

THE CITY OF  
**SOUTH BEND**  
WASHINGTON

**2016 - 2022**

# **Comprehensive Park Plan**



**March 2016**

# Comprehensive Park Plan

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# Introduction

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The citizens of South Bend can boast of eight city-owned parks that range in size from the five-acre Community Park down to the pocket-sized Helen Davis Park. There are five parks owned by other jurisdictions as well. Located in neighborhoods, along the waterfront, and in natural areas, the City of South Bend park system is quite diverse and supports a multitude of activities.

Keeping parks “up to snuff” is a hard task for any community, but especially so for a small city like South Bend that has less than 1,800 residents. Maintaining and expanding parks in communities of this size requires a major investment in community resources – taxes as well as additional donations by citizens in time, resources, and money. Given the number and type of parks in South Bend, the community clearly has been generous in this regard.

While public spending on parks is money well spent, getting the most out of each dollar demands careful planning, especially during these current tough economic times. The city, in its role as stewards of the citizen’s parks, needs to be especially vigilant in how it spends limited resources on maintaining what it has as it moves forward to meet new needs.

This is why the *Comprehensive Park Plan* is so important for South Bend; it lays out a strategic course as to how the city intends to manage the park system over the next six years with purposeful action. The plan also serves as a rallying point for helping citizens stay on track as to how they can help the city make their parks even better.

The organization of the *Comprehensive Park Plan* follows the format and requirements of the [Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office’s Manual 2, Planning Policies](#). There are eight sections to the plan.

- The *Comprehensive Park Plan* begins with the City of South Bend’s **Goals and Objectives** for its park system. Goals describe desired outcomes and the objects lay out actions that are measureable and specific.
- The next section follows with a **Parks Inventory** – a list and description of city-owned parks as well as those managed by other jurisdictions within the city limits.
- Providing context about South Bend is the **Community Description** section, which discusses history, demographics, and the local economy.

- The process used by the city for listening to the community in the plan’s development is covered under the **Public Involvement Program**.
- The **Demand and Need Analysis** provides analysis of the trends in the community that led to the development of the Goals and Objectives for the plan.
- The **Capital Improvement Program** provides details regarding the sequence, timeline, estimated budget, and revenue source for implementing the Goals and Objectives.
- The last section, **Adoption**, contains the resolution passed by the City Council adopting the plan.

# Goals and Objectives

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The citizens of South Bend envision a future for their city parks that achieves the following goals and objectives:

## Encourage sponsorship of city parks by the community

The City of South Bend recognizes that it is a small community with limited resources. South Bend depends on dedicated individuals and groups within the community to help with creating and maintaining its park system. Keeping the community informed and interested in becoming involved is a challenge for city officials and staff.

- Identify priority projects for community groups and individuals to sponsor, particularly grounds keeping and maintenance projects.
- Advertise sponsorship opportunities on the city's web page.
- Target community groups for recruitment of specific projects.
- Establish a giving program that allows individuals to bequeath their estate to the city, upon approval by the City Council, for funding park projects and maintenance.

## Maintenance of existing parks

South Bend faces the dual challenge of maintaining its existing park system while it expands for the future. Regular maintenance and repair of structures is important to keeping up the quality of city parks. The city promotes the care of existing structures and parks before adding new facilities.

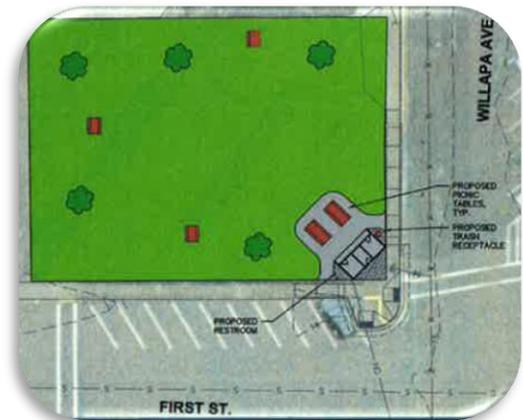
- Develop a park maintenance / replacement schedule, including a parks capital replacement fund.



## Pioneer Park Project

Residents and visitors alike will benefit from the addition of new public restrooms on a small pocket park located in the downtown across from City Hall.

The existing public restrooms located downtown near Spurrell Dock along SR 101 are in poor condition, difficult to maintain, not ADA accessible, and in need of total replacement. Replacing these restrooms at the current site would be difficult due to their location on private property the city leases through an informal agreement with the owner.



The city proposes constructing the proposed Pioneer Park at the corner of West First Street and Willapa Avenue on vacant city property. The new park will have public restrooms similar to those located on the Willapa Hills Trail. In addition, the proposed park will have an open grassy area with picnic amenities. Ample on-street parking is available. The estimated project cost is \$150,000.

- Seek \$70,000 in grant funds to complete the project

## Refurbish First Street Park

First Street Park is popular with the city's teens as a gathering spot for basketball and hanging out. However, this park is in very rough condition – the paved areas are uneven and broken, the fencing surrounding the park has partially collapsed, the basketball hoop supports are rotting, and the existing swing set is no longer functional. With basic repairs, this park could once again become an important recreational asset to children and teens.

- Develop a design plan for the First Street Park that explores improvements appropriate to the site, cost estimates, grant funding, and volunteer opportunities. Encourage youth of all ages to help in developing the design plan.

## Establish an Off-Leash Dog Park

The city wants to set aside part of South Bend Community Park that allows dogs to run free and socialize with one another. The park may wish to incorporate a dog wash area.

- Identify a community volunteer to mentor this project.

- Assist interested local dog owners in preparing a strategy for a dog park that includes overall design, estimates for needed materials, costs, and action steps for completing the project.

