

### South Whidbey Community Park Categories

- Home
- Features and Events
- Timeline
- Document Library
- Media
- Testimonials
- Contributors
- Volunteers
- Directions

### Browse Other Collections

- Saratoga Woods
- South Whidbey Community Park

Search

## South Whidbey Community Park



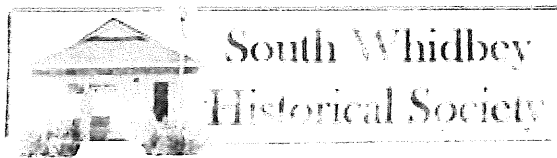
**The South Whidbey Community Park** is a collage of sports fields, playgrounds, trails, and forest that spans 83 acres. More amazing than the massiveness of the park itself, though, is that it was constructed solely by the members of the community without the monetary aid of the federal government. The inhabitants of South Whidbey Island pooled their resources, time, and ambition to create this place where all could play, socialize, and grow together.

Tim Scriven, a resident of South Whidbey, was the first to envision the construction of a community center in 1978. As he enthusiastically promoted his idea to anyone who listened, community favor for the project grew. Residents donated their time, labor, equipment, expertise, and funds to make the vision of a community center a reality. Even people outside of South Whidbey contributed to the project. Washington State Senator Jack Metcalf publicly gave his support. The US Navy dispatched a unit of men to help clear the site of stumps and debris. The community spirit and volunteerism surrounding the construction of the community center was so palpable that even Ronald Reagan, President of the United States at the time, recognized the scope and sacrifice of the project. Through all of the efforts and resiliency of the residents of South Whidbey, the South Whidbey Community Park was created.

Placeholder for video

What started out as one man's simple dream had now become a reality. Since the first day the park officially opened it has continued to grow to meet the needs of South Whidbey as its population grew. It started out with a few playing fields for local sports teams but now the community park boasts a total of four baseball diamonds, five soccer fields, two playgrounds with adjacent covered picnic areas, South Whidbey's only skate park, over four miles of wooded hiking trails, as well as the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation facility which hosts a variety of activities and events.

With so much to offer the community park has been able to attract a significant amount of off-island patrons. The park hosted the Vietnam Moving Wall Memorial bringing in thousand of visitors, the Deception Pass Music Festival, annual running marathon events, the Island Music Festival, and many other concert and festivities. The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District hopes to continue to attract volunteers and park patrons and has plans for the future of the community park which includes a recreation center with an indoor swimming pool. It was the spirit of volunteerism that helped create the park and this same spirit will help the park endure for many generations to come.



## Features and Events

### South Whidbey Community Park Categories

[Home](#)

[Features and Events](#)

[Timeline](#)

[Document Library](#)

[Media](#)

[Testimonials](#)

[Contributors](#)

[Volunteers](#)

[Directions](#)

### Browse Other Collections

[Saratoga Woods](#)

[South Whidbey  
Community Park](#)

### Park Features

Covering over 80 acres of land, the South Whidbey Community Park offers several features for active enjoyment. It contains a multitude of sports fields. There are approximately four baseball fields and five soccer fields that can be utilized by competitive and casual park patrons alike. A newly renovated skate park is available to all skateboarding, bmx, and other extreme sports enthusiasts. There are two playgrounds for children. Miles of trails wind through surrounding forest, providing excellent exercise and leisurely access to nature. Picnic shelters and restrooms are also conveniently accessible.

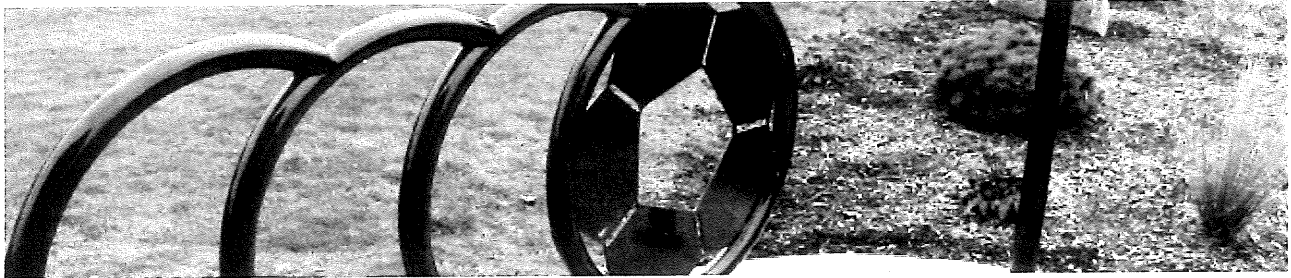
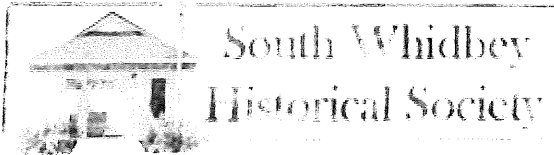
For more information on these features see the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation web page.

