

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2022**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND STEWARDSHIP  
PLAN**

WHEREAS, San Juan County performs comprehensive recreation, open space, and stewardship planning in order to guide and support future programming, create the basis for capital improvement budgets, and to maintain eligibility for grants from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation office (RCO); and

WHEREAS, the RCO requires that San Juan County's Recreation, Open Space, and Stewardship Plan (Plan) be updated every six years, adopted by resolution of the San Juan County Council, and include, at a minimum, the elements required by WAC 286-13-035; and

WHEREAS, the San Juan County Recreation, Open Space, and Stewardship (formerly known as the Parks, Trails, Natural Areas, and Non-Motorized Transportation Plan) Plan was last adopted in 2016 and is in need of an update; and

WHEREAS, the San Juan County Parks and Fair, San Juan County Conservation Land Bank, and San Juan County Environmental Stewardship Departments have updated the Plan to meet the county's needs and comply with RCO requirements including WAC 286-13-035;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of San Juan County, state of Washington, that the updated San Juan County Recreation, Open Space, and Stewardship Plan attached as Exhibit A is approved and adopted, effective immediately.

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ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2022.

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ingrid Gabriel, Clerk Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Minney, Chair  
District 1

REVIEWED BY COUNTY MANAGER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Thomas Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Wolf, Vice-Chair  
District 2

RANDALL K. GAYLORD  
APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Stephens, Member  
District 3

# EXHIBIT A



## San Juan County Recreation, Open Space, and Stewardship Plan

NOVEMBER 2022



**NOVEMBER 2022**

*Prepared by*

San Juan County Parks & Fair  
San Juan County Land Bank  
San Juan County Environmental Stewardship  
San Juan County Public Works  
Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc.

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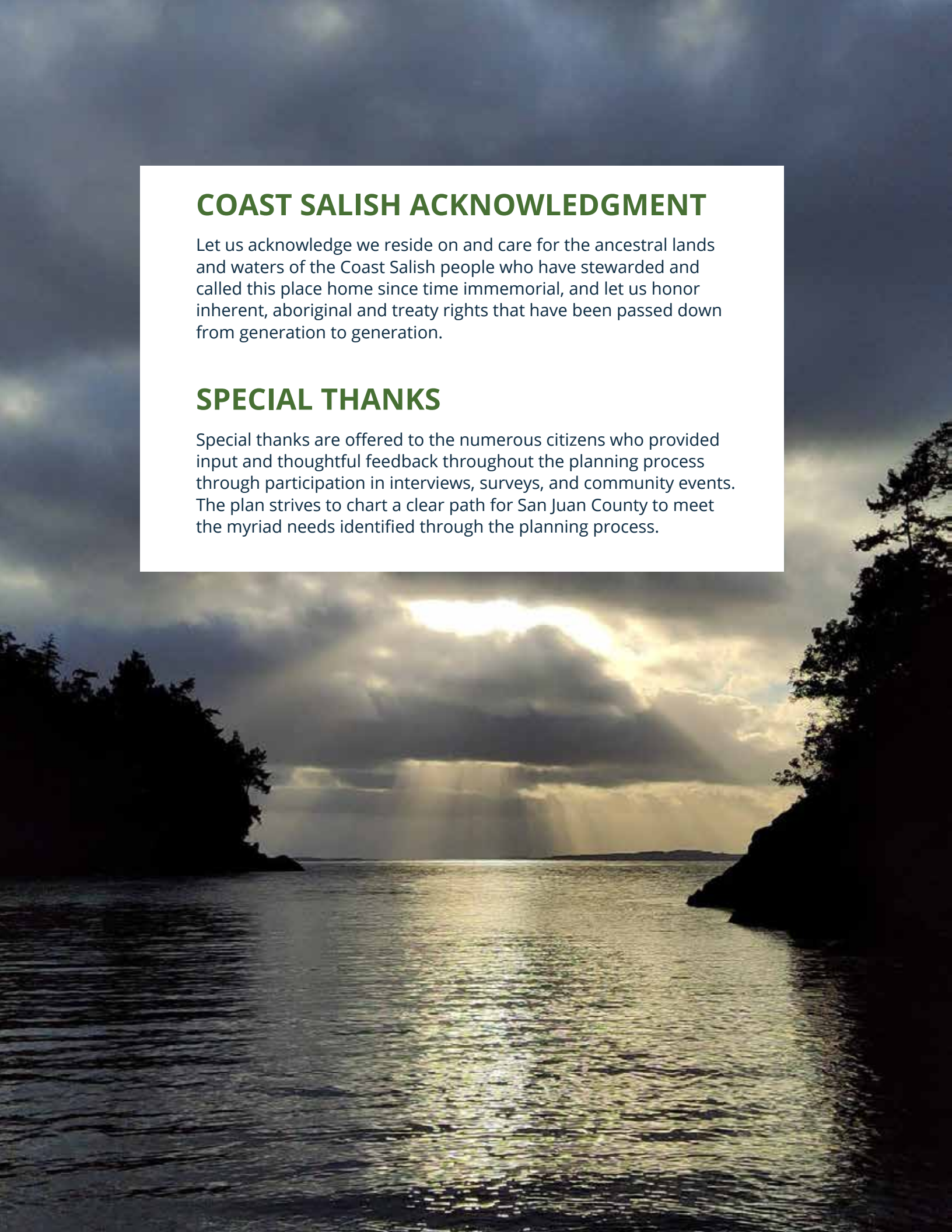
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## **COAST SALISH ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Let us acknowledge we reside on and care for the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have stewarded and called this place home since time immemorial, and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that have been passed down from generation to generation.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Special thanks are offered to the numerous citizens who provided input and thoughtful feedback throughout the planning process through participation in interviews, surveys, and community events. The plan strives to chart a clear path for San Juan County to meet the myriad needs identified through the planning process.



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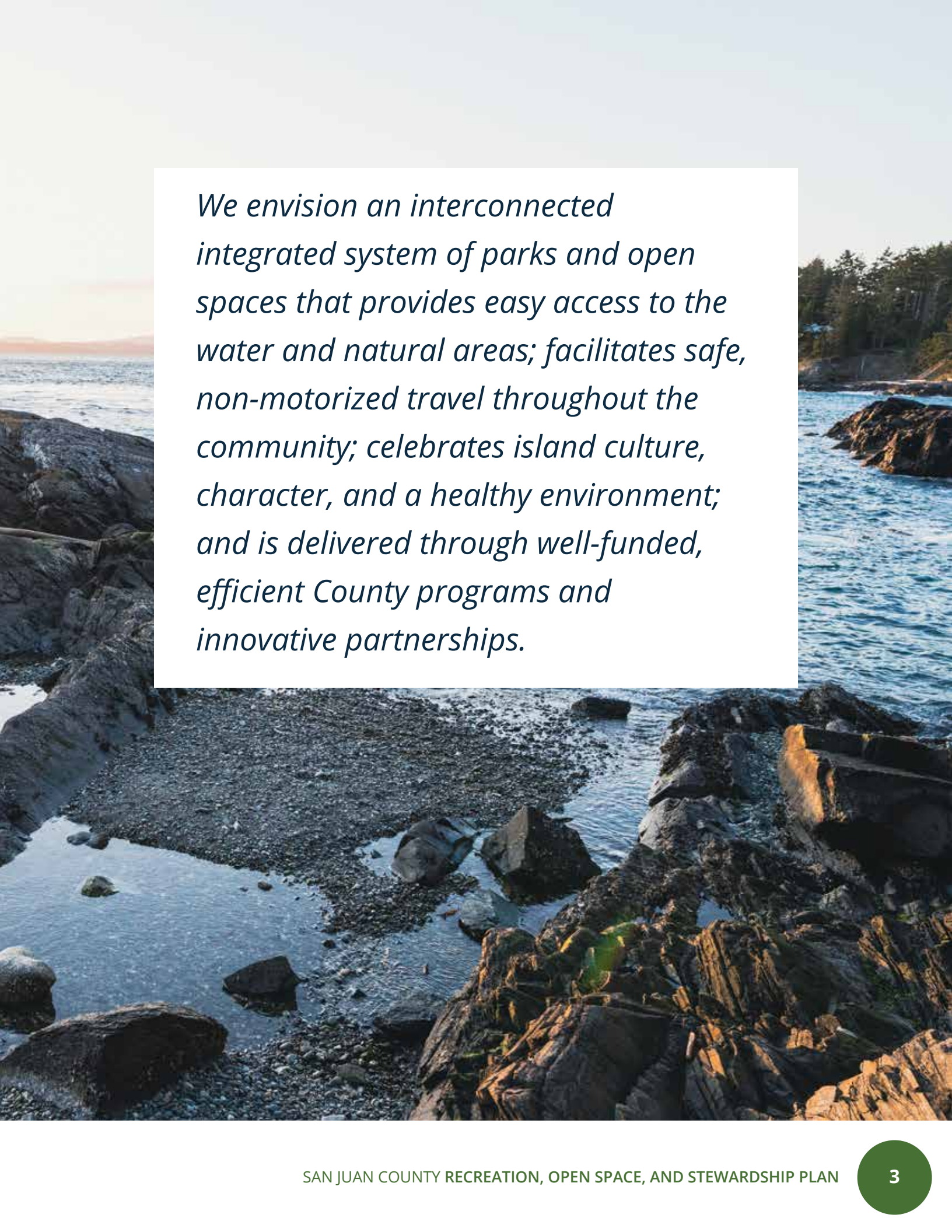


# Acronyms and Abbreviations:

<b>ADA</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act
<b>BLM</b>	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
<b>DNR</b>	Washington Department of Natural Resources
<b>LTAC</b>	Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
<b>REET</b>	Real Estate Excise Tax
<b>RCO</b>	Recreation and Conservation Office
<b>WDFW</b>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

# 2040 Vision for Parks and Open Spaces



A scenic view of a rocky coastline. The foreground is dominated by dark, jagged rocks and a pebbly beach. The water is a vibrant blue, and the sky is a clear, light blue. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

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





# Executive Summary

The San Juan County Recreation, Open Space, and Stewardship Plan (“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. This Plan charts a future for San Juan County Parks, the Land Bank, Environmental Stewardship and Public Works, which are the four County departments charged with overseeing County recreation, open space, and stewardship facilities and activities.

This Plan updates the previous one and is designed to maintain San Juan County’s eligibility to apply to state grants to acquire land for open space, construction of recreational facilities, and ecological restoration activities, and state-based park and recreation grant funding.

## KEY ISSUES

The planning process revealed a number of key issues that impact the County's recreation, open spaces, and stewardship activities 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, the older generation enjoys the outdoors in a relatively low-impact manner, mainly through hiking, walking, wildlife-watching, and relaxing in nature. Although 87 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.

### **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 peaks in seasonal use remains a major challenge due to limited staff capacity and revenue to meet the short-term need. The local Lodging Tax fund offers a mechanism to address some of these challenges.





### **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 and Fair Department began using volunteers to maintain some facilities and avoid closure. 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 with other public agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, State Parks, and local marinas allow the County to 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 D).

### **County Department Roles and Functions**

In recent years, San Juan County Parks, the Land Bank, Environmental Stewardship, and Public Works have collaborated more closely on meeting parks, open spaces, and stewardship needs. While this Plan outlines a collaborative approach, one key area of need among several County departments is trails. Trails are defined as non-motorized transportation and recreation facilities that address all aspects of pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, and marine needs. 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

Discussion with staff, review of past planning documents, and findings from public outreach efforts identified several top-tier areas of opportunity:

### **Trails**

As captured in surveys of visitors and residents, the community strongly supports creating a variety of multi-modal trails, including separated bike paths (nearly 85% of residents in favor), and trails away from roads (70% in favor). To date, the County has played a limited role in trail development strategy, with County Parks and the Conservation Land Bank developing trails on their respective properties and Public Works developing trails within road rights-of-way. 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.

### **Marine Facilities**

Facilities that provide boat access serve as critical infrastructure for both recreation and transport to remote islands for delivery of goods and services. These facilities are in constant need of repair and upgrades due to heavy use and constant exposure to severe weather conditions.

### **Parks Facilities**

Parks are beloved by County residents and visitors alike. Parks are used for camping, hiking, and water access and are in constant need of maintenance and upgrades due to high impact use.



### **Land Protection**

Protection of the natural beauty and character of the San Juans is also a top priority for residents. The Conservation Land Bank and San Juan Preservation Trust both played lead roles in meeting this need for years, often working in close collaboration. About 60 percent of residents support further land protection.

### **Water Access**

While public sentiment about whether there needs to be better access to the shoreline varies from island to island, overall, 65 percent of residents favor more acquisition of beach and headland properties. Orcas Island in particular, has substantially less accessible shoreline (roughly 1.5 miles) than Lopez and San Juan despite having much more waterfrontage (77 miles). County Parks, the Land Bank, Environmental Stewardship, and Public Works can all play a role in improving shoreline access through strategies like expanding access at road end rights-of-way and shoreline parks, to acquiring new waterfront lands. There are also opportunities 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 shoreline.

### **Stewardship and Maintenance**

San Juan County residents recognize the importance and challenge of stewardship and maintenance. County Parks and the Land Bank have applied innovative approaches to meeting stewardship and maintenance needs over the years. Further engaging the community in caring for parks, trails, and natural areas throughout the county remains an opportunity, as well as identifying resource sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies. In addition, a substantial number of public comments expressed the desire for an increased role and engagement of local Tribes in the stewardship of the Islands' lands and waters.

## PLAN FRAMEWORK

The foundation of this Plan, the plan “framework”, includes the collaborative mission, community values and long-term vision, and key goals detailed 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, open space, and stewardship work 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 and open spaces and for non-motorized transportation through the county.

#### Natural Integrity

We value maintaining and protecting robust ecosystem processes and structure, and biodiversity across our unique island environment.

#### Stewardship

We value being responsible stewards of the natural environment and providing well maintained facilities and spaces for current and 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

Nine key goals provide a road map for achieving the community's long-term vision for parks, open spaces, and stewardship in the islands. The overall system provides quality, diversified parks, trails, and natural areas that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences, promotes non-motorized transportation opportunities, and conserves and respects natural resources and island character.

<p><b>Trail Planning and Development</b></p> <p>Provide a multipurpose system of trails and corridors that meets the recreational needs of the community, and supports tourism via connection to parks, open spaces, activity centers, and other areas of interest.</p>	<p><b>Marine Facilities</b></p> <p>Provide improvements to existing marine facilities to meet access, safety, and environmental requirements.</p>	<p><b>Park Facilities</b></p> <p>Upgrade and expand Parks facilities for safety, accessibility, and expanded camping and trail connectivity.</p>
<p><b>Land Protection</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Water Access</b></p> <p>Provide and improve safe public access to fresh and salt water shorelines and waterways.</p>	<p><b>Stewardship and Maintenance</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Funding</b></p> <p>Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the parks, open space, and stewardship system.</p>	<p><b>Partnerships and Collaboration</b></p> <p>Foster partnerships and countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers (i.e., Terrestrial Managers Group, Marine Resources Committee, local Tribes) to improve the provision of parks and open spaces by supporting services and recreational programs.</p>	<p><b>Community Engagement</b></p> <p>Engage San Juan County residents and local Tribes in the planning and stewardship of parks and open spaces, and provide effective communication to improve awareness and support of County services.</p>

## IMPLEMENTATION

This Plan captures San Juan County residents' needs and desires for the County natural areas and Parks systems. The Plan identifies clear goals and priority projects to guide the County toward meeting myriad needs and opportunities. The Implementation Plan presented in Chapter 6 proposes just over \$51 million in capital projects over the next six years. More than \$25 million of these projects are land acquisition projects led by the Land Bank; the remainder includes development and renovation projects led by San Juan County Parks, Environmental Stewardship, and Public Works.

While the Implementation Plan presents an ambitious list of capital projects, many projects will likely not be completed due to funding limitations and other resource constraints. Ensuring priority needs are met requires community support and ongoing collaboration among residents, volunteer groups, the County Council, county departments, other public agencies, local Tribes, and a variety of other partners.





## Key Recommendations

Work with private and public landowners to protect high-priority lands using a variety of tools, including land or conservation easement purchase, exchange, and private donation. In particular, focus on areas with high resilience to climate change.

Continue to identify and develop cross island trail opportunities to provide desired connections within and between the islands. Develop a countywide trails plan and hire a coordinator to help implement.

Increase marine access via improvements to marine facilities and shoreline access.

Prioritize the backlog of maintenance projects and secure funding to implement top-priority projects, and emphasize environmentally sustainable design techniques and accessibility, in the design and construction of future facilities.

Explore expansion opportunities at San Juan County Park and Odlin County Park., and additional camping opportunities on San Juan Island.

Pursue and enact consistent capital improvement funding sources.

Encourage volunteer stewardship and maintenance projects on County lands through a variety of groups such as local volunteers, contractors, youth, and conservation corps, as appropriate.

This Plan establishes a clear vision and direction for San Juan County recreation, open space, and stewardship for the next six years and beyond. Continued collaboration, commitment, ingenuity, and innovation is essential to turn recommended actions and projects into completed success stories.





# Chapter 1. Introduction

The San Juan County Recreation, Open Space and Stewardship Plan (the “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. Since the adoption of the last Plan, San Juan County continued to assess community needs, engage the public in a variety of ways, and craft projects that strengthen the recreation, open space, and stewardship system. This Plan update builds on that progress and provides the community with a critical compass to guide action and investment for years to come.

This chapter provides an overview of new updates to the 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 plan to ensure it responds to community needs and desires and provides clear direction for the identification, development, and management of parks and open spaces. This County-approved six-year Recreation, Open Space, and Stewardship Plan not only establishes clear priorities, it also assures the County is eligible for important state grants that fund the majority of proposed parks, open space, and stewardship projects. In particular, this update is designed to meet the eligibility requirements for grants administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for a six-year period from 2023-2028.

## Collaborative Approach

The Plan is a collaborative effort between the four County departments that play a role in the provision of recreation, open space, and stewardship: San Juan County Parks, Recreation, and Fair; the Conservation Land Bank; Environmental Stewardship; and Public Works (See Chapter 2 for an overview of the four departments). While each department has its own mission, the implementation of the Plan is guided by a joint mission statement:

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

During this planning process, the County has accomplished four key planning objectives:

- Revisit community needs, desires, challenges, and opportunities for recreation, open space, and stewardship through a variety of public involvement methods;
- Update, consolidate, and refine County inventory information on parks and open spaces;
- Research viable local, state, and federal funding opportunities to fund implementation of priority projects and actions; and
- Develop a six-year action plan that charts a clear future for County lands and facilities.

## PLANNING PROCESS

The County designed a planning process that emphasized public involvement through a variety of methods. The planning process involved four key project phases, consisting of the components below:

Phase <b>1</b>	<b>Asset and Needs Identification</b> The County identified key assets and opportunities of the recreation, open space, and stewardship system. Key tasks included reviewing and updating the facility inventory and identifying big-picture opportunities through the results of community outreach from 2017 through 2022.
Phase <b>2</b>	<b>Public Involvement</b> The County hosted a set of two virtual open houses to capture community input on the key needs and priorities of the Plan and conducted a virtual public comment period on the draft goals and projects proposed in the new Plan. The County also leveraged community feedback captured from planning and community survey efforts from 2017-2022, including for the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan and other relevant initiatives to use as a base for the development of this plan.
Phase <b>3</b>	<b>Goal, Policy, and Action development</b> Information gathered through Phases 1 and 2 provided the foundation for the development of the plan including key goals, policies, and actions. A capital facilities plan and review of public funding options also guided implementation of the Plan. Recommended goals, policies, and projects were refined through public involvement and staff review.
Phase <b>4</b>	<b>Plan Adoption and Implementation</b> The final phase of the planning process involved drafting and completing the final Plan.

# PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Plan is composed of six chapters:

Chapter <b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> Provides an overview of the approach and process used to create the Plan, its organization, and relationship to other County plans.
Chapter <b>2</b>	<b>Planning Area Overview</b> 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; special planning considerations; and the network of public agencies that play a role in providing spaces and programs for outdoor recreation and open space protection.
Chapter <b>3</b>	<b>Existing Resources</b> Provides a detailed summary of San Juan County recreation and open space facilities.
Chapter <b>4</b>	<b>Public Involvement and Needs Assessment</b> Provides an overview of the activities and major findings of the public involvement process.
Chapter <b>5</b>	<b>Mission, Values, Vision, Goals, and Policies</b> Presents the Plan's core planning framework.
Chapter <b>6</b>	<b>Implementation Plan</b> Provides a roadmap for plan implementation, including a six-year capital facilities plan and a summary of funding opportunities for implementation.



## RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

This Plan substantially updates the 2017-2022 Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan and includes policy guidance from several past County plans. RCO requires cities and counties applying for RCO grants to have a current parks and open space plan that complies with all RCO requirements. Other state funding agencies, such as the Washington Department of Transportation, require projects to be listed in an approved planning document.

Although the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) does not contain a parks and open space element, the land use element establishes 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 policies set forth in this Plan. The Comp Plan also contains a non-motorized transportation element, which addresses pedestrian and bicycle trails and human-powered watercraft access areas, and meets the Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements. 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. For this Plan update, the transportation elements within the road prism, such as sidewalks and bike lanes, have been removed. However, separated trails (in or out of the right of way), marine facilities, and shore access remain critical recreation elements within the Plan.

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 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.



**Lopez Island Trails Plan (2014).** The Lopez Community Trails Network partnered with a number of organizations and individuals to develop a long-range plan to achieve the vision of a network of trails for non-motorized use on Lopez Island. A number of trail opportunities are identified and in various stages of planning and/or implementation.

Two additional plans currently underway in the County have influenced this planning process.

**Sustainable Tourism Management Plan (anticipated April 2023).** Environmental Stewardship is leading an effort to integrate the tourism-based community surveys, open houses, and County Department observations to develop a comprehensive investment strategy that balances the needs and impacts of tourism in the county.

**Climate Action Plan (anticipated October 2023).** Environmental Stewardship is working with a County Council-appointed Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee to develop a Climate Action Plan for the County which may influence the manner and depth of future infrastructure investments.





## Chapter 2. Planning Area Overview

Thoroughly planning recreation, open spaces, and stewardship in San Juan County requires an understanding of the following elements:

- Key landscape features, habitats, land use and development trends;
- Community profile, including demographic and economic trends;
- Special planning considerations; and
- The network of local, state, and federal agencies that play a role in providing spaces and programs for outdoor recreation and open space protection.





## THE LANDSCAPE

San Juan County is located in the northwestern portion of Washington State in Puget Sound. The county includes 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 (Map 2.1).

Including 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 approximately 375 miles of shoreline abutting 600 square miles of inland sea. The group of San Juan islands include several on the eastern archipelago that belong to Skagit and Whatcom counties, including Cypress, Guemes, Sinclair, and Lummi Islands.

The population of San Juan County was 17,788 according to the 2020 Decennial Census. 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 the County's only incorporated municipality. 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 rain shadow 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. Additional 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 rural with an economy based in recreational tourism, second-home development, and the retirement industry. The 1990s and early 2000s brought a wave of new development that slowed between 2005 and 2015. More recently, 2020 brought an appreciable uptick in residential building permits. Despite a downturn in housing prices between 2008 and 2012 due to the recession, the growing number of second home purchases by non-county residents, the rise in popularity of converting long term rentals into vacation rentals, and a decrease in inventory have kept housing in the county unaffordable for many working families. Between 2001 and 2021, median wages in the county, adjusted for inflation, have increased 14 percent (to \$28.63) while Washington State increased by 17 percent (to \$32.33). Housing costs in San Juan County, adjusted for inflation, have seen an overall increase of 75 percent.

Nearly a third (30%) of land use in the San Juan Islands is designated as resource lands, which includes agricultural or forestry resource, rural farm forest, or conservancy lands (Table 2.1). These designations contribute to the rural and nature-rich atmosphere of the islands. Rural residential makes up a majority (68%) of land use in the county, with the greatest proportion designated rural residential on Shaw and San Juan islands.

**Table 2.1: San Juan County 2022 Land Use Summary**

Comprehensive Plan Land Use	Acres
Total Resource Lands	32,757
Total Rural Lands Not in Activity Centers	74,779
Village, Hamlet, Residential Activity Centers, Eastsound Rural	2,710
Total Unincorporated	110,246
Town of Friday Harbor	1,338
<b>Total County</b>	<b>111,584</b>

Source: San Juan County GIS Program Coordinator & Department of Community Development

## 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, with local commerce is based on the tourist and retirement industries.

Some significant trends, explored in more detail below, influence the role of parks and open spaces in San Juan County:

- **An older population.** According to Washington State Office of Financial Management, in 2020 the median age in San Juan County was 57 years, compared to 39 years for Washington State. The fastest growing age group in the county is 65 and older. Much of the shift to an older demographic can be attributed to migration into the county, particularly the large number of residents moving to the islands to retire.
- **Part-time residency.** The county has a high part-time population. While some “part-timers” are deeply involved in the community, anecdotal evidence suggests part-time residents are not as heavily invested in local issues as full-time residents, which may have implications for support of efforts related to parks and open spaces in the county.
- **Seasonal influx of tourists.** To a large extent, 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, at the height of the tourist season, County facilities are heavily visited by tourists, especially highly popular areas like the west side of San Juan Island. The relatively short, burst of intense use often exceeds the capacity of many facilities.
- **High cost of living and housing affordability.** The influx of an older, generally wealthier population 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 and open spaces accessible to the public are a critical resource for these families who cannot afford to vacation or recreate elsewhere.

## Population

San Juan County experienced rapid growth in the 1990s, increasing by 40 percent from 10,000 to 14,000 people. By 2036, the county's population is forecasted to grow to 19,423, with most growth occurring on Orcas (33%), unincorporated San Juan (32%), Friday Harbor (16%) and Lopez (15%), respectively (Table 2.2).<sup>1</sup>

**Table 2.2: 2022 Population Projections**

Island	2015 Population	2036 Population	% Change 2015-2036	% Total Population By Island (2036)
San Juan (unincorp.)	4,808	6,146	+27.83%	31.64%
Friday Harbor	1,932	3,152	+63.15%	16.23%
Orcas	4,667	6,423	+37.63%	33.07%
Lopez	2,128	2,936	+37.97%	15.12%
Shaw	210	287	+36.67%	1.48%
Outer Islands	359	479	+33.43%	2.47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,104</b>	<b>19,423</b>	<b>+37.71%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: 2022 Draft Comprehensive Plan- San Juan County Appendix 1 Table 1a & 1b.

For the past 40 years, the county's growth can be attributed mainly to migration. From 2010 to 2022, the population increased by 2,412 with the number of deaths outweighing the number of births, and a net migration of 3,082. Table 2.3 shows the San Juan County age demographic in 2019 compared to Washington State and the US. By 2040, the age group is forecasted to equal 34 percent of the total population, 66 percent above the state average. Currently, over 59 percent of the population is 50 and older – an extreme disproportion of retiring and retired populations.<sup>2</sup>

1 Eldred & Associates San Juan County Comprehensive Plan Update Population Projections, Table 1.

2 Washington State Office of Financial Management WA OFM: Historical estimates of April 1 population and housing for the state, counties, and cities. <https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-estimates/historical-estimates-april-1-population-and-housing-state-counties-and-cities>.