## **Add Park Improvements that Benefit Children**

Parks are especially beneficial to children by giving them safe places to learn social skills and enjoy healthy exercise. The city wants to examine its parks system to see how it can improve them for kids. Potential improvements could include playground equipment and a wading pool. Promotional materials about South Bend Park should feature children's play areas where traveling parents can stop for restroom breaks and let their children run off excess energy.

- The city will develop a strategy that looks at which children improvements to install at the First Street and South Bend Community Parks. There may be other appropriate locations as well. The strategy should inventory the type of improvements, their estimated cost, fundraising approach, and action steps for implementation. It will be important to involve children as well as parents in developing the strategy.

## **Willapa Hills Trail State Park Extension**

The Willapa Hills Trail stretches for 56 miles from the City of Chehalis to the intersection of Summit Avenue and US Highway 101 in South Bend. The Willapa Hills Trail is one of several long-distance trails owned and managed by Washington State Parks. The city continues to work towards contributing to and improving this community asset.

In 2013, the city constructed a restroom at the parking lot and extend the trail 1,100 feet to Summit Avenue and US 101 in exchange for using the railroad right-of-way for laying a sewer transmission line for the soon-to-be-constructed regional sewer plant.

In Phase 2, the city would like extend the trail from where it currently ends all the way to the South Bend Boat Launch. This project means going beyond the historic railroad right-of-way and using rights-of-way owned by the city and the Washington State Department of Transportation. This section of the trail would not involve Washington State Parks. Present thinking is that the trail will need to veer south along Monroe Street and west on Water Street until it reconnects again with US 101 and the waterfront. The trail would then follow US 101 all the way out to the South Bend Boat Launch.

- Pursue grant funding to help the city complete Phase 1 to assist with the cost of extending the trail to the Montana Avenue terminus and constructing the restrooms.

- Prepare a study to investigate the best method for extending the trail from the Montana Avenue terminus to the South Bend Boat Launch. The study would include cost estimates, necessary right-of-way acquisition or easements, improvements, funding strategy, and WSDOT partnership for pedestrian crossings.

### **More tourist related park conveniences**

Catering to parks and recreation opportunities for tourists benefit residents through economic development. Visitors support local businesses and services – if they stop. South Bend can target recreational vehicles passing through the city by making available convenient pull-in and pullout parking. Attractive picnic areas, clean restrooms, and waterfront open space will entice visitors to stop, relax, and learn about South Bend.

- Focus on improving existing facilities at the Helen Davis Park and the Spurrell Boardwalk.
- Coordinate improvements at other city parks to consider serving the needs of visitors.

### **Develop improved signage and brochures that informs visitors and residents about parks and recreation opportunities in South Bend**

South Bend has many unique parks and recreation opportunities for visitors and residents alike. Sharing information about these community assets encourages citizens to use and invest in their park system. Letting visitors know about them, too, is part of a broader economic development strategy aimed at encouraging local tourism.

- Design and develop tourist stops at both ends of the city along US Highway 101 that would have informational kiosks about park facilities and recreation opportunities within the city. Each city park also should have informational signs about other park system facilities.
- Install signs describing South Bend boating facilities and kayak launch points.
- Design and install informational boards about South Bend history throughout the city. Include historic buildings, homes, and sites. Organize the signs into a “historic tour of the city.”
- Develop and distribute a brochure about South Bend parks and recreational opportunities.

## **Design a campground for visitors and residents**

Local parks and recreation activities offer South Bend a unique opportunity for economic development. South Bend's location on US Highway 101 and along the scenic Willapa River makes the community a perfect stop for travelers going to and from the Ocean Beaches. Once discovered, the charms of South Bend eventually may make the town a destination in itself.

Developing a campground for recreational vehicles, motorcyclists, car campers, and bicyclists will encourage people to explore the town and shop. Increased business from these visitors will create jobs and inject new vitality into the community.

- Prepare a feasibility study that explores developing a campground within the city. This study needs to evaluate potential sites, size, public-private partnerships, design, infrastructure availability, and marketing. Use this study to determine if the city should further encourage development of a campground under either public or private ownership.

## **Support the Development of the South Bend Wetlands Park**

The [Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group](#) has spearheaded developing a nature trail on a 125-acre parcel owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The trail will provide access to the river through scenic wetlands and allow for outdoor activities along the way. The city will support the Willapa Bay RFEF in their efforts to develop the trail system that both locals and visitors will enjoy.

- City officials will work with Willapa Bay RFEF volunteers to solicit funding for the project.

## **Add Restrooms to the City of South Bend Ron Craig Boat Launch**

Currently the city is relying on portable toilets at the boat launch; these units are costly, prone to vandalism, and require substantial upkeep. This is a popular site not only with boaters using the boat launch and dock, but travelers along US 101. ADA-accessible, permanent restrooms will be a great addition to this facility. To serve the restroom, the city will need to extend sewer and water utilities to the park.

- Seek grant funding to construct ADA restrooms and extend utilities to the boat launch.

# South Bend Parks Inventory

## City of South Bend Parks Inventory

### South Bend Community Park



South Bend Community Park is located in the center of the city, one block south of Highway 101. The city developed the park in 1980 with assistance from the Cheney Foundation, IAC, Weyerhaeuser, and local service groups. It is approximately five acres in area.

