

VI.5 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

System Description

Recreational opportunities in Mason County include parks for day-use activities and overnight camping; fresh and salt water areas for boating and other water sports; facilities and equipment for sports and play activities; and wilderness areas and other open spaces for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding.

Existing parks and recreation facilities in Mason County are available through a variety of public and private entities. Federal and state facilities include camping, boating, and day-use parks. The County-owned park system includes day-use and water access facilities, sports fields, and related recreational areas. Other agencies providing park and recreational resources include municipalities, port districts, and public schools. Some private recreational facilities are open to the public as well.

County Park Facilities

The County currently manages 18 park properties in Mason County two of which are undeveloped, and three others have large portions which are also undeveloped. Of the developed parks, two are large baseball/softball complexes, five provide saltwater access parks, two are located on freshwater lakes, and three provide upland day use and recreation facilities (see FIGURE VI.5-1). In addition to the day use facilities, the County also owns and maintains one above-ground skate park. The conditions of these facilities vary by location, however, significant investment in facilities has been made in the last two years from Real Estate Excise Tax proceeds (REET 2). The capital plan for the next six years continues this trend of investment in park development and facility upgrades. The heavy use and demand from both county and non-County residents are particularly high during the spring and summer.

In recent years, parks operated by Mason County have received substantial increases in visitors. Total visits increased 52 percent from 1992 to 1993, from 180,600 to 274,500 annual visits. Nearly half of the total increase was at Sandhill Park, a sports park in Belfair. Sandhill's visitation increased by 230 percent, from 20,300 to 67,000 visits, due in large part to increased use of the park by local baseball, softball, and soccer leagues. Mason County Recreation Area, the largest baseball/softball complex has grown in use the last several years and is now recognized regionally as a preferred site for major tournaments.

There are no facilities for overnight camping throughout the Mason County Parks system. The last county-wide park plan was developed in 1991 and subsequently updated in the late 1990s. Funding is being provided to develop a new county-wide parks plan in 2006. The

previous plan recommended two sites for development as overnight camping facilities, Truman Glick Memorial Park and Mason Lake Park. Camping options will be examined in the long-term development plan being crafted for these and other park properties with large portions of undeveloped land.

Inventory

An inventory of all Mason County parks including federal, state, private, and County-owned parks is listed in TABLE VI.5-1. Also included are the number of acres and amenities available at each park location. The locations of parks and recreational facilities operated by the County are shown on FIGURE VI.5-1.

TABLE VI.5-1. Inventory of Parks		
Name of Facility	Acres	Amenities Available
Washington State Parks		
Belfair State Park	62.77 (3,780 ft tidelands)	Camping: 134 tent sites, 47 utility sites, primitive sites, wheelchair accessible trails, trailer dump facility.
Harstine Island State Park	310 (3,100 ft tidelands)	Currently undeveloped. Future development plans include: day use area; walking/hiking trails; 50 camp sites.
Harvey Rendland Jiggs Lake	8	Currently undeveloped; 1,905 feet waterfront.
Hoodsport Trails	80	Natural area with trails.
Hope Island	106 (8,540 ft tidelands)	Currently undeveloped. Future development plans include: trails; picnic tables; rest rooms; 6 to 8 camp sites; group camping for 150 people. Washington Water Trails site.
Jarrells Cove	42.6 (3,500 ft tidelands)	Camping: 20 tent sites; group site for maximum of 64 people, 2 picnic shelters, facilities for handicapped, wheelchair accessible trails, marine pump out station, 2 docks providing 500 feet of moorage, 14 mooring buoys. Fee required.
Lake Isabella	193.75	Currently undeveloped. Future development plans include: full-service park, camping, picnic area, lake-front beach, rest rooms. Plans will be completed in the next 10 to 20 years.
Lilliwaup Tide Land	(4,100 ft tidelands)	Tidelands for public use. No facilities. Small shoulder area for parking.
McMicken Island	11.45 (1,660 ft tidelands)	Currently undeveloped. Boater destination; clamming. Plans to develop include: 5 to 8 camping sites, composting toilet.

