



A PROPOSAL FOR DISC GOLF IN CLALLAM COUNTY

Public Information Meeting
October 24, 2013

Tonight's Meeting

- I. Proposal History
- II. Policy Formation
- III. What is Needed to Play
- IV. Potential County Park Sites
- V. Construction Cost Estimates
- VI. Misconceptions-Pros & Cons
- VII. Objectives/Goals/Concepts
- VIII. Proposed Site
- IX. Comments

Proposal History

The idea of a Disc Golf course in a County Park originally surfaced back in **2007**. A proponent introduced the idea to the Parks Board who unanimously approved its inclusion into the Parks Master Plan.

Because of **opposition** to the proposed location at Robin Hill Farm, and also because some felt left out of the site evaluation process, a committee was formed to address concerns brought up during the public input meetings.

The **committee disbanded** after only one meeting and the proposal was dropped.

Policies 461, 462 & 463

It was clear that a change was needed in the process of determining how a facility, or new use, was placed in the Parks Master Plan.

Policies **461, 462 and 463** were drafted, public comment was received, the Parks Board approved, and in **December of 2009** the County Commissioners (BOCC) approved all three Policies.

The first time the newly approved process was used was when a citizen, per Policy 461, requested that Disc Golf construction at **Robin Hill Farm be removed from the Master Plan**, and in **January of 2010** the BOCC voted to remove it.

Policies 461, 462 & 463 (cont'd)

Policy 461 establishes the process to **amend/update** the Master Plan by the Parks Board and BOCC.

Policy 462 establishes procedures for **park acquisitions or new park developments** already included in the Master Plan.

Policy 463 establishes procedures for **new Park Acquisitions or Parks and Recreation Facilities** requested to be added to the County Parks system that are **NOT** already approved by the Parks Board and BOCC in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Policies 461, 462 & 463 (cont'd)

In **February of 2010**, per Policy 463, a proponent again requested that Disc Golf be added to the Master Plan stating, ***“We, the undersigned formally request that the Board of County Commissioners secure land and appropriate governmental approvals for a Disc Golf Course in the Sequim area or the area between Sequim and Port Angeles.”*** This request WAS NOT site specific.

At the **March 2, 2010 Parks Board meeting**, the proponent gave a presentation on Disc Golf and asked the Parks Board to consider adding it back into the Master Plan.

Policies 461, 462 & 463 (cont'd)

After a discussion on the issue, and hearing several comments made by citizens in attendance at the meeting, the **Parks Board requested that staff review the proposal; assess existing County Park sites; assess other potential non-County sites, and finally, make a recommendation to the Parks Board at a future meeting as to whether or not to approve the addition of Disc Golf to the Master Plan at a site to be determined.**

Staff then began the process of site evaluation.

What is Disc Golf?

Disc Golf is a game where individual throw a disc, much like a **Frisbee** at, and into, a basket.

The object of the game is to traverse a course from beginning to end, with the **fewest number of throws** of the disc. It is played **much like regular golf**.

The sport began in the late 1960s, and over the past decade, has seen a **12 to 15 percent annual growth rate** across the country.

