

## Land

**Hansville at Buck Lake needs a children's playground. It was taken down after being deemed unsafe. There's plenty of space, and would get plenty of use.**

**-Annette and Richard J.W. 10/2/17**

*The replacement equipment was approved in the Parks Department 2018 Capital Budget request (\$205,000). We have had discussions with local organizations to work on supplementing the project's funding.*

**North Kitsap and especially Kingston have a profound and critical lack of public beach access. The Port of Kingston and the PROS plan can help remedy that.**

**I have had the privilege of living on the beach of Apple Tree Cove for 75 years. Most of the cabins have been replaced by large impressive houses often with docks, boats, decks and sun chairs. When I am out rowing most often there is not a shoreline owner to be seen enjoying our blessings, except for the crowd of beach lovers at Arness Park. Over the years the enjoyment of the beach, water, and tide flats has dwindled except at Arness Park.**

**In the last few years the Port of Kingston has been acquiring Apple Tree Cove beach property to the west of their parking lots. As of now there is no public access to the beach area. This should and can be a cooperative endeavor with you at KCP and R and you at the Port. It is a travesty that a beach town like Kingston provides such limited beach access to its residents. The Port direction of development always seems to look to expanding tourist business rather than taking care of residents.**

**Beach enjoyment should not be only the privilege of shoreline owners. Cooperative effort on the part of you two tax payer supported agencies on opening up beach access to Port Property can fix this.**

**-Marilyn Bode 10/26/17**

*Providing public access to Puget Sound waterways and beaches is a prime interest of Kitsap County Parks. As funds and reasonable properties become available, Parks will seek public ownership or easements to secure public access and use of the shoreline. As we move forward in our county-wide parks planning, Parks, Metropolitan Park Districts, and Ports are looking forward to coordinating our mutual public interests and we will research the potential collaboration you suggest.*

**Need more green space especially in the north end of the county. Want more trail connections outside the parks and more accessible shoreline.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Kitsap County will soon have assembled more than 3,300 acres of forested lands in the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. This is the result of grants, donations and large-scale private fundraising.*

*The County's Non-Motorized Trail Committee is working closely with Parks to plan for trail connections to parks and safe passage along roadways. This will be a priority for the County into the future. More shoreline access is difficult. However, as funds and properties become available, the County will seek funds to acquire and promote public access to our abundance of saltwater and freshwater water areas.*

**Point No Point – when will the boat launch be finished. Soon would be great!**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*The boat launch facility at the Point No Point location is the property and project of WA State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. No timetable has been announced.*

**New bridge at Kingston at end of Apple Tree Cove should have a park.**

**-Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*Properties adjacent s to the bridge at Kingston are all privately owned. Any new acquisitions go through a Needs Assessment to determine if appropriate for park use and public investment. Existing parks at or near Apple Tree Cove include Carpenter Lake and Arness Roadside Park.*

**Need more trailhead parking at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park; on at the south end and also at Anderson Point Park.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Park staff and Park Stewards are challenged with considering trail head parking at various Heritage Parks. As our parks become more heavily used, often more access parking is desired. Planning for trailhead parking needs to assess the capacity of the park to accommodate a higher influx of use, as a result. We will continue to include parking lot projects in the Department's Capital Budget requests.*

**Trail on the backside of Wildcat Lake Park. Does the County own this property?**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*No unfortunately that is not County property.*

**Need splash fountain for hottest days at parks. Need Bathrooms near playground at the Island Lake Park. -Anne Pedelaborde**

*Park staff will research*

**The Children's Park by the viewing area has unsteady rails and floor boards.  
-Unkonwn**

*Thank you. Your comment has been passed on to our maintenance staff.*

**Silverdale Waterfront Park is not handicap friendly, except for the boat that is installed for 3-5 year olds.  
-County Fair August 23-27**

*The existing "engineered bark" surface under both pieces of play equipment meets accessibility standards. However, we anticipate replacing this material with a "poured in place" surface, which may be more suitable for handicap access. The project was approved in the Parks Department 2018 Capital Budget request (\$105,000).*

**Need more kids' play toys or equipment at Silverdale Park where kids actually come and play.  
-County Fair August 23-27**

*Additional playground equipment at Silverdale Waterfront Park will be a specific grant request to the WA Recreation and Conservation Office in 2018.*

**Regarding the public shellfish harvesting now occurring at Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve. The Reynold's family donated \$554,000 by reducing their sales price to Kitsap county so a Nature Reserve could be established. I grew up with the Reynold's children as my best friends. I know what Dr. Ric and Laurel Reynold's wanted in terms of a Nature Reserve. They often talked about establishing a Nature Reserve while eating dinner with my parents and us kids present.**

**It's no secret what the Reynold's wanted and intended. Every one of their children and friends can verify what I'm stating. Additionally, the Guillemot Cove stewardship committee spent four years working to create the 'Operational Policies' for this Nature Reserve. One important rule was established that shellfish harvesting would be prohibited. Because the shellfish were more abundant when I was younger, it's now equally important to keep the marine life intact on the Guillemot Cove tidelands. Thinning out oyster beds by the tribal groups and/or commercial harvesters is OK. Periodically that's a good idea and I have my tideland oysters commercially harvested every few years. Beyond that aspect, other forms of harvesting are a terrible idea.**

**The other marine life forms on the tidelands ought to remain untouched so that our future children and their future children can enjoy seeing the marine creatures. If you allow geoduck harvesting, which includes digging lots of holes in the tideflats, you will destroy many of the marine invertebrates and their habitat including the eel grass which salmon and other fish rely upon for nourishment.**

**Additionally commercially harvested oysters could bring money to Kitsap Parks, if the Parks department could work with the County commissioners to allow that possibility.  
-John Frink 10/29/17**

*We appreciate your insight and time to provide this information. Parks shares the concern about the impact created by those visitors which ignore or abuse shellfish harvesting rules and regulations. WDFW will be requested to assess the condition of the shellfish fishery, including damage to the flats, after the 2018 season.*

**I would like Kitsap Parks to be good stewards of their parks and protect the environment. At Salsbury Point Park there's a 'Scoop that Poop' sign that gives a clear message to visitors concerning dog poop. The sign states that "2 days of poop from 100 dogs can close down a bay & all watershed areas within 20 miles to swimmers and shellfishing". So let's get this straight, you have a sign about dog poop that says it's a major public safety issue. Meanwhile at Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve, you have hundreds of visitors each year, and a large number of dogs freely running about as they accompany their owners. And at this park( Nature Reserve ) there hasn't been a Porta-Potty for many, many years. Complaints have been made to Kitsap Parks by the FOG volunteers and others. Because the Parks has limited funds they ignore those complaints, instead of working to resolve this issue. So how environmentally benign is the Park's management or lack thereof? Additionally, I often carry a 5 gallon bucket and stainless steel tweezers over to the Reserve and pick up tissues wipes, pieces of clothing, etc where visitors needed to poop wherever they could find a spot. How eager do you think volunteers are to perform this clean-up work?. Is this what you refer to as engaging the Parks volunteers? The answer is obvious. FYI I took a picture of the Scoop that Poop sign. It's a GOOD sign!  
-John Frink 10/29/17**

*Parks shares the concern about the impact created by those visitors which ignore or abuse shellfish harvesting rules and regulations. WDFW will be requested to assess the condition of the shellfish fishery, including damage to the flats, after the 2018 season.*

