

K.P.P.R.D.'s 2003 Comprehensive Plan for Leisure, Parks, and Recreation on the Key Peninsula

Simon Priest, Ph.D.

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LEISURE

While this comprehensive plan has been submitted under the auspices of the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District (KPPRD), it is not concerned solely with parks and recreation. The broader concept of “personal leisure” encompasses all aspects of a livable society and a healthy community.

Work is activity done for “product:” to earn a living wage or obtain life support. Leisure is activity done for “process:” for relaxation or simply to have fun. For example, if one takes photographs primarily for making money from a job, then photography can be work. On the other hand, if one takes photographs primarily for the joy of creating images, then photography is leisure. With this distinction in mind, one can easily see how almost everything in modern life becomes interwoven with personal leisure. Even work is related to leisure through free time and disposable income.

Lastly, the quality of personal leisure is closely connected with the livability of a society. Most of us strive for a society that is free of crime such as theft or violence, safe from dangers like drugs or terrorism, inclusive of diversity like race and religion, and rich in culture such as art or music. Similarly, the quality of personal leisure is immediately meshed with the community’s health. Most of us would like to live in a place where neighbors look out for each other, where opposing factions have tolerance for one another, where education is effective and employment is ample, where business growth is tempered by sustainable development, where economic desires are balanced with environmental concerns; and where we meet the needs of today’s population without mortgaging the resources of future generations. These all relate to personal leisure.

This comprehensive plan examines more than just park space and recreation activities. It takes a holistic perspective on personal leisure as being highly correlated with society, wellness and life. Not only do the former goals listed above enhance the quality of leisure, but correctly experienced leisure can also reciprocate by reducing juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, vandalism, anger, and ill health. The latter frequently result from inadequate or poorly applied leisure opportunities.

Simon Priest
Retired Professor of
Parks, Recreation & Leisure
Lakebay, WA, September 9th, 2002

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PURPOSE

The purposes of this comprehensive plan are four fold:

- 1) to identify existing leisure resources for the Key Peninsula;
- 2) to determine the leisure needs of local residents and visitors;
- 3) to develop strategies for enhancing leisure opportunities; and
- 4) to effect change in the quality of leisure on the Key Peninsula.

PROCESS

Developing this comprehensive plan was a relatively simple process consisting of several steps. First, a task force committee of the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District defined a working area and population (as described on pages 4 - 5). Second, they inventoried all existing resources within that area (pages 6 - 37) by interviewing knowledgeable people and field testing. Third, they surveyed and interviewed the local population to determine their future needs and desires (through a series of a dozen public meetings). Fourth, they made recommendations and developed limited strategies for realizing those recommendations (pages 38 - 73). Fifth, they summarized this plan in an Executive Summary (pages 74 - 80) and sought additional input through a final public meeting, before submitting the plan for adoption to the Pierce County Council and Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation. In short, they determined: WHAT existed, WHERE it was located, WHAT was needed, WHY that was important, WHAT would be done about it, WHO would do it, and WHEN it would be done by. This report presents some of the answers to those questions.

Data for this report were collected by several methods. First, a survey of residents and visitors was conducted at the Key Peninsula Fair (August 24-26, 2002). Second, four public meetings were held at local community centers (October 5, 6, 26, and 27, 2002). Third, face to face interviews were conducted with purposefully selected individuals who had unique perspectives (various dates in November and December). Fourth, a report on the development of the comprehensive plan was included in the local newspaper and distributed to all residents. Fifth, a series of seven regular meetings were held to examine specific topics in detail according to this schedule:

- 1) Volunteer Park or Key Peninsula Sports Center & Fairgrounds (January 13)
- 2) Rocky Creek Conservation Area (January 18)
- 3) Home Park (February 10)
- 4) Sports & Leagues (March 10)
- 5) Leisure Programming (April 14)
- 6) New Parks & Greenspaces (May 12)
- 7) Potential Recreation Complex (June 9 & 10)

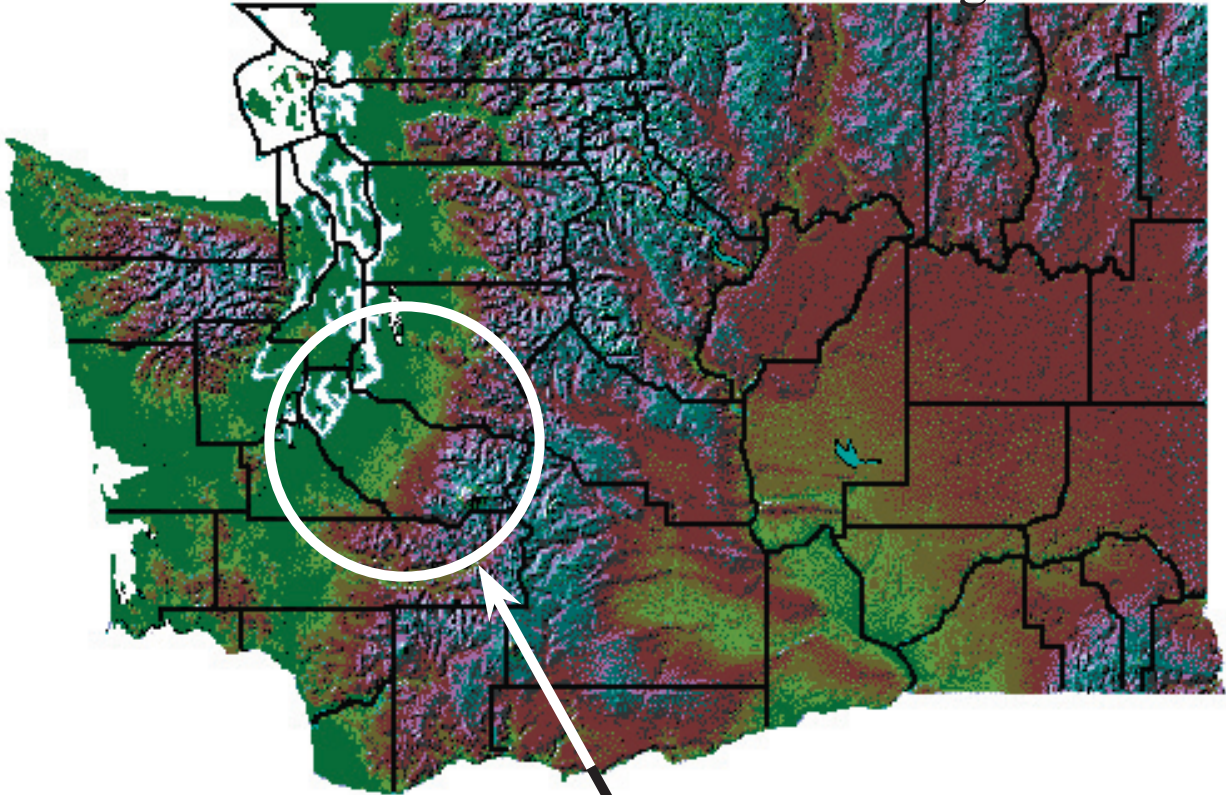
Sixth, the draft report was made available for public review and comment at the Key Peninsula Fair and in the Key Center Branch of the Pierce County Library (from August 15 to September 15). Finally, one public meeting was held (September 22, 2003) to approve the executive summary and fix any mistakes found in this plan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For their invaluable help, I offer my thanks to: Kip Clinton, Caril Ridley, Danna Webster, Lu Windsor, and the 2002 KPPRD Commissioners (Dick Granquist, Nancy Lind, Pat Medvekus, Fred Ramsdell, & Marilyn Tagert).

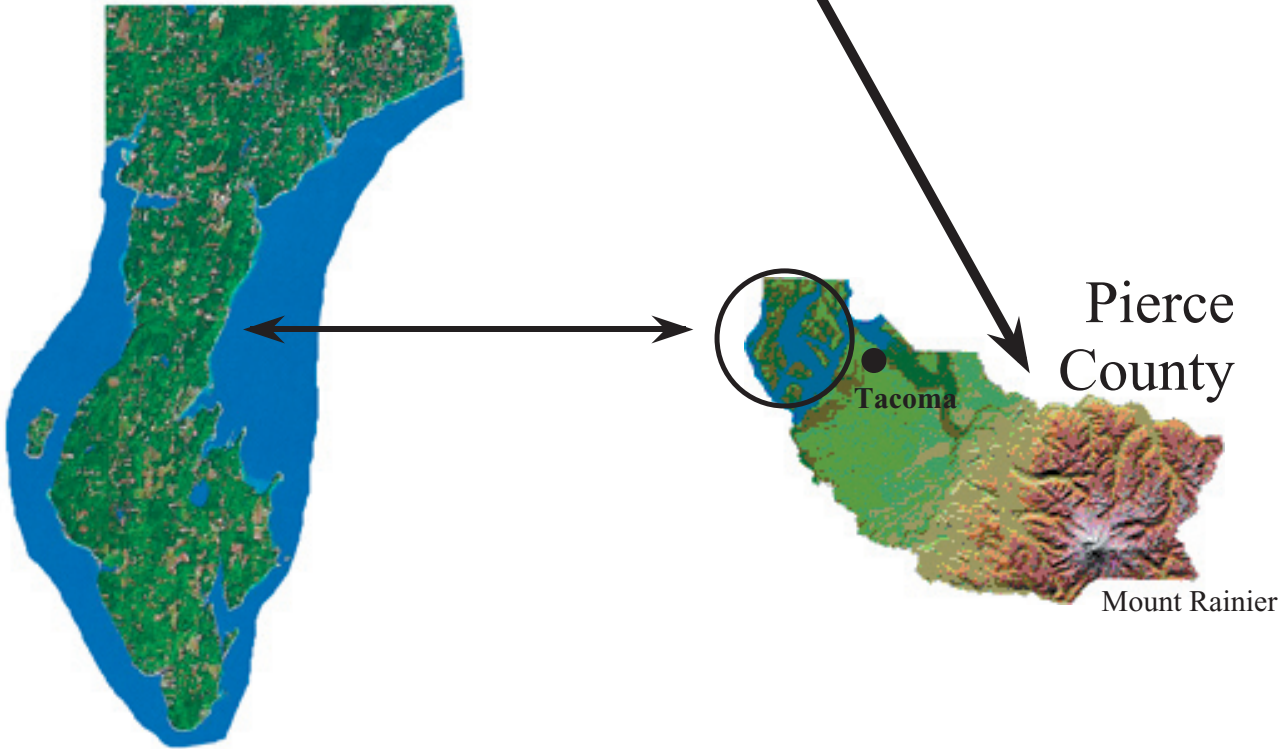
LOCATION

Washington State



Map #01

Key Peninsula



Map #01 = LOCATION

The Key Peninsula is located in Pierce County, Washington State, USA. It dangles into Puget Sound between Carr Inlet and Case Inlet. Shaped like a skeleton key, the peninsula is entirely within the northwest corner of Pierce County. The village of Key Center is approximately 15 minute drives from Gig Harbor, Port Orchard, and Belfair (the nearest three towns in Pierce, Kitsap, and Mason Counties respectively); and is about a 30 minute drive (depending on the density of traffic) on Highway #16 across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and into the nearest single city of Tacoma.

DESIGNATION

For the purpose of this comprehensive plan, the area of the Key Peninsula is designated by this boundary description:

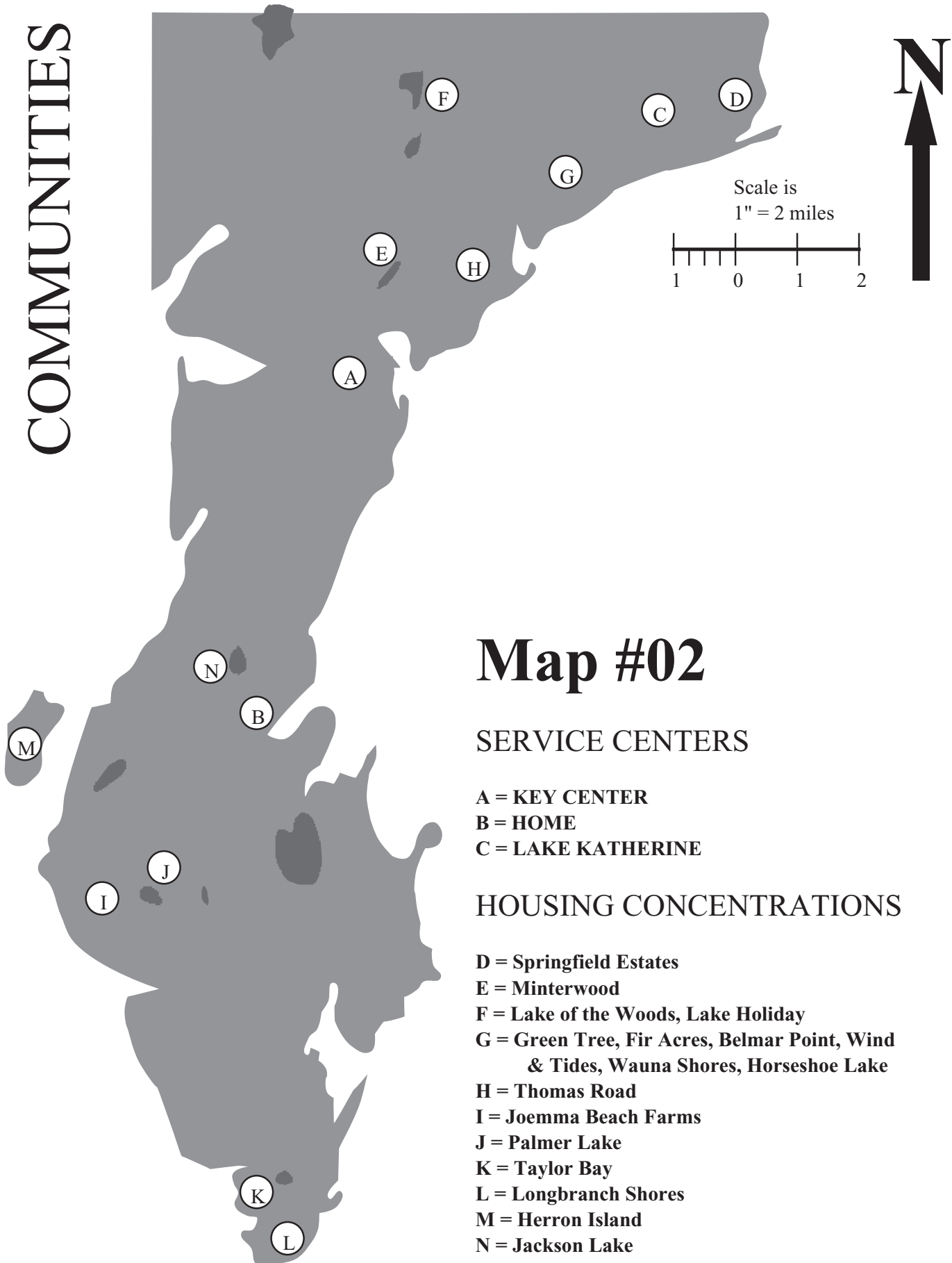
KP = From the northwest corner of Pierce County, bordering Kitsap and Mason Counties, trace south following the county line (between Pierce and Mason). Continue southward down the center of Case Inlet, then turn northward through the centers of Drayton and Pitt Passage (including Pitt Island) and up the center of Carr Inlet. At the head of the inlet (Henderson Bay), pass under the Purdy Bridge and through Burley Lagoon to the county line. Then trace west following the county line (between Pierce and Kitsap) to return to the north west corner starting point.

This description purposefully excludes Purdy and the nearby Gig Peninsula, which contain some of the distant support services and leisure facilities that Key Peninsula residents may regularly use: high school facilities, public swimming pools, private fitness clubs, large specialty shops, and warehouse stores. The Sheriff's office is in Purdy and the State Patrol can be found in Gig Harbor, along with a district courthouse. A number of leisure possibilities exist in the surrounding regions such as golf courses and small aircraft airports near Belfair (Mason County), Port Orchard (Kitsap County), and Gig Harbor (Pierce County).

POPULATION

The Key Peninsula population was **15,015** people as calculated from Census2000 Tracts: 725.03 (Wauna) + 726.01 (KPN) + 726.02 (Key Center) + 726.03 (KPS) – 726.033 (Anderson Island). This population doubles to about 30,000 on a typical summer long weekend as tourists visit the state parks and the many seasonal residents return to their cabins and second homes. Recently, this figure was estimated to exceed that doubling on August 16th, 2003, when three local fairs were operating on the same day: Renaissance Fair, Key Peninsula Fair, and Old Timer's Days.

COMMUNITIES



Map #02

SERVICE CENTERS

- A = KEY CENTER
- B = HOME
- C = LAKE KATHERINE

HOUSING CONCENTRATIONS

- D = Springfield Estates
- E = Minterwood
- F = Lake of the Woods, Lake Holiday
- G = Green Tree, Fir Acres, Belmar Point, Wind & Tides, Wauna Shores, Horseshoe Lake
- H = Thomas Road
- I = Joemma Beach Farms
- J = Palmer Lake
- K = Taylor Bay
- L = Longbranch Shores
- M = Herron Island
- N = Jackson Lake

Map #02 = COMMUNITIES

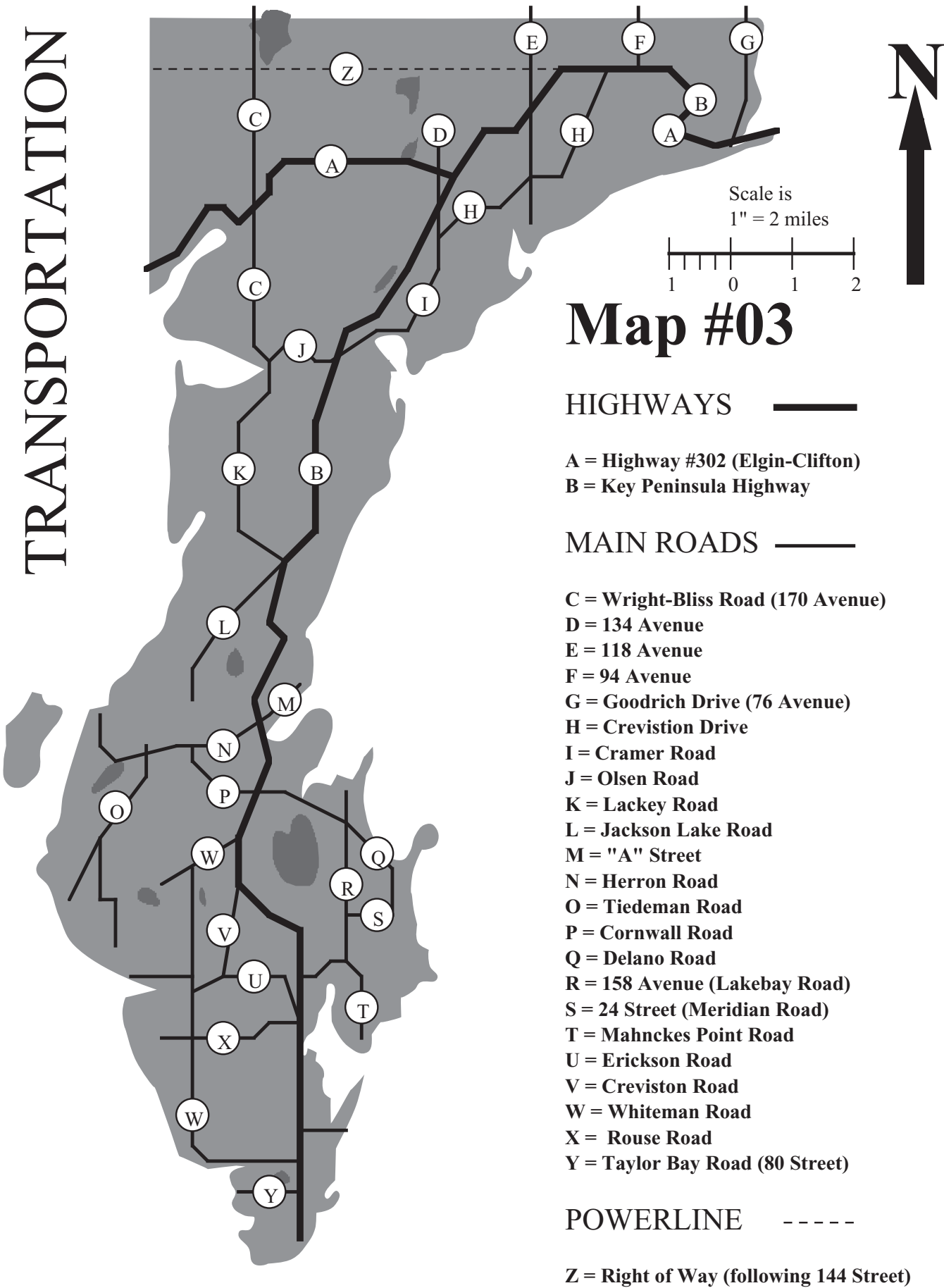
Communities on the Key Peninsula are categorized into two types: Service Centers and Housing Concentrations. **Service Centers** (also called “rural activity centers” in the county plan) are comparable to villages where basic living needs are met through stores, gas stations, post offices, fire stations, and other support facilities. **Housing Concentrations** represent a close collection of homes and may lack the support facilities found in a service center. The Key Peninsula has three service centers:

- A = **KEY CENTER** (Vaughn Post Office, fire station, supermarket/grocery store, lumber store, realtor, nursery, thrift shop, credit union, library, health center, medical & dental offices, liquor store, bars, auto repairs, restaurants, trading post, business offices, and other assorted shops);
- B = **HOME** (Lakebay Post Office, fire station, 3 convenience stores, gas station, laundromat, bar, and restaurant); and
- C = **LAKE KATHERINE** (Wauna Post Office, fire station, supermarket/grocery store, 2 gas stations, 3 convenience stores, pharmacy, veterinarian, hardware store, business offices, and other assorted shops).

The Key Peninsula has at least ten housing concentrations:

- D = **Springfield Estates** (gated communities with close accessibility to Highway #16);
- E = **Minterwood** (subdivision of assorted houses around a single lake and other wetlands);
- F = **Lake of the Woods, Holiday Lake** (two subdivisions of assorted houses near two lakes);
- G = **Green Tree, Fir Acres, Belmar Point, Wind & Tides, Wauna Shores, Horseshoe Lake Estates** (mixed assortment of mobile homes, manufactured houses, and gated properties);
- H = **Thomas Road** (dense collection of various houses and beach properties);
- I = **Joemma Beach Farms** (subdivision of assorted houses just above Joemma State Park);
- J = **Palmer Lake** (subdivision of assorted houses around a single lake);
- K = **Taylor Bay** (subdivision of assorted houses on south side of bay);
- L = **Longbranch Shores** (subdivision, most distant on the Key Peninsula);
- M = **Herron Island** (assortment of houses on island, access by private ferry);
- N = **Jackson Lake** (assortment of mobile homes and various houses near a lake).

TRANSPORTATION



Map #03 = TRANSPORTATION

Roads on the Key Peninsula have been modified over the years from historic logging roads, skid paths, and tramways. All the roads listed are paved, except for portions of the **power line right of way (Z)** following 144 Street which remain gravelled. The two highways run across the top and down the middle of the peninsula:

- A = **Highway #302** (a state highway joining Gig Harbor and Purdy with Allyn and Belfair); and
- B = **Key Peninsula Highway** (county highway connecting Gig Harbor and Purdy with Lake Katherine, Wauna, Key Center, Vaughn, Home, Lakebay, Longbranch, and Devils Head).

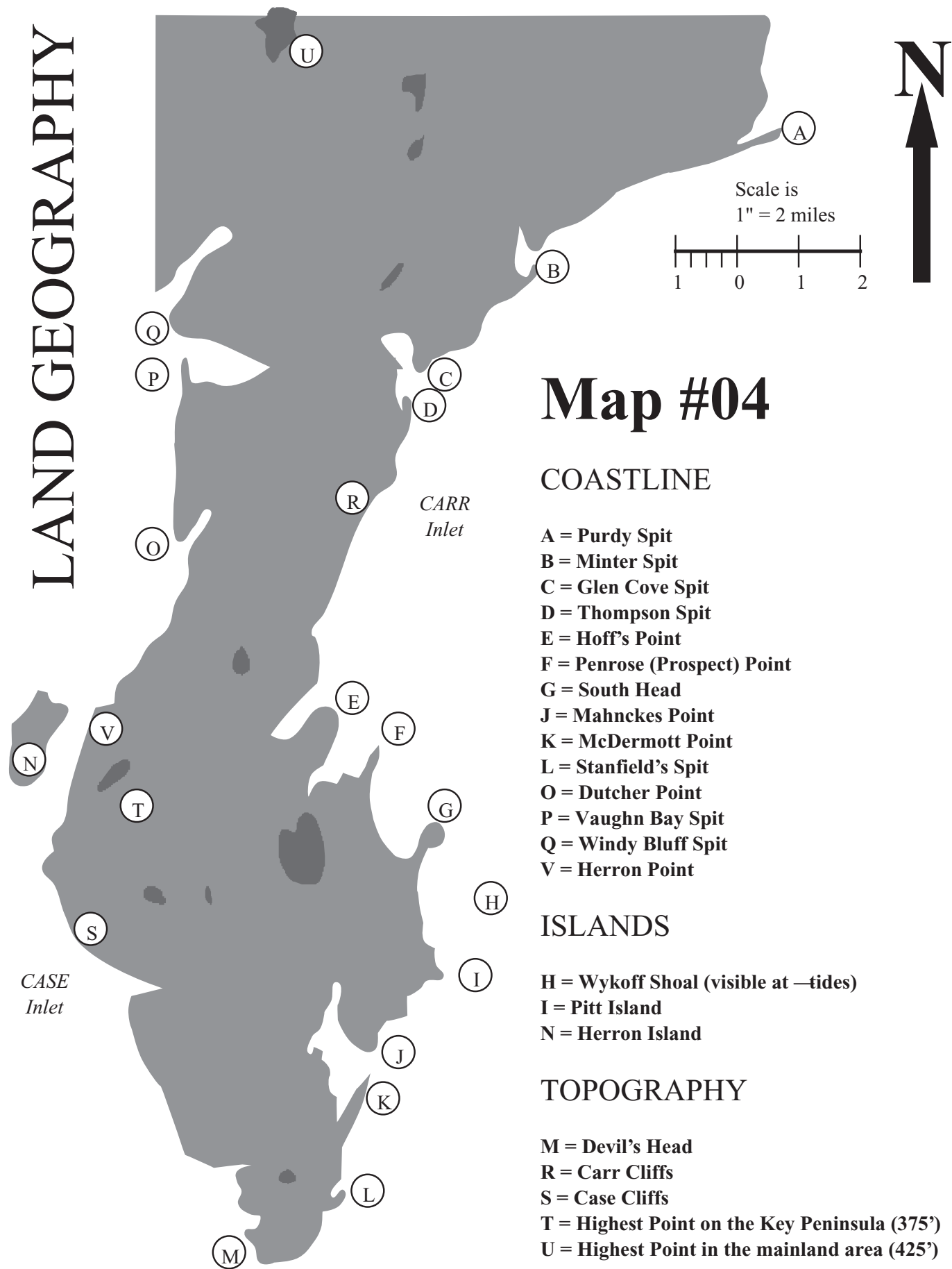
A network of county roads branch out from these two highways. The naming and numbering system for these local roads follows two conventions. Some are named for the original pioneers, often providing access to or from their past homesteads. Others are numbered for their relative position from survey meridians established from a 1970s county-wide grid system. For the most part, avenues run north and south, while streets run east and west. Several roads are also designated KPN or KPS for their absolute location on the Key Peninsula to the North or South of an imaginary dividing 0 (Zero) Street near Lakebay. Here are many of the main roads:

KPN = KEY PENINSULA NORTH

- C = **Wright Bliss Road** (170 Avenue), E = **118 Avenue**, F = **94 Avenue**, and G = **Goodrich Drive** (76 Avenue) lead north into Kitsap County;
- D = **134 Avenue** is a shortcut connector, mostly used to connect the 2 highways;
- H = **Creviston Drive** and I = **Cramer Road** follow the original county road between Longbranch and Gig Harbor before Highway #302 or K.P.H. were constructed;
- J = **Olsen Road** is the main road between nearby Vaughn and Key Center;
- K = **Lackey Road** is the main connector from Vaughn toward Home;
- L = **Jackson Lake Road** is a dead end arterial past the lake of the same name;
- M = **"A" Street** is the historic waterfront road for the town of Home; and
- N = **Herron Road** (leads from Home to Herron Bay and the Ferry Terminal)

KPS = KEY PENINSULA SOUTH

- O = **Tiedman Road**, and P = **Cornwall Road** join housing localities south of Herron Bay;
- Q = **Delano Road**, R = **158 Avenue** (Lakebay Road), S = **24 Street** (Meridian Road), and T = **Mahnckes Road** connect properties east of Bay Lake;
- U = **Erickson Road**, V = **Creviston Road**, W = **Whiteman Road**, X = **Rouse Road**, and Y = **Taylor Bay Road** (80 Street) unite homes west of Longbranch.