Dec. 26, 1967
Filed Nov. 1, 1965

E. E. HEADRICK
PLAYING SAUCER

3,359,678

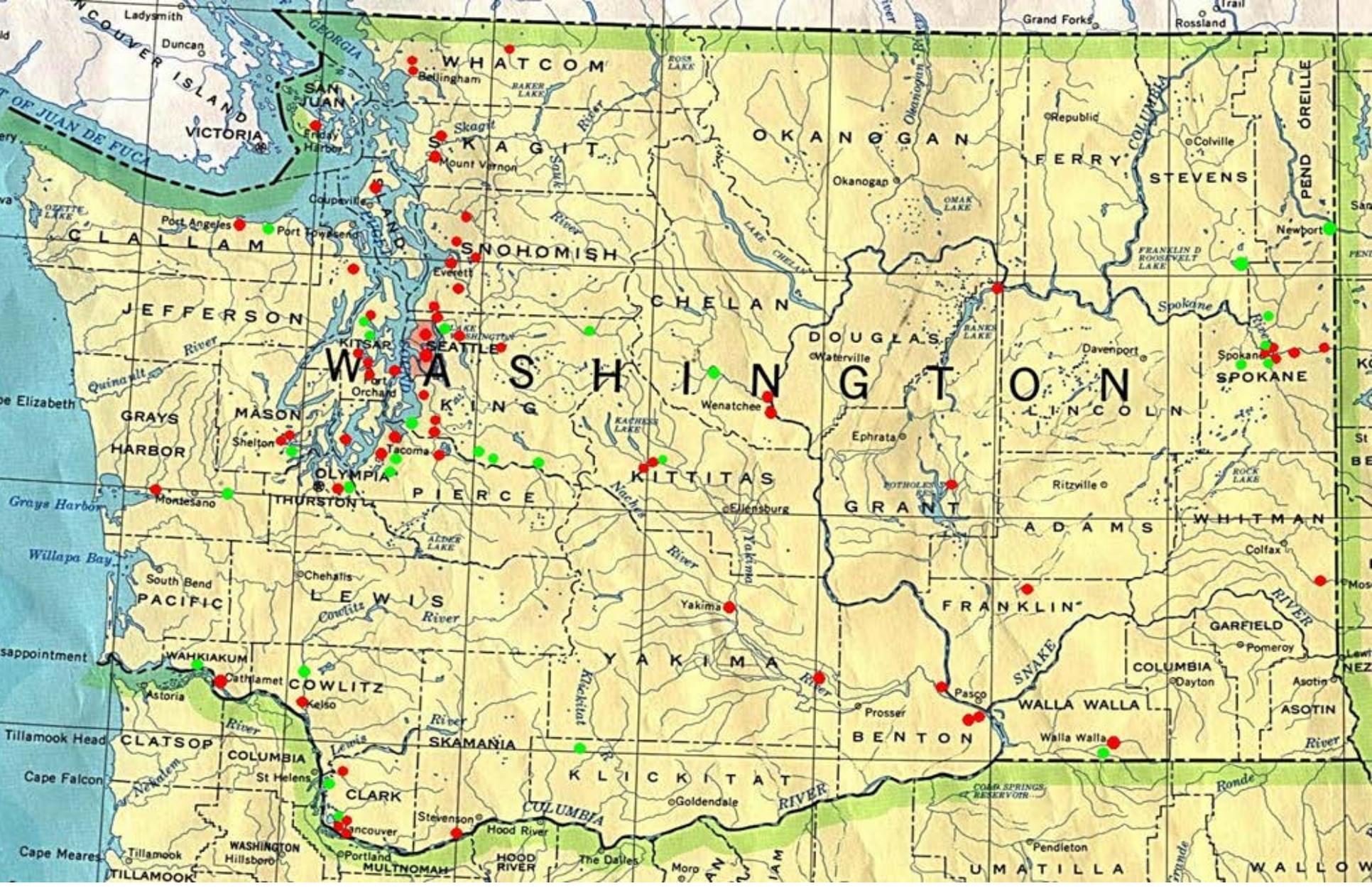
2 Sheets-Sheet 1



CLALLAM COUNTY PARKS, FAIR & FACILITIES

223 East 4th Street, Suite 7 Port Angeles, WA 98362





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2008

**41 COURSES IN STATE
32 PUBLIC (IN RED)
9 PRIVATE (IN GREEN)**

2010

**59 COURSES IN STATE (+18)
48 PUBLIC (+16)
11 PRIVATE (+2)**

2012

**90 COURSES IN STATE (+31)
63 PUBLIC (+15)
27 PRIVATE (+16)**

2013

**94 COURSES IN STATE (+4)
64 PUBLIC (+1)
30 PRIVATE (+3)**

What is Needed to Play?

Acreage – An 18-hole course usually consists of approximately **20 acres** of varied **topography**, and ideally should include both **open and treed spaces**.

Tees – The “**starting point**”, located at the beginning of each hole.

Holes or “Pins” – The “**target**”, typically made of a pole with a metal basket.

Discs – The “**clubs**”, which usually consist of three to four discs, are all that are required.

Signage – Directional signs and signs illustrating **hole dimensions, directions and orientation**.

Who Can Play?

