

Chapter Nine Recreation

Introduction

Recreational opportunities in Whatcom County are abundant. The County's geography and its natural features contribute greatly to opportunities for recreation. Bounded by sea and forested mountains, with wide open vistas, and vibrant flowing rivers, streams, and tranquil lakes, Whatcom County is a perfect spot for residents and visitors alike who seek a wide variety of outdoor recreational experiences.

Recreation is a vital component to the rich quality of life enjoyed by many Whatcom County residents and visitors. Whether formal or informal, public or private, indoor or outdoor, Whatcom County has become a regional destination for many recreational enthusiasts, and has attracted many new residents who now call Whatcom County "home". This chapter explores many of the key issues involved in maintaining the high quality of Whatcom County's existing recreational services and facilities, and also outlines strategies in the form of goals and policies that support the provision of expanded recreational services and facilities.

Reason for Change: Adding new Introduction, and moving Purpose section below Introduction

Purpose

~~This~~ The primary focus of this chapter provides is on goals and policies that support ~~for~~ park and recreation facilities designed to serve Whatcom County as a whole. ~~It does not focus extensively on open space resource areas which are addressed under land use. Nor does it address neighborhood parks which are also discussed under land use in the urban growth area section. This chapter also adopts by reference the entire Whatcom County's first Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan (CPROS Plan) was adopted in 1989 as part of Whatcom County's pre-growth management comprehensive land use plan. The CPROS Plan is regularly updated by the County Parks and Recreation Department in accordance with Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office requirements to retain eligibility for certain funding programs. This chapter relies on the CPROS Plan which includes background—historical information on Whatcom County's communities; on Parks and Recreation public participation processes; it outlines, standards for park and trail development, recreation, and senior services, programs and an action plan contains policies that support implementation of for providing park and recreation facilitiesfacility goals. The goals and policies in this plan chapter repeat—echo most—many of the goals and policies found in the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan. In addition, this chapter also adopts, by reference, the entire Whatcom County Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan and the~~

1 1991 Natural Heritage Plan also support and inform many of the goals and policies
2 of this chapter.

3
4 Reason for Change: Updates references, and chapter relationship to other plans

5
6 **Background Summary**

7
8 Recreation has always played an important role in the quality of life for Whatcom
9 County residents. Choices to play abound with three national wilderness areas, a
10 national forest, one national park, two national recreation areas, three state parks
11 and multitude of county and local parks and trails all located within the County.

12
13 Recreation provides health and social benefits while contributing to the economics
14 of the community supporting tourism, hospitality businesses, equipment
15 manufacturers and retailers and area outfitters. Recreational opportunities and
16 abundance of parks and trails is often used as a recruitment tool by area
17 businesses and institutions.

18
19 The continued availability of diverse and numerous recreational opportunities will
20 play a key role in ensuring a high quality of life for future generations in Whatcom
21 County.

22
23 Reason for Change: New Background Summary text to replace existing, and
24 changes its location within chapter

25
26 ***Process***

27
28 In August 1989, Whatcom County adopted ~~a its first~~ *Comprehensive Parks and*
29 *Recreation Open Space Plan*, ~~and subsequently this plan was adopted as an part of~~
30 ~~official the Optional Recreation element Element~~ of the ~~county's County's~~
31 comprehensive plan. ~~Subsequently, in July 1991, the Whatcom County Council~~
32 ~~adopted Preserving a Way of Life: A Natural Heritage Plan for Whatcom County. In~~
33 ~~1991, the Whatcom County Council approved a resolution that endorsed~~
34 ~~"Preserving a Way of Life: A Natural Heritage Plan for Whatcom County"~~ ~~This plan~~
35 ~~has some overlap with the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan~~
36 ~~but. The Natural Heritage Plan~~ focuses primarily on a vision that supports
37 preservation and conservation of ~~on preserving and protecting~~ natural areas in the
38 county without necessarily assuming ~~they the need to be infor~~ public ownership.
39 ~~The Natural Heritage Plan was adopted by resolution with reference to specific~~
40 ~~goals; several goals were modified and others deferred to future consideration. In~~
41 ~~preparation for this plan, the Parks Commission recommended some updated~~
42 ~~policies from the 1989 Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan.~~
43 ~~These have been incorporated here and in the parks plan. This plan chapter~~
44 specifically adopts references the ~~updated~~ *Comprehensive Park and Recreation*

1 Open Space (CPROS) Plan, while utilizing the Natural Heritage Plan, and the
2 Whatcom County Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, all as a background documents.
3

4 Reason for Change: Modified sentence structure and corrections to spelling based
5 on comments made by the Planning Commission on 8/13/2015. Also, based on
6 recommendations from the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission,
7 reference to: "Preserving a Way of Life: A Natural Heritage Plan for Whatcom
8 County" is proposed to be maintained as a background document; and instead of
9 adopting or incorporating by reference the Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks,
10 Recreation and Open Space Plan (CPROS Plan) and the Whatcom County Pedestrian
11 & Bicycle Plan, these plans are proposed to be specifically listed as background and
12 visioning documents that support: parks, recreation, and open space goals, and
13 preservation and conservation of natural areas

14
15 Existing Parks and Recreation facilities and services are responsive to an increasing
16 resident population, and must also serve an increasing visitor population as
17 Whatcom County becomes more and more a regional recreation destination.
18

19 In regards to existing Whatcom County Park system capacity, draft 2014 CPROS
20 Plan, states, that: "In 2012, the Whatcom County Park system had over 732,000
21 visitations to parks and trails, and 186,000 visitations in senior services. In
22 general, most park areas and facilities are currently meeting visitor needs. Many
23 parks have additional capacity or with improvements can accommodate greater
24 user numbers without compromising the visitor's experience or the parks
25 resources."
26

27 A joint planning effort between Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Department
28 and Whatcom County Planning & Development Services Department ensures that
29 Parks & Recreation capital facilities improvement projects that are identified in the
30 CPROS Plan, are consistent with Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Parks &
31 Recreation Level of Service (LOS) standards (adopted in WCCP Chapter 4), along
32 with a six year financing plan for improvement projects, addressed as part of the
33 WCCP Capital Facilities Element.
34

