OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND RECREATION, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Open Space, Parks and Recreation component of this element is to classify, protect, and enhance open space lands and parks and to link them into a County-wide network. Because open space is essential to the rural character of Jefferson County,~~.~~ this~~eThis~~ element proposes strategies ~~and regulations~~ to achieve a balance between open space preservation and land development and use activities, consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act.

Recognizing the significance of parks and recreation to the quality of life in Jefferson County, ~~the~~this element develops strategies to meet the demand for these facilities and services, consistent with capital planning goals and policies and the *Jefferson County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan*.

The purpose of the Historic Preservation component of this element is to encourage the preservation of historic and prehistoric sites, structures and artifacts through designation criteria and review processes.

WASHINGTON STATE OPEN SPACE ACT

The Washington State Open Space Act (RCW 84.34.020) defines open space as any land area, the preservation of which, in its present use, would:

- Conserve or enhance natural, cultural or scenic resources;
- Protect streams, stream corridors, wetlands, natural shorelines and aquifers;
- Protect soil resources and unique or critical wildlife and native plant habitat;
- Promote conservation principles by example or by offering educational opportunities;
- Enhance the value of parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations and other open spaces;
- Enhance recreational opportunities; or
- Preserve historic and/or archaeological sites.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN

Because of the complexity of open space, parks, recreational and historic preservation issues, several other elements of the Plan analyze specific aspects of these issues and propose methods to address them. In order to avoid redundancy, these other elements are referenced where appropriate throughout the goals and policies and strategies sections. This supports and enhances the techniques that have been developed in other elements to create a comprehensive strategy.

~~The following table summarizes the open space, parks, recreational and historic preservation issues identified and addressed in other elements of the Plan:~~

~~Element~~	~~Discussion~~
~~1. Land Use/Rural~~	~~The majority of land in Jefferson County is open space. 77% of Jefferson County exists within the Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, and State Forestlands. Open space can be a primary land use, in such cases as parks and natural resource lands. It can also be complementary to other land uses, as in the case of large-lot residential districts and master planned resorts. Open space is an important component of the County's rural character. Jefferson County is made unique by its quiltwork of open space land uses, including large-lot residential districts, forestry, agriculture, and park land. Historic sites and structures are also integral components of rural character of the County and provide a link to the past development of the region.~~
~~2. Environment~~	~~Open space is fundamental for environmental protection and enhancement. New policies are developed for the preservation of the County's significant environmental features through the use of open space: critical areas, aquifer recharge areas, flood plains, and wildlife corridors and habitat.~~
~~3. Natural Resource LandsConservation~~	~~Forest and agricultural lands are traditional open space land uses that provide important visual, and ecological, and economic benefits. New policies are proposed to maintain and enhance these uses throughout the County.~~
~~4. Economic Development~~	~~Tourism and recreation are important and growing sectors of the County's economy. Jefferson County's open spacenatural environment and recreational opportunities draw thousands of visitors annually and contribute significantly to the County's economy.~~
~~6. Capital Facilities~~	~~Public Pparks are public facilities that require maintenance to Aan appropriate level of service for parks and recreation must be determined. Bbased upon the projected population growth for the County., a plan must be developed to maintain or achieve this level of service.~~
~~7. Transportation~~	~~Parks and Open Spaces are often destinations for recreation. Transportation to and from these facilities must be of an adequate ervice. Non-motorized transportation makes use of parks and trail systems as an alternative to traditional automotive travel and public transit.~~
~~8. Urban Growth Area~~	~~Urban Growth Areas (UGA) are designated under GMA as urban areas where infrastructure is available to concentrate growth. Rural Open Space is preserved by concentrating growth within UGAs and lowering the pressure for rural areas to develop. UGAs also provide Open Space within their borders with Greenbelts and Parks.~~

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Open spaces help conserve natural resources; protect environmentally sensitive areas; provide aesthetic, scenic and recreational benefits; and preserve cultural and historic resources. Therefore, the preservation of open space is important for the County's residents and visitors.

The proposed strategy includes the following steps:

1. Open Space Definition and Identification
2. Proposing planning goals and policies designed to:
   - Protect and preserve the natural environment including air, water, soil, vegetation and wildlife habitat, as well as other significant ecosystem elements;
   - Integrate adequate open space into rural development projects in order to provide amenities and help foster community identity;
   - Protect and manage natural resources for long-term productive use, including buffering natural resource lands from adjacent non-resource related land uses; and
   - With the cooperation of public and private entities encourage~~create~~ a County-wide system of interconnected open spaces, including forested lands, farmland, parks, trails, waterways, meadows and tree stands, critical areas, and natural resource lands both in public and private ownership.

