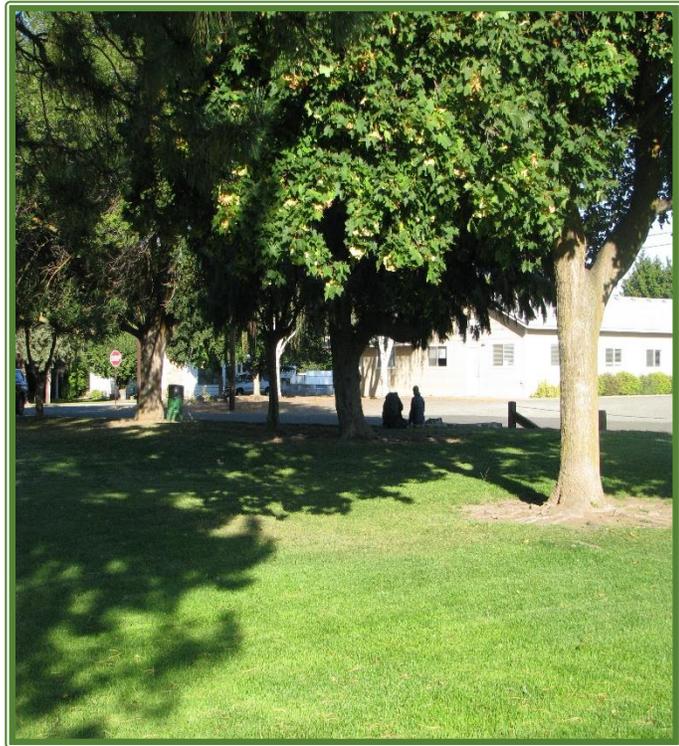


*City of Ellensburg*

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG PARKS & RECREATION SYSTEM  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE  
2016**

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*City of Ellensburg*  
**PARKS & RECREATION SYSTEM  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE  
2016**



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# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **Parks and Recreation Commission Members**

Joe Sheeran-Chair..... Term expires: May 31, 2017

Phyllis (PJ) MacPhaiden... Term expires May 31, 2017

Dolores Gonzalez..... Term expires: May 31, 2018

Jack Frost..... Term expires: May 31, 2018

Michael Burdick..... Term expires: May 31, 2018

Karen Johnson..... Term expires: May 31, 2016

Dan Witkowski..... Term expires May 31, 2016

## **Prepared by:**

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MIG Inc. Jonathan Pheanis Project Manager

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<sup>1</sup> Currently serves as City Council Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission

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## ***PREFACE***

It with great pleasure that we present to you the City of Ellensburg Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. Since the adoption of our last plan in 2006, the department has seen a lot of change. Our programming has increased significantly as well as our park system. In fact, we have added over 50 acres of developed park inventory since our last plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide City Council, as well as City staff, a roadmap for how our public views and wants to see our park system and programs grow. We use the information in this plan to prioritize projects, secure grant funding, and determine how we can operationally meet the needs of our community. This process took over 12 months to complete and it wouldn't have been possible without the valuable input from our community. So, on behalf the of the City of Ellensburg I would like to personally thank you, the community, for the information you provided throughout this process and that as a department we will continue to do our best to meet the recreation needs of Ellensburg.

Brad Case  
City of Ellensburg  
Parks & Recreation Director

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RCO Self Certification

Will be supplied by Consultant



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## Level of Service Summary

### Local Agencies

Indicators and Criteria For Local Agencies	A	B	C	D	E
<b>Quantity Criteria</b>					
Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities Percent difference between existing quantity or per capita average of parks and recreation facilities and the desired quantity or per capita average	<10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	>41%
Facilities that Support Active Recreation Opportunities Percent of facilities that support or encourage active (muscle-powered) recreation opportunities	>60%	51-60%	41-50%	31-40%	<30%
Facility Capacity Percent of demand met by existing facilities	>75%	61-75%	46-60%	30-45%	<30%
<b>Quality Criteria</b>					
Agency-Based Assessment Percentage of facilities that are fully functional for their specific design and safety guidelines	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	20-40%	<20%
Public Satisfaction Percentage of population satisfied with the condition, quantity, or distribution of existing active park and recreation facilities	>65%	51-65%	36-50%	25-35%	<25%
<b>Distribution and Access Criteria</b>					
Population within Service Areas Percentage of population within the following services areas (considering barriers to access): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park/trail</li> <li>• 5 miles of a community park/trail</li> <li>• 25 miles of a regional park/trail</li> </ul>	>75%	61-75%	46-60%	30-45%	<30%
Access Percentage of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	20-40%	<20%

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5. Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park

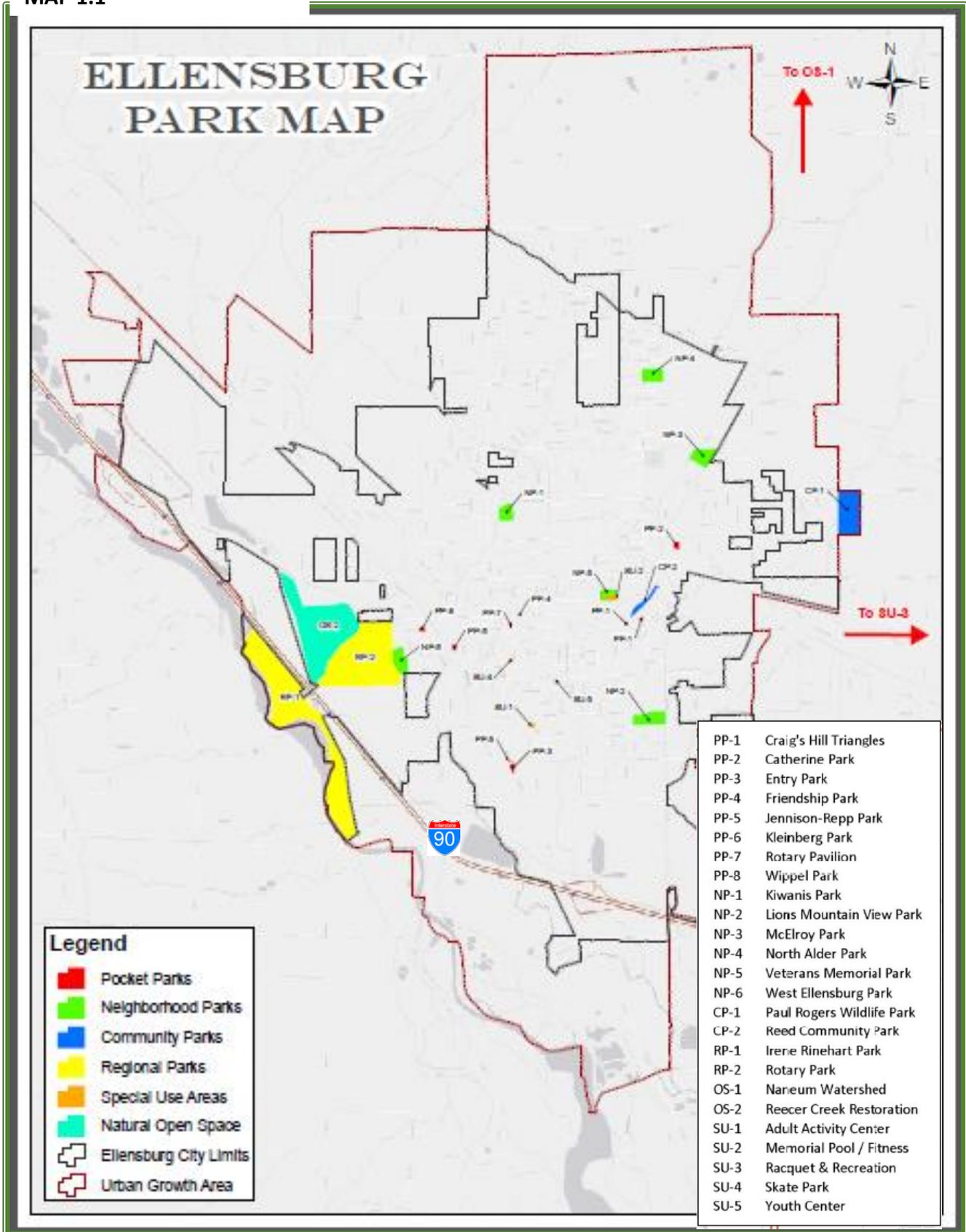
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MAP 1.1



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**INTRODUCTION & COMMUNITY PROFILE**



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## CHAPTER 1

# Introduction & Community Profile

The City of Ellensburg Park, Recreation and System Plan (PRSP) establishes a process that provides guidance on the management and development of Ellensburg’s recreation services, parklands, trails and open space. It also serves to unite the system into a coordinated network that reflects the needs and recommended priorities for the benefits for both the city residents and visitors over the next 15-20 years.

Guidelines for prescribed land use planning for select cities were established by the Washington State Legislature through the adoption of the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1991. The plan is an important tool for meeting the GMA requirements as well as for achieving the important goals in the Citywide Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This includes the goal of directly addressing the following:

**Open Space & Recreation:** *“Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water and develop parks and recreation facilities.” RCW 36.70A.020.*

This plan builds and draws from existing and previous work done by the City of Ellensburg That work includes the following:

- 2013, 2014 & 2015-2016 Final Adopted City of Ellensburg Budgets
- Regional Shoreline Master Plan Update approved December 2, 2014
- 2008 City of Ellensburg Non-motorized Transportation Plan updated 2010
- City of Ellensburg Parks, Recreation and Open space Plan August 2002 and the update to the Rotary Park master plan in 2012.
- 2013 Community Center Survey (attached: Appendix C-3)

On January 20, 2015, the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County approved a draft Interlocal Agreement (ILA)<sup>2</sup> which is subject to change regarding a coordinated joint planning and establishing a process to review mitigation of impacts to “parks” from development projects within the (Urban Growth Area UGA).

The PRSP Plan is on a six-year cycle and is in alignment with the requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to maintain eligibility for state and federal grant programs. Matching grants through the RCO and under the Washington Wildlife & Recreation program (WWRP), contain categories for local park projects, conservation, open space lands and trails. Other categories for funding through the RCO include funding for boating facilities and trails. The Federal funding administered by the RCO under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is also available through Congress if they approve reauthorization or move to create a common-sense bill to modernize the Land

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<sup>2</sup> The City and County Interlocal agreement regarding the collection of impact fees within the UGA is in draft only and is subject to change prior to acceptance of the ILA by both entities.

and Water Conservation Fund to better serve the needs of the state, counties, and cities to ensure greater recreational opportunities for the public.<sup>3</sup>

Public input is required by the RCO as part of the planning process. The City Council of Ellensburg appoints the Park and Recreation Commission, who in turn work with the staff throughout the update process. The community is included in regular Park and Recreation Commission meetings as the Plan moves to the Ellensburg City Council for adoption.

### **City Profile**

The City of Ellensburg is in the center of Washington State in Kittitas County. Ellensburg is the county seat and its population is 18,810. Ellensburg is located at the junction of Interstate 82 and Interstate 90. The Cascade Mountains to the west block most of the rain from the Puget Sound area. This results in a dry, mild climate with less than 10 inches of precipitation per year. The City's terrain is generally flat with an elevation between 1,500 and 1,580 feet above sea level. Due to the climate, the Kittitas Valley is internationally known for its timothy-hay production.

One of the first settlers to the area, William Bud Wilson, is claimed to have built the first log cabin in the Kittitas Valley in 1868. The "Robber's Roost" is the original trading post that opened in 1870 and is currently on display with a showcase of other historic structures at the Kittitas Valley Event Center which is also the location of the annual Kittitas County Fair and Ellensburg Rodeo. The City of Ellensburg was originally named "Ellensburgh" by John Alden Shoudy in honor of his wife Ellen and was incorporated in 1883. The downtown of Ellensburg has many historic buildings that include the Davidson Building built in 1890. Ellensburg bid for the state capital in 1889 but lost to the City of Olympia. The City of Ellensburg's water system was one of the first in Washington. In 1891 the Washington State Normal School opened and is now the home of Central Washington University (CWU).

According to the US Census Bureau, the geography of the city has a total area of 6.97 square miles of which 6.92 square miles are land, and 0.05 square miles of water. The Yakima River Basin is a main tributary to the Columbia River located in the central portion of Washington State. Because portions of the Yakima River shoreline are located within Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park, Ellensburg was included in the planning of the Regional Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in 2012. A number of seasonal creeks go through the city of Ellensburg parks: Reecer Creek, Mercer Creek and Wilson Creek.

Ellensburg has a genuine authentic culture. With its historic buildings, the vibrant downtown is filled with unique shops, museums and art galleries and is enhanced local flavor of great restaurants, brew pubs and wine shops.

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<sup>3</sup> 2015 House Committee on Natural Resources. Natural Resources. House Gov. Chairman Bob Bishop [The Protecting America's Recreation and Conservation Act: PARC ]

## **Public Involvement**

The City, as part of the update to the Parks, Recreation System Plan (the Plan), interviewed the staff and engaged public input with the Parks and Recreation Questionnaire. The Questionnaire was available on the City website and distributed through City utility bills. A total of 444 individuals responded via the online



questionnaire. 81% were residents of the City of Ellensburg.<sup>4</sup> Two community meetings were held to gain public input on community priorities and ideas for improvement of the City's park system. At the first meeting, the public went over the parklands to provide input for current use and future options regarding park and facility sustainability. A final public meeting focused on the five master plans (Appendix B) to help provide guidance to City staff and the consultant team in the development of the park recommendations and final draft



input to the Park Master plans. Throughout the year, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission discussed at their monthly meetings the community outreach questionnaire process. They reviewed the input from community forums, public questionnaire responses and public comments on the five draft park master plans.

It is important to understand that no one public

involvement activity is intended to provide the “answer.” Rather, themes that emerge from multiple sources will be used to guide the direction of the analysis and recommendations in this plan.

<sup>4</sup> Figure 1 in the Parks and Recreation Questionnaire Results Summary (Appendix C-1) is a location map with points to identify responses to the question “where to you live in Ellensburg”.

The **Key Findings** summary describes the results of the questionnaire and includes comparisons with the statistically valid survey conducted in February 2002<sup>5</sup>. Where possible any changes in public opinion over time are noted as compared to the 2002 statistical Survey. The 2015 questionnaire entire report is Appendix C-1 attached, and available on the city's website (<http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us>)

## Key Findings: Parks and Recreation Questionnaire Results Summary

### **Parks:**

- *Parks, recreation and open spaces are very important to respondents.*

The majority of the respondents (85%) indicated that parks and recreation programs are important to the overall quality of life in Ellensburg. Close to 60% of the respondents indicated that natural open spaces are very important to the community.

- *Developed parks, trails and waterfront areas are the most popular types of parks.*

Based on the questionnaire, respondents visited these areas frequently (at least once a week or 1-2 times a month). Similarly, parks were mostly used for physical activity including walking or biking.

- *Respondents are generally satisfied with park maintenance, but there is some desire for improved maintenance.*

Nearly 58% of respondents found the general upkeep and maintenance of parks as excellent or good while another 25% found it ok. However, based on the open-ended responses, there were many comments expressing a need to improve maintenance.

### **Recreation Facilities and Trails:**

- *There is interest in adding greater variety in the park system.*

Ideas expressed by respondents included a water playground or splash pad, skating rink, disc golf, off-leash dog areas and places for kids to play.

- *Respondents voiced a need to maximize use of existing parks and public land.*

In existing parks and facilities, respondents suggested adding lights to ball fields to increase hours for field use and multi-purpose indoor space for use during colder weather. Some respondents noted that there is existing vacant or underused public land that could be improved for public use.

- *Surrounding natural open spaces are highly valued.*

Ellensburg is surrounded by outdoor recreation areas and outcomes highlight the importance that these resources have for residents.

- *Trail activities are the top most desired types of recreation activities.*

Given time, money and transportation considerations, walking and biking for pleasure were the top two activities chosen by respondents.

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<sup>5</sup> Part of the City of Ellensburg Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan (August 12, 2002 and update to the plan in 2006)

- Respondents prefer paved trails and trails that link neighborhoods or connect to other trails.

Based on the questionnaire, respondents are most interested in developing more trails for exercise and to increase non-motorized transportation options. A lack of safe trails and connections was also the top reason why respondents aren't currently using trails. Recreational trails are also popular. Respondents expressed a need to provide natural surface trails for mountain biking and trail running.

### **Recreation Programs and Special Events:**

- There is potential to increase recreation program participation.

Although 54% of all respondents responded that their household had used City-sponsored recreational programs last year, many respondents were unaware of current offerings. In addition, a smaller percentage of respondents indicated that members of their family had used City-provided recreational programs within the last 12 months compared to the results from the same question asked 2002 survey.

- There is interest in special interest programs.

When asked what additional City-provided recreation programs should be offered or expanded, respondents indicated a need for outdoor/environmental programs (37%) and fitness classes (25%). The majority of respondents also indicated they would or would consider paying more for these types of programs.

- Respondents expressed a need for more opportunities for children and families.

Based on the open-ended responses, many respondents felt that children and families are the most underserved by recreation programs.

### **Future Improvements:**

- Respondents prioritized upgrading and maintaining existing parks and facilities.

Based on outcomes of the questionnaire, 41% of respondents indicated a need to upgrade existing parks followed by maintaining existing parks and facilities (28%). Based on open ended responses, examples of facilities needing improvement include the Racquet Center, City pool, tennis courts and playground equipment.

- New trails are the top priority if funding were available.

Prioritizing a citywide trail system was the top ranked option according to questionnaire outcomes.

- There is interest in a multi-purpose community facility.

The second most popular response for project prioritization if funding were available was a multi-purpose community facility. In addition, respondents preferred several types of features to be included such as tennis, basketball or racquetball courts.

- Though respondents value parks and natural areas, adding or developing new parks and natural areas are not as prioritized.

Though respondents value parks and natural areas, adding or developing new parks and natural areas are not as prioritized: 16% were for developing new parks and only 13% for acquiring land for future parks.

- *Respondents prefer that funding and maintenance for parks and recreation is a shared responsibility.*

Outcomes reflected that funding should come mostly from tax dollars and some user fees. In addition, respondents prefer that private groups continue to share sports field maintenance with the City. Fewer indicated that no fees should be charged or that the City should develop and maintain sports fields and leagues without support.

*Chapter 2*  
**GOALS & OBJECTIVES**



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The goals and objectives guide the implementation of the City of Ellensburg’s vision for parks and recreation over the next six years and into the future for the next fifteen to twenty years. They are the framework of the Parks and Recreation System Plan Update. They are designed to help the Department achieve its vision and sense of direction for programs and services of the Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department.

**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
MISSION STATEMENT**

*The City of Ellensburg Parks & Recreation Department strives to enhance the lives of community residents and visitors of all ages by providing a wide range of quality leisure experiences in our parks, recreation facilities, programs, and services. Through our efforts we will advance the health and wellness of individuals and families, foster greater community spirit, protect and enhance our natural resources and environment, contribute to the vitality of the local economy and promote a high quality of life in Ellensburg.*

**GOAL PR-1 ADMINISTRATIVE GOAL:**

**PR1.1: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT:** *Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.*

**Financial Objectives:**

- a. Investigate innovative available methods such as review of growth impact fees, land set-a-side or fee-in lieu-of donation ordinances, and inter-local agreements for the financing of facility development, maintenance, and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests and increase facility services.
- b. Consider joint ventures with other public and private agencies such as the Ellensburg School District, Kittitas County, regional, state, federal and other public and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires where feasible and desirable.

**Public and Private coordination:**

- a. Create a comprehensive and balanced park, recreation and open space system that integrates Ellensburg facilities and services with resources available from Ellensburg School District, Kittitas County, state, federal and private park and recreational lands and facilities in a manner that will best serve and provide for resident area interests
- b. Cooperate with Ellensburg School District, Kittitas County and other public and private agencies to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs and represent resident area interests through joint planning and development efforts.

**Cost Benefit Assessment Objective:**

- a. Define existing and proposed land and facility levels-of-service that differentiate requirements due to population growth impacts versus improved facility standards, neighborhood versus community nexus of benefit, city versus the combination of city, county, school and other provider agency efforts in order to effectively plan and

program park, recreation and open space needs within the proposed urban growth area boundaries.

- b. Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining park and recreational facilities in a manner that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private user interest including the application of growth impact fees where new developments impact existing level-of-service (ELOS) standards.
- c. Develop and operate lifetime recreational programs that serve the broadest needs of the population while recovering program and operating costs with a combination of registration fees, user fees, grants, sponsorships, donations, scholarships, volunteer efforts and the use of general funding.
- d. Where appropriate, provide recreational programs like golf and archery ranges for those interested groups who are willing to finance the cost through user fees, registration fees, volunteer efforts or other means and methods.

**Professional Objectives:**

- a. Develop, train and support a professional parks and recreation staff that effectively serves the community while accomplishing the above listed goals and objectives.
- b. Employ a diverse, well-trained work force that is motivated to achieve department and citywide goals.
- c. Encourage teamwork through communications, creativity, positive image, risk taking, sharing of resources and cooperation that achieve common goals.
- d. Where appropriate, provide staff with education, training, and modern equipment and supplies to increase personal productivity, efficiency and pride.

**GOAL PR2: RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAM GOAL:**

**PR2.1 CITYWIDE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:** *Develop high quality recreational programs and services that meet all community groups and needs.*

**Recreational Program Objectives:**

- a. Support arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care, meeting facilities, daycare, latchkey, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability and income groups in the community.

**PR2.2 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:** *Develop a high quality, diversified recreation system that provides for all age and interest groups*

**Waterfront Access and Facilities Objectives:**

- a. Cooperate with Kittitas County, the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife and other public agencies and private entities to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, and other related recreational activities and pursuits.

- b. Develop and maintain existing facilities that provide a mixture of watercraft access opportunities including canoe, kayak and other non-power boating activities on the Yakima River.
- c. Develop, where appropriate, a select number of facilities that provide the highest competitive playing standard in conjunction with the Ellensburg School District, neighboring school districts such as Thorp and Kittitas, CWU, local church and private school organizations and other public and private entities.
- d. Work with other public and private entities to operate an off-leash Dog off leash area (DOLA).

**Athletic Facilities Objectives:**

- a. Develop athletic facilities that meet the highest quality competitive playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels and recreational interests.
- b. Concentrate on court and field activities like skateboard, basketball, tennis, volleyball, soccer, baseball and softball that provide for the largest number of participants.
- c. Support basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, baseball, softball and other instruction and participatory programs for all age, skill level and income levels in the community.

**Indoor Facilities Objectives:**

- a. Develop multiple-use indoor community centers that provide arts and crafts, music, video, classroom instruction, meeting facilities, eating and health care, daycare, latchkey and other spaces for all age groups including preschool, youth, teens and seniors on a year-round basis.
- b. Maintain and expand multiple use indoor recreational centers that provide aquatic, gymnasiums, physical conditioning, recreational courts and other athletic spaces for all age groups, skill levels and community interests on a year-round basis.
- c. Support the continued development and diversification by the Ellensburg School District, Kittitas County Rodeo and Fairgrounds and other organizations of special meeting, assembly, eating, health and other community facilities that provide general support to school age populations and the community-at-large at elementary, middle and high schools within the Ellensburg urban growth area.
- d. Develop and operate special indoor and outdoor cultural and performing arts facilities that enhance and expand music, dance, drama and other audience and participatory opportunities for the community-at-large. Cooperate with Kittitas County, CWU, Ellensburg School District and other organizations to support arts within the community.

**Wildlife Resources Objectives:** *Incorporate unique ecological features and resources into the park system to protect threatened species, preserve habitat and retain migration corridors that are unique and important to local wildlife.*

**Wildlife Habitat:**

- a. Where appropriate identify and conserve critical wildlife habitat including nesting sites, foraging areas and migration corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces and the developed urban area.
- b. Preserve especially sensitive habitat sites that support threatened species and urban wildlife habitat such as the shoreline areas along Reecer Creek Floodplain, Currier,

Wilson and Naneum Creeks and Dolarway Road as well as Carey and Mattoon Lakes, Hanson Pit Ponds and the Yakima River.

Natural Areas:

- a. Preserve and protect significant environmental features including unique wetlands, open spaces, woodlands, shorelines, waterfronts and other characteristics that support wildlife and reflect Ellensburg's resource heritage – such as Reecer, Currier, Wilson and Naneum Creeks.
- b. Provide public access to environmentally sensitive areas and sites that are especially unique to the Ellensburg area - such as Dolarway Road Pond.

**Open spaces and preserves Objectives:** *Develop a high quality, diversified park system that preserves and enhances significant environmental resources and features.*

Open Spaces:

- a. Define and conserve a system of open space corridors or separators to provide definition between natural areas and urban land uses within the Ellensburg developing area – such as the Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park.
- b. Increase natural area and open space linkages within the developed area, particularly along the John Wayne Trail/Iron Horse State Park.
- c. Preserve environmentally sensitive areas as natural area linkages and urban separators, particularly the Cascade and Town Canals corridors.

Urban growth preserves and set-asides:

- a. Cooperate with other public and private agencies, and with private landowners to set aside land and resources necessary to provide high quality and convenient park, recreation and open space facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development-particularly the lands along the Yakima River.
- b. Preserve unique environmental features or areas in future land developments while providing increased public use and access. Cooperate with other public and private entities and private landowners to set aside unique features or areas as publicly accessible resources.
- c. Create recreational overlay zone to include Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park and surroundings to enhance recreational opportunities within the natural setting of the Yakima River.

**Trail and Corridor Access Systems Objectives:** *Develop a high quality system of multipurpose park trails and corridors that access significant environmental features.*

Trail systems:

- a. Create a comprehensive system of multipurpose off-road trails using alignments along public road rights-of-way and within cooperating private properties, and, where appropriate, on public facilities throughout developed local neighborhoods and business districts.
- b. Create a comprehensive system of on-road bicycle routes for commuter, recreational and touring enthusiasts using scenic routes, collector roads, and local road rights-of-way and alignments through and around Ellensburg.
- c. Link residential neighborhoods to community facilities like Rotary Park, CWU Alder Recreation Complex, West Ellensburg Park and others.

- d. Work with WASDOT, Kittitas County, and other appropriate parties to link and extend trails to elementary and middle schools, the central commercial zones and other commercial and retail activity centers within the Ellensburg urban growth areas.
- e. Work with entities and technical work groups that are proposing or improving irrigation delivery systems to open property for public pathways adjacent to those private facilities.
- f. Extend trails through natural area corridors like the Yakima River and place signage on routes that will provide high quality, diverse sampling and trail connectivity.
- g. Work with Kittitas County Public Health (KCPHD) <sup>6</sup>to identify trails that provide active use for addressing health concerns related to lack of physical exercise of all age groups.

Supporting furnishings and improvements

- a. Furnish trail systems with appropriate supporting trailhead improvements that include interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water and other services.
- b. Where appropriate, locate trailheads at or in conjunction with park sites, schools and other community facilities to increase local area access to the trail system and reduce duplication of supporting improvements.
- c. Install emergency call boxes or other means by which trail users can summon fire, emergency aid, police and other safety and security personnel should the need arise.
- d. Develop trail improvements of a design and development standard that is easy to maintain and access by maintenance, security and other appropriate personnel, equipment and vehicles.

**Special Purpose Facilities Objectives:** Support the development of high quality facilities that meet the interests of all segments of the community.

Special enterprises:

- a. Where appropriate and economically feasible (self-supporting), develop and operate specialized and special interest recreational facilities such as ice arenas, convention and theater facilities and golf courses to support these interests in the general population.
- b. Where appropriate, initiate joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies to determine and provide for special activities like golf, water parks, boating launches and camping on a regional basis.

**PR2.3: DESIGN AND ACCESS STANDARDS:** *Design and develop facilities that are accessible, safe and easy to maintain with life cycle features that account for long-term costs and benefits.*

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<sup>6</sup> See 7-1-15 letter from KCPHD, Kittitas County Board of Health & Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee Appendix C/Public involvement RE: Recommendation for “Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan”

### **Accessibility Objectives:**<sup>7</sup>

- a. Design outdoor picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, courts, fields, parking lots, restrooms and other active and supporting facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income and activity interests.
- b. Design indoor facility spaces, activity rooms, restrooms, hallways, parking lots and other active and supporting spaces and improvements to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income and activity interests.
- c. Implement the provisions and requirements of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and other design and development standards that will improve park facility safety and security features for park users, department personnel and the public-at-large.

### **Sustainability and Safety Objectives:**

- a. Design and develop facilities that are of low maintenance and high capacity design to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.
- b. Where appropriate, use low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements and retain natural conditions and experiences.
- c. Develop and implement safety standards, procedures and programs that will provide proper training and awareness for department personnel.
- d. Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that will protect user groups, department personnel and the general public-at-large.
- e. Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, park police patrols and other innovative programs that will increase safety and security awareness and visibility.

## **GOAL PR3: SPECIAL HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES/SPECIAL USE AREAS**

### **PR3.1: HISTORICAL RESOURCES:** *Develop a high quality, diversified park system that preserves significant historical opportunity areas and features*

- a. Identify, preserve and enhance Ellensburg's multicultural heritage, traditions and cultural features including historical sites, buildings, artworks, views and monuments within the Downtown Historic District, other historical areas and park sites.
- b. Identify and incorporate significant historical and cultural lands, sites, artifacts and facilities into the park system to preserve these interests and provide a balanced social experience - such as the Pinkard Mansion and Damman and Woldale Schools.
- c. Work with Kittitas County Historical Society, Arts Commission and other cultural groups to incorporate community activities into the park and recreational programs.
- d. Assist historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports and exhibits and conduct lectures, classes and other programs that document and develop awareness of Ellensburg's heritage and culture.

<sup>7</sup> [www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final](http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final) (9.26.2013)

**PR3.2: MANMADE ENVIRONMENTS AND FEATURES:**

- a. Incorporate interesting manmade environments, structures, activities and areas into the park system to preserve these features and provide a balanced park, recreation and open space experience - such as the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot, Cascade and Town Canals.

**PR3.3 CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES:** *Develop high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase community awareness, attendance and participation opportunities.*

**Artwork & Program Objectives:**

- a. Support successful collaboration between the Ellensburg Downtown Association, Kittitas County Historical Society, Arts Commission, Chamber of Commerce, business community members such as the Clymer and Gallery One, service groups, schools, arts patrons and artists that utilize artistic resources and talents.
- b. Develop strategies that will support and assist local artists and art organizations.
- c. Where appropriate, support policies and programs that encourage or provide incentives that attract and retain artists and artworks within the Ellensburg urban growth areas.
- d. Acquire public artworks including paintings, sculptures, exhibits and other media for indoor and outdoor display to expand resident access and appropriately furnish art in public places.

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*Chapter 3*  
**PARKS, FACILITIES & PROGRAM  
INVENTORY**



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*CHAPTER 3*

**EXISTING PARKS, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAM INVENTORY**

*Introduction*

The City of Ellensburg Parks and Recreation inventory includes an impressive array of parklands and recreation facilities that provide a variety of recreational opportunities. These important resources benefit the citizens as well as visitors. Recent studies show that park resources strengthen families, contribute to healthier lifestyles, build stronger communities and are an attraction in encouraging a thriving local economy. This chapter identifies the existing parks, open spaces, facilities and recreation programs. It also provides a collection of critical data to understand the value of the Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department assets. The park classifications and definitions are presented, facilities are identified and inventoried, and recreation programming is outlined.

The inventory also identifies other public and private resources available to citizens in the City of Ellensburg Urban Growth Area (UGA) beyond those owned and managed by the city.

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG RESOURCES**

***Parks, Facilities and Program Inventory***

**# 3.1 CITY PARKLANDS:**

The City of Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department owns and maintains 26 park sites with a total of 1,601.72-acres. 168.7-acres are developed acres and 1,433.02<sup>8</sup> acres are undeveloped, 1,355.37 of those acres are Natural Open Space, the total of which serve the public recreational need of the City’s Urban Growth Area.

The city parks provide a wide range of passive and active opportunities with facilities for a variety of recreational uses that include



<sup>8</sup> 263.37-acres in the Naneum Watershed are city owned and 1,000-acres are leased from the DNR as natural open space parkland. This property is located 10 miles north of the Ellensburg city limits.

playgrounds, picnic areas, walking/bicycle trails, ball fields, multi-use sport complex, boat launch, indoor pool and outdoor swimming beaches, skateboard facility, and natural wildlife habitat areas and wetlands. The four city recreational centers offer programming for youth, teens, young adults and seniors as well as aquatic and fitness activities. The parks have public art intertwined, and the recreational programming ranges from educational to cultural activities as well as major events for the entire community.

These important public resources benefit residents and visitors alike, and, as studies show<sup>9</sup>, contribute to the local economy by attracting businesses, supporting workers and raising property values. Important benefits of Ellensburg public parks and recreation facilities and programs include public safety, habitat protection, community cohesion, health and fitness and enhanced quality of life.

While the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* provide definitions for park classifications, it also acknowledges that each community is unique in terms of geographical, cultural and socioeconomic make-up. As such, each community or park agency should develop its own standards for park, recreation, and open space with the NRPA definitions as a guide. This is especially important for communities like Ellensburg that are still growing and offer opportunities for expansion of amenities, facilities and open space.

As a means of organizing the public open space facilities found within the Ellensburg park system, the park areas are classified according to a hierarchy that provides for a comprehensive system of interrelated parks. All parks can be placed into specific categories and classifications. Some parks that meet neighborhood needs and have specialized amenities could be placed into more than one classification but are placed in the classification that meets the broadest definition. The park and open space classifications that are appropriate for the Ellensburg park system do not necessarily meet the NRPA guidelines in a strict sense as far as size or amenities but are appropriate to the overall offerings of the Department. The Ellensburg classifications used in this inventory include:

- A. Pocket Parks
- B. Neighborhood Parks
- C. Community Parks
- D. Regional Parks
- E. Natural Open Space
- F. Special Use Areas
- G. Trails & Connections
- H. Beautification Areas



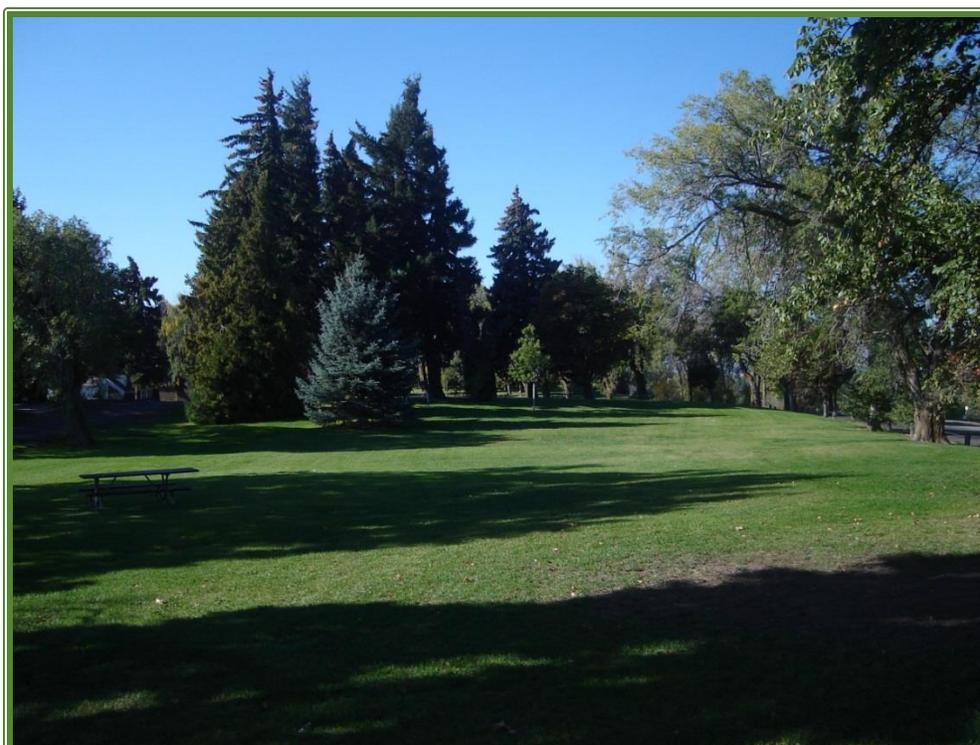
<sup>9</sup> **Measuring the Economic Impact of Park and Recreation Services:** JOHN L. CROMPTON / RESEARCH SERIES | 2010: National Recreation & Park Association; [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org)

Table 3.1 summarizes the parks owned and managed by the City of Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department. The system provides a wide variety of parks that range from active to passive recreational use. The city has seven types of parkland that serve the public needs. Map 1.1, pg 16. (Existing Park Map) identifies the location of the parks throughout the community. Tables 3.2-3.6 list city parks by category as well as the typical facilities at each park. Appendix-A is the detailed description of each park by type, existing conditions, current inventory and future capital needs. Table 2.2 is a summary of the parks sites, acreage, location and facilities at each park.

**Table 3.1 Summary of Existing Parks / Ellensburg Planning Area**

Park Type	Acres of Ellensburg Parkland	Total number of sites
Pocket Parks	3.59	8
Neighborhood Parks	33.50	6
Community Parks	24.44	2
Regional Parks	217.00	2
Natural Open Space	1,321.37	3
Special Use Areas	1.82	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,601.72</b>	<b>26</b>
168.7 Developed / 1433.02 Undeveloped		

Table 3.2 lists the individual parks with their addresses as well as the number of acres at each site and the facilities and amenities at each location. Section 3.1., A. through H describes the parks in detail and the recommended planned level of service (PLOS).



<b>Table 3.2 ELLENSBURG PARKS &amp; site Facilities</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>MAP</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Ballfields</b>	<b>Beautification</b>	<b>B'Ball Hoops</b>	<b>Bathrooms</b>	<b>Boat Launch</b>	<b>Electricity</b>	<b>Nature Area</b>	<b>Picnic Shelter</b>	<b>Play Structure</b>	<b>Public Art</b>	<b>Roller Hockey</b>	<b>Skating</b>	<b>Soccer Fields</b>	<b>Swimming</b>	<b>Tennis Courts</b>	<b>Trails</b>	<b>Turf Area</b>
<b>POCKET PARKS</b>																				
Craig's Hill Triangles	4 <sup>th</sup> & Craig's Hill	PP-1	.30		X															X
Catherine Park	University Way	PP-3	1.00 -UD		X															
Entry Park	900 S. Main	PP-2	.46		X								X							
Friendship Park	5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	PP-4	0.16		X								X							
Jennison-Repp	808 S. Main	PP-5	.10		X								X							
Kleinberg Park	300 Wenas St.	PP-6	.37																	X
Rotary Pavilion	400 N. Pearl	PP-7	.60		X								X							
Wipfel Park	400 Elliot St.	PP-8	.60			X														X
<b>TOTAL POCKET PARKS</b>			<b>3.59</b>																	
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>																				
Kiwanis Park	A St. & 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	NP-1	4.0	X		X	X		X	X	X	X								X
Lions Mountain View	1200 E. Seattle	NP-2	8.0	X		X	X		X		X	X		X		X				X
McElroy Park	1703 Brick Road	NP-3	7.0				X												X	X
North Alder Street Park	2400 N. Alder	NP-4	5.5			X	X		X		X	X							X	X
Veterans Memorial	700 N. Poplar	NP-5	3.0			X	X		X		X	X					X			X
West Ellensburg Park	900 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave.	NP-6	6.0	X		X	X			X		X							X	X
<b>TOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>			<b>33.50</b>																	
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>																				
Paul Rogers Wildlife Park	Judge Ronald RD	CP-1	20.0				X													X
Reed Community Park	1101 Craig Avenue	CP-2	4.44																	X
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY PARKS</b>			<b>24.44</b>																	
<b>REGIONAL PARKS</b>																				
Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park	Umptanum Road	RP-1	6.35 D 110.65 UD.				X		X		X						X		X	X
Rotary Park	1200 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	RP-2	100.	X		X	X		X			X				X			X	X
<b>TOTAL REGIONAL PARKS</b>			<b>217.0</b>																	

<b>Table 3.2 ELLENSBURG PARKS &amp; Site Facilities</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>MAP</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Ballfields</b>	<b>Beautification</b>	<b>B'Ball Hoops</b>	<b>Bathrooms</b>	<b>Boat Launch</b>	<b>Electricity</b>	<b>Nature Area</b>	<b>Picnic Shelter</b>	<b>Play Structure</b>	<b>Public Art</b>	<b>Roller Hockey</b>	<b>Skating</b>	<b>Soccer Fields</b>	<b>Swimming</b>	<b>Tennis Courts</b>	<b>Trails</b>	<b>Turf Area</b>
<b>NATURAL OPEN SPACE</b>																				
Naneum Watershed	Naneum Road	OS-1	263.37 UD							X										X
Naneum Watershed	Naneum Road	OS-1	1,000 UD							X										X
Reecer Creek Restoration	Lower Reecer CK	OS-2	58.0 UD							X										X
<b>TOTAL NATURAL OPEN SPACE<sup>10</sup></b>			<b>1,321.37</b>																	
<b>SPECIAL USE AREAS</b>																				
Adult Activity Center	506 S. Pine St.	SU-1	.10				X		X											
Memorial Pool/Fitness	815 East 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	SU-2	.08				X		X											
Racquet & Recreation	6061 Vantage HY	SU-3	.57			X	X		X					X		X		X		
Skate Park	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. & Pearl	SU-4	.66												X					
Youth Center	406 E. Capital	SU-5	<u>.41</u>				X		X											
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL USE AREAS</b>			<b>1.82</b>																	
<b>TOTAL CITY OF ELLENSBURG PARKS</b>			<b>1,601.72</b>																	

<sup>10</sup> Note that over 1,200 acres are in the Naneum Watershed which makes up the largest percent of the total Natural Open Space acreage.

### **#3.1-A: POCKET PARKS**

Pocket parks or Mini parks serve a limited population area or unique recreation or aesthetic need. They serve as a recreational and beautification space where acquisition of larger parks is not possible. Pocket parks could have amenities that draw people from a greater area but typically serve an area populated within a ¼ mile radius. Because of the specialized nature of these parks, they usually range in size from only 2,500 square



feet up to 1 acre. Beautification areas are landscaped areas along natural features, travel ways, community gateways and plazas. These spaces can be for relaxing or meeting friends, taking lunch breaks, etc. The facilities usually consist of landscaping, are comfortable spaces and can provide quiet areas for reflective time.

#### **NRPA Standard:**

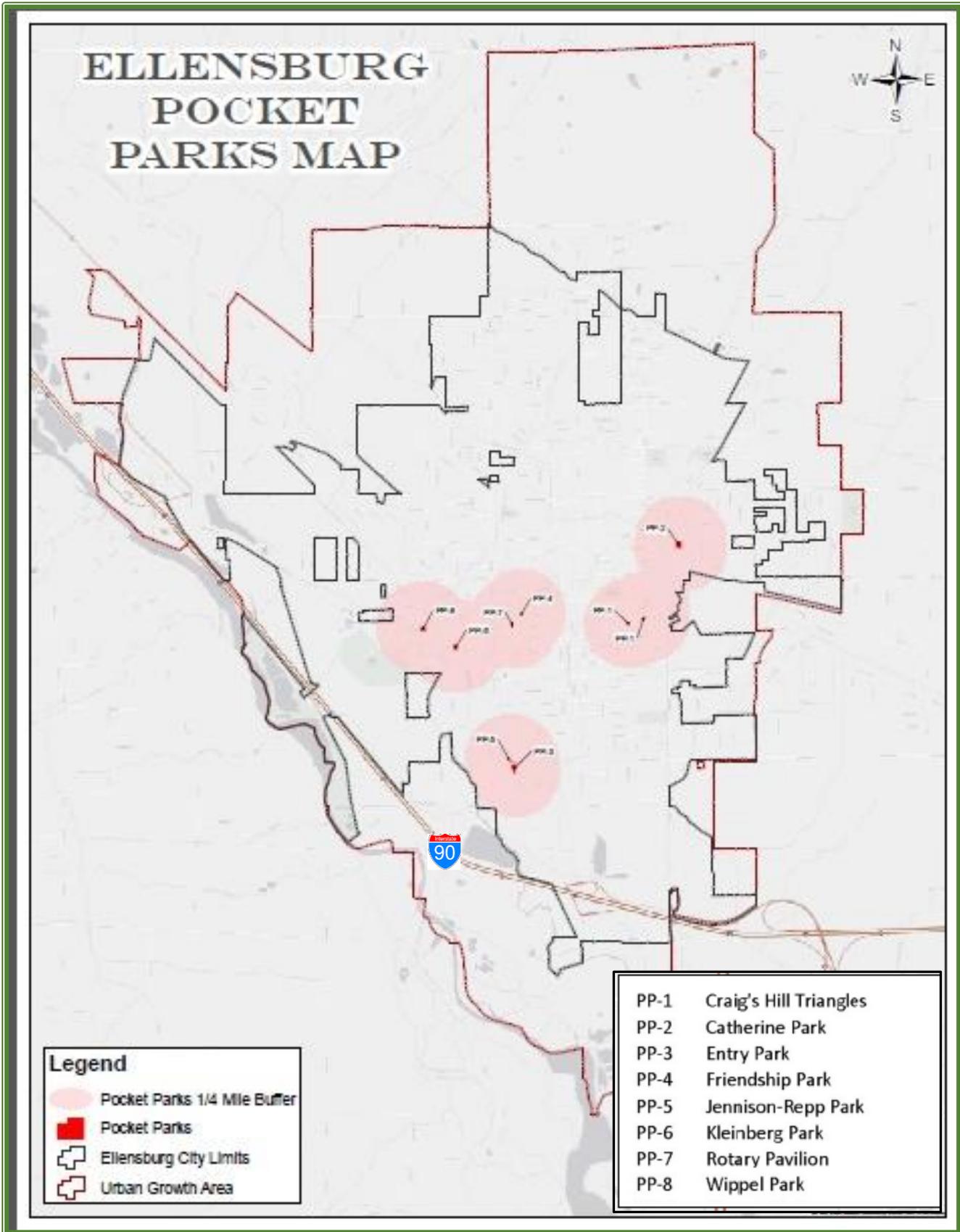
- Less than a ¼ mile service radius
- 2500 square feet up to one acre
- There is no current national standard for the dimensions of these areas, but the former NRPA standards listed pocket parks as having 1 to 3 acres per 1,000 population. Features can include public art, elements of historic or cultural significance, recreational facilities, beautification or just a place for passive reflection.
- Facilities can include a play area for young children, bike racks, benches and small picnic facilities, community gardens, mature trees area, or the site could potentially be used for hosting community activities or performing arts events.
- Facilities and features typically not included are off-street parking or restrooms except under special circumstances where sites have acreage for the potential provision of the additional site support facilities.

#### **Ellensburg Pocket Parks & Beautification Areas**

Eight parks in the Ellensburg system are classified as Pocket Parks shown on Map 3.1.

- **Craig's Hill Triangles:** E. 4<sup>th</sup>/Craig's Hill 0.30 acres
- **Catherine Park:** University Way (KXLE) 1.00 acres<sup>11</sup>
- **Entry Park:** 900 S. Main Street 0.46 acres
- **Friendship Park** 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue 0.16 acres
- **Jennison-Repp Park:** 808 S. Main Street 0.10 acres
- **Kleinberg Park:** 300 Wenas Street 0.37 acres
- **Rotary Pavilion** 400 North Pearl 0.60 acres
- **Wippel Park:** 400 Elliot Street 0.60 acres

<sup>11</sup> Catherine Park is currently undeveloped



### **#3.1-B: NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

Neighborhood Parks serve as the recreational and social centers and remain the basic unit of a park system. Parks are generally designed to focus on informal active and passive recreation needs of all ages within a given neighborhood. Facilities might include playgrounds, areas for picnicking/ neighborhood events and/or activities, game fields or courts, parking spaces, restrooms, shelters, bike racks and trail connections. Parks can serve as community memorials. In many communities, a park is adopted as a project site for local service clubs. A neighborhood park may also serve a community as a whole by offering a field or fields for use by athletic organizations from outside that particular neighborhood.

#### **NRPA Standard:**

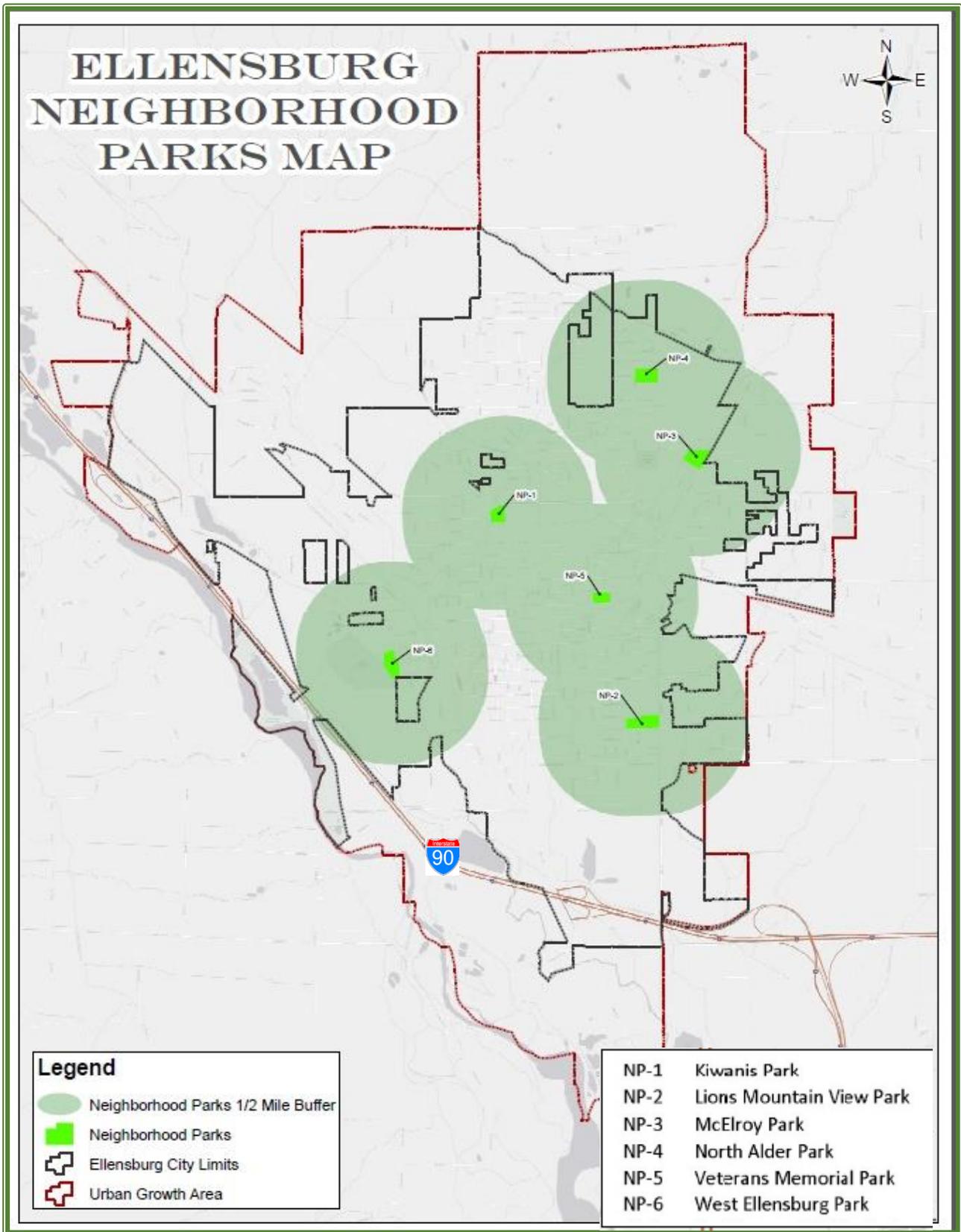
- Serves an area within a ¼ mile to ½ mile service radius uninterrupted by non-residential roads or other physical barriers.
- Interconnected to trails/sidewalks/low-volume streets and within walking/biking distance of most users.
- 5 to 10 acres is considered optimal, particularly in medium and high-density neighborhoods.
- There is no longer a national standard for acres per 1,000. The former national standard of 2.0 acres per 1,000 population is typical for most communities.
- Facilities and features not generally considered to be included as Neighborhood Parks are undesirable building locations or “Left-over” sites; or a place where permanent recreational activities would create impact with overuse; or where the site does not provide full public access to the park by the entire community.



#### **Ellensburg Neighborhood Parks**

In Ellensburg six parks are classified as Neighborhood Parks shown on Map 3.2.

- |                                  |                                      |            |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| ■ <b>Kiwanis Park:</b>           | A Street and 14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue | 4.00 acres |
| ■ <b>Lions Mt. View Park:</b>    | 1200 E. Seattle Avenue               | 8.00 acres |
| ■ <b>McElroy Park</b>            | 1703 Brick Road                      | 7.00 acres |
| ■ <b>North Alder Street Park</b> | 2400 North Alder                     | 5.50 acres |
| ■ <b>Veterans Memorial Park</b>  | 700 North Poplar                     | 3.00 acres |
| ■ <b>West Ellensburg Park</b>    | 900 West 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue      | 6.00 acres |



### **#3.1-C: COMMUNITY PARKS**

Community Parks are diverse in nature, serving a broader purpose than the neighborhood or pocket parks. While Community Parks may include Neighborhood Park amenities and at times can act as Neighborhood Parks, the primary focus of a Community Park is to meet community-based recreation, open space and public gathering needs. These parks may include athletic facilities, walking paths, picnic areas and various other active and passive amenities depending upon community needs and site suitability. In some cases, a park with broad community interest may fall into this category regardless of its small size. A Community Park may also be the venue of an activity or amenity that has broad community appeal but does not fit the Special Use designation.



#### **NRPA Standard:**

- Community Parks serve multiple neighborhoods with special amenities serving the residents of the entire City and Urban Growth areas (UGA's).
- The Community Park typically is designated to serve an area within a 1-3- mile distance.
- Community Parks are generally served by arterial and collector streets and are in proximity to community and regional trail networks.



#### **Ellensburg Community Parks**

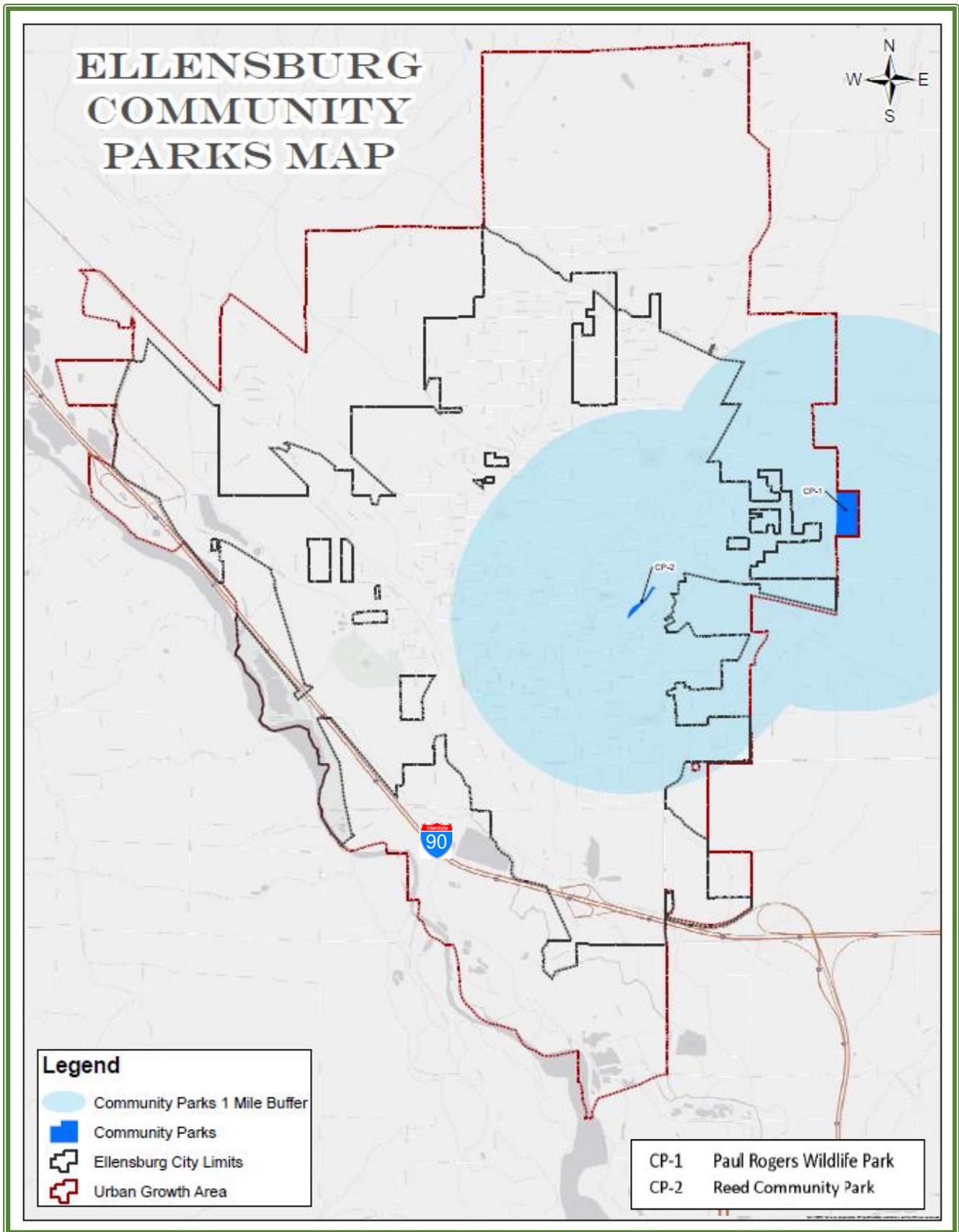
Two parks in Ellensburg classified as Community Parks are shown on Map 3.4.

- **Paul Rogers Wildlife Park:** Judge Ronald Road 20.00 acres
- **Reed Community Park** 1101 Craig Avenue 4.44 acres<sup>12</sup>



<sup>12</sup> Reed Community Park (4.44-acres) links to the Sagebrush Trail on Craig's Hill (.30 acres).

MAP 3.3





### **#3.1-D: REGIONAL PARKS**

Recreation areas that serve the city and beyond with significant acreage are classified as Regional Parks. Typically, they serve regional resources and focus on active and passive recreation, public access to regional trails and or important waters and shorelines. Regional Parks include opportunities for swimming, camping, fishing, non- motorized as well as motorized boating, picnicking and vehicle camping.

The large size of the site allows for group activities, tournaments, special events and recreational use with special features that may have a unique offering intended to serve residents and visitors.

#### **NRPA Standard:**

- Regional Parks are located within a fifteen mile radius or within one hour driving time to most residents.
- Regional Parks attract citizens and visitors from a regional service area and a wide draw from beyond the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County boundaries.

#### **Ellensburg Regional Parks**

Two parks in Ellensburg are classified as Regional Parks.

- ***Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park:*** Umptanum Road      117.00 acres
- ***Rotary Park:***      1200 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue      100.00 acres<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Rotary Park includes 55 developed acres and 45 acres that are undeveloped.

### **#3.1-E: NATURAL OPEN SPACE PARKS**

Open Space Parks are natural areas that vary in function and size and include water bodies, wetlands, shoreline habitat, inland forests and/or grasslands that are valued by the city. These spaces are left more or less in a natural state with recreation use as a primary or secondary objective but managed for their natural value. The parkland can provide opportunities for passive and active outdoor recreation such as trails for walking, jogging or wildlife viewing. These are environmentally sensitive areas and may have limited public access in areas where there are habitats with unique or endangered plant, fish or animal species. Open spaces do promote health and wellness by providing a natural physical and mental refuge from an ever growing urbanized environment. Linear greenways within natural open spaces follow natural or manmade corridors such as water edges with habitat restoration. Development of natural open space areas along waterfronts is linked to the City and County Critical Areas Ordinance and the adopted City and County Shoreline Master Plan.

#### **NRPA Standard:**

- NRPA does not have a natural open space standard. The sites are managed for protection of their natural environments or cultural features.
- They are managed for passive recreation and habitats with non-intrusive use.



#### **Ellensburg Natural Open Space Parks**

Two parks in Ellensburg are classified as Natural Open Space Parks.

- **Naneum Watershed:** Naneum Road 1,263.37 acres<sup>14</sup>
- **Reecer Creek Restoration:** Lower Reecer Creek (west of Rotary Park) 58 acres



<sup>14</sup> 263.37 owned and 1,000 acres leased from the Washington Department of Natural Resources

### **#3.1-F: SPECIAL USE AREAS**

Special Use Areas cover a broad range of miscellaneous park lands or stand-alone recreation sites. These areas are designed to support a specific, specialized use or often a single major use. Historical sites, community center sites, theme parks, aquatic centers, water parks, community gardens and other special use facilities fall into this category. These parks may also include neighborhood and community park elements but with amenities that have a regional appeal to citizens and visitors from outside the boundaries of the city.

#### **NRPA Standard:**

- NRPA does not define an acreage standard for Special Use Areas but does provide a national standard and guidelines for facilities that may be located within the Special Use Area. Examples include the number of soccer fields per 10,000 population or tennis courts per 2,000 population as well as minutes of travel time and service area specifications.

#### **Ellensburg Special Use Areas & Community Recreation Facilities**

Ellensburg has four Community Recreation Centers as well as a skate park located in the downtown.

- **Adult Activity Center:** 506 South Pine Street .10 acres
- **Memorial Pool & Fitness Center:** 815 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue .08 acres
- **Racquet & Recreation Center:** 6061 Vantage Highway .57 acres
- **Skate Park:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Pearl Street .66 acres
- **Youth Center** 406 E. Capital Avenue .41 acres



### **#3.1-G: TRAILS AND CONNECTIONS**

Linear corridors contribute to the city’s ability to preserve and protect natural areas, ecological and art features and cultural assets. The connectedness can be natural corridors or man-made non-motorized linkages that at some locations serve as visual connections through historic and scenic corridors. Trails and connectivity provide opportunities for walking, running and bicycling and serve as visual connections for habitat viewing, exercise and outdoor enjoyment. In 2008 the City of Ellensburg completed the Ellensburg Non-motorized Transportation Plan. In 2009 The *City –to-Canyon Trails Committee*, working with the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program, completed a concept plan for a five mile trail corridor along the scenic Yakima River connecting local and regional trails and parks. Surrounding Ellensburg and throughout Kittitas County, recreationalists can enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities on trails for walking, hiking, snowmobiling, horseback riding and birding in a number of unique and varied terrains. Community trails located within the City of Ellensburg primarily serve its residents for linking community facilities or recreation oriented parks and open spaces. Most multi-use trail facilities within the city are currently associated with existing parks and so are maintained by the Parks Department. As part of the larger recreational planning, the Parks and Recreation Department plans, funds, constructs and maintains stand-alone facilities such as the John Wayne Trail Reconnection route, which reconnects the John Wayne Trail through Ellensburg. This project is still in the process of being completed.