35 Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Department plays an essential role in
36 providing recreation services and facilities to county residents and visitors, and in
37 the long range planning that is needed to accommodate future parks, recreation
38 and open space needs in the county during the next 20 years of growth that this
39 chapter of the WCCP seeks to guide and support. The CPROS Plan is a separate
40 document from the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan (WCCP), and is
41 established for distinct but overlapping purposes. The CPROS Plan should be read
42 alongside this chapter of the WCCP, as it informs many of the Issues, Goals, and
43 Policies that are outlined in the following pages of this chapter.
44

Reason for Change: New language added to clarify relationship between CPROS Plan and WCCP

GMA Goals, ~~and~~ County-Wide Planning Policies, ~~and~~ Visioning Community Value Statements

This chapter ~~addresses~~ supports fulfillment of several Growth Management Act (GMA) goals, including: Goal #9, Open Space and Recreation, ~~and~~ GMA Goal #12, Public Facilities and Services, and Goal # 13, Historic Preservation by directly ~~by~~ addressing parks and recreation ~~needs services and facility needs~~. Habitat and other open space ~~needs resources are also addressed, briefly considered in this chapter, but are more completely,~~ addressed elsewhere in this plan in the land use and environment chapters of this plan, in Chapter 2 and Chapter 11, respectively. Similarly, this chapter addresses Section H, Open Space/Greenbelt Corridors of the County-wide Planning Policies (CWPP). It also partially addresses CWPP Policy K (1) by identifying needs for recreation facilities. ~~This chapter also addresses value statement #1 under Open Space and Recreation which encourages retention/development of recreational opportunities along with other open space categories.~~

Reason for Change: Community Vision/Value Statements are flagged for review and update or deletion

GMA Requirements

~~The Growth Management Act specifies recreation as an optional element of the comprehensive plan. This chapter supports implementation of Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW) provisions that encourage counties to adopt an optional "Recreation Element" under RCW 36.70A.080(1)(c). This chapter is coordinated and consistent with other GMA Comprehensive Plan elements such as the Land Use element which includes Open Space & Environment; Capital Facilities; Transportation; and Economics. It is responsive to, informs, and relies on the Whatcom County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (CPROS Plan).~~

Reason for Change: Updated to more accurately reflect GMA requirements

Background Summary

~~Leisure time is a relatively new concept to Americans. It was not too long ago that the average American worked 48 hours per week and children had daily chores. Today more leisure time is generally available.~~

~~However, too much leisure time can be a problem if not channeled wisely. Our rapidly changing lifestyles have brought about many frustrations which frequently manifest in juvenile delinquency, alcohol and drug abuse and other misuses of leisure time. For the younger generation, especially those who find it difficult to~~

1 ~~obtain gainful and meaningful employment, it is a real challenge to make wise use~~
2 ~~of leisure time. If Americans are provided with opportunities to use leisure time in~~
3 ~~socially and personally satisfying ways, many problems can be avoided. Recreation~~
4 ~~not only provides a diversion and refreshment from the pace of our complex lives,~~
5 ~~but it also enriches our mental health.~~

6
7 ~~With the existence of two National Forests, the North Cascades National Park,~~
8 ~~Washington State Department of Natural Resources land, three state parks and~~
9 ~~land held by private timber companies within Whatcom County, it is hard to believe~~
10 ~~there is an additional need for public open space.~~

11
12 ~~However, most public land cited above is located in the eastern two-thirds of the~~
13 ~~county and little public land is available near the population centers. With the~~
14 ~~county now undergoing a major shift towards urban development, the public is~~
15 ~~becoming aware of the lost opportunities for close-in public open space. Added to~~
16 ~~this concern is the fact that while Whatcom County has more than 130 miles of~~
17 ~~saltwater shoreline, only about 6% is currently accessible to the public. Nearly~~
18 ~~everyday the opportunity for additional public access is reduced as land is~~
19 ~~developed.~~

20
21 ~~In years past, the primary responsibility of Whatcom County Department of Parks~~
22 ~~and Recreation has been to offer recreation programs and manage park facilities.~~
23 ~~With the need to preserve and manage open space, the department could soon~~
24 ~~become a steward of the land.~~

25
26 ~~It is with the need to preserve open space and shoreline access and to expand~~
27 ~~recreation services for a growing population that the recreation chapter of the~~
28 ~~comprehensive plan is adopted, as the county has undergone considerable~~
29 ~~population growth and new concerns for the environment and livability have~~
30 ~~become prominent.~~

31
32 Reason for Change: Modified to reflect updated information, and changes to
33 location within the Chapter

34 **Issues, Goals, and Policies**

35
36
37 The following policies and design standards apply to the acquisition and/or
38 development of ~~day-use~~regional parks, multi-use camping areas, trail systems,
39 specialized facilities, and shoreline access areas ~~and recreation resource~~
40 ~~management areas~~ (Maps Maps 22 and 239-1 and 9-2).

41
42 Reason for Change: Existing Map 22 and Map 23 are modified and renumbered as
43 Map 9-1 and 9-2, respectively. Based on public comment, the Whatcom County
44 Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that existing Recreation Resource
45 Management Areas (RRMA's) that are identified on existing Map 22 be removed

1 from Chapter 9 maps, and also recommended that text references to RRMA's be
2 flagged for deletion throughout the chapter. In addition, the above reference to
3 "shoreline access areas" in "Issues, Goals, and Policies" refers to existing Map 23
4 which identifies shoreline recreation areas with public access. Map 23 is modified
5 and renumbered as Map 9-2, and the proposed focus of new Map 9-2 is to support
6 future development of conceptual trail corridors that are identified on this map.
7 Note: Shoreline Access Areas that are shown on existing Map 23 are proposed for
8 deletion because Shoreline Access Areas are addressed in greater depth in the
9 Whatcom County CPROS Plan.

10
11 | ~~Day-Use Parks~~Regional Parks

12
13 | ~~Day-use parks are large r~~Regional parks include day use parks that are designed to
14 offer a wide range of passive day use activities. They often contain facilities or
15 recreation opportunities that county residents are willing to travel some distance to
16 reach. In most cases, they are located in the rural areas of the county, although
17 there are some exceptions. Often a feature will dominate the site. Examples are
18 the farmstead at Hovander Park, the nature interpretative areas at Tennant Lake
19 and the lake shoreline at Samish Park.