Map #04

COASTLINE

- A = Purdy Spit
- B = Minter Spit
- C = Glen Cove Spit
- D = Thompson Spit
- E = Hoff's Point
- F = Penrose (Prospect) Point
- G = South Head
- J = Mahnckes Point
- K = McDermott Point
- L = Stanfield's Spit
- O = Dutcher Point
- P = Vaughn Bay Spit
- Q = Windy Bluff Spit
- V = Herron Point

ISLANDS

- H = Wykoff Shoal (visible at —tides)
- I = Pitt Island
- N = Herron Island

TOPOGRAPHY

- M = Devil's Head
- R = Carr Cliffs
- S = Case Cliffs
- T = Highest Point on the Key Peninsula (375')
- U = Highest Point in the mainland area (425')

Map #04 = LAND GEOGRAPHY

The Key Peninsula lies between Carr and Case Inlets. It was glacially scoured on an axis that is about 30 degrees East of North. As a result several valleys, a few lakes, and some ridges adopt that same directional line across the land. Also many points of land jut out into the surrounding water on that identical bearing:

- E = **Hoffs Point** (between Home and Lakebay);
- F = **Penrose Point** (between Lakebay and Delano Bay);
- G = **South Head Point** (between Delano Bay and Meridian/Pitt Passage);
- J = **Mahnckes Point** (north of the entrance to Filucy Bay/Longbranch);
- K = **McDermott Point** (south of the entrance to Filucy Bay/Longbranch);
- O = **Dutchers Point** (between Vaughn Bay and Herron Bay); and
- V = **Herron Point** (where the Herron Island Ferry docks near Herron Bay).

Tidal currents in Carr and Case Inlets, have helped form a number of sand spits near the entrance to well known harbors:

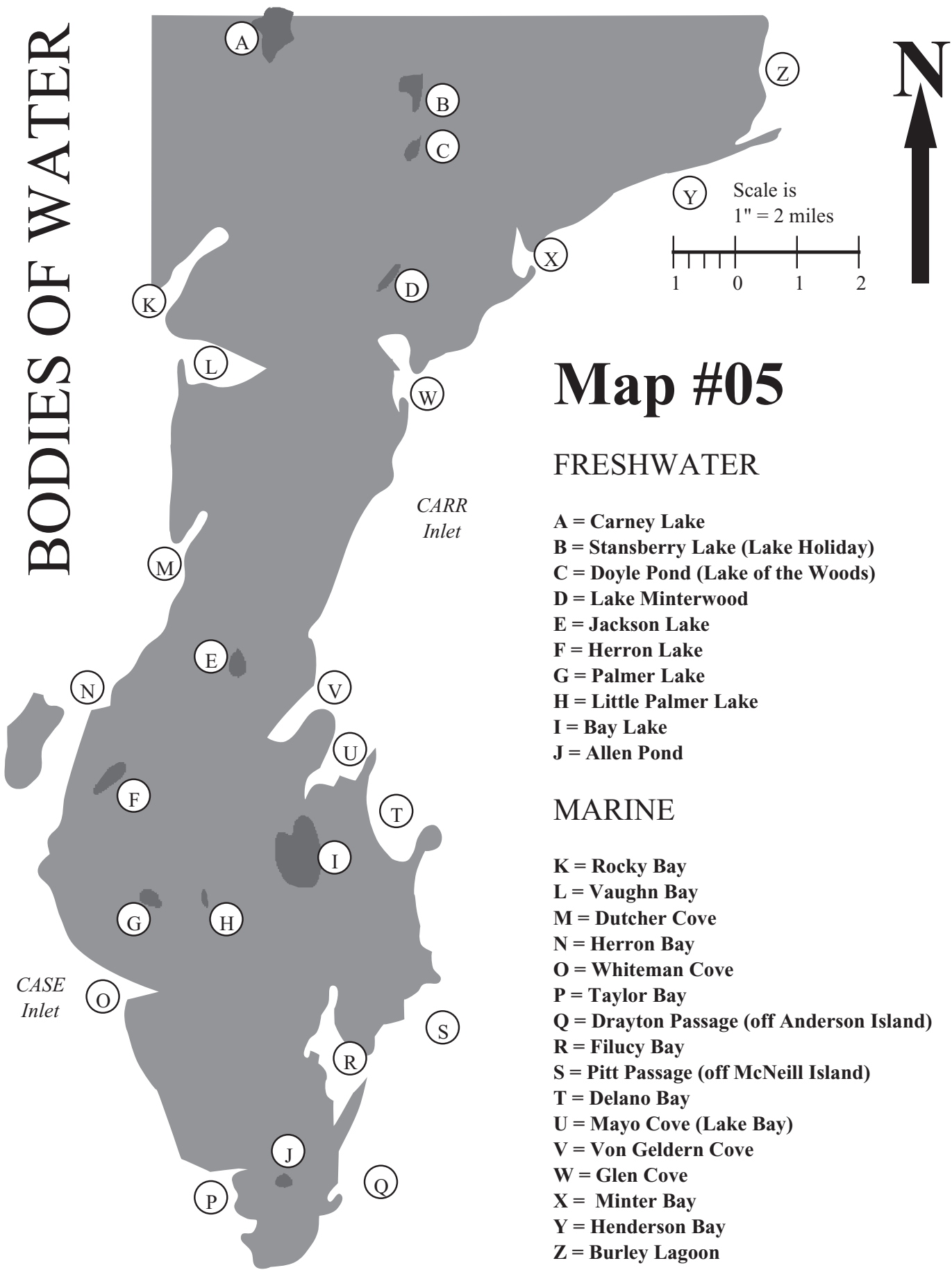
- A = **Purdy Sandspit** (protects Burley Lagoon, county park, Highway #302 road bed);
- B = **Minter Spit** (guards Minter Bay, first meeting place of natives & explorers);
- C = **Glen Cove Spit** and D = **Thompson Spit** (protect Glen Cove);
- L = **Stanfield's Spit** (only spit not hiding a harbor);
- P = **Vaughn Bay Spit** (shields Vaughn from rough storms); and
- Q = **Windy Bluff Spit** (partial coverage for Rocky Bay).

In addition three offshore islands warrant notice:

- H = **Wykoff Shoal** (a small reef visible only at negative tides);
- I = **Pitt Island** (sacred burial site for native people centuries ago); and
- N = **Herron Island** (private homes accessible by ferry from Herron Bay).

Lastly, topographical points of interest include three sets of cliffs and two high points of land:

- N = **Devils Head** (high bank, 200 feet, mostly clay and glacial/alluvial deposits);
- R = **Carr Cliffs** (sand, 150 feet high, erosion forms Thompson sand beach);
- S = **Case Cliffs** (sand, 250 feet high, erosion forms Joemma sand beach);
- T = **Key Peninsula Highest Point** (375 feet, adjacent to Herron Lake); and
- U = **Mainland Highest Point** (425 feet, adjacent to Carney Lake).



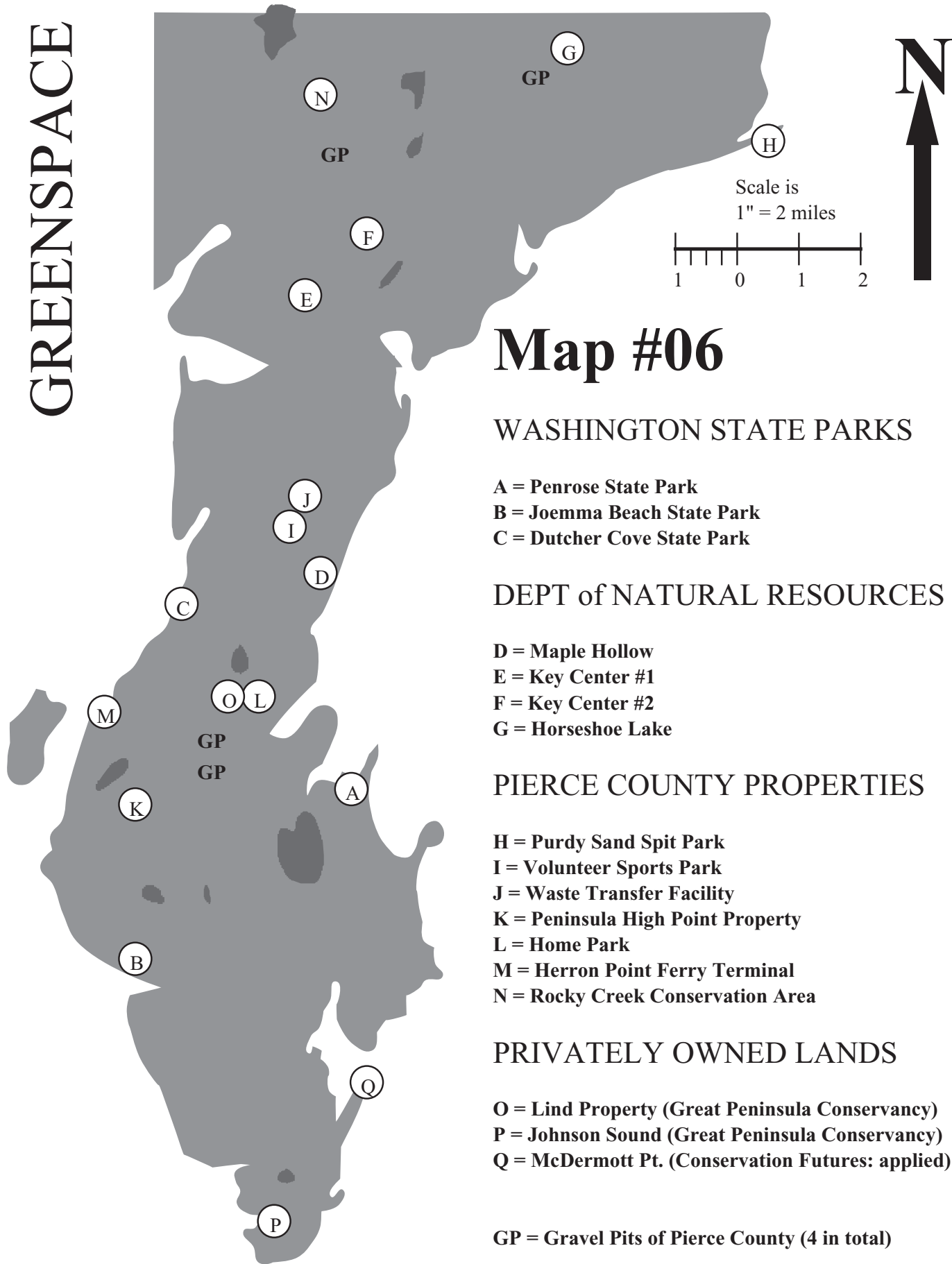
Map #05 = BODIES OF WATER

Ninety percent of the Key Peninsula's borders are shoreline. The land is dotted with several freshwater lakes (plus numerous springs and many creeks as shown on map #09). These bodies of water create the unique character of the Key Peninsula. **Freshwater** lakes include:

- A = **Carney Lake** (boating, and fishing);
- B = **Stansberry Lake** (private access);
- C = **Doyle Pond** (private access);
- D = **Lake Minterwood** (private access);
- E = **Jackson Lake** (swimming, boating, and fishing);
- F = **Herron Lake** (private access);
- G = **Palmer Lake** (swimming and fishing);
- H = **Little Palmer lake** (private access);
- I = **Bay Lake** (swimming, boating, and fishing); and
- J = **Allen Pond** (private access).

Aside from the main Carr and Case Inlets that define the Key Peninsula's shores, other **marine** points of interest include:

- K = **Rocky Bay** and L = **Vaughn Bay** (the narrowing ends of Case Inlet);
- M = **Dutcher's Cove** (the nearby and smaller Haley Lagoon is also interesting);
- N = **Herron Bay** (open gulf with small ferry terminal);
- O = **Whiteman Cove** (estuary separated from open water by closed land block);
- P = **Taylor Bay** (shallow tidal mud flat with aging road bridge at far end);
- Q = **Drayton Passage** and S = **Pitt Passage** (off Anderson and McNeil Islands);
- R = **Filucy Bay** (excellent anchorage, contains marina, several side coves);
- T = **Delano Bay** (open gulf with crescent beach);
- U = **Mayo Cove** (Lake Bay, contains marina, deep water moorage for state park);
- V = **Von Geldern Cove** (Home Estuary or Joe's Bay, with mud flats);
- W = **Glen Cove** (shallow tidal mud flat with historic hotel at far end);
- X = **Minter Bay** (shallow tidal mud flat with fish hatchery at far end);
- Y = **Henderson Bay** (the upper limits of Carr Inlet leading into Purdy); and
- Z = **Burley Lagoon** (behind the sand spit and bridge at Purdy).



Map #06 = GREENSPACE

The Key Peninsula has a number of greenspaces that are preserved by public agencies and private interests. Chief among these are **Washington State Parks**:

- A = **Penrose State Park** (152 acres, campground, group camping, trails, day use area, picnic shelters, boat moorage, beach access, sani-dumping station, marine pump out station, hot showers, flush toilets, potable water, closed in winter);
- B = **Joemma Beach State Park** (221 acres, campground, trails, day use area, picnic shelter, boat launch, boat moorage, pier, beach access, pit toilets); and
- C = **Dutcher Cove State Park** (178 acres, trail, historic ruins, beach, kayak campsite).

The **Department of Natural Resources** holds 1 developed and 3 undeveloped land parcels:

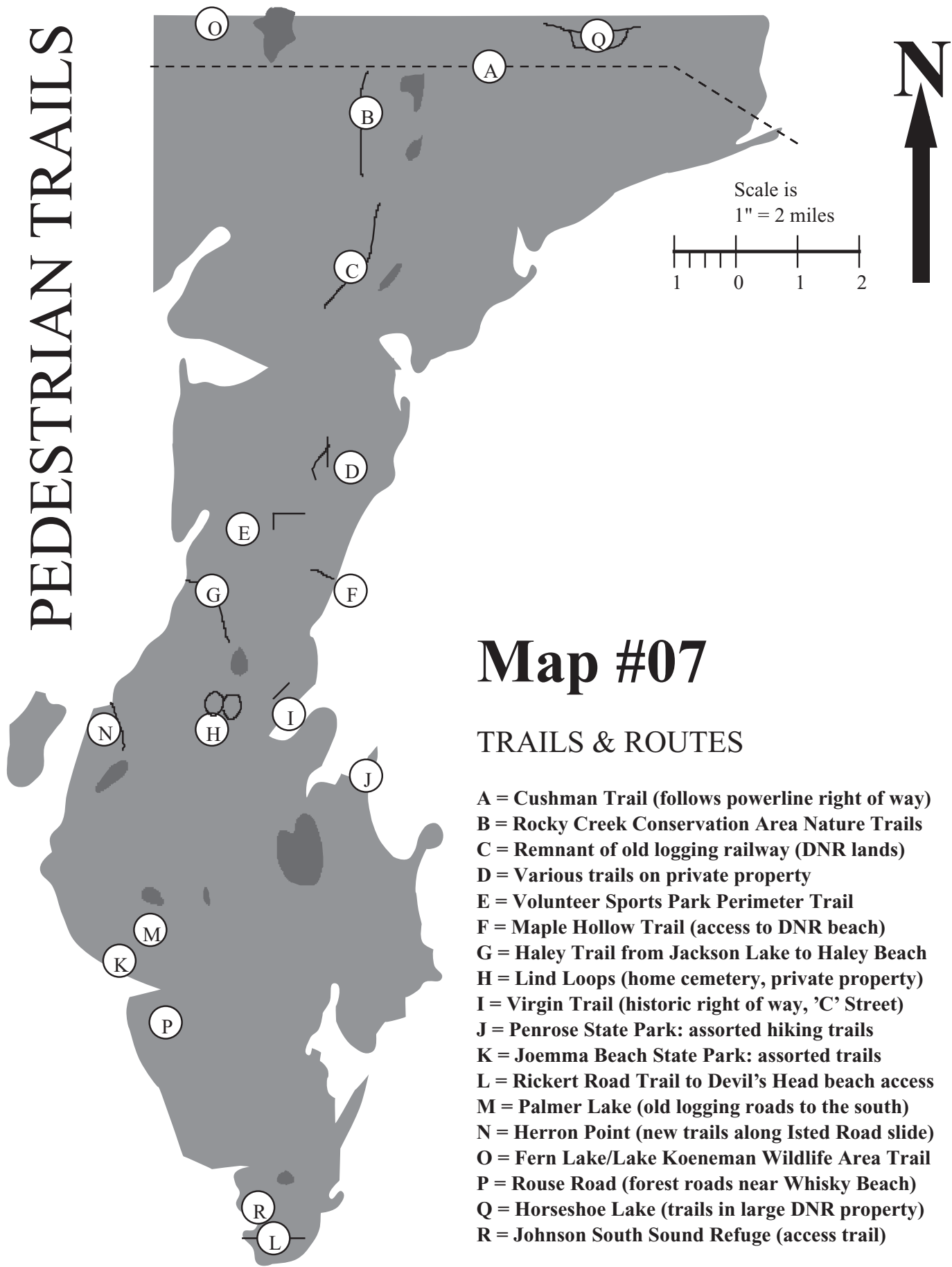
- D = **Maple Hollow** (80 acres, timber reserve, beach, trail, closed picnic site);
- E = **Key Center #1** and F = **Key Center #2** (480 acres, timber reserves north of Key Center with network of trails, roads, and old logging railway); and
- G = **Horseshoe Lake** (360 acres, timber reserve south of Horseshoe Lake).

Pierce County also holds several undeveloped parcels of land. In the past, 2 of these have been transferred to the Key Peninsula **Parks and Recreation District (KPPRD)** for management:

- H = **Purdy Sand Spit Park** (Pierce County regional park, 7.5 acres, with boat launch, public beach, windsurfing, snorkeling, diving, and roadside parking);
- I = **Volunteer Sports Park** (KPPRD, 20 acres, baseball fields, tennis courts, soccer field, horseshoe pits, playground, picnic area, cafe, toilets, and parking);
- J = **Waste Transfer Facility** (Pierce County, 73 acres, heron rookery, with recycling center and household waste transfer with temporary dumpster storage);
- K = **Peninsula High Point Property** (Pierce County, 130 acres, undeveloped);
- L = **Home Park** (KPPRD's newest acquisition, 2 acres, was an appliance repair shop);
- M = **Herron Point** (Pierce County local park, 1.5 acres, undeveloped beach); and
- N = **Rocky Creek Conservation Area** (KPPRD, 224 acres, wetlands, parking, salmon creek, hiking trails with further trails under consideration for other users).

A number of privately owned lands have been set aside as dedicated greenspace. For example, the **Lind family** has placed their 80 acre **homestead** (O) into trust with the Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC). The GPC also protects the **Johnson Sound Property** (P) with similar land trusts (with efforts to include Devils Head). **McDermott Point** (Q), and a restoration of the saltwater lagoon, is being considered for the Conservation Futures program of Pierce County with support from GPC.

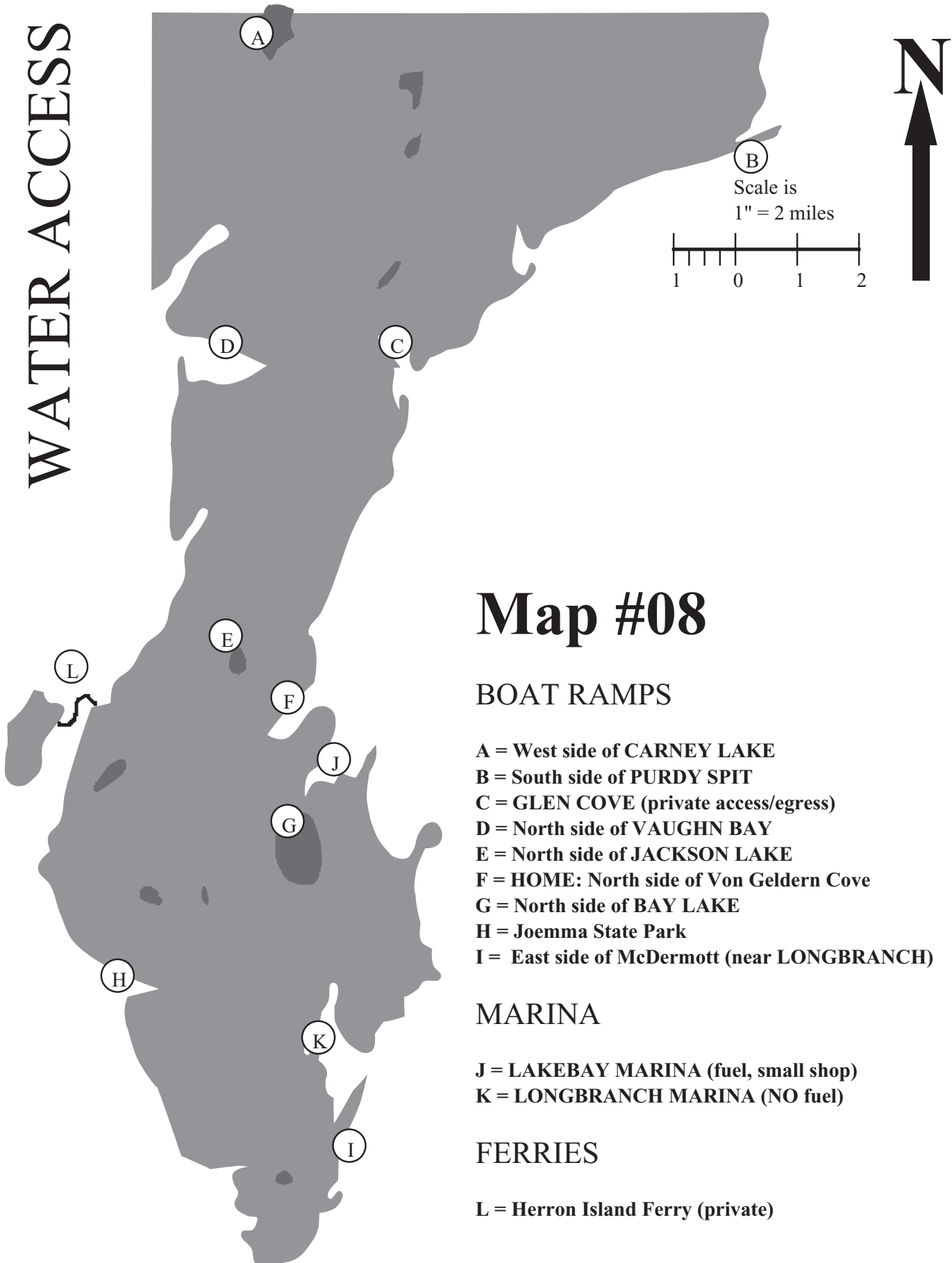
Lastly, four gravel pits (operated by Pierce County) were identified. The first was adjacent to the DNR property south of Horseshoe Lake and next to Highway #302 and the 144 Street powerline right of way. The second is next to the Rocky Creek Conservation Area also beside Highway #302 at the 150 Avenue junction. The third and fourth are in Home north and south of Herron Road respectively. The latter pair is shown on many maps as a double gravel pit having two adjoining pieces.



Map #07 = PEDESTRIAN TRAILS

Due to the foresight of Key Peninsula residents cooperating with several government agencies, a number of interesting foot trails can be found. Some of these trace a segmented line down the middle of the peninsula in keeping with the intent of the original plan for the “Head to Toe Hiking Trail” as proposed in the 1994 comprehensive plan from J.C. Dragoo & Associates. In addition, the **Cushman Trail (A)** is proposed for construction across the top of the peninsula following the powerline right of way so as to connect with existing portions of this trail in Gig Harbor.

- B = **Rocky Creek Conservation Area Nature Trails** (trail loops along creek bed and over knoll, old road on far side of wetlands, connects to Cushman Trail);
- C = **Remnant of old logging railway** (used to run between Vaughn Bay and Carney Lake, portions across DNR lands still remain passable for hiking trail);
- D = **Silverbow Ranch Trails** (privately owned network, an interesting segment follows “the old territorial road” along property edge from 84 Street to 71 Street);
- E = **Volunteer Sports Park** (trail and access road around park land perimeter);
- F = **Maple Hollow Trail** (runs from Van Beek Road to the DNR beach);
- G = **Haley Trail** (runs from Jackson Lake Road to the beach at Haley State Park);
- H = **Lind Loops** (two loops arranged in a “figure 8” on the Lind’s property);
- I = **Virgin Trail** (turn of the century trail across the ravine following the right of way for “C” Street in Home);
- J = **Penrose State Park** (an assortment of hiking loops from the day use area to Penrose Point and several short trails connecting the day use and camping areas);
- K = **Joemma State Park** (trails around park and through to 202nd Avenue);
- L = **Rickert Road** (trail along the right of way to Devil’s Head beach areas);
- M = **Palmer Lake** (old logging roads through the woods south of Palmer Lake);
- N = **Herron Bay** (trail from bay through to 206th Avenue on the old Isted Road);
- O = **Fern Lake/Lake Koeneman Wildlife Area** (trail in from Carney Lake);
- P = **Rouse Road** (private trails from Whiteman Cove Road to 198th Street);
- Q = **Horseshoe Lake** (a series of horse and mountain bike trails on DNR lands); and
- R = **Johnson South Sound Refuge** (access trail to wildlife viewing areas and footbridge).