Reservations for park facilities can be made at the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation web page.

### Park Events

The South Whidbey Community Park hosts several athletic events, music concerts, youth camps, soccer and baseball tournaments for local schools, and is now a home for ultimate Frisbee enthusiasts. One of the most popular annual athletic events is the Whidbey Island Triathlon which is held in August. For music lovers there is the annual Island Music Festival which is a summer concert series for all ages. The Parks and Rec. facility at the park also hosts several classes year round for many subjects.

Information on upcoming park events, and online registration, can be found at the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation website. The SW Parks & Rec. office would also like to remind local residents that they are always seeking volunteers to help coordinate and run events at the community park. Volunteer information can be found here.



## South Whidbey Community Park Categories

Home

Features and Events

Timeline

Document Library

Media

Testimonials

Contributors

Volunteers

Directions

## Browse Other Collections

Saratoga Woods

South Whidbey Community Park

Search

## Timeline

Jump to: 1980 | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005

- **1978 to 1980:** Tim Scriven shares his dream with community members and gains support for the project.
- **1980:**
  - **November:** Ad Hoc committee, consisting of Bruce Anderson, Tony Shults, Bruce Groom, Scott Mickelson, Wally Lehman, Jim Porter, Tim Scriven, Steve Shapiro, and Mike Shelton, is organized by Tim Scriven to purchase land for the Community Center.
- **1981:**
  - **January:** Articles of Incorporation are filed to create a non-profit organization called South Whidbey Recreation. The board of directors consisted of Tim Scriven (President), Jim Porter (Secretary), Steve Shapiro (Treasurer), and Bruce Anderson and Tony Shults (Members). Sigfried Semeru Director of Recreation for the city of Bellevue and Dave Ravet Athletic Director of Parks and Recreation for Bellevue consulted by Tim Scriven for location of center.
  - **February:** Property, bordering the future site of South Whidbey High School, belonging to Bud and Margaret Waterman is determined to be the most ideal site for the community center. Tim Scriven meets with Bud Waterman and arranges for the property to be purchased for \$80,000, to be paid over a two month period. Mike Shelton conducts soil samples of the site.
  - **April:** In 45 days-36 couples had donated \$250 a piece to purchase the land, and Wally and Betty Lehman had donated \$2000. Scott Mickelson surveyed land and found that there was enough timber to pay for the site. This was reported to Waterman, and Orv Tveit of Weyerhaeuser company surveyed the land to verify the claim. By clear cutting 70% of the land, \$120,000 could be raised to pay for the option. The option agreement was set aside, Waterman cut the timber, and then donated the land to South Whidbey Recreation. The land transfer completed by Jack and Jenny Barrett of Pacific Northwest Escrow service and Island Title Co. and was coordinated by Tim Scriven of Marine Land Reality in Freeland.
- **June of 1981 to February 1982:** Western Washington University students conduct a recreational preferences survey of South Whidbey for South Whidbey Recreation. A book was published based on their findings and contributed to the project.

Jack Siebert conducts a topographical survey at 2 ft contour intervals. Jack served as chief surveyor with assistance from Chris Barker, John Condon, Mike Denker, Scott McNeil, Tim Scriven, and Bob Shipek.