<b>Table 3.3 Existing TRAILS &amp; Connections</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Feet</b>
John Wayne Trail between Water St & Reecer Cr Rd	1.25	6,615’
John Wayne Trail between fairgrounds and Pfenning Rd	0.64	3,336’
The Ellensburg Greenway John Wayne Trail Reconnection	0.23	1,186’
Dolarway Loop Trail	2.70	14,248’
Howards Way Trail	1.00	5,190’
Sagebrush Trail /Craig’s Hill Connection	0.13	706’
River to Rodeo Trail	2.25	11,863
McElroy Park Trail	0.19	1,000’
Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park Carey Lake Trail	1.10	5,829’
Rotary Park Trail	0.70	3,631’
Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park Trail to Rotary under to 1-90	.12	980’
Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park Entrance Road	0.73	3,846’
West Ellensburg Trail	0.7 0	3696
City to Canyon Trails (proposed)	5.14	27,127’
Lower Reecer Creek Trail (Levee)	1.02	5,381’
Wildlife Habitat Trails in Paul Rogers Park	0.69	3,652’
	<b>18.59 Miles</b>	<b>394,454’</b>





### #3.1-H: BEAUTIFICATION & LANDSCAPE AREAS

Ellensburg has historically provided beautification areas throughout the city. Over the past number of years, the Ellensburg Downtown Association has partnered annually with the city by providing events and activities. They also provide over 80+ planters located throughout the Central Business District. Flower baskets are placed at the downtown Rotary Pavilion as a focal point for a number of community events at the site. The Downtown Association also provides 50

trash receptacles and 50 benches in the central business core all with unique designs that are made by a local artist. The city parks maintenance staff plant annual flowers at a number of city locations and parks and at recreation facilities. They also plant flowers and shrubs that line city streets at key intersections.



**TABLE 3.4 LANDSCAPING, FLOWER BEDS, BASKETS AND BUSHES**

Location	Type	Total Sites	Acres/Sq. Ft.
Chestnut Street	Flowers/Shrubs	1	140'
Mt. View & Main St.	Flowers	1	33'x8' <sup>15</sup>
West Ellensburg Park	Flowers	1	42'10'
Veterans Memorial Park	Flowers	1	20'x17'
Kiwanis Park	Flowers	1	36'x10'
McElroy Park	Flowers	1	5'x5' <sup>16</sup>
Reed Park	Flowers	1	14x8'
Central Business District	Flower Planters	64	5.1sq ft. each
Rotary Pavilion	Flower Baskets	4	Jumbo size
Central Business District	Shrubs & Bushes	30	Various sizes

<sup>15</sup> Landscape areas is 95x36'

<sup>16</sup> Landscaped acres is 30'x24'

### #3.2: PARK AND RECREATION CITY FACILITIES

The City of Ellensburg public parks system offers a variety of recreation facilities. These sites provide recreational programs with numerous recreational opportunities for its citizens as well as those living near or just outside of the actual city limits. The students at CWU also take advantage of the valued benefit of the facilities and programs that complement their needs for public events, activities and programs. Table 3.5 provides a Recreation Facility Summary with a number of key facilities highlighted and described in-depth below the summary table.

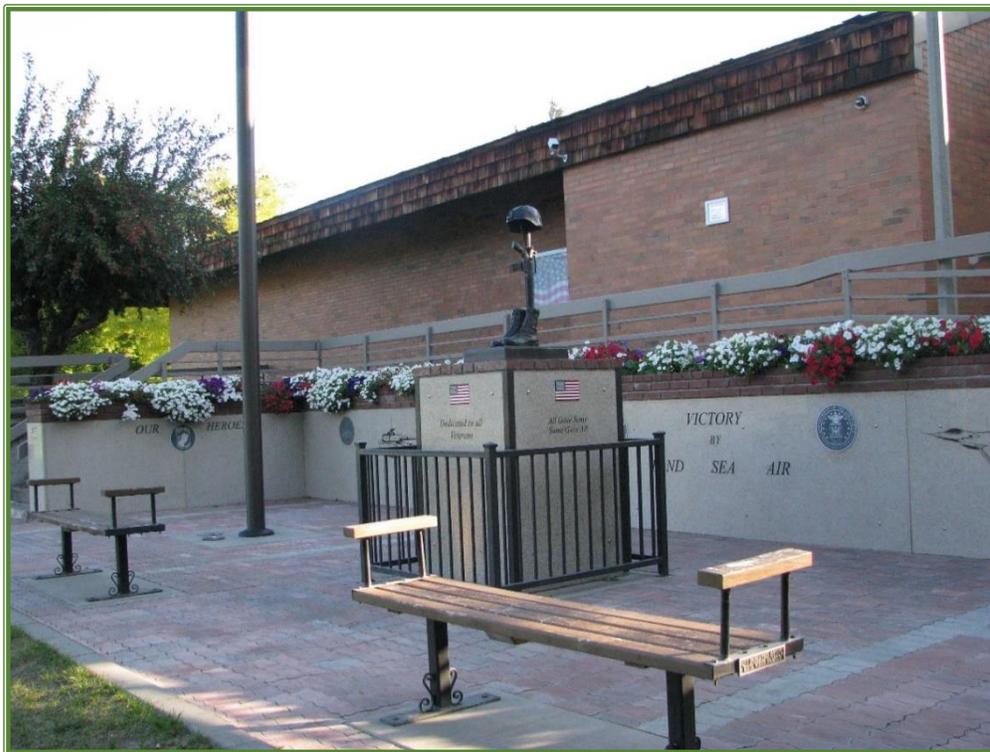
**TABLE 3.5**

Facility	Number units	Location
Baseball Fields	7: [3 full; 4 youth]	Rotary and West Ellensburg Park
Basketball hoops/courts/game pads	7:[2 full & 5 ½ courts]	Located at 7 parks throughout the City
Batting Cages	3	Rotary Park and Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center
Boat Launch	1 site	Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park
Community Garden <sup>17</sup>	1-140x130’]	Adjacent to the Ellensburg Public Library
Concessions within structures	3	Rotary Park and West Ellensburg park
Disc Golf	1 course	Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park (pending Council approval of a IRRP Master Plan)
Dog off leash area (DOLA)	1 facility	Rotary Park (future)
Drinking Fountains	12 <sup>18</sup>	Mt. View Park, Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park, West Ellensburg Park, Rotary Park, Kiwanis Park, McElroy Park, N. Alder Street Park & Reed Park
Historic Monuments/Art Displays (permanent)	3 public art pieces 1 memorial	<i>Stallion</i> : South Main Park <i>Washoe</i> : Friendship Park <i>Sitting Bull</i> : Rotary Pavilion <i>Boots and Gun</i> : Veterans Memorial Park <i>Wind Art</i> : Rotary Pavilion
Interpretive Shelter/Display	3 Kiosk Information	McElroy, Kiwanis Park, Reecer Creek Floodplain
Parking Areas	10 sites	Throughout the system at the Parks
Picnic areas (tables & shade)	6 areas	Mt. View Park, Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park, Kiwanis Park, North Alder Street Park, West Ellensburg Park and Veterans Memorial Park
Picnic Shelters (group rentals)	6 shelters	Mt. View Park, Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park, Kiwanis Park, North Alder Park, West Ellensburg Park and Veterans Memorial Park
Playgrounds	6 playgrounds	Mt. View Park, West Ellensburg Park, Rotary Park, Kiwanis Park, North Alder Street, and Veterans Memorial Park

<sup>17</sup>Community use but not a City Park site

<sup>18</sup>At all nine parks there are also faucets available for public use

Restrooms	10 locations	Central Business District, Mt. View Park, Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park, Kiwanis Park, North Alder Street Park, West Ellensburg Park, Rotary Park, Paul Rogers Park and Veterans Memorial Park, 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Main
Restrooms/ seasonal	3 sets	McElroy, Veterans Memorial & I.R.R.P.
Skate Park	1 with above ground elements [0.66 acres]	2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue & Pearl Street
Soccer Fields [full size]	2 [330' & 210']	Mt. View Park
Soccer Fields Modified	Up to 10: [U8-U10 830'x600']	Rotary Park
Softball Fields	2: [regulation size adult]	Rotary Park
Swimming Pool	1	6 <sup>th</sup> Street at Veterans Memorial Park
Swim beach	1	Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park
Tennis Courts (outdoor)	20 outdoor: [ESD has 10] [CWU has 8 courts] [City 2 indoor heated (City ERRC) <sup>19</sup> and one City court/game pad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ At Morgan Middle School there are 4 courts but the surface is not good for use by a regular tennis players.</li> <li>■ The nets are not up at the 8 courts at the EHS. Courts are not playable. Surfacing is bad, cracks and weeds on the courts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ City has 2 indoor at ERRC</li> <li>■ CWU has 8 upgraded courts with surfacing and fencing. EHS contracts for practice and home matches at CWU.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Volleyball Courts	2 [1-grass open & 1-sand 80'x42']	Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park
Visitor Information Kiosks	2 [46"x36"]	Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park



<sup>19</sup> The Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center with indoor tennis courts is located 5-miles east the city.

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### #3.2-A: RECREATION CENTERS

The City does not have a traditional recreation center with classroom, community meeting space<sup>20</sup>, banquet hall, gymnasium and offices for the department's staff or organizations. Over two years ago, the Ellensburg City Council created the Community Center Ad-Hoc Commission when the Ellensburg School District entered into discussion about the future of the Morgan Middle School. The Commission, formed by City Council, is studying the feasibility of creating a new community center. The committee will be dissolved upon completion of its duties.

The City of Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department maintains and operates four indoor, year-round facilities including an adult senior center, a municipal pool/fitness center, youth center and racquet and recreation center. All four sites provide space for recreational programs and planned activities. The four indoor sites currently address the community's need for programs and services. The four sites are:

**ADULT ACTIVITY CENTER:** The staff and volunteers facilitate the operation of the center with advice from the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. The Center is open daily Monday through Friday year-round. The Center is managed by the Center Coordinator along with staff that includes the Recreation Leader, AmeriCorps volunteers and volunteer support staff. Daily activities vary throughout the week and are scheduled and rotated in one main central room at the facility. Those attending the center join through membership which provides reduced or beneficial rates for scheduled programs and activities. Table 3.6 lists the program categories of adult and senior activities provided at the Adult Activity Center.

**KITTITAS VALLEY MEMORIAL POOL:** Within the Memorial Pool natatorium are 6-lane lap pool with a 1m diving board, sauna, hot tub, basketball hoop and a separate training pool. The facility also includes a fitness center with two treadmills, two elliptical and two recumbent bikes, three rowing machines, a stair stepper and weight machines. The pool provides annual American Red Cross (ARC) Learn-To-Swim levels of lessons, recreation, family night swims and lap swimming. The entrance fees range from a daily entrance fee to a 10-visit Pass, 3-month pass or the yearly Pass. Percentage discount costs range with each of the Passes offered for admission. The pool provides a monthly free swim sponsored by the Youth Services of Kittitas County for one hour on the last Saturday of each month. The aquatic programming offers ARC Lifeguard Training, Waterfit aerobic classes, Ellensburg Area Swim Team (East) and the Windy City Master's program. Pool rental offerings range from a table for a party during regular public hours to full use of the pool for a private Party in non-public hours.

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<sup>20</sup> The Hal Holmes Center, adjacent to the Ellensburg Public Library, is a multipurpose conference center that provides community rooms for public use as defined in Chapter 2.36 of the Ellensburg City Code.

**STAN BASSETT YOUTH CENTER:** The Center was named in honor of Stan Bassett who was tireless and selfless in his work and advocacy for the youth. May 3<sup>rd</sup> has been designated in perpetuity as "Stan Bassett Day" in Ellensburg. The Stan Bassett Youth Center (SBYC), located across from the Morgan Middle School, operates with the philosophy of free flowing activities to benefit youth from 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Trained staff provide the instruction and supervision of a wide range of group and individual activities. The SBYC is additionally supported by a large number of dedicated and talented volunteers. Busy summer schedules include games, sports, arts and crafts and cooking activities. There is a special Late Night Scavenger Hunt. Field trips to explore the world around Ellensburg include hikes in the Cascades, local theme town visits, Boulder Cave ventures, swimming at Vantage, touring the Coal Mine Trails and hiking to Umptanum Falls, Palouse Falls and on the Penstock Trail. Ongoing clubs for boys and girls, grades 3 through 12 for daily after school drop-in hours. Staff assistance with studies and school projects is available, and Central Washington University students offer cooking and nutrition classes.



**ELLENSBURG RACQUET & RECREATION CENTER:** The Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center (ERRC)<sup>21</sup> operated by the city is the only place offering a wide variety of indoor recreation activities. The heated indoor facility provides one synthetic turf soccer field, two tennis courts, three racquetball courts and a fitness room equipped with both Nautilus and free weights. The men's and women's shower rooms also have lockers. Other activities included at the ERRC are hockey, family skate, a batting cage, tennis lessons, facility rental and indoor walking. The Center is open with varying opening and closing times depending on the time of year. There are fees for daily use plus the option for cost savings on fees with the purchase of punch cards. The ERRC is also rented, which can be use of the entire building or limited to the various venues at the site. Programming includes Youth as well as Adult Group tennis lessons. There is a special Ladies Night when singles can enjoy some doubles games of tennis play. All levels of players can join In-Line Hockey and Indoor Soccer. The site provides a batting cage as well as roller skating on Friday evenings in the winter at Family Skate night.

<sup>21</sup> The Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center with indoor tennis courts is located 5-miles east the city.

### **#3.2-B: SKATE PARK / BMX & Mt. Bike Course**

Located across from the police station in the downtown central core, this outdoor park has metal (steel) ramps on concrete. The park includes features with an eight-foot halfpipe, quarter pipe and metal coping and a street course with slider rail and bank plus a launch ramp. The park is open from early morning until dusk and is heavily used. The site does not include the terrain and features local skaters are looking for in a park for the future. The city continues to replace and rebuild ramps and elements to retain the original plan of the park. Working with the Parks Department, the community contributes volunteer time and labor to keep the features working. The City Council is working with the local chapter of the Evergreen Mountain Bike Association (EMBA) to create an estimated 2-acre Mt. Bike Course at Rotary Park.

### **#3.2-C OTHER SPECIALIZED FACILITIES**

#### ***#3.2-E.1: DOWNTOWN GARDENS:***

The Parks and Recreation Department manages 38 downtown gardens in Ellensburg's Historic Business District. The gardens are annually open for adoption by volunteer community service programs. The gardens, which are hexagonal ground plots, compliment the pavestone sidewalk design and add to the aesthetic beauty of the downtown business district. The groups planting and maintaining the gardens include individuals, businesses, schools, service groups and churches. The City Adopt-A-Garden Program provides the details and information about this important community feature that makes Ellensburg more beautiful and provides a fun and fulfilling activity for participants.

#### ***#3.2-E.2: GROUP PICNIC AREAS***

There are six picnic shelters throughout the city available for rent by groups and individuals. The shelters are in Kiwanis Park, Veterans Memorial Park, Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park, Mt. View Park, West Ellensburg Park and North Alder Street Park. The Picnic Shelter rental fee is contingent upon the anticipated attendance at an event. Rentals are available for 4-hour time periods. Most sites have an adequate number of picnic tables, power and a list of park amenities that include playgrounds, ball fields, open lawn areas, barbecue pits, basketball hoops and restroom facilities plus natural trails at some locations.

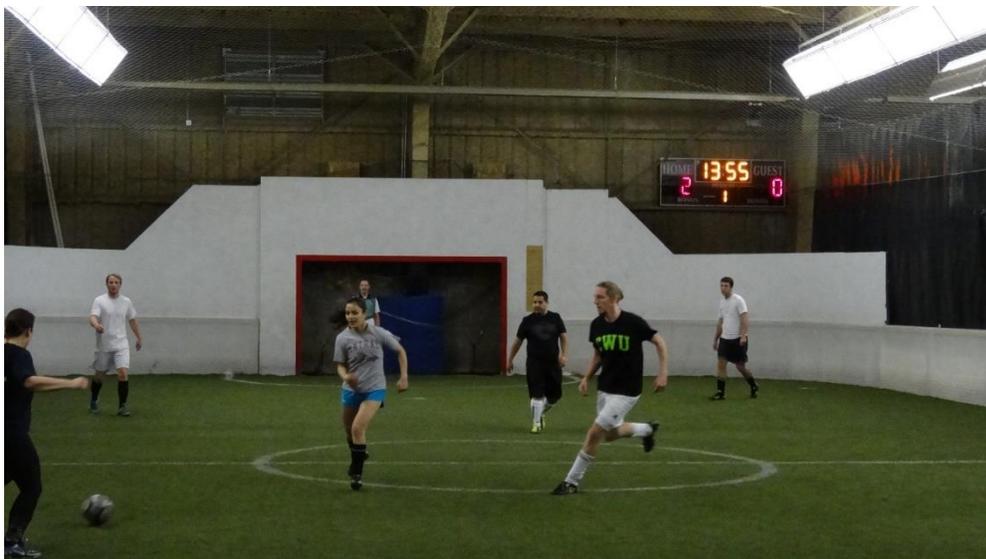
### #3.3: CITY RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

Annually there are a number of community special events and activities that encourage the citizens to get involved and be active in the Parks and Recreation Department programs. The department's direct recreational programs provide indoor and outdoor individual and group activities such as health and fitness programs, team sports, arts and craft activities, socialization events and nutritional programs as well as trips and outings.

#### MAJOR PROGRAMS

Annual participation in recreational programs and activities occur in the following listed recreation categories:

- **Adult/Senior Activities**
  - Arts, Crafts & Classes
  - Education & Enrichment
  - Fellowship
  - Fitness & Health Programs
  - Nutrition
  - Special Events
  - Technology
  - Trips
- **Athletics/Sports**
  - Instruction
  - Drop-In
  - Leagues, Open Play & Team Sports
- **Aquatics/Fitness**
  - Fitness
  - Swimming
- **Youth Programs**
  - Outings/Trips
  - Pre-Teen & Teen Programs
- **General Recreation/Events**
  - Community Programs & Events



**TABLE 3.6 Activities: Major Recreation Programs & Events Offered by Category**

<b>Adult &amp; Senior</b>	<b>Adult/Senior Cont'ed</b>	<b>Athletics Cont'ed</b>
<b>Arts, Crafts, &amp; Classes</b>	<b>Trips:</b>	Boys Basketball Season
Needle Crafters	Pacific Science Center	Youth Indoor Soccer Leagues
Paint the Town Ceramics	Skagit Valley Tulip Festival	Fitness @ ERRC
Paper Crafts	Leavenworth	Adult Indoor Soccer Leagues
Pine Needle Basketry	Ohme Gardens	Men's, Women's, Coed Softball Leagues
Woodcarving	Seafair/Meet the Fleet Cruise	Racquet Ball Play
Free- Form Faceting	Snoqualmie Falls Casino	Tennis Play
Watercolor Painting Class	Mt. St. Helens Overnight	Ladies Night of Tennis
<b>Education &amp; Enrichment:</b>	Wenatchee Pybus Market	In-Line Hockey play ERRC-Wtr LMVP Smr
AARP Driver Safety Course	Wild Horse Wind Farm/ Ginkgo Petrified Forest	Youth Volleyball
Income Tax Assistance	Holiday Shopping in Yakima	In-Line Skate Family Nights
Medicare Open- Enrollment	<b>Aquatics/Fitness</b>	Indoor & Outdoor Soccer Play
<b>Fellowship:</b>	<b>Fitness:</b>	Batting Cage
Bridge (Men's also)	Lap Swimming	Indoor Walking and trails
Pinochle	Windy City Masters	Team Sports:
Mexican Train Dominoes	Waterfit	<b>General Recreation/Events</b>
Texas Hold'Em	Flick & Float	<b>Community Programs &amp; Events:</b>
Cribbage	Aqua Zumba	Family Game Nights
Meaningful Connections	Fitness Center@ KVMP	Cardboard Regatta
Chatterbooks	<b>Swimming:</b>	Gladiator Dash
Table Pool	Learn-To-Swim Lessons	Touch-A-Truck
Potlucks	Family Swim	Summer Kick-Off Celebration
Lunch & Movie	Moonlight Swim	Family Movies at City Hall
Welcome Luncheons	Recreation Swimming	Summer Concerts in the Park
AAC Senior Lounge at annual Fair-Rodeo	ARC Lifeguard Training	Junior Rodeo Parade
<b>Fitness &amp; Health Programs:</b>	Party Rentals	Holiday Lighting Contest
Low Impact Jazzercise	Private Rentals & Parties	Missoula Children's Theatre
Morning Exercise	<b>Athletics/Sports</b>	Mother-Son Night Prom
SAIL Exercise	<b>Instruction:</b>	Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
Yoga	Tiny Tots Soccer	Eggstravaganza Flashlight Egg Hunt
Dental Cleaning Services	Adult COED Indoor Soccer	<b>Youth Programs</b>
Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support	Preschool Smr Soccer Camp	<b>Outings/Trips:</b>
Outdoor Explorers	Baseball, Basketball & Soccer Smr Camp 4-7 yrs.	Hidden Lk Hike Leavenworth
Cookbook Club	Soccer Camp 6-12 yrs.	Camas Meadow Hike
Health Forum: Hearing Loss	Multi-Sport Camp 6-12 yrs.	Boulder Caves
Forum: Energy Efficiency	Multi-Sport Camp 4-7 yrs.	Vantage Swim & BBQ
Keeping Well Health Forum	Volunteer Youth Coaches	Coal Mines & Speelyi Beach
<b>Nutrition:</b>	Adult Tennis Lessons	Batting Cage
Senior Nutrition Lunch	Adult group Tennis Lessons	Palouse Falls Picnic
<b>Special Events:</b>	HEMA-Knight School	Leavenworth Fish Hatchery & River Hike
Summer Theater Series	Fencing For Fun	Umptanum Falls Hiking &
Senior Prom	<b>Drop- in</b>	Penstock Trail Hike
Father's Day Social	Fitness @ ERRC	Carey Lake Swim
Independence Day Potluck	In-Line Hockey	<b>Pre-Teen &amp; Teen Programs:</b>
Afternoon Mystery Luncheon	Soccer	After School Drop-In
Root Beer Float Social	Batting Cage	Summer Daily Drop-In
Grandparents Day Social	Indoor Walking	Nutrition Classes
Halloween Party	<b>Leagues &amp; Open Play:</b>	Homework Club
<b>Technology:</b>	Youth Basketball League	Girls Group & Boys Group
Technology 101	Girls/Kindergarten Basketball	Teen Late Night-Fugitive!

### **#3.4: ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT SERVICES, PARK MAINTENANCE AND BUDGET:**

Ellensburg is a non-charter city operating under Section 34A of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) The City of Ellensburg utilizes a Council-Manager form of government with a City manager hired by the city council. The City Council elects a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem from the council to serve two-year terms. The City Manager supervises the Parks and Recreation Director under the policies and direction of the City Council. The city started biennial budgeting in 2012 for the biennial years 2013-2014.

#### ***Administration:***

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for serving residents of all ages in the Ellensburg community. The department plans, organizes and manages the city's parks and recreation programs including park acquisition, development and improvement, park maintenance, city beautification and comprehensive recreation programming.

The Department serves as liaison to the Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Commission. Created by the City Council under chapter 1.16, Commissioners are appointed by the mayor with the consent of the city council. Seven members make up the Commission with a majority of the members required to be residents of the City of Ellensburg. The Commission, consists of seven members who serve three year terms. The duties of the Commission include making recommendations for revisions of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan [Ord. 3269 4(6), 1980]. Additionally under Chapter 1.16, the commission provides budgeting recommendations for the preliminary budget.

The Parks and Recreation Department areas of emphasis are to:

- Promote maximum public use and access to all community facilities for those who work and live in Ellensburg
- Provide high quality programs, lessons and leagues to meet the needs of our diverse community in a safe, enjoyable, friendly atmosphere.
- Provide for the social, recreational, educational, psychological and physical needs of residents and promote their participation in all aspects of community life.
- Develop and maintain the park and open space system with sufficient recreation facilities to meet community needs.
- Provide a high level of maintenance for all current park facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Department administrative responsibilities include capital planning, project development, budget management and community coordination. The city's Parks and Recreation Department has six program divisions: (Figure 3.1<sup>22</sup>) Youth Programs, Adult Senior Services, Athletics, Aquatics, Fitness & Recreational and Park Maintenance. The department promotes the parks and recreation system through messaging, brochures and publications to the end of providing community awareness of the parks, facilities and programs available to citizens and the greater public at large.

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The department provides a seasonal link for the community to the recreational programs and park services through the city web-site [www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us](http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us) on the Parks and Recreation home page. In addition to the access for online activities, the city provides information on upcoming events, activities and programs and access to the various park sites with tri-annual printed program brochures for three seasons of activities and programs. Published brochures come out for the January-April, May-August and the September-December months to provide the community with a schedule of events and activities.

### ***Recreation and Program Services***

Recreation services include a diverse range of community programs as well as special events and activities. Of the six divisions, five focus on providing services as follows:

**Youth Program Division** is responsible for development and maintaining programs for youth. The city runs most of these programs from the Stan Bassett Youth Center (SBYC) which opened in 2001 and is located across from the Morgan Middle School and on the school district bus route. This facility demonstrates Ellensburg's commitment to providing ongoing recreational and educational opportunities for youth. Open Monday through Friday from 3 to 7pm for youngsters in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up, the SBYC offers events geared to youth interests, homework assistance, arts and crafts, sports and active games, field trips, multi-cultural activities, special late night events, TV lounge and computer lab access and internet classes.

**Senior Services Division** is responsible for developing adult (50+) programs; i.e. exercise sessions, dancing, trips, and computer workshops. The Ellensburg Adult Activity Center (AAC) is the primary site for most senior adult activities held on a weekly basis. Table 3.6<sup>23</sup> lists programs generally provided at the Center. Enrichment classes and courses as well as wellness programs are offered at the AAC. Enrichment classes/courses and wellness programs are featured. A variety of frequently scheduled trips and tours ranging from visits to nearby attractions to far-flung North American adventures are very popular.

**Athletics Division** at this point offers limited sports leagues based on current staffing levels. Opportunities to expand on programs are sought by the department. Existing programs include boys and girls youth basketball leagues from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in cooperation with the Ellensburg School District for gym space. Youth and adults can enjoy indoor soccer at the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center (ERRC) throughout the year. In the spring, youth volleyball is offered for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Men's women's and coed softball is scheduled and played during the summer.

**Aquatics Division** is responsible for the operation of the Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool and Fitness Center (KVMP), which is a 25-meter pool with a 1-meter diving board, kiddie pool, hot tub, sauna, dressing rooms and a well-equipped fitness center. Table 3.6 provides a listing of traditional lessons, programs, classes and family activities scheduled annually at the Memorial Pool.

**Fitness & Recreation Division** is responsible for the operation of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center (ERRC) and citywide recreation events. Programming at the indoor ERRC facility focuses on tennis, racquetball and fitness. In addition to the courts, the site has

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<sup>23</sup> Page 62

a fitness and weight room, lockers showers and a sauna. Programs are wide-ranging and at capacity at any given time, especially on cold winter days and hot summer days. The department provides numerous recreation opportunities for all ages and interests throughout the year; i.e. summer movies at City Hall, Flashlight Egg Hunt, Daddy Daughter Dinner Dance, etc. See Table 3.6<sup>24</sup> for additional examples of the many events provided for the citizens and visitors to the City of Ellensburg.

### ***Park Operations and Maintenance:***

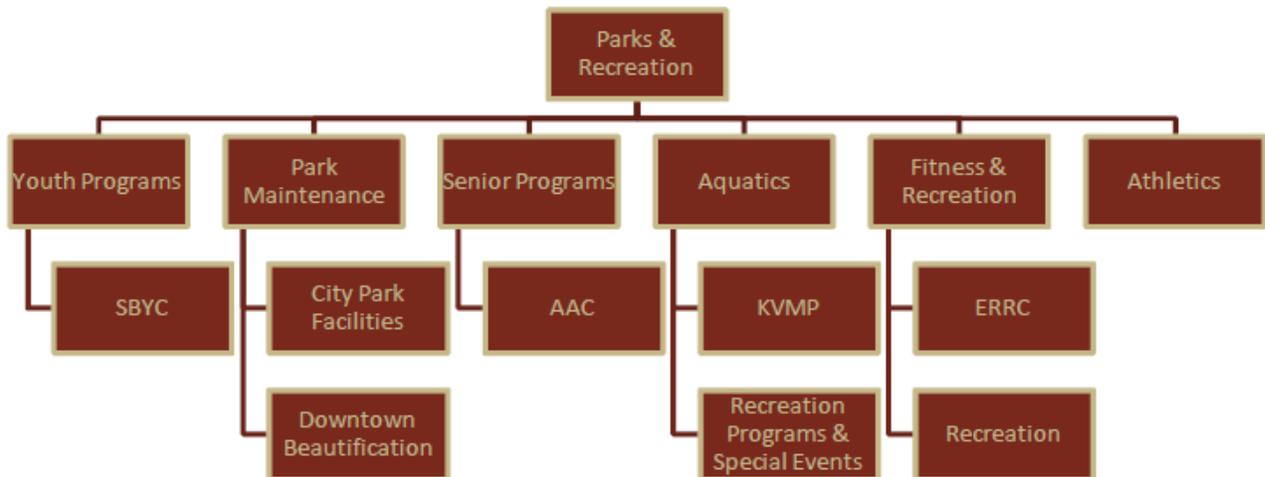
**Park Maintenance Division** is responsible for maintaining the parks on a daily basis as well as addressing the retention and preservation of the park facilities and parklands. The City has 26 park sites with a total of 355.35 acres that are developed parks or locations (parks) that are Special Use Facilities maintained on an annual bases. The 1,263.37 acres in the Naneum Watershed (located 10 miles of the Ellensburg city limits) are managed as Natural Open Space. The Park Maintenance also works with the citizens on the adoption and maintenance of the 38 Downtown Beautification areas. The staff works with volunteers and partnerships that provide extensive help annually in maintaining the parks in Ellensburg. The division constructs new or renovates the facilities within the parks such as the Skate Park. They mow and manage the lawns and landscaping, maintain the playgrounds, prepare fields, sport courts and picnic shelters and open areas as well as service the restrooms. Park Maintenance manages the park operation and maintenance budget and assists with the biennial preparation of the two year operating budget and provides input and recommendations into adjustments to and preparation of the capital budget.

Figure 3.1, located on the following page, displays the Parks and Recreation organizational structure and represents the primary park and programming service areas. As part of the budget process, the department provides recommendations with initiatives as well as presentation of the ongoing Department commitments. Listed below, as part of the adopted biennial budget, are the new initiatives and ongoing commitments in the 2015-2016 adopted budget.

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**Figure 3.1 Budget Organizational Chart**



**Parks and Recreation Department 2015/2016 Biennial Budget**

**NEW INITIATIVES**

- Develop a program that will provide consistent and uniform information and regulatory signage throughout all city parks.
- Work with other agencies to further the vision of a comprehensive community recreation center.

**ONGOING COMMITMENTS**

- Maintain all developed parkland grounds, buildings and site amenities in a safe and aesthetically pleasing condition.
- Continue planning work on the development of community recreation center.
- Continue to offer a wide variety of quality adult athletic programs at various applicable city properties.
- Coordinate 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration with community partners.
- Continue to offer a wide variety of quality recreation programs, lessons, leagues and events to meet the recreational needs of youth and adults in our community.
- Continue to offer a wide variety of quality recreation programs, events and exercise programs to meet the needs of our senior citizens.
- Provide and promote water safety through a variety of recreational and instructional aquatic programs in a safe, friendly, and enjoyable atmosphere.
- Provide residents with timely and accurate information on programs and services through various communication tools (brochures, newsletters, flyers, website, etc.).
- Continue to develop and maintain partnerships with other agencies and community organizations when appropriate to provide programs and services.
- Continue to utilize public support for community projects and programs through donations, financial support, volunteer hours, product/merchandise support and interns.

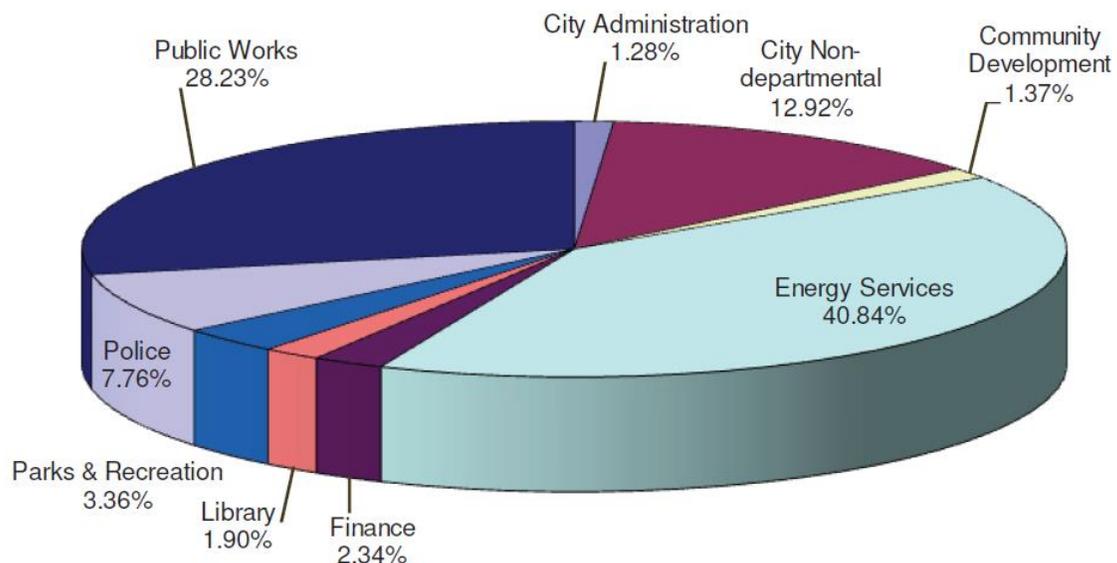
## Biennial Budget

Beginning in June of even years, the City of Ellensburg and the Parks and Recreation Department take a significant amount of time and commitment in the preparation of the two year budget. The budget is prepared by the staff keeping in mind the City Council's goals and objectives as the foundation to the budget development. The 2015/2016 General Fund Budget for the Department is \$2,237,051, a 25% increase from the previous year and one additional full-time Park Maintenance Technician. The 2016 General Fund Budget is \$2,278,234. Full time employees will remain at 26.3 for the biennial budget. The Park Acquisition Fund provides \$170,000 of expenditures to be used on the Rotary Park (\$120,000) and N.Alder Street Park (\$50,000).

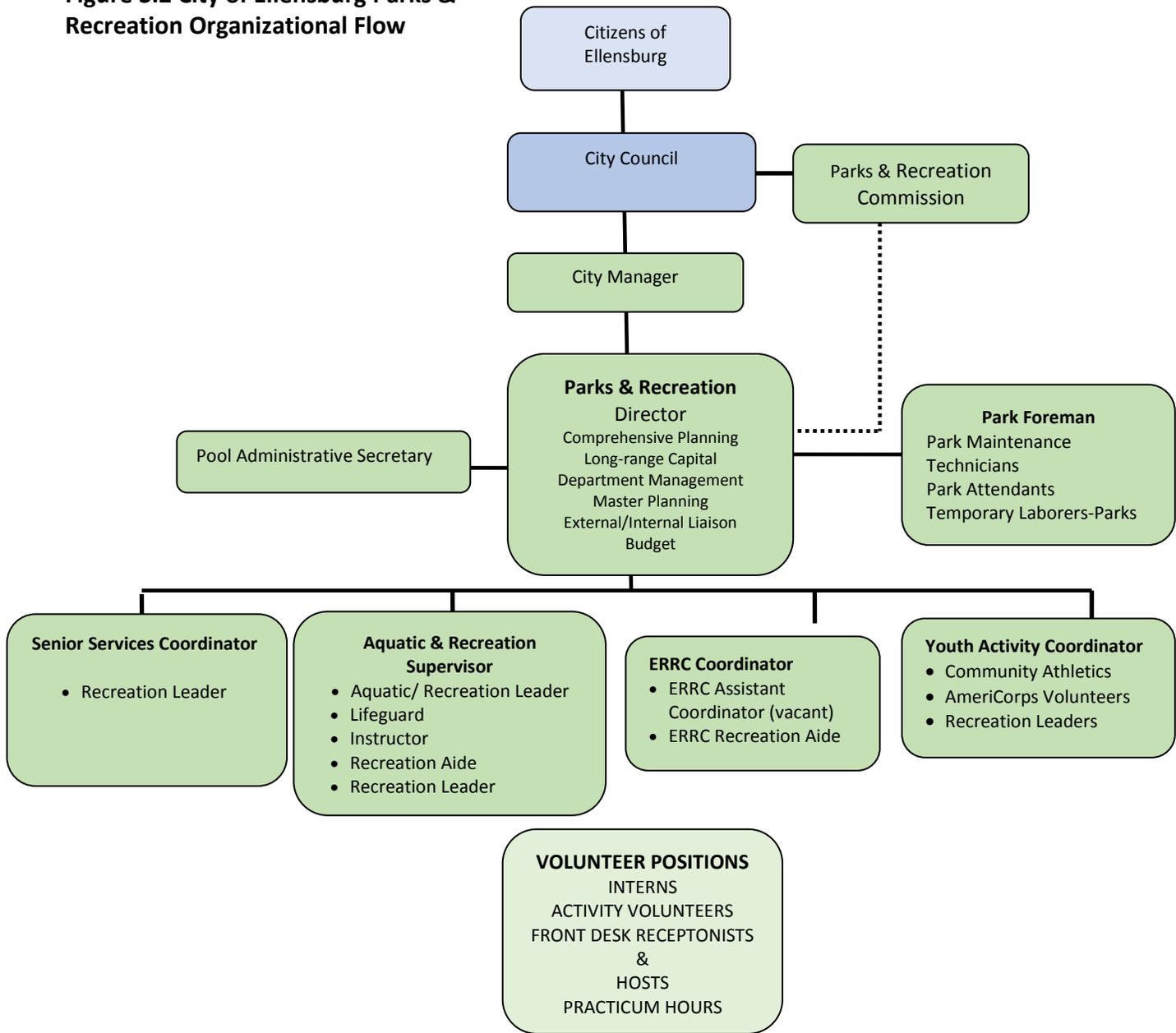
Budget highlights noted in the opening Budget Message point out a number of expanded programs and capital projects for the Parks and Recreation Department. These are:

- Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool & Fitness Center brick wall replacement
- North Alder Street Sprayground
- Rotary Park Off Leash Dog off leash area (DOLA) construction
- Parks Master Plan update

2015/2016  
Expenditures/Expenses by Department



**Figure 3.2 City of Ellensburg Parks & Recreation Organizational Flow**



The Parks and Recreation Organization Flow Chart is presented above in Figure 3.2. The City Budget Flow Chart for the department areas of responsibility is shown in Figure 3.1. The director is responsible for the daily administration of the department operations as well as long range planning. The organizational chart below provides a visual display of the coordination and functions of the entire the department. In addition to the regular staff there are positions for volunteers within the department.

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## **CITY, COUNTY, STATE & FEDERAL RECREATION RESOURCES**

In the City of Ellensburg, within the surrounding Urban Growth Area (UGA) and throughout Kittitas County, there are numerous public and private lands and facilities that providing a variety of park, recreation and natural open space recreational opportunities with a diverse landscape; Kittitas County is renowned for outdoor recreation. The Ellensburg School District, Central Washington State University (CWU), Kittitas County, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service, as well as other non-profit and private organizations and businesses, provide lands, services and programs that offer a wide range of recreational options and opportunities.

### **CITY PUBLIC FACILITIES**

**ELLENSBURG CITY HALL:** In addition to the parks and facilities inventory, there are public facilities that serve the public needs for open air events and activities as well as special meeting and gathering spaces for community forums, events and community wide public meetings. Ellensburg City Hall and Public Library with the Hal Holmes Community space are two sites that serve these needs. The Ellensburg City Hall open lawn area comes alive during the summer for free movies every Friday evening during the month of July.

**ELLENSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY & HAL HOLMES CENTER:** The Ellensburg Public Library provides traditional services for adults, children and teens and offers additional special programs and resources for youth. The Library is a research center, has e-library services and is a data base center for maps, statistics and research. It also serves as the community access to history and genealogical information. Located within the public library is the Hal Holmes Center which is a customized multipurpose conference center in the downtown that's perfect for business, social events and public meetings.

### **KITTITAS COUNTY & GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC LANDS & FACILITIES**

**KITTITAS VALLEY EVENT CENTER:** The Kittitas Valley Event Center is located adjacent to Veterans Memorial Park and below Reed Park on Craig's Hill. It is within walking distance of Central Washington University and the historic downtown. The center offers meeting, conference and reception facilities. The newly renovated center facilities provide for small meetings and space for up to a 700-person public exhibition. The six separate rooms range from 800 to over 7,000 SF of usable space with sound systems and full kitchens. The Event Center can accommodate public exhibitions, equestrian or livestock events, barns, stock pens, RV parking and plenty of vehicle parking space. Kittitas County is currently (2015) developing a long-term strategic plan for the Kittitas Valley Event Center, home of the Kittitas County Fair and Ellensburg Rodeo. Public open house discussions are currently underway to address any concerns regarding the development and expansion of the Event Center, Fairgrounds, and Rodeo Arena. Issues being addressed relate to environmental impacts from potential changes in parking, traffic flow, water and river flows and new building placement.

**GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT No 2:** To be in compliance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the Priest Rapids and Wanapum Dams, the Grant County PUD provides recreational facilities along the western shoreline of the Columbia River located in Kittitas County. These sites include picnic areas, interpretive kiosks, trails and restrooms. Public boat launches are provided at Hunitzinger, YoYo Rock, Sunland, Frenchman’s Coulee and Buckshot. Most boat launches are double lanes and provide restrooms, picnicking and water access. Even though the boat launch access is 29 miles east of the City of Ellensburg and takes approximately 30-minutes driving time, a majority of the city’s boating recreationalists use these popular access sites to the Columbia River for fishing, recreational boating and summer outings.

## **STATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PARKS AND LANDS**

**ELLENSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** Within the City of Ellensburg is Ellensburg School District 401. There are a number of smaller school districts throughout Kittitas County, but ESD 401 has the largest 2,927 enrollment.<sup>25</sup> The District has six schools including the new Ellensburg High School (EHS) campus which opened in January 2005. In addition, the District has the Excell High School, Morgan Middle School, and three elementary schools: Lincoln, Mt. Stuart and Valley View. The elementary schools have open playgrounds and play equipment which the citizens can enjoy during non-school hours and during the summer months when school is not in session. The Excell High School program is located on the CWU campus at Black Hall, with various other break-out rooms around the greater campus. The new EHS has a main gym, field house, Andreotti Field for football and track, two fast pitch softball fields and a soccer field. Several of the high school athletic teams compete off campus, those include cross-country, which competes out at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park or the Reecer Creek floodplain property; tennis, which the new CWU eight tennis courts. Junior varsity soccer uses the soccer fields at Mt View Park and the high school and middle school baseball teams use Rotary Park. Golf team plays at the Ellensburg Golf Course and the swim team use the CWU Aquatic Center.

Morgan Middle School provides athletic programs for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students fall winter and spring sports for soccer, basketball, football, volleyball, track, wrestling, fast pitch, dance & drill. The existing middle school site has a main gym and an annex gym<sup>26</sup>, little theater and large open space outdoor play area. In 2014 the ‘Team for a Common Vision’ a group of local citizens, put together a plan to replace improve and modernize MMS. By adopting a resolution in November of 2014, the Ellensburg School District was able to put a proposition for a special election that went before voters in February 2015. The proposition authorized the District to issue general obligation bonds which voters was approved, appropriating \$31.6 million in bonds that will preserve the historic sections of Morgan Middle, replace the newer wings with new classrooms and add a bus pull-off area and green spaces. The total projected cost is \$44 million, with the difference made up in state funding.

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<sup>25</sup> Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction FTE Student enrollment reported 6.17.2015

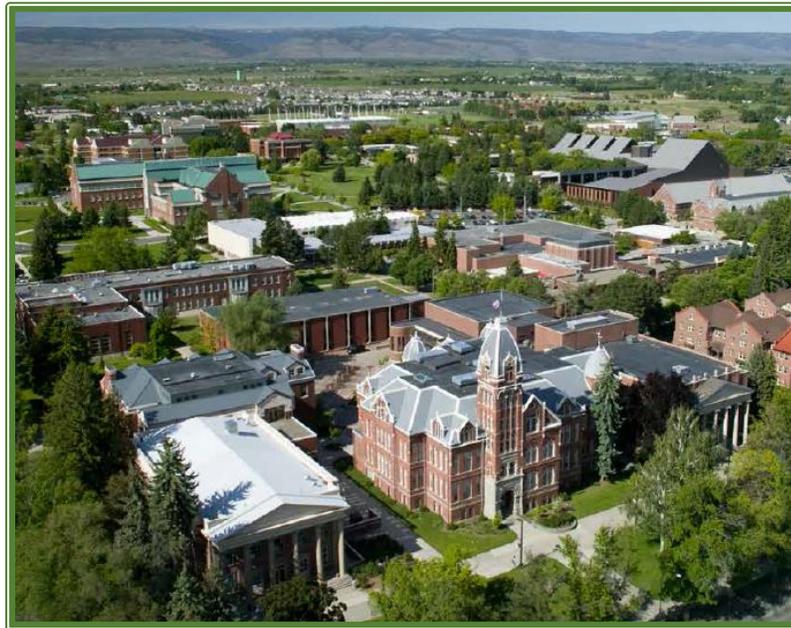
<sup>26</sup> The main gym is not available for public use or by middle school sports teams.

The three elementary schools are ***Mt. Stuart Elementary School***, located in the NW area of the city. The school has a gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, meeting rooms, outdoor grass play area and children’s play equipment. In 1966 under the federal Land and Water Conservation Program (LWCF #66-022) administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the District acquired 19 acres at this site for a neighborhood-school park maintained in perpetuity by grant agreement. ***Lincoln Elementary School***, located along Capitol Avenue, has a gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, open playground, grass field and interior meeting rooms. ***Valley View Elementary School*** the newest elementary, is adjacent to the Ellensburg High School on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Students have access to the grass fields and play equipment.

There is an indoor gym and basketball courts.

**CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:**

In 1890, during the Washington State Legislature’s first session, Ellensburg was chosen as the site of the Washington State Normal School with a mission of educating public school teachers. Classes began in 1891 and were held at the Washington Public School until the normal school’s



first building, Barge Hall, opened in 1893. The normal school became Central Washington College of Education in 1937, Central Washington State College in 1961 and Central Washington University in 1977.

The CWU campus is located within walking distance of Ellensburg’s historic downtown. CWU owns 380 contiguous acres of land, 255 of which are developed. The campus has 94 facilities totaling about 3.2 million gross square feet (GSF). Fifty-nine buildings are non-residential facilities (2.1 million GSF) and 35 are residential facilities (1.1 million GSF).

The original campus, comprised of about two acres between University Way and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, D Street and Chestnut Street, possessed and still possesses an architectural character with a coherent style, scale, and quality of spaces between buildings. Well defined courtyards and intimate outdoor spaces act as meeting places, transition zones, and weather shields. From 2000 to 2010 marked the construction or renovation of academic and student life facilities. Notable projects included the construction of Jerilyn S. McIntyre Music Building (with state funds) and the Student Union Recreation Center (SURC), which is student funded. CWU developed the 2013 Master Plan with CWU Strategic Plan broad themes, one of which includes the #4 theme of *Public Service and Community Engagement*. The 2014-2015 enrollment is 10,139 students. Given estimates of high school graduation growth combined with continued rapid growth in online learning, the 2013 CWU Master Plan assumptions

indicate that it is reasonable to conclude that CWU could serve more than 12,500 students by the fall term of 2023.

Environmental educational opportunities described in the Master Plan include outdoor spaces such as a strengthening of pedestrian connections, community garden, or native sagebrush park with the stated “valued elements” of: Athletics, Recreation, Natural Landscape, and development of the John Wayne Trail and relocation of Wilson Creek along 9th. There are more than 125 clubs, organizations, and associations and 13 varsity athletic teams on campus. More than 30 percent of students participate in intramural sports. Approximately 500 students participate in more than 22 sports clubs. Wildcat athletes compete in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC).

In 2006 the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) opened providing a state-of-the-art center for student life. The financial and management partnership includes housing, dining, Wildcat Shop, Student Union, theater, ballroom and meeting spaces. The opening of the Student Recreation Center addressed the lack of indoor recreation and activity space on campus. This membership-based facility is a main attraction for recruiting students. The SURC, at capacity most peak hours, provides strength and fitness space, four courts, walking/running indoor circular track, fifty-five foot climbing wall and exercise rooms. The SURC also provides the use of equipment for outdoor recreation.

In 2009, University Recreation partnered with Kittitas Valley Junior Soccer (KVJSA) and the City to construct an indoor soccer facility at the ERRC to address a growing need for indoor soccer. At this point it is not a permanent solution, and there is an ongoing need for additional indoor synthetic field space. On-campus indoor field space is limited to the Nicholson Field House used primarily for both intramural and collegiate sports. Availability for other groups is limited to after 9:00pm and weekends. The field surface is not ideal and is difficult to maintain. New synthetic field surfaces would reduce maintenance and provide more consistent quality.

CWU’s central location in the state makes it a regional resource for conferences, collegiate club and intramural tournaments and activities. Annually they host numerous interscholastic high school athletic events in a variety of sports, from archery and cheerleading to basketball and volleyball. Expanding and upgrading athletic facilities could improve service to academic programs and generate revenue. Indoor field space can be used during the five months of inclement weather.

The University fields located on the corner of Alder and 18<sup>th</sup> known as the “Alder Street Recreation Complex” had some city recreation use in the past but subsequently reverted solely to use by the university. For CWU this field space is essential to enhancing academic offerings and hosting additional events on campus. Planning consideration for future facility space will continue to be a need as ongoing CWU programs continue to grow. Addressing future facility space needs may include the potential for additional CWU recreation use at off-site facilities such as Ellensburg’s Mt. View and Rotary Parks.

In 2007, CWU purchased Gladmar Research and Education Area. The GREA's motto is "Let nature take its course." It is a field site that provides learning experiences, long term interdisciplinary research, conservation and stewardship of the natural world. Undergraduate and graduate students as well as kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and community members enjoy the opportunity to explore the biodiversity at Gladmar.

Central Washington University existing recreation facilities primarily used by the student population:

**Japanese Garden:** Created in 1992, this is a special place that has become a favorite refuge for students to relax and grab a moment away from hectic college life. The garden, located near the Student Union Recreation Center (SURC), has native plants, cherry trees and the traditional lanterns donated by the Japanese Consulate General.

**Tomlinson Field:** Natural grass football field, stadium with 4,000 permanent seating (portable can be added) and 6-lane rubberized field track.

**Gary & Bobbi Frederick softball field:** East of Tomlinson Field. It has a grass outfield and dirt infield. Field dimensions: Left field-200 feet, Center field-215, and right field-200 feet.

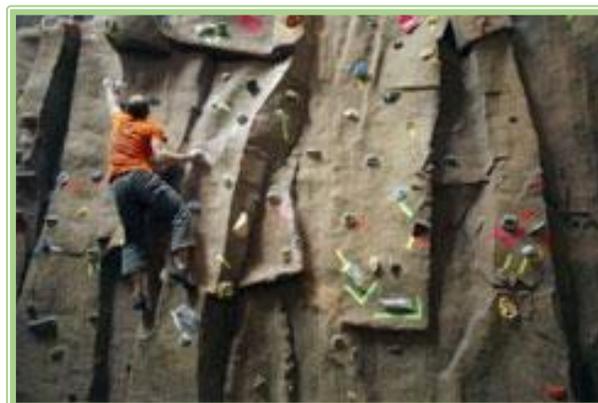
**CWU Baseball Field:** East of Nicholson Pavilion has a Kentucky bluegrass infield and outfield as well as crushed red cinder infield surfacing. Dimensions of the field are Left field -324 feet, Center field-412 feet and Right /Center field-376 feet and Right field-326 feet. Bleachers with 500 capacity.

**CWU Aquatic Facility:** Is primarily available for current members of the CWU Recreation Center. Access is provided at Family Hours and also Open Recreation swim sessions. Children can participate in aquatic activities with the purchase of a daily guest pass and at Family Hours, Children may join their parents at no additional cost. The pool has 10 lanes with starting blocks, 3-meter springboard, 1- meter spring board, water polo capabilities and is 25 yards X 25 meters in size and 4 to 15 feet in depth. There are locker rooms with full services as well as facilities for instruction.

**Nicholson Pavilion Area:** 100,000 sf. physical education complex with weight and cardio equipment, two gymnasiums, baseball, soccer and softball field, tennis courts with adjacent recreation center.

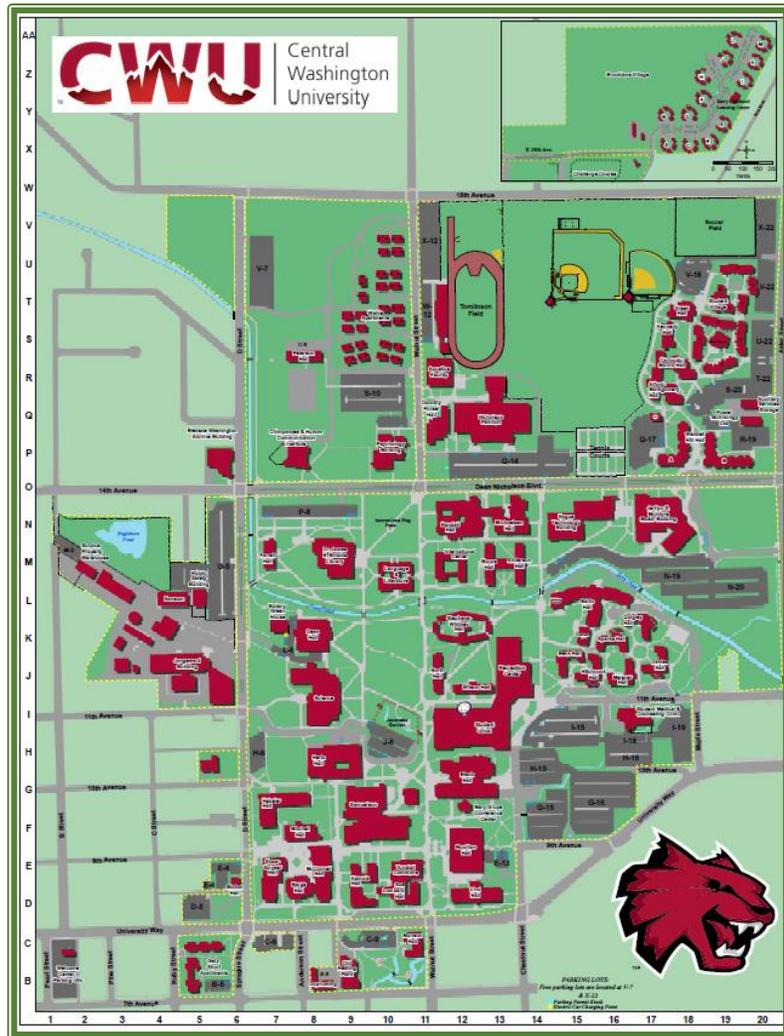
**Recreation Field Challenge Course:** In 2007 the Student University Recreation broke ground on the outdoor Challenge Course facility. Perfect for clubs, businesses, community and youth groups, the CWU Challenge Course offers the opportunity to participate in team-building activities to accomplish individual and group goals. There are both low-ropes elements and the state-of-the-art high; so no matter the comfort level of the group, there is a way for everyone to participate.

**CWU Climbing Wall:** stands 50-feet at its highest point, three types of climbing are offered for an excellent mental and physical workout.



**McIntyre Music Building:** The Music Education Building houses the entire Department of Music and features a 600-seat concert hall, a 150-seat recital/lecture hall, an administrative wing, classrooms, rehearsal spaces for orchestra/band, choral and jazz, a recording studio, a performance library, instrument storage, composition laboratories, faculty teaching studios and practice rooms. Annual community musical events are held at this site, and seasonal student performances are presented for the entire community.

**McConnell Auditorium:** The Theatre Arts Department and Central Theatre Ensemble are housed in stately McConnell Hall, which underwent a \$2.1 million renovation completed in the fall of 2003. A classic 750-seat proscenium theatre provides for large-scale productions. CWU Theatre Arts Department produces several shows open to the public each season, both on the main stage and in studio settings. In addition to rehearsal and classroom space, there are coordinated facilities such as the small black box studio, Sound and Light Lab and, vocal and acting studios with new Allegro dance flooring. McConnell Auditorium is also used for community events, programs and performances.



## **YAKIMA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE / ADULT BASIC EDUCATION LEARNING CENTER**

Located at 401 East Mt View, the YVC adult learning lab provides preparation to pass the GED exam, and other non-credit courses with individual study. The newest program, High School 21, is a competency-based diploma opportunity for adults using on-line studies.

### **WASHINGTON STATE PARKS:**

There are four state parks located in or adjacent to Ellensburg. Most recently Washington State Parks has worked with Kittitas County and the Washington State Parks Commission to transfer Helen McCabe Park to the County.



### **Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park/Wanapum Recreation Area**

The Petrified Forest and recreation area is 7,470 acres with 27,000 feet of shoreline on the Wanapum Reservoir on the Columbia River east of Ellensburg. Petrified wood was discovered in the region in the early 1930s, which led to creation of the park as a natural historic preserve. The Wanapum tribe of Native Americans inhabited the region along the Columbia River. Established in 1938, the park has an Interpretive Center with displays of petroglyphs and petrified wood specimens. The 'Trees of Stone Interpretive Trail' includes a 1.5-mile loop through sagebrush-covered hills and a longer 2.5 mile loop that follows an exposed section of prehistoric species of petrified logs left where they were discovered in the 1930's. The Wanapum Recreation Area has 50 full hook-up sites and two restrooms, swimming and boat launch area. The park is heavily used during the Gorge concert season.

### **Helen McCabe Park<sup>27</sup>**

The 64.1 acre park is bordered by Wilson Creek and the confluence with the Yakima River. The park was named in honor of Dr. Helen McCabe professor of Recreation at Central Washington University and a leader in recreation programs throughout the Pacific Northwest. The 8-acre pond on site has fishing opportunities with a small access established by the Kittitas County Field and Stream Club in 1983. There are additional plans to expand opportunities for fishing. Helen McCabe Park is located south of Ellensburg on the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway (YRCSB) that goes 22-miles through the Yakima Canyon. The original YRCSB plan identified the Helen McCabe Park as the site for an interpretive center which is a project of the Kittitas Environmental Network (KEEN) non-profit.

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<sup>27</sup> Washington State Parks as of October 2015 have not completed the transfer of Helen McCabe Park to Kittitas County.

**Iron Horse State Park** The Iron Horse State Park Trail (John Wayne Pioneer Trail) is a 1,612-acre park that was once part of the path of the Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul-Pacific Railroad.



The trail traverses across the State of Washington from King County on the west through Kittitas County to the Columbia River. Portions of the trail travel through the City of Ellensburg. There are over 100- miles for biking, hiking, horseback riding, birding, wildlife viewing and, at some points, fresh water fishing. In winter there is access for dog sledding and cross-country skiing. The Trail through Ellensburg connects with local trails and along the northern portion of the Kittitas County Event Center grounds. Long

range plans for the Event Center include options to provide trail extensions and a trailhead for the Iron Horse State Park trail (locally referred to as the John Wayne Pioneer Trail).

### **Olmstead Place State Park**

Olmstead Park, open year-round, is a 217 acre historic day-use park. It is located a few miles east of Ellensburg and is the homestead of the Samuel Bedient Olmstead family. The park site has an old log cabin and farmhouse. There are picnic spaces, historic gardens, pioneer artifacts and walking trails that interweave with interpretive activities. Annually the park hosts tours and school field trips.

### **WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE:**

The citizens of and visitors to the City of Ellensburg enjoy surrounding open public recreational lands with one of the most diverse landscapes in Washington known for outdoor recreation. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) along with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are the major public land owners. WDFW has three Wildlife Areas (WLA) located in the County and outside of the Ellensburg City limits but available to the citizens for public recreational use. The 105,662-acre **Colockum Wildlife Area** is located between the City of Wenatchee in Chelan County and the City of Ellensburg in Kittitas County. Managed as one unit, WDFW owns 73,199-acres, the WDNR owns 21,440-acres and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns 11,023-acres managed by WDFW through a Memorandum of Understanding. The Colockum is contiguous to the south with the Quilomene unit of the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area. The **L.T. Murray Wildlife Area** covers 106,400-acres in four units (L.T. Murray, Quilomene, Whiskey Dick and Yakima River) that lie both west and east of Ellensburg in Kittitas County. All units except for the Yakima River unit have a checkerboard ownership pattern with DNR. The major water source is 15-miles of the Columbia River on the eastern boundary. The 105,460-acre **Wenas Wildlife Area** is managed as one unit. WDFW owns 70,093 acres, leases 16,514 of the 30,643-acres owned by the DNR and manages 3,485-acres for the BLM. It is located southwest of Ellensburg in both Kittitas and Yakima counties. Wenas Creek and Roza Creek flow into the Yakima River. Wildlife use is diverse and include elk, deer, big horn sheep, sage grouse turkey, quail and myriad of small mammals, upland birds, raptors and reptiles. Big game hunting is very popular in all three WLA units. Resident and migratory fish species including Chinook,

sockeye and Coho salmon, steelhead, smallmouth bass, perch trout, walleye and white sturgeon inhabit the Columbia. Big game hunting is popular as well as fly fishing along the Yakima River. WDFW water access sites which include sites in and around the City of Ellensburg have excellent angling opportunities. Lowland ponds include the main **Fiorito Pond (North)**, as well as the southern portion, known as **Fiorito S Lake** which totals 23.8 total acres with mixed species and trout emphasis. The north Fiorito pond has a boat ramp. **Mattoon Lake** (26.1-acres) is a great place in the City to take the family for a fun fishing outing to catch rainbow trout. The pond has a boat ramp access. **Naneum Pond** (2.4-acres) is located 3-miles east on the Vantage Highway and south of Watson Road. It is a year-round lake that is ideal for junior anglers (under 15 years old only) and is stocked with catchable and “jumbo” rainbow trout annually. **McCabe Pond** (6.7-acres) is a small pond that is stocked with 10-12-inch rainbow trout and excellent fishing in early spring. Located on Thrall Road and Yakima Canyon Road, it has newly constructed fishing platforms<sup>28</sup>, restrooms and open space areas.

Along the Yakima River there are number of water access sites for boat launching providing for the joy of fishing on the Blue Ribbon quality river. **Woodhouse Pond** is a 1.5-acre year-round pond with a walk-in access only. It is located south of Ellensburg on the Woodhouse Loop Road. There is excellent early spring fishing for planted 10-13-inch rainbow trout. s can access the Yakima River at the **Ringer Road** water access site located 3.3-miles south on Canyon Road and west on Ringer Road. The site has restrooms and a grated launch ramp. In Throp there is the **Thorp Property** water access site which is open year round is nearly 6-acres and accesses the Yakima River. There are no support facilities at the site. WDFW has two additional water access sites with boat ramps on the Yakima River which are called **Mile Post 8** and **Mile Post 10** located down the Yakima Canyon Road at the 8 and 10-mile locations. Both are soft launches with limited support facilities but provide access on and off of the Yakima River for those recreationalists from the Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. WDFW also has over 40 high lake sites throughout Kittitas County that are planted with rainbow, cutthroat and Golden trout. Some high lakes include the **Naneum-upper, Park-Lower** and **Park- Upper** lakes.