This serves a variety of activities. Park users rely on the open fields for upland team sports including soccer, football, and softball. There are two

The park has a very nice area and public restrooms that recently underwent extensive renovations. Parking is available and



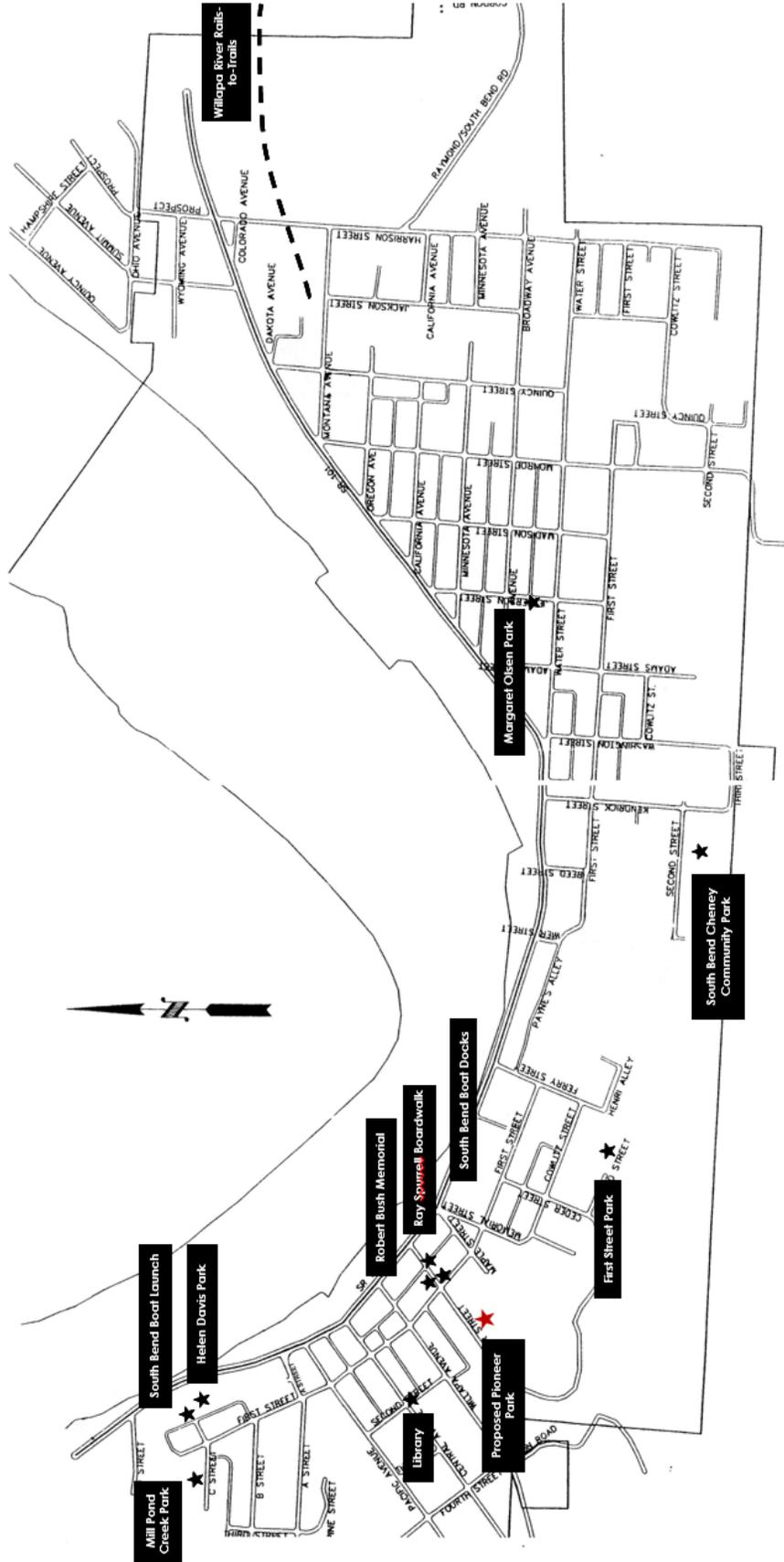
popular site for community activities, Frisbee, and tennis courts.

covered picnic shelter that recently underwent extensive renovations. The area is adequate.

The park is in good condition, although the softball field needs an irrigation system and the caretakers residence is an older manufactured home.



# City of South Bend Existing and Proposed Parks



## South Bend Carnegie Library

Built in 1912 with funds from the Carnegie Foundation, the City of South Bend maintains this classic structure and the Timberland Regional Library system provides library services.

In addition to recreational and resource reading materials, the library provides computer on-line services, cultural lectures, and youth services. The city recently added an elevator for disabled people and elderly. The library is in the process of exploring replacement windows for this historic building. Other potential renovations include restoration of the basement area to allow for book and record storage and space for other related library activities, such as a children' reading room.



## First Street Park

First Street Park is just two blocks south of US Highway 101 and is approximately ½ acre in size. E.T. Hazeltine, along with other civic-minded individuals and groups, developed this park with a tennis court, a basketball court, and swing set.

This neighborhood park is in very poor condition. The concrete and asphalt surface areas of the park are uneven and broken. The tennis court is no longer functional and the wooden supports for the basketball hoops are rotting. The city long ago disabled the swing set for safety purposes. The park has only on-street parking and no restrooms. City crews and volunteer organizations try to do some periodic maintenance.





Despite its dilapidated state, the park remains popular with youth playing basketball and visiting. This park has tremendous potential for being an important park asset if the city or civic groups can find the funding to restore it.

### **City of South Bend Ron Craig Boat Launch**

The South Bend Boat Launch is located just west of the city center along Highway 101. The launch area is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres in size. The Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group upgraded the launch in 2006. The facility provides for unloading of small fishing craft into the Willapa River.

Also provided for day use, are two picnic tables with garbage disposal services and a portable toilet. Parking for numerous vehicles adjacent to the unloading facility is also available.