- **1982:**
  - **March:** Initial bulldozing is conducted at the site. Ross Jacobson, of Keller, Jacobson, Hole, Jackson, and Snodgrass law firm of Bellevue, convinced Island County to waive a 10,000 dollar fee for back forestation taxes. Thanks to Dave Thiele, Assistant District Attorney. A dance is held at the American Legion to raise funds.
  - **April:** Useless Bay Golf Course hosted an informational dinner for the community center and potential investors. Speakers included Senator Jack Metcalf of Langley, Ross Jacobson, Lee Springgate of Bellevue, Steve Shapiro, and Cary Bozeman of Bellevue.
  - **May:** Bob Moch donated soil analysis for 43 acre site.
  - **July:** Arthur and Dora Gabelein donated a 20ft easement and South Whidbey School District donates 40ft paved easement to the project.
  - **August:** Orange Frosties were sold at the county fair to raise funds. Organized by Tim and Georgia Scriven. Groundbreaking of athletic fields and, site cleanup and burning, are conducted.
  - **September:** Jogging trail is constructed. Roughed out by Dave Anderson and Doug Alderdice, and completed by Bob Moch.
  - **November:** Informational book made by Sue Ellen, Tim Scriven, and Tony Shults for interested community members and investors.
- **1983:** Site planning and permits, from Island County, are pursued by Joss Thomas, Hanford Thayer, and Tim Roehl.
  - **Summer:** A 4'x8' sign on Maxwell road, and a 16'x8' sign are carved by Judy McVay and erected at Community Center site.
  - **Fall:** Folks March and Fun Run are held to raise funds for the community center.
  - **November:** The South Whidbey Park and Recreation District is formed with a board of directors consisting of Dave Anderson, Al Good, Jim Porter, Steve Shapiro, and Judy Yeakel. Orange Frosties are sold at the county fair to raise funds.
- **1984:**
  - **January:** South Whidbey Recreation is dissolved and its assets are given to the new South Whidbey Park and Recreation District.
  - **June:** Tim Scriven, Dorothy Gray, and Dorothy McCann make an informal request to the Naval Air Station in Oak Harbor for help clearing the land at the community center site. Al Good followed these with a formal request on behalf of South Whidbey Park and Recreation District. The station agrees to help and dispatches CB Unit 47 to clear 25 acres of stump and slash at the South Whidbey Community Center Site.
  - **August:** Orange Frosties are sold at the county fair to raise funds. Coordinated by Anna Unum.

Back to top

- **1985:**
  - **March:** Banner Days work party is held. Equipment that was donated bear banners of the non-profit organizations that sponsored them. Burning of stumps and slash, and other tasks are carried out by volunteers. A raffle fundraiser is held with the prize being a logging truck full of firewood. Logs were donated by Margaret Waterman and the truck by Bradley Construction. The raffle was organized by Jeannie Babik. A well was drilled by Joe Lehman at his own cost and he donated \$500.
  - **August:** Herb Hunt donates a conceptual drawing of community center. First application to the Seattle Mariners for the \$40,000 Boeing-Mariners Jr. Athletic Field grant is submitted. Project coordinators were Tim Scriven and Craig Dill. Approximately 500 South Whidbey residents attended the Mariners baseball game as Betty and Wally Lehman and Margaret Waterman were honored at the opening ceremonies of the game. Michael Healy threw out the first pitch and Heather Bradley sang the National Anthem.
- **1986:**
  - **January:** The South Whidbey Progressive Club, a non-profit organization established to serve as a booster club for improvements to the South Whidbey Community Center, is formed.

- **March:** Hanford Thayer donates his engineering services and delivers a grading plan for the excavation of the lower athletic field. Later Hanford donated grading plans for the upper athletic field and one other field. All along Hanford Thayer played a critical role in providing a wide variety of engineering services. Second work party is held featuring a large number of bulldozers, dump trucks, backhoes, etc. 10,000 yards of soil is excavated on the lower athletic field. Ladonna Thorsen flew her airplane over the property and Harvey Friesen, Jr. Took pictures of the project. Project manager, Tim Scriven.
  - **May:** 8,000 yards of soil is excavated on the upper athletic field. Project manager, Randy Bradley.
  - **June:** South Whidbey Community Center garage sale/auction is held to raise funds. Organizers Patty McGlenn and Georgia Scriven.
  - **August:** Robin Flem sent out 150 letters to businesses and individuals in the community soliciting funds on behalf of the South Whidbey Progressive Club. Approximately \$500 in contributions was received as a result. Project coordinator Tim Scriven.
  - **Fall:** A power pole was purchased by Jim Scriven and installed by Jim and Buck Walters at the west end of the Gabelein easement. The request for this was made by Tim Scriven on behalf of the South Whidbey Progressive Club. The pool and recreation committee organizes to plan the swimming pool and recreation building.
- **Summer 1986 to 1987:** The cedar log picnic shelter was constructed. Project coordinator, Tim Scriven. Project managers, Dave Johnson and Rick Collins. The well house was constructed. Project coordinator, Tim Scriven. Special thanks to SW Lions Club. The SW Kiwanis Club donated \$660 toward the purchase of shakes for the log picnic shelter and the wellhouse at the request of Tim Scriven on behalf of the SW Progressive Club.