**I just had the opportunity to read the comments that John Frink submitted to the PROS Plan relating to public shellfish harvesting at Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve. I agree wholeheartedly with John's assessment of the situation. I have spent hundreds of hours over the past 20 years volunteering at Guillemot Cove, and I believe Kitsap County Parks should do everything possible to ensure that future generations can experience and enjoy Nature at its best as the Operational Policies for the Nature Reserve intended.**

**-Clifford Clark 10/30/17**

*Thank you for your comment*

**Guillemot Cove should have a bathroom for visitors. I find it ironic that a nature reserve that can only be accessed by the public by walking down a trail, has no facilities, leaving guests no option but to "find a tree". As a volunteer steward, I do not pick up anything that looks like toilet paper or Kleenex. I suppose paper and poo eventually decomposes, but this is just not right on many levels.**

**Additionally, I am against shellfish gathering on the beach at Guillemot Cove. We don't want visitors beaching boats with motors there, yet it is impractical to carry buckets, shovels etc down to the beach from the parking area, so people will come by boat. This will be basically unmonitored, as Fish and Wildlife are rarely around except during shrimping season.**

**Unfortunately we have a vandalism problem at Guillemot Cove. The Beach House needs to be torn down and hauled away. Several times it has been broken into since we originally boarded up the windows and doors. There is no way to protect it.**

**-Beverly Howard 10/11/17**

*Safe and sanitary park environments is a prime concern for our staff when developing plans for our parks. Adding comfort stations (restrooms) to our developed areas as funds are available to accommodate the patronage of visitors is a priority. Installing and servicing vault toilets at trailheads or remote park locations has not been affordable, to date. This is an ongoing challenge and issue that Parks will continue to seek a solution.*

*Parks works with WDFW to monitor the recreational harvest use on the beach and survey the shellfish population and overall health of the tidal shores.*

*The "Beach House" has been a liability, and is scheduled to be removed.*

**Please disallow public shellfish harvesting at Guillemot Cove.**

**-Unknown 10/26/17**

*In response to requests by the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Kitsap County entered into an agreement with that agency and Tribes to best managed recreational harvest of shellfish on County tidelands at Guillemot Cove, Anderson Hill and Port Gamble Forest Heritage parks. It was determined in the best interest of protecting and enhancing the shellfish resource that the County agreed to public harvest. The Tribes, by Treaty, have access to half of the available shellfish. They, along with WDFW monitor the population, health, and recreation harvest levels every year. We have entrusted the care and stewardship of this renewable resource to those experts to manage healthy populations. This public management can serve to create a sustainable harvest and an opportunity for inclusive use of public tidelands.*

*Preservation of a resource does not necessarily result from "hands-off" management. As per our interagency agreement, the County requires reporting and monitoring of the harvest areas on an annual basis. From that reporting we will continue to assess the health of the shellfish population and determine its viability as a recreational resource.*

*In addition to the annual shellfish report the county will also request that WDFW assess the condition of the shellfish fishery, including damage to the flats, after the 2018 season.*

**Regarding the deferred maintenance of the Beach House at Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve. Kitsap County rebuilt both chimneys of the Beach House, which didn't need rebuilding. The roof flashing was always the problem with rain leaking inside not the chimneys. Kitsap County installed a new concrete foundation under two sides of the cabin. Kitsap County installed a new septic system which has never been used.**

**Typical of any local government. They are given a great asset that many groups could have used, scouts, kayakers, etc. How sad to let the house just rot and then leave it in it's present condition. I am surprised no one has gotten injured and sued them, but then they would find the money to defend themselves and/ or settle. It's absolutely pathetic how these government agencies squander money and misplace their priorities. I have seen it for years and it's always the same story repeated over and over again, very sad.**

**-Unknown 10/11/17**

*The "Beach House" is located in a rather remote part of this park by trail. This structure is scheduled to be removed.*

**Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve needs a porta-potty badly. Everyone entering the property has a long walk to the beach and back to the parking lot, there is no porta-potty, so there are used bunches of toilet paper all over the place when people discover there is no other place to use.**

**-Unknown 10/26/17**

*Parks has several remote acreages which deserve toilets to control sanitation and provide for the enjoyment of our park visitors. To date, funds have not been available to install or maintain permanent restrooms or portable toilets at most areas. Providing this necessary service for our preserves and heritage parks will continue to be a high priority, and the Parks Department will continue to seek funding sources and development solutions.*

**I am not a resident. I own a vacation cabin on the water between Hood Point and Guillemot Cove. Thus, I pay property taxes to Kitsap County. The only Kitsap County Park I use is Guillemot Cove. Please do not allow shellfish gathering at Guillemot. It is a nature reserve. Birds and wildlife depend on the shellfish. Please do a better job of monitoring non-permitted activity at this reserve. How about housing a dedicated park ranger at the main house on the reserve property? It's unrealistic for the sheriff to patrol this park. Unleashed dogs are a huge concern. Also, the "beach cabin" attracts vandals and is a hazard. Last time I visited the reserve (August) someone had knocked a hole in the cabin's exterior wall. And a Porta Potti must be installed. I have observed, several times, vans from a preschool day care center visit the park. No Porta Potti is an unhygienic situation.**

**-Betsy Lewis 10/27/17**

*Shellfish population for recreational harvesting are well-regulated and managed by the WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The County has entered into a resource management agreement with this agency and Tribes to develop best management practices, survey and monitor the public harvests, and continue to support a healthy shellfish resource, which had gone without professional stewardship for years. The County receives regular reports on the health and vitality of that resource and any impacts from the recreational harvest. WDFW and Parks have the authority, responsibility, and expertise to modify, restrict or even*

*close recreational shellfish seasons, if deemed damaging to that ecosystem or the shellfish population.*

*Signage of shoreline and tidal ownership is challenging in dynamic environments with tides, erosion and storm impacts. Parks will work to inform and educate the public as to the regulations on park lands, responsible use of these tidelands and shellfish, and respect for private property and private shellfish areas.*

*Parks has several remote acreages which deserve toilets to control sanitation and provide for the enjoyment of our park visitors. To date, funds have not been available to install or maintain permanent restrooms or portable toilets at most areas. Providing this necessary service for our preserves and heritage parks will continue to be a high priority, and the Parks Department will continue to seek funding sources and development solutions.*

**Wildcat Lake Park needs to fix the fishing area and put the original rail fence back along the shore.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Park staff is working to protect that shoreline and will continue to work with permitting agencies.*

**Need trees for Silverdale Skate Park. -Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*This concern addresses both beauty and shade considerations for the Skate Park. Park staff will need to examine the entire park to determine planting upgrades.*

**First of all.... thank you for the opportunity to have community input.**

**We live in Port Orchard on Wicks Lake Rd SW. There are some much needed facilities in this area. We are all willing to help make this happen by volunteering and creating an organization, but will need help with this. I am only one... but I'm sure that there are other that feel we need:**

**1. A YMCA (or other similar facility) here in Port Orchard for our kids. With after school activities and fitness facilities (pool, indoor jogging, exercise equipment, team sport organization, etc.)**

**2. A park that has a off and on leash park area. Trails (walking / hiking / biking), horse facilities, bathrooms, tables, cookout facilities, etc.**

**3. Wicks Lake improvements, maintenance challenges, public facilities/park area, etc.**

**I know this is a brief high level overview, but I look forward to the meeting on Oct 10th!**

**-Unknown 9/28/17**

*The County is currently researching the feasibility of locating a community based organization and facility. Parks will continue to assess suitable properties for trail, picnic facilities and dog walking area. Currently we are working to fulfill the South Kitsap Regional Park Master Plan which will accommodate much of those recreational needs. As funds are available we will continue to improve and enhance our current developed park properties and look to locate these types of mixed recreational facilities on our undeveloped parklands.*