20
21 **Goal 9A:** **Address county-wide recreational needs by adequate**
22 | **provision of ~~day-use~~regional parks.**

23
24 Policy 9A-1: Because the cities currently provide the highly developed urban
25 | parks, the ~~county's-County's~~ role should be to provide rural ~~day~~
26 | userregional parks that are centered around a unique feature or
27 recreation opportunity.

28
29 Policy 9A-2: Because of the unique features of the site, location within the
30 county is not too important although they must have good road
31 access.

32
33 Policy 9A-3: Development standards will vary according to the use intended.
34 For the intensive use park areas, all facilities and improvements
35 should be built to a high standard and designed to be easily
36 maintained.

37
38 Policy 9A-4: All parks must be designed to create a minimal impact upon
39 surrounding property and to the site itself.

40
41 | Policy 9A-5: ~~Day-use~~Regional parks should be designed with one entrance
42 and control point so that entrance fees can be charged.

43
44 | Policy 9A-6: If possible, ~~day-use~~regional parks should be located on an
45 existing or proposed trail route.

1
2 Policy 9A-7: The parks should be designed to accommodate a range of age
3 groups, accessibility and interests.

4
5 Policy 9A-8: The ~~county~~ County should only accept sites that meet the above
6 standards.

7
8 Reason for Change: References to “day use” parks are changed to “regional parks”
9 which is a broader category of park; these updates correspond with proposed
10 changes to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open
11 Space (CPROS Plan)

12
13 **Multi Use Camping Parks**

14
15 Multi-use camping parks provide camping opportunities in addition to other uses.
16 Lighthouse Marine Park and Silver Lake Park fit this category. ~~The type of camping~~
17 ~~can vary from primitive camp sites to the full-service RV site.~~ It should be
18 recognized that much of the camping activity use will be from non-county residents.

19
20 **Goal 9B: Provide multi-use camping parks to serve county resident**
21 **needs as well as provide a tourism draw.**

22
23 Policy 9B-1: All the policy statements and design standards for ~~day~~
24 userregional parks should also apply to multi-use camping parks.

25 Policy 9B-2: Because camping parks will attract many non-county residents,
26 they should be recognized for their tourism value but at the
27 same time county residents should not subsidize the cost of
28 camping.

29
30 Policy 9B-3: A wide variety of camping types should be offered including
31 primitive sites, tent sites, full-service RV sites and group
32 camping areas.

33
34 Policy 9B-4: The camping areas should be physically separated from the
35 other parts of the park with the ability to be closed off during
36 winter months.

37
38 Policy 9B-5: Most large camping areas should be designed to a high standard
39 with full-service hookups, flush toilets and rest rooms, showers,
40 laundry and other support facilities.

41
42 Policy 9B-6: Future Park development should consider the financial ability of
43 the ~~county~~ County, and should focus on existing park lands
44 before considering further acquisition.

45

Reason for Change: References to “day use” parks are changed to “regional parks” (which is a broader category of park); this change corresponds with proposed updates to Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (CPROS Plan)

Trail Systems

Trail systems include unpaved foot trails, paved and unpaved multi-use trails and paved bike paths. Multi-use trails are designed for two or more of the following activities: bicycle riding, mountain bike riding, walking and hiking, and horseback riding. Unpaved foot paths are primarily for walking and hiking, although a compacted gravel surface is suitable for mountain bikes as well.

While essentially all trails are suitable for foot traffic, bicyclists and horseback riders find many trails not adequately maintained or built to appropriate construction standards. Poorly built or maintained trails are less enjoyable to travel and can induce damage to the environment. User conflicts may occur between all three groups. Horseback riders often express concern with mountain bikes that suddenly appear at a bend or rise in the trail, spooking the animal and endangering both riders. Hikers complain about similar problems, but are generally more concerned with personal safety and damage to trails caused by the two rider groups. Motorized (ORV) use of trails is generally incompatible with non-motorized use for similar reasons. Noise and safety issues and environmental impacts preclude motorbikes from most of the trails identified in this plan. Solutions to user conflicts require some separation of use by designating specific loops or segments for particular users. Hikers comprise the largest user group, but tend to have the lowest impact on the trail. Although all trails are essentially available for hiking, trails that are particularly narrow, steep, or fragile, and those subject to heavy pedestrian use should be designated for hikers only. In addition, trails, loops or alternate routes should be designated for the horseback and mountain bike rider groups where conditions warrant.

Properly built and maintained old logging roads in reforested areas provide some of the best riding trails since they are much wider than a footpath for easier passing, and their base is usually firm and less prone to damage. It is not enough, however, to simply direct horses and bikes to old road grades. They are often seeking the same views and aesthetic experience that hikers wish. Some trails will therefore need to be improved to a higher standard to accommodate the use. On shared routes, appropriate design elements need to be implemented to avoid conflicts and to enhance the trail experience for each group.

The difficulties in obtaining continuous access through private lands is a major issue in trail development that can discourage citizens, planners and administrators from pursuing what might otherwise be a worthwhile project. Access is usually obtained by way of gift or purchase of an easement or parcel of land containing the trail corridor. On private timber land, access is normally permitted in most areas on an

1 informal basis with the understanding that closures may occur due to logging, fire
2 danger or other circumstances. Horse club volunteers have been successful in
3 obtaining permission to construct new trails on private and state timber land with
4 and without formal easements.

5
6 In developed areas of the county where multiple properties are involved, the task
7 becomes more complicated since lack of participation by one landowner can
8 obstruct the trail. Concerns range from vandalism, fire and nuisances to liability
9 and invasion of privacy. In most cases, trail design, careful facility planning and
10 public education will help avoid these problems. An existing statute (RCW
11 4.24.210) ~~already offers some protects-protections to~~ landowners from liability
12 where they allow public access to their land without charge. Where access is
13 denied, ~~an alternate-needsalternatives should~~ to be considered.

