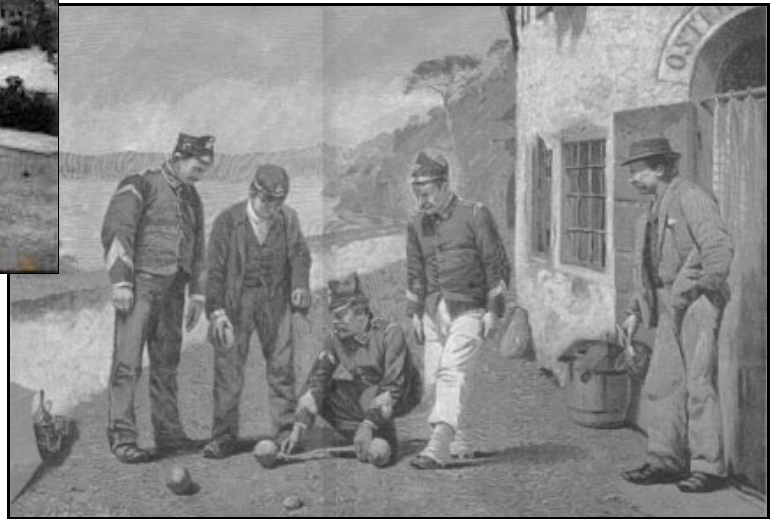


Pétanque



at



Fort

Worden State Park



Proposal for a
Pétanque Terrain
at Fort Worden State Park

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Executive Summary

Overview

Fort Worden State Park has a large, unused area west of the non-commissioned officer's housing. The installation of a pétanque playing field (terrain) on this site is an excellent, low-cost opportunity for the Public Development Authority to promote physical and mental well-being through active play and community enrichment. The PDA benefits by supporting the cross-generational teaching and learning which is intrinsic to the sport. The terrain would attract out-of-area players and regional tournaments, providing revenue. When not in use for pétanque, this low-impact facility will be well-suited to a variety of alternative recreational activities and outdoor events which would also have the potential to generate income.

Pétanque World-wide

In France, where the game originated in the early 1900's, there are about 17 million players. There are 600,000 members of the International Federation of Pétanque and Jeu Provençal (FIPJP) representing 94 nations in international competitions. Beginning in 1959, clubs began to form in cities throughout the United States. Currently, the western states of Washington, Oregon and California have half of the Federation of Pétanque USA (FPUSA) clubs in the country. The PT Pétanque Alliance was the 45th to be chartered two years ago.

The Cost

The estimated cost of a fully-realized pétanque terrain as here proposed, i.e. one large enough to host official tournaments, is \$4,000-\$6,000. This is based on machine time for leveling, retail material costs and some donated labor. Amenities such as benches and some perimeter edging are not included in the cost estimate, but are highly desirable.

The Proposal

The PDA in partnership with local pétanque players will provide a low-cost, low-impact terrain which will benefit the economy and promote life-long learning while nurturing the growth of a unique sport.

What is Pétanque?



Pétanque (pay-tonk) is a French version of lawn bowling, a cousin to *bocce* and British lawn bowling, similar in play to horseshoes. It is a simple, low-cost game most often played on a hard dirt or gravel surface and it needs minimal equipment.

The game requires a relatively

flat, firm area on which to play, hollow metal balls about the size of a tennis ball known as *boules* (pronounced boolz), and a small wooden target ball known as the *cochonnet* (piglet in French) or jack.

The game is played in teams of one, two or three players. In singles and doubles, each player throws three balls; in triples each throws only two. A coin toss decides who plays first. A small circle, about two feet in diameter, is drawn in the dirt. The first team to play throws the jack between 18 and 30 feet from the circle, then throws the first *boule*.

The object of the game is to throw your *boule* as close as possible to the jack or knock the other team's away. After each team has thrown all their *boules*, the team with the *boule* closest to the jack receives one point for each of its *boules* closer to the jack than the opponent's closest *boule*. The next round begins with a new circle drawn around the last jack position and the jack is again thrown 18 to 30 feet away. The first team to score 13 points wins the game.

Unlike horseshoes where the target stake is fixed in place, the thrown *boule* can move the jack and change the scoring. A thrown *boule* may also strike an opponent's *boule*, or your own team's *boule*, and can change the scoring dramatically. These two factors allow for the kind of strategic play that makes the game both dynamic and exciting.

Who Plays Pétanque?

One of the best qualities of the game is that it can be played by such a wide range of people. Players range in age from 4 to 94. If you can pick up a *boule*, you can play pétanque.

Women and men, young and old, physically challenged—all can enjoy the game together and perform well. Beginners can enjoy the



game right from the start. Those who are so inclined can spend a lifetime perfecting their skills.