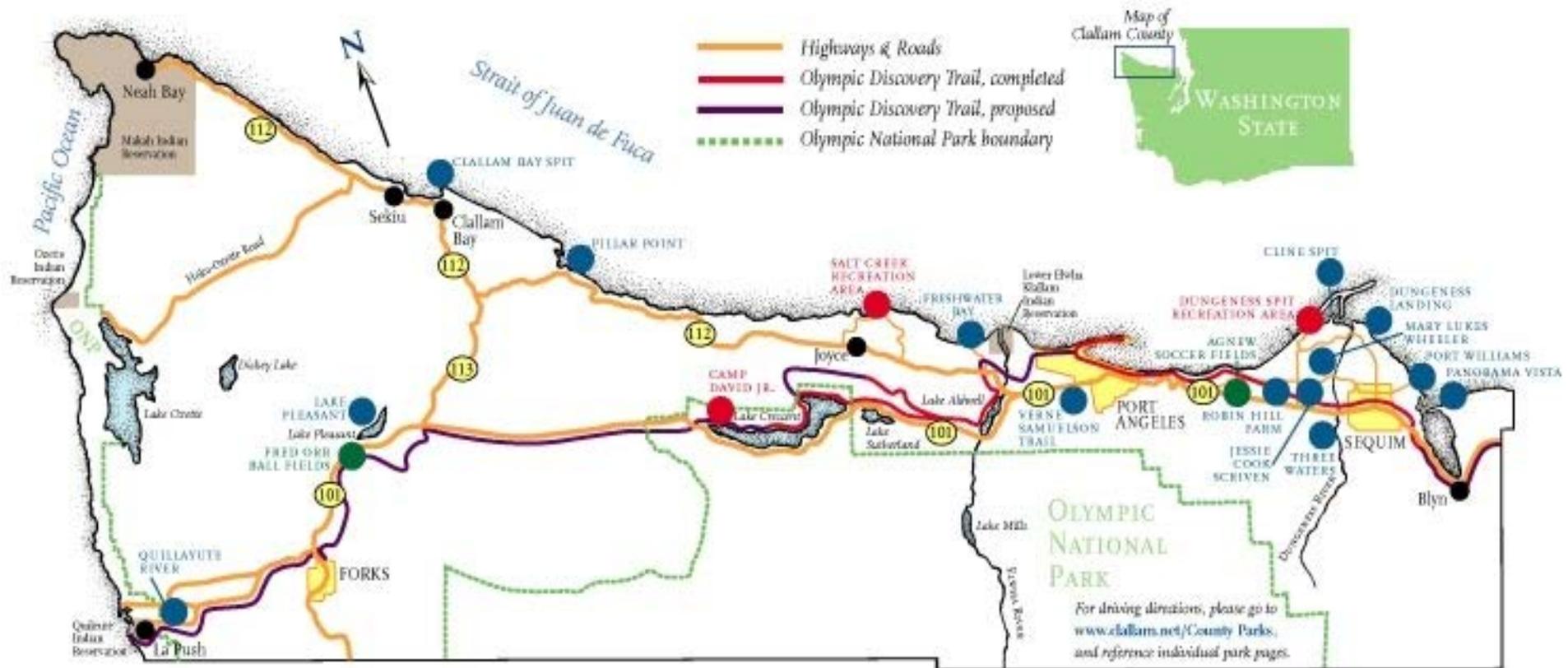
- Current and new Disc Golfers
- Families-Children, mothers and fathers, and also grandparents
- Youth and adult groups such as Boy Scouts, Churches, Campfire Girls, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, school groups, etc.
- College students

Who Can Play (cont'd)

- Disc Golf can be played by people of **nearly all ages**, from roughly 5 years of age and up, and virtually **all skill levels**.
- It is a sport that can be played with **friends** or **new friends** met on the course and provides a fun time for all, while also getting people **outside and exercising**.
- It is **inexpensive** to play. Discs may cost anywhere from **\$8 to \$20** based on personal preference and abilities.



Existing County Parks



Existing County Parks

1. Currently, there are **20 County Park** sites.
2. Of those, **17 are Day-Use** facilities and **3 are campgrounds** (Camp David Jr., Dungeness Recreation Area, and Salt Creek Recreation Area).
3. **Current Day-Use Areas** consist of the Agnew Soccer Fields, Clallam Bay Spit, Clallam Bay “West”, Cline Spit, Dungeness Landing, Fred Orr Ball fields, Freshwater Bay, Lake Pleasant, Mary Lukes Wheeler, Panorama Vista, Pillar Point, Port Williams, Quillayute River, Robin Hill Farm, Scriven, Three Waters, and Verne Samuelson Trail.