### **Helen Davis Park**

This is a small day use park adjacent to the South Bend Boat Launch. This park is dedicated to Helen Davis, who wrote the song, "Washington, My Home", the official song of Washington State.

Helen Davis Park is an Audubon "Important Bird Area." Citizens and visitors use the park for lunch breaks as well as just resting and looking at water activities. It is also popular with local anglers.

Although the park has no permanent restrooms, the city provides a "port-a-potty." There is an easy pullout area here for recreational vehicles, making it a popular stop for travelers.



This park marks the beginning of the proposed South Bend Wetland Trails Park and the terminus of an expanded Willapa Hills Trail. A permanent restroom would be an excellent addition to this park.

### **"A" Street Park**

"A" Street Park is a mini-park located on State Route 101. This park is an open grass area with a welcome sign with shrubs. The park was donated by Jean Shaudys in 1974.



### **Robert Bush Memorial Park, Ray Spurrell Board Walk, & South Bend Dock**

This trio of park facilities lies in the center of the downtown business district on US Highway 101 at the former old City Hall site. Covering approximately 1/3 acres, it provides a breathtaking view of Willapa Harbor.



The Robert Bush Memorial Park is a memorial to the war dead of Pacific County, including World Wars I and II and the Korean and Viet Nam wars. The park is named in honor of Medal of Honor winner, Robert E. Bush.

Adjacent to the park is the Ray Spurrell Boardwalk. Here visitors can stroll among planters and marine emblems symbolic of the City's heritage.

Connected to the boardwalk is an 88-foot gangway that leads to the South Bend Dock. This modern boating facility provides 380 feet of low-maintenance dock that extends 30 feet into the Willapa River. Dock berths have water and electrical hookups. The state's Boating Facilities Program funded this project in 2004.



## Margaret Olson Park

This mini-park at the corner of US Highway 101 and Minnesota Street has an old-time steam donkey used in early logging operations. The park also has the original, portable jail first used at the original county seat in Oysterville during the 1870s.

The park has landscaping, a picnic table, and benches, but no restrooms.



## Other Major Park and Recreation Assets in South Bend

### Willapa Hills Trail

The Willapa Hills Trail stretches 56 miles from Chehalis to South Bend, rambling through pastoral valleys to tidewater Willapa Bay. The trail is a former Northern Pacific Railroad right-of-way that is still under construction in some sections. Washington State Parks owns and maintains the trail.

The section connecting Raymond and South Bend is very popular with locals and visitors. It has a paved surface that follows along the south bank of the Willapa River, terminating at Summit Ave. This section is about four miles long and is perfect for walking, biking, and other non-motorized activities.



## South Bend School District



The South Bend School District complements the overall recreational programs of the area. The District has an Elementary School (K-6) and a Junior/Senior High School (7-12). The elementary school has a playfield and a sheltered play shed. The junior/senior high school has a football field and track for outdoor sport's interests and two full gymnasiums for indoor recreation. The school uses the facilities at South Bend Community Park for the instruction of tennis and has used this park in the past for high school baseball. The district has left its playground and track open to public use during non-school hours and the rubberized track is a favorite of the recreational and health conscious walkers.



## Mill Pond Creek Park

This natural resource area park is north of US Highway 101 across from Helen Davis Park. It features a salmon stream, information signage, a trail system to observe spawning salmon during the spawning season of October through January of each year. The trail leads to a pond approximately ¼ mile south of highway. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regularly stocks the pond for youth fishing opportunities.



The city and the Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group has an easement from FIA Group from Atlanta, Georgia, to maintain and operate the park in perpetuity.



### Hangman's Park

The Pacific County Historical Society owns this property, located at the southwest corner of Harrison Street and Montana Avenue. The property is approximately one acre in size.



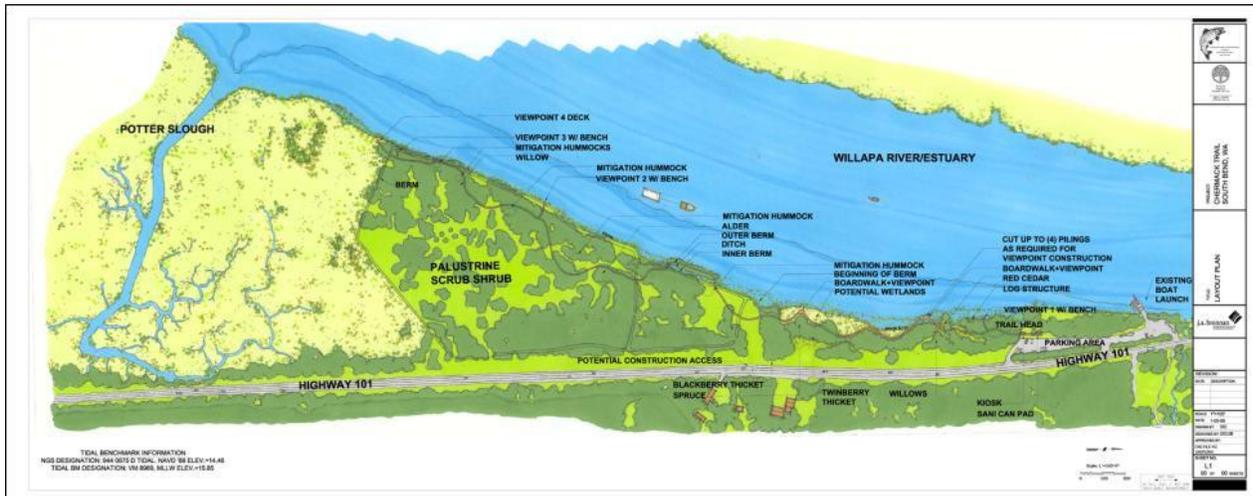
The park was the site of the old Pacific County Courthouse. It's name comes from the hanging of a Chinese cannery worker in the airshaft of the old courthouse.