At all of the major work parties food was donated by various restaurants and grocery stores in the South Whidbey community. Other businesses donated needed items and cash for the purchase of items. In most cases Tim and Georgia Scriven participated in rounding up the food and preparing it. Most of the money raised for the community center projects was through the efforts of Tim Scriven on behalf of the South Whidbey Progressive Club.

150 children and adults joined together in removing by hand, rocks and debris from the upper and lower athletic fields and the picnic area. Jim Hansen served as project manager at the request of Tim Scriven on behalf of the South Whidbey Progressive Club.

- **1987:**

- **Spring:** Site of the playground area is prepared. Stump and slash removal by Jim Scriven at the request of Tim Scriven on behalf of the South Whidbey Progressive Club.
- **May:** South Whidbey Progressive Club receives \$1,200 from the Seattle Mariners at the request of Tim Scriven. 2nd South Whidbey Progressive Club garage sale to benefit the South Whidbey Community Center is held. Project coordinators patty McGlenn and Georgia Scriven.
- **Summer:** 2nd grant application to the Seattle Mariners is submitted. Project coordinators Vickie Scott and Sandy Gage.
  - South Whidbey Progressive Club holds a raffle to raise funds. Prizes included a fireplace insert (Rich's Woodstoves & Spas), logging truck load of firewood (Bradley Construction), \$60 certificate for dinner, Giberson's sweatshirt & hat set (Georgia and Tim Scriven), and a \$25 gift certificate (Hanson's Building Supply).
  - Soroptomists wine tasting party is held. Proceeds donated to the South Whidbey Progressive Club at the request of Virginia Bloom.
  - Herb Hunt donated the plans for the community center restroom building. The request was made by Hanford Thayer who with Tom Roehl convinced the county to provide a building permit. Bob Moch donated the plans for the design of the drain field. Jim Scriven donated the use of his bulldozer and excavated the area for the restroom building. Whidbey Concrete Construction builds the forms for the restroom building slab and the slab is poured. Ken Bloom project coordinator.

- Randy and Myrna Bradley donated the pump for the community center well. Jim and Terry Lehman donated their time and materials to install the pump for the well.
  - The lower athletic field is named Lehman field in honor of Wally and Betty Lehman-who donated countless hours to many community projects over the years.
  - Orange frosties booth was set up at Choochokum in Langley. It was a joint effort of P.A.R.C. and the South Whidbey Progressive Club. Project coordinator Georgia Scriven.
  - Jim Odle and Steve White constructed the rock drinking fountain.
  - Scott Lincoln and Steve Carter put in the plumbing for the restroom building at the request of Tim Scriven. Project coordinator Hanford Thayer.
- **November:** The South Whidbey park and recreation district received voter approval of a levy providing \$100,000 per year for 5 years. Special thanks to Terry Snyder, Nancy Tomaso and Dave Anderson.
- **1988:**
    - **Fall:** Arthur and Dora Gabelein donated \$50 to purchase a gate which is placed at the entrance of the community center property to keep people from dumping garbage on the site and from driving cars on the athletic fields. The gate was erected by Tim Scriven and Chuck Hosmer. Greg's Rent-a-Tool donated the use of a post hole driller and a lock for the gate.