**Table 2.3: Percent of Population by Age in the U.S., WA State, and San Juan County, 2019**

	San Juan County	Washington State	United States
% population under 5 years old	2.8%	6.0%	5.8%
% population under 18 years old	12.7%	21.8%	21.8%
% population 65 years and older	35.2%	15.9%	17.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

### Part-time Residents

As the county’s total population grew over the past 12 years, so too did the number of part-time residents. According to 2020 Decennial Census figures, 39 percent of all housing units are vacant, signifying a four percent decrease in vacant units since the 2010 census. The 2020 Census attributes five percent of all housing units to vacancy due to being on the market or between tenants, among other reasons. Thirty-seven percent of all housing units are used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.<sup>3</sup>

### Tourism

The tourism industry continues to remain a major source of income for the County. Excluding construction, an estimated 10-20 percent of the economy in 2020 was attributed to tourism-related industries such as accommodation and recreation services, transportation, rental/leasing, and management services. This equates to approximately \$113 million of gross sales.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, peak tourist seasons brings an estimated 6,000 more people to the islands, according to the 2018 San Juan Islands Visitor Study, resulting in significant impacts on infrastructure. In 2021, Washinton State Ferries carried a total of 995,430 passenger vehicles and 267,690 foot passengers along San Juan Island routes, much for tourism-based activities.<sup>5</sup>

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3 2020 Decennial Census & 2020 ACS 5-year estimate  
 4 San Juan County Comp Plan – Economic Development Element  
 5 2018 San Juan County Tourism Study

## Economy

As discussed above, the retirement and tourist industries drive the economy of San Juan County. According to the Washington State Data Book, Leisure and Hospitality is the largest industry in the county, accounting for 21 percent of all employees, followed by Trade, Transportation and Utilities (18%), Government (15%), construction and mining/logging (14%), Education and Health Services (10%), Professional and Business Services (9%), Information and Financial Activities (7%) and Manufacturing (4%). Since 2001, the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities sector and Government sector are the most stable of all industries (based on standard deviation) while Leisure and Hospitality grew 20 percent from 2020-2021.<sup>6</sup>

## Income

San Juan County has one of the highest per capita personal income levels in the state: \$81,858 in 2020, up from \$59,831 in 2014. However, the average wage in the county is \$43,258, which is just 53 percent of the per capita income and far below the statewide average wage of \$73,504. Per capita is significantly higher for retirees because it includes wages, investment income, and government payments such as Social Security and veteran benefits. In terms of average wage, San Juan County ranks 33rd out of 39 Washington counties. Between 2016 and 2020, 9.6 percent of residents in San Juan County were living below the federal poverty line.<sup>7</sup>

## Affordability

The growing income disparity in the San Juan Islands between retirees and wage-earning residents means that San Juan County is one of the least affordable places to buy a home in the state. Households in 2019 earning an estimated median household income of \$67,026<sup>8</sup> would likely struggle to afford a median home price of \$652,000.<sup>9</sup> Median home values in San Juan County ranged from \$652,000 to \$750,000 between 2019-2021, exacerbating affordability concerns for lower- and middle-class households.<sup>10</sup>

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6 Washington State Dept. of Employment Security San Juan County Data tables.

7 Washington State Employment Security Department, San Juan County profile.

8 U.S. Census, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

9 Runstad Center for Real Estate Research, Univ. of Washington

10 2022 County Assessor's Office estimate

## LOCAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE PROVIDERS

Public parks and open spaces, including the San Juan Islands National Monument, state parks with water access, and those owned and operated by the County are treasured community assets and the primary attraction for visitors. 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 and open spaces throughout the county is provided below.

### San Juan County

San Juan County Parks, Recreation, and Fair; Land Bank; Environmental Stewardship; and Public Works all play a role in conserving and managing open space and ecologically important functions, providing recreational opportunities, and maintaining facilities in the county. A thorough inventory of County facilities is presented in Chapter 3.

#### **San Juan County Parks, Recreation, and Fair**

The County Parks and Fair system includes 17 parks and the fairgrounds, totaling 418 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 with camping, boat launches, building rental, and special facility use. The Parks & Fair Department has a staff of 19, composed of full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees, as well as short term Fair event staff. The department is assisted by the seven-member volunteer Parks and Recreation Commission (appointed by the County Council) and nine-member Fair Board.



### **San Juan County Conservation 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 throughout the county. The Land Bank provides more than 5,100 acres of preserved land and over 2,300 acres of protected land through conservation easements. A total of 29 preserves are open to the public, providing unique recreational opportunities on all of the islands. The Land Bank has a staff of 12 full- and part-time employees (10.9 FTE) and is overseen by a seven-member Commission appointed by the County Council; Commission members serve four-year terms.

### **San Juan County Environmental Stewardship**

Formerly a part of Public Works, Environmental Stewardship became an independent department in 2021. The Department's mission is to implement projects and programs to protect and restore our Island environment and culture, while building resiliency within a changing climate. It oversees the clean water and solid waste utilities and the marine and climate & sustainability programs. Each of these four programs receives substantial public input from four Council-appointed Advisory Committees. The Department employs 10 scientists, technicians, project managers, environmental educators, and communications experts who deliver comprehensive environmental management throughout the Islands in partnership with others.

### **San Juan County Public Works**

San Juan County Public Works is responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance of all county roads and marine access facilities, including boat ramps, docks and floats. Public Works also plays a role in the stewardship of shoreline access road ends and development of walking trails and biking amenities in the public right-of-way. Public Works currently provides or has jurisdiction over 17 marine access facilities and 41 shoreline access road ends throughout the county.

## **Town of Friday Harbor**

The Town of Friday Harbor operates five small parks, including Cahail Park, Evergreen Park, Memorial Park, Overlook Park, and Sunken Park. These encompass two small plazas near the marina and three neighborhood parks with open lawn areas and basketball courts. There are also two pocket parks: Breezeway Park and David Jones Park.

## **Other Recreational Providers**

Other recreation programs and providers bolster county parks and open spaces. On San Juan Island, the San Juan Island Park and Recreation District provides recreational programs for all ages throughout the year. The district also operates four facilities including the John O. Linde Community Park, Fairgrounds Family Park, Skate Park, Eddie and Friends Dog Park, and the La Farge Property, a primitive area open to the public for walking. The San Juan Island Park and Recreation District also oversees the volunteer San Juan Island Trails Committee, which actively leads trail advocacy, construction, and maintenance efforts on the island.

On Orcas Island, the Orcas Island Parks and Recreation District provides recreation programs for Orcas residents. The District also manages Buck Park which includes a skate park, tennis and pickleball courts, several ball fields and soccer fields, and the Off Leash Area for Dogs on the adjacent Land Bank's Crescent Beach Preserve.

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 to operate and maintain the Village Park in the center of Lopez Village. The Lopez Island Family Resource Center (LIFRC) provides recreational and educational programs for the island's youth.

## State Agencies

### State Parks

Washington State Parks operates 15 parks totaling 7,287 acres in San Juan County. Moran State Park on Orcas Island is the largest and most visited of all state parks. These parks provide boater recreation facilities, camping, hiking and shoreline access opportunities. Parks such as Spencer Spit, Obstruction Pass, Sucia and Jones Islands 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 agency has gradually transferred or is in the process of transferring much of its land in San Juan County to other public agencies. The most recent transfers were Odlin South (103 acres to County Parks) and Lopez Hill (400 acres to the Land Bank).

### Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) owns over 150 acres in the county, and oversees fish and wildlife management of state resources. WDFW also 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 Historical Park, totaling nearly 2,100 acres on San Juan Island. The park is composed of two major areas, American Camp and English Camp. These lands provide ample recreational opportunities and historical site interpretation for residents and visitors.

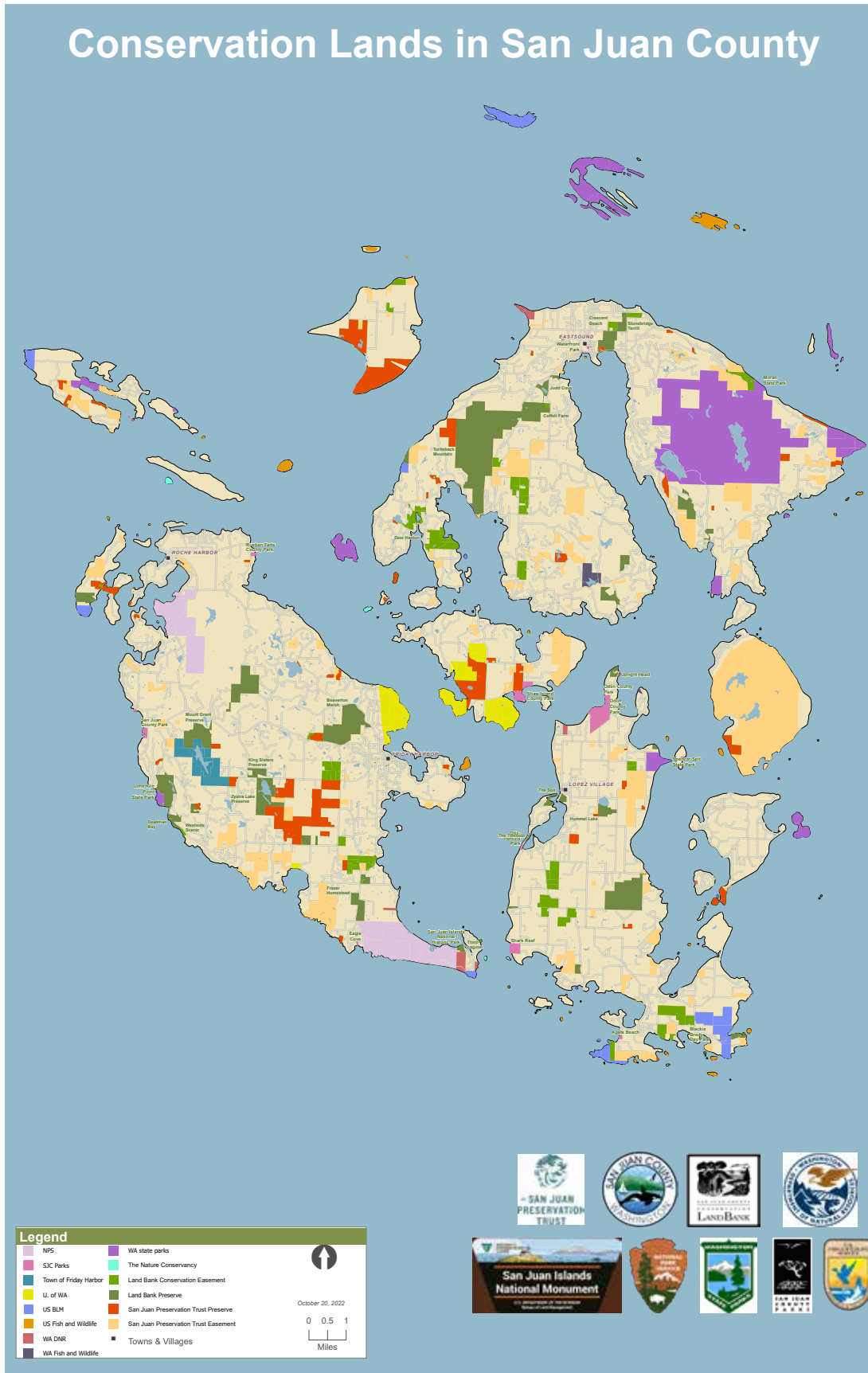
### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Of the approximately 700 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) manages the San Juan Islands National Monument that includes approximately 1,000 acres of land in San Juan County, 500 acres of which are located on Lopez Island, mainly at Watmough Bay and Iceberg Point. The details of the monument management plan are under development, but are expected to emphasize the conservation of the natural character of the land, while allowing low impact public access to most areas. With a full-time office on Lopez Island, partnership opportunities between the BLM and San Juan County Parks, the Land Bank, and Public Works have expanded in recent years.

Map 2.1 Conservation Lands in San Juan County





## SPECIAL PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

### Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

The County recognizes that climate change and potential sea level rise are significant factors affecting the islands now and in the future. Risk modelling is occurring locally and at state and federal levels to project possible scenarios and plan responses to protect shorelines and help the community adapt to necessary changes.

Through the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and FEMA floodplain mapping, the County has evaluated the best available science to determine the scientific and technical information to be used in assessing shoreline management issues, specifically sea level rise. The County is currently updating the mapping to define risk and vulnerability of critical infrastructure. This work offers additional opportunity to support parks and open spaces, where critical infrastructure like roads or buildings may need to be relocated to protect them from rising sea water.

In addition, the County is preparing a Climate Action Plan, which will encourage transition to more sustainable transportation options and connectivity between community assets. The anticipated transitions could impact the planning and implementation of recreation, open space, and stewardship projects, likely making them even more valuable in the face of a changing climate.

## Leave No Trace Initiative

On October 7, 2014 San Juan County became the first county in the nation to embrace the Leave No Trace guidelines and ethic when the County Council adopted a resolution designating San Juan County a Voluntary Leave No Trace Area to facilitate the protection and preservation of the natural environment for all people, current, and future generations.

For over two years a Terrestrial Managers Group committee worked to develop and support Leave No Trace education programs, including developing the San Juan Islands' Seven Principles of Leave No Trace. The team included representatives from federal, state, county, and non-governmental organizations working in the San Juan Islands. The seven principles are designed to address sensitive natural resource issues specific to the islands that are not highlighted by the national Leave No Trace program materials. The committee worked closely with the national organization during development and received their endorsement of the San Juan Islands Principles wording. The County Council adopted the San Juan Islands Seven Principles by Resolution on July 12, 2016 and remains committed to incorporating the program into parks and open spacemanagement and as a mechanism to increase the stewardship ethic of residents and visitors alike.

## Honoring Coast Salish Lifeways

San Juan County is committed to honoring and respecting the lifeways of the Coast Salish peoples, who have occupied the San Juan Islands as part of their ancestral lands since time immemorial. With more than nine tribal governments engaging in the Islands through their federal government-to-government relations (typically through permitting processes to protect cultural resources), maintaining close and consistent relationships can be challenging. The County recognizes these lands and waters support the Usual and Accustom Areas for tribes to fish, hunt and gather, making it even more critical to that we ensure Tribes' sovereign rights are respected as lands and waters are managed. The County also recognizes the need and desire to support cultural expression beyond treaty rights. The County is committed to working with tribal governments through consultation to facilitate these events on County managed areas.



Some recent examples of the County's efforts to engage with Tribes include:

- The Land Bank has acquired properties with provisions for tribal use, is considering culturally important plants in restoration efforts, and is working with the Madrona Institute to develop interpretive materials to highlight Coast Salish cultural history.
- The Environmental Stewardship Department's Marine Resources Committee include tribal representation. Representatives of four Tribes participated in the opening of the Orcas Landing Marine Interpretive Area in 2021, which highlights Coast Salish fishing and a large mural developed by local tribal artists. The Department also hosted cultural resources training in 2020 led by Representative Deborah Lekanoff, who invited a diversity of tribal perspectives to the County. Continuing to build relationships with local Tribes is essential to advancing marine elements such as marine facilities, moorage, and marine access.
- San Juan County Parks and Fair Department regularly hosts Canoe Journey events in County Parks and Campgrounds.
- Public Works has invited and hosted permit consultation with tribal representatives on its Mackaye Harbor Road realignment project in 2021.

As noted above, San Juan County and the staff of individual departments have engaged with a number of the Coast Salish Tribes on a variety of issues and projects. However, it is clear the County needs to adopt a more consistent approach to: 1) include the Tribes in co-management and decision-making; 2) improve project consultation efforts, and 3) support activities and events produced by tribal governments. This is a countywide issue; implementation will require County and tribal government leadership and support.







## Chapter 3. Existing Resources

This chapter provides a detailed summary of San Juan County's parks, open spaces, and stewardship 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.** All San Juan County parks and open space facilities are classified in one of four primary classifications: 1) parks, 2) marine access, 3) natural areas, and 4) 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, as well as a summary of management issues and recommendations for County parks.

## 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; for example, a children’s play area with play equipment, a viewpoint, waterfront/beach access area, and small plazas or civic recognition projects. Pocket parks typically do not include restrooms and parking facilities.

### 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 typically range in size from 0.25 to 4 acres depending on a variety of factors including need, physical location and opportunity. Ideally, these parks are located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites.

Generally, local parks include picnic, parking, and restroom facilities, as well as playground areas, and they may be developed 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	53
Odlin County Park	Regional Park	Lopez	178
Fairgrounds	Regional Park	San Juan	15
Subtotal			258

Property Name	Classification	Island	Acreage
Agate Beach County Park	Local Park	Lopez	4
Eastsound Waterfront Park	Local Park	Orcas	1
Lopez Village Park	Local Park	Lopez	<1
Reuben Tarte Park	Local Park	San Juan	5
Eagle Cove County Park	Local Park	San Juan	2
Subtotal			12

Property Name	Classification	Island	Acreage
Otis Perkins Day Park	Pocket Park	Lopez	1
Turn Point County Park	Pocket Park	San Juan	1
Blackie Brady Park	Pocket Park	Lopez	<1
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

Property Name	Classification	Island	Acreage
Fairgrounds Family Park	Specialty Facility	San Juan	<1
Fairgrounds Skate Park	Specialty Facility	San Juan	<1
Eastsound Village Square	Specialty Facility	Orcas	1
Lopez Village Skate Park	Specialty Facility	Lopez	<1
Subtotal			2

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnic tables and benches</li> <li>• Pathways, paved or other ADA-compliant hard surface where possible</li> <li>• Open lawn area</li> <li>• Signage: park name, wayfinding</li> <li>• Other site furnishings (e.g., trash receptacles, bike racks, barbecues, etc.)</li> <li>• Restrooms (seasonal or permanent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural areas and interpretive elements</li> <li>• Community gardens</li> <li>• Sports courts (e.g., basketball, volleyball, tennis)</li> <li>• Dedicated on-street or off-street parking</li> <li>• Playground (preferred size: 5,000—6,000 sq. ft.; serving ages 2-5 and 5-12)</li> <li>• Irrigation and landscaping</li> <li>• Other active recreational elements (e.g., skateboard park or spots, horseshoe pits, etc.)</li> </ul>

## 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, boating facilities, 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 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnic Shelters, (minimum 1 large and 1 small per park)</li> <li>• Picnic tables and benches</li> <li>• Open lawn area</li> <li>• Pathways, paved or other ADA-compliant hard surface</li> <li>• Restrooms (minimum 4 stalls)</li> <li>• Off-street or dedicated parking</li> <li>• Signage: park name, rules, wayfinding</li> <li>• Other site furnishings (e.g., trash receptacles, bike racks, barbeques, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Sports courts (e.g., basketball, volleyball, tennis)</li> <li>• Natural areas and interpretive elements</li> <li>• Staff Residence</li> <li>• Stage or community performance area</li> <li>• Dog park or off-leash dog area</li> <li>• Visitor Information Facility</li> <li>• Athletic fields for practice and/or games (e.g., soccer, baseball, softball, football, lacrosse)</li> <li>• Other active recreation elements (e.g., BMX, skateboard park or spots, climbing features, etc.)</li> <li>• Playground (preferred size: 10,000-12,000 sq. ft.; serving ages 2-5 and 5-12)</li> <li>• Landscaping, with or without irrigation</li> <li>• Maintenance or storage facilities</li> </ul>

## Special Use Areas

Special-use facilities include single-purpose facilities that accommodate special recreational or community uses. Examples include skate parks, 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 shore access, previously known as road ends. Public Works operates the majority of these facilities, and produces an annual report regarding the most heavily utilized facilities.

### **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. Many of them are accessible via barrier free gangways. 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.

### **Shore or Water Access**

Shore Access is a public right-of-way that extends from an improved roadway to the shoreline. Shore Access locations may be developed or improved to facilitate public use. Use may vary and may include, for example, opportunities for viewing the water, accessing the shoreline, and/or launching hand-carry watercraft.



## Natural Areas

The Natural Areas classification encompasses two subcategories: natural areas preserves, mostly managed by the Land Bank, and conservation easement lands which are privately owned. Table 3.5 provides a summary of properties classified as Natural Areas.

### Natural Area Preserve

Natural area preserves are managed 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.

### 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 generally do not provide public access, but may maintain scenic views, habitat, or working landscapes valued by the public.



**Table 3.5a: Natural Areas and Conservation Easement Properties: Land Bank Conservation Acquisitions**

Property	Acres
<b>SAN JUAN ISLAND</b>	
*Beaverton Marsh Preserve (2001 - 2019)(2021)(2022)	473
Cady Mountain Preserve (2003 - 2007)(2018)(2021)	472
Caines St. Historic Driggs Park (2018)	0.5
Deadman Bay Preserve (1995)	18
False Bay Creek Preserve (2008)	40
*Frazer Homestead Preserve (2003 & 2006)	113
Kellett Bluff Preserve (2016) - Henry Island	81
*King Sisters Preserve( 2005)	60
Limekiln Preserve (1995 - 2000)	189
Middlewood (2019)	30
Mt. Ben Preserve (2005)	22
*Mount Grant Preserve (2000 - 2017 )	252
*San Juan Valley (1998)	10
Third Lagoon Preserve (2000)	20
Westside Scenic Preserve (1993 - 2015)	46
Zylstra Lake Preserve (2015)	284
<b>ORCAS ISLAND</b>	
Coffelt Farm Preserve (2008)	190
Coho Preserve (2016)	24
*Crescent Beach Preserve (1998 - 2005)	129
Deer Harbor Preserve (2006)	2
Diamond Hill Preserve (2005 - 2014)	52
Eastsound Waterfront Park (1993 - 2004)	2
*Entrance Mountain Preserve (1996 & 2008)	128
Fowler's Pond Preserve (1994, 2006)	51
Judd Cove Preserve (2002 - 2010)	12
Orcas Village Tidelands (2001)	
President Channel Shoreline Preserve (2017)	20
*Stonebridge-Terrill Preserve (2005)	60
Turtleback Mountain Preserve (2006 & 2020)	1,610
Glenwood Inn - North Shore Preserve (2022)	58

Property	Acres
<b>LOPEZ ISLAND</b>	
Fisherman Bay Preserve:Weeks Wetland (1993)	24
Fisherman Bay Preserve: The Spit (2002)	29
Fisherman Bay Preserve: The Tombolo (2000 & 2017)	6
Hummel Lake Preserve (1996 & 2000)	79
Lopez Channel Preserve (2017)	9
Lopez Hill (2018)(2021)	475
Richardson Marsh (2021)	24
Spencer Spit Parcel(2019 &2020)	20
*Upright Head Preserve (1998)	23
Watmough Bay Preserve (1993 - 2009)(2022)*	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,104</b>

**Table 3.5b: Natural Areas and Conservation Easement Properties: Conservation Buyer Sales**

Property	Acres
*Historic Lower Argyle Lots (2002 & 2003)	2
Odlin South managed by SJC Parks	100
<b>SHAW ISLAND</b>	
*Shaw Island (2005) sold with a forever wild conservation easement held by the SJ PT	30
<b>ORCAS ISLAND</b>	
Guthrie Cove Reserved Life Estate (2004)	80

**Table 3.5c: Natural Areas and Conservation Easement Properties: Summary of Conservation Easements**

Property	Acres
<b>SAN JUAN ISLAND</b>	
Beaverton Valley Marsh (2010,2011)	42
Cattle Point Road/Heritage Farm (2003)(2009)	39
Cattle Point Road/Howard Farm(2009)	27
Cattle Point Road/Mulno Cove Farm (1999)	78
Cattle Point Road/Portland Fair (2004)	21
Edwards Point (1998)	8
Historic Roark House (2002) HPE	1
Ihiya (2020)	30

Property	Acres
North Neck Point Cove I & II (1995 & 2002)	6
Oak Knoll Farm (2004)	30
San Juan Historical Society (2010) HPE	1
San Juan Valley (1997)	155
W. Sundstrom Farm (2008)*(2009)	120
<b>ORCAS ISLAND</b>	
Buck Bay West (2003)	0.5
Cayou Key (1997)	5
Cayou Valley (1995)	109
Crow Valley (1995 & 2008)	9
Crow Valley Schaffer Stretch (1996)	134
Crow Valley Gudgell (1997)	31
Crow Valley Plum Tree Farm(1998)	55
Crow Valley Plum Tree Woodland (1999)	10
Goliithon Preserve Buck Bay (2002)	0
Hogback Mountain (1998)	50
North Shore (1996)	67
Olga Community Park (2005)	0
Orcas Artworks (2006) HPE	1
Stonebridge Farm (2006)	34
Warm Valley Farm (1993)	78
West Sound (1999)	159
<b>LOPEZ ISLAND</b>	
Aleck Bay (1997)	245
Aleck Bay (2003)	12
Central Valley (2000, 2001 & 2005)	126
Iceberg Point (1998)	40
Kjargaard Farm (2012)	95
South End (1993) (2013)	8
Strachan (2009)	44
Double R Bar Ranch (2020)	130
<b>BLAKELY ISLAND</b>	
Crowley donation (2011)	80

Property	Acres
<b>CRANE ISLAND</b>	
Pole Pass (2005)	1
<b>HENRY ISLAND</b>	
Mosquito Pass Preserve (2003)	21
<b>SHAW ISLAND</b>	
Tharald Historic Homestead (2002) HPE	
<b>WALDRON ISLAND</b>	
Huntley (2018)	34
Pt. Disney (2000)	171
Waldron Community Land Trust (2004)	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,318</b>

## Trails

Non-motorized transportation is represented by trails used by pedestrians, bicycles and equestrians. The “Trails” classification encompasses three subcategories: road right-of-way trail, rustic trail, and bike trail. Table 3.6 provides a summary of county facilities classified as “Trails.” Descriptions provided below were informed by a number of state and federal trail design manuals.<sup>11</sup>

### Road Right-of-Way Trail

Road right-of-way trails are located within the public road right-of-way, but only those that are separated are noted here. Trail surfaces within urban growth areas are often concrete; all others may be concrete or stabilized gravel. Trail widths vary and are ADA compliant to the maximum extent feasible when located within the county road right-of-way.

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: Trails Classification Summary**

Property Name	Classification	Island	Length (mi)
Town to American Camp Trail	Mix	San Juan	5.5
Enchanted Forest Road Path	Separated ROW Trail	Orcas	0.3
Golf Course Rd Trail	Separated ROW Trail	San Juan	0.3
Lopez Rd Path	Separated ROW Trail	Lopez	0.5
North Beach Road Path	Separated ROW Trail	Orcas	1.0
Weeks Rd Path	Separated ROW Trail	Lopez	0.3
Mt Baker Roadside Trails	Separated ROW Trail	Orcas	1.2
Deer Harbor Hamlet Trail	Separated ROW Trail	Orcas	0.5
Fisherman Bay Rd	Separated ROW Trail	Lopez	0.4
Odlin County Park	Rustic Trail	Lopez	3
San Juan County Park	Rustic Trail	San Juan	0.3
Eagle Cove Trail	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.1
Reuben Tarte Park	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.1
Shark Reef Sanctuary	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.4
Swale Trail	Rustic Trail	Orcas	.2
Shaw County Park	Rustic Trail	Shaw	.75
Kellett Bluff Preserve	Rustic Trail	Henry	.5
Turtleback Mountain Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	7.7
Turtleback Mountain/ Turtlehead Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	1.2
Deer Harbor Waterfront Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	.2
Judd Cove Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	.6
Crescent Beach Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	.7
Stonebridge Terrill Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	.04
Town to American Camp Trail	Mix	San Juan	5.5
Limekiln Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	4
Deadman Bay Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.2
Westside Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	1.5
King Sisters Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.7
Frazer Homestead Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.2
Third Lagoon Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.7
Beaverton Marsh Preserve	Multi-use Trail	San Juan	1.5

Property Name	Classification	Island	Length (mi)
Beaverton Marsh Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.25
Mount Grant Preserve	Mix	San Juan	3.5
Zylstra Lake Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	3
Upright Head Preserve	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.7
Fisherman Bay Preserves: Weeks Wetland	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.1
Fisherman Bay Preserves: The Spit	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.7
Fisherman Bay Preserves: The Tombolo	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.6
Lopez Hill Preserve	Rustic Trail	Lopez	4
Hummel Lake Preserve	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.8
Watmough Bay Preserve	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.5
		<i>subtotal</i>	40.54

### 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.

### Multi-use Trail

These trails are suited to several types of use, principally bicycles, equestrian, and pedestrian. Multi-use Trails can have a variety of widths and surfaces depending on intended uses, but typically will have a gravel surface and enough width to accommodate two-way traffic. For example, trails allowing bicycles would likely exceed 6 feet in width.