In order to promote consistency and provide certainty in the application of the planning goals and policies, the first step in this strategy is to define open space as it pertains to Jefferson County.

Open space is a broad term used to describe different types of lands that have important values and provide benefits to the public. Generally, open space lands include natural and environmentally critical areas such as wetlands; aquifer recharge areas; lakes and streams; designated parks and trails; and natural resource lands, such as agricultural and forest lands. Based upon the characteristics of the land and its uses, a variety of open space lands are recognized in Jefferson County:

Open Space Lands	Description
1. Pristine Open Space	This category consists of undisturbed open space, with no history of active land use or development. These areas may contain significant environmentally sensitive areas or wildlife habitat. Examples include old-growth forests or tidal marshes.
2. Resource Open Space	These are public and private open lands that are actively used for natural resource production, including lands designated as being of long-term commercial significance. Examples include farms, forests, and shellfish beds.
3. Low Density Rural Residential Open Space	Residential densities throughout the County (i.e., large lot residential zoning) promote a pattern of open space because the lot coverage and resulting visual impact is minimal in relation to the size of the parcel.
4. Public and Preserved Open Space	These areas consist of National, State, and County Parks and linkages, such as greenbelts and conservation easements. This is a multiple use category of open space, including both active and passive uses.
5. Active Open Space	This is open space designed for higher intensity or active recreational uses. These lands consist of a wide variety of public and private spaces, such as trails, marinas, golf courses, playfields, and campgrounds.

Many of these lands are connected within ecological systems that have unique functions and attributes. Taken together, these areas form the distinctive mosaic of open space found in the County. This "quilt-work" of open space is integral to the rural character of Jefferson County.

As a result of population growth and associated development in the County, significant areas of open space have been converted to residential uses. This change in the rural landscape has resulted in the fragmentation of open space areas and wildlife corridors, and the depletion of important resource lands, including farms and forests. Conflicts often have been created between residents and resource industries as residential development has encroached upon previously undeveloped lands. If developed areas continue to expand in the existing pattern, additional open spaces and natural areas will be converted to other uses.

To plan adequately for the provision of open space, priority areas need to be identified. The majority of land that should receive priority attention in terms of open space designation within Jefferson County includes most environmentally sensitive areas including stream and drainage corridors. Other areas that should receive priority attention consist of those currently facing development pressure (i.e., actual building activity or land division).

The map on Page 6-11 illustrates some priority areas for open space designation as determined by the Jefferson Land Trust (identified in light blue). The primary areas consist of: the North Quimper Peninsula Corridor area connecting the Cape George area to Fort Worden; an open space area extending from Tibbals Lake south through the valley adjacent to Jacob Miller Road; the Chimacum Creek watershed; and the headwaters of Discovery, Quilcene and Tarboo Bays.

PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGY

Jefferson County contains many park and recreational assets (see map on page 6-13). Approximately three-fourths of the 1,808 square miles of land area in the County is in public ownership. The two largest publicly owned areas are the Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest, comprising 539,000 and 166,000 acres, respectively.

~~Of the one hundred and seventeen (117) recreational areas found in the County, thirty four (34) are locally managed: twenty (20) by Jefferson County, seven (7) by the City of Port Townsend, and seven (7) by the Port of Port Townsend.~~There are 30 parks managed by Jefferson County, 23 managed by the City of Port Townsend, and nine managed by the Port of Port Townsend. State and Federal agencies provide 46 sites for outdoor recreational activity, such as camping or fishing in existing State and National Parks and Forests. The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department conducts organized recreational activities and instruction that include baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, hiking, swimming, exercise, bicycling, and sailing.

The demand for County P~~p~~ark and recreational facilities comes predominantly from the following groups:

- Jefferson County residents;
- Tourists en route to other recreational areas, including the Olympic National Park and National Forest, Clallam County recreational facilities, Vancouver Island and other scenic areas in Canada; and
- Recreational enthusiasts including hikers, bicyclists, campers, and beachcombers who visit the many State parks, such as Fort Worden and Fort Flagler, as well as the many County parks.

~~The Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan estimates the need and demand for parks and recreation areas and facilities in the County. This element of the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan provides need and location criteria as well as proposes means for eliminating existing deficiencies in the County's system of parks and recreation areas. However, because the Growth Management Act defines recreation facilities as a component of necessary public facilities, the Capital Facilities Element will reflect the established demand and proposed planning policies in respect to parks and recreation.~~

The Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan

The purpose of the Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan is to identify how park, recreation and open space needs should be addressed and implemented, for the benefit of both County residents and visitors alike. In order to achieve this, the Parks Comprehensive Plan defines a set of policies and proposals adopted by the various local jurisdictions in the County. The goals of the planning process are as follows:

- To reflect the desires and needs of Jefferson County citizens as expressed through community involvement by survey and public meetings and workshops;
- To define specific projects and project goals;
- To coordinate County programs and services through cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies;
- To aid in developing~~, correlating,~~ and coordinating official regulations and guidelines; and
- To obtain funding for parks and recreational needs and projects.