TABLE VI.5-1. Inventory of Parks (Continued)		
Name of Facility	Acres	Amenities Available
Washington State Parks (Continued)		
Potlatch State Park	56.95 (9,570 ft tidelands)	Camping: 17 tent sites; 18 utility sites; primitive sites. Underwater park, trailer dump facilities.
Schafer State Park	119	Camping: 47 tent sites, 6 utility sites, primitive sites, day use group area, trailer dump facilities
Squaxin Island	31.4	Closed indefinitely.
Stretch Point	4.2 (610 ft tidelands)	Natural area. Day use only; 5 mooring buoys. No plans for future development.
Twanoh State Park	182 (3,167 ft tideland)	Camping: 30 tent sites, 9 utility sites, primitive sites, handicapped facilities, wheelchair accessible trails.
Total	1208.02 (38,027 ft tideland)	
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife		
Aldrich Lake	0.5	Unpaved boat launch, parking for 15 vehicles.
Benson Lake	78.8	Boat launch, beach access, parking for 100 vehicles.
Cady Lake	1.6	Unpaved boat launch, parking for 10 vehicles.
Clara Lake	9	Unpaved boat launch, parking for 30 vehicles.
Devereaux Lake	1.3	Boat launch, beach access, parking for 40 vehicles.
Haven Lake	4.1	Unpaved boat launch, parking for 50 vehicles.
Island Lake access	1	Freshwater boat launch, toilets.
Isabella Lake	1.6	Boat launch, parking for 20 vehicles.
Lake Kokanee	44	Boat Launch, parking for 100 vehicles.
Lake Limerick	0.5	Boat launch, beach access, parking for 30 vehicles.
Lost Lake	1.3	Boat launch, parking for 40 vehicles.
Maggie Lake	0.4	Unpaved boat launch, parking for 15 vehicles.
Mason Lake		Boat launch, parking for 30 vehicles.

TABLE VI.5-1. Inventory of Parks (Continued)		
Name of Facility	Acres	Amenities Available
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (Continued)		
Panhandle Lake	20	Undeveloped.
Panther Lake	3.8	Unpaved boat launch, parking for 30 vehicles.
Phillips Lake	1	Boat launch, beach access, parking for 40 vehicles.
Pricket Lake	0.5	Unpaved boat launch, parking for 30 vehicles.
Skokomish River	64	30.6 feet of riverfront, shore access, parking for 20 vehicles.
Spencer Lake	2	Boat launch, beach access, parking for 50 vehicles.
Tahuya River	2.9	4,400 feet of riverfront, parking for 10 vehicles.
Tee Lake	3.6	Unpaved boat launch, parking for 20 vehicles.
Twin Lake	3.6	Unpaved boat launch, parking for 15 vehicles.
Union River	61.8	8,098 feet of riverfront, parking for 10 vehicles.
Victor access to North Bay	..5	Boat launch, pit toilets
Wildberry Lake	10	Undeveloped.
Wooten Lake	1	Unpaved boat launch, parking for 60 vehicles.
Total	318.3	
Washington State Department of Natural Resources		
Aldrich Lake Camp	24 (approx.)	1,700 feet waterfront, hand boat launch, 4 picnic tables, 4 campsites, toilets, drinking water, lake stocked with trout, parking for 16 vehicles.
Camp Pond		Day use only
Camp Spillman	10 (approx.)	800 feet waterfront, 6 camp sites, 4 group sites, toilets, drinking water.
Elfendahl Pass Staging Area	5	11 picnic sites, self-contained RVs okay, toilets, drinking water
Howell Lake		3 group sites, 10 campsites, hand boat launch, toilets, drinking water, parking for 20 vehicles.

TABLE VI.5-1. Inventory of Parks (Continued)		
Name of Facility	Acres	Amenities Available
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (Continued)		
Kammenga Canyon		2 campsites, toilets
Mission Creek Trailhead	1	Parking for trail access
Robbins Lake	1.1	175 feet waterfront, hand boat launch, 3 picnic tables, toilets. Day use only.
Tahuya River Horse Camp	12 (approx.)	1,600 feet waterfront, 9 campsites, 2 group sites, toilets, drinking water, 20 horse corrals.
Toonerville	5.7	570 feet waterfront, 4 campsites, 2 picnic sites, toilets.
Twin Lakes		6 camp sites, 3 picnic sites, toilets, hand boat launch. Lake is stocked with trout.
Melbourne		Lake setting, 1,000 feet waterfront, 5 campsites, toilets.
Lilliwaup	7	Stream setting, 500 feet waterfront, 13 campsites, toilets, drinking water.
Public Tidelands #24		Water access only.
Public Tidelands #33		Water access only.
Public Tidelands #34		Water access only.
Public Tidelands #43		Road access, clamming.
Public Tidelands #44 a,b		Road access, clamming, crab pot fishing.
Public Tidelands #46		Water access only, clamming, oysters, shrimp pot fishing.
Public Tidelands #47		Water access only, clamming, oysters.
Public Tidelands #48		Water access only, clamming, oysters
Eagle Creek Recreational Tidelands		Road access, clamming, crabbing.
Rendsland Creek Tidelands		Road access, clamming.
Total		