The park has great potential, but it is largely undeveloped. There are no restrooms, so the park is not heavily used. The Historical Society maintains the park through volunteer labor.

### South Bend Wetland Trails Park

The [Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group](#) has completed design for a proposed 125-acre wetland trail system currently on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife property. This natural resource area runs between US Highway 101 and the Willapa River. The park connects to the South Bend Boat Launch. The estimated cost for the project is \$435,000.

The site consists of quality riparian habitat that serves the needs of fish, wildlife, and outdoor enthusiasts. The trail will improve access to the site and the river.



## City Park Management and Recent Improvements

The city's Public Works Department is responsible for general maintenance and repairs for all city parks. There are no dedicated park employees; the city contracts with a private individual to mow grass and clean restrooms while Public Works staff will do needed repairs. The City Council relies on a Parks Committee that focuses on park management and planning. The city adopted its first park plan in 2002, followed by a new plan in 2010 and then an update in 2012.

Since the 2012 Park Plan update, the city has faced some significant, costly repairs to the Ray Spurrell Boardwalk that required replacing the supporting piling.

A second setback for the city has been the declining condition of the public restrooms near the Robert Bush Memorial Park and Ray Spurrell Boardwalk. Repairing the current building and facilities, which is under private ownership and leased annually by the city, is not a feasible option for the city. Because the condition of the building is a liability for the city, it may need to close the facility in the near future. A loss of these public restrooms would become a major inconvenience for many citizens using this park as well along this section of a popular walking route.

## Community Description

The City of South Bend, county seat of Pacific County, lies along the south bank of on the scenic Willapa River. The city is centrally located 129 miles from Seattle and 141 miles from Portland, Oregon at 46 °39'48" N and 123°48'12"W in Southeastern Washington. US Highway 101 is the main transportation link to South Bend. The city covers a land area of 1.81 square miles and extends over 0.38 miles of water.



### Native American History

The Lower Chinook Indians were the original inhabitants of the South Bend area. Their territory included the region bordering the mouth of the Columbia River and the area surrounding Willapa Bay. They fished the area's rivers, collected shellfish in nearby Willapa Harbor, and hunted upland game. Chinook members also gained considerable fame for their trading skills with other tribes as well as British and American fur companies. Their prominence in trading is evident in the development of Chinook Jargon, a trading lingua franca used throughout the Northwest between Indians and whites.

As with much of the native populations in the region, many died from exposure to new diseases introduced by white settlers in the 1850's. However, their descendants remained in the South Bend area and merged with other tribes on reservations in Washington and Oregon. The Chinook Nation currently is seeking federal recognition.

## Modern History

The contemporary City of South Bend began in 1869 when the Riddell brothers built a sawmill four miles upstream from the river's mouth at Willapa Bay. The business attracted millworkers and homesteaders to the area, and by 1875, the town of South Bend was officially recognized. The settlement acquired the name "South Bend" for the mill's location at the southern end of a curve on the Willapa River. In that same year, the town saw its first post office and school built.

Between 1889 and 1895, both the economy and the population grew. The community's location on a navigable river in the heart of timber country fueled an economic boom. Fishing and shellfishing gained ground in economic importance. The South Bend Land Company platted the first city lots in 1890; homes and businesses soon followed. The city officially incorporated on September 9, 1890. In 1893, an election moved the county seat from Oysterville to South Bend.



In a move that would shape the future of the city, the South Bend Land Company gave rights-of-way along the waterfront to the Northern Pacific Railway. The railway in return promised to build a rail line from Chehalis to South Bend. The hope was that a future connection to Yakima would entice businesses and tourists from Eastern Washington. The promise of economic development caused a rush of building and land speculation by investors hoping to benefit from the connection. The railroad completed the connection with Chehalis in 1893. By 1895, the population grew to 3,500 people. However, the line to Yakima never materialized and the land speculation bubble eventually burst.

South Bend soon began to experience competition locally for economic development opportunities from nearby Raymond in the early 1900's. With waterfront ownership in the hands of the railroad in South Bend, industrial development looked to nearby Raymond instead. Soon, both communities were competing for resources, businesses, and residents. Raymond

eventually passed South Bend in population by 1920 and has maintained that dominance ever since.

Today, South Bend continues as a place of government and an aquaculture center. The community prides itself as the “Oyster Capitol of the World,” with companies processing oysters harvested in close-by Willapa Bay. Crab, shrimp, and caviar also are processed in the community. A small, local fishery participates in West Coast and North Pacific seasons.

## Demographics

The City of South Bend has experienced a slight decline in population since the 2000 census of 1,807 citizens. South Bend’s 2009 population of 1,770 represents 8% of the total Pacific County population. It is the second largest of the four incorporated municipalities in the county.

The 2000 US Census remains the most recent source of demographic information about the city. The table below summarizes data about South Bend’s population.

Subject	Number	Percent
Age Groups		
Under 5 years	110	6.1
5 to 9 years	136	7.5
• 10 to 19 years	275	15.2
• 20 to 44 years	522	29.0
• 45 to 64 years	436	24.1
• 65 years and over	328	18.1
Median Age	39.4	(X)

Subject	Number	Percent
Race		
• White	1,738	96.2
• African American	3	0.2
• American Indian/Native Alaskan	67	3.7
• Asian American	89	4.9
• Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3	0.2
• Other Race	68	3.8
Hispanic (of any race)	167	9.2

Subject	Number	Percent
All households	702	100.0
• Family households	471	67.1
• Single female householder with children under 18 years	48	6.8
• Householder living alone	189	26.9
• Single householder 65 years and over	91	13.0
• Average household size	2.48	(X)
• Average family size	3.02	(X)

Subject	Number	Percent
Income		
• Median household income	\$29,211	(X)
• Median family income	\$35,221	(X)
• Families below poverty level	60	12.8

Aquaculture, government, and services in support of government are the mainstays of South Bend's economy. The major employers include Pacific County, Coast Seafood Company, the South Bend School District, and the Willapa Harbor Hospital. Forestry, fishing, aquaculture, and agriculture are the other main employers in the city.