The Plan addresses the location and available services of all existing park and recreation facilities, the results of the public survey and public meetings, and specific capital improvement projects. The Plan also makes recommendations on implementing identified park and recreation goals.

Because the Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan is the adopted parks and recreation policy document for Jefferson County, its conclusions and recommendations were used as a starting point and prioritization for the goals and policies of this Element. Future revisions of the Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan will ensure its compliance with the County's Comprehensive Plan, including the goals, policies, and strategies of both this element and the Capital Facilities Element.

~~Two successful projects that have responded to the high level of community interest in additional park and recreational opportunities in Jefferson County are the H.J. Carroll Park and the Larry Scott Memorial Park Trail.~~

The H.J. Carroll Park was constructed in Chimacum on a 40-acre parcel that was the former site of the Anderson Gravel Pit. The purpose of the park was to provide a regional multi-purpose recreational facility. Due to its scope, this will be a phased project. ~~The first phase has provided a sports field for football, baseball and soccer. Trails, restrooms and picnic facilities have also been constructed.~~ The park currently contains a playground area, picnic shelter, basketball courts, a BMX bicycle track, and associated restroom and concession facilities.

Later phases envision the development of an additional ~~-~~picnic ~~shelter~~pavilion, aquatic center, sports fields and ~~-~~playground area, environmental learning center, and facilities for multi-purpose recreational activities including volleyball courts, ~~basketball courts~~ and a skateboard area.

This ambitious County Park project constituted one of the largest County Park projects undertaken to date and was made possible through a partnership of public and private interests. The completion of this facility will take a number of years, but the end result will provide great benefit to the residents of Jefferson County for many years to come.

The vision for the Larry Scott Memorial Trail is to provide future generations with a safe, non-motorized recreation and transportation corridor connecting Port Townsend with rural Jefferson County. As proposed, the route extends approximately seven miles from the Port of Port Townsend Boat Haven to

Four Corners Road. The long-term vision is to extend the trail to Discovery Bay and eventually to points further west.

The first phase of this project involved the construction of a two-mile segment extending from the Port of Port Townsend to Mill Road. This initial phase included the gravel surfacing of the pedestrian trail, installing regulatory and interpretive signage, fencing, and the construction of a trail terminus area with seating, an information kiosk, landscaping, and an informal stairway to the beach. Later phases will extend the trail system to Four Corners.

This community-based trail project is made possible through the assistance of grants from the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation and the federally funded Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act. When completed, the Larry Scott Memorial Trail will provide the citizens of the County with a safe and viable alternative to motorized transit.
Jefferson County, in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, will evaluate and attempt to secure sites for motorized off road vehicles that perhaps have been displaced by the development of the Larry Scott Memorial Trail.

Level of Service (LOS) Analysis

The Capital Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan makes use of the quantitative data developed in the Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan to assess the current level of parks and recreation services in the County. The existing level of service (LOS) is then compared to the average level of parks and recreation services for other Washington local government jurisdictions. The existing level of service is also compared to the results of the 1991 Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) survey on parks and recreation services in Washington counties with populations of 18,000 to 70,000.

This level of service analysis is performed for regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, trails, and open space assets in Jefferson County.

- Regional Parks: Regional parks range in size from 1 to 350 acres and provide diversified active and passive uses. The 1996 LOS for regional parks in Jefferson County is 18 acres per 1,000 population. The LOS recommended in the Capital Facilities Element for regional parks is 11.5 acres per 1,000 population. Although this is a reduction of thirty six percent (36%) from the 1996 LOS, it greatly exceeds comparable averages. This reduction reflects a Department of Public Works proposed policy that supports significant development of, and improvement to, currently County-owned regional park acreage in lieu of acquisition of additional regional park acreage during the next twenty years. This will allow construction of the sports fields and recreation facilities that were identified as priorities by the Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan.

- Community Parks: Community parks range in size from less than 1 acre to just over 13 acres and generally serve two or more neighborhoods. The 1996 LOS for community parks in Jefferson County was 1.30 acres per 1,000 population. The LOS recommended in the Capital Facilities Element for community parks is 0.51 acres per 1,000 population. This is a reduction of sixty one percent (61%) from the 1996 LOS. This reduction reflects a Department of Public Works proposed policy that supports significant development of, and improvement to, currently County-owned community park acreage in lieu of acquisition of additional community park acreage during the next twenty years. This will allow construction of the sports fields and recreation facilities that were identified as priorities by the Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan.