Potential County Park Sites

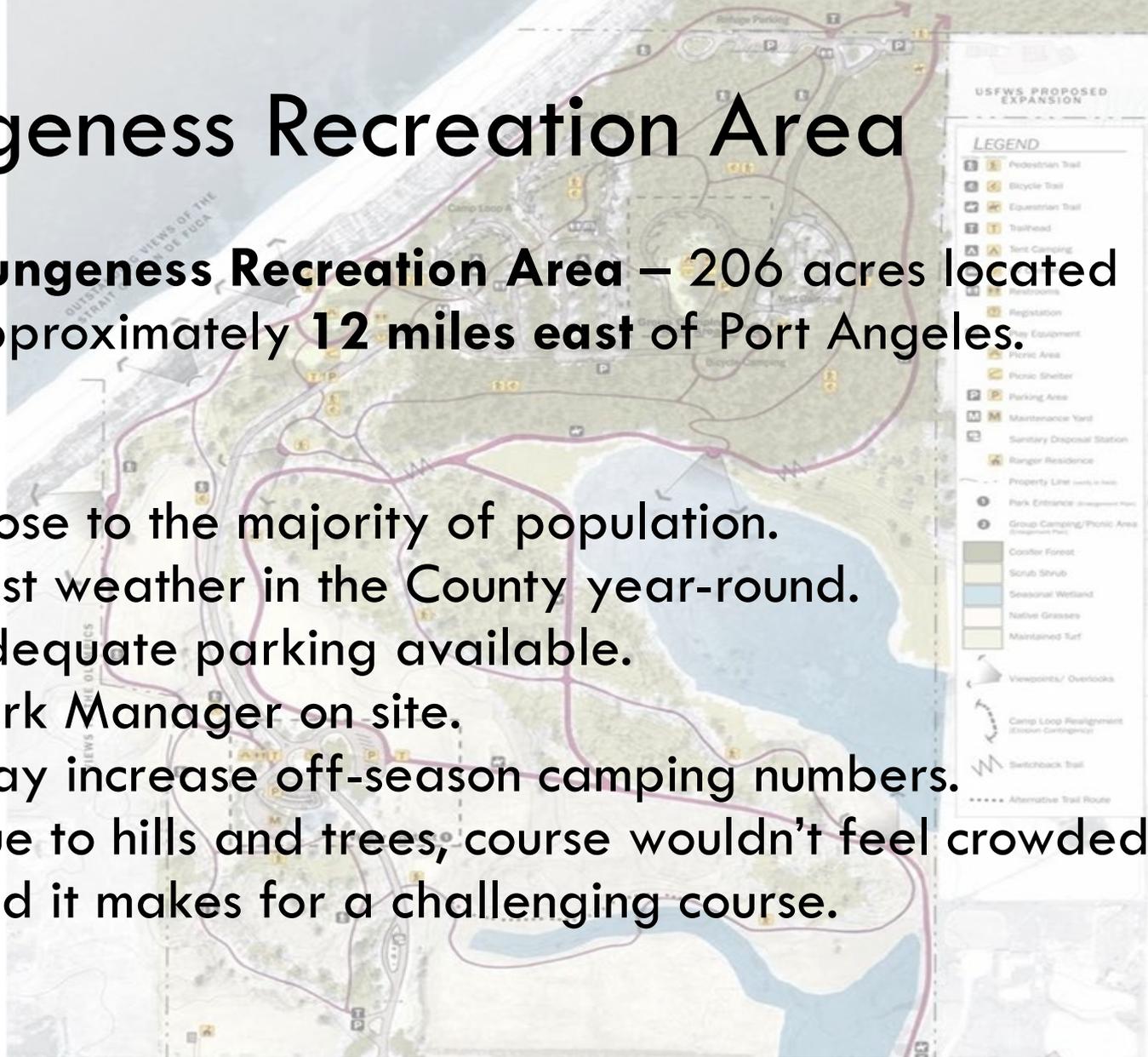
1. **Dungeness Recreation Area** – 206 acres
Space available for 18 holes.
2. **Robin Hill Farm County Park** – 195 acres
Space available for 18 holes. (Not an option)
3. **Salt Creek Recreation Area** – 198 acres
Space available for only 9 holes.

