

City of White Salmon

PARK SYSTEM PLAN



**DRAFT
REPORT**

August 8, 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- BACKGROUND
- PARK SYSTEM
- NEEDS ASSESSMENT
- VISION
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- IMPLEMENTATION



The Park System Plan is a guiding vision for the park system and provides direction for current and long-range planning. The Plan documents the research, analysis, and public involvement process specifically designed and used to identify system assets and needs. The Plan includes resulting goals, actions, recommendations, and implementation measures that guide the strategic direction and development of the park system over the next 20 years. The Plan was prepared in collaboration with City of White Salmon staff and community residents.

Specifically, the Plan includes:

- ▶ Inventory of existing park facilities owned and operated by the City, School District, and local community organizations, including an assessment of the general condition and needed maintenance or improvements.
- ▶ Assessment of community needs through identification of key indicators from demographic data, recreation trends, population projections, and community input.
- ▶ Long-range planning framework, including a vision, goals, and recommendations.
- ▶ 20-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for improvement and development of the park system.
- ▶ Implementation actions and strategies, including project prioritization and the identification of potential sources and methods for acquiring funding for development, maintenance, operations, and general improvements.

BACKGROUND

White Salmon, Washington is located 72 miles east of Portland along the Columbia River Gorge. Indigenous inhabitants, including the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Nez Perce Tribe, live and have lived on the land for thousands of years prior to European immigrants occupying the area. The land, which received the name White Salmon in 1907, is situated on a bluff above the Columbia River and surrounded by several natural features, including the White Salmon River, Jewett Creek, and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

As the second-largest city in Klickitat County, White Salmon's economy centers on agriculture and industry, construction, retail and dining, health and medicine, and transportation services. Nearby whitewater conditions on the Columbia River and other local rivers and waterfalls have established White Salmon as a world-renowned destination for water recreation sports, such as kayaking and kiteboarding.

The City of White Salmon is a growing community with an increasing demand for housing, parks, and trail facilities. The City operates and maintains several parks that are primarily located within a half mile of E Jewett Blvd (Highway 141). After more than 80 years of operation, the White Salmon City Pool permanently closed in May of 2019. In 2018, residents voted to form the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District, which is planning to construct, operate, and provide maintenance for a new swimming pool. The District is currently pursuing funding needed for construction.

The City has undertaken several recent planning efforts including a Comprehensive Plan in 2021 and an Urbanization Study in 2020. A Transportation Plan is currently in development and will evaluate existing routes and identify future transportation projects in to improve access and walkability.

PARK SYSTEM

Park system planning requires the identification and assessment of existing park and recreation facilities and amenities through an inventory process. The inventory process highlights system-wide strengths, needs, opportunities and constraints, and reveals underserved areas. The inventory includes all facilities owned by the City, information about other recreation facilities owned by the School District, and other local community organizations that own or maintain facilities that are available to residents.

Table ES.1 Parks Facility Inventory Summary

DEVELOPED FACILITIES	
Parks	Acres
Mini Parks	0.6
Pioneer Park Cemetery	0.4
Fireman’s Park	0.2
Community Parks	4.1
Rheingarten Park ¹	4.1
Natural Area Parks	6.7
Mamie & Francis Gaddis Memorial Park	6.7
Special Use Parks	11.6
Jewett Sports Complex ²	4.0
Spokes Bike Park	7.6
Total Park Acres	23.0
Existing Trails	Miles
Trails	2.0
Total Developed Trail Miles	2.0
Undeveloped Facilities	
Trails	9.5
Total Undeveloped Trail Miles	9.5

¹ Owned by White Salmon Valley School District and operated by the City.

² Owned by White Salmon Valley School District, and operated and maintained by White Salmon Community Youth organization.

There are six park facilities in White Salmon. Two parks are owned by the White Salmon Valley School District and four parks are owned by the City. There are 23 acres of total park land available to the community. A two-mile segment of trail follows the sidewalk along NW Loop Road and transitions to an off-street path along W Jewett Blvd. Table ES.1 lists the inventory of developed parks and trails facilities and their classifications within the park system, as well as previously identified trail improvements.

The White Salmon Valley School District owns and operates an additional four developed school facilities that comprise 78.1 acres. Table ES.2 includes a list of all developed school facilities and their corresponding acreage.

Table ES.2 School District Facility Inventory Summary

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPED FACILITIES	
Facility	Acres
Wallace & Priscilla Stevenson Intermediate School	71.8
Henkle Middle School	
Columbia High School	
Whitson Elementary School	6.3
Total Developed School District Acreage	78.1

The population of White Salmon is expected to grow significantly over the next 20 years. This growth prompts the need to consider how the existing level of service benchmarks, measured as the ratio of residents per park and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents, can continue to be maintained, if not improved. Maintaining the current level of service at 9.2 acres of park land per 1,000 residents for a projected 2043 population of 3,033 residents will require that the City acquire and develop a minimum 5 acres of new park land by 2043.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The needs assessment is comprised of a community profile, national and state recreation trends analysis, and findings from community outreach and involvement activities, which include stakeholder interviews, focus group discussions, an open house event, and an online survey. Together, this data provides a view of community needs and the facilities, programs, and services that are prioritized in the plan.

The needs assessment includes a collection of public and stakeholder feedback from the community outreach and involvement process. Feedback from park users focuses on how the City can better serve residents and visitors in the future. Findings from these processes help identify and prioritize future capital projects.

Facility Needs

- Improve natural areas/green space
- Nature playground/children's playground
- More accessible walking opportunities (sidewalks and trails in parks)
- Improve and expand trail facilities (paved and/or unpaved)
- Parks in the north and west

“

I'D LOVE TO SEE A FACILITY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO USE YEAR-ROUND. WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF GATHERING SPACES IN WHITE SALMON.

VISION

The Park System Plan policy framework includes a vision, goals, and actions established through the planning process. The vision is intended to represent community needs and desires. Goals represent the general end toward which organizational efforts are directed. Actions are specific steps needed to achieve stated goals. Recommendations include specific projects needed to achieve the Plan goals and implement the vision.

White Salmon established a community vision for parks and recreation during a comprehensive planning process in 2021.

Comprehensive Plan Parks and Recreation Vision Statement

Surrounded by natural and scenic beauty, White Salmon is at the center of a recreational wonderland. A city-protected trail system offers opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and kayaking. Residents enjoy a variety of parks, green spaces, trails, and facilities. A network of neighborhood parks and playgrounds provide daily access for residents to enjoy. Sports fields, specialty parks, a community pool and recreation center promote community gathering and outdoor exercise. Natural areas provide wildlife habitat and enhance local ecosystems. Health and aesthetic benefits are derived from the ample tree canopy. Access to the Columbia Riverfront is maintained so that all can appreciate this precious and defining recreational asset.

In addition to the community's vision statement, the park system inventory and identified needs inform the Park System Plan vision statement which guides the goals and recommendations of this plan.

PARK SYSTEM PLAN VISION STATEMENT

White Salmon provides a variety of park facilities with a range of accessible and inclusive experiences that encourage play and exploration in the scenic and natural environment and meet the needs of a diverse and growing community.

Goals

- 1. Accessible Experiences**
Provide accessible park facilities for all residents.
- 2. Communication & Partnerships**
Enhance communication and service to all residents.
- 3. Maintenance and Facility Upgrades**
Provide a safe, accessible, and welcoming user experience through regular maintenance and facility upgrades.
- 4. Funding**
Identify and implement new funding mechanisms to support current park operations and the development of future park and recreation facilities.
- 5. Conservation and Restoration**
Promote environmental stewardship to preserve undeveloped natural resource and open space areas and restore ecological functions within existing parks and recreation facilities.
- 6. Inclusion**
Regularly evaluate and support the ongoing park and recreation needs of all residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Plan recommendations propose balancing existing facility upgrades with acquisition and development of new sites to increase the park distribution and level of service. The recommendations result from thorough analysis of White Salmon's park system needs based on broad community input. They outline a path for strengthening the system, and are aimed at increasing capacity to accommodate current and future growth. Recommendations are organized into the following categories:

- Recreation facility development recommendations include an indoor community center feasibility study and master plan, and development of a full-size basketball court.
- Park facility development recommendations include a new playground and splash pad at Rheingarten Park, upgraded sports courts and restrooms at Rheingarten Park, adding a walking loop at Pioneer Park, a portable restroom enclosure and signage at Spokes Bike Park, and sidewalk upgrades throughout the park system.
- Natural area facility development recommendations focus on the development of the Gaddis Park.
- Park acquisition and development recommendations focus on acquiring land to the north and west to address underserved neighborhoods by providing three new parks (two neighborhood parks and a mini park). An additional park acquisition along the Columbia River is intended to function as a natural area park.
- Trail development recommendations include developing 11.5 miles of bike trails as identified in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Additional recommendations address operations and maintenance of the park system.

IMPLEMENTATION

Planned Projects

Proposed projects included in the Park System Plan and the 2023-2043 Capital Improvements Plan are identified and selected based on the following criteria:

- Qualitative findings from community input during the outreach process
- Quantitative findings from the 2022 Park System Plan Needs Assessment
- City staff input
- Geospatial analysis
- Census data
- Other relevant plans and policies

Proposed project funding responds to an ongoing assessment of capital assets, as well as assessments of current and future service delivery needs.

Prioritization

Projects included in the plan were evaluated based on consideration of the following information sources to determine a prioritization schedule:

- Planning documents and tools
- Level of Service (LOS)
- Geographic distribution
- Maintaining existing facilities
- Grants

Each project is prioritized based on a High, Medium, and Low prioritization schedule.

- High-priority projects are planned for the first 7-year planning period, through 2030;
- Medium priority projects are planned for the second 7-year planning period, through 2037;
- Low priority projects are planned for the third 6-year planning period, which begins in 2038 and extends to 2043.

Project Costs

Detailed cost estimates were developed for each project. Additional detail is provided in the 2023-2043 Capital Improvements Plan.

The park system will increase in acreage over the planning period. To maintain the current level of service and number of facilities per resident benchmarks, the City will need to acquire and develop approximately five acres of parkland by 2043.

Table ES.3 presents a summary of the proposed projects categorized by site and priority level. Total costs for planned projects are estimated to be approximately \$34,836,400. The plan includes:

- \$8,064,000 in funding for High Priority projects (2023-2030)
- \$8,750,800 in funding for Medium Priority projects (2031-2037)
- \$18,021,600 in funding for Low Priority project (2038-2043)

Table ES.3 Project Prioritization

ND - Not Determined

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION				
Project ID	Project Title	High FY 2023-2030	Medium FY 2031-2037	Low FY 2038-2043
R1	Community Center ³	ND	ND	ND
R2	Unsiteed basketball court	-	\$226,300	-
P1	Pioneer Park	-	\$39,500	-
P2	Fireman's Park	-	\$74,100	-
P3	Rheingarten Park	\$589,500	\$478,700	-
P4	Gaddis Park	\$1,636,900	\$1,363,600	\$17,649,600
P5	Jewett Sports Complex	\$108,500	\$406,000	\$93,000
P6	Spokes Bike Park	\$43,400	\$232,500	-
A1	Future North Neighborhood Park	\$1,860,000	\$1,395,000	-
A2	Future North Mini Park	\$186,000	\$465,000	-
A3	Future West Neighborhood Park	\$930,000	\$2,325,000	-
A4	Future Riverfront Park	-	\$1,395,000	\$279,000
T1	Loop Trail	\$2,554,700	-	-
T2	Riverfront Park Trail Bridge ⁴	-	ND	ND
T3	Gaddis Park-Spokes Bike Park Trail	\$155,000	\$188,200	-
T4	Rheingarten-Pioneer-Jewett Sports Complex Trail	-	\$161,900	-
	TOTAL	\$8,064,000	\$8,750,800	\$18,021,600

³ Funding dependent on completion of feasibility study.

⁴ Funding dependent on completion of project feasibility study and a future Hood River bridge replacement project.

Funding

Park system improvement actions have been historically funded from Municipal Capital Improvement Fund expenditures. These funds consist of revenue from the local tax base. The Plan discusses anticipated funding sources as well as associated recommendations for leveraging resources, including:

- Grants
- General Obligation Bonds
- Partnerships
- Relationships
- Performance Measures

Conclusion

The 2022 White Salmon Park System Plan is an aspirational document based on a collective local vision for maintaining and improving the quality of life for White Salmon residents through parks facilities. The Park System Plan is a synthesis of a guiding vision, actions, recommendations, and specific projects designed to be implemented over a 20+ year planning period.

The City recognizes that park facilities are essential to the physical and mental health of White Salmon residents and the park system provides a key foundation for a healthy community. The planning framework ensures that the future park system will provide accessible and welcoming facilities that support the needs of an increasingly diverse and growing community.