#### **WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:**

On a statewide basis, the DNR has 160-plus recreation sites and 1,100 miles of trails. Outside of the City of Ellensburg city limits in greater Kittitas County landscape, the DNR has an abundance of public recreation lands. Citizens from Ellensburg take advantage of the DNR-managed lands with motorized roads, campground and day-use areas. Traditional recreational use includes hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, riding on traditional roads as well as riding off-road and even geocaching. Winter activities include snow shoeing, snowmobiling and cross country skiing. Access to recreation



<sup>28</sup> In 2015 new platforms were installed in partnership with KEEN and the Kittitas County Field and Stream Club

sites on DNR land with your vehicle will require a Discover Pass as your ticket to the great outdoors. Three DNR operated campgrounds are located in the greater Ellensburg area. They include the **Teanaway Campground**, located near the Teanaway River with 64 campsites, fire rings and ADA access restrooms. The **29 Pines Campground** located near the north fork of the Teanaway River is a great getaway for hikers and includes 59 campsites, four toilets and 40 fire rings. **Indian Camp** is near the middle fork of the Teanaway River and has 11 campsites, two group campsites and toilets. This is a great site for the citizens of Ellensburg who are hunters, fishermen and mountain bikers.

The DNR also has major landholdings primarily in Kittitas County which include the **Naneum Ridge Forest** with approximately 71,500-acres. There is a checkerboard ownership with the WDFW managed in the **Colockum Wildlife Area** where the DNR has 21,440-acres. Additionally 30,000-acres of DNR lands are co-managed in the **L.T. Murray Wildlife Areas**. In the **Wenas Wildlife Area** there are 30,643-acres of DNR co-mingled with WDFW lands. Public recreational opportunities on the co-owned major land complexes are diverse and include hunting, camping, fishing, wildlife viewing, target shooting, wildflower tours, ATV and snowmobile riding, horseback riding, and hiking. Recently, the public lands have seen a dramatic increase in uses such as ATV riding, bird watching, and shed antler collection. The DNR is collaboratively managing the **Teanaway Community Forest** with WDFW with significant public input from a community-based advisory committee. The collaborative has recently completed a Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan and will soon begin a public process toward the development of a recreation plan for the forest. This beautiful 50,241-acre landscape with over 400 miles of free-flowing streams and prime habitat for fish and wildlife lies at the headwaters of the Yakima Basin watershed. The forest offers unique recreation opportunities. Goals in the recreation plan call to maintain and where possible, expand recreation opportunities consistent with watershed protection: activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping, birding and snowmobiling.

## **PRIVATE, PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT FACILITIES**

The City of Ellensburg works closely with various entities to promote and encourage tourism and community activities throughout the community and particularly in the downtown. Ellensburg is home to a number of galleries and arts organizations. The City of Ellensburg Arts Commission, appointed by the City Council, is responsible for advising the Council on matters concerning performing and visual arts. They encourage and promote art activities for individuals, organizations and government agencies in the city and formulate and recommend to the Council an arts advancement program. On the City of Ellensburg's website, information and contacts are provided for the public with regard to galleries and art organizations within the community.

The listing includes the **420 LOFT** located in the historic and newly renovated 420 building located at 420 Pearl Street downtown. Exhibits of local artists are displayed as well as public space for emerging art students at CWU. The **Clymer Museum of Art** is the permanent location of the collection of John Ford Clymer and serves as a venue for new and emerging artists and exhibit location for the interest of the community at large. **Gallery One Visual Arts Center**, a non-profit, is supported through donations and community involvement. The gallery provides quarterly classes, after school art program, has a ceramics studio and a gift shop which features artists' work. The facility provides studio spaces for artists and community rental space. **The Goodey Gallery** (CWU) located on Pearl Street has been in existence for over 30 years. The non-profit corporation, the Western Art Association, formed in 1972, exhibits original fine art and giclee<sup>29</sup> reproductions, offers cards and gift items which promote western art, artifacts and supports preservation of the western heritage of the community. The **Sarah Surgeon Gallery** (CWU) is located at the University with the mission to providing campus and the community-at-large citizens first-hand experience with art. The exhibits and outreach with workshops, lectures and programs support the educational objectives as well as enhance, engage and challenge viewers' knowledge and understanding of art.

Many of the local galleries are involved in the monthly **First Friday Art Walk** venue.

The **Ellensburg Downtown Association (EDA)** and the **Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce** are actively involved in the promotion of activities and events throughout the year for citizens and visitors to Ellensburg. Interested individuals can obtain access to the current and upcoming events through their web sites or can follow the EDA on social media, Facebook or additional links through the city and county, CWU, the Daily Record, the Chamber of Commerce or simply by logging onto "My Ellensburg.com." Events are held for each of the four seasons and range from the 'Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering' to the 'Western Art Association Art Show and Auction' in the spring. Summer events include the 'Dachshunds on Parade', the annual 'Cruisin' for Hospice Car Show' and the outstanding 'Jazz in the Valley' event held in late July. By the time Labor Day weekend rolls around in early fall, the 'Kittitas County Fair and the Ellensburg Rodeo', one of the oldest rodeos that has earned its place as one of America's Top 10 professional rodeos, are in full swing. Winter season provides the enjoyable 'Winter Brew Fest' as well as the 'Ellensburg Film Festival' that has grown into a

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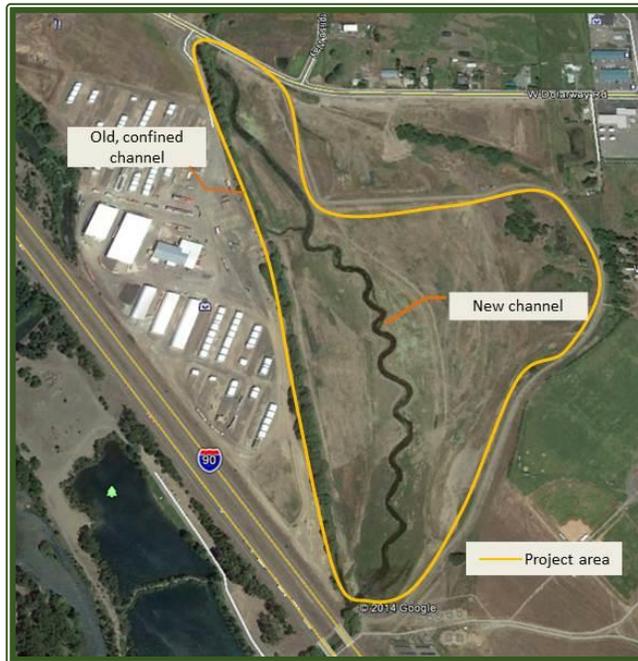
<sup>29</sup> Museum-quality reproduction of art or archival pieces on canvas or fine art paper using the best technology.

major film and arts event in the Northwest with over 2,000 people in attendance. Additional fun events include the seasonal 'Downtown Trick or Treat', and an established favorite 'Girls Night Out' with shopping and pampering for the ladies of Ellensburg. These are just some examples of the many opportunities provided in Ellensburg along with year-round happenings that include the 'First Friday Art Walk', or 'Whisky Dick Triathlon' or the "Buskers" which are street performers in the downtown or the showing of the 'Barn Quilts of Kittitas County'.

The **Kittitas County Historical Museum** located on Third Avenue, is one of a number of publicly accessible facilities located in Ellensburg. Formed in 1961 to preserve the history of the Kittitas Valley, the private non-profit displays a collection of historic items and exhibits to illustrate, educate and arouse interest. The Historical Society owns and displays the Rollinger Brothers Rock and Mineral Collection, an Antique Doll Collection, Native American Bag and Basket Collection, the Antique Automobile display and displays of early businesses and military history.

**Equestrian Activities:** Horseback Riding in Ellensburg and in surrounding Kittitas County occurs in some of the most varied terrain in the Northwest. The rider can experience a variety of riding locations because there are long stretches of valley, deserts and mountain ranges. The John Wayne Trail State Park is one trail that caters to any riding skill level. There are several spots to get onto the trail, with one location adjacent to the Kittitas County Fairgrounds in Ellensburg at the east end of E. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There are a number of private outfitters that will rent horses and also provide guided trips or lodging and meal services. In addition to trail riding, there are several riding facilities for citizens and visitors to the Ellensburg area including a **Therapeutic Riding Center** located south east of the City limits. One of the newest and most unique private non-profit recreational facilities in the Ellensburg vicinity is the **Washington State Horse Park**, located west of Ellensburg in Cle Elum. It is a premier equestrian facility serving all recreation, competitive and educational levels and needs of riders and horse enthusiasts. The Ellensburg community provides lodging and amenities for those who use the 112-acre site and for event spectators. The Horse Park offers facilities for large horse events, shows, competitions and less formal activities such as trail riding and back country riding. Emphasis is placed on youth programs and therapeutic riding as well as fostering education and training through clinics, demonstrations, seminars and camps.

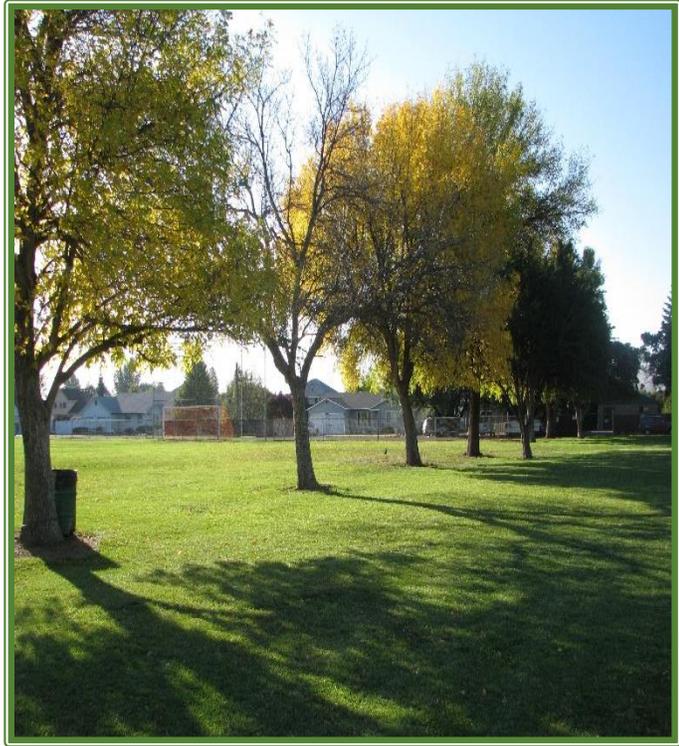
The **Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD)** is recognized by local, state and federal authorities as the organization for public and private landowners as the source for financial, technical and educational assistance with natural resource problems, as well as, the choice for the implementation of on-the-ground stewardship activities. The KCCD is a government sub-division of state government with specific purposes relating to the conservation of renewable natural resources. Projects in Ellensburg can address fish habitat, flood hazards, and infrastructure needs. The **Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to restore self-sustaining salmon and steelhead



populations through habitat preservation and restoration projects which assist landowners and promote community partnerships throughout the region. In 2003 through communication with the City of Ellensburg (the landowner), the Reecer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project originated under the Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program in partnership with the South Central Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) the Yakima Nation, KCCD, the Kittitas Water Purveyors, the Kittitas Reclamation District (KCWP&KRD) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS). The City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County together began the Reecer Creek restoration project, with design provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and funding through the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, WA Department of Ecology, USFWS and KCWP/KRD. The project enhanced nearly a mile of trout, steelhead and salmon rearing habitat in Ellensburg's Reecer Creek (a tributary to the Yakima River). The project which was completed in fall of 2011 relocated the dyke, increased the channel length by about 6,000 feet, replanted the riparian and upland areas, added in-stream wood, approximated the natural stream and opened up 58-acres of flood plain in this reach of the stream for recreational opportunities in and connecting to the City of Ellensburg Rotary Park. In April 2014 the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group returned to plant 7,500 native trees and shrubs along Reecer Creek.

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**COMMUNITY DEMAND & NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT/ ACTION PLAN**



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## CHAPTER 4

### *Introduction*

#### **COMMUNITY DEMAND & NEEDS ASSESSMENT/IMPLEMENTATION ACTION**

The purpose of the Demand and Needs Assessment is to understand, quantify and evaluate both the recreational and facility demand while identifying the existing and future needs for providing parkland, facilities, and recreation programming demands for the City of Ellensburg. The definition of needs includes both preservation of existing resources and services and needs into the future. The current update presented here reflects the needs, desires and recommended priorities that set the foundation for the next 10-20 years.

The City of Ellensburg Park & Recreation System Plan Update (the Plan) process combines technical analysis with input from the community to set a direction for the future of the system. This process is designed to ensure that the planning team gathers the input necessary to develop a Plan that is technically sound, rooted in the needs of the community and implementable.

In 2015 the key finding from the respondents in community questionnaire were:

1. Parks and open spaces are very important to respondents. The majority of the respondents (85%) indicated that parks and recreation programs are important to the overall quality of life in Ellensburg.
2. Developed parks, trails and waterfront areas are the most popular types of parks.
3. There is interest in adding greater variety in the park system. Ideas expressed by respondents included a water playground or splash pad, skating rink, disc golf, off-leash dog areas and places for kids to play.
4. Respondents voiced a need to maximize use of existing parks and public land.
5. Surrounding natural open spaces are highly valued.
6. Trail activities are the top most desired types of recreation activities.
7. Respondents prefer paved trails and trails that link neighborhoods or connect to other trails.

Current determination of need for parks, facilities and recreational programming is based on public input from the community and its vision for the city park system. When combined with national and state trends, an assessment of local needs provide information for meeting the public demand and determining priorities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides a valid source of guidelines, current information, national data base analysis, case studies and trends to help decision-makers better understand and prioritize recreation issues on the local level.

On the State level, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) in 2013 completed the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 expired at the end of September 2015. Congress may look into retentions of the program in some form through new legislation. Fifty years ago the act was created as a premier grant program to provide funding to states for planning, acquiring and developing outdoor recreational lands. The LWCF grant program has invested close to \$402,000 in Ellensburg park acquisition and development projects.

#### **STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN:**

In 2013 the SCORP<sup>30</sup> was adopted. SCORP assessed current outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities and determined statewide future needs. The public participated in the SCORP planning process through Advisory Group meetings across the state. An online SCORP Town Hall and a large-scale telephone survey were part of the process for completing the inventory of the recreation supply and the needs and identified demand for outdoor recreation in the State of Washington.

The 2013 SCORP addresses key issues related to outdoor recreation in Washington State.

Those are:

- Economics and funding
- Technology
- Providing sustainable recreation opportunities
- Land supply and use
- Recreation equity
- Constraints to recreation participation
- Recreation Participation
- Benefits of outdoor recreation

Findings:

- Washington's economy benefits from outdoor recreation: In 2011, outdoor recreation contributed more than \$22.5 billion in consumer spending to Washington's economy, as well as \$1.6 billion in state and local tax revenue.
- Research has shown that natural areas and physical activities have a significant positive impact on human health, including both physical and mental health benefits.
- Research suggests that the social elements of outdoor recreation are very important to residents, particularly youth and young adults.
- One of the greatest challenges among recreation providers over the next decade will be meeting the demands of an ever-increasing population in Washington, especially increases in urban areas for older residents and minority residents.
- Outdoor recreation promotes environmental stewardship and volunteerism, and research suggest that outdoor recreationists are more connected to natural resources and tend to have more care and concern for their environment.
- This SCORP is designed to help decision-makers better understand the most important recreation issues statewide and make funding decisions based on public priorities and expectations.

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<sup>30</sup> RCO 2013 SCORP: <http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/rec-trends/2013-2018scorpfullrpt.pdf>

Additional important trends that were highlighted in the 2013 SCORP are:

1. “The top problems in Washington State are related to lack of facilities or closed facilities, access or travel distance, cost of recreation and poor quality of existing facilities.”
2. “The trend among all residents show a dramatic increase in many nature based activities, and a decline in team based sports, as one might expect with an aging population.”
3. “The most notable increase in participation by activity is for picnicking, BBQing and cooking out which went from 9<sup>th</sup> ranked activity in 2012 to the top ranked activity in 2013.”

## **2015 ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN WASHINGTON<sup>31</sup>**

“Washington’s outdoor recreation is a driving force for the state’s economy, creating jobs and building rural businesses. It also is a way of life in the Pacific Northwest.”<sup>32</sup>

Therefore, the outdoor recreation economic analysis report points out that:

### ***Washingtonians Love to be Outside***

Citizens of the state participate in outdoor recreation more than 445 million days each year, or, on average individual citizens, spend 56 days a year recreating outdoors. Local parks are the most visited.

When asked the following questions in the survey statewide, the input was:

#### ■ **What do we do?**

The five most popular recreation activities with greatest participation are:

- 1) Walking
- 2) Running and jogging
- 3) Wildlife viewing and photography
- 4) Bicycle riding
- 5) Playground use

#### ■ **Where are we spending the most?<sup>33</sup>**

- 1) 42.5 on gear and equipment
- 2) 13% on gas and oil
- 3) 9% on grocery stores
- 4) 10% on food and beverages
- 5) 7% on lodging

#### ■ **Spending by land type:**

- 1) Recreating on the water, especially motorized boat
- 2) Sporting events, races with fees and overnight stays on all sorts of land
- 3) Recreation on private lands; e.g. golf, skiing, hunting, and off-road vehicle riding.

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<sup>31</sup> This report was written as required by the 2013\*2015 biennial operating budget (Chapter 221, Section 304, Laws of 2014)

<sup>32</sup> Opening statement from the RCO brief of the major facts regard the report of the Economic Benefits of Outdoor Recreation in Washington full report: [www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/EconomicAnalysisOutdoorRec.pdf](http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/EconomicAnalysisOutdoorRec.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> Annually residents and visitors to the state spend \$21.6 billion on outdoor recreation.

- **Spending on individual types of activities, most money is spent on**
  - 1) Wildlife viewing and photography
  - 2) Motorized boating
  - 3) Bicycling
  - 4) Picnicking
  - 5) Horseback riding

SCORP Report findings;<sup>34</sup>
  
- **Outdoor recreation not only creates jobs and builds businesses**, it cuts health care costs, brings families closer together, helps kids learn in school and protects the environment. To quantify some of the non-market values, the report looked at the value of ecosystem services provided by the trees, water and animals found on public recreation lands: clean water, habitat for wildlife, aesthetic beauty and enhanced recreational experiences. The combined value of these non-market benefits is between \$134 billion and \$248 billion a year.
  
- **Recreation markets play an important role in connection of urban and rural communities**: the recreation market is one of the largest markets in the state for moving income from urban to rural areas and building jobs in more rural areas.
  
- **Economic Contribution for Kittitas County on all lands**:<sup>35</sup>
  - 1) Expenditures in Kittitas County: \$185,324,579
  - 2) Economic Contribution to Kittitas County: \$118,805,075
  - 3) Jobs in Kittitas County: 1,762
  - 4) Land and local taxes collected in Kittitas County: \$9,456,051

The Summary Executive Report states that:

*“The State’s rich outdoor recreation choices also provide jobs to many families and businesses. This study quantifies the contribution of outdoor recreation to Washington State’s economy and way of life.”*

**NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA)**: In 2014, on a national level, the NRPA Board of Trustees completed the Trends Report<sup>36</sup> presenting trends in the next few years that will influence the field of parks and recreation. The fascinating glimpse of where parks and recreation is going in the near future is provided in the report findings. Therefore, the NRPA Board of Trustees focused on five of the key trends identified in the *Trendswatch 2014*. The identified trends by NRPA potentially will affect the City of Ellensburg’s planning efforts for maintaining and developing parklands, programs and recreation facilities now and into the future.

<sup>34</sup> RCO 2013 SCORP: <http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/2013-2018scorpfullrpt.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> Kittitas County: <http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/OutdoorEconomicsFactSheet.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> NRPA 2014 Trendwatch Report: *NRPA Magazine: Lauren Hoffman & Richard J. Dolesh*

*Trendline: #1: Human Capital:*

- Job classifications and employment types still predominate but new models are emerging rapidly which provide fewer benefits and less security for workers and require greater flexibility in job skills, training and education.
- New models are emerging in the definition of the roles in park and recreation services. Professional skills will change to reflect the ability to address the new models in services and demands. Understanding the range of human-capital needs will be necessary, especially to understand the role of contractual, seasonal and private-sector employees versus the traditional full-time employee staff.
- In addition, understanding the impact of this trend on the community fabric is key to understanding how to serve the community's needs. Traditional models of volunteer coaching, afterschool programing, educational components, challenges of child care and programming for adult workers are changing.

*Trendline: #2: Green Infrastructure:*

Parks play a key role in lessening and mitigating the environmental impacts of modern transportation, commercial, residential, storm water and utility infrastructure.

*Trendline: #3: Societal Piece:*

- It is becoming more important to recognize changing demographics. Therefore, parks and recreation must adopt new roles that focus on becoming facilitators and innovators in the larger social contexts. They will need to recognize the role parks and recreation will play in social innovation. In addition, having a defined place in making and providing health, economic and safety solutions for ever changing communities is important.

*Trendline: #4: New Narrative/Reframing Our Proposition:*

- The basic value proposition that parks were created as a public "good" remains, but clearly, parks and recreation must evolve into something more to remain relevant in a dramatically changing society and environment.

*Trendline: #5: Economic Forecast:*

- The status and health of parks and recreation serves as a bellwether for the state of the economy.
- However, perhaps more than any other public-sector service provider, parks and recreation agencies suffer direct consequences as a result of fluctuations in national and regional economies.
- Evidence shows that park and recreation agencies receive cuts in greater proportion to any other public-service sectors when economies decline.
- The simple fact is that the state of the economy is always going to be a driving factor for park and recreation budgets. Even if that fact is a given, the Great Recession of 2008–2011 has had a greater and more long-lasting impact than any other recession of modern times. The events of the past few years have had major implications for how agencies operate now and how they will be funded in the future.
- Many who are knowledgeable about funding for public parks and recreation believe that economic models for these areas are changing irrevocably, and not always for the better.

- While recessionary pressures over the past few years led to greater efficiencies and greater adoption of business-oriented models, it also led to what many fear are permanent declines in tax-supported funding devoted to parks and recreation.
- Moreover, new trends, such as the infusion of private capital into public parks, the growth of public-private partnerships, and the development of privately funded and managed parks and park systems through Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) or Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) mechanisms, have caused a re-evaluation of traditional methods of funding parks and recreation through tax-supported general funds.
- Critical to the success and the future of public parks and recreation is engaging communities in understanding the benefits and value of parks and recreation. The greatest need to make the most compelling case for public parks and recreation is evidence-based research. The urgency level of understanding and responding to this trend is high.

**NRPA LOOKING FORWARD:** In the **2014 PARKS AND RECREATION National Database Report**<sup>37</sup>, NRPA’s research team constantly studies the PRORAGIS database to find shifts and changes in operation, services, development and trends that can help in planning for the future. They use extensive resources to determine the causes and meanings behind these trends and what they might mean for agencies and regions. For instance, in recent years, climate changes, including more frequent and intense natural storms, have affected the planning, design and materials used to build parks and facilities. In addition, these powerful storms have sometimes resulted in higher costs of development and maintenance for park facilities while possibly reducing discretionary funds. Because of these reductions, there may be more public-private agreements emerging in coming years to support programming, cultural events and upper-skill-level activities. Below (Figure 4.1) are the NRPA more current trends that may affect how the park and recreation field does business. “Opportunity” is defined as a trend that creates a win for both progressive departments and users. “Challenges” may present difficult decisions surrounding current operation but with proper planning can create benefits for everyone. “Conflicts” indicate that a trend runs counter to best practices, so options need to be carefully considered.

**Figure 4.1**

PAST AND CURRENT PRACTICES	FUTURE DIRECTION	PRESENTS...
<b>Programming and Offerings</b>		
Focus on service to users who seek their programs in their facilities.	Due to increasing isolation of people of all ages, ethnicities and locations, outreach programming to traditional nonparticipating groups may have significant health and social benefits for communities.	Opportunity
Increasing awareness of immediate health value from activity participation.	Growing awareness of long-term physical and mental health value from an active lifestyle.	Opportunity
Programming focus on organized team sports and activities.	Individualized sports, e.g., walking, running, swimming and biking, represent the top 10 activities participated in by active Americans.	Opportunity
Programming focus on organized team sports and activities.	Safety issues (concussions) may impact activities such as youth tackle football, resulting in options such as flag football leagues.	Challenge
Department roles: facility upkeep and recreational activities.	Community roles: public health, social transition for youth, conservation initiatives in addition to current roles.	Challenge
<b>Capital Development and Maintenance</b>		
Facilities and parks are viewed as costs to the budget.	Facilities and parks are viewed as long-term benefits to jurisdictions.	Opportunity
Reasonably stable national weather patterns in recent decades have dictated facility designs and types of materials.	The unstable weather patterns in recent years and the increased frequency of violent storm events may affect planning and design of parks and facilities as they increase costs.	Opportunity
Both large and small municipalities have been accruing maintenance deficits in all types of infrastructure (e.g., parks, recreation facilities, transportation, water and sewer systems, and similar).	Large amounts of infrastructure development were last funded 45 years ago; infrastructure renovation will make new development funds scarce.	Conflict
<b>Environment</b>		
Open space and natural areas of developed parks are considered valuable additions to the community.	The pervious surface of open space and undeveloped parkland has increasing value for mitigating stormwater runoff and flooding in communities.	Opportunity

<sup>37</sup> NRPA 2014 PARKS AND RECREATION National Database Report (Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year the **PRORAGIS** database, NRPA tool, is the largest collection of detailed data on municipal, county and state park systems in the U.S.

## # 4.1: CITY OF ELLENSBURG PARKS AND RECREATION DEMAND & NEEDS ASSESSMENT/ACTION PLAN

The *Assessment of the Need* for parks, facilities and recreation programs is based on the community's vision for the Ellensburg Park and Recreation System. The *Action Plan* provides recommendations from the summary of needs for parkland, facilities and recreation programs in order to accomplish the implementation of the goals, policies, guidelines and standards adopted in the City of Ellensburg plan.



Interpreting this vision and future recommendations for Ellensburg involves multiple tasks, including identification of existing park and recreation inventory, geographic analysis, review of State and National trends, community priorities and a demand and standards analysis for now and into the future.

At times demand and needs are difficult to quantify, as a numerical standard may not reflect the local community priorities, its economic situation and its history or traditional recreation uses. In this System Plan, the focus on park and recreation capacity will target a specific ratio of park land and facilities to population.

Targets used for the analysis will compare the needs for the City of Ellensburg with national and state standards of use identified as needs from public input, trends and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Level of Service Tool<sup>38</sup> as part of the *RCO Baseline Criteria* planning policies and guidelines. As stated by the RCO, the preliminary local agency Level of Service (LOS) tool “*reflects public input that just one indicator of need is not enough to adequately capture the complex nature of determining and providing access and recreation opportunities.*”

The Service Tool is intended to meet the needs of local governments of differing sizes and varied planning capabilities. The set of three *RCO Baseline Criteria* guidelines include: The traditional NRPA population allocation analysis (**#1 RCO Baseline Criteria**.) Table 4.2 lists the NRPA guidelines with standard size in acres per 1,000 population. The guideline identifies the park type and the standard acres of need for each park.

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<sup>38</sup> RCO “*Statewide Level of Service Recommendations: A Report on the Testing and Applicability of the RCO’s Proposed LOS Tools*” November 2010 & RCO LOS Tools in Manual 2/Appendix *Planning Policies and Guidelines*

**Table 4.2 RCO #1 Baseline Criteria: Population / NRPA Guideline Standards per Population**

Park Type	Guideline
Pocket Parks	.25-.5 acres per 1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	1-2 acres per 1,000 population
Community Parks	5-8 acres per 1,000 population
Regional Parks	5-10 acres per 1,000 population
Natural Open Space	Variable
Special Use Areas	Variable
Trails & Connections (miles)	0.5 miles per 1,000 population
Recreation Facilities	Guideline
Playgrounds	3.10 per 1,000 population
Tennis Courts	0.50 court per 1,000 population
Baseball /softball Fields	0.40 field per 1,000 population
Soccer Fields	0.10 field per 1,000 population
Football Fields	1 field per 20,000 population
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000 population
Basketball Neighborhood Court	0.30 courts per 1,000

The second set of the (**#2 RCO GIS Baseline Criteria**) guidelines is the NRPA traditional standard for park geographic (GIS) location of distance of travel for the types of parks that serve the community. Table 4.3 The GIS indicators RCO #2 Enhanced Criteria) are in Table 4.3 and shown on GIS Maps 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 in Chapter 3.

**Table 4.3 RCO #2 Enhanced Criteria GIS/ NRPA Service Area Guideline Recommendation**

Service Area Range	Pocket	Neighborhood	Community Park	Regional Park
Recommended	¼-mile	½-mile	1-mile	15-miles
Acceptable	¼-mile	½-mile	2-miles	20-miles
Minimum	¼-mile	1-mile	3-miles	25-miles

The third is an In-depth criteria (**#3 RCO In-Depth Summary for Local Agencies**) that is used for a self-assessment with indicators for the Ellensburg Parks and Recreation as a local agency. The Ellensburg Parks and Recreation #3 “In-Depth Assessment is attached as an exhibit in Chapter 1. On page 12.

## POPULATION FORCAST AND SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

The largest city in Kittitas County is the City of Ellensburg with a 2014 population of 18,810.<sup>39</sup> Table 4.4 lists population projections pending under the Growth Management Act to estimate growth over the next 20 years.

**Table 4.4: Population**

	2016 <sup>40</sup>	2026	2036
Population	18,810 <sup>41</sup>	25,290	33,000 <sup>42</sup>

This plan uses the 2015 OFM population estimate of 18,810 as the level of service analysis and 25,290 for future (2026) need standards. In the State 2015 OFM report, it states that in 2015 ten counties experienced growth exceeding 1.0 percent, three counties were non-metropolitan counties, one of which is Kittitas County. The US Census Bureau Quick Facts indicates that the median house hold income from 2009 to 2013 for Ellensburg was \$27,474 as compared to the state median income of \$59,478. The Ellensburg population is 85.7% Caucasian, 9.7% are Hispanic or Latino and 3.2% are Asian, 1.5% Black or African American and 1.0% are American Indian and Alaskan Native descent.

Ellensburg's 8,850-acre planning area includes both the area within the City boundaries and the surrounding Urban Growth Area (UGA) in unincorporated Kittitas County. The City of Ellensburg square mile density is 2,432.2 and ranks 69<sup>th</sup> population density in Washington State.

The needs and recommendations are discussed in three categories: #1: Parkland and Open Space, #2: Park Facilities and #3: Recreation Programs and Services. The NRPA parkland definitions will be used in this plan.

The needs analysis defines the types of parks, recreation facilities and recreation programs in the following grouped sections:

### **#4.1: PARKS, NATURAL OPEN SPACE & TRAILS:**

The City of Ellensburg seven parkland classifications include:

- A. Pocket Parks & Beautification Areas
- B. Neighborhood Parks
- C. Community Parks
- D. Regional Parks
- E. Natural Open Space
- F. Special Use Community Recreation Facilities
- G. Trails & Connections

<sup>39</sup> Source: State of Washington 2015 Populations Trends/Forecasting & Research Division OFM April 2015

<sup>40</sup> City of Ellensburg 2015-2016 Biennial Budget Overview/2015

<sup>41</sup> WA. OFM 2015 Population

<sup>42</sup> Source: Kittitas County Government/Population estimates.

The following is a break-out of each park classification provides the number of parks and acreage for each park category, public input, the park site assessment of the existing level of service (ELOS) and the future need for the category of parks for the City of Ellensburg (PLOS). In the summary for each parkland category is a recommended Action Plan for addressing the needs into the future for the park system in the City of Ellensburg.

#### **#4.1-A: POCKET PARKS**

The City of Ellensburg has eight Pocket Parks in the park system (3.59 acres) which are listed below and shown on Map 3.1. The current ratio of 0.19 acres per 1,000 populations meets the existing demand for Pocket Parks. One additional acre would be needed to meet the demand standard within the next 20 years. (see Table 4.5)

- **Craig’s Hill Triangles:** E. 4<sup>th</sup>/Craig’s Hill (.30)
- **Catherine Park:** University Way (KXLE) (1.0)
- **Entry Park:** 900 S. Main Street (.46)
- **Friendship Park** 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (0.16 acres)
- **Jennison-Repp Park:** 808 S. Main Street(.10)
- **Kleinberg Park:** 300 Wenas Street (.37)
- **Rotary Pavilion** 400 North Pearl (.60)
- **Wippel Park:** 400 Elliot Street (.60)

#### **Pocket Park Service Area**

The service area of a Pocket Park generally serves citizens living within a ¼-mile radius. These citizens depend on the park site and the features and facilities located at the park. Some can include public art exhibits or historical features such as Kleinberg Park with the placement of an historic railroad caboose or Friendship Park with a public art feature to honor the memory of Washoe, a chimpanzee that lived in Ellensburg and was the first non-human to communicate with American Sign Language.

#### **Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”**

- If the City needs donations for projects they should ask the people.
- Local groups would donate labor hours and would work to improve facilities if they had the opportunity.
- The more trails in the city the better, especially some sort of trail that links CWU to downtown, preferably bike-able.

#### **Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:**

**Question:** *What are group’s ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- Community Garden

#### **Pocket Park Trends:**

- Pocket Parks have become the latest trend is urban *place* making across the county.
- In some cities they are called Parklets which are locations transformed into green spaces.

- There are no set designs for pocket parks. Each one is different depending on the size and use of the space that has a benefit or a positive impact on the local community.
- “It is well documented that children who live in close proximity to parks or recreation facilities lead a much healthier life than those who do not.”<sup>43</sup>

***Demand Standards for Pocket Parks:***

The NRPA recommends 0.25-.50 acres per 1,000 population. The eight Pocket Parks in Ellensburg represent a current ratio of 0.19 acres per 1,000. If the existing inventory is divided by the future 2026 population estimate, the current inventory meets the existing demand. If the anticipate population in 2036 reaches 33,000<sup>44</sup> a demand standard of one additional acre would be needed within the next 20 years. Current need for Pocket Parks acreage is satisfied by existing inventory.

**Table 4.5 Pocket Parks  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	3.59 Acres
Existing Sites	8 Parks
Existing ratio (ELOS)	0.19/1,000
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	<b>1.10/1,000</b>

**Assessed Need:**

Based on the needs assessment, the existing inventory meets the current demand for Pocket Parks for the City of Ellensburg. The Rotary Pavilion Pocket Park, located in the downtown business district, serves the public and visitors as a unique focal point where events and activities are scheduled throughout the year. As the Rotary Pavilion is a site for community programs, acquiring additional property at this location would provide additional value and benefit to the downtown and the community-at-large by allowing for more events and activities.

**Sustainability/Reliability: Pocket Parks:**

Not all communities have funds to invest in maintaining Pocket Parks. Looking at various resources for funding such as businesses partnerships helps fund maintenance into the future. When possible, long term funding such as corporate sponsorships mean that the Pocket parks and neighborhood parks will have funds to cover necessary repairs.

<sup>43</sup> Patricia Rendon Cardenas; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, Santa Ana, CA. grant recipient 2015: <https://characterlab.org/teacher-innovation-grant/projects/7>

<sup>44</sup> 2036

**Table 4.6 Pocket Parks Recommendations**

Pocket Park	Acres	Recommendations/Actions
Craig’s Hill Triangles	0.30	Replace existing irrigation and install upgraded landscaping.
Catherine Park	1.0	Assess the site for future options and potential developed use.
Entry Park	0.46	Add welcome/visitor information sign and park identification sign. Remove/replace juniper landscape bushes.
Friendship Park	0.16	Extend northern half of the park with lawn and green space.
Jennison-Repp Park	0.10	Continue partnership with private real estate business with park adoption.
Kleinberg Park	0.37	New drinking fountain and curb on perimeter of park. Refurbish the caboose and remove/replace surrounding fencing.
Rotary Pavilion	0.60	Expand park with acquisition of the western parking lot and bank building. Replace Drinking fountain and concrete stairs.
Wippel Park	0.60	Add pickle ball courts, pave parking area, add sidewalk, CXT restroom and relocate picnic table pad.

*Pocket Parks Observations:*

Pocket Parks, or Parklets as they are currently being labeled, provide added park opportunities throughout downtown locations for people to meet for coffee, stop along a bicycle route or simply enjoy benches or public art. Other pocket parks placed around the core of the city provide trail linkages or smaller locations for lunch spots or picnicking. Like most neighborhood parks, some pocket parks are adopted or maintained by community volunteers or local service clubs. In communities across the country pocket parks are an emerging concept in urban design.<sup>45</sup> The addition of bike racks was discussed in the non-motorized Transportation Code Committee recommendation policies: *“Projects in the CC zone and small projects that would have fractions of spaces required could pay into a fund and the City would continue its cooperation with the Ellensburg Downtown Association to install attractive racks downtown”*<sup>46</sup>



<sup>45</sup> Why size doesn’t matter-Landscape Architects Network

<sup>46</sup> Ellensburg Non-motorized Transportation Code Committee Recommended Street Policies adopted November 2013

#### **#4.1-B: NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS:**

In the City of Ellensburg park system there are six Neighborhood Parks (33.50 acres). The existing ratio of 1.78 acres meets the existing demand but not the geographic (GIS) of ½-mile demand in the northwestern area of the UGA. If the residential population grows as anticipated, one additional neighborhood park located in the northwest part of the City will be needed to meet the new demand.

These parks are listed below and are also shown on Map 3.2:

- **Kiwanis Park:** A Street E. of Main & 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue (4.0)
- **Lions Mt. View Park:** 1200 E. Seattle Avenue (8.0)
- **McElroy Park:** 1703 Brick Road (7.0)
- **North Alder Street Park:** 2400 North Alder (5.5)
- **Veterans Memorial Park:** 700 North Poplar(3.0)
- **West Ellensburg Park:** 900 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue(6.0)

#### **Neighborhood Park Service Area**

The prescribed service area of neighborhood parks is within a ¼-mile to ½-mile radius and within walking or biking distance from most residences. The average size of the Ellensburg neighborhood parks is 6.00 acres which is within the NRPA optimal standard of between 5-10-acres in size. Ellensburg's Neighborhood Parks serve the basic Neighborhood Park functions with playgrounds, youth fields, picnic shelters and picnic tables as well as memorial features such as the Veterans Memorial adjacent to the community swimming pool located at Veterans Memorial Park. The six neighborhood parks are well positioned around the city and serve most of the existing residential neighborhoods throughout the community. In the future, a Neighborhood Park or even a Community Park will be needed in the northwestern areas of the city as residential housing grows in and around the Urban Growth Areas.

#### **Questionnaire results**

- There is interest in adding greater variety in the park system. Ideas expressed by respondents included a water playground splash pad, skating rink, disc golf, off-leash dog areas and places for kids to play.
- 41% of the respondents indicated a need to upgrade existing parks.
- 81% of the respondents are residents of Ellensburg. The Drop Pin map (Q2) reflects a large percent living where most of the neighborhood parks are located. This also suggests that questionnaire responses more strongly reflect the needs of the average user from within the city.
- Based on the US Census estimates, there is a higher percentage of youth and young adults in Ellensburg. However fewer adults responded to the questionnaire especially within the 35-49 age range (Q4).
- Nearly 30% of respondents indicated that they visited Developed Parks 1-2 times a month in-season (Q7)

Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- Concern with large concentration of new homes in the north (not in city limits) and potential impact on one Neighborhood Park in the area (North Alder Street Park).
- Increased play toys and swings at all parks would be great.
- I think a larger Veteran’s Park would be nice for families. A place for picnics and outdoor family games.

Community Workshops citizen group input and comments

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- The demographics of the community are changing with regard to students, families and seniors. Ellensburg retirement- all as a result of economic change.
- Demographics: young families concentrated north of Helena and Senior citizens live south of Mt View Park.

**Question:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

- There is more attention to wind and shade protection as well as orientation of structures and shelters. This must continue to be of importance at all parks.
- ADA access within parks and from park to park.

**Question:** *What are group’s ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- Save pyracantha at Mt. View Park and Chestnut trees.
- Spray Park for little kids.

Neighborhood Park Trends:

- “Social elements of outdoor recreation are very important to residents, particularly among youth and young adults.”<sup>47</sup>
- “The practice of developing or redeveloping parks and open spaces, which become catalysts for revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, is spreading throughout the United States.” “Today’s changes in how we live, work and play are once again creating a foundation for parks and recreation as a source of renewal and revitalization for neighborhoods, communities, and society.”<sup>48</sup>
- Neighborhood parks have the same service area as playgrounds; therefore it is recommended that play structures be located at each of the park sites.
- While there are certainly more recreation and leisure alternatives available to today’s youth than ever before, many are sedentary or solitary in nature. “Parks and playgrounds are important spaces for children and adults for physical activity and are among ways to create or enhance access to physical activity for Americans. Several studies have shown a positive association between access to parks and physical activity levels.”<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> 2013-2018 Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

<sup>48</sup> Rejuvenating Neighborhoods and Communities Through Parks—A Guide To Success National Recreation and Park Association © 2011 All Rights Reserved www.NRPA.org

<sup>49</sup> Epidemic Intelligence Service assigned to the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA.

***Demand Standards for Neighborhood Parks:***

The City of Ellensburg service area for neighborhood parks is ½-mile service area and within walking distance of most residents. The NRPA standard is ½-mile to 1-mile. The six existing neighborhood parks are geographically distributed to meet the Service Area GIS map (map 3.2) for recommended coverage throughout the city with the exception of the northwest section of the City. The six neighborhood parks provide a current level of service of 1.78 acres per 1000 per population. Based on a one-half mile service area radius and the future growth anticipated in the northwestern planning area, geographically one additional Neighborhood park will be needed. At an average size of 5.5 acres, this acreage is added to the existing inventory of 33.50 acres and divided by the projected 2036 population. A demand standard of 1.2 acres per 1,000 population is therefore derived. If this standard is applied to the 2016 population, there is a current need for a total of 22.70 acres of neighborhood parkland.

**Table 4.7 Neighborhood Parks  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	33.50 Acres
Existing Sites	6 Parks
Existing ratio (ELOS)	1.78
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	1.2 acres per 1,000 population

**Assessed Need:**

The NRPA recommends the standard of 1-2 acres per 1,000 population for neighborhood parks. Most of the City of Ellensburg is covered geographically (½- mile service area) by the existing neighborhood parks. Many of the parks overlap neighborhoods. The Mt. Stuart Elementary School playground serves the citizens near the school when school is not in session. Geographically there will be a need for an additional neighborhood parks as the residential population grows in the northwestern portion of the city and UGA. The current acreage of the neighborhood parks serves the NRPA standard and the Planned Level of Service (PLOS) of 1.2 acres per population and will serve the city into the future.

**Sustainability/Reliability: Neighborhood Parks**

Parks and particularly neighborhood parks a wide array of benefits beyond just physical. The latest research into the benefits include improved physical health, social functioning and youth development. Neighborhood parks, as well as all parks in the system with facilities that include playgrounds, open field spaces and social gathering areas contribute to building healthy vibrant communities. It is clear that parks also have a positive economic impact and serve as one of the most cost-effective ways to lower long-term health expenditures.

**Table 4.8 Neighborhood Parks Recommendations**

Neighborhood Parks	Acres	Recommendations/Actions
Kiwanis Park	4.0	See Master Plan of Park/Appendix B #4
Lions Mt. View Park	8.0	See Master Plan of Park/Appendix B #3
McElroy Park	7.0	Permanent restroom, shade structure for picnic tables, develop flood outlet south side of park and site flood control, expand educational/interpretive and site history opportunities at park
North Alder Street Park	5.5	Install spray park in 2016 and complete spur loop trail connector to the John Wayne Trail.
Veterans Memorial Park	3.0	See Master Plan of Park/Appendix B #2.
West Ellensburg Park	6.0	New swing set and picnic tables on concrete pads, replace and build a new tennis court, replace baseball backstop fencing, field dugouts, repair outfield irrigation, remove baseball batting cage, remove field parking lot/replace with on street parking stalls, add park signage, remove junipers, refurbish picnic shelter with a facelift and replace roof, repair and repaint bathroom.

Neighborhood Parks Observations:

Community workshops and the citizen input in the questionnaire identified the need for a spray feature at one of the neighborhood parks sites. A number of suggestions identified the North Alder Street Park as an ideal location. Citizens also noted that wind barriers and shade features are important to consider when upgrading or building new parks. Many also identified Kiwanis Park as a neighborhood park that could be the location for an in-ground skate park. The approach to meeting the neighborhood park need will be a future look at available land for acquisition when the growth planning in the northwestern area begins to develop. A school site that currently offers a neighborhood park facility is at Mount Stuart Elementary on west 15<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>50</sup> Individual Master Plan for three neighborhood parks, Kiwanis, Lions Mountain View and Veterans Memorial Park were included (Appendix B) as part of the update for the current City of Ellensburg Parks & Recreation System Plan Update.



<sup>50</sup> LWCF [#66.022] Neighborhood Park/Recreation and Conservation Office

#### **#4.1-C: COMMUNITY PARKS**

There are two Community Parks in the Ellensburg park system totaling 24.44 acres. The existing ratio of 1.30 per 1,000 population will not serve the demand in the future which is a need for a Planned Level of Service (PLOS) of 7.40 acres per 1,000 or a need, or 14 additional acres. Community Parks can also serve some of the neighborhood park needs with facilities that provide play equipment, picnicking and sports activities. Development of additional acres at Paul Rogers Park would serve current acreage needs. Geographically, (GIS) there is a need for a park (either neighborhood or community park) in the northwestern area of the city's UGA, particularly if there is new residential population growth in the future as anticipated. A community park in this portion of the Urban Growth Area would meet the new demands of a new residential population increase. The Community Parks are listed below and shown on Map 3.3

- **Paul Rogers Wildlife Park:** Judge Ronald Road (20.0 acres)
- **Reed Community Park:** 1200 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (4.44 acres)

#### **Community Park Service Area**

The two Community Parks in Ellensburg serve two types of park experiences, one rural and the other urban. Typically, the public drives to a community park, and support facilities include restrooms and picnic facilities. The Community Park service area recommended by NRPA is between 1-3 mile geographic radius. Using the GIS service area of 1-mile, the urban area is served by the Reed Community Park, and the Paul Rogers Community Park serves the northeastern more rural area of the City. The City of Ellensburg appears to be fairly well served by both Community and Neighborhood Parks, except those remaining portions in the northwestern Urban Growth Areas that need to be served in the future if and when a residential area is established.

The Paul Rogers Wildlife Park provides a natural area with soft surface trails and native plant species throughout the site. Located in the northeastern area of the city, it provides citizens with the option of enjoying natural areas for walking, quiet enjoyment, birding and wildlife viewing. The park has a diverse environmental quality.

Reed Community Park is one of the historic view points within the City of Ellensburg. Local citizens have historically enjoyed the park for northwest views of the Stuart Mountain Range, beautiful sunsets over the Kittitas Valley and stargazing at night. It is a popular overlook to events and activities staged at the Kittitas County Event Center, especially during the annual Rodeo on Labor Day weekend.

#### **Questionnaire results:**

Parks, recreation and open spaces are very important to respondents.

Surrounding natural open spaces are highly valued.

Based on outcomes of the questionnaire, 41% of respondents indicated a need to upgrade existing parks.

Over 20% of respondents indicated that they frequented natural open space and trails sometimes 1-2 times a month. (Q7)

50% of respondents indicated that the primary reason for using the parks was to enjoy the outdoors or nature. (Q8)

Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- I appreciate the variety of parks we have in Ellensburg and the care that is given to maintain the cleanliness of our City.
- Trails that connect within the community as well as longer multi-use trails that allow people to get out into natural areas for recreation are both needed.
- I love the Iron Horse Trail that runs through town but I think actually in town it should be developed a little bit more. Maybe have some additional parking at trailheads and develop it through the city more.

Community Workshops citizen group input and comments

**Question:** What has changed over the past 10 years?

- Population growth on the North end-what developments will serve the need?

**Question:** What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?

- There is a need for more parks.
- Greater percent of green space per population in the urban area.
- Traffic/parking control at Reed Park. Close to Legion Hall. Potential for collision.
- More trails and parks.
- ADA access within parks and from park to park.

Community Park Trends

- 2013 SCORP Assessing the Demand: Low-cost activities, less strenuous activities, or activities that can be done close to home have high participation rates among Washington residents. These activities include activities such as walking, recreational activities (jogging and fitness), nature activities, picnicking/BBQing/cooking out.
- Community Parks serve residents with a variety of multi functions, including active use, family events, playgrounds, group picnic shelters, ballfields, spectator events and passive recreational opportunities.
- First Lady Michele Obama launched “Let’s Move Outside,” a campaign to combat childhood obesity and promote family health. The campaign helps families locate parks and plan physical activities.

***Demand Standards for Community Parks:***

The guideline for Community Parks recommended by NRPA is 5-8 acres per 1,000 population. They are typically up to 15 acres in size. The City of Ellensburg’s existing inventory is 24.44 acres. If this acreage is divided by the 2036 projected population (33,000), the demand standard is 74.6 acres per 1,000 population. If this LOS standard is applied to the existing population (18,810) of Ellensburg, the current need is for 14.0 acres more of Community Parkland.

**Table 4.9 Community Parks  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	24.44 Acres
Existing Sites	2 Parks
Existing ratio (ELOS)	1.30
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	7.40 acres per/1,000 population

Assessed Need:

Public input from the community through the public Questionnaire and also from the Community Workshops pointed out that citizens living in the Ellensburg area support parks and recreation. Many indicated they have been living in the community for over 10+ years (47%), and there are those who indicated they are new to the community but love the Kittitas Valley and are committed to the park system. Many had great ideas and suggestions that are important to note. They love trails and want to see them grow not only regionally but interconnected throughout the park system. Many indicated they have lived in other communities and see similar benefits that could be emulated in the City of Ellensburg such as more playgrounds, edible gardens and landscaping and partnering with CWU. In addition, the four community centers and facilities (Special Use Parks) contribute an additional 3.27 acres to serve as needs throughout the City.<sup>51</sup>

Sustainability/Reliability: Community Parks

The two Community Parks serve different purposes. Reed Park is located on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Craig’s Hill. Recently, there has been disturbance from youth gatherings congregating in their vehicle that at times affect the neighbors and the traffic circulation through the park. The view from the park is very popular with residents. After community meetings and input through the community questionnaire, the new Master Plan for the site (Appendix B #4) recommends improvements to address the vehicle impact and circulation through the park and the addition of site facilities. Paul Rodgers Park is an ideal location for adoption of the park by local conservation groups. This natural site has minimal maintenance except for the seasonal site facilities that includes a vault toilet.

**Table 4.10 Community Parks Recommendations**

<b>Community Parks</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Recommendations/Actions</b>
Paul Rogers Wildlife Park	20.0	Retain its natural state. If the City population grows east this 20-acre park may be developed into an expanded Community Park to serve the demand.
Reed Community Park	4.44	See Master Plan of Park/Appendix B #4

<sup>51</sup> Recreation Centers: section #4.2-C

Community Parks Observations:

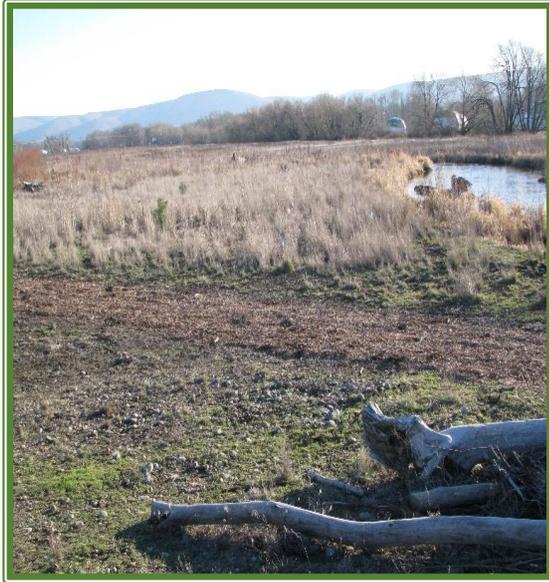
Community parks provide a wider range of opportunities for activities and serve a large multi-service in most communities. The Community Parks are more efficient to maintain on a per-acre basis than the smaller pocket parks or the neighborhood parks. As population density increases, community parks can serve residents with a variety of functions. As population in the northern areas of the UGA grows outside of the Ellensburg City Limits, it may be beneficial for a coordinated effort with the city and the county to partner to address the impact of increased residential population in the area.



#### #4.1-D: REGIONAL PARKS:

The City of Ellensburg has two Regional Parks (217-acres total) listed below, they are also shown on Map 1.1. The current inventory, divided by the future population is a PLOS of 65.7 acres with a future need in 2036 of 124 additional acres.

- **Irene Rinehart Regional Park:** Umptanum Road (117.0)
- **Rotary Regional Park:** 1200 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (100.0)



#### **Regional Park Service Area**

NRPA lists two types of regional parks-regional-urban and regional reserve. Ellensburg's has two regional parks that meet the definition of regional urban parks.

Rotary Regional Park provides outdoor recreation facilities that are of regional significance with ballfields, soccer fields, playgrounds, walking paths, open space and support facilities. Rotary Park has a regional draw for recreational use that goes beyond the city limits and UGA. A regional park service area is estimated to be a one-hour driving time. That indicates that a site is scheduled for regional tournaments and events and encourages use for

major community and regional events, such as the annual Daily Record Fourth of July celebration at Rotary Park. This annual event includes lots of family-friendly activities, food, music, games and festivities culminating with a fireworks display in the evening. Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park (IRRP) is the second regional-urban park. It is located on a slow moving section of the Yakima River and provides boat launch access for fishing. Carey Lakes, located within IRRP, is a fresh water site and serves as a popular place to go swimming during the summer months. The park has restrooms, picnic shelters, barbecues, grass area, volleyball courts and trails in the developed portions of the park. Additionally, the site has undeveloped portions being master planned for future use to provide for additional recreational activities. Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park is located on the south side of Interstate-90 and is linked to Rotary Park via a paved path that goes north by way of a freeway underpass. Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park is one of the most popular parks for the CWU students.

#### **Questionnaire results**

Developed parks, trails and waterfront areas are the most popular types of parks. Based on the questionnaire, respondents visited these area frequently (at least one a week or 1-2 times a month).

Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- The only park that I have noticed needs improved grounds is the Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. The play structures are old and in poor shape. I think the Parks Department does an amazing job maintaining our parks with the few staff they have.
- The link between Irene Rinehart and Rotary parks are great ways for parents to exercise while kids play and great places for kids to learn bike riding on the paved paths.
- Family friendly activities, such as mountain bike skill parks like Duthie, would be amazing for this community!! Ellensburg would be well served to work with the local advocacy group to offer more resources for mountain biking and more road biking. This could include skills parks, pump track.
- A dog off leash area (DOLA) would be an incredible addition to Ellensburg.
- I think Ellensburg does a good job providing playground and sports fields for its residents.

Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** What has changed over the past 10 years?

- The development of Rotary Park has facilitated a higher turnout of youth and adult activities.

**Question:** What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?

- ADA access within parks and from park to park.
- Improve access into upper Carey Lake by adding steps into the pond.

Regional Park Trends:

- The National Recreation and Park Association Summary of Research papers: The Key Benefits stated that “Benefits can be derived just from a lasting view of nature. In some cases, a green environment can provide physiological benefits beyond those derived directly from physical activity.”<sup>52</sup>
- The 2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) survey found that “picnicking, barbecuing, or cooking out” is the most popular form of outdoor recreation.
- In 2011, outdoor recreation contributed more than \$22.5 billion in consumer spending to Washington’s economy, as well as \$1.6 billion in state and local tax revenue.

***Demand Standards for Regional Parks:***

The NRPA guidelines for Regional Parks is 200 to 1000+acres in size. It could also potentially encompass or be contiguous to natural resource areas with natural quality for additional outdoor recreation. The City of Ellensburg has a total of 217 acres of Regional parkland. Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park is completing the master plan process (Appendix B#5) which includes community input for site improvements and additional facilities such as Disc Golf or an off-leash dog area. Rotary Park is a Master Planned park with sports fields, support facilities, trails, playgrounds, parking and the site for an upcoming off-leash dog area. Rotary Park serves the community with a number of annual community events and activities. The current inventory divided by the future population is a PLOS of 65.7 acres and a future need in 2036 of 124 additional acres.

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<sup>52</sup> NRPA: Synopsis of 2010 Research Papers. THE KEY BENEFITS [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org)

**Table 4.11 Regional Parks  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	217.0 Acres
Existing Sites	2 Parks
Existing ratio (ELOS)	11.54 /1,000
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	<b>6.6/1000</b>

Assessed Need:

The existing 217 acres of developed and undeveloped parkland in Rotary and Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park (IRRP) are significant facilities that draw both residents and visitors to the parks. Both regional parks provide existing and future trail options for recreationalists. The freshwater access to the Yakima River at IRRP and the additional undeveloped land provides the ability to expand recreational use. Links to additional local and regional trail access points are feasible into the future as the demand and need increases with population growth. There continues to be a growing demand for youth programs and adult sports in all forms and levels. The need for additional facilities are addressed in the adopted Rotary Park Master Plan that identifies future development.

Sustainability/Reliability: Regional Parks

The City of Ellensburg general fund provides the majority of funding for annual operation and maintenance of the regional parks. Maintaining the parks in good condition is of great importance to the city but also to the community as shown from the reasons in the Community Questionnaire and the comments from the attendees at the Community Workshops. Continuing to work with partners as the city has done, particularly at Rotary Park, is important for not only maintaining the facilities and improvements but also in support of the recreational programs provided to the citizens by the volunteers and partners.

**Table 4.12 Regional Parks Recommendations**

<b>Regional Parks</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Recommendations/Actions</b>
Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park	117	See Master Plan of Park/Appendix B #5.
Rotary Regional Park	100	Build off leash area on the western end of 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue at the Park and work with the Evergreen Mountain Bike Association (EMBA) to design and construct a Mount Bike Ride Park.

Regional Parks Observations:

The City of Ellensburg meets the current and future needs for Regional Parks. Continuing to complete or add the facilities and amenities identified in the adopted Master Plans for both Rotary and Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park can continue with partnerships and matching federal and state grants for construction. Future regional trails and links to both Regional Parks will continue to be a need.

#### #4.1-E: NATURAL OPEN SPACE:

Two Natural Open Space Parks are included in the City of Ellensburg park system. One site, with two parcels is located outside of the UGA in the Naneum Watershed. One of those sites (263.37-acres) is owned by the City of



Ellensburg and the second site (1,000-acres) is leased property from the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The second Natural Open Space Park is the 58-acre Reecer Creek Restoration area located in lower Reecer Creek adjacent to Rotary Park. Listed below are the Natural Open Space Parks, Tthe parks are also shown on Map 3.1. The current ratio of 70.0 acres per 1,000 for natural resources is sufficient now and will serve into the future unless substantial resources are identified to be in need of protection.

- **Naneum Watershed NOS Park:** Naneum Road (1,263.37 acres)<sup>53</sup>
- **Reecer Creek Restoration Park:** 1200 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (58.0)

#### Natural Open Space Service Area:

The NRPA guidelines do not specifically define the service area for Natural Open Space or Resource Conservancy. Historically, these sites are protected and dedicated as open space with natural features. They can be historically significant sites or retained for habitat protection. Plans at times include minimal improvements. The two Natural Open Space parks provide value and benefit to not only the City of Ellensburg but the entire Kittitas County landscape.

#### Questionnaire results

- Close to 60% of the respondents indicated that natural open spaces are very important to the community.
- Some respondents noted that there is existing vacant land or underused public land that could be improved for public use.
- Ellensburg is surrounded by outdoor recreation areas, and outcomes highlight the importance that these resources have for residents.

#### Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- Feel fortunate to live in a place with so much public open space and such diverse parks!

<sup>53</sup> 263.37 acres owned by the City of Ellensburg and 1,000 acres leased by the City from the Washington Department of Natural Resources all of which is undeveloped land

- Former wilderness/trails professional and daily runner (prefer dirt) and want to tell how awesome Ellensburg is and that it would be if a trail system were developed and that it's a little frustrating staring at the backside of Mission Ridge all winter and not able to drive there!
- Kids enjoy playing in more natural surroundings.

Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- CWU enrollment has risen.

Trends in Natural Open Space

In 2011, outdoor recreation contributed more than \$22.5 billion in consumer spending to Washington's economy, as well as \$1.6 billion in state and local tax revenue.<sup>54</sup>

- University of Chicago psychologist Mare Berman has studied attention-restoration therapy. He found that "an additional ten trees on a given block corresponded to a one-percent increase in how healthy nearby resident felt."<sup>55</sup> He is studying not only what nature does for us and why but also what we see when we see nature. Natural environments tend to not require a lot of directed attention when you interact with nature, does your mind wander? He does ask, "When I think about being in the woods on a windy day, you're not just seeing trees, you're seeing leaves in motion."
- The Kaiser Family Foundation Study in revealing how little time kids spend outdoors states that "ages 4-14 are plugged in for 7.65 hours a day." "Many kids are outside in unstructured play for only 4-7 minutes a day." "When you ask kids where their preferred place to play is, they'll say inside because that's where the electrical outlets are."<sup>56</sup>
- In Asheville NC the first TRACK trail is located in the Blue Ridge Parkway's Visitor Center. The trails feature colorful adventure brochures featuring two trail guides---a dog named Track and a dragonfly named Kip—who lead families on self-guided explorations. Participants are encouraged to track their adventure through online registration and earn points they use to claim prizes useful for future hikes.<sup>57</sup>

***Demand Standards for Natural Open Space:***

NRPA does not have a demand standard recommended for natural open space. Protection of natural resources, however, provides management of the natural or cultural environment as of primary importance. Recreation use is of secondary use but also important for those who know and enjoy the values of the natural setting. Natural open space, such as the Reecer Creek Restoration area, has added benefit and value to youth and students as they view and enjoy a natural setting with site improvements that displays the habitat and the preservation of the site for habitat protection. The current ratio of 70.0 acres per 1,000 for natural resources is sufficient now and will serve into the future unless substantial resources are identified to be in need of protection.

<sup>54</sup> 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan/Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

<sup>55</sup> Why Nature Is Good For the Brain(Even if we don't know what is Natural August 21, 2015

<sup>56</sup> Getting Families and Kids Healthy, on TRACK: Citizen Times 10.1.2014 by Marla Hardee Milling

<sup>57</sup> Kidsinparks.com/blue-ridge-parkway

**Table 4.12 Natural Open Space  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	1,321.37 Acres
Existing Sites	2 Parks
Existing ratio (ELOS)	70.0
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	<b>40.0</b>

Assessed Need:

Natural Open Space can be maintained at a lower cost than active use areas. The Natural Open spaces are a vital component of the health and well-being of the City. They provide for habitat protection but also through preservation and protection. An abundance of out-of-doors and trail corridors for health and recreational opportunities are retained and serve as a natural learning environment for youth and adults.

Sustainability/Reliability: Natural Open Space

Natural Open Space and public land that are considered Resource Conservancy can be maintained through partnerships with non-profit organizations which supplement the dedicated public funds. Kittitas County is surrounded by state and federal lands. Ellensburg has been fortunate to have state and federal agency assistance, expertise and resources with regard to the protection and enhancement needs in the natural areas.

**Table 4.13 Natural Open Space Recommendations**

<b>Natural Open Space</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Recommendations/Actions</b>
Naneum Watershed Natural Open Space	1,263.37	Retain the site and the lease agreement to serve as Natural open space for the City of Ellensburg. Continue with minor trail work on the park sites.
Reecer Creek Restoration	58.0	Continue to work with Mid-Columbia Fisheries on continued work on the Reecer Creek corridors. Continue to improve site soft surface trails and research parking options for the site off of the Dolarway Road.