### Mix

This term refers to a trail network with a variety of trail types, e.g., rustic pedestrian only, single track mountain bike, or multiple use.



## FACILITY INVENTORY OVERVIEW

The recreation, open space, and stewardship inventory identifies all County-owned recreational assets. San Juan County provides nearly 8,000 acres of public land distributed among County-owned sites. Table 3.7 summarizes the land inventory in San Juan County and Maps 3.1 through 3.4 show existing parks and open space 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, University of Washington lands on San Juan and Shaw islands, and BLM's Iceberg Point and the Watmough Bay Preserve on Lopez Island. Additionally, school districts on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands 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 completed in 2015. 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 D.

**Table 3.7: Facility Inventory Summary**

Park	Acres	Total Acreage (%)
Regional Park	258	93.5%
Local Park	12	4.3%
Pocket Park	4	1.5%
Special Facility	2	0.7%
<i>Subtotal (acres)</i>	<i>276</i>	

Natural Area	Acres	Total Acreage (%)
Natural Areas Preserve	5,104	69%
Conservation Easement	2,318	31%
<i>Subtotal (acres)</i>	<i>7,422</i>	

Trail	Miles
Rustic Trail	33.49
<i>Subtotal (miles)</i>	<i>45.19</i>

Marine Access	Number
Docks	11
Open Shoreline Access Road Ends	25
Boat Launch/Ramps	10
<i>Subtotal (sites)</i>	<i>57</i>





# PARKS

# 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 Campgrounds designated as Cascadia Marine Trail campsites. The park is very popular for camping, whale watching, and kayaking and boating. The boater amenities include a concrete ramp, parking for seven car/ trailer combinations and a kayak launch area at the beach. The campground includes 25 campsites; flush toilets are available in both the main campground and the lower boat launch area. Day-use amenities include a grass picnic area, two small beaches, 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. The park has registered cultural sites and a historic cabin.

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Restrooms</li> <li>• Picnic tables</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Camp sites</li> <li>• Potable water</li> <li>• Concrete boat ramp</li> <li>• Kayak launch path</li> <li>• Rustic walking path on bluff</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Open lawn area</li> <li>• Bike racks</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Trash receptacles</li> <li>• Visitor station, office, and residence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop master plan</li> <li>• Complete renovation activities to Brann Cabin on State Historic Register</li> <li>• Install dumpster enclosure near lower parking lot</li> <li>• Acquire adjacent land for park expansion</li> </ul>

## 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. Now containing nearly 180 acres, this is the largest park in the County's system. The park underwent a major renovation and campground road relocation in 2012-13. Major features include the campground with separate group camping area, picnic areas, covered pavilion, boating facilities, large day use area, and a long, sandy beach. The park is also a designated Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. The 40-person capacity campground includes 30 sites, 5 hiker/biker sites, and one "care-to-share" campsite. The group camping area includes 9 sites, a double vault restroom, shelter, and large masonry fire ring and has a 40- person capacity. 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, beach access, picnic area with picnic tables, vault restrooms, and potable water. Additional picnic tables, and barbecues 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.



Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnic tables</li> <li>• Fire rings and barbecues</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Camp sites</li> <li>• Rustic walking paths</li> <li>• Pavilion</li> <li>• Ball field with backstop</li> <li>• Open lawn area</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Kayak storage rack</li> <li>• Boat ramp</li> <li>• Dock</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Vault toilets</li> <li>• Bike rack</li> <li>• Drinking water</li> <li>• Trash receptacles</li> <li>• Visitor information station, office, and residence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue wetland mitigation and restoration monitoring program through 2024</li> <li>• Prepare a management plan for Odlin South</li> <li>• Repair or replace tide gate outfall</li> <li>• Develop improved interpretive signage and programming</li> <li>• Construct gray water treatment fixtures in campgrounds</li> <li>• Construct fireplace/stove in pavilion</li> </ul>

## 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. The Reef-net Point area of the park includes walking trails and a small pocket beach.

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnic tables</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Camp sites</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Wood &amp; concrete boat ramp</li> <li>• Rustic walking path</li> <li>• Vault toilet (2)</li> <li>• Trash receptacles</li> <li>• Large play field and ball diamond</li> <li>• Limited car and boat trailer parking</li> <li>• Kayak storage rack</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the 2008 Shaw Park Master Plan and implement accordingly</li> <li>• Develop interpretive plan and information displays</li> </ul>



## SAN JUAN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

This 14-acre park is located on the southern edge of Friday Harbor. The park is a functioning event center with over 240 events per year and also includes the Family Park and Skate Park. The Fairgrounds includes two group camping sites and an 8-site RV campground. Flush toilets are available in both the main building and the RV camping restrooms. Day-use amenities include a grass picnic area, picnic shelter, picnic tables, barbecue grills, and benches.

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Restrooms</li> <li>• Picnic tables</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Camp sites</li> <li>• Potable water</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Open lawn area</li> <li>• Bike racks</li> <li>• Trash receptacles</li> <li>• Visitor station and office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise and adopt master plan</li> <li>• Increase ADA compliance</li> <li>• Remove Boy Scout house for safety</li> <li>• Renovate tractor shed and wood shed</li> </ul>



# 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 view toward Iceberg Point and the Strait of Juan de Fuca . Recreational opportunities include beachcombing, picnicking, and walking. This park provides parking and support facilities for visitors accessing Iceberg Point of San Juan Islands National Monument.



Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vault toilet</li> <li>• 2 Picnic tables</li> <li>• 1 Bench</li> <li>• Rustic loop trail</li> <li>• Bike rack</li> <li>• Gravel parking lot</li> <li>• Entry and boundary signs</li> <li>• Beach stairway</li> <li>• Water access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop site master plan</li> <li>• Add culvert or bridge over 'V' ditch at southern trail entrance</li> <li>• Replace toilet with ADA double vault</li> <li>• Upgrade parking</li> <li>• Replace staircase or develop alternative method to access the water</li> <li>• Install ADA-accessible picnic tables with hard surface pathway</li> </ul>

## 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. The park was further expanded in 2004 with an additional 0.45-acre property abutting the eastern boundary, increasing water frontage by another 100 feet. The property is popular for weddings, Fourth of July events, and family gatherings.

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike rack</li> <li>• 2 Picnic tables</li> <li>• Open lawn</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Street front parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install interpretive panel/kiosk and bench</li> </ul>



## LOPEZ VILLAGE PARK

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

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Picnic tables</li> <li>• Historic water tower (owned by Chamber of Commerce)</li> <li>• On-street parking; 30 stalls, plus 2 ADA stalls</li> <li>• Open lawn area</li> <li>• Flush restroom with two toilet rooms with lavs, and two shower rooms, ADA accessible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade to provide ADA access to tables and picnic area, include hard surface pathway</li> </ul>





## 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 shore birds. The park includes approximately 220 feet of gravel beach and a paved pull-off parking area with space for approximately ten cars. Amenities are limited to one picnic table, a memorial bench, and a seasonal portable toilet.

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Picnic Table</li> <li>• Memorial Bench</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Parking area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update park sign and develop information kiosk</li> </ul>



## 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. Amenities 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	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking area (upper and lower)</li> <li>• Portable toilet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade (gravel or pave) lower parking area and turn around</li> <li>• Upgrade/pave ADA parking stall and connection to portable toilet</li> <li>• Install interpretive signage and renovate information kiosk</li> </ul>



## TURN POINT COUNTY PARK

This park is at the end of Turn Point Road before it becomes 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	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Benches</li> <li>• Earthen parking area</li> <li>• Water access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install portable toilet with enclosure or concrete pad</li> </ul>



# 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 park provides parking for up to sixteen cars and a seasonal portable toilet. A 250-yard gravel/earthen walking trail extends to the sandy beach that seasonally very popular with locals and skim boarders.

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off-street parking</li> <li>• Rustic walking path</li> <li>• Water access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue invasive plant removal along creek and restore with native plants</li> </ul>



## 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 .56 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.

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water access to cobble beach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install entry and wayfinding signage</li> </ul>



## 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 donation included a strict conservation easement that preserves the park for quiet repose and includes a sign showing the Declaration of Independence. The park consists of a short walking path, landscaping and benches, and stairs to the Orcas Library. It is maintained by a citizen group and funded through an endowment of the Orcas Island Community Foundation.

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Rustic walking path</li> <li>• Memorial plaque</li> <li>• Extensive perennial and small tree &amp; shrub landscaping</li> </ul>	



## VIEWPOINT PARK

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

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viewpoint with bench and seat-wall</li> <li>• On-street parking, 4 stalls</li> <li>• Water access via rock stairway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace interpretive signage</li> </ul>



# 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 ¾-mile trail that leads through the forest to a bluff above a rocky shore with views of Cattle Pass and a large seal rookery. Signs mark the park property boundary on the south 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	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Vault toilets</li> <li>• 2 Picnic tables</li> <li>• Bike rack</li> <li>• Rustic trail</li> <li>• On-street parking</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Entry signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace toilets for ADA compliance</li> <li>• Conduct trail and shoreline restoration in areas of wear and erosion</li> <li>• Install interpretive signs</li> </ul>





## EASTSOUND VILLAGE GREEN (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 Orcas Island Farmers’ Market, Historical Days, Solstice Festival, performances, and holiday celebrations. The site consists of a 1.2 acre grassy area with covered performance stage, picnic tables, a public restroom, and nine heirloom apple trees.

Inventory	Management Issues and Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award-winning, custom band shell</li> <li>• Restroom including ADA</li> <li>• Bike rack</li> <li>• 7 Picnic tables</li> <li>• On-street parking, 10 stalls</li> <li>• Trash receptacles</li> <li>• Open lawn</li> <li>• Landscaping</li> <li>• Interpretive display</li> <li>• Park entry sign</li> <li>• ADA parking and stage access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install water fountain/water bottle filling station</li> <li>• Plant street trees along frontage</li> <li>• Upgrade 1-2 benches for ADA accessibility with connecting hard surface pathway</li> <li>• Upgrade and mount bike racks</li> </ul>

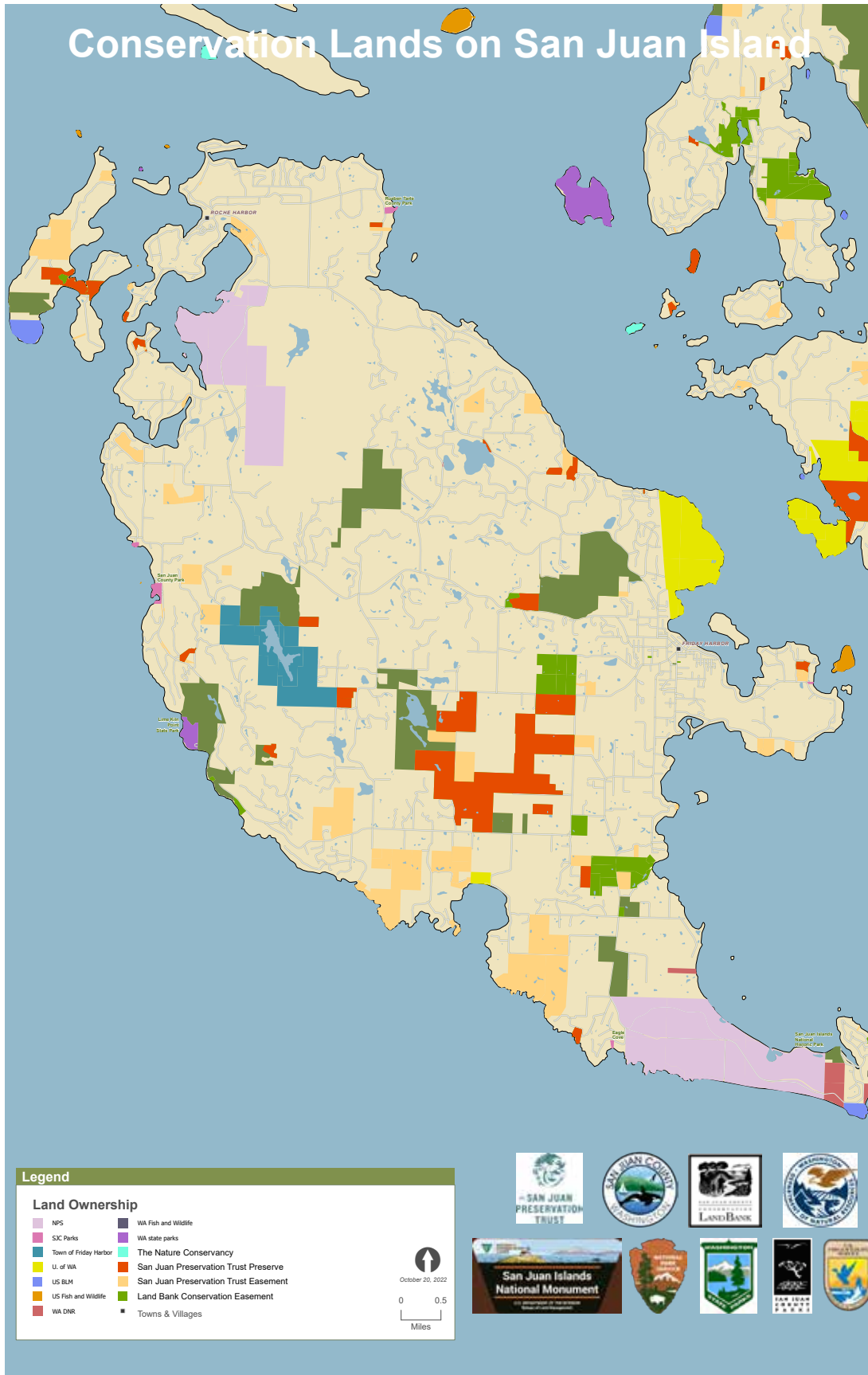


# Extended County Facility Inventory

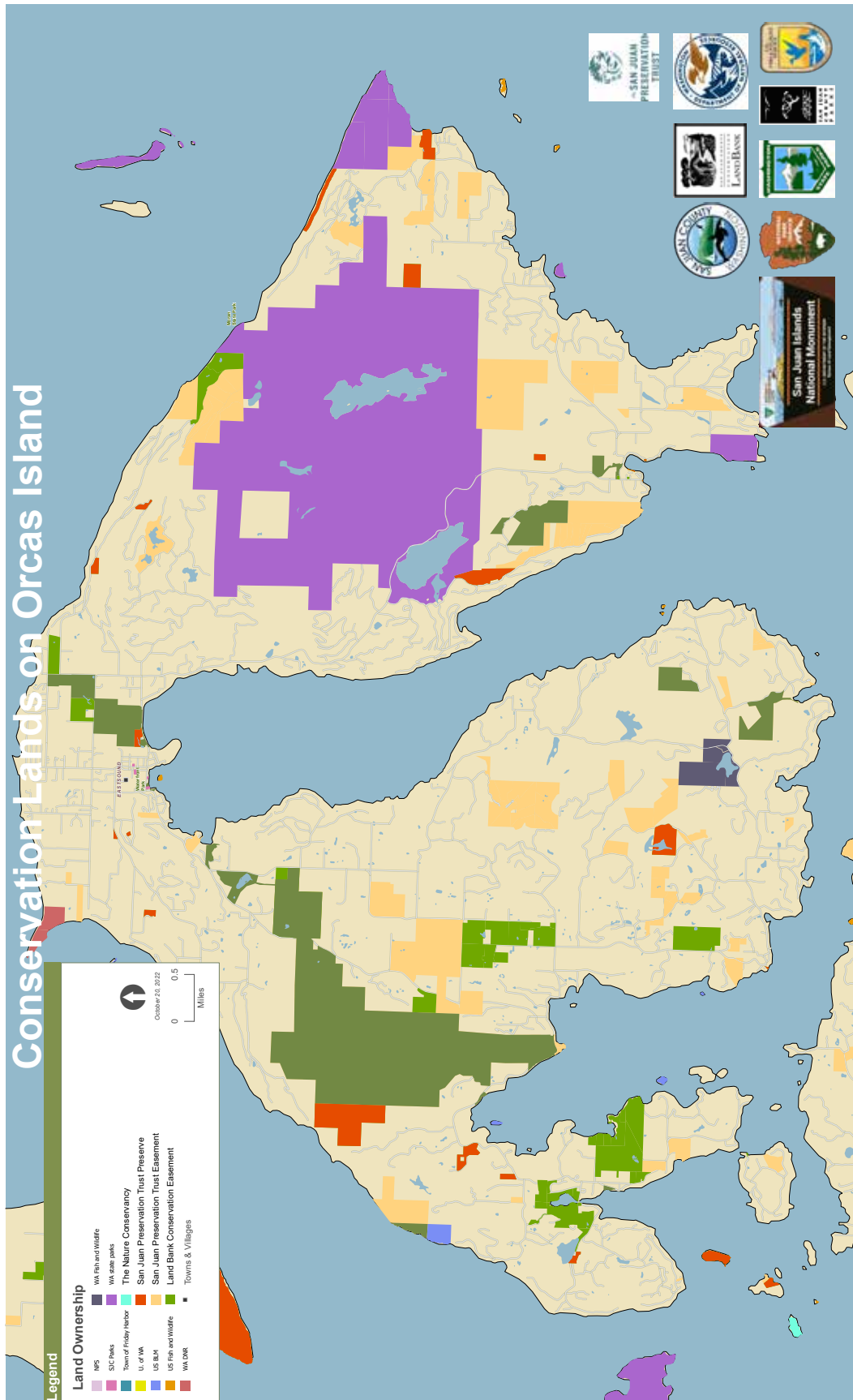
The County currently has more than 130 sites included in its parks, trails, and natural areas inventory. Due to the sheer number of County facilities, site assessments could only be conducted for a handful of sites, detailed above. The majority of the remaining parks, open spaces, and marine access facilities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



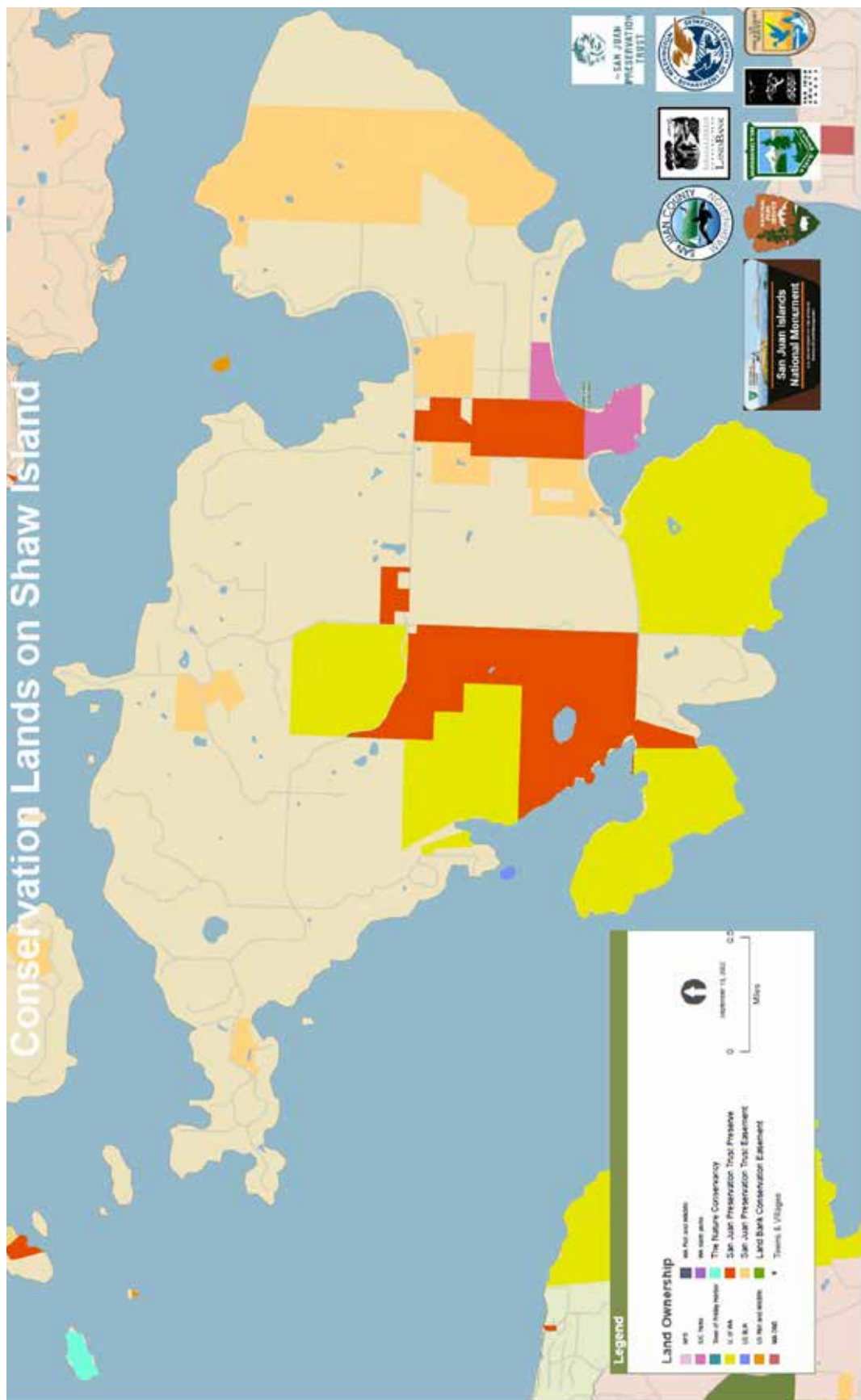
Map 3.1 San Juan Island Conserved Lands



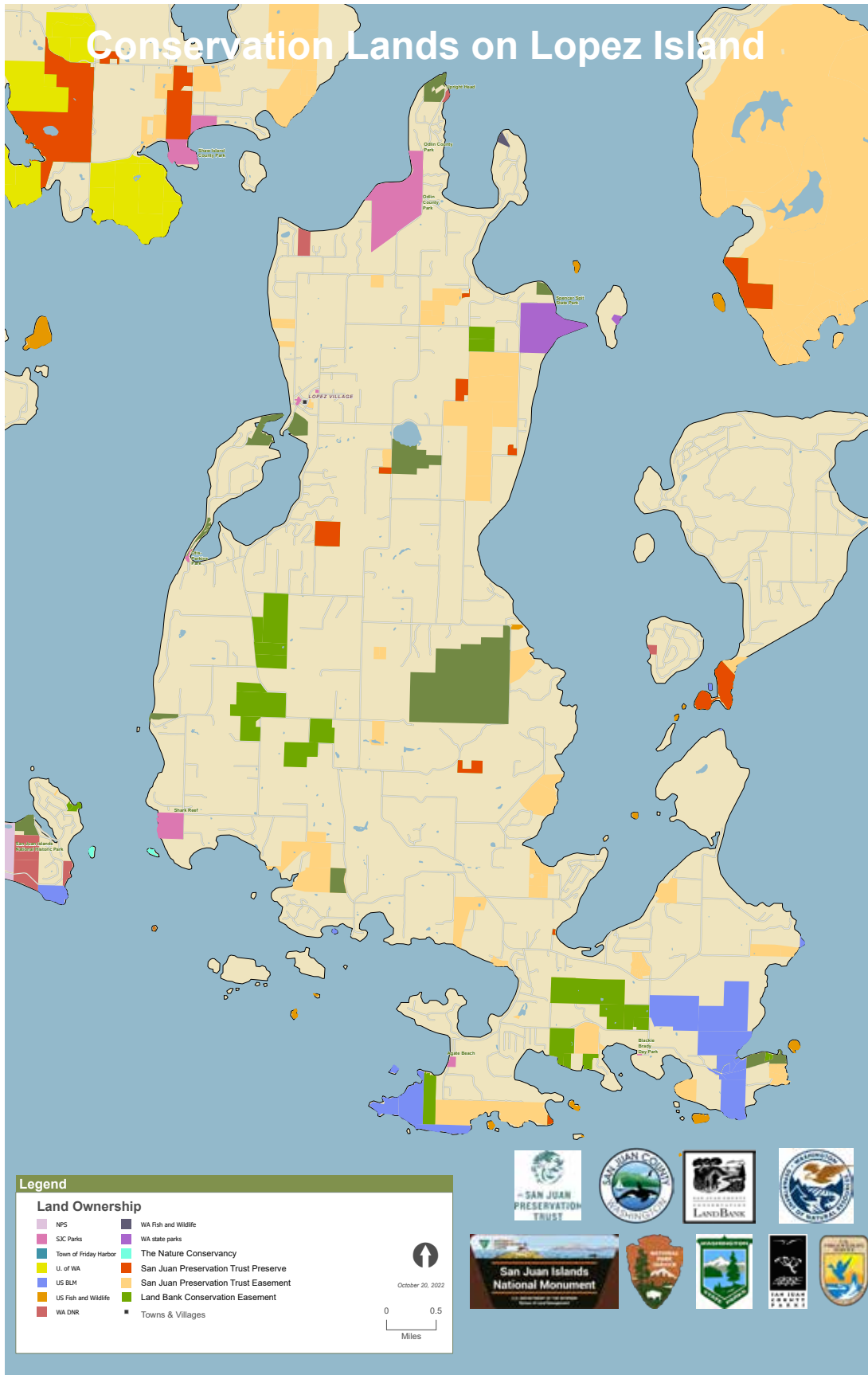
Map 3.2 Orcas Island Conserved Lands



Map 3.3 Shaw Island Conserved Lands



Map 3.4 Lopez Island Conserved Lands





An aerial photograph of a coastal area. On the left, there is a sandy beach meeting the ocean. To the right of the beach is a paved road with several cars. Further inland, there is a dense forest of green trees. In the foreground, there is a large, open, sandy area with some scattered items and a few people, possibly a campsite or a public gathering area. The overall scene is a mix of natural and developed land.

## Chapter 4. Public Involvement and Needs Assessment

This chapter provides an overview of the activities and major findings of various public engagement efforts underway since 2016. It also incorporates guidance from staff, commission members, and findings from previous plans to gain an accurate assessment of community needs. The needs assessment described here serves as a basis for the vision, goals, and strategies presented in Chapter 5.



## 2017-2022 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To ensure the San Juan County Recreation, Open Space, and Stewardship Plan adequately meets community needs and captures the community's vision, the planning process relied heavily upon the relevant public engagement implemented by County Departments between 2017 and 2022. These efforts are detailed below.

### 2017 San Juan Visitor Management Assessment

This workshop engaged agencies and stakeholders about San Juan County recreation and tourism issues. The result was a description of long-term visitation trends, recreation supply and demand, and recreation impacts and prioritized “hot spots” with visitor management issues. It also identified information gaps and recommended options to fill them (which took place in the form of the studies described below).<sup>12</sup>

### 2017 San Juan Islands Visitor Study

San Juan County, the National Park Service, and the Terrestrial Managers group worked cooperatively with Confluence Research and Consulting on a multi-faceted Visitor Study in 2017.<sup>13</sup> This study was initiated to learn about visitor activity and behavior in the San Juan Islands and includes background information about visitation levels and accommodations. The study included onsite surveys at park units and other sites; surveys of people waiting for ferries to Anacortes; an accommodation inventory; and a visitation analysis.