CHAPTER 01

INTRODUCTION

- PLANNING PROCESS
- RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS
- PLAN ORGANIZATION



PLANNING PROCESS

The Park System Plan is a guiding vision for the parks and recreation system and provides direction for current and long-range planning. The Plan documents the research, analysis, and community outreach process specifically designed and utilized to identify system assets and needs. The Plan includes resulting goals, actions, recommendations, and implementation measures that guide the strategic direction and development of the park system over the next 20 years. The Plan was prepared in collaboration with City of White Salmon staff, stakeholders, and community residents.

The Plan follows a systems approach for the planning process, as recommended by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). A systems approach places local values and needs first and provides a framework for creating a park system that physically meets those values and needs. The planning process is organized in five phases:



Phase 1 Inventory & Analysis:

This phase involves an inventory of existing park facilities owned and operated by the City and the School District. Facilities are identified and assessed for general conditions, existing improvements, and needed maintenance or improvements.

Phase 2 Needs Assessment:

This phase involves an assessment of community needs through the identification of key indicators from demographic data, recreation trends, and community input. Population growth, demographic characteristics, and recreation participation trends help identify facilities needed by current and future residents. Population projections are used to determine the current and future level of service provided by the park system. Level of service is typically expressed as a ratio of developed parks per 1,000 residents.

Phase 3 Vision and Recommendations:

This phase involves the development of a planning framework for the Plan, including a vision, goals, actions and recommendations. The recommendations address operations and maintenance, capital improvements, and land acquisition. The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) identifies capital improvement projects for 2023-2043 and prioritizes projects for the first seven years of the Plan. The CIP is based on current needs. The land acquisition plan looks at the longer 20-year planning term to determine parkland needs to serve a growing population.

Phase 4 Implementation and Funding Strategies:

This phase includes the identification of potential sources and methods for acquiring funding for development, maintenance, operations, and general improvements.

Phase 5 Plan Refinement and Adoption:

This phase incorporates feedback and refinement from City staff and City Council based on a review of the Draft Plan, which is used to prepare the Final Plan for adoption by the City Council.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

The Park System Plan is one of several documents that comprise the City of White Salmon's long-range planning and policy framework, including documents such as, but not limited to, the Comprehensive Plan, an Urbanization Study, land use and development code, and municipal code. The following documents were reviewed during Plan development and contain specific elements that have bearing on the planning process and inform goals, actions, and recommendations within this Plan.

WHITE SALMON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2021)

The Comprehensive Plan includes a chapter that addresses parks and recreation in White Salmon. The Plan inventories existing facilities, identifies future facilities and plans, and sets goals and policies to guide long-term park and recreation planning.

The plan includes three goals addressing park and recreation needs:

Goal P&R-1: Maintain and improve access and multimodal circulation between park and recreation facilities.

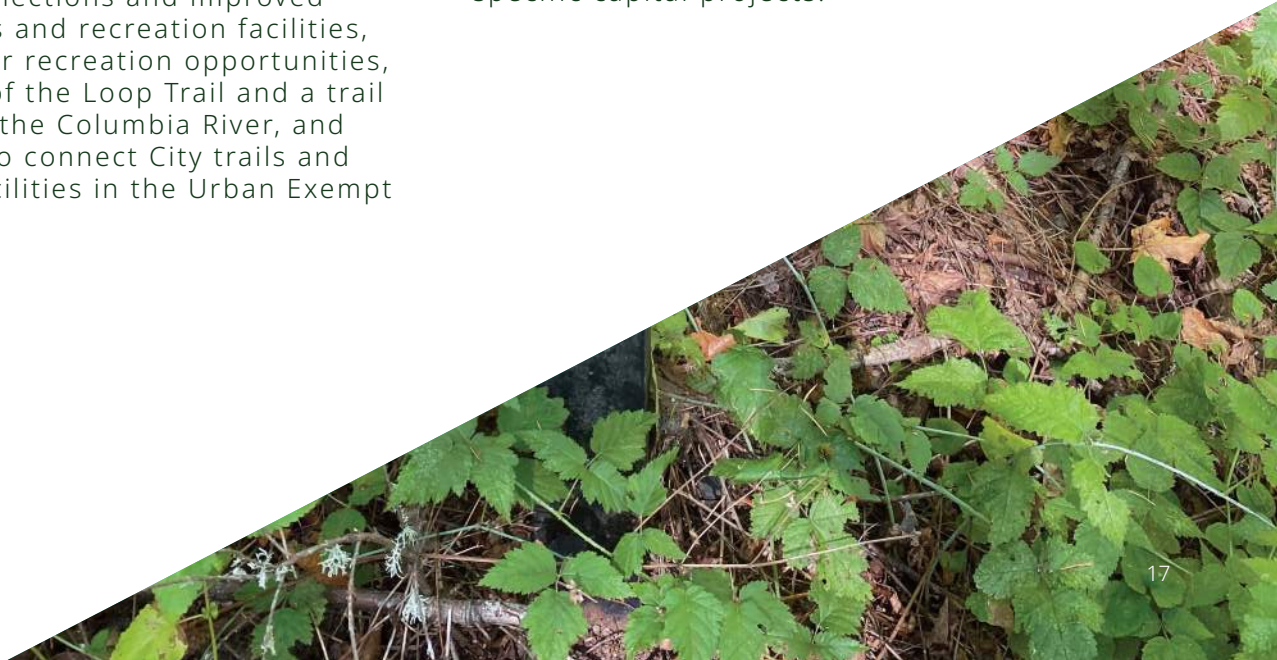
Policies under this goal support signage, expanded connections and improved safety to parks and recreation facilities, access to water recreation opportunities, development of the Loop Trail and a trail connection to the Columbia River, and partnerships to connect City trails and facilities to facilities in the Urban Exempt Area.

Goal P&R-2: Maintain existing park and recreation facilities and improve existing park and recreation facilities with new or improved facilities, amenities and uses.

Policies for Goal 2 include maintenance efforts to ensure clean and safe facilities, improvements to existing sports courts, introduce benches, tables and a walking loop at Pioneer Cemetery Park, provide bike racks at parks, collaboration with the White Salmon Valley School District to adapt Jewett Sports Complex to support baseball and soccer equally as well as potential winter uses.

Goal P&R-3: Ensure adequate funding opportunities, coordination, and partnerships to meet current and future park and recreation facility demands and maintenance needs.

Goal 3 policies specify coordination of planning and improvements with nearby cities and the County, alignment of park improvements with the City's capital facilities planning, encouragement of park facilities that capitalize on City assets, collaboration with local organizations to support the maintenance of parks, maintain an updated inventory of facilities and their conditions and anticipate maintenance and repairs, explore trail and conservation easements with private landowners, support the Park District, explore grants and local partnership opportunities for the development of new facilities, encourage parks in new subdivisions or mixed-use developments, and consider tax levies or bonds to fund specific capital projects.



Several future facilities and plans are outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

- **City Pool:** The White Salmon Valley Pool and Metropolitan Park District is overseeing the planning and development of a pool relocation near Henkle Middle School on Loop Road.
- **Community Center:** A new community center across from Whitson Elementary School is being considered by the City. The center is intended for public use and may also host the Washington Gorge Action Programs Youth Center which is currently located on a City-owned site along E Jewett Blvd.
- **River Access:** Water access in White Salmon is currently limited; however, the City is exploring the purchase of a 13-acre parcel along the Columbia River from Klickitat County. Access to the site is also limited but a trail easement for a pedestrian and bicyclist bridge over the railroad line may be explored in the future. Additional information is available in the White Salmon Riverfront Bridge Park Conceptual Plan.

- **Loop Trail Plan:** The Loop Trail includes 11.5 miles of path to enhance regional active transportation. The alignment is not finalized but is expected to travel along Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), City of Bingen, City of White Salmon, and Klickitat County rights-of-way. As a separated bicycle and pedestrian facility with signage, the Loop Trail will provide residents and tourists a route to access local parks and amenities.

WHITE SALMON URBANIZATION STUDY (2020)

The Urbanization Study identifies several key findings that influence park and recreation planning for the next 20 years.

- **Finding 1.** The average population growth rate for Klickitat County is 0.96%.
- **Finding 4.** White Salmon is the fastest growing city in Klickitat County and is likely to capture the majority of demand for housing within the western part of the County.
- **Finding 5.** 75-79% of the expected 1,020 housing units are forecasted to be constructed within the White Salmon/Bingen Urban Exempt Area.
- **Finding 7.** New housing in White Salmon requires approximately 182 acres of low-, medium- and high-density land combined.
- **Finding 8.** The existing supply of buildable land in White Salmon City limits includes approximately 92 acres of low-, medium- and high-density land combined.



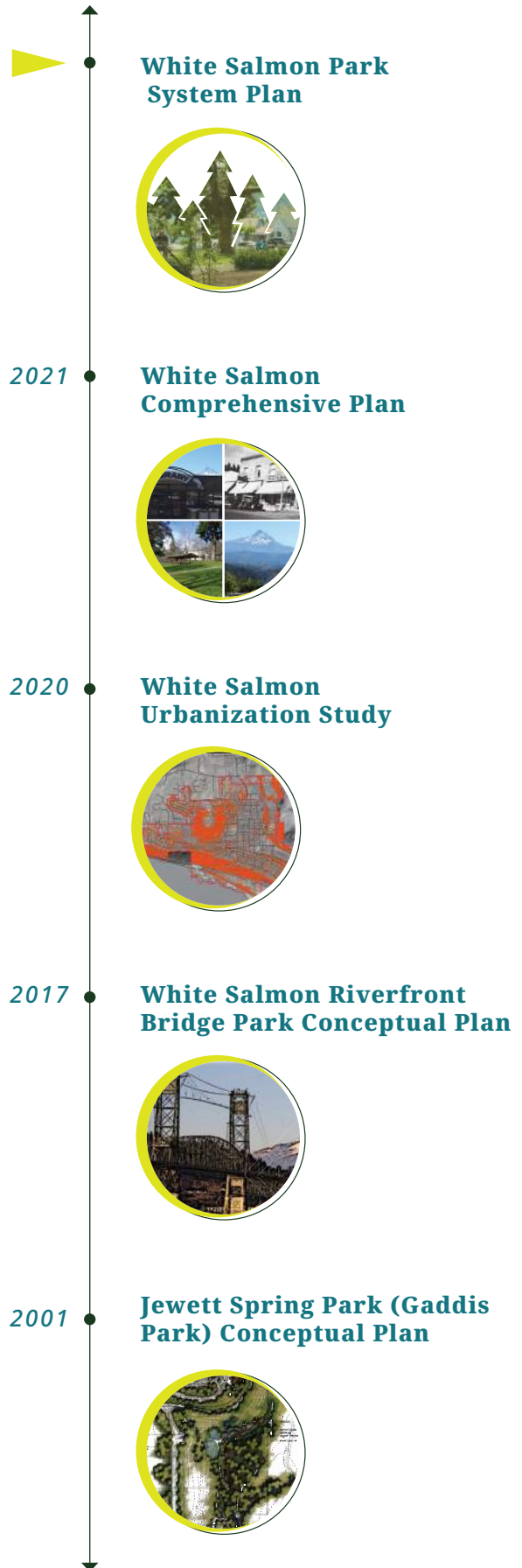
WE NEED
OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS
TO BE OUTDOORS AND PLAY OR
EXERCISE.

WHITE SALMON RIVERFRONT BRIDGE PARK CONCEPTUAL PLAN (2017)

The Riverfront Bridge Park Conceptual Plan was developed in 2017 by the City and the National Park Service: Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance program. The Plan identifies a vision for a site along the Columbia River as a natural area park. Development opportunities are limited as the site is situated in a floodplain and 7 acres of the property are underwater. There are also several site constraints including the Hood River-White Salmon Toll Bridge that divides the site in half, and Highway 14, the railroad and private property that limit access from the north. The Plan identifies wildlife viewing, fishing, and water access for non-motorized paddle sports as site opportunities.

JEWETT SPRING PARK (GADDIS PARK) CONCEPTUAL PLAN (2001)

The Jewett Spring Park Conceptual Plan was developed in 2001 for the park currently known as Gaddis Park. Proposed improvements include an environmental education center, parking lot and stormwater facility, demonstration garden, and plaza at the north end of the site. Improvements to the southern natural area include a small gravel parking area, informational and educational kiosk, trailhead, and a system of wayfinding signage that leads visitors through paved pedestrian paths. The paths lead to a series of additional improvements including a restored tank and wetlands, an overlook platform that oversees Jewett Creek, and creek habitat restoration. A footbridge also connects to the existing soft-surface paths. The Park System Plan considers these improvements in the Plan's goals and recommendations.



PLAN ORGANIZATION

This Plan is organized into six chapters and eight appendices, described as follows:

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION:

Provides an overview of the project purpose and planning process, as well as this Plan's relationship to other plans.

