland south of Kjargaard Road on Lopez Island. Stonecrest Farm produces Angus beef cattle and Icelandic sheep. Under the terms of the conservation easement – which is crafted to protect scenic and agricultural resources - no residences or other buildings may ever be placed on this open, productive sweep of land. Stonecrest Farm is located within a quarter mile of two other Land Bank protected farms in the fertile Central Valley neighborhood.
Swale Trail	Orcas	Rustic Trail	Public Works	- description pending -
Terrill Beach Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	Terrill Beach road end is located at the north end of Terrill Beach Road on the north end of the island. The road end is narrow (20-foot wide) and undeveloped. There is medium bank access to water with a beautiful surrounding beach area.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Tharald Homestead Historic Preservation Easement	Shaw	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	With the exception of the Krumdiack Homestead on Waldron Island, the Tharald Homestead is the most intact example of homesteading life in the islands. The house has been continuously occupied and cared for since 1883. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the two-story log structure is beautifully crafted from dovetail notched cedar logs. The original configuration is still intact. Owner Fred Ellis has donated a historic preservation easement that encumbers the façade and a portion of the interior of the log house.
Third Lagoon Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Adjacent to American Camp National Historic Park and the Cattle Point Natural Resources Conservation Area, this 20-acre property includes a rare saltwater lagoon of national, state and local significance, a low vegetated berm, a sandy inter-tidal salt marsh and a mature Douglas Fir upland forest. The lagoon and its surroundings provide habitat for numerous wildlife and marine organisms including nesting bald eagles and a great blue heron rookery. Migrating waterfowl frequent the property during winter. Acquired in partnership with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, a legally binding agreement between DNR and the Land Bank ensures preservation in perpetuity of this important habitat.
Trout Lake Watershed	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The Land Bank acquired this property for watershed protection. This 40-acre parcel is situated near the top of the town watershed and is surrounded on three sides by the Town of Friday Harbor property. The Land Bank will encumber approximately ten acres of the property with a conservation easement that restricts development and prevents land use practices that could impact the quality of the town's water supply. The encumbered property will be included in the Land Bank Conservation Buyer Program and resold for limited residential use. The Land Bank will retain ownership of the remaining 30 acres.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Trumble and Gibbs Conservation Easement	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Acquisition of this conservation easement completed protection of the Cayou Valley Lagoon. The property abuts the Bob and Meg Connor property and includes the only portion of the estuary that was not protected through the Connor conservation easement.
Turtleback Mountain Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Orcas Island's Turtleback Mountain is one of the most familiar and beloved landmarks in the San Juan Islands. Long treasured by islanders for its dark, undeveloped ridgeline, it now belongs to the public. Turtleback Mountain is one of the largest undeveloped properties in the county. Sheltering a variety of special habitats and species, the preserve is ecologically significant as well as beautiful. Grasslands and Garry oak woodlands cover the mountain's dry southern slopes, while conifer forest blankets the remainder. Pocket wetlands scattered about the property provide crucial habitat for wildlife and moisture-loving plants. Seasonal drainage from the mountain nourishes the fertile wetlands of Crow Valley and the rich marine habitats of West Sound. Towering over Crow Valley and West Sound, Turtleback Mountain is visible from many vantage points throughout the county and beyond. Turtleback is also a recreational resource. Its high meadows and rocky ledges provide unparalleled views of the San Juans.
Twigg-Smith Conservation Easement	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This property is located on San Juan Valley Road on the north side of the road, just past Douglas Road. It is 155 acres of open farmland with some small wooded areas. It has over 2600 feet fronting on San Juan Valley Road. The conservation easement allows the property to be two lots. The agricultural areas of the property are to be preserved and all visible construction on the property will be located at least 1700 feet back from the county road.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Upright Head Preserve	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Upright Head is the northernmost point on Lopez Island, and is an important landmark recognized by many who travel the state ferry system. This 26-acre property includes 2,023 feet of medium and high-bank waterfront on Harney and Upright Channels. It lies adjacent to the Lopez ferry landing, and surrounds a 2-acre lot owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation. The property has the development infrastructure including water system and road, for a 13-lot subdivision. Residential development on the property would be highly visible from the water. The Preserve includes otter habitat, old growth forest, and interesting geological features.
W. Sundstrom Farm	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Land Bank purchased a portion of the historic Wade Sundstrom farm on San Juan Island in 2008. The farm has been operating for ninety years. Located at the corner of Douglas and San Juan Valley Roads, this property serves as a gateway to the agricultural lands of the valley. Its distinctive pastures and rolling hills are well known to many islanders. The Land Bank has agreed to resell the 120-acre property to the San Juan Preservation Trust, after jointly crafting a conservation easement eliminating all potential residential development. The goal of the project is to see that the land stays a working farm into the foreseeable future.
Warm Valley Farm	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Warm Valley Farm has been in agricultural use since the 1800s and has been farmed by the present owners for over 30 years. The 78-acre farm has nearly 2,000 feet of road frontage on Horseshoe Highway and includes pasture land grazed by sheep, numerous fruit and nut trees, a large vegetable garden and substantial woodlands. Under the terms of the easement, the property will remain as one residential lot with a residence limited in size to 2000 sq. ft. and a guest house limited to 1000 sq. ft.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Watmough Bay Preserve	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Dramatic cliffs and towering old growth Douglas firs frame the stunning Watmough Bay Preserve at the south end of Lopez Island. In 1993 a 70-foot section of beach was generously donated to the Land Bank in order to ensure public access to this local treasure. A conservation easement added on the adjacent 8-acre fresh water wetland helps further protect the area's fragile ecosystem and prevents development of the adjacent uplands. The federal Bureau of Land Management purchased the surrounding 390 acres and has designated the property as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. In 2007 the Land Bank partnered with the San Juan Preservation Trust to protect an additional 7.29 acres with approximately 680 feet of high bank waterfront along the south side of the bay. A neighboring property owner is generously planning to donate two parcels in an effort to conserve the character of the bay, protect significant ecological features, and maintain public access.
Week Road Trail	Lopez	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	This 0.3-mile gravel path was constructed in 2009 and extends the full length of the road from Lopez Road to Fisherman Bay Road and is located on the northerly side. It connects a number of the businesses in Lopez Village.
Weeks Point Road End	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This developed road end is located in Lopez village and provides public access to the water. The site includes parking for six cars, a nice view of entrance to Fisherman Bay, and one picnic table. A hand-carry boat could be launched off this beach. It is a well-defined access point with signs delineating the private property on both sides.
Westsound (Boddington)	Orcas	Dock	Public Works	This dock is located on Deer Harbor Road just east of Crow Valley Road. It is located in the small community of West Sound. Amenities include a 165-foot fixed pier leading to two 45-foot floating docks in linear arrangement. Adjacent to the dock, stairs lead to the beach. According to a sign on the dock, this dock is also called Boddington's Dock. It is available for day-use only. The dock is adjacent to a similar dock owned by the Orcas Island Yacht Club.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Westside Scenic Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	<p>This open expanse of property lying west of Westside Road, provides public access to nearly 15 acres, and protects just over one-half mile of shoreline south of the Land Bank's Deadman Bay Preserve. Most notable among the property's features is the biologically rich, rocky, inter-tidal habitat and offshore reef. This property offers spectacular panoramic views and visitors may watch for whales and other marine life from the high rocky bluffs that overlook Haro Strait. While best known for its scenic attributes, the Westside Scenic Preserve also has ecological significance as a remnant of an ancient prairie ecosystem. Maintaining and restoring native prairie is one of the Land Bank's goals for the property. The acquisition occurred through three separate transactions.</p>