By rule, the throw is made with both feet stationary, inside the small circle. This basic element of the game makes play possible for people who would find it challenging or impossible to participate in an activity requiring running, jumping, etc.; in fact, wheelchair play is written into the rules of the game.

Who Plays Pétanque Locally?

In Port Townsend the Pétanque Alliance plays nearly every day of the year at the Pourhouse Pub. Turnout is typically 8-10 players during the weekdays and twice as many on weekends. In our second year, we have over 20 FPUSA members and twice that number who play casually.

Five “single courts” have been created by folks to play at their home. Kala Point has its own court and plans are in the making for one at Cape George. The PT Alliance has twice hosted a “Low Tide” invitational on the beach below Decatur Street. Money raised was donated to the Jefferson County Food Bank. The Pourhouse Pub has sponsored league play for two years.

The PT Alliance has also instructed students at both local high schools in the French classes. Last year the club arranged to use the Blue Heron softball diamond as a place to provide summer instruction in a group gathering place that was alcohol free.

Several of our local club players have placed highly in regional tournaments drawing attention to the rise of the game in the Port Townsend area.

Growth of the Sport

Pétanque is experiencing rapid growth among the baby boomers, one of the key, coveted demographics for the tourism dollar. The entire northwest corridor from Central California to British Columbia is one of the most dynamic sectors for expansion in the sport.

Gold-medalist, seven-time French National Champion, Marco Foyot, visited a dozen clubs across the United States in 2013. He conducted clinics on skills of the game and also competed against local players. Every appearance was sold out.



Over 40 FPUSA competitions are held every year as well as hundreds of club-sponsored events. The Amelia Island (FL) club hosted their first tournament in 2004, drawing 20 teams. Ten short years later 166 teams-- 332 players-- came to compete.

What Does Pétanque offer the Fort Worden Public Development Authority?

Life-long Learning: There are very few outdoor activities that provide for friendly competition between young and old, women and men, physically-challenged and able-bodied. It provides the opportunity for a new kind of sociability that brings together people from all walks of life. It is customary to form teams by random selection of *boules* from a bag, with new selections occurring after each game. A bank president may be teamed with a grandmother, playing against a grade school teacher and a carpenter. These individuals may have never met, and now will spend an hour or so getting to know one another.

A New Revenue Stream: A tournament-worthy pétanque terrain would prove a tourist draw for the entire Peninsula area. In particular, the amazing housing and recreational amenities of Fort Worden would attract game aficionados and their oftentimes non-playing spouses. The proposed terrain between non-com housing and the Upper Campground makes it possible for players of all income levels to come, stay and play.

A Feather in the Cap: Creating and hosting a pétanque terrain with on-site lodging for tournaments, camps and group instruction is seminal and visionary.

What are the costs involved?

A major advantage of a pétanque terrain is the simplicity and low cost of installation. The terrain as proposed would cost around \$4,000-\$6,000. This cost estimate is based on the following assumptions:

1. Grading work to be done at an average cost for local contractors, combined with services already in place available to the PDA and the State Park
2. Volunteer labor to help spread the material and provide maintenance
3. Approximately \$3,200 in delivered rock and sand
4. Allowance of up to \$1,300 labor and machines for leveling
5. Allowance of up to \$1,500 for cost overruns, taxes or other contingencies

See Project Outline on page 11.



What maintenance is needed?

Maintenance of a pétanque terrain is easy and inexpensive. The surface is groomed regularly with a heavy-duty landscape rake to keep it smooth and even for play. Weeding and debris removal is done periodically. Generally, a pétanque club designates a member who handles most of the maintenance along with two or three helpers.

Our Commitment

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal. Fort Worden PDA, the community, local pétanque players and the sport itself all win if we make this work. We are committed to:

- Donating labor to help install the terrain
- Developing an outreach program to inform the public of this new opportunity
- Regularly scheduling introductory programs designed to welcome beginners to the game and teach them how to play. This will be provided at no cost and *boules* will be provided
- Donating several sets of *boules* to the PDA which can be checked out for play by visitors to the park and for those who don't yet have their own
- Being proactive in hosting regional and eventually, national and international tournaments, camps and events

We Envision

- Creating numerous and strategic multi-age opportunities for pétanque instruction. The United States has never won an international medal-- together, we can help change this
- Partnering with Peninsula College to create accredited courses for youth and adult French immersion classes-- residential camps teaching language, culture and pétanque

A Clubhouse for the Port Townsend Pétanque Alliance

Dan Feaster, FPUSA Board member for the NW Region observed that this site as proposed would, quite simply, be the best all-around teaching and playing facility in the entire country. To further this goal, we are petitioning for the exclusive use of the garage known as building #354 as a clubhouse for locked storage of boules and related equipment. The proximity of this small building would help us to provide regular instruction, create a home for the Alliance and serve to house the tools and equipment needed maintain the terrain.