CHAPTER 2 PARK SYSTEM:

Provides information on the regional context, an inventory and classifications of the park system, and level of service.

CHAPTER 3 NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Provides information about the community demographics, growth, and includes a summary of recreation trends.

CHAPTER 4 VISION:

Presents the vision, goals, and actions designed to meet community needs, as identified in Chapter 3.

CHAPTER 5 RECOMMENDATIONS:

Includes recommendations for park-specific projects, land acquisition, trail development, and maintenance and operations.

CHAPTER 6 IMPLEMENTATION:

Includes implementation strategies, budget information, identified funding needs, and funding recommendations.

Appendix A Community Profile:

Includes an overview of the regional and planning context, including demographic, economic and community health analysis.

Appendix B Inventory:

Includes an inventory and conditions assessment of each park facility in the park system.

Appendix C Needs Assessment:

Includes an overview of recreation participation and local, state, and national recreation trends.

Appendix D Focus Groups:

Summarizes comments and findings from targeted conversations conducted with representative community focus groups.

Appendix E Stakeholder Interviews:

Provides summaries of stakeholder interviews conducted as part of the public outreach process.

Appendix F Open House Event Summary:

Provides a summary of comments and findings from a community open house event conducted as part of the public outreach process.

Appendix G Capital Improvements Plan

A separate document that includes a detailed 20-year strategy for how the City of can implement identified capital improvements.

Appendix H Community Survey Results

A separate document that includes the raw data from the community survey.



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I BELIEVE THERE IS POTENTIAL TO MARKEDLY EXPAND THE TRAIL NETWORK SURROUNDING WHITE SALMON, BUILDING ON THE EXISTING SYSTEM TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE.



CHAPTER 02

PARK SYSTEM

- REGIONAL CONTEXT AND PLANNING AREA
- FACILITY INVENTORY
- LEVEL OF SERVICE



This chapter provides information on regional context, the planning area, and public facilities in order to understand how park facilities function in the community. The inventory and assessment of parks facilities functions to help identify gaps in service delivery, improvement needs, and expansion opportunities for future generations of park users.

REGIONAL CONTEXT AND PLANNING AREA

White Salmon, Washington is located 72 miles east of Portland in the Columbia River Gorge. Indigenous inhabitants, including the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Yakama Nation, the Wasco Nation, and the Wishram Nation live and have lived on the land for thousands of years prior to European immigrants occupying the area.

Klickitat County was organized by European immigrants out of Walla Walla County in 1859, and the land currently known as the City of White Salmon was incorporated in 1907. White Salmon is known for its kiteboarding opportunities

and whitewater conditions on the Columbia River. The area, with its rivers and waterfalls, is a world-renowned destination for kayakers.

White Salmon is situated on a bluff above the Columbia River and surrounded by several natural features, including the White Salmon River, Jewett Creek, and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. White Salmon provides recreational opportunities which include trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, and athletic fields.

The planning area for the Park System Plan includes the area within the city limits of White Salmon, approximately 780 acres. The planning area primarily includes land zoned for commercial and residential uses.

FACILITY INVENTORY

Park system planning requires the identification and assessment of existing park and recreation facilities and amenities through an inventory process. The inventory process highlights system-wide strengths, needs, opportunities, and constraints, and reveals underserved areas and services. Knowledge of the activities that occur in each park and the condition of facilities and amenities helps guide recommendations and capital improvement projects.

The inventory includes all facilities owned by the City, information about other recreation facilities owned by the School District, and other recreation facilities that are available to residents. Detailed inventory and conditions assessments of each park and recreation facility owned by the City and the School District are included in Appendix B Inventory.

City Facilities

The White Salmon park system includes six park facilities. The parks inventory includes all parkland owned and/or operated by the City of White Salmon, which comprise 23 acres of parkland and two miles of bike and pedestrian trail. The inventory was completed using information provided by City staff and site visits to park and recreation facilities. Table 2.1. Park Facility Inventory Summary contains a list of developed and undeveloped facilities and their associated classifications and size within the park system.

Table 2.1 Parks Facility Inventory Summary

DEVELOPED FACILITIES	
Parks	Acres
Mini Parks	0.6
Pioneer Park Cemetery	0.4
Fireman's Park	0.2
Community Parks	4.1
Rheingarten Park ¹	4.1
Natural Area Parks	6.7
Mamie & Francis Gaddis Memorial Park	6.7
Special Use Parks	11.6
Jewett Sports Complex ²	4.0
Spokes Bike Park	7.6
Total Park Acres	23.0
Existing Trails	Miles
Trails	2.0
Total Developed Trail Miles	2.0
Undeveloped Facilities	
Trails	9.5
Total Undeveloped Trail Miles	9.5

¹ Owned by White Salmon Valley School District and operated by the City.

² Owned by White Salmon Valley School District, and operated and maintained by White Salmon Community Youth.

Recreation Easements

Currently, the City does not have any recreation easements, but developing relationships with private landowners and obtaining easements to expand the trail system and access to parks is identified as Policy P&R-3.9 in the Comprehensive Plan.

School District Facilities

Two of the six parks in the park system are owned by the White Salmon Valley School District. The White Salmon Valley School District owns and operates an additional four developed school facilities that comprise 78.1 acres. Table 2.2 includes a list of all developed school facilities and their corresponding acreage.

Table 2.2 Additional School District Facilities Summary

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPED FACILITIES	
Facility	Acres
Wallace & Priscilla Stevenson Intermediate School Henkle Middle School Columbia High School	71.8
Whitson Elementary School	6.3
Total Developed School District Acreage	78.1

Table 2.3 Inventory Summary provides a summary of City and School District-owned lands.

Table 2.3 Inventory Summary

INVENTORY SUMMARY	
Ownership	Size (Acres)
City Facilities	14.9
School District Facilities	86.2

Classification

The inventory process includes consideration and assignment of park classifications. A review of current and future park system needs by park classification type ensures a balanced park system capable of efficient service to the community. National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) classifications provide a basis for the establishment of a classification system specific to the needs, resources, and facilities in White Salmon.³ Park classification determination considers individual park benefits, functions, size, service area, and amenities. The park classifications selected for White Salmon are summarized in the following categories:

Parks

- Mini Park
- Community Park
- Natural Area Park
- Special Use Park

Trails

In White Salmon, there are two mini parks, one community park, one natural area park, two special use parks, and one trail facility. More detailed information about individual park facilities can be found in Appendix B Inventory.

³ National Recreation and Parks Association Classification and Parks Definitions. National Recreation and Parks Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, Mertes, James D. and Hall, James R. Park, Recreation and Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. 1996.

MINI PARKS

Size: ≤ 1 Acre

Proximity: 1/4 Mi Radius

Facilities: Playgrounds, picnic tables, pathways, interpretive signage, and landscaping.



COMMUNITY PARKS

Size: 25+ Acres

Proximity: 1-2 Mi Radius

Facilities: Playgrounds, sports fields, picnic shelter, open space, restrooms, off-leash areas, natural areas, gardens, performance spaces, etc.



NATURAL AREA PARKS

Size: Variable

Proximity: Variable

Facilities: Light development, nature viewing, greenways, landscape buffers.



SPECIAL USE PARKS

Size: Variable

Proximity: N/A

Facilities: Dependent on activities and site use.



TRAILS

Size: Variable

Proximity: Variable

Facilities: Walking, biking, hiking, multi-use.





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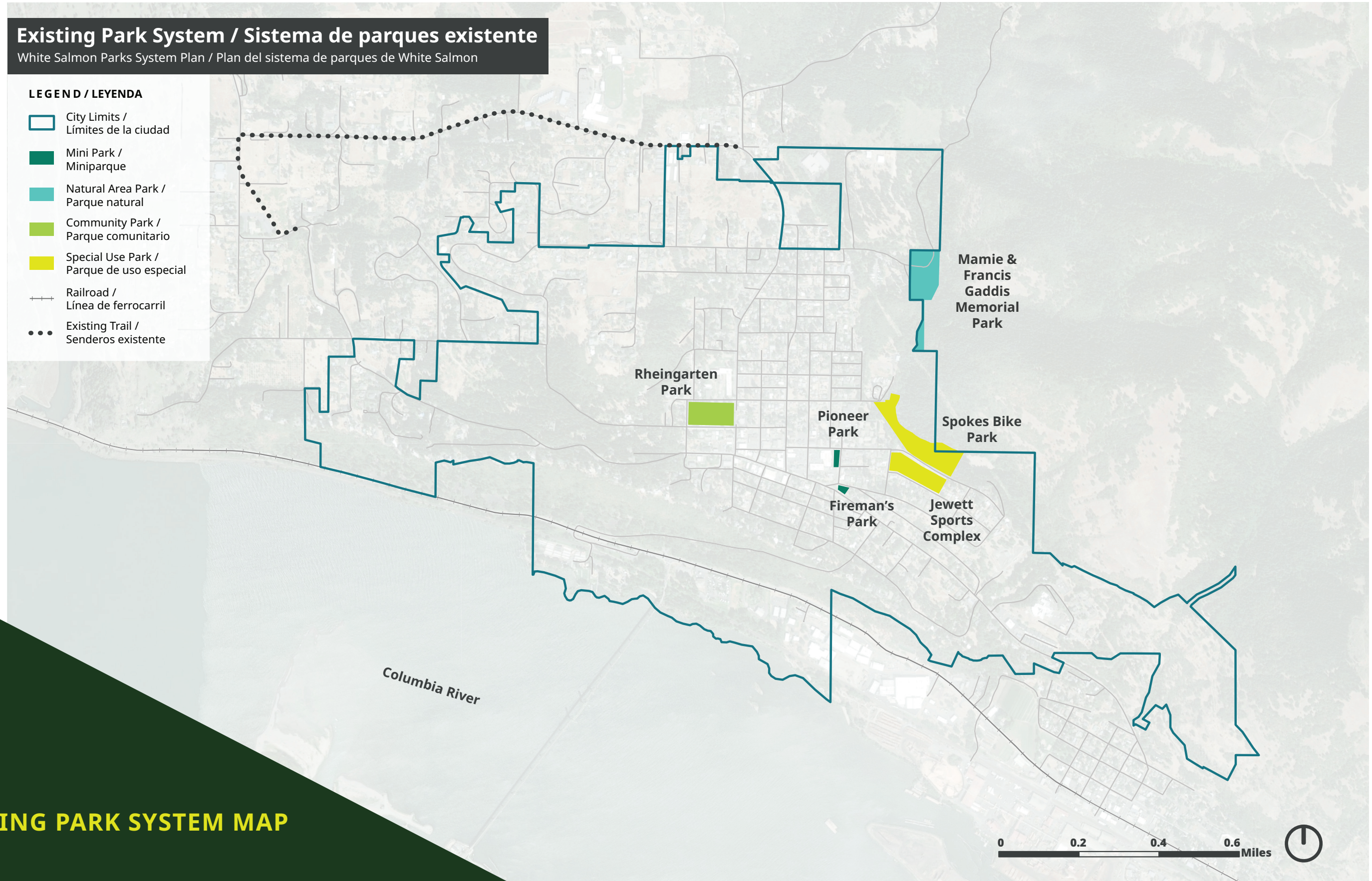
OPEN SPACE IS NECESSARY FOR HEALTHY KIDS, MENTAL SANITY FOR PARENTS, AND CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE TAKING A MOMENT TO RELAX ISN'T SO DIFFICULT.

Existing Park System / Sistema de parques existente

White Salmon Parks System Plan / Plan del sistema de parques de White Salmon

LEGEND / LEYENDA

- City Limits / Límites de la ciudad
- Mini Park / Miniparque
- Natural Area Park / Parque natural
- Community Park / Parque comunitario
- Special Use Park / Parque de uso especial
- Railroad / Línea de ferrocarril
- Existing Trail / Senderos existente



Map 2.1
EXISTING PARK SYSTEM MAP

LEVEL OF SERVICE

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) publishes an annual report that summarizes key findings generated by the NRPA Park Metrics, a benchmarking tool that evaluates an agency's performance. Two benchmarks analyzed in the 2021 NRPA Performance Review report are the ratio of residents per park, and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents as a means of gauging the appropriate level of service. These benchmarks are the foundation for exploring potential service gaps in the City of White Salmon's park system.

The 2022 population estimate for White Salmon is 2,490 people⁴. Since the Park System Plan is meant to guide the City for the next 20 years, all population projections provide service analysis extrapolated out to 2043. This analysis seeks to identify current service needs, as well as the potential needs for a changing future population.

Residents Per Park

The ratio of residents per park is calculated based on the current population estimate (2,490 people) and the number of existing park properties (6 park properties). Based on this equation, the ratio of residents per park in White Salmon is 415 residents per park. For this benchmark, a lower ratio of resident per park (lower quartile ratio) is preferred, meaning that parks are less crowded. The higher the ratio (upper quartile), the more crowded the existing parks. In Table 2.4a, this ratio is compared to national ratios for jurisdictions surveyed with populations having less than 20,000 residents to be a viable comparison to White Salmon. The national ratios are presented as the median ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, lower quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, and upper quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed.