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12 The 2017 San Juan Visitor Management Assessment: [https://www.sjctourism.com/\\_files/ugd/09fdff\\_312e8dc661ac490baff86b97a16d839d.pdf](https://www.sjctourism.com/_files/ugd/09fdff_312e8dc661ac490baff86b97a16d839d.pdf)

13 The 2017 San Juan Islands Visitor Study Report: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/15767/06042018-Final-San-Juan-Islands-Visitor-Study-June-2018-with-cover>

## 2019 Tourism and Visitor Management in the San Juan Islands

In 2019, San Juan County supported additional surveys to close information gaps from 2017. The County surveyed residents and businesses, all-island boaters, and remote island boaters:

- **Survey of residents and businesses:** This survey measured people’s attitudes about the most important aspects of living in the islands, their perceptions of tourism capacity, and ideas about specific actions to manage perceived problems.
- **Survey of all-island boaters:** This survey focused on the characteristics of boaters who visit the San Juans and their opinions about general tourism issues and infrastructure.
- **Survey of remote island boaters:** This survey gathered information about and characteristics of boaters that visited select remote islands.

The final report summarizes major findings and provides context for future tourism and natural resource planning.<sup>14</sup>

## 2022 Sustainable Tourism Management Plan Engagement

Following the conclusions and recommendations of the previous studies, the County engaged with the public through three sets of community meetings in April and May 2022 to 1) define the vision and goals for sustainable tourism and 2) identify and prioritize concrete, near-term strategies and actions to meet the long-term vision. The community meetings built on work listed above, including data collection and public engagement events with large scale representative surveys of residents, businesses, and several types of visitors (at attraction sites, on ferries, private boaters at marinas and remote islands). The County is currently finishing the implementation details, some of which are included in this Plan, and completing some additional gap analysis, before drafting the final Plan.

.....  
 14 2019 Tourism and Visitor Management in the San Juan Islands Final Report and Recommendations: <https://sjclandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Tourism-in-the-San-Juan-Islands-Part-IV-conclusions-and-recommendations-v2.pdf>

## 2022 ROSS PLAN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To ensure that this Plan reflects community perspectives, the public was invited to provide feedback in two virtual open houses or by participating in the public comment period. These engagement efforts were advertised through a variety of digital outreach strategies described below.

### Digital Outreach

To engage the San Juan County community in the Plan's development, the virtual open houses and public comment period were advertised to the community on a variety of forums, including the County's website and social media pages, local postings within the community, a local press release, and at a County Council meeting.

### Open Houses

San Juan County hosted two virtual public open houses to introduce the Plan to the community. These open houses served as a forum to hear key concerns and answer questions from community members about the Plan update.

## Public Comment on Plan Draft

Draft versions of Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Appendix A of the Plan were available on the County's website for a one-week public review and comment period. The County reviewed and incorporated 22 comments received during that period.

Key themes from public comment included requests to:

- Integrate tribal engagement and perspectives into the Plan.
- Address fees for tribal use of parks lands.
- Continue to advance both multi-modal and long-distance trails. Public feedback included many suggested locations.
- Provide more community education to increase habitat conservation; for example, by showing boaters eelgrass bed locations to prevent anchoring that damages habitat.

Public feedback demonstrated that residents continue to value and participate in recreation opportunities in San Juan County, with a particular emphasis on hiking and utilizing the County's trails. Comments about trail expansion and creation of new trails align with previous feedback reflected in the County's 2017 Community Needs Assessment. The resident and business surveys conducted in 2017 also revealed a focus on trails, with a significant percentage of residents indicating they experienced crowding in natural areas during the tourism season, especially at trailheads. And the community's requests for more education align with previous survey results showing support for education initiatives.

## COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

San Juan County residents are truly nature lovers—they greatly appreciate the role parks and open spaces play in the area’s high quality of life. These spaces contribute to a lifestyle that is rooted in the natural beauty of the islands and provide abundant opportunities for experiencing nature. As explored below, the population, while skewed toward older residents, greatly enjoys the outdoors and strongly supports activities that facilitate enjoyment of parks and open space.

### Popular Activities

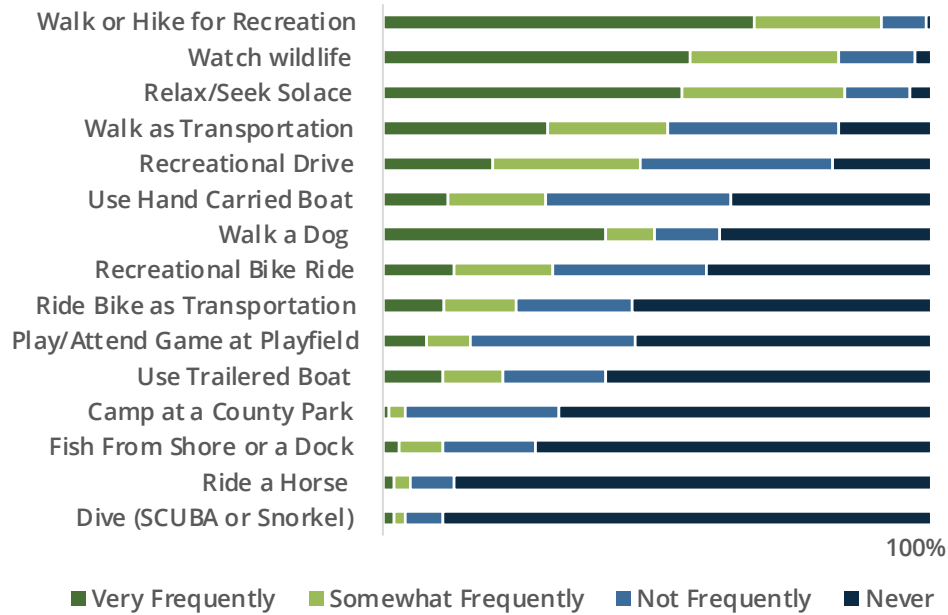
According to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, walking and hiking are the second highest ranked outdoor recreational activities in the state.<sup>15</sup> Community survey, respondents rank walking and hiking as top activities; 90 percent indicate participating frequently in these activities. While the most popular statewide activity is picnicking, barbecuing, or cooking out, residents in San Juan County participate more frequently in activities such as watching wildlife, relaxing in nature, walking dogs, and visiting local parks. Figure 4.1 shows participation in outdoor recreation in San Juan County, measured in 2016 during development of the previous Plan. The outdoor-oriented, low-impact nature of the most popular activities is indicative of the older population that dominates the island community.<sup>16</sup>



15 Executive Summary 2013 - 2018 Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

16 2017 San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan

**Figure 4.1. Outdoor Participation in San Juan County, 2016**



According to the same community survey results, more than 92 percent of respondents indicated that County parks and open spaces are important to quality of life, whether or not they regularly use them. These results suggest residents recognize the significant intrinsic value of these spaces to community well-being. The majority of residents also indicate general satisfaction with the operation and condition of County-owned parks.

Respondents (77%) ranked trails in parks, shore access, and wildlife viewing as the County’s highest priority services, followed by open space and natural areas (70%), and bike routes on county roads (54%). Respondents also indicated three most-needed improvements: more trails (includes cross island hiking trails and bike lanes); more road end shoreline access; and improved bicycle safety on County roads.<sup>17</sup>

17 2017 San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan

## Community Experience

Findings from the 2017 resident and business surveys reinforced previous findings: that natural features were of primary importance to people's reason for living and working in the islands. Four of the top seven priorities centered on amenities including natural scenery, beach and shore hiking, marine wildlife viewing, and forest/mountain hiking. The survey also clearly showed that a significant percentage of residents experienced crowding in natural areas, especially at trailheads during tourism season. When asked about crowding and overuse, respondents' top solution included developing trails and bike paths and over 60 percent favored acquisition of more public lands.

## Summary

In summary, community survey recommendations and conclusions relevant to this Plan include:

- Protecting common island values
- Developing a sustainable equilibrium that includes a vibrant tourist economy, high quality visitor experiences, and quality of life for residents
- Supporting the acquisition of public property
- Supporting infrastructure for visitors
- Supporting education initiatives
- Supporting additional commercial recreation management
- Considering cooperative action planning



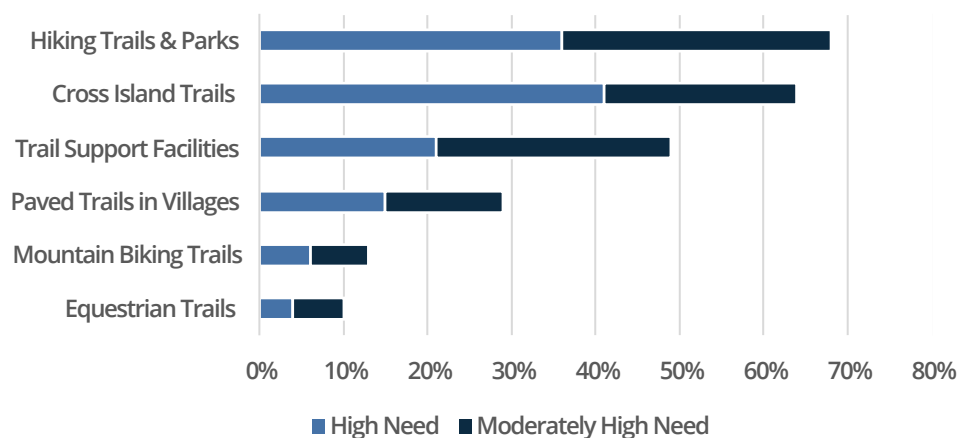
## Major Community Needs

Three categories of community need emerged from discussions with staff, reviews of past planning documents, and findings from public outreach efforts described above. These include recreation infrastructure, open space acquisition and stewardship, and parks facilities and stewardship.

### Recreation Infrastructure (Multi-Modal Trails, Marine Facilities, and Parks)

One of the most pressing issues emerging over several years of community outreach is the need for non-motorized transportation connecting people to places. These include multi-modal, intra-island trails. The growth and evolution of local trails groups on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands indicate that trails are a top priority. Public Works oversees nearly 12 miles of separated, right-of-way County trails, and more trails are located in County Parks and Land Bank properties. Survey responses highlight needed improvements connecting hiking trails and bike lanes and linking them to other public lands. More than 33 miles of trails exist on other public lands, such as Iceberg Point on Lopez Island, Moran State Park on Orcas Island, and American Camp on San Juan Island. Figure 4.2 shows the level of community support for various trail facilities.

**Figure 4.2 Community priorities for more trails**





Volunteer trail groups have identified priority corridors for future trail development, as shown in Maps 4.1-4.4. Priority corridors are those that travel along major thoroughfares, accommodate alternative modes of transportation, and between popular recreational areas such as the west side of San Juan Island. The goal of these corridors is to provide safe routes for biking and walking between popular sites.

Although trails are a top priority for citizens, the County's staff and resources limitations poses significant challenges . To date, County Parks, Land Bank, Environmental Stewardship, and Public Works have played a limited role in trail development. Implementing recommended actions that meet the needs presented in this Plan will require significant investments.

### **Marine Facilities**

Facilities that provide marine access are critical to island communities and require constant maintenance and upgrade. These facilities, such as floats and docks, allow boaters to travel from place to place to recreate or camp on remote Islands. They also enable the transport of goods to people living on remote Islands.

### **Parks Facilities**

Parks offer camping accommodations for island visitors at a lower cost than hotels and vacation rentals. The development of additional camping facilities will improve accessibility. San Juan Island is the most visited destination and has the fewest facilities for camping.

## Open Space Acquisition

### Land Protection

Protection of the natural beauty and character of the San Juans is a top priority for many residents. For years, the Land Bank and San Juan Preservation Trust have played lead and often collaborative roles in meeting this need. Over the last six years, the Land Bank purchased significant properties on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez in partnership with and through a variety of efforts, including its Habitat Conservation Plan, the Nature Conservancy's "Conserving Nature's Stage," the County's Salmon Recovery Plan, and the original Open Space and Conservation Plan. These properties are detailed in Appendix D.

Currently 16 percent of land is publicly owned, and two percent is owned by private non-profit conservation groups. Additional acreage is protected by conservation easements on private property, though the level and extent of protection varies with the terms of each specific easement. San Juan County has one of the lowest rates of public land ownership among Western Washington Counties, far lower than even King County where publicly-owned lands account for 45 percent of the land base.

Moving forward, it is clear the community strongly supports more trails, shoreline access, and landscape-scale projects, as well as protection of agricultural areas and places preserving rural character. Adaptation to a changing climate will be an important consideration in future acquisitions.

The Land Bank will work with the Preservation Trust and other conservation agencies to secure properties that address these needs. Acquisition is frequently opportunistic, matching owners willing to sell key parcels and available funding. The Land Bank will continue pursuing the particular interests: preserving ecological function across the landscape, providing additional access options for people, conserving working lands, and ensuring the preservation of iconic places.

### **Water Access**

The ability to access the shoreline is essential in an island community. Across the islands, water access varies due to land ownership, topography, and development. Opportunities are impacted by the concentration of residential dwelling units, topographic constraints, and existing public access sites, such as shoreline access road ends. Orcas Island has the most opportunity due to the limited amount of existing public access.

Water access is a benefit for many San Juan County residents; it is also a necessity for transporting goods between islands. Boat ramps, shore access, public docks, public beaches, and scenic bluffs are all critical elements of water access. Residents do not feel well served with current levels of water or marine access. Fewer than 25 percent of survey respondents from Lopez, Orcas, and Shaw believe there is enough access. The most desired type of access among residents is to beaches and tidelands.

Currently, Shaw Island has the highest percentage (36%) of publicly owned shoreline, but the University of Washington's limits public access to only five percent. San Juan Island has the highest percentage of publicly accessible shoreline, with nearly 11 miles (16%); Orcas Island has the lowest percentage with only 1.5 miles (2%) accessible of the island's 70 total miles of shoreline concentrated around Eastsound, Obstruction Pass, and Deer Harbor. While shoreline access road ends currently provide some level of public water access, there are challenges associated with parking accommodation and neighbor concerns. County Parks, the Land Bank, Environmental Stewardship, and Public Works can all play a role in expanding shoreline access through road ends, parks, and land acquisition.

## Stewardship

The San Juan County Conservation Land Bank applies innovation to meet stewardship and maintenance needs. The Land Bank established a stewardship fund and active volunteer corps to maintain and upkeep lands. The Land Bank also created and expanded local conservation and year-round island corps, including for youth, that play increasingly important roles in various stewardship activities. There are still opportunities to further engage the community and local Tribes in stewarding parks, trails, and natural areas, and conduct resource-sharing strategies through agency partnerships. Continued evaluation of capital needs is also critical, including planning for scheduled upgrades and improvements and addressing accessibility (e.g., ADA) and equitable access.

San Juan County Parks utilizes volunteers for some maintenance and stewardship activities. Residents support continued collaboration and coordination among County departments as well as with other public agencies and organizations working on similar issues. Residents also stressed the importance of continuing to involve local Tribes in community program activities and efforts. Current efforts include the Coast Salish Youth Conservation Corps, funded in part by revenue from the conservation license plate, and conducting forest restoration projects with the Samish Department of Natural Resources.

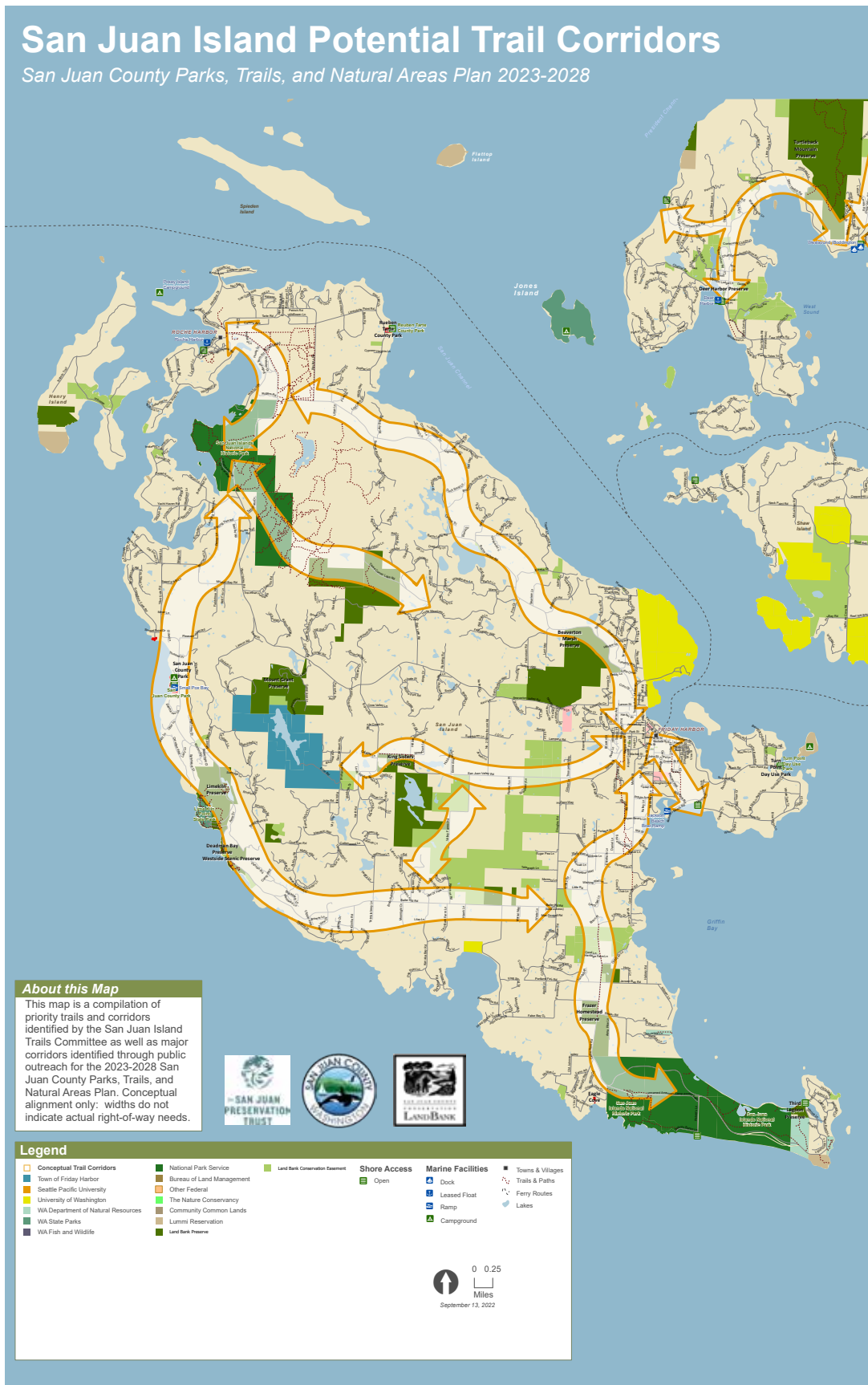
Environmental Stewardship, in cooperation with the Visitors Bureau, conducts public education through the creation and distribution of the San Juan Islands Stewardship Guide. The Department also manages twice annual litter cleanups in parks, beaches, natural areas, and roadsides. Moving forward, the Department will consider improvements in the marine environment associated with moorage, derelict vessels, and nearshore restoration. Tribal engagement will be critical to the success of these efforts and to protecting sovereign rights.

## Recreation, Open Space and Stewardship Guidelines

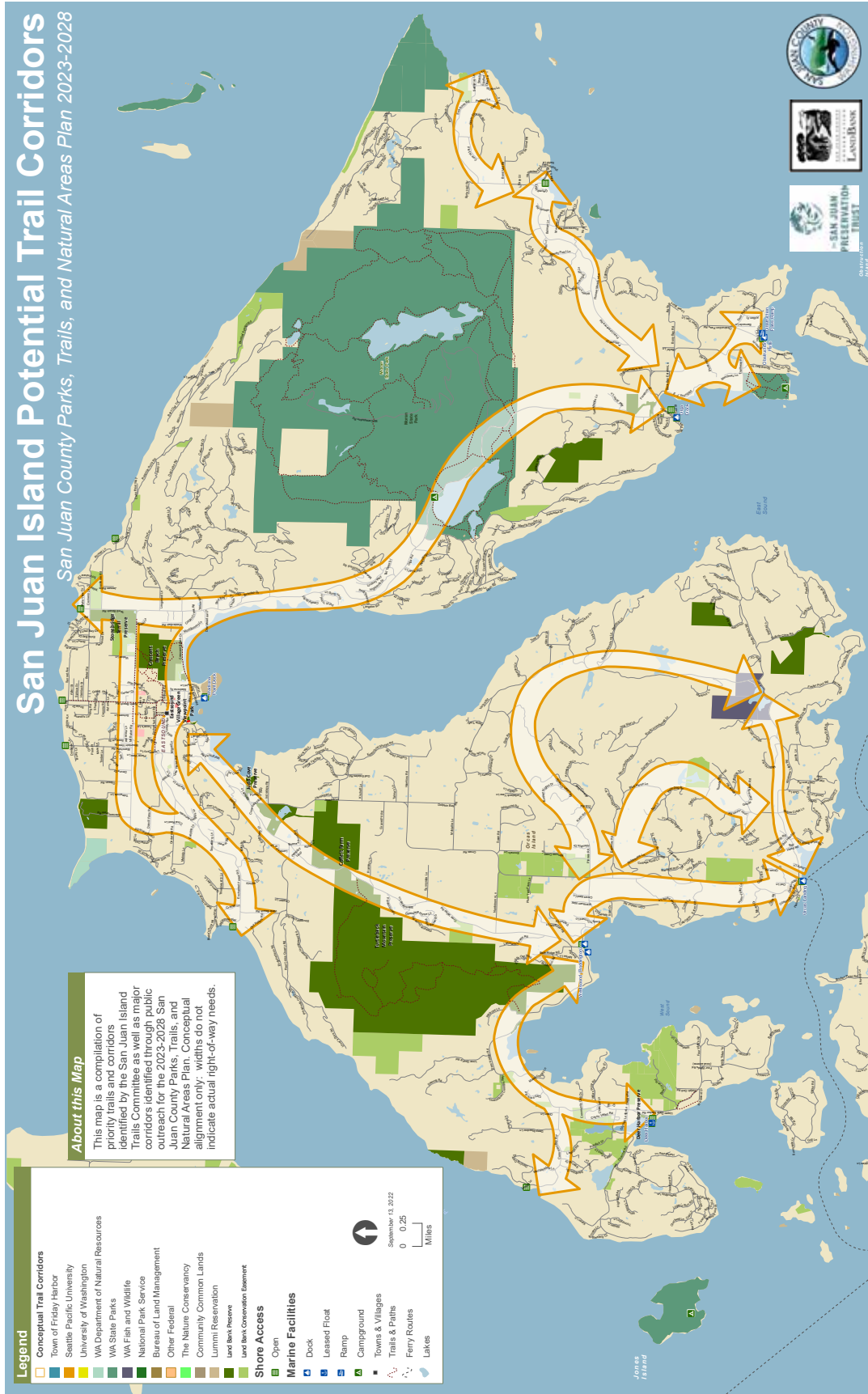
Traditionally, communities may establish level of service standards to measure quantity and quality of parks and recreation facilities. San Juan County, however, has several unique qualities that inhibit this standardized approach. The large tourist population, marine environment, part-time population, and general island environment result in unique planning challenges. The following classification system, outlined in Chapter 3, addresses facility types and their stewardship priorities:

- **Trails.** Trail facilities should: 1) be prioritized within parks and open spaces based on demand, site feasibility, and level of existing access; 2) accommodate multiple user groups, as appropriate; and 3) facilitate connectivity within and among trail networks across ownerships.
- **Marine Facilities.** Marine access facilities should 1) be prioritized in areas of limited public access and 2) accommodate multiple uses and activities, as appropriate.
- **Parks Facilities.** 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.
- **Open Space Acquisition.** Open space acquisitions should 1) protect the natural qualities and character of the land and waters; 2) provide opportunities for low-impact public access, as appropriate; and 3) facilitate beach or tideland access in areas of limited public access, as appropriate.
- **Stewardship.** All of the above noted facilities should be managed and maintained in an environmentally sustainable manner and in consultation with the community and Tribes, as appropriate.

