



# Whatcom County Parks & Recreation

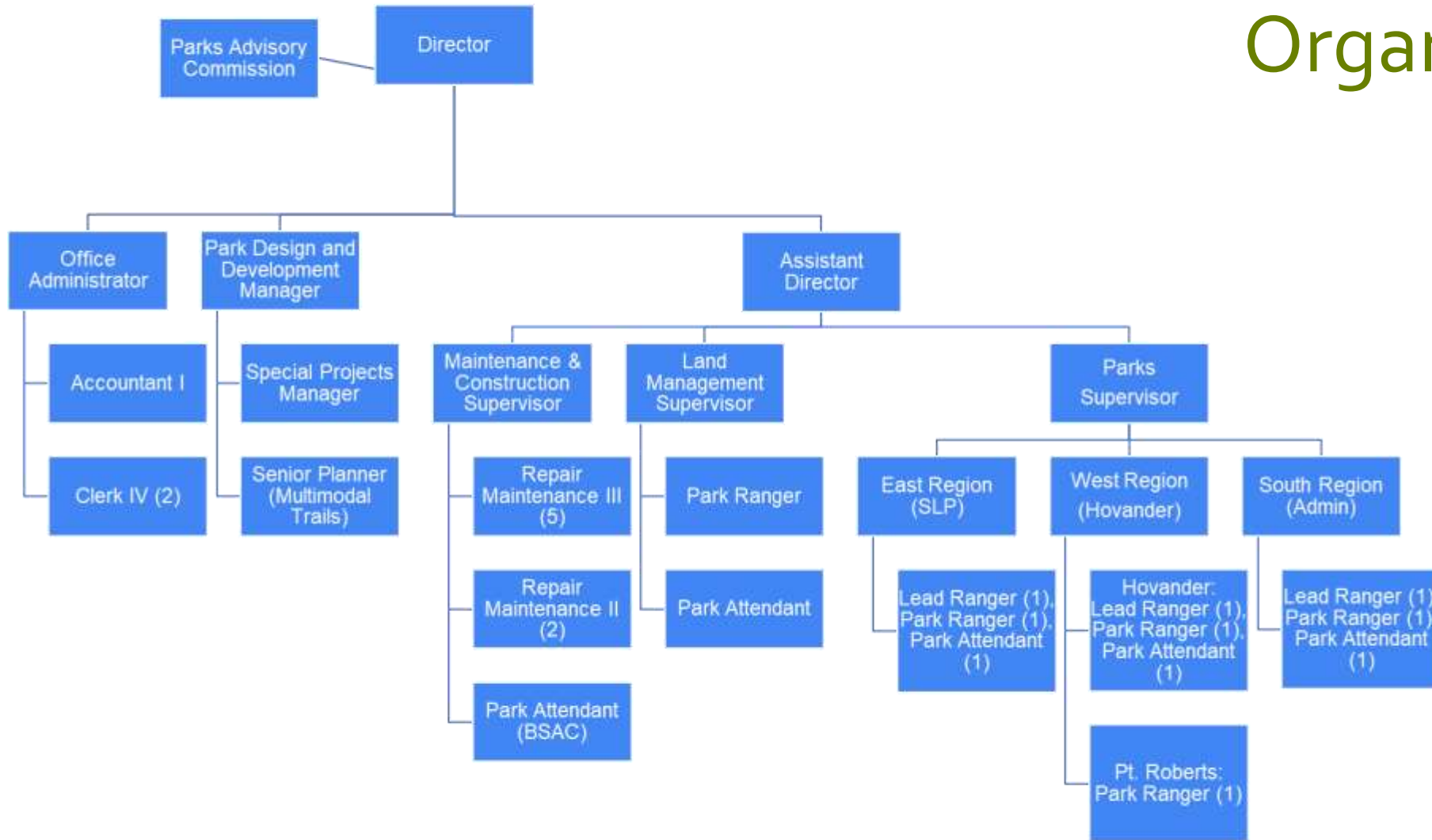
May 12, 2026 Council Update



# Presentation Outline

- Brief Departmental Overview including recent changes
- Accomplishments since last Council Update
- Active Projects/Initiatives
- Grant Cycle Review
- Q&A

# Organizational Chart



## Summary:

32 FTE

All positions currently filled  
1 Pending Retirement (6/30)

2026 Seasonal Extra Help (16)

East Region – 5

West Region – 3

South -2

Trails – 2

(plus one split b/w South/Trails)

# Staffing Changes Since Last Council Update

- Reorganized existing staff to create Land Management Division
- Filled Senior Planner Position for Multimodal Trails

# Accomplishments Since Fall 2025

## December Flood Response



## Administrative Offices HVAC and Tennant Improvements completed

- Replaced older boiler
- New lighting/flooring and painting in Main Office
- Tenant improvements in adjacent Annex Building
- Roof replacement on both buildings.
- Supports staffing recent staffing additions to support Departmental growth.