**Kaiser Medical has interest in having safe places for kids to walk and play. Interested in supported the development of a YMCA facility at South Kitsap Regional Park. It is a central location with access to residential and business center. A “Y” can serve for employee health and fitness needs in the area. YMCA has done a feasibility study for Port Orchard and agrees that we have a need and those surveyed want YMCA there. There is county property at Jackson and Lund, with enough space to build it.**

**-Dr. Derek Costa 10/10/17**

*Kitsap County and the Parks Department staff have been researching the potential of such a facility in South Kitsap.*

**At South Kitsap Regional Park: Why are downed limbs and debris from the forest thinning operation not cleaned up?**

**-Unknown 10/10/17**

*The downed limbs and tree debris increase habitat for bugs, birds and small mammals, while slowly adding to the structure of the forest understory, soil moisture retention, and future soil development. As ferns, flowers, shrubs and new tree saplings emerge, this “forest litter” will be less noticeable, blending into the landscape. The existing main trail systems are intended to be maintained and clear of debris.*

**At South Kitsap Regional Park, the mess from the logging needs to be cleaned up. Was this the logging company’s responsibility?**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Since the removal of diseased trees at South Kitsap Regional Park, limbs, stumps and log segments have been left to augment the development of a more diverse forest, with downed woody debris, soil development, habitat diversity, and with natural reseeding and replanting will provides a more natural selection of forest species. Major trail routes have been cleared of the debris. There have been many spur trails constructed by individuals, throughout the park, without a coordinated plan. Parks will begin a trail planning exercise to better the trail system in the park, inviting trail users and community members to assist with the process.*

**Why is so little attention being paid to the areas that are west of SR16 and south of SR3? Only 3 park properties of which only one has any improvements (Horseshoe Lake) and two which have unlimited potential to supply recreational areas for the public? This areas population is growing and the need for improvements in public recreation is at high levels. Trails, fresh water access for recreation, meeting space for public use, etc. should be targeted for this area and the two so far undeveloped properties (Wicks Lake & Coulter Creek at total of 1357 acres)**

**Why does Kitsap own two golf courses? Developers, investors, school districts or others could better put to use the property. The County Commissioners need to take a hard look at those two properties and start the process to remove them from the Parks Department. With over 10,000 acres under Parks Department expected in 2018, it is time to stop acquiring more land and to develop recreational activity areas for the public. There are**

**other organizations that buy and preserve land, the Parks Department should not make that their priority. From the Parks Mission: "We are committed to providing quality-of-life enhancing opportunities through the management of natural areas and stewardship, and offering an outstanding service-oriented environment." I do not see where the priority is to buy property and let it sit for decades. Work with the public and open up recreational activities in areas of Kitsap that have been ignored for decades.**

**-Roger Gay 10/12/17**

*The 2018 Parks and Open Space Plan will look at regional interests and demands for park facility improvements and new facilities which have not been met especially in areas of population growth. Available funding sources will dictate how soon the County can respond to identified recreation needs. The potential uses of Coulter Creek will be discussed and examined by the community, the first-half of 2018.*

**Good Luck with getting any information across to the commissioner and having her do anything about it. We lost our favorite boat launch down by the Harper pier. They wanted to open up the estuary for fish that never went up there. She asked what about the present situation was the thing the residents liked, we said the boat launch . . . they spent over a year with local meetings and promised they'd keep the launch. They spend all the money they had on studies removed the launch and opened up a freshwater marsh that was home to lots of ducks. They never did open up the estuary.**

**What we got was no boat launch and a stinky low tide as the marsh drains.**

**-Bruce H. 10/2/17**

*With the recent restoration of the saltwater estuary at Harper, the County and WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife are working to restore habitat and stream flow suitable for the fishery. A vehicle trail boat launch is not compatible with that kind of impact to the shoreline. However, the County is still pursuing providing suitable hand-launch boat access.*

**Add native western pond turtles to Clear Creek area. -Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*Most habitat properties around Clear Creek are either private property, owned by the Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC), or under jurisdiction of the County Public Works Department. Parks coordinates efforts with GPC and Public Works on restoration projects in natural areas. Sometimes adding a new species to an existing environment can cause an imbalance. This is a new request and will be vetted through the County's natural resource staff.*

**Thank you for the great plan development. Lot of thought and work in this draft. I have two subjects I would like to see added to the PROS; that is wetlands preservation and aquifer recharge.**

**AS you have heard myself and Frank Strickland say many times how important for wildlife and for aquifer recharge wetlands are to the Kitsap. There are no reservoirs, mountains with snow pack, large rivers, large lakes that we can draw from for our water needs on the Peninsula. We get all our water from the aquifer (wells). That water comes from our rain and that rain does not have far to go before it ends up in the Puget Sound**

and useless to us here on the Kitsap for our private and public water needs. We also have the many glaciation periods to thank for our abundant and deep clay layers that make water percolation into our buried gravel bars, which make up our deep aquifer, to take so long to recharge. Imagine trying to soak through layers of cardboard instead of layers of cotton fabric. One is very porous and the other very water resistant. Wetlands hold and slow the water run off like no other, allowing the water to slowly percolate down into the clay soils to those gravel bars that we drill down into to get our water here. Wetlands are also a prime habitat for birds, fish, insects, amphibians and mammals. WE are using many resources to bring back our salmon runs; seeing as we only have streams for the salmon to go up and spawn in our small lakes and wetlands, we need all the surface water retention we can get to help this recovery effort here on the Kitsap. We are surrounded by 280 miles of shoreline and that's shorelines salt water. That is a lot of opportunity for our streams to support salmon restoration here in the Puget Sound, if we preserve and enhance the opportunities. Because of these reasons Parks should look for and buy more wetlands for preservation and educational opportunities. Education? You won't know how important something is unless you can see it up close and learn first hand how it works. Why do we want to preserve and retain open spaces and forests so much? One big reason, again, is aquifer recharge. We need to slow that rain water down for it to percolate into our aquifer and the best surface do do that with is a surface of soil, not hard surfaces like cement, buildings and asphalt. We need development, there is no question, but we need to be very cognoscente of our needs for water for that development here on the Kitsap and our unique environment problems with getting that water because of what glaciation left us with, dense clay soils. In closing, please add wetlands and aquifer recharge to the Kitsap PROS.