14
15 ~~A friendly alternative, the "handshake agreement," has been experimented with in~~
16 ~~some areas and found to be successful in most instances (see "Pathways Across~~
17 ~~America," Spring 1989 newsletter, by the American Hiking Society and the National~~
18 ~~Park Service). Here, a reluctant landowner is approached with the plan and asked~~
19 ~~to allow public access for an indefinite period, while retaining the right to close the~~
20 ~~trail at any time if problems should occur. The trail is closed once a year to help~~
21 ~~avoid problems with adverse possession. The experience has been that once a trail~~
22 ~~is developed, impacts to the landowner are found to be minimal or nonexistent,~~
23 ~~initial fears are dispelled and the trail remains open indefinitely. Rarely are the~~
24 ~~agreements withdrawn. Later, the land owner may find it advantageous to grant an~~
25 ~~easement or sell the property for permanent public use, thereby reducing property~~
26 ~~taxes.~~

27
28 Reason for Change: Recommend deletion, outdated information

29
30 In 2001, Whatcom County formed the Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory
31 Committee. The Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
32 developed the Whatcom County Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. ~~The Whatcom County~~
33 ~~Council adopted the Plan, by resolution, on May 6, 2003.~~ The plan makes
34 recommendations with regard to facility type, primary and secondary routes, design
35 guidelines, safety and education. Additionally the plan includes strategies for
36 implementation that addresses priority projects, acquisition, development,
37 maintenance and administration of bicycle routes. The Whatcom County Pedestrian
38 and Bicycle Plan provides a basis for many of the goals and policies of this chapter
39 and is considered an important background/reference document that contributes to
40 the Recreation optional element of Whatcom County's Comprehensive Plan.~~This~~
41 ~~plan specifically adopts and incorporates the most recent Whatcom County Bicycle~~
42 ~~Plan.~~

Reason for Change: Modified to update information, and to list Whatcom County Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan as a reference document only, and not incorporate it by reference

Goal 9C: Expand outdoor recreation opportunities for county residents by providing enjoyable trails for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, walking, boating, and other trail activities in a safe environment.

Policy 9C-1: Trails should be interesting and attractive. Trails which follow natural water courses, pass significant natural resources, traverse interesting scenery or cross areas of outstanding beauty provide interesting and enjoyable experiences for the trail user.

Policy 9C-2: ~~Trails should be looped and interconnected to provide a variety of trail lengths and destinations. Incorporate existing and proposed trails into a comprehensive and integrated system of looped and interconnected trails which give users a wide choice of routes and environments.~~

Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 25 is proposed to replace Policy 9C-2

Policy 9C-3: Trails should link other recreational uses in the Foothills area and connect to existing trail systems in the National Forest and state land.

Policy 9C-4: The wet climate of Whatcom County may preclude extensive multi-use of some trails or require seasonal limitations on their use. Trail routes should take into account soil conditions, steep slopes, surface drainage and other physical limitations that could impact the areas from over-use.

Policy 9C-5: Bicycle trails should provide opportunities for the recreational rider as well as the touring and commuter bicyclist.

Policy 9C-6: Bicycle routes and paths should minimize the conflicts between motorists and bicyclists.

Policy 9C-7: Hiking trails should have a variety of lengths and grades for the casual stroller as well as the serious hiker and when practicable, be accessible.

1 Policy 9C-8: Hiking trails should reach areas of natural beauty with the
2 purpose of permitting the hiker to seek areas of solitude and get
3 away from the built environment.
4

5 Policy 9C-9: Equestrian trails should be ~~accessible-usable~~ most of the year.
6 Some equestrian trails should be close-in to the urban areas.
7

8 Policy 9C-10: Adequate parking, signage, trash receptacles, and toilet facilities
9 should be provided at all major trailheads.
10

11 Reason for Change: Based on Recommendations made by the Planning Commission
12 on 9/10/15, Policy 9C-10 is modified to correct punctuation

13
14 Policy 9C-11: Where public funds are used to construct or maintain dikes,
15 levees or revetments, public access should be encouraged for
16 trail purposes, where appropriate.
17

18 Policy 9C-12: Water trails for non-motorized boats should be identified with
19 provisions made for parking, launching areas, and places of
20 interest along the water route where boats can land.
21

22 Policy 9C-13: Work toward partnering with other agencies and the public to
23 accomplish recreational goals.
24

25 Policy 9C-14: Investigate multi-solutions that will accommodate several
26 county goals, such as recreation, water retention, and flood
27 prevention measures, utilizing a similar piece of property.
28

29 Policy 9C-15: Sharing of corridors for major utilities, trails and other
30 transportation rights-of-way is encouraged when not in conflict
31 with goals to protect wildlife, public health and safety.
32

33 Policy 9C-16: ~~Implement the goals, policies and recommendations of the~~
34 ~~latest Whatcom County Bicycle Plan and continue to update the~~
35 ~~plan as needs and conditions change.~~ Implement the goals,
36 policies and recommendations of the latest Whatcom County
37 Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan that are consistent with this plan
38 and within the County's fiscal capabilities.
39

40 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Items No. 35 and No. 36 is modified and
41 proposed to replace text in existing Policy 9C-16

42
43 Policy 9C-17: Promote the integration of trails within subdivisions, planned
44 unit developments and other development proposals that

1 provide internal circulation and connect to nearby recreational
2 opportunities.

3
4 Policy 9C-18: Acquisition of and planning for trail corridors should be
5 ~~encourages~~ encouraged as new subdivisions and development
6 occurs, if the trail has been identified in a park, trail, open space
7 or other plan adopted by Whatcom County.

8
9 Policy 9C-19: Continue to update the trails inventory to identify all designated
10 and non-designated trails in the county.

11
12 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 26 is proposed as Policy 9C-19

13
14 Policy 9C-20: ~~Work with private property owners and developers to acquire~~
15 ~~trail corridors or easements. Monitor land development~~
16 ~~proposals to ensure that existing trails are not lost.~~ Continue to
17 support the County's long range parks and recreation vision of
18 developing a county-wide trail network, while respecting
19 property rights, and working collaboratively with willing
20 landowners to acquire easements or property for public trails
21 when opportunities exist.

22
23 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 27 is modified and proposed as
24 Policy 9C-20 in response to Planning Commission discussion on 8/13/2015; public
25 comment received on 8/13/15 & 8/14/15; and County Parks input on 8/20/15 &
26 8/21/15

27
28 Policy 9C-21: Provide non-motorized access to regional recreational and
29 outstanding scenic areas in the county.

30
31 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 28 is proposed as Policy 9C-21

32
33 Policy 9C-22: Reduce conflicts between the various trail user groups and
34 provide appropriate signage.

35
36 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 29 is proposed as Policy 9C-22

37
38 Policy 9C-23: Provide bike lanes or wide shoulders where appropriate for trail
39 corridor connection in conjunction with major road
40 improvements.