Back to top

- **1991:** Castle Playground built by Leathers & Associates based out of Ithaca, N.Y.
- **1996:** South Whidbey Parks and Recreation Board elects its first permanent president.
- **1997:** Vietnam Moving Wall Memorial comes to South Whidbey's Community Park in Langley.
- **1999:** In December, the Island county Board of Commissioners puts through grant for SWPR to acquire an additional 40 acres of land for the community park.
- **2002:** Deception Pass Music Festival was held at the Community Park after the event was cancelled at the Deception Pass State Park.
  - **February:** Geoduck Music Festival is held (organized by Jay Nehf) as a benefit for cerebral palsy. It set a precedent for allowing overnight RV parking and raised ideas for developing RV parking at the community park for future events which would possibly increase attendance.
  - **April:** New soccer fields open part of the Langely Road sports complex for little league (6,7,8 yrs) soccer players.
  - **May:** Ribbon cutting ceremony for the sports complex on Langley Road for first day of play. "The site, which was developed over the past year, features 20 acres of grass in three full-size soccer fields — four if squeezed — and a dirt field for winter play. A paved parking lot is striped for 118 cars, and includes a gravel overflow area for another 30 vehicles. Restroom facilities will be constructed later this summer." "Commissioner Jim Porter said the new fields, which the parks district purchased in 2000 for \$330,000, is something that was needed." Total project cost with improvements is estimated at 1.2 million. "Parks Director Suzette Hart honored a number of people who worked to make the new facility a reality, including soccer mom and South Whidbey Youth Soccer board member Linda Cotton. Cotton was the chairwoman of the 2000 bond campaign that funded the new facility.

Hart said the project, which was in the works for several years, would not have happened without support from South Whidbey resident Ray Gabelein Jr. "Ray lobbied hard for this area to become soccer fields," she said. "It was his vision and dream that made sure it became a reality." Gabelein, who formerly served as vice president of the South Whidbey Little League, said he saw a need for additional playfields because of the limited space at the park."
- **October:** Pat McVay works on the chair sculpture for Jesse Travis.
- **December:** Skate park opens early for local skateboarders, in-line skaters and bicyclists. The \$150,000 facility has was met with a lot of enthusiams from local students and parents. "The park was built with

money raised by Rotary of South Whidbey and through a state outdoor recreation grant."

- **2003:** Memorial chair sculpture is unveiled in early 2003 in memory of Jessie Travis. A community fund raising project was headed up by Victory Lee Schouten as well as friends and family of Travis raised funds for a memorial sculpture and decided to commission Pat McVay to carve the sculpture out of wood. He also offered a lifetime of repair and maintenance of the piece should anything happen to it as part of the deal. Travis was killed in a car accident and the memorial will be placed in the fields where he spent a lot of time after school in the hope that other children will see it and remember to drive safe.

- **June:** Annual Chum Run held at community park.

- **June 25 2003** Entrance sign for Community Park is received from local sculptor Pat McVay. A similar sign was placed near the Langley Road entrance to the park. "The parks sign committee was made up of commissioner Paul Arand and former commissioner Tara Barlean. They selected McVay and worked with the Island County for approval of the finished product. Cost of the two signs together was \$10,000.

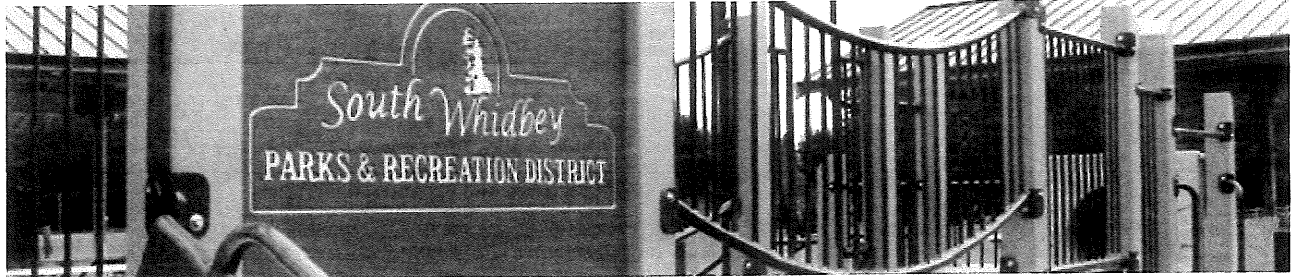
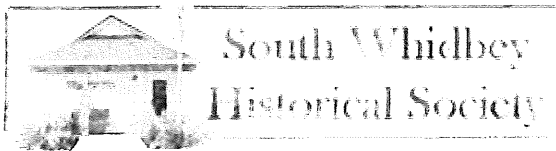
The sign committee began meeting more than two years ago. Other artists who submitted designs but the committee went with McVay in part because the committee's two members liked his other carvings."

- **Summer:** Free concert series hosted at the SW Community Park.

- **2005:** Island Music Festival held during the summer.
- **2007:** Island Music Festival held during the summer.
- **2008:** In March, Bond approved (1.6 million) to repair and improve the Castle Rock playground at the Community Park.