Map #08 = WATER ACCESS

The Key Peninsula has several interesting means of water access ranging from public **boat ramps**, through commercial **marinas**, to a private **ferry**. Nine boat ramps service 3 freshwater lakes and the saltwater Carr and Case Inlets:

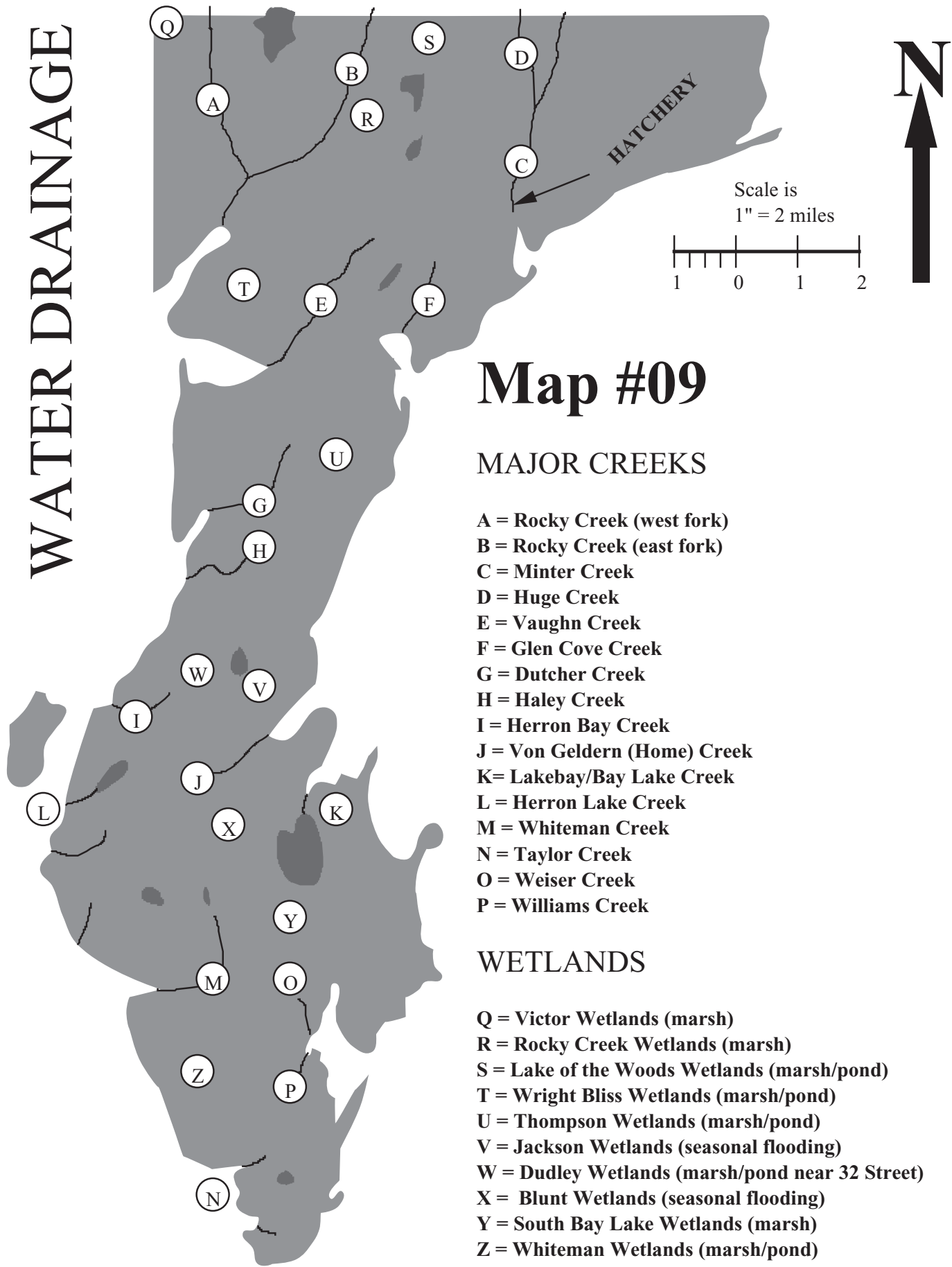
- A = **Carney Lake** (west side of lake, fishing or boating, no swimming);
- B = **Purdy Spit** (south side or spit at the Wauna end, kayaking, wind surfing, diving, fishing, boating or water skiing);
- C = **Glen Cove** (private access/egress with landowner's permission only for kayaks and other personal watercraft);
- D = **Vaughn Bay** (north side of bay, kayaking, fishing, boating or water skiing);
- E = **Jackson Lake** (north side of lake, fishing, boating or swimming);
- F = **Home** (north side of cove, kayaking, fishing, boating or water skiing);
- G = **Bay Lake** (north side of lake, fishing, boating or swimming);
- H = **Joemma State Park** (end of the park road, kayaking, fishing, boating or water skiing); and
- I = **Longbranch** (end of 72nd Street to the south of McDermott Point, kayaking, fishing, boating or water skiing).

Two marinas are operated in two majors bays on the Key Peninsula:

- J = **Lakebay** (privately operated, serving the local boaters and visitors to Penrose Park moorage, has fuel, shop, toilets, water, phone); and
- K = **Longbranch** (operated in Filucy Bay by the Longbranch Improvement Club as a private moorage facility, toilets, water, limited public moorage, county pier).

One ferry connects the Key Peninsula to an offshore island:

- L = **Herron Island Ferry** (private, use with resident permission only, \$5/vehicle and driver, double for guests with authorization, about \$1 for each foot passenger as of 2002).



Map #09

MAJOR CREEKS

- A = Rocky Creek (west fork)
- B = Rocky Creek (east fork)
- C = Minter Creek
- D = Huge Creek
- E = Vaughn Creek
- F = Glen Cove Creek
- G = Dutcher Creek
- H = Haley Creek
- I = Herron Bay Creek
- J = Von Geldern (Home) Creek
- K = Lakebay/Bay Lake Creek
- L = Herron Lake Creek
- M = Whiteman Creek
- N = Taylor Creek
- O = Weiser Creek
- P = Williams Creek

WETLANDS

- Q = Victor Wetlands (marsh)
- R = Rocky Creek Wetlands (marsh)
- S = Lake of the Woods Wetlands (marsh/pond)
- T = Wright Bliss Wetlands (marsh/pond)
- U = Thompson Wetlands (marsh/pond)
- V = Jackson Wetlands (seasonal flooding)
- W = Dudley Wetlands (marsh/pond near 32 Street)
- X = Blunt Wetlands (seasonal flooding)
- Y = South Bay Lake Wetlands (marsh)
- Z = Whiteman Wetlands (marsh/pond)

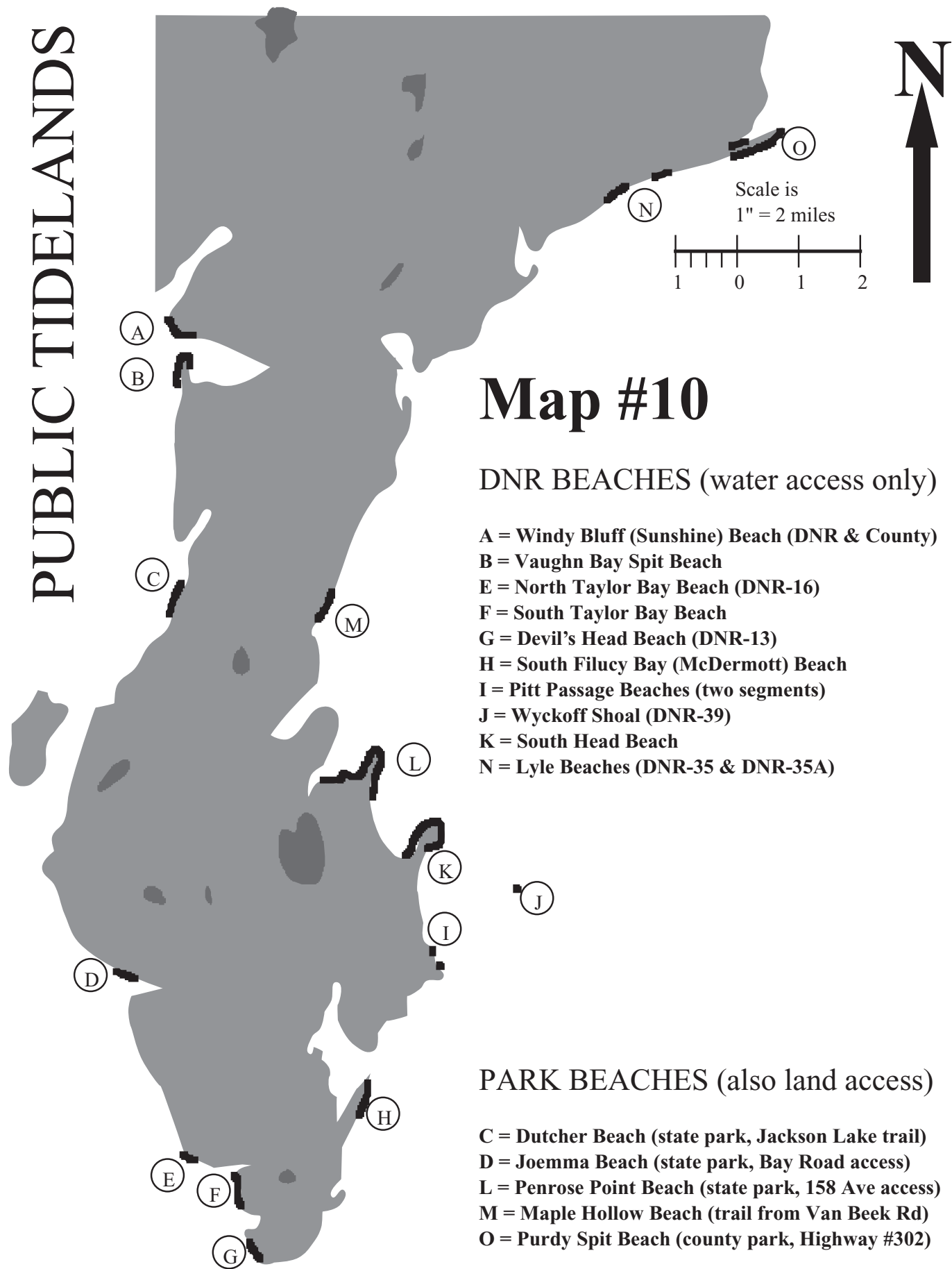
Map #09 = WATER DRAINAGE

Although the Key Peninsula only has a median height of about 200 feet above sea level, it has a number of significant creeks and wetlands. Several of these creeks are salmon bearing and one hosts a salmon hatchery:

- A = **West Rocky Creek** and B = **East Rocky Creek** (salmon habitat);
- C = **Minter Creek** and D = **Huge Creek** (salmon habitat with hatchery);
- E = **Vaughn Creek** (salmon habitat);
- F = **Glen Cove Creek** (trout habitat);
- G = **Dutcher Creek** (trout habitat);
- H = **Haley Creek** (trout habitat);
- I = **Herron Bay Creek** (trout habitat);
- J = **Von Geldern Cove Creek** (trout habitat);
- K = **Lakebay/Bay Lake Creek** (trout habitat);
- L = **Herron Lake Creek** (trout habitat);
- M = **Whiteman Creek** (trout habitat);
- N = **Taylor Creek** (trout habitat);
- O = **Weiser Creek** (trout habitat);
- P = **Williams Creek** (trout habitat);

Many springs from the Olympic Aquifer create a wide distribution of wetlands:

- Q = **Victor Wetlands** (marsh that drains toward Victor in Mason County);
- R = **Rocky Creek Wetlands** (marsh between Crews Road and 150 Avenue);
- S = **Lake of the Woods Wetlands** (a few marshes north of the powerlines);
- T = **Wright Bliss Wetlands** (ponds and marshes west of Wright Bliss Road);
- U = **Thompson Wetlands** (pond and marsh south of 84 Street);
- V = **Jackson Wetlands** (area floods across 30 Street during wet seasons);
- W = **Dudley Wetlands** (pond and marsh either side of 189 Avenues);
- X = **Blunt Wetlands** (area beside Whiteman Road floods during wet seasons);
- Y = **South Bay Lake Wetlands** (scattered marshes drain toward Bay Lake); and
- Z = **Whiteman Wetlands** (large marshes on both sides of Whiteman Road).



Map #10 = PUBLIC TIDELANDS

The Key Peninsula is surrounded by saltwater and has a variety of beaches with bases ranging from sand, through mud, to gravel depending on the nearby geology. Public beaches are either DNR property or state/county park properties. Five public beaches can be reached from land:

- C = **Dutcher Beach** (sand, gravel, hiking trail access from Jackson Lake);
- D = **Joemma Beach** (sand, gravel, parking, access from Bay Road);
- L = **Penrose Point Beach** (gravel, sand, parking, access from 158th Avenue);
- M = **Maple Hollow Beach** (gravel, trail access from Van Beek Road); and
- O = **Purdy Spit Beach** (gravel, sand, Highway #302, parking on road edge).

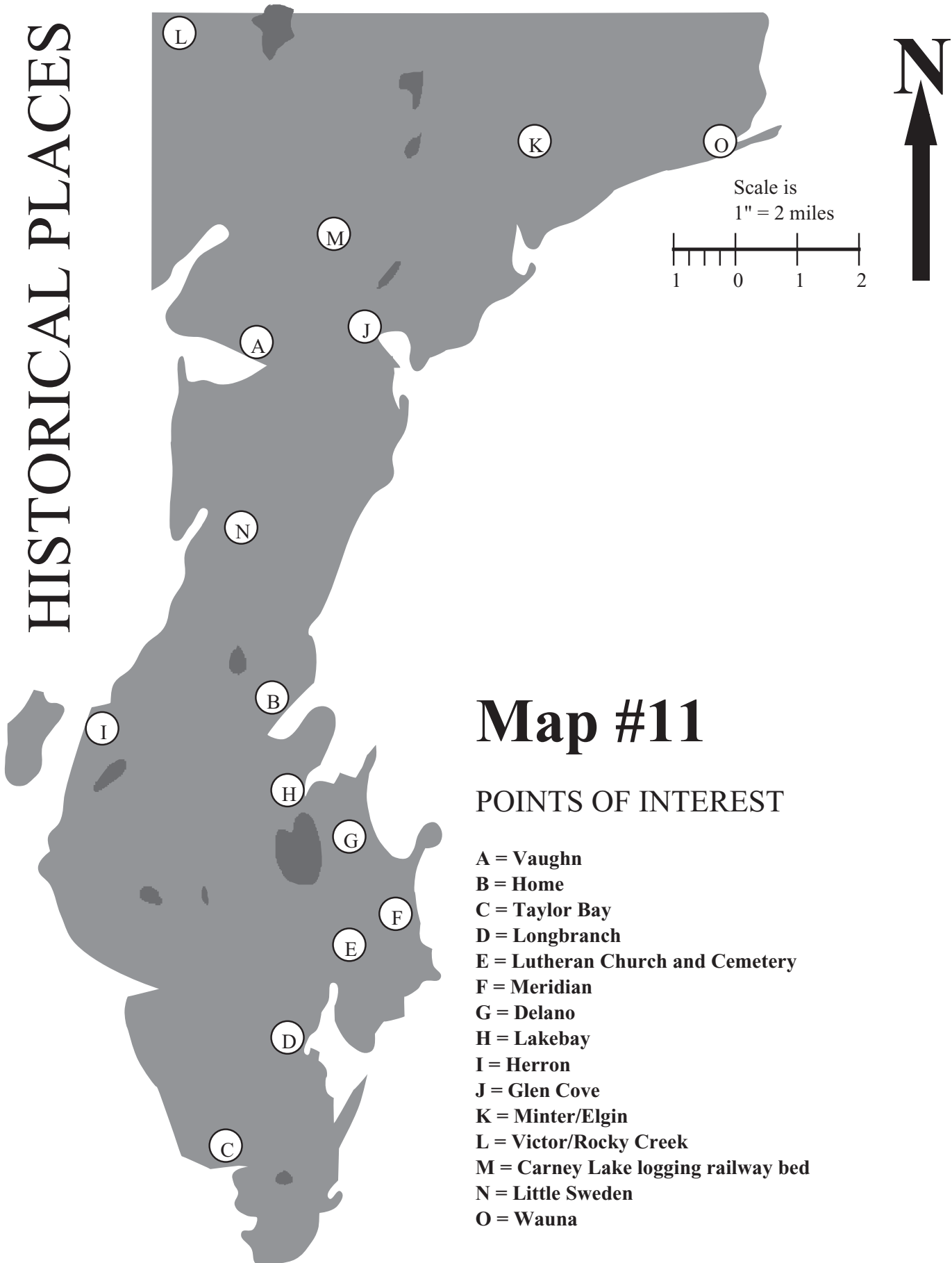
The remaining 10 public beaches are adjacent to private homes and can only be accessed by water:

- A = **Windy Bluff (Sunshine) Beach** (sand, gravel, part of the spit is county);
- B = **Vaughn Bay Spit Beach** (sand, gravel);
- E = **North Taylor Bay Beach** (DNR-16, gravel);
- F = **South Taylor Bay Beach** (gravel);
- G = **Devil's Head Beach** (DNR-13, sand, gravel);
- H = **South Filucy Bay (McDermott) Beach** (gravel, sand); *
- I = **Pitt Passage Beaches** (2 segments, mud, gravel, rock);
- J = **Wyckoff Shoal** (DNR-39, sand);
- K = **South Head Beach** (gravel, mud, rock, sand); and
- N = **Minter** (2 segments, DNR-35 & -35A, gravel).

In addition to these tidelands, several other beaches are in dispute over their ownership. These beaches have not been included here since they may not be public in the present or are currently leased to shellfish operations. At the time of publication, two beaches were closed to shellfish collection due to issues of possible pollution from septic seepage: Vaughn Spit and South Taylor.

* This is disputed by residents as private beach, however, the D.N.R. Washington State Public Lands quadrangle map for TACOMA (2001) shows this as state-owned tidelands. Several government websites, particularly shellfish biotoxins, confirm public ownership.

HISTORICAL PLACES



Map #11

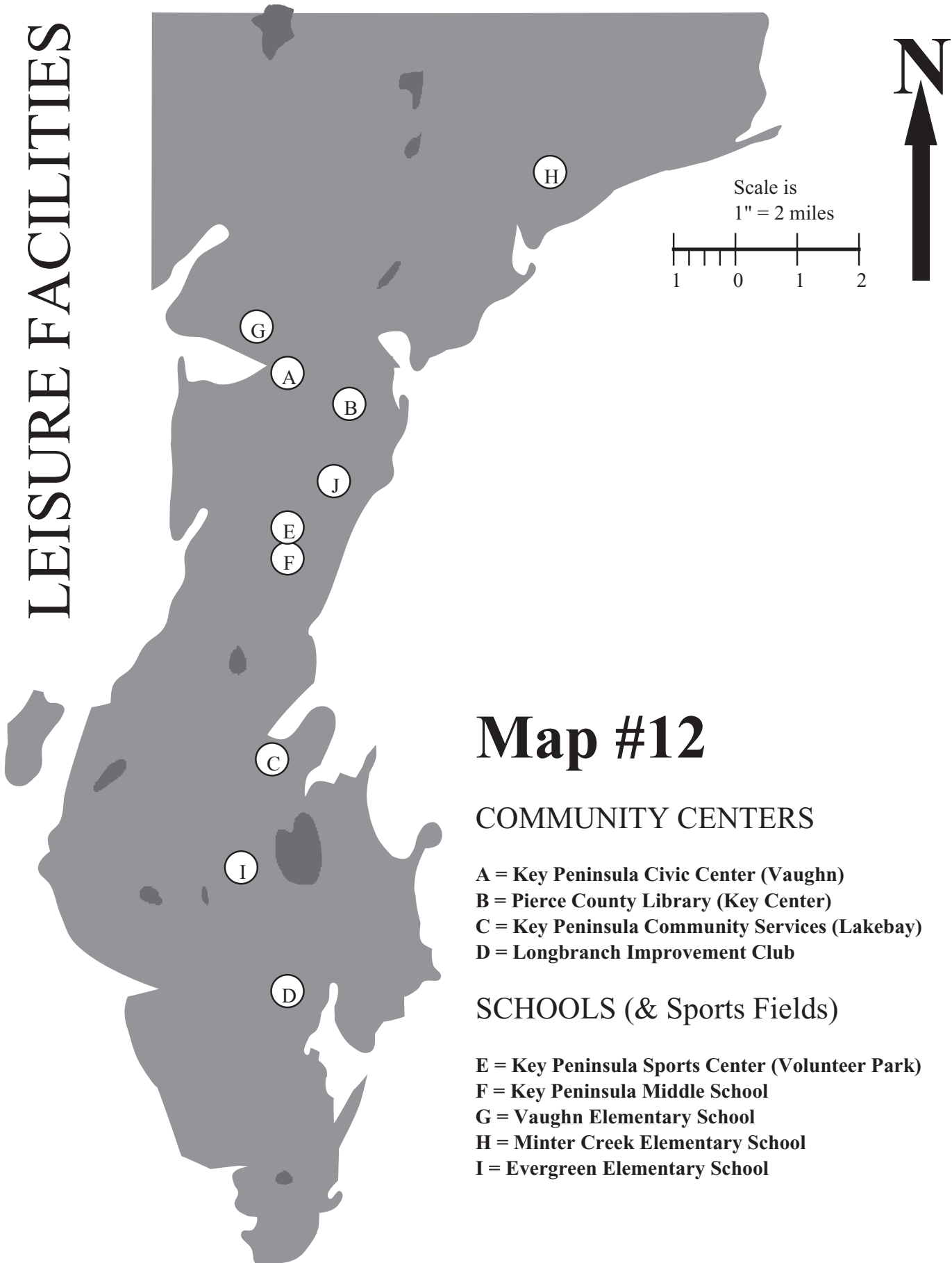
POINTS OF INTEREST

- A = Vaughn
- B = Home
- C = Taylor Bay
- D = Longbranch
- E = Lutheran Church and Cemetery
- F = Meridian
- G = Delano
- H = Lakebay
- I = Herron
- J = Glen Cove
- K = Minter/Elgin
- L = Victor/Rocky Creek
- M = Carney Lake logging railway bed
- N = Little Sweden
- O = Wauna

Map #11 = HISTORICAL PLACES

History on the Key Peninsula is rich, dating back to the first encounter between local native people and the exploration party of Peter Puget from Captain Vancouver's expedition of 1792 on the Minter Bay sand spit. The Key Peninsula Historical Society's **museum** is located beside the civic center in Vaughn and contains a plethora of interesting exhibits and stories. Here are some of the highlights of **historical points of interest** on the Key Peninsula:

- A = **Vaughn** (schools, library, churches, cemetery, dock, stores, post office, saw mill, bakery, houses, grange warehouse, MUSEUM);
- B = **Home** (houses, schools, dock, post office, phone company, print shop, coop, hotels, baseball grandstand, halls, stores, cemetery, mutual association, brass foundry, barber shop, boat building, winery, the Home Mutual Association);
- C = **Taylor Bay** (dock, steam mill, ferry service);
- D = **Longbranch** (schools, blacksmith shop, hotels, halls, churches, cemetery, stores, baseball grandstand, post office, dock, lighthouse, pool hall, barber shop);
- E = **Lutheran Church and Cemetery**;
- F = **Meridian** (brickyard kiln, post office, store);
- G = **Delano** (post office, hotel);
- H = **Lakebay** (dock, coop, barber, pool hall, hotel, dance hall & roller rink, post office, stores, church, cemetery, fish fertilizer plant, school, houses, saw mill);
- I = **Herron** (social hall, library, ferry terminal, prune drier);
- J = **Glen Cove** (hotel & boarding house, store, brickyard kiln, dock, post office, hall, school);
- K = **Minter/Elgin** (school, cemetery, hotel, hatchery);
- L = **Victor/Rocky Creek** (school, cemetery);
- M = **Carney Lake logging railway** (bed and right of way remain); and
- N = **Little Sweden** (Scandinavian settlement, logging tramway): and
- O = **Wauna** (school, dance hall, hotels, stores, post office, bridge).



Map #12 = LEISURE FACILITIES

The Key Peninsula lacks a modern recreation center, however, four community centers, four schools, and two parks, share the load of addressing social, educational, sport, and meeting needs. The four community centers provide a number of community services:

- A = **Key Peninsula Civic Center** (in Vaughn, 3 meetings rooms, large gym hall, toilets, kitchen, playground equipment, tennis court, basketball hoop, roller skating activities, family resource center, local newspaper office, historical museum);
- B = **Pierce County Library** (in Key Center, meeting room, toilets, internet connection, reference information, public presentations, book discussion group, library books, CDs, DVDs, videotapes, audio cassettes, community programs);
- C = **Key Peninsula Community Services** (in Lakebay, meeting rooms, TV room, kitchen, toilets, clothing bank, food bank, senior lunches, field trips, bingo games, government surplus, emergency distribution of goods and funds); and
- D = **Longbranch Improvement Club** (in Longbranch, large ballroom, meeting room, toilets, kitchen, stage, large games field, community programs and events).

The schools and parks contain sports fields and other activity spaces (some are leased to public):

- E = **Key Peninsula Sports Center** (aka: Volunteer Park, 6 horseshoe pits, 3 baseball diamonds [one lit at night], 2 tennis courts, 1 soccer field, cafe, toilets, playground equipment, limited camping sites, basketball hoop, parking, meeting rooms, office space, covered picnic area, and maintenance shop — annual site of the Key Peninsula Fair);
- F = **Key Peninsula Middle School** (3 baseball diamonds, 2 soccer fields, football field, running track, large gymnasium with a separable half gym, and after school programs in art, photography, woodworking, home economics, etc.);
- G = **Vaughn Elementary School** (2 soccer fields, 2 baseball diamonds, playground equipment, small gymnasium);
- H = **Minter Creek Elementary School** (playground equipment, soccer field, 2 T-ball diamonds, small gymnasium); and
- I = **Evergreen Elementary School** (playground equipment, soccer field, 2 T-ball diamonds, detached gymnasium).