Dungeness Recreation Area

1. **Dungeness Recreation Area** – 206 acres located approximately **12 miles east of Port Angeles**.

Pros

- Close to the majority of population.
- Best weather in the County year-round.
- Adequate parking available.
- Park Manager on site.
- May increase off-season camping numbers.
- Due to hills and trees, course wouldn't feel crowded and it makes for a challenging course.

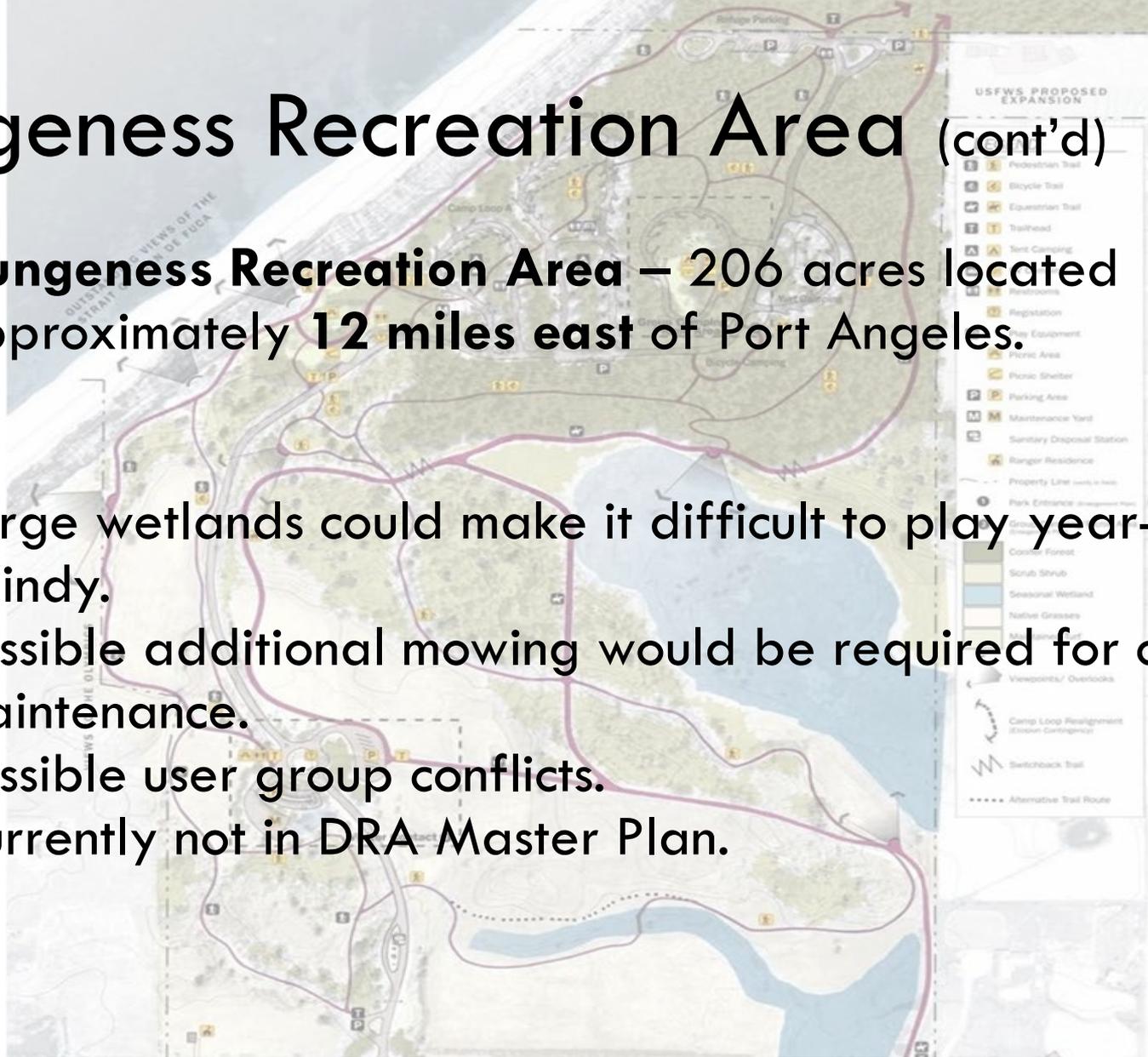


Dungeness Recreation Area (cont'd)

1. **Dungeness Recreation Area** – 206 acres located approximately **12 miles east** of Port Angeles.