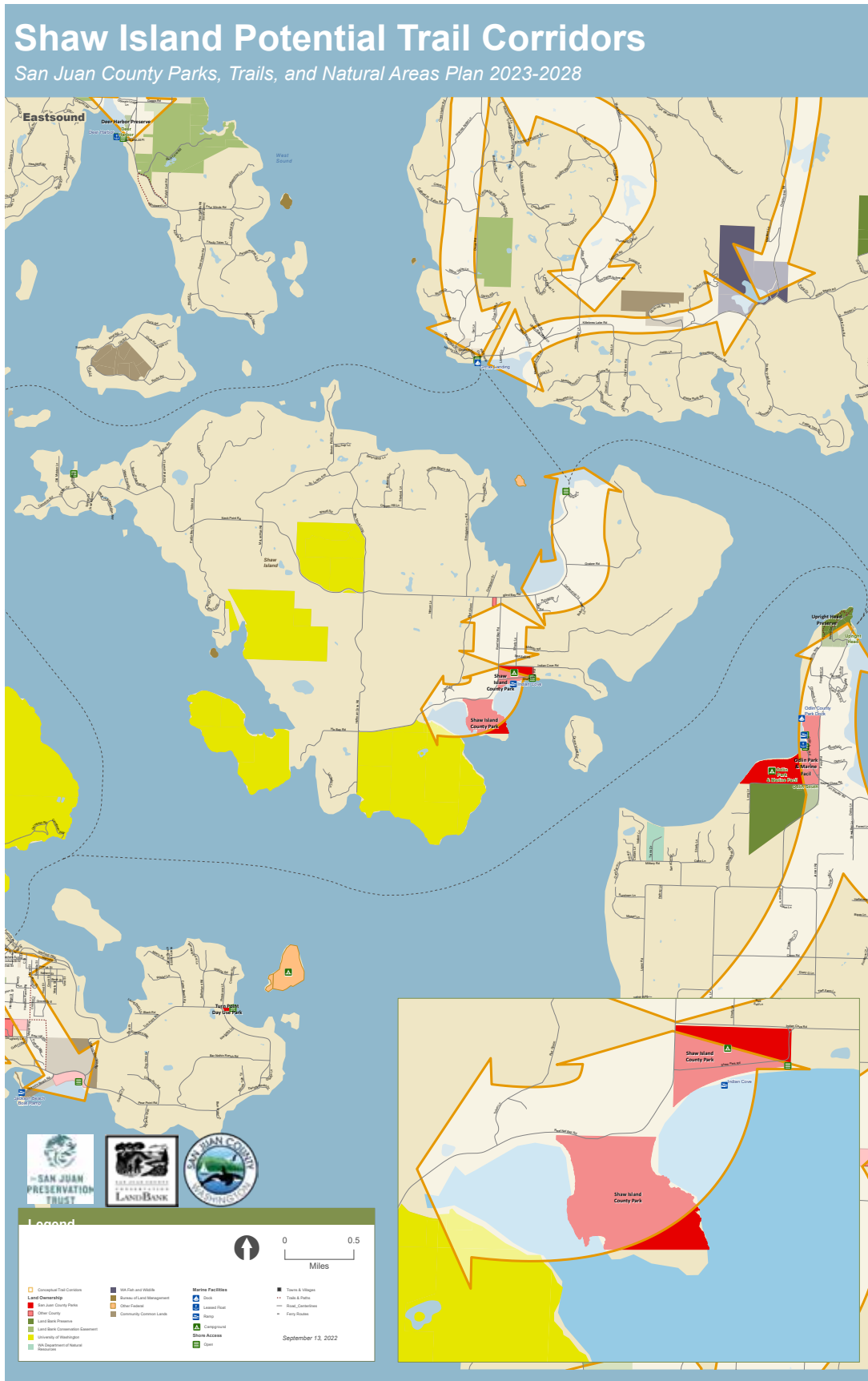
Map 4.1 San Juan Island Potential Trail Corridors



Map 4.2 Orcas Island Potential Trail Corridors

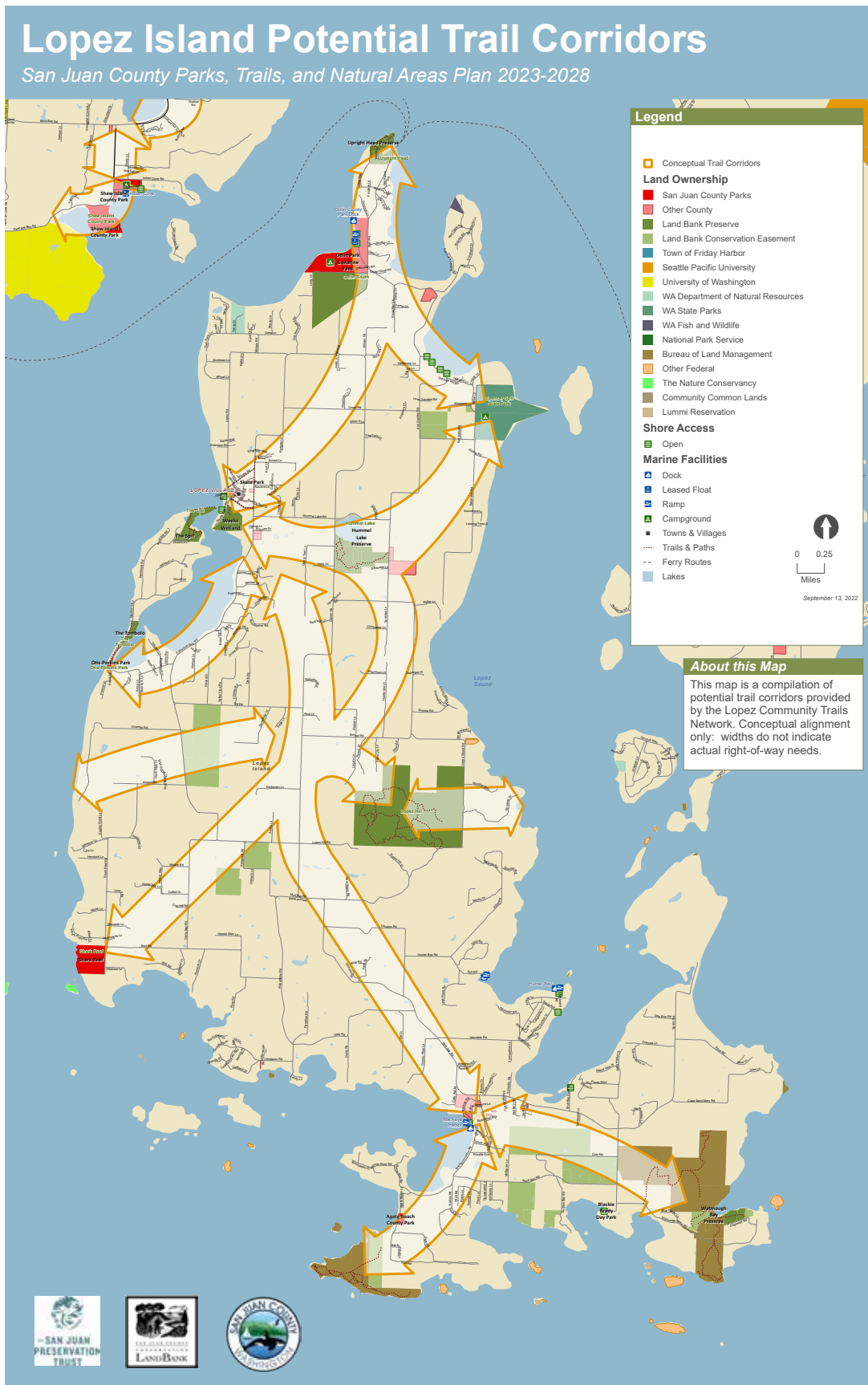


Map 4.3 Shaw Island Potential Trail Corridors





Map 4.4 Lopez Island Potential Trail Corridors







A photograph of a beach with seaweed and footprints in the sand. The background shows a sandy beach with several footprints and some seaweed scattered around. The water is visible in the upper part of the image, and the overall scene is a natural coastal environment.

# Chapter 5. Mission, Values, Vision, Goals, and Strategies

This chapter presents the core framework of the Plan and provides context for implementation with recommended actions and projects. These elements have been refined with public input.

## MISSION

- To be responsive to the community's needs in providing quality parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities.
- To work collaboratively as a county in protecting the natural beauty and character of the Islands.
- To be responsible stewards of the environment and county facilities.

The statement affirms the collaborative working relationship among County departments and emphasizes common goals. The mission statement provides a common lens through which the departments will work to implement this Plan.

## VALUES

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 all members of the community to access our parks and open spaces, and for non-motorized transportation throughout the county.
- **Natural Integrity:** We value maintaining and protecting robust ecosystem processes and structure, and biodiversity across our unique island environment.
- **Stewardship:** We value being responsible stewards of the natural environment and cultural resources, by providing well-maintained facilities and spaces for current and 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 for achieving the collaborative mission presented above and for working toward the vision.

## 2040 VISION

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

## GOALS AND POLICIES

The County is focused on delivering a high-quality, diversified system of parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences, promotes non-motorized transportation opportunities, and conserves and respects natural resources and island character. Key guiding principles include:

- **Protect lands with important natural or open space characteristics, such as rare ecological communities, unique cultural resources, views or vistas, agricultural lands, and undeveloped shoreline.**
- **Provide a diversity of recreation and non-motorized transportation opportunities that contribute to healthy lifestyles.**
- **Design facilities and amenities to be respectful of island culture, character, and environment, including Tribal perspectives.**
- **Provide facilities that are physically and geographically accessible to all individuals where required or practicable.**
- **Develop trail connections along priority corridors and within existing parks and natural areas to adequately meet community demand and provide access to and from popular destinations and recreational areas.**
- **Coordinate with other public agencies, Tribal governments, park and recreation districts, and other service providers to ensure an adequate range and supply of facilities and programming.**
- **Retain existing public lands in public ownership, and work with Tribal governments to honor and respect ancestral lands.**
- **Invest in infrastructure needed to improve public awareness, support appropriate public use, and facilitate public enjoyment of County parks, trails, and natural areas.**



## Goal 1. 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, ferry terminals and areas of interest.

1.1	Establish a position responsible for coordinating the planning and implementation of countywide trail development efforts.
1.2	Increase the number and diversity of trails, including hard- and soft-surfaced trails, specific point-to point trails for nonmotorized transportation, loop trails, and trails with a variety of access points and lengths.
1.3	Provide adequate trail support facilities, including appropriate interpretative and directional signage, restrooms, viewpoints, parking areas, picnic areas, and water access sites where possible.
1.4	Coordinate with other agencies, organizations, and private landowners to support trail development and maintenance throughout the county.
1.5	Secure trail easements to facilitate safe connections along priority corridors.
1.6	Raise awareness of existing trail networks and other significant trail issues and opportunities.
1.7	Increase the number of bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian trail facilities to promote alternatives to vehicle travel.
1.8	Improve connections between activity centers and marine and air facilities and other areas of interest.
1.9	Preserve rural character and scenic qualities when planning and developing trails by employing flexibility and creativity in these settings.
1.10	Promote trail development practices that are respectful of private property owners' rights.
1.11	Promote the use of unimproved roads, rights-of-way, and easements for use as trails.
1.12	Obtain right-of-way, when possible, to facilitate construction of trails and bicycle routes.
1.13	Encourage development of pedestrian sidewalks and trails in commercial, industrial and multi-family residential developments.



## Goal 2. Marine Facilities.

Provide improvements to existing marine facilities to meet access, safety and environmental requirements.

2.1	Address safety and access deficiencies with regular maintenance and repairs.
2.2	Replace or expand facilities as needed to support an environmentally friendly design (creosote piling removal, open grated decking).
2.3	Ensure all facilities minimize boating impacts to eelgrass and shoreline habitat to the maximum extent practicable and are respectful of tribal rights.



## Goal 3. Park Facilities.

Upgrade and expand Parks facilities for safety, accessibility, and expanded access for camping and trail connectivity.

3.1	Improve park facilities for safety and barrier free accessibility with regular maintenance and repairs.
3.2	Upgrade existing park facilities to address user needs such as bike/car charging facilities, adequate bathroom facilities, etc.
3.3	Expand the availability of camping sites on the Islands (specifically San Juan) to increase access and affordability of Island visits.





## Goal 4. 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.

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 4.1 | 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. |
| 4.2 | Identify and secure funding from a diversity of public and private sources to support land protection efforts.  |
| 4.3 | Facilitate coordination and communication among public agencies and private organizations to identify common land protection targets.   |



## Goal 5. Water Access

Provide and improve safe public access to fresh and salt water shorelines and waterways.

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 5.1 | Improve and expand shoreline access opportunities through the provision or enhancement of community docks, public mooring buoys, boat ramps/launches, access points, right of way, viewpoints, and waterfront parks and open spaces. |
| 5.2 | Improve county facilities that provide water access to accommodate barrier-free access where feasible.   |
| 5.3 | Provide easily accessible public information on available water access sites and install identifying signage at sites to delineate public land boundaries where appropriate.   |
| 5.4 | Improve connectivity between shore access locations and existing non-motorized transportation networks and trail systems.  |
| 5.5 | Coordinate with marine trail organizations to provide public information and facilities, including transboundary connection information.   |



## Goal 6. 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.

<b>6.1</b>	Implement site-specific master and management plans that incorporate community and Tribal values.
<b>6.2</b>	Invest in preventative maintenance and upgrades to facilities to maximize long-term benefits.
<b>6.3</b>	Consider and plan for long-term maintenance costs associated with acquisition, development, and renovation of parks, trails, and natural areas.
<b>6.4</b>	Maintain, enhance, and restore native vegetation, habitat function, and other ecological values on the Islands' lands and waters.
<b>6.5</b>	Expand the ability to steward and maintain land by building stewardship networks on all of the islands.
<b>6.6</b>	Support and encourage the development of volunteer programs and tribal engagement to help maintain and steward County parks and open spaces.
<b>6.7</b>	Assess current facilities and new developments to create barrier free access.
<b>6.8</b>	Invest in principles and methods for sustainable design and operation of County facilities.



## Goal 7. Funding

Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the system of parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities.

7.1	Consider and adopt funding measures to support parks, open space, and recreation programs for long term program sustainability.
7.2	Enhance County capacity to coordinate, research, apply for, and secure public and private grants for expansion, maintenance, and development of parks, open spaces, and recreation opportunities.
7.3	Develop partnerships with other public and private organizations and state and federal agencies to leverage funding to support parks, open spaces, and recreation activities and programs.
7.4	Raise community awareness of funding shortfalls and major issues that hinder the implementation of this Plan.
7.5	Evaluate financing mechanisms and sources to expand and prioritize funding opportunities for trail and bicycle route development.
7.6	Design trails to comply with local state and federal standards as necessary for compliance with funding requirements.
7.7	Continue to implement a variety of County park user fees, including commercial recreation provider fees, to support park operations.
7.8	Explore appropriate public and private funding opportunities to support County trails planning and development efforts.
7.9	Evaluate required standards associated with grant funding to determine if funding sources are suitable for the desired project.
7.10	Budget for a position to plan and implement countywide trail development projects.



## Goal 8. Partnerships and Collaboration

Foster partnerships and countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers (e.g., Terrestrial Managers Group) to improve the provision of parks and open spaces and supporting services and recreational programs.

<b>8.1</b>	Facilitate coordination of County Parks and service providers and tribal representatives to share and coordinate goals and projects.
<b>8.2</b>	Facilitate intra-County departmental coordination and project completion through regular meeting of department leadership.
<b>8.3</b>	Explore partnership opportunities with the Terrestrial Managers Group and Stewardship Network of the San Juans.
<b>8.4</b>	Partner with local trail organizations such as the San Juan Island Trails Committee, Orcas Pathways and Lopez Community Trails Network, and state and federal partners.
<b>8.5</b>	Support and coordinate with local and regional conservation corps (e.g., SJYCC, WCC, SCA, and NYC) to provide project development support, grant resources, and maintenance and construction of trails.



## Goal 9. Community Engagement

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

9.1	Support positive stewardship through a variety of programs and information sources, including traditional knowledge provided by Tribal engagement.
9.2	Provide and foster opportunities for public education about local history, tribal and Island culture, and natural history at County facilities.
9.3	Involve residents, Tribal governments, and stakeholders in the planning, design, and development of County parks, open space, and recreation facilities.
9.4	Increase awareness of activities (such as the Canoe Journey, Samish Days, and other events) through a variety of methods including community events and effective use of print and online media.
9.5	Support the development of strong community-based programs that foster citizen participation and garner support for County programs.
9.6	Encourage residents and visitors to adopt the “Leave No Trace” ethic in stewardship of San Juan Islands.
9.7	Foster the development and capacity of local volunteer trail groups to help with trail planning efforts, garner community support, leverage community resources, and play a role in stewardship and maintenance of trail facilities.
9.8	Continue to promote “Share the Road” concepts for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists to foster recognition of rights and responsibilities in the use of county roads by providing bicycling safety information to bicycle clubs, tour operators, and those who provide accommodations and services to island visitors.





## Chapter 6. Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan lists all County park, trail, and natural area projects proposed for the next six years. All projects included in the Implementation Plan work toward meeting the recommended goals, policies, and actions identified through this Plan and other planning processes. The Implementation Plan is reflective of community feedback and addresses residents' near-term priorities such as land stewardship, water access opportunities, bicycle and boat infrastructure, and trail development. The Implementation Plan 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.



## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Implementation Plan presented below proposes over \$51 million total in projects for the next six years, including \$50 million in capital projects and \$1.4 million in non-capital projects. Land acquisition projects led by the Land Bank account for \$25 million of this total, while the remainder includes development and renovation projects primarily led by San Juan County Parks, Environmental Stewardship, and Public Works. Note that reauthorization of the conservation REET will be essential to continue land acquisition projects through this period. The Implementation Plan is a compilation of new projects, projects included in previously adopted County plans and capital projects lists, and 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 Plan are County-led projects and affect County facilities but may also involve other agency and non-profit partners.

**Table 6.1: San Juan County ROSS Implementation Plan**

Category	Action	Timeframe	Island	Project Type	Cost	Funding Sources	Goals	Owner
<b>Open Space</b>	Increase lands protected through purchase, easements, and updated policies for stream, wetland and shoreline buffers to achieve a goal of 40% land area by 2040 (costs showing through 2028).	2028	All	Capital	\$25,000,000	REET, state and federal grants, conservation futures, nonprofit partners, individual donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land protection</li> <li>• Water access</li> </ul>	Land Bank
<b>Recreation, Open Space</b>	Convert 0.5 miles Crescent Beach Road right of way into a bike and walk only trail corridor, creating a car-free linkage between the County Land Bank properties and the shoreline.	2026	Orcas	Capital	\$100,000	RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Water access</li> </ul>	County
<b>Open Space, Stewardship</b>	Convert a section of False Bay Drive right of way at the head of False Bay back to a beach shoreline. Remove the armor along the shoreline and work with property owner to realign the road off the shore. Establish amenities at the location: bike racks, seating, view blinds/ scopes, and information.	2025	San Juan	Capital	\$600,000	RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land protection</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> <li>• Parks facilities</li> </ul>	Environmental Stewardship
<b>Recreation</b>	Add ADA sidewalks, pathways, and plazas to San Juan County Fairgrounds.	2024	San Juan	Capital	\$1,500,000	REET II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks facilities</li> </ul>	Parks
<b>Recreation</b>	Create public bike lockers, bike storage, or bike barns at major transportation hubs.	2026	All	Capital	\$200,000	Scenic Byways Grant, RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> </ul>	County
<b>Recreation</b>	Create a bike stop rest area at Map Corner along Orcas Road, in partnership with Visitors Bureau, Orcas Chamber of Commerce, and Orcas Rotary Club.	2024	Orcas	Capital	\$200,000	Scenic Byways Grant, RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> </ul>	Public Works

Category	Action	Timeframe	Island	Project Type	Cost	Funding Sources	Goals	Owner
Recreation	Repair and upgrade marine infrastructure and road end shore access - see Transportation Improvement Plan for eetails	2028	All	Capital	\$1,000,000	RCO, Road Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Marine facilities</li> </ul>	Public Works
Recreation	Create additional recreation access (kayak launch amenities) and restoration at Jackson Beach on County Public Works property. Remove creosote pilings and shoreline armor that currently degrade the site to improve the quality of the experience.	2025	San Juan	Capital	\$810,000	RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land protection</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> </ul>	Environmental Stewardship
Recreation	Acquire additional lands for camping on San Juan. Add walk-in/bike-in camping (10 to 30 sites) within one mile of Friday Harbor. Provide trail connectivity to other public lands.	2028	San Juan	Capital	\$7,000,000	REET, RCO, Federal grants, nonprofit partners, private donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Parks facilities</li> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> </ul>	Parks
Recreation	Build multi-purpose recreational barns at the Fairgrounds.	2026	San Juan	Capital	\$2,000,000	WSDA grants, REET II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks facilities</li> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> </ul>	Parks
Recreation	Build covered bike sheds with outlets for e-bikes and bike repair stations to implement high quality cycling structure for recreational and sustainability goals of the County.	2026	San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, Shaw	Capital	\$400,000	RCO, REET, LTAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks facilities</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> </ul>	Parks
Recreation	Develop a comprehensive Countywide Trails Plan.	2024	All	Non-capital, one time	\$100,000	RCO, LTAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Land protection</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> </ul>	County Manager
Recreation	Hire a County Trails Coordinator to help implement the trails plan in cooperation with others.	2024	All	Non-capital, ongoing	\$120,000	LTAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Land protection</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> </ul>	County Manager
Recreation	Increase long-distance hiking/biking trails and trail connections on all islands via cooperative agreements with landowners, with a target of 10 miles.	2028	All	Capital	\$4,000,000	REET, state and federal grants, conservation futures, nonprofit partners, individual donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Land protection</li> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> </ul>	County Manager

Category	Action	Timeframe	Island	Project Type	Cost	Funding Sources	Goals	Owner
Recreation	Create trailhead and trails at Cady Mountain Preserve, connecting to Roche Harbor and English Camp.	2024	San Juan	Capital	\$75,000	REET, state and federal grants, Conservation Futures, nonprofit partners, individual donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Land protection</li> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> </ul>	Land Bank
Recreation	Design and construct boardwalk at Beaverton Marsh Preserve to connect Linde Park to the bulk of acreage on the Preserve.	2026	San Juan	Capital	\$800,000	REET, state and federal grants, conservation futures, nonprofit partners, individual donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Land protection</li> <li>• Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> </ul>	Land Bank
Recreation	Create and/or maintain trails on Lopez Island Preserves.	2028	Lopez	Capital & non-capital	\$150,000	REET, state and federal grants, Conservation Futures, ngo partners, individual donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> </ul>	Land Bank
Recreation	Create 2 miles of hiking trail from upper Zylstra Lake to Bailer Hill Road outside of the floodplain of False Bay Creek.	2026	San Juan	Capital	\$3,000,000	REET, state and federal grants, conservation futures, nonprofit partners, individual donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> </ul>	Land Bank
Recreation	Build trails through the Odlin South property from the day-use area of Odlin County Park.	2025	Lopez	Capital	\$175,000	RCO, LTAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Parks facilities</li> </ul>	Parks
Recreation, Stewardship	Remove structures from North Shore Preserve on Orcas, stabilize trail access to the beach and create loop trail on uplands, create "Conservation Hub" at remaining structure along with restrooms, and restore wetlands and forest areas.	2028	Orcas	Capital	\$500,000	REET, state and federal grants, conservation futures, nonprofit partners, individual donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation,</li> <li>• Parks facilities</li> <li>• Land protection</li> <li>• Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> </ul>	Land Bank
Recreation	Build permanent restrooms at County park facilities.	2031	San Juan, Lopez	Capital	\$1,000,000	RCO, LTAC, REET II, state and private grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks facilities</li> </ul>	Parks

Category	Action	Timeframe	Island	Project Type	Cost	Funding Sources	Goals	Owner
<b>Recreation, Stewardship</b>	Establish system for mooring buoys and work with partners to provide public buoys in appropriate locations for destination access and protection of eelgrass and herring spawning.	2026	All	Capital	\$500,000	RCO, Puget Sound Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine facilities</li> <li>• Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> </ul>	Environmental Stewardship
<b>Recreation, Stewardship</b>	Improve Agate Beach Park and Iceberg Point amenities, shore access, and restoration. See County Transportation Plan for more details regarding road access and parking.	2030	Lopez	Capital	\$500,000	RCO, Federal Lands Access Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails creation</li> <li>• Marine facilities Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> </ul>	Environmental Stewardship, Parks
<b>Recreation &amp; Stewardship</b>	Improve County Park commercial kayak management at San Juan County Park. Enforce KELP training and standardize launch fee charges across ownerships.	2023	San Juan	Non-capital, one time	\$5,000	Program Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine facilities</li> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> </ul>	Parks
<b>Recreation &amp; Stewardship</b>	Improve shoreline conditions at San Juan County Park for kayak launch and habitat.	2026	San Juan	Capital	\$600,000	RCO, LTAC, REET II, state and private grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine facilities</li> <li>• Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> </ul>	Environmental Stewardship, Parks
<b>Stewardship</b>	Conduct assessment of Land Bank forestlands; initiate forest management to promote ecological resiliency.	2032	San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, Henry	Non-capital, ongoing	\$1,000,000	REET, state and federal grants, conservation futures, nonprofit partners, individual donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> <li>• Funding</li> </ul>	Land Bank
<b>Stewardship</b>	Conduct assessment of County Parks lands; initiate forest management to promote ecological resiliency.	2032	Lopez, Shaw	Non-capital, ongoing	\$100,000	REET, state and federal grants, Conservation Futures, nonprofit partners, individual donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewardship &amp; maintenance</li> <li>• Funding</li> </ul>	Parks

## 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. A more thorough review of potential funding options is located in Appendix E.

### 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 levels are playing an increasingly important 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, five 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) conservation futures property tax; (3) real estate excise taxes; (4) special purpose districts; (5) lodging taxes. 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. 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 2014, 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, but 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.

### **Real Estate Excise Taxes**

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 all three increments of these REETS.

The funds generated by the REET may be used only for construction of capital projects as identified in the Capital Facilities Plan Element of the Comprehensive Plan; this includes acquisition of parks, recreational facilities, and trails. This increment of REET is paid by the seller.

Funds generated by the Conservation Area REET are used exclusively for the acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas, and, similarly, the Affordable Housing REET may only apply to affordable housing projects. Unlike the first two increments of REET, these are paid by the buyer. San Juan County is the only county in Washington that has exercised its authority to levy the Conservation Area REET and the Affordable Housing REET.

Currently, the County assesses the maximum statutory limit of 1.0 percent authorized by the voters in 1990 and renewed in 1999 and 2011. It is due for renewal again in 2026 by county voters. In 2018, voters also approved the Affordable housing REET and it will be due for renewal in 2030.

### **Conservation Futures Property Tax**

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 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.

## 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, these financing mechanisms will be implemented if they gain approval of a 60 percent share from 40 percent of the quantity of voters who participated in the preceding general election. In some cases, formation of a district requires a petition signed by registered voters in the proposed district and subsequent approval by a majority of voters, though park and recreation service areas and public facilities districts may be initiated by resolution of the County Council.

There are currently two special parks districts within San Juan County, both of which are funded by voter-approved levies renewed in 2021. The San Juan Island Park and Recreation District is funded at \$0.385 per \$1,000, and the Orcas Park and Recreation District at \$0.15 per \$1,000, both through 2026.

## State and Federal 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, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, 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

Public engagement about recreation and tourism issues over the past five years demonstrated that many residents want to be involved in improving the County's system of parks, trails, and natural areas. 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 philanthropic efforts to benefit local parks, trails, and natural areas priorities. For example, since 2006, the Land Bank has worked successfully with the private non-profit San Juan Preservation Trust to secure more than \$16 million in private funds for a number of projects, including Turtleback Mountain, Watmough Bay, President Channel, Mount Grant, and Zylstra Lake.





# Appendix A. San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan 2017-2022: Accomplishment Report

An important part of any plan update process is reviewing what was accomplished from the previous plan. Accomplishments in this report are organized in two broad categories: 1.) Goal Action Items and 2.) Capital Improvements Completed 2017-2022.

The County implemented a variety of projects that were identified in the 2017-2022 Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan. The following lists the specific actions and a status update on progress. The Plan broke actions into two tiers, described below:

**Top-tier Actions.** Top-tier actions are considered a high 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 significant community demand.

**Second-tier Actions.** Second-tier actions are priority items that exceed current or anticipated short-term capacity for the County and require additional resources to be completed.

Top- and second-tier actions are organized by goal area below.

# 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, promotes non-motorized transportation opportunities, and conserves and respects natural resources and Island character.

## Top-Tier Actions

1. **Work with private and public landowners to protect high-priority lands using a variety of tools, such as land or conservation easement purchase, funding from mitigation projects, and private donations.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The County has acquired the lands described below:

Acquisition	Type	Notes
<b>Orcas</b>		
Turtleback Addition, 37 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation donor transaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forested parcels connecting the Preserve to Deer Harbor Rd</li> <li>• 1,900 ft. of shoreline</li> </ul>
President Channel, 20 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salmon recovery grant</li> <li>• San Juan Preservation Trust Conservation easement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoreline parcel on President Channel (2,900 ft.) adjacent to SJI National Monument parcel</li> <li>• No public access from land</li> </ul>
North Shore, 58 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership With SJPT</li> <li>• Potential PSAR grant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,800 ft. of shoreline with tideland connection Point Doughty NAP</li> <li>• High potential for additional trails and ecological restoration</li> </ul>

Acquisition	Type	Notes
<b>San Juan</b>		
Beaverton Marsh, 330 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership with SJPT</li> <li>Conservation donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for trail connection from the Town of Friday Harbor, boardwalk crossing of marsh, and more than 3 miles of trails</li> <li>Protects the largest freshwater marsh in the County</li> </ul>
Cady Mountain, 340 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three separate transactions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows trailhead at public road and access to SJI NHP and Roche Harbor</li> <li>Potential for 6+ miles of trail and connection to Roche Harbor</li> <li>Highly significant acquisition for ecosystem resilience</li> </ul>
Mount Grant Preserve, 67 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two separate transactions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adds acreage to Mount Grant Preserve as a buffer, connect to a pre-Mount Grant acquisition and TOFH watershed, and to allow for trailhead development</li> </ul>
Driggs Historic Park, 0.2 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open space in the town of Friday Harbor</li> </ul>
<b>Lopez</b>		
Odlin South, 103 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase from</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addition to Odlin County Park</li> </ul>
Fisherman Bay Tomolo, 2 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Donation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting to existing shoreline Preserve (330 ft.)</li> </ul>
Channel Preserve, 10 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase with ALEA and WWRP Water Access grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates shoreline access with 465 feet of owned land</li> <li>Connects to 2+ miles of public tidelands with no access from land</li> </ul>

Acquisition	Type	Notes
Lopez Hill, 475 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of remainder interest from DNR</li> <li>• Purchase of an additional 75 acres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanently protects the largest forested area on Lopez with high value for ecosystem resilience</li> <li>• Extensive multi-use trail system</li> </ul>
Richardson Marsh, 24 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchased in partnership with SJPT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides for public access to the marsh shoreline</li> <li>• Potential birding destination</li> </ul>
RR Bar Ranch, 130 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation easement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of critical farmland in the Center Valley</li> <li>• Significant freshwater marsh and important viewshed</li> </ul>
Spencer Spit Addition, 20 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bargain sale</li> <li>• Donation of two parcels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive feeder bluff shoreline (1,500 ft.) adjacent to State Park with high potential for trails</li> </ul>
Watmough Bay, 11.5 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase with potential ALEA and salmon recovery grants or resale to SJI National Monument</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,000 ft. of high-quality shoreline with two pocket beaches, extensive Coast Salish midden, conservation of the last unprotected parcels on the Bay</li> <li>• Connects existing Land Bank Preserve and SJI National Monument lands</li> </ul>

- 2. Continue collaboration with federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service to enhance and expand facilities and partnership opportunities (e.g., between Agate Beach and Iceberg Point).**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- County road relocation and parking improvement planning underway but stalled due to the ongoing risk of road erosion.
- County has identified a managed retreat route that has yet to be implemented or funded.