- Neighborhood Parks: Neighborhood parks range in size from 0.26 acres to 1.9 acres and typically serve only one neighborhood. The 1996 LOS for neighborhood parks in Jefferson County was 0.24 acres per 1,000 population. The LOS recommended in the Capital Facilities Element for neighborhood parks is 0.14 acres per 1,000 population. This LOS, although decreased, will allow for acquisition of additional neighborhood park acreage in response to population growth. As recommended by the Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan, the locations of new neighborhood parks will correspond with and reflect the patterns of population growth in the County.

- Trails: Trails provide a system of separated cross-country linkages that connect major environmental assets, park and recreation facilities, community centers, and historical features. The 1996 LOS for trails in Jefferson County was 0.38 miles per 1,000 population. The LOS recommended in the Capital Facilities Element for trails is 0.52 miles per 1,000 population. This is a significant increase from the 1996 LOS. The County's commitment to an expanded trail system reflects the recommendations of the Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan.

- Open Space: The open space category of parks includes areas that are considered to be passive open space or environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands, steep slopes, and wildlife habitat areas. The 1996 LOS for open space in Jefferson County was 1.9 acres per 1,000 population. The LOS recommended in the Capital Facilities Element for open space is 1.5 acres per 1,000 population. This small decrease will continue to allow the County to respond to the need for additional open space.

These recommended levels of service will allow the County to develop appropriate financing plans for park and recreation facility acquisition and development over the twenty-year comprehensive planning period.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Wildlife corridors provide a safe habitat for animal and plant life to exist and flourish. Wildlife corridors maintain or reestablish links between important wildlife habitat areas that may be interrupted due to development activities. As Jefferson County continues to experience growth and development, important wildlife areas are being "cut off" from the system of wildlife habitats making it more difficult for wildlife to pursue natural lifecycle patterns.

In a very simple sense, wildlife corridors provide a protected pathway along which native wildlife species can move in relative security between the high quality habitats of the area. In many instances it is best to coordinate the location of these corridors with existing natural drainage corridors which have naturally served in this capacity. The important functions provided by wildlife corridors include: providing safe passage for native wildlife; helping to maintain a natural flood water control system; protecting existing habitat and water quality; enhancing property values; and ensuring that future generations realize the benefits derived from maintaining a balanced natural system.

Clearly, multiple goals may be accomplished by well planned and located wildlife corridors. Retaining and protecting drainage corridors along with their associated buffers will become increasingly important as development progresses (i.e., as impermeable surfaces continue to increase), and the functions of these areas for water retention, water quality enhancement and aquifer recharge will be diminished without adequate protection. These areas, in addition to serving important functions to wildlife, are the first and best element in storm water handling and treatment. Overbuilding near floodplains or reducing the size of our drainage corridors will result in the need for expensive infrastructure to treat storm water runoff and to prevent flooding and associated damage. Over the last decade, ~~Recent~~ winter storms and subsequent

snow melt and runoff have provided dramatic testimony to the need to keep drainage corridors and floodplains open and free of inappropriate development and densities.

The Jefferson Land Trust, a non-profit organization providing options for landowners wishing to preserve certain values of their property, is pursuing a system of open spaces, greenbelts and wildlife corridors throughout the County. Landowners work with the Land Trust, or other non-profit groups, when they wish to permanently protect the ecological, agricultural, scenic, historic or recreational qualities of their land. The most common way for a landowner to protect lands for these purposes is through the granting of a perpetual conservation easement or outright donation of land to the Land Trust.

By establishing a cooperative relationship with the Land Trust, Jefferson County will be able to develop a comprehensive open space program that will help ensure the natural functions of the environment are protected while affording wildlife abundant natural areas and protecting the public health, safety and welfare of the County's residents. It is now widely recognized that development can be compatible with wildlife when we plan for it.

HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC CULTURAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION STRATEGY

Introduction

Prior to the arrival of European settlers and explorers, the area that is now Jefferson County was inhabited by several Native American groups, including the Chemakum, Hoh, Klallam, Makah, Quileute, Quinault, and Twana tribes. Permanent village sites and activity areas were concentrated near ocean and riparian resources for food access and mobility. These groups were hunters and gatherers, using canoes to fish, hunt whales and seals, and collect shellfish. They also hunted land mammals and birds, collected food and medicinal plants, and extensively used forest resources, creating most of their material culture from wood, other botanical material, and bone.

Evidence of prehistoric occupation and activities can be found in much of Jefferson County, especially in archaeological sites along the coasts and rivers. Specialized activity sites, such as work camps and cedar cutting areas can be found inland. Sites of religious importance are known through oral traditions and early documents. The primacy of these First People is preserved in place names throughout the County. The Hoh and Quinault still occupy tribal reservation land in the west end of Jefferson County.