APPENDIX G. WATER ACCESS ANALYSIS

METHODOLOGY

We measured four aspects of water access within San Juan County: 1) access to road ends; 2) access to public/protected lands on the shore; 3) access to docks; and 4) access to boat ramps.

Access to Road Ends: We used publicly accessible road end data that was refined in consultation with County staff. We used the Network Analyst extension within ArcGIS in conjunction with the County street network to generate polygons representing 1, 2, and 3 mile distances traveled from each road end. Once these 'service areas' were generated, we used them to measure the number of residential structures within each distance band.

Access to Public/Protected Lands on the Shore: We used a broadly similar methodology for this analysis. However, we first identified public lands along the shoreline, and refined this set to only those lands with actual access to the shoreline, based on input from County staff and citizen input. Since Network Analyst works with points, we created a series of points at 500 foot intervals along the boundaries of each of the public parcels with shoreline access and used these points to generate the 1, 2, and 3 mile service areas. Residential structures were summed within each of these bands.

Access to Docks: The dock data were refined in consultation with County staff and citizen input, and the analysis was run in the same fashion as the road end analysis.

Access to Boat Ramps: The boat ramp data were refined in consultation with County staff and citizen input, and the analysis was run in the same fashion as the road end analysis.

The results of the analysis are shown in the tables below.

Access to Road Ends Distance	Residential Building Count					PERCENT				
	All Islands	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw	All Islands	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw
0 - 1	3,207	521	1,161	1,467	58	30%	26%	34%	30%	25%
1-2	2,520	722	655	1,072	71	24%	36%	19%	22%	30%
2 - 3	1,631	517	455	577	82	15%	26%	13%	12%	35%
3+	3,181	266	1,149	1,742	24	30%	13%	34%	36%	10%
Total	10,539	2,026	3,420	4,858	235	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Access to Public/Protected Lands on the Shore Distance	Residential Building Count					PERCENT				
	All Islands	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw	All Islands	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw
0 - 1	2,491	825	598	1,031	37	24%	41%	17%	21%	16%
1-2	3,325	659	878	1,694	94	32%	33%	26%	35%	40%
2 - 3	2,419	379	693	1,256	91	23%	19%	20%	26%	39%
3+	2,304	163	1,251	877	13	22%	8%	37%	18%	6%
Total	10,539	2,026	3,420	4,858	235	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Access to Docks Distance	Residential Building Count					PERCENT				
	All Islands	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw	All Islands	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw
0 - 1	693	188	505	-	-	7%	9%	15%	0%	0%
1-2	1,053	376	677	-	-	10%	19%	20%	0%	0%
2 - 3	1,320	419	901	-	-	13%	21%	26%	0%	0%
3+	7,473	1,043	1,337	4,858	235	71%	51%	39%	100%	100%
Total	10,539	2,026	3,420	4,858	235	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Access to Boat Ramps Distance	Residential Building Count					PERCENT				
	All Islands	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw	All Islands	Lopez	Orcas	San Juan	Shaw
0 - 1	501	205	104	164	28	5%	10%	3%	3%	12%
1-2	1,419	395	134	840	50	13%	19%	4%	17%	21%
2 - 3	1,710	488	51	1,120	51	16%	24%	1%	23%	22%
3+	6,909	938	3,131	2,734	106	66%	46%	92%	56%	45%
Total	10,539	2,026	3,420	4,858	235	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