Natural Open Space Observations:

Natural Open Space can be maintained through partnerships with non-profit organizations or Conservation Districts. The Kittitas County Conservation District works with many groups and agencies in the interest and involvement of watershed projects within the community and in Kittitas County. The USDA National Resources Conservation Services is located in Ellensburg. The Kittitas Conservation Trust (land trust) is in the county and helps to protect and enhance fish, wildlife and open space. The conservation group Forterra conserves lands to improve the quality of life for people in many communities and is also located in Kittitas County.

#### **#4.1-F: SPECIAL USE AREAS (Community Recreation Facility sites):**

The City of Ellensburg Special Use Areas include the four indoor recreation facilities are located throughout the City and the skatepark. The recreation facilities are located on 1.82 acres of parkland. They are the Adult Activity Center (.10-acres), Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool & Fitness Center (.08-acre), Racquet & Recreation Center (ERRC .57 –acres), the Skate Park (.66-acres), and the Stan Bassett Youth Center (.41-acres). The recreation programming and the level of serve for the facilities are discussed in section #4.2.

#### Questionnaire results

#### Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- Regarding future improvements open-ended comments, cited examples of facilities expressively needing improvement included the Racquet Center and City Pool.
- Children should not be forced into an unsafe building, and seniors should have access to space that can accommodate the increase in aging population.

#### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

#### **Question: What has changed over the past 10 years?**

- The Adult Activity Center has increased attendance, and with increased population in this age group there is a demand for more programs and services.
- Seniors are much more active in the community. In some cases though, there is a lack of senior accessibility.

#### **Question: What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?**

- Indoor facilities-Community Center.
- Racquet Center looks unsafe; soccer and gymnastics just shoved in there, poorly planned, roof leaks.
- Indoor facility for activities (other than the ERRC).

#### Trends:

- “Older residents (in Washington State) may retire, increasing the time and money they have available to participate in leisure activities.”<sup>58</sup>

#### ***Demand Standards for Special Use Areas:***

The parkland acreage that facilitates the location of recreation and community center is typically identified as the Special Use Areas. The demand standard differs in each community depending on what decisions have been made for the location of community facilities. Some recreation facilities are located on a particular piece of land, or they can also be located on parkland or within a parkland area, such as the Kittitas County Memorial Pool. Currently there are a total of 1.82 acres of Special Use Areas. The ELOS is 0.10 acres per 1,000 population. The level of service meets the existing need. In the future if the youth, senior and community recreation center moves forward with a combined, the PLOS could be identified as 0.06/1,000 population.

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<sup>58</sup> Executive Summary 2013-2018 Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**Table 4.14 Special Use Areas  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	1.82 acres
Existing Sites	5 sites
Existing ratio (ELOS)	0.10
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	<b>0.06</b>

Assessed Need:

- The use of land for primary and essential public facilities are valued sites for recreational programming and will continue to be a need for recreational programming into the future even as the existing facilities age and renovation or replacement is prioritized. Some of the existing recreational facilities have the option to be renovated or enlarged because the existing land is currently available, such as the parkland where the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center is located. The Adult Activity Center, located on just .10 acres, has outgrown their space to point where the City is looking at building a new, multifaceted facility (see section #4.2-C RECREATION CENTERS regarding the City Council formation of the Community Center Ad-Hoc Committee, which was formed to explore the feasibility of a new community center and Appendix C-3: Community Center Survey 2013).

**Table 4.15 Special Use Areas Recommendations**

Special Use Areas	Acres	Recommendations/Actions
Adult Activity Center	.10	The City Council appointed citizen committee's work will continue preparation of recommendations for a Community Center.
Memorial Pool/Fitness	.08	The community swimming pool will continue to be a vital recreation asset. The pool will continue to upgrading maintenance throughout the life of the facility.
Racquet & Recreation Ctr.	.57	The citizen questionnaire and input from the Community Workshops stressed the tremendous value of the indoor facility especially in Ellensburg with changing weather conditions. Seasonally this facility is a tremendous asset, but the community reflected the need for upgrade renovation and potential expansion of outdoor recreation facilities.
Skate Park	.66	.Additional skate park is included on the Kiwanis Park Master Plan. If Kiwanis plan is not approved than the existing park will need to be significantly upgraded.
Youth Center	.41	As with the Adult Activity Center, the programming demands from the community have affected the need for additional space and in the future the programmed could be located in a new community center.

#### #4.1-G: TRAILS & CONNECTIONS:

##### Questionnaire results

According to the park plan survey, new trails would be the top priority if funding were available. Using the PLOS of 2.40 miles per 1,000 population<sup>59</sup> there is an existing need for 27 additional miles and a total of 35 miles over the next twenty years.

In general, responses suggest a need for paved trails that connect users to neighborhoods and city destinations. Respondents indicated a high priority for paved trails (38%), and for creating connectivity in Ellensburg's trail system by linking neighborhoods with community destinations (33%) and by linking new trails to existing trails (22%).

Lack of trails and connections, lack of awareness of trail locations and lack of access are indicated as the most likely reasons respondents do not use the existing trails in Ellensburg. Safety concerns and lack of maintenance are not the major reasons preventing respondents from using trails in Ellensburg with only 3 % of the respondents indicating that they do not use pathways or trails for these reasons.

Survey responses indicate a strong interest in building the trail system and filling in existing gaps to complete community connections. Respondents indicated that the most important reasons to develop more trails in Ellensburg are for exercise and to increase non-motorized transportation options. Only 2% of respondents indicated that no additional trails are needed.

##### Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question "anything else you would like us to know"

"The freeway underpass linking West Ellensburg Park and Rinehart Park is great, providing safe and easy access to Rinehart Park"

- "Kudos for the expanded trails in the Reecer Creek floodplain"
- Of the 150 open-ended comments, a large percent stressed trails with comments such as: there is a need for more trails that connect and link throughout town and connections to regional and natural trails for hiking, biking, running, skiing and climbing. Trails are safe to use and are good exercise. They could even have work out stations placed every ¼-mile. Ellensburg has the potential to exceed other communities in the northwest in terms of trail access through continued development of new and connecting trails within the city limits and partnerships with land management agencies to continue nearby trail development as well as connection within city trails.

##### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- Street traffic (vehicular)...puts pressure on bike paths/pedestrians



<sup>59</sup> 2002 Adopted Ellensburg Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan 12 August 2002 page 61.

**Question:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

- Loop Trail around Ellensburg.
- More bike lanes downtown.
- More trails and parks.
- More bicycle trails.
- Access in and between parks.
- Bike safety.
- ADA access within parks and from park to park.
- Places for dog walking. Students have dogs. Development needed in northern part of town where student housing is concentrated. It also encourages intergenerational contact.
- Running/walking paths and courses (listed twice)
- Loop trail around Ellensburg.

**Question:** *What are group's ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- Bike trail from Irene Rinehart to Yakima Canyon.

**Trails & Connections Trends:**

- The 2013 SCORP found that the second most popular activity is “walking without a pet,” which reflects the same result from the 2006 survey.
- As a vital community resource, parks and recreation are central to the walking movement and have an opportunity to significantly impact public health and the environment.<sup>60</sup>
- Randy Martin’s presentation on Trails Lead to a “Fit” Community.<sup>61</sup> Was hosted by the American Trails.

***Demand Standards for Trails:***

In the 2002 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, and the plan update by way of reference to the 2006 City of Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan, it is not explicitly stated that the LOS for trails is a composite LOS for several types of non-motorized transportation and recreation trail facilities. These plans stated that the ELOS was 0.36 miles of trails for 1,000 population with a recommend standard of .34 miles of trails per thousand. The 2002 Park Plan on page 61 also identified soft surface trails at a PLOS of 2.40/1,000. The 18.59 miles of existing trails creates an existing ELOS at 0.98 miles per 1,000 population. Based on the community input and the statewide recreational demand for continued trail development, retaining the existing level of service of 0.98 mile per 1,000 population would call for a need of a total of 26 miles within the next ten years and in twenty years 32 total miles. These increases could meet the local community trails need. It is important to note that trails have various levels of development for various types of trails. They can be soft surface or hard surface with internal loop trails within the park system and can further expand the need for regional trails that connect the University with the local neighborhoods and the downtown core. Many respondents stated that they desire to see the completion of a regional trail that travels into the Yakima Canyon and provides additional access to the statewide Iron Horse Trail/John

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<sup>60</sup> The [Surgeon General’s Call to Action on Walking and Walkable Communities](#) calls on park and recreation professionals to get citizens involved in walking.

<sup>61</sup> By Randy Martin <http://www.trailscapeinc.com/contact.php> Hosted by: American Trails Association.

Wayne Trail with trailheads located within the city. Knowing and listening to the community, the city could also approve the retention of the 2002 PLOS of 2.40 miles/1000 PLOS. This would provide the benefits of working with various local, state and federal funding sources to complete a vast and linking trail system throughout the city and links into the Kittitas Valley. Using the PLOS of 2.40 miles per 1,000 population<sup>62</sup> there is an existing need for 27 additional miles and a total of 35 miles over the next twenty years.

**Table 4.15 Trails & Connections  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	18.59 miles
Existing Sites	15
Existing ratio (ELOS)	.98 miles
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	0.98 to 2.40/1000 <sup>63</sup>

Assessed Need:

The City of Ellensburg and the citizens have actively involved themselves in the creation of future trails that traverse the city and loop and connect important community parks, locations and features throughout the city and surrounding UGA. Citizens and elected officials continue to work with key constituents and agencies to make a future network of trails become a reality. As realized through the public process of this Plan, trails are identified as a priority for those who live within the city limits but also for those who live in the UGA and in the county areas. Therefore the need for trails as stated by the public includes a wide range of need for trails that serve the public with connecting loops, linkages and use for all forms of travel either by walking, running, biking or hiking. City, county and state trail systems all provide benefits and the critical element are the financial resources to design, construct, and complete the linkages.

Sustainability/Reliability: Trails & Connections

NRPA research points out that<sup>64</sup> *“Trails in neighborhoods increase real estate values for adjacent properties. On average, homes that are located near trails are more likely to sell in a shorter period of time than homes not in close proximity to a trail.”*

- The 2006 Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan update (amended thru 2013) stated that the 1995 plan directed the city to “Focus on development of a major non-motorized pathway segment connecting Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park with the Rodeo/Fairgrounds.”<sup>65</sup>
- The following goals in the City Comprehensive Plan state<sup>66</sup>:  
Goal T-1.B: Establish additional logical access of the established street system for bicycle and foot traffic: #1: Implement the non-motorized transit plan. #2 Identify

<sup>62</sup> 2002 Adopted Ellensburg Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan 12 August 2002 page 61.

<sup>63</sup> “a composite LOS for several types of non-motorized transportation and recreation trail facilities” (2002 & 2006 Adopted Comprehensive Plans.

<sup>64</sup> NRPA Active Transportation & Parks and Recreation [Trails & Greenways Clearinghouse. 2007 Economic Benefits of Trails and Greenways]

<sup>65</sup> The 2008 updated Non-motorized was incorporated into the adopted Comprehensive Plan by reference.

<sup>66</sup> Pages 111,116 121

trail easements and develop an effective maintenance strategy, including a reliable source of funding.

Goal T-10- A: #3: Build streets, trails, linear parks, and pathways to connect neighborhoods, schools, parks and commercial areas as both recreation and transportation facilities.

**Table 4.15 Trails and Connections Recommendations**

FUTURE TRAILS	Miles
The Ellensburg Greenway John Wayne Trail Reconnection <sup>67</sup> (see map below northern loop around city.)	6.0
River to Rodeo Trail IRRP/Rotary at 5 <sup>th</sup> to the Fairgrounds and JWT	12.0
McCabe Ringer Loop	.80
<b>City to Canyon Trail: See Map 4.1 from 2009 :A Concept Plan for City-to-Canyon Trails</b>	
<b>NOTE: Trail Sections listed below are located on the City-to-Canyon Trail corridor:</b>	
Reecer Creek Trail	3.5
City Parks Trail (Reecer Creek Trail to BOR Wetlands)	1.2
Bureau of Reclamation Trail	1.3
Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Trails (McCabe Park)	½ mil-4
Spray Fields Trail (BOR-Hanson pits)	0.4
Hanson Pits Trail and Spray Fields	0.95
Wetlands Trail	1.40
River Walk Trail	<u>1.60</u>
<b>Total Miles of Planned Trails</b>	<b>29.15</b>

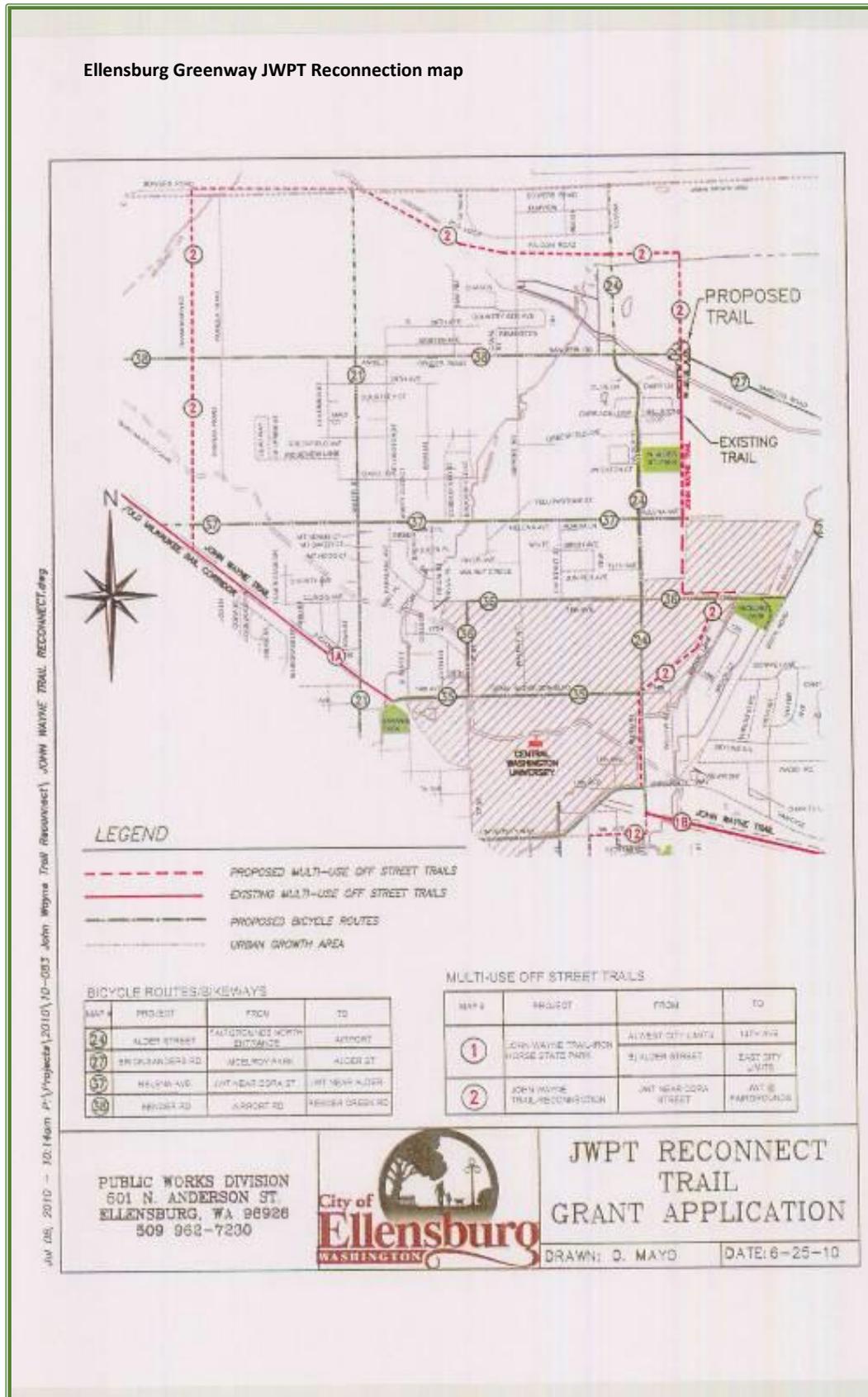
Trails & Connections Observations:

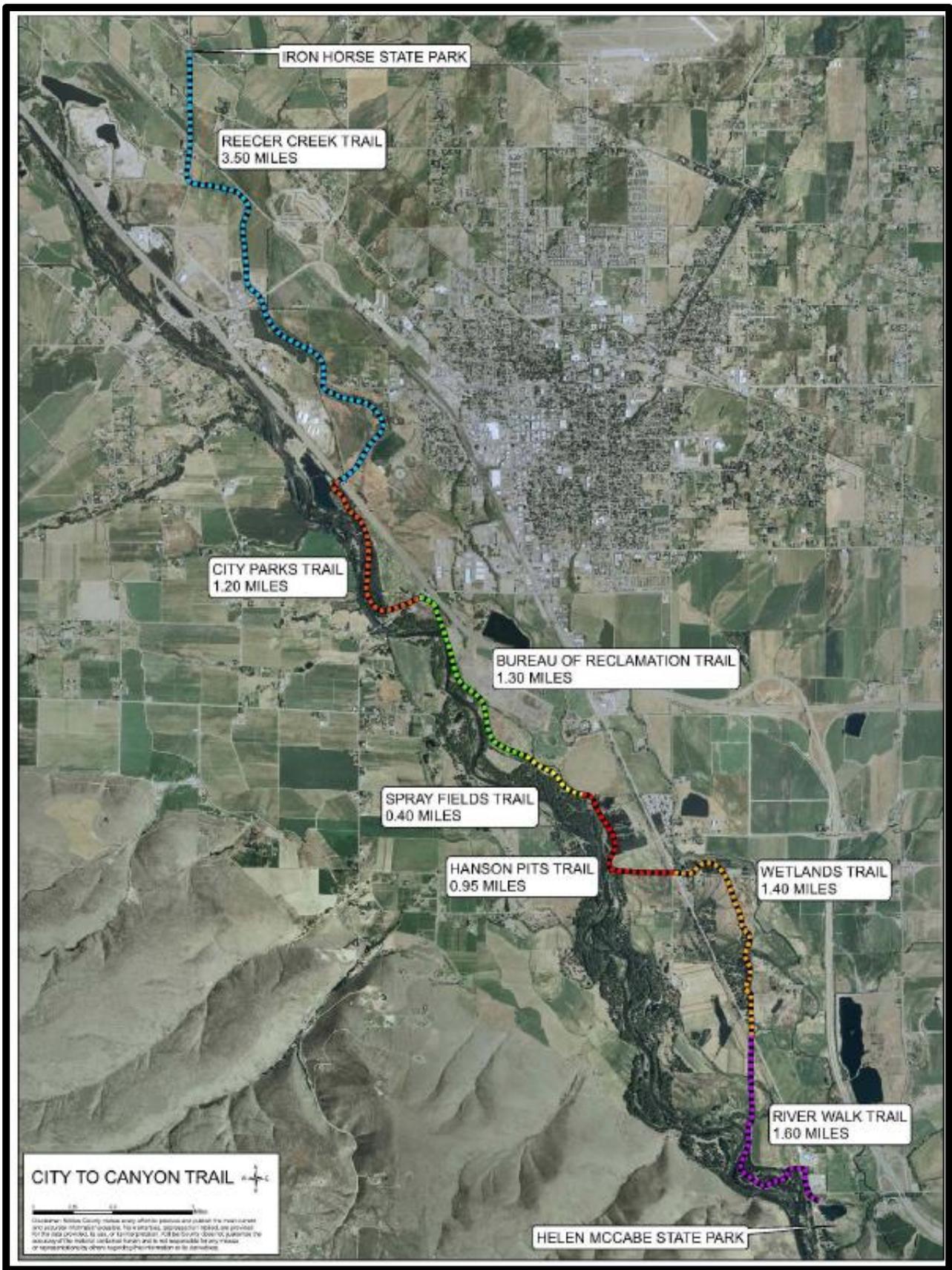
- The City needs to continue to work on the identified future trails throughout the city and to look into the future for additional links.
- The City of Ellensburg 2009 Draft Concept Plan **City-to-Canyon Trails** on (page 34 and 35) lists and identifies the coordination of the many plans and policies supporting the citywide trail system. Those listed include the 2006 City Comprehensive and Parks and Recreation Plans, the 2008 City Non-motorized Transportation Plan, the 2009-2011 BLM Management Plan and the 2007 Kittitas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.
- As identified in the City of Ellensburg Non-Motorized Plan, “The non-motorized transportation benefits for the community include the following: 1.41 Transportation Mobility 1.42 Health 1.43 Economic 1.4.4 Quality of life 1.4.5 Environment and 1.4.6 Safety. The plan footnote(3) page 1-5 states “Land-use decisions are just as much public health decisions as are decisions about food preparation.... We must be alert to the health benefits, including less stress, lower blood pressure, and overall improved physical and mental health, that can result when people live and work in accessible, safe, well-designed , thoughtful structures and landscapes.”<sup>68</sup>

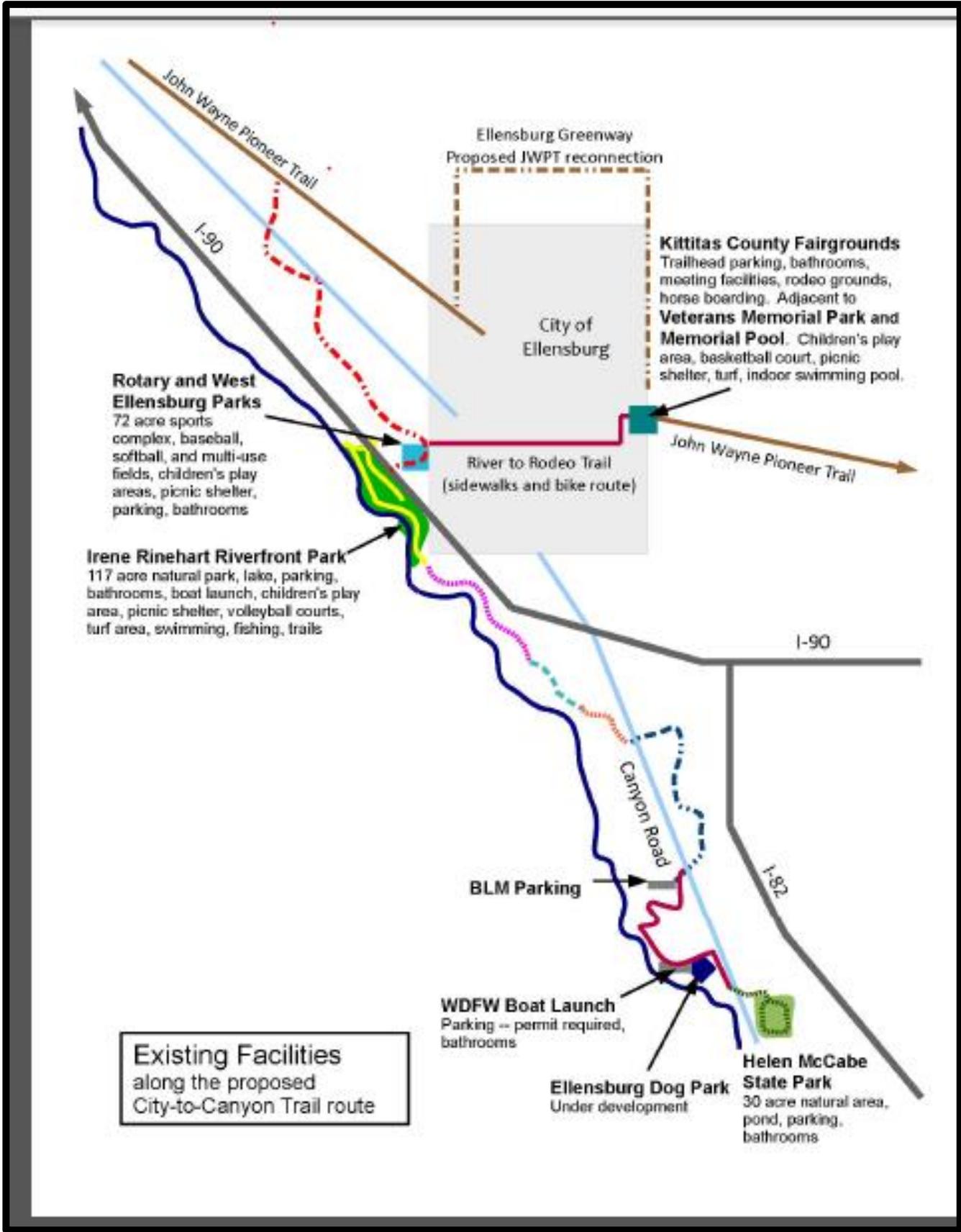
<sup>67</sup> City of Ellensburg Nonnotarized Transportation Plan Page3-20 Table 3.2 Chapter Recommendation 2.2.1a “Improve the John Wayne Trail as it passes through Ellensburg” with seven defined prioritized summary of recommendations

<sup>68</sup> Ellensburg Non-motorized Transportation Plan: footnote #3: Jackson, Richard J. MD, MPH, Director, and CED’s National Center for Environmental Health. “Creating a Healthy Environment: The Impact of the Built Environment on Public Health.: <http://.cdc.gov/healthplaces/articles/Creation%20A%20Healthy%20Environment.pdf>

**Ellensburg Greenway JWPT Reconnection map**







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## **#4.2: RECREATION FACILITIES**

Specific needs for a number of types of parks facilities, or amenities were selected to be highlighted as a community need. Table 4.9 is a summary of existing facilities and the Level-of-Service (LOS) guidelines for need and demand per 1,000 population. The assessed need reflects existing inventory, public input and priority interest from national or state trends. Citizens of the city as well as Kittitas County residents and visitors enjoy the facilities provided by the City of Ellensburg. On the following pages, the identified facilities include:

- A. Playgrounds
- B. Tennis
- C. Recreation Centers
- D. Sports Fields
- E. Skate Park/BMX
- F. Other Specialized Facilities

### **#4.2-A: PLAYGROUNDS**

There are six playgrounds in the Ellensburg park system. Currently there is a need for four additional playgrounds. The existing level of Service (ELOS) is 0.3 per 1,000 population and the Planned Level of Service (PLOS) is 1.18 per 1,000 to meet future demands. There are also playgrounds at the elementary schools that are available for public use during unrestricted times. The parks facilities with playgrounds include:

- Kiwanis
- North Alder Street
- Rotary
- West Ellensburg
- Veterans Memorial
- Lions Mt. View



#### **Questionnaire results**

- When asked about frequency of participation in activities, (Q12) “visiting and playing on playgrounds” ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 32 recreation activities. The respondents indicated they participated in the activity “once a week or more.”
- Nearly two-thirds of the respondents (65%) identified themselves as being at least 35 years of age which represents the age category of parents of young families.
- The “pin” map (page 4) (Q2) reflects that responses came from individuals who live near to a neighborhood park in the City of Ellensburg.

#### **Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”**

- The existing play structures need to be upgraded or added to.
- There are not many choices for elementary aged kids. Most are geared toward smaller children.

- More play structures like the ones at the Alder Street Park are needed and a splash pad would be awesome!
- Increased play toys and swings at all parks would be a treat.
- More pre-K friendly parks and play structures please.
- I feel we don't have any parks located at the north end of town (off Water)
- I think an indoor playground would be a great option for families for inclement weather.
- After moving to Ellensburg I was very disappointed with the playground equipment.
- Ellensburg has so many young children and there are very few parks with swings or nice play structures. It's very disappointing!!!

Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- Increased youth in the community.
- CWU enrollment has risen and integrated into the city park system. Students with young families are involved with park activities.
- Demographics with more young families north of Helena.

**Question:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

- Benches and tables at all parks, especially near playgrounds.
- ADA access within parks and from park to park.

Playground Trends:

- Playgrounds promote social interaction and foster youth development.
- *The Genius of Play* by author Sally Jenkinson (2001) concurs: "Success in social play, skill in the use of good interventions, good interactions, and flexibility all develop social competence and prepare the child not only for integration into the school but also for life itself."
- Obesity now affects 17% of all children and adolescents in the United States-triple the rate from just one generation ago.<sup>69</sup>
- Playground use was listed as one of the top Ten Outdoor Recreation Activities in SCORP
- In the 10 strategic initiatives of the Kittitas County Public Health Department is Goal #3 which is to increase and strengthen existing Chronic Disease Prevention programs. One of which is "*Fitness to Fun:*" *Advocate to promote quick, fun movement sessions that parents can do with their children.*<sup>70</sup>
- According to the *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans*, children and adolescents should participate in physical activity for at least 60 minutes every day.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>69</sup> 2014 Preventing Childhood Obesity: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<sup>70</sup> Strategic Plan 2015-2019 Kittitas County Public Health Department (Appendix C: Goal 3 bullet 3 Employee Input short & long term goals.

<sup>71</sup> CED Childhood Obesity: [www.cdc.gov/obesity/children/current](http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/children/current) facts 2014

***Demand Standards for Playgrounds:***

The service area for playgrounds or children’s play areas is ½-mile radius which is the same as that of a neighborhood park. There are six playgrounds throughout the City of Ellensburg park system. Using the ELOS per 1,000 citizens, the City of Ellensburg has 0.3 playgrounds for 1,000 citizens. Applying the current number of playgrounds (6) times the 2036 future population (33,000) and the LOS to the current population (18,810), there is a current need for four additional playgrounds.

**Table 4.16 Playgrounds  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	6 sets
Existing ratio (ELOS)	0.3/ 1,000
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	<b>0.18/1,000</b>

**Assessed Need:**

The current need is for four additional playgrounds throughout the City, which would give the City a total of 10 playgrounds. Using the PLOS of 0.18 per 1,000 population; a total of 10 new playgrounds will need to be installed to meet the demand of the 2036 estimated population.

**Sustainability/Reliability: Playgrounds:**

The annual maintenance and inspection of the playgrounds is the responsibility of the Park Maintenance Division. Playground inspections are performed by trained individuals certified under the NRPA National Playground Safety-Training Program complete inspections. Playgrounds require frequent maintenance and scheduled replacement. Playgrounds are managed under the Playground Safety Standards with guidelines from the American Society of Testing Materials and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Safety surfacing is maintained at an appropriate depth under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

**Playgrounds Observations:**

Elementary school play equipment can accommodate the need for additional playgrounds in addition to those at the city neighborhood parks. When schools play equipment is used to establish the LOS, it is important to remember that school playground access is limited when schools are in session.

## #4.2-B: TENNIS

The existing level of service (ELOS) is 0.11 per 1,000 population, to meet the future demand a planned level of service of 0.60 per 1,000 is recommended. This means that counting the city's 2 indoor tennis courts, which are located five miles east of town at the ERRC, there is a need for 9 additional tennis courts. Many respondents and citizens who attended the community workshops expressed the need for additional upgraded or new tennis courts in Ellensburg.

### Questionnaire results

- When respondents were asked how often you do “participate” in a list of general recreation activities (Q12) versus “you would most like to do” mentions of tennis remained unchanged regardless of barriers.<sup>72</sup> This may indicate that tennis will continue to be supported despite a lack of adequate existing facilities.
- In the 57 open-ended responses to the question (Q19) “What additional recreation programs should city offer or expand,” some of the most common responses cited the ERRC facility and the need for indoor and outdoor tennis courts.
- Some suggested expansion of the ERRC facility with the addition of indoor and outdoor courts.
- Respondents were very clear that the facility needs upgrading and renovating.

### Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- Please put in new tennis courts for the public.
- Central tennis courts are always packed in the afternoon with high school and college practice. Can never play or will be kicked off courts after 30 min or less. It's beyond irritating.
- There is a large adult and pre-adult tennis community here in Ellensburg that would be much larger if it had adequate facilities.
- Ellensburg is really lacking in tennis facilities when compared with other similar sized communities.
- Since we tennis players are so lacking in facilities here we have no opportunity or reason to form groups.
- The tennis courts at the ERRC are in poor shape and competing with other activities like the batting cage and the soccer court are very distracting.
- Tennis is a good life sport that does not need a large number of people to participate.
- Tennis allows for young and old to play together for fun and should be more promoted in our community.
- We should not have to rely on using the courts at CWU, as the students there paid for their use and should not have to share with city residents.

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<sup>72</sup> Tennis retains unchanged between currently “participates” and “desires” to participate.

Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** What has changed over the past 10 years?

- Demographic changing-students, families, seniors; Ellensburg retirement-as a result of economic change.
- Population growth on the north end-what developments will serve the need?

**Question:** What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?

- Tennis courts was listed three times.
- Tennis courts and handball courts.
- Tennis Center ERRC is in poor repair and is used by too many other groups, very little opportunity to play...actually play tennis.
- Need Tennis Court Complex-lighted.
- Handball and Pickleball courts.

**Question:** What are group's ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?

- Tennis courts-city courts in & out of city limits.

Tennis Court Trends & Opportunities

- USTA's Facility Assistance Program can offer your community financial assistance on renovation, repair or new tennis court construction. The USTA recognizes the importance of making financial investments in the infrastructure of tennis facilities to foster the sport's continued growth through community assistance with technical and financial resources.
- The USTA will partner with communities to help get more kids and families playing tennis by helping to fund the addition of 36- and 60-foot courts. Smaller courts are easier for beginner players to cover, leading to more early success when they play. When it's easier to play, players develop a love for the sport right from the start! The USTA will match dollar for dollar with the investment capped at \$4,000.
- There are USTA grants available under the Playground Line Grants. The grant funds the painting of 36 foot and 60-foot tennis lines on playgrounds, parking lots and other flat surfaces, and they are willing to paint three courts.
- In this category, USTA will again match dollar for dollar on the investment capped at \$4,000.
- Tennis in the Parks is a partnership between the USTA and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for the purpose of providing ideas and resources to grow tennis programming in public parks across the nation, as well as helping public parks create programs that are affordable and self-sustaining. (TIP) and all associated program resources are FREE to eligible agencies that are committed to growing and improving tennis programs and infrastructure in the community. Simply browse the sections in the USTA or NRPA web sites to find the resources to help you grow the game in your park.

***Demand Standards for Tennis:***

Ellensburg has two indoor tennis courts for the public. The two heated courts are located in the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center (ERRC). There are four courts at the Morgan Middle school but they are in poor shape. There are eight courts at the Ellensburg High

School which are currently in unusable condition. CWU has eight new courts on campus that are primarily used by CWU students, but the Ellensburg High School tennis team is allowed to use them for practices and home matches and they are open to the public for free during non-programmed CWU & EHS times. All 8 courts are lit which allows for extended play. The NRPA Standards are 0.50 courts per 1,000 population.

**Table 4.18 Tennis  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	2 courts
Existing Sites	Indoor ERRC
Existing ratio (ELOS)	0.11/1,000
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	<b>0.60/1000</b>

Assessed Need:

There is a current need for 11 tennis courts in Ellensburg. Counting the city’s 2 indoor tennis courts, there is a need for 9 additional courts. If the 8 courts at the high school were made playable, there would be a current inventory of 10 courts between the school and city which would come close to addressing the current need. By 2036, a total of 20 tennis courts will be needed to meet need. The CWU tennis courts are at times available for use by the public which helps with the current demand and need but it is important to understand that the student population has primary use and that community use is secondary.

Sustainability/Reliability: Tennis

- Research has found that early positive experiences in sports create a lifelong commitment to an active lifestyle. Tennis is fun for kids of all ages and levels; with minimal risk of injury the sport provides many social, health, and psychological benefits.<sup>73</sup>
- To fully understand the process by which communities receive assistance from the USTA and what is expected from communities, please review the [2015 USTA National Guide To Facility Assistance](#).

Tennis Observations:

Citizens expressed the desire to have additional opportunities to play tennis. If the school district courts (8) can be refurbished, USTA provides grant-match funds to help get courts back in shape. Another future option could be the construction of new courts if a community center is built. Courts could be a part of the project plans. Discussion of this option by the public who attended the community workshop identified the location of the courts at Mt. View Park, regardless is if a recreation center is sited there. Another option would be to expand at the ERRC, there is a little over 1 acre of vacant city-owned land next to the Center. Financial disparity is consistently identified as a significant barrier to multicultural players getting into the sport. To help boost tennis participation among aspiring multicultural

<sup>73</sup> USTA: <http://www.youthtennis.com> 2015 Youth Tennis Research: Youth Benefits of social, health and psychological needs.

players, the USTA created the Multicultural Grants Program, which offers grants to programs and individual players from the USTA at: [Learn more about these grants.](#)

#### **#4.2-C: RECREATION CENTERS:**

The City of Ellensburg provides a wide variety of traditional recreation program for adults and youth in a number of typical recreation categories which are listed in Table 3.6. The recreation programs for senior adults are held in the Adult Activity Center. Pre-teens and teen programs are at the Stan Bassett Youth Center. The Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center provides for a variety of indoor recreation: soccer, tennis, racquet-ball, fitness, hockey, skating, batting practice and indoor walking. The Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool provides community swimming and swim lessons plus a fitness area with exercise equipment.

Ellensburg does not have a traditional recreation community center that provides for recreational programs, community events and meetings for all ages. The existing Level-of-Service (ELOS) is 3.0 per 1,000 population, retaining the ELOS of 3.0 as the Planned Level of Service (PLOS) is recommended. A 45,000 square foot, standalone community center will meet the current needs for a recreation center with space and amenities for a variety of program and facility offerings. If the population of the City of Ellensburg grows as predicted, the demand for indoor recreational space will continue to grow. If the population grows as predicted and the city maintains its PLOS of 3.0sf. per 1,000 population, the need for recreation center space will increase to 75,000 sf.<sup>74</sup> in the next 10 years and to 95,000<sup>75</sup>sf. in the next 20 years.

In 2010, a grassroots effort started by a group of citizens began to plan for a new comprehensive community center in Ellensburg. In 2013, the City Council formed the Community Center Ad-Hoc Committee and appointed 14 citizens to further explore the feasibility of a new community center. Areas to explore were:

- Recommend a location for the new center.
- Determine the types of program and services the new center would provide.
- Develop cost estimates for construction and operation of the new center.

*“The new center could include amenities such as a dedicated youth and teen program area that would replace the existing Stan Bassett Youth Center, dedicated Adult Activity Center program area that would replace the existing Adult Activity Center, gymnasium, meeting rooms, commercial kitchen, community office space, performing arts space and banquet room.”<sup>76</sup>*

#### Questionnaire results

- In regard to (Q19), if funding were available, a citywide trail system (32%) and a multipurpose community/recreation/senior center (26%) were the highest priorities for respondents. Both types of facilities were also top responses in the 2002 Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan survey.

<sup>74</sup> 2025:75,000 sf. estimates include: ERRC 27,132 Memorial Swimming Pool 17,430, and Recreation Center 45,000sf.

<sup>75</sup> 2035:99,000sf. estimates include: ERRC 27,132 Memorial Swimming Pool 17,430, and Recreation Center 45,000 with an additional need of 10,000sf.of additional community center space.

<sup>76</sup> Introduction Statement of the 2013 Community Center Survey

- When asked what facilities you would most like to see in an indoor recreation center (Q27, 44% said a muse gymnasium followed by a weight/fitness room (23%). Though spaces for kids and teens did not rank high in this question, results from other questions suggest a need for spaces dedicated for youth, seniors and teens for activities that include sports and programming. Alternatively, a multi-use gymnasium could be designed to accommodate a wider range of age groups.
- The majority of the respondents (85%) indicated that parks and recreation programs are important to the overall quality of life in Ellensburg.
- Overall, Figure 5 (Q14) shows that more than half of respondents occasionally rely on other public/private recreational facilities. Nearly half of the respondents said they use the “public schools,” “Central Washington University” and “private membership clubs.”
- When asked what additional recreation programs you feel the city should offer or expand (Q19), of the 57 responses there were a number of suggestions for programs that could be provided at a new recreation center. These include: family oriented programs, adult exercise, more kid’s programs, indoor basketball court, indoor walking area, pickle ball, more high school teen programs and creation of tennis teams.

Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- We need an indoor sports facility for youth sports as well as adult leagues.
- Greater focus/funding on public exercise facilities and programs is important for creating and maintaining a healthy community.
- It would be nice to have a large indoor area for walking during hot summer days, cold winter days and on windy days.
- We need an indoor sports facility for youth sports as well as adult leagues.
- Seniors should have access to space that can accommodate the growing aging population with equipment that is not falling apart.
- I would really like to see a dedicated facility that would allow for indoor soccer, roller hockey and roller derby.
- Ideally a multi-purpose facility that could be used as an ice rink during the winter and roller hockey/derby rink in the summer would be ideal.
- Would like to see an ice rink or a better maintained inline hockey skating area. The one at Mt. View Park is pretty ragged.
- I think the city has an incredible resource in the ERRC. It provides an appropriate mix of sports opportunities. One of the drawbacks is the overall quality of the facility. Over the past 10-15 years spending significant time at the facility, little improvement in cleanliness or quality has occurred. The restrooms are inadequate, and the overall fit and finish of the building, for if improved, could support various types of events such as tennis and soccer tournaments, gymnastic meets, racquet ball and handball tournaments. All examples would draw large crowds and provide return on investment of the facility improvements and endless benefits especially in the winter months.

Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- Seniors are more active and older populations are retiring in Ellensburg.
- Increased youth in the community.

**Question:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

- Indoor facilities-Community Center.
- ERRC looks unsafe, soccer and gymnastics just shoved in there, very little opportunity to play and roof leaks.
- Indoor Facility for activities (other than the Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center).
- Tennis Center ERRC is in poor repair and is used by too many other groups, very little opportunity to play...actually play tennis.

**Question:** *What are group's ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- Indoor multi-sport facility similar to racquet Club with climbing wall and gym space.

Community Center/Recreation Programming Trends

Top Trends in Recreation Programing: <sup>77</sup>

- The Center for Disease Control recommends that community programs provide a range of developmentally appropriate community sports and recreation programs that are attractive to all young people.
- Being physically active is one of the most important steps that you can take to improve your health. Bone-strengthening suggestions for youth include hopping, skipping, jumping rope, running and sports such as gymnastics, basketball, volleyball and tennis.<sup>78</sup>
- The #1 trend is: Health and fitness. As an example, Parks and Recreation programs have begun to take a more active role in community health and fitness in Everett, Washington. The Parks and Recreation partnered with seven other organizations to sponsor "Get Movin" campaign. The summer program targeted inactive children. Those who were active at least 20 minutes a day three times a week received prizes which included free swimming, climbing and ice-skating lessons. The community mobilized a "get fit" effort with its "Walk a Hound, lose a Pound" event (7-mile walk, bike, skate).
- The increase in senior adults is being fueled, in part, by baby boomers approaching retirement. This population generally is healthier and more active than any previous generation of seniors, and they will continue seeking engaging recreational experiences.

***Demand Standards for Recreation Centers:***

A traditional recreation center would meet the needs for recreational programming and classes. It will serve as the new facility for the Adult Activity Center and the youth programs from the Stan Bassett Youth Center, as well as provide community meeting rooms like the Hal Homes room at the library. NRPA does not have a listing for recreation center levels of

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<sup>77</sup> <http://.lern.org/blog/2014/07/07/top-trends-in-recreation-programing>

<sup>78</sup> Aerobic, Muscle-Bone Strengthening: What Counts? CDC

service. NRPA does list a combination of indoor activities (basketball, gym volleyball at 2.35 sf per 1,000 population). The existing Level-of- Service is 3.0 which is comparable to other eastern Washington cities. Retaining the ELOS of 3.0 is recommended as it represents continuing and future needs. At this point in the process there hasn't been much discussion as to whether the City would retain the ERRC with the addition of the community center.

**Table 4.20 Recreation Centers  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	57,610sf. <sup>79</sup>
Existing Sites	six
Existing ratio (ELOS)	3.0 /1000
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	<b>3.0sf./ 1,000</b>

Assessed Need:

A standalone 45,000 square feet a community center offering meeting space, a variety of programs and facility offerings will meet the current recreation center needs of the community. It will also provide for the growing need of additional senior and youth programs. If the population of the City of Ellensburg grows as predicted, the demand for indoor recreational space will continue to be needed, if the population grows as predicted and the city maintains its PLOS of 3.0sf. per 1,000 population, the need for recreation center space will increase to a total of 75,000 sf.<sup>80</sup> in the next 10 years to a total of 95,000<sup>81</sup>sf. within the next 20 years.

Sustainability/Reliability: Recreation Centers

The recreational programing provided in the citywide community recreation center is substantial. The City of Ellensburg is a major provider of recreational programs serving the citizens throughout the UBA and also those living throughout Kittitas County. The city recreational center programs include youth and teens, adults and seniors with activities and programs at the Adult Activity Center, the Stan Bassett Youth Center, the Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center and Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool.

The City of Ellensburg in the appointment of the Community Center Ad-Hoc Committee will report on the feasibility of recreation facilities to meet future needs for community program space.

Observations

The City of Ellensburg community has recognized the need for a community center. The community-wide survey results favored a Community Center. (Appendix C-2) The city's existing recreation centers are active and the youth and senior center facilities are utilized at capacity for the existing square foot size of the facilities. The Adult Activity Center has

<sup>79</sup> 57,610 sf estimates include: ERRC 27,132; Memorial Swimming Pool 17,430; Hal Holmes 3,348; Stan Bassett Youth Center 6,120; Adult Senior Activity Center 3,580.

<sup>80</sup> 2025:75,000 sf. estimates include: ERRC 27,132 Memorial Swimming Pool 17,430, and Recreation Center 45,000sf.

<sup>81</sup> 2035:99,000sf. estimates include: ERRC 27,132 Memorial Swimming Pool 17,430, and Recreation Center 45,000 with an additional need of 10,000sf.of additional community center space.

overgrown its physical site and the demand for more programs and services continues to grow. The Stan Bassett Youth Center is an aged facility that provides a variety of programs for youth with a continued demand for more programs and facility space. The city council appointed citizen committee continues to work on completing a recommendation for a future community center in Ellensburg.

The city is also fortunate to have a 25m Indoor pool with hot tub, training pool, wet/dry sauna, fitness center, play shower and 1m diving board. It also has a fitness center equipped with 2 elliptical trainers and 2 treadmills. The NRPA standard is 1 pool per 20,000 population. The Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool currently meets the recommended standard.

The Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center is also a unique community recreation facility serving the citizens with an indoor year-round facility. ERRC serves the public during the hot summer days and the cold winter season with heated tennis courts, racquetball courts, exercise equipment and programs that include hockey, skating, batting practice and indoor walking for fitness. The ERRC is located on city land with just over 1 ½ - acres of undeveloped property to the east. As the population grows in the City of Ellensburg the undeveloped property could be used for expansion of indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities. Working with citizens and elected officials, a 'Facility Needs Assessment' would need to be approved which could study key elements such as facility vision and goals, facility space needs, total project budget, development of a sustainable business plan, site concept plan and funding strategy.

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## #4.2-D: SPORTS FIELDS

The City needs to keep the existing 7 baseball fields to meet the demand in the future. They need to add 1 softball field, soccer field, retain the 10 modified soccer fields, and volleyball court to meet future demand. As identified in the 'Facilities Inventory' on Table 3.5, there are seven baseball fields: three are full size; four are youth size. The City also has two full size soccer fields and ten modified fields. There are two regulation size adult softball fields at Rotary Park. Adjacent to the park is West Ellensburg Park. On a seasonal basis portable soccer fields are used by the local junior soccer association, Ellensburg School District, adult soccer leagues and drop-in play at Mt. View Park. In the community on-lines survey, a number of the open responses of feedback included the recommendation to add lights to the sports complex at Rotary Park indicating that it would expand play and provide the opportunity for tournament play. Respondents also encouraged the addition and completion of the fields identified in the adopted site plan for Rotary Park.

### Questionnaire results

- Respondents expressed a need for more recreation opportunities for children and families.
- When asked in the survey (Q 21 Table 15) what role should the city assume in organized youth sports and sports facilities, 39% stated it was to develop sports fields and share maintenance responsibilities with private groups- the city's current role.
- In the community on-lines survey, a number of the open responses of feedback included the recommendation to add lights to the sports complex at Rotary Park indicating that it would expand play and provide the opportunity for tournament play. Respondents also encouraged the addition and completion of the fields identified in the adopted site plan for Rotary Park.

### Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question "anything else you would like us to know"

- Great facilities and very positive experiences with sports programs. Thank you.
- Please put up lights at the baseball fields, both the high school field and Little League fields. This would expand many more options for these activities.

### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

#### **Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- The development of Rotary Park has facilitated high turnout of youth/adult activities.
- Increased youth in the community.
- CWU young families are involved in park activities, sites & programs.

#### **Question:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

- All weather facility (artificial field turf for soccer, baseball, rugby, lacrosse and football was listed twice.)

#### **Question:** *What are group's ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- Multiple field turf facilities for soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse and football.
- Use of full cut-off lighting-reduction of urban glow/shields and amiable lights.

Sports Fields Trends

- The 2013 RCO SCORP *Outdoor Recreation in Washington* key recommendations in Chapter 7 note that the promotion of outdoor recreation provides economic benefits and contributed 22.5-million dollars in consumer spending to Washington’s economy. Chapter 1 shows that “outdoor recreation is a major economic engine that produces jobs and tax revenues, especially in local economies and in many instances in rural areas where these jobs and tax revenues are needed.”
- 14.74-million people played soccer in the last 12 months.<sup>82</sup>
- Listed by Region, In Washington State in 2014 there were 100,170 youth players.<sup>83</sup>
- According to the Sports Goods Manufacturers’ Association (SGMA), the *Trends in Team Sports Report* indicated that after two years of negative participation growth for most of the mainstream. Team sports, the past few years have brought a turnaround in participation of sports like tackle football, soccer, basketball and baseball. While working from a small base in some cases, niche sports such as lacrosse, rugby, track and field and ultimate Frisbee are seeing double digit increases in participation.

**Demand Standards for Sports Fields:**

While the NRPA standard for baseball, soccer and softball is ¼ to ½ mile radius, many communities accept a ½-mile to 1-mile distance of travel. This is the current standard for Ellensburg as it is within the service area for the city. Many communities currently develop sports fields as a complex. Ellensburg has done so at the Rotary Park site. Complex sites are easier to manage and cost less for operation and maintenance. They also provide the benefit of having the general public and ball players located at one major facility.

**Table 4.24 Sports Fields  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory		ELOS	PLOS	Current Need	Present Ratio per 1,000 population	Future need
Baseball Fields [3full /4 youth]	7 fields	.04/1,000	0.21/1000	4.0 fields	0.37 fields/1,000	7.0 Fields
Softball Fields	2	0.21/1,000	0.61/1,000	1.2 fields	0.12 fields/1,000	3.0 Fields
Soccer Fields full size	2	0.11/1,000	.61/1,000	.1.2 fields	0.12 fields/1,000	3.0 Fields
Soccer Fields Modified	10+	53.1/1,000	.30/1,000	5.6	0.53 fields/1,000	5.0 Fields

<sup>82</sup> 2015 Report STATISTA [www.statista.com/statistics](http://www.statista.com/statistics)

<sup>83</sup> US Youth Soccer: [www.usyouthsoccer.org](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org)

### Assessed Need:

The existing inventory for sports fields is shown in Table 4.24. The number of fields and courts are listed. The existing number of the specific fields/courts is divided by the future population, and the demand standard per 1,000 population is calculated. The demand standard is applied to the current population to determine the current need. As noted in Table 4.25, the current inventory of fields and courts meets the current population demand. In the future, though, there is a need of additional softball and soccer fields and volleyball courts.

### Sustainability/Reliability: Sports Fields

- In response to the Community Questionnaire, more than one-third of respondents indicated that the city should maintain its current role in organized youth sports and to develop sites and share maintenance responsibilities of sports fields.
- About one in six respondents believe that the city's role should expand to include developing and managing sports fields and sports leagues.
- Sustaining sports fields and working with community partnerships will support the sustainability of the existing and future fields.

### Sports Fields Observations:

In 2012 the City of Ellensburg adopted the Rotary Park Expansion Master Plan for the entire regional park site. Sports fields were a number one priority on the site, but the adopted Master Plan also looked at the existing adjacent fields at the West Ellensburg neighborhood park. The plan defined the expansion and the priority of completion of the identified fields and other facilities at the complex. When looking at the anticipated population growth for not only the City of Ellensburg but also Kittitas County, the need for additional sports fields will become a reality. Teams grow as new citizens settle in the valley. If lighting of the fields becomes a site feature, the playability of the existing and future fields can extend the season particularly in the early fall months.

## #4.2-E: SKATE PARK/ BMX

### Questionnaire results

- Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” responses if none of the choices for recreation activities (Q12) (Q13) listed were in the top five activities that they would like to do most. Of the 39 open-ended responses, many respondents recorded mountain biking or roller skating as one of the top five activities they would like to do most.
- When asked ‘what additional programs do you feel the city should offer or expand’ (Q9, 57 open-ended responses comments continued to stress the need for “a pour-in-place concrete skateboard park,” “more cycling,” “mountain bike facility,” “resources and trail system” and “family bike park.”

### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- The existing skate park was expanded.
- Skateboard park is a positive addition-visiting grandkids love it; it’s well-used by polite, friendly kids.

**Question:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

- Concrete Skate Park (listed twice).
- Safer skate park.

**Question:** *What are group’s ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- A skate line park.
- Covered skate park.
- BMX course/track.
- Renovate the skate park so it is not made of metal that burns when you touch it on hot days.

### Skating and Biking Trends

- Communities are realizing that skate boarding and skate parks are important to the citizens.
- Securing appropriate expertise to design and build the skate park and features is the best way to ensure success in the park design and construction.
- Skating is one of the fastest growing sports in the nation and in communities here in the northwest.
- Communities like Battleground, WA<sup>84</sup> realize the regional and tourist draw of a larger skate park designed for skateboarding exhibitions.



<sup>84</sup> At the opening of the Battleground Skate & Bike Park there were more than 2,000 youth at the event in 2010. The design elements include street course elements such as rails, ledges and stepping stones and Jersey barrier replica. There are ¼ and ½ pipes, flowing contours and three foot bowl with transitions.

**Demand Standards for Skate Park & BMX:**

There are no demand standards recognized by NRPA. Over the past 20 years the growth and demand for the sport has seen rapid growth. The need for BMX Ride Parks has also grown. In Eastern Washington there are BMX facilities in Moses Lake, Wenatchee, Lake Chelan, Soap Lake and Leavenworth. Some of the growth of the construction of skate parks and BMX Parks came as the result of the legislation passed to limit liability for skateboarding under RCW 4.24.200.



Many elected officials from cities across Washington State were hesitant to approve the construction and use of skate parks due to the liability. With the exemption in the law, the liability issue was answered, and the construction of skate parks grew across the state. Upgrading and making improvements at the existing skate park will meet current needs. Additionally, it is important to provide support facilities to the existing park. During the public input process and in the community questionnaire, making improvements at the existing site was expressed by the respondents. The public also stated that an additional skate park is needed, and they indicated that a facility that was integrated into the natural landscape (8,000-12,000 square feet) would serve as the backbone of the community-wide skate park system. The Kiwanis Park Master Plan locates a proposed skate park in the Plan.

**Table 4.22 Skate Parks & BMX  
Recommended Level of Service (PLOS)  
Demand Standard**

Existing Inventory	1.0
Existing Sites	1.0
Existing ratio (ELOS)	1.0 [355sf./1000]
<b>Recommended PLOS</b>	<b>2.0 [667sf/1,000]</b>

Assessed Need:

The City of Ellensburg should consider and plan for the construction of an in-ground skate park or retain and refurbish the existing skate park. The City of Ellensburg is working with the local chapter of Kittitas Evergreen Mountain Bike Association (EMBA) to build a mountain bike skills course at Rotary Park.

Sustainability/Reliability: Skate Parks& BMX:

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Association (EMBA) has a new chapter in Ellensburg with a growing membership. EMBA works with local communities and parks departments to construct and maintain ride parks and ride locations. The volunteers and the staff are certified and trained to construct facilities and to sustain the life of the constructed sites for the life of the facilities. When looking to match funds for state and federal grants, the volunteer labor for construction and the sustainable maintenance of the ride parks can serve as the in-kinds match for grant applications.

***Skate Park & BMX Observations:***

The majority of the skating community would like to see the skate park relocated to one of the existing parks, preferably Kiwanis Park. Skate parks play a vital role for community youth and adults who enjoy the sport. Skate parks play a vital role for community youth and adults who enjoy skating. The sport provides an excellent benefit by encouraging citizens to be involved in physical activity. Most communities across the state have local skate parks in their park systems. Working with the community will be very important as a new site or improvements are discussed and designed, the users of skate parks know what the parks will need to best serve them. With the potential of matching grants funds from the Recreation and Conservation Office under the ‘WWRP Local Park’ category, the cost for a community can be minimized. The ‘Tony Hawk Foundation’ provides matching grants for the construction of skate parks. A BMX site is identified as a facility on the adopted Master Plan for Rotary Park.



**Skate park Size Typology<sup>85</sup>**

	Skate Spot	3,000-5,000sf. Serves 12,000 residents 5-patron capacity <sup>86</sup>
	Neighborhood Skate park	8,000-12,000sf. Serves 25,000 residents 65-patron capacity
	Regional Skate park	20,000+sf. Serves 75,000 residents 100+ patron capacity



<sup>85</sup> <http://publicskateparkguide.org/vision/types-of-skatrparks/>

<sup>86</sup> Patron capacity: number of simultaneous users

## #4.2-F: OTHER SPECIALIZED FACILITIES

**GROUP PICNIC AREAS:** There are six picnic shelters with tables throughout the Ellensburg park system. Five of the sites are located at neighborhood parks (Mt. View Park, Kiwanis Park, North Alder Street Park, West Ellensburg Park and Veterans Memorial Park). There is also a group picnic shelter with tables located at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. The group picnic shelters are available for rent or on a first come first serve basis. The sites are used primarily for birthday parties, weddings, family reunions, etc. and can accommodate group sizes ranging from 25-200 people. The rental is for a four hour block of time, some of the sites are equipped with water and/or BBQ's. There is not a recommended standard for group picnic shelters, but as an amenity for group picnic areas, they could be added to meet the needs for neighborhood and regional parks on a case by case basis.

**BOAT LAUNCHES & DOCKS:** The City of Ellensburg has a soft launch at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park that accesses the Yakima River. The launch is in need of upgrading as erosion has created a condition where it is impossible to launch a tailorable boat. Drift boats and rafts can still be launched from this site, and a large percent of site users are professional guide services from Ellensburg with tubes, rafts and boats for fishing on the river. The southern route from IRRP water route is 4.9-miles to Ringer Road, but this launch has also seen impacts from the flooding erosion. At some point this site may also wash out. Guides do put in at the K.O.A Campground on the western I-90 freeway access to the city and fish or drift the 2.8-miles to access the IRRP shore landing. Professional rafting services float south to Roza or Mile Post 6 for an 8-mile float or further to the Umptanum. Some professional float services also start on the Yakima at Cle Elum and drift east and exist at IRRP. The newly constructed docks at Helen McCabe Park are the only public lake fishing docks. They were installed and constructed by KEEN<sup>87</sup> and the Kittitas County Field and Stream Club. There are three fresh water sites that are owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife that have boat launches on the lakes/ponds. The three sites are Woodhouse Ponds (1.5-acres), Northern Fiorito Pond (1.5-acres) and Mattoon Lake (26.10-acres). The fresh water lakes in the Ellensburg area are all owned/managed by the state. The city does have waterfront access to the Yakima River at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. The soft boater access is on the eastern end of the park, and there are potential future boater access sites that could be located on the western end of the park.

### Survey results

- Even though the city has a soft boat launch at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park and the nearest developed boat launch facility is outside the City of Ellensburg, citizen responses in the questionnaire indicated that power boating from boat launches at Vantage and other locations for access to the Columbia River is very popular.

**BASKETBALL COURT OUTDOOR PADS:** Interest in basketball on a national scale has remained somewhat constant over the years. In the City of Ellensburg there are seven outdoor basketball pads. Two of the courts are full size and five are half-courts. The outdoor basketball courts are primarily located in the city's community parks. When basketball pads

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<sup>87</sup> Kittitas Environmental Education Network

and hoops are near residences, play opportunities are enhanced. The President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition states that "only one in three children achieve the minimum amount of physical activity they need each day."

### **HOCKEY & SKATING:**

Throughout the on-line questionnaire, in comments from the written responses, and through input from the community workshops, there was an identified need for skating programs which included all types from skateboarding to roller derby. A large percent of input stated there is a need for roller skating and hockey. Currently, the rink at Mt. View Park, the Ellensburg High School auxiliary gymnasium, and the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center are used for roller skating/blading.

### **OFF LEASH PARKS**

The City has been working with a citizen group to see the completion of an off leash area at Rotary Park. Currently the construction of the site is in the competitive bid process. Construction will be completed in the near future. There were many comments submitted on the on-line questionnaire requesting that additional off leash areas be located within the City, with the most popular site being identified as Carey Lakes out at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. People felt like it was very important for their dogs to have access to water so they could swim and cool off in the summer months.

#### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- There are more dogs.

**Question:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

- Dog off leash area (DOLA) expansion at multiple sites.

**Question:** *What are group's ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- DOLA: Dog Off Leash Area

Assessed Need: The revised park plan for IRRP includes a small off-leash location in a spot at Carey Lakes that is very accessible to water and has little impact on other park uses.

## **4.3 RECREATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

- A. Aquatics
- B. Sports & Athletic Programs
- C. Senior Adult Programs
- D. Youth Programs
- E. General Recreation Programs



### **#4.3-A: AQUATIC PROGRAMS:**

In 1978, The Ellensburg Pool was one of the first outdoor recreation facilities in the State of Washington that was grant funded through the Land and Water Federal funding. This funding was matched with state bond funding and a local match from the City of Ellensburg to replace the existing aged outdoor swim pool and to provide an indoor-outdoor retractable roof swim pool and bathhouse. The project continues to provide a year-round 25 meter pool with diving areas and a shallower training pool. Today the Aquatic facility provides a fitness room with free weights and Nautilus. The site also has a hot tub and wet/dry sauna. In 2011 the City invested over \$1,000,000.00 in upgrades at the pool: new heating and ventilation system (HVAC), windows, retractable wall. These are all important facility improvements that are not typically noticeable to the general public but vital to retention of the integrity of a valued public facility. Subsequently, NAC Architecture completed a site assessment on the community swimming pool facility, and findings concluded that the swimming pool was in good solid condition for an extended time.

#### Questionnaire results

When asked how often you participate in recreation activities (Q12) swimming ranked second (1,500 points)<sup>88</sup> out of thirty-two recreational activities with indications that the activity was “daily or almost daily.”

#### Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- I personally would like to see more water driven facilities aka a kiddie’s water splash park and maybe even an outdoor pool. The pool is very nice and well managed.

#### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What are group’s ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- Youth “float park.”

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<sup>88</sup> Q12 Questionnaire Results: To generate a participation score for each activity, each “daily or almost daily” response was given 5-points, each “once a week or more” response was given 4-points each. Each “1-2 times per month” response was given 2-points, each “less than 5 times a year” response was given 1-point and each “never or no” response was given 0-points (See Appendix C Q12).