41
42 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 30 is modified and proposed as
43 Policy 9C-23 based on 9/10/15 Planning Commission recommendations to add new
44 language that reads "for trail corridor connection"

1 Policy 9C-24: Coast Millennium Trail - Continue to develop trail corridors,
2 particularly off-road segments such as the airport connector and
3 shoreline access.
4

5 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 31 is proposed as Policy 9C-24
6

7 Policy 9C-25: Hertz North Lake Whatcom Trail Extension - Develop and
8 implement a plan to either acquire Rights of Way for a trail
9 corridor along the abandoned RR R/W between the existing
10 North Shore Trail and Blue Canyon Road or pursue an
11 alternative route to link these points.
12

13 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 32 is proposed as Policy 9C-25
14

15 Policy 9C-26: Bay to Baker Trail - Develop and implement a plan to secure
16 Rights of Way for trail segments along the abandoned RR R/W in
17 conjunction with the Nooksack River Trail to achieve a
18 contiguous trail system between communities and recreation
19 areas.
20

21 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 33 is proposed as Policy 9C-26
22

23 Policy 9C-27: Nooksack River Trail - Develop and implement a plan to acquire
24 Rights of Way for a trail corridor and picnic areas along the
25 Nooksack River between Ferndale and Glacier, to provide
26 recreation opportunities, inter-community transportation and
27 tourism development.
28

29 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 34 is proposed as Policy 9C-27
30

31 Policy 9C-28: Continue to collaborate with other organizations, groups, or
32 individuals consistent with the goals identified in the Natural
33 Heritage Plan for Whatcom County, and the Whatcom County
34 Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.
35

36 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Items No. 23 & No. 24 are modified and
37 proposed as Policy 9C-28
38

39 **Specialized Recreation Areas**

40
41 Specialized areas include nature interpretative centers and small park sites,
42 including those related to Urban Growth Areas, Rural Communities, and
43 neighborhood developments.
44

1 **Goal 9D: Provide specialized recreation areas taking advantage of**
2 **unique opportunities to serve both county residents and**
3 **visitors.**
4

5 Policy 9D-1: Because these facilities are unique, adopt specific standards for
6 each one individually.
7

8 Policy 9D-2: Explore need for ~~neighborhood~~community parks as
9 undeveloped areas of county increase in density.
10

11 Reason for Change: Reference to “neighborhood” parks is changed to “community”
12 parks, a broader category of park that better reflects intent of goal

13
14 Policy 9D-3: Encourage development of sport field complexes to meet the
15 needs of organized recreation activities, using public and private
16 partnerships where possible.
17

18 Policy 9D-4: Promote the integration of recreational and open space
19 opportunities in subarea planning, subdivisions and other
20 development proposals.
21

22 Policy 9D-5: The dedication and acquisition of open space and recreation
23 opportunities should be encouraged as new subdivisions and
24 development occurs.
25

26 Shoreline Access Areas

27
28 Shoreline access areas include saltwater beaches and bluffs, rivers and streams and
29 lake frontage. Access may be via a public park area, a street end, or just a trail
30 easement. Access includes both physical access to the water and visual access
31 from points above ~~(Map 23)~~. An excellent source of information about existing and
32 proposed future recreational opportunities featuring shorelines is the Whatcom
33 County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (CPROS Plan). The
34 CPROS Plan contains detailed information and maps which identify waterfront and
35 shoreline recreational opportunities on both public and private shorelines across the
36 county.
37

38 Reason for Change: The above section on “Shoreline Access Areas” in existing
39 Chapter 9 contains a reference to existing Map 23 which identifies shoreline
40 recreation areas with public access. Map 23 has been modified and is renumbered
41 as proposed Map 9-2. The proposed focus of new Map 9-2 is to support future
42 development of conceptual trail corridors that are identified on this map. Shoreline
43 Access Areas that are shown on existing Map 23 are not shown on proposed Map 9-
44 2 because shoreline access areas are more fully addressed in the Whatcom County
45 CPROS Plan.

- 1 **Goal 9E:** Recognize the shoreline as one of Whatcom County's
2 **unique assets and provide adequate physical and visual**
3 **access for present and future generations.**
4
- 5 Policy 9E-1: As economically feasible, acquire for public use as much of the
6 saltwater shoreline as possible. Public and private resources
7 should be explored to further this policy. A reasonable goal is to
8 acquire for public access a minimum of 15% of the saltwater
9 shoreline and adjacent tidelands in Whatcom County.
10
- 11 Policy 9E-2: Continue to review the Nooksack River Plan (Jones and Jones,
12 1973) and implement those elements which are beneficial,
13 appropriate and economically feasible.
14
- 15 Policy 9E-3: Provide pedestrian, interpretative and small boat access sites for
16 a diversity of public shoreline.
17
- 18 Policy 9E-4: When the County acquires property for flood storage or fish and
19 wildlife purposes, the County should consider secondary use for
20 park and open space purposes.
21

22 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 22 is modified and proposed as
23 Policy 9E-4

24
25 ~~**Recreation Resource Management Areas**~~

26
27 ~~These open space areas are identified as large undeveloped parcels of land having~~
28 ~~unique or attractive natural features. Often they will also contain extensive trail~~
29 ~~systems. They lack distinct boundaries and are intended to emphasize open space~~
30 ~~and recreation values. The land may or may not be in public ownership. It is not~~
31 ~~intended for Whatcom County to acquire these parcels of land but rather to secure~~
32 ~~conservation and access easements to ensure that public access is maintained and~~
33 ~~unique scenic areas preserved.~~
34

35 ~~**Goal 9F:** Identify large undeveloped parcels of land with unique or~~
36 ~~attractive features and with the cooperation/coordination~~
37 ~~of public agencies and private landowners provide~~
38 ~~conservation opportunities and, where possible, public~~
39 ~~access.~~
40

41 ~~Policy 9F-1: Thoroughly study each of the Recreation Resource Management~~
42 ~~Areas (RRMA) identified in the Comprehensive Park and~~
43 ~~Recreation Open Space Plan to identify their unique features,~~
44 ~~scenic quality and open space value. Studies should then be~~

~~made to determine how these qualities can be preserved for future generations.~~

~~Policy 9F-2: Trail systems within the RRMA's should be used for non-motorized trail activities only.~~

~~Policy 9F-3: While Whatcom County will probably not own the land within the RRMA's, it should take on a major management role to ensure that its recreation and open space value is maintained.~~

~~Policy 9F-4: A special advisory committee should be formed of users and land owners of the RRMA's. Their role will be to inventory, plan and prepare recommendations regarding the management of these areas.~~

Reason for Change: Based on recommendations from the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission and in response to public comment, existing Chapter 9 references to Recreation Resource Management Areas (RRMA's) and RRMA Goal and Policies are flagged for deletion throughout this chapter. Input from the public indicates that the county's vision with respect to RRMA's may be outdated. Relevant aspects of the RRMA vision are addressed in other Recreation Chapter 9 Goals or Policies or in other comprehensive plan elements.