Although figures are not available specific to South Bend, unemployment statistics for the county are high. The April 2010 unemployment rate for Pacific County was 12% (not seasonally adjusted), the eighth highest in the state. The 2000 US Census found that 963 people in South Bend (53.2%) lived in households that made less than 80% of the county's median income.

# Public Involvement Program

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## Participation Process

The City of South Bend listened to citizen comments and ideas about their Park System through Council meetings and informal contacts with elected and appointed officials.

To find out citizen opinions about its park system, the city distributed a survey to the community through City Hall and at a South Bend High School basketball game in January and February 2016.

The city received 43 surveys that provided a snapshot of citizen use of the park system, what they liked about them, what they didn't like, and what improvements they would like to see happen in the future.

Of these respondents:

- 11 (25.6%) were under 18 years of age
- 16 (37.2%) were 18 to 55 years of age
- 13 (30.2)% were over 55 years of age
- 18 (41.9%) were male and 21 (48.8)% were female
- 27 (62.8%) had children under the age of 18

Overall survey results revealed that:

- Walking is the most popular activity at South Bend Parks, followed by boating, dog walking, playing basketball, and family picnics.
- The parks people used most include the Robert Bush Memorial Park & Ray Spurrell Boardwalk, South Bend Boat Launch, the Willapa Hills Trail, and the First Street Park.
- Building new restrooms and a with a small park across from City Hall received a positive endorsement from 58.1% of the survey respondents
- The things people like the most about their South Bend parks are the opportunity to enjoy fun activities, their scenic quality, accessibility to the water, lack of crowds, and well-maintained appearance.

- The things people like the least are the lack of quality of restrooms and inadequate park maintenance.
- The most frequent park improvements citizens mentioned were improvements to children play areas, better softball playing fields, and general park upgrades and upkeep.
- Most citizens use the park system during times with warmer weather; although about one-quarter use it weekly or two-to-five times a month all season long.

Priorities for park use and activities did vary by the different age groups:

- Favorite parks for those under 18 years old were the Robert Bush Memorial Park & Ray Spurrell Boardwalk, First Street, South Bend Boat Launch, and the Carnegie Library. For those who were 18 to 55, the South Bend Boat Launch, the Robert Bush Memorial Park & Ray Spurrell Boardwalk, and the First Street Park were most popular. For individuals over 55 years, the South Bend Boat Launch, the Robert Bush Memorial Park & Ray Spurrell Boardwalk, Cheney Community Park rated the highest in use.
- The most popular activities for those under 18 years old were walking, dog walking, and playing basketball. For those people age 18 to 55, it was walking, family picnics, and playing basketball. Walking, boating, and children play area was most popular for those over the age of 55.

Appendix A, Public Involvement Documentation, contains a complete breakdown of the results from the questionnaire.

## **Comparisons between to the 2012 Survey**

A big difference between the 2012 and 2016 surveys was the larger participation of individuals under 18 years of age. A comparison of results from both surveys, however, shows that recreational interests and park use have remained quite similar. The need for additional or improved restrooms and play areas for children remain a priority request.

## Demand and Need Analysis

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The City of South Bend is a small community has had a relatively stable population for the past 60 years. The population dropped to its lowest level in 1990 (1,551), increased to 1,807 in 2000, and is now estimated at 1,770 in 2009. Pacific County estimates in its *Comprehensive Plan* (2010) that the city’s future population may grow to 2,179, an increase of 409 residents over the next 20 years.

In terms of park type and acreage, South Bend is fortunate to have an extensive park system that took many years to develop. Because of its slow rate of growth and generous community spirit, South Bend likely has a larger park system than most communities its size. Park facilities owned by other jurisdictions also complement the city’s assets. According to their classification, South Bend has the following resources:

Park, Open Space, & Trail Classification	South Bend Park Asset
<p>Community Park</p> <p><i>Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving, unique landscape and open space.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ South Bend Community Park</li> <li>▪ Robert Bush Park, Ray Spurrell Boardwalk, &amp; South Bend Boat Dock</li> <li>▪ South Bend Boat Launch</li> </ul>
<p>Mini-Park</p> <p><i>Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreation needs.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “A” Street Park</li> <li>▪ Margaret Olson Park</li> </ul>
<p>Neighborhood Park</p> <p><i>Serves the social and recreational need of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First Street Park</li> </ul>
<p>Sports Complex</p> <p><i>Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ South Bend High and Elementary Schools (South Bend School District)</li> </ul>
<p>Natural Resource Areas</p> <p><i>Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mill Creek Park</li> <li>▪ Proposed South Bend Wetland Trail</li> <li>▪ Helen Davis Park</li> </ul>

Park, Open Space, & Trail Classification	South Bend Park Asset
<p>Park Trail</p> <p><i>Multi-purpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with natural environment.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mill Creek Park</li> <li>▪ Proposed Wetland Trail</li> </ul>
<p>Connector Trails</p> <p><i>Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Willapa Hills Trail (Washington Parks and Recreation Commission)</li> </ul>

Recent public participation efforts and informal conversations with community members support the conclusion that South Bend has adequate park acreage. Instead of more parks, a common theme heard in the community is the desire for new activities and more effort at improving their upkeep. Some recreational trends worth noting from the public participation process are:

*Walking and Bicycling* - Walking seems to be the most popular recreational activity among people in all age groups. Trails and neighborhood sidewalks see solo walkers, groups, or individuals with a pet. Bicyclists are growing in number and enjoy opportunities to ride without concern for motorized vehicles.