As shown in Table 2.4a, the ratio of residents per park is lower than the national lower quartile ratio and significantly lower than the national median ratio.

Table 2.4a. Residents Per Park

RESIDENTS PER PARK			
Population	# of Residents	Residents Per Park	Comparison
White Salmon	2,490	415	-
Median	-	1,235	-820
Lower Quartile	-	776	-361
Upper Quartile	-	1,948	-1,533

Gauging the ratio of residents per park in the future is also beneficial to ensure the provision of an appropriate level of service over time. Data from the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) shows the average annual growth rate in White Salmon was 0.9% between 2000-2019. During 2010-2019, the growth rate increased to 1.8%. Population forecasts are available from the OFM at the county level. The high growth forecast (identified in the Urbanization Study) for Klickitat County (0.96%) most closely aligns with the average annual growth rate trend White Salmon has seen in the past 19 years (0.9%). This analysis uses the high growth forecast rate for Klickitat County (0.96%) to forecast population growth of White Salmon. Using this rate, White Salmon is projected to increase in population over the next 20 years. To accommodate this growth, White Salmon will need to increase the number of parks it owns and operates to continue to provide a quality level of service. The number of parks needed to at least maintain the current level of service over the next 20 years, with the forecasted population increases, is calculated in Table 2.4b.

⁴ Washington State Office of Financial Management, April 1 Official Population Estimates. 2022.

Table 2.4b. Residents Per Park Projection

RESIDENTS PER PARK PROJECTION						
Year	Population	Ratio (Population / 6 Existing Parks)	# of Parks Needed to Maintain Ratio (Population / 415 Residents Per Park)	Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2022	2,490	415	-	1,235	776	1,948
2023	2,514	419	0.1	1,235	776	1,948
2028	2,635	439	0.3	1,235	776	1,948
2033	2,761	460	0.7	1,235	776	1,948
2038	2,894	482	1.0	1,235	776	1,948
2043	3,033	506	1.3	1,235	776	1,948

As shown in Table 2.4b, the ratio of residents per park is a proportional relationship: the ratio will increase as the population increases. Therefore, White Salmon will need to increase the number of parks in city ownership over time to maintain the current level of service ratio. This population increase can be addressed by the acquisition of approximately 0.3 parks every five years. Assuming no additional park acquisition over the next 20 years, White Salmon would remain below the lower quartile level of service.

Acres of Park Land Per 1,000 Residents

The ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is calculated based on the current developed acreage of park land (23 acres) and the current population estimate divided by 1,000 (2.49). Based on this equation, the acres of park land per 1,000 residents in White Salmon is 9.2 acres per 1,000 residents. For this benchmark, a higher ratio of acres per resident (upper quartile ratio) is preferred, meaning that parks are less crowded. The lower the ratio (lower quartile), the more crowded the existing parks. In Table 2.5a, this ratio is compared to national ratios

for jurisdictions surveyed with populations less than 20,000 residents. The national ratios are presented as the median ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, lower quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, and upper quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed.

Table 2.5a. Acres of Park Land Per 1,000 Residents

PARK ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS			
Population	# of Residents	Ratio (Acres of Park / 1000 Residents)	Comparison
White Salmon	2,490	9.2 Acres / 1000 Residents	-
Median	-	12.4	-3.2
Lower Quartile	-	5.2	4.0
Upper Quartile	-	21.8	-12.6

As shown in Table 2.5a, the ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is higher than the national lower quartile ratio. White Salmon is also lower than the national median ratio and significantly lower than the national upper quartile ratio. Gauging the ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents in the future is also beneficial to ensure the provision of an appropriate level of service over time.

Using data from Washington State Office of Financial Management, White Salmon is expected to increase in population over the next 20 years. In order to accommodate this growth, the acreage of parks owned by the City will need to increase to continue to provide a similar level of service. The amount of additional park acreage needed to at least maintain

the current level of service over the next 20 years with the forecasted population increases are calculated in Table 2.5b.

As shown in Table 2.5b, the ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is an inversely proportional relationship: the ratio will decrease as the population increases. Therefore, the City of White Salmon will need to increase the amount of park acreage in the city's ownership over time to maintain the current level of service ratio. This population increase can be addressed by the acquisition of approximately 1.25 acres every five years. Assuming no additional acreage acquisition over the next 20 years, White Salmon would continuously be below the median value.

Table 2.5b. Acres of Park Land Per 1,000 Residents Projection

RESIDENTS PER PARK PROJECTION						
Year	Population	Ratio (Acres of Park Land / 1000 Residents)	# of Additional Acres Needed to Maintain Current Ratio	Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2022	2,490	9.2	-	12.4	5.2	21.8
2023	2,514	9.1	0.1	12.4	5.2	21.8
2028	2,635	8.7	1.2	12.4	5.2	21.8
2033	2,761	8.3	2.4	12.4	5.2	21.8
2038	2,894	7.9	3.6	12.4	5.2	21.8
2043	3,033	7.6	5.0	12.4	5.2	21.8



OUR COMMUNITY IS GROWING RAPIDLY
 ...TO BE FAMILY ORIENTED AND TO KEEP
 OUR ECONOMY GOING WE NEED
 TO CATCH UP WITH OUR
 INFRASTRUCTURE.



Conclusion

White Salmon can expect a population increase within the next 20 years. This growth prompts the need to consider how the existing levels of service benchmarks measured both as the ratio of residents per park, and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents, can continue to at least be maintained at their current level, if not improved.

The NRPA Park Metrics describe the ratio of residents per park as a proportional relationship (the more residents, the greater the ratio), and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents as an inversely proportional relationship (the more residents, the lesser the ratio). Given the need to have a low ratio of residents per park, and high ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents, White Salmon should consider acquiring and developing additional parks facilities for the community in the next 20 years in order to maintain current levels.

Maintaining the current level of service at 9.2 acres of park land per 1,000 residents for a projected 2043 population of 3,033 residents will require that the City acquire and develop 5 acres of park land.

The White Salmon Level of Service Map (Map 2.2) displays existing park facilities and their associated service area, as defined by the NRPA classification system, and a walkability factor of 1/4 radius, which is the typical distance a user is willing to walk to access a facility assuming no barriers to access. This analysis informs the recommendations and implementation measures described in Chapters 5 and 6.

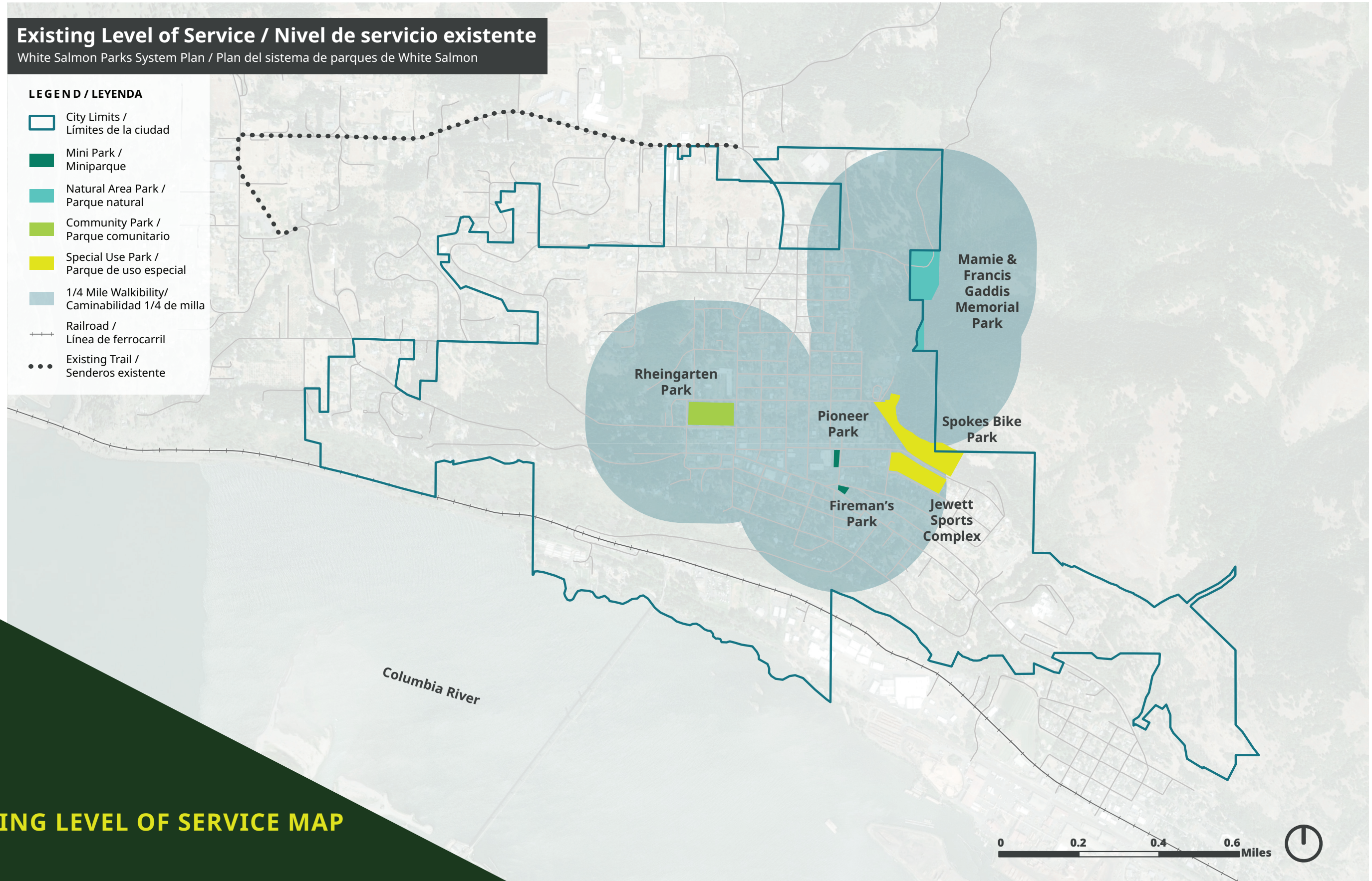


Existing Level of Service / Nivel de servicio existente

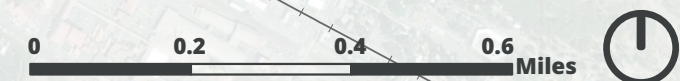
White Salmon Parks System Plan / Plan del sistema de parques de White Salmon

LEGEND / LEYENDA

-  City Limits / Límites de la ciudad
-  Mini Park / Miniparque
-  Natural Area Park / Parque natural
-  Community Park / Parque comunitario
-  Special Use Park / Parque de uso especial
-  1/4 Mile Walkability / Caminabilidad 1/4 de milla
-  Railroad / Línea de ferrocarril
-  Existing Trail / Senderos existente



Map 2.2
EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE MAP





CHAPTER 03

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- COMMUNITY PROFILE
- RECREATION TRENDS AND ANALYSIS
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH & INVOLVEMENT
- FACILITY NEEDS



The needs assessment is comprised of a community profile, national and state recreation trends analysis, and findings from community outreach and involvement activities, which included stakeholder interviews, focus group conversations, a community open house event, and an online survey. Together, this data provides a view of community needs and the facilities and services that should be prioritized in the Plan. The documents that comprise the needs assessment are summarized in this chapter and detailed in the appendices.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

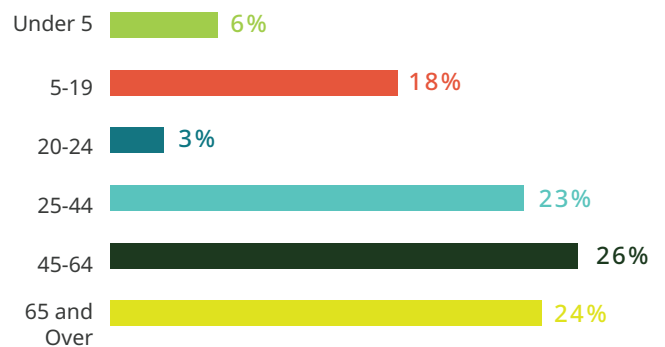
A critical step in the park system planning process is understanding the composition of the community and evaluating how the community is served by its park system. Reviewing the local demographic composition and White Salmon's regional context help clarify opportunities and constraints influential to parks planning.

With a population of 2,490 (2022), White Salmon is a small city in southern Washington. From 2005 to 2020, White Salmon experienced an approximately 17% increase in population. White Salmon is expected to see a 19% increase in

population over the next 20 years, which is slightly higher than the growth rate over the last 15 years.