Off Road Vehicle Riding Areas

Recognizing that it is better to regulate and manage where off-road vehicle (ORV) riding may occur, the county attempted twice to develop an area for exclusive ORV use. Both proposals were met with controversy and not pursued. However, ORV riding still occurs and in many instances on land not suitable for that use and without the owner's permission. The end result is that ORV riding is impacting neighbors and the land in which riding occurs, and is in general creating a problem for less intrusive recreational activities.

Goal 9G: Coordinate with the DNR to provide ORV opportunities.

Policy 9G-1: Recognizing that there will continue to be a demand for ORV riding, the county should continue to assess its role in the ORV program. Between the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Service, some joint solution may be possible.

Activity Centers

Activity centers are indoor facilities which provide recreational opportunities. They include the existing senior/community centers, Plantation Rifle Range, ~~and~~ the

1 Roeder Home, ~~and full-scale~~ indoor recreation centers (multi-purpose centers) ~~and~~
2 ~~indoor aquatic facilities.~~

3
4 ~~Five of t~~The eight senior/community centers ~~managed by the county are owned by~~
5 ~~the Cities of~~ are located in Bellingham, Ferndale, Blaine, Everson, Lynden, Sumas,
6 ~~Welcome and the PtPoint.~~ Roberts Park District. ~~Combined, these eight facilities~~
7 ~~served over 206,546 visitors in 2003, 80% of whom were seniors.~~ There is an
8 increasing trend for use by different agencies and community groups and even
9 church congregations who rent the facilities in Lynden and Bellingham. With
10 appropriate scheduling, the existing senior/community centers have the capacity to
11 absorb additional activity.

12
13 The Plantation Rifle Range includes two outdoor ranges, a trap field, an indoor
14 range, and a meeting room ~~which served 16,824 people in 2003.~~ It is a unique
15 facility which receives ~~60% of its~~ use from law enforcement agencies, educational
16 activities and recreation.

17
18 The Roeder Home, donated to the County and on the National Historic Register, is a
19 unique facility which provides space for meetings, ~~and~~ wedding receptions, special
20 events and classes. ~~and serves as the center for cultural arts programs in the~~
21 ~~County. This facility served 33,042 people in 2003.~~

22
23 As population numbers grow, the need for additional aquatic facilities should be re-
24 evaluated.

25
26 The East Whatcom Regional Resource Center in Maple Falls provides community
27 services such as early childhood education, family support and health services,
28 transportation, and community gardens.

29
30 Reason for Change: Updated to remove outdated information and add new
31 information

32
33 **Goal 9H: Encourage multi-use indoor activity centers to meet the**
34 **needs of the population using public and private**
35 **partnerships where possible.**

36
37 Policy 9H-1: Support multi-use of the existing senior/community centers to
38 maximize their full potential.

39
40 Policy 9H-2: Continue the cooperation between the County and the Cities and
41 Point Roberts Park District on ownership and management of
42 the existing senior/community centers.

43
44 Policy 9H-3: Evaluate the cost/benefit ratio of adding a multi-purpose facility
45 on the property owned by the Parks Department at Smith and

- 1 Northwest Roads to meet the expanding demand by all age
2 groups in the Bellingham/Ferndale growth corridor.
3
4 Policy 9H-4: Expand the Plantation Rifle Range to meet the needs of citizens
5 and law enforcement agencies.
6
7 Policy 9H-5: Acquire property for a buffer area around the Plantation Rifle
8 Range to insure the ability to continue its use in the future.
9
10 Policy 9H-6: Continue to utilize the Roeder Home ~~as the~~for cultural arts
11 facility—flagship activities, community events and gatherings
12 while utilizing partnerships, leased space, or creative
13 opportunities to accommodate program expansion.
14
15 Policy 9H-7: Continue to monitor the need for additional aquatic facilities in
16 the community, with the basic assumption that Whatcom
17 County will not be an indoor aquatic provider in the near future.
18
19 Policy 9H-8: Continue to search for partnerships with other public agencies
20 and private groups in providing recreation facilities such as golf
21 facilities, camping, and resort centers.
22
23 Policy 9H-9: Expand the partnership concept to incorporate school buildings
24 and other public or private facilities which can accommodate
25 meetings and recreational functions.

26
27 **Park Facilities**

28
29 **Goal 9I: As economically feasible, continue to implement the**
30 **Whatcom County Comprehensive Park, Recreation and**
31 **Open Space (CPROS Plan) goals and policies through**
32 **adoption of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan**
33 **Six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).**
34

35 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 5 is modified and proposed as
36 Goal 9I

37
38 **Policy 9I-1: Continue to monitor park and recreation service needs**
39 **throughout the county and encourage others to provide the**
40 **identified service needs.**

41 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 1 is proposed as Policy 9I-1

42
43 **Policy 9I-2: Develop facilities and areas that will be particularly attractive to**
44 **Whatcom County residents.**
45

1 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 6 is proposed as Policy 9I-2

2
3 Policy 9I-3: Develop and maintain facilities at a high standard. These
4 standards should be established in accordance with the
5 Whatcom County Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open
6 Space (CPROS Plan) and the Whatcom County Comprehensive
7 Plan.

8
9 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 7 is proposed as Policy 9I-3

10
11 Policy 9I-4: Design and develop recreation facilities for low maintenance.