Insurance

The 501(c)3 non-profit parent body, Federation of Pétanque USA, provides insurance to clubs and their sponsors for activities related to regularly scheduled tournaments and supervised play.

A Military Legacy

Pétanque has its roots among soldiers who served in forts such as Fort Worden. There is a rich, well-documented history of the game spontaneously being reinvented whenever and wherever round objects and plenty of time were available-- a perfect fit for Fort Worden's heritage.



The Proposal

We believe that the Fort Worden Public Development authority in partnership with local pétanque players should provide a low-cost, low-impact pétanque terrain which will benefit the community, the economy, as well as local and regional pétanque aficionados. The investment should be amply realized by providing a useful, versatile, recreation space that will reward both the community in general and the PDA in particular.

To achieve this, we propose the installation of a terrain that would accommodate several leisure games simultaneously. The proposed size, roughly 15,000 sq. ft., would also facilitate 18 regulation tournament courts 4m × 15m (approx. 13ft × 49ft).

The installation is relatively simple, swift, and inexpensive. Maintenance is also easy and inexpensive. When not in use for pétanque play, the area has the ability to serve a variety of uses for other recreational activities and outdoor events. Once approved and funded, the installation can be accomplished and the courts ready for play in as little as two weeks time.

When finished, the Port Townsend Pétanque Alliance group would begin use immediately and anticipate setting up an outreach program as described in the commitment section within a few weeks. We will establish and maintain a clubhouse in building #354 to use as a center for instruction and for the housing of both the maintenance tools and playing equipment.

Players from Seattle, Edmonds and Bainbridge have all expressed interest in coming to play on a well-designed terrain. Over time, we expect our group to grow and new local clubs to form.

Project Outline

The installation of a pétanque terrain doesn't have to be perfect, in fact imperfections are desired and are very much a part of the "infinite variety" of the game.

Proposed terrain installation would go as follows:

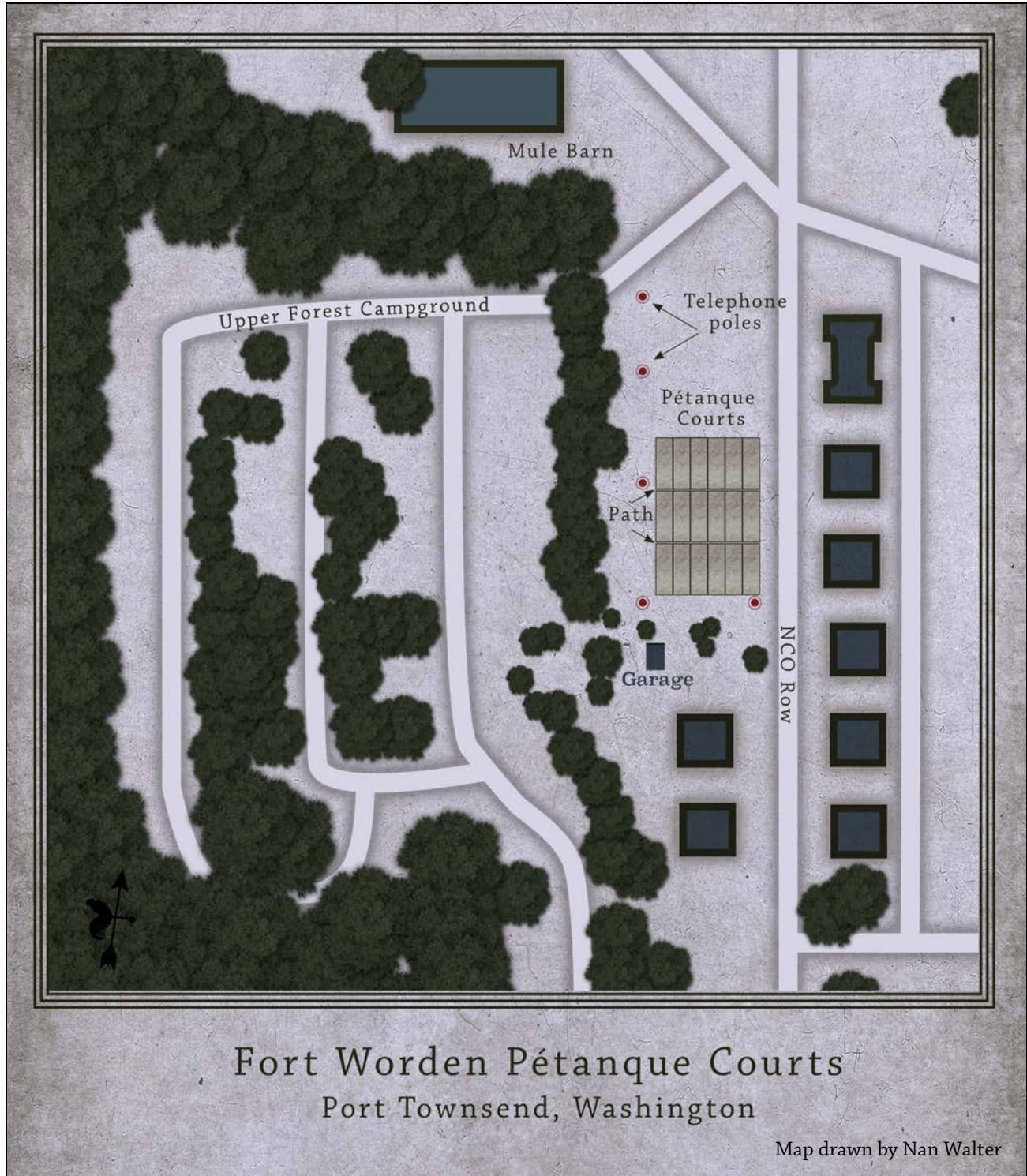
1. Mark the perimeter of the area
2. Scrape to remove all organic material, debris and some soil, to form a level base
3. Spread approximately 2 inches of ¾ inch-minus granite gravel over the area
4. Apply clean sand to the gravel layer to fill in and just cover
5. Top dress the terrain with the playing surface material with quarter-minus granite
6. Fine tune the surface by leveling and compacting the upper layers