**-John Willett 10/24/17**

*An important aspect of Parklands is the opportunity to protect significant wetlands and preserve aquifer recharge areas. Parks along with our natural resource professionals at the County will work to further identify these essential resources and work to ensure the long-term sustainability of this resource.*

**You already have enough parks!! Just keep up the ones you have.  
If you add any it should be with Puget Sound access.**

**-Unknown 10/5/17**

*As the County grows, more diverse park properties may be required to meet public needs and demands. Access to the Puget Sound waterways is a high priority for the County.*

**With over 10,000 acres under Parks Department expected in 2018, it is time to stop acquiring more land and to develop recreational activity areas for the public. There are other organizations that buy and preserve land, the Parks Department should not make that their priority. From the Parks Mission: "We are committed to providing quality-of-life enhancing opportunities through the management of natural areas and stewardship, and offering an outstanding service-oriented environment." I do not see where the priority is to buy property and let it sit for decades. Work with the public and open up recreational activities in areas of Kitsap that have been ignored for decades.**

**-Unknown**

## PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE: AUGUST 23- NOVEMBER 10, 2017

*Property acquisitions for Kitsap County Parks have been the result of a variety of public interests and through a range of public and private funds. The County has received acquisitions to support such future developments as; the Sound to Olympics Regional Trail System and the expansion of the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park for trails and conservation interests. Funds to purchase new park properties have come from a variety of sources including; State Legislature appropriations to transfer State managed timbered Trust Lands to the County; State funded grants for trails and conservation; and monies from large-scale private fundraising, based on regional park initiatives. These properties serve a wide variety of County interests including: conservation and open space lands for ecosystem diversity and wildlife habitat; watersheds for aquifer and water recharge areas; future trail systems; additions to Heritage Park boundaries to further park goals (recreation and conservation); scenic vistas and historical sites; and properties on-hold for future park and recreation needs, as the County develops.*

- *Keeping an eye on critical and useful acquisitions is important to the future of parks and recreation, having been a hallmark to meet the needs of a growing community with increasing needs and demands.*
- *An important element of the 2018 Parks and Open Space Plan is to help set priorities for selection of future requests/demands for additional properties. The County also emphasizes the need to effectively steward undeveloped park resources, and plan for their recreational use.*

### **Keep the parks clean with more garbage cans. -County Fair August 23-27**

*Safety and cleanliness are a prime concern for park staff and volunteer stewards. The anticipated outcome of increased “positive” uses in parks is the reduction of those negatives uses.*

### **As population growth accelerates, Park land become more precious for Wildlife and People.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Part of the Parks and Open Space Plan is to assess the need for wildlife areas, greenway corridors, and a variety of natural environment park areas.*

### **Need more outdoor opportunities for people with handicaps and physical limitations...young and old.**

**-Unknown**

*Work will continue on extending accessible trail systems.*

**No access to lakes for wheelchair users. Need the equivalent of a concrete ramp.  
– Doug Wood, Bremerton ADA Committee member.  
County Fair August 23-27**

*A prime concern for park planning is to provide access throughout the system. Parks will continue to identify opportunities for nature trails suitable for wheel chair accessibility.*

**The park at Lions Field needs more activities.  
-County Fair August 23-27**

*Comments to be forwarded to the Bremerton Parks & Recreation Department*

**Need a spray park (urban water fountain) for kids to walk in. How do you get people to pick up their trash? Need young people to help in parks.  
-County Fair August 23-27**

*Spray parks are indeed an asset for some community parks, especially in areas of high population centers and paved urban landscapes. Spray parks are an expensive investment, need frequent staff attendance to maintain sanitation, and they use much water or a high cost to recycle/reuse the water. These are some limitations to this investment; however attractive this facility is to kids. The ability to acquire resources necessary to construct and maintain such a facility is not in the immediate future.*

**Want more nature trails with educational signage. – Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9  
Need more trails connecting parks and residential areas. – Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*There is a growing interest in nature trails and educational signage in our parks. As funds become available, the Parks will work to increase these trail opportunities and interpretive/educational signage to better introduce our park resources, history and areas of interest.*

**Want more dog trails in Port Orchard area. – Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9  
More dog off-leash parks. – Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9  
Need Dog Park in Harper area. – Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9  
Need a Dog Park at South Kitsap Regional Park. – Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*There are currently 3 dog parks in managed by KC Parks one in the Silverdale, Port Orchard and Bandix areas. Existing dog parks have been established where county property fits the need for access, parking, fencing and where the public has come forward to form a volunteer Stewardship group to help develop and maintain the facility. Parks department does not currently have the staff capacity to oversee additional dog park facilities.*

**Need better trail and park maps. -Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

**Need toilets at Heritage Parks.-Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*Heritage Parks for the most part are maintained by volunteers Stewardship groups. These facilities continue to be a priority for Parks capital budget and operating expenses. The installation of comfort stations (restrooms) at Heritage Parks will require a public commitment to construct and maintain proposed facilities.*

**Make new parks from abandoned commercial buildings, such as those off of Hwy 303.  
-Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*Making use of abandoned commercial areas and buildings is often brought to our attention for park development. Any new acquisitions go through a Needs Assessment to determine if appropriate for park use. Park development in these areas would require substantial County funds for land/building acquisition, design, permits, construction, demolition and future maintenance staffing. Existing developed properties are typically more expensive to develop than undeveloped, barren land, however the observation of utilizing these “open spaces” is worth considering.*

**Need shore boat launch area replaced at Harper estuary. -Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*The ecological restoration at Harper estuary has precluded vehicle/trailer launching onto the shorelines. Hand-launch of recreational boats is permitted.*

**Replace yellow slide at Buck Lake Park. -Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*It is common to remove playgrounds that are deemed a safety or liability issue. Buck Lake Playground equipment is a priority for replacement, and is awaiting available funding.*

**Open Calvinwood as a County Park. -Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*Calvinwood is a County-owned property with past church camp facilities. It is currently leased to Washington State Parks to accommodate community retreat facility. State Parks upgraded much of the buildings and infrastructure, but no action has been taken to further public use. Calvinwood is adjacent to the undeveloped Coulter Creek Heritage Park and Square Lake State Park. There is some interest in linking these properties together. Parks is currently studying the potential of this combination of parklands.*

**Need Full-Access Playgrounds. -Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*Parks is always looking for opportunities to make our playground and play areas more accessible to all ages and abilities. As funds become available, Parks will continue to enhance these facilities.*

**Emphasize park land acquisitions, especially wetlands.**

**-North District Open House October 17**

*Parks acquires land as needed for structured recreation play and natural resource protection. The County will continue to assess and work to protect essential wetland resources. Acquisition of these resource-valued lands is within the County's goals and purview.*

**Make walkable communities, walk to work, park spaces close to business/residences.**

**-North District Open House October 17**

*The 2016 County Comp Plan reflects this concern and public interest. Kitsap Cities of Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Port Orchard and Poulsbo are responsible for park development within their incorporated areas. Kitsap County tends to be more rural, less urban, hence most park development is outside urban areas. As the County develops parklands, there is consideration for pathway connections to nearby businesses and residential communities.*

**In favor of beavers creating habitat on our park creeks and beaver relocation program.**

**-North District Open House October 17**

*Where there are streams suitable for beaver populations and minimal potential risk to adjoining private property, relocating beavers to these park habitats would be considered in our park management plans.*

## Usage

**The 2012 report suggests there is an absence of public swimming pools in our area. Five years later, that still seems to be the case. We do not happen to live in a neighborhood with an HOA funded outdoor pool but even those are seasonal in nature. Is there any chance of an indoor swimming facility like the Snohomish Aquatic Center or Lynnwood Recreation Center coming to North Kitsap? I have completed the 2018 online survey but besides providing fill-in responses I didn't feel that it tried to tease out this subject.**

**-Phillip G. 9/28/17**

*County Parks' primary role is to provide outdoor park facilities and areas for various opportunities. Kitsap County will continue to work with community organizations in supporting regional opportunities. We understand that public swimming is available at the North Kitsap High School.*

**I urge the County Parks Department to adopt a policy allowing pedal assist bicycles in all county park trails normally used by other bicyclists. There is adequate research (IMBA, 2015) that the trail impact of these bikes is negligible in a trail including bikes, pedal assisted bikes and motorbikes.**

**Nationwide, parks are working to understand and incorporate policies addressing the use of pedal assist electric bikes. Kitsap parks should adopt a policy which allows greater accessibility for Kitsap residents using bikes with such electric pedal assists.**