With a population of 22,645 (2020), Klickitat County ranks 30th among Washington's 39 counties in size. In 2020, as part of preparing a new Comprehensive Plan, White Salmon completed an Urbanization Study to evaluate future land needs within White Salmon and the surrounding Urban Exempt Area. Part of their methodology included analyzing population forecast data. Based on the urbanization study's high-growth forecast, the County's population is expected to increase by 21% over the next 20 years, which is significantly higher than the growth rates during the last 15 years (14%). White Salmon is the fastest growing city in the County, which suggests a need to accommodate this growth with increased provision of park facilities.

Figure 3.1 White Salmon Age Distribution

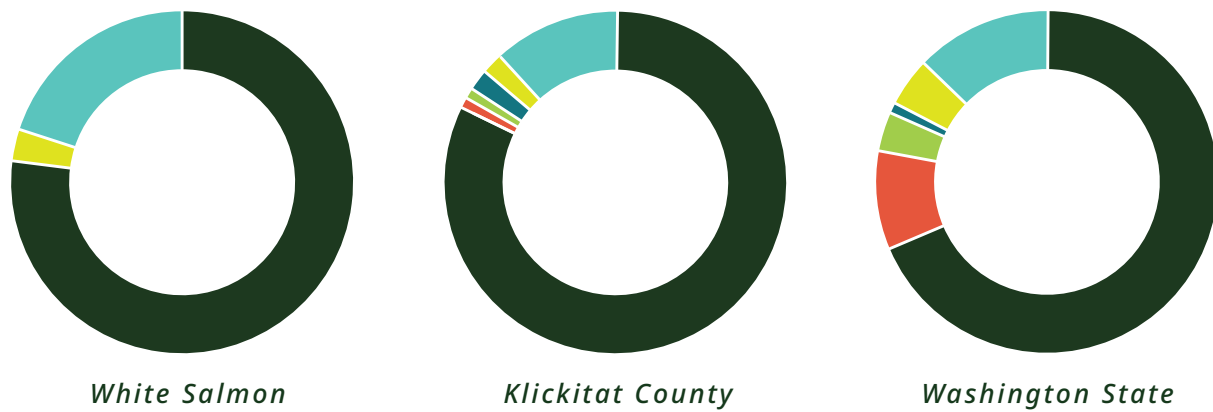


Largest Klickitat County Cities by Population



⁵ White Salmon, American Community Survey, 2019

Figure 3.2 Diversity in White Salmon, Klickitat County and Washington State ⁵



In 2019, the largest percentage of White Salmon residents (26%) was between the ages of 45 and 64. An additional 24% were between the ages of 65 and over, 23% were between the ages of 25 to 44, and 18% were ages 5 to 19. The percentage of residents between the ages of 65 and over in White Salmon is significantly higher (24%) compared to the population of Washington (16%). This shows a population with a variety of age groups where a range of park planning activities are needed to serve the entire community.

The racial composition of White Salmon is shifting. Between 2010-2019, White Salmon experienced an increase in the percentage of the population who identify as white and a slight increase among those who identify as belonging to two or more races. During that time there was a decrease in the Hispanic or Latino, and the Asian population. In 2019, African Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders made up 0% of the population. 3% of the population identified as Two or More races. White Salmon’s Hispanic/Latino population represents 20% of the total population, compared to 12% in the county, and 13% in the state. With increased diversity in White Salmon among some racial groups, like the Hispanic and Latino population, the City will need to adapt its park and recreation facilities to meet the needs of residents from diverse backgrounds. This diversification has implications for staffing, maintenance, and marketing of park and recreation facilities. The

1 in 5 White Salmon residents identify as Hispanic / Latinx

- Hispanic / Latinx
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Black or African American
- Asian American
- White
- Two or More

City will need to better understand the unique ways in which different groups use services to meet their needs.

Trends in income and education are also vital in understanding a community’s composition. White Salmon’s income and educational trends are influenced by its employment sectors, and proximity to educational opportunities.

In 2019, White Salmon’s median family income (\$75,530) and per capita income (\$32,287) were higher than Klickitat County income levels but lower than Washington income levels. White Salmon has a lower percentage of total population living below the poverty level (7%) compared to the state (10%) and the county (16%). However, the percentage of individuals living below the poverty level in White Salmon was 22% which is comparable to state levels (21%) but significantly lower than the county level (35%). Poverty and income are important considerations in the parks planning process, as they influence residents’ willingness and ability to pay for higher levels of service and new park facilities.

Educational attainment and subsequent earning potential also influence residents' ability to pay for park system improvements. In 2019, 88% of White Salmon adult residents had a high school diploma, and 47% had a bachelor's degree or higher. The percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher in White Salmon is greater than the county (31%) or the state (37%). The percentage of residents with a high school diploma is the same in both White Salmon and Klickitat County (88%), but slightly lower than the rate at the state level (92%).

Physical surroundings are one of the greatest environmental factors influencing community health. Parks and recreation opportunities support physical activity which has an important role in decreasing chronic illnesses such as heart disease, stroke, depression, diabetes, and some forms of cancer. The actions of park and recreation providers can influence the physical activity of the people and overall community health.

In 2021, the County Health Rankings⁶ published updated data on a wide variety of health issues. The rankings evaluate health at the county level and the state level and include the rates of obesity, diabetes, physical and mental health, and

physical activity and exercise. The assessment found that 27% of adults in Klickitat County were obese which is slightly lower than the rate of adult obesity across Washington (29%). The rate of diabetes is higher among adults in Klickitat County (12%) when compared to adults in Washington (9%). The rates of physical and mental distress were slightly higher at the county level than the state level. Physical inactivity was higher in Klickitat County than in Washington (18% and 16%, respectively). In addition, access to exercise opportunities, which is expressed as the percentage of the population with adequate access to locations for physical activity, was significantly lower in Klickitat County (74%) than in Washington (86%).

Understanding regional and community health trends and health disparities is an important consideration when planning current and future parks and recreation facilities. Research suggests that health disparities can be alleviated with access to parks and nature and that physical activity and time spent in nature can reduce the risk of certain illnesses and help manage health disorders.

“

WE SHOULD INVOLVE PEOPLE FROM UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN THE PLANNING, EXECUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY PARKS.

⁶ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings 2021



RECREATION TRENDS AND ANALYSIS

Reviewing current sports and activities in White Salmon in comparison with national and state recreation user trends informs the Plan to better provide for services that meet current and future user demands.

The City does not currently provide recreational programs to youth or adults. However, the City's parks provide a variety of facilities that support recreational activities. Rheingarten Park offers a field for informal sports, tennis courts and a playground. Informal pedestrian trails are available at Gaddis Park and the Spokes Bike Park provides bike trails. Several sports fields are located at the Jewett Sports Complex, including baseball, softball, and soccer.

There are limited providers for youth sports programs in the area. White Salmon Youth Sports offers little league, football, basketball, and soccer for youth. Organization donors offer scholarships and equipment for children. Other access to recreational activities, such as windsurfing, kiteboarding, kayaking, and rafting, are offered by local businesses or accessed by residents privately.

National Recreation Trends

The Outdoor Recreation Trends and Futures assessment reviews past national trends in outdoor recreation participation, describes current outdoor recreation participation patterns, and compares patterns across regional and demographic levels. Nature-based recreation stands out as one national category of activity that showed substantial growth in the first decade of the millennium. Generally, all outdoor recreation activities are projected to grow in the number of participants through 2060.

Additional current trends include the rise of individual activities: in the first decade of the millennium, the most popular activities in terms of number of participants were walking for pleasure, family gatherings outdoors, gardening or landscaping, viewing/photographing natural scenery, visiting outdoor nature centers, and attending outdoor sports events. Activities on the decline

include downhill skiing, inline skating, snowmobiling, ice skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and windsurfing.

The assessment also notes that while Hispanic/Latino populations have many of the same recreation needs as other groups, there are several key differences that should be considered. Of those surveyed, many Latino workers report having only one day off from work a week and are primarily day-use visitors to parks and campgrounds. In addition, outdoor activities are closely tied to inter-generational family bonding time in larger groups for longer periods of time, which suggests the need for amenities that accommodate more people for most of the day, such as larger picnic tables, group day-use areas, on-site cooking amenities, and adjacent play areas. Removing cultural and language barriers will also support greater parks and recreation accessibility for Hispanics/Latinos. Efforts to increase accessibility can include providing signage, park information, and promotional materials in Spanish.

State and Regional Participation

The 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan⁷ is a strategic plan for recreation in Washington State. The Plan provides guidance to local, regional, state, federal and tribal governments, along with their partners, in outdoor recreation

planning and policy decisions. The Plan identifies the following five priorities and includes recommendations, which help inform park planning and policy decisions:

Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands

Washington State has a plethora of parks, trails, and conservation lands available to residents; however, the State experiences challenges in maintaining existing recreation and conservation facilities due to changing public interests, population growth, and the resources needed to build new facilities. The Plan asserts that unified funding strategies, regional communication, and anticipating recreation needs will aid in sustaining the state's recreation and conservation legacy.

Improve the Equity of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands

In alignment with NRPA's stance on social equity, the Plan indicates that parks, trails, and conservation lands should be equitably accessible by communities. The health of communities is improved when parks are easily accessible, adequately distributed, provide physical activities, and are well-maintained.

Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Address Changing Demographics

The population in Washington is rapidly growing and diversifying and these trends will continue over the next 20 years. The number of residents that identify as people of color is expected to increase to 44 percent between 2010-2040 and more than 20% of the population will be 65 years old or older by 2030. A larger population indicates greater demand on park systems and an aging and



diversifying population will mean evolving interests in various activities. It is vital to understand how the entire population participates in recreation activities and to make recommendations that anticipate those needs.

Get Youth Outside

Youth in Washington State report participating in recreation activities at higher rates than they do nationally. Youth show an interest in trending activities as well as athletics, with 57 percent of youth participating in an outdoor sport. Youth do experience barriers to recreation with one main factor being household income status.

Position As a Vital Public Service

The economy, as well as the community, benefit from public investment in parks and outdoor recreation. Parks, recreation, and conservation lands are public services that need clearly dedicated funds to maintain, improve, and expand them. The Recreation and Conservation Plan recommends promoting the outdoor recreation economy and the benefits of recreation, improving communication, maintaining a mapped inventory, and identifying funding gaps to provide consistent funding.

Additionally, a demand assessment for the Recreation and Conservation Plan identified the outdoor recreational needs of residents at state and regional levels. The top five activities for residents in the Southwest region (including Klickitat County) were walking in a park or trail setting, visiting rivers or streams, visiting a beach or tide pools, attending an outdoor concert or event (e.g., farmer's market, fairs, sporting events) and day-hiking. At the state level, unique activities include relaxing, reading, hanging out for Hispanics, trending activities and freshwater fishing for children, and driving or motorcycling for pleasure for residents 65 years and older.

⁷ Source: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, The 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan, 2017



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

The needs assessment included the collection of feedback from the public and stakeholders through a community outreach and involvement process. Feedback from parks and recreation users focuses on how the City can better serve residents and visitors in the future. Findings from these processes help identify and prioritize future capital projects. Summaries of key findings from the outreach processes are provided as follows.

Stakeholder Interviews

The City of White Salmon developed a list of eight stakeholders to interview in the winter of 2021. All stakeholders responded to Cameron McCarthy's request for an interview. The phone interview process documented information on the background of each stakeholder, their feedback on the current park facilities, amenities, level of maintenance and accessibility, and noted their suggestions for future parks and recreation needs.

KEY FINDINGS

- More places for youth of all ages to play (play equipment, climbing, running, etc.)
- More parks are needed; the west and north areas of town currently lack parks
- A community facility for year-round use; larger event spaces for large groups
- Improve accessibility of parks
- More trails and walking opportunities; connect the park system
- Provide access to water in parks
- Increase communication about park locations, opportunities, and events
- Provide bilingual content and signage (English and Spanish) to and at parks.
- Increase relationship-building efforts with the Latino community.

- Community volunteer partnership with the City to support stewardship of parks.

Focus Group Conversations

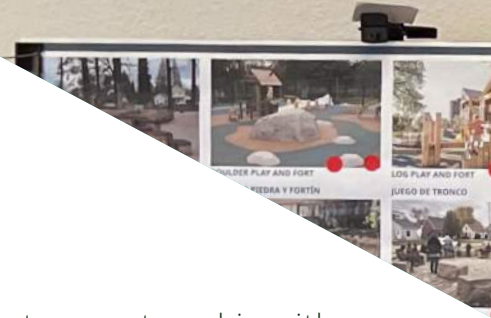
Conversations with two interest groups were held in 2022. The Klickitat County Senior Advisory Board and Whitson Elementary School represented older adults and youth interests, respectively.