Cons

- Large wetlands could make it difficult to play year-round.
- Windy.
- Possible additional mowing would be required for course maintenance.
- Possible user group conflicts.
- Currently not in DRA Master Plan.



Robin Hill Farm

2. **Robin Hill Farm County Park** – 195 acres located approximately **midway** between Sequim and Port Angeles. (Not an option)

Pros

- Large acreage available for course.
- Topography and trees make for a challenging course.
- Close to majority of population.
- Near Hwy 101 and bus service.
- Large buffer areas possible.
- Best weather in the County year-round.

Robin Hill Farm (cont'd)

2. **Robin Hill Farm County Park** – 195 acres located approximately **midway** between Sequim and Port Angeles. (Not an option)

In 2010, the BOCC voted to keep Disc Golf out of Robin Hill Farm.

Cons

- Major user group conflicts.
- Park is currently viewed as a “passive use” area and the addition of Disc Golf was not believed by some to meet the “passive” definition.

Salt Creek Recreation Area

3. **Salt Creek Recreation Area** – 198 acres located approximately **12 miles west** of Port Angeles.

Pros

- Much of park is developed for athletic activities.
- Adequate parking available.
- May increase off-season camping numbers.
- Park Manager on site.
- Topography and trees would make for a challenging course.

Salt Creek Recreation Area (Cont'd)

3. **Salt Creek Recreation Area** – 198 acres located approximately **12 miles west** of Port Angeles.

Cons

- Because of the existing developed areas there is only room for a small course.
- Possible user group conflicts.
- Most popular park, greater chance of user conflicts.
- Quite a distance from majority of the population.
- More wind and rain than other two parks.

Other County Sites

- 1. Remaining County Parks – All remaining existing County Parks are too small.**
- 2. Clallam County Fairgrounds – 40 acres**
Most of the site is **developed and used year-round.**
- 3. Existing County Properties – County owned properties were assessed and only a few generally meet the requirements.**

1.Thompson Road	40 acres	Good site
2.Kirner Road	38.46 acres	Road pit
3.Highway 101 (Old Oly. Hwy)	23.95 acres	Wetland
4.Herrick Road (Hwy. 112)	13.99 acres	Too small
5.Whitcomb-Diimmel Rd. (Forks)	15.74 acres	Too small

Non-County Sites

- 4. Reconveyance of D.N.R. Land – 70 acre Blue Mountain Road Property** is a possibility (former shooting range proposed site).

Anderson Road property was assessed, but it was not large enough and is divided almost in half by road.

- 5. Privately Owned –** Privately owned properties are likely available but were not assessed because of the cost of the land purchase.

Non-County Sites, (cont'd)

6. **City of Port Angeles – Lincoln Park**

A portion of this day use park currently has an 18-hole course.

7. **City of Sequim – Carrie Blake Park**

Fully developed.

8. **State Parks – Sequim Bay** offers minimal possibilities.

Potential Costs



Potential Costs



1. 4'x8'x4" concrete slab (18):	\$2,000
2. Metal chain pins (18):	\$7,200
3. Hole signage (18):	\$2,000
4. <u>Miscellaneous*</u> :	<u>\$2,500</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATE:	\$13,700

*Miscellaneous costs include fuel, site signage, Sani-Kan, materials, and other associated needs.

- Staff time/Equipment
- Volunteer time/Equipment

Cost Comparisons

- Compared to other park amenities costs, Disc Golf falls at the low end of total construction costs.

- 18 hole Disc Golf course \$13,700
- Playground \$55,000
- Tennis court \$50,000
- Restroom \$145,000
- Soccer field \$220,000
- Baseball field \$230,000
- Skate park \$500,000

Common Misconceptions

- **“A Disc Golf course looks like a normal golf course”** – In fact, a Disc Golf course is much smaller. The course is **measured in feet, not yards**. The width of a course is **20 to 40 feet** in a wooded area. Typically, a 3-4 foot wide path runs from tee to hole. A Disc Golf course needs **20 acres for 18 holes** and a golf course needs **140 to 200 acres**.
- **“Flying discs can kill”** – There is no documented evidence we could find to substantiate this claim.