**The values expressed by this policy are: inclusion, accessibility, and research based decisions.**

**This policy will be even more important as the Sound to Olympics Trail route is confirmed through NK Heritage and PG Heritage Park. This is a shared use path for all ages and abilities.**

**-Judy Willott 9/26/17**

*Currently Kitsap County does not allow any motorized vehicles on our trails. As new forms of recreational-assist inventions become available, the County will research and consider the resource and wildlife impacts, user conflicts, and potential advantages of each new proposed park use.*

**Will the Fair have an astronomy exhibit? Where are the amateur radio people?**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Special interest organizations may request exhibit space at the Fair & Stampede. Applications and additional information are available on the Parks Department website [www.kitsapgov.com/parks](http://www.kitsapgov.com/parks)*

**No lockable bike racks at the Fairgrounds.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Thank you for the observation! We will ensure that the equipment is located near the main gate.*

**At the Fairgrounds: Can the County bring back large music concerts and large-scale outdoor festivals? Would the County be interested if an event promoter organized and the County hosted the event? What is the cost of security for such an event?**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Fairgrounds facilities are available to event organizers with various rental options.*

**West Sound Disc Golf is very interested in adding a Disc Golf course at South Kitsap Regional Park.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Park staff will research this potential, as it is currently not part of the Park Master Plan. However, there may be an opportunity for a facility at Coulter Creek Heritage Park. Land use classifications, at Coulter Creek, is scheduled for the first half of 2018.*

**Disc Golf has 4 courses in the County and is a fast growing sport that “no one has heard of “. Looking for more space and opportunities for the 190 Disc Golf local organization members. Fairgrounds course could add a set of T pads for beginners, and have a mix of technical challenges with a variety of gold-hole lengths. Could put a 30-50 acre course at the Coulter Creek forest area. Need 10-15 car parking, sanicans, signage, etc. Course can be built by volunteers. -North District Open House October 17**

*Park staff are researching areas in our undeveloped parks for disc-golf facilities.*

**At South Kitsap Regional Park: Will the user-built BMX track in the forest be restored with jumps?**

*Parks will be reconsidering the use of the forested part of the park for any additional trail development, including a BMX bike track area. This trail facility is included in the parks Master Plan. As the park completes an overall trail plan, this past user-built facility will be re-evaluated.*

**Can horses use the trails at South Kitsap Regional Park?**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Currently South Kitsap Regional Park does not support equine activity. We do however suggest using nearby Banner Forrest Heritage Park.*

**Interest in locating park property that can be used for 4x4 off road vehicle recreation. Ideally want 100 acres with obstacles, and well maintained and controlled area. Open to the idea of a fee-based 4x4 recreation area.**

**-Unknown 10/10/17**

*To-date Kitsap County Parks does not allow motorized recreational vehicles on county parkland. WA Department of Natural Resources offers this recreational opportunity in selected areas around the state.*

**Can park-owned land be leased to local farmers?**

**-Unknown 10/10/17**

*Agricultural use of parklands is not allowed under current policy. Operation of a farm-lease may be a future consideration for historical farmland preserves.*

**Keep Bikes on special trails separate from Hikers.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Many park trails are “shared-use” trails available for hikers, dog walkers, bikers and equestrians. It is recognized, as our park trails become more popular for one type of trail use, such as bikes, there may be a need to look at separation of trails to preserve trail experiences for other trail users. This can be accomplished by design and trail location in the future. As formal trail plans are developed, the issues of trail design standards for specific users may lead to the separation of trails to achieve satisfactory experiences.*

**Need more tennis courts and keep them clean.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*County Parks is currently not pursuing the development of tennis courts, but courts are noted in the South Kitsap Regional Park Master Plan. The County recently partnered with the Central Kitsap School District to address the renovation and on-going maintenance of the Fairgrounds/Event Center courts. Similar agreements may be available through coordinated efforts with local park districts, school districts, and municipalities.*

**Dogs! Loose dogs creates dog waste in parks.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Managing dog waste in the parks is the responsibility of dog walkers, and dogs off-leash are often the most difficult for dog owners to supervise. Dogs off-leash are only allowed in specific off-leash dog park. Park staff and volunteers are challenged with patrolling and controlling this misuse of park environments and the park user’s experience.*

**Need more play fields with lights. Want areas for “ultimate Frisbee” play.  
-County Fair August 23-27**

*Artificial turf athletic fields, included in Department Capital Plans, all include the installation of lights to facilitate longer seasonal uses.*

**How to manage dog crap? – Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*Dog feces is a constant concern and problem on our park fields and trails. Signs posted alerting dog walkers to their responsibility has not been sufficient. Refuse bags are provided at most parks, but it will take more public peer pressure to enforce the clean-up.*

**Need for overnight water trail camping sites at current water trail sites.**

**-Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

**Want county-run RV camping: -Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*Current County policy does not allow overnight camping in County Parks with the exception of Vendors at the Fairgrounds during County Fair. Overnight camping at County Parks would require a significant increase in Parks long-term commitment to new site developments, restroom facilities, on-site management, safety, patrol and risks.*

**Lacrosse needs more turf fields. -Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*There appears to be a growing interest in Lacrosse in the County. Park will look for opportunities in our developed athletic field complexes to accommodate this sport. Currently we would suggest working with parks staff to modify soccer fields to accommodate your need for rental use.*

## Management

**We need to get a new long term action plan for Norwegian Point Park. We have been told that a fishing pier is a priority and funds will be available through a state grant and that it is in the process. Is this true? We have volunteers ready to assist in the planning process and the community is waiting for action and to provide input. When can we get started with the plan? -Fred Nelson 10/12/17**

*Funding for the community meetings planning and permits were approved in the Parks Department 2018 Capital Budget request (\$99,000).*

**Anderson land preserve needs better signage. I live on Anderson landing road and many people drive the private drive looking for the park. Having a sign directing traffic to the park would be helpful for the community.  
-County Fair August 23-27**

*Currently there are two directional signs on Anderson Hill Road as well as signage at the park entrance. Please contact Parks Department if this is not what you had in mind.*

**I'm writing in support for the Illahee Preserve Timber's Edge project. The Preserve is a gem in our county, with immense value for residents and for our shoreline ecosystems. We need help in expanding the Preserve properties and conserving more valuable habitat. Please include the Timbers Edge project in the budget (which can be funded by a trade of excess county property and/or conservation futures funds) and we can work with any differences as there are supporters who have previously helped.**

**The long-term vision for the Preserve is for it to become a "Forested Central Park" which will require more acquisitions noted on the 2018 map. Some of the prime properties on the map are not for sale at this time, but others have landowner agreements and will be considered for a grant in 2018.**

**-Jill Hamilton 10/29/17**

*Staff and grant consultant are in the process of working with Illahee Stewards in applying for State acquisition grants. During the last RCO grant cycle, the acquisition project ranked #11 in the State (unfortunately, the top 10 received funding). The County appreciates the community's support and fundraising efforts, and we hope for better success in the 2018 grant cycle.*

**We support the expansion of the Illahee preserve and very much encourage the purchase of the Avery Homestead. We walk the preserve at least three times per week. This crown jewel in Kitsap needs to be preserved, protected and expanded at every opportunity. Future generations will thank the current county leaders and locals who embraced this unique opportunity.**

**On a personal note we have previously and in the future, will financially support this wonderful open space. This is one of many reasons Kitsap is the unique and beautiful place we all call home.**

**-Cecilia/Jim Adrian 11/5/17**

PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE: AUGUST 23- NOVEMBER 10, 2017

