4.4 **OPEN SPACE**

4.4.1 Intent of the Designation

The Open Space designation has been placed on existing recreational areas, uses and facilities owned by government bodies or public agencies. The Open Space designation shall mean that the predominant use of land in the areas designated shall be for conservation and recreation, or similar uses.

4.4.2 Permitted Uses

Lands designated as Open Space are intended to be used for park and recreation uses, and for the conservation and protection of significant natural features. Such lands shall generally be kept free of buildings and structures, except for accessory buildings and structures which are necessary to serve the use, or which are recreational facilities such as arenas, pools, marinas, etc. Accessory uses such as gift shops, restaurants, etc. are permitted as part of the Open Space use.

4.4.3 Policies

Council shall ensure that adequate public parks, open space and recreational facilities are available to provide for a high quality urban environment. Lands designated as recreational open space are primarily intended for both public and private parks and open space conservation uses which provide for a range of leisure opportunities for all age groups. In developing open space areas regard shall be had for the characteristics and attributes of the natural landscape to provide for both active and passive recreational pursuits.

Where any lands designated for Open Space are under private ownership, this Plan does not intend that this land will necessarily remain as Open Space indefinitely, nor shall it be construed as implying that the Open Space areas are free and open to the general public or that such lands will be purchased by the Village of Westport.

At any time, when proposals to develop lands designated as Open Space which are in private ownership are made and the Municipality or the Conservation Authority or a public agency having an interest in the lands do not wish to purchase such lands in order to maintain the Open Space, then an application for redesignation of such land for other purposes will be given due consideration by Council.

Where recreational facilities are developed on lands within the Open Space designation, the following principles shall be adhered to:

1. wherever possible, those sites proposed for recreational development shall have good drainage, areas of shade, limited topographic relief and good pedestrian access;

- 2. adequate public parking areas shall be established and access points to parking areas shall be designed in such a manner that they will minimize the danger to pedestrian traffic;
- 3. pedestrian and vehicle movement shall be separated wherever possible;
- 4. buffer planting, screening and fencing may be required adjacent to a residential area;
- 5. Open Space areas may also include institutional uses which serve the general public so that they can be integrated into a single site.