TABLE VI.5-1. Inventory of Parks (Continued)		
Name of Facility	Acres	Amenities Available
United States Forest Service		
Brown Creek Campground	6	78 camp sites, toilets.
Hamma Hamma Campground	5	Picnic area, 12 campsites.
Lower Lena Lake Campground	6	Hike-in only, 40 camp sites, pit toilets.
Upper Lena Lake Campground	7	Hike-in only, 14 camp sites, pit toilets.
Total	24	
City of Shelton Parks and Recreation Department		
Brewer Park	0.3	3 picnic tables, curbside parking only.
Callanan Park	6.9	Lighted softball field with spectator stands, 7 picnic tables, 2 swings, 1 slide, rest room, foot trails across 40-foot natural depression, parking space for 30 vehicles plus additional parking along street.
City Park	1.75	Currently undeveloped.
Eleventh Street Site	0.92	Deep well location with the potential to be developed into a city park.
Huff and Puff Trail	80	2 miles of jogging trail and 20 incorporated exercise stations, drinking fountain and parking for 20 vehicles at trailhead.
Kneeland Park	3.9	2 slides, swings, 1 merry-go-round, horizontal bars, 1 dome climber, 1 large sand box, 1 small log playhouse, a few rocking saddle mates, horseshoe pit, aging rest room and picnic shelter, deteriorated clubhouse, 10 picnic tables, 2 tennis courts in need of resurfacing, street parking for approximately 25 vehicles.
Johnson Park	0.5	1 merry-go-round, 1 swing, single basketball backboard and substandard concrete court, street parking for approximately 10 vehicles.

TABLE VI.5-1. Inventory of Parks (Continued)		
Name of Facility	Acres	Amenities Available
City of Shelton Parks and Recreation Department (Continued)		
Loop Field	4	2 tennis courts, softball field, soccer field, jogging trail along the perimeter, 1 picnic shelter, 5 picnic tables, rest room, parking for 100 vehicles.
Oakland Bay Overlook	1.03	Views of downtown Shelton, industrial waterfront, Oakland Bay, and the Olympic Mountains, historic band saw display with large log section and interpretive information, paved parking for 5 vehicles. Development plans for the next 2 years include: picnic area, rest rooms, kiosk, small shelter, additional parking.
Pine Street Boat Launch	60 feet	Crude gravel boat launch and a deteriorating wooden boat repair grid.
Total	99.3	
Port of Dewatto		
Port of Dewatto Campground	1	Camping: 11 with hook-ups, 19 tent sites; 2 rest rooms; nature/hiking trails; 23 picnic tables; two picnic shelters; 1 kitchen; fishing. Future plans to add more stoves and picnic tables, and to place gravel around kitchen. Fee required.
Port of Shelton		
Sanderson Field	1,170	Flying: 5,000 feet of runway, tie downs, skydiving; rifle club; model aircraft society. Future plans to provide increased hangar availability.
Oakland Bay Marina		Boat moorage.
Total	1170	