*Nature-Based Activities* – These activities interface with natural surroundings within the city. Fishing and boating have been mainstays for people of all ages for many years while other activities like wildlife viewing and kayaking are becoming more common. Many visitors are now traveling to South Bend to enjoy these activities right along with locals.

*Recreation Tourism* – City parks are not just for residents. For communities like South Bend in a beautiful setting and with lots of natural recreation assets, city parks and their facilities can be an important economic development tool. If South Bend is successful in enticing US Highway 101 travelers to stop and enjoy the city, they will be more likely to spend money locally. Increased local tax revenues will support city services, including city parks.

*Favorite Standbys* – On the other hand, some traditional activities remain popular. Outdoor basketball remains popular with teens at First Street Park despite its condition. The South Bend Community Park hosts many family picnics and unorganized field events like soccer. The growing Hispanic community in South Bend particularly uses this park. Increased park amenities benefiting children are also receiving greater interest as the younger population in the community increases and older amenities deteriorate.

*Declining Interests* – One activity showing less interest at the city’s parks is tennis. The three courts, two at Community Park and one at First Street Park, see little use.

# Capital Improvement Program

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Over the next six years, the City of South Bend will pursue a Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that consists of planning, design, and construction projects. The success of the CIP depends primarily on the availability of local funding and matching grants from public and nonprofit sources.

## Pioneer Park Project

**Description:** Construction of a small pocket park that includes public restrooms, grassy area, and picnic amenities.

**Budget:** The cost for this project is an estimated \$150,000. The City currently has \$79,000 available as a match for a grant.

**Timeline:** 2015 – 2017

## Public Restrooms at Ron Craig Boat Launch

**Description:** Construction of public restrooms at the Ron Craig Boat Launch.

**Budget:** The cost for this project is an estimated \$150,000. The city intends to seek grant funding to assist with the cost of restrooms.

**Timeline:** 2018 - 2020

## Phase 2 Willapa Hills Trail Extension

**Description:** Prepare a planning study, including developing a partnership with the Washington State Department of Transportation to extend the trail to the South Bend Boat Launch

**Budget:** Estimated project cost is \$5,000 to \$10,000

**Timeline:** 2016 - 2018

## Refurbish First Street Park

**Description:** Prepare a design plan for First Street Park

**Budget:** Estimated value of a design plan for the park is around \$15,000. The city will pursue small grants and pro-bono services from regional recreation and landscape architecture university programs to assist with developing a site design.

Timeline: 2016 - 2018

#### Establish an Off-Leash Dog Park

Description: Prepare a design plan for an off-leash dog park

Budget: Estimated \$5,000 in city and citizen planning services

Timeline: 2016 - 2018

#### Add Park Improvements that Benefit Children

Description: Develop a strategy for adding improvements that benefit children

Budget: \$5,000 to \$8,000 in in-kind services to develop strategy

Timeline: 2016 - 2018

#### Develop improved signage & brochures

Description: Design and erect signs; design and print brochures

Budget: \$5,000 to \$8,000 in in-kind services; \$10,000 for sign and printing costs. Request funding from Washington State Department of Transportation

Timeline: 2016 - 2018

#### Design a campground for visitors and residents

Description: Feasibility study that examines demand and design issues for a public or private campground in South Bend

Budget: Estimated value of a design plan for the park is around \$20,000. The city will pursue small grants and pro-bono services from regional recreation and landscape architecture university programs to assist with developing a site design.

Timeline: 2016 - 2018

#### Support the Development of South Bend Wetland Park

Description: Support the Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group in acquiring funding to complete the South Bend Wetland Park. The design is complete.

**Budget:** Estimated value of constructing the trail is \$435,000. The city may assist or sponsor grant applications to fund the project.

**Timeline:** 2016 - 2020

# Adoption

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## RESOLUTION #2015-08

### **A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND TO ADOPT THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND'S AMENDED COMPREHENSIVE PARKS PLAN OF 2015**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of South Bend recognizes the need for and supports a strong Parks and Recreation Program within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous needs and projects identified in the current plan (2012) have been fulfilled and new projects and needs have been set forth; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of RCW 36.7A.140 requiring "early and continuous public participation" have been met through open public meetings;

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of the City of South Bend 2015 Comprehensive Parks Plan includes the amendment of Section 15.5 of the City of South Bend Comprehensive Plan, which incorporates the Comprehensive Park Plan by reference;

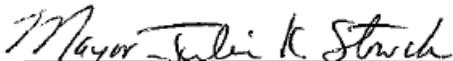
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the amended Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan of 2015 be adopted and included in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Upon motion made for the adoption of this resolution, the following vote was cast by the City Council of the City of South Bend, September 14, 2015:

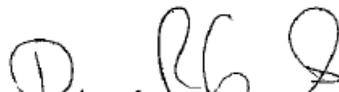
Ayes - 4

Noes - 0

Absent - 1

  
Julie K. Struck, Mayor

AUTHENTICATED BY:

  
Dee Roberts, Clerk/Treasurer

## References

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A Short History of South Bend: <http://users.techline.com/sbcity/history.htm>

Chinook Tribes. Department of Linguistics, University of Oregon:  
<http://logos.uoregon.edu/explore/oregon/chtribes.html>

City of South Bend. Parks and Recreation Plan. South Bend, WA (August 2002).