The Olympic Peninsula coastline was first explored in 1592 by the Greek Apostolos Valerianos, who was sailing for Spain under the name Juan de Fuca. However, two centuries passed before Europeans returned in earnest. Spain's Manuel Quimper arrived in 1790, and was followed in 1792 by England's George Vancouver. The first settlement was established at Port Townsend in 1851, and Jefferson County boundaries were established in 1852.

Port Townsend became the county seat and customs port for Washington Territory. Vast timber tracts and other natural resources rapidly attracted more settlers. Port Discovery Bay was the site of a large sawmill, as were the communities of Port Ludlow and Port Hadlock. Shipping, shipbuilding, canneries, mining, and farming communities developed. The communities of Irondale, Quilcene, Brinnon, and Nordland were established by the 1880s.

Our communities have evolved or declined in response to a century of economic changes and resource consumption. The tangible evidence of this history still is all around us, in sites both above and below the ground. However, increasing development pressures threaten to erase many sites. Systematic surveys of these cultural resources are almost nonexistent and documentation is very incomplete.

The preservation of Jefferson County's prehistoric and historic cultural resources is important for many reasons. These resources help us retain community values; provide for continuity over time; and contribute to a sense of place. In order to protect our cultural resources for future generations, it is important now to set goals and policies designed to identify, designate, preserve, and adaptively reuse irreplaceable remnants of our past.

Our communities have evolved or declined in response to a century of economic changes and resource consumption. The tangible evidence of this history still is all around us, in sites both above and below the ground. However, increasing development pressures threaten to erase many sites. Systematic surveys of these cultural resources are almost nonexistent and documentation is very incomplete.

Process for the Development of the Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Strategy

The first phase of the Jefferson County Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Strategy is the identification and evaluation of historical resources. This four step process involves the following elements:

1. Conduct a systematic survey and establish an inventory of existing cultural resources;
2. Using existing criteria, evaluate the cultural resources to determine the significance of the resource and thereby determine its designation;
3. Nominate sites, structures, and artifacts of cultural significance to appropriate national, state, and local registers; and,
4. Establish and maintain a system for periodic assessment and reevaluation of designated cultural resources to determine current status and to identify changing preservation requirements and potential impacts.

The second phase of the Jefferson County Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Strategy is the development and implementation of a preservation program. There are multiple approaches to this process, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Develop standards for the design of projects with potential impacts to designated cultural resources to ensure that new development is compatible;
- Encourage appropriate, adaptive reuse of selected cultural resources, with a variety of financial incentives, including below market rate loans for rehabilitation and tax incentives for restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation;
- Establish a method of resolving conflicts that may arise between preservation requirements and development activities; and,
- Coordinate cooperative efforts of national, state, and local organizations and individuals interested in promoting cultural resource preservation, heritage tourism, and in developing associated economic opportunities.

The efficient and effective accomplishment of this strategy requires the regular attention of personnel and access to resources not currently available to Jefferson County. Currently, there is little coordination or cooperation among the various entities concerned with historic preservation in the County, and limited resources are consumed by overlapping efforts. The County should combine efforts with the City of Port Townsend, Jefferson County Historical Society and other interested groups to meet local historic preservation goals.

In 2003, ~~T~~the City of Port Townsend received certification under the Certified Local Government (CLG) program offered by the Washington State Office of Archaeology and ~~has a~~ Historic Preservation

~~Committee in place~~. ~~However, the function of t~~The Committee ~~has been limited to~~ focuses on ~~-~~design review for modification of structures in the Historic Districts. A Comprehensive Preservation Plan has not been developed.

~~One approach is to take part in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program offered by the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. With considerable technical assistance from the State, a CLG develops and manages its local preservation program and handles many of its own historic preservation issues, including direct nomination of cultural resources to national and state registers. In addition, CLG status would qualify the County for historic preservation grants to assist with the maintenance of the County preservation program.~~

~~The City of Port Townsend currently is applying for CLG status. In collaboration with the City and with the assistance of the Jefferson County Historical Society, the County's participation in this state program would provide for technical assistance and for state historic preservation grants. Additional funding sources for programs delineated by a Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan would be available through grant applications by the Jefferson County Historical Society, a non-profit, charitable organization.~~

PAGE 11

COLORED MAP: LANDS IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE CORRIDORS

PAGE 13

COLOR MAP: PARKS, RECREATION AREA, PRESERVES, CONSERVATION EASEMENTS, ANDOPEN SPACE LANDS

PAGE 15

COLORED MAP: PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS – WESTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

GOALS AND POLICIES

The goals outlined below provide a general direction for the maintenance and enhancement of Jefferson County's open space lands, parks and recreation facilities, and historic resources. These goals are based on the requirements of the Growth Management Act, which outlines specific criteria for open space lands, parks and recreation facilities, and historic resources, and on the issues and opportunities identified by County residents.