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD KEY FINDINGS

- Accessibility in the parks can be improved (including sidewalks and bathrooms)
- Connect parks with trail system
- Create more places to walk (e.g. walking loops downtown or near senior center)
- Dog park
- Public bathroom at sports complex
- Community Center for indoor and outdoor activities
- Improve communication about park locations and uses.
- Create more parks in White Salmon

WHITSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KEY FINDINGS

- Need for accessible sidewalks and trails in parks
- Need for more play equipment and activities for youth
- Need for accessible playgrounds
- Need for trail connections and walking opportunities
- More parks are needed to accommodate new improvements





Online Survey

The planning process included an online community survey that was designed to gather community perspectives about the City’s park facilities. The survey provided park users with the opportunity to comment on the current state of park facilities and suggest improvements. Gathering preferences and opinions of community residents helps inform the responsiveness of the park system plan. The input collected through the survey also helps to ensure that the issues and recommendations outlined in the plan are relevant to current conditions.



I’D LIKE THE CITY TO HELP THE LATINO COMMUNITY FEEL PART OF THE PLACE. IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A PLACE TO DO DIFFERENT SPORTS, A PLACE FOR MUSICALS/ BANDS...A PLACE FOR PARTIES AND GATHERINGS, MORE PLACES TO SIT.

The survey was administered through Qualtrics to collect the public's perceptions of the City's parks facilities. The survey included 21 questions, provided in English and Spanish. The City distributed the survey by sending survey alerts through the City's e-notification system (Voyent), posting the survey on the City's website, posting survey flyers around town, and posting on the Mayor's Facebook page. The survey flyers were also shared with the stakeholders, some of whom distributed the flyers to their mailing lists or in their newsletters. The survey remained open for responses from March 2022 to April 2022.

The survey received 439 responses, although not all respondents completed all questions to the survey. Since the survey was not administered using a random sample, the responses should not be considered directly representative of the views of White Salmon residents. However, it does provide valuable insight into the preferences of some residents who use the park system (95.9% of respondents indicated they had visited a White Salmon park facility in the past year).

KEY FINDINGS

Existing Conditions

Respondents were asked to identify their level of satisfaction with the quality of facilities/structures and amount of maintenance at the six park facilities in the park system.

The majority evaluation of each park by survey respondents ranges from neutral ("Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied") to moderately satisfied ("Somewhat Satisfied"). Raw data shows varying numbers of respondents evaluated each park; respondents likely only evaluated facilities with which they are familiar.

67% of respondents reported they were at least "Somewhat Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with Rheingarten Park. The highest dissatisfaction rates ("Somewhat Dissatisfied" and "Dissatisfied") reported were among several parks: Jewett Sports Complex (20%), Gaddis Park (20%), Rheingarten Park (20%), and Trails (19%). Reported satisfaction with maintenance was generally comparable to these data trends.

Respondents also reported that parks are currently used most for exercise (25%), followed by play (22%), parties/group gatherings (14%), and entertainment (attending special events sponsored by the City) (14%).

Facility Improvements

Over 70% of respondents highlighted need for additional parks or recreational facilities, and the majority of those



respondents indicated the northern and western areas of White Salmon are in the most need of additional parks.

When asked which populations are underserved by the City's parks and facilities, 16% of respondents indicated teenagers, followed by young children ages 0-5 (13%), people with disabilities (12%) and grade school children ages 6-12 (12%). Several write-in responses for this question also suggested pet-owners are another underserved group. Several write-in responses also noted that people of color and the Hispanic/Latinx community could be better served and welcomed by parks facilities. Several suggestions to better serve the underserved populations included multi-lingual signage, sports courts, and improving accessibility to and in parks.

Respondents ranked the importance of potential future outdoor park facilities to them or their households. The top five facilities that ranked as "High Importance – I feel improvement or addition of this type of facility should be a high priority" were natural areas/green space (61%), nature playground (51%), children's playground (50%), unpaved trails (46%), and paved trails (36%).

The survey also asked respondents to rate the importance of potential park features. The potential park features that were most ranked "Very Important" were walking/hiking trails (64%), restrooms (61%), nature trails (53%), and children's play areas (51%). Other high priorities were running trails and park amenities (tables, benches, etc.).

Priorities for the Future

After collecting the previously described data, survey respondents were asked to help the City prioritize one action to focus on in the next 10 years. 40% of respondents would like the City to prioritize upgrading existing facilities and equipment.

Open House Event

The open house event included staffing a display with an existing system map, four park concepts for nature play and a splash pad at Rheingarten Park, example photographs of park amenities, and a comment form. All materials were labeled in English and Spanish. The public was able to provide input on the park amenities image boards, the comment form, and the four park concepts.

KEY FINDINGS

- Five most popular park amenities are a pollinator garden, slides with boulders in hill, log play, splash pad and swings.
- Out of two nature play concepts, participants preferred concept 1. The preferred concept has a pollinator garden, slide with plant beds built into the slope, a boulder scramble, a separate swing play area and more open circulation.
- Between two splash pad concepts, participants preferred concept 1. The preferred concept has water features, plant beds and seating. This concept is near the existing restroom and gazebo/stage.
- Public comments about the concepts included a request for shade at play equipment and seating areas, reusing the splash pad water, safe play surface materials and a climbing wall feature for older kids.
- Public comments about the park system included advocating for pickleball courts at the existing tennis courts and disc golf holes at Rheingarten Park.

Overall Findings

The needs assessment takes into account White Salmon’s park and recreation trends; the current condition of the park system; and the park and recreation desires of the community for White Salmon’s park system. Based on the community profile and findings from the needs assessment, following is a summary of key factors considered in planning for a park system that meets the current and future needs of White Salmon residents.

- From 2005 to 2020, Klickitat County experienced a 14% population increase. Based on the urbanization study’s high-growth forecast⁸, the County’s population is expected to increase by 21% over the next 20 years, which is significantly higher than the growth rates during the last 15 years.
- The number of residential permits⁹ trended upward overall in the last ten years with the exception of a steep decline during 2020 which is most likely due to economic constraints related to COVID-19. In 2021, the number of residential permits returned to pre-COVID-19 levels reflecting a growing population and future need for additional parks and recreation facilities.
- Based on population projections, White Salmon’s population is expected to increase by 22% over the next 25 years¹⁰. White Salmon is projected to be the third fastest-growing city in Klickitat County. Population growth will drive an increased demand for new park facilities.

⁸ Source: White Salmon, Klickitat County, American Community Survey, 2019, White Salmon Urbanization Study, 2020

⁹ Source: City of White Salmon Planning Department, 2022

¹⁰ Source: White Salmon, Klickitat County, American Community Survey, 2019, White Salmon Urbanization Study, 2020

¹¹ Source: White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington, American Community Survey, 2019

¹² Source: White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington, American Community Survey, 2019

¹³ Source: White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington, American Community Survey, 2019

¹⁴ Source: White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington, American Community Survey, 2019

¹⁵ Source: White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington, American Community Survey, 2019



CULTURAL BARRIERS

EXIST. THERE ARE PEOPLE

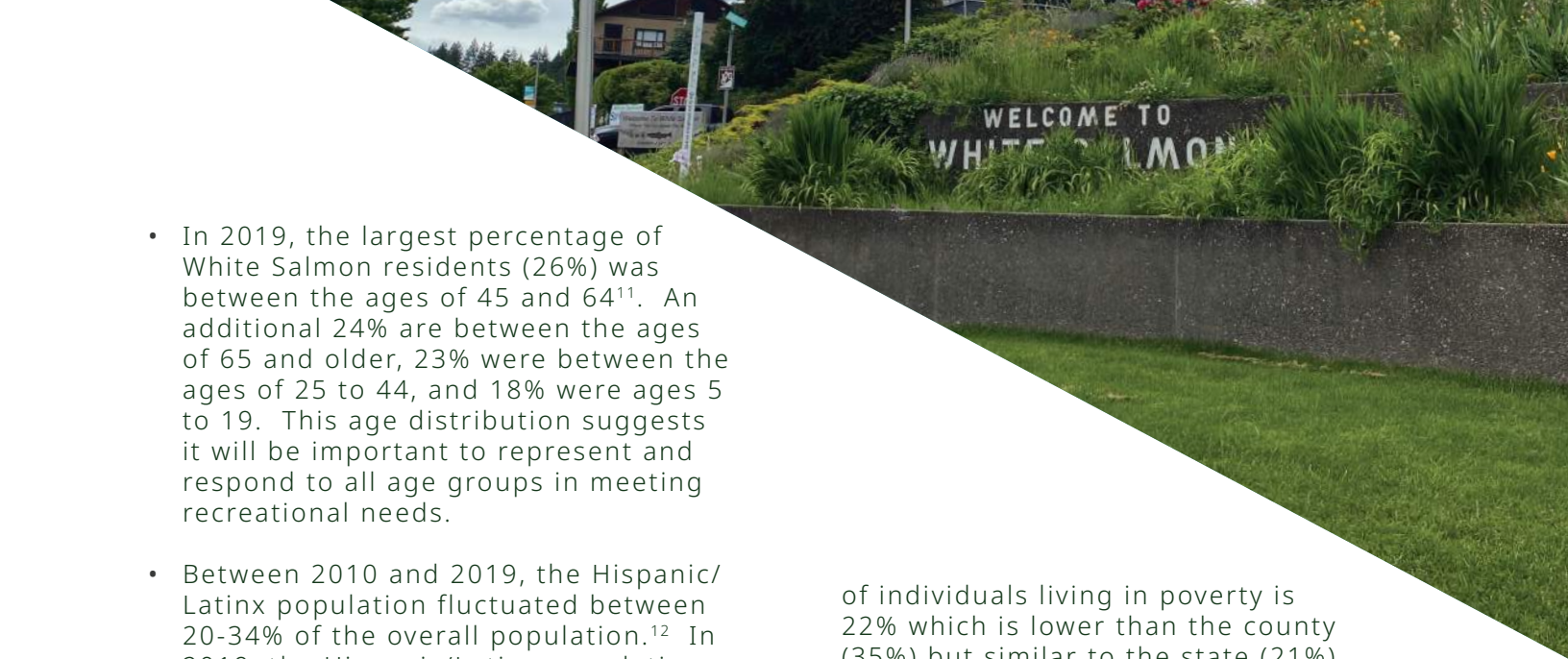
WHO DON’T HAVE EXPOSURE

TO USING PARKS, SO THEY AREN’T

COMFORTABLE OR DON’T FEEL WELCOME.

GROUPS THAT NEED MORE OUTREACH ARE SENIORS,

LOW-INCOME, AND THE LATINX COMMUNITIES.



- In 2019, the largest percentage of White Salmon residents (26%) was between the ages of 45 and 64¹¹. An additional 24% are between the ages of 65 and older, 23% were between the ages of 25 to 44, and 18% were ages 5 to 19. This age distribution suggests it will be important to represent and respond to all age groups in meeting recreational needs.
- Between 2010 and 2019, the Hispanic/Latinx population fluctuated between 20-34% of the overall population.¹² In 2019, the Hispanic/Latino population in White Salmon represented 20% of the total population compared to 12% in the county and 13% in the state. The needs of Hispanic/Latino residents are considered in the parks planning process and help inform recommendations.
- The number of family households and non-family households is approximately the same (52% and 48%, respectively).¹³ 28% of the non-family households are residents aged 65 years or older who live alone. This highlights a need to provide park and recreation opportunities for a wide spectrum of individuals with different household circumstances.
- More than half of residents in White Salmon own their home (60%) while 40% are renters.¹⁴ The rate of homeownership is lower in White Salmon than it is compared to the county (68%) and slightly lower when compared to residents across the state (63%). This reflects a need to serve residents who do not have access to private outdoor spaces.
- In 2019, White Salmon's median household income (\$55,652), median family income (\$75,530) and per capita income (\$32,287) were similar or greater to Klickitat County but lower than Washington.¹⁵ The percentage

of individuals living in poverty is 22% which is lower than the county (35%) but similar to the state (21%). This data suggests that the City should manage parks and recreation services, and their benefits, to target participation from medium to lower-income residents.

These factors are influential to the park system planning process and help shape the future of White Salmon's park system. This chapter concludes with a list of facility needs based on aggregating data from the needs assessment.

FACILITY NEEDS

- *Accessible facilities*
- *Updated and accessible play areas*
- *More walking opportunities and trail system connections*
- *New parks to the west and north*
- *Increase bilingual communication about park locations and park uses*
- *Community center*
- *Additional and accessible public restrooms*
- *Increased maintenance*
- *Provide water access*



CHAPTER 04

VISION

- VISION STATEMENT
- ELEMENTS OF THE VISION
- GOALS AND ACTIONS



This chapter describes the vision, goals, and actions established through the planning process. The vision is intended to represent community needs and desires. Goals represent the general end toward which organizational efforts are directed. Actions are specific steps needed to achieve stated goals. Recommendations, as detailed in Chapter 5, are specific projects needed to achieve the Plan goals and implement the vision.

