

CHAPTER 9 – PARKS AND RECREATION

#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	9-5	New Section Engagement and Coordination	<u>Engagement and Coordination</u> <u>Whatcom County remains committed to engaging and coordinating with cities, state, federal, and tribal governments on relevant parks and recreation matters. Many parks and recreation issues, such as public access to public lands, shorelines, waterbodies, and trail corridors, have regional and cross-jurisdictional significance. It is important to respect and uphold tribal treaty rights, and coordinate and engage with Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe to address any potential impacts or conflicts parks and recreation may have to cultural resources and areas of cultural significance. Whatcom County recognizes Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe as the co-managers of state and federal public lands, and seeks to improve upon coordination and collaboration on matters pertaining to county owned lands that support parks and recreation.</u>	Galloway	
2	9-7	New Policy 9A-13	<u>Policy 9A-13: Recreation will be managed to avoid areas of cultural use.</u>	Galloway	
3	9-10	Policy 9C-4	The wet climate of Whatcom County may preclude <u>development, expansion, and/or</u> extensive multi-use of some trails or require seasonal limitations. <u>Development, expansion, and use of trails routes</u> should consider soil conditions, steep terrain, surface drainage, <u>watershed health, natural and cultural resources</u> , and other physical limitations that could <u>negatively</u> impact the area's <u>environment from overuse</u> .	Galloway	
4	9-11	Policy 9C-11	Spell out Army Corp of Engineers rather than ACOE	Galloway	Scrivener
5	9-12	Policy 9C-23	Investigate and identify feasible routing of the <u>Salish</u> Coast Millennium Trail to increase non-motorized connectivity throughout the region. Work with relevant agencies to secure permanent recreational easements along the closed and abandoned roads in the area with potential to be adapted to the <u>Salish</u> Coast Millennium Trail. This includes closed parts of Gulf, Aldergrove, Point Whitehorn, Henry, and Lonseth Roads.	Galloway	
6	9-13	Policy 9C-28	"Ensure adequate education and enforcement of County regulations to minimize activities such as illegal trail building, off-leash dogs in on-leash areas, and improper disposal of pet waste, <u>and incompatible uses that damage the environment.</u> "	Galloway	APPROVED TO SEND TO PC 9/9/25 COTW
7	9- 15	ORV Riding Areas	Recognizing that it is better to <u>The County should</u> regulate and manage where off-road vehicle (ORV) riding may occur, <u>prioritizing community and user safety and the protection of property, environment, and natural and cultural resources.</u> T he County twice attempted to develop an area for exclusive ORV use, <u>but</u> -B both proposals were met with controversy and not pursued. However <u>Unfortunately</u> , ORV riding still occurs and in many instances on land not suitable for that	Galloway	

			use and without the owner's permission. The end result is that ORV riding is impacting neighbors, and harming the land <u>and environment</u> in which riding occurs, and is in general creating a problem for <u>conflict with</u> less intrusive recreational activities.”		
8	9-15	Goal 9F	Coordinate with Federal, and State, and Tribal agencies to evaluate the feasibility of providing <u>additional</u> ORV opportunities in Whatcom County <u>that are safe to various user groups and do not damage the land, environment, and natural and cultural resources.</u>	Galloway	
9	9-15	Policy 9F-1	Recognizing that there will continue to be a demand for ORV riding, the County should, as resources allow, coordinate with federal, and state, and tribal agencies to better <u>educate user groups,</u> enforce existing ORV restrictions, and evaluate the feasibility of providing <u>safe and appropriate</u> ORV opportunities in Whatcom County.	Galloway	
10	9-16/17	Policy 9G-4	In light of lead contamination at the Plantation Rifle Range engage the public and relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement, to develop a plan for future use of the facility that protects the environment, meets community expectations for <u>safe</u> recreation, and provides for an acceptable level of cost recovery for operations.	Galloway	
11	9-18	Policy 9H-7	Continue to plan for full use of existing senior/community centers and explore partnerships to help <u>expand and</u> absorb future need.	Galloway	
12	9-19	Policy 9H-10	In collaboration with <u>cities, county, state, federal, and tribal governments, Tribes, County Agencies,</u> and stakeholders, develop long-term forest management plans to meet community management goals, protect the County’s financial interest, and foster responsible recreation within the Lake Whatcom Watershed, Stewart Mountain Community Forest, and Canyon Lake Community Forest. <u>Forest management goals should balance the County’s interest in supporting a sustainable local timber economy and safe recreation opportunities with enhancing carbon sequestration, ecosystem services, wildlife habitat, watershed health, forest health, climate resilience and reducing risks from wildfire and other natural hazards.</u>	Galloway	
13	9-19/20	Policy 9I-6	Experiment with novel public-private partnerships to provide facilities that will provide a quality experience to draw tourists to Whatcom County's parks. Some examples could be privately operated adventure tourism and locally sourced goods and services (e.g. farm tours, farmers market, Nordic Fest, etc.). Part or all of the "rent" provided could be by the provision of privately funded public use facilities such as toilets and shuttle buses used to service these private facilities.	Galloway	
14	9-20	Policy 9J-1	Designate high-value greenspaces and greenways for acquisition, conservation easements, or other reservation programs to enhance carbon sequestration and provide community benefits. Prioritize areas that provide co-benefits such as biodiversity, <u>watershed health, climate resilience,</u> recreation, and connectivity between habitats.	Galloway	