As in all elements of this Plan, the goals are general statements while policies are more specific. Goals state the general growth management intentions of the County while the policies are the guidelines for implementation. Strategies identify the specific projects or programs that will be used to implement the policies.

The Open Space; Parks and Recreation; and Historic Preservation policies ~~will provide~~provides the basis for ~~revising~~ the development standards contained in the Jefferson County ~~Interim Zoning Ordinance~~ Unified Development Code and other regulations.

OPEN SPACE

GOAL:

OSG 1.0 **Preserve and enhance the existing open space lands.**

POLICIES:

OSP 1.1 Develop and promote a comprehensive strategy of development regulations, incentives, public/private partnerships, land acquisition programs, and an identification process for specific open spaces to be preserved or enhanced.

OSP 1.2 Evaluate proposed development projects to preserve and protect the following open space areas:

a. Corridors linking habitat, wetland and riparian zones;
b. Habitat areas for species of concern;
c. Shoreline areas;
d. Areas containing significant trees;
e. Pastures and farmlands;
f. Forested ridges and hilltops (if they can be viewed from public areas and public roads off-site);
g. Naturally occurring meadows and open areas;
h. Existing trails and trail systems open to the public; and,
i. Constructed open areas, and other altered natural areas (examples include: clear-cut timber areas, cleared fields, land formerly used for resource ~~extraction,~~extraction and recreational areas).

OSP 1.3 Investigate and consider a variety of techniques to preserve and protect open space including public acquisition and clustered development.

OSP 1.4 Encourage public enrollment in the current-use or preferential tax assessment (RCW 84.34) for open space lands.

OSP 1.5 Pursue public acquisition of potential parks, critical wildlife areas, and other open space lands by utilizing a variety of funding mechanisms.

OSP 1.6 Support efforts by ~~the Jefferson Land Trust and other organizations~~public and non-profit organizations to secure property for open space, wildlife habitat corridors and a County-wide trail system.

GOAL:

OSG 2.0 **Identify and develop an interconnected County-wide network of naturally occurring and planned open spaces.**

POLICIES:

OSP 2.1 Design and site open space areas to aid in the establishment of a County-wide system of open spaces connected by wildlife habitat corridors and trails.

OSP 2.2 Establish open space network linkages throughout the County which connect UGAs and Rural Centers, schools and park or recreation sites.

OSP 2.3 Locate parks or open space so as to provide for a variety of outdoor activities or to take advantage of natural processes (i.e., wetlands and tidal actions), unique landscape features (i.e., cliffs and bluffs), or outstanding natural amenities.

OSP 2.4 Promote the inclusion of open space in development proposals by~~and develop criteria~~ encouraging and promoting residential clustering and design. ~~for identifying types (and intensity) of open space in development proposals.~~

OSP 2.5 Ensure that the development of new parks adequately addresses the open space objectives of both the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan and the Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan.

OSP 2.6 Incorporate the active and proposed trail systems identified in the Jefferson County Parks Comprehensive Plan as well as those identified in community plans, into the open space network.

OSP 2.7 Identify and improve existing and proposed recreation and scenic bicycle, equestrian, and walking routes.

OSP 2.8 Consider acquisition of out-of-use railroad rights-of-way to preserve these resources as future transportation corridors such as bikeways, pedestrian or equestrian trials, and roadways.

OSP 2.9 Pursue and encourage public involvement in open space planning through a variety of methods including advisory boards, workshops, and news releases.

OSP 2.10 ~~Coordinate efforts with the City of Port Townsend and the Jefferson Land Trust to designate open space and trail connections through the unincorporated portion of the potential FUGA (i.e., consistent with Chapter 36.70A.160 RCW).~~

GOAL:

OSG 3.0 **Encourage the multiple use of open spaces and wildlife corridors**

POLICIES:

OSP 3.1 Protect environmentally critical open spaces, such as drainage corridors or floodplains, by associating them with appropriate recreational uses.

OSP 3.2 Review development proposals to evaluate opportunities for multiple use of proposed open space. The open space should be of a quality, quantity, and configuration which ensures that a suitable portion of the site is designated for conservation, passive recreation, and, where appropriate, active recreation. "Open space" refers to either the formal designation of areas as "open space" or the retention of areas within lots or parcels that will be managed under private ownership as "open" or undeveloped uses.

OSP 3.3 Jefferson County, based on information developed and provided by organizations involved in the preservation of natural wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors, has identified areas throughout the County which will be prioritized as areas targeted to be preserved and maintained as wildlife habitats and corridors. These areas are identified and illustrated on the Open Space and recreation map contained in this Plan.