VISION STATEMENT

A vision statement is based on the strengths, needs, characteristics and values of a community. The purpose of a vision statement is to provide direction in both long-term and short-term planning decisions and prioritize parks and recreation improvements. The goals and recommendations outlined in the Plan support and align with the vision statement.

White Salmon provides a variety of park facilities with a range of accessible and inclusive experiences that encourage play and exploration in the scenic and natural environment and meet the needs of a diverse and growing community.



ELEMENTS OF THE VISION

ACCESS

Park systems provide an important network of facilities that are integral to physical and mental health, social gathering, and mobility. The existing parks and trails in White Salmon are valuable resources to the community. Improving the accessibility of existing facilities and developing new universally accessible routes, equipment, and facilities support a welcoming park system that offers service to all residents.

HEALTH AND RECREATION

Physical surroundings are one of the greatest environmental factors influencing community health. Parks and recreation opportunities support physical activity which has an important role in preventing diseases and health disorders. Rates of physical and mental distress were slightly higher in Klickitat County than at the state level. Klickitat County residents also experience higher physical inactivity than residents across Washington, with 74% of residents with adequate access to locations for physical activity in the county compared to 86% of Washington residents. Park facilities and opportunities to be in natural environments can alleviate stress and offer recreation options.

DISTRIBUTION

Park system planning emphasizes serving all residents through distributing facilities equitably within the system. In accordance with guidance from the Trust for Public Land Center for City Park Excellence, all neighborhoods should have a park within a ¼-mile radius of

residences. Additional parks can fill gaps in the park system and address currently underserved areas.

CONNECTIVITY

In addition to recreation, a network of trails supports active transportation for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other mobility device users. These facilities provide access to the natural environment but also local amenities and essential services. Pursuing a highly connected network of trails can also address inequities in underserved areas in the park system.

INCLUSION

Diversity in age and race is increasing in White Salmon. Specific needs were identified in the outreach process and the needs assessment that address the unique needs of older adults and the Hispanic and Latino communities.

NATURAL RESOURCES

White Salmon is located on a bluff above the Columbia River and surrounded by several natural features, including the White Salmon River, Jewett Creek, and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Conservation and restoration of natural resources can protect and improve sensitive habitats and water quality.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Updating aging facilities can help the City maintain the park system as the community grows. In the findings from the online survey, residents prioritized updating existing facilities as their top priority for the City. During the outreach process, participants voiced an interest in enhancing volunteer groups and building new partnerships with the City to support maintenance and stewardship.



GOALS AND ACTIONS

1. ACCESSIBLE EXPERIENCES

Provide accessible park facilities for all residents.

- Improve accessibility and circulation within parks (including sidewalks and paths).
- Improve play accessibility (including accessible play surfaces and equipment).
- Connect and expand the pedestrian network in the park system (including trails and paths).
- Provide accessible community gathering spaces (e.g., spaces for events and social gatherings).
- Provide facilities that support youth recreational activities.
- Provide water access points (e.g., river or stream access that does not damage the environment).

2. COMMUNICATION & PARTNERSHIPS

Enhance communication and service to all residents.

- Increase communication about park and recreation opportunities for residents (including park locations, facilities, and allowed or suggested recreational activities).
- Expand bilingual communication (English and Spanish) for park and recreation information (including through City social media accounts, Voyent alerts, publications (pdf documents), and park signage).
- Develop partnerships with organizations and private entities that support park and recreation opportunities, natural resource protection, conservation, and sustainability.

3. MAINTENANCE AND FACILITY UPGRADES

Provide a safe, accessible, and welcoming user experience through regular maintenance and facility upgrades.

- Upgrade or replace facilities and equipment in poor condition.
- Provide additional facilities to support park cleanliness and safety (including trash receptacles, pet waste receptacles, and recycling collection).

4. FUNDING

Identify and implement new funding mechanisms to support current park operations and the development of future park and recreation facilities.

- Pursue federal, state, and local grant awards to fund park acquisition and development.
- Identify opportunities for donors to support park and recreation facility development in response to new growth.

5. CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

Promote environmental stewardship to preserve undeveloped natural resource and open space areas and restore ecological functions within existing parks and recreation facilities.

- Pursue opportunities to restore wildlife habitat, remove invasive species, improve water quality, and address erosion.
- Communicate environmental stewardship and ecological function values through educational signage, programs, and events.



6. INCLUSION

Regularly evaluate and support the ongoing park and recreation needs of all residents.

- Assess the City's interest and commitment level in collaborating with local leaders and community organizations in ongoing park and recreation planning and improvement projects.
- Deepen relationships with community leaders and determine their interest level in being consulted about park development opportunities.
- Ask community members and leaders which communication and outreach methods work best for their community prior to future park development or public engagement processes.
- Conduct additional outreach with under-represented park and recreation users prior to undergoing future park improvement projects. These users include the Hispanic/Latinx community, low-income residents, seniors, youth, and people with disabilities.

“

THE ONLY
COMMUNITY PLAY
STRUCTURE IS DATED.
AFTER SCHOOL THE
CHILDREN LOVE TO
WALK OVER TO THE
PARK. IT WOULD
BE AMAZING IF WE
COULD GIVE THEM AN
UPDATED STRUCTURE
TO PLAY ON.



CHAPTER 05

RECOMMENDATIONS

- RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT
- PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT
- PARK ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT
- TRAIL DEVELOPMENT
- OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE



RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Recreation facility development recommendations in Table 5.1 focus on a community center and one full-sized basketball court.

WHITE SALMON COMMUNITY CENTER

The 2021 Comprehensive Plan lists a community center as a future planned facility. The City is considering using a 0.8-acre site at 100 N Main Street in White Salmon. The City owns this property located across from the Whitson Elementary School. The community center would provide space for the public to hold meetings and events. Recommendations include conducting a feasibility study and a master plan.

BASKETBALL COURT (UNSITE)

Select an appropriate site and construct one basketball court (full) to serve the community.

PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Mini Park Facility Development

Park facility development recommendations listed in Table 5.2 include the improvement of two parks: Pioneer Park and Fireman's Park. Recommendations focus on the development of a walking loop and site furnishings at Pioneer Park and constructing a sidewalk and educational stormwater facility at Fireman's Park.

PIONEER PARK

Pioneer Park is an existing park at NE Tohomish Street and NE Pioneer Place that includes trees and a memorial. Proposed improvements include the construction of a short walking loop around the inside perimeter of the park and the installation of site furnishings such as benches and upgraded trash receptacles.

FIREMAN'S PARK

Fireman's Park is an existing park at the intersection of NE Grandview Blvd and E Jewett Blvd. Proposed improvements include constructing a sidewalk and stormwater facility along E Jewett Blvd. Educational signage to promote environmental awareness of stormwater is proposed to accompany the facility.

Community Park Facility Development

Park facility development recommendations listed in Table 5.3 focus on improvements to Rheingarten Park. Recommendations include the development of a replacement playground, splash pad, sports court, sidewalk improvements, landscape, and site furnishings.

RHEINGARTEN PARK

Rheingarten Park is the most popular and well-known park in White Salmon. Proposed improvements include replacement of playground equipment with new features and amenities that are accessible and include natural play elements, a splash pad, updating the tennis court surface and equipment, and adding equipment and court striping for pickleball. Improvements will also address circulation and accessibility by upgrading the sidewalks and paths to remove any gaps or inaccessible sections. A replacement restroom will include gender-neutral restrooms and a family restroom. Habitat improvements include plantings to support pollinators. Site furnishing upgrades include proposed bike racks.

Table 5.1 Recreation Facility Development Recommendations

RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		
Project ID	Site	Description
R1.1	Community Center	Conduct a feasibility study and master plan for a community center.
R1.2	Unsitied	1 basketball court.

Table 5.2 Mini Park Facility Development Recommendations

MINI PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		
Project ID	Site	Description
P1.1	Pioneer Park	Construct a walking loop along the inside perimeter of the park.
P1.2	Pioneer Park	Install benches and upgraded trash receptacles.
P2.1	Fireman's Park	Construct a sidewalk and a stormwater facility with educational signage along E Jewett Blvd.

Table 5.3 Community Park Facility Development Recommendations

COMMUNITY PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		
Project ID	Site	Description
P3.1	Rheingarten Park	Address standing water at the restroom area. Evaluate watering schedule. Make any needed repairs/upgrades to the irrigation system and/or drainage system.
P3.2	Rheingarten Park	Design and construct a replacement playground with accessible equipment.
P3.3	Rheingarten Park	Design and construct a splash pad area for water play.
P3.4	Rheingarten Park	Resurface tennis courts, update striping to include tennis and pickleball, and update court equipment.
P3.5	Rheingarten Park	Replace restroom facilities to include gender-neutral restrooms and a family restroom.
P3.6	Rheingarten Park	Upgrade gaps or inaccessible sections of sidewalks and paths for improved connectivity throughout the park.
P3.7	Rheingarten Park	Design and install landscape for pollinator habitat.
P3.8	Rheingarten Park	Install bicycle racks.

Natural Area Park Facility Development

Natural area facility development recommendations listed in Table 5.4 include the development of Gaddis Park. Recommendations focus on the development of previously planned features like an educational center, demonstration garden, water quality facility, parking lot, and site furnishings.

GADDIS PARK

Mamie and Francis Gaddis Park is an existing park in NE White Salmon at the end of NE Spring Street and is bisected by Jewett Creek. The Jewett Spring Park concept plan proposes the acquisition of additional property at the north end of the existing park to accommodate the following improvements. Specific projects and amenities identified in the 2001 plan may be modified, adjusted, reduced or deleted based on current conditions and changes that have occurred since 2001. Proposed improvements include constructing an educational center with adjacent demonstration gardens and compost and tool shed at the northern end of the site. The educational center will be accessed by a new driveway entrance and parking lot with a drop-off area. The parking lot will accommodate 20 cars and 2 buses. Stormwater from the proposed architectural and hardscape improvements will be treated with a water quality facility located in the north parking lot. The trailhead will be improved with a new kiosk and small parking area that accommodates 6 cars. Accessible paths are proposed throughout the park along with directional and interpretive signage. A meadow with a picnic area is proposed to the east of the trailhead parking lot. A proposed soft surface path south of the meadow leads to a new bridge crossing over Jewett Creek and connects to the Jewett Creek Trail. East of the meadow a demonstration wetland with boardwalk and restored tank/water feature are proposed. Restoring riparian vegetation is proposed along Jewett Creek. In addition to the concept plan improvements, ongoing landscape maintenance and invasive species removal are proposed.

Special Use Park Facility Development

Special use park facility development recommendations listed in Table 5.5 include the development of Jewett Sports Complex and Spokes Bike Park. Recommendations focus on the development of sidewalks, site furnishings, and a portable restroom enclosure.

JEWETT SPORTS COMPLEX

Jewett Sports Complex is an existing athletic facility owned by the White Salmon Valley School District and maintained by the White Salmon Community Youth organization. The City should consider entering into a shared-use agreement with the School District and the White Salmon Community Youth organization prior to recommending any improvements. A shared-use agreement would allow the City to commit support to facility with park improvements and supplemental maintenance, if reasonable long-term assurance was provided. Proposed improvements include seating, accessible sidewalks and viewing areas adjacent to ball fields. Completing the projects listed in the table for Jewett Sports Complex is contingent upon affirming partnerships and implementation of a shared-use agreement as previously referenced.

SPOKES BIKE PARK

The Spokes Bike Park is an existing facility owned by the City and maintained by The White Salmon Bike Club (The Spokes Bike Club). Proposed improvements include a portable restroom enclosure, additional signage, and trash receptacles.

Table 5.4 Natural Area Park Facility Development Recommendations

NATURAL AREA PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		
Project ID	Site	Description
P4.1	Gaddis Park	Acquire additional park property.
P4.2	Gaddis Park	Construct educational center.
P4.3	Gaddis Park	Construct demonstration gardens.
P4.4	Gaddis Park	Construct compost and tool shed.
P4.5	Gaddis Park	Construct water quality facility.
P4.6	Gaddis Park	Construct new accessible paths in the park.
P4.7	Gaddis Park	Construct new entry drive, educational center parking lot (20 cars, 2 busses) and drop off area.
P4.8	Gaddis Park	Install directional signage.
P4.9	Gaddis Park	Install new kiosk and trailhead.
P4.10	Gaddis Park	Install trailhead parking area (6 cars).
P4.11	Gaddis Park	Install meadow with picnic area.
P4.12	Gaddis Park	Install soft surface path.
P4.13	Gaddis Park	Restore riparian vegetation along Jewett Creek.
P4.14	Gaddis Park	Construct new bridge crossing over Jewett Creek.
P4.15	Gaddis Park	Construct trail intersection plaza.
P4.16	Gaddis Park	Construct demonstration wetland.
P4.17	Gaddis Park	Restore water tank/water feature.
P4.18	Gaddis Park	Construct boardwalk at demonstration wetland.
P4.19	Gaddis Park	Install interpretive signage along trail.
P4.20	Gaddis Park	Perform landscape maintenance, including relocating fallen trees and natural debris where it interferes with park access and use.
P4.21	Gaddis Park	Remove invasive plant species throughout the park.