### Trends

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) states that “along with eating a healthy diet and avoiding tobacco use, people can decrease their risk of chronic disease by being physically active.<sup>89</sup>”

- Swimming is a great recreational activity for people of all ages. Recreational swimming can provide you with a low-impact workout and is also a good way to relax and feel good.<sup>90</sup>
- Some people who enjoy swimming want to take it to a competitive level. This can provide the health benefits of a vigorous workout as well as the fun and thrill of competition.
- Swimming and other water activities are something the entire family can share. With rising levels of obesity in children and adults in the United States, family physical activities and good role-modeling may be one way to stem the epidemic of inactivity and obesity facing our nation’s population.<sup>91</sup>

### ***Demand Standards for Swimming:***

The NRPA standard is one pool per 20,000 population. Ellensburg is meeting the demand with a population of 18,810. MIG, Inc., through past studies, has developed a demand model for swimming pools which indicates that, on average, pools receive an estimate of 7.5 annual occasions. Using this formula, there would be a current demand for 141,075 annual swims (7.5 occasions x 18,810 current population). MIG, Inc. shows that a typical swimming pool is designed to accommodate about 50% of the average daily attendance at one time, allowing peak hours of demand to be met. MIG also knows that 75% of the total swimming activity occurs in shallow water (5’ or less) with need of 12 sf. per swimmer in shallow water and 27sf. for deep water. Using the MIG demand model, the example formula below helps develop the demand model information. MIG also knows that the peak winter month represents about 10% of the total demand. The summer demand is then 12,800 occasions for the citizens.

### **Shallow Water Demand Example**

12,800 peak summer demand swims x75% =9,600 shallow swims,  
Divide by average of 30 days a month =320 daily swims,  
Multiply by the 75% peak load estimate =24 peak swimmers,  
Multiply by 12sf.per swimmer=**648sf. water area** demand shallow Water

### **Deep Water Demand Example**

Multiply 12,800 peak demand by 25% =3200,  
Divide by average of 30 days per month =106 daily swims,  
Multiply by the 75 peak load estimate=80 peak swimmers,  
Multiply by 27sf.per swimmer=**2,147sf. deep water demand**

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<sup>89</sup> CDC: “Promoting Walking and Walkable Communities: A Strategy to Improve Health”

<sup>90</sup> Better Health Channel

<sup>91</sup> Web MD: Medically Reviewed by a Doctor on 5/20/2015

Based on the previous calculation, we have  
**Total pool area demand: 2,795sf. water area for residents**  
**[minus existing square footage<sup>92</sup>]**

Sustainability/Reliability: Swimming:

Recent improvements to the mechanical, HVAC and pool structure will extend the life of the facility and the reliability of operating systems. This work extends the life of the swimming pool for a substantial period of time.

Assessed Need:

Based on previous calculation:

Total pool area demand: 2,147sf. water area for residents

[minus existing square footage] 4425

Net pool area demand: +2278 sf. water area

Swimming Observations:

The KVMP has had substantial facility infrastructure and mechanical upgrades and has served the community as a key facility for swimming.

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<sup>92</sup> 25meter by 6 lanes is 4425sf.

## #4.3-B: SPORTS & ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The City of Ellensburg provides a number of sports and athletic programs for youth and adult year-round.

### **SOCCER:**

The indoor soccer season generally begins the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November through the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. The programs and indoor facility use and program offerings are:

- **Adult Coed Indoor Soccer League**: In 2010 the city began coordination of a league. It consists of an eight-game season concluded by a single elimination tournament. Games are played at the **Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center (ERRC)** indoor soccer fields. Games are limited to Tuesdays and Thursdays and are played between 5:30pm and 8:00pm the last week of January through the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March.
- **City Youth Indoor Soccer League**: Began in the 2011-2012 school year and consists of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth from the Kittitas Valley schools. Due to limited space at the ERRC and time constraints, the league plays 7 games rather than the previous 8 games. Games begin the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November through the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December. Scheduling games to be played is not difficult; however, the season takes place during “holiday performance season” for the schools, and youth often miss games for these seasonal performances. Due to the number of teams, games had to be played on Saturday afternoons during the past two seasons. Due to limited field availability, practices can’t be scheduled.
- **Kittitas Valley Junior Soccer Association (KVJSA)** is a non-profit soccer association that generally utilizes the indoor field (ERRC) on Monday, Wednesday through Thursday or Friday between 3pm until approximately 8pm.
- **Central Washington University (CWU)**: Intramurals utilize the indoor field Monday through Thursday and/or Friday from 8pm until approximately 11pm.

### **BASKETBALL:**

In the 2009-2010 school year, the City of Ellensburg coordinated a Girls Youth Basketball League, Coed Kindergarten Youth Basketball League and also established a Boys Youth Basketball League. The boys, girls and coed kindergarten leagues traditionally have a nine-week season, but in an attempt to condense the schedule, the season (2013-2014) was reduced to seven games (girls and coed October-December and boys January-March). Teams have two practices a week before games. All games are played at either Mt. Stuart or Valley View. There is a need for gyms for the City Youth Basketball and the Ellensburg School District creates scheduling problems at times. Due to the closure of the Morgan Middle School gym the city basketball sessions have experienced scheduling problems for both girls and boys practices and games.

**VOLLEYBALL:** The City began coordinating a Coed Youth Volleyball League in the spring of 2012. The league includes 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth from the Kittitas Valley area.<sup>93</sup> Practice games are held at the ESD elementary school gyms (Lincoln, Valley View and Mt. Stuart). All games are played at the EHS Auxiliary Gym. Practice is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, and teams are allotted one practice a week. At times with limited gym space, the current set up for volleyball is a shared space if there is a second practice. All games begin the 4<sup>th</sup> week of March with practices and games starting the following week and ending the last Saturday in May. There are few conflicts for the volleyball season games. In 2015 Central Washington University held a three day middle school Volleyball Camp for students entering grades 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.

Questionnaire results

- More than one-third of respondents indicated that the city should maintain its current role in organized youth sports and to develop and share maintenance responsibilities of sport fields.
- About one in six respondents believe that the city’s role should expand to include developing and managing sports fields and sports leagues.
- Respondents generally prefer being outside. Fewer respondents visited parks for attending special events, concerts or movies. However, when asked the frequency of participation in recreation activities within a score option of 1-1200, baseball and softball (attended) ranked fourth (900) points, and concerts ranked third (1,000 points) out of 32 activity options.
- In (Q12) the question regarding frequency of participation indicated that baseball/softball were programs respondents participated in “once a week or more.”



Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- Great facilities and very positive experiences with sports programs.
- Please put up lights at the baseball fields, both the high school field and Little League fields. This would expand many more options for these activities.
- We need indoor sports facility for youth sports as well as adult leagues.
- The parks and sports activities have been great for our family over the years-baseball, soccer, T-ball, volleyball, tennis, swim team, not to mention hiking and swimming with friends—thank you!

Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- Youth Sports-soccer, baseball...this has really blown up in turnout.

**Question:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

- Field turf.
- ADA access within parks and from park to park.

<sup>93</sup> Teams From Cle Elum practice in Cle Elum/Roslyn area gyms and play games in Ellensburg

**Question:** *What are group’s ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- Multi field turf facilities for soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse, football.

#### Athletic Trends

- The 2013 RCO SCORP *Outdoor Recreation in Washington* key recommendations in Chapter 7 note that the promotion of outdoor recreation provides economic benefits and contributed 22.5-million in consumer spending to Washington’s economy. Chapter 1 shows that “outdoor recreation is a major economic engine that produces jobs and tax revenues, especially in local economies and in many instances in rural areas where these jobs and tax revenues are needed.”
- According to the Sports Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), the 2010 *US Trends in Team Sports Report* indicated that after two years of negative participation growth for most of the mainstream team sports, this past year brought a turnaround in participation for sports like tackle football, soccer, basketball and baseball. While working from a small base in some cases, niche sports like lacrosse, rugby, track and field and ultimate Frisbee are seeing double digit increases in participation.
- As **Findings and Implications** in the 2013 RCO SCORP, the Plan noted that “An important approach to increasing participation among children and youth in outdoor recreation activities is providing opportunities for outdoor recreation.”
- SGMA also states that younger teens are a main driver for some of the double digit participation increases as they are gravitating to organized sports programs, this trend bodes well for many of the local recreational oriented programs that are established throughout the county. As SGMA states, recreation programs need to turn part of their attention to these early teens, to bring them back to team sports and in some cases to keep them playing after their elementary school years.

#### ***Demand Standards for Sports and Athletics***

As noted in the Athletic Division of the Department [#4.3-B], the need for additional recreation facilities continues to increase as the demand continues for youth and adult programs. The demand for indoor facilities in the winter or heat of the summer are met with the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center (ERRC), but with the heavy use and the existing need for upgrades and current facility improvements, the programming and rental demand on the facility continues to grow. The current Level of Service (ELOS) for fields is based on the current demand for each facility and the Planned Level of Service (PLOS) reflects the growth of population within the next ten years (2026) and then what is anticipated in the next twenty years (2036).<sup>94</sup>

#### Assessed Need Sports & Athletics:

Throughout the process of securing public input and with staff input, the apparent need for sports and athletic programs continues to grow. The city provides a variety of programs but continues to work around scheduling of both city-owned facilities and those sites scheduled at schools. The partnerships with local associations address the continued growth of sports for youth baseball. Working with local citizen groups (i.e. KVJSA) has helped to address the need for softball and soccer fields. Field lighting will additionally increase field use and address increasing growth by extending play hours.

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<sup>94</sup> Future Demand in 10 & 20 years will be determined by the actual population. Using ELOS.

### Sports & Athletics Observations:

Continued partnerships provide the opportunity to expand and grow commitments in the management, maintenance and construction of fields and facilities. With the anticipation and forecast of population increases, the demand on facilities to address the programming needs will continue. A traditional city recreation center would address programming needs with the additional facilities. Gym space needs currently met by use of school facilities could see program benefits with a dedicated site for youth sports, volleyball, soccer skills, etc.

## **#4.3-C: SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMS:**

### Questionnaire results

- A quarter of the respondents (24%) were 65+ years. Five of every six respondent reported that park and recreation programs are either important or very important to the overall quality of life.
- In (Q14), when asked which groups are most underserved. However, by current recreation services, only 7% felt that seniors were underserved but- when asked (Q26) what facilities should have the highest priority, 26% stated that if funding were available it should be a multi-purpose indoor community/recreation/senior center. This suggests that the programming at the Adult Activity Center is very popular while the need for an expanded facility is important to the respondents. One note in the open-ended input states that *“seniors should have access to space that can accommodate the increase in aging population.”* Another statement was *“I love Ellensburg! I am older so lots of parks and recreation activities don’t apply to me but I still want those programs. I know that variety builds a solid, diverse, and growing community. I don’t necessarily mean growth as more people, more stuff but that we as individuals keep our minds and bodies moving whether we are old or young.”*
- 20% or approximately one of every five respondents when asked about the frequency of use of Indoor Recreation Centers reported that they use the centers *“once a week or more.”*
- 54% of respondents (Q15) indicated that members of their household had used city-provided recreational programs in the last year.
- 36% indicated that they learned about the programs *“from friends or word of mouth,”* and 22% said that they learned *“from the city’s program guide.”*

### Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- Seniors should have access to space that can accommodate the increase in aging population with equipment that is not falling apart.

### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- Seniors are much more active in the community.
- In some cases though, there is a lack of senior accessibility.
- Older population is retiring in this area of Kittitas County.

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- Senior Center-Adult Activity Center: more seniors-aging population makes an effect.

### Senior Programming Trends

- “ Research has found that the most important outdoor recreation consideration for aging populations include clean and maintained facilities, proximity to home, low cost, and safety.”<sup>95</sup>
- As stated in the 2013-2018 SCORP, “Although recreation activities may decline with age, many older Washington residents remain very active and involved in outdoor recreation throughout the state.”
- Older residents may retire, increasing the time and money they have available to participate in leisure activities.<sup>96</sup>

### ***Demand Standards for Senior Adult Programs***

As stated in the 2013-2018 SCORP, “Although recreation activities may decline with age, many older Washington residents remain very active and involved in outdoor recreation throughout the state. Older residents may retire, increasing the time and money they have available to participate in leisure activities.”<sup>97</sup> In the City of Ellensburg the need for additional space for the Senior Adult Activity Center programming is a reality. The demand for use has increased with the increase of the 55+ population living in Ellensburg and Kittitas County. The need for services for senior adults includes recreation events and programs but also life skills such as income tax preparation, health services, cooking and meal preparation or just socialization for special events, daily lunch gathering or to simply play a game of cards with friends. (See Table 3.6 for an extensive list of program offerings.)

#### Assessed Need:

At this point a larger facility is needed, and, as this age group continues to increase, future demand for space will be critical to senior adults.

#### Senior Adult Programs Observations:

27% of the respondents in the Questionnaire indicated that they were 50+ years of age, and the input from the community workshops reflected a need to address the growing demand in Ellensburg for a larger recreation center for the senior adult population. The existing site has a broad range of activities and currently addresses the need for programs in a very small site. The main facility room is used for most of the activities, and the need for a schedule that can handle the change of use and restaging of the floor space is difficult to keep up on a daily basis. Those who use the facility were very supportive of the broad range of programs and services and were complimentary of the dedicated staff. They all stressed the need for additional space and the difficulty with shifting programs throughout the space to address the continued growth of programs and use by senior adults. Over and over, the community has stressed the need for an enlarged facility for the senior adult activities.

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<sup>95</sup> Executive Summary 2013-2018 Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

<sup>96</sup> Executive Summary 2013-2018 Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

<sup>97</sup> Executive Summary 2013-2018 Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

## #4.3-D: YOUTH PROGRAMS:

### Questionnaire results

Common themes that emerged (Q31 & Figure 13) from open-ended responses included:

- Opportunities for youth and facilities: Many respondents expressed a desire for more programs and facilities oriented for kids and families such as splash pads and play areas.

Though spaces for kids and teens did not rank highly in (Q27/Table 20) when asked “what facilities would you like in an indoor recreation center,” results from other questions suggest a need for spaces dedicated for youth and teen sports and programming. Alternatively, a multi-use gymnasium could be designed to accommodate a wider range of age groups.

### Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

- I am happy to have my kids in your programs.
- We need indoor sports facility for youth sports as well as adult leagues.
- I think the most important thing that the city can do for the youth programs (and adult programs) is to upgrade the facilities out at the west end fields.
- The parks and sports activities have been great for our family over the years-baseball, soccer, T-Ball, volleyball, tennis, swim team, not to mention hiking and swimming with friends-Thank you.

### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- The CWU students are much more integrated into the city park system. They drive to the parks, and students with young families are involved with part activities, sites and programs.

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- Universally accessibility needs have increased, i.e. autism.
- More use of Reed Park by youth during the day-they hang out.
- They collectively are good kids as individuals. “Question” if they have empathy for other users.

### Trends

- Life sports are aimed at kids in particular and are in response to the childhood obesity epidemic. Life sports are fun, and individuals can participate well into their later years, e.g. biking, kayaking, tennis, swimming, jogging/walking, etc. In the future there may be a movement away from the use of indoor gyms with more focus on opportunities for exercise enjoyed in outdoor settings.<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>98</sup> LERN: *Top Trends in Recreation Programming, Marketing & Management.*

### ***Demand Standards for Youth Programs***

Recreation programs are required to provide and expand active use and involvement by the youth in Ellensburg. The need for facilities is key to the level of programming that can be offered to the community youth. The Stan Bassett Youth Center is actively programmed for the youth. Youth in the community are involved in a variety of sports and activities. Addressing the growing demand and the current work regarding the future potential of a traditional recreation center will need to be an important consideration and decision into the future.

#### **Assessed Need:**

Based on the US Census estimates, there is a higher percentage of youth and young adults in Ellensburg<sup>99</sup>

#### **Youth Programs Observations:**

For the Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department, recreational programming for youth is a high priority. The programs for youth include team sports, aquatics, events, activities and health and fitness. The community and the park system look to ways of providing parks and facilities for positive youth involvement. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65%) identified themselves as being at least 35 which reflects the US Census finding that Ellensburg has a higher percent of youth and young adults. It is important to understand that facilities and programs go hand in hand. It is critical to have the “places” for youth to recreate.

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<sup>99</sup> US Census, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

## #4.3-E: GENERAL RECREATION PROGRAMS:

### Questionnaire results

- According to the respondents, parks and recreation programs are important to the city's overall quality of life.
- Frequency of participation can be affected by factors such as level of interest, local availability of facilities, cost and convenience.
- 22% (Q15) indicated that they learned about the recreation programs, events and activities "from the city's program guide." Almost as important is that 20% gleaned information through the City's website or from Facebook, reflecting growth of social media as a means of communication.
- 54% (Q15) of respondents indicated that members of their household have used recreational programs provided by the city in the last year.
- Although more than half of all respondents indicated that member of their household had used city provided recreation programs in the last one year, nearly 46% of respondents either did not provide an answer or currently do not use city-provided recreation programs.
- When combined with responses from Q17 and Q19, outcomes suggest a need to improve the awareness and variety of available programs.

### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- Ethnic makeup of the town / a more diverse community.
- Want: A place for young people to take their hobby of driving/hanging out without their muffler-less trucks. Comment: skateboarders have place but these kids have no place for the truck-stuff away from residential area (noisy).

**Question:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

- Accessibility for family and seniors with disabilities within and between park facilities and programs.
- Better link between the university and the community, e.g. civic engagement projects, students in community sports leagues, more large community events.

### Trends

- There has been a big increase in the number of offerings for families with children of all ages.
- Park and recreation programs have begun to take more active roles in community health and fitness.
- General marketing of recreation programs has long projected the image of being geared to programs for youth. Many programs are making changes in this perception by creating brochures that clearly target specific segments of multiple generations.<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> LERN: *Top Trends in Recreation Programming, Marketing & Management*

- A trend has been noticed in the blurring of traditional limits on what recreation does. Recreation programs are doing it all from sports, educational enrichment programs, fine arts and performing arts focus. Recreation’s umbrella of programming focus and expertise continues to expand and grow.<sup>101</sup>

***Demand Standards for General Recreation Programs***

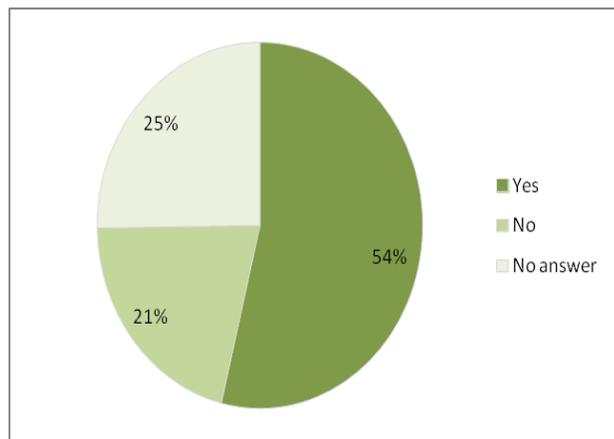
As identified in this chapter in section 4.2-C, the demand standard for recreation centers is identified. With the growing demand for recreation for adults, youth and senior adults, the demand for recreation programming will continue to grow with population growth.

***Assessed Need:***

The recreation programs offered by the City of Ellensburg are extensive and provide many opportunities for the citizens to be involved in recreational activities and events. Some of these are shown in Table 3.2. Program offerings will be increased with the expansion/completion of a traditional recreation center for the citizens.

***Observations:*** The use of the recreational programs offered by the city and the demand for additional opportunities for programs are reflected in the Community Questionnaire and Workshops. It was also important to note that citizens may not know about available programs. There is a need to look at additional suggestions to improve awareness. When

asked in the Questionnaire (Q16) *how you learn about programs offered by city?* 36% indicated it was by “word of mouth” and 22% through the “program guide.” Also when asked (Q17) *why do you not participate in city programs,* 19% of respondents stated that “they were not aware of programs.” In (Q16) 46% of the respondents did not provide an answer, and 18% in (Q17) did not complete the question. Combined responses suggest a need for improved awareness of the variety of recreation programs available.



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Work done by the City Council appointed Community Center Ad-Hoc Committee will be vital to answering the question of need and growth of recreation programming for citizens. In the Parks and Recreation Questionnaire when asked “*if funding were available,*” 26% of the respondents stated that one of their highest priorities is to have a multipurpose community/recreation/senior center facility.

***As noted in the pie chart:*** When asked “*Have any household members used recreational programs provided by the city in the last year?*” Slightly more than half of all respondents (54%) indicated that members of their household had used city-provided recreational programs in the last year.

<sup>101</sup> LERN: *Top Trends in Recreation Programming, Marketing & Management*

#### 4.4: ADMINISTRATION:

##### Questionnaire results

- Outcomes indicated that funding should come mostly from tax dollars with some user fees.
- There is interest in adding greater variety to the park system. Ideas expressed by respondents included a water playground or splash pad, skating rink, disc golf, off-leash dog areas and places for kids to play.
- Based on open-ended responses, examples of facilities with an expressed need for improvement include the Racquet Center, city pool, tennis courts and playground equipment.

##### Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

Many of the Questionnaire respondents indicated that they were new to the city, and they had examples of recreation programs or facilities that they would like to share with the City of Ellensburg. Suggestions and examples were:

- Ellensburg needs something like the Yakima Greenway, which includes exposure to natural areas (i.e. the river) encourages walking/biking and is away from traffic. It would be a great addition to the city.
- The community would greatly benefit from connecting walking and biking trails throughout Ellensburg. For example, Bend Oregon has developed a wonderful system of parks, trails and river float access. It would be great to emulate their use of natural spaces.
- An off leash area would be an incredible addition to Ellensburg. My wife and I moved here so she could go to school. We used to have access to a local Dog off leash area (DOLA) and it was so nice to be able to let our dog run off-leash and get his energy out; especially now that we live in an apartment.
- My personal lifestyle is one of outdoor recreation, primarily trail running and skiing, mountain biking and climbing. As such I’ve lived in several cities with well-developed trail systems: Chico CA, San Luis Obispo CA, Ashland OR, and Salt Lake City UT. It is my opinion that Ellensburg has the potential to exceed all these places in terms of trail access, (i.e. through new and connecting trails in city limits and partnerships with land management agencies to connect nearby trail development with city trails).

##### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** What has changed over the past 10 years?

- Increased need for accessible sites in community (ADA access).

**Question:** What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?

- Leveraging Ellensburg’s geographically central location to encourage sport event tourism.
- Tennis Center ERRC is in poor repair and is used by too many other groups, very little opportunity to play...actually play tennis.

**Question:** *What are group's ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- Outdoor ice rink/roller skate area.
- Slackline Park.
- Bowling alley.
- Outdoor Amphitheatre.
- Want 100-acres back from Anderson Hay.
- Each user group has dedicated area: soccer, roller skating, tennis, trucks (to congregate) and places for ethnic groups that they desire.
- Enforcement and compliance: stop signs, traffic and speed in parks.
- More bicycle lanes, access and parks.
- Use of full cut-off lighting-reduction of urban glow/shields & amiable lights.
- Create a park foundation.
- Universal design in parks.
- Sensory (safe) area based for people with disabilities and everyone can smell...touch. Idea: Use students to develop this.

Administration Observations:

- Many park and recreation departments across the country are creating One-Year Marketing Plans. Today, budgets are becoming tighter, accountability is increasing, and demands on departments to increase community participation are mounting. Many programs have begun to develop one-year marketing plans to guide their efforts and to help establish strategies that will increase the likelihood of growth and program success.<sup>102</sup>
- Re-training and cross-training staff in all technical function areas can literally be a lifesaver when key staff are out. Cross training also serves to integrate divisions within departments to increase intra-departmental support and to help avoid inefficiencies and reduced quality of customer service.
- Pursue a variety of funding sources for new or improved facilities through options such as: public and private grants, user fees, volunteer stewards, donations, business partnerships, contributions, and public private partnerships.
- Annual reports are an especially good tool at budget time. The report should summarize the activity and results that occurred over the year for the parks and programs offered by the department.
- Continue to improve sustainability through options such as partnerships with public and private sources, stewardship groups, volunteers and private business to reflect the economic value that parks and recreation provides to the city.
- Continue to encourage staff to be creative and establish cost tracking systems to help each division and the department as a whole to provide information on the costs to offer each type of park and recreation service in Ellensburg. This should range from accounting for cost tracking to participant use accounting.

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<sup>102</sup> LERN: *Top Trends in Recreation Programming, Marketing & Management*

- Continue to establish a sense of place in the downtown core by reinforcing the character through branding-the use of consistent site furnishing. The work that has been coordinated with the public park sites enriches the experience and enhances the desire of citizens and visitors to come to Ellensburg.

## **PARK MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS:**

### Questionnaire results

- Respondents prefer that funding and maintenance for parks and recreation is a share responsibility.
- Based on outcomes of the questionnaire, 41% of respondents indicated a need to upgrade existing parks and facilities.
- Respondents prefer that private groups continue to share sports field maintenance with the city.

### Questionnaire (Q31) citizen quotes on their feedback to the question “anything else you would like us to know”

Improved maintenance and facility upgrades: Several comments expressed the need to reinvest in existing facilities. These included improving maintenance and upgrading or expanding on recreational facilities to add excitement and variety to the system.

### Community Workshops citizen group input and comments:

**Question:** *What has changed over the past 10 years?*

- Climate change / water/snow pack/water demand and supply.

**Question:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

- There is more need for attention to wind and shade protection as well as orientation of structures and shelters. This must continue to be of importance at the parks.
- When landscaping park sites think about installation of edible landscapes “food forests” e.g. nut trees, fruit trees, grape trellises.
- ADA access within parks and from park to park.
- Speed restrictions/design to reduce park speeds at Reed Park. A perimeter barrier for children.
- More dog stations (listed twice)
- Recycling in the parks.

**Question:** *What are group’s ideas, suggestions, future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

- Working water fountains.
- Edible landscapes.
- Green bathroom and recycling

### Trends

- Maintain and enhance the current level of professional maintenance using “Best Practices”<sup>103</sup>.
- Develop facilities that reduce maintenance costs and reduction of water use.
- Where feasible and as a cost savings, standardize signs, equipment and materials.

<sup>103</sup> Webster’s New Millennium Dictionary of English defines a best practice as “a technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has reliably led to a desired or optimum result.”

- Continue to address the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA 2010),<sup>104</sup> to provide access within the parks for the disabled and senior population with reviews of site facilities.

*Maintenance and Operation Observations:*

- The maintenance section provides an important perspective on dealing with impacts resulting from high use. It suggests alternative staffing structures, scheduling considerations, and practical maintenance approaches to dealing with the tension between high levels of use (both events and regular visitation) and the desire for high landscape quality.
- The continual fostering a sense of pride in employees is a critical component of a successful maintenance program.
- The demand for more recreation facilities will continue, and it must be addressed as the population grows over the next twenty years.

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<sup>104</sup> Park and recreation agencies provide recreation opportunities for ALL people of all abilities. Indoor and outdoor recreation programs and facilities must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The mandate, effective on March 15, 2012 requires agencies to have completed accessibility audits on all existing sites and a plan to address the deficiencies. For a complete list of changes and regulations visit: [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov). You can read more about park accessibility [here](#). If you need help with accessibility audits, NRPA has a [member business solution](#) you may find helpful too.

*Chapter 5*  
**FUNDING & CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN**



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## CHAPTER 5

### FUNDING & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

#### Introduction

Chapter 5 of the City of Ellensburg Parks and Recreation System Plan is the primary focus on the funding strategies for and identification of specific capital improvement projects. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) defines the needs and potential fund sources for the identified projects over the next six years (2016-2022) as well as the identified 20-year future needs. Prioritization was completed through analysis of the park system inventory in Chapter 3 and the assessment needs and demand and recommendations in Chapters 5. Additionally it utilized research conducted for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP 2013) in the assessment of current outdoor recreation facilities and the projection of future needs for and challenges in providing recreational services. The identified need for the City of Ellensburg, as might be expected, exceeds existing financial capabilities.

#### 5.1 FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OPTIONS

##### FUNDING

New challenges for public parks and recreation agencies and their constituencies arise from changes in economics at the local and national levels. One criteria used in the 2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was looking at regional levels of service and recreation needs. The SCORP looked at regional areas across the state of Washington. Ellensburg was in the “North Cascades” (Chelan, Kittitas, Okanogan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom Counties) Region.<sup>105</sup> They used measurement grades (A-B-C-D) for grading the *quantity, quality* and *access* for the ten SCORP regions separately. Examples of some of the grades for the North Cascades Region for “Local Providers’ are:

- **Question: Percent of unmet demand for the number of parks and recreation facilities:** North Cascades 23% “C” Grade. Of the responses provided, regions most commonly received a “C”, and the statewide median grade was “C”. Two regions, the Southwest and the Northeast, scored an “A”.
- **Percent of facilities that support active recreation:** North Cascades 63% “A”. The average score in all regions scored “C” or better. The North Cascade Region was one of three regions that received an “A” (Islands, North Cascades, and South Central) and two received a “B” (Northeast and Palouse)
- **Percent satisfied with park and recreation facilities distribution:** North Cascades 51% “A”.  
When asked the distance citizens live from local parks, the North Cascades Region was:
  - **Percent of residents within agency’s service area who live within 0.5 mile of neighborhood park was 40%**
  - **Percent of residents within agency’s service area who live within 5 miles of Community Park was 52%.**

<sup>105</sup> 2013 SCORP Appendix C: Tables C.2-5 page 165-151

- Percent of residents within agency's service who live within 25 miles of regional park  
95%.

As noted in the implications of issues regarding economics and funding,<sup>106</sup> SCORP Chapter 5 suggests that adequate funding for outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities as well as for maintenance of existing facilities is problematic. Local providers were asked about their agency's funding goal for developing capital facilities for public outdoor recreation, and the mean percent of their responses regarding funding goals being met statewide was 25.1%.

It will be an ongoing challenge to ensure funding support during a period of limited grant funding in an era of budget cuts and renewed interest in austerity. All new mechanisms to fund the parks and recreation administration or public improvements beyond the current level of budget for the City of Ellensburg will require legislative decisions and the will of the voters. The city itself cannot initiate or advocate for a ballot initiative, but residents and supporters of parks and recreation services have the opportunity to directly influence funding.

Education, outreach and polling will be essential before any specific funding mechanism is attempted beyond the current funding levels. However, recent ballot initiatives in support of parks and recreation have been passed. It is encouraging that of the six parks and recreation measures before the voters between 2012-2014 in Washington State. Five passed for total funds of \$1,156,000.00. Funding sources included real estate transfer tax, property tax or bond measure funding mechanisms.<sup>107</sup> As stated in the SCORP, regarding the 2012 election, 46 of 55 issues in state, municipal and city ballot initiatives across the country concerning funding and support for conservation-related causes were approved at an 82% passage rate. In total, these ballot initiatives allocated about \$2 billion toward the health and availability of parks, open spaces, and water quality, of which nearly \$800 million was entirely new funding. SCORP goes on to say that, "Given the continued support among Washington residents for mechanisms listed in the TPL Land Vote Database, it could prove critical in the future for increasing the percentage of funding goals met for land acquisition and capital facility improvement throughout the state."<sup>108</sup>

#### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RELATED TO FUNDING:

Results in the Community Questionnaire Results Report (Appendix C) reflect citizens input regarding funding for sustainability. They expressed current and future priorities for parks and recreation provided in the City of Ellensburg. Public input on funding points out the prioritizations as follows:

*Q 23: When asked "how you feel park and recreation should be funded?" the top two priorities were:*

1. 43% "Mostly from tax dollars and some from user fees."
2. 20% "Mostly from user fees and some from tax dollars."

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<sup>106</sup> SCORP page 142

<sup>107</sup> Trust For Public Lands: Land Vote Database 2014

<sup>108</sup> 2013 SCORP page 143 (source: Wildlife Management Institute, 2012)

Q 25: *In answer to the question* “How can the City of Ellensburg park system be improved?”

1. 41% responded that the system can improve by “Upgrading existing parks.”
2. 28% stated “Maintaining existing parks and facilities. “Examples” of facilities with an expressed need for improvement include the Racquet Center, City Pool, tennis courts and playground equipment.

Other preferences stated by respondents:

- Trails ranked as the top priority if funding were available.
- The majority of the responses show they prefer funding to come from fees and charges and stressed a need to reinvest in existing site and facilities.
- There is interest in a multi-purpose community facility, the second most popular response for prioritization if funding were available.



## **5.2: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The following Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a priority list and funding strategy for implementing the action plan outlined in Chapter 4. Proposed projects, estimated costs for the next 20-years listed in 6-year planning horizons which are 2016-2022, 2023-2028 and 2029-2036. A summary in Table 5.1 is a list of estimated probable capital costs for each park site. The costs are described in detail in Appendix A for individual parks. It is important to remember that priorities over time change. New funding sources become available and existing funding sources shift. Also, unplanned opportunities to develop a project or acquire land can arise. These factors may change in the proposed CIP. As a requirement under the Washington State Growth MANAGEMENT Act (GMA), the city identifies current and future acquisition and major capital improvements. The City of Ellensburg annually updates the 6-year Capital Improvement Plan through adoption of the annual budget.

In Washington State there are existing and potential funding and financing options for acquisition, development and maintenance of parks, facilities and recreational programs.

**Table 5.1**

<b>Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost Summary</b>				
<b>Park</b>	<b>Total Project Development Costs (2015 Base Year)*</b>	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon*</b>	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon*</b>	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon*</b>
Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park	\$3,476,500.00	\$1,827,000.00	\$413,400.00	\$1,236,100.00
Mt. View Park	\$26,840,400.00	\$188,300.00	\$747,600.00	\$25,904,500.00
Kiwanis Park	\$2,453,100.00	\$246,700.00	\$249,800.00	\$1,956,600.00
Veterans Memorial Park	\$1,234,900.00	\$401,000.00	\$64,600.00	\$769,300.00
Reed Park	\$665,200.00	\$167,400.00	\$183,500.00	\$314,300.00
West Ellensburg Park	\$709,600.00	\$432,600.00	\$54,400.00	\$222,600.00
North Alder Street Park	\$169,900.00	\$169,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rotary Park (Sports Complex)	\$19,564,600.00	\$5,544,000.00	\$2,018,500.00	\$12,002,100.00
McElroy Park	\$544,802.77	\$30,000.00	\$175,002.77	\$339,800.00
Wippel Park	\$296,000.00	\$105,700.00	\$54,400.00	\$135,900.00
Paul Rogers Park	\$145,300.00	\$108,000.00	\$37,300.00	\$0.00
Skate Park	\$584,500.00	\$414,600.00	\$0.00	\$169,900.00
South Entry Park	\$32,600.00	\$20,400.00	\$12,200.00	\$0.00
BMX Park	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kleinberg Park	\$121,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$34,000.00
Catherine Park	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rotary Pavilion	\$1,892,000.00	\$35,700.00	\$13,600.00	\$1,842,700.00
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>\$58,730,402.77</b>	<b>\$9,708,300.00</b>	<b>\$4,094,302.77</b>	<b>\$44,927,800.00</b>
<i>*Values do not include escalation</i>				

The following listing of existing and optional funding sources. The cost of meeting future parkland and recreation needs could exceed anticipated financial capabilities.

**5.3.1 EXISTING FUNDING SOURCES**

- General Fund
- Growth Impact Fees
- Capital Fund

**5.3.2 OPTIONAL LEGISLATIVE FUNDING SOURCES**

- Property Taxes
- Voter Approved Utility Tax Increase
- Sales and Use Tax State of Washington
- Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)
- Special Excise Tax (Lodging Tax)
- Certificate of Participation (COP)
- Conservations Futures
- Levy Lid Lift
- Unlimited Tax General Bonds

**5.3.3 WASHINGTON STATE FUNDING**

- Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)  
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)  
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)  
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR)  
Salmon Recovery Grant Program  
Washington Department of Commerce  
Building for the Arts  
Direct Appropriation  
Humanities Washington  
Department of Ecology

#### **5.3.4 FEDERAL FUNDING**

Congressional Grants for Neighborhood Initiatives  
Congressional Appropriation  
Land and Water Conservation Funds  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program  
Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century  
National Endowments for the Arts  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
National Tree Trust  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Brownfields Clean-up & Redevelopment  
US Department of Housing & Urban Development  
HUD Block Grants  
Sustainability

#### **5.3.5 PRIVATE FUNDING**

Donations  
Corporate Sponsors  
Foundations & Private Grants

#### **5.3.1: EXISTING FUNDING SOURCES**

**GENERAL FUND:** The City's primary source of funding is operating revenue from the general fund. The general funds come from taxes levied on property and in addition is derived from the combination of special revenue, debt service or enterprise funds. General funds are used to finance operations, staff, equipment and maintenance. Fees collected through the park and recreation system such as recreation program fees or other facility rental fees are also returned to the general fund. These revenues are generally thought to return to the city park and recreation budget; but, in practice the revenue number is only a point of justification of the annual budget and has no direct connection to the level of funding. It is commonly termed a "fee -reimbursed revenue" to justify the expenditures and costs in the operating budget.

To recap the presentation of the General Fund and general operating budget for the Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department presented in Chapter 3 and shown in Figure 3.1, the City of Ellensburg budgets on a two-year biennial budget cycle. The 2015-2016 General Fund budget for Parks and Recreation is \$2,237,051 with a 25% increase from the previous year. The 2016 General Fund budget for the Department is \$2,278,234. Currently

there are 26.3 full time equivalent employees. The Parks and Recreation Department is 3.36% of the city's 2015-2016 General Fund Budget as shown in the pie chart Figure below.

**PARK IMPACT FEES:** Cities planning under the Growth Management Act, in title RCW 82.02.050 (2) can collect Park Growth Impact Fees to be used to pay the proportionate share of the cost of public facilities that benefit a new development. The fees cannot be used to correct existing deficiencies. Since 1994 under City Code 14.02 the City of Ellensburg has collected park impact fees per new single family home, new multifamily residential unit, and manufactured home space or lot. Under the city's adopted SEPA ordinance park impact fees may also be collected for new commercial, industrial and institutional based upon the impact the project will have on such facilities. Beginning January 1, 2011 the cost per single family residential is \$1,925, each multifamily residential unit is \$1,650 and each manufactured home space or lot is \$1,650. The city park impact fees fund the needs identified in the adopted Park and Recreation System Comprehensive Plan which includes multi-use and bike trail needs.

**CAPITAL FUND:** Table 5.1 lists the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). These are proposed projects for the next three 6-year capital funding cycles for the following years: 2016-2022, 2023-2028 and 2029-2036. Along with the list of projects is the identified potential funding source. Additionally, **Appendix A: Park and Facility Descriptions** provides a description of each individual park which includes identified facility improvements and identified potential capital improvements needs and costs over the next three, 6-year periods.

### **5.3.2 OPTIONAL LEGISLATIVE FUNDING SOURCES**

The following funding sources provide information and background for future analysis as potential options.

**PROPERTY TAX:** The regular property tax legal limitations are: 101% revenue limit: With the passage of Initiative 545, there are only two ways for a jurisdiction to increase property taxes by more than one percent. Regular property taxes annually are limited to lesser of 101% of the highest levy in the past three years, plus the amount allowed for inflation.<sup>109</sup>

1. Constitutional Limitations: The total regular property tax levy may not exceed \$10.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value of property as per Article VII, Section 2(a), (b) or (c) of state constitution and RCW 84.52.050. Taxing limitations rarely approach the constitutional limitation, but, if exceeded, junior taxing districts are proportionally reduced through a prioritization listed in section 84.52.050.<sup>110</sup>
2. Aggregate levy Limit: The aggregate levies of junior and senior taxing districts may not exceed \$5.90 per \$1,000 of assessed value under the \$10.00 per \$1,000 limitation excluding the Conservation Futures levy.<sup>111</sup> If this limit is exceeded, junior taxing district are proportionally reduced or eliminated under a prioritized list.<sup>112</sup>

**VOTER APPROVED UTILITY TAX INCREASE:** A Citizen-voted increase in utility taxes is an option as a Parks and Recreation Facilities Funding Measure. The funds can provide an on-

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<sup>109</sup> RCW 84.55.005

<sup>110</sup> Washington Department of Revenue: Tax Reference Manual

<sup>111</sup> 84.52.043

<sup>112</sup> 84.52.010 *some jurisdictions have taken less than the maximum increase they could have in the past and have "banked" capacity that they can use. A jurisdiction that does not know whether it has banked capacity should ask its City assessor.*

going source of dollars dedicated to specific capital funding projects; e.g. City of Olympia measure of 3% provides \$2,000,000 annually for park capital projects.

The Primary revenue source options for annual operating budget, major repairs, park development and capital acquisition are detailed and summarized for the following:

**SALES AND USE TAX:** The principle revenue source for Washington State is the sales and use tax. It is an important funding source for cities and counties, second only to the property tax. Almost half of the state's taxes for the general fund are from the imposed sales tax of 6.5%. Local Governments have a number of different optional sales and use taxes which also represent a substantial support for the local general fund budget. The cities as well as counties can levy a basic sales and use tax of 0.5% and can add an optional tax of up to an additional 0.5% for a total of 1.0%<sup>113</sup>

**REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX (REET):** Tax imposed at the time of a real estate sale. There are two components of the tax; the first quarter of one percent of the sale is to be used for acquisition and development projects and the second quarter of one percent for development projects only from the property's sale price. Many cities and counties that are planning under GMA and levying both REET-1 and REET-2 need to keep track of each of these revenues separately because of the different uses (RCW 82.46.030(2)). As a priority, many cities and counties dedicate the revenues to be used for park and recreation capital projects. This tax does not require the vote of the people but an action through the governing body can establish the Real Estate Excise Tax.

**SPECIAL EXCISE TAX: (Lodging Tax):** This tax is levied as a special excise tax of 2% on lodging as allowed under RCW 82.08. The funds collected are placed in the "Tourism Activities Fund" to be used solely for tourist promotion, acquisition and operation of tourism-related facilities or all other uses authorized under RCW 67.28.

**CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION:** This is a lease-purchase approach where a city COP's to a lending institution and does not require a public vote. The governing body then pays the loan off from revenue produced by the facility or from its general operating budget. This lending institution holds title to the property until the COP is paid off.

**CONSERVATION FUTURES (County Funding Option):** Conservation Futures is a useful funding tool for counties to preserve lands of public interest for future generations in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County. RCW 84.34.230 allows a property tax levy to provide a reliable and predictable source of funds to help acquire interests in open space, habitat areas, wetlands, farm, agricultural and timberlands for conservation and for maintaining and operating any property acquired with these funds. Enactment of Conservation Futures by Kittitas County would provide the opportunity to secure vital waterfront and habitat lands and would have the maintenance costs funded through the levy.

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<sup>113</sup> RCW 82.14.048

**LEVY LID LIFT:** One exception to the one percent rule is the Levy Lid Lift.<sup>114</sup> Taxing jurisdictions with a tax rate less than their statutory taxing rate may ask the voters to “lift” the levy lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate. The proposed tax rate must be stated in the ballot measure.<sup>115</sup> A simple majority vote is required.

**GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS:** These are voter-approved or Councilmatic bonds with the assessment placed on real property. The funds can be used for capital improvements not maintenance. The property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 20-30 years), and the passage of a voter-ratified bond requires a 60% majority vote. Councilmatic bonds, on the other hand, require only a majority of the elected city council. One disadvantage of using this type of levy may be the interest rates on the bonds.

**UNLIMITED TAX GENERAL (UTGO) BONDS:**

Must be approved by at least 60% of resident voters during an election with a turnout of at least 40% of those who voted in the last general election. The bond may be repaid from a special levy, which is not governed by the one+-percent statutory limitation on the property tax growth rate. Any levy lift may not exceed the maximum amount.

**5.5.3 WASHINGTON STATE FUNDING:**

Washington State agencies provide various grants to benefit public recreation for acquisition and development through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the Department of Commerce, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and programs from the Washington State Department of Ecology (ECY) programs.

**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO):** The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes. Depending on the program, eligible project applicants can include municipal subdivisions of the state such as cities and counties, state agencies, special districts such as Ports Metropolitan Park Districts, school districts, Native American tribes and non-profit organizations. To be considered for funding assistance, most grant programs require that the proposed project will be operated and maintained in perpetuity for the purpose for which funding is sought. Most grant programs also require that sponsors complete a systematic planning process prior to seeking RCFB funding. Grants are awarded by the RCFB Board based on a public, competitive process which weighs the merits of proposed projects against established program criteria. <http://www.rco.wa.gov/>

The grant categories include:

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP): Funds the acquisition and development of conservation and recreation lands. The Outdoor Recreation Account of the WWRP provides matching grant funds for local and state park projects, which include active parks, playgrounds, sports fields, water access sites, trails, natural areas, urban wildlife

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<sup>114</sup> RCW 84.55.050

<sup>115</sup> RCW 84.55.050 (1) and (2)(a)

habitat and farmland preservation. The RCO accepts grant applications by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each even year. The successfully scored projects are presented to the governor, who recommends them to the legislature for capital funding the following year.

*Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Grant Program:* This grant-in-aid program supports the purchase, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes and for providing and improving access to such lands. It is guided by concepts originally developed by the Department of Natural Resources, including re-establishment of naturally self-sustaining ecological functions related to aquatic lands, providing or restoring public access to the water, and increasing public awareness of aquatic lands as a finite natural resource and irreplaceable public heritage.

*Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF):* The program was approved by Washington voters as part of Referendum 48, which provides funding for the Seattle Seahawks stadium. The purpose is acquiring, developing, equipping, maintaining, and improving youth and community athletic facilities. Eligible grant recipients are cities, counties and qualified non-profit organizations. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. An initial \$10-million was contributed by the Seattle Seahawks “team affiliate” sources for the grant program. Over the past ten years the funding from the stadium diminished to a non-viable funding level. Working with Governor Jay Inslee, he presented a successful recommendation for funding projects in the 2015 through funding from the Legislative Capital Funding.

*Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR):* This funding is used to acquire, develop and renovate public and private non-profit firearm range and archery training and practice facilities. To qualify for funding, ranges must be open on a regular basis to law enforcement personnel, hunter safety education classes and the general public. Grant recipients must provide matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Funding comes from \$3.00 for each concealed pistol license fee. Acquisition, development, renovation projects, capital equipment purchase, safety and environmental improvements, noise abatement and liability protection are all funded through this grant program.

*Salmon Recovery Grant Program:* Funding is for protection and/or restoration of salmon habitat. It also supports feasibility assessments for future projects and other activities. Applicants must provide at least 15% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. State funding has been provided through fund shifts from other funding accounts and general obligation bonds. Federal funds are appropriated through the Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries (NMFS). Working with the Watershed Resource Area (WRIA) 16/15 as lead agency, projects and funding can be identified for various salmon habitat projects.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE: The Department of Commerce provides grants to enhance economic opportunities for local communities and throughout Washington State. Grant programs identified below are typically program provided through many local park and recreation departments.

*Building for the Arts:* Building for the Arts awards grants to 501c3 nonprofit performing arts, art museums and cultural organizations to defray up to 20 percent of eligible capital costs for

the acquisition, construction and/or major renovation of capital facilities. This is a reimbursement-style grant, and operating costs are ineligible.

Direct Appropriation: Direct appropriations are placed in the state budget by the governor or legislature. The Department of Commerce Capital Programs has no role in the selection of grant recipients. These types of grants may be used by designated local governments, tribes and nonprofit organizations throughout the state to acquire or construct a variety of capital projects. Each project funded under these programs stimulates the state and local economies by providing construction-related employment and associated revenues.

Humanities Washington: Humanities Washington supports public programs that have as their primary purpose the presentation of insights gained from the humanities. Humanities Washington offers two types of grants. Quick Grants are available year-round to small or rural organizations for program planning or implementation. Project Grants are usually awarded twice a year through a competitive grant process for larger projects.

#### **5.3.4 FEDERAL FUNDING:**

On the Federal level, Congress appropriates funds through a variety of programs that may provide potential funding sources for various capital projects. These include the *Environmental Protection Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund Account* if re-enacted by Congress, *Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)*, *Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*, *Economic Development Funding (EDI)*, *Community Block Grant HUD*, *Environmental Protection Act with Brownfield's clean-up funding*, *United States Department of Agriculture low interest loans* and through direct *Congressional Appropriation* (see specifics regarding each grant below). Links to government grant sources can be found at [firstgov.com](http://firstgov.com) and [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).

**CONGRESSIONAL GRANTS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVES:** These are received annually and are by invitation only through your congressional Representative or U.S. Senator. The fiscal year (FY) invitations will come out in the spring and are administered under the Homes and Communities Division of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION:** Annually, U.S. Senators and House Members accept letters of proposals and applications for appropriation requests. Project descriptions and letters of request for appropriation are due March 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming fiscal year (FY) budget preparations.

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF):** After 50 years in existence LWCF was not reauthorized by U.S. Congress at the end of September 2015. At this point some members of Congress are attempting to re-instate but its composition and future remains unknown. For 50 years, program funds came through congressional appropriation for recreation resources including, but not limited to, parks, trails, wildlife lands and other lands and facilities desirable for individual active outdoor recreation. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. A portion of federal revenue that previously funded LWCF was derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources and was re-appropriated to projects through the U.S. Congress to the Department of the

Interior under the National Park Service (NPS). The program was and will be administered in Washington State by the RCO if re-established by Congress. Even though new funding was not re-enacted by Congress to fund new LWCF projects, the existing sites purchased or developed with LWCF funds are deed protected for outdoor recreation purposes in perpetuity and are defined through the use of "6F" federal map delineation. The National Park Service will continue to be funded to manage and monitor the existing LWCF outdoor recreation lands and projects. This program is led by the RCO in coordination with the National Park Service.

**RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RTCA):** RTCA is a technical assistance program of the National Park Service (NPS) that implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the NPS in cooperation with local communities and the state agencies for trail planning, greenways, water trails and special recreation projects. Through the RTCA program, the National Park Service has launched a nationwide goal to encourage healthful outdoor physical activity in National Parks and in local communities to demonstrate practical approaches for public land managers and community leaders who want to encourage active lifestyles. The National Park Service promotes benefit support information through the NPS's *Pathways to Healthy Living: Promoting Physical Activity in Parks and Communities*. The data and support documentation reiterates the following:

*Close-to-home value of recreation on neighborhood trails and greenways is vital for improving America's public health. Working with the National Park Service, grant seekers will realize the value of the current work and understand that, as a value to local communities, the NPS is ideally positioned to respond to this urgent need to increase Americans' level of physical activity.*

**NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM (NRTTP):** The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTTP) provides funds to rehabilitate and maintain recreational trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience. Eligible Projects are: Maintenance of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, construction of new trails, and operation of environmental education and trails safety programs. Revenue Source: Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Federal Highway Administration and in Washington State by the RCO.

**THE BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM (BIG):** This federal program provides funding for recreational transient boating facilities, targeting the needs of recreational boats 25-feet and larger. This program is administered through the RCO.

**TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY:** Enacted in 1998, provides funds for programs that increase alternative modes of transportation, enhance recreation, and protect the environment. The new "Transportation Alternatives" federal transportation funding authority was recently passed by bi-partisan compromise. The issue of paying for long-term transportation improvements was left for the next Congress.

**Transportation Alternatives:**

Under the new agreement, funding for key bicycle and pedestrian programs such as Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes To School is eliminated. A new program,

"Transportation Alternatives," consolidates the current twelve eligible activities under six new headings.

These are the six eligible categories for types of projects (see details in the "[Transportation Alternatives](#)" language from HR 4348 below):

1. **"on-road and off-road trail facilities"** — Construction, planning, and design of bike/ped infrastructure
2. **"safe routes for non-drivers"** — Also bike/ped infrastructure, specifically mentioning children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities
3. **"abandoned railroad corridors for trails"** — Conversion of rail corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users
4. **"turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas"** — Apparently roadside facilities previously included in the scenic byways program
5. **"community improvement activities"** — Rights-of-way improvements: billboards, historic and archeological preservation, and vegetation management and erosion control.
6. **"environmental mitigation"** — Storm water management, wildlife mortality, and "connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats"

**Transportation Alternatives funding and administration:** The new program will receive about \$580 million for Transportation Alternatives projects across the country, which is believed to be about a 26% reduction from the current \$1.2 billion spent on programs. Under the bill, states will sub-allocate 50% of their TA funds to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and communities for local project grants. States could use the remaining 50% for TA projects or could spend these dollars on other transportation priorities such as air quality improvement projects.

Section 1509 no longer exempts transportation alternatives from the transferability clause, so state DOTs may transfer their half of the reserved funding anywhere in the state to other programs, and MPOs and states can agree to transfer their portion as well. According to Tanya Snyder Editor of Streets blog Capitol Hill, "States that sit on their TA money long enough can use it for things like truck stop electrification systems, HOV lanes, turning lanes, and diesel retrofits."<sup>116</sup>

The states and MPOs will continue to "develop a competitive process to allow eligible entities to submit projects for funding." Eligible applicants are defined as "any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for or oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than a metropolitan planning organization or a State agency)." It is not clear whether this leaves out the ability of States to fund their own state park trail projects, for instance.

See [State-specific maps of Transportation Management Agencies \(TMAs\) for MAP-21 funding implementation](#), by Rails to Trails Conservancy

Funded Transportation Programs include:

**Recreational Trails Program** is continued at the current funding levels— \$ 85 million a year— through the end of fiscal year 2014. States may opt out of the recreational trails program by request of the governor.

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<sup>116</sup> <http://usa.streetsblog.org/author/tanyasnyder/>

**Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)** program remains essentially intact, providing funding eligibility for a range of projects that may include bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

**Wallop-Breaux sport fishing** program, which some communities and states have used for trails along streams, lakes, and other water features where fishing access is a key benefit. A new **Federal Lands Transportation Program** rolls all the transportation programs for the FWS, NPS, USFS, BLM, and Corps of Engineers into a \$300 million per year program. It allocates \$240 million to the NPS, \$30 million to the FWS, and lets the FS, BLM and COE compete for the remaining \$30 million. The Public Lands Highway Discretionary Program and the Forest Highway Program will be replaced by the \$250 million per year **Federal Lands Access Program**. Trails are eligible for funding under all the programs, but will need to compete with the infrastructure needs and deferred maintenance backlog pressures federal land management agencies are facing.

#### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT:**

*Brownfield's Economic Development Initiative (BEDI)*: The BEDI program provides funding to local governments to be used in conjunction with Section 108 loan guarantees to finance redevelopment of Brownfield's sites. Information about the program is available at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/economicdevelopment/programs/bedi/index.dfm>

*Environmental Protection Agency: Brownfield's Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilots*: The BCRLF program allows states and local governments to receive loan funds for environmental clean-up of Brownfield's. The purpose of the program is to enable states and local governments to make low interest loans to facilitate the clean-up and re-development of Brownfield's properties. Contact: [www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/rlflst.htm](http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/rlflst.htm) or check for additional grants at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/funding/governments.html>.

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE ARTS GRANT:** In working with the Washington State Arts Commission, grants are available in January. Sign up notification from [webmgr@arts.endow.gov](mailto:webmgr@arts.endow.gov).

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES:** The NEH is an independent grant-making federal agency dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities. View grant opportunities at <http://www.neh.gov>.

**5.6.9 NATIONAL TREE TRUST:** National Tree Trust provides trees through two programs: *America's Tree Ways* and *Community Tree Planting*. These programs require trees to be planted by volunteers on public lands. Additionally, the America's Tree Way program requires a minimum of 100 seedlings be planted along public highways.

#### **THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA):**

*Low Impact Development Storm Water Management Grants (LID)* providing financial assistance through the Washington State Department of Ecology Water Quality Program <http://www.ecy.w.gov>. One of the most effective ways to manage storm water-runoff pollution is to minimize how much run-off occurs in the first place. LID-designed sites have

fewer impervious surfaces and use vegetation, healthy soils, small-scale storage and dispersion/infiltration techniques to manage storm water. This grant program began as a pilot in 2006. If successful and federal funds continue to support the program, park improvements such as shoreline enhancements, parking roadway and walkway replacement with pervious surfaces would all meet the criteria of the LID grant goals. An example of a successful LID waterfront park grant recipient is Lions Field Park located in the City of Bremerton which was an original LWCF federally funded development project. Contact: <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/rflst.htm>.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD):** Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Economic Development Funding (EDI) program administers the following:

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) which provides block grants to eligible local governments. Approximately \$100-million of CDBG funds are utilized annually for park and recreation projects which often are initiated along with more comprehensive community redevelopment initiatives.

In addition to the sources for capital funding listed above, grant funding is also available from a variety of sources for community recreation programs. Special health and youth related grant information can be obtained from the National Center for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Nutrition Service.

**HUD BLOCK GRANTS:** Grants from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development are available for a wide variety of park projects (5% of total). With existing lower income areas in the city, park improvements and facility upgrades can benefit from Community Development Block Grants. Grants can fund up to 100% of the project. Projects to improve access to parks and playgrounds to comply with The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are eligible for this funding.

### **5.3.5 PRIVATE FUNDING:**

**DONATIONS:** The donation of labor, land or cash by service agencies, private clubs, corporations or individuals is a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects. The private funds are critical to show commitment of non-government dollars and as a positive result can elevate the standing of the grant proposal. Such service agencies as the *Kiwanis* and *Rotary* often fund small project improvements in partnership or provide the donated labor to serve as a match with State RCO grants to bring the project to fruition. Environmental groups such as the *Trust for Public Land*, The Nature Conservancy or Forterra in Kittitas County organize and in partnership provide volunteer labor for habitat restoration which can serve as a value for consideration toward the local match requirement on specific grants.

Principle property tax payers in the city such as Safeway or Super One are sources of local contributions for civic and environmental benefits. As a partnership opportunity they should be contacted, provided with collateral project information and approached with regard to an initial request for partnership support. As with all grant programs, grant agencies are looking

to local communities to work with local advocates, sponsors and private partners to bring the project to completion. Community advocates can elevate the level of project scores in a competitive funding cycle. In some grant programs, grants require private partnerships as a condition of application.

**CORPORATE FUNDING:** Example: The Nick “*Let’s Just Play Giveaway*”: Nickelodeon is a unique grant-giving program that brings much needed dollars to enhance recreation. A community nominates and each month 20 winners receive a grant which includes funding to build playgrounds. Contact [publicaffairs@nick.com](mailto:publicaffairs@nick.com). Also [Kaboom.org/grants](http://Kaboom.org/grants) provides *Build it Yourself* grant and *Creative Play grants*.

**FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS:** Many private foundations provide money for a wide range of projects. Grants are available for children, cultural enrichment and heritage preservation. In many cases, foundations require grant requests from non-profit 501c3 organizations. On all phases of park projects, staff should work with or create a partnership with private non-profit organizations and seek opportunities to secure grant funds from private non-profit foundations.

**SUSTAINABILITY:** The *Foundation for Sustainable Parks & Recreation* most recently announced that its Board of Governors approved to support *Save the Children’s* efforts to help build parks and recreation’s capacity to meet the needs of children and families before, during and after emergencies and to foster the development of resilient and ready communities. The most recent support from FSPR was awarded by means of \$50,000 grant. Contact: [www.yourparksyourlegacy.com](http://www.yourparksyourlegacy.com). In Oregon, the Bend Park & Recreation District has been a leader in local environmentally sustainable practices by making decisions that help protect, maintain and preserve natural and developed resources. Contact: [www.bendparksandrec.org/info/About\\_Us/sustainability](http://www.bendparksandrec.org/info/About_Us/sustainability).