TABLE VI.5-1. Inventory of Parks (Continued)		
Name of Facility	Acres	Amenities Available
Port of Allyn		
Waterfront Park in Allyn	2	400 feet waterfront, moorage, dock (for up to 15 boats), picnic, gazebo, parking for 20 vehicles. Office building planned.
Kayak Park	.3	150 feet waterfront, small parking lot, picnic tables, portable toilet facilities.
North Shore Ramp Belfair/North Shore	1.2	150 feet waterfront, boat launch with floating dock, beach access, parking for 20 vehicles with trailers.
Port of Hoodspout		
Ingvold Grunvold Waterfront Park	2	Dock, saltwater beach access, tidelands, 2 portable rest rooms. Proposed future development includes an interpretive center and picnic tables.
Mason County		
Latimer's Landing overflow parking area	2.5	Primary use is to provide parking for neighboring Latimer's Landing, parking for 20 vehicles.
Foothills Park (Sport)	80	1 field which serve as baseball, soccer, and football fields; bleachers; rest rooms; children's play area; parking for 50 vehicles.
Latimer's Landing (Water)	.59	Saltwater access boat launch for vessels no longer than 20 feet, parking for 10 vehicles, portable toilet, boat dock; additional parking available at neighboring Latimer's Landing overflow parking area.
Mason County Fairgrounds (Picnic)	12	100 camp sites with hook ups; additional space for tent camping, rest rooms and showers; 30 picnic tables; horse arena; 2 indoor kitchens; natural area.
Mason County Recreation Area (MCRA Sport)	40	7 baseball fields which also serve as soccer and football fields; children's play area, bleachers, maintenance shop, user's storage facility, seasonal concession stand, 4 batting cage; parking for 100 vehicles. This facility serves as the headquarters for the Mason County Parks Department. Fee required for field use.

TABLE VI.5-1. Inventory of Parks (Continued)		
Name of Facility	Acres	Amenities Available
Mason County (Continued)		
Mason Lake Park (Water)	17.36	1.36 acres currently in use; freshwater access/boat launch for small watercraft no longer than 18 feet, dock, play area, rest rooms, 4 picnic table; parking for maximum of 50 vehicles. The County owns 16 unused acres that can be used for expansion of the park (possible RV area).
Phillips Lake County Park (Picnic)	0.4	Passive day use area, picnic area, located next to State of Washington Boar Launch with vault type toilets.
Sandhill Park (Sport)	30	7 baseball fields, one soccer and football field, bleachers; parking is available for 45 vehicles
Shorecrest Park (Water)	2.8	320 feet waterfront, boat launch for vessels no longer than 16 feet, saltwater beach access, 3 picnic tables.
Truman Glick Memorial Park (Picnic)	35.46	Natural setting, creek, trails, picnic tables, covered group shelter, barbecue pit, vault toilets, RV area. Future improvements include: possible construction of group camping area and interpretive signage along trails.
Union Community Park (Picnic)	1.92	Picnic shelter, children's play area; small baseball diamond, basketball court; rest rooms.
Union Boat Ramp (Water)	0.16	Boat ramp for access to Hood Canal, portable toilets, no parking.
Hunter Park	.5	2 picnic tables, bus shelter
Skate Park	.6	11 above ground ramps
Walker Park (Water)	5.04	Saltwater access to Hammersly Inlet, gravel beach, picnic tables, barbecues, rest rooms, shelter, children's play area, interpretive center providing marine information; parking for 15 vehicles.
Oakland Bay Preservation Area	80	Habitat preservation area and education center
Watson Wildwood View	36	Undeveloped
Total	272.23	

TABLE VI.5-1. Inventory of Parks (Continued)

Name of Facility	Acres	Amenities Available
Mason County Public Schools		
Belfair Elementary		Playground.
Sandhill Elementary		Playground.
Hood Canal Elementary/Junior High School		2 baseball backstops, 1 football field, bleachers, playground, track, parking for 30 vehicles.
Oakland Bay Middle School		x
Olympic Middle School		x
Pioneer Elementary		2 baseball backstops, covered play area, playground.
Grapeview Elementary		Playground
Southside Elementary		1 baseball backstop.
Bordeaux		Football field, soccer field, playground, track.
Evergreen Elementary		Playground.
Mountain View Elementary		5 baseball backstops, football field, soccer field, playground.
Shelton High School		6 tennis courts, 2 baseball backstops, football field, soccer field, bleachers, 2 swimming pools, track, rest rooms.
Mary M. Knight District		2 baseball backstops, 1 football field, bleachers, playground.
North Mason High School		2 baseball backstops, 2 tennis courts, football field, soccer field, bleachers, playground, track.
Private Facilities Open to the Public		
Shelton/South Mason Soccer Park	14	6 soccer fields, 1 under development
Glen Ayr Canal Resort	10	Adult-only RV park with hookups; no tent camping, motel, 2 rest rooms, 2 showers, laundry facility, saltwater boat launch, beach access, tidelands, spa, fishing, clamming, oysters, dock.
Lake Nahwatzel Resort	2	Camping: 12 utility sites, 5 sites without hookups; 2 rest rooms, 2 showers, boat launch, freshwater beach access, nature/hiking trails, 8 picnic tables, restaurant, fishing, swimming, cabins.