[Back to top](#)





**South Whidbey Community  
Park Categories**

[Home](#)

[Features and Events](#)

[Timeline](#)

[Document Library](#)

[Media](#)

[Testimonials](#)

[Contributors](#)

[Volunteers](#)

[Directions](#)

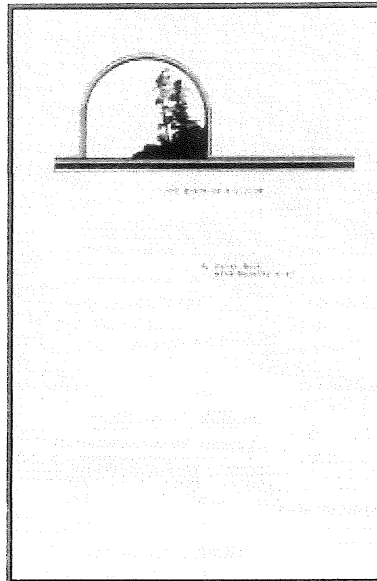
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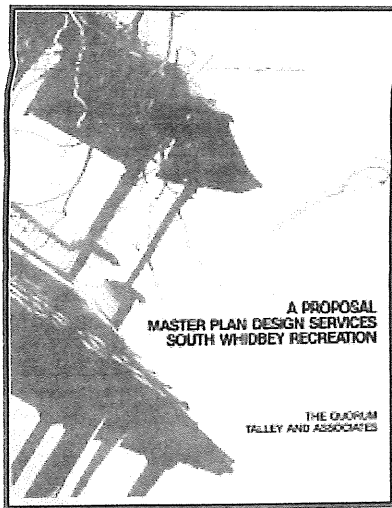
[South Whidbey  
Community Park](#)

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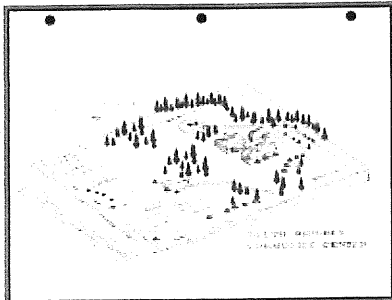
The following files are scanned copies of historical documents pertaining to the construction and history of the South Whidbey Community Park. The hard copies of these documents are in the possession of the South Whidbey Historical Society.



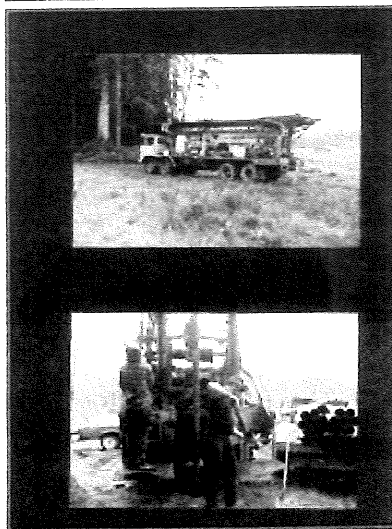
The Birth of a Vision



Master Plan



Document Binder

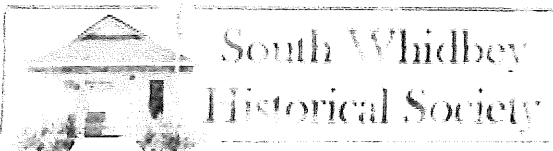


SW Progressive Club Scrapbook



Community Park Scrapbook

Finding Aid



### South Whidbey Community Park Categories

Home

Features and Events

Timeline

Document Library

Media

Testimonials

Contributors

Volunteers

Directions

### Browse Other Collections

Saratoga Woods

South Whidbey Community Park

### Contributors

### Endorsements

- Ronald Reagan, former U.S. President
- Governor Spellman
- Sheriff Dick Medina
- Island County Prosecuting Attorney David Thiele
- Senator Henry Jackson
- Lee Springate, Director of Recreation and Parks, City of Bellevue
- Kerry Anderson, Director of Recreation and Parks, City of Issaquah