*Appendix A*  
**PARK & FACILITY  
DESCRIPTIONS**



**PARK SITE INDEX:**

- (1) Catherine Park
- (2) BMX Park
- (3) Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park
- (4) Kiwanis Park
- (5) Kleinberg Park
- (6) McElroy Park
- (7) Mountain View Park
- (8) North Alder Street Park
- (9) Paul Roger's Wildlife Park
- (10) Reed Park
- (11) Rotary Park
- (12) Skate Park
- (13) South Entry Park
- (14) Veteran's Memorial Park
- (15) West Ellensburg Park
- (16) Wippel Park

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## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### Ellensburg Parks



- |   |                                     |                           |                                  |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Catherine Park (Undeveloped)   | <b>6</b> McElroy Park               | <b>10</b> Reed Park       | <b>14</b> South Entry Park       |
| <b>2</b> BMX Park                       | <b>7</b> Mountain View Park         | <b>11</b> Rotary Park     | <b>15</b> Veterans Memorial Park |
| <b>3</b> Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park | <b>8</b> North Alder Street Park    | <b>12</b> Rotary Pavilion | <b>16</b> West Ellensburg Park   |
| <b>4</b> Kiwanis Park                   | <b>9</b> Paul Roger's Wildlife Park | <b>13</b> Skate Park      | <b>17</b> Wippel Park            |
| <b>5</b> Kleinberg Park                 |                                     |                           |                                  |





## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### Catherine Park (Undeveloped)

**ADDRESS:** University Way and Brick Rd.  
**SIZE:** 1.00 Acre  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Pocket Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

2016-2022

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2023-2028

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2029-2036

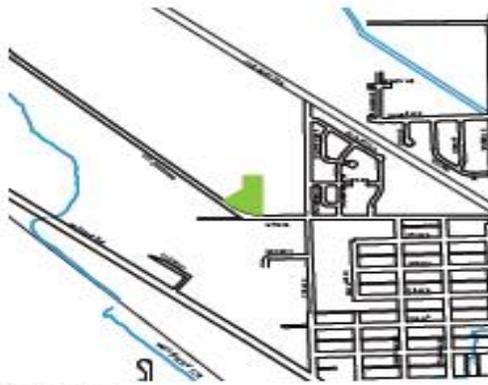
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<b>Catherine Park</b>										
<b>Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost</b>										
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>									
2		\$0.00	each	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3		\$0.00	each	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00								
5	<b>Rounded</b>	\$ -								
6										
7	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>									
8		\$0.00		0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9		\$0.00	each	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00								
11	<b>Rounded</b>	\$ -								
12										
13	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>									
14		\$0.00		0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
15		\$0.00	each	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00								
17	<b>Rounded</b>	\$ -								



**Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update**  
**BMX Park**

ADDRESS: 15th and Cora St.  
SIZE: 1.00 Acres  
PARK CLASSIFICATION: Community Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

**PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS**

2016-2022

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2023-2028

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2029-2036

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<b>BMX Area</b>										
<b>Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost</b>										
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>									
2		\$0.00	each	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3		\$0.00	each	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00								
5	<b>Rounded</b>	\$ -								
6										
7	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>									
8		\$0.00		0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9		\$0.00	each	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00								
11	<b>Rounded</b>	\$ -								
12										
13	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>									
14		\$0.00		0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
15		\$0.00	each	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00								
17	<b>Rounded</b>	\$ -								



**Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update**  
 Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park

**ADDRESS:** Umptanum Rd.  
**SIZE:** 117.00 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Community Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

**PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS**

<b>2016-2022</b>		<b>\$1,827,000.00</b>
<b>DAY USE AREA</b>	<b>WEST END</b>	<b>BOAT LAUNCH AREA</b>
-Picnic Table Pads	-Disc Golf and Shelters	-Boat Launch Renovations
-Play Plaza	-Dog Off Leash Area	
-Trails	-Trails	
	-Restroom	
<b>2023-2028</b>		<b>\$413,400.00</b>
-Day Use Turf and Irrigation Restoration		
-Yakima River Trail and Shoreline Restoration		
<b>2029-2036</b>		<b>\$1,236,100.00</b>
-Day Use Restroom		
-Day Use Floating Docks		
-Day Use Swim Beach Renovation		
-Park Access Road Pullouts		

## Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park

Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost										
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>									
2	Day-Use TESC & Demolition	\$25,485.84	ls	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$1,380.00	\$2,608.20	\$4,247.64
3	Day-Use Picnic Tables on Pads	\$71,360.35	each	14	\$3,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$6,300.00	\$3,864.00	\$7,302.96	\$11,893.39
4	Day-Use Play Plaza	\$424,764.00	ls	1	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$37,500.00	\$23,000.00	\$43,470.00	\$70,794.00
5	Day-Use Drinking Fountain	\$15,291.50	ls	1	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$1,350.00	\$828.00	\$1,564.92	\$2,548.58
6	Day Use Trails	\$83,253.74	lf	700	\$70.00	\$49,000.00	\$7,350.00	\$4,508.00	\$8,520.12	\$13,875.62
7	Day Use Shelters & Tables	\$254,858.40	each	3	\$50,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$13,800.00	\$26,082.00	\$42,476.40
8	West End Access Control	\$20,388.67	ls	1	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,104.00	\$2,086.56	\$3,398.11
9	West End Signage	\$3,398.11	ls	1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$300.00	\$184.00	\$347.76	\$566.35
10	West End Disc Golf Kiosk	\$25,485.84	ls	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$1,380.00	\$2,608.20	\$4,247.64
11	West End Disc Golf Shelter & Tables	\$84,952.80	each	1	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,600.00	\$8,694.00	\$14,158.80
12	West End Dog Off Leash Area 6' Fencing & Gates	\$28,544.14	lf	600	\$28.00	\$16,800.00	\$2,520.00	\$1,545.60	\$2,921.18	\$4,757.36
13	West End Dog Off Leash Area Shelter & Tables	\$84,952.80	each	1	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,600.00	\$8,694.00	\$14,158.80
14	West End Trails	\$42,476.40	lf	2,500	\$10.00	\$25,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$2,300.00	\$4,347.00	\$7,079.40
15	West End Restroom-Unisex Vault Toilet	\$110,438.64	ls	1	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$9,750.00	\$5,980.00	\$11,302.20	\$18,406.44
16	Park-wide Signage	\$0.00	ls	-	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	Boat Launch TESC & Demolition	\$33,981.12	ls	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,840.00	\$3,477.60	\$5,663.52
18	Renovate Boat Launch	\$509,716.80	ls	1	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$27,600.00	\$52,164.00	\$84,952.80
19	Fencing at Irrigation Pump House	\$7,645.75	lf	100	\$45.00	\$4,500.00	\$675.00	\$414.00	\$782.46	\$1,274.29
20	Project Development Subtotal	\$1,826,994.92								
21	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 1,827,000.00</b>								
22										
23	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>									
24	Day Use Turf Restoration	\$83,253.74	sf	98,000	\$0.50	\$49,000.00	\$7,350.00	\$4,508.00	\$8,520.12	\$13,875.62
25	Day Use Irrigation Renovation	\$58,277.62	sf	98,000	\$0.35	\$34,300.00	\$5,145.00	\$3,155.60	\$5,964.08	\$9,712.94
26	Yakima River Trail Restoration Allowance	\$101,943.36	ls	1	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$5,520.00	\$10,432.80	\$16,990.56
27	Yakima River Shoreline Erosion Restoration Allowance	\$169,905.60	ls	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,200.00	\$17,388.00	\$28,317.60
28	Project Development Subtotal	\$413,380.32								
29	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 413,400.00</b>								
30										
31	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>									
32	Day-Use M/W Restroom-Flush w/ Septic & Drainfield	\$169,905.60	ls	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,200.00	\$17,388.00	\$28,317.60
33	Day Use Floating Docks	\$434,958.34	sf	2,560	\$100.00	\$256,000.00	\$38,400.00	\$23,552.00	\$44,513.28	\$72,493.06
34	Day-Use Sink at Picnic Shelter	\$2,548.58	ls	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$225.00	\$138.00	\$260.82	\$424.76
35	Day-Use Swim Beach Renovation	\$424,764.00	ls	1	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$37,500.00	\$23,000.00	\$43,470.00	\$70,794.00
36	Create Pull-outs along Access Road	\$203,886.72	each	4	\$30,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$11,040.00	\$20,865.60	\$33,981.12
37	Project Development Subtotal	\$1,236,063.24								
38	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 1,236,100.00</b>								



## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### Kiwanis Park

**ADDRESS:** A St. and 14th Ave.  
**SIZE:** 4.00 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Neighborhood Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<b>2016-2022</b>		<b>\$246,7000.00</b>
-Picnic tables	-Park ID Signage	
-Landscape and Irrigation	-Mercer Creek Hollow Site	
-Restoration of Existing Shelters	Improvements	
<b>2023-2028</b>		<b>\$249,800.00</b>
-Open Filed Play Turf and Irrigation	-Landscape Irrigation	
Replacement		
-Parking and Storm Water		
<b>2029-2036</b>		<b>\$1,956,600.00</b>
-TESC & Demo	-Trails	-Relocation of Basketball
-Play Plaza	-Site Furnishings	Court
-Restrooms	-Landscape & Irrigation	-Skate Park

<b>Kiwanis Park</b>										
<b>Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost</b>										
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>									
2	Picnic Tables on Pads	\$32,621.88	each	6	\$3,200.00	\$19,200.00	\$2,880.00	\$1,766.40	\$3,338.50	\$5,436.98
3	Black Locust Tree Removal and Tree Planting	\$50,971.68	ls	1	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$2,760.00	\$5,216.40	\$8,495.28
4	Existing Shelter Restoration	\$50,971.68	ls	1	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$2,760.00	\$5,216.40	\$8,495.28
5	Park Identification Sign	\$10,194.34	ls	1	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$900.00	\$552.00	\$1,043.28	\$1,699.06
6	Mercer Creek Hollow Site Improvements	\$33,981.12	ls	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,840.00	\$3,477.60	\$5,663.52
7	Landscape & Irrigation	\$67,962.24	ls	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,680.00	\$6,955.20	\$11,327.04
8	Project Development Subtotal	\$246,702.93								
9	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 246,700.00</b>								
10										
11	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>									
12	Open Field Play Demolition, Turf & Irrigation Replacement	\$101,943.36	sf	40,000	\$1.50	\$60,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$5,520.00	\$10,432.80	\$16,990.56
13	Parking & Stormwater	\$122,332.03	stall	24	\$3,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$10,800.00	\$6,624.00	\$12,519.36	\$20,388.67
14	Landscape & Irrigation	\$25,485.84	ls	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$1,380.00	\$2,608.20	\$4,247.64
15	Project Development Subtotal	\$249,761.23								
16	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 249,800.00</b>								
17										
18	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>									
19	TESC & Demolition	\$25,485.84	ls	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$1,380.00	\$2,608.20	\$4,247.64
20	Skate Park	\$543,697.92	sf	16,000	\$20.00	\$320,000.00	\$48,000.00	\$29,440.00	\$55,641.60	\$90,616.32
21	Play Plaza (Pre-School & School Age Play Facilities)	\$679,622.40	ls	1	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$36,800.00	\$69,552.00	\$113,270.40
22	Play Plaza Shelter	\$135,924.48	ls	1	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$7,360.00	\$13,910.40	\$22,654.08
23	M/W Pre-Fab Flush Restroom	\$169,905.60	ls	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,200.00	\$17,388.00	\$28,317.60
24	Existing Restroom Renovation for Storage	\$33,981.12	ls	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,840.00	\$3,477.60	\$5,663.52
25	Basketball Court 45'x70' concrete with sports coating	\$76,457.52	ls	1	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$6,750.00	\$4,140.00	\$7,824.60	\$12,742.92
26	Basketball Demolition & Landscape/Irrigation Restoration	\$20,388.67	ls	1	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,104.00	\$2,086.56	\$3,398.11
27	Trails	\$127,769.01	lf	1,880	\$40.00	\$75,200.00	\$11,280.00	\$6,918.40	\$13,075.78	\$21,294.84
28	W. 14th Sidewalk, curb/gutter	\$24,466.41	lf	240	\$60.00	\$14,400.00	\$2,160.00	\$1,324.80	\$2,503.87	\$4,077.73
29	Site Furnishings	\$50,971.68	ls	1	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$2,760.00	\$5,216.40	\$8,495.28
30	Landscape & Irrigation	\$67,962.24	ls	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,680.00	\$6,955.20	\$11,327.04
31	Project Development Subtotal	\$1,956,632.89								
32	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 1,956,600.00</b>								



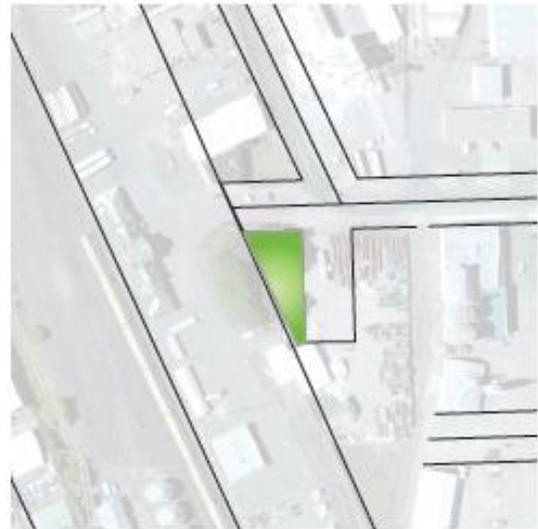
**Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update**

**Kleinberg Park**

**ADDRESS:** W. 14th Ave. & N. B St.  
**SIZE:** 0.37 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Pocket Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

**PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS**

<u>2016-2022</u>	<u>\$17,000.00</u>
-Drinking Fountain	
<u>2023-2028</u>	<u>\$70,000.00</u>
-Perimeter Mow Curb	
-Asphalt Paving	
-Landscape and Irrigation restoration	
<u>2029-2036</u>	<u>\$34,000.00</u>
-Park Fence Removal	
-Caboose Access Platform	

# Kleinberg Park

Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost												
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%		
1	2016-2022 Planning Horizon											
2	Drinking Fountain	\$16,990.56	ls	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$920.00	\$1,738.80	\$2,831.76		
3	Project Development Subtotal	\$16,990.56										
4		<b>Rounded \$ 17,000.00</b>										
5												
6	2023-2028 Planning Horizon											
7	Perimeter Mow Curb	\$27,524.71	lf	540	\$30.00	\$16,200.00	\$2,430.00	\$1,490.40	\$2,816.86	\$4,587.45		
8	Asphalt Paving	\$33,981.12	ls	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,840.00	\$3,477.60	\$5,663.52		
9	Landscape & Irrigation Restoration	\$8,495.28	ls	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$750.00	\$460.00	\$869.40	\$1,415.88		
10	Project Development Subtotal	\$70,001.11										
11		<b>Rounded \$ 70,000.00</b>										
12												
13	2029-2036 Planning Horizon											
14	Park Fence Removal, Caboose Access Platform	\$33,981.12	ls	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,840.00	\$3,477.60	\$5,663.52		
15	Project Development Subtotal	\$33,981.12										
16		<b>Rounded \$ 34,000.00</b>										



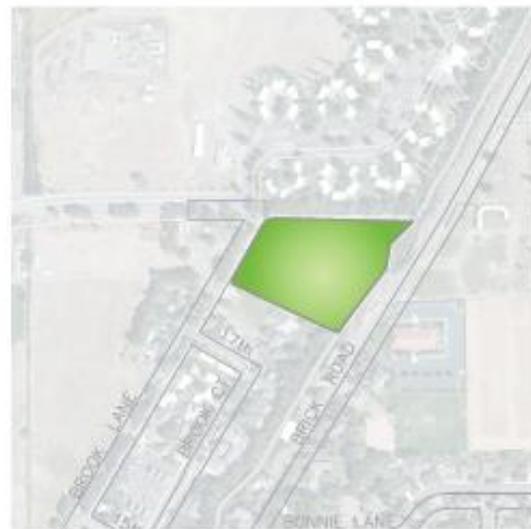
## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### McElroy Park

**ADDRESS:** 1703 Brick Rd.  
**SIZE:** 7.00 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Neighborhood Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<u>2016-2022</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>
-Site and Flood Study	
<u>2023-2028</u>	<u>\$175,003.00</u>
-Educational and Cultural Interpretive Improvements	
<u>2029-2036</u>	<u>\$339,800.00</u>
-Flood Control and Landscape Restoration	
-Picnic Table Shade Structures	

## McElroy Park

Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost											
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%	
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>										
2	Site & Flood Study	\$30,000.00	ls	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	
3	Project Development Subtotal	\$30,000.00									
4	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>									
5											
6	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>										
7	Educational & Cultural Interpretive Improvements	\$30,583.01	ls	1	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$2,700.00	\$1,656.00	\$3,129.84	\$5,097.17	
8	M/W Pre-Fab Restroom	\$144,419.76	ls	1	\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$12,750.00	\$7,820.00	\$14,779.80	\$24,069.96	
9	Project Development Subtotal	\$175,002.77									
10	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 175,000.00</b>									
11											
12	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>										
13	Flood Control & Landscape Restoration Improvements	\$339,811.20	ls	1	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$18,400.00	\$34,776.00	\$56,635.20	
14	Picnic Table Shade Structures	\$91,749.02	each	3	\$18,000.00	\$54,000.00	\$8,100.00	\$4,968.00	\$9,389.52	\$15,291.50	
14	Project Development Subtotal	\$339,811.20									
15	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 339,800.00</b>									



## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### Mountain View Park

**ADDRESS:** 1200 E. Seattle Ave  
**SIZE:** 8.00 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Neighborhood Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

#### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<b>2016-2022</b>	<b>\$188,300.00</b>
-Landscape Restoration	-Master Plan Development
-Picnic Tables on Pads	
-Park ID Signage	
<b>2023-2028</b>	<b>\$747,600.00</b>
-Shelter & Pavement Restoration	-Landscape and Irrigation Improvements
-Lighted Tennis Courts w/ Shelter and Plaza	
<b>2029-2036</b>	<b>\$25,904,500.00</b>
-Community Center	-Climbing Wall
-Parking & Stormwater	-Site Furnishings
-Play Plaza- Courtyard	-Landscape & Irrigation

## Mountain View Park

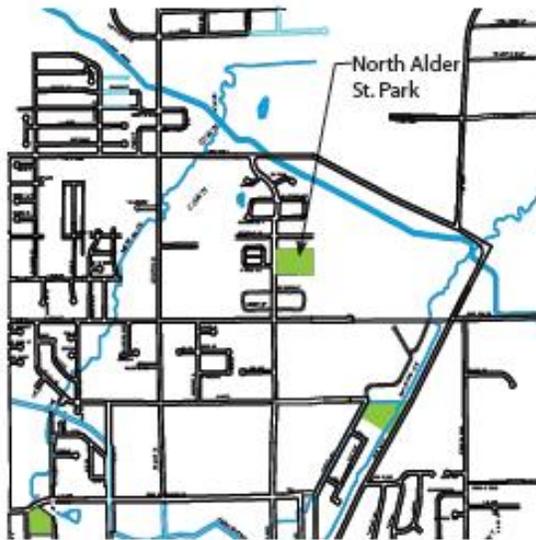
Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost												
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%		
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>											
2	Shrub Removal & Landscape Restoration	\$0.00	ls	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
3	Picnic Tables on Pads	\$32,621.88	each	6	\$3,200.00	\$19,200.00	\$2,880.00	\$1,766.40	\$3,338.50	\$5,436.98		\$5,436.98
4	Park Identification Sign	\$10,194.34	ls	1	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$900.00	\$552.00	\$1,043.28	\$1,699.06		\$1,699.06
5	Park Feature Demolition & Landscape/Irrigation Renovation	\$25,485.84	ls	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$1,380.00	\$2,608.20	\$4,247.64		\$4,247.64
6	Master Development Plan	\$120,000.00	ls	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00				\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
7	Project Development Subtotal	\$188,302.05										
8		<b>Rounded \$ 188,300.00</b>										
9												
10	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>											
11	Shelter & Pavement Restoration	\$33,981.12	ls	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,840.00	\$3,477.60	\$5,663.52		\$5,663.52
12	Tennis Courts (6)	\$407,773.44	ls	1	\$240,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$22,080.00	\$41,731.20	\$67,962.24		\$67,962.24
13	Tennis Courts Illumination	\$237,867.84	ls	1	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$12,880.00	\$24,343.20	\$39,644.64		\$39,644.64
13	Tennis Court Shelter & Plaza	\$33,981.12	ls	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,840.00	\$3,477.60	\$5,663.52		\$5,663.52
14	Shelter & Pavement Restoration	\$33,981.12	ls	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,840.00	\$3,477.60	\$5,663.52		\$5,663.52
14	Landscape & Irrigation Improvements	\$0.00	sf		\$3.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
15	Project Development Subtotal	\$747,584.64										
15		<b>Rounded \$ 747,600.00</b>										
16												
16	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>											
17	Community Center & FFE	\$22,937,256.00	sf	45,000	\$300.00	\$13,500,000.00	\$2,025,000.00	\$1,242,000.00	\$2,347,380.00	\$3,822,876.00		\$3,822,876.00
18	Parking & Stormwater	\$1,132,250.92	stall	238	\$2,800.00	\$666,400.00	\$99,960.00	\$61,308.80	\$115,873.63	\$188,708.49		\$188,708.49
19	Play Plaza-Courtyard	\$135,924.48	ls	1	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$7,360.00	\$13,910.40	\$22,654.08		\$22,654.08
20	Play Plaza-Pre-School & School Age Play Facilities	\$509,716.80	ls	1	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$27,600.00	\$52,164.00	\$84,952.80		\$84,952.80
21	Play Plaza-Spray Court	\$679,622.40	ls	1	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$36,800.00	\$69,552.00	\$113,270.40		\$113,270.40
22	Play Plaza-Shelter	\$101,943.36	ls	1	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$5,520.00	\$10,432.80	\$16,990.56		\$16,990.56
23	Play Plaza-Site Furnishings	\$67,962.24	ls	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,680.00	\$6,955.20	\$11,327.04		\$11,327.04
24	Climbing Wall	\$169,905.60	ls	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,200.00	\$17,388.00	\$28,317.60		\$28,317.60
25	Landscape & Irrigation	\$169,905.60	ls	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,200.00	\$17,388.00	\$28,317.60		\$28,317.60
26	Project Development Subtotal	\$25,904,487.40										
27		<b>Rounded \$ 25,904,500.00</b>										



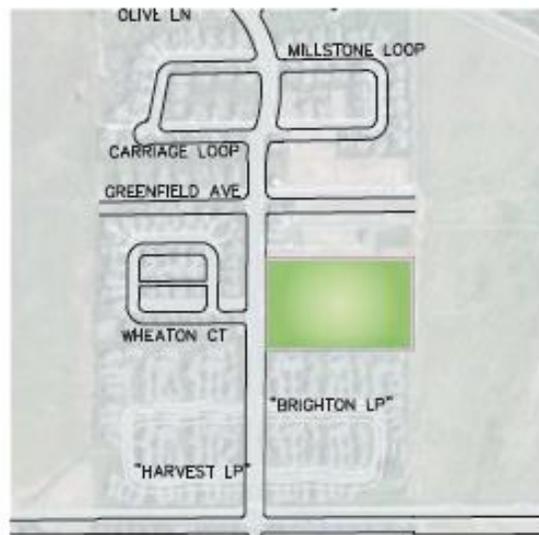
## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### North Alder Street Park

ADDRESS: 2400 N. Alder  
 SIZE: 5.5 Acres  
 PARK CLASSIFICATION: Community Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

#### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

2016-2022	\$169,900.00
-Splash Pad	
2023-2028	\$0.00
2029-2036	\$0.00

North Alder Street Park												
Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost												
Line	Item Description	total w / Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%		
1	2016-2022 Planning Horizon											
2	Slash Pad (400 sf)	\$169,905.60	ls	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,200.00	\$17,388.00	\$28,317.60		
3		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
4		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
5		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
6		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
7		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
8		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
9		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
10	Project Development Subtotal	\$169,905.60										
11	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 169,900.00</b>										
12												
13	2023-2028 Planning Horizon											
14		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
15		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
16	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00										
17	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ -</b>										
18												
19	2029-2036 Planning Horizon											
20		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
21		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
22		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
23	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00										
24	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ -</b>										



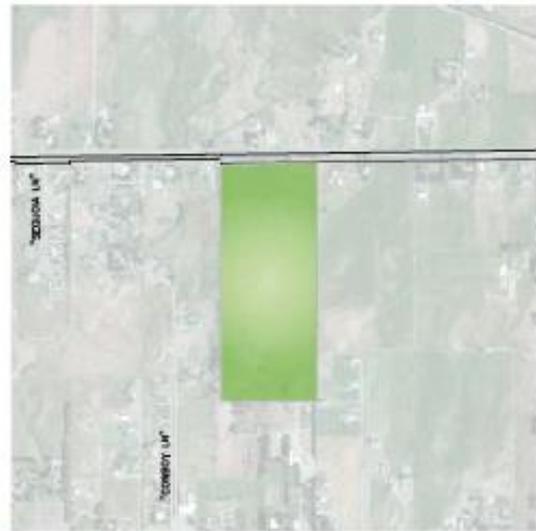
## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### Paul Rogers Wildlife Park

**ADDRESS:** 2400 Judge Ronald Road  
**SIZE:** 20.0 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Community Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<b>2016-2022</b> -Parking Lot Improvements	<b>\$108,000.00</b>
<b>2023-2028</b> -Vegetation Removal	<b>\$37,300.00</b>
<b>2029-2036</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

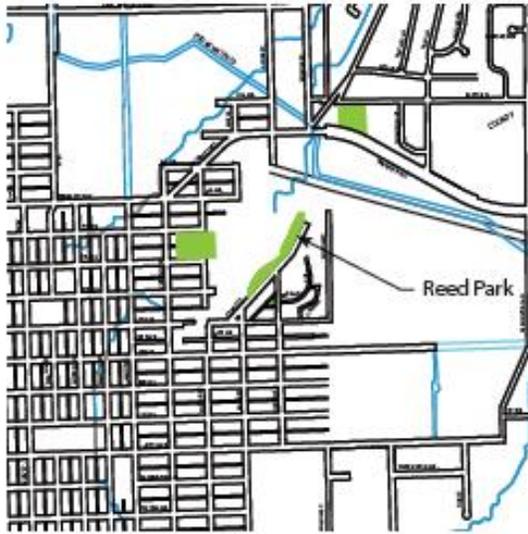
<b>Paul Rogers</b>										
<b>Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost</b>										
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>									
2	Parking Lot Improvements	\$30,000.00	ls	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
3	Irrigation Renovation	\$30,000.00	ls	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
4	Trail Improvements	\$48,000.00	ls	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
5	Project Development Subtotal	\$108,000.00								
6	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 108,000.00</b>								
7										
8	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>									
9	Vegetation Removal and	\$37,260.00	ls	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$2,300.00	\$0.00	\$6,210.00
10	Project Development Subtotal	\$37,260.00								
11	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 37,300.00</b>								
12										
13	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>									
14		\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
15		\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00								
17	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ -</b>								



## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### Reed Park

**ADDRESS:** 1101 Craig Ave.  
**SIZE:** 4.00 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Community Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<u>2016-2022</u>	<b>\$167,400.00</b>
-6' Paved Trail -Park ID Signage -Drinking Fountain	
<u>2023-2028</u>	<b>\$183,500.00</b>
-Pre-Fab Restroom -ADA Parking Stalls	
<u>2029-2036</u>	<b>\$314,300.00</b>
-Performance Canopy -Grading for Amphitheater -Landscape and Irrigation Restoration	

## Reed Park

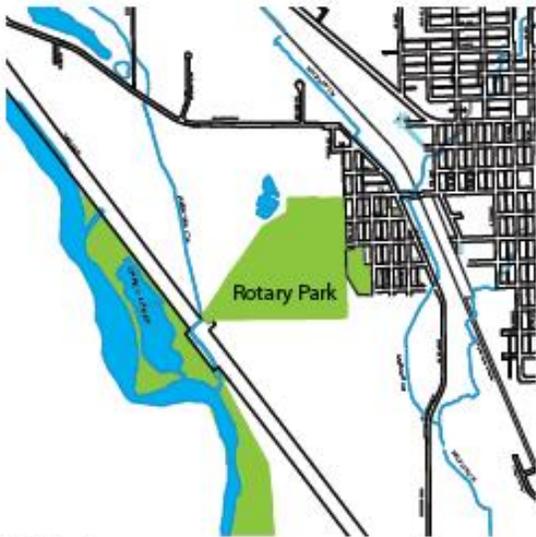
Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost												
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%		
<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>												
1	6' Paved Trail	\$136,774.01	If	1,150	\$70.00	\$80,500.00	\$12,075.00	\$7,406.00	\$13,997.34	\$22,795.67		
2	Park Identification Sign	\$10,194.34	Is	1	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$900.00	\$552.00	\$1,043.28	\$1,699.06		
3	Drinking Fountain	\$20,388.67	Is	1	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,104.00	\$2,086.56	\$3,398.11		
4	Perimeter Edge Barrier	\$116,215.43	If	1,710	\$40.00	\$68,400.00	\$10,260.00	\$6,292.80	\$11,893.39	\$19,369.24		
5	Project Development Subtotal	\$167,357.02										
6	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 167,400.00</b>										
7												
8												
<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>												
9	M/W Pre-Fab Flush Restroom	\$169,905.60	Is	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,200.00	\$17,388.00	\$28,317.60		
10	ADA Parking Stalls	\$13,592.45	stall	2	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$736.00	\$1,391.04	\$2,265.41		
11	Project Development Subtotal	\$183,498.05										
12	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 183,500.00</b>										
13												
14												
<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>												
15	Shelter/Performance Canopy	\$135,924.48	Is	1	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$7,360.00	\$13,910.40	\$22,654.08		
16	Grading for Amphitheatre	\$33,981.12	Is	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,840.00	\$3,477.60	\$5,663.52		
17	Landscape & Irrigation Restoration	\$144,419.76	sf	68,000	\$1.25	\$85,000.00	\$12,750.00	\$7,820.00	\$14,779.80	\$24,069.96		
18	Project Development Subtotal	\$314,325.36										
19	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 314,300.00</b>										
20												



**Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update**

**Rotary Park**

**ADDRESS:** 1200 W. 5th Ave  
**SIZE:** 100.00 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Regional Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

**PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS**

<b>2016-2022</b>	<b>\$5,544,000.00</b>
-Multi-Use Soccer Fields	-Youth Baseball Complex
-Pre-Fab Restrooms	-Sportsfield Lighting
-Softball Complex	
<b>2023-2028</b>	<b>\$2,018,500.00</b>
-Road	-Tournament Shelter
-Parking	
-Pre-Fab Restroom	
<b>2029-2036</b>	<b>\$12,002,100.00</b>
-Road	-Multi-Use Field
-Parking	-Sprayground Plaza
-Covered Roller Rink	-BMX Track

# Rotary Sports Complex

## Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost

Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%
<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>										
1	Muyiti-Use / Soccer Fields (9 Fields)	\$1,617,501.31	ls	1	\$952,000.00	\$952,000.00	\$142,800.00	\$87,584.00	\$165,533.76	\$269,583.55
2	Prefab Concrete Restroom @ Field 9	\$144,419.76	ls	1	\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$12,750.00	\$7,820.00	\$14,779.80	\$24,069.96
3	Softball Complex (2 Fields)	\$1,444,197.60	ls	1	\$850,000.00	\$850,000.00	\$127,500.00	\$78,200.00	\$147,798.00	\$240,699.60
4	Dog Off Leash Area	\$214,081.06	ls	1	\$126,000.00	\$126,000.00	\$18,900.00	\$11,592.00	\$21,908.88	\$35,680.18
5	Youth Baseball Four-plex Illumination	\$1,274,292.00	ls	1	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$112,500.00	\$69,000.00	\$130,410.00	\$212,382.00
6	Softball Complex Illumination	\$849,528.00	ls	1	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$46,000.00	\$86,940.00	\$141,588.00
7	Project Development Subtotal	\$5,544,019.73								
8	<b>Rounded \$ 5,544,000.00</b>									
<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>										
9	Road (Connection between existing Parking & new Parking)	\$305,830.08	ls	1	\$180,000.00	\$180,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$16,560.00	\$31,298.40	\$50,971.68
10	Parking (341 stalls)	\$1,389,827.81	ls	1	\$818,000.00	\$818,000.00	\$122,700.00	\$75,256.00	\$142,233.84	\$231,637.97
11	Prefab Concrete Restroom	\$169,905.60	ls	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,200.00	\$17,388.00	\$28,317.60
12	Tournament Shelter	\$152,915.04	ls	1	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$13,500.00	\$8,280.00	\$15,649.20	\$25,485.84
13	Project Development Subtotal	\$2,018,478.53								
14	<b>Rounded \$ 2,018,500.00</b>									
<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>										
15	Road (Secondary Entrance from Lincoln St. & First Ave.)	\$62,865.07	ls	1	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00	\$5,550.00	\$3,404.00	\$6,433.56	\$10,477.51
16	Parking (93 stalls)	\$378,889.49	ls	1	\$223,000.00	\$223,000.00	\$33,450.00	\$20,516.00	\$38,775.24	\$63,148.25
17	Parking (121 stalls)	\$492,726.24	ls	1	\$290,000.00	\$290,000.00	\$43,500.00	\$26,680.00	\$50,425.20	\$82,121.04
18	Parking (716 stalls)	\$2,920,677.26	ls	1	\$1,719,000.00	\$1,719,000.00	\$257,850.00	\$158,148.00	\$298,899.72	\$486,779.54
19	Covered Roller Rink	\$6,796,224.00	ls	1	\$4,000,000.00	\$4,000,000.00	\$600,000.00	\$368,000.00	\$695,520.00	\$1,132,704.00
20	Multi-Use Field (South)	\$339,811.20	ls	1	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$18,400.00	\$34,776.00	\$56,635.20
21	Sprayground Plaza	\$666,029.95	ls	1	\$392,000.00	\$392,000.00	\$58,800.00	\$36,064.00	\$68,160.96	\$111,004.99
22	BMX Track	\$344,908.37	ls	1	\$203,000.00	\$203,000.00	\$30,450.00	\$18,676.00	\$35,297.64	\$57,484.73
23	Project Development Subtotal	\$12,002,131.58								
24	<b>Rounded \$ 12,002,100.00</b>									



## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### Rotary Pavilion

**ADDRESS:** 104 E. 4th Ave  
**SIZE:** .06 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Community Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<u>2016-2022</u>	<u>\$35,700.00</u>
-Drinking Fountain Repair	
-Concrete Steps Repair	
-Awning Replacement	
<u>2023-2028</u>	<u>\$13,600.00</u>
-Pavilion Repair	
<u>2029-2036</u>	<u>\$1,842,700.00</u>
-Acquisition Cost of Lot	
-Urban Plaza	
-Pavilion Repair	

## Rotary Pavilion

Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost												
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%		
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>											
2	Drinking Fountain Repair	\$5,097.17	ls	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$450.00	\$276.00	\$521.64	\$849.53		
3	Concrete Steps Repair	\$13,592.45	ls	1	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$736.00	\$1,391.04	\$2,265.41		
4	Awning Replacement	\$16,990.56	ls	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$920.00	\$1,738.80	\$2,831.76		
5	Project Development Subtotal	\$35,680.18										
6	<b>Rounded \$ 35,700.00</b>											
7												
8	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>											
9	Pavilion Repair	\$13,592.45	ls	1	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$736.00	\$1,391.04	\$2,265.41		
10	Project Development Subtotal	\$13,592.45										
11	<b>Rounded \$ 13,600.00</b>											
12												
13	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>											
14	Acquisition Cost of Lot	\$300,000.00	ls	1	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00						
15	Urban Plaza	\$1,529,150.40	ls	1	\$900,000.00	\$900,000.00	\$135,000.00	\$82,800.00	\$156,492.00	\$254,858.40		
16	Pavilion Repair	\$13,592.45	ls	1	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$736.00	\$1,391.04	\$2,265.41		
17	Project Development Subtotal	\$1,842,742.85										
18	<b>Rounded \$ 1,842,700.00</b>											



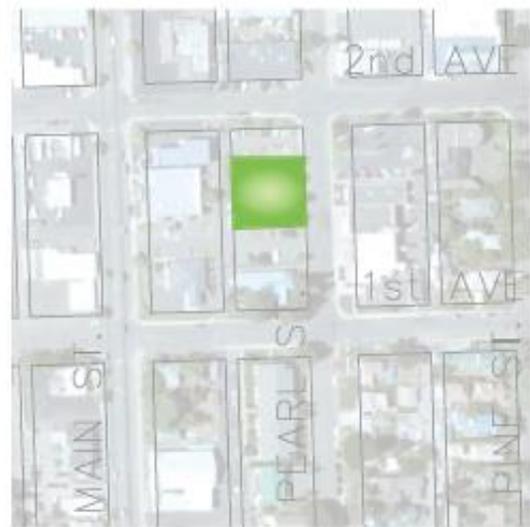
## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### Skate Park

ADDRESS: 2nd Ave. & Pearl St.  
 SIZE: 0.66 Acres  
 PARK CLASSIFICATION: Community Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<u>2016-2022</u>	<u>\$414,600.00</u>
-Drinking Fountain	
-Concrete Skate Court	
<u>2023-2028</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<u>2029-2036</u>	<u>\$169,900.00</u>
-Pre-Fab Restrooms	

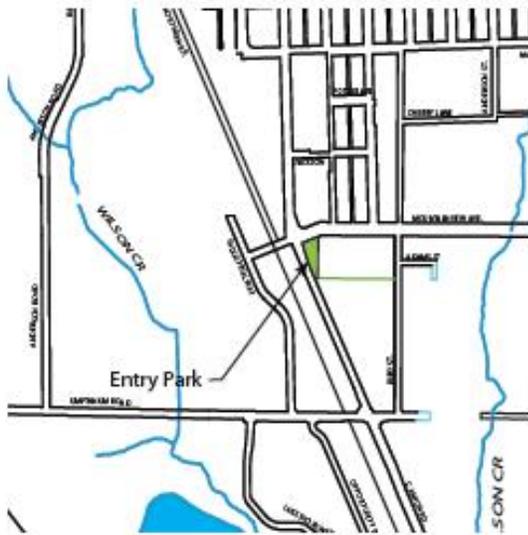
<b>Skate Park*</b>												
<b>Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost</b>												
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%		
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>											
2	Drinking Fountain	\$20,388.67	ls	1	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,104.00	\$2,086.56	\$3,398.11		
3	Concrete Skate Court	\$394,180.99	sf	11600	\$20.00	\$232,000.00	\$34,800.00	\$21,344.00	\$40,340.16	\$65,696.83		
4	Project Development Subtotal	\$414,569.66										
5	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 414,600.00</b>										
6												
7	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>											
8		\$0.00	each	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
9	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00										
10	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ -</b>										
11												
12	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>											
13	M/W Pre-Fab Flush Restroom	\$169,905.60	ls	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,200.00	\$17,388.00	\$28,317.60		
14	Project Development Subtotal	\$169,905.60										
15	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 169,900.00</b>										
*No Improvements will be made to skate Park if Skate Park is relocated to Kiwanis Park.												



## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### South Entry Park

**ADDRESS:** 900 S. Main St.  
**SIZE:** 0.46 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Pocket Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

#### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<b>2016-2022</b> -Park Identification Sign -Horse Sculpture Renovation	<b>\$20,400.00</b>
<b>2023-2028</b> -Vegetation Removal -Landscape and Irrigation Modification	<b>\$12,200.00</b>
<b>2029-2036</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

South Entry Park										
Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost										
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>									
2	Park Identification Sign	\$10,194.34	ls	1	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$900.00	\$552.00	\$1,043.28	\$1,699.06
3	Horse Sculpture Renovation	\$10,194.34	ls	1	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$900.00	\$552.00	\$1,043.28	\$1,699.06
4	Project Development Subtotal	\$20,388.67								
5	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 20,400.00</b>								
6										
7	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>									
8	Vegetation Removal	\$2,038.87	ls	1	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$180.00	\$110.40	\$208.66	\$339.81
9	Landscaping & Irrigation Modifications	\$10,194.34	ls	1	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$900.00	\$552.00	\$1,043.28	\$1,699.06
10		\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Project Development Subtotal	\$12,233.20								
12	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 12,200.00</b>								
13										
14	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>									
15		\$0.00		0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16		\$0.00		0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	Project Development Subtotal	\$0.00								
18	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ -</b>								



## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### Veterans Memorial Park

ADDRESS: 700 N. Poplar St.  
 SIZE: 3.0 Acres  
 PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<u>2016-2022</u>	<u>\$401,00.00</u>
-Park ID Signage	
-Plaza Concrete Renovation	
-Drinking Fountain	
<u>2023-2028</u>	<u>\$64,600.00</u>
-Relocate Area Light	
-Parking Lot Expansion	
<u>2029-2036</u>	<u>\$769,300.00</u>
-Pre-Fab Restrooms	-Basketball Court Modification
-Play Plaza	-Landscape and Irrigation Restoration
-Trails	

## Veterans Memorial Park

Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost												
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%		
<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>												
1	Park Identification Sign	\$10,194.34	ls	1	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$900.00	\$552.00	\$1,043.28	\$1,699.06		
3	Shelters (2) and Storage Bldg. Renovation	\$305,830.08	ls	1	\$180,000.00	\$180,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$16,560.00	\$31,298.40	\$50,971.68		
4	Plaza Concrete Pieces Renovation	\$67,962.24	ls	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,680.00	\$6,955.20	\$11,327.04		
5	Drinking Fountain	\$16,990.56	ls	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$920.00	\$1,738.80	\$2,831.76		
6	Project Development Subtotal	\$400,977.22										
7		<b>Rounded!</b>										
8												
<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>												
9	Relocate Area Light	\$13,592.45	ls	1	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$736.00	\$1,391.04	\$2,265.41		
11	Parking Lot Expansion & Modification	\$50,971.68	ls	1	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$2,760.00	\$5,216.40	\$8,495.28		
12	Project Development Subtotal	\$64,564.13										
13		<b>Rounded!</b>										
14												
<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>												
15	M/W Pre-Fab Flush Restroom	\$169,905.60	ls	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,200.00	\$17,388.00	\$28,317.60		
16	Play Plaza (Pre-School & School Age Play Facilities)	\$424,764.00	ls	1	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$37,500.00	\$23,000.00	\$43,470.00	\$70,794.00		
17												
18	Trails	\$25,485.84	ls	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$1,380.00	\$2,608.20	\$4,247.64		
19	Basketball Court Modification	\$42,476.40	ls	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$2,300.00	\$4,347.00	\$7,079.40		
20	Landscape & Irrigation Restoration	\$84,952.80	sf	40,000	\$1.25	\$50,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,600.00	\$8,694.00	\$14,158.80		
21	Picnic Tables on Pads	\$21,747.92	each	4	\$3,200.00	\$12,800.00	\$1,920.00	\$1,177.60	\$2,225.66	\$3,624.65		
22	ITEM	\$0.00	each	-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
23	Project Development Subtotal	\$769,332.56										
24		<b>Rounded!</b>										
		<b>\$ 769,300.00</b>										



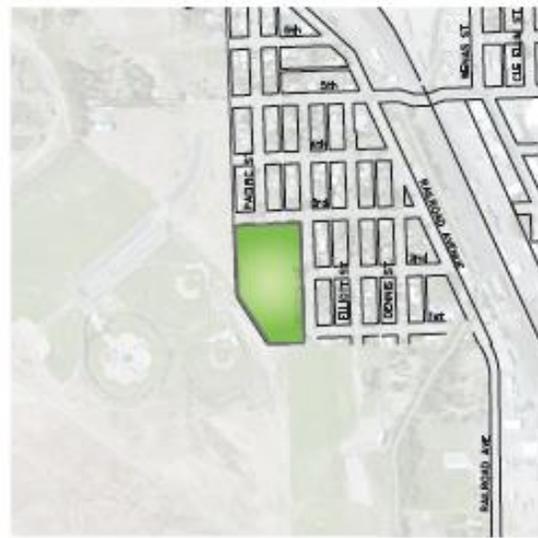
## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### West Ellensburg Park

**ADDRESS:** 900 W. 3rd Ave.  
**SIZE:** 6.0 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Neighborhood Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<b>2016-2022</b>		<b>\$432,600.00</b>
-Demo and Landscape Restoration	-Tennis Courts	-Drinking Fountain
-Park ID Signage	-Baseball Field Outfield and Irrigation Renovation	-Picnic Shelter Renovation
-Restroom Renovation		
<b>2023-2028</b>		<b>\$54,400.00</b>
-Swings Area	-Landscape and Irrigation Improvements	
-Parking Lot Restoration		
<b>2029-2036</b>		<b>\$222,600.00</b>
-Picnic Tables	-On-Street Parking and Sidewalk	
-Pre-Fab Restroom		
-Demo Baseball Parking		

## West Ellensburg Park

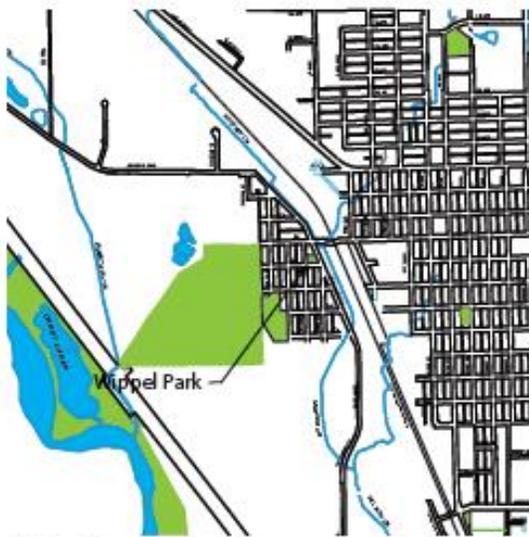
Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost												
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%		
<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>												
1	Park Feature Demolition & Landscape Restoration	\$25,485.84	ls	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$1,380.00	\$2,608.20	\$4,247.64		
2	Park Identification Sign	\$10,194.34	ls	1	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$900.00	\$552.00	\$1,043.28	\$1,699.06		
3	Restroom Painting and Renovation	\$33,981.12	ls	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,840.00	\$3,477.60	\$5,663.52		
4	Tennis Court w/ fencing, concrete, & sports court coating	\$144,419.76	ls	1	\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$12,750.00	\$7,820.00	\$14,779.80	\$24,069.96		
5	Baseball Outfield Renovation	\$96,846.19	sf	76,000	\$0.75	\$57,000.00	\$8,550.00	\$5,244.00	\$9,911.16	\$16,141.03		
6	Baseball Field Irrigation Renovation	\$82,574.12	sf	108,000	\$0.45	\$48,600.00	\$7,290.00	\$4,471.20	\$8,450.57	\$13,762.35		
7	ADA Drinking Fountain	\$13,592.45	ls	1	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$736.00	\$1,391.04	\$2,265.41		
8	Picnic Shelter Renovation	\$25,485.84	ls	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$1,380.00	\$2,608.20	\$4,247.64		
9	Project Development Subtotal	\$432,579.66										
10		<b>Rounded \$ 432,600.00</b>										
11												
12												
<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>												
13	Swings Area	\$50,971.68	ls	1	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$2,760.00	\$5,216.40	\$8,495.28		
14	Parking Lot Vegetation Removal & Restoration	\$3,398.11	ls	1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$300.00	\$184.00	\$347.76	\$566.35		
15	Project Development Subtotal	\$54,369.79										
16		<b>Rounded \$ 54,400.00</b>										
17												
18												
<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>												
19	Picnic Tables on Pads	\$21,747.92	each	4	\$3,200.00	\$12,800.00	\$1,920.00	\$1,177.60	\$2,225.66	\$3,624.65		
20	Pre-Fabricate Concrete Restroom-2	\$135,924.48	each	1	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$7,360.00	\$13,910.40	\$22,654.08		
21	Demolish Baseball Parking & Landscape Restoration	\$22,087.73	sf	5,200	\$2.50	\$13,000.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,196.00	\$2,260.44	\$3,681.29		
22	On-Street Parking/Sidewalk @ Baseball Field	\$42,816.21	stall	9	\$2,800.00	\$25,200.00	\$3,780.00	\$2,318.40	\$4,381.78	\$7,136.04		
23	Project Development Subtotal	\$222,576.34										
24		<b>Rounded \$ 222,600.00</b>										
25												



## Ellensburg Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update

### Wippel Park

**ADDRESS:** 400 N. Elliott St.  
**SIZE:** 0.60 Acres  
**PARK CLASSIFICATION:** Pocket Park



Vicinity Map



Location Map

### PLANNING HORIZON IMPROVEMENTS

<u>2016-2022</u>	<u>\$105,700.00</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Demo and Landscape Renovation</li> <li>-Pickleball Court</li> <li>-Concrete Pad for Existing Picnic Table</li> </ul>	
<u>2023-2028</u>	<u>\$54,400.00</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Relocate Area Light</li> <li>-Parking Lot Expansion</li> </ul>	
<u>2029-2036</u>	<u>\$135,300.00</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Flush Toilet</li> </ul>	

<b>Wippel Park</b>										
<b>Planning Level Estimate of Probable Cost</b>										
Line	Item Description	total w/ Mob.	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Subtotal	Mobilization at 15%	Sales Tax @ 8.0%	A/E @ 14%	Contingency @ 20%
1	<b>2016-2022 Planning Horizon</b>									
2	Park Features Demolition and Landscape Restoration	\$16,990.56	ls	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$920.00	\$1,738.80	\$2,831.76
3	Pickleball Court	\$84,952.80	each	2	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,600.00	\$8,694.00	\$14,158.80
4	Concrete Pad for Existing Picnic	\$3,737.92	ls	1	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$330.00	\$202.40	\$382.54	\$622.99
5	Project Development Subtotal	\$105,681.28								
6	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 105,700.00</b>								
7										
8	<b>2023-2028 Planning Horizon</b>									
9	Parking	\$54,369.79	stall	16	\$2,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$4,800.00	\$2,944.00	\$5,564.16	\$9,061.63
10	Project Development Subtotal	\$54,369.79								
11	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 54,400.00</b>								
12										
13	<b>2029-2036 Planning Horizon</b>									
14	Restroom-Unisex Flush Toilet	\$135,924.48	ls	1	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$7,360.00	\$13,910.40	\$22,654.08
15	Project Development Subtotal	\$135,924.48								
16	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>\$ 135,900.00</b>								

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Ellensburg Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

**Kiwanis Park**  
**Concept Master Plan**

**Legend**

- 1 Mercer Creek Hollow
- 2 Basketball Court (50'x84')
- 3 Ex. Restroom to be remodelled as Wellhouse & Storage Bldg.
- 4 Open Field Play
- 5 Picnic Shelter
- 6 Play Plaza (Preschool & School Age Play Areas, Swings, Climbing Rocks Restroom)
- 7 Ex. Shelter (Restored)
- 8 Trails/Sidewalk
- 9 Parking, 24 stalls +/-
- 10 Skate Court
- 11 Park Identification Sign
- 12



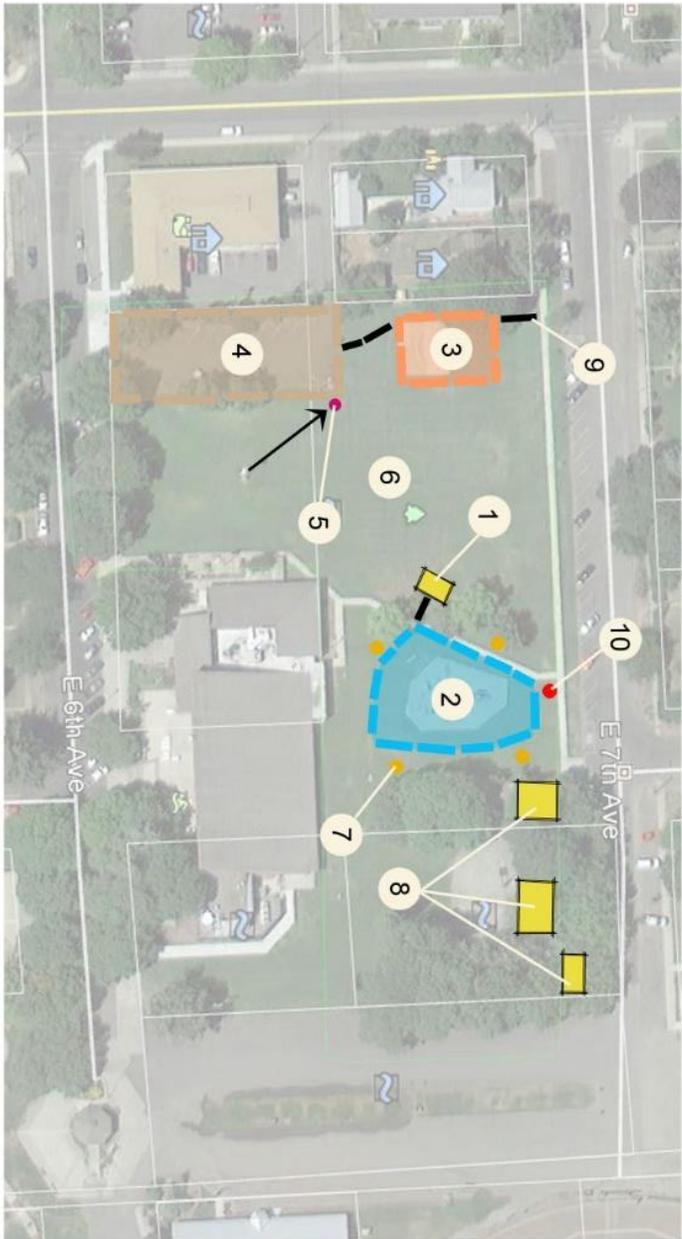
AJO Consulting  
 Robert W. Droll, Landscape Architect, PS  
14253 08/24/15

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# Memorial Park Concept Master Plan

## Legend

- 1 Restroom
- 2 Play Plaza
- 3 Basketball Court (50'x84')
- 4 Ex: Parking, orient stalls @ 90 degrees; 24 stalls +/-
- 5 Relocate Light
- 6 Open Field Play: landscape & irrigation restoration
- 7 Picnic Table Pads
- 8 Remodel Shelters & Storage Unit
- 9 Trails/Sidewalk
- 10 Park Identification Sign



AJO Consulting  
Robert W. Droll, Landscape Architect, PS  
1403 4/25/16

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## Legend

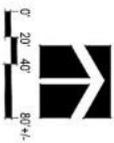
- 1 Remove shrubs, landscape restoration
- 2 Shelter restoration & pavement repair
- 3 Picnic tables on concrete pads
- 4 Play Plaza
- 5 Community Center
- 6 Climbing Wall
- 7 Parking, 238 stalls +/-
- 8 Tennis Courts (6, lighted)
- 9 Park Identification Sign
- 10 Turf/Open Space Restoration
- 11 Vegetative & Block Wall Wind Screen
- 12 Tennis Shelter & Plaza

Ellensburg Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

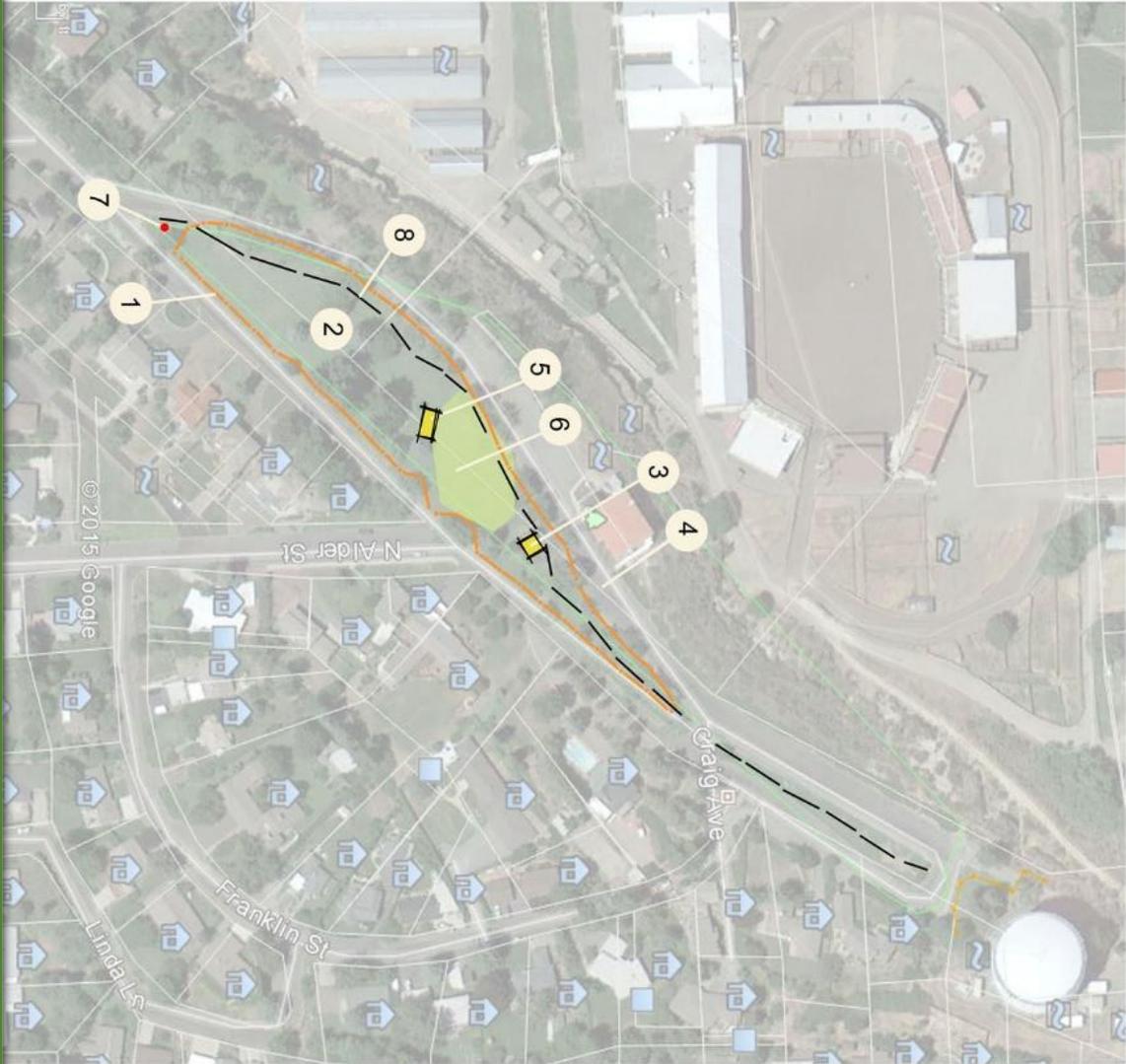
## Mt. View Park Concept Master Plan



AJO Consulting  
Robert W. Droll, Landscape Architect, PS  
14023 02/24/13



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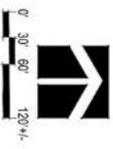
Ellensburg Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

## Reed Park Concept Master Plan

### Legend

- 1 Perimeter Edge Barrier
- 2 Turf, Landscape & Irrigation Restoration
- 3 Restroom
- 4 ADA Compliant Parking (2 stalls)
- 5 Shelter/Performance Canopy
- 6 Amphitheatre (turf)
- 7 Park Identification Sign
- 8 6' Paved Trail

AJO Consulting  
Robert W. Droll, Landscape Architect, PS  
4023 5964115



Ellensburg Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

**Irene Rinehart Park-West End Concept Master Plan**

**Legend**

- 1 Disc Golf Course
- 2 Pedestrian Trails
- 3 Restroom
- 4 Dog Off Leash Area
- 5 Riverfront Trail
- 6 Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park Access Road & Parking



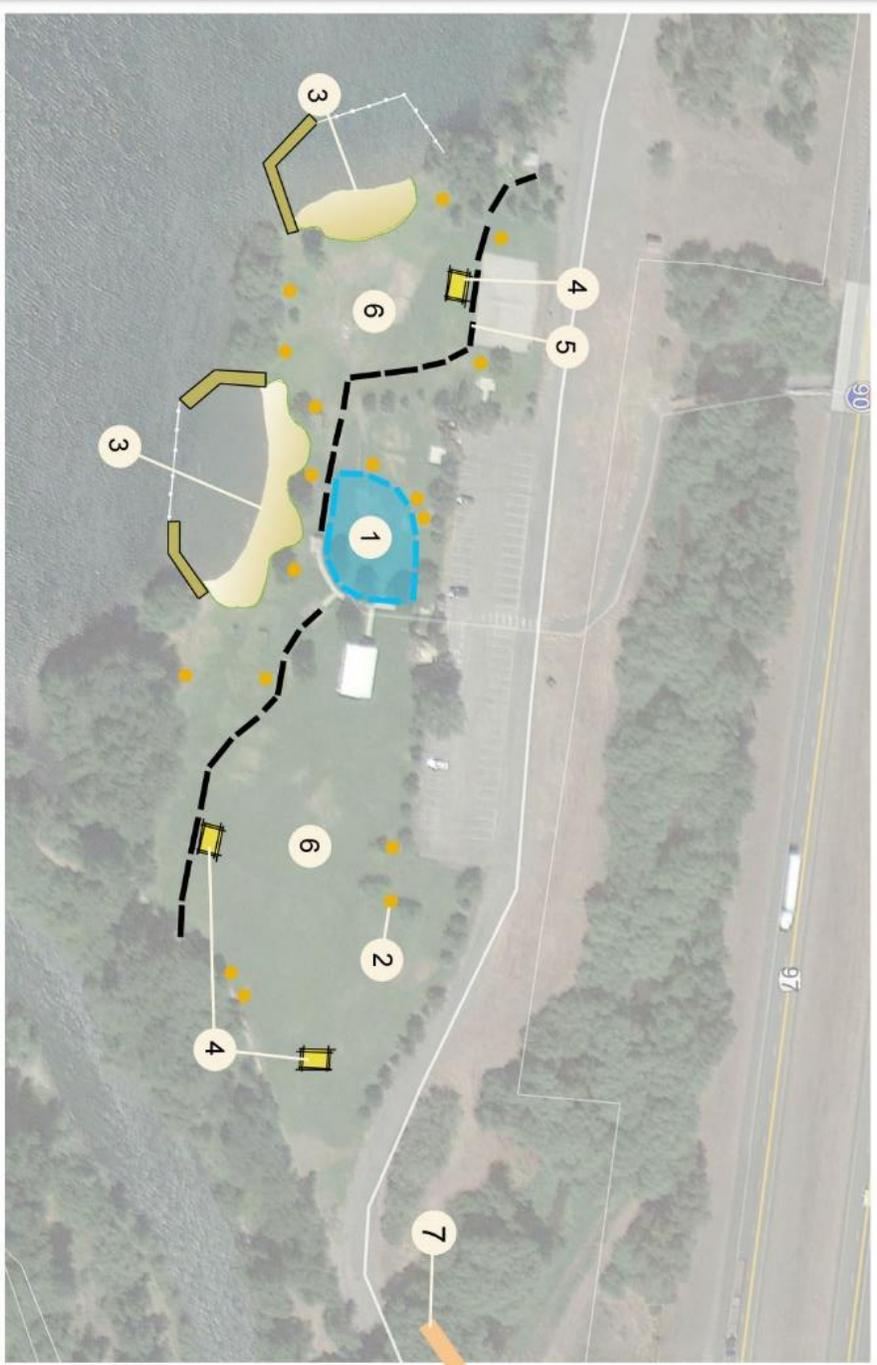
AJO Consulting  
 Robert W. Droll, Landscape Architect, PS  
 1455 10TH ST  
 80741

Ellensburg Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

**Irene Rinehart Park-Day Use Concept Master Plan**

**Legend**

- 1 Play Plaza
- 2 Picnic Table on concrete pad
- 3 Sand Beach & Swim Dock
- 4 Picnic Shelter
- 5 Trails
- 6 Turf Restoration
- 7 Pedestrian Bridge



AIO Consulting  
Robert W. Droll, Landscape Architect, PS  
1400 15th St SE  
Ellensburg, WA 98920

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*Appendix C*  
**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**



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## Exhibit Appendix C-1



### **Parks and Recreation Questionnaire Results Summary**

Available online at <http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/>

March 16 – April 24, 2015

The City of Ellensburg Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update (the Plan) process combines technical analysis with the input of the community to set a direction for the future of the system. This process is designed to ensure that the planning team gathers the input necessary to develop a Plan that is technically sound, rooted in the needs of the community and implementable.

The questionnaire is a key tool for broadening participation and validating the input received from other opportunities. Of all of the planned activities, the questionnaire provides the most flexibility both for the respondent (by allowing them to provide input on their own schedule and giving open-ended opportunities to say whatever needs to be said) and for the planning team (questionnaires are easily distributed, with self-entry allowing for large numbers of respondents at a low cost). This summary describes the results of the questionnaire and includes comparisons with the statistically valid survey conducted in February 2002<sup>117</sup> where possible to compare with today the contrast and changes in public opinion over time. Appendices A and B provide responses to questions that included an option for "Other." The questionnaire was available on the City's website (<http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us>) and City staff advertised the link via email and through City utility bills. A total of 444 individuals responded to the online questionnaire, including 351 fully completed and 93 partially completed questionnaires.

#### ***Data Limitations***

This questionnaire is self-selecting and therefore not random. The results cannot be generalized to the entire population of Ellensburg with any statistical validity. No one public involvement activity is intended to find "the answer" from the public; rather, the themes that emerge from multiple activities will be used as guiding direction for the analysis and recommendations in the Plan.

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<sup>117</sup> Part of the City of Ellensburg Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan (August 12, 2002)

## **Percentages**

In order to capture the maximum number of results, all percentages in the tables below are calculated based on the total number of respondents who started the questionnaire. The “not completed or not displayed” and/or “no answer” answers represent respondents who chose not to answer a certain question or not finish the questionnaire. Therefore, the “not completed or not displayed” and/or “no answer” answers should not be considered a response to the question being asked. These are included in the following summary only to show the total number of respondents who initiated the questionnaire. Further, in the case of questions allowing multiple responses, the percentage is not based on the sum of the answers indicated but rather the number of respondents. In these cases, the sum of the percentages will exceed 100%.

## **Key Findings**

### **Parks**

*Parks, recreation and open spaces are very important to respondents.* The majority of the respondents (85%) indicated that parks and recreation programs are important to the overall quality of life in Ellensburg. Close to 60% of the respondents indicated that natural open spaces are very important to the community.

*Developed parks, trails and waterfront areas are the most popular types of parks.* Based on the questionnaire, respondents visited these areas frequently (at least once a week or 1-2 times a month). Similarly, parks were mostly used for physical activity, including walking or biking.

*Respondents are generally satisfied with park maintenance, but there is some desire for improved maintenance.* Nearly 58% of respondents found the general upkeep and maintenance of parks as excellent or good, while another 25% found it ok. However, based on the open-ended responses, there were many comments expressing a need to improve maintenance.

### **Recreation Facilities and Trails**

*There is interest in adding greater variety in the park system.* Ideas expressed by respondents included a water playground or splash pad, disc golf, off-leash dog areas and places for kids to play.

*Respondents voiced a need to maximize use of existing parks and public land.* In existing parks and facilities, respondents suggested adding lights to ball fields to increase hours for field use, and multi-purpose indoor space for use during colder weather. Some respondents noted that there is existing vacant or underused public land that could be improved for public use.

*Surrounding natural open spaces are highly valued.* Ellensburg is surrounded by outdoor recreation areas and outcomes highlight the importance that these resources have for residents.

*Trail activities are the top most desired types of recreation activities.* Given the time, money and transportation, walking and biking for pleasure were the top two activities chosen by respondents as those they would like to do most.

*Respondents prefer paved trails and trails that link neighborhoods or connect to other trails.* Based on the questionnaire, respondents are most interested in developing more trails for exercise and to increase non-motorized transportation options. A lack of safe trails and connections was also the top reason why respondents aren't currently using trails.

*Recreational trails are also popular.* Respondents expressed a need to provide natural surface trails for mountain biking and trail running.