Name of Facility	Acres	Amenities Available
Private Facilities Open to the Public (Continued)		
Minerva Beach RV Resort and Mobile Village	20	Camping: 23 sites without hookups, 50 sites with hookups; 5 rest rooms, 6 showers, laundry facilities, boat launch, saltwater beach access, 60 picnic tables, driving range, scuba dive center.
Rest-A-While RV Park and Marina	15	Saltwater boat launch, moorage, dock, 70-80 camp sites with hookups (may be used for RVs or tents), 4 rest rooms, 4 showers, laundry facilities, beach access, clamming, oysters, fishing, boat rentals, nature trail, 60 picnic tables, 2 covered picnic areas with kitchen, concession stand. Future improvements include easier access to marina, and boat fuel.
Theler Center	unknown	Wetlands interpretive trails
Lake Cushman	602.9	Camping: 51 tent sites, 30 utility sites, 2 primitive walk-in sites, group site with cooking shelter for maximum of 56 people, rest rooms with showers; facilities for handicapped, boat launch, trailer dump facility.
Total	663.9	
Other		
Olympic National Park - Staircase Campground		Picnic area, 50 camp sites, parking for 60 vehicles.
Tacoma City Light Saltwater Park		6 picnic tables, rest rooms, saltwater boat launch, saltwater beach access.
Mike's Beach Resort		Boat launch, SCUBA diving, cabins, camping, beach access for guests
Robin Hood Village		16 RV sites, cabins, camping, beach access for guests
COUNTY TOTAL	<u>63,032.27</u>	

Facility Needs

As part of the 1991 parks plan, a list of system deficiencies, future project and improvement needs, and costs was developed. The improvements identified incorporate LOS standards promulgated by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). These standards and deficiencies will be revisited in 2006, with the development of the new county-wide parks plan. The previous standards are provided below are for park planning purposes and as targets to provide guidance to future capital decisions by the county. They are not intended to identify capital facilities which are necessary for development, and they are not intended to be used in the review of individual projects. Also shown below for comparison purposes are standards used by other counties similar in population size. These standards, shown in TABLE VI.5-2, are important considerations for procuring funding from park and recreation resource agencies. This framework continues to provide the basis for developing a list of improvement requirements and project facility needs on a county-wide basis. In addition, the County recently developed a Master Trails Plan which provides policy guidance and direction in seeking additional trail development throughout the County. Further refinement of facility needs will occur with the development of the new parks plan and through the integration of the new plan with park standards, the Master Trails Plan, and site-specific long-term development plans. A list of these facility needs, incorporating anticipated sub-regional growth, as developed for the previous parks plan is detailed in Section VI.10, Finance Plan, along with potential finance options for these facilities.

TABLE VI.5-2. Level of Service Standards for Parks and Recreation Facilities				
Activity/Facility	NRPA Standard	Average Standards of Similar-Sized Counties	Existing Level of Service	Proposed Level of Service
Softball field	1/5,000	1/3,000	1/2,500	1/5,000
Baseball field	1/5,000	1/4,500	1/1,400	1/5,000
Soccer field	1/10,000	1/1,500	1/2,500	1/10,000
Tennis court	1/2,000	1/1,830		
Basketball court	1/5,000	1/500		
Handball court	1/20,000	1/1,500		
Golf - 18 holes	1/50,000	1/20,330		
Golf - 9 holes	1/25,000	1/7,000		
Pool - indoor	—	1/10,000		

Pool - outdoor	1/20,000	1/25,000		
Archery	1/50,000	1/1,500		
Target shooting	1/50,000	1/50,000		
Neighborhood park	—	1/6,000		
Neighborhood park	1-2 ac/1,000	2.9 ac/1,000		
Community park	5-8 ac/1,000	3.5 ac/1,000		
Regional park	—	1/20,000		
Regional park	5-10 ac/1,000	6.7 ac/1,000		
Recreation center	—	1/25,000		
Bicycle trails	—	.53 mi/1,000		
Hiking trails	—	1.22 mi/1,000		
Horse trails	—	3.7 mi/1,000		
Picnicking	—	2 ac/1,000		
Boating	—	4 ac/1,000		
Beach - swimming	—	4 ac/1,000		