Common Misconceptions (cont'd)

- **“Total disregard for the environment”** –
The Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) has official rules and flyers discouraging plant abuse and destruction. Penalties for such behavior can include disqualification and suspension. It is also specifically addressed in our Parks Policies & Procedures Manual.
- **“Disc Golf Courses are a blight on the community”** –
Over 3,000 courses currently exist in the US, with more being built every year. Other park and recreation boards have faced the same questions and found the sport to be a welcome addition.

“Pros” of Disc Golf?

- It is **good exercise** and a **low impact** recreation.
- It is **age, gender, family friendly** and interactive.
- **Cost to benefit** ratio is very good.
- It is played all **across the country** so skills can be used elsewhere.
- Courses are **low maintenance**
- Disc Golf can be played **year round**.
- People actually **plan vacations** around areas with courses.

“Pros” of Disc Golf? (cont’d)

- Does not place groups of users in one location.
- Cost for course **operation and maintenance is low**, with no structures or utilities.
- **Flexible time management**, don’t have to make an appointment or tee time.
- Could lead to the addition of a **new group of volunteers** in the parks.
- **No user group conflicts.**

“Cons” of Disc Golf?

- **“Off-line” throws** can cause foot traffic into wooded areas causing damage to vegetation.
- Discs can **mark trees** on impact.
- Discs can be **lost in trees** and other vegetation.
- Potential for **after-hours use**.
- Possibility of **near-misses or hits** by flying disc. Disc can cause physical injuries if impact is great enough.

County Parks Goals-Objectives

Chapter 1, Policy and Procedures Manual, states in part:

“The purpose of the Clallam County Parks and Recreation Board is to **maximize park and recreational opportunities** and thereby improve the quality of life for all residents of the County.”

“Every County resident has a need for recreational opportunities at various times and in varying amounts; the Board should **supply facilities and services which are impossible or difficult for most individuals or small groups to provide for themselves.**”

County Parks Goals-Objectives (cont'd)

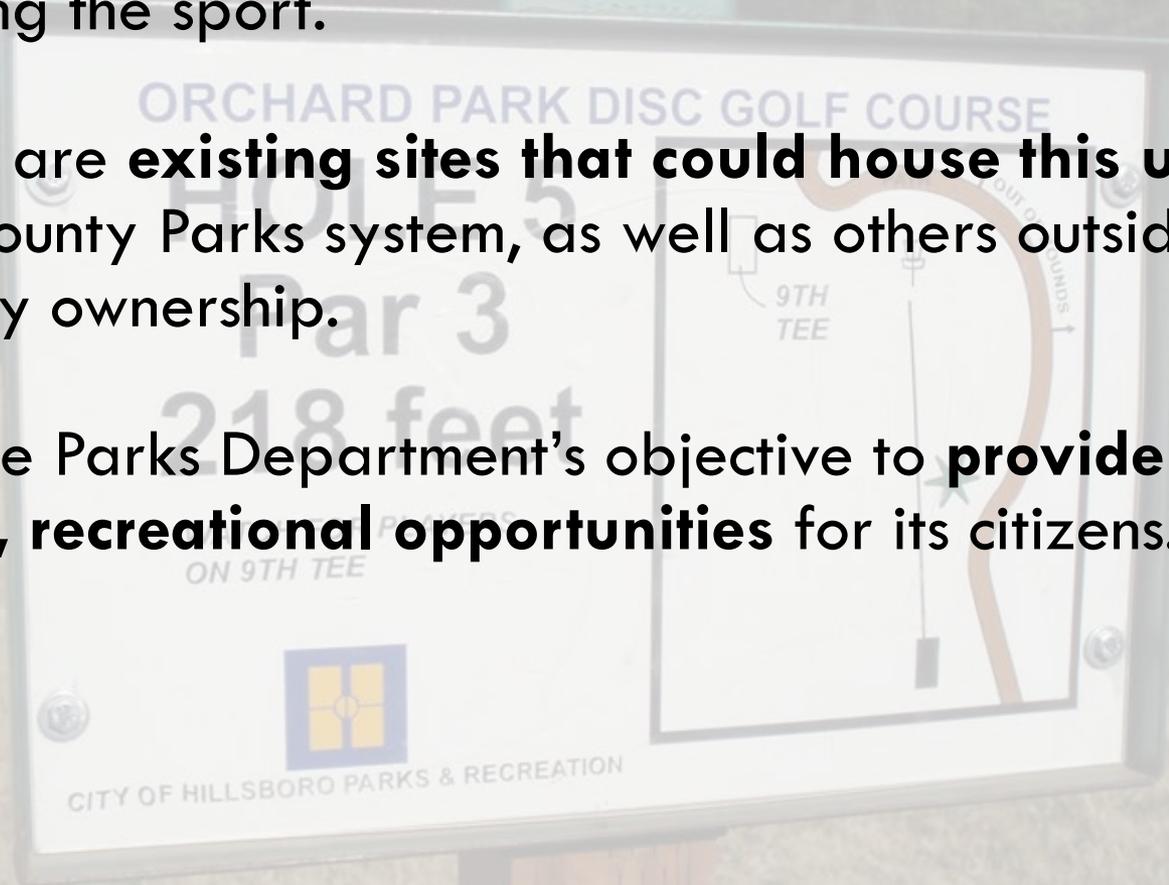
“To provide a **variety of recreation opportunities** for all citizens regardless of age, sex, race, or economic status.”