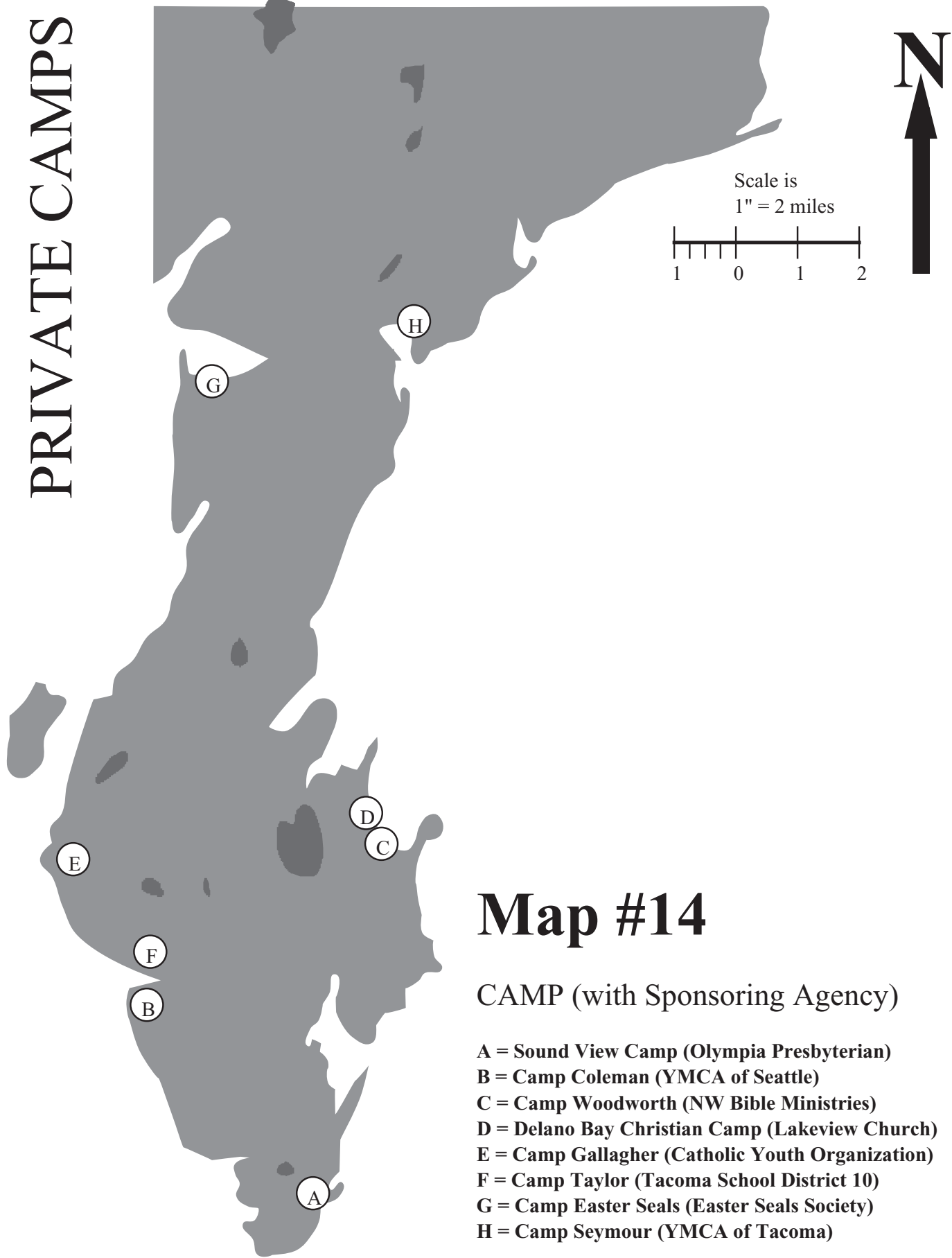
Map #13 = MEETING SPACES

One aspect of social recreation is the ability to gather and discuss common interests through social clubs, governing boards, and religious groups. Aside from the community centers and schools mentioned earlier, six fire stations and nine churches have potential meeting spaces. Some of the fire stations offer space for meetings of various social clubs and local administration boards such as 4H, garden club, and Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District:

- A = **Wauna-Minter Fire Station** (16-1, no space, but new station being constructed);
- B = **Vaughn-Lake Holiday Fire Station** (16-5, 1 meeting room);
- C = **Key Center Fire Station** (16-2, 1 meeting room, 1 classroom);
- D = **Home Fire Station** (16-3, 1 meeting room);
- E = **Herron Island Fire Station** (16-6, no space, but plans for the future); and
- F = **Longbranch Fire Station** (16-4, 1 meeting room).

Many of the churches offer space for meetings of religious groups and other clubs such as bible study, sunday school, preschool, choir, substance abuse/recovery, weight loss, and scouts:

- G = **Lakebay Christian Assembly** (multi-purpose room, kitchen, playground, 4 classrooms, nursery, food bank);
- H = **Longbranch Community Church** (social hall with kitchen, parish house, nursery, 4 classrooms, playground under development);
- I = **Vaughn Community Church** (nursery, 4 classrooms, hall);
- J = **Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses** (hall, not for public use);
- K = **Key Peninsula Lutheran Church** (nursery, kitchen, classroom, hall);
- L = **Grace Presbyterian Church** (no space, meets at Miracle Ranch);
- M = **Lakebay Community Covenant Church** (nursery, 5 classrooms, hall);
- N = **Community Bible Fellowship Church** (under construction); and
- O = **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints** (dividable recreation hall, nursery, 15 classrooms, kitchen and dining area).

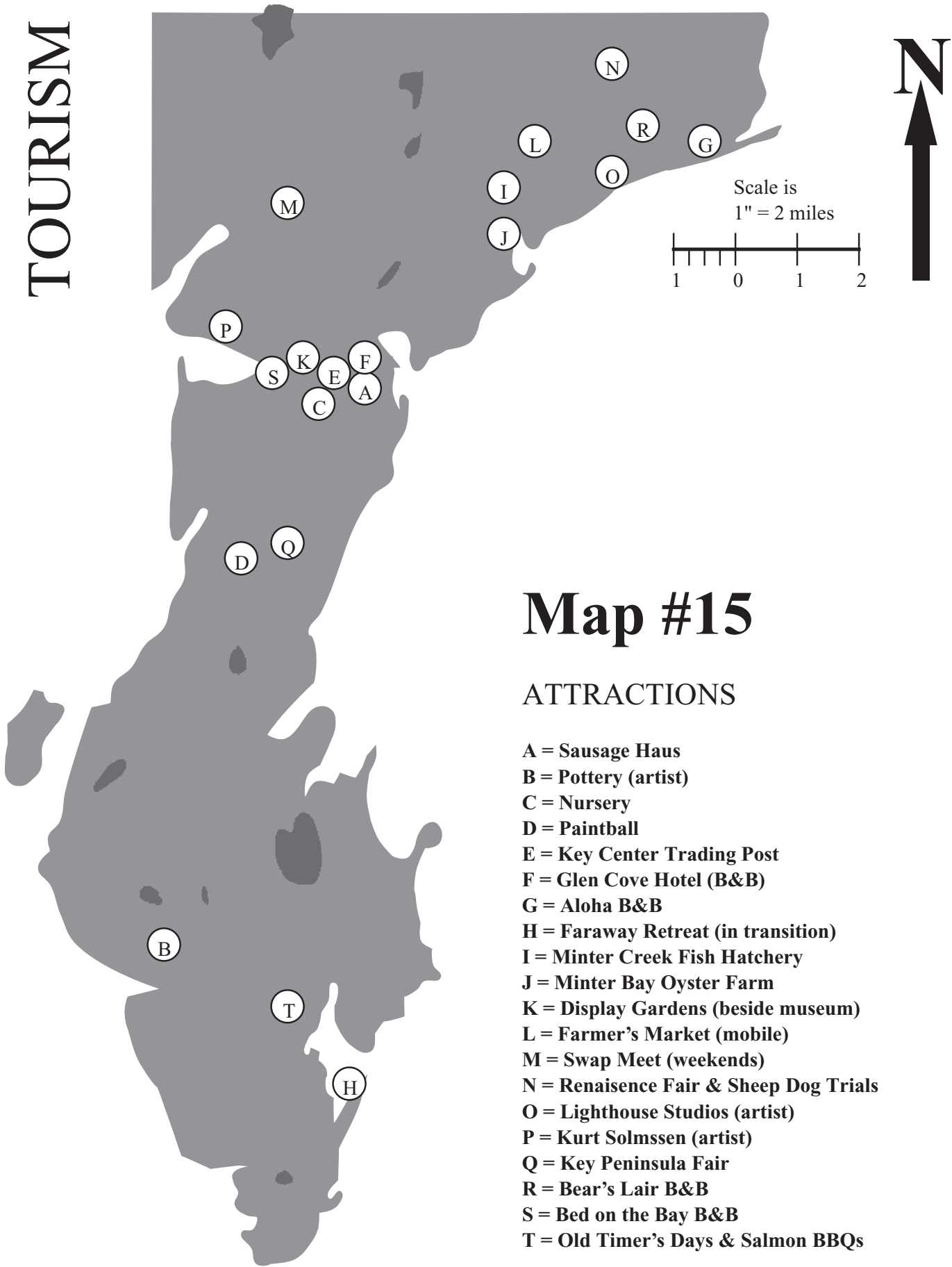


Map #14 = PRIVATE CAMPS

Seven private camps operate seasonally on the Key Peninsula. They are at their busiest in the summer months with residential or day camp options, and then occasionally with off season programs:

- A = **Sound View Camp** (Olympia Presbyterian, off season rental to non-profits, 105 acres, platform tents, bunk bed cabins with electric heat, dining hall with kitchen, waterfront pier, volleyball court, picnic area, campfire circles, sandspit, canoes and kayaks, challenge course, initiatives area, volleyball court, basketball court, games field, beach, archery);
- B = **Camp Coleman** (YMCA of Seattle, off season rental to groups, 98 acres, yurt, platform tent, bunk bed cabins with wood stoves, dining hall with kitchen, waterfront pier, volleyball court, picnic area, campfire circles, sandspit, canoes and kayaks, challenge course, initiatives area, basketball court, games field, climbing wall, badminton court, pickleball court, beach, estuary);
- C = **Camp Woodworth** (Northwest Bible Ministries, off season rental to non-profits, 10 acres, bunk bed cabins without heat, dining hall with kitchen, beach, waterfront, indoor gymnasium, campfire circle, canoe and rowboats, games field);
- D = **Delano Bay Christian Camp** (Lakeview Church in Tacoma, off season rental to non-profits, 15 acres, historic seaside cabins, bunk bed dorm rooms with electric heat, dining hall with kitchen, picnic area, campfire, playground, volleyball court, basketball court, games field, badminton court, pickle ball court, beach);
- E = **Camp Gallagher** (Catholic Youth Organization of the Seattle Arch Diocese, no rentals, 160 acres, open air cabins without heat, platform tents for staff, covered dining area with kitchen, campfire circles, sandspit, canoes and kayaks, challenge course, initiatives area, beach, basketball hoop, grass field);
- F = **Camp Taylor** (Tacoma School District, 10 acres, grass field, campfire circle, cabins currently condemned, no rentals, kitchen and dining hall);
- G = **Camp Easter Seal** (Easter Seals Society of Washington, off season rental to groups, most facilities are accessible, 20 acres, bunk bed A-frame cabins with electric heat, dining hall with kitchen, waterfront pier, heated swimming pool, hot tub, picnic area, campfire, games field, beach, estuary, basketball hoop, volleyball court, badminton court, tractor rides, arts and crafts, nature trails, archery); and
- H = **Camp Seymour** (YMCA of Tacoma, off season rental to groups, 150 acres, yurts, bunk bed cabins with electric heat, dining hall with kitchen, waterfront pier, picnic area, campfire circles, canoes and kayaks, challenge course, initiatives area, climbing wall, volleyball court, pickleball court, basketball court, games field, beach, estuary, heated outdoor swimming pool, environmental center, classroom).

TOURISM



Map #15

ATTRACTIONS

- A = Sausage Haus
- B = Pottery (artist)
- C = Nursery
- D = Paintball
- E = Key Center Trading Post
- F = Glen Cove Hotel (B&B)
- G = Aloha B&B
- H = Faraway Retreat (in transition)
- I = Minter Creek Fish Hatchery
- J = Minter Bay Oyster Farm
- K = Display Gardens (beside museum)
- L = Farmer's Market (mobile)
- M = Swap Meet (weekends)
- N = Renaissance Fair & Sheep Dog Trials
- O = Lighthouse Studios (artist)
- P = Kurt Solmssen (artist)
- Q = Key Peninsula Fair
- R = Bear's Lair B&B
- S = Bed on the Bay B&B
- T = Old Timer's Days & Salmon BBQs

Map #15 = TOURISM

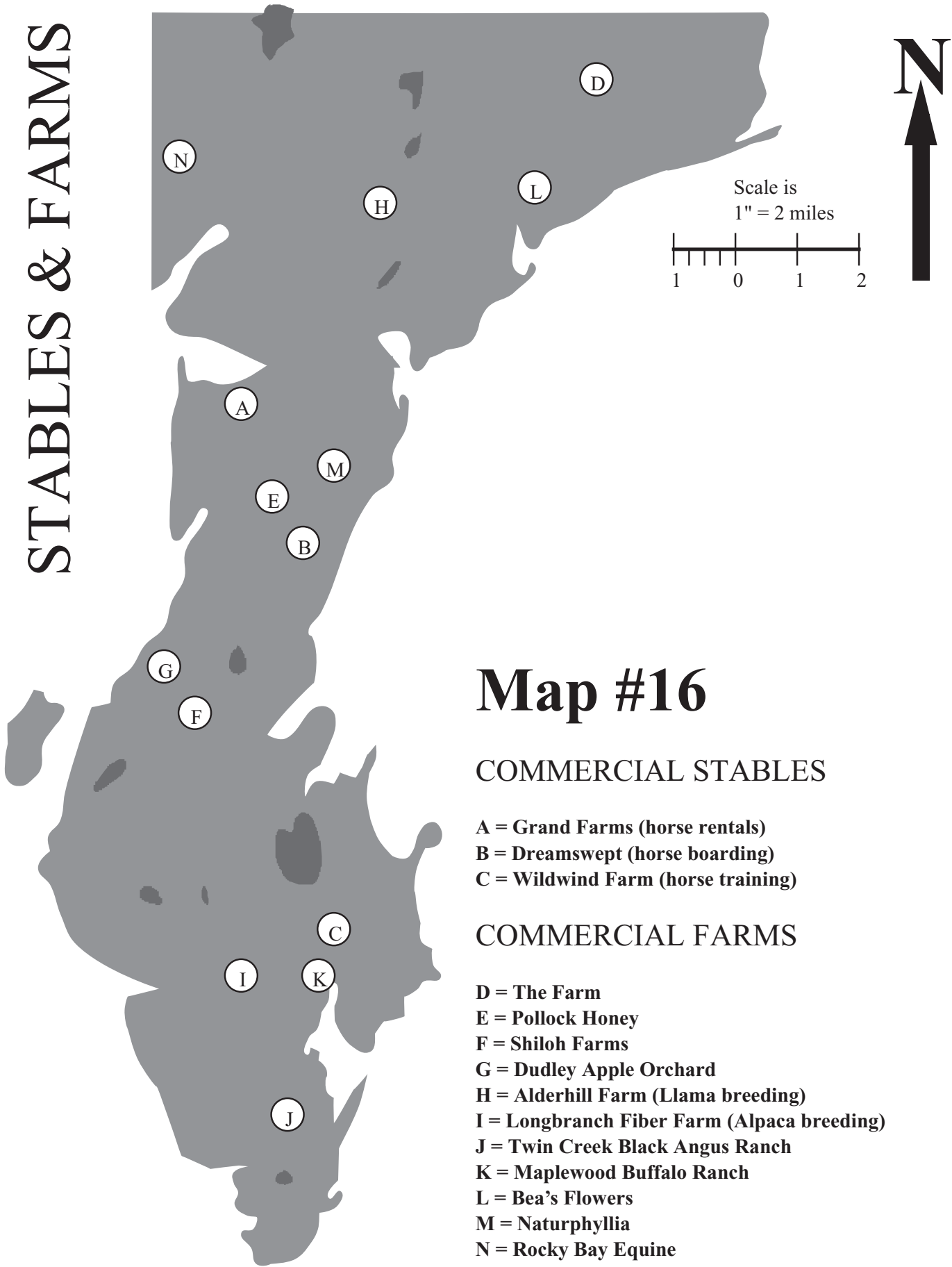
An eclectic collection of attractions invite tourists to visit and stay on the Key Peninsula. Overnight accommodation is available from:

- F = **Glen Cove Hotel** (Bed and Breakfast, historic hotel/boarding house);
- G = **Aloha B&B** (Bed and Breakfast, Hawaiian theme, 5 rooms, hot tub);
- R = **Bear's Lair** (Bed and Breakfast with carriage house cottage); and
- S = **A Bed on the Bay** (Bed and Breakfast across from civic center in Vaughn).

In addition, the nearest motel is in Purdy (Westwynd Motel). Some of the more interesting local attractions on the Key Peninsula include:

- A = **Sausage Haus** (sales of meat in Key Center);
- B = **Pottery** (home studio of local potter near Whiteman Road & 30th Street);
- C = **Nursery** (sales of plants and garden supplies);
- D = **Paintball** (competitive games using paint pellet firing guns);
- E = **Key Center Trading Post** (sales of restored antique stoves);
- H = **Faraway Retreat** (no longer rents for private events);
- I = **Minter Creek Fish Hatchery** (salmonid education);
- J = **Minter Bay Oyster Farm** (raw oyster sales);
- K = **Display Gardens** (beside historic museum in Vaughn);
- L = **Farmer's Market** (mobile, often found at Highway #302 & 118th Avenue);
- M = **Swap Meet** (collection of vendors at Highway #302 & Wright-Bliss Road);
- N = **Renaissance Fair & Sheep Dog Trials** (select summer weekends, on leased private property, off Highway #302 near Creviston Drive);
- O = **Lighthouse Studios** (functional glass and clay fusion);
- P = **Kurt Solmssen** (paintings near Bayview Road & 186th Avenue);
- Q = **Key Peninsula Fair** (summer weekend event at Volunteer Sports Park); and
- T = **Old Timer's Days & Salmon BBQs** (special events at Longbranch Improvement Club).

STABLES & FARMS



Map #16

COMMERCIAL STABLES

- A = Grand Farms (horse rentals)
- B = Dreamswept (horse boarding)
- C = Wildwind Farm (horse training)

COMMERCIAL FARMS

- D = The Farm
- E = Pollock Honey
- F = Shiloh Farms
- G = Dudley Apple Orchard
- H = Alderhill Farm (Llama breeding)
- I = Longbranch Fiber Farm (Alpaca breeding)
- J = Twin Creek Black Angus Ranch
- K = Maplewood Buffalo Ranch
- L = Bea's Flowers
- M = Naturphyllia
- N = Rocky Bay Equine

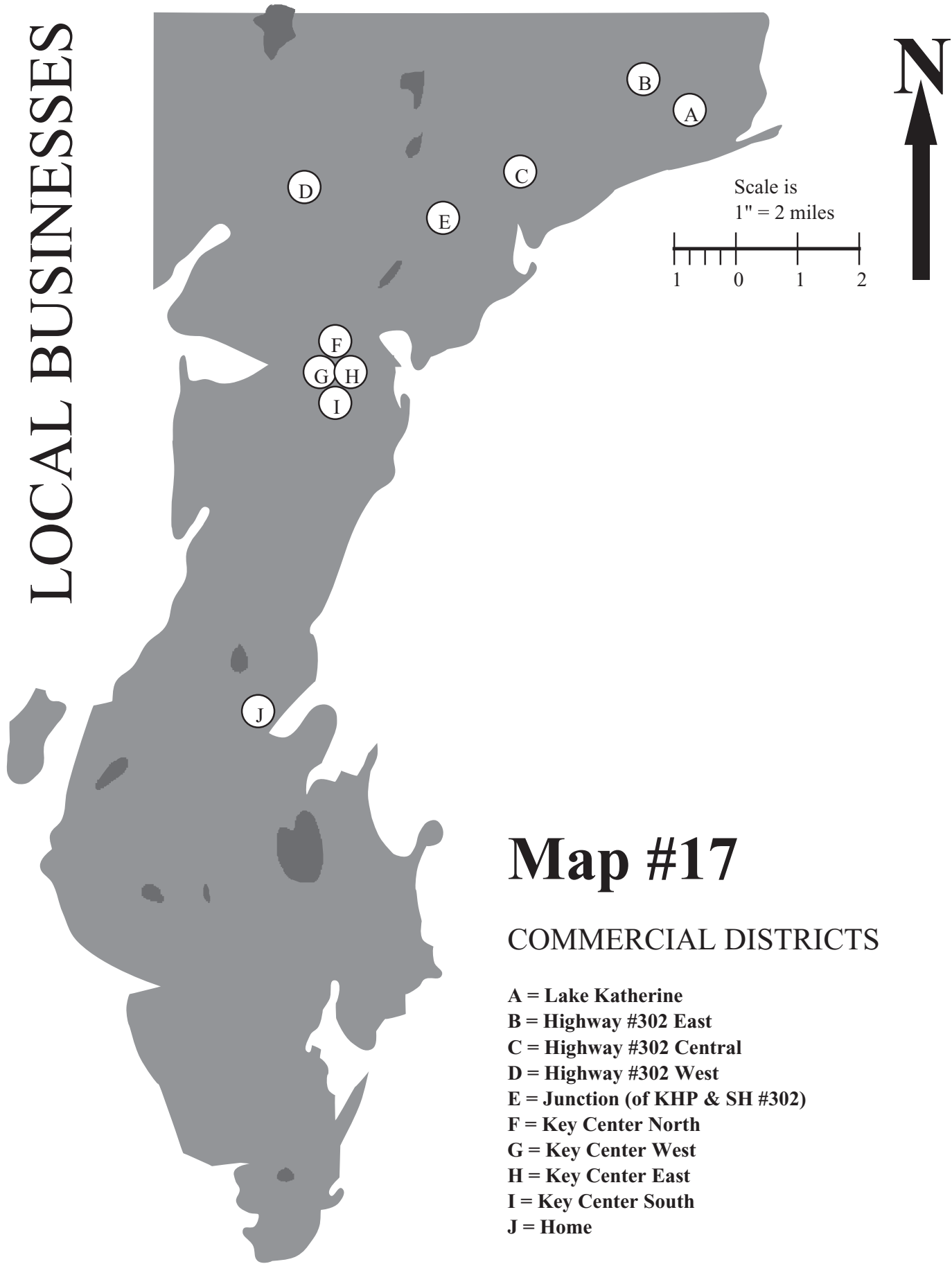
Map #16 = STABLES & FARMS

Numerous farms and three commercial stables offer their goods and services to the general public. For the equestrian enthusiast, the following stables offer combinations of horse rentals, boarding and training:

- A = **Grand Farms** (horse rentals);
- B = **Dreamswept** (horse boarding); and
- C = **Wildwind Farm** (horse training).

Furthermore, these farms and ranches sell products and services to the general public:

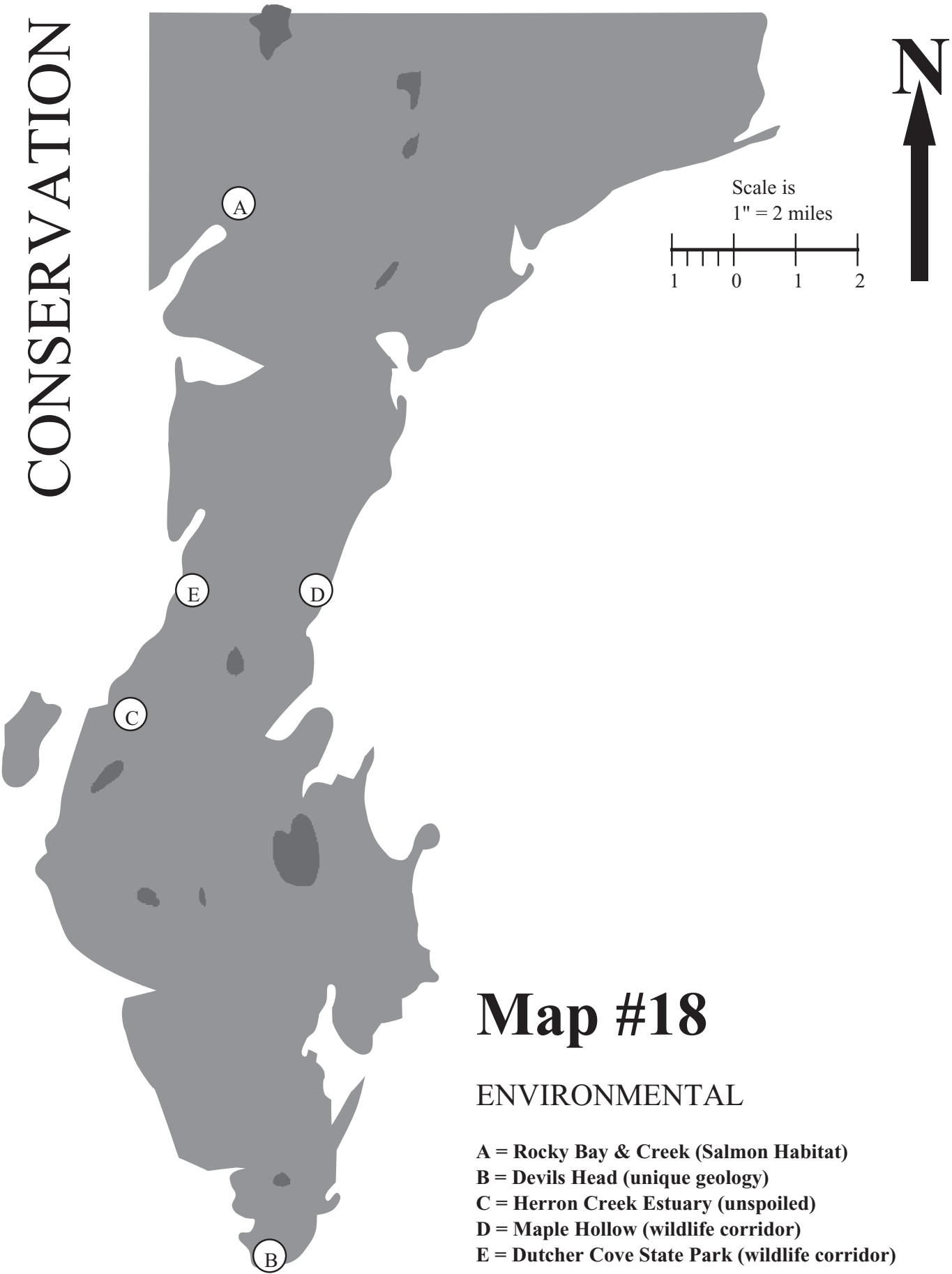
- D = **The Farm** (assorted fruits and vegetables);
- E = **Pollock Honey** (honey);
- F = **Shiloh Farms** (assorted fruits and vegetables);
- G = **Dudley Apple Orchard** (22 varieties of apples);
- H = **Alderhill Farm** (Llama breeding);
- I = **Longbranch Fiber Farm** (Alpaca breeding);
- J = **Twin Creek Black Angus Ranch** (beef);
- K = **Maplewood Buffalo Ranch** (Buffalo breeding);
- L = **Bea's Flowers** (flowers and fruits);
- M = **Naturphyllia Nursery** (herbs); and
- N = **Rocky Bay Equine** (veterinary services).