Table 5.5 Special Use Park Facility Development Recommendations

SPECIAL USE PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		
Project ID	Site	Description
P5.1	Jewett Sports Complex	Increase frequency of field maintenance.
P5.2	Jewett Sports Complex	Construct accessible sidewalks and paths in park facility.
P5.3	Jewett Sports Complex	Install benches.
P5.4	Jewett Sports Complex	Construct accessible viewing areas adjacent to ballfields and back-stops.
P6.1	Spokes Bike Park	Install portable restroom enclosure.
P6.2	Spokes Bike Park	Add signage to clarify allowed users.
P6.3	Spokes Bike Park	Install trash receptacles.

PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Park System Plan is designed to promote equitable distribution of parkland for residents. There are several important park facilities in White Salmon; however, they are primarily located within a half mile of E Jewett Blvd (Highway 141). Areas deficient in parks, to the north and west, represent land acquisition and future park development areas. Map 5.1 Proposed Park System identifies recommended areas for land acquisition and park development and the relationship to existing parks, trails, and open spaces. There are two main geographical areas proposed for new neighborhood parks, the north and the west. One mini park is also proposed in the north area and one natural area park is proposed along the riverfront.

FUTURE NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD AND MINI PARKS

The northern area of the city is identified in the level of service analysis to be deficient in park land. This project involves the acquisition and development of a 5-15 acre neighborhood park and a 2,500 SF to 1 acre mini park to serve this area of the city. The majority of the northern area of White Salmon is designated as a low or medium-density residential zone.

FUTURE WEST NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

The western area of the city is identified by the level of service analysis to be deficient in park land. This project involves the acquisition and development of a 5-15 acre neighborhood park to serve this area of the city. The majority of the western area of White Salmon is designated as a low-density residential zone.

FUTURE RIVERFRONT PARK

The City is pursuing ownership of a 13-acre parcel along the Columbia River from Klickitat County. The Riverfront Bridge Park Concept Plan was developed

for the property in 2018 by the City and the National Park Service: Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance program. The Plan identifies a vision for the site as a natural area park; development opportunities are limited as the site is situated in a floodplain and 7 acres of the property are underwater. There are also several site constraints including the Hood River-White Salmon Toll Bridge that divides the site in half, and Highway 14, the railroad and private property that limit access from the north. The Plan identifies wildlife viewing, fishing, and water access for non-motorized paddle sports as site opportunities.



Table 5.6 Park Acquisition and Development Recommendations

PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		
Project ID	Site	Description
A1.1	Future North Neighborhood Park	Acquire 5-15 acres for future development of a neighborhood park to serve the northern residential area of White Salmon.
A1.2	Future North Neighborhood Park	Plan and develop Phase 1 of the park.
A1.3	Future North Neighborhood Park	Plan and develop Phase 2 of the park.
A2.1	Future North Mini Park	Acquire 2,500 SF to 1 acre for future development of a mini park to serve the northern residential area of White Salmon.
A2.2	Future North Mini Park	Plan and develop the park.
A3.1	Future West Neighborhood Park	Acquire 5-15 acres for future development of a neighborhood park to serve the western residential area of White Salmon.
A3.2	Future West Neighborhood Park	Plan and develop Phase 1 of the park.
A3.3	Future West Neighborhood Park	Plan and develop Phase 2 of the park.
A4.1	Future Riverfront Park	Acquire 13-acre riverfront parcel from Klickitat County to provide a natural area park with water access.
A4.2	Future Riverfront Park	Plan and develop Phase 1 of the park.
A4.3	Future Riverfront Park	Plan and develop Phase 2 of the park.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Multi-use paths and trails improve system-wide connectivity and enhance quality of life in communities by supporting movement along corridors and between park facilities. Trail systems connect communities to services as well as parks and recreational opportunities. Map 5.1 Proposed Park System shows existing and proposed trails. Trail development projects listed in the recommendations include on-street and off-street trail projects for four trail facilities that improve connections between parks. Community input and the needs assessment findings strongly suggest improved safety and design of trail facilities, and a more connected network of trail facilities.

LOOP TRAIL

There is a future facility listed in the White Salmon Comprehensive Plan (2021) for a regional multimodal transportation connection, the Loop Trail. The trail alignment would consist of right-of-way controlled by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), City of White Salmon, City of Bingen, and Klickitat County. Improvements to the Loop Trail would include directional signage, visual separation between vehicles, and bicycles and pedestrians. The trail would be approximately 11.5 miles; however, the exact alignment has not been determined at this time.

RIVERFRONT PARK TRAIL BRIDGE

The Riverfront Park Trail Bridge project is included in the Comprehensive Plan as part of the City's initiative to provide river access to residents. The bridge access is intended to connect the upland area of

White Salmon to a riverfront property. The City is in the process of pursuing ownership of a 13-acre parcel from the County. The bridge location has not been determined and will be informed by a future Hood River bridge replacement project.

GADDIS PARK-SPOKES BIKE PARK TRAIL

The Gaddis Park-Spokes Bike Park Trail project involves constructing an off-street shared-use trail between Gaddis Park and Spokes Bike Park. The parks are situated approximately 0.25 miles apart, and a connecting trail may be longer depending on the ability to secure the necessary easements.

RHEINGARTEN-PIONEER-JEWETT SPORTS COMPLEX TRAIL

The Rheingarten-Pioneer-Jewett Sports Complex Trail involves designating an on-street bicycle facility that connects multiple park facilities. The alignment shown in the Comprehensive Plan follows NW Lincoln Street before transitioning to NE Hood Street, NE Wauna Avenue and NE Tohomish Street. The alignment is approximately 1 mile in length between Rheingarten Park and the Jewett Sports Complex.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

As the park system expands in response to population growth and the community needs, the City will need to adjust their staffing and funding levels to adequately support park operations and maintenance. The City can also implement maintenance and product standards for the park system to improve efficiency. Examples of such standards include: ensuring playground equipment and surrounding play areas meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards; ensuring park facilities and circulation are accessible for all, structurally sound facilities with no compromised materials, park spaces are free of graffiti, and restrooms are open consistently, clean, sanitary, and supplied with necessary facility products.



Table 5.7 Trail Development Recommendations

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		
Project ID	Site	Description
T1.1	Loop Trail	Improve the 11.5-mile pathway for multimodal transportation. Provide directional signage, visual separation between vehicles, and bicycles and pedestrians. Improvements are intended to be on rights-of-way and property easements.
T2.1	Riverfront Park Trail Bridge	Conduct a feasibility study for the design and construction of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the railroad tracks to connect the future Riverfront Park to the area's upland and downtown. The bridge location will be informed by a future Hood River bridge replacement project.
T3.1	Gaddis Park-Spokes Bike Park Trail	Plan a trail that connects Gaddis Park and Spokes Bike Park. Obtain easements from adjacent property owners between the two city parks.
T4.1	Rheingarten-Pioneer-Jewett Sports Complex Trail	Construct bicycle and pedestrian facilities that connect Rheingarten Park, Pioneer Park, Jewett Sports Complex and Spokes Bike Park. Route follows NW Lincoln Street, 1st Street, Hood, Wauna, and Tohomish Street.

Table 5.8 Operations and Maintenance Recommendations

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS		
Project ID	Site	Description
O1.1	System	Update all park signage to include content in English and Spanish.
O2.1	System	Implement a family of wayfinding signs for the park system.
O3.1	System	Update all digital communication (to include content in English and Spanish).
O4.1	System	Increase the diversity of City staff to reflect the diversity of the community.
O5.1	System	Increase staff responsible for park operations and maintenance as the city population and the park system grows.
O6.1	System	Increase funding for park operations and maintenance as the park system expands.
O7.1	System	Implement maintenance standards and schedules for park facilities.

Proposed Park System / Sistema de Parque Propuesto

White Salmon Parks System Plan / Plan de Sistema de Parques de White Salmon

LEGEND

--- Railroad / Ferrocarril

□ City Limits / Límites de la ciudad

Existing Facilities / Instalaciones Existentes

■ Mini Park / Mini parque

■ Natural Area Park / Parque área natural

■ Community Park / Parque comunitario

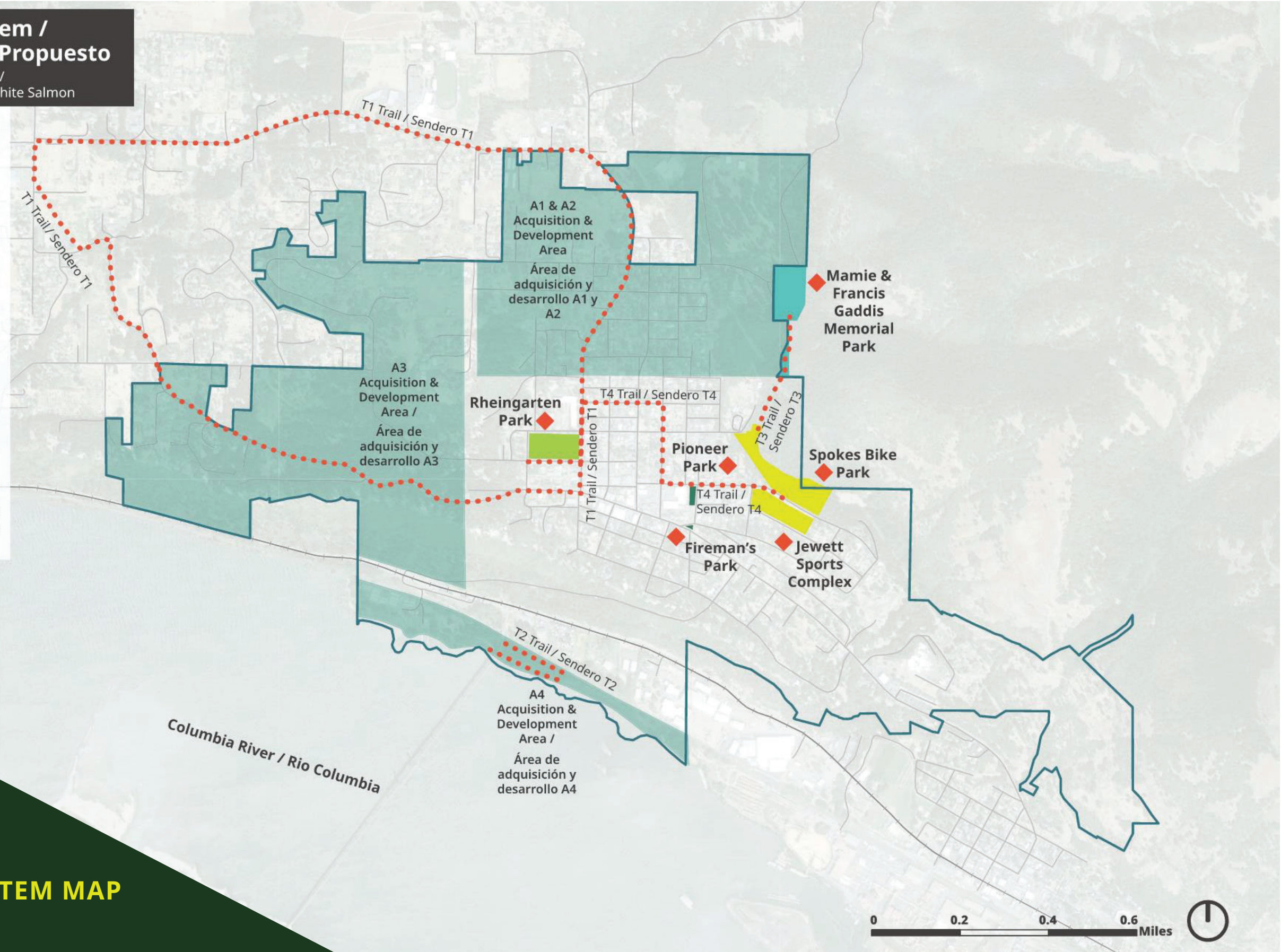
■ Special Use Park / Parque de uso especial

Proposed Facilities / Instalaciones Propuestas

■ Park Acquisition and Development Area / Área de adquisición y desarrollo de parques

... Trail Development / Desarrollo de senderos

◆ Park Facility Development / Desarrollo de instalaciones del parque



Map 5.1
PROPOSED PARK SYSTEM MAP



CHAPTER 06

IMPLEMENTATION

- PRIORITIZATION
- PLANNED PROJECTS
- FUNDING
- OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
- FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND STRATEGIES
- CONCLUSION



Proposed projects included