PARKS AND RECREATION

GOAL:

OSG 4.0 **Develop and maintain public park and recreational facilities that are responsive to the needs and interests of Jefferson County residents and visitors.**

POLICIES:

OSP 4.1 Ensure that the Park and Recreation Plan recommends feasible funding levels for acquisition, maintenance and operations, within an equitable framework of taxation that reflects prudent fiscal management.

OSP 4.2 Ensure that the natural features of proposed parks and recreation areas are utilized.

OSP 4.3 Develop recreational opportunities such that:

a. Existing recreational areas and facilities are not overburdened;
b. Recreational facilities are planned to support areas designated for future residential development; and
c. Adequate infrastructure is available.

OSP 4.4 Ensure that the location, type and amount of park and recreation facilities are consistent with the needs and desires of citizens in the area, and that they accommodate a diversity of age, interest and ability groups.

OSP 4.5 Pursue and encourage public involvement in parks and recreation planning through advisory boards, workshops, and news releases.

OSP 4.6 Establish guidelines to anticipate future demand in the acquisition and development of parks, recreational land and facilities.

OSP 4.7 Ensure that parks and recreation facilities along marine shores, lakes and streams are compatible with the goals, policies, and performance standards of the Jefferson County Shoreline Management Master Program.

OSP 4.8 Require developers of new residential subdivisions to provide land, facilities, or in-lieu-of payments for neighborhood parks and recreation, when appropriate.

OSP 4.9 Encourage the provision of public parks and private parks concurrent with development.

OSP 4.10 Promote cooperative efforts, joint project development, and long range planning with other public agencies and the private sector to create and maintain open space, parks and recreational areas.

OSP 4.10 ~~Ensure that the Park and Recreation Plan recommends feasible funding levels for acquisition, maintenance and operations within an equitable framework of taxation, and reflects prudent fiscal management.~~

GOAL:

OSG 5.0 **Establish and maintain a public County-wide trail system that meets the population needs and open space objectives of Jefferson County.**

POLICIES:

OSP 5.1 Coordinate the county trails system with other existing or planned public and/or private trail systems, and vehicular and pedestrian systems.

OSP 5.2 Establish trails based upon a variety of criteria, including relation to population centers and proximity to demand, and ensure that they represent local interests in terms of location and trail uses.

OSP 5.3 Establish trails based upon location of recreational resources and, where possible, connect parks, playgrounds, open space, schools, areas of natural, cultural and/or historical interest. ~~and Rural Centers.~~

~~**OSP 5.4** Develop a budget for a comprehensive trails system which recommends feasible funding levels for acquisition, maintenance and operations within an equitable framework of taxation, and which reflects prudent fiscal management.~~

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

GOAL:

OSG 6.0 **Identify and preserve historic and prehistoric sites, structures, Native American settlements, and artifacts that have value as significant cultural resources.**

POLICIES:

OSP 6.1 Support the efforts of the Jefferson County Historical Society and other interested groups, to:

a. Identify, evaluate and designate historic and prehistoric sites, structures, and artifacts of cultural significance for inclusion on appropriate national, state, and/or local registers;
b. Develop and implement a preservation program for the on-going protection and preservation of designated cultural resources;
c. Develop and implement an education program to increase awareness, appreciation, and voluntary preservation of cultural resources; and
d. Develop methods to link cultural resource preservation with tourism and local and tribal economic development strategies.

OSP 6.2 Ensure that new development located adjacent to structures and sites of archeological and/or historical significance is compatible with the character of the site.

STRATEGIES

A. OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Jefferson County's strategy for the management of open spaces focuses on identifying, preserving, acquiring and linking open spaces in order to provide a wide variety of multiple-use opportunities to both residents and visitors.

Action Items

1. Develop streamlined procedures for replatting and reviewing plats and short plats where the lots in the original plat are aggregated and replatted in order to achieve better design and meet the goals of this plan. Consider vacating unimproved plats created prior to 1937 and requiring they be replatted to meet current allowed densities. (Corresponding Goal: 1.0)

2. ~~A p~~Partnerships with the non-profit agencies ~~Jefferson Land Trust~~ should be developed for the preservation of open space through fee-simple purchase and conservation easements. (Corresponding Goal: 1.0)

~~3.As a means of preserving open space, the County should encourage shall develop a Flexible Lot Design Subdivision process which would permit cluster development, and provide specific open space guidelines and standards. The Flexible Lot Design Subdivision shall might consider and include as appropriate:~~