12
13 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 8 is proposed as Policy 9I-4

14
15 Policy 9I-5: In keeping with policies in other chapters of this plan, ~~develop a~~
16 ~~mechanism~~ consider strategies for ensuring the provision of
17 ~~neighborhood~~ community parks in accordance with appropriate
18 ~~standards when residential areas are developed outside of~~
19 ~~incorporated areas.~~ In the residential UGAs not associated with
20 cities and in Rural Communities mechanisms are needed for
21 acquisition, development and subsequent maintenance and
22 operations. Community Associations and Park Districts are
23 options to be explored.

24
25 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 9 is modified and proposed as
26 Policy 9I-5

27
28 Policy 9I-6: ~~Develop a strategic plan~~ Continue to plan for full utilization of
29 ~~the existing senior/community centers and explore partnerships~~
30 ~~to help absorb future need.~~

31
32 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 10 is modified and proposed as
33 Policy 9I-6

34
35 Policy 9I-7: ~~Update and implement the master plan for the Plantation Rifle~~
36 ~~Range and Hovander Homestead Park~~ Continue to identify and
37 develop major planning initiatives identified in the CPROS Plan.

38
39 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 12 is modified and proposed as
40 Policy 9I-7

41
42 Policy 9I-8: ~~Work with timber companies and other private property owners~~
43 ~~to~~ Develop strategies to acquire the land currently leased for the
44 Plantation Rifle Range and a buffer around the rifle range.

1 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 13 is modified and proposed as
2 Policy 9I-8

3
4 Policy 9I-9: Galbraith/Lookout Mt. - Develop and implement a plan to
5 acquire Rights of Way for trail corridors and purchase of
6 additional park acreage, along with pursuit of formal usage
7 agreements with private land owners, to preserve the
8 recreational value for residents and tourists.
9

10 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 15 is proposed as Policy 9I-9

11
12 Policy 9I-10: Stewart Mt. - Negotiate with Crown Corporation current
13 landowner to obtain formal usage agreements for access to
14 logging trails, to open public access corridors between Lake
15 Whatcom recreation areas and the South Fork Valley.
16

17 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 16 is modified and proposed as
18 Policy 9I-10

19
20 Goal 9J: Develop a stronger financial base for recreational
21 services:
22

23 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan "Funding" descriptive text is modified
24 and proposed as Goal 9J.

25
26 Policy 9J-1: Designing future recreation facilities and areas with the ability to
27 charge user fees.
28

29 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 39 is modified and proposed as
30 Policy 9J-1

31
32 Policy 9J-2: ~~Investigating~~ Explore new innovative methods of financing
33 facility development, maintenance, and operating needs.
34

35 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 40 is modified and proposed as
36 Policy 9J-2

37
38 Policy 9J-3: ~~Considering~~ joint ventures with private clubs, public agencies,
39 commercial operations and other groups to build and maintain
40 facilities.
41

42 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 41 is modified and proposed as
43 Policy 9J-3
44

1 ~~Policy 9J-4: Providing~~ Seek to design and develop facilities that will
2 encourage tourism.
3

4 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 42 is modified and proposed as
5 Policy 9J-4
6

7 ~~Policy 9J-5: Consider the establishment of park impact fees based on the~~
8 Growth Management Act.
9

10 Reason for Change: Recreation Action Plan Item No. 44 is proposed as Policy 9J-5
11

12 **Recreation — Action Plan**

13 **General Park and Recreation Services**

14 ~~1. Continue to monitor park and recreation service needs throughout the county~~
15 ~~and encourage others to provide the identified service needs.~~
16

17 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9I-1
18

19 ~~2. Stress a good public image and the importance of public relations to all~~
20 ~~employees of the Parks and Recreation Department.~~
21

22 Reason for Change: Recommend deletion
23

24 ~~3. As economically feasible, and as need warrants, implement the recreation~~
25 ~~and service programs in Chapter VII of the Comprehensive Park and Recreation~~
26 ~~Open Space Plan.~~
27

28 Reason for Change: Recommend deletion
29

30 ~~4. Continue to implement those elements of the Nooksack River Plan (Jones and~~
31 ~~Jones 1973) which are beneficial, appropriate and economically feasible.~~
32

33 Reason for Change: Recommend deletion, similar to existing Policy 9E-2
34

35 **Park Facilities**

36 ~~5. As economically feasible, and as need warrants, implement the~~
37 ~~Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan including the goals and~~
38 ~~policies and maps incorporated herein through adoption of the six-year~~
39 ~~capital improvement program.~~
40

41 Reason for Change: Modified and proposed as Goal 9I
42
43
44

1 ~~6. Develop facilities and areas that will be particularly attractive to Whatcom~~
2 ~~County residents.~~

3
4 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9I-2

5
6 ~~7. Develop and maintain facilities at a high standard. These standards should~~
7 ~~be established in accordance with the Comprehensive Park and Recreation~~
8 ~~Open Space Plan and the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan.~~

9
10 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9I-3

11
12 ~~8. Design and develop recreation facilities for low maintenance.~~

13
14 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9I-4

15
16 ~~9. In keeping with policies in other chapters of this plan, develop a mechanism~~
17 ~~for ensuring the provision of neighborhood parks in accordance with~~
18 ~~appropriate standards when residential areas are developed outside of~~
19 ~~incorporated areas. In the residential UGAs not associated with cities and in~~
20 ~~Rural Communities mechanisms are needed for acquisition, development and~~
21 ~~subsequent maintenance and operations. Community Associations and Park~~
22 ~~Districts are options to be explored.~~

23
24 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9I-5

25
26 ~~10. Develop a strategic plan for full utilization of the existing senior/community~~
27 ~~centers and partnerships to help absorb future need.~~

28
29 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9I-6

30
31 ~~11. Develop a master plan for the property at Smith and Northwest Road,~~
32 ~~contingent upon funding, to include an indoor multi-purpose center.~~

33
34 Reason for Change: Recommend deletion

35
36 ~~12. Update and implement the master plan for the Plantation Rifle Range and~~
37 ~~Hovander Homestead Park.~~

38
39 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9I-7

40
41 ~~13. Work with timber companies and other private property owners to acquire~~
42 ~~the land currently leased for the Plantation Rifle Range and a buffer around~~
43 ~~the rifle range.~~

Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9I-8

~~14. Preserve additional cultural heritage sites such as the Hovander House, the Roeder Home, and Tennant Lake Interpretative Center for recreation purposes.~~