### **Recreation Programs and Special Events**

*There is potential to increase recreation program participation.* Although 54% of all respondents responded that their household had used City-sponsored recreational programs last year, many respondents were unaware of current offerings. In addition, a smaller percentage of respondents indicated that members of their family had used City-provided recreational programs in the last year compared to the 2002 survey.

*There is interest in special interest programs.* When asked what additional City-provided recreation programs should be offered or expanded, respondents indicated a need for outdoor/environmental programs (37%) and fitness classes (25%). The majority of respondents also indicated they would or would consider paying more for these types of programs.

*Respondents expressed a need for more opportunities for children and families.* Based on the open-ended responses, many respondents felt that children and families are the most underserved by recreation programs.

### **Future Improvements**

*Respondents prioritized upgrading and maintaining existing parks and facilities.* Based on outcomes of the questionnaire, 41% of respondents indicated a need to upgrade existing parks followed by maintaining existing parks and facilities (28%). Based on open ended responses, examples of facilities with an expressed need for improvement include the Racquet Center, city pool, tennis courts and playground equipment.

*New trails are the top priority if funding were available.* Prioritizing a citywide trail system was the top ranked option according to questionnaire outcomes.

*There is interest in a multi-purpose community facility.* The second most popular response for prioritization if funding were available was a multi-purpose community facility. In addition, respondents preferred several types of features to include in such a facility, tennis or racquet courts.

*Though respondents value parks and natural areas, adding or developing new parks and natural areas are not as prioritized.* 16% for developing new parks and only 13% of respondents indicated that acquiring land for future parks was a desired future improvement.

*Respondents prefer that funding and maintenance for parks and recreation is a shared responsibility.* Outcomes highlighted that funding should stem mostly from tax dollars and some user fees. In addition, respondents prefer that private groups continue to share sports field maintenance with the city. Fewer indicated that no fees should be charged or that the city should develop and maintain sports fields and leagues without support.

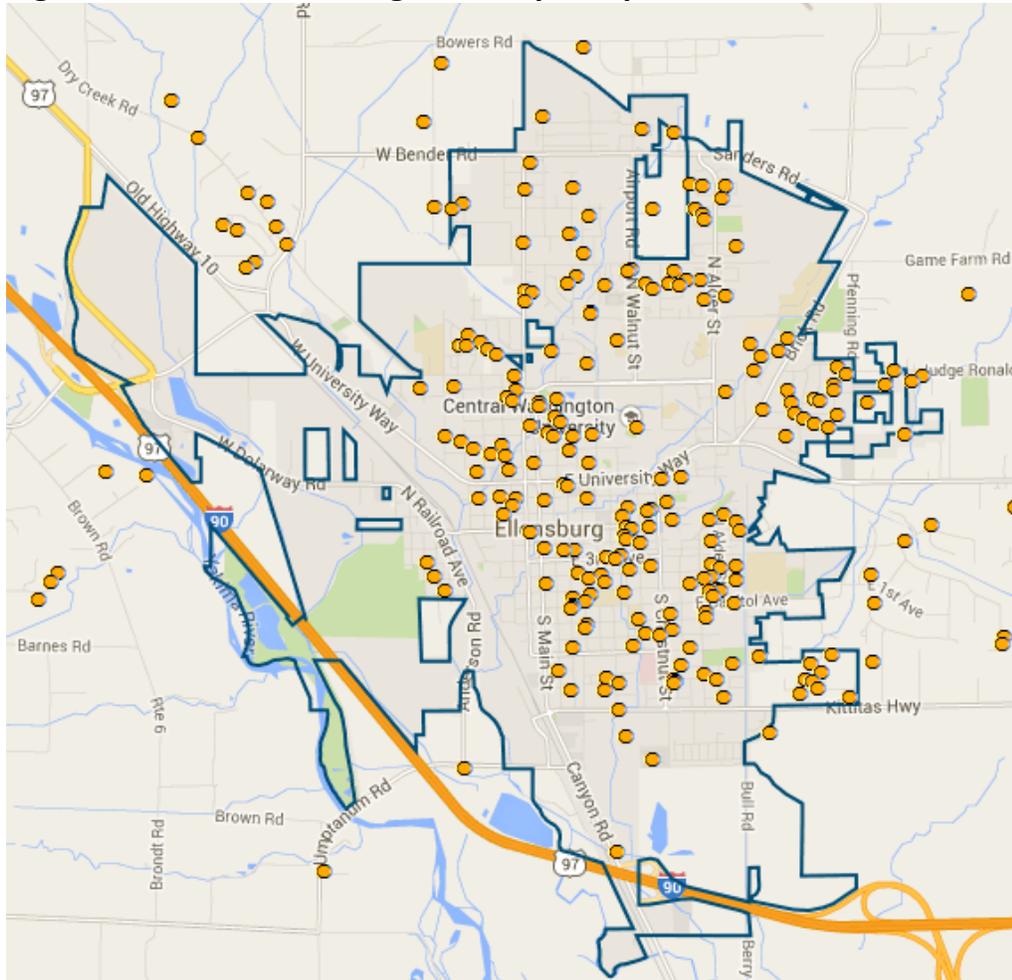
# I. Respondent Demographics

**Table 1. Question 1. Do you live, work or go to school in Ellensburg? (choose all that apply)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
I am a resident of Ellensburg	358	81%
I work in Ellensburg	197	44%
I am a CWU student in Ellensburg	26	6%
Not completed or Not displayed	25	6%

The majority of respondents live in Ellensburg, indicating a stronger representation of the needs of the city at large. Four of every five respondents reported that they live in Ellensburg, while nearly half of the respondents reported that they work in Ellensburg.

**Figure 1. Question 2. Drag and drop the pin to the location where you live.**



**Figure 1: Where do you live in Ellensburg?**

Based on responses to the “where do you live in Ellensburg” question, most areas of the city were generally well represented with input from a wide cross section of the city’s land area.

This also suggests that questionnaire responses more strongly reflect the needs of the average user from within the city.

There were few responses from within the university dorm areas and multi-family housing north of the campus. When compared with Question 1, this pattern indicates that there were fewer responses from CWU students.

There were also several responses from just outside of the city including residential areas just outside of the city limits (within 1-2 miles). This suggests that there are a small percentage of residents living outside of the city that are interested in the city’s park and recreation offerings.

**Table 2. Question 3. If you live in Ellensburg, how long have you lived here?**

Answer	Count	Percentage
10+ years	210	47%
2-5 years	73	16%
6-10 years	66	15%
0-1 years	29	7%
I don’t live in Ellensburg.	25	6%
Not completed or Not displayed	25	6%
No answer	16	4%

Nearly half of respondents (47%) have lived in Ellensburg for 10 years or more, while almost one-third (31%) have lived in Ellensburg for 2-10 years. This suggests that the majority of respondents are more familiar with the longstanding needs, challenges and opportunities facing the city’s parks and recreation system.

**Table 3. Question 4. What is your age?**

Answer	Count	Percentage	US Census % <sup>118</sup>
35-49	184	41%	11%
25-34	90	20%	16%
50-64	66	15%	9%
65+	39	9%	9%
18-24	29	7%	41%
Not completed or Not displayed	25	6%	-
No answer	10	2%	-
Under 18	1	0%	14%

The majority of responses represent the opinion of adults. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65%) identified themselves as being at least 35 years of age. There were almost no responses under the age of 18 and only seven percent of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 24.

Based on US Census estimates, there is a higher percentage of youth and young adults in Ellensburg, and fewer adults than questionnaire respondents, especially within the 35-49 age range.

<sup>118</sup> US Census, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Table 4. Question 5. What is your gender?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female	235	53%
Male	165	37%
Not completed or Not displayed	25	6%
No answer	19	4%

Slightly more than half of the respondents (53%) identified themselves as female.

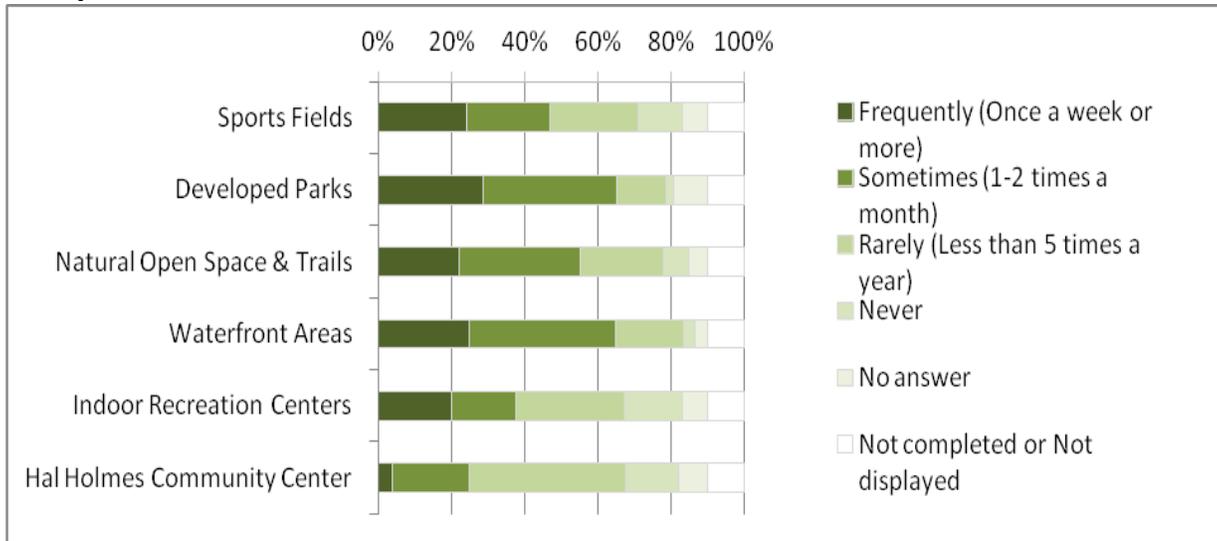
## **II. Parks**

**Table 5. Question 6. How important are parks and recreation programs to the overall quality of life in Ellensburg?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Very important	288	65%
Important	84	19%
Not completed or Not displayed	44	10%
Somewhat important	21	5%
No answer	5	1%
Not very important	2	0%
Not at all important	0	0%
Don't Know	0	0%

According to respondents, parks and recreation programs are important to the city's overall quality of life. Five of every six respondents reported that parks and recreation programs are either important or very important to the overall quality of life in Ellensburg.

**Figure 2. Question 7. How frequently do you visit the following Ellensburg parks in season?**



**Figure 2: How frequently do you visit the following parks?**

The most frequently visited types of parks included developed parks, waterfront areas and natural open space and trails.

Approximately one of every five respondents reported visiting each category of parks at least once each week in-season, with the exception of the Hal Holmes Community Center.

**Table 6. Question 8: What are the primary reasons that you use parks in Ellensburg? (Please check your top 2 choices)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Enjoy the outdoors or nature	224	50%
Walk or bike for exercise	172	39%
Play sports	121	27%
Participate in family activities	86	19%
Picnic and general leisure activities	57	13%
Use a specific facility at a park	50	11%
Not completed or Not displayed	44	10%
Meet friends	36	8%
Attend special events/concerts/movies	34	8%
Don't use parks	2	0%

Respondents generally prefer being outside, walking or biking and playing sports. The top three reasons that respondents reported using parks in Ellensburg are to enjoy the outdoors or nature, to walk or bike for exercise and to play sports. Fewer respondents visited parks for attending special events, concerts or movies.

**Table 7. Question 9. If you seldom use or do not use the parks in Ellensburg, what are your reasons? (Please check your top 2 choices)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
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None of the above	122	27%
Lack of facilities	45	10%
Not completed or Not displayed <sup>119</sup>	44	10%
No time	36	8%
Don't know what's available	28	6%
Poorly maintained	27	6%
Too far away/not conveniently located	17	4%
Don't know where they are	16	4%
Not interested	15	3%
Too crowded	10	2%
Feel unsafe	3	1%
Do not have transportation	2	0%

Of the specific reasons offered, respondents' most common reasons for seldom or never using parks in Ellensburg are due to lack of facilities and lack of time, similar to the feedback collected from the open-ended responses. The higher percentage of "none of the above" responses is likely due to respondents intending to note that they use parks more frequently, and that none of the typical reasons for seldom using a park apply. This observation is supported by the small number of respondents indicating that they don't use parks in Question 8.

However, respondents generally feel safe in parks and have adequate transportation. A lack of transportation, safety concerns, crowded conditions, and awareness of park locations were not primary reasons for seldom using parks.

**Table 8. Question 10. How would you rate the general upkeep and maintenance of the existing parks in Ellensburg? (Please check only one)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Good	207	47%
Ok	111	25%
Excellent	48	11%
Not completed or Not displayed	44	10%
No answer	17	4%
Poor	12	3%
Don't Know	5	1%

Nearly two-thirds of respondents (58%) rated the general upkeep and maintenance of the existing parks in Ellensburg as good or excellent.

The second highest response for rating general upkeep and maintenance of existing parks was ok (25%) while only three percent rated upkeep and maintenance as poor.

<sup>119</sup> The "not completed or not displayed" answers should not be considered a response to the question being asked. These are included only to indicate the total number of respondents who initiated the questionnaire.

**Table 9. Question 11: How would you rate the importance of natural open space to the community? (Please check only one)**

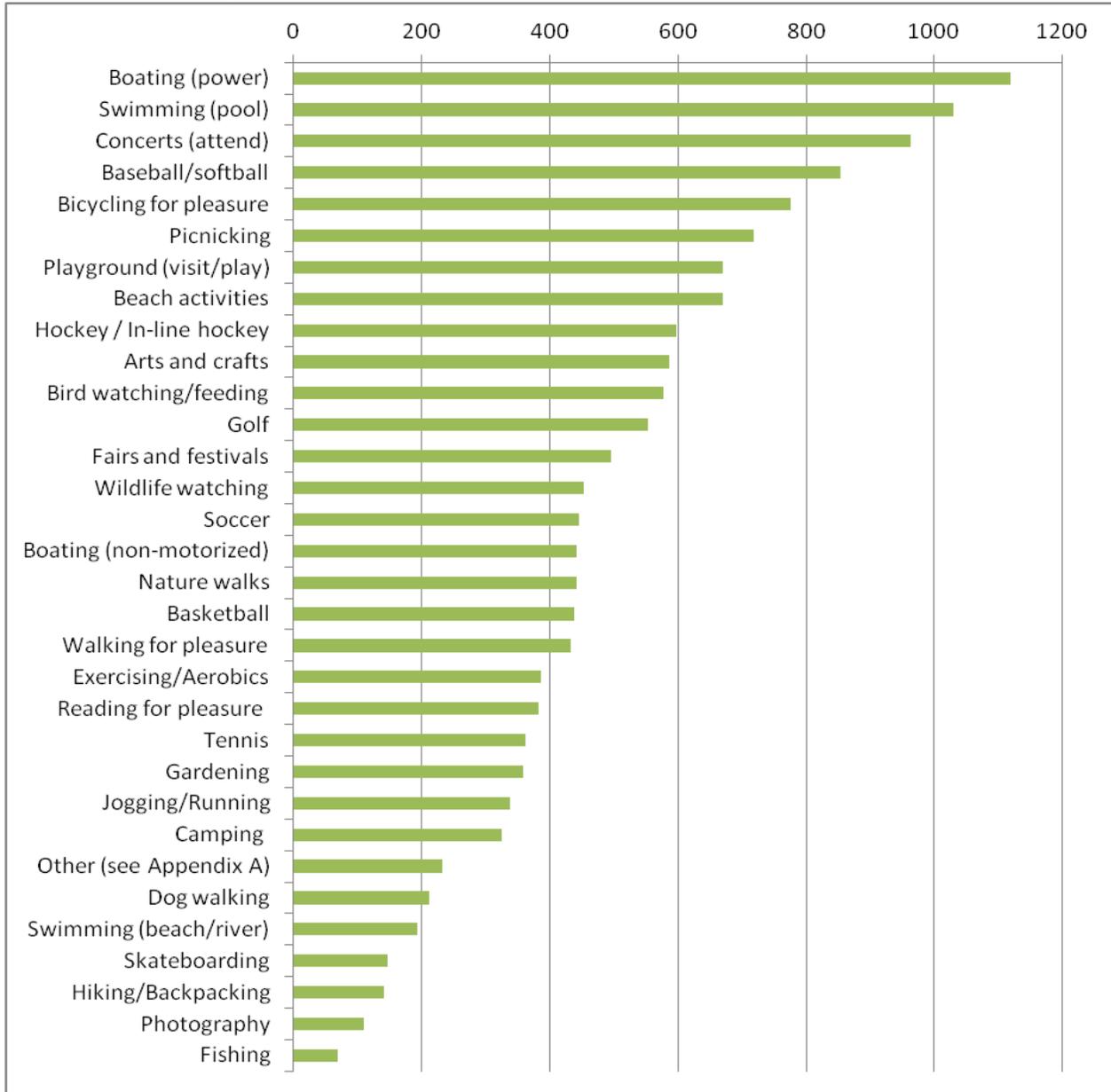
Answer	Count	Percentage
Very important	261	59%
Important	90	20%
Not completed or Not displayed	44	10%
Somewhat important	35	8%
No answer	9	2%
Not very important	5	1%
Not at all important	0	0%
Don't Know	0	0%

Respondents feel strongly about natural open space. Seventy-nine percent of respondents consider natural open space to be important or very important.

Of the most popular types of recreation activities, these areas support being outdoors and trail related activities such as walking and biking.

Based on observations from the open-ended comments, many respondents identified the popularity of surrounding natural open space areas and outdoor recreation resources, outside of Ellensburg. Responses to this question highlight the importance of these resources for outdoor recreation and the high value these areas have to residents.

**Figure 3. Question 12. How often do you participate in recreation activities in Ellensburg or elsewhere? For each activity in which you participate, please select the response that most closely represents how often you participate when the activity is in season.**

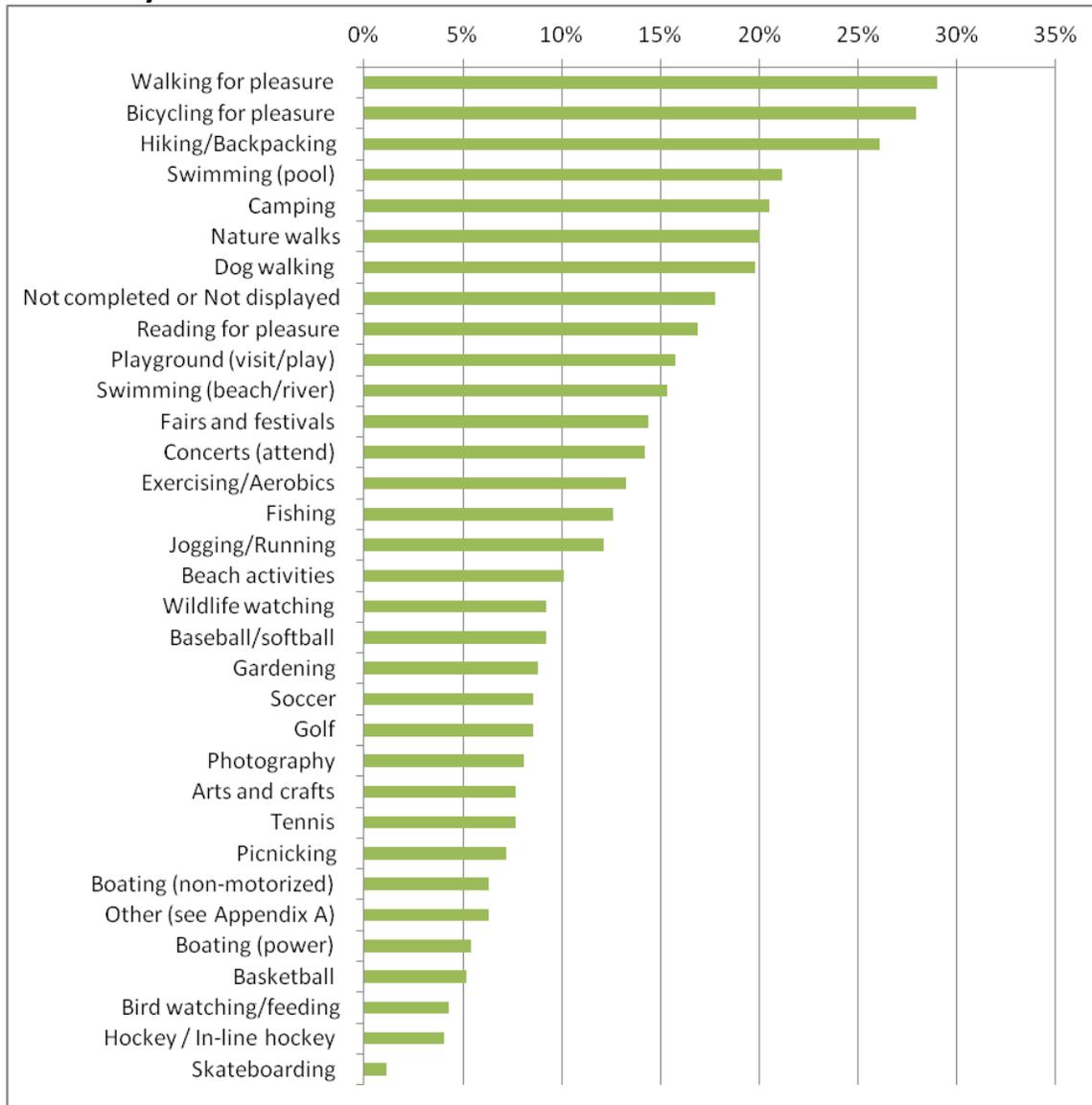


**Figure 3: How often do you participate in recreation activities in Ellensburg or elsewhere?**

Figure 3 shows the frequency of participation in recreational activities. Frequency of participation can be affected by factors such as level of interest; local availability of facilities, programs and events; physical ability; gear and equipment required; cost and convenience. To generate a participation score for each activity, each “daily or almost daily” response was given 5 points, each “once a week or more” response was given 4 points, each “1-2 times per

month” response was given 2 points, each “less than 5 times a year” response was given 1 points, each “never” response was given 0 points, and each “no answer” was given 0 points. Though the nearest boat launch facility is outside the City of Ellensburg, power boating had the highest participation rate. This outcome supports the finding that surrounding outdoor recreation areas play an important role in parks and recreation for Ellensburg residents. Swimming (in a pool), attending concerts, playing baseball/softball and bicycling were also activities that respondents participated in most frequently. These responses also support the finding that being outdoors, biking and playing sports are the top reasons for using parks. Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” responses if none of the choices for recreation activities listed were the ones that they participated in. Out of the 44 open-ended responses, many said that they mountain bike, although biking was also listed as a choice in the questionnaire. Roller skating was also a frequently cited response.

**Figure 4. Question 13. Select the 5 activities you would like to do most. Assume you have the time, money and transportation to do whichever 5 activities you want.**



**Figure 4: Select the 5 activities you would like to do most.**

Figure 4 reflects the percent of respondents who included each activity as one of the five they would most like to do, regardless of obstacles. Walking for pleasure, bicycling for pleasure and hiking/backpacking were the top three activities in this question.

Biking is a top activity regardless of any barriers. This activity was the only one in Figure 4 that was also among the top half of activities actually engaged in, as represented in the preceding question.

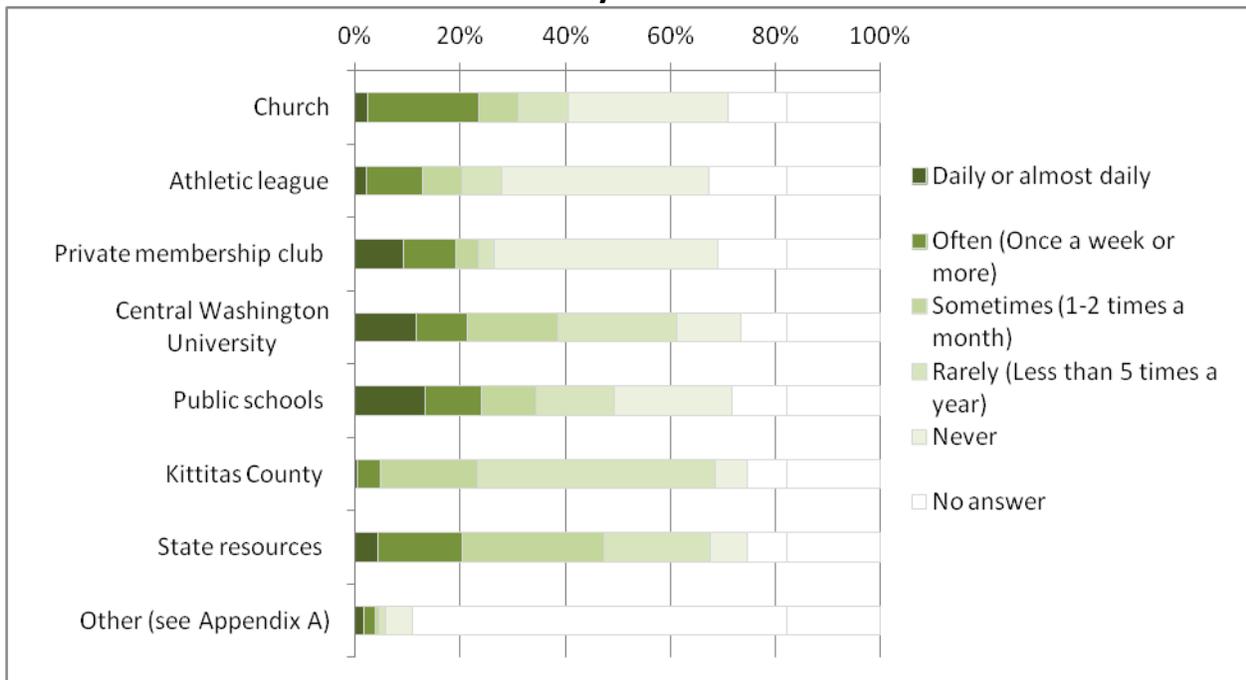
When comparing results from Question 12 with 13, walking for pleasure, hiking/backpacking, camping, nature walks and dog walking were all activities that respondents did not already participate in frequently, but would participate in more regardless of barriers. Though backpacking and camping do not already occur in Ellensburg’s parks, these are activities that

can take place in surrounding natural open space areas and could be activities offered through recreational programming.

Some activities such as soccer, tennis, gardening, wildlife watching, fairs and festivals would remain unchanged regardless of barriers. This may indicate that they are activities that are already adequately supported by existing facilities.

Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” responses if none of the choices for recreation activities listed were the top five activities that they would like to do most. Of the 39 open-ended responses, many respondents recorded mountain biking and roller skating as one of the top five activities that they would like to do most.

**Figure 5. Question 14. Besides the City of Ellensburg, other public and private entities own and operate a variety of park and recreational facilities within the city’s recreational service area. For each facility/provider, please mark the column that best describes how often you visit.**



**Figure 5: How often do you visit other public and private recreational facilities?**

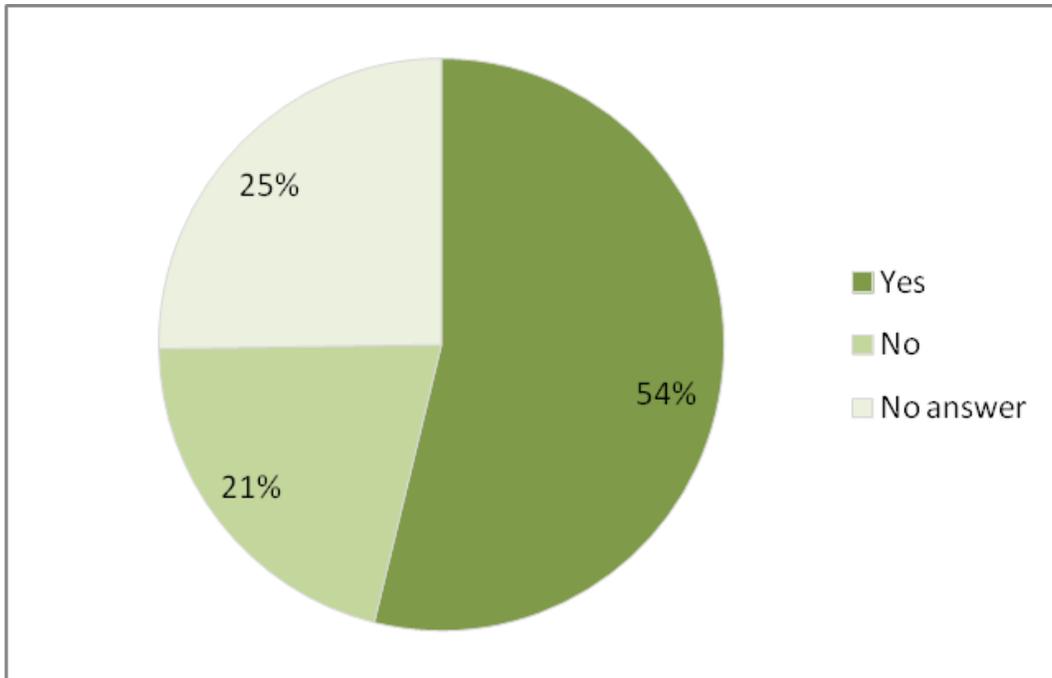
Overall, Figure 5 shows that more than half of respondents occasionally rely on other public and private recreational facilities. This supports findings from the open-ended responses that many respondents use surrounding natural open space areas for outdoor recreation.

Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” public/private park and recreation facility that they used besides the choices listed. Of the 25 open-ended responses, many respondents recorded Manatash Ridge Trail and Naneum Canyon Hiking as other recreation facilities that they used besides city-provided parks and recreation facilities.

Facilities that received the highest share of “sometimes” or “rarely” responses included state resources and Central Washington University.

### III. Recreation Programs and Special Events

**Figure 6. Question 15. Have any household members used recreational programs provided by the city in the last year?**



**Figure 6: Have any**

***household members used recreational programs provided by the city in the last year?***

Slightly more than half of all respondents (54%) indicated that members of their household had used city-provided recreational programs in the last year. According to the 2002 Survey, slightly more (66%) responded favorably to this question.

Although more than half of all respondents indicated that members of their household had used city-provided recreational programs in the last one year, nearly 46% of the respondents either did not provide an answer or currently do not use city-provided recreational programs. When combined with responses from Questions 17 and 19, outcomes suggest a need to improve the awareness and variety of available programs.

**Table 10. Question 16. If you participated in services and programs offered by the City of Ellensburg, how did you learn about them? (Please select all that apply)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
From friends or word of mouth	161	36%
From the city's program guide	99	22%
Information distributed at schools	92	21%
Website/Facebook	87	20%

From the local newspaper	86	19%
Posters/Flyers/Banners	83	19%
Not completed or Not displayed	80	18%

Approximately one-third of respondents indicated that they learned about city services and programs from friends or word of mouth. However, all other sources received a similar share of responses. Results suggest that in-person networks might be the most effective in communicating services and programs.

**Table 11. Question 17. If you do not participate in recreation or sports programs offered by the City of Ellensburg, what are your reasons? (Please select all that apply)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Not aware of programs	86	19%
Not completed or Not displayed	80	18%
Too busy/no time	70	16%
Don't have activities I'm interested in	61	14%
Held at inconvenient times	28	6%
Too expensive	22	5%
Need child care in order to participate	18	4%
Poor quality of programs	14	3%
Classes or programs are full	5	1%
Held at inconvenient locations	3	1%
Not accessible for people with disabilities	3	1%
Lack of transportation	2	0%

Respondents' most frequently cited reason for not participating in programs offered by the city is a lack of awareness of programs. The next most frequent reason is a lack of time, followed by a lack of activities that hold their interest.

**Table 12. Question 18. What are the most convenient program times for you and others in your household? (Please select your top 2 choices)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Weekday evenings	173	39%
Weekend afternoons	102	23%
Weekend mornings	96	22%
Drop-in formats, rather than on-going activities	93	21%
Not completed or Not displayed	80	18%
Weekday afternoons	67	15%
Weekday mornings	42	9%

Weekend evenings	39	9%
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Respondents indicated that weekday evenings are the most convenient times for them to participate in programs, followed by weekend afternoons and weekend mornings. Respondents indicated that the most inconvenient times for them to participate in programs are weekend evenings and weekday mornings.

Besides weekday evenings and weekend afternoons or mornings, drop-in formats emerged as a popular choice. This could be a format that can be explored to satisfy multiple user needs, especially if offered during weekends where more than one convenient time is identified.

**Table 13. Question 19. What additional recreation programs do you feel the City of Ellensburg should offer or expand? (Please select all that apply)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Special events (concerts in the park, festivals, movies, etc.)	168	38%
Outdoor/Environmental programs	163	37%
Fitness classes (aerobics, yoga, etc.)	110	25%
Sports (Baseball, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.)	102	23%
General interest classes (music lessons, computers, etc.)	93	21%
Not completed or Not displayed	80	18%
Arts (drama, painting, etc.)	77	17%
Aquatic programs (swim lessons, water exercise, etc.)	77	17%
Drop-in activities	70	16%
Before and after school programs	68	15%
Other (see Appendix A)	57	13%
No additional programs are needed	18	4%

In general, outcomes suggest a need for more variety in recreation programming opportunities. Respondents were most enthusiastic about Ellensburg offering additional special events, outdoor/environmental programs and fitness classes. All of these programs could be supported through outside partners or organizations.

When compared with responses from the 2002 Survey, there were more respondents who prioritized before and after school programs and aquatic programs, but fewer who prioritized special events and fitness classes.

Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” additional recreation programs that the City of Ellensburg should offer or expand. Of the 57 open-ended responses, some of the most common responses included ice hockey, roller skating, tennis, biking/cycling and opportunities for children.

**Table 14. Question 20. Which groups are most underserved by current recreation services? (Please select your top 2 choices)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Adults	103	23%
Not completed or Not displayed	89	20%
All groups are served adequately	74	17%
High school youth	46	10%
Families	43	10%
Middle school youth	39	9%
Preschoolers	34	8%
Elementary youth	33	7%
Seniors	33	7%
People from diverse cultures	29	7%
People with disabilities	23	5%

Almost a quarter of respondents indicated that adults are the most underserved group. At the same time, nearly one-fifth of respondents indicated that all groups are adequately served.

However, open-ended responses suggest that there is a need to increase offerings for youth and families.

**Table 15. Question 21. What role should the City of Ellensburg assume in organized youth sports and sports facilities? (Please select one)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Develop sports fields and share maintenance responsibilities with private groups (city’s current role)	174	39%
Not completed or Not displayed	89	20%
Develop and maintain sports fields and manage/develop sports leagues	67	15%
No answer	61	14%
Develop and maintain sports fields	46	10%
Not be involved in organized youth sports	7	2%

More than one-third of respondents indicated that the city should maintain its current role in organized youth sports—to develop and share maintenance responsibilities of sports fields. About one in six respondents believe that the city’s role should expand to include developing and managing sports fields and sports leagues.

**Table 16. Question 22. How would you rate the recreation activities and programs provided by the City of Ellensburg? (Please select one)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
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Satisfactory. There are some opportunities to do the recreation activities and programs I enjoy.	159	36%
Not completed or Not displayed	89	20%
Very Good. There are several opportunities to do many of the recreation activities and programs I enjoy.	75	17%
Not very good. There are a few opportunities to do the recreation activities and programs I enjoy.	45	10%
Not sure. I don't know what is offered.	32	7%
No answer	24	5%
Excellent. There are many opportunities to do all or most of the recreation activities and programs I enjoy.	16	4%
Totally inadequate. There are no opportunities to do any of the recreation activities and programs I enjoy.	4	1%

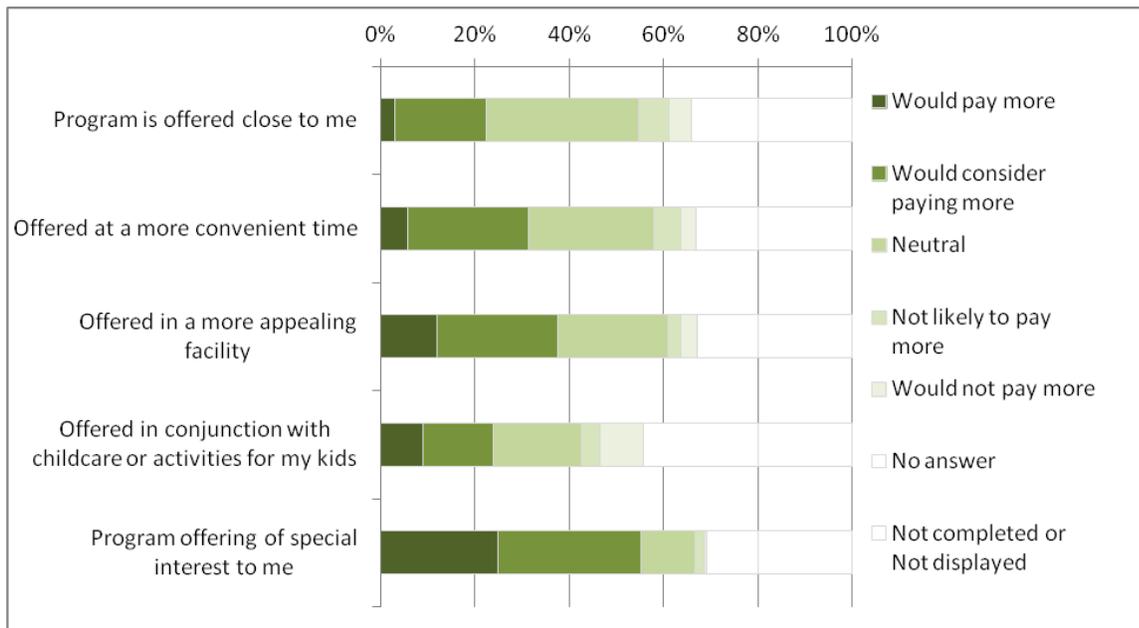
Overall, respondents are satisfied with recreation activities and programs. Slightly more than one-third of respondents rated the city's recreation activities and programs as satisfactory. Nearly one-fifth of respondents rated the programs and activities as very good. However, 11% felt that activities and programs are inadequate. An additional 7% indicated that they don't know what is offered, reinforcing the top response in Question 17

**Table 17. Question 23. Which one of the following statements best describes how you feel park and recreation programs and facilities should be funded? (Please select one)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Mostly from tax dollars and some from user fees	192	43%
Not completed or Not displayed	89	20%
Mostly from user fees and some from tax dollars	88	20%
100% from taxes – no fees should be charged to use recreation facilities and programs	30	7%
Don't know	24	5%
No answer	15	3%
100% from user fees	6	1%

Respondents generally felt that support for parks and recreation should be partially shared between residents and users. Nearly half of respondents (43%) indicated that programs and facilities should be funded primarily from tax dollars with some additional user fees. One in five respondents indicated that they believed the opposite to be ideal; that funding should come primarily from user fees with some additional tax dollars.

**Figure 7. Question 24. How would the following factors influence the amount you would pay for recreation programs and organized activities? For each factor, please mark the column that best describes how you would pay.**



**Figure 7: How would the following factors influence the amount you would pay for recreation programs and organized activities?**

Of the respondents who provided an answer to this question, approximately half indicated they would or would consider paying more for recreation programs and organized activities. When evaluated all possible answer choices, programs that offer special interest, and a more appealing facility are the most appealing.

## IV. Future Improvements

**Table 18. Question 25. How can the City of Ellensburg park system be improved? (Please select your top 2 choices)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Upgrading existing parks	183	41%
Maintaining existing parks and facilities	125	28%
Building major new facilities, such as sports fields or community centers	95	21%
Not completed or Not displayed	92	21%
Acquiring natural areas	89	20%
Developing new parks	69	16%
Acquiring land for future parks	59	13%

The majority of responses show a need to reinvest in existing sites and facilities. Nearly three-quarters of respondents indicated that improvements should focus on upgrades to existing parks (41%) and maintenance of existing parks and facilities (28%).

Only one-fifth of respondents supported building of new facilities, and slightly fewer respondents selected acquiring or development parks and natural areas.

When compared with a similar question in the 2002 Survey, protecting and adding natural areas was a higher priority for respondents.

**Table 19. Question 26. If funding were available, which of the following facilities should have the highest priorities in Ellensburg? (Please select your top 2 choices)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
A citywide trail system	143	32%
Multi-purpose indoor community/recreation/senior center	114	26%
Not completed or Not displayed	92	21%
Water playgrounds	87	20%
Off-leash dog area	72	16%
Other (see Appendix A)	65	15%
More river access for recreation, swimming and boating	60	14%
Sports fields (e.g., baseball, softball, soccer, rugby)	44	10%
More outdoor courts for basketball, volleyball or tennis	41	9%
Community gardens	21	5%
More picnic areas	11	2%

A citywide trail system (32%) and a multipurpose community/recreation/senior center (26%) were the highest priorities for respondents if funding were available. Both types of facilities were also top responses in the 2002 Survey.

Adding a variety of different facilities, such as water playgrounds and off-leash dog areas were also noted in Appendix A. Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” additional facilities besides those listed as options that should receive priority if funding became available. Of the 65 open-ended responses, many respondents indicated that the City should prioritize funding for ice hockey facilities, a roller skating rink and biking trails.

**Table 20. Question 27. What facilities would you most like to see in an indoor recreation center? (Please select your top 2 choices)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Multi-use gymnasium	194	44%
Weight room/fitness room	100	23%
Not completed or Not displayed	92	21%
Aerobics/exercise classrooms	71	16%
Space for teen activities	66	15%
Large multi-purpose/reception room	63	14%
Space for senior activities	36	8%
Childcare	29	7%
Meeting rooms/classrooms	28	6%

Respondents would most like to see a multi-use gymnasium in a new recreation facility, followed by a weight/fitness room.

Though spaces for kids and teens did not rank highly in this question, results from other questions suggest a need for spaces dedicated for youth and teen sports and programming. Alternatively, a multi-use gymnasium could be designed to accommodate a wider range of age groups.

## V. Trails

**Table 21. Question 28. What type of trails/pathways should have the highest priority in Ellensburg? (Please select your top 2 choices)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Paved trails for walking, biking, etc.	173	39%
Trails that link neighborhoods with community destinations	145	33%
Trails that link with other existing trails	98	22%
Not completed or Not displayed	93	21%
Nature trails (pedestrians only)	89	20%
Trails that extend long distances (5+ miles)	84	19%
Trails designed for mountain biking	52	12%
None of the above	8	2%

In general, responses suggest a need for paved trails that connect users to neighborhoods and city destinations. Respondents indicated a high priority for paved trails (39%), and for creating connectivity in Ellensburg’s trail system, both by linking neighborhoods with community destinations (33%) and by linking new trails to existing trails (22%). Responses from the open-ended questions also show a strong interest in natural surface trails for biking, hiking and running.

**Table 22. Question 29. If you do not currently use pathways or trails in Ellensburg, what are your primary reasons? (Please select your top 2 choices)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Lack of trails and connections	93	21%
Not completed or Not displayed <sup>120</sup>	93	21%
None of the above	76	17%
Don’t know where they are located	60	14%
Too far away, not conveniently located	53	12%
Poorly maintained	24	5%
Feel unsafe	16	4%
Not interested in using trails	15	3%
Conflicts with other types of trail users	14	3%

Lack of trails and connections, lack of awareness of trail locations and lack of access are indicated as the most likely reasons respondents do not use the existing trails in Ellensburg. Safety concerns and lack of maintenance are not the major reasons preventing respondents from using trails in Ellensburg. Only 3% of the respondents indicated that they do not use pathways or trails for these reasons.

The higher percentage of “none of the above” responses is likely due to respondents intending to note that they use trails more frequently, and that none of the typical reasons

<sup>120</sup>

for not using trails applies. This observation is supported by the higher number of respondents indicating that they frequently use trails in Question 7, as well as feedback collected from the open-ended responses.

When combined with the top responses from Question 28, responses indicate a strong interest in building the trail system and filling in gaps to complete community connections.

**Table 23. Question 30. What are the primary reasons to develop more trails in Ellensburg? (Please select your top 2 choices)**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Exercise	223	50%
Increase non-motorized transportation options	158	36%
Recreation	120	27%
Experience nature	106	24%
Not completed or Not displayed	93	21%
Improve children’s access to schools	32	7%
No additional trails are needed	10	2%

Respondents indicated that the most important reasons to develop more trails in Ellensburg are for exercise and to increase non-motorized transportation options.

Only two percent of respondents indicated that no additional trails are needed.

When combined with other questions in the questionnaire, respondents feel strongly about improving access to trails and increasing opportunities for recreation as well as non-motorized transportation.

**Figure 13. Question 31: Is there anything else that you would like us to know?**

Questionnaire participants had the option to contribute open-ended comments regarding parks and recreation. More than 150 respondents provided feedback. Complete responses are provided in Appendix B. The following “word cloud” shows the most commonly used words from Appendix B to provide a snapshot of responses. A larger font size indicates words used most frequently.



**Figure 13: Open Ended Response Word Cloud**

Listed below are some of the common themes that emerged from the 150 open-ended responses.

*Opportunities for youth and families:* Many respondents expressed a desire for more programs and facilities oriented for kids and families such as splash pads and play areas.

*Trails and connectivity improvements:* Constructing new trails and increasing trail connectivity by expanding existing trails were strong themes that emerged from the open-ended responses. Many respondents want to be able to use trails for walking and biking. Many also felt that a connected trail system would offer a safer alternative for children to bike or walk to school as well.

*Dog off leash area (DOLA) s:* Many respondents suggested off-leash Dog off leash area (DOLA) s to be developed in Ellensburg. In addition, several respondents voiced a need to separate Dog off leash area (DOLA) s from play area for children.

*Indoor sports facilities:* Another common theme from the open-ended responses is the need for indoor sports facilities for tennis, soccer and skating.

*Awareness of existing recreation programs and facilities:* Many respondents felt it is difficult to find or learn about activities offered by the city or private entities. They expressed a need for some physical or digital bulletin with activities that are city-provided and also from other private entities.

*Improved maintenance and facility upgrades:* Several comments expressed the need to reinvest in existing facilities. These included improving maintenance and upgrading or expanding on recreation facilities to add excitement and variety to the system.

## Appendix C-1.A

Questions 12, 13, 14, 19 and 26 provided respondents with the opportunity to identify 'Other' responses. All of these open-ended responses are provided below, edited only to remove personally identifying information.

### Figure 8. Question 12. How often do you participate in recreation activities in Ellensburg or elsewhere?

- Long walks with the dog
- Love the park at canyon rd and berry. Very green grass!
- in line skating
- Roller derby/skating
- Biking!
- I regularly attend soccer games at the west side playing fields in season.
- BMX/Street riding
- ultimate Frisbee
- Plays, events at Hal Holmes
- hunting, outdoor landscape and/or wildflower and/or wildlife photography
- Disc Golf
- Ellensburg is so nice for walking and biking. I mean just as an everyday activity.
- picking wild berries, mushrooms & other edible plants
- horseback riding; cross-country skiing
- Mountain Biking and rock climbing
- I wish there was a Dog off leash area (DOLA)! We see so many people with dogs and nowhere to let them play off leash!
- Mountain Biking and Road Biking
- Mountain biking, road biking
- Mountain biking on Manatash Ridge, above the Orr mansion, Orion Farms area. Daily or almost daily.
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking, Skiing
- Would love more skills type bike features I would do that with my family 1-2x per week. I'd also love an enclosed Dog off leash area (DOLA) area I would do that 1x per week
- Trail running; Mountain Biking (I like trails!)
- Mountain biking and trail running
- Football
- Mountain biking
- The city really lacks outdoor tennis facilities in comparison with other similar sized communities. The indoor racquet center needs its courts dedicated to tennis only use and those courts need regular cleaning.
- dog walking almost daily
- Racquetball
- EXERCISE @ THE RAQUET CENTER

- Metal detecting
- Used to rollerblade in the court at Mt. View Park, but the City started locking it up, thus shutting out regular residents and letting in only planned groups I assume (i.e. Roller Girls and others)
- Bicycling
- looking for wildflowers, identification and personal enjoyment
- Roller skating. I use the park at Mountain View very frequently as does the rest of my roller derby team.
- Roller skate
- Roller skating
- I use the outdoor skating rink throughout the spring and summer -- many others use it for skating activities (not just hockey). The local roller derby group uses it for outdoor practice as well.
- ping pong, badminton, sit outside in a sunny wind-sheltered area
- Sports and grandkids
- We do a lot of activities - grandchildren ages 5,8, and 11- it is wonderful to have the sports places for their sports
- roller skating
- racquetball
- slacklining



**Figure 9. Question 13. Select the 5 activities you would like to do most. Assume you have the time, money and transportation to do whichever 5 activities you want.**

- splash pad
- PICKLEBALL would be nice to have. You get great exercise doing it and it is fun. It is the fastest growing sport. It is a sport from grade school kids up to 80 year olds
- in line skating
- Roller Derby/skating
- Do not limit what I can chose!
- BMX/Street riding
- Indoor exercise facilities need to be improved and increased.
- Ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee golf
- PLAYS and other shows!
- It would be nice to have an indoor place to walk during the winter when cold & windy, and also during the very hot days.
- Disc Golf
- Live theatre productions
- I like my exercise incorporated right in to my life style. Ellensburg is such a great town for this style of living. I walk and bike all year long. People like to complain about wind but living in town I rarely notice it. My grandson and I like to visit the city parks.
- kayaking on the river
- Mountain biking and rock climbing
- Letting our dog play in a Dog off leash area (DOLA)!
- Would like to take our dogs to an off leash area to run and play.
- Mountain biking
- horse trail riding/hiking
- Bicycling for pleasure needs to be broken into road cycling and mountain biking. Put me down for Mountain Biking #1, and Road Biking as my #2!
- Mountain Biking
- Skiing, Mountain Biking
- Biking, mountain biking
- Lots of mountain biking!!!
- Trail running; Mountain Biking (Trail access)
- Flag Football
- Mountain bike
- We really need city tennis courts. The city has a large adult and adolescent tennis population with few options to play that don't require parking permits (CWU) or competing with multi use of the two indoor courts at the ERRC. We need another location for the uses (roller blading, roller hockey, batting cages, etc. that compete with tennis for the two indoor courts). We could also re-claim use of a third and possibly fourth indoor tennis court at ERRC if we could locate the gymnastics and/or soccer program to another facility.



**Figure 10. Question 14. Besides the City of Ellensburg, other public and private entities own and operate a variety of park and recreational facilities within the city's recreational service area.**

- Yoga - Yoga Hot Spot, Ellensburg
- Manastash Ridge
- Hiking trails in the canyon, Naneum and Ridge
- Naneum Kids pond
- Manashtash ridge trails
- Manastash Ridge, Umptanum Falls, Yakima Canyon Trail
- Wenas Wildlife Area, L.T. Murray (WDNR/WDFW), USFS lands, BLM recreation areas, National Parks and Monuments (various),
- I frequently hike to wild cat lake and Gem Lake.
- City of Yakima - Disc Golf
- LT Murray/Manastash Ridge Hiking, Naneum Canyon Hiking, Coleman Canyon Hiking, USFS Table Mountain Hiking
- City Parks, my husband has a membership at the GYM.
- Manastash Ridge
- LTMurray
- Fish and wildlife properties and DNR Properties for Mountain Biking and hiking
- Imagine the revenue the John Wayne Trail would bring in if it was paved... Again, look at the Kellogg, Plumber Idaho model. Paved railroad grade.
- All area trails: BLM & USFS, in addition to State resources mentioned above (DNR, WDF&W, State Parks)
- Mountain bike and road biking opportunities
- More tennis courts, indoor and outdoor.
- Ellensburg rec center
- Out into the hills around town in the spring/summer/fall for hiking, picnics, etc.
- Racquet center to skate there on Friday nights
- Adult Activity Center
- walk, camping, picnicking
- BLM and Forest Service land (Manassas and Umptanum, primarily)
- Ellensburg Racket and Recreation Center



**Figure 11. Question 19. What additional recreation programs do you feel the City of Ellensburg should offer or expand?**

- women's self defense
- adult sports
- Competitive and non-competitive soccer leagues
- Parks!! Playground equipment, things to do that are family oriented
- adult exercise programs
- Exercise facilities cheaper! I go to the racket club, because it's cheap, but aerobic equipment is all broken!
- More kid's program please!
- adult co ed basketball
- would LOVE to see a reasonable priced or even FREE youth fitness program
- more summer camps for all age groups
- Dog off leash area (DOLA)!
- Paved Riverwalk (several miles)
- Better aquatic center
- Adult sport, we need an indoor basketball court
- A pour in place concrete skateboard park is needed
- sign language
- Water park or like a splash pad for outdoor use in the hot Ellensburg summers. We have to drive to Moses Lake or Ephrata. Why can't Ellensburg provide an outdoor area for our kids to play in the water that it not Irene Rinehart water?
- indoor area for walking
- Continue to offer and/or expand areas appropriate for bird-watching, nature walks, etc.
- SAIL
- More cycling!
- Disc Golf Tournament; Golf Lessons
- urban farming
- water features such as a splash pad
- Expand to include more for 5 and under
- Mountain Biking
- mountain bike resources
- trails for all non-motorized uses
- Mountain Biking Trail System
- Flag Football, more softball fields, weights at the pool
- Bicycling
- Cycling
- Ice Hockey
- Hockey!
- Hockey
- Hockey
- Mountain bike skills area, similar to Duthie. Little logs, ramps, small stuff for kids.

- ice hockey
- Ice hockey
- Endurance events: Running, cycling, multi-sport, especially during the winter
- Pickleball
- more cycling and bicycle racing opportunities
- Family bike park
- expand tennis facilities and programs
- drop in recreation for school aged kids, skate park needs to be fixed up, safe places for middle school aged kids
- Tennis facilities (both indoor and outdoor) are inadequate. The Racquet Center has not been maintained for years--the roof leaks, the parking lot is terrible, use by indoor soccer takes necessary court space and is very loud.
- hockey / in-line hockey
- More organized tennis
- EXPAND RACQUET CENTER GYM
- off leash Dog off leash area (DOLA)s
- tennis
- skating rink for kids/families/roller derby
- roller skating area
- Need more programs for the teenagers within our community, especially high school age.
- Roller skating rink
- I think a skating rink would be extremely useful for young kids, college kids and adults. The local in-line hockey and roller derby groups would use them very frequently.
- Tennis Team



**Figure 12. Question 26. If funding were available, which of the following facilities should have the highest priorities in Ellensburg?**

- Indoor Basketball Courts
- racquet center overhaul
- PICKLEBALL court
- better parks with neat playgrounds
- Pave portion of John Wayne Trail for safe bike riding with kids
- Recreation center on vantage hwy needs upgrades.
- Upgrade the play equipment at the parks. Currently you have a large amount of parks with low quality play equipment.
- Pedestrian bridge across Yakima River at IR park with a bike path connection to brown road
- Parking at Sports Fields
- Paved Riverwalk (several miles)
- Better Playground equipment
- Indoor basketball, volleyball, soccer courts
- Indoor rec center for sports teams
- Pour in place concrete skate park
- More comprehensive exercise facility/program/equipment
- Pickleball courts!
- MORE PARKS, PERIOD
- THEATER
- natural areas for walking, bird-watching, wildlife habitat, w/some limited mountain-bike, dog use areas
- Maintain what we already enjoy
- drama
- cycling
- Bike paths/trails
- More/easier public access to nearby lands
- edible landscape
- open nature areas (like Irene Rinehart)
- Off-leash areas, but not a small defined Dog off leash area (DOLA) area!
- Mountain bike resources
- build new swimming pool and exercise facility
- Biking trails
- Mountain biking trails
- Skate park
- hockey rink, mountain bike trails
- Ice Rink
- A indoor rink for roller hockey, roller derby (great opportunity for kids AND adults)
- Hockey courts
- Hockey

- Hockey
- Hockey Facility, preferably Ice
- ice rink
- Skills park for biking with trails
- ice rink
- Ice rink
- better hockey facility
- Pickleball
- trails for mountain biking
- Tennis facilities
- over seeding grass and better weed control at existing parks
- ice hockey / in-line hockey
- dedicated indoor tennis courts
- RACQUET CENTER
- Resolve flooding issue at McElroy so we can use it!
- Badminton, table tennis (both out and indoor), roller blading area & trails. All areas can be dog off-leash. Dogs behave well that way - (there are models, e.g. even main parks in large European cities). In Ellensburg, there are never any incidents in the areas that are off-leash.
- Upgrade play structures at existing parks.
- tennis courts on west end of city
- A roller skating track. The Mountain View one needs maintenance. It'd be nice to have a covered one for when it rains.
- Indoor Rec facility
- citywide paved trail system for people to bike, skate and walk/run on
- Multipurpose space for indoor basketball and could also be used for skating
- Outdoor Roller court at Mt. View Park
- Multi-use skating rink (family skating, hockey, roller derby)
- refuse funding
- roller skating rink
- bicycling/walkin/ horse trail like around Sacramento
- Tennis courts



Figure 12: 'Other' Responses to Question 26 Word Cloud

## Appendix C-1.B

Questionnaire participants had the option to contribute open-ended comments regarding parks and recreation. More than 150 respondents provided feedback. All of these open-ended responses are provided below, edited only to remove personally identifying information.

### Figure 13. Question 31: Is there anything else that you would like us to know?

- I believe the city really needs to maintain and improve what we have.
- The Racquet Center is in need of renovation. I wish The City of Ellensburg were able to collect impact fees when new homes are built so that they could fund upgrades and maintenance to park properties. The racquet center has old, outdated carpeting and seems poorly maintained for a government facility. The bathrooms are really old and need renovating. My daughter plays a lot of city league sports. I have called before and requested that she be put on the same team as another child her age so that I could help with transportation with that family's child and vice versa. I am married to a police officer who often works nights and weekends so cannot help transporting kids to sporting events. The other family's parent is married to a commercial pilot and has other children that also play sports and therefore cannot always take her children to practice/games. I was treated rudely on the phone for even requesting my child be put on a team with another child, but ultimately my request was granted. I do not think I should have been treated poorly and if I can't network with another parent to arrange shared transportation my child will not be continue playing the city league sports because it would be a waste of money and unfair to her teammates if she could not make it to practices/games. I just signed my daughter up to play volleyball as well, and another parent wants my help transporting her daughter. This parent has about 6 children living at home and her husband is recently deceased. So she could really use the help with transportation and I happen to be one of her neighbors. I hope you grant her wish of allowing the two kids to be on the same team.
- Check out the Croc Center in Coeur d'Alene. That specific facility is outstanding. Why should the college get all the facilities and the community at large be second to the college wants. It would be neat to entice more bicycling tourism and other outdoor recreation, as Ellensburg is a good "hub" location to these places/activities. Horses are great, but we need more diversity. Pave the John Wayne Trail!!!
- I would like Mt. View Park to provide Basketball courts that are not locked in the roller blade/hockey skate area.
- There needs to be more shaded picnic areas at the parks, and better restrooms.
- access to adult sports leagues - softball and basketball maybe in off season times - summer basketball or softball
- You need some pickleball courts. The parking is horrible during little league. You need more parking. Support baseball tournaments because it brings in money to the town.
- I hate piles of dog poop and urine smell on the John Wayne trail as well as dogs off leashes. Please make that trail a non-dog area once the Dog off leash area (DOLA) is open.
- I used to live in Moses Lake. The town isn't the best but I've always been impressed by their play area, playground equipment and parks. I think we need more for high school aged kids and young

children. Places that are clean and safe and fun. What about an ice skating rink or something unique?

- I think that the city has an incredible resource in the Racquet & Recreation center. It provides an appropriate mix of sports opportunities. The 2 primary drawbacks are its distance from town and overall quality of the facility. I have spent a significant amount of time in that facility over the past 10-15 years and have seen very little improvement in cleanliness or quality. The bathrooms are inadequate and outdated. The overall fit and finish of the building is unacceptable for the type of events that it could support. Soccer Tournaments, Gymnastics meets, tennis tournaments and racquetball/handball leagues could all draw large numbers if the facility was a bit more modern and clean. It would require a significant investment but if managed properly could provide for endless potential returns, especially in the winter months.
- It would also be helpful if there was a place (physical and/or digital) to learn about activities offered not only by the City of Ellensburg but also other private entities. It is nearly impossible to find or learn about events, clubs, groups, etc., unless one is already connected to the social structure here. I have had a remarkably difficult time becoming a part of the community here, and this has made choosing to continue to live here in the long term unlikely.
- A water playground would be amazing! And, based on the catalogs I've seen, there are plenty of programs for kids & seniors, but not much for adults 30-50+.
- I really appreciate the dog bags and garbage bins in all the parks.
- I would love to have a fitness/weight area that is more affordable, and yet better equipped than at the racket center. I try to go there, but the equipment is broken. I feel like most cities offer this at an affordable rate, cheaper than privately owned gyms.
- I want you to have more programs for kids. Thank you.
- I continually experience and hear complaints about the city pool. It always seems over-chlorinated, the rules are quite rigid and the schedule isn't great for family use. It would be great to see this resource used more effectively as it is our only aquatic option in town.
- I would love to see a trail system in Ellensburg that would make it safe for my family to all get around town by bike/walking. It would be great to have a community recreation building with activities/classes for both adults and children, as well as childcare.
- I want a place for dogs to go because I'm tired of owners taking their dogs off their leashes and letting them run all over the park while my kids are trying to play.
- After moving to Ellensburg from a very small town in Oregon, I was very disappointed with the playground equipment. Ellensburg has so many young children and there are very few park with swings or nice play structures. It's very disappointing!!!
- I appreciate the variety of parks we have in Ellensburg and the care that is given to maintain the cleanliness of our city. I would like to request that the designers of our parks and recreation areas consider the intensity of wind in our region. Often our time is cut short when using parks because the wind interferes with picnic options, sports activities, and body comfort. Frustrations rise when plates go flying wasting food, basketballs/Frisbees are redirected with wind burst. The use of trees, shrubs, and partitions such as lattice with growing vines could reduce the intensity of wind and increase the natural beauty in the parks making it more enjoyable to use the recreation facilities.
- I would really love if you developed some sort of splash pad for use when it is warm out. Our small children have next to nothing to do in town. I also think the new Alder Street Park needs a few benches on/near the playground so parents can sit.