- 3. Collaborate with other public agencies, such as BLM, SJINHP, DNR and WA State Parks, to leverage existing resources and pursue funding opportunities to attain common goals associated with various parks, trails, and natural areas.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The Terrestrial Managers Group meets 8-10 times a year.

- 4. Identify existing public lands that could provide enhanced public access opportunities, especially public lands with water access.**

**STATUS: COMPLETE.**

- Road ends were reviewed for the possibility of public access. Challenges with neighboring landowners and adequate space for parking have limited the viability of further expansion. The County maintains and updates the shore access locations.

- 5. Update and implement the existing master plan for Shaw County Park.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- An upcoming department-wide Parks and Fair Strategic Plan will include an action to update existing master plans and develop them for parks that do not have them.

6. **Develop San Juan Park Master Plan.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- An upcoming department-wide Parks and Fair Strategic Plan will include an action to update existing master plans and develop them for parks that do not have them.

7. **Continue to invest in new signage and basic infrastructure (e.g., parking, bike racks, stairs, and restrooms) as identified in the capital facilities plan and as indicated by regular site assessments.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- Added new signage at San Juan County Park, Eagle Cove County Park, Turn Point County Park, Odlin County Park, Shark Reef Sanctuary, Reuben Tarte County Park.
- Improved parking at Turn Point Park.
- Opened Channel Preserve on Lopez with trailhead parking and 0.6 miles of trails.
- Built 1.6 miles of new trails at Mt. Grant Preserve.
- Opened new trailhead at Beaverton Marsh Preserve with 1.3 miles of trail.
- Opened Zylstra Lake Preserve on San Juan, with trailhead parking and 3 miles of trail.

8. **Create and enhance non-motorized connections between existing public lands, activity centers and other areas of interest.**

**STATUS: ONGOING**

- The County implemented the improvements described in the table below:

Year	Project Name	Multimodal Improvement	Total Trail Length (miles)
2017	Orcas Village Park & Ride	Provide parking accessible to ferry	Not applicable
2017	Orcas Landing Pedestrian Imp.	Improve pedestrian access at the ferry landing	Not applicable
2018	Deer Harbor Hamlet Trail	Walking trail along roadway	0.5
2019	Orcas Rd	Paved bike shoulders	2.2
2019	Cattle Point Rd	Paved bike shoulders	2.4
2020	Haven Rd	Sidewalk	0.04
2020	Missing Mountain Rd	Paved shoulders; Separated gravel trail	0.8 0.3
2021	Argyle Ave	Sidewalk and Bike Lane	0.16
2021	Fisherman Bay Rd	Walking trail along roadway	0.5



## 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

1. **Establish a position responsible for coordinating trail planning and development, including collaborating with partner agencies and organizations and securing funding for development.**

#### STATUS: INCOMPLETE

- Not implemented due to lack of funding

2. **Construct priority trail projects identified in Land Bank Preserve Management Plans, Capital Facilities Plan, and Public Works Transportation Improvement Program.**

#### STATUS: ONGOING.

- Public works trails are widened with road shoulders, as noted above.
- The Land Bank has constructed roughly 6 miles of trails on preserves.

3. **Explore opportunities to provide trails that are separated from roads.**

#### STATUS: ONGOING.

- Deer Harbor Rd has been identified as a potential site.

**4. Develop criteria to determine the optimal trail type based on its users and location.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- The County does have a set of Complete Street principles that it adheres to, which includes the following:
- To promote healthy communities by designing walking villages and encouraging walking, bicycling, and use of public transportation
- To improve safety by designing roads to accommodate all users
- To reduce congestion by providing safe alternatives to single-occupancy driving
- To preserve the rural character of the community by involving local citizens and stakeholders to participate in the planning and design of Complete Streets.

**5. Prioritize needed trail-support facilities (e.g., restrooms, parking) in areas of high traffic and use.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The County secured funding for improvements in 2023-2024.

**6. Encourage collaboration among volunteer trail groups to facilitate sharing and leveraging of knowledge and resources.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- There is no defined leader for this work.

**7. Expand the Land Bank's role in securing trail easements to facilitate trail development.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- This is part of the Land Bank's land acquisition strategy.

**8. Pursue right-of-way acquisitions associated with Public Works capital projects for non-motorized purposes.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- Ongoing as specific projects develop.

## Second-Tier Actions

1. **Develop and provide countywide trail and public land maps for public distribution in conjunction with state and federal partners.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

2. **Explore opportunities to develop a comprehensive countywide trails plan.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

3. **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.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

4. **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.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

## GOAL 3: BICYCLING

Promote the development of a safe and convenient non-motorized transportation system that accommodates pedestrians and bicyclists in San Juan County and serves the needs of residents and visitors.

### Top-Tier Actions

1. **Evaluate old roadways and paved areas for re-use as bicycle or pedestrian travel-ways.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- The County will address this as part of Sustainable Tourism Management Plan development and managed retreat of shoreline roads as appropriate.

2. **Maintain road shoulders for non-motorized transportation opportunities by ensuring striping provides adequate shoulder width and vegetation does not interfere with access or visibility.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- Additional effort is needed along Scenic Byways in some locations.

3. **Explore opportunities to provide trails that are separated from roads.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- The expense to import materials to the Islands for roads and pathways makes trail separation in the road right of way cost prohibitive in most cases.

4. **Add road shoulders to major collector road improvement projects to provide bike lanes.**

**STATUS: ONGOING. SEE TABLE UNDER GOAL 1.8.**

## Second-Tier Actions

1. **Create a countywide bicycling map, with coordination between other agencies and organizations.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- Public Works has a roads map that indicates the level of car travel by road to inform bicyclists of route options. With the expansion of fast-moving e-bikes, this map needs an update.

2. **Establish a trail coordinator to work with community trails groups to assist with prioritizing projects.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE, NOT FUNDED.**

## GOAL 4: 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

1. **Explore expansion opportunities at San Juan County Park.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

2. **Secure permanent protection of the DNR-leased lands at Lopez Hill and Odlin South on Lopez Island.**

**STATUS: COMPLETE.**

3. **Pursue agricultural land protection opportunities in Crow Valley on Orcas Island, Center Valley on Lopez Island, and San Juan Valley on San Juan Island.**

**STATUS: COMPLETE.**

- 130-acre conservation easement acquired in Center Valley.

4. **Finalize Zylstra Lake acquisition**

**STATUS: COMPLETE.**

- 283-acre Zylstra Lake acquired in San Juan Valley.

5. **Expand opportunities for public shoreline access on Orcas Island, specifically along each side of Eastsound and in the North Beach area.**

**STATUS: COMPLETE.**

- North Shore property acquired with 1/3 mile of accessible waterfront.

6. **Pursue additional land protection opportunities in areas of high habitat value as identified in the Land Bank's 2008-2014 Habitat Conservation Plan.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- 1,280 acres acquired.

## **Second-Tier Actions**

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

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The Terrestrial Managers Group meets 8-10 times per year.

## GOAL 5: WATER ACCESS

Provide and improve safe public access to fresh- and salt-water shorelines and waterways.

### Top-Tier Actions

1. **Continue to fund and implement the Shore Access Program through the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program.**

**STATUS: ONGOING, BUT LIMITED PROGRESS.**

2. **Pursue natural area shoreline acquisition projects.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The Land Bank has purchased properties with roughly 2 miles of shoreline, opening an additional 2 miles of public tidelands to access from shore.

3. **Utilize Shore Access Program priority array to determine project development priorities.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

### Second-Tier Actions

1. **Publish a countywide Shore Access Map and work with other public agencies to create a comprehensive map that shows all public opportunities to access fresh and salt water.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- The County developed this map but has not publicly shared it due to concerns with some informal, undeveloped access and neighbor conflicts.

2. **Develop shore access site management guidelines and ordinances, if needed.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

3. **Improve connectivity between shore access locations and existing non-motorized transportation networks and trail systems.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

## **GOAL 6: 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**

1. **Develop management and public access plans for Cady Mountain, Odlin South, and Mt. Ben.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- The Land Bank has acquired acreage at Cady Mountain and will complete a management plan by 2024.
- The Mt. Ben management plan is complete, but public access is incomplete due to neighbor concerns.
- Odlin South has been permanently protected and added to Odlin Park.

2. **Prioritize backlog of maintenance projects and secure funding to implement top-priority projects.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- County Parks secured funds to address modest park improvements 2017-2022.

3. **Continue to invest in the Land Bank's stewardship fund to ensure funding is available for future maintenance and stewardship needs.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The fund currently has roughly \$5 million.



4. **Identify resource-sharing opportunities among County departments to meet stewardship needs.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- The County is looking at strategies to address shortage in workers to help steward the lands. Conservation and youth conservation have been the focus, but opportunities with additional for-profit businesses are developing to help fill gaps.

5. **Coordinate with trails groups on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez to maintain and steward existing trails.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- Most engagement has been informal.

6. **Encourage fee-for-service and volunteer stewardship and maintenance projects on County lands from a variety of groups such as Lopez, San Juan, and Orcas Island Youth Conservation Corps and other service clubs and individual volunteers.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- Underway with YCC and other conservation groups.

## Second-Tier Actions

1. **Emphasize “low-impact development” and sustainable design techniques in the design and construction of future facilities.**

**STATUS: COMPLETE.**

- The County has implemented these techniques where feasible. Many low-impact techniques are cost prohibitive in the Islands.

2. **Plan for meeting disability access standards in the upgrade and future development of facilities.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- No overarching plan is in place, although new sites meet disability access standards.
- The Prune Alley street improvement is ADA compliant, and the Odlin float has a new ADA gangway.

3. **Maintain and periodically update the capital facilities plan to reassess priority and cost of planned projects.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The County Capital Committee reviews capital improvement programs annually before submitting to Council. Priorities are annually assessed through this process.

## **GOAL 7: FUNDING**

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

### **Top-Tier Actions**

1. **Maintain levels of County funding for parks, trails, and natural areas programs to sustain programs over time.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- Current levels of funding are being maintained or growing.
- Levy Lid Lift provided funding to Parks for maintenance of its facilities.

2. **Regularly assess existing fee structures to ensure adequate revenue generation.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- There is an annual fee review.

3. **Continue to pursue state and federal grants and leverage local funding to support planned park, trail, and natural area projects.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The County has acquired funding from RCO, Salmon Recovery, Scenic Byways, REET, Conservation Futures, and other funding sources.

## Second-Tier Actions

1. **Conduct further research into local funding options to support county parks and trail development efforts.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- Action lacks clear leadership.

2. **Explore opportunities to cultivate local philanthropic support through means such as capital campaigns for special park, trail, and natural area projects.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The County has received support from the San Juan Preservation Trust. The Trust has raised over \$10M for acquisition projects, including joint projects with the County such as Mt. Grant, Beaverton Marsh, Richardson Marsh, Lopez Hill Addition, North Shore, Zylstra Lake, and Turtleback Addition, and additionally purchased Reef Island.

3. **Utilize local media and education materials to strategically raise awareness and educate the community about funding issues and opportunities.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- With the recent addition of a communications manager, this priority may be further developed in the upcoming cycle.

## GOAL 8: 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

1. **Identify resource-sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies operating in the county to improve service delivery and make operations more efficient.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- Efforts are ongoing to find resource-sharing opportunities for both staffing and equipment, with the Terrestrial Managers Group as a key forum.

2. **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.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The Terrestrial Managers Group meets regularly to keep informed of needs and issues of mutual interest.

3. **Establish subcommittee meeting of members of the Parks and Fair and Land Bank Commissions.**

**STATUS: INCOMPLETE.**

- No action taken.

4. **Coordinate with the Scenic Byway on project implementation opportunities following the completion of the Byway's Corridor Management Plan.**

**STATUS: COMPLETE.**

- Public Works implemented several action items in the Scenic Byways Plan and is actively pursuing grants to advance the recommendations.

## Second-Tier Actions

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

### **STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The Terrestrial Managers Group held annual meetings pre-COVID and plan to return to this in the future.

2. **Coordinate the timing of surfacing high priority Parks and Land Bank projects with Public Works' annual chipseal program to effectively leverage County resources.**

### **STATUS: ONGOING.**

- Odlin parking lot and Jackson Beach Road parking were addressed this cycle.

## GOAL 9: 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

1. **Create a webpage on the County website that provides an overview of this Plan, and includes updates on progress toward goals, strategies, and actions.**

### **STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The County is hiring for a new position to coordinate this type of work.

2. **Provide regular communication and updates through the County website on volunteer opportunities and events.**

### **STATUS: COMPLETE.**

- This has been implemented through the Stewardship Network and County website.

3. **Provide regular public meetings and comment opportunities on County plans and activities coordinated jointly between Public Works, Land Bank, and Parks.**

**STATUS: COMPLETE.**

- The County has conducted extensive public outreach and surveying since 2017 to identify priorities and strategies to address tourism growth and impact, as well as outreach on tourism master planning.

4. **Make use of current technology trends and online advances to facilitate community outreach.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The County utilized online meeting platforms and polling software for the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan and will do so with other planning efforts going forward.

## Second-Tier Actions

1. **Implement an environmental education program at San Juan County Park to take advantage of high visitor use.**

**STATUS: ONGOING.**

- The County developed and distributed a Stewardship Guide to all local accommodations and residents to promote a stewardship ethic.
- Additional program elements are under development within the Department of Environmental Stewardship.

2. **Expand citizen participation in the Parks Department and Land Bank volunteer programs.**

**STATUS: COMPLETE.**

- Both Parks and Land Bank have active volunteer programs to assist with stewardship activities.



# Appendix B. Public Involvement Summary

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OVERVIEW

San Juan County is currently updating its six-year Parks, Trails, Natural Areas, and Non-motorized Transportation Plan (PTNA Plan). As part of the update process, the Plan has a new name that better reflects its content: The Recreation, Open Space, and Stewardship Plan (ROSS Plan).

The ROSS Plan supports the community's vision of an interconnected system of parks and open spaces that:

- Provide easy access to the water and natural areas
- Celebrates island culture, character, and a healthy environment
- Is delivered through efficient programs and innovative partnerships

The Plan will guide action and investment in San Juan County's wide variety of outdoor spaces and facilities for the next six years. The updated Plan incorporates residents' wants and needs, updates to parks and facilities, and progress made toward the past Plan's goals and strategies. It will incorporate community feedback from recent engagement efforts, including survey efforts between 2017-2019 and engagement via the 2022 San Juan County Sustainable Tourism Management Plan.

The County invited the public to provide feedback on this Plan by attending one of two virtual open houses or by participating in the online public comment period. This document describes the process for public involvement in development of the ROSS Plan and its results.



## Digital Outreach

To engage the San Juan County community in the ROSS Plan's development, the virtual open houses and public comment period were advertised to the community on a variety of forums. These methods of outreach included:

**County Website** – Information regarding the ROSS Plan is hosted on a dedicated webpage on the County website. The ROSS Plan was also spotlighted on the homepage of the County website, with a link to the dedicated Plan site.

**Press Release** – A press release with information about the Plan update was sent to all local news outlets and approximately 400 subscribers to the San Juan County News.

**Social Media** – Opportunities for public comment on the Plan update were advertised in multiple social media posts on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. These social media postings were made from the main County Government accounts as well as the accounts of Parks & Fair, Land Bank, and Environmental Stewardship.

**Local Postings** – Information on the ROSS Plan update that educated the public and encouraged participation was posted on LopezRocks, a community website run by Lopez Island.

**County Council** – The Plan update was shared with County Council on October 7th, where it was discussed and scheduled for adoption on November 29th.

## Online Public Comment

Key chapters of the ROSS Plan were available on the County's website for public comment from October 10-17. During this time, 22 comments were received.

Key themes from this public comment included requests to:

- Integrate tribal engagement and perspectives
- Address tribal use and fees on parks lands
- Continue to advance both multi-modal and long-distance trails. The comments received under this theme included many specific suggestions for the location of this work.

These themes have been incorporated throughout the ROSS Plan. Notably, the County added a section to Chapter 2 called "Honoring Salish Lifeways" to describe County efforts to collaborate with Tribes and added a new project, a Trails Master Plan, to Chapter 6 to guide the County in trail development.

## Open House

San Juan County hosted two public open houses to introduce the ROSS Plan to the community, held on Zoom on October 11th and 13th, 2022, at 6:00–7:00 pm PST.

### Open House Objectives

- Introduce the ROSS Plan and explain why it is being updated
- Share the County's recent accomplishments
- Discuss the updates made when the County transitioned from the PTNA Plan to the ROSS Plan
- Hear key concerns from community members and answer questions about the Plan update
- Provide information about how the community can stay engaged with the ROSS Plan

## Agenda

Time	Topic
6:00 pm (10 min)	Welcome & Introductions
6:10 pm (10 min)	Presentation: Context Setting
6:20 pm (20 min)	Presentation: ROSS Plan Update
6:40 pm (10 min)	Discussion: Question & Answer
6:50 pm (10 min)	Wrap-up & Adjourn

## Icebreaker

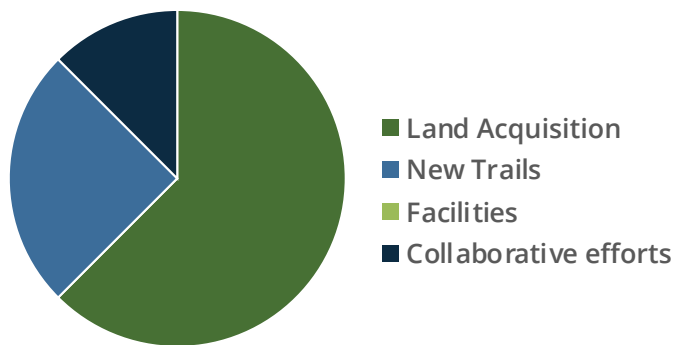
Participants were asked to answer the question “What is your favorite public place to visit in San Juan County?” in the chat. Participants responded that their favorite public places were:

- American Camp
- Land Bank Channel Preserve Lopez
- Mount Grant
- Chadwick Hill
- Watmough Bay
- Coho Preserve

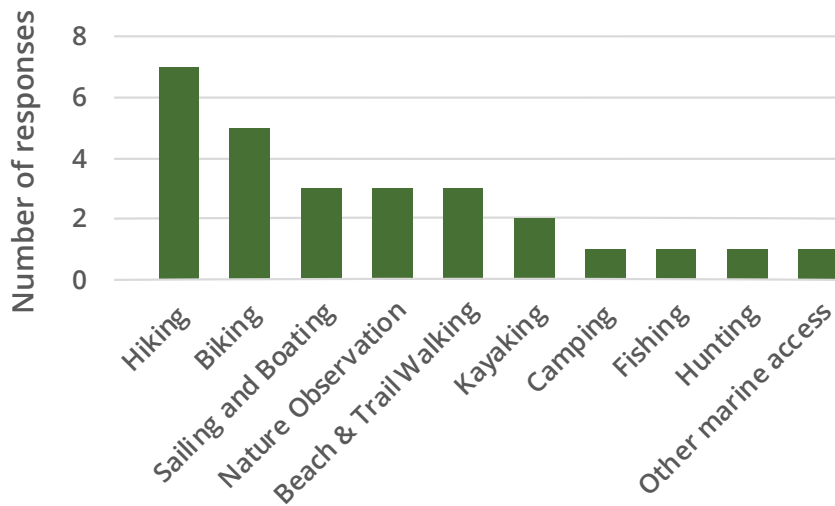
## Poll Responses

Throughout the presentation, participants used PolLEV to participate in polling questions about the County's recreation, open space, and stewardship. These results of those polling questions are shown below.

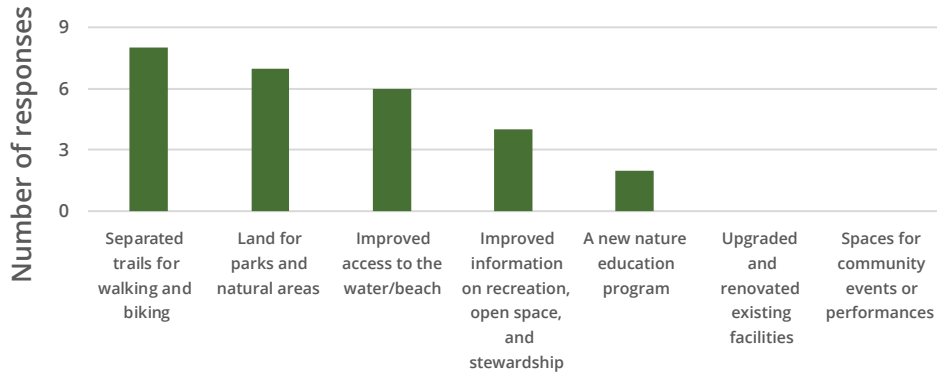
### 1. WHICH OF THE COUNTY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT?



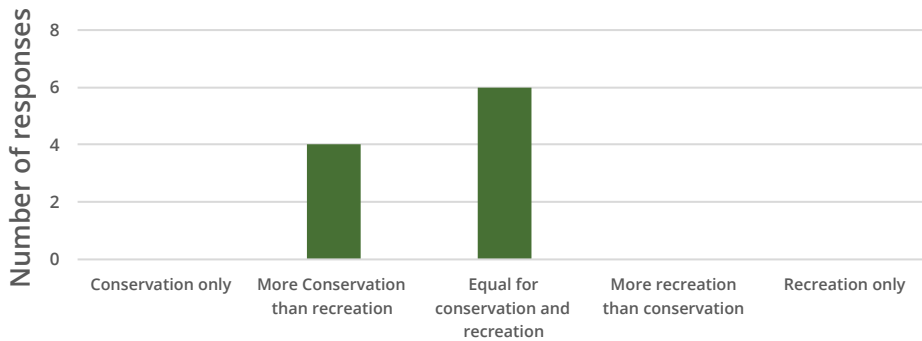
### 2. WHAT TYPES OF RECREATION DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN IN SAN JUAN COUNTY?



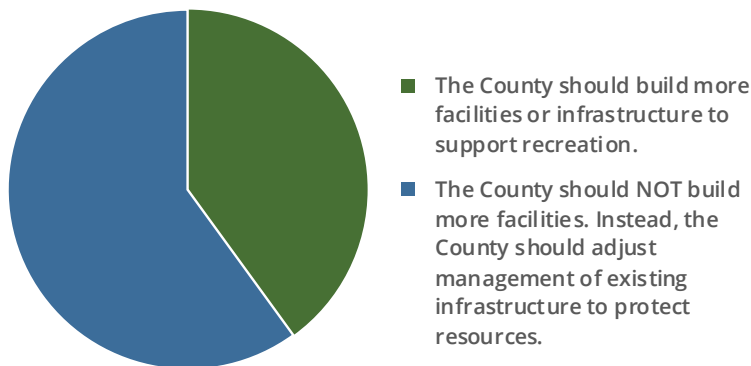
### 3. WHAT TYPES OF AMENITIES OR FACILITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?



### 4. WHAT SHOULD THE PURPOSE OF LAND ACQUISITIONS BE: ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION OR RECREATION?



### 5. HOW SHOULD RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BE GUIDED BY SUSTAINABLE TOURISM?



## Questions & Answers

During the open houses, participants were invited to ask questions pertaining to the ROSS Plan, and County staff were available to provide responses. The questions, comments, and responses from these open houses can be found below.

Mooring buoys do not adversely affect scenic aspects for those on land. Watmough Bay should not have additional buoys or allow anchoring. During the summer months there can be so many boats parked in Watmough Bay that the beautiful view is obscured. There is no information for boaters on the shoreline – Watmough Bay would be a great place to share about the eelgrass and its importance, also a place to be able to assess use, and not just capturing the data at the parking area.

County response: It's definitely a line that we have to walk between putting out mooring buoys – how many do we actually want out on the water versus having boaters anchor in the eelgrass? A first step would be to do a better job of delineating where the eelgrass is, and then encouraging boaters not to anchor there. We'll look at the mooring buoy question in Watmough and elsewhere too, but it will really take some studying to really figure out what the best thing is to do.

There is no information for boaters on the shoreline – Watmough Bay would be a great place to share about the eel grass and its importance, also a place to be able to assess use, and not just capturing the data at the parking area.

County response: That is a great point. We have been short on providing information in many places so that is something we are hoping to do more of as we go forward.

On the REET Tax for the 2024 renewal – if it doesn't pass, can the affordable housing portion remain?

County response: The Real Estate Excise Tax is what funds most of our conservation efforts at the land bank and it will expire at the end of 2026. There will be a renewal effort, most likely, probably in 2024 – a few years before 2026. To your point about the affordable housing REET – you're correct, that is dependent on full funding of the land bank REET. So, if the land bank is not renewed or is reduced, that would take away the affordable housing REET as well.

■ “Forest land assessment / restoration planning” is pretty vague. What about habitat and climate resilience?

■ County response: Yes, that’s exactly what we are going to be looking at. The focus will be to gauge the ecosystem health of the properties that we have. Some forest land is in great shape and doesn’t require much management, but we have other properties where that is not the case. We’ll be looking at all of those forestlands to see where there are issues, whether in the form of damaged trees in a particular area. An assessment will provide a sense of what to do moving forward, our goal is to then focus on climate resilience. We know that the climate is changing, especially with hotter and drier summers. We want to be in a good position to withstand some of the potential events that could occur, like fire, which is why we’ll be looking at our forests to see how to make them healthier and last longer into the future.

■ Is accessibility at beaches with log jams in scope for this plan?

■ County response: Great question – we’ll have to look at things like that on a case-by-case basis. That changes every year and every season – we always get driftwood on the beach and sometimes it’s an issue and sometimes it’s not. We could look at potentially creating a good way for people to get through the driftwood. That certainly happens in some places in the County, particularly Jackson Beach which is a core property where there are trails that go through the driftwood. We are working with Park to increase access to Eagle Cove’s beach. We do need to note though that we have to keep a balance of maintaining natural functions and allowing people to have access to the beach.

■ Response from community member: Thinking about diversity and inclusion for folks with disability or access issues, having just one or two openings that are maintained goes a long way, but certainly want to respect the ecosystem at the same time.

■ I really support the Youth Conservation Corps efforts, and also the addressing of the forest health and the wildfire risk reduction in the County lands. I’m really worried about climate change and wildfire risk, and also just the overgrowth of forest since the Europeans came and dissuaded the practice of periodic burning as a land management tool that the Indigenous people practiced.

■ County response: Thank you for sharing!

Perhaps eelgrass info could be handed out at fueling spots like Roche Harbor. We find many boats anchored in eelgrass here at Roche, so thanks for spreading the word.

County response: Absolutely, that could be a really great idea – it's something for us to look at.

Eelgrass info in Wagoner's boating guide

County response: No response needed.