# Van Zandt Community Hall Renovation

- Building Expansion and Interior/Exterior Renovation
- Supportive of Expanded Facility Usage by the Van Zandt Stewards
- Ribbon Cutting Friday, May 15, 3 to 5 pm



Photo credit: Van Zandt Stewards

# NW Sports Complex – Baseball Fields Reactivation

- Fields dormant since approximately 2018
- New long-term lease with Ferndale Youth Sports approved in 2025
- Ferndale Youth Sports received LTAC support in late 2025; second round pending
- Fields will be in use this year



# Active/Ongoing Projects

## Plantation Rifle Range – Indoor

- Replacement of HVAC/Air Handling Unit; Preparing for reopening
- Unit Commissioning Scheduled for Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Finalizing O & M Manual, initiating staff training
- Coordinating with WCSD in anticipation of soft opening



# Silver Lake Lagoon Bridge

- Facility Assessment Completed
- Public Meeting on April 13
- RCO Grant Application submitted 4/30
- Opportunity to receive RCO feedback and hold 2<sup>nd</sup> public meeting in June



# Birch Bay Beach Park

- Contracting with ASM Affiliates for cultural resources review and permitting (in Finance for review)
- Negotiating scope and fee for design with Site Workshop (Seattle)
- Potential design kick-off in June

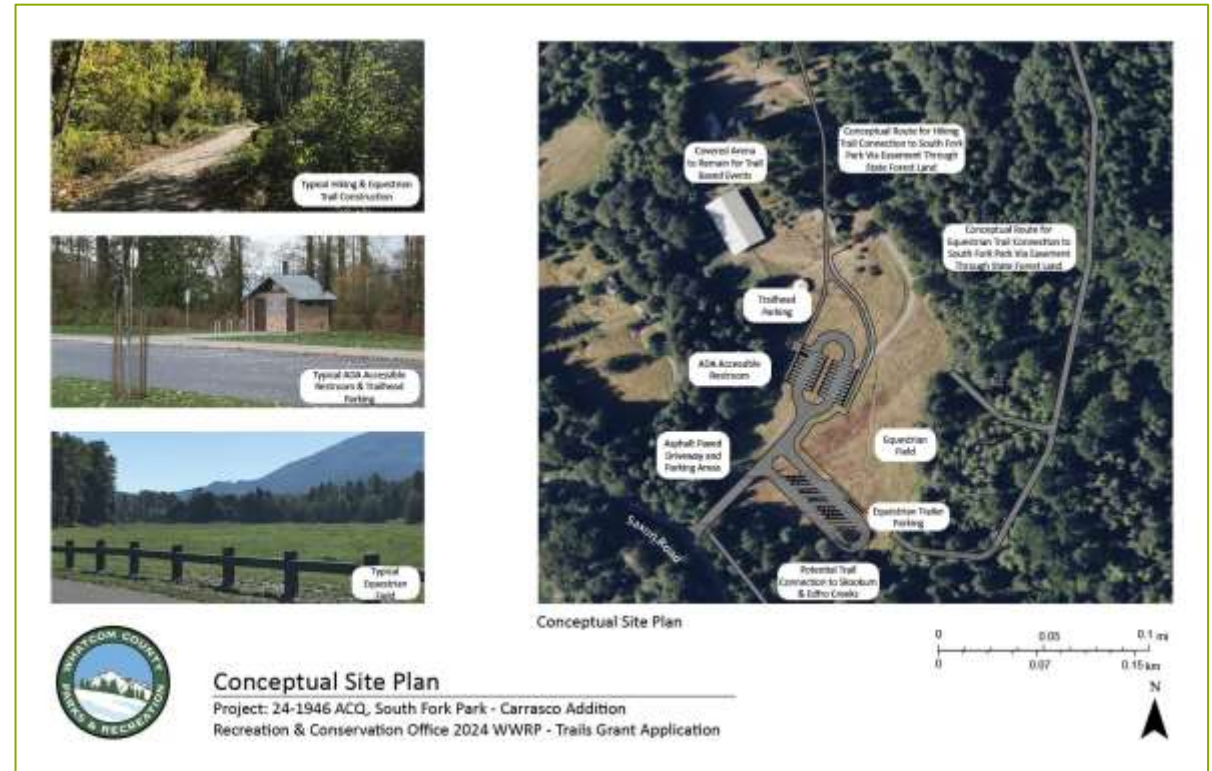


**Birch Bay Community Park**  
Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department  
**Preferred Master Plan**



# Carrasco Property Acquisition Reimbursement and Structure Demolition

- Deed of Right under review for upcoming Council consideration (last step for particle reimbursement for acquisition)
- Negotiating scope and fee with Legacy Anthropology for cultural resources review
- Require RCO Notice to proceed before initiating structure demolition



## Other

- Plantation Range – Outdoor Range Remediation – (Delay on Dept. of Ecology side)
- Lake Whatcom Forest Management Plan (SEPA Determination of Non-Significance; ready to agenda for Council adoption)
- Semiahmoo Sewer Repair (at 60% design)
- Governors Point (2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Intent Agreement – acquisition)
- Sr. Services Work Group (wrapping by end of June)
- Lake Whatcom/Lookout Mountain Trail Projects (critical areas & cultural reviews ongoing)
- EWRRRC Covered Sports Court (scheduling operations-related stakeholder/community meetings)
- EWRRRC Kitchen Project (re-establish commissary kitchen)

# Upcoming Projects

- Bay to Baker Trail Planning/Preliminary Design
- Nessel Farm Caretaker Residence
- Nessel Trail Permitting
- EWRRC Capital Improvements (accessible entry, sidewalk repairs)
- Ferndale Sr. Center Capital Repairs
- Glacier Restroom Renovation
- Maple Beach Tidelands – Point Roberts (Bike/Ped Improvements) – Proposal Phase
- NW Sports Complex - potential planning opportunity with support of Visit Bellingham



Bay to Baker Trail

# Current/Potential Grant Cycle Opportunities

- RCO – Silver Lake Lagoon Bridge (as previously referenced)
- WSDOT Pedestrian/Bicycle Program (planning for connectivity from Marine Drive Phase II to Hovander Park/Lummi Nation)
- WSDOT Pedestrian/Bicycle Program (Infrastructure associated with West Region Maintenance Facility Project)
- Potential – Commerce Department Planning and Design Grant for the Silver Lake Park Lodge (not yet released)

# Thank you and Questions

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