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**I would like to register support for the Illahee Preserve's 2018 plans as shown on the back of the handout showing volunteer hours.**

**-Unknown 10/24/17**

*Your comment will be relayed to the Illahee Stewardship Group.*

**We support the Illahee Forest Preserve. Please support funding and grants.**

**-Sandra and George Walz Sr. 10/26/17**

*Staff and grant consultant are in the process of working with Illahee Stewards in applying for State acquisition grants. During the last RCO grant cycle, the acquisition project ranked #11 in the State (unfortunately, the top 10 received funding). The County appreciates the community's support and fundraising efforts, and we hope for better success in the 2018 grant cycle.*

**Kitsap Fair needs its own website.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*The Kitsap County Fair & Stampede is an activity of the Parks Department. The new County website may make it easier to find Fair & Stampede information on the Department site with additional improved mobile access.*

**It has taken many years to build public awareness that shellfish harvesting is or was prohibited at Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve. I've walked out 1,000 feet during extreme low tides to stop many would be harvesters. Occasionally they plead ignorance and say "There's no signs posted". I tell them they need to get binoculars and read the large white sign near the Beach House. From 1,000 plus feet away the white sign isn't readable with the naked eye. Most harvesters recognize that I'm telling the truth and stop. Sometimes they keep digging, sometimes they get belligerent, and some threaten me. I'm not afraid of them, although it's a stressful interaction that all neighbors have performed over the years.. There have never been problems with the tribes or commercial harvesters. The commercial guys are hard working people, and respectful of the environment, after all their livelihood depends on it. Problems would be quite minimal if the tidelands were ONLY harvested by contract with the tribes and commercial harvesters...The harvest revenue from the commercial side would go to Kitsap county. You're always begging for money! Here's your chance!!!**

**Another concern is that WDFW rules have long stipulated that the public leave their empty oyster shells on the beach... I couldn't easily find that regulation on the WDFW website, so the public may likely be unaware about it as well...And who's going to enforce leaving the empty shells on the beach?**

**The honor system, forget it... Kitsap County Park rules are violated almost every day at the Nature Reserve. Evidence can be seen by the dog poop, beer cans, toilet paper, and other**

items currently on the Nature Reserve.

For my property, I hire Sunset Beach Oyster Company to harvest my tidelands and they always return with oyster shells after each harvest to start the growing cycle again. Does anyone believe the public will shuck oysters on site, pack them up, then transport the raw contents, while simultaneously returning the empty shells onto the tidelands? Will the public trudge, across the muddy tide flats to distribute their empty shells in the area where they initially harvested them or dump the shells upland (if at all)... What happens if a harvester cuts themselves badly during shucking? OK call 911, and pay Kitsap County EMS to deal with it, at great expense. This is a remote location with zero facilities to aid people.

By doing further research I finally found the oyster shell regulation:

[http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/oysters/shuck\\_on\\_beach.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/oysters/shuck_on_beach.html).

"Shucking oysters and leaving the shells on the public tidelands where they are harvested from is required for the conservation-based reasons".

If the public begins harvesting oysters and shucking them, they may also decide to cook their bounty. And you need a fire to do that...So if you think some bad actors will refrain from starting a fire, think again. In a remote Nature Reserve, flagrant disregard for "No fires allowed" will happen and already has several times in the recent past.

The ramifications of public shellfish harvesting at Guillemot Cove are contrary to the intrinsic reason which Nature Reserves are established. This isn't some grand experiment to see if social engineering will induce the public to act gently upon the land and beaches. There's zero oversight at the Nature Reserve. Using airplanes, drones, or satellite over flights is eye-in-the-sky, big brother thinking. That approach will be too late and too little. By opening up public shellfish harvesting on the Reserve tidelands, it immediately removes the low impact use by the public necessary for marine life preservation and recovery. It will be open season on all marine life species living on those tidelands, regardless of the harvesting rules. The nearly extinct sand dollar colony will certainly disappear. Multiple species of crabs, moon snails, clams, geoducks, eel grass, seaweeds and other sea creatures will be fair game. Once the public is allowed to bring buckets and shovels, that's the end of the tidelands. In the future where will children get real life experiences with marine life? At the aquarium? This is a Nature Reserve! These tidelands were to be preserved. Fifty years ago, as a young child I played on those tidelands. Marine life was extremely plentiful at that time and now it's less so... And if Kitsap County keeps these tidelands open to public harvest it will be stripped. Too many buckets, too many souvenirs, too many greedy filches, and it will happen faster than you think.

Another consideration is that the tenants of the Nature Reserve rental house aren't caretakers. Despite two different Kitsap county deputies (each living) in the Reserve's rental house, the neighbors and volunteers remained the primary caretakers of the Reserve. The deputies when off work, were enjoying their free time, and disinterested in being a steward. Previously Kitsap County had caretakers who lived in the on-site-house in exchange for free rent...That was a mutually beneficial partnership which protected the Nature Reserve.

Regarding shellfish access, the worst shellfish offenders have previously arrived by boat. People who walk to the beach usually have proven to be cooperative and understanding. That will change once the public realizes its open season for shellfish harvesting. And what

defines shellfish harvesting? Many people will remove much more than the oysters and/or geoducks.

Opening the Reserve tidelands to public harvesting is undoing years of protection by the volunteers and neighbors whose dedicated time and efforts have made Guillemot Cove a nearly pristine landscape and living laboratory. The was intentional!~!!!.

Rescind the public shellfish harvesting on this beach and Nature Reserve.

Most Puget Sound, Hood Canal, Grays Harbor, and Willapa Bay beaches are privately owned. SHELLFISH and SEAWEED may not be taken from private beaches without the owner's or lessee's permission. Private tideland owners and lessees, and members of their immediate family (grandparents, parents, spouse, siblings, children, and grandchildren) are exempt from personal use daily limits when taking CLAMS, OYSTERS, and MUSSELS harvested for their own personal use from their own tidelands. Daily limits apply for all other shellfish, all other people, and all other beaches. Everyone harvesting shellfish in excess of the daily limit from private beaches for presumed commercial purposes needs a shellfish certification from the Department of Health (see RCW 69.30.010(8)).

It has taken many years to build public awareness that shellfish harvesting is or was prohibited at Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve. I've walked out 1,000 feet during extreme low tides to stop many would be harvesters. Occasionally they plead ignorance and say "There's no signs posted". I tell them they need to get binoculars and read the large white sign near the Beach House. From 1,000 plus feet away the white sign isn't readable with the naked eye. Most harvesters recognize that I'm telling the truth and stop. Sometimes they keep digging, sometimes they get belligerent, and some threaten me. I'm not afraid of them, although it's a stressful interaction that all neighbors have performed over the years. There have never been problems with the tribes or

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Opening the Reserve tidelands to public harvesting is undoing years of protection by the volunteers and neighbors who dedicated time and efforts to make Guillemot Cove a nearly pristine landscape and living laboratory. The way it was intended.

Rescind the public shellfish harvesting on this beach and Nature Reserve.