- It would be GREAT if you could add a bathroom at the outer fields at W. Eburg Park where the little kids soccer and baseball is held. Nothing worse than having to haul a young child across the entire field to use a restroom
- Love the ball fields, racquet center and pool is ok, could use more free swim time.
- I would like to see the existing parks improved. I feel that there isn't a great park to take my kids to that has decent play equipment. I feel that the parks are in desperate need of new and improved play equipment, such as a big structure that resembles a ship or something of that nature. When the sun is out, there are more kids than equipment at each of the parks. A water park would be nice too, especially since summers are very hot here.
- There should be more small neighborhood parks throughout the city. Children should be able to walk to a park within a few blocks of their home, no matter where they live in the city.
- Great facilities and very positive experiences with sports programs. Thank you.
- I frequently bicycle around town and particularly like the opportunity to pedal in bicycle lanes and on sidewalks. It feels so much safer. Would like to see Sanders Rd improved with bike lanes and sidewalks. The freeway underpass linking West Ellensburg Park and Rinehart Park is great, providing safe and easy access from town to Rinehart Park. Kudos for the expanded trails in the Reecer Creek floodplain. They should be promoted more.
- More Yakima River front trails would be nice. Bike and hiking trail to connect to Hansen Ponds, McCabe pond, up to Thorp, Cle Elum, and Selah.
- P&R is what makes a community great. Please pursue all avenues of funding from impact fees on developers to state/fed grants. If Winthrop, WA can get a great trail network with some expensive bridges we should too
- I am pretty ignorant of the process involved and what would need to change to make this happen, but I feel strongly that as the city expands and new developments are added the developers (in combination with some other resources: taxes, community groups) have to provide/pay for new parks. I can't fathom how a new development like the one currently being proposed north of town could be built without providing for at least one new public park (even if it is not currently part of the City yet). It just seems like poor planning/development to have such a large concentration of homes north of town with only one park (Alder Street Park).
- PLEASE PUT UP LIGHTS AT THE BASEBALL FIELDS, BOTH THE HIGH SCHOOL FIELD AND LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS. THIS WOULD EXPAND MANY MORE OPTIONS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES
- I think that our trails have improved, but it would be nice to have more paved trails and longer trails.
- I am grateful for the excellent parks we do have and the options for safe spaces for children. I do wish we can have more biking/walking trails throughout the city that children and adults can bike to their destination rather than take the car only because it does not seem safe to have children in traffic.
- The city needs to develop the last two softball fields and put up the lighting for the fields which they already have had in their possession for the last several years. This will greatly enhance the potential for ongoing tournaments being held which helps out the community through sales revenue and sales tax.
- We need a water park in Ellensburg. Please help make that project real. It will keep children away from coaches, television and junk food. Aren't they the future of this beautiful country?
- More open parks to have dogs off the leash.
- Exercise trails that are long enough for good exercise.
- We would love a Dog off leash area (DOLA).

- Legal mountain bike trails!
- Please partner with CWU, other local governments, and perhaps tribal offices to build a paved Riverfront Trail that goes along the Yakima River for several miles, e.g., O'Neil Rd to Tjossem Pond area. Yakima has something similar and it's great.
- Many cities have nice aquatics centers (example: [http://www.snohomishaquatic.com/activities-classes/recreation\\_pool](http://www.snohomishaquatic.com/activities-classes/recreation_pool)) that I feel the community would support immensely. I would be willing to pay a much higher fee to use facilities like this with my family.
- We need more areas for young toddlers- splash pad during the summer, bouncy houses, open gym with small child toys, etc. There really aren't too many different programs for moms to take young children and the park equipment tends to get a little boring.
- I am surprised at how long it takes the city to make necessary repairs to the city pool. Last year the shower in the women's locker was down to shower heads. It took months and months for the repairs. Recently the drain in the same locker room became plugged. It took the city two weeks to unplug the drain. That is not acceptable. I believe parks and recreation is underfunded.
- Overall, I think we are lucky to have the programs that we do and the community people that we do. I grew up spending the summer at the park doing the parks and recreation program from 1-5 every day. My parents didn't worry about me and I was entertained. I am happy to have my kids in your programs.
- Thanks for offering this survey!
- I feel we don't have any parks located at the north end of town (off Water). There is an increase in the population on our side of town but I feel we are being ignored by the park system of Ellensburg. They build a new park on Alder even though they had plenty of access to parks on that side of town. The closest park on our side of town is Kiwanis and is well over 20 minutes of walking time away. I also would like to see some kind of park that would incorporate a walking trail, basketball courts and skater parks to give our young people a place to hang out.
- Reed Park needs to be sprayed for dandelions in the spring.
- We need indoor sports facility for youth sports as well as adult leagues. There are so many beautiful trails in the mountains to go to, I just wouldn't use the trails in town.
- I think an indoor playground would be a great option for families for inclement weather. It would be nice if there was a walking track around so parents can exercise while kids play safely indoors.
- We would use trails at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park more if the city would enforce dog-leashing there. My wife is scared by unrestrained dogs that run up to her.
- Options for bicycle commuters to have paths that are not adjacent to busy roads would be great. Current bike lanes are too close to heavy traffic. Bike paths that are commutable would be great.
- Please consider using some park lands for a new pour in place, concrete skate park. The current skate [park is outdated and has had to have welds repaired numerous times.
- Currently doing OK with insufficient funds/facilities. Greater focus/funding on public exercise facilities and programs is important for creating and then maintaining a healthy community.
- Complete basketball (shirts, shorts, socks, and shoes) uniforms. Last name on uniforms. More Than 2 practices times a week and longer than 1 hour. Move from seven games season to a 10+ games season."
- Maybe a little off topic here, but this town is losing its old trees at an alarming rate. Our neighborhood alone (counting CWU) has lost over 30 100 yr.-old trees in the last 5 years. The standing trees are aging, the replanting is haphazard and not well-thought out.
- I was so glad to see mention of a water/splash park. I've longed for that for our families/community/kids for many years. Doesn't have to be big, just easily accessible and

centrally located (not at a current park, but downtown). I've joked with friends about wishing the city would use eminent domain to take the Wells Fargo drive thru building/corner for this type of park. Also, I think a high priority needs to be given to walkable neighborhoods (I am against the expansion of 3rd Ave. to Pfenning). Driving less needs to be encouraged and provided for. Focus on local residents who will walk places, not on people who use vehicles to drive everywhere. Make it attractive to WALK (or ride bikes).

- I think the most important thing that the city can do for the youth programs and adult programs is to upgrade the facilities out at the west end fields. It actually could be an amazing facility, if the city took the time to hire people who could maintain it like the sports facility it is. Not like it's another park where they go mow the grass and walk away. Baseball fields, soccer fields, are not parks. They are sports complexes that take a lot of work to maintain. LIGHTS, LIGHTS, LIGHTS!!!!. You want to increase revenue in Ellensburg? Put lights up out at all the fields, and complete the other two fields you said you would 6 years ago!! When you do that, tournaments can be held out there. And people would come, because people from the west side want to come over for the great weather, and it's not too far away. This would allow you to do more youth tournaments because you can go into the night which allows more teams. More teams means more hotel rooms, more hotel rooms, means more people in Ellensburg. More people in Ellensburg means the businesses get more people, restaurants, bars, grocery stores. All benefit from just adding one thing to the fields. Yakima has 7-8 fields all with lights and they hold tournaments every weekend all summer long!! Huge Revenue booster.
- It is frustrating that we live in a town where there are few parks for children to play in. Also, it is frustrating that we have no outdoor water area for kids/families to enjoy. Much smaller towns than ours have swimming pools/aquatic areas outside for family use. We have to drive many miles to get to these places. Even a splash pad (water shooting up from the concrete) would be SOMEWHERE to go outside during the summer to get wet. I am not a fan of swimming at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. The water is gross. I would love more parks and some sort of water facility/swimming pool that is outside.
- A long distance trail for biking and rollerblading would be nice though I prefer natural hiking trails with some elevation.
- The survey was a bit confusing. It asked what my general recreation interests were, but then seemed to also ask which I do within the city limits. For example, hiking/backpacking was an answer to which type of recreation I do. Obviously, this isn't something I can do within the city limits. I selected this, but I'm not sure that is what the survey was asking. Ellensburg needs something like the Yakima Greenway, which includes exposure to natural areas (i.e. the river), encourages walking/biking, and is away from traffic. It would be a great addition to the city.
- Off-leash dog areas need to be developed! There is a high demand in this city for areas for dogs to play.
- I would love to see the other two softball fields finished and lights put in/donated from somewhere. If the softball fields were made into a 4-plex that was nice and maintained it would bring in tournaments and revenue for the city. It would be pretty inexpensive to finish the fields, and if you can get Puget Sound Energy to donate/sponsor the lights, it could really upgrade those facilities/expand the leagues.
- I would like to see the city focus on more indoor activity spaces, an adequate full featured theater space that would be large enough for large scale live productions. And other indoor activities such as bowling would be nice.

- It would be nice to have a large indoor area for walking during hot summer days, cold winter days and on windy days.
- Thank you for a great park & rec system and looking forward to future developments to save and expand the quality of life and beauty of the area.
- Preservation of natural areas such as waterfront, wetlands, etc., is generally undervalued; creating parks that allow or facilitate access to these types of areas, as well as providing/preserving/improving wildlife habitat is a multi-use (including non-human) approach that serves both citizens and the environment. I encourage inclusion of these considerations in parks and recreation planning.
- For my family, our enjoyment is utilizing the plentiful options already available to us. We can walk paved trails, nature trails, play all sorts of sports, enjoy animal/bird watching, watch movies in the park, picnic, swim (indoor and outdoor), bike, etc., in so many places w/in city limits. The city does an excellent job offering great park and recreation activities already and I hope that if there is an expansion of parks/services/activities, it doesn't take away from maintaining our already awesome parks/activities.
- Softball fields need lights so games can be played later. They should develop the other two fields and have four softball fields. If you build it they will come.
- Better advertisement for your softball league on how and when to sign up. Also general information on other sports leagues that are offered. Maps of exciting trails, walking/hiking areas around Ellensburg.
- There is plenty of city owned land not in use for anything; just sitting there. That land can be sold and monies used to fund improvements to present trails, parks, water ways and recreation sites. Rather than taxing the community higher with the claim that the city doesn't have the funds. If the city has enough money to buy land and let it sit and do nothing with it then it clearly has the money to build a new Adult Activity center and fund a new middle school rather than covering a broken bone with a Band-Aid it's high time this city gets to fixing the problems with infrastructure. Children should not be forced in an unsafe building and Senior should have access to space that can accommodate the increase in aging population with equipment that is not falling apart.
- The community needs a Disc Golf course; city needs to focus on Maintaining and improving facilities, not building new structures; a 5+ mile paved trail would be awesome for biking, walking, and other recreation.
- Thanks for all the good work. Please develop bike paths and bike trails away from motorized traffic.
- The parks are beautiful---thank you! The parks and sports activities have been great for our family over the years-- (4) baseball, soccer, T-ball, volleyball, tennis, swim team, not to mention hiking and swimming with friends---thank you!
- I believe it is good to research this, but we are already paying quite a bit for the recently approved fire station and middle school. You can't keep piling it on people.
- Would like to see improvements to trails in Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park outside of the picnic area, better for walking in wet conditions. Walking trails through Ellensburg urban area would be fine for walking exercise and errands, and for those walking to school. Safer biking too.
- I think a splash park is an excellent idea.
- I love Ellensburg! I am older so lots of parks and recreation activities don't apply to me but I still want those programs. I know that variety builds a solid, diverse, and growing community. I don't necessarily mean growth as more people, more stuff but that we as individuals keep our minds and bodies moving whether we are old or young. I would personally love to see more water driven

facilities aka a kiddie's water splash park and maybe even an outdoor pool. Our city pool could use a few dollars to upgrade changing facilities. Even though the city pool is very nice and well managed. I also think a larger Veteran's Park would be nice for families. A place for picnics and outdoor family games. I think it would be cool to buy surplus military equipment and have it for climbing and exploring. You can never have enough bike and walking paths. It's hard to compete with cars when you are riding around with a school age youngster. I can say honestly that the city does a great job now and having a survey is just an example of the commitment to making Ellensburg even greater. Thank you.

- Edible landscape should be incorporated to existing parks in the form of food forests. At the least some fruit & nut trees. Lawns should be reduced as they are a wasted resource that wastes other resources such as water, I believe this would not only increase park usage, encourage more outdoor activity, & provide citizens with a most basic need (fresh food), but hopefully reduce maintenance costs, auto traffic, garbage, & perhaps a few grocery bills. These areas would also be a great learning resource not just for schools but for everyone who might be encouraged to grow more food and less lawn.
- More trails please. More pre-K friendly parks and play structures please. More water features like a splash pad. They have one in Wenatchee and it is fun as hell.
- The community would greatly benefit from connecting walking, biking trails throughout Ellensburg. Also, more accessible activities along the river front such as bike, kayak, etc. rentals and access would not only benefit locals from Ellensburg but it would draw people from other areas to stay and play! (For example: Bend, OR has developed a wonderful system of parks, trails and river float access. It would be great to emulate their use of natural spaces)
- I am assuming you wanted to know whether we live in EB CITY, not county. Otherwise, my answer to the first question is wrong. We live in EB but just outside city limits. You need to consult with someone when you do your next survey; many of your questions are not analyzable because they are ambiguous.
- landscape should be kept up better.it would be nice to have asphalt trails with some work out equipment every 1/4 mile, freshly painted bathrooms would be nice, and better weed control. And bathrooms all year round.
- The city should carefully monitor the farm-and-wooded land on the west side of the Yakima River that faces Rinehart Park. When that land comes on the market, the city should buy it and maintain its natural state in order to preserve the "wild" ambience of the Park.
- You should have areas for dogs, and dog friendly people that can walk long distances off leash for exercise for people with or without their dogs. I would say at least 95% of people are dog friendly. Not all dogs like to play with other dogs in Dog off leash area (DOLA)s, but they like to run and sniff and go long distances (large dogs in particular). If that is not feasible, then maybe times of day that we would be allowed to do that in existing parks without FEAR of the dog catcher.....WITH access to a lake, stream, or river. Whether you know it or not, those of us with dogs that walk with dog in our parks DO help keep the parks clean!!! Not only do we pick up after our own dogs, but we pick up litter from the people that are disrespectful that throw their trash on the ground. I pick up way more PEOPLE trash on my walks than my dog poops. I feel dog walkers are given a bad rap and are looked down on in by the parks staff, especially if we (god-forbid) let out dogs off leash so they can get real exercise. I am 73 years old and am not able to jog with my dog, but I definitely am a good steward to our parks, as my philosophy is to always leave a place cleaner that the way I found it. A Dog off leash area (DOLA) is just another place for the parks dept. to maintain, and for dogs to get into fights (where was only place my dog was attacked viciously.)"

- I think Ellensburg does a good job providing playgrounds and sports fields for its residents. The two major areas my family would like to see improvements in are 1) a dedicated Dog off leash area (DOLA)/off leash walking/hiking area. 2) Community trails. Although I could only choose two options I think all of the trail options listed in the survey are important. Trails that connect within the community as well as longer multi-use trails that allow people to get out into natural areas for recreation are both needed. As a mountain biker (one of the quickest growing outdoor activities in Washington) I would like to see more bike specific trails.
- Good job in general, Parks and Rec! I would love to see a paved Yakima River trail extending from Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park to the Yakima River Canyon and even into the Canyon! I know it's a long term plan.
- It seems there is a lot of focus on family based, and young children activities in this area. Which is good. However, I know of few activities for adults only in the area for entertainment, activity or special interest within the city limits. Same goes for the retirement community that lives here. Although the valley itself provides camping and outdoor activity opportunities, most adults and seniors I know, for true entertainment or recreation leave the valley in order to do so.
- I love the Iron Horse trail that runs through town but I think actually in town it should be developed a little bit more. Maybe have some additional parking at trailheads and develop it through the city more. Also, I really love West Ellensburg Park area and Irene Rinehart, those two should be constantly maintained because they are beautiful right now and would be a shame to see them any other way.
- Need more signs of park rules. Need more trash cans located where people congregate.
- A Dog off leash area (DOLA) would be an incredible addition to Ellensburg. My wife and I moved here so she could go to school. We used to have access to a local Dog off leash area (DOLA) and it was so nice to be able to let our dog run off-leash and get his energy out; especially now that we live in an apartment. We've met many people (students and residents) who feel the same way. The nearest Dog off leash area (DOLA) is in Yakima, and that is just too far to go regularly so most people end up letting their dog's off-leash in the nearby fields which could be a safety concern for some. Additionally, a community garden would be a fantastic addition. We gave up a yard to move here and my wife misses being able to get her hands dirty in the garden.
- West Ellensburg Park is a wasted space, thus a wasted opportunity for the parks department. I understand that funding is an issue, but based on my questionnaire it should be apparent that I am interested in bicycle trails. There is a local group that is more than willing to volunteer it's time to create and maintain a trail system if given the chance. Once built the maintenance is minimal as grass and weeds would not grow over a trail that is constantly in use.
- Please put in new tennis courts for the public. Central tennis courts are always packed in the afternoon with high school and college practice. Can never play or will be kicked off courts after 30min or less. It's beyond irritating.
- Outdoor parks appear well maintained, parks appear to need little improvement aside from continued maintenance. More trails for bike and foot traffic to further connect city locations would be a great improvement. Pool facility is very outdated and in need of replacement with new building, improved exercise and weight lifting equipment.
- The space in Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park could be used so much more effectively for establishing a stacked loop trail system for different user groups.
- I do not feel like mountain bike trails connected in the city offer much of a benefit, but an interconnected trail system with a mountain bike trail would be nice for the city. There is lots of labor available for trail development but a comprehensive plan connecting all trails is necessary.

Also the softball fields could be upgraded to 4 total fields and lights, this would bring more people in town during the summer to stay in our hotels and feed into our economy. The current pool facility is nice but an expansion with more gym options would be really nice.

- Memorial park pool, or as it is more commonly known 'pool of rules' has 2 major issues. First is the incessant bossing by the lifeguards. I've been reprimanded for the most esoteric and harmless things and I genuinely feel like the lifeguards have been instructed to make up rules on the spot because there is no way for me to believe some of the rules I have been cited could actually exist on a pre-existing document. Issue 2 is the hours. 7 is not a time many families can bring kids to the pool for open swim. It's too late. Kids have to eat and get to bed. The other issue I have with parks is when the bathrooms don't open at parks to correspond with usage. A sunny day in February can be a nice time to visit a park until someone needs to relieve themselves. Having a solution in place would be nice.
- The area would be greatly improved if a network of trails was developed.
- I believe Ellensburg should be more active and engaged with the local biking population.
- With a burgeoning and extremely passionate mountain bike and cycling community within Ellensburg I think the city would be well served to work with the local advocacy group to offer more resources for mountain biking and road cycling. This could include skills parks, pump tracks, trail systems, and improvements to the skate park. The area immediately surrounding Ellensburg has a large amount of great mountain biking terrain. The city is also in a very central and often-passed location for riders from all areas of the state travelling to other mountain bike hubs within the Pacific Northwest. Along with improving infrastructure for the city's residents itself, improving the infrastructure would also give travelling mountain bikers and cyclists more reason to stop in town and benefit local businesses with tourism revenue.
- I would like to see more mountain biking trails in the area. A skills park would also be nice to attract more people to the sport.
- An ice rink could draw weekly traffic and revenue from neighboring Yakima as the completely volunteer run facility in that city is in constant danger of shutting down. Currently, even though there is ice in Yakima in the winter, men and women from Yakima travel to the Tri-cities weekly to play hockey. That could all be restaurant, gas station, and other revenue that might be shunted to Ellensburg.
- I would really like to see a dedicated facility that would allow for indoor soccer, roller hockey and roller derby. It's nice to at least have the ERRC, but it seems like most of the priority is focused on tennis and soccer. There is no dedicated facility for roller hockey (or derby). The program hasn't seen an ounce of funding in YEARS and because of the lack of a facility or really any kind of attention from the City of Ellensburg the skaters are forced to use the same equipment for the past 17 YEARS. The current (and original) set of pads have almost been completely destroyed. Program participants have had to provide (out of their own pocket, on top of already paying to use the facility) new tarps and DUCT TAPE to wrap the deteriorating pads in that are already laughably destroyed. The boards that were once purchased by the city for roller hockey were taken away and given to soccer without any kind of compensation to the roller program. In fact we were just told that we had to make do with the original sets of pads mentioned above. The Roller Derby team (to the best of my knowledge) is even worse off. They don't have any kind of dedicated facility (which could easily be shared with hockey and soccer). Last summer they had to use the outside "rink" (which hasn't had a bit of maintenance since it was first converted from old tennis courts at least a DECADE ago). They have to bring their own tape (which they supply, every single practice) to tape out their own makeshift rink. Bottom line I think there needs to be less focus on creating new

baseball and soccer fields (since there are already plenty for a community of this size) and some of the other lesser known programs should get a chance to grow their program with some attention and funding. It is hard to grow new community interest in a sport when the City doesn't spread out the funding enough to even have the most basic equipment for the sport to even play.

- Upgrading and investing more money in the parks will ultimately get people out of their homes and interacting with their neighbors which will increase the quality of life in Ellensburg. Too many people tell me that there is nothing to do in town besides the bar scene. With programs such as summer evening concerts or nature and hiking expeditions or complexes that could host sports tournaments people would become more optimistic about where they live. The city needs to take the lead by giving people these reasons to come to the parks. Maybe I am biased because I play hockey but the inline rink is in need of attention and with a regulation rink we could invite teams to come and play us. We already have members of the community that stop by and watch us play, and these are just people who are at the park or live close enough that they can see us playing. A new rink could provide new opportunities for my team. And it is the same for soccer. You could easily set up an adult outdoor soccer league in the summer that would be a great success and that could also lead to tournaments being hosted at the parks. I know that wide and sweeping changes are probably not fiscally feasible but how about just starting with things like summer concert series that are lower budget to get people to the parks and then combine that with fundraising for some larger projects in the future (like the inline rink). Concession stands at the events could combine with community donations to make park projects feasible. You just have to get the people to the parks to allow them to see what parks mean to the community.
- Our hockey facilities are probably the most poorly maintained out of all the activities provided by the city or other organizations. The pads are moldy and falling apart. The yellow dust the pads give off is full of mold, bacteria, and not to mention what effects the synthetic material might be having on our lungs. It is probably worse for us to play hockey than not, due to the damage to our lungs that we probably won't know about for another 10 to 15 years. Ideally, a multi-purpose facility that could be used as an ice rink during the winter and roller hockey/derby rink in the summer would be ideal. However, even just having some plastic boards, a regulation sized roller rink, and some sort of cover or enclosure would be better than anything that what we have now. The damage that we do to ourselves and our gear from skating on tennis courts becomes very expensive and damaging to our bodies. In addition to that, the damage that has been done to the pads from sitting outside summer after summer is irreparable. Not to mention that the nets are not maintained and take just as much abuse during the summer as the pads do. We live in the middle of the state and we are surrounded by hockey. There are two WHL teams in the Seattle area, a WHL team in Tri Cities, a WHL team in Spokane, another WHL team in Portland, and finally a Junior A team in Wenatchee. Most of those WHL teams stop in Ellensburg during road trips, just ask the Ellensburg Pasta Company. In addition to that, the greater Seattle Area boasts one of the largest amateur hockey leagues in America. With enough interest in hockey, there are ways that the community could leverage our location to take advantage of events, such as when WHL teams come through town, or host hockey events that would draw players from all around the state. We are sitting on prime hockey real estate and most of us don't even know it.
- Family friendly activities, such as mountain bike skill parks like Duthie would be amazing for this community!!
- I would love to see a roller rink be built in Ellensburg. The growth of hockey is at a high rate. There used to be. Youth hockey program and I would love to see that come back. Hockey is a wonderful

game that is enjoyed at all levels. A roller rink would be great for the Ellensburg roller hockey league to have a place to call home.

- I feel like Ellensburg would be a great place for a rink. Tri-cities, Wentachee, Moses Lake, Seattle, Spokane, Yakima all has ice ricks and we are centered in the middle. If Ellensburg had a rink I know the community will stand behind. It's a great sport for kids and adults. What ice time we don't fill would be filled with teams from out of town playing meeting up in the middle to play each other. CWU hockey team plays Eastern, Western WSU, UW, CBC, along with a few other teams. CWU travels to Yakima each week to practice. Thanks for taking the time to read this and I hope the city Ellensburg considers an ice rink. This state already has too many soccer fields and softball fields.
- From my short time living in Ellensburg, less than a year, I've become convinced that Ellensburg has great potential to grow in a direction to attract active professionals and associated business, much as outdoor hubs like Bend, OR and Boulder, CO have. An abundance of underutilized open space exists, and we are in close proximity to many outdoor recreational opportunities. My personal lifestyle is one of outdoor recreation, primarily trail running, skiing, and mountain biking, and climbing. As such, I've lived in several cities with well-developed trail systems: Chico, CA; San Luis Obispo, CA; Ashland, OR; and Salt Lake City, UT. I also hold a M.S. in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. It is my opinion that Ellensburg has the potential to exceed all these places in terms of trail access, likely through continued development of new and connecting trails within the city limits and partnerships with land management agencies to continue nearby trail development as well as connection with city trails. The City to Canyon trail plan is an excellent example. Such trails are a major draw for outdoor-minded individuals when considering where to live. Please keep up and maybe even increase the good work in this direction!
- It would be nice to see the community have more paved running trails, not just sidewalks that weave through college housing. Also would like to see an ice rink or a better maintained inline hockey skating area. The one at Mt. View Park is pretty ragged.
- I moved here from Bend, Oregon to go to grad school and I'm a former wilderness/trails professional for the Forest Service. I'm also a daily runner, with a preference for dirt... not that hokey paved variety. Having come here from Bend, I'm burdened with a pretty high bar, and I just wanted to tell you all how awesome I think Ellensburg is, and how cool it would be if the trail system were developed. I would use every last mile you built and never leave! It's seriously the only thing missing as far as I'm concerned. That, and it's a little frustrating staring at the backside of Mission Ridge all winter and not being able to drive there! So happy to see this survey! Thanks for all your hard work!
- More bike paths/walking paths around town would be cool. More mountain biking and trail running trails. My kids like Kiwanis Park because they love what the city did with the stream. They like playing down there as opposed to big fields. More free space, community gardens on empty lots. People have gotten too used to perfectly manicured parks. Kids enjoy playing in more natural surroundings.
- Why is Kiwanis Park ball field so neglected?
- Almost every time I'm at Irene Rinehart Riverside Park there are people who ignore leash rules and let dogs run free.
- Ellensburg has always been a great cycling community and I would like to see it grow and improve.
- A bike skills park and water spray parks would be a wonderful way to give families outdoor activities that are easily accessible and provide a lot of entertainment value.
- This survey could have been better formatted to include tennis in the options mentioned with other sports in relevant sections. There is a large adult and pre-adult tennis community here in

Ellensburg that would be much larger if it had adequate facilities. Ellensburg is really lacking in tennis facilities when compared with other similar sized communities. This survey also missed the mark in not targeting tennis players and instead focused on organized groups. Since us tennis players are so lacking in facilities here we have not opportunity or reason to form groups.

- We need some sort of outdoor water/sprinkler/splash park available for young through school aged kids. It would get a ton of use.
- I'd love to have somewhere I could take my dog off leash! The more trails in the city the better, especially some sort of trail that links CWU to downtown, preferably bike-able.
- Improve grassy areas with more dense grass through over-seeding and fewer weeds with more spray or more grass; Increased play toys and swings at all parks would be great. The walking trails at Alder Street park, McElroy Park and the link between Irene Rinehart and Rotary park are great ways for parents to exercise while kids play and great places for kids to learn bike riding on the paved paths; Leaving more restrooms open at parks in the winter would improve access and use;
- Feel fortunate to live in a place with so much public open space and such diverse parks!
- I would love it if there was a trail system from downtown to the ball fields and Irene Rinehart trails system. I currently tend to drive to Reecer floodplain to walk my dog each day because there isn't an option beyond sidewalks in town to walk and the bicycle, skateboards and pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks is not enjoyable to navigate.
- I'm overall really pleased with what Eburg P&R offers. I do wish we had more for teens. And the interconnecting trail idea is fantastic for many reasons!
- Ellensburg needs outdoor tennis courts. The only usable courts are at CWU. The city and the school district have let all outdoor courts deteriorate. These have then either been removed or are unusable for enjoyable tennis. The Racquet Center has been allowed to deteriorate. The roof leaks, and the courts are very dirty. The courts are only available for tennis a small part of the week. The nets are continually being taken down and put up due to alternate uses on the courts. This means the nets are usually not at the correct height. The courts are never cleaned. Soccer seems to have a priority, as there are soccer games going on almost all of the time when I play tennis. These soccer games are very loud, with spectators often standing on the tennis courts to view the soccer matches. The supports for the soccer enclosure extend into usable court space, making a very dangerous playing environment for one of the two remaining courts. Compared to other recreational uses, tennis gets virtually no support from the city.
- Build an ice hockey arena and roller hockey arena you would get great income of money being in the center of the state. And the economy of the city would benefit as well.
- Keep up the good work and interest in what the community needs~
- The tennis courts at the Rec Center are in poor shape and competing with other activities like the batting cage and the soccer court are very distracting
- THE RACQUET CENTER IS IN DIRE NEED OF UPDATING. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LOSE THE RACQUET CENTER. IT'S NOT A BIG MONEY MAKER, BUT WOULD GENERATE A LOT MORE MONEY IF IT WAS UPDATED. PEOPLE DEPEND ON THE RACQUET CENTER AND UNFORTUNATELY IT SEEMS TO BE LAST ON THE LIST FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND UPDATES.
- Take care of the parks we have. McElroy has had an ongoing flooding issue for years that has still not been addressed. All city parks should be landscaped to benefit birds and other wildlife...not just people and their dogs. City parks are most valuable because residents don't have to drive a long way to get to them and so can use them when recreation time is short.

- I understand that an off-leash Dog off leash area (DOLA) is planned for the northern section of the Rotary Park. If true, I would suggest the city make a dog swim area, using Reecer Creek as the water source.
- Create a Dog off leash area (DOLA)
- In several cases, the options offered were limiting and did not include an "other" category to allow for choices outside of those predetermined by those who created the survey.
- Bathrooms! Bathrooms! Bathrooms! The bathroom situation at Memorial Park is disgusting. No one wants to use a port a potty. You especially don't want your kids in there. Why does this long standing park in the center of the city not have an actual bathroom facility? This is especially troubling since this is also the site of the yearly fair. Yes, we can use the pool but it creates a tough supervision proposition when you have multiple kids and you have to walk all the way to the pool to use the bathroom. Again no one wants to use the port a potty. This should not be a long term solution for any of our parks. Also the Park on North Willow needs to be upgraded. That park has a few out door things to do with like little creek and the rocks and the ""track"". Yet again no adequate bathroom facilities. Also, some covered areas and a water fountain are needed badly. West Ellensburg Park is a pretty cool park for kids. The play structure is probably the best one in the city. My kids love it. Lastly, it would be cool is the city publish the recommended bike routes with the mileage. This would give bicyclists a few different routes to explore and they would know how many miles they were completing before they started. Also, having ratings for difficulty (uphill, off road, easy, kid friendly) would be cool too.
- I think Ellensburg and Kittitas County should look at Norco, CA. We should be a horse community!
- Nothing
- Ellensburg has plenty of parks, they just need to be updated and maintained. The existing play structures need to be upgraded or added to. There are not many choices for elementary aged kids. Most of the play structures are geared toward smaller children. More play structures like the ones at the Alder street Park are needed and a splash pad would be awesome!
- Swings! And installation artwork. Spokane's Riverfront is a great model.
- Please enforce leash laws. I am very weary of encountering dogs who are off leash every single time I attempt to use our community resources.
- I think a small fee would help people remember to not trash the parks/facilities, but I don't want to see things be so expensive that struggling families can't enjoy all of that is offered either. Our teenagers NEED something to do and somewhere to go, we have more and more families that aren't on farms and these kids have no chores (or very few) to keep them busy...so, they pass my house weekly to head to the hills to drink and do drugs around bon-fires - which makes for very unsafe conditions, then they are driving down our road to get home (if they make it without wrecking - which is another issue in safety), or they are smashing mailboxes (we are on our 7th mailbox in ten years - and it's already been hit. Our son lives in town and he's on his third - and he's lived in his house two years) and destroying property, which is a huge cost to us taxpayers. All out of boredom!!
- There is too high a focus on certain sports, soccer and baseball mostly, and maintaining and expanding those areas, but no convenient tennis courts unless one is willing to drive and pay too much money for sub-par courts on Vantage Hwy. Yet, there is lots of space and potential at many of the parks for nice, outdoor courts. In the town I grew up, there were at least 2 courts for each small city park and an indoor facility for bad weather days. Tennis is a good life sport that does not need a large number of people to participate. It also allows for young and old to play together for fun and should be more promoted in our community. We should not have to rely on using the

courts at CWU, as the students there paid for their use and should not have to share with city residents. My other comment is that we are way overdue for more Dog off leash area (DOLA) s. After traveling with our dogs over the past few years, many communities have more than one Dog off leash area (DOLA) and even our neighbor, Yakima, has one. We are in great need for areas within city limits where dogs can meet one another as it decreases dog aggressive behavior if they are well socialized off leash with other canines and people. Thank you...

- I really would like to see a covered skating rink. The one at Mountain View is not bad, but has many cracks and is difficult to use when kids are playing on the basketball court. I had heard talk of putting a covered skating rink in at one point and time, but I'm not sure what happened with that. The Ellensburg Rodeo City Rollergirls as well as hockey players and kids who like to roller-skate would greatly benefit from a covered, maintained skating rink. When the weather is not nice outside the roller girls lose their gym space to the high school athletes, and a covered outdoor space would be a good alternative. I'd also like to see a Dog off leash area (DOLA). Ellensburg is very much a dog town, and people need a place to take their pups where they can be off leash and interact and socialize with other dogs.
- Would like to see covered outdoor or indoor skating rink in Ellensburg for the community use and recreational leagues in town.
- The Memorial Pool needs to open longer hours.
- There needs to be more access to sports in demand. The ERCC does have "batting cages" but it always conflicts with tennis and if it doesn't, then special interest groups have reserved it. More Fields, indoor batting cage facility. Also, there is a large group of community members who enjoy some type of skating (hockey & roller derby) that could really use a nice, indoor dedicated space.
- I think Ellensburg Parks and Recreation is doing a great job. They have lots of activities for the young and the old but feel they miss they middle ground a bit. There needs to be more activities offered for Middle School and especially High School young adults. This would help to keep kids out of trouble if they had a place to go and things to do. Classes in art, music and theater would be amazing!
- Improve exciting facilities
- Some of the existing parks/recreation areas in Ellensburg are very poorly maintained, but would be used frequently by many people in town if they were updated and better maintained. For example, the "play area" at the Carey Lake Park near Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park is dangerous for children. It is decrepit, broken, has peeling paint and splinters and is generally unsafe for children. However, during the spring and summer months that park is the ONLY safe place in the lower county that families can go for outdoor swimming. Children desperately need a place to play at that park that is safe for them. Additionally. There used to be a floating divider that marked where the drop-off is in the sandy swimming area at Carey Lake, but that too was left to deteriorate like the play equipment. Also, the outdoor hockey/roller skating sports court at Mt. View Park gets use constantly during the spring, summer and early fall. But it is in horrible condition. The local women's roller derby league uses it, the junior roller derby league uses it, and the local hockey league uses it. That should be better maintained for the safety of those groups that are using it, and that will also make it more appealing to families who want to teach their children how to roller skate or roller blade. It should be resurfaced and covered so that it can be used even when it's raining. If the city needs donations for projects they should ask the people. Local groups would donate sweat hours and would work to improve facilities if they had the opportunity.
- I think a facility that could accommodate indoor inline hockey and roller derby would be a great benefit (even if it was a large skating rink). Yakima has a skating rink which is quite busy and now

they have a roller derby facility). There is a lot of potential in a skating rink for the area -- young kids, young adults and adults would get use out of this. Money can be generated by hosting in-line hockey and roller derby bouts at the facility.

- I wish that the survey also looked at the horrible management of the city swimming pool, with its high prices, inconvenient hours and inconsiderate employees.
- The only park I have noticed that needs improved grounds is Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. The play structures are old and in poor shape. I think the Parks Department does an amazing job maintaining our parks with the few staff they have.
- 1. Maintain a clean park environment. 2. Enforcement of pet 'clean-up' rules.

### 3. Encourage food trucks to set up for events.

- Parks and Rec generally does a good job. Lack of tennis courts and lack of trails are significant deficits. CWU offers the only tennis courts in Ellensburg (outside of the dirty racquet center) and is a liability if CWU is using the courts. Other similar size towns have much more extensive trail systems and the trails get frequent use for recreation and transportation. Providing trails to the community greatly enhances livability.
- Since oneself selects to complete this survey, the results are not particularly meaningful. I.e. it is not as useful in getting a sense of the community as a random survey would be.
- Would love to have a pool with hours that you can just drop in and not have to schedule the entire day around. Also a waterpark for summer and something for kids to do in winter.
- Mt. View Park needs to be preserved for soccer. The fields at rotary are closed to the public in the evenings.
- Continue to create/build recreation facilities - indoor and outdoor
- Many thanks for all the work being done and for all the volunteers.
- 1-4 times a year send/(mailers) to residents about what is going on at parks/what is available
- City league basketball and volleyball has been great for "non" AAU level kids. Great opportunity for kids that the schools are overlooking.
- I think Ellensburg does a great job of offering programming, sports facilities and parks for a town our size. I just would like to see more water play opportunities for kids during the summer...free wading pools or splash parks like many other cities we visit. Also port-a-potties in parks during the shoulder seasons would be nice when restrooms are locked...MANY families still utilize the parks with nowhere for their children to use the restroom besides behind a tree! My other advice is on a much bigger development scale...I moved from the Midwest (frame of reference) but I cannot understand why Ellensburg continues to develop neighborhoods/housing developments with NO responsibility of the builder/developer to put in walking paths and parks near each group of homes. This is required where I come from with fees included in the initial home price...even just a little park with 2 pieces of equipment and open space. I understand we have many parks near older neighborhoods, but new neighborhoods should be required to include parks/open space--no Rotary Club and Generations clubs fundraising to purchase equipment for parks that should be the responsibility of builder/developers! Thanks for hearing my 2cents worth!
- Parks are an underappreciated commodity in this town that needs to be advertised and pushed with considerable effort. Outdoor play and learning are a vital part of the lives of all ages. We have great opportunities that need to be communicated to the public, so they can invest in their success and future.
- I am a long standing, active member of this wonderful community and appreciate the efforts put in by this city's parks and recreation program. However I feel that a rather large interest group has been neglected for far too long. This city is severely lacking in efforts to help promote the ever

growing sport of tennis. This is a community sport easily applicable to all age levels that promotes an active lifestyle and community engagement. If the city was to develop a new indoor activities center with an area allotted to purely tennis related activities I believe the community would greatly benefit from it.

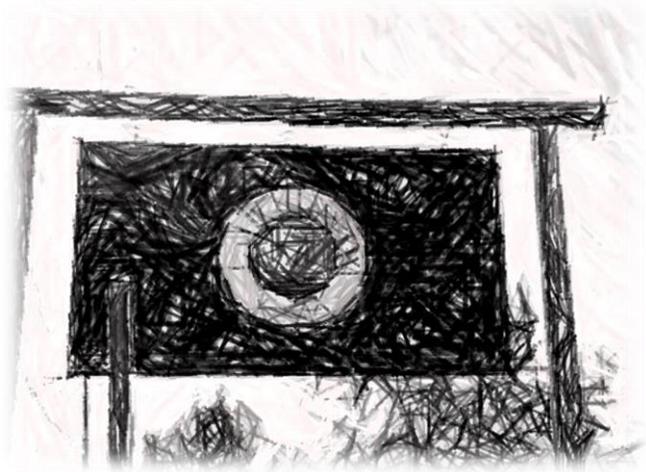
- I wish dog owners/walkers would clean up after their animals then walking on the grass at parks wouldn't be a minefield

## Exhibit Appendix C-2

### 2016 Comprehensive Park & Recreation Community Meeting Input

CITY OF ELLENSBURG PARKS &  
RECREATION  
Comprehensive Park & Recreation  
Plan Update

*Community Meeting  
May 7, 2015*



#### COMMUNITY INPUT:

#### Ellensburg Park System Wish List

Community attendees/citizens, gathered and formed into three groups. An individual from each group volunteered to be the leader/spokesperson and wrote input from the group on large poster boards. Internally, the groups discussed and provided information about their general overview and comments regarding the past, current and visions for the future of the City Parks and Recreation services, facilities and programs.

Following the group input and discussion, the group leaders presented the information to everyone attending the community meeting. As a wrap-up at the end of the individual group presentations, everyone discussed the input and added more thoughts and suggestions.

The three sections shown below represent the three topics of discussion:

**#1:** *What has changed over the past 10 years in the City of Ellensburg with regard to parks and recreation programs?*

**#2:** *What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?*

**#3:** *What are your group's ideas and suggestions for future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park System?*

<b>#1: What has changed over the past 10 years in the City of Ellensburg with regard to parks and recreation programs?</b>
Demographics: young families north of Helena/seniors south of Mt. View Park.
Seniors are much more active in the community/in some cases though, there is a lack of senior accessibility.

The CWU students are much more integrated into the City park system. They drive to the parks and students with young families are involved with park activities, sites & programs.
Youth Sports-soccer, baseball...this has really blown up in turnout.
Older populations is retiring in this area of Kittitas County (listed twice).
CWU enrollment has risen.
The development of Rotary Park has facilitated higher turnout of youth/adult activities.
The Skate Park was expanded.
Demographic changing-students, families, seniors; Ellensburg retirement –as a result of economic change.
Increased youth in the community.
Senior Center-Adult Activity Center: more seniors-aging population makes an affect.
Universally accessibility needs have increase i.e. autism.
Ethnic makeup of the town/more diverse community.
Climate change/water/snow pack/water demand and supply.
More use of Reed Park by youth during the day-they hang out. They collectively are good kids as individuals. “Question” if they have empathy for other users.
Population growth on the North end-what developments will serve the need?
Want: Place for young people to take their hobby of driving /hanging out without their muffler-less trucks. Comment: skateboarders have place but these kids have no place for the truck stuff-away from residential area (noisy).
Street traffic (vehicular)...puts pressure on bike paths/pedestrians.
Skateboard park a positive addition-visiting grandkids love it; it’s well-used by polite, friendly kids.
There are more Dogs.
Increase need for accessible sites in the community (ADA access).

<b>#2: What is currently needed for parks, facilities and recreation programs?</b>
There is more attention to wind and shade protection as well as orientation of structures and shelters. This must continue to be of importance at the parks.
The percent of green space per population in the urban area.
Benches and tables at all parks, especially near playgrounds.
Accessibility for family and seniors with disabilities within and between park facilities & programs.
Edible landscapes/food forests (listed twice).
All weather facility (artificial field turf) for soccer/baseball/rugby/lacrosse/football (listed twice).
More bicycle trails.
Tennis courts (listed three times).
Concrete skate park (listed twice).
Running/walking paths and courses (listed twice).
Dog off leash area (DOLA) expansion at multiple parks.
Loop trail around Ellensburg.
Field turf.
More trails and parks.

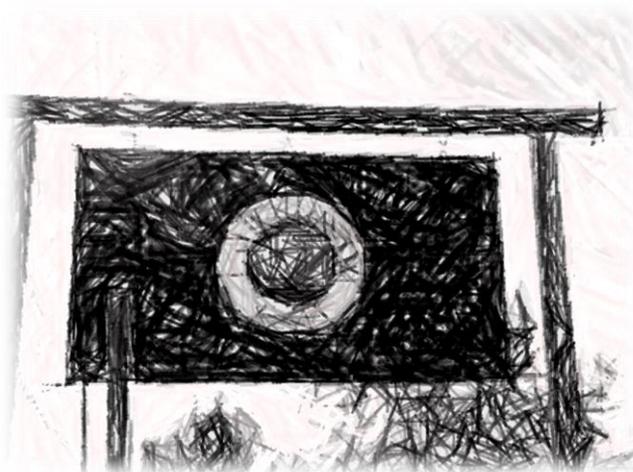
More bike lanes downtown.
ADA access within parks and from park to park.
More dog stations (listed twice).
Tennis courts and handball courts.
Indoor facilities-Community Center...
Traffic/ parking control at Reed Park. Close to Legion Hall. Potential for collision.
Speed restriction/design to reduce park speeds at Reed Park. A perimeter barrier for children.
Recycling in the parks.
Fix erosion of steps at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park.
Better link between University and the community e.g. civic engagement projects, students in community sport leagues, more large community events.
Safer skate park.
Places for dog walking. Students have dogs. Development needed in Northern part of town where student housing is concentrated. It also encourages intergenerational contact.
Leveraging Ellensburg's geographically central location to encourage event sport tourism
Tennis Center is in poor repair and is used by too many other groups, very little opportunity to play...actually play tennis.
Racquet Center looks unsafe, soccer and gymnastics just shoved in there, poorly planned, roof leaks.
Access in and between parks.
Bike safety.
There is a need for more parks.
Need Tennis Court Complex-lighted.
Handball Courts.
Indoor Facility for activities (other than the Ellensburg Racquet Center tennis courts).

### **#3: What are your groups' ideas and suggestions for future dreams, desires and wishes for the Park system?**

Want 100-acres back from Anderson Hay.
More bicycle trails/parks.
Bicycle lanes /access.
Bike trail from Irene Rinehart to Yakima Canyon.
Multiple field turf facilities for soccer/baseball/softball/lacrosse/football.
BMX course/track.
Youth "float park".
Indoor multi-sport facility similar to racquet Club-climbing wall, gym space.
Edible landscapes.
Covered Skate Park (listed twice).
More benches/picnic tables/seating areas (Rotary Park) (listed twice).
DOLA: Dog Off Leash Area.
Skate Line Park.
Create a Park Foundation (listed twice).
Disc Golf Course (listed four times).

Soccer Golf Course (listed twice).
Raccoon control around all parks.
Working water fountains (listed twice).
<u>Enforcement of compliance</u> for a safe place. Speed bumps to decrease speeding, muffler noise, vehicles' cutting corners too close (Reed Park). Observance of stop signs/traffic.
Use of full cut-off lighting-reduction of urban glow/shields & amiable lights.
Green bathrooms, recycling.
Save pyracantha at Mt.View Park and Chestnut trees.
Renovated skate park not made of metal that burns when you touch it.
Tennis courts-city courts in & out of City limits.
Outdoor Amphitheatre.
Bowling Alley.
Community Garden.
Outdoor Ice Rink/Roller Skate area.
Slackline Park.
Spray Park for wee kids.
Dedicated bike path – beltway around the City.
Each user group has dedicated area: soccer, roller skating, tennis, trucks (place to make noise without being seen as jerks), and places for ethnic groups that they desire.
Universal design in the parks.
Sensory (safe) area based for people with disabilities and everyone can smell...touch. Idea: use students to develop this.

**Ellensburg Parks and Recreation  
Comprehensive Park and Recreation  
Plan Update  
City of Ellensburg Community  
Meeting  
June 4, 2015 6:30-8:30pm  
Ellensburg City Hall**



**MEETING #2 PUPLIC INPUT**

Kiwanis Park

- Consider Gravel Trails
- Edible/Perennials as learning opportunities along trail “small pocket garden”
- Ecology/Environmental Education, plant ID could/should be in all parks/City Hall
- Specific ADA Play Apparatus designed for all ages/skill levels

Memorial Park

- Additional Power
  - Multiplex outlets
- Like spray park

### Mt. View Park

- Youth Center and Senior Center relocated to Community Center
- Indoor Tennis – tough to find time (schedule) to play tennis – would like 2 indoor tennis courts
- Need multi-use Indoor Recreation Center – high school tennis
  - Field House
- Need another indoor facility to free-up tennis courts
- Tennis court netting along Willow to prevent errant tennis balls
- Community Center Impact is too much for Neighborhood!
- Community Center should not be in a park!
- Spray park mist may create issues for climbing wall, separate use areas.
- Want lawn area outside tennis court entrance for event hosting

### Reed Park

- Solution uses taxpayer \$ to solve private property issue
- Rodeo Board/Field & Stream Club
- Deed – “Rodeo Board responsible for park”? Not city property during Rodeo week
- Existing conditions at Reed Park works fine
- Reed was member of F/S Club, Deed says F/S should use it as fundraiser
- Tough to negotiate truck/trailers with this solution
- Lived with this existing condition for 30 years - “leave it alone”
- Legion Special Events would require those parking spaces that are gated off in this solution
- Only place in town with Overlook “Popular Lighting/Wildfires Views!
- This is a “Police” matter/behavior issue
- Multiple Use
- Sunset View
- Does have a little “secluded” feel to the north end
- “No law” being broken, lots of Police presence!
- Police have done “good/excellent” job in policing area – noon/evening/morning officer’s visits
- Speeding issues up/down – Big Issue w/ neighbors
- Safety in front of Legion Hall – serious
- “No Change” – “passive space as is “
- One more security light and Striped Parking would officers enforce laws
- Consider Traffic calming
- Security cameras would help, post signs “under video surveillance” will a long to curb undesirable behavior
- Park as “Icon”, Craig’s Hill – geology - geomorphology – learning experience
- During Equestrian Events – Hassling from Craig’s Hill creates disruption during events
- No need for restroom, ADA sanican pad will suffice but provide anchors for securing sanicans during wind events
- Speeding up Alder and Maple – an issue

### Rinehart Park

- Mt. Bike Challenge Course too far out, Kids/Parents won’t go there
- Course could be in Reecer Park Floodplain Area
- Reecer Floodplain – pump track, single track course
- Disc Golf at West End of Rinehart would well- 9 holes
- Disc Golf on both sides of I-90 is a consideration
- Disc Golf to a park’s specific size and scale

## Exhibit Appendix C-3

Community Center Survey 2013					
Total Responses			346		
Question 1 - If a new community center were built, how important would it be to include the following elements/features in the facility?					
Answered	337				97.4%
Skipped	9				2.6%
	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Total Responses
Senior Citizen Program Space	17	52	90	165	324
Youth/Teen Center Program Space	26	44	70	143	283
Gymnasium	43	77	92	108	320
Dance Studio Space	92	109	44	42	287
Birthday Party Renal Room	117	96	55	41	309
Banquet Room	72	79	81	82	314
Commercial Kitchen	37	69	99	116	321
Arts and Crafts Rooms	41	92	94	84	311
Meeting Rooms	51	103	81	82	317
Indoor Rock Climbing Wall	172	67	30	34	303
Performing Arts Space	63	70	81	83	297
Indoor Tennis Courts	159	70	29	46	304
Racquetball Courts	167	68	36	34	305
Indoor Walking Track	62	78	79	104	323
Fitness/workout room	70	75	91	81	317
Children's Activity Center	67	83	74	83	307
Senior Citizen Program Space	5.2%	16.0%	27.8%	50.9%	324
Youth/Teen Center Program Space	9.2%	15.5%	24.7%	50.5%	283
Gymnasium	13.4%	24.1%	28.8%	33.8%	320
Dance Studio Space	32.1%	38.0%	15.3%	14.6%	287
Birthday Party Renal Room	37.9%	31.1%	17.8%	13.3%	309
Banquet Room	22.9%	25.2%	25.8%	26.1%	314
Commercial Kitchen	11.5%	21.5%	30.8%	36.1%	321

Arts and Crafts Rooms	13.2%	29.6%	30.2%	27.0%	311
	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Total Responses
Meeting Rooms	16.1%	32.5%	25.6%	25.9%	317
Indoor Rock Climbing Wall	56.8%	22.1%	9.9%	11.2%	303
Performing Arts Space	21.2%	23.6%	27.3%	27.9%	297
Indoor Tennis Courts	52.3%	23.0%	9.5%	15.1%	304
Racquetball Courts	54.8%	22.3%	11.8%	11.1%	305
Indoor Walking Track	19.2%	24.1%	24.5%	32.2%	323
Fitness/workout room	22.1%	23.7%	28.7%	25.6%	317
Children's Activity Center	21.8%	27.0%	24.1%	27.0%	307

**Question 2 - How important are the following factors to you and your family in determining whether or not to utilize a new community center?**

Answered	314				
Skipped	32				
	<b>Not Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>
Operating Hours	6	26	92	142	266
Selection of Programs & Activities	12	26	120	151	309
Quality of Programs & Activities	9	32	114	147	302
Proximity to Home or Work	61	74	77	66	278
Availability of Childcare	144	73	42	30	289
Easy access/availability of parking	27	64	101	111	303
Cost	14	38	91	162	305
	<b>Not Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>
Operating Hours	2.3%	9.8%	34.6%	53.4%	266
Selection of Programs & Activities	3.9%	8.4%	38.8%	48.9%	309
Quality of Programs & Activities	3.0%	10.6%	37.7%	48.7%	302
Proximity to Home or Work	21.9%	26.6%	27.7%	23.7%	278
Availability of Childcare	49.8%	25.3%	14.5%	10.4%	289
Easy access/availability of parking	8.9%	21.1%	33.3%	36.6%	303
Cost	4.6%	12.5%	29.8%	53.1%	305

<b>Question 3 - How important is it to consider the following factors when locating the new center?</b>					
Answered	312				
Skipped	34				
	<b>Not Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>
Within a City park facility or open space	77	98	69	44	288
Near Downtown	90	86	45	67	288
On a Public Transportation Route	48	64	72	105	289
Near CWU Campus	193	58	16	13	280
Near Ellensburg School District facilities	117	89	44	34	284
Near Senior Housing	68	87	76	64	295
<b>Not Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>		<b>Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>
Within a City park facility or open space	26.7%	34.0%	24.0%	15.3%	288
Near Downtown	31.3%	29.9%	15.6%	23.3%	288
On a Public Transportation Route	16.6%	22.1%	24.9%	36.3%	289
Near CWU Campus	68.9%	20.7%	5.7%	4.6%	280
Near Ellensburg School District facilities	41.2%	31.3%	15.5%	12.0%	284
Near Senior Housing	23.1%	29.5%	25.8%	21.7%	295
<b>Question 4 - Would you and/or members of your family use a community recreation center facility?</b>					
Answered	308				
Skipped	36				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Percentage</b>		
288	93.5%	22	7.1%		
<b>Question 5 - Do you believe this type of facility is needed in our community?</b>					
Answered	319				
Skipped	27				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Percentage</b>		
283	88.7%	36	11.3%		
<b>Question 6 - Multiple funding options are being considered for the construction and maintenance of a new center.</b>					
<b>Would you support a new center being funded through an increase in your property tax?</b>					
Answered	308				
Skipped	38				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Percentage</b>		
204	66.2%	104	33.8%		

## Community Center Survey Comments Page 1

Community Center Survey Comments

**Survey respondents provided the following additional comments (verbatim):**

### **Question 1: If a new community center were built, how important would it be to include the following elements/features in the facility?**

There are already places to do most of these things in Eburg

Available location for all ages

Let's take this off the school dist. and have a community performing arts building. Eburg needs some outdoor summer use facility. We have none! Replace/repair baseball bleachers (5 steps) @ Mt. View Park - Maple Street. They're in rough shape.

Room for movie screen for feature movies for children and seniors

An afterschool facility and programs for elementary school children. Based on recent experience, Ellensburg has too little capacity in this area.

Off leash Dog off leash area (DOLA)

Can liquor be served in the banquet room of the "center"?

Piano for offering lessons to kids through the Parks/Recreation department

Swimming pool. Use public schools for gymnasium and arts and crafts rooms/classes

Books and videos

Performance Arts space needed if ESB does not pass bond

What about people without a computer?

Solarium

Ping pong table space

AV equipment rental to the public

Place to have pool tables

Air conditioning!

Offices to rent (ALTC, RSVP, Elmview) - revenue! Pool table. One room and copier, etc., for rentals

## Community Center Survey Comments Page 2

### **Question 1: If a new community center were built, how important would it be to include the following elements/features in the facility? (Continued)**

Computer Room

Every station should be equipped with cordless phones. Computer room with stations. Volunteers need lockers for coats, etc.

Indoor pool to replace existing KVM Pool

Bathrooms with multiple stalls and handicap

Try to not duplicate services already existing in the community - especially those provided by private enterprise

The city needs tennis courts in general. There are NO courts in town that are playable.

Movie Theater, senior meals, espresso stand

Performing arts - depends on what school district does

25 Yard x 50 Meter Competition Pool

Something for senior singles to meet, dance and get together

Childcare for families working out at facility

Aquatic center

Basketball courts

Chess tournaments

They are all important but selection would depend on demand and how much taxes would be needed. I, for one, am broke right now and exist on a fixed income.

I like the current facilities and see no reason to be economically wasteful.

Opposed to having everything under one roof. Scattered throughout the community supports community feelings.

Most of these things are being handled by private enterprise! Government should NOT compete.

### **Community model railroad Community Center Survey Comments** Page 3

#### **Question 1: If a new community center were built, how important would it be to include the following elements/features in the facility? (Continued)**

I think some of the existing locations and facilities could continue to be used without making a new facility that encompasses everything.

Space for senior meals and FISH summer kids food program. Enough space that one group (i.e. kids) don't expand to take space from seniors.

An outside water park/inside YMCA

Hot spot room (free Wi-Fi)

Space for Zumba and other exercise classes

These activities/services are already available in various locations.

Outdoor tennis courts

Indoor tennis courts important not only because of the snow but also the wind in our town.

Indoor recreation, especially tennis courts, is/are necessary due to local weather extremes and excessive wind.

I don't care what else you have as long as there are indoor tennis courts. The racquetball center is the only place where we can play tennis when it's windy, smoky, or snowy.

Combine Senior Center, Youth/Teen Center, Dance Studio, Birthday Party Rental Room, Arts and Crafts Room, Meeting Rooms, and Performing Arts Space into a multiple use area

Use existing gym facilities at Racquet Club and Pool

Please do NOT restrict the ability of seniors AND youth to interact! We need greater chances to learn how to talk, participate with each other!

Public viewing garden, "mature trail", victory garden, labyrinth, indoor farmer's market or crafts fair

Remodel Morgan for performance arts space

Mini Golf Course

Cardroom and board games for all ages

### **Outdoor/Indoor Pool Community Center Survey Comments** Page 4

#### **Question 1: If a new community center were built, how important would it be to include the following elements/features in the facility? (Continued)**

Community Garden

Respite facilities, no stairs, senior meals, centralized senior and low income services, quiet rooms

Theater for film screenings

Batting cages, trampoline, laser tag

#### **Question 2: How important are the following factors to you and your family in determining whether or not to utilize a new community center?**

Walkable for all ages

Would there be a fee for every visit/use?

Price should be based on income

Accessibility

Inclusive policies about usage

Availability of other facilities

GOOD bike racks, lots of them

Meeting room space

Importance of operating hours will depend on what's in complex/center

Seniors need a price break

Question 3: How important is it to consider the following factors when locating the new center?

Senior housing is in many locations - north, south, east, and west

Desirable to have near town police presence and within fairly close proximity to downtown, if we have a lot of youth present.

Near motels to attract large groups/meetings, etc.

Cost to purchase land - important **Community Center Survey Comments Page 5**

**Question 2: How important are the following factors to you and your family in determining whether or not to utilize a new community center? (Continued)**

Walkable for all ages

Could the center be used by school programs?

Another survey on question 3 is needed

Near school district if performing arts space was needed for performances

Student discount?

Equipment available to rent/use (projector, screen, etc.)

It must be useful to adults. Lots of kid stuff in town. Little for adults in comparison.

Perhaps this is too large of a project for Ellensburg.

We drive to kids' athletic fields so distance to new facility is not so important.

**Other comments:**

The middle school issue is still more urgent than a community center. There are many area and community events already available.

Yes if you close Basset, AAC, and Racquet Club. If you keep all, then no. (It would be nice but if we can't get a new school then seems hopeless.)

This obviously depends on the additional tax burden versus proposed user fees.

Somewhere is not going to cause problems for others concerning noise.

Schools would be my first priority. A children's outdoor activity center and performing arts space second.

I live in the county - don't know if that makes a difference.

We would use the center if it is affordable and quality instruction is applicable. Until the middle school problem is addressed, I don't think this should come up on taxes.

Don't want new center to duplicate existing facilities

Would not want to pay on a "per thousand dollars of assessed value" but a few, perhaps up to \$20/year would be acceptable

HELL NO

**Community Center Survey Comments Page 6 Other comments:**

Funding through property tax if increase is minimal/moderate amount

Ellensburg has sufficient opportunities for all activities. More so than most towns of this size.

Top priorities: This town has a responsibility to the youth - there is nothing for them to do. They need physical activity. Indoor walking track for seniors.  
Depends on amount of increase in property tax  
Absolutely not! There are already too many bond debts and additional assessments that have been added to the property taxes in the area.  
But first we need a new middle school!  
Should be paid for by dues or pay when used by public on each event or day. People who rent don't pay property tax - there has to be a better way. Everyone should pay who uses the facility.  
Don't need recreation - we have enough of that. Absolutely will NOT pay through property tax.  
I do not really believe this type of facility is needed, except for the performing arts space.  
Very excited for a community center!!!!  
I believe a new middle school is more important. Also improvement of fire and police facilities.  
Will pay but not until a solution is found for ESD Facilities issues, i.e. Morgan Middle School  
Wait until our economy stabilizes!!  
Facility is needed only for seniors.  
Why duplicate the city's amenities - use what we have.  
Nice idea, not sure it's totally needed. Voters are afraid of overly larger, overly generous projects.  
Right now most seniors can't pay so I wouldn't want to price people out.  
Stop throwing rocks at industry so we can support things like this! Where are the jobs you promised?  
I think many of these services are already available in our community. Would not pay until we get a new middle school.

## **Community Center Survey Comments** Page 7

### **Other comments:**

Will pay via property tax assuming center is a reasonable price  
Later - Need new middle school and fire station first  
Get some fun in this town, where singles can meet, dance and have fun  
Re-use of downtown structure already present i.e. old Elks  
Maybe a shuttle bus would be useful if it's out of town  
We need a new middle school before a center like this should even be considered.  
Do not want the same amenities if they are to be duplicated in the proposed new school  
The City of Ellensburg needs to let new businesses in such as Walmart, Target, etc., so that families can purchase clothing, shoes, etc. for their family and pay prices within their budget and not have to drive to Yakima. High income is just not there.  
Just say that you want Morgan to be this facility already!  
Repurpose an existing building in downtown or near core  
We have many wonderful teachers in town – yoga, Pilates, etc. who struggle to find classroom space. It would be great if this facility could provide, at reasonable rent, space for these teachers and classes.  
This community needs to focus on the HUGE heroin problem and the MASSIVE amount of bums that beg on street corners before it pours \$\$ into something like this. Love, a Concerned Citizen  
We need something accessible to more people. Grants and private donations or bequests should be utilized.  
Cut police and jail costs instead of raising property taxes.  
Improvements to the existing Senior Center and expansion of the current Youth Center are more appropriate age-wise and activity-wise – also the swimming pool could be expanded. NO NEW CENTER. I don't think the seniors and youths should share the same space – conflicts.

Seniors will have the hardest time getting there. Kids have bikes and parents can drive; CWU students have cars. Too far for seniors and it won't be utilized by those who need it most.

We should consider living within our existing budget!

### **Community Center Survey Comments Page 8**

#### **Other comments:**

I don't pay property tax, but I think I would make a small donation. Good job on the survey topics!

Because of my age – 84- and that I live in Rosewood and have a club house, my main interest would be to continue the exercise morning class that is at the Senior Center.

Needs plenty of parking.

This community needs a MIDDLE SCHOOL first!

I would rather have a tax increase for a new middle school! This is a luxury, not a necessity.

Consider city purchase of homes bordering present Adult Senior Center.

I think it is important that meeting rooms/spaces offered for rent be affordable to the people who might use... the Holmes Center. A friend on the Arts Commission at the time thought it would be a good place for the music teachers to have their recitals. Over the years, however, we have been "priced out" and had to look elsewhere. (My fees went from \$65 to \$113 for two hours between December of one year and January of the next.) It's a shame because they have that great instrument and facility, but an average size studio can't justify \$100 per event. So I would encourage you to create an affordable price structure for rentals, being a city facility that we already support through our taxes!

**WE WANT INDOOR TENNIS COURTS!**

I think if they are going to close the tennis, racquetball courts, senior and youth center, it should be a priority in the new building.

We are happy with our current rec center. But a second facility with other amenities you want would be great and our family would support it, including an increase in taxes.

Our youth between 3:00 and 5:00pm will either get into trouble (most pregnancies then) or ... [comment cut off]

Consider availability of the Kroc Foundation funds for community centers through the Salvation Army (see Coeur D'Alene, ID)