### Local Organizations

- Bradley Construction
- B-W Well Drilling
- Caseys
- Clinton Food Mart
- Greenbank Construction
- Help Inc
- Island Meat
- Island Sand and Gravel
- Island Theater
- Jim's Construction
- Kiwanis Club
- Krieg Construction
- L And T Associates
- Lions Club
- Mark a Pak
- Nichols Brothers Boat Builders, Inc.
- Payless
- Peppers
- Pioneer Bank
- Pioneer Savings
- Ross Jacobson Legal Services
- Rotary Club
- Skippers
- Soroptomist Club
- South Whidbey Brokers Associated
- South Whidbey Progressive Club
- South Whidbey School District
- Star Stop
- Tara Property
- U.S. Navy C-B Unit 117 of Whidbey Island Naval Air Station

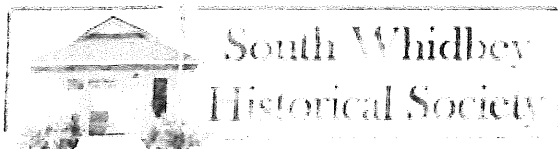
- Universal Life Church
- Western Washington University
- Whidbey Island Bank
- Whidbey Island Bank
- Whidbey Pebble Pushers

## Individuals

- Al Good
- Al Holte
- Al Kittleson
- Albert Gabelein
- Anne Primavera
- Art Kinskie
- Arthur Gabelein
- Becky Galvin
- Berry Brown
- Betty Lehman
- Betty M Harris
- Beverly Wills
- Bill Baller
- Bill Barr
- Bill Hanson
- Bill Thorsen
- Boaz Backus
- Bob Aley
- Bob Grebil
- Bob Keys
- Bob Moch
- Bob Sandal
- Bob Shipek
- Bob Snyder
- Boyd Benson
- Bruce Anderson
- Bruce Groom
- Carol McNeil
- Carole Hanson
- Carrie Porter
- Charlie Dunham
- Chris Anderson
- Chris Barker
- Cindy Buchanan
- Cindy Groom
- Clay Green
- Craig Dill
- Dana Brown
- Dave Anderson
- Debbie Valis
- Debra Smith
- Delores Cobb
- Demaris Whitehead
- Dennis Smith
- Dianne Delmonte
- Dick Scriven
- Donna Hanson
- Donna Moch
- Dora Gabelein
- Dorothy Gray
- Doug Kelly
- Earl Smith
- Ed Butler
- Edwin Murrya
- Emmet Kramer
- Ernie Leiske
- Everett Peterson
- Father Royer
- Frank Nichols
- Frank Todd
- Georgia Scriven
- Gladys Shipek
- Greg Smith
- Hanford Thayer
- Harold Hagglund
- Harvey Friesen
- Heather Anderson
- Herman Cortez
- Jill Johnson
- Jim Conover
- Jim Duncan
- Jim Maynard
- Jim Porter
- Jim Rudd
- Jim Thorsen
- Joe Lehman
- Joe Miller
- Joe Putnam
- Judi Anderson
- Judy McVay
- Judy Yaekel
- Karen Anderson
- Keith Wrightman
- Ken Bloom
- Kieth Colley
- Kurt Gordon
- Ladd Wilmoth
- LaDonna Thorsen
- Linda Colley
- Linda Tippery
- Lois Thayer
- Lorn Wills
- Louise Smith
- Margie Rudd
- Margo Reilly
- Marla Shelton
- Martin Schmidt
- Mary Jane Dunham
- Mary Renwick
- Mel Simmons
- Mike Bradley
- Mike Shelton
- Mrs. Busch
- Mrs. Edwin Murray
- Myrna Bradley
- Patti McGlenn
- Peg Good
- Pete Krogseng
- Peter Moote
- Phillis Schmidt
- Randy Bradley
- Ray Kinskie
- Ric Prael
- Richard Delmonte
- Rick McArdle
- Rick Schroeder
- Rob Galbreath
- Robert Whitehead
- Ron Buchanan
- Ronnie Schroeder
- Ross Jacobson
- Sandy Butler
- Sandy Sandberg
- Scott McNeil
- Shaun Anderson
- Shawn Eveland
- Stan Gabelein
- Star Anderson
- Steve Backus
- Steve Owensby
- Steve Shapiro
- Steve White
- Sue Hanson
- Suzanne Galler
- Swede Anderson
- Terry Galvin