-John Frink 10/12/17

PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE: AUGUST 23- NOVEMBER 10, 2017

*Shellfish population for recreational harvesting are well-regulated and managed by the WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The County has entered into a resource management agreement with this agency and local Tribes to develop best management practices, survey and monitor the public harvests, and continue to support a healthy shellfish resource, which had gone without professional stewardship for years. The County receives regular report on the health and vitality of that resource and any impacts from the recreational harvest. WDFW and Parks have the authority, responsibility, and expertise to modify, restrict or even close recreational shellfish seasons, if deemed damaging to that ecosystem or the shellfish population.*

*Signage of shoreline and tidal ownership is challenging in dynamic environments with tides, erosion and storm impacts. Parks will work to inform and educate the public as to the regulations on park lands, responsible use of these tidelands and shellfish, and respect for private property and private shellfish areas.*

*Parks shares the concern about the impact created by those visitors which ignore or abuse shellfish harvesting rules and regulations. WDFW will be requested to assess the condition of the shellfish fishery, including damage to the flats, after the 2018 season.*

**Here's my on-site observations of last summer's public shellfish harvesting at Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve. During the first low tides in June we had an aluminum skiff arrive with six people on board. They beached their boat, unloaded their buckets and shovels, then proceeded to remove as many geoducks as humanly possible. They worked quickly and several additional people walked in from the parking lot to help.**

**Once the harvest was finished, they loaded up their boat and headed north. I thought it was odd that only two people were in the departing boat. Then I noticed the reason. As the aluminum skiff heading out into Hood Canal it was so heavily loaded that the gunwales were nearly touching the water's surface. Because the boat was so overloaded the remaining 10 or so diggers left the beach by walking to the parking lot.**

**Thanks to this well orchestrated harvest, I'm certain that a minimum of 30-50 geoducks or horse clams were removed. And this was only one of many boats that arrived last summer. The neighbors kept track and I can accurately calculate that the public removed the same amount of geoducks that ALL my neighbors, friends and family would ever harvest over a 25 year time span.**

**So good on you Kitsap County. You're well ahead of schedule with your destruction of Guillemot Cove's tidelands and it's vibrant marine life. Kitsap County Parks unilaterally opened up this Nature Reserve without public process. Rather than reaching out to the neighbors, the volunteers, and other stakeholders, Kitsap county covertly opened up the tidelands and in a way that created "frenemies" So don't bother me with your excuses, you're blatantly violating the Operational Policies of this Nature Reserve.**

**For the short term gains of a few fortunate boat owners, you think it's OK to deny future generations the right to explore and enjoy a nearly pristine marine area. Yes marine life can regenerate, however mass harvesting of tidelands that were intended to be preserved in a sustainable manner is the exact opposite of what Kitsap Parks is doing.**

**-John Frink 10/30/17**

*Thank you for your comment. Parks shares the concern about the impact created by those visitors which ignore or abuse shellfish harvesting rules and regulations. WDFW will be requested to assess the condition of the shellfish fishery, including damage to the flats, after the 2018 season.*

**I read your 15 question Survey monkey questionnaire and found it to be limiting. So I clicked on the Kitsap Parks Comment Form and it has a narrow window (six sentences tall) to enter comments.**

**1. Could you please tell me which Parks employee or employees are archiving and responding to the public comments about the Parks PROS plan? Perhaps an email is better than your Comment Form?**

**After sending a comment your web page says "Thank you for submitting your comment(s)" There is no traceable way that I can be assured that my comment has actually been read and/or received.**

**And I have zero record of what I sent, unless I keep a draft copy of my comment. And yes I did do that.**

**2. One last request please. What is the final day to submit comments regarding the Kitsap Parks PROS plan?**

**-John Frink**

*The Parks Director, Assistant Director, and Parks Planner are reviewing and responding to all comments. Comments are being shared with the Parks Advisory Board, leading to publication by Friday, November 17. All comments and responses will be posted*

*The draft plan will be available by December 7. Comments will be accepted through December 31. A final draft will be available for review mid-January. A Public Hearing in February 2018 will provide an additional opportunity for review and comment.*

*Please also reference email sent directly on October 23, 2017.*

**We watched the geoduck harvest done at Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve during the lowest tides last summer. Several boats came in, each with multiple people, with digging tubes, and they successfully each dug many geoducks each day. There aren't that many to be harvested, there was no one checking how many they took, soon there won't be any left. There is also NO property line marker on the tidelands, so the public wander off the property and try digging on our private tidelands, and we have to go out and ask them to move back onto the property. Since we pay significant taxes for the rights to our tidelands, this is frustrating and a major concern to all of our family who share our property. The intention of the original owners who donated the property for the future of the property was for the public to have beach access to enjoy the beach and the woods, NOT to take shellfish. Those who took it on themselves to change this and open the beach were out of line. This needs to be changed ASAP.**

**-Patricia Kribbs 10/26/17**

PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE: AUGUST 23- NOVEMBER 10, 2017

*Recreational Shellfish Harvesting on County-owned tidelands is regulated and monitored by WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), in conjunction with the Tribes. It is in the best interest of this public resource to have their best management practices applied and enforced. Often best management will include managed harvest of the shellfish, as overpopulations can damage that resource. We will pass on you concerns about resource management on public tidelands to WDFW and request a report on the health and recreational use of those resources, since they became open for recreational harvesting. Often the recreational public is not aware of the park boundaries. Parks will begin posting signage and notification from the waterside and upland access to the park.*

**Stavis Bay Spit is private property, yet the park map indicates it is a county park. It is only accessible over private land and boat to the small KC lot.  
-County Fair August 23-27**

*Park staff will research this issue.*

**I was told that after the commercial logging was done in South Kitsap Regional Park the trails would be cleared and reclaimed. Over half of them have not. ( I have walked them for a decade) In fact the destruction has been such that it would be hard to find the old trails. There seems to be a lot of machine trails being made but they are not in the part of the wooded areas which have been enjoyed in the past. They are in fact all around the railroad tracks which is not where most people would prefer to hike as this is near traffic noise and (sometimes) train noise. I voiced my opposition to the logging along with many others of the community. We were ignored outside of being told the trails would return. They have not.  
-Susan Keller 10/27/17**

*Park staff and interested volunteers will soon be working to locate all the major trail routes and develop an overall trails plan. Many of the through trails and trail segments have been developed by users over the years and this myriad of intersecting trails is not necessarily the best laid plan for a trails system. Parks looks forward to reclaiming trails as part of a trails system with trail map and signage. Recently an extension of the park perimeter trail has been cleared for gravel surface improvement, which will be suitable for walker, strollers and ADA accessibility needs. Parks has interest in creating a local parks stewardship group which can further help to define and refine park trail use. The forest restoration work to control the laminated root rot in the conifers has resulted in some impact to spur trails. We look forward to reestablishing a trail system for this regional park.*

**In regards to the Kitsap County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (PROS) , I am very disappointed. I looked at the Draft from 9/20/17 and what stood out was the lack of plans to improve any recreational opportunities in a very large area of South Kitsap. If you look at a map of South Kitsap, and divide it into two sections, East & West of SR16 you see a definite difference in the availability of recreational opportunities. The PROS shows 12 Parks facilities East of SR16 and 3 West of SR16. On the East side you have numerous areas for hiking, dogs, water access, skate boards, etc. West of SR16 you have one 39 acre park with lake access and two other Parks properties totaling over 2300 acres with very little to offer besides some rough trails. The number of parks facilities in each**

**Commissioner District is fairly close, the acreage is by far lead by North Kitsap, with Central Kitsap trailing by almost 1000 acres.**

**The distribution of Parks assets needs to be closely looked at, especially West of SR16. A six year plan with a 20 year vision with zero details leaves a lot to be guessed. Kitsap County keeps buying property and yet still has minimal plans or a solid public backed vision. Having served on the Parks Board decades ago, it has not changed. The concentration is on increasing the acres the Parks has, minimizing any major improvements in the new acquisitions, and reducing the Parks Department budget on a regular basis over the years. It makes no sense. If you do not have a plan for new property or funding to improve or maintain, do not acquire the property. Use and improve what we have now, especially in areas with limited or minimal recreational assets available**