Enger, Susan C., AICP. Planning for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Your Community. Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development: Olympia, WA (February 2005).

Norman, Karma, et al. Community Profiles for West Coast and North Pacific Fisheries – Washington, Oregon, California, and other US States. Seattle: Northwest Fisheries Science Center (2010).

Pacific County, Washington. Comprehensive Plan Update, 2010 – 2030. South Bend, WA (2010).

Proulx, Janet, PE. City of South Bend Comprehensive Plan. Proulx Consulting, Inc.: South Bend, WA (1996).

State of Washington. 2009 Population Trends for Washington State. Office of Financial Management, Olympia, WA (September 2009).

State of Washington. Planning Policies. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board: Olympia, WA (January 2009).

Trails at Washington State Parks: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/trails/>

# Appendix A: Public Involvement Documentation

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## Survey Results

There were 43 responses to a survey conducted in January and February 2016. Responses to each question follows below. Written comments, with the exception of spelling corrections to make reading easier, are as they appear in the surveys.

### What kinds of activities do you currently do in the parks?

Lunch / Work Break: .....	4	Walking: .....	21
Walking my dog .....	11	Bicycling .....	5
Family picnic.....	10	Wildlife viewing.....	6
Fishing .....	7	Boating .....	16
Children use play area.....	8	Playing baseball.....	6
Playing soccer.....	7	Playing basketball .....	11
Playing football .....	7	Playing tennis .....	1
Playing Frisbee .....	4	Skateboarding .....	4

### Other activities?

- Reunion gatherings
- Softball
- School field trips
- Little League soccer and baseball
- Taking pictures
- Using restrooms

### Please tell us what you would like to see improved in your parks?

- Drinking fountain, more benches, picnic/BBQ area
- More trash receptacles
- Restrooms, play equipment, benches & tables, BBQ stands, flowers
- Better baseball/softball fields in SB
- More kids toys at the Cheney Park
- Playground facilities could be improved
- New, better, softball fields
- I would like to see commerce downtown
- More clean
- There should be a swimming pool

- It would be great if overgrown areas between buildings could be mown, at least, or landscaped. Volunteers (like me) could weed. Another public restroom open all year would be great downtown.
- A park like Raymond with something creative which promotes play & activity. Why start another park across from Pioneer when the area can't be fixed or improved because of the FEMA mandate. Something more than a bench.
- Better swings
- Add more wheelchair access, clean up baseball/softball diamond
- More security
- Upgrade
- A great area for kids to play
- Upgrade
- I would really like to see a Frisbee golf course set up in one of our parks
- The old tennis court

**Which three city parks do you use most often?**

“A” Street Park .....	13
Mill Pond Creek Park.....	6
South Bend Boat Launch.....	19
Willapa River Rails-to-Trails .....	10
South Bend Carnegie Library .....	7
South Bend Wetland Trails Park .....	1
South Bend Cheney Community Park.....	8
First Street Park (basketball/tennis court).....	10
Helen Davis Park/South Bend Boat Launch .....	4
Robert Bush Memorial Park & Ray Spurrell Board Walk .....	8

**What do you like the MOST about your parks?**

- That they exist for us to use
- Not a lot
- Usually not very crowded
- Play sports, fish
- They aren't too crowded
- I like the covered area which is good for gatherings. The trail is a great place to walk.
- The great facility at SB boat launch is much appreciated. Clean & well maintained
- They're not crowded
- They're fun
- It's fun
- The ability to walk on a safe trail and see wildlife, water-fowl, etc.
- Most kid friendly area
- Dock, river, summer activities

- View
- Nice upkeep
- Fish, play sports
- View
- Great boat launch & yearly permit
- Having fun
- Always clean and well maintained (lawns mowed)

**What do you like the LEAST about your parks?**

- Most are not parks by normal standards-unwelcoming at best
- The bathrooms are gross
- No good softball fields
- They're full of garbage
- A little too crowded
- On the rare occasions, when the trailhead public restroom isn't working or not open, it's inconvenient.
- No restrooms, not in South Bend
- First Street Park is not wheelchair friendly to get to the covered area
- No theme, substance, or purpose to most. The sports park is used most. I like a park where my family can recreate.
- Bathroom facilities
- Where are the maps for the parks?
- Rain
- Wheelchair access
- Name of the boat launch
- Falling down
- Bathrooms locked at times

**What best describes the number of times you use your parks?**

Weekly:	All seasons..... 8	Only during warmer months ..... 7
2-5 times a month:	All seasons..... 3	Only during warmer months ..... 4
A few times a year:	All seasons..... 3	Only during warmer months ..... 6
Never:	2	

**What best describes you?**

Under 18 .....	11	18-55 .....	16	Over 55.....	13
I have children under 18 .....	11				
Male .....	18	Female.....	21		

**Are there other thoughts you would like to share about your city parks?**

- Love having a place to sit and enjoy the area
- I would like to see a nice park downtown with a nice bathroom, grass, and some picnic tables
- Happy to pay the money each year for boat launch, very worth it!
- There should be a volleyball net
- I only use occasionally when grandkids are in town
- We are from a larger city and miss nice parks. If considering building a new one, try a spray park with a nice playground.
- Create a parks board, have a theme. The post office is the most improved area on the city, publicly acknowledge it.
- Restrooms need to be kept up.
- How about planting fruit trees, flowering in the spring and fruit in the fall. Washington State apple & plum would be nice, long lasting, and little care.
- It's all for kids.
- It would be nice to find a way to teach boaters to stop powering onto trailers. It blows rocks away from end of ramp. Great boat launch area, thanks!

**Public Meeting Notice**

**City of South Bend Council Meeting Minutes - 09/27/10**