Map #17 = LOCAL BUSINESSES

As one might expect, the commercial districts on the Key Peninsula are small and distributed along the main corridors of transportation (KPH & SH#302). Here is a list of those commercial districts and the local businesses that reside in each (this list does not include home businesses and is as current as possible to the date of publication):

- A = **Lake Katherine** (the mall beside SH#302 contains Peninsula Market 2, Costless Drugs, Coast to Coast hardware, and the Minter Veterinary Hospital);
- B = **Highway #302 East** (centered on the corner of SH#302 and 94th Avenue are the Sit & Sip Tavern, T-Day's Salon, Northwest Auto Clinic, Union 76 Gas Station, Country Garden's Florist, Harvest Time Country Store & Deli, Chevron Gas Station & Key Peninsula Market, and Lonnig's Saw & Small Engine Repair);
- C = **Highway #302 Central** (centered on the corner of SH#302 and 118th Avenue are Brookside Veterinary Hospital, Charboneau Excavating, Serenity Salon, Ravensara Espresso, and the former Brookside Restaurant);
- D = **Highway #302 West** (centered on the corner of SH#302 and Wright Bliss Road are the Texaco Gas Station & the Friendly Food Mart);
- E = **Junction** (near the triangle formed by KPH, SH#302, and 134th Avenue are the Key Center Auto Sales, RJN Drywall, KP Video Rentals, John Dough Pizza, Key Center Shell Gas Station & Deli, Brewed Awakenings Espresso, Key Center Auto Repair, Key Center Rentals, Bayside Animal Lodge, Holland Pump Company, and Storage Tech LLC);
- F = **Key Center North** (on the north side of Olson Drive and Cramer Road are Mountain View Towing, Moreland & Sons Auto Repair, Auto Value Parts Store, Washington State Liquor Store, Huckleberry Inn Restaurant & Lounge);
- G = **Key Center West** (on the west side of KPH between Olson Drive and 88th Avenue are Key Center Saloon, Sunnycrest Nursery, and the Sound Credit Union, Shear Magic Hair Salon, Affordable Pet Grooming, THAssociates, and Oceanus Antiques);
- H = **Key Center East** (on the east side of KPH between Cramer Road and 89th Avenue are Key Center Trading Post, East West Karate School, Henderson Bay Products, Windermere Real Estate, Brinkerhoff Financial Services, Capitol Lumber, Peninsula Market 1, Close to Home Espresso, Lisa's Deli, and the Key Center Corral containing Olsson Dentistry, Key Center Chiropractic, A Touch of Country Hair Salon, MVP Physical Therapy, Moore Smokes & Gifts, and the Angel Guild Thrift Shop);
- I = **Key Center South** (on the south side of 89th Avenue are the Key Medical Center of Dr. Roes, and the Key Peninsula Professional & Health Center containing Nature's Renewal Massage Therapy, MyrMar Accounting, Glen Psczola Attorney, Safe Streets Campaign & Key Peninsula Information Center); and
- J = **Home** (on the KPH between A Street and McEwan Road are Home Feed and Grocery, Lulu's Homeport Restaurant & Lounge, the Home Store, Texaco Gas Station & Home Food Mart, and Home Laundromat).



Map #18 = CONSERVATION

Conservation refers to the protection of sensitive environments, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources. The following were identified as high priorities for conservation:

- A = **Rocky Bay and Creek** (containing salmon habitat in all forks);
- B = **Devils Head** (a unique geological feature in Washington State);
- C = **Herron Creek Estuary** (natural beauty and unspoiled natural area);
- D = **Maple Hollow** (valuable corridor for travelling wildlife); and
- E = **Dutcher Cove (Haley) State Park** (also a valuable wildlife corridor).

Overall, people expressed their needs for wildlife corridors to link existing public lands and for all public lands to remain public and not be logged or sold to land developers. The recently logged 40 acres adjacent to Dutcher Cove State Park was seen as a perfect addition for park facility development, this allowing the existing lands to remain natural. Furthermore, the general consensus appeared to desire the transfer of public lands to KPPRD for management and the strong encouragement of local landowners to place some of their natural properties into land trust.

Water quality on the Key Peninsula was a major concern for the public, especially with respect to Salmon enhancement. Further examination was requested on a community wide basis into: septic seepage, gasoline spillage, wetland development, freshwater spring protection, aquifer depletion, marine bulkheading, clear cutting of forests, tree buffer retention, shellfish collection, fishing practices, garbage disposal, and car abandonment.

- RECOMMENDATION 18.1:** KPPRD will support the efforts of South Sound Salmon Enhancement and the Pierce Conservation District's "Stream Team" and their work on Salmon Habitat protection and restoration.
- RECOMMENDATION 18.2:** KPPRD will collaborate with the KGI Watershed Council to protect and restore water quality on the Key Peninsula.
- RECOMMENDATION 18.3:** KPPRD will aid other community agencies in investigating awareness, education, and enforcement regarding the water quality concerns listed above.
- RECOMMENDATION 18.4:** KPPRD will seek out resources and expert personnel (graduate students or government employees) to conduct much needed surveys of flora and fauna on the Key Peninsula with particular attention to endangered species of birds, mammals, and flowers. This includes electronic reporting of wildlife sightings and public information on a website.



Map #19 = PRESERVATION

Preservation refers to the protection of historical and cultural resources. The following **historical** resources have been identified by the Key Peninsula Historical Society and other members of the public as worthy of preservation (or recognition and restoration where necessary):

- A = **original stores & post offices** (Longbranch Mercantile, Goldman/White);
- B = **the three Community Centers** (Vaughn, Home/Lakebay, Longbranch);
- C = **major churches and active cemeteries** (Vaughn, Longbranch, Lakebay);
- D = **inactive cemeteries** (Home, Victor, Minter/Elgin, Lutheran);
- E = **original homesteads** (Danforth, Olson, Curl, Davidson, Sipple, Sloan);
- F = **old school houses** (Home, Glen Cove, Wauna); and
- G = **other miscellaneous locations** (Longbranch and Lakebay marinas, Home treehouse, Faraway, Vaughn Library Hall, Upper Sound Logging Railway, etc.).

The Key Peninsula Historical Society and the Key Peninsula Trails Committee has developed an auto tour route as shown on the map opposite. This historical “trail” travels by car between the major concentrations of historical places: Vaughn, Home, Longbranch, Lakebay, Glen Cove, and Minter. A booklet explains the history behind the hundred or so points of interest. Funding for this was provided by volunteers and local sponsors.

The Key Peninsula Historical Society has installed interpretive signs at the 6 major concentrations listed above. These signs contain a brief text summary of the history and a period photograph. Funding for this was provided by the GH&KA Chamber of Commerce. The Key Peninsula Historical Society is adding to its museum beside the Civic Center in Vaughn. Their Museum Expansion Project will increase their space for storage and display, as well as offer a work area for researchers and educators. Funding is being provided by public donations.

- RECOMMENDATION 19.1:** KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Historical Society in their efforts to preserve and restore diminishing historical sites, develop and promote the auto tour route, install interpretive signs, and expand their museum.
- RECOMMENDATION 19.2:** KPPRD will collaborate with the Key Peninsula Historical Society to seek the recognition of the Key Peninsula as a general region of historical merit.

No **cultural** resources have been identified for preservation, however, cultural development is always warranted in a healthy community and livable society. Two identified desires were: to gather together the community’s artists into a common voice, and to create a public studio or gallery where examples of their work could be displayed for the benefit of the community. In addition, the need to upgrade stage facilities at the community centers was mentioned. Also, the desire for public park artwork (statues, etc.) was repeatedly mentioned. People called for artist tours, garden tours, community gardens on school property, and spinning and weaving programs.

- RECOMMENDATION 19.3:** KPPRD will support the efforts of Two Water’s Art Alliance (TWAA) in organizing the Key Peninsula’s artists and creating a combined studio or gallery for them.
- RECOMMENDATION 19.4:** KPPRD will work with the Cultural Arts Council and TWAA to improve the delivery of plays, movies, and public lectures; and to display artwork in parks.



Map #20 = MULTI-USER TRAILS

The Cushman Trail is under development from Gig Harbor to Victor. As of 2002, the first few miles near Gig Harbor had been completed and it was planned for extension to Purdy and beyond. The route across Key Peninsula, from Purdy to Victor, follows the power line right of way along 144th Street. This open corridor is sufficiently wide to permit multiple trails in parallel, rather than a shared single trail.

A number of reasons exist to have dedicated and separate trails. First and foremost is the inevitable user conflict that occurs by forcing horse, bicycles and pedestrians into a single space. In addition, the desired surfaces for these activities are extremely different and mutually exclusive. Families riding bicycles prefer a paved asphalt bike path. Runners and walkers prefer softer surfaces such as crushed limestone or bark mulch trails. Equestrians prefer more natural substrata for their horses hooves like forest litter and soil or gravel. Forcing one user onto the surface preference of another can lead to damage. Either the trail erodes or the user gets injured.

Several people mentioned a desire to see the Cushman Trail run under the newly constructed additional span of the Tacoma Narrows Bridges. They also noted the value in operating a ferry between Gig Harbor and Ruston in Tacoma during the major construction phases.

- RECOMMENDATION 20.1:** KPPRD will support the extension of the Cushman Multi-user Trail (for all user groups) across the top of the Key Peninsula from Purdy to Victor.
- RECOMMENDATION 20.2:** KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Trails Committee in connecting all land trail systems (hiking, biking, horses, etc.) to the Cushman Multi-user Trail.
- RECOMMENDATION 20.3:** KPPRD will request that Tacoma City Light (owner of the powerline right of way) consider extending park status to the entire corridor.
- RECOMMENDATION 20.4:** KPPRD will request that the Key Peninsula Trails Committee work to provide multiple and parallel trails within the single shared corridor.
- RECOMMENDATION 20.5:** KPPRD will work with the Pierce County EverGreen Trails Initiative to ensure there is a connection of the Cushman Trail across the Narrows Bridges to Tacoma.

Since the Key Peninsula has very few remaining road easements, people mentioned the need to reserve these for possible future trail usage. Many remarked that it would be a shame to lose potential right of ways that could never be regained.

- RECOMMENDATION 20.6:** KPPRD will coordinate with Pierce County Council regarding all matters of vacating easements or right of ways on the Key Peninsula.



Map #21 = WATER TRAILS

People requested the development of more water trails for paddling, sailing, and underwater diving. A two tier trail for shoreline kayakers and mid-channel sailors was suggested, where the two users visit different locations: sailors visit select docks and marinas, while kayakers visit remote beaches. A SCUBA trail to some of the shipwrecks just off Taylor Bay or Joemma Park was also desired.

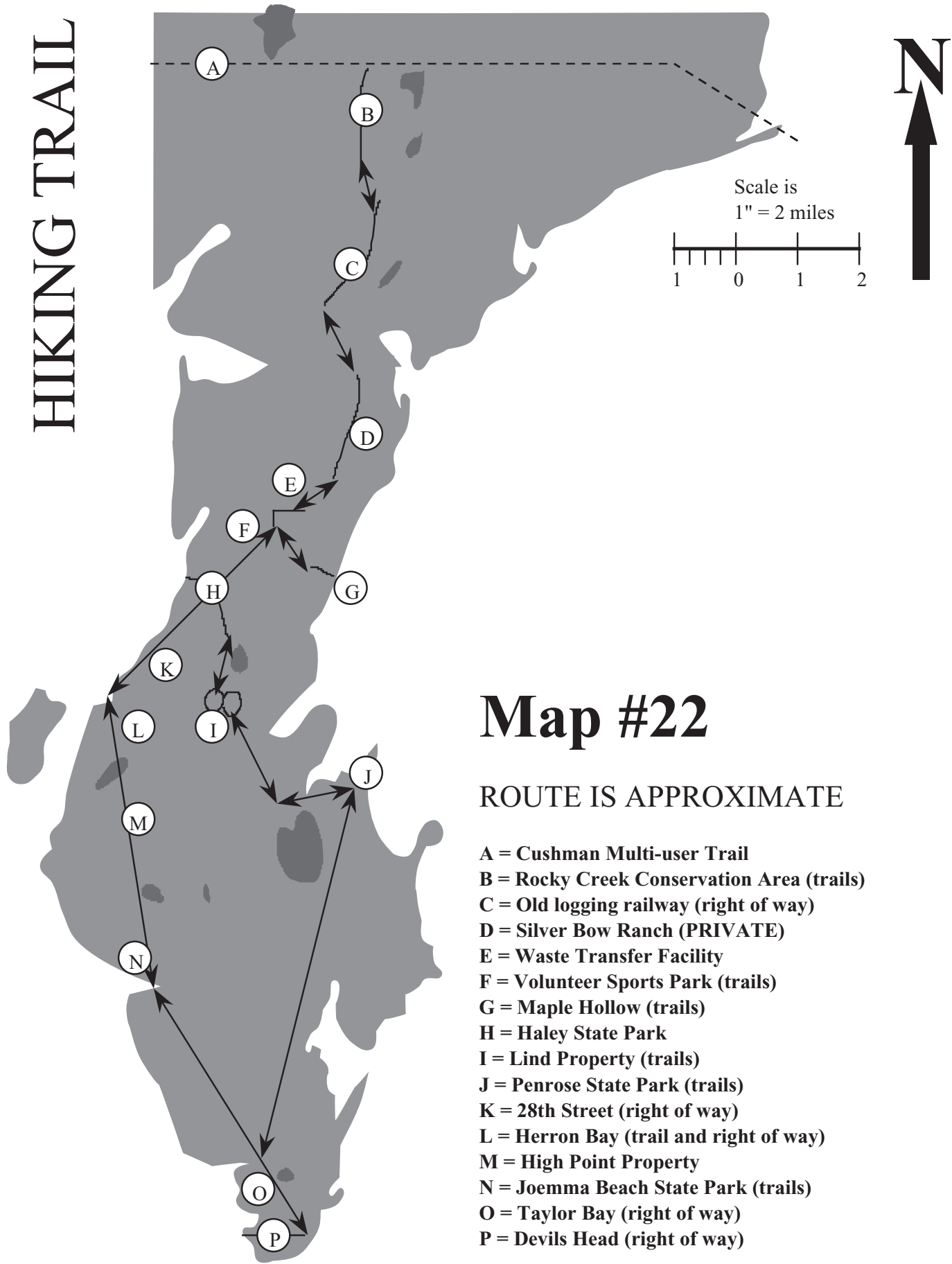
The Key Peninsula Trails Committee has identified and is working to complete a kayaking marine trail that ties into the Cascadia Marine Trail running through Puget Sound. The kayak trail has close or distant start and finish points in order to allow two choices: either a short shuttle of convenience (1.5 miles between Vaughn and Glen Cove) or a long shuttle with better launch facilities and more parking (15 miles between Allyn and Purdy). Here is a partial list of land falls along the trail:

- A = **Allyn** (dock, park, kayak launch site, toilets, water, parking);
- B = **Vaughn Bay** (boat ramp, limited parking);
- C = **Stretch Point State Park** (beach, day use only);
- D = **Dutchers Cove (Haley) State Park** (beach, kayak campsites);
- E = **Herron Point County Park** (ferry terminal, beach, CAUTION ferry route);
- F = **Joemma Beach State Park** (walk in campsites, dock, moorage, boat ramp, toilets, water, parking);
- G = **Devil's Head** (beach, no camping);
- H = **Eagle Island** (beach, day use only);
- I = **Pitt Island** (no trespassing);
- J = **Penrose State Park** (several beaches, toilets, parking, campground, water);
- K = **Maple Hollow** (DNR site, beach, picnic site, used to have camp sites);
- L = **Kopachuck State Park** (kayak campsites, toilets, beach, water);
- M = **Cutts Island State Marine Park** (beach, day use only);
- N = **Glen Cove** (limited parking and restricted access, would need a little improvement and landowner's permission to use for kayaks only); and
- O = **Purdy Spit County Park** (boat ramp, toilets, parking on Highway #302).

RECOMMENDATION 21.1: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Trails Committee in developing water trails (kayaking, sailing, SCUBA) around the shores of the Key Peninsula.

The increasing impact of growing numbers of jet skiers was a great concern for residents. They requested that jet skiers be informed of the existing 1,500' off shore limit for acrobatics and noise as mandated by Pierce County ordinances. They asked for more information kiosks at boat launches and other public access points.

RECOMMENDATION 21.2: KPPRD will examine the laws for jet-skis and work to generate awareness, education, and enforcement for the use of personal watercraft on the waters of the Key Peninsula.

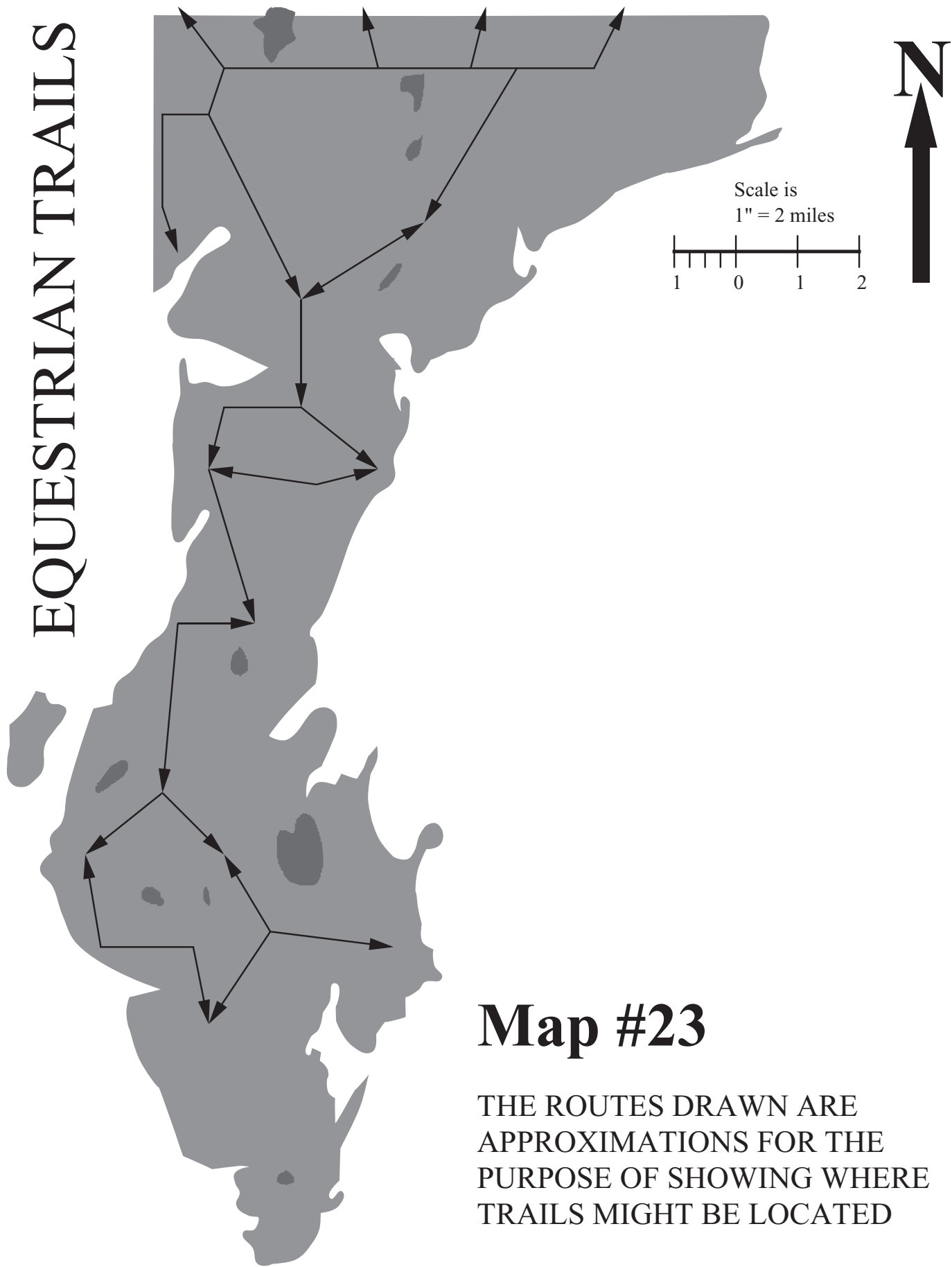


Map #22 = HIKING TRAIL

The “Draggoo Comprehensive Plan of 1994” mandated the development of a “Head to Toe Hiking Trail” from the Devil’s Head along the length of the peninsula to intersect the planned multi-user Cushman Trail. Although, nothing has been done since that mandate, the Key Peninsula Trails Committee has recently begun investigating a feasible route for a peninsula long hiking trail. The following greenspace resources could conceivably be connected to make a continuous route:

- A = **Cushman Trail** (proposed multi-user trail along power line right of way);
- B = **Rocky Creek Conservation Area** (trail would follow along creek bed);
- C = **Remnant of old logging railway** (trail would pass through DNR lands);
- D = **Silverbow Ranch Trails** (trail would follow property perimeter only, if and only if permission is granted by present landowner);
- E = **Waste Transfer Facility** (a trail would be built from 64th Street to the Volunteer Sports Park);
- F = **Volunteer Sports Park** (trail would intersect the park perimeter road);
- G = **Maple Hollow Trail** (a spur would connect to the main trail);
- H = **Haley Trail** (main trail would intersect and cross this trail);
- I = **Lind Loops** (trail would pass through Lind’s Property and into Home);
- J = **Penrose State Park** (spur trail would connect with park nature trails);
- K = **28th Street** (trail would likely follow the road right of way to Herron);
- L = **Herron Bay** (trail would follow the old Isted Road right of way);
- M = **High Point Property** (trail would be built through to Tiedeman Road);
- N = **Joemma State Park** (trails through from 202nd Avenue and around park);
- O = **Taylor Bay** (trail would follow right of way through to next road); and
- P = **Rickert Road** (trail would follow road right of way to Devil’s Head beach).

RECOMMENDATION 22.1: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Trails Committee in their continuing development of the Key Peninsula Hiking Trail from Devils Head to the Rocky Creek Conservation Area.



Map #23 = EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

The public expressed a need for independent user trails (example: horse trails for horses and not hikers or bicyclists) as opposed to multi-user trails (example: Cushman trail will be shared by bicyclists, walkers, and horses in areas outside the Key Peninsula). Since multi users trails frequently lead to conflict between users, the Key Peninsula Trails Committee advocates dedicated trails where space and agreement allow.

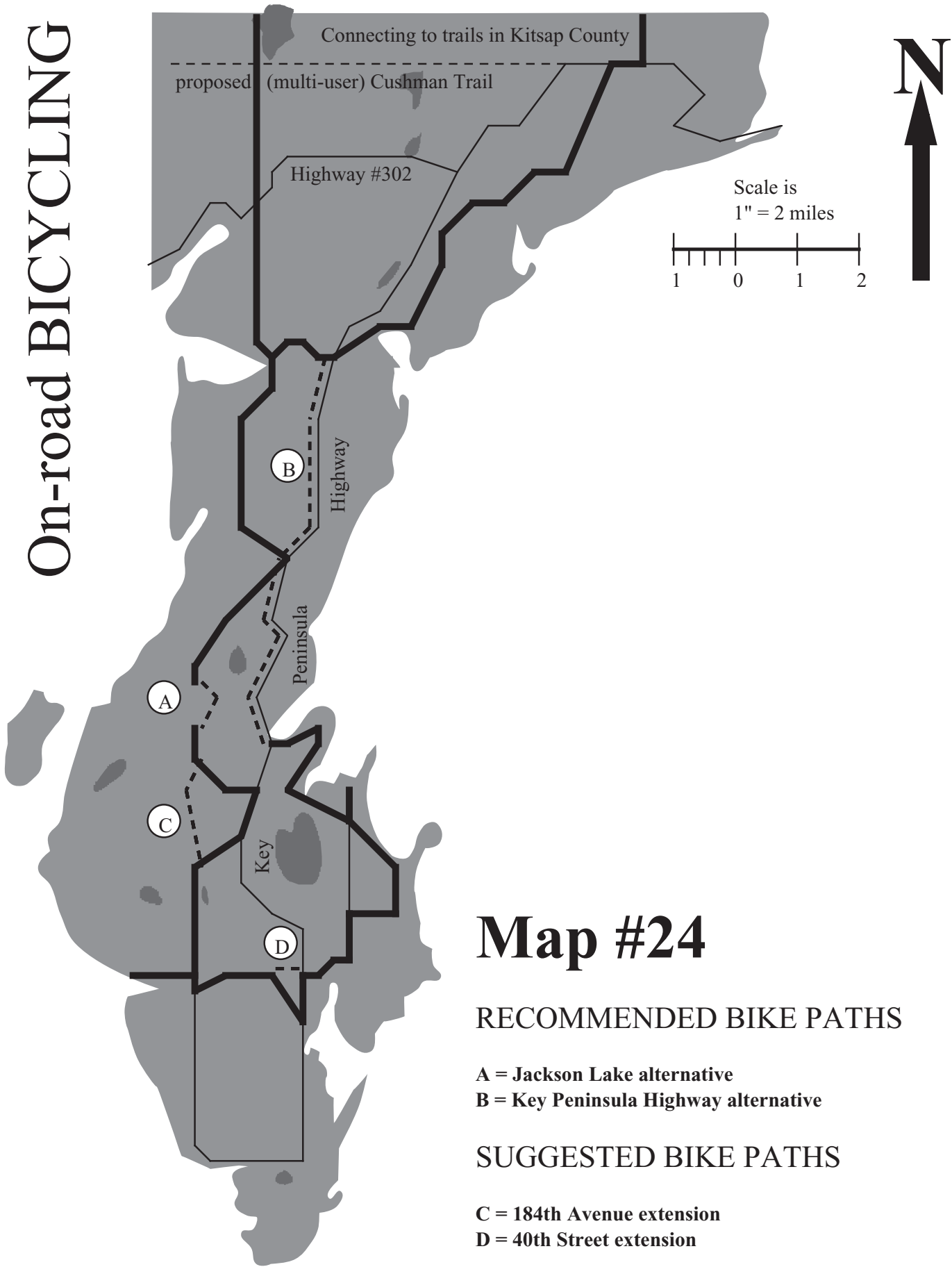
RECOMMENDATION 23.1: KPPRD will support the horse owners and riders to create a linked network of equestrian trail loops connecting horse farms on the Key Peninsula and whenever possible for those loops to be completely separate from other user's trails.

At the time of publication, the Key Peninsula Trails Committee had experienced great difficulty locating the majority of horse owners and riders in the area. The three equine veterinarians had failed to provide a list of their patients or customers. And no one signed up at the Community Forum Fair, where a special display on Equestrian Trails asked them to. A minority of equestrians who expressed an interest in developing trails, recommended that trails adjacent to the Cushman Trail receive the highest development priority (since they could be linked by this multi-user trail). However, since these trails north of 144th Avenue would not serve the needs of folks further south on the Key Peninsula, more investigation is needed. Until this user group is organized with representation, the map opposite presents a loose interpretation of where future equestrian trails might be located.