- Hiro Kiyasu
- Ida Baller
- Jack Barrett and Family
- Jack Metcalf
- Jack Siebert
- Jane Grebil
- Jay Moser
- Jean Rowe
- Jeanie Shults
- Jeanne Babik
- Jerry Hansen
- Jerry Hanson
- Jerry Stonebridge

- Terry Snyder
- Tim Scriven
- Tom Roehl
- Tony Shults
- Vic Hanson
- Vic Primavera
- Virginia Kiyasu
- Vivianne Heggenes
- Wally Lehman
- Wanda White
- Warren Lohf
- Wayne Tippery



**South Whidbey Community Park Categories**

- Home
- Features and Events
- Timeline
- Document Library
- Media
- Testimonials
- Contributors
- Volunteers
- Directions

**Browse Other Collections**

- Saratoga Woods
- South Whidbey Community Park

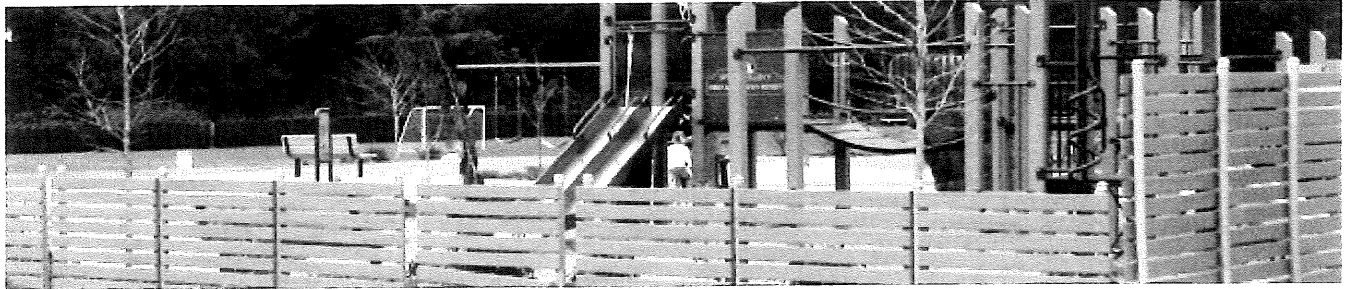
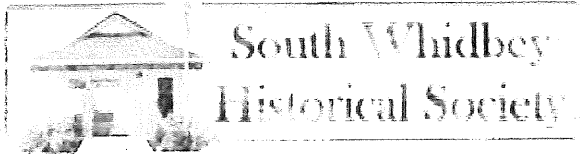
**Volunteers**

The South Whidbey Community Park is an ongoing project for the local community. Two decades in the making, the park was built by the hands of volunteers from the ground up. Community members reached out to their neighbors and friends and were able to gather a tremendous amount of support. They were able to raise funding, find contractors, surveyors and engineers to work on the project in their free time. The project also attracted hundreds of volunteers to help them with their efforts. The South Whidbey Community Park would not be here today if it weren't for the efforts of the many volunteers and contributors.

**Volunteer Information**

The park can always use volunteers for a variety of purposes. In addition to monetary donations, the park needs people to supervise, officiate, and contribute to the activities that are held within the park. Athletic contests, school sporting events, day camps, and other events held at the park are always in need of volunteer assistance. Park patrons are encouraged to make donations because no matter how big or small the contribution, every little bit helps to improve the park and ultimately the community. For more information on how to get involved visit the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation site, or call their office at (360) 221-5484.

Search



**South Whidbey Community  
Park Categories**

- Home
- Features and Events
- Timeline
- Document Library
- Media
- Testimonials
- Contributors
- Volunteers
- Directions

**Browse Other Collections**

- Saratoga Woods
- South Whidbey Community Park

Search

**Directions**



[View Larger Map](#)

The South Whidbey Community Park is located in Langley, Washington. More information about the city can be found on the city's official website.

**Directions**

**From the north:**

From I-5 Southbound, take exit 230 toward Burlington. Take a left at the fork to continue on WA-20. Continue to follow WA-20 for about 43 miles. WA-20 will become WA-525. Turn left at Maxwellton Road. The park will be on your right.

**From the south**

From I-5 Northbound, take exit 182 to merge onto I-405 toward Mukilteo. Keep left at the fork to merge onto WA-525 N. Take the Clinton-Mukilteo ferry to Clinton. Continue straight then turn right to follow WA-525 N. Turn right on Maxwellton Road. The park will be on your right.