Labor and Materials for the Proposed Terrain

¾ minus granite	90 cubic yards	\$ 2,025
clean sand	35 cubic yards	\$ 770
top dressing	18 cubic yards	\$ 405
bulldozer work	1 day	\$1,300
	<hr/>	
	total	\$4,400

Delivered materials and equipment costs were supplied by Shold Excavation, Port Hadlock

Note: The existing long driveway to the building #354 is at a lower level than the rest of the field and is already suited to be a terrain without grading. If incorporated into the design, less labor and materials will be needed. Also, this project may be part of the simultaneous development of the entire field and can defray some of the costs of the heavy equipment delivery and use.



Site Map and Court Arrangement

Pétanque in Public Parks & Places



Bryant Park, 42nd St., Manhattan, NY

In the 1980's, Bryant Park had deteriorated into a rather seedy city park, but thanks to a well designed renovation it has now become an oasis that attracts thousands of daily visitors.

There is a 50' x 30' crushed stone area in the NW corner, surrounded by trees, where in the summer members of the local club - La Boule NY - give free lessons to anyone who would like to learn the game. When no one is playing people just sit there, to read, enjoy lunch or check their email. On a few weekends per year, for tournaments, the club can also use the walkways in the park.



Seaside, FL

The local pétanque club plays on the crushed stone driveways around the Chapel. Also most parking areas in the town are crushed stone.



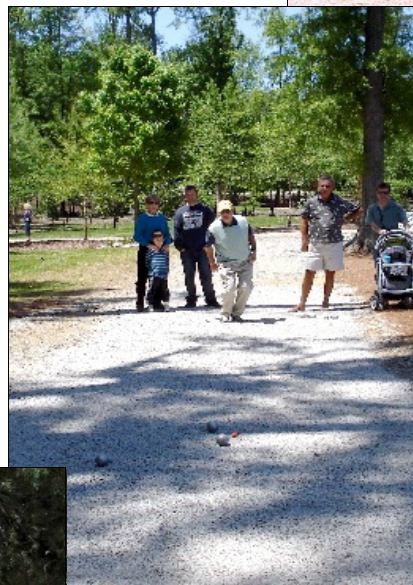
Chicago, IL

The entire area around Buckingham Fountain has a fine layer of decomposed granite which is excellent for pétanque.



Greensboro, NC

An impromptu Sunday afternoon game in Bicentennial Gardens. An existing driveway was patched up with screenings by the Parks Department for a festival.



Golden Gate Park, CA

The meeting place of the oldest pétanque club in the country, founded in 1959.



San Rafael, CA

Marin County Civic Center. Home of the local pétanque club.

Portland, OR

Located in Westmoreland Park, the Portland club has two terrains separated by a central walkway. A small clubhouse serves the members.



Other resources

www.usapetanque.org
www.petanque.org
www.petanque.us/map

the USA Pétanque Federation
international online magazine
map of public pétanque spots in the USA

Addendum: Phillipe Boets of Pétanque America, founded in 1991 to promote pétanque in the USA and to provide players with equipment at affordable prices. “We organize pétanque events and tournaments, assist parks departments, landscape designers, schools, resorts and any other organization interested in the game.”
www.petanque-america.com