RECOMMENDATION 23.2: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Trails Committee in identifying and gathering horse owners and riders in the region for the purpose of discussing equestrian trail development.

Furthermore, parking for horse trailer access was an important issue raised by people. If the Equestrian network is to be accessible to visiting horses and their riders, then ample space for parking horse trailers is necessary. Possible locations for parking might include: the power lines along 144th Street, Volunteer Sports Park, and Longbranch Improvement Club.

On-road BICYCLING



Map #24

RECOMMENDED BIKE PATHS

- A = Jackson Lake alternative
- B = Key Peninsula Highway alternative

SUGGESTED BIKE PATHS

- C = 184th Avenue extension
- D = 40th Street extension

Map #24 = On-road BICYCLING TRAILS

The need for safer and more conducive settings for all types of bicycling were identified by the respondents. In the future, the Cushman Trail will offer paved path bicycling ideal for families with small children.

RECOMMENDATION 24.1: KPPRD will support the development of a paved bicycle path on the Cushman Trail from Purdy to Victor.

In addition to short paved trails for families, residents highlighted the need for longer loops for touring bicyclists. The Key Peninsula Trails Committee has prepared a bicycle plan for a such a route that follows existing paved roads. A map of this route is shown opposite and its success depends upon the construction of two bicycle paths:

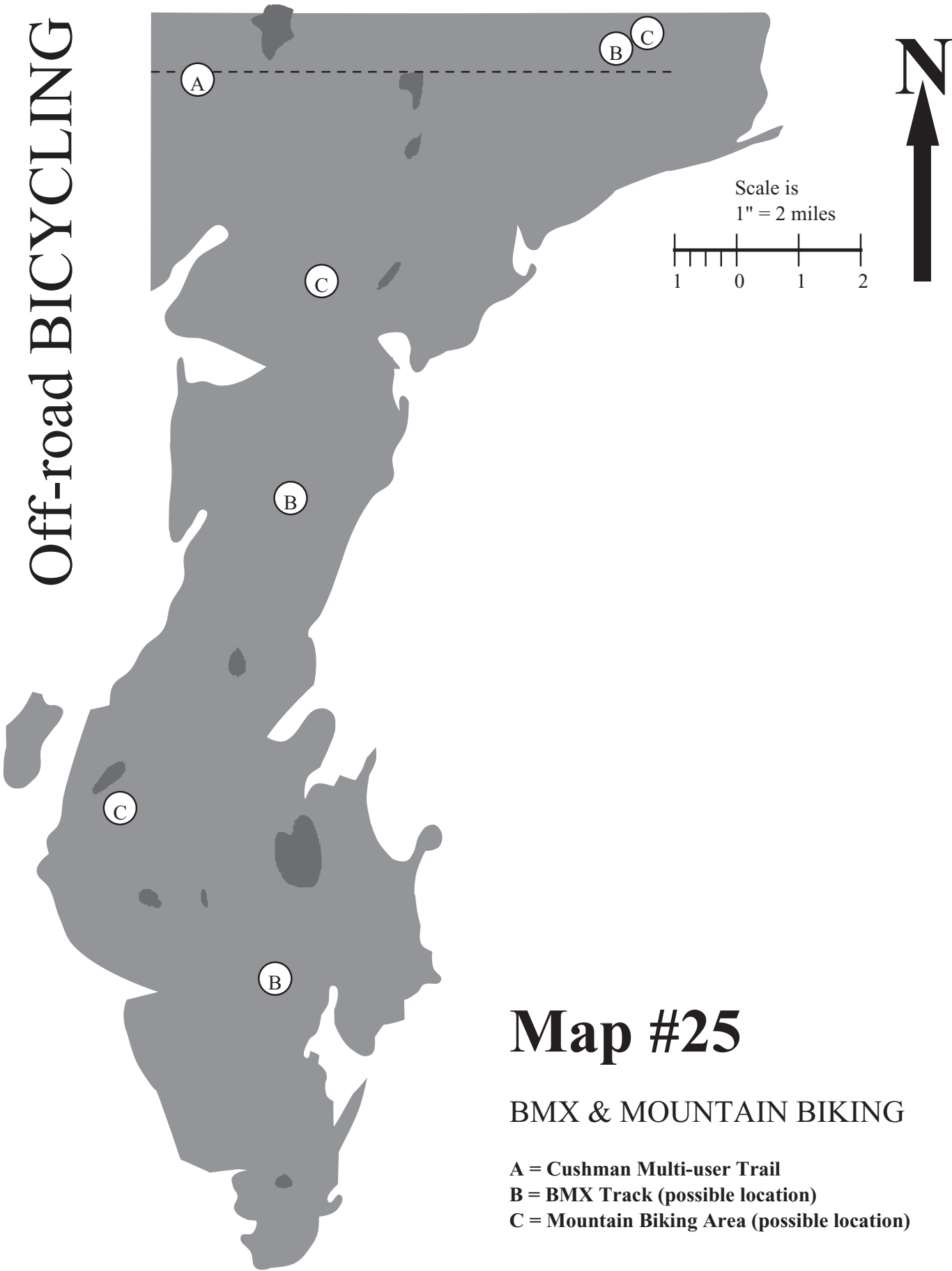
- A = **Jackson Lake alternative** (0.5 miles between 184th Avenue and 186th Avenue, following an old logging road and connecting Jackson Lake Road with Cornwall Road); and
- B = **Key Peninsula Highway alternative** (5 miles from Home to Key Center parallel with, but not adjacent to, the Key Peninsula Highway on the west side).

The first path is necessary to allow for the creation of loops that are more favorable to bicyclists. However, an additional benefit is also possible. Automobiles on the Key Peninsula Highway can avoid blocking accidents by using alternative routes. There is no alternative route for the nearby section of the highway (from 4 Corners to Home Bridge). Therefore, if this first path was enlarged to the width of a single lane road and locked barriers were added, then these barriers could be removed by the authorities in times of an accident and traffic could be rerouted this way. The second path is necessary to avoid a stretch of highway that has no alternative route like other avoidable sections of the Key Peninsula Highway. Although the highway has an added shoulder for most of this section, the high speed of traffic and the narrowness of the road combine to make this a dangerous and frightening section for all but the expert rider. The addition of a bicycle path (perhaps along the Peninsula Light right of way for electricity poles and wires) would satisfy the needs of bicyclists exploring the area parks, commuting to work, or going to the middle school. The bicycle route could also be improve by the construction of two suggested bike paths:

- C = **184th Avenue extension** (1 mile between 184th Avenue and Whiteman Cove Road in order to avoid steep hills, heavy traffic, and high speed vehicles on the Key Peninsula Highway south of Home); and
- D = **40th Street extension** (0.5 miles from Erickson Road to 40th Street, along the edge of the Longbranch Improvement Club baseball field so as to avoid high speed vehicles on the Key Peninsula Highway).

RECOMMENDATION 24.2: KPPRD will support the development of the Key Peninsula Bicycle Trail and the construction of four bicycle paths to create a safer more enjoyable route (in accordance with the recommendations of the Pierce County Nonmotorized Transportation Plan).

In addition to the above, the creation of dedicated bicycle lanes (separated from road traffic by erecting Jersey Barriers at dangerous locations), would greatly enhance the safety and invitation of these bike routes. Bike lane upgrades could be added to secondary roads on the route (Creviston, Wright-Bliss, Lackey, or Jackson Lake). Tertiary roads on the route (Delano, Reeves, Erickson, Whiteman) would not require any changes.



Map #25 = Off-road **BICYCLING** TRAILS

The need for off-road or mountain biking alternatives, as well as BMX (Bicycle Motor Cross) and motor trail options, were expressed separately from on-road bicycle touring routes. Furthermore, people expressed the need to separate mountain bikers from other users such as horses and hikers.

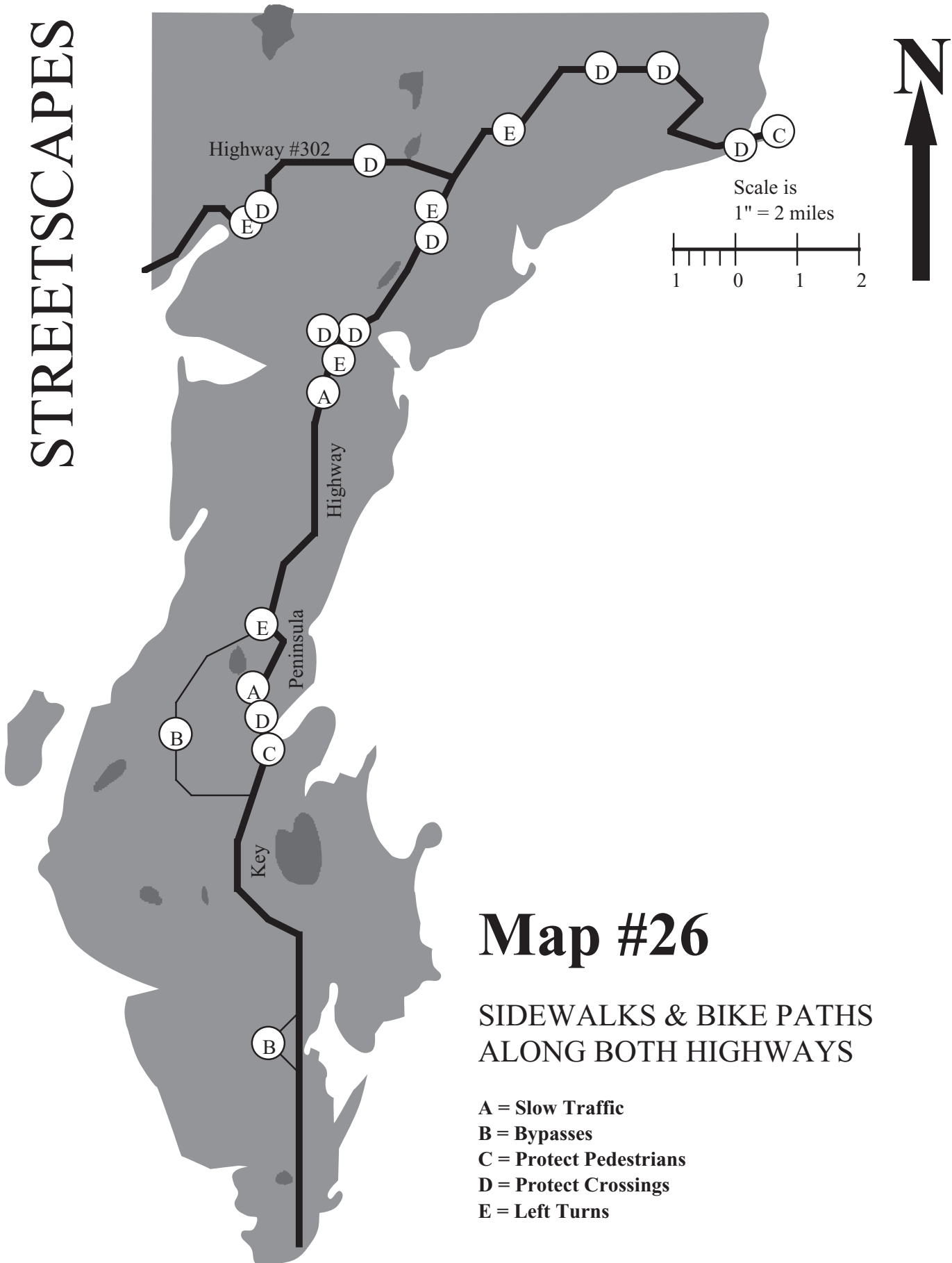
RECOMMENDATION 25.1: KPPRD will support the development of an off-road or mountain bike route on the Cushman Trail from Purdy to Victor.

RECOMMENDATION 25.2: KPPRD will support the development of BMX track with adjacent off-road or mountain biking trail loops (location to be decided at a later time).

Placing the BMX track and mountain biking trail loops close to the Cushman Multi-user trails seems to make initial sense, but locations will need to be determined after further investigation and considerable public input. People were also concerned that these trails for human powered cyclists would become attractive to motorcyclists and other motorized off-road vehicles (ORVs). The use of all terrain vehicles in the Rocky Creek drainage at 144th street and the power line crossing, is causing permanent damage to the salmon spawning habitat along the creek bed. The need to restrict vehicles from the Rocky Creek Conservation Area, and from all water courses, was repeatedly mentioned during the public meetings.

RECOMMENDATION 25.3: KPPRD will support the development of an area for motorized vehicles to operate off-road or will identify a suitable alternative location (Tahuya State Forest near Belfair) and encourage motorized users to travel there for their off-road recreation enjoyment.

STREETSCAPES



Map #26 = STREETSCAPES

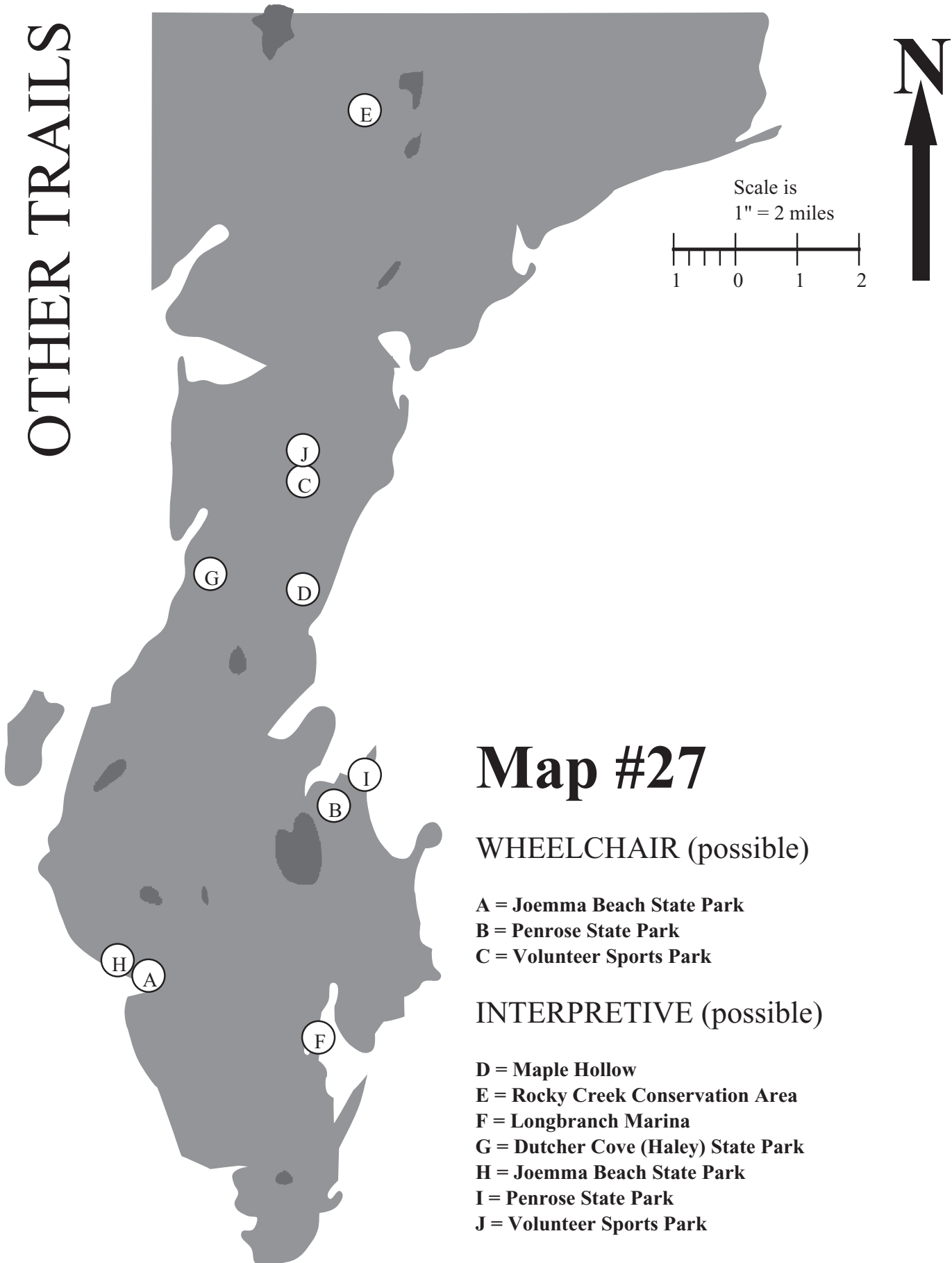
Many people voice their concern about the high rate of injuries for pedestrians walking along the two major highways on the Key Peninsula. Since the shoulders are too narrow to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians, they run the risk of being struck by a motorized vehicle. The public desired streetscape trails or bike paths/sidewalks along the length of Highway #302 and the Key Peninsula Highway.

- RECOMMENDATION 26.1:** KPPRD will encourage Washington State Transportation to develop parallel sidewalks for multi-users along the length of State Highway #302 from Purdy to Victor.
- RECOMMENDATION 26.2:** KPPRD will encourage Pierce County Transportation to develop parallel sidewalks for multi-users along the length of the Key Peninsula Highway from Highway #302 to Longbranch.

While on the topic of transportation, several community members called for very important road improvements that could save lives and make walking around the Key Peninsula much more enjoyable:

- A = **Slow traffic in congested areas** (use turtle bumps in Key Center, Home);
- B = **bypass Home** (using 186th connection) and **Longbranch** (using new road);
- C = **protect pedestrians** (Home bridges and Purdy Spit lack sidewalks);
- D = **protect people crossing streets** (pedestrian crossings needed for both highway intersections with Goodrich Drive, 92nd Avenue, Creviston Drive, 134th Avenue, 150th Avenue, Cramer Road, Olson Road, Wright-Bliss, etc.); and
- E = **manage left turn traffic** (use roundabouts or turn lanes along both highways at: 118th Avenue, 134th Avenue, Cramer/Olson in Key Center, Wright Bliss, and Jackson Lake or Lackey Road at four corners).

- RECOMMENDATION 26.3:** KPPRD will collaborate with government transportation agencies to examine road safety and help develop a transportation plan for the Key Peninsula that may consider the placement of Jersey Barriers, the establishment of button operated flashing pedestrian crosswalks, overpasses or underpasses, the addition of speed bumps, traffic lights and completing the recent transportation plan (that reroutes Highway #302 further north of its present location).
- RECOMMENDATION 26.4:** KPPRD will collaborate with Pierce County to encourage the completion of the planned changes for Purdy Park Spit (to alleviate parking problems and safety concerns for Highway #302).
- RECOMMENDATION 26.5:** KPPRD will collaborate with the newly forming Community Council to achieve the above recommendations.

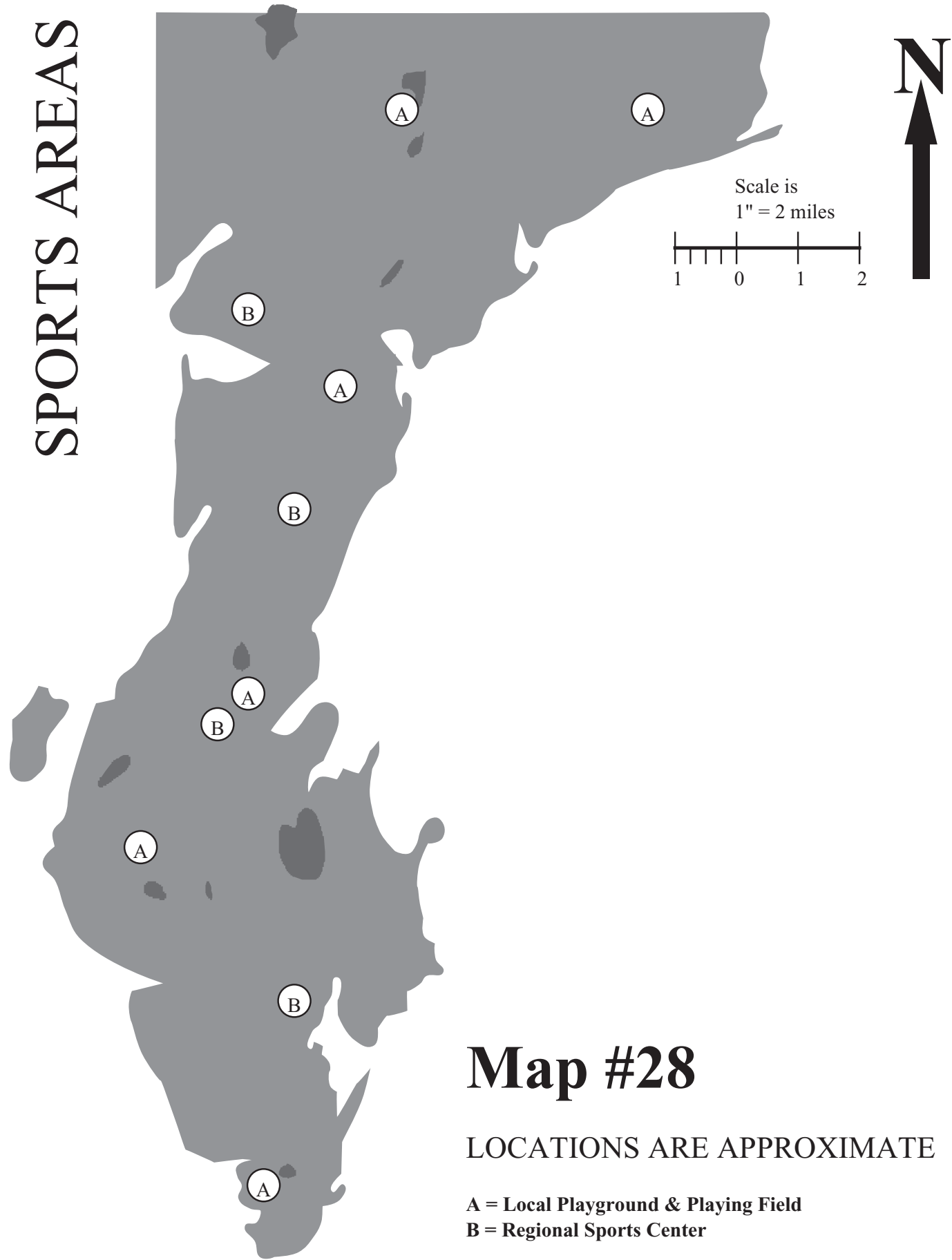


Map #27 = OTHER TRAILS

Three other types of trails came highly desired: access for disabilities (wheelchair trails), education and interpretation (nature trails), and access to public tidelands (beach walks). Several places that were mentioned as potential location for wheelchair trails included: Joemma Beach State Park, Penrose State Park, and the Volunteer Sports Park. People asked for more environmental education and interpretive nature trails in places like Maple Hollow, Rocky Creek Conservation Area, Longbranch Marina, DNR properties, Dutcher Cove (Haley) State Park, Joemma Beach State Park, Penrose State Park, and the Volunteer Sports Park. Lastly, the public repeatedly asked for information and maps about public tidelands on the Key Peninsula, along with the posting of beach limits and trails to reach them.

RECOMMENDATION 27.1: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Trails Committee in the design and construction of additional wheelchair, nature, beach and other types of trails as requested by the public.

A small public interest in roller blading was noted. Perhaps certain bicycle paths could permit roller blading without user conflict. Obviously this need will require further investigation.



Map #28

LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

A = Local Playground & Playing Field
B = Regional Sports Center

Map #28 = SPORTS AREAS

Members of the public clearly saw the need for a progressive sequence of sports areas at three levels of service. First, they desired that every small community on the Key Peninsula have its own open space park with a playground and sports field suitable for soccer or baseball. These local fields would not be extensive nor expensive creations and existing housing locality or school facilities would already suffice in many cases. Alternatively, existing facilities at camps, churches, fire stations might be substituted as necessary. Second, they suggested that three regions on the Key Peninsula (Longbranch, Home/Lakebay, and Vaughn/Key Center) have sports centers along the lines of the current Volunteer Sports Park. These regional centers would have a higher caliber of playground and sports fields as well as a selection of skateboarding areas, basketball or tennis courts, football or soccer fields, and baseball diamonds for organized league play. Third, a new Community Recreation Complex would be built in the peninsula's north end as discussed in the next pages. Additional upgrades to the existing Volunteer Sports Park were also mentioned and these are discussed in following pages. The park areas surrounding these local fields, regional sports centers, and community wide recreation complex would remain as natural buffers and all parks would be linked by walking trails and bicycle paths.

RECOMMENDATION 28.1: KPPRD will work toward a progressive sequence of sports areas from local fields through regional sports centers to a community wide recreation complex.

- IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES FOR SPORTS AND LEAGUES (Public Meeting: March 10, 2003). A list of potential sports and their leagues were generated and then a list of facilities and human resources needed to make each possible were created and prioritized as follows:*
- 1. Baseball needs: improved lighting for all fields at KPSC&F; upper field developed for multipurpose sports; swap field uses; rearrange back stops; improve water supply, irrigation, drainage, facilities, seating, bleachers, sound system, parking, volunteers, concession and grounds keeper.*
 - 2. Soccer and football need a multipurpose field (dirt vs. grass or turf) with removable goal posts and nets, coordinated by a local body with links to leagues.*
 - 3. Basketball and volleyball need a hard surfaced indoor space with hoops or nets, and/or soft surfaced outdoor space (sand pit) with net and volunteers willing to coordinate leagues. A hard floor; 4 wall multi-purpose court could also be used for handball or racquetball/squash.*
 - 4. Horseshoes and Tennis already have facilities, just need volunteer coordinators.*
 - 5. Equestrian and 4H need an arena with exhibition stabling and to organize horse riders.*
 - 6. Track & Field needs the cross country perimeter loop connected to hiking trails.*
 - 7. Swimming needs new pool or access to existing camp pools, and lifeguards, instructors, maintenance staff, and swim club volunteers.*
 - 8. Skateboarding and BMX need ramps and tracks, as well as school kids to volunteer for construction or maintenance. Further concerns included additional liability and insurance premiums.*

RECREATION CENTER



Map #29

LOCATION IS APPROXIMATE

A = Community-wide Recreation Complex

Map #29 = RECREATION CENTER

According to public input, the final level of a progressive sequence of sports areas at three levels of service would be a community recreation complex in the north end. This location would service the Key Peninsula and the Gig Peninsula, as well as drawing potential clients from the nearby Mason County and Kitsap County communities (Allyn, Belfair, Gorst, Port Orchard, Southworth, Bethel, Olalla, Burley). The wish list for this complex suggests it would contain: a swimming pool, recreation center, fitness center, exhibition building, multipurpose gymnasium, sports fields with lighting (baseball, soccer, football), covered arena (roller hockey rink), BMX track (perhaps in abandoned gravel pit), sand volleyball, outdoor courts (basketball, tennis), camping, BBQ/picnic areas, concessions, and an outdoor amphitheater (concerts, plays). By locating the complex near Highway #302, with lots of parking and a two lane and one-way road system, traffic congestion could be minimized and public transportation buses could easily be extended the 3 miles from their current termination in Purdy. Like the other levels of local fields and regional sports centers, the community recreation complex would be surrounded by a buffer of natural areas containing trails for horses, bikers, hikers, and runners. These trails could tie into the nearby Cushman Multi-user Trail along the power lines.

