



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Coupeville, WA 98239

### **Community Invited to Help With Element 7 Parks & Recreation of the 2025 Island County Comprehensive Plan**

(Coupeville, WA)— Island County is working to create an update to Element 7 of Island County's Parks & Recreation Plan. The plan will provide directions and goals for the management of parks, recreation facilities, habitat areas, and natural resource areas in Island County. This project is critical because it provides an opportunity to address declining funding resources, which have made it difficult for the County to provide and care for parks and natural resources on Whidbey and Camano Islands.

To make the Plan successful, County Parks would like to hear from as many people as possible. Residents are encouraged to participate in one of several public involvement events. Community feedback is needed to determine how the County can manage its existing resources, while working with other key partners to protect important natural resources and habitat areas countywide.

#### **Open House Events**

We are hosting a series of open houses in four areas around Island County. Open House #1 will introduce the goals of the plan and give community members a chance to think about what is out there now, and what they hope to see in the future in our parks, trails, and natural resources.

#### **Open House #1**

Location: Coupeville Library Meeting Room  
Address: 788 Alexander St, Coupeville, WA 98239  
Date: Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024  
Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

**Location: Freeland Hall**

Address: 1515 Shoreview Dr, Freeland, WA 98249

Date: Thursday, Oct 24, 2024

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

**Location: Camano Library Meeting Room**

Address: 848 N Sunrise Blvd, Camano Island, WA 98282

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

**Location: Oak Harbor Library, Skagit Valley College Campus**

Address: 1000 Regatta Dr, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Open House #2****Location: Freeland Hall**

Address: 1515 Shoreview Dr, Freeland, WA 98249

Date: Monday, December 2, 2024

Time: 5:30 – Hybrid Virtual/In-Person

**Location: Camano Library Meeting Room**

Address: 848 N Sunrise Blvd, Camano Island, WA 98282

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2024

Time: 6:00 – Hybrid Virtual/In-Person

**Location: Coupeville Library Meeting Room**

Address: 788 Alexander St, Coupeville, WA 98239

Date: Monday, December 9, 2024

Time: 5:30 – Hybrid Virtual/In-Person

**Location: Oak Harbor Library, Skagit Valley College Campus**

Address: 1000 Regatta Dr, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – Hybrid Virtual/In-Person

We hope to see everyone at the open house, but if you can't make it (and even if you can) there are plenty of ways to let us know your great ideas about parks planning. We will have more information posted on our Public Works Parks and Trails website soon!

And feel free to call or email the project contact at any time: Catherine Kelley (360) 678-7965, Email: [CatherineK@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:CatherineK@islandcountywa.gov) or [J.Sylvester@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:J.Sylvester@islandcountywa.gov).

Stop by and comment on your priorities for parks, recreation, and habitat conservation. Staff will also be on hand to answer questions about the planning process. All ages are encouraged to join in the fun.

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## ABOUT THE PLAN

Community input from all the different outreach activities will guide the County in creating a new long-term plan for the park and habitat system. This plan updates the Park and Recreation Element adopted in 1998 and Element 7 of the 2016 Parks & Recreation Plan and will be part of the 2025 Island County Comprehensive Plan. The new plan will reflect changes since implementation of the 2016 Element 7 of the Parks Plan and will reflect changes in County population and development, park needs, and priorities for land conservation. The Parks and Habitat Conservation Plan will also look into the future to help identify and achieve the community's vision for Island County parks and natural resources.

For more information, see the Parks & Trails homepage on the Island County website.



### Parks & Trails Website

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/216/Parks-Trails>

Para solicitar servicio de interprete o para arreglos especiales por discapacidad, por favor contáctenos al 360-678-7965 o vía correo electrónico a: [CatherineK@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:CatherineK@islandcountywa.gov) or [J.Sylvester@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:J.Sylvester@islandcountywa.gov) con 72 horas (mínimo) de anticipación.