“To maintain full awareness of **environmental concerns** in the development and use of public lands and in the implementation of programs.”

“To adopt, support and communicate the philosophy that **recreation means any activity, voluntarily engaged in, which contributes to the refreshment, enjoyment, education or entertainment of the individual and which contributes to a sense of self worth.**”

Staff Considerations

1. Locally, there is a **growing number of people** actively playing the sport.
2. There are **existing sites that could house this use** in our County Parks system, as well as others outside of County ownership.
3. It is the Parks Department's objective to **provide safe, clean, recreational opportunities** for its citizens.



Staff Conclusions



Staff Conclusions

Based on the information staff has been able to gather on the sport of Disc Golf, it is our conclusion that **this activity meets the prescribed objectives of the Parks Board** as outlined in Chapter 1 of the Parks Policies & Procedures Manual.

Now to find a site...

Design Goals/Concepts

1. Design course to be **fun and challenging** for all users.
2. Design course to be **safe for players and non-players** who may pass near or through the course.
3. Design course with the multiple configurations for **beginners and those with advanced skills.**
4. Design a **well-balanced course** with a wide range of hole features and lengths.
5. Utilize **topography and available foliage** to the fullest.

Thompson Road Site

Vicinity Map 



History and Process:

1. 1928-County acquired property as Tax foreclosure
2. 1960-Treasurer deeded to the County
3. 1980-County sold timber to Merrill & Ring
4. 1987-County Quit Claimed to Road Department
5. 2004-Used for Jimmycomelately spoils site
6. 2013-Transfer of 20 acres to Parks Department
7. Current Zoning is R5 but would be rezoned to Park and Recreation (PR).

Thompson Road Site

Aerial View 



Thompson Road Site

Site visit-February 15, 2013



Thompson Road Site

Site access



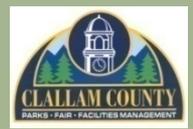
Thompson Road Site

View South



Thompson Road Site

Northwest hill





Thompson Road Site

Fir trees



Thompson Road Site

Southwest



Thompson Road Site

Vegetation



Thompson Road Site

View South





CLALLAM COUNTY PARKS • FAIR • FACILITIES

WELCOME ADMINISTRATION DAY USE PARKS OVERNIGHT CAMPING MAPS PARKS BOARD PARKS VOLUNTEERS LINKS

Welcome!

Clallam County manages parks in various parts of the County, primarily oriented around water. Camping, fishing, boating, hiking, horse riding, picnicking, scuba diving, beachcombing, and fairgrounds activities are some of the recreation opportunities available to visitors.

Contact Information:

For campsite reservation information, review the documents at the desired park, under [Overnight Camping](#). For additional reservation questions, please contact the desired park.

Dungeness Recreation Area: 360-683-5847 or [email](#)
Salt Creek Recreation Area: 360-928-3441 or [email](#)

The Clallam County Parks, Fair and Facilities Department business office is located in the historical Clallam County Courthouse building in Port Angeles, Washington. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.



Contact Information:

1. www.clallam.net/parks
2. parks@co.clallam.wa.us
3. Handouts on tables

[Current News](#)

[Proposed Sadie Creek Shooting Range](#)

[Parks Comprehensive Master Plan](#)

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Thank You!