RECOMMENDATION 29.1: KPPRD will work toward the construction of a community wide recreation complex, over the next decade, as closely as possible in accordance with the public wish list described above.

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION CENTER (Public Meetings: June 9 & 10, 2003).

No further suggestions!

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES FOR LEISURE PROGRAMMING (Public Meeting: April 14, 2003). The following were identified in order of occurrence, not importance.

- 1. The public present would like KPPRD to investigate getting representation in the Peninsula Recreation brochure from Jeremy Bubnick.*
- 2. The Gig Harbor Tennis Club offered to organize lessons on local courts (ran in summer).*
- 3. The Children’s Home Society (CHS) described their past teen and youth programs: Battle of the Bands, Coffee House, Film Night, and Open Gym (for various sports). These past programs dwindled due to the workload on single individuals.*
- 4. People recommended the formation of a Youth Board and/or Teen Club to plan its own programming (with adult sponsorship). Supporting the youth work of existing religious groups was also suggested. The need for a central meeting place for youth or a Teen Center was noted. Space was offered by the Key Peninsula Community Service House (KPCSH) as a base. Actual events could then rotate among several different locations as a way to serve the wider community and share the support.*
- 5. Camp Seymour offered to support out trips and other programs if requested by the teens or community. As it was made clear that this was not about planning for the teens, but more about helping them plan for themselves. However, the most important aspect of teen programming seemed to be the need for a volunteer coordinator (or one paid by a grant) to gather together the human resources and facilities so as to create a support network for teens. CHS and KPCSH agreed to be the conduits for ideas and coordinator suggestions.*
- 6. Formation of a local Boys & Girls Club was discussed. People volunteered to contact the two local chapters and determine how best to approach them. They also agreed to seek support for public petitions from KPPRD and the local associations and organizations.*
- 7. An agent from Washington State University Cooperative Extension (WSUCE is a sponsor of 4H in Pierce County) was interested in bringing more 4H programming to the Key Peninsula. She agreed to contact existing 4H leaders, local churches, and to attend the next KP Camps Meeting to seek support for programming space and further volunteers.*
- 8. KPCSH described its existing programs and expressed the need for senior unity in the community. Many seniors are housebound or isolated and could benefit from telephone contact as we reach out to them and encourage them to join in. She mentioned the need for more volunteers to help make this happen. Other desires for seniors were more field trips and active programs. Camp Easter Seals offered to expand swimming pool time. WSUCE has sewing, gardening, and food preservation classes.*
- 9. Intergenerational programming (matching seniors and youth in an exchange of skills and experiences) was seen as a way to “address two concerns with a single solution.” CHS and KPCSH agreed to work on this, but the value of a paid coordinator was again obvious.*
- 10. People asked for more community open houses to learn about camps. They asked for more outdoor skills courses and the expansion and replication of already successful day camp programs in the schools.*
- 11. Final items expressed support for the Boy Scout & Girl Guides and for the development of live theatre productions at the Longbranch Improvement Club. MVP physical Therapy offered their gym space for personal workouts and to get their athletic trainers more involved with sports. and leagues. Representatives from two of the local newspapers offered to spread the word by writing articles and taking photographs.*

#30 = PROGRAMMING

Despite the extreme lack of sports and recreation resources on the Key Peninsula, and in spite of the desire to create a progressive sequence of sports areas at three levels of service, the community expressed many needs regarding current and future leisure programming. First, the need for an database of existing programs was noted. Such a database was created within the next few months and published in the newspaper. It spanned the spectrum from civic center or church social groups, through organized sports leagues and state park programs, to camp and after school offerings. KPPRD may wish to retain the services of a recreation programmer to do this, or utilize local volunteers and involve the expertise of the Pierce County Facility Use Coordinator.

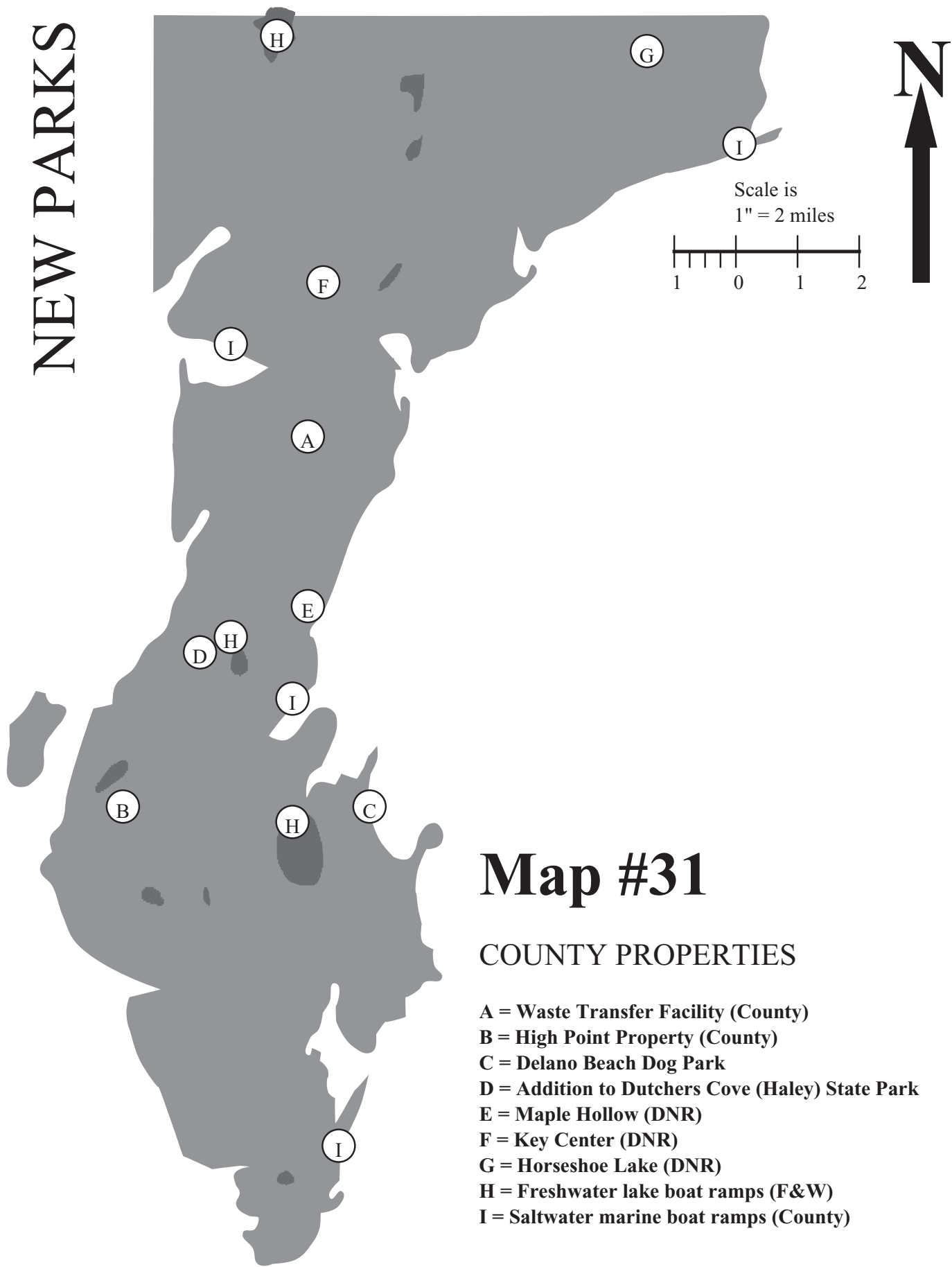
Second, the public wanted more organized sports leagues other than baseball (currently the most popular option on the peninsula). They suggested volleyball and basketball for both youth and adult. They wanted art lessons and public lectures. They desired sailing and kayaking courses. They asked for environmental classes and nature interpretation. They wanted family day camping and after school programs. They desired more events that were different from fairs, festivals, and dances like triathlons, rallies, movie nights, fitness, senior aquatics, and disability access. They also felt their leisure could be enhanced by a good non-smoking restaurant in the middle peninsula, sustained grocery store services, and some disability and adult day care programs.

Third, the notion of a community swimming pool came up at all of the meetings. Apparently, the pools on the Gig Peninsula (both high schools), have seasons, hours, and costs that severely limit participation by Key Peninsula residents. People called for a consistent and reliable schedule with affordable prices. They suggested bubble covers for camp pools to permit their year round use.

Fourth, transportation was consistently noted as the major barrier to leisure participation. Some solutions to the problem of inadequate public transport on the peninsula were: develop a local shuttle bus service using borrowed vans or school buses, share community owned cars, initiate car pooling match up and ride sharing services, allow electric golf carts to use bike paths or lanes, and reestablish a passenger ferry service from Longbranch to Steilacoom, Olympia, or Ruston near Tacoma.

Fifth, although adult and senior client cohorts were present at the public input meetings in relatively large numbers, child and teenage youths were poorly represented. Hence, the need to “ask the kids” was repeatedly mentioned. Some ideas included: an adventure program alternative (operated through the camps), activities just for youth (movies, dances, pool tables, computers, service club), and re-establishing mentorships (junior fire fighters, junior police officers).

- RECOMMENDATION 30.1:** KPPRD will identify, organize, and advertise, all the leisure and recreation programs that are currently offered on the Key Peninsula.
- RECOMMENDATION 30.2:** KPPRD will coordinate with local schools, camps, churches, and state parks to generate new leisure and recreation programming options; and will investigate utilizing their facilities and staff talent or other experts in the community.
- RECOMMENDATION 30.3:** KPPRD will investigate options for better year round use of high school and camp pools until such time as a community swimming pool is built.
- RECOMMENDATION 30.4:** KPPRD will undertake a study of barriers to leisure participation with particular attention paid to solving the current transportation crisis.
- RECOMMENDATION 30.5:** KPPRD will seek further public input to recreational and leisure programming needs by asking children, teenagers, special needs individuals, and their care givers what they want.



Map #31 = NEW PARKS

The need for natural parks with trails was often expressed. The following properties would make excellent parks and their transfer would also facilitate the solution of many problems noted earlier:

- A = **Waste Transfer Facility** (73 acres adjacent to Volunteer Sport Park, used for household waste transfer, contains a heron rookery and excellent environment, would be ideal to retain as a natural area annex to the Volunteer Sport Park with a perimeter hiking trail constructed after environmental impact survey of the location);
- B = **Peninsula High Point Property** (130 acres located south of Herron Lake, currently undeveloped, contains the highest point of land on the Key Peninsula at 375', would be ideal to construct a trail from corner to corner over the high point);
- C = **Delano Beach Dog Park** (two pieces adjacent to Penrose State Park would make the perfect place for people and their pets, Penrose State Park would support this concept, the park area would need to be fenced before off-leash rules could be applied, anyone could use the park, but dogs would be the common denominator);
- D = **addition to Dutcher Cove (Haley) State Park** (40 acres of clear cut area across the road from Jackson Lake would make a good place for state park support facilities, thus allowing the present park property to remain natural);
- E = **Maple Hollow** (80 acres near Four Corners, develop for walk-in camping, upgrade interpretive trails, place a campground host, form a Friends of Maple Hollow group);
- F = **Key Center** (480 acres between Vaughn and Minter, develop hiking, biking and horse trail networks, protect historical logging railway grade, clean up cars);
- G = **Horseshoe Lake** (360 acres near Lake Katherine, build recreation complex);
- H = **Freshwater lake boat ramps** (Carney, Jackson, & Bay Lakes, acquire from Fish & Wildlife or DNR, since the lakes are small enough for fishing by canoe, permit electric motors only, convert remaining area into park space, this should reduce the massive parking lot party problems and lake pollution); and
- I = **Saltwater marine boat ramps** (acquire from Pierce County and improve existing conditions at these four locations: Purdy, Vaughn, Longbranch, Home, not Joemma Beach State Park, add three new ones: Herron Point, Burley Lagoon & Glen Cove, build education signs or information kiosks at all locations).

RECOMMENDATION 31.1: KPPRD will obtain funding and responsibility for the properties listed above and will purse the development of each in the specific directions suggested above.

Massive appeal existed for encouraging property owners to put their vacant land and undeveloped forests into the public trust. The Lind Property is an excellent example of how this can work.

RECOMMENDATION 31.2: KPPRD will support the Great Peninsula Conservancy and the Conservation Futures program in their efforts to entrust and protect private lands and tidelands; and will also encourage landowners to contribute land through the Key Peninsula Trails Committee or others.

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES FOR THE KEY PENINSULA SPORTS CENTER & FAIRGROUNDS aka Volunteer Park (Public Meeting: January 13, 2003). These were identified as the priorities for spending an anticipated \$150,000 in matching funds from an upcoming Pierce County REET grant.

1. *Water management (add new well and tank; then improve irrigation and drainage on all fields).*
2. *Field construction (expand clearing and level the upper field area; soil and seed or sod the upper field area; and move all over flow parking to the school).*
3. *Building upgrades (retrofit to meet ADA compliances, improve toilets and main office; insulate concession and provide heating source; add rain gutters and downspouts).*
4. *Field development (turn upper field area into multi-sport field; construct park maintenance, equipment storage, and toilets/ablution building; and keep field #3 for Little League and as general open play area).*
5. *Field rennovation (realign backstops for ADA compliance and proximity to toilets; enhance lighting on all fields; add public address system and scoreboards; and erect high fencing to protect property).*
6. *Landscaping (improve look of entry area; and add lighting, security system, pay phone, and signs).*
7. *Acquire adjacent lands (add nature paths and main hiking trail; consider BMX track, camping or RV area).*
8. *Other requests (get a third party health club to manage park facilities; consider naming rights for sizable donation; hire a full time park manager; develop a skateboarding area; build a teen center and bandstand.*

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES FOR THE HOME PARK (Public Meeting: February 10, 2003). Home Park was seen as a place to “reflect the rich history of the region, to become a gathering focus for the community, and to be known as a safe place for children’s play.” Here are the priorities generated.

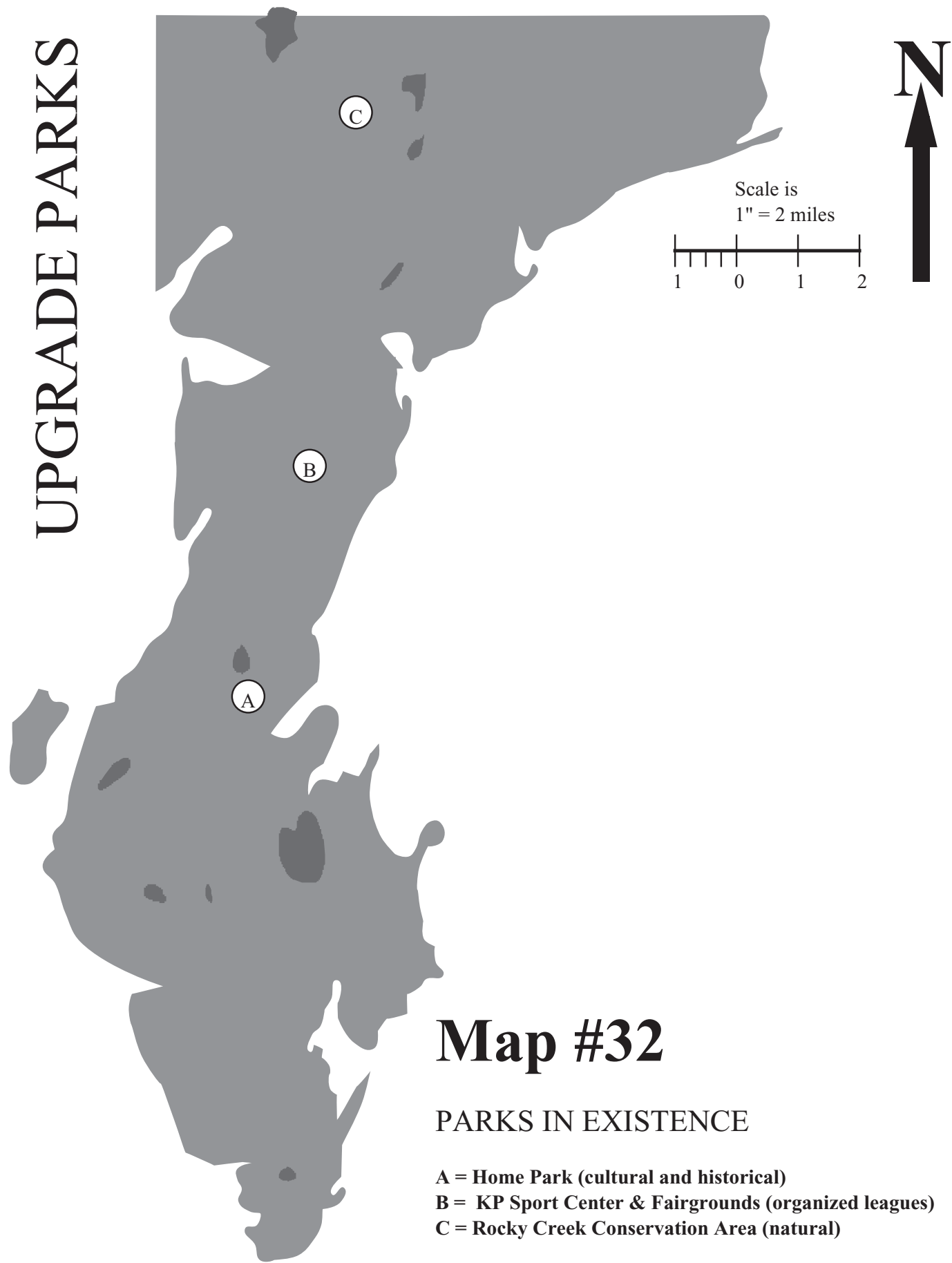
1. *Build a high use area with picnic tables, BBQs/fire pits, playground, swing set, toilets, bike rack, and well. Consider a large gazebo, bandstand and/or amphitheater with ample parking and garbage removal.*
2. *Plant natural trees only (remove, avoid exotic species), develop a display garden (especially one for children) with the help of local garden clubs, and perhaps an arboretum (with labelled local tree species).*
3. *Construct nature trail near creek (fishing hole), with perhaps with a perimeter jogging trail, and directions to connect with the nearby Home Cemetery Trail. Trail should have wheelchair access for some portion.*
4. *Artwork displayed from Two Waters Arts Alliance and Cultural Arts Commission, with perhaps a mural area (for youth to paint a new mural at regular intervals). Place the Home Historical Marker from the Chamber of Commerce at the road-side area. Add other historical displays (such as large artifacts) as desired.*
5. *A crosswalk was recommended for the corner of 8th and KPH. Fence and gate the children’s play area. Add lighting for the high use area near the park’s front. Be prepared to deal with abusers of the park in advance.*
6. *KPPRD was asked to consider a Youth Vocational Training Center on the peninsula, where arts and trades could be learned from skilled community members. The bandstand might have a sound system that would allow early evening jam sessions. Other programs could include animal husbandry, fireside story telling and living history displays.*

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES FOR THE ROCKY CREEK CONSERVATION AREA (Public Meeting: January 18, 2003). The following were seen as priorities in order of importance.

1. *Protect the Salmon habitat with: a bridge over Rocky Creek at the power lines containing Remote Site Incubators (RSI) as a place for Salmon observation; new trails built away from riparian zone; erection of barriers to keep vehicles out of creek bed; and build footbridge to keep pedestrian out of the creek crossings.*
2. *Conserve the forest resources by stopping current loggin practices and timber extraction; transfer the property into the adoptive care of Pierce County Parks; plant only native tree species; remove exotic trees; experiment with scotch broom removal methods.*
3. *Introduce passive recreation in the form of: pedestrian trail expansion to the west side of the creek; further trail improvements in the form of several loops on the east side of the creek; and a boardwalk/wheelchair trail near the wetlands complete with bird blinds and viewing platforms following deatiled environmental study.*
4. *Restrict consumptive forms of recreation by: building barriers to restrict horses, bicycles and motor vehicles; constraining these users to Crew Road only; and post signs to educate users against inappropriate ingress.*
5. *Construct support facilities such as: parking, reader boards with maps, toilets, and perhaps a park host trailer.*
6. *Use RCCA for environmental educational programs like: Forest practices course for college students; Salmonid education programs for school children; service projects for organized groups; and environmental interpretation signs along pedestrian trails. Consider the need to build an environmental education center.*

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES FOR NEW PARKS AND GREENSPACES (Public Meeting: May 12, 2003). After generating a list of private properties that might make good parks or greenspaces, the potential of existing public lands was discussed. The following priorities were established.

1. *Annex the county property to the north of the sports center for trails, camping, and other uses.*
2. *Lease Maple Hollow from DNR, and manage it in the way of RCCA, with a neighborhood “Friends of Maple Hollow” group. Might charge user/service fees toward nature trails and possible walk-in camping.*
3. *On the Lind property, work toward modelling a process for other private land donations, trusts, and conservation futures projects.*
4. *Send letter of intent regarding all county properties on the Key Peninsula.*
5. *Send letter requesting information about all easements and right of ways. These have potential for trails development as linear parks and greenspaces.*
6. *Work with the county on land development “set asides” for future neighborhood parks, greenspaces, and trails.*



Map #32 = UPGRADE PARKS

The public had a variety of suggestions for the three existing KPPRD parks, and these were all in reasonable agreement. Overall, Home Park (corner of 8th Street and the Key Peninsula Highway) was seen as ideal for demonstrating novel approaches to developing a cultural park. The Key Peninsula Sports Center & Fairgrounds (corner of 56th Street and the Key Peninsula Highway) was observed as the place for organized sports and leagues. Rocky Creek Conservation Area was viewed as a wild area to be left mostly in its natural state. The need for making all parks environmentally sensitive was noted.

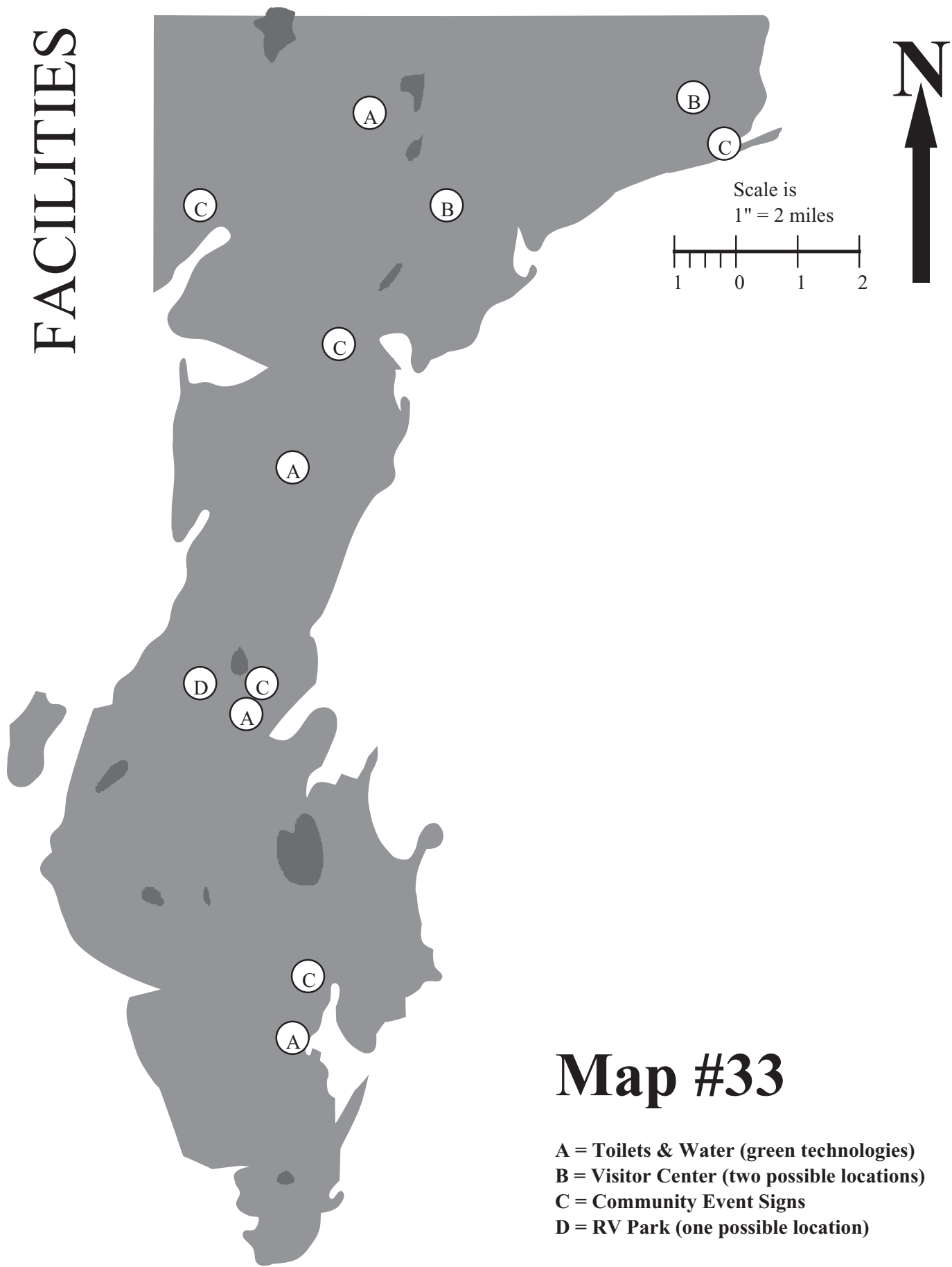
People's thoughts for demonstration at Home Park were: display gardens, artwork exhibits, gazebo construction, amphitheater, historical plaques, nature trails, information kiosk, arboretum, playgrounds, picnic area, and overflow parking for community events with a bus "park and ride."

People's concepts for upgrades to the Volunteer Sports Park consisted of: a swimming pool, lights for all playing fields, adding a multiuse surface (for volleyball, basketball, skateboarding, tennis), an alternative activity space (for lawn bowling, bocce, crochet), and a covered building (for horse arena, concerts, oysterfest, 4H exhibitions). Acquiring the adjacent county property should allow space for picnic tables, camping, trails, nature walks, BMX tracks, and mountain bike trails. The need for a park manager, additional overflow parking, and more toilet facilities was highlighted.

People's ideas of development for Rocky Creek Conservation Area included: interpretive nature trails, footbridge over the creek, environmental education center, information kiosk, boardwalking (in sensitive marsh areas), and a major bridge over Rocky Creek at the power lines (to get current motor vehicles, and future users of the Cushman Trail, out of the fragile salmon habitat). The need for a park custodian, a large parking area, security gates, and toilets with water was noted.

Overall, the value of getting local families involved in "service leading to stewardship" projects was acknowledged as a way to reduce vandalism and enhance park protection. The importance of using "green" technologies and for balancing active with passive uses was strongly emphasized. Lastly, the desire to designate the Key Peninsula as a "special or unique" natural region, full of "family friendly parks" seemed to receive considerable support from those present.