Reason for Change: Recommend deletion

~~15. Galbraith/Lookout Mt. Develop and implement a plan to acquire Rights of Way for trail corridors and purchase of additional park acreage, along with pursuit of formal usage agreements with private land owners, to preserve the recreational value for residents and tourists.~~

Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9I-9

~~16. Stewart Mt. Negotiate with Crown Corporation to obtain formal usage agreements for access to logging trails, to open public access corridors between Lake Whatcom recreation areas and the South Fork Valley.~~

Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9I-10

~~**Preservation of Natural Areas**~~

~~17. Complete the inventory and study of Recreation Resource Management Areas in accordance with policies under goal 9(F).~~

Reason for Change: Recommend deletion

~~18. Make it advantageous to land developers and landowners to dedicate land for public use.~~

Reason for Change: Recommend deletion

~~19. Develop design standards that provide for the integration of open space and recreation opportunities within subdivisions, planned unit developments and other development proposals.~~

Reason for Change: Recommend deletion

~~20. Create alternative revenue sources and develop mechanisms to earmark funds to help pay for the acquisition, maintenance and operation of parks, open space and shoreline access.~~

Reason for Change: Recommend deletion

~~21. Develop mechanisms for land banking of public open space.~~

Reason for Change: Recommend deletion

~~22. Prime open space, and river corridors and natural areas should be designated and prioritized for future acquisition. River corridors will be evaluated for increased wetland/water storage areas for flood mitigation and fish and wildlife habitat and potential secondary use for reservoirs as park and open space attractions.~~

Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9E-4

~~23. Develop specific implementation strategies for those elements of the *Natural Heritage Plan* that are appropriate, beneficial, consistent with this plan and within the County's fiscal capabilities. Review the *Natural Heritage Plan* annually and incorporate appropriate items in the *Capital Facilities* planning for parks and recreation in future years.~~

Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-28

~~24. Continue the partnerships with other organizations, groups, or individuals consistent with the goals identified in the *Natural Heritage Plan* for Whatcom County.~~

Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-28

Trails

~~25. Incorporate existing and proposed trails into a comprehensive and integrated system of looped and interconnected trails which give users a wide choice of routes and environments.~~

Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-2

~~26. Continue to update the trails inventory to identify all designated and non-designated trails in the county.~~

Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-19

~~27. Work with private property owners and developers to acquire trail corridors or easements. Monitor land development proposals to ensure that existing trails are not lost.~~

1 Reason for Change: Modified and proposed as Policy 9C-20

2
3 ~~28. Provide non-motorized access to regional recreational and outstanding scenic~~
4 ~~areas in the county.~~

5
6 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-21

7
8 ~~29. Reduce conflicts between the various trail user groups and provide~~
9 ~~appropriate signage.~~

10
11 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-22

12
13 ~~30. Provide bike lanes or wide shoulders where appropriate in conjunction with~~
14 ~~major road improvements.~~

15
16 Reason for Change: Modified and proposed as Policy 9C-23

17
18 ~~31. Coast Millennium Trail – Continue to develop trail corridors, particularly off-~~
19 ~~road segments such as the airport connector and shoreline access.~~

20
21 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-24

22
23 ~~32. Hertz North Lake Whatcom Trail Extension – Develop and implement a plan~~
24 ~~to either acquire Rights of Way for a trail corridor along the abandoned RR~~
25 ~~R/W between the existing North Shore Trail and Blue Canyon Road or pursue~~
26 ~~an alternative route to link these points.~~

27
28 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-25

29
30 ~~33. Bay to Baker Trail – Develop and implement a plan to secure Rights of Way~~
31 ~~for trail segments along the abandoned RR R/W in conjunction with the~~
32 ~~Nooksack River Trail to achieve a contiguous trail system between~~
33 ~~communities and recreation areas.~~

34
35 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-26

36
37 ~~34. Nooksack River Trail – Develop and implement a plan to acquire Rights of~~
38 ~~Way for a trail corridor and picnic areas along the Nooksack River between~~
39 ~~Ferndale and Glacier, to provide recreation opportunities, inter-community~~
40 ~~transportation and tourism development.~~

41
42 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-27

1 ~~35. Implement the goals, policies and recommendations of the latest Whatcom~~
2 ~~County Bicycle Plan that are consistent with this plan and within the County's~~
3 ~~fiscal capabilities.~~

4
5 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-16

6
7 ~~36. Continue to update the Whatcom County Bicycle Plan as needs and~~
8 ~~conditions change.~~

9
10 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9C-16

11
12 ~~37. Develop a Growth Management Act based ordinance to encourage dedication~~
13 ~~of trail corridors in the consideration of park or transportation mitigation, as~~
14 ~~new subdivisions and development occurs, if the trail has been identified in a~~
15 ~~park, trail, open space or other plan adopted by Whatcom County.~~

16
17 Reason for Change: Similar to existing Policy 9D-5

18
19 ~~38. Develop design standards that include the integration of trails within~~
20 ~~subdivisions, planned unit developments and other development proposals to~~
21 ~~provide internal circulation and connect to nearby commercial and activity~~
22 ~~centers, and recreational opportunities.~~

23
24 Reason for Change: Similar to modified Policy 9C-17

25
26 **Funding**

27
28 ~~Develop a stronger financial base for recreational services by:~~

29
30 Reason for Change: Modified and proposed as Goal 9J

31
32 ~~39. Designing future recreation facilities and areas with the ability to charge user~~
33 ~~fees.~~

34
35 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9J-1

36
37 ~~40. Investigating new innovative methods of financing facility development,~~
38 ~~maintenance, and operating needs.~~

39
40 Reason for Change: Modified and proposed as Policy 9J-2

41
42 ~~41. Considering joint ventures with private clubs, public agencies, commercial~~
43 ~~operations and other groups to build and maintain facilities.~~

1 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9J-3

2
3 ~~42. Providing facilities that will encourage tourism.~~

4
5 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9J-4

6
7 ~~43. Where timber needs to be removed due to disease, windfall or for park~~
8 ~~facility improvements, timber shall be harvested and sold using best~~
9 ~~management practices.~~

10
11 Reason for Change: Recommend Deletion

12
13 ~~44. Consider the establishment of park impact fees based on the Growth~~
14 ~~Management Act.~~

15
16 Reason for Change: Proposed as Policy 9J-5

17