**-Roger Gay 10/10/17**

*Supporting ample park and recreation facilities and open space in all Districts of the County and providing close-in opportunities to developing areas is a high priority. It is an important aspect of the Parks Advisory Board to review and assess future park needs and plans. The policy direction of the 2018 PROS Plan can promote this kind of regional evaluation and hopefully help fill out the park facility picture throughout the county. Citizen input and reminders are important to our county-wide planning, as well as public input to facility needs and designs. As county and grant funds are available, Parks will work to keep an eye on the balance of opportunities.*

*It is important that the County have recreation and management goals for any new property acquisitions. Within the last few years, Parks has initiated Landscape Classification and Public Use Plans for all new acquisitions, to best determine the goals for resource protection and recreational interests. This process will continue for new property interests. Volunteer stewards will continue to work on improving those park resources and facilities. The County will continue to seek funding for recreational facilities through operational partnerships, in those areas having limited recreational access.*

**Develop a rating system for level of volunteer skills and project opportunity; Ex. Picking up litter = low, Monitor trail conditions = low to moderate, Trail maintenance= moderate to high, Chain saw heavy work= highest. Have designated leaders for a park would help organize a volunteer group.**

**-Unknown 10/10/17**

*Parks staff are currently working with volunteers and stewardship groups to increase the level of knowledge and skills for the diverse range of projects associated with environmental, cultural, and historical property stewardship. Having trained volunteer project leaders is important. Parks currently has one volunteer coordinator, overseeing several formal stewardship groups. We are interested in developing those volunteer skill levels and potentially offering various skill-level "certifications" for the various type of park projects.*

**It would be great to have a pamphlet with all these parks and directions. Thanks!**  
**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Park maps and directions are available on Kitsap County Park website:  
[www.kitsapgov.com/parks](http://www.kitsapgov.com/parks).*

**Need a County Parks web-link to “Maprika” for trail maps in parks.**  
**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Staff is working with County Information Services Department for the potential link.*

**Lots of interest in trails; hike, bike run. Need maps of where to go to run in parks.**  
**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Park staff and park volunteers are working to develop additional on-site and web-available maps for our parks. For our Heritage Parks, trail markers will be installed with coded tags, which can help emergency response teams locate the park visitors in more remote park areas.*

**I would like to be able to hook u with other kayakers and have a map of Kitsap Water Trails.**  
**-County Fair August 23-27**

*This website is designed to serve the Kitsap Water Trail users. Weblink:  
<https://www.visitkitsap.com/kitsap-peninsula-water-trails>.*

**Need more trail maps at park kiosks.**  
**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Park staff and volunteers are working to develop park trail plans and maps to be posted on our park kiosks, and available on the website. Park staff and volunteers are working to install better trail signs throughout our large Heritage Parks and have initiated an emergency response locator code system, soon to be installed at trail intersections throughout our Heritage Parks.*

**NO SMOKING in Parks – Please post with signs.**  
**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Smoking in park open areas is currently allowed. Responsible smokers should take note of the impact their smoking has on non-smokers and work to move away from other park users. Parks will consider signage to create an awareness of this perceived nuisance.*

**Make an effort to beautify park spaces, updating information signs, kiosks, etc.**

**-Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

**Need better marketing and branding to distinguish government parks ownership.**

**-Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*Parks has an ongoing priority to develop Park standards that will provide consistent signage throughout the park system, and standards for park architecture for new and retrofitted park structures.*

**Need a stable funding source to upgrade park facilities, toilets, parking etc.**

**-Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*The Parks Department is funded by the County's General Fund. Capital projects for new development and upgrades to existing facilities are currently funded through the County's Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), with some grant opportunities. REET revenues are spread across administrative, maintenance and planning needs. The County welcomes creative approaches to increase the budget capacity.*

**Need a Metropolitan Parks taxing ability for park support.**

**-North District Open House October 17**

*Any new taxing authority would require a vote from the citizens and approval by the County Board of Commissioners. Parks is researching sustainable funding solutions to support park maintenance, operations and development.*

**No gun shooting at Stavis!! -Home Builders Show Oct. 8-9**

*Gun shooting is not allowed in any County park. If shooting is heard, contact the Sherriff's office-- 911.*

**Hansville Greenway is omitted from Parks inventory.**

**-North District Open House October 17**

*Parks is correcting the inventory of parks and conservation lands in our 2018 Parks and Open Space Plan. The adjacent property, Buck Lake, is shown on Park maps and on the County Parks webpage.*

**More education is needed about the forest restoration effort.**

**-North District Open House October 17**

*Parks Forest Stewardship Plans are posted on the Kitsap County Parks webpage. Parks will work to provide education and informational materials and signage for our forest restoration program and other ecological improvement activities on parklands.*

**Tim Ryan has possible heavy equipment available for park construction to move rocks. He does civic service.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*Park staff will research this offer for park construction work. Kitsap County supports licensed and certified equipment operators providing and operating equipment to support volunteer projects*

**Need law enforcement “citizen deputy” for remote park areas. -North District Open House October 17**

**Need dedicate deputy in parks, trails, and backcountry. -North District Open House October 17**

*Law enforcement funding/staffing is under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office. Currently there is not enough law enforcement capacity to patrol our remote park areas. Active park and trail use, and reporting hazards is a deterrent to negative park activities. Please report any unlawful or dangerous situations to the Sheriff – 911. Parks is installing emergency trail location markers along the trails in our Heritage Parks to help emergency responders locate help-required situations in the parks.*

**Safety is the most important for Parks now. No homeless or drugs.**

**-County Fair August 23-27**

*We agree safety of our patrons and neighbors is the highest priority. We continue to look at ways to improve upon this. Your suggestions are welcome.*

**You asked for everyone’s thoughts, ideas, and criticism or praise. I wish that I felt inclined to give you praise however the past two years have been exceedingly tenuous trying to deal with Kitsap Parks.**

**Let me offer you a past example: When Donna Alber (Guillemot Cove Nature reserve volunteer) once asked a Parks manager if the Boy Scouts could cut some branches from a holly tree on the Nature Reserve in order to make Christmas wreaths. Donna was firmly told ‘NO’ by that Parks manager who said if the Boy Scouts took some holly it would be “a gifting of public property”.**

**The above situation demonstrates just how ridiculous Parks management can sometimes be. And this inflexible, rigid decision to protect a holly tree which is an invasive species that displaces native plants within a Nature Reserve.**

**There are other examples where I've found the Kitsap Parks department to be rule bound, inflexible, unable to think outside the box. If the Parks staff were taught to use critical and creative thinking perhaps the Parks would be in much better condition.**

**I have ideas and don't wish to share them with people who operate in a regimented and robotic manner. Regimens are fine, so is a flexibility in one's perspective...**

**Hope this helps. I'm not singling out any one person. Everyone deserves an opportunity to learn and grow and treat others with respect. And to earn that respect back from others.**

**Thank you.**

**-John Frink 10/30/17**

*Thank you for your comment*

**Coordinate PROS plan with the Great Peninsula Conservancy (land trust) Strategic Conservation Plan.**

**-Peter Best 11/1/17**

*GPC has been contacted in regards to the PROS plan. A meeting is expected but has not happened as of the release of this response.*

**Thank You! -County Fair August 23-27**

*Thank you.*