- RECOMMENDATION 32.1:** Where and whenever possible, KPPRD will utilize green technologies (composting toilets, solar heated water, wind power electricity, grey water irrigation, recycling, energy conservation, etc.) in its new development and upgrades of existing parks.
- RECOMMENDATION 32.2:** KPPRD will develop Home Park for the demonstration of unique and novel cultural factors, and with consideration to the suggestions provided above.
- RECOMMENDATION 32.3:** KPPRD will develop the KP Sports Center & Fairgrounds for organized sports and leagues, and with consideration to the suggestions provided above.
- RECOMMENDATION 32.4:** KPPRD will develop Rocky Creek Conservation Area for natural outdoor recreation, and with consideration to the suggestions provided above.
- RECOMMENDATION 32.5:** KPPRD will continue to support the efforts of "The Friends of" groups in their efforts to engage the community in clean up and other projects.
- RECOMMENDATION 32.6:** KPPRD will investigate the feasibility of recognizing the Key Peninsula as a general destination of natural value, outdoor recreation, and family parks.



Map #33 = FACILITIES

Initially, the need for more toilets seemed to be the most common concern regarding support and special use facilities. People wanted to see at least one toilet at each park, playground, or major trailhead and, where possible, three toilets: male, female, and unisex (for family use or wheelchair access). Drinkable water at all parks, playgrounds, and trailheads was a similar concern for many. The need to examine security, lighting, grounds upkeep, and litter or garbage was also considered very important. Once again, the value of Green Technologies was mentioned: composting toilets, solar heated water, wind powered lights, grey water irrigation, composting, recycling, etc.

A number of special projects arose including the need for boat rentals (kayaks, canoes, sailboats) and the desire to control unwanted weapons discharge on private property or public lands. One solution to the latter, was to create a “gun club” with a single shooting range (perhaps in a gravel pit) and restrict guns to that location. A gun club would be self-supporting, well staffed, securely gated, and a source of income for some of the difficult to fund projects mentioned in this plan.

Tourism concerns were expressed regarding the need for a destination resort and other facilities for tourists: accommodations, meals, etc. People also wanted to find a way to help state parks stay open all year round (they currently close in winter). Additional suggestions were a retrofit of existing state park “hookups” to accommodate recreational vehicles (RVs) or the building of a new facility as a year round RV park, with overflow camping arranged in the Volunteer Sports Park.

Visitors to the Key Peninsula need to learn about our history, natural beauty, outdoor trails, leisure opportunities and recreational programming. One way to accomplish this is through the creation of a Visitor’s Center (VC). KPPRD has recently begun supporting the restoration of the old Wauna store and post offices as a VC to contain educational displays, interpretive signs, or information kiosks, and to promote local businesses and nearby accommodations.

Last, but by no means least, was the issue of communication facilities. The renewal of the local newspaper and the coming and going of a temporary electronic newsletter allayed more of these concerns. Additional ideas included: an electronic sign (like those found on freeways to display information to motorists waiting to turn at the light in Purdy), a dedicated radio frequency (to repeat messages for those drivers who tuned in after seeing the road sign), and hourly broadcasts by KGHP (Peninsula High School Radio could announce upcoming events). Traditional methods included: telephone trees, reader boards, and individual community signs to display what’s happening locally. Bulletin boards could be placed in high traffic locations such as: stores, gas stations, fire stations, bars, liquor stores, churches, schools, yacht clubs, espresso stands, credit unions, post offices, civic centers, realtors, businesses, and in many popular business outside the peninsula.

- RECOMMENDATION 33.1:** KPPRD will study the need for facilities in relation to the other developments noted in this comprehensive plan and incorporate these facilities on a timely basis.
- RECOMMENDATION 33.2:** KPPRD will continue to support the Visitor Center in Wauna.
- RECOMMENDATION 33.3:** KPPRD will support community communications where possible.

#34 = POLLUTION

Concerns about pollution ranged from golf balls littering beaches through visual eyesores to the abandonment of cars and other garbage. Pollution in all its forms negatively impacts leisure and life quality, so addressing these issue within the comprehensive plan makes good sense.

Beach pollution was a minor concern. In addition to people littering the beach as their private driving range (encourage these offenders to use the Horseshoe Lake Golf Club), the public mentioned the concern of flotsam and jetsam that blows up on beaches after a storm. People suggested the “adopt a beach” program that could get local residents cleaning up once a year.

Many residents mentioned the how the beauty of the highway drives on the Key Peninsula has changed in recent years. Clear cut logging to the road edge (Pierce County mandates a 50’ tree buffer should be kept), over-signage (especially during elections!), (unlicensed) road side businesses, and ditch litter are all combining to erode the beauty they once enjoyed. Ditch litter can be dealt with by education or information and with “adopt a highway” cleanup events. Timber extraction within the 50’ tree buffer was a major concern. Unless the land is being cleared for farm pasture, this buffer must be protected. Apparently, failure to do so can result in fines and restrictions that require replanting within two years or loss of timberland tax exempt status.

Several people asked for both major highways to be designated as scenic roads. Others asked for road side spraying of poisonous herbicides to be replaced by vegetation trimming alternatives. Some suggested the need to identify eyesores, vista points and view corridors; then restrict signs or construction that might interfere with the sights; and fence off or screen out existing eyesores. Finally, the view may be enhanced by burying power lines or moving poles away from the road.

Car abandonment and garbage dumping are becoming all too common. For roadside vehicles, notify Pierce County Responds (798-3444). Several suggestions were made for countering the illegal dumping of garbage like: offer amnesty and HazMat days at the dump, encourage recycling and other alternatives (reuse or composting), purchase dumpsters with removal costs already included, provide garbage cans (and a means to empty them) at all parks and trailheads, and offer dump coupons to frequent recyclers and any who donate to the Angel Guild or other thrift service. Some folks viewed the waste problem from a more systemic perspective. They suggested shifting the cost of user fees to taxes, educating people about their options, supporting competition among providers of county waste services to allow for change and encouraging entrepreneurs to manage recycling and transport of waste.

- RECOMMENDATION 34.1:** KPPRD will examine what can be done about beach and ditch litter, and will make efforts to sign up residents and groups for adopt a beach or highway.
- RECOMMENDATION 34.2:** KPPRD will collaborate with the Key Peninsula Business Association to ensure that businesses are properly licensed and signage is appropriate.
- RECOMMENDATION 34.3:** KPPRD will contact Pierce County for information on the 50’ tree buffer and for the possible designation of scenic highway status.
- RECOMMENDATION 34.4:** KPPRD will contact Safe Streets and Pierce County in order to discover the most efficient procedure for dealing with abandoned cars.
- RECOMMENDATION 34.5:** KPPRD will collaborate with Safe Streets and other local groups to address the concerns of illegal garbage dumping.

#35 = OTHER

A number of issues were raised that did not fit within the topics identified by the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan of October, 2001 and these are gathered here under the heading of OTHER. Most of these issues were systemic situations of poverty and exclusion on the Key Peninsula.

Since poverty underlies most of the concerns raised herein, people desired expansion of the Family Resource Center operated by the Children’s Home Society in Vaughn; and replication of the food bank and clothing bank from the Key Peninsula Community Services in Home/Lakebay. They called for greater collaboration between KPPRD and all human services on the peninsula. People wanted to see sliding fee scales, free tickets, scholarships, and admission donations to Key Peninsula leisure opportunities and an investigation of participation barriers to low income groups.

Since exclusion disenfranchises those who are different and thus prevents them from contributing, people saw the value in sending representatives to County Council meetings. They asked for a Pierce County office on this side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. People asked for the policy makers to visit us to hear our needs (and not just at election times). They saw that the desire to approach government agencies in a coordinated manner and with a unified voice was absolutely paramount in gaining assistance with our solutions. The need for a community council was seen as critical.

Above all else, people supported the idea of continuing the process of public input and town hall meetings to tackle our problems by emphasizing that everyone has a role to play in the envisioning the bigger picture and through creativity and imagination we can make a difference in our world.

- RECOMMENDATION 35.1:** KPPRD will support a summit that employs visioning techniques to explore the broader poverty issues that impact life and leisure on the Key Peninsula.
- RECOMMENDATION 35.2:** KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Business Association and Safe Streets in developing a community council.
- RECOMMENDATION 35.3:** KPPRD will actively seek out and collaborate with human service agencies on the Key Peninsula.

Executive SUMMARY

The following two executive summaries were published in the local newspaper (Key Peninsula News). The first summarizes pages up to page 27 of this document (the inventoried resources) and the second summaries after page 37 (the recommendations).

FIRST SUMMARY: February issue of KP News

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District (KPPRD) has undertaken a one year process to develop a comprehensive plan for public leisure on the Key Peninsula. Leisure includes local parks and facilities, sports leagues, recreation activities, and all other forms of community programming.

Pierce County has recently released a new comprehensive plan for parks and recreation that uses current information from the Gig Peninsula, but relies on the decade old “Dragoo” plan for the Key Peninsula. Our community clearly stands to benefit from updating our comprehensive plan and submitting it for adoption by the Pierce County Council.

For the past six months, the five KPPRD commissioners and a host of volunteers have been working with local resident Dr. Simon Priest, an early retired professor of parks and recreation. They have facilitated the first half of a process for creating the plan.

In August and September, existing local leisure resources were identified. Then, a series of five public meetings were held in October and December to determine the leisure needs of local residents and visitors. Summaries of these resources and needs are provided opposite along with a map of important locations. A draft version of the plan so far can be found on the KPPRD website: <<http://www.kpprd.org>>.

The last half of the process calls for our community to provide feedback by several methods. A series of monthly meetings are scheduled to examine specific pieces of the plan and these are listed in the “Story of KPPRD.” People are invited to attend and share their ideas. KPPRD also welcomes email messages to <info@kpprd.org>; posted letters to PO Box 46, Vaughn, WA. 98394; and voice recordings at 884-9240.

After this final round of public inputs, the KPPRD commissioners will be exploring ways to make the comprehensive plan work. This is your chance to have a say in the future of our community and determine the quality of leisure and life on the Key Peninsula. Please get involved!

EXISTING LEISURE RESOURCES

GREEN SPACES = 3 Washington State Parks, 3 DNR public land parcels, 3 Pierce County Parks, and 3 KPPRD Parks: Sport Center & Fairgrounds (aka Volunteer Park), Home Park, and Rocky Creek Conservation Area.

LAND & WATER ACCESS = 16 hiking trails, 5 public beaches with road or trail access, 10 public beaches without land access (marine approach only), 9 boat launch ramps, 2 marinas, and 1 private ferry.

FACILITIES = 15 concentrations of historical points, 1 historical museum, 1 public library, 3 community centers, 4 schools, 6 fire stations (some with meeting space), 10 churches (many with meeting spaces), 8 private camps, 3 bed & breakfasts, 15 tourist attractions, 3 horse stables, and 10 farms and ranches (retailing to the public).

FUTURE LEISURE NEEDS

CONSERVATION refers to the protection of sensitive environments, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources. The public identified these 5 locations as high priorities for protection: Rocky Bay and Creek, Devils Head, Herron Creek Estuary, Maple Hollow, and Dutcher Cove (Haley) State Park. Other issues included water quality, pollution, bulkheading, logging, fishing, and Salmon enhancement.

PRESERVATION refers to the protection of historical and cultural assets. The public called for preservation of these historical sites: homesteads, stores & post offices, community centers, churches, cemeteries, school houses, marinas, and several other places. They also asked for public artwork, artist tours, garden tours, community gardens, arts and crafts instruction, and upgrading theater facilities.

TRAILS were a large component of Pierce County’s plan. The Key Peninsula Trails Committee is already developing an integrated system of dedicated and separated trails for different user groups:

- multi-user trails along the 144th St. powerline right of way;
- a kayaking trail from Allyn to Purdy (with 4 campsites);
- a sailing trail from Allyn to Gig Harbor (linking marinas);
- scuba trails in Case and Carr Inlets;
- hiking and backpacking trails from Devils Head to Rocky Creek;
- a network of connected equestrian loops for horse riders;
- off-road mountain biking trails and a BMX track;
- on-road bicycle routes, lanes and/or paths; and
- a series of short wheelchair, fitness, and nature trails.

SPORTS AREAS included the desire for playgrounds, fields and courts to be built in a small “pocket” park for each neighborhood. Then, three regional parks (Longbranch, Home/Lakebay, and Vaughn/Key Center) would contain facilities like those of the KP Sports Center & Fairgrounds (Volunteer Park).

A RECREATION CENTER or complex was requested for the north end of the Key Peninsula. The wish list contained: a swimming pool, fitness center, exhibition building, multipurpose gymnasium, sports fields with lighting, covered arena, sand volleyball, outdoor courts, camping, picnic areas, concessions, and an outdoor amphitheater.

PROGRAMMING awareness was a public concern. KPPRD was asked to develop a database of existing leisure programs, distribute a list of those leisure programs, coordinate advertising for existing program providers, identify new programming needs for all age groups, and create a talent pool of potential staff, providers and/or volunteers.

NEW PARKS were strongly desired by the public and KPPRD was encouraged to manage existing public lands for new park spaces. PARK UPGRADES were requested for the 3 existing KPPRD parks: Home Park, KP Sports Center & Fairgrounds (Volunteer Park), and the Rocky Creek Conservation Area.

Suggestions for HOME PARK (focused on culture) were nature trails, display gardens, artwork exhibits, gazebo, amphitheater, historical plaques, information kiosk, arboretum, playgrounds, picnic area, and overflow parking for community events with a bus “park and ride.”

Suggestions for the KP SPORTS CENTER & FAIRGROUNDS (centered on sports) consisted of: a swimming pool, lights for all playing fields, a multi-use surface, an alternative activity space, a covered building, camping, trails, nature walks, BMX tracks, mountain bike trails, a park manager, additional overflow parking, picnic tables, and more toilet facilities.

Suggestions for ROCKY CREEK (aligned with the environment and nature) involved: interpretive trails, environmental education center, information kiosk, board-walking, a park custodian, a large parking area, road and footbridge over the creek, security gates, and toilets.

FACILITIES requested were: swimming pool, roadside visitor center, and the use of green technologies (composting toilets, wind powered lights, solar heated water, grey water irrigation, or recycled plastics).

OTHER concerns expressed by the public included issues indirectly related to leisure and directly related to quality of life: transportation, road safety, pollution, and governance. These concerns are outside the mandate of KPPRD, but we stand ready to support other groups (such as a newly forming community council) in dealing with them.

THE STORY OF K.P.P.R.D.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center helped form the Key Peninsula Park and Recreation District by community vote in 1972. KPPRD began searching for ball field sites the following year. Pierce County leased them 20 acres of tax-title property at a price of \$10 for 10 years. Local loggers, bulldozers, graders and many volunteers put in a first field. The site was named the “Key Peninsula Sports Center, built by Volunteers,” however it became popularly known as “Volunteer Park!” Facilities were improved with a \$5,000 grant from the Ben Cheney Foundation, a \$50,000 contribution from HUD and some levies. Water, lights, septic system, additional ball fields, tennis courts, picnic areas, concession stand, bathrooms, shop, playground equipment, and horseshoe pits were added with the money. After the lease expired in 1983, the county saw that the community was serious about the park and deeded the site to KPPRD. A private home was later donated and moved to the park for use as a meeting, office, and storage area.

In 1994, 224 acres of tax-title property was leased by Pierce County to KPPRD and became the Rocky Creek Conservation Area. Decades of damage from garbage dumping, car abandonment and all-terrain vehicle use has been cleaned-up by volunteers, such as the “Friends of Rocky Creek” who now manage the site. Quarterly work parties have built trails, closed off-road access, opened overlooks, erected a reader board, planted trees, and developed a picnic area with parking.

In 2001, KPPRD proposed the creation of Home Park: approximately two acres on the southwest corner of Key Peninsula Highway and 8th Avenue. After assistance from Pierce County in removing tons of housing debris, automobile junk, and appliance salvage from the property, the volunteer group, known as the “Friends of Home

Park,” have begun planning for its future development.

KPPRD receives no regular funding from the property taxes you pay. Instead, their \$67,000 annual operation costs are recovered by occasional levies. Most of these funds go to maintain the facilities and equipment in the KP Sports Center & Fairgrounds that get 20,000 user days a year. For example, the tractor was purchased over 20 years ago and the mowers are donated “hand-me-downs” from Pierce County Parks. The considerable maintenance of this machinery is being conducted by volunteers at extremely low cost.

Today, KPPRD’s future vision is Key Peninsula residents and visitors enjoying a wide range of leisure opportunities that enhance the quality of their lives. Their mission is to manage parks and their related facilities, to coordinate sport leagues and recreation activities, to collaborate with government and community-based organizations, to develop local resources with respect for all people and the environment, to plan sensible change strategies that are both desirable and sustainable, and to collectively do all of this in a way that realizes our vision.

KPPRD has 5 volunteer commissioners who serve a 4 year term. They are elected by voters on a staggered basis during our national Election Day. The present commissioners are:

- Dick Granquist = 884-9596
- Nancy Lind = 884-3347
- Pat Medveckus = 884-5097
- Fred Ramsdell = 884-4834
- Marilyn Tagert = 857-3660

Meetings are normally held bimonthly on the second Monday at 7pm and the fourth Monday at 4pm in the Annex Building of the KP Sports Center & Fairgrounds Park. The public is welcome to attend.

SECOND SUMMARY: September issue of KP News

K.P.P.R.D.’S DRAFT PLAN READY FOR APPROVAL

The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District (KPPRD) is completing its one year process to develop comprehensive plan for leisure, parks and recreation on the Key Peninsula. Their meeting on September 22nd at 7pm in the Annex of the Key Peninsula Sports Center & Fairgrounds (aka Volunteer Park) will approve the document for the final step of its journey toward submission to Pierce County and the state Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation.

A copy of the final draft is available for public review and written comment from August 15th to September 15th at the Key Peninsula Fair and then at the Key Center branch of the Pierce County Library. Alternatively, “paperless” PDF versions can be downloaded from their website: **www.kpprd.org** (you will need a free copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader available from www.adobe.com). Feedback may be made by email submission to **info@kpprd.org** or in person to KPPRD Commissioners up to one week before the meeting.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMENT

RECOMMENDATION 18.1: KPPRD will support the efforts of South Sound Salmon Enhancement and the Pierce Conservation District’s “Stream Team” and their work on Salmon Habitat protection and restoration.

RECOMMENDATION 18.2: KPPRD will collaborate with the KGI Watershed Council to protect and restore water quality on the Key Peninsula.

RECOMMENDATION 18.3: KPPRD will aid other community agencies in investigating awareness, education, and enforcement regarding the water quality concerns listed above.

RECOMMENDATION 18.4: KPPRD will seek out resources and expert personnel (graduate students or government employees) to conduct much needed surveys of flora and fauna on the Key Peninsula with particular attention to endangered species of birds, mammals, and flowers. This includes electronic reporting of wildlife sightings and public information on a website.

RECOMMENDATION 19.1: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Historical Society in their efforts to preserve and restore diminishing historical sites, develop and promote the auto tour route, install interpretive signs, and expand their museum.

RECOMMENDATION 19.2: KPPRD will collaborate with the Key Peninsula Historical Society to seek the recognition of the Key Peninsula as a general region of historical merit.

RECOMMENDATION 19.3: KPPRD will support the efforts of Two Water’s Art Alliance (TWAA) in organizing the Key Peninsula’s artists and creating a combined studio or gallery for them.

RECOMMENDATION 19.4: KPPRD will work with the Cultural Arts Council and TWAA to improve the delivery of plays, movies, and public lectures; and to display artwork in parks.

RECOMMENDATION 20.1: KPPRD will support the extension of the Cushman Multi-user Trail (for all user groups) across the top of the Key Peninsula from Purdy to Victor.

RECOMMENDATION 20.2: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Trails Committee in connecting all land trail systems (hiking, biking, horses, etc.) to the Cushman Multi-user Trail.

RECOMMENDATION 20.3: KPPRD will request that Tacoma City Light (owner of the powerline right of way) consider extending park status to the entire corridor.

RECOMMENDATION 20.4: KPPRD will request that the Key Peninsula Trails Committee work to provide multiple and parallel trails within the single shared corridor.

RECOMMENDATION 20.5: KPPRD will work with the Pierce County EverGreen Trails Initiative to ensure there is a connection of the Cushman Trail across the Narrows Bridges to Tacoma.

RECOMMENDATION 20.6: KPPRD will coordinate with Pierce County Council regarding all matters of vacating easements or right of ways on the Key Peninsula.

RECOMMENDATION 21.1: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Trails Committee in developing water trails (kayaking, sailing, SCUBA) around the shores of the Key Peninsula.

RECOMMENDATION 21.2: KPPRD will examine the laws for jet-skis and work to generate awareness, education, and enforcement for the use of personal watercraft on the waters of the Key Peninsula.

RECOMMENDATION 22.1: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Trails Committee in their continuing development of the Key Peninsula Hiking Trail from Devils Head to the Rocky Creek Conservation Area.

RECOMMENDATION 23.1: KPPRD will support the horse owners and riders to create a linked network of equestrian trail loops connecting horse farms on the Key Peninsula and whenever possible for those loops to be completely separate from other user’s trails.

RECOMMENDATION 23.2: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Trails Committee in identifying and gathering horse owners and riders in the region for the purpose of discussing equestrian trail development.

RECOMMENDATION 24.1: KPPRD will support the development of a paved bicycle path on the Cushman Trail from Purdy to Victor.

RECOMMENDATION 24.2: KPPRD will support the development of the Key Peninsula Bicycle Trail and the construction of four bicycle paths to create a safer more enjoyable route (in accordance with the recommendations of the Pierce County Nonmotorized Transportation Plan).

RECOMMENDATION 25.1: KPPRD will support the development of an off-road or mountain bike route on the Cushman Trail from Purdy to Victor.

RECOMMENDATION 25.2: KPPRD will support the development of BMX track with adjacent off-road or mountain biking trail loops (location to be decided at a later time).

RECOMMENDATION 25.3: KPPRD will support the development of an area for motorized vehicles to operate off-road or will identify a suitable alternative location (Tahuya State Forest near Belfair) and encourage motorized users to travel there for their off-road recreation enjoyment.

RECOMMENDATION 26.1: KPPRD will encourage Washington State Transportation to develop parallel sidewalks for multi-users along the length of State Highway #302 from Purdy to Victor.

RECOMMENDATION 26.2: KPPRD will encourage Pierce County Transportation to develop parallel sidewalks for multi-users along the length of the Key Peninsula Highway from Highway #302 to Longbranch.

RECOMMENDATION 26.3: KPPRD will collaborate with government transportation agencies to examine road safety and help develop a transportation plan for the Key Peninsula that may consider the placement of Jersey Barriers, the establishment of button operated flashing pedestrian crosswalks, overpasses or underpasses, the addition of speed bumps, traffic lights and completing the recent transportation plan (that reroutes Highway #302 further north of its present location).

RECOMMENDATION 26.4: KPPRD will collaborate with Pierce County to encourage the completion of the planned changes for Purdy Park Spit (to alleviate parking problems and safety concerns for Highway #302).

RECOMMENDATION 26.5: KPPRD will collaborate with the newly forming Community Council to achieve the above recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION 27.1: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Trails Committee in the design and construction of additional wheelchair, nature, beach and other types of trails as requested by the public.

RECOMMENDATION 28.1: KPPRD will work toward a progressive sequence of sports areas from local fields through regional sports centers to a community wide recreation complex.

RECOMMENDATION 29.1: KPPRD will work toward the construction of a community wide recreation complex, over the next decade, as closely as possible in accordance with the public wish list described above.

RECOMMENDATION 30.1: KPPRD will identify, organize, and advertize, all the leisure and recreation programs that are currently offered on the Key Peninsula.

RECOMMENDATION 30.2: KPPRD will coordinate with local schools, camps, churches, and state parks to generate new leisure and recreation programming options; and will investigate utilizing their facilities and staff talent or other experts in the community.

RECOMMENDATION 30.3: KPPRD will investigate options for better year round use of high school and camp pools until such time as a community swimming pool is built.

RECOMMENDATION 30.4: KPPRD will undertake a study of barriers to leisure participation with particular attention paid to solving the current transportation crisis.

RECOMMENDATION 30.5: KPPRD will seek further public input to recreational and leisure programming needs by asking children, teenagers, special needs individuals, and their care givers what they want.

RECOMMENDATION 31.1: KPPRD will obtain funding and responsibility for the properties listed above and will pursue the development of each in the specific directions suggested above.

RECOMMENDATION 31.2: KPPRD will support the Great Peninsula Conservancy and the Conservation Futures program in their efforts to entrust and protect private lands and tidelands; and will also encourage landowners to contribute land through the Key Peninsula Trails Committee or others.

RECOMMENDATION 32.1: Where and whenever possible, KPPRD will utilize green technologies (composting toilets, solar heated water, wind power electricity, grey water irrigation, recycling, energy conservation, etc.) in its new development and upgrades of existing parks.

RECOMMENDATION 32.2: KPPRD will develop Home Park for the demonstration of unique and novel cultural factors, and with consideration to the suggestions provided above.

RECOMMENDATION 32.3: KPPRD will develop the KP Sports Center & Fairgrounds for organized sports and leagues, and with consideration to the suggestions provided above.

RECOMMENDATION 32.4: KPPRD will develop Rocky Creek Conservation Area for natural outdoor recreation, and with consideration to the suggestions provided above.

RECOMMENDATION 32.5: KPPRD will continue to support the efforts of "The Friends of" groups in their efforts to engage the community in clean up and other projects.

RECOMMENDATION 32.6: KPPRD will investigate the feasibility of recognizing the Key Peninsula as a general destination of natural value, outdoor recreation, and family parks.

RECOMMENDATION 33.1: KPPRD will study the need for facilities in relation to the other developments noted in this comprehensive plan and incorporate these facilities on a timely basis.

RECOMMENDATION 33.2: KPPRD will continue to support the Visitor Center in Wauna.

RECOMMENDATION 33.3: KPPRD will support community communications where possible.

RECOMMENDATION 34.1: KPPRD will examine what can be done about beach and ditch litter, and will make efforts to sign up residents and groups for adopt a beach or highway.

RECOMMENDATION 34.2: KPPRD will collaborate with the Key Peninsula Business Association to ensure that businesses are properly licensed and signage is appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION 34.3: KPPRD will contact Pierce County for information on the 50' tree buffer and for the possible designation of scenic highway status.

RECOMMENDATION 34.4: KPPRD will contact Safe Streets and Pierce County in order to discover the most efficient procedure for dealing with abandoned cars.

RECOMMENDATION 34.5: KPPRD will collaborate with Safe Streets and other local groups to address the concerns of illegal garbage dumping.

RECOMMENDATION 35.1: KPPRD will support a summit that employs visioning techniques to explore the broader poverty issues that impact life and leisure on the Key Peninsula.

RECOMMENDATION 35.2: KPPRD will support the Key Peninsula Business Association and Safe Streets in developing a community council.

RECOMMENDATION 35.3: KPPRD will actively seek out and collaborate with human service agencies on the Key Peninsula.