I like the term "inter-tidal connectiveness" as listed under the new North Shore Property. I'd like to see this more in the plan, as just stating "natural areas" doesn't always take into account the inner tidal area. Trails can also use shoreline when possible as connecting to preserves/parks/towns.

County response: I think on North Shore we are going to have our hands full there as there is a pinch point on that shoreline, so it is possible for people to go out onto the tidelands and then kind of get caught by the tide, so we'll have to figure that one out.

The Friends of the San Juans is working on a project to mark eelgrass beds so that boats can avoid anchoring within them.

County response: No response needed.

There is a point in the plan that lists local history. This should be broader to say local history, including tribal history.

County response: I agree with that – that is something that has been glossed over in the past. We are at the beginning of presenting that part of our history and are working on it!

We hope in the Old Military Road effort to also recognize the tribal importance plus the benefit the road made towards peaceful resolution between Britain and the US.

County response: No response needed.

I hope that the Watmough Addition is not sold to the BLM/National Monument because the management plan for the BLM allows use of high-powered firearms and dispersed camping.



County response: We will definitely be looking at the record of decision as it comes out from the National Monument before doing anything on that front.

## Online Comments Submitted

Below are comments on draft chapters of the ROSS Plan that the County received via online comment box, alongside the County's responses. Similar comments are grouped and represented by one comment expressing the key themes. Some comments have been condensed for brevity, while preserving the suggestions within.

### Coast Salish and Tribal Inclusion

Twelve people submitted comments related to the Coast Salish and Tribal inclusion.

#### **Nine commentors voiced support for making Coast Salish canoe journeys as easy as possible with comments like the one below:**

"I have read the ROSS document. I see that it begins with a land acknowledgement, but then find NOTHING in the document that indicates any actions resulting from that land acknowledgement that support Coast Salish peoples' access to these lands.

There is no mention of the Coast Salish peoples who continue to travel to these islands in canoe journeys, continuing a practice that has been a part of island culture for millennia. When a canoe journey (other than one tribally sanctioned) comes to a county park, they have to pay large event fees, insurance, etc. If a canoe family wants to camp at a county park, they are treated no differently than someone coming to the island for the first time, as tourists; yet these are people whose ancestors have been coming to these islands for millennia.

It is of utmost importance to me that the San Juan Islands have special stipulations in place that make it easy (yes EASY!) and cheap for tribes to come through on their seasonal journeys."

County response: The County reviewed the document and incorporated additional language about Coast Salish perspectives and inclusion. The issue specifically regarding camping and the canoe journey is a consideration for Parks – the language was clarified in the document regarding current practices.

**Three people submitted comments urging the County to collaborate with the Coast Salish to protect and steward lands, like the one below:**

"I've reviewed the Recreation and Open Space Stewardship (ROSS) Plan, and I appreciate the work to create a long-term vision and plan for the county parks in San Juan County. These parks are treasures for residents, visitors, and those who first inhabited these lands, and I'm grateful our county government is committed to their care. As a long-time resident of Lopez Island, I have feedback about this plan that's designed to guide actions and investment for years to come.

It's fitting and right that the plan begins with an acknowledgment that it pertains to the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish peoples who've called them home from time immemorial. For that acknowledgment to have meaning, however, the plan's mission, values, vision, goals, and strategies need to explicitly recognize and honor aboriginal and treaty rights as well as cultural practices of the Coast Salish peoples. Regrettably, I don't see any such clear wording that reflects recognition of the need for preservation and care of ancestral lands/waters and culture. Additionally, there's no mention of partnership, collaboration, or community engagement with Indigenous peoples of the Salish Sea region, of which San Juan County Parks are a part. I would expect to see these kinds of references in every part of the plan.

For too many years, the settler culture, of which we're all a part, has caused great harm to the people who are indigenous to this land and waters. I urge leaders to revise the plan to include meaningful goals, and actions to meet them, that explicitly acknowledge San Juan County's responsibility to honor the culture that continues to care for these lands and waters, as they have from time immemorial. Thank you for your consideration."

County response: This ROSS Plan update is limited in time and scope; however, the County is committed to engaging Coast Salish voices in our programming and policies. Additional language has been added throughout the document, acknowledging the County's ongoing efforts to engage Coast Salish Tribal perspectives in this document. Examples of this work over the last several years and the interpretive efforts are now added to the Plan. Our most engaged feedback from Tribes comes at the project implementation phase, due to the nature of government-to-government consultation and the limited staffing capacities of both Tribes and the County. Given the time limitations of this planning effort, we will need to incorporate additional insights via the Climate Action Plan and Sustainable Tourism Plan.

## Long-distance trails planning and corridor connectivity

There were six comments submitted that supported additional trails, long-distance trails planning, and corridor connectivity.

“Thanks for your attention and recognition that getting people outdoors on new or old properties offering public access is a key to the long term stewardship of the islands ... trails can come in so many forms and for so many reasons, but if they become interconnected and lead to neighborhoods and destinations of value, then use will drive the quality and protections needed to develop missing links and to maintain properly the existing trails.”

County response: Long-distance trails and corridor connectivity are included in the Plan.

“I would like to suggest a goal for trail development/recreation system. ‘Establish interconnection of trails with campgrounds.’ I look forward to the day when we can walk the island end to end from Cattle Point lighthouse to Roche Harbor ... hikers will need a campground as a waypoint. I’d like to see us establish one or more campgrounds that interconnect with the trail system. I would also suggest a goal for Trail Planning and Development that captures the spirit of efforts like the Old Military Road Trail. This goal could be expressed as ‘Seek restoration of historic trails and footpaths.’”

County response: The Ross Plan is proposing the County develop a specific Comprehensive Trails Master Plan, that would allow for the more formal development of this concept. This suggestion will also be included in the SJI Sustainable Tourism Plan.

“... it’s partly a continuous corridor such as that represented by the Old Military Road Trail which will serve as one of the vital community, historic, cultural, ecological and actual backbones to achieve these goals. It will be important to get some OMRT signage on applicable parts of your trails to help build momentum and further insight into the project, furthering both our goals.”

County response: The continued development of long-distance trails and trail connectivity are included in the Implementation Plan; this would include the Old Military Trail.

“... I have a few specific recommendations with regards to the implementation plan starting on page 24.

First, in item two, consider replacing Key Result text with the following: Increase long-distance trails and connections via cooperative agreements with federal/state agencies, SJC Public Works, SJCCLB, SJPT and private landowners to facilitate cross-island backbone trails on all islands.

Second, consider adding an additional item to the implementation plan: SJCCLB, SJC Parks and Recreation, and the Town of Friday Harbor working cooperatively to establish trails on Town of Friday Harbor parcels surrounding Trout Lake. Low-impact recreation and maintaining a quality municipal water supply are not mutually exclusive; they can be achieved simultaneously if implemented in a thoughtful and sustainable manner.

Third, consider adding an additional item to the implementation plan: create a family bicycle route from the Town of Friday Harbor > San Juan Valley Rd corridor > Zylstra Lake Preserve > SJPT parcels > Ranchos Rd > Bailer Hill Rd corridor > False Bay Drive > Cattle Point Rd > Town of Friday Harbor utilizing a designated side path when necessary to ensure the safety of both non-motorized users and motorists alike.

Fourth, consider an additional item to the implementation plan: partner with SJINHP to establish walk-in/bike-in camping at English Camp (Mitchell Hill) and American Camp (Mt Finlayson Plateau) plus partner with Washington State Parks to do the same at Limekiln Point State Park and Garrison Bay Marine park. Some of the infrastructure is already in place. These sites have the potential to create world-class, low-impact camping.

Fifth, consider adding an additional item to the implementation plan: connect San Juan County Park to Limekiln Preserve to Limekiln Point State Park to Deadman Bay Preserve to Westside Preserve (a series of suspension bridge spans just west of Westside Rd) creating a continuous trail for recreation and terrestrial and marine wildlife viewing.

Finally, consider adding an additional item to the implementation plan: an off-road trail connection between Cady Mountain Preserve, Mt Grant Preserve and King Sisters Preserve.”

County response: The above noted suggestions are broadly incorporated in the Plan through the long-distance trail planning and the call for a Comprehensive Trails Master Plan. These suggestions are also being considered in the SJI Sustainable Tourism Management Plan.

"On behalf of the Old Military Road Trail Committee (OMRTC), a group sponsored by Island Rec on San Juan Island, I'd like to offer some comments about the Recreation, Open Space & Stewardship Plan.

1. The 2030 Vision for Parks, Trails and & Natural Areas aligns closely with the vision of the Old Military Road Trail Committee. Both are striving to "provide safe, non-motorized travel throughout the community", and "celebrate island culture, character, and a healthy environment."

2. The OMRTC enthusiastically endorses the 2nd and 3rd items listed in Table 6.1 under "Implementation Plan" ....

3. With respect to the "2017-22 Plan Accomplishment Report, Goal 2: Trail Planning & Development, 2nd-Tier Actions"

The OMRTC would also like to see trail maps made for each island. These island-specific trail maps will be extremely useful for both residents and visitors alike. Local businesses like realtors, accommodation providers (hotels, B&Bs, etc), the Visitor's Bureau, bicycle shops, etc. will be interested in providing these localized trail maps to their clientele.

... [Regarding the action] to "convene a meeting between relevant County staff and Orcas, San Juan, and Lopez trails groups, the Town of Friday Harbor, and Port Districts on each island to review the highlights of the Plan and discuss opportunities for collaboration," The OMRTC and San Juan Trails Committee both welcome this opportunity to collaborate.... We are at the stage now in the development of the OMRT project where there's several important segments of the proposed cross-island trail route that could benefit by having trail easements negotiated with landowners.

The OMRTC and San Juan Trails Committee have engaged in talks with the Land Bank about setting up an "adopt-a-trail" type maintenance program on Land Bank trails and along the proposed OMRT route. This prototype will hopefully be rolled out next spring.

County response: The County is proposing a countywide trails master plan and coordinator to help each Island further advance the comments noted above.

“...Mountain biking is growing rapidly and yet the islands are far behind the mainland and many other tourist destinations when it comes to trail advocacy and access. Kids on the island are extremely limited on where they can ride during the summer months due to Moran’s policy. I cannot advocate enough that we aim to build a network of single track trails for mountain bikers to have access to year round, in and around Turtleback, Entrance Mountain and anywhere else can find the acreage. Being proactive on this can help with growing sustainable, outdoors oriented tourism - the type we’d like to see grow. I also feel that we can partner with e.g. Evergreen Mountain Bike Association who can provide trail building expertise and work parties and volunteer hours to help maintain the trails. Please consider making mountain biking trails a priority as part of the open space plan, and also please use your influence to convince Moran to invest more in year round mountain bike trails.

... I want to suggest we also consider facilities for a bike park. Towns across the country, and certainly across Washington state are building bike parks for all ages to recreate on ... I implore you to consider how to set aside the acreage needed to build a world class bike park with dirt jumps, bmx tracks and concrete pump tracks. I’m asking this for the sake of all the kids on island who will benefit immensely from this.”

County response: The County is proposing a comprehensive trails master plan and a coordinator in the ROSS Plan to help advance the suggestions above. There are several items noted above that are also part of the SJI Sustainable Tourism Management Plan.

## Other Comments

The remaining eight submitted comments cover a diverse array of topics.

As an ecologist and member of a Coast Salish tribe whose traditional homelands include the San Juan Islands, I hope this stewardship plan uses a science-based approach to herbivore management and increases harvest opportunities for black-tailed deer. While black-tailed deer populations declined last year due to an over population mediated Adenovirus Hemorrhagic Disease (AHD) outbreak, the population is and will continue to rebound. As the great work by Tara Martin\* has shown, over abundant deer populations negatively impact plant communities with impacts on bird populations and potentially endangered plants and insects as well. Additionally, hunting is the best way to obtain ethically sourced nutritious protein with a low carbon footprint while helping improve ecosystem integrity. As a science-based organization, I hope you support ecology sustainable food systems. As an ecologist I will continue to feed my family venison over factory farmed meat or any industrially produced meat alternatives – both of which have a huge negative impact on our ecosystems and climate.

\* Browsing down our natural heritage: deer impacts on vegetation structure and songbird populations across an island archipelago. TG Martin, P Arcese, N Scheerder - Biological Conservation, 2011

County response: This issue is beyond the scope of the ROSS Plan but can be considered as part of management planning of the different resource lands held by the County.

“The plan calls for many entities and individuals to share in implementing its goals which begs the question about the creation and funding of a new SJC position. A position responsible for ‘coordinating and planning for the implementation of countywide trail developments’, but how soon can such a position be created and funded? Hopefully soon, but even with such a position, it is imperative your agencies stimulate and participate in regular forums where other gov. agencies, non-profits, businesses and individuals can share information. Nothing works better than bringing interested people together to meet and discuss what is current or planned. Be it by island or topic or project or educational opportunity, such gatherings need not be onerous to plan or execute - just get folks together often please at a convenient time. Combustion will follow. Short morning gatherings with light refreshments before the workday

consumes things for busy people have worked well in the past for such sharing.”

County response: Terrestrial Managers Group meets regularly to coordinate its activities. However, if a position is secured to facilitate trails development, it would be an added benefit to advancing trails work across land ownerships specifically.

“With a new Lopez resident Council member coming on in Jan, your efforts to share with her some of the sites illustrating the issues relevant to the plan is an opportunity that could not be more timely. Nothing like seeing and walking on a few of the places that are noteworthy. Esp. given the terrible interisland ferry service this year. Guided tours on SJ Is and Orcas could be so worthwhile to aid the plan to be a true guide despite stresses on the SJ County budget and Council.”

County response: This task is underway and ongoing for all Council members, as well as with outside agencies to help support the County’s efforts.

“I am deeply grateful for our island’s county parks and how they complement other public spaces in providing access to the exquisite nature of our archipelago to visitors and residents alike. I appreciate the clear care and hard work that has gone into this planning document, and its focus on quality of life, accessibility, natural integrity, stewardship, and sustainability.”

County response: The County appreciates your support.

“I believe the ROSS plan in Goal #5 Stewardship and Maintenance should include a goal of protecting the areas adjacent to BLM properties so that the BLM properties spread out over all islands will maintain a preserved state no matter what administration at the federal level toys with these lands. The misuse of these lands can or will affect the surrounding San Juan areas that generally are at present low and protected uses. One now rejected use of these lands proposed by a prior administration allowed target use on BLM lands where nearby areas were used by children and other incompatible uses. In other Goals it would be wise to advocate for acquisition of buffer areas to the BLM lands to enhance the protection and expand the visual impact and habitat in areas ready already under control without added funding. This might also give rise to more federal grants to assist the ROSS plan.”



County response: This issue will be discussed with BLM staff positioned here in the County.

“Mooring buoys - When adding mooring buoys do not adversely affect scenic aspects for those on land. Watmough Bay is a good example. There can be so many boats moored or anchored there in summer that the view from shore is severely impacted. The current buoys do avoid the center of the bay but there should not be additional buoys and anchoring should not be allowed.”

County response: The ROSS Plan and the Sustainable Tourism Plan includes a project to address protection of eelgrass and mooring buoy management throughout the County. Funding for this work may be pursued through a federal grant opportunity.

“Bike Lanes - The County addresses for certain roads in their justification for the road levy lid lift, and in general their proposals seem reasonable. However, the road widening project on Lopez should be extended to MacKaye Harbor Road.

Disused Road Right-of-Ways - The county has a policy to not relinquish these ROWs, but the county should be more active in using them. For example, there are two on Lopez which can provide critical shoreline access and a third that could provide a significant connecting trail.

1) Cape St. Mary - The ROW extends from the end of Cape St. Mary Road mostly due east to the shoreline. However, it doesn't quite reach the larger Cape St. Mary BLM parcel. The view from Cape St. Mary is spectacular including the Cascade Mountains, Whidbey and Fidalgo Islands and Deception Pass, Mt. Baker, and even Canadian mountains can be seen to the north.

2) Lopez Sound - There is a ROW that connects Lopez Sound Road from near the southwest corner of Lopez Hill Preserve to a pocket beach with public tidelands along Lopez Sound. The ROW extends about two thirds of a mile through undeveloped and mostly Designated Forest Land. The neighboring land would also make a great acquisition for the Land Bank and provide a wildlife corridor between Lopez Hill Preserve and the shoreline.

3) Watmough to Cape St. Mary - The extensive BLM Chadwick Hill holdings north of Watmough Bay come within 1/4 mile of Cape St. Mary Road. However, there is a county ROW that makes that connection. Developing trails within the BLM property to the north

with a connection to CSM Road and including 1) above would provide a peaceful extended trail connecting shoreline to shoreline.

Lopez Sound Road - The county is missing a great opportunity to route Lopez bicyclists away from Center Road on the east side of the island. The section of Lopez Sound Road the borders Lopez Hill Preserve is not car passible but could easily be improved for bicycle and pedestrian use. This would allow a low traffic density bike route from the Port Stanley/Spencer Spit area to the intersection of Lopez Sound Road and Mud Bay Road.”

County response: The above noted ROW activities would need to be a part of the Transportation Improvement Plan managed by Public Works. The information will be forwarded to them for consideration.

“Initiate a Public/Private Program to Use Multiparcel Driveways - While it is likely that some property owners may be hesitant to have their shared access roads used for public footpaths, perhaps monetary compensation could smooth the process. Two possibilities on Lopez come to mind:

The combination of Old Kelpmill Lane, Highland Lane, Coyote Lane and Westpark Lane would connect Spencer Spit Park to Port Stanley.

The combination of Suntides Lane and Hooterville Lane would connect the intersection of Port Stanley Road and Lopez Sound Road with School Road. Note that from where Hooterville Lane reaches School Road it is a quarter mile east to where the Land Bank intends to build a trail connecting to the existing Lopez Hill Preserve trail network. Note also that the intersection of Port Stanley Road and Lopez Sound Road is only just over a third of a mile from trails in Hummel Lake Preserve. Together, this would make possible a low traffic density and extensive trail walk from Hummel Lake to Mud Bay Road.”

County response: This concept would need exploration by the Public Works Department and will be forwarded to them for consideration.



# Appendix C. Conservation Finance Feasibility Summary

Updated 2022

## INTRODUCTION

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 Recreation 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.<sup>18</sup>

In 2010, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) conducted a Conservation Finance Feasibility Study to assess public funding options 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, local funding remains the most reliable long-term option. State, federal, and private funding often serve as supplements or incentives to local funding due to the competitive funding environment.

This report summarizes relevant state and federal conservation and recreation funding programs that local governments may use. It then

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<sup>18</sup> 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.

examines the options for generating and dedicating local revenue for conservation and parks, including the revenue raising capacity and costs of several financing tools. 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.

## **FUNDING FOR RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND STEWARDSHIP**

### **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. Since 1990, state legislators have approved between \$35 million and \$60 million annually toward conservation and recreation programs, even through difficult economic times and ever-changing priorities; this is supplemented by millions more from federal sources. 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 programs encourage the use of matching funds to strengthen their funding base and maximize the amount of program goals to achieve. Local government programs aggressively seek state and federal matching funds available through a variety of conservation and recreation programs. State programs such as the WWRP, 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 offer match-funding opportunities, though the dollar amounts available through these programs are usually quite limited.

## **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program**

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/washington-wildlife-and-recreation-program-habitat/>

The Washington Legislature created the in 1989 to accomplish two goals: acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands before they were lost to other uses and develop recreation areas for a growing population. The program provides funding for a broad range of land conservation efforts and projects that conserve wildlife habitat, working farms, and forests; buy land for parks and trails; and develop outdoor recreational activities. WWRP is administered by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) and is supported by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), a state agency that serves the RCFB and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB).

### **GRANT ELIGIBILITY AND TIMELINE**

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 in even-numbered years, in conjunction with the state budget.

### **ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES**

- Acquisition Projects
- Development Projects
- Restoration and Enhancement Projects
- Combination Projects
- Multi-Site Restoration or Enhancement Projects
- Phased Projects (See full WWRP Manual for project parameters)

## **Additional Washington State Conservation and Recreation Grant Programs**

### **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account**

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/aquatic-lands-enhancement-account/>

Grants up to \$1 million 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 those lands and associated waters. For local agencies, at least 50 percent of the total project cost must come from a non-state, non-federal contribution.

### **Boating Infrastructure Grant Program**

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/boating-infrastructure-grant-program/>

The grant program is split into two tiers: Tier 1 (State Grants) and Tier 2 (National Grants) to develop, renovate, and maintain public boating facilities that target transient recreational boats 26 feet or larger. The grant also may be used to provide information and boater education. Tier 1 grants range from \$5,000 up to \$192,086, while Tier 2 grants range from \$200,001 up to \$1,440,645. \$200k to develop and renovate boating facilities targeting recreational boats 26 feet and larger. A 25 percent match is required for all projects.

### **Boating Facilities Program**

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/boating-facilities-program/>

This program supports grants up to \$3 million to acquire, design, build, and renovate motorized boating facilities (see grant manual for specific grant limitations). Program provides funds to acquire, develop, and renovate facilities such as launching ramps, guest moorage, and support facilities for motorized boats and other watercraft. Local agency projects must provide a 25 percent match, while no match is required for state agency projects.

### **Recreational Trails Program**

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/recreational-trails-program/>

This program funds up to \$150,000 for general projects and \$10,000 for education projects to rehabilitate and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and unmotorized uses that provide a backcountry experience. Local agencies, special purpose districts, tribes, and non-profit organizations must provide 20 percent minimum match for each project.

## Other State Funding Programs

### Trust Land Transfer Program

This 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)

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/salmon-recovery/>

The state legislature created the SRFB in 1999 to protect or restore salmon habitat and assist related activities; it receives funding from the state and federal governments. The SRFB administers the Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant for \$132.8 million. A 15 percent match is required for most grants, but no match is required for design-only projects requesting \$200,000 or less.

## 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.

### Land and Water Conservation Fund, U.S. Department of the Interior – National Park Service

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm>

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 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**

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.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.

The Recreation and Conservation Office administers the program in Washington, and anticipates \$1 million in funding for the current biennium. An applicant must submit a plan including goals and objectives, inventory, and a description of the public involvement process used. The 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 by an advisory committee in a competitive process. 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**

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-3013/pdf/COMPS-3013.pdf>

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 Grants Program**

<https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant>

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. 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.

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

## **The State Wildlife Grant Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

<https://www.fws.gov/program/state-wildlife-grants/what-we-do>

The [State Wildlife Grant \(SWG\) Program](#) provides Federal grant funds to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished.

Grant funds may be used to address a variety of conservation needs—such as research, fish and wildlife surveys, species restoration, habitat management, and monitoring—that are identified within a state’s Wildlife Action Plan. These funds may also be used to update, revise, or modify a state’s Plan.

## **The North American Wetlands Conservation Act , U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

<https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-standard>

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) authorizes grants to public-private partnerships in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. to protect, enhance, restore, and manage waterfowl, other migratory birds and other fish and wildlife, and the wetland ecosystems and other habitats upon which they depend, consistent with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both grant programs are competitive, and support public-private partnerships to carry out projects in the U.S. that further the goals of NAWCA. These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds and requests much be matched by partner contributions no less than 1:1 ratio.

## **Transportation Alternatives , U.S. Department of Transportation**

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation\\_alternatives/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/)

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside from the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program, formerly known as Transportation Enhancement, provides funding for a variety

of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities; construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas; community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management; environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trails; safe routes to school projects; and vulnerable road user safety assessments. Approximately \$1.4 million for funding has been set aside for each fiscal year from 2022-2026.

### **National Scenic Byways, U.S. Department of Transportation**

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=338707>

The National Scenic Byways Discretionary Grant program, administered by Federal Highway Administration, provides funding for byway-related projects each year to help recognize, preserve, and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. National Scenic Byway (NSB) grants are available on an annual basis. Funding levels for this program have averaged about \$22 million in recent years. Eligible applicants for NSBP discretionary grants are state departments of transportation (DOT) and Indian Tribes. Other entities may partner with a state DOT or Tribal government to submit an application, but the eligible applicant must be a state DOT or Indian Tribe.

Eligible projects include access to recreation, byway facilities, construction, corridor management plans, highway improvements, interpretive information, marketing programs, resource protection, safety improvements, state and Indian Tribe scenic byway programs, and tourist information.

### **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program , National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

<https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/landconservation/applying/>

Starting in 2022, as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, NOAA will receive nearly \$3 billion in funding over five years. A portion of these funds will be distributed under the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) authority to fund land conservation projects proposed by state coastal zone management programs and national estuarine research reserves. Specific requirements for these grants are not known at this time, please contact the Office for Coastal Management for more information.

## **National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants , U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

<https://www.fws.gov/story/national-coastal-wetlands-conservation-grants>

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 \$400 million in grant funding has been awarded to coastal states and between \$18 million to \$23 million are available for projects annually.

## **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund , U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

<https://www.fws.gov/program/cooperative-endangered-species-conservation-fund>

Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide federal financial assistance through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) to states and territories. The Fund supports the development and implementation of conservation programs for the benefit of resident listed, candidate, and at-risk species on non-federal lands. This financial assistance, provided in the form of competitive grants and made available through four CESCF grant programs, contributes approximately \$51.8 million toward species and habitat conservation annually. States and territories must contribute a minimum non-federal match of 25 percent of the estimated project costs, or 10 percent when two or more states or territories implement a joint project. A state or territory must currently have, or enter into, a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior to receive grants. Most states and territories have entered into these agreements for both plant and animal species.

## Local Financing Options

Most funding for parks and land conservation in America comes from local governments. Across the country between 1998-2022 there was a total of \$83 billion (annual average of \$245 million) spent on land conservation at the local, state, and federal levels of government. Of this, 67 percent of the total dollars spent comes from local governments, 28 percent comes from state governments and only four percent is derived from the federal government. 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.

### 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 other public purposes and is 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 priorities that protect the most valuable resources, ensure geographic distribution, 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.

Finally, conservation finance measures are not right for every local government, or they might not be the right approach at a given time. 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.

### **COUNTY PROPERTY TAX**

Property tax rates in San Juan County are the lowest in the state. In 2022 the state average property tax rate was \$10.00 per \$1,000. In San Juan County, the rate was \$7.15. Conversely, average home prices are the highest in the state which results in relatively large tax bills for many homeowners. 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.

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.

### **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.<sup>19</sup> 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.

### **REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX**

Counties and cities may impose a basic Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) rate of 0.25 percent of the selling price,<sup>20</sup> as well as an additional 0.25 percent tax upon adoption of an ordinance after approval by a majority of voters.<sup>21</sup> 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. 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 do include “planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement

.....  
19 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

20 \$82.46.010.

21 82.46.035(2).



of parks”). San Juan County currently imposes the first increment of the basic REET. This increment is levied at a rate of 0.50 percent of the selling price, paid by the seller.<sup>22</sup>

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.<sup>23</sup> 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.”<sup>24</sup> San Juan County is the only county in Washington that has exercised its authority to levy this conservation area REET, which is paid by the buyer. The conservation REET was authorized by vote in 1990 with renewals required every 12 years. The REET was renewed in 1999, again in 2011, and extends to 2026.

San Juan County is also the only county eligible to collect an additional 0.05 percent REET for affordable housing because state law requires fully funding the Conservation Area REET at one percent and a vote of the public. In 2018, voters approved the affordable housing REET as well. Though authorized for 12 years, collection of this REET would end if the Conservation Area REET is not renewed in 2026.

### **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, these financing mechanisms will be implemented if they gain approval of a 60 percent share from 40 percent of the quantity of voters who participated in the preceding general election. In some cases, formation of a district requires a petition signed by

22 §82.46.010.

23 §82.46.070.