~~4.~~

- ~~Consideration for dedication of open space for public use;~~
- ~~Protection of critical areas;~~
- ~~Preservation of significant trees;~~
- ~~Creative site design including placement of structures, circulation systems, and utilities that minimize land alteration (i.e., a variety of lot sizes, building types, scale and design to reduce the bulk of structures);~~
- ~~Pedestrian orientation, including trails and walking paths;~~
- ~~Adequate provision of public facilities and amenities;~~
- ~~Preservation of natural features;~~
- ~~Preservation or creation of farmland;~~
- ~~Limited impervious surface/area of site disturbance;~~
- ~~Public waterfront access and/or view;~~
- ~~Establishment of perimeter buffers: from building site to building site, and from the proposed project to adjacent land uses or roadways;~~
- ~~Use of the most suitable soils for individual, on-site septic systems;~~
- ~~Preservation of scenic views;~~
- ~~Interconnection, where possible, with open space areas located on adjacent properties; and,~~
- ~~Sharing of a single community well or water system (if feasible).~~

~~(Corresponding Goal: 1.0)~~

3. The County should encourage the utilization of residential clustering through the Planned Rural Residential Development (PRRD) process. The County should further refine a process which promotes the preservation of open spaces through flexible design. (Corresponding Goal: 1.0).

4. Criteria for the designation of open space areas in developments should consider providing connections with adjoining open space areas, offering visual relief for on and off-site, enhancing habitat values, and, where appropriate, allowing for recreational opportunities.
(Corresponding Goal: 1.0)

5. Implementing ordinances (Critical Areas, Subdivision, Parks & Recreation) should promote multiple use of open space and wildlife corridors. (Corresponding Goal: 3.0)

6. Include provisions for a variety of innovative techniques to preserve open space and protect environmentally critical areas and water resources. These techniques shall include, but not be limited to:

   - Open space tax incentives;
   - Cluster development
   - Transfer and purchase of development rights;
   - Limiting the amount of lot coverage;
   - Conservation easements;
   - Landowner compacts;
   - Trail systems, and
   - Streamlining the application process for current use assessment

   (Corresponding Goal: 1.0)

7. Promote and encourage the preservation of undeveloped open space through the acquisition ofproperty by local agencies or land trusts, trades with private or governmental landowners, and incentives for developers. (Corresponding Goals: 1.0, 2.0)

8. Develop a strategy utilizing a number of funding mechanisms to acquire open space lands, including, but not limited to:

   - Property tax levies;
   - General obligation bonds and limited general obligation bonds;
   - Intergovernmental funds (i.e., state grants);
   - Foundation moneys;
   - A 1/4 percent tax for capital facilities (RCW 82.46.010);
   - Second 1/4 percent tax for capital facilities (RCW 82.46.035);
   - "Tree tax" of up to one percent for acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas (RCW 82.46.070);
   - Creation of Parks and Recreation Districts (RCW 36.69);
   - Conservation futures funding (RCW 84.34)
   - Fee-simple purchase;
   - Less than fee-simple purchase (i.e., purchase of development rights and conservation easements);
   - Voluntary donations with tax incentives;
   - Land transfers or exchanges; and
   - Real estate excise tax.

   (Corresponding Goals: 1.0, 2.0)

9. Continue to implement the Open Space Tax Program and associated Public Benefit Rating System and consider establishing a Land Acquisition Rating System for open space. A special program for the acquisition and development of marine waterfront properties (boat launch facilities and waterfront trail and interpretive systems should be included.
(Corresponding Goal: 1.0)

B. PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGY

Jefferson County remains committed to providing quality recreational facilities and opportunities to both residents and visitors through the identification, provision and upkeep of recreational facilities and trail systems.

Action Items

1. Develop a budget for park and recreation facilities which recommends feasible funding levels for acquisition, maintenance and operations within an equitable framework of taxation, and which reflects prudent fiscal management. (Corresponding Goal: 4.0)

2. Develop a Jefferson County Comprehensive Trails Plan with standards for design, construction and maintenance of the County's trail system. (Corresponding Goal: 5.0)

C. HISTORIC PRESERVATION STRATEGY

Jefferson County's strategy for historic preservation is to support and promote its rich history and native culture by developing a historic preservation plan and working to receive Certified Local Government (CLG) status.

Action Items

1. Develop a Jefferson County Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan in partnership with the Jefferson County Historical Society. This plan is to include programs to inventory, evaluate, preserve and protect the integrity of significant resources, to mitigate impacts and resolve conflicts with incompatible development activities, and to promote the integration of these resources into educational, tourism, and economic development strategies.
(Corresponding Goal: 6.0)

2. Support a Historic Preservation Plan that recommends feasible funding levels for the necessary programs within an equitable framework of taxation and which reflects prudent fiscal management. (Corresponding Goal: 6.0)

3. Obtain Certified Local Government (CLG) status through the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. (Corresponding Goal: 6.0)