24 §36.32.570.

registered voters in the proposed district and subsequent approval by a majority of voters, though park and recreation service areas and public facilities districts may be initiated by resolution of the County Council.

Currently there are two special parks districts within San Juan County, both of which are funded by voter-approved levies renewed in 2021. The San Juan Island Park and Recreation District is funded at \$0.385 per \$1,000, and the Orcas Park and Recreation District at \$0.15 per \$1,000, both through 2026.

### **LODGING TAX**

San Juan County collects a 4 percent lodging tax, the first half of which is allocated to funding tourism-related facilities. The second half may be used for promotional or operational activities as well. In 2022 it is anticipated that this tax will yield over \$3 million in revenue, with over \$300,000 directed to County Parks. Among other projects, the County funded the ROSS Plan update with this revenue source.

### **Summary of Local Options**

The Conservation REET is by far the largest source of funding for conservation, but it is only authorized by voters through December 1, 2026. Securing reauthorization is critical to many of the capital projects proposed in this plan, especially land acquisition and management.

Similarly, both the San Juan and Orcas Parks and Recreation Districts are funded only through 2026. Renewal of the levies that fund the districts will be critical for financing ongoing and additional active recreation projects.

Increasing the conservation futures assessment would also provide additional revenue for acquisition and management, but would require passing a ballot measure. In the last legislative session, the “Conservation Futures Bill” (HB1672) would have made it possible for counties to increase this assessment to the maximum allowed under statute without voter approval; however, the bill did not advance in the 2022 session. Support for this bill in future legislative sessions would help the County to secure this additional revenue.



# Appendix D. 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.

Site	Island	Classification	Owner / Manager	Area (Acres)	Trail Length (miles)	Accessible Shoreline Length (Feet)	Parking (Stalls)	Camping (sites)	Moorage (Buoys)	Moorage (Docks Lineal Feet)	Restrooms	Public Access	Description
<b>Agate Beach County Park</b>	Lopez	Local Park	County Parks	4		594	8	0	0	0	1	Y	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 view toward Iceberg Point and the Strait of Juan de Fuca . Recreational opportunities include beachcombing, picnicking, and walking. This park provides parking and support facilities for visitors accessing Iceberg Point of San Juan Islands National Monument.

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<b>Blackie Brady Park</b>	Lopez	Pocket Park	County Parks	<1		290	4	0	0	0	0	Y	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, 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 part way to the water’s edge due to storm damage.
<b>Eagle Cove Park</b>	San Juan	Local Park	County Parks	2	0.14	700	16	0	0	0	1	Y	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 park provides parking for up to sixteen cars and a seasonal portable toilet. A 250-yard gravel/earthen walking trail extends to the sandy beach that seasonally very popular with locals and skim boarders.

Site	Island	Classification	Owner / Manager	Area (Acres)	Trail Length (miles)	Accessible Shoreline Length (Feet)	Parking (Stalls)	Camping (sites)	Moorage (Buoys)	Moorage (Docks Lineal Feet)	Restrooms	Public Access	Description
<b>East Olga County Park Buck Bay</b>	Orcas	Pocket Park	County Parks	0.56		650	?	0	0	0	0	Y	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 .56 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.
<b>Eastsound Village Green / Square</b>	Orcas	Specialty Facility	County Parks	1.2			10				6	Y	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 Orcas Island Farmers' Market, Historical Days, Solstice Festival, performances, and holiday celebrations. The site consists of a 1.2 acre grassy area with covered performance stage, picnic tables, a public restroom, and nine heirloom apple trees.

Site	Island	Classification	Owner / Manager	Area (Acres)	Trail Length (miles)	Accessible Shoreline Length (Feet)	Parking (Stalls)	Camping (sites)	Moorage (Buoys)	Moorage (Docks Lineal Feet)	Restrooms	Public Access	Description
<b>Eastsound Waterfront Park</b>	Orcas	Local Park / Natural Area	County Parks/ Land Bank	1.9		556	0	0	0	0	0	Y	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. The park was further expanded in 2004 with an additional 0.45-acre property abutting the eastern boundary, increasing water frontage by another 100 feet. The property is popular for weddings, Fourth of July events, and family gatherings.
<b>Fairgrounds (Family Park, Skate Park, Camping)</b>	San Juan	Regional Park, Specialty Facility	County Parks	15	0	0		10	0	0	4	Y	This 14-acre park is located on the southern edge of Friday Harbor. The park is a functioning event center with over 240 events per year and also includes the Family Park and Skate Park. The Fairgrounds includes two group camping sites and an 8-site RV campground. Flush toilets are available in both the main building and the RV camping restrooms. Day-use amenities include a grass picnic area, picnic shelter, picnic tables, barbecue grills, and benches.



Site	Island	Classification	Owner / Manager	Area (Acres)	Trail Length (miles)	Accessible Shoreline Length (Feet)	Parking (Stalls)	Camping (sites)	Moorage (Buoys)	Moorage (Docks Lineal Feet)	Restrooms	Public Access	Description
<b>Library Park</b>	Orcas	Pocket Park	County Parks	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	This single-lot park adjacent to the library on Prune Alley was donated to the County in 1998 and developed by citizen volunteers. The donation included a strict conservation easement that preserves the park for quiet repose and includes a sign showing the Declaration of Independence. The park consists of a short walking path, landscaping and benches, and stairs to the Orcas Library. It is maintained by a citizen group and funded through an endowment of the Orcas Island Community Foundation.
<b>Lopez Village Park</b>	Lopez	Local Park	County Parks	0.25			30				2	Y	Located on the west edge of Lopez Village, this park offers a public restroom and shower, picnic tables, bike racks, and open lawn. Ample parking is provided along Tower Road to support the park and the nearby business district.
<b>Lopez Village Skate Park</b>	Lopez	Specialty Facility	County Parks	<1								Y	

Site	Island	Classification	Owner / Manager	Area (Acres)	Trail Length (miles)	Accessible Shoreline Length (Feet)	Parking (Stalls)	Camping (sites)	Moorage (Buoys)	Moorage (Docks Lineal Feet)	Restrooms	Public Access	Description
<b>Mud Bay Beach</b>	Lopez	Pocket Park	County Parks	0.43								Y	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. These is a need to identify county-owned property and tidelands and assess potential for development.

Site	Island	Classification	Owner / Manager	Area (Acres)	Trail Length (miles)	Accessible Shoreline Length (Feet)	Parking (Stalls)	Camping (sites)	Moorage (Buoys)	Moorage (Docks Lineal Feet)	Restrooms	Public Access	Description
<b>Odlin County Park</b>	Lopez	Regional Park	County Parks	178	3		23	45	5	50	2	Y	<p>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. Now containing nearly 180 acres, this is the largest park in the County's system. The park underwent a major renovation and campground road relocation in 2012-13. Major features include the campground with separate group camping area, picnic areas, covered pavilion, boating facilities, large day use area, and a long, sandy beach. The park is also a designated Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. The 40-person capacity campground includes 30 sites, 5 hiker/biker sites, and one "care-to-share" campsite. The group camping area includes 9 sites, a double vault restroom, shelter, and large masonry fire ring and has a 40- person capacity. 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, beach access, picnic area with picnic tables, vault restrooms, and potable water. Additional picnic tables, and barbecues 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.</p>

Site	Island	Classification	Owner / Manager	Area (Acres)	Trail Length (miles)	Accessible Shoreline Length (Feet)	Parking (Stalls)	Camping (sites)	Moorage (Buoys)	Moorage (Docks Lineal Feet)	Restrooms	Public Access	Description
<b>Otis Perkins Day Park</b>	Lopez	Pocket Park	County Parks	1		220	10					Y	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 shore birds. The park includes approximately 220 feet of gravel beach and a paved pull-off parking area with space for approximately ten cars. Amenities are limited to one picnic table, a memorial bench, and a seasonal portable toilet.
<b>Reuben Tarte Park</b>	San Juan	Local Park	County Parks	5	0.1	200	12	0	0	0	1	Y	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. Amenities 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.

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<b>San Juan County Park</b>	San Juan	Regional Park	County Parks	12	0.3			25			2	Y	This 12-acre park is located on the west side of San Juan Island on Smallpox Bay. The park is one of three campgrounds designated as Cascadia Marine Trail campsites. The park is very popular for camping, whale watching, and kayaking and boating. The boater amenities include a concrete ramp, parking for seven car/ trailer combinations and a kayak launch area at the beach. The campground includes 25 campsites; flush toilets are available in both the main campground and the lower boat launch area. Day-use amenities include a grass picnic area, two small beaches, 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. The park has registered cultural sites and a historic cabin.

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<b>Shark Reef Sanctuary</b>	Lopez	Local Park	County Parks	40	0.75		8				2	Y	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 ¾-mile trail that leads through the forest to a bluff above a rocky shore with views of Cattle Pass and a large seal rookery. Signs mark the park property boundary on the south 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.
<b>Shaw Island County Park</b>	Shaw	Regional Park	County Parks	59.75	0.75	4610	?	11			2	Y	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. The Reef-net Point area of the park includes walking trails and a small pocket beach.

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<b>Turn Point Park</b>	San Juan	Pocket Park	County Parks	1	0.03	50	12	0	0	0	0	Y	This park is at the end of Turn Point Road before it becomes 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.
<b>Viewpoint Park</b>	Orcas	Pocket Park	County Parks	<1			4	0	0	0	0	Y	This small pocket park is adjacent to Eastsound Waterfront Park and provides a viewpoint and overlook of Indian Island.
<b>Aleck Bay '03</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	12									
<b>Aleck Bay '97</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	245									
<b>Beaverton Valley Marsh</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	42								Y	This property comprises the westernmost area of Beaverton Marsh with existing public access to a view point off Beaverton Valley Road. The Land Bank purchased the property in 2010 and resold it with a conservation easement to the San Juan Preservation Trust in 2011.
<b>Caines St Historic Driggs Park</b>	San Juan	Park	Land Bank	0.5								Y	Driggs Historic Park is part of the Driggs homestead including the adjacent 1896 house. The Land Bank utilizes the house as its administrative offices and shop. The Park features historic fruit trees and roses as well as grassy areas for picnicking. The Land Bank is currently creating a native plant demonstration area as well.

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<b>Cayou Key</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	5									
<b>Central Valley</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	126									
<b>Crow Valley</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	9									
<b>Crowley Donation</b>	Blakely	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	80									
<b>Eastsound Waterfront Park</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	2								Y	
<b>Edwards Point</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	8									
<b>Glenwood Inn - North Shore Preserve</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	58		1,800							Purchased in 2022, this property features over one third mile of beach with an access road, and extensive forested upland areas. The Inn structures will require demolition, a process likely to continue for several years. Public access is anticipated in 2024.
<b>Howard Farm</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	27									
<b>Iceberg Point</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	40									
<b>Kjargaard Farm</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	95									
<b>Mosquito Pass Preserve</b>	Henry	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	21									
<b>North Neck Point Cove I&amp;II</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	6									
<b>North Shore</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	67									
<b>Plum Tree Woodland Crow Valley</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	10									
<b>Pole Pass</b>	Crane	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	1									



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<b>President Channel Shoreline Preserve</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	20								N	
<b>Pt Disney</b>	Waldron	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	171									
<b>San Juan Valley</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	10									
<b>San Juan Valley CE</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	155									
<b>South End</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	8									
<b>Stonebridge Farm</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	34									
<b>Strachan</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	44									
<b>Waldron Community Land Trust</b>	Waldron	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	13									
<b>West Sound</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	159									
<b>Alderman</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	10								N	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.

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<b>Beaverton Marsh Preserve</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	473	1.75							Y	This 465-acre property encompasses the largest wetland in the County along with extensive forested uplands. With more than a mile of frontage on Roche Harbor Road, and 0.6 miles on Beaverton Valley Road, this property has outstanding scenic value as one of the gateways into the Town of Friday Harbor.
<b>Bluebells Springs Conservation Easement</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	66								N	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.

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<b>Buck Bay West Conservation Easement/ San Juan Preservation Trust</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	0.5									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.
<b>Cady Mountain Preserve</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	472									This 472-acre property is one of the most ecologically diverse protected areas of the County, with substantial Garry oak habitat, extensive wetlands, and old growth Douglas fir and western red cedar forest. It offers tremendous recreational value with the potential to connect Three Corner Lake Rd. to the top of Cady Mountain over to the San Juan Island Historical Park's English Camp unit and all the way to Roche Harbor. Public access is anticipated in 2024.

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<b>Cayou Valley Lagoon Conservation Easement</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	109								N	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.
<b>Channel Preserve</b>	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	10		465						Y	Ten-acre Channel Preserve fronts on San Juan Channel on the west shoreline of Lopez. In addition to its good quality forested uplands, the Preserve has 465 feet of sandy beach. The adjacent two miles of tidelands are public as well, allowing access except at high tide. Due to the delicate nature of the beach, including nesting shore birds, no dogs are allowed on the property.
<b>Clapp Conservation Easement</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	160								N	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.

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<b>Coffelt Farm</b>	Orcas	Agricultural / Natural Preserve	Land Bank	190								Y	This 180-acre farm is nestled into Crow Valley between two of Orcas Island's major roads. Viewed from an open stretch along Orcas Road, the farm provides sweeping views across lush hay fields to Turtleback Mountain. The property is leased to a private farmer, but the public has access to the farmstand. The Land Bank also intends to establish a trail along some portion of the farm's perimeter.
<b>Coho Preserve</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	24								Y	Coho Preserve encompasses the lower reaches of Cascade Creek near Olga. It 24-acres feature a trail overlooking waterfalls and threading through forest. The last 200 feet of the creek contain that only spawning ground for Coho salmon in the County.

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<b>Cole Conservation Easement</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	245		1555						N	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.
<b>Crescent Beach</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	129	0.7	2200	12					Y	Waterfront access on Orcas is a high priority for local residents. Crescent Beach, with its outstanding scenic values and ecological resources lies at the eastern edge of the Eastsound urban growth area. Encompassing 121 acres of beach, forest and wetland, the area can be accessed by two trailheads or by walking from the village. A 0.7 mile trail connects Crescent Beach and Mt. Baker Roads. Additionally, there is an off leash dog area administered by Orcas Island Park and Recreation District adjacent to their Buck Park property at the northwest corner of the Preserve.

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<b>Deadman Bay Preserve</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	18	0.2	1600	4	0	0	0	1	Y	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.
<b>Deer Harbor Preserve</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	2	0.2	650	5					Y	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.

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<b>Diamond Hill</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	52								N	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 protects the significant ecological and scenic values of the property. 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. In addition, another 12 acres were donated in 2014. 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.
<b>Entrance Mountain</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	128								N	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.



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<b>False Bay Creek Preserve</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	40			2					Y	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 longest watercourse on San Juan Island, and one with high potential to support native fish, such as cutthroat trout. 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.
<b>Fisherman Bay Preserve: The Tombolo</b>	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	6	0.6	2375	10				0	Y	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.

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<b>Fisherman Bay Preserve: The Spit</b>	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	29	0.7	5280	8					Y	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.
<b>Fisherman Bay Preserve: Weeks Wetland</b>	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	24	0.1							Y	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.

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<b>Fowlers Pond Preserve</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	51								N	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, coot, 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.
<b>Frazer Homestead Preserve</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	113	0.2							Y	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 American Camp Trail traverses the western edge of the property.

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<b>Golithan Preserve Conservation Easement/ San Juan Preservation Trust</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	0		143						N	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.
<b>Gudgell Conservation Easement Crow Valley</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	31								N	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.
<b>Harris-Pressenda Conservation Easement</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	50.6								N	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.

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<b>Helwig Conservation Easement</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	10.7		570						N	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.
<b>Heritage Farm Conservation Easement</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	39								N	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.

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<b>Hogback Mountain Conservation Easement</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	50								N	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.
<b>Hummel Lake Preserve</b>	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	79	0.8	1450	10				0	Y	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.

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<b>Hunt Conservation Easement</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	3.4								N	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.
<b>Huntley Conservation Easement</b>	Waldron	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	34								N	This 35-acre property has a half mile of undeveloped sandy low bank and feeder bluff shoreline along Boundary Pass. Largely forested, the owners also farm and selectively harvest trees. A provision in the easement allows one structure to be moved back from the shoreline in the event of sea level rise.

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<b>Ihiya Conservation Easement</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	30								Y	The 30-acre Ihiya property was purchased by a neighborhood group and eventually conveyed to the San Juan Preservation Trust. It features forest, fields and riparian area along False Bay Creek. Ihiya is open to the public with a small parking area and roughly a mile of trails.
<b>Johnson Conservation Easement</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	40		660						N	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.
<b>Judd Cove Preserve</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	12	0.6	420						Y	Considered by many to be one of the jewels on East Sound, the Preserve extends over 12 acres and allows access to the Cove. This secluded, well-protected inlet provides habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl and a variety of marine life. There is a 0.5 mile loop trail.



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<b>Kellett Bluff Preserve</b>	Henry	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	81	0.5							Y	This 80-acre property features frontage both on the Haro Strait and Open Bay, protecting important nearshore, intertidal and marine riparian habitat. Largely forested, a trail runs from the beach on Open Bay to the top of the bluff overlooking the Strait and Vancouver Island. This property was donated by Sarah Hart in 2016.
<b>King Sisters</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	60	0.7		2					Y	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. A trail runs the length of the Preserve along the Road.
<b>Lee Conservation Easement</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank									N	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.

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<b>Limekiln Preserve and Westside Lake</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	189	4		3	0			0	Y	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.

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<b>Lopez Hill</b>	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	475	4							Y	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. In 2018, the Land Bank purchased the remainder interest for the property (leased from DNR), permanently protecting it. In 2021, the Land Bank purchased an additional 75-acres to the north, creating a contiguous forest block of 475 acres and encompassing important wetlands and western red cedar groves. 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.
<b>Middlewood Preserve</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	30								Y	This 30-acre forested Preserve is adjacent to other conservation-easement lands along Cattle Point Road stretching to the shores of San Juan Channel. A section of the American Camp rustic trail runs on its west side.

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<b>Mt. Ben</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	22								N	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, however public access remains elusive due to neighborhood concerns.
<b>Mt. Grant Preserve</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	252	3.5							Y	This 250-acre property features a road to its summit affording views in every direction. To the south and east lies San Juan Valley and beyond the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic mountains. To the west is the Haro Strait and the Canadian Gulf Islands, to the north and east, Turtleback Mountain, Mt. Baker, Mt. Erie and beyond. The road is open to vehicle traffic on Sundays all year and Wednesdays during the warm season. There are also several miles of trails on both sides of the Mountain. The property adjoins the Town of Friday Harbor's Trout Lake watershed lands, creating over 800 acres of publicly owned protected area. 70 acres of conservation easement lands also abut the watershed to the west and east.

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<b>Mulno Cove Farm</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	78		500						N	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.
<b>Oak Knoll Farm</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	30								N	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.
<b>Olga Community Club Park</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	0.38								Y	When a 0.38-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.

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<b>Orcas Village Tidelands</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank									Y	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.
<b>Orcas Artworks Historic Building and Grounds</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	1								Y	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.

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<b>Plum Tree Farm Crow Valley</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	55								N	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.
<b>Portland Fair Conservation Easement</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	21								N	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.

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<b>Richardson Marsh Preserve</b>	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	24									This 24-acre property sits at the eastern edge of Richardson Marsh and adjacent to conservation easement-protected lands. It features a small upland area suitable for a trailhead and overlook of the marsh. It is likely the marsh, which is currently fresh water due to a privately-owned tide gate will revert to its natural salt marsh condition in the event of any sea level rise. Public access is anticipated in 2024.
<b>RR Bar Ranch Conservation Easement</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	130								N	This 130-acre portion of a larger property has been farmed by the Ritchie family for nearly 100 years. The conservation easement allows farming to continue and protects the large marsh at the property's center. Its fields are also highly visible from Fisherman Bay road and are adjacent to Center Church, one of the major visual landmarks on Lopez Island.
<b>Shaefer Stretch Crow Valley</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	134								N	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.



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<b>Shaw Island/former DNR school trust land</b>	Shaw	Conservation Easement	Land Bank Pass through	30								N	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.
<b>Spencer Spit Addition</b>	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	20								Y	This 20-acre property is adjacent to Spencer Spit State Park and features 1/3 of a mile of high bank shoreline. Its cool, red cedar-dominated forests slope to the top of the bluff and looks out over Lopez Sound. The sand and minerals eroding from this “feeder bluff” is of critical importance to conservation of nearshore habitat for salmon recovery. A loop trail will be constructed to the bluff from the state park. The property was acquired in a bargain sale made possible by Rick Strachan.

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<b>Stonebridge- Terrill Preserve</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	60	0.04							Y	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.
<b>Stonecrest Farm Conservation Easement</b>	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	39									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.

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<b>Tharald Homestead Historic Preservation Easement</b>	Shaw	Conservation Easement	Land Bank									N	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.
<b>Third Lagoon Preserve</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	20	0.7	1150						Y	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.

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<b>Trumble and Gibbs Conservation Easement</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	5								N	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.
<b>Turtleback Mountain Preserve</b>	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	1610	8.9		30				Temp	Y	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.

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<b>Twigg-Smith Conservation Easement</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	155								N	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.
<b>Upright Head Preserve</b>	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	23	0.7	2023	0					Y	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.

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<b>W. Sundstrom Farm</b>	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	120								N	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.
<b>Warm Valley Farm</b>	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	78								N	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.

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<b>Watmough Bay Preserve</b>	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	24	0.5	450	6	0	3		1(BLM)	Y	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 freshwater wetland helps further protect the area's fragile ecosystem and prevents development of the adjacent uplands. The San Juan Islands National Monument owns the surrounding 390 acres. In 2007 the Land Bank partnered with the San Juan Preservation Trust to protect an additional 13 acres with approximately 1,300 feet of high bank waterfront along the south side of the bay. A neighboring property also donated conservation easements on their adjacent parcels. In 2022, the Land Bank purchased the last remaining unprotected parcels on the Bay with nearly 2,000 feet of pocket beach and rocky shoreline extending to the Rosario Strait. Access to the earlier acquisitions is provided from the National Monument parking area. The last parcels should be open to the public in 2024.

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<b>Westside Scenic Preserve</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	46	1.5	2640	18	0			0	Y	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.
<b>Zylstra Lake Preserve</b>	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	284	3	0	10	0			0	Y	At over 280 acres, this property features two lakes agricultural fields and forests and is an important component of the False Bay Creek watershed. While questions remain about water rights and usage, the Land Bank will be restoring portions of the property, particularly riparian and wetland areas. A 3-mile trail system was opened in 2018 and is quite popular with the public. Access is via San Juan Valley Rd.



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<b>American Camp (Friday Harbor) Rustic Trail</b>	San Juan	Rustic Trail	Land Bank/ Public Works		5.5		0					Y	The trail leads from the Town of Friday Harbor to the American Camp unit of SJI National Historical Park. Through a variety of trail easements and licenses on private property, the Port of Friday Harbor airport property, the Land Bank's Frazer Homestead Preserve, the trail affords people to opportunity to access to the very southern reaches of the island. While there are two remaining sections requiring walkers to use the Cattle Point Road right-of-way, the rest is either rustic footpath or walking on the much less travelled Golf Course Road to complete the remaining portion of trail.
<b>Jackson Beach</b>	San Juan	Beach Access	Port of FH, Public Works	20.46		2300	45	0	0	96	1	Y	This site contains 10.2 acres of land owned by the County Public Works and 10.26 acres owned by Port of Friday Harbor. There is extensive beach access and ample parking for 35 cars, plus 10 boat trailer at the road end near the dock.
<b>Armada A Road End</b>	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				2					Y	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 Armada 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.

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<b>Armada B Road End</b>	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				2					Y	This road end is located at the intersection of Bazalgette Point Drive and Armadale Road near Armadale 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.
<b>Barnacle Lane Road End</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.
<b>Blanchard Road End</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					N	This road end extends to the water, but currently does not provide shoreline access due to steep topography.
<b>Blind Bay Road End</b>	Shaw	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.

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<b>Buckhorn Road End</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.
<b>Cameron Lane Road End</b>	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.
<b>Carter Beach Road End</b>	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works									Y	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,
<b>Cormorant Bay Road End</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				3					Y	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.

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<b>Deer Harbor Loop</b>	Orcas	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works		0.26							Y	Deer Harbor Loop is a 1400 foot trail starts just south of the hamlet of deer harbor and runs along the old County right of way along the shoreline to Windward Lane.
<b>Deer Harbor Road End</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.
<b>Doe Bay Road End</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.

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<b>Eastsound Madrona Dock</b>	Orcas	Dock	Public Works				0					Y	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).
<b>Enchanted Forest Road End</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.
<b>Enchanted Forest Road Path</b>	Orcas	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works		875							Y	Enchanted Forest Road Path is an 875 separated path that run north along north beach road than west along Enchanted forest road to Orion Lane

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<b>False Bay Road End</b>	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				6					Y	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.
<b>First Street Road End (East Street Road End)</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.
<b>Fisherman's Bay Road</b>	Lopez	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works		2640, .4 mi							Y	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.
<b>Halsey Road End</b>	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.

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<b>Hoffman Cove Road End</b>	Shaw	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.
<b>Hunter Bay Dock</b>	Lopez	Dock	Public Works									Y	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.
<b>Jensen Bay Road End</b>	San Juan	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works									Y	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.
<b>Lopez Road Trails</b>	Lopez	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	0.5	0.37							Y	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.
<b>Lopez Village Road End</b>	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				3					Y	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.

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<b>MacKaye Harbor</b>	Lopez	Dock	Public Works				12					Y	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.
<b>Mt Baker Roadside Trails</b>	Orcas	Separated ROW Trail	Public Works		1.2							Y	This separated path runs along Mt Baker Road
<b>Mukosa Lane</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works									Y	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.
<b>Neck Point Cove Road End</b>	Shaw	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.



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<b>North Beach Road Path</b>	Orcas	Separated ROW Trail	Public Works		1							Y	This separated path runs along North beach road.
<b>North Beach Road End</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				10					Y	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.
<b>Obstruction Pass</b>	Orcas	Dock	Public Works				16					Y	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.
<b>Olga Dock</b>	Orcas	Dock	Public Works				0					Y	Olga Dock is the 265 foot dock extending out from the hamlet of Olga. It also has a gangway and ramp.
<b>Orcas Landing</b>	Orcas	Dock	Public Works	0.75			5					Y	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.

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<b>Port Stanley Road End</b>	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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. and at the southern end.
<b>Richardson Road End</b>	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.
<b>Roslyn Road End</b>	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	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.
<b>Sea Acres Road End</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	The road ends on the northeast side of private property with a steep cliff to rocks and the water.
<b>ShipleY Shores A R/E</b>	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				2					Y	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 ShipleY Shores B. The area needs public access signs, paved pull-off, parking for two cars, and a picnic table.

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<b>Shiplely Shores B R/E</b>	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				0					Y	This Shiplely Shores road end is located on Swifts Bay on the northeast end of the islands. The site is approximately .25 miles from Shiplely Shores A. This site is a 35-foot road end with public access signs. There is no parking.
<b>Sperry Street Road End</b>	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works									Y	This road end is within a short walking distance from Sperry Road and provides views of the mud flats and Lopez Sound.
<b>Swale Trail</b>	Orcas	Rustic Trail	Public Works		275, .2		0					Y	The Swale Trail is a 275 foot trail along the swale wetland of Eastsound. It connects Orion Lane to A Street, partially along property owned by public works.
<b>Terrill Beach Road End</b>	Orcas	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works									Y	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.
<b>Weeks Point Road End</b>	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works				6					Y	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.

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<b>Weeks Road Trial</b>	Lopez	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works		1584, .3 mi							Y	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.
<b>Westsound (Boddington)</b>	Orcas	Dock	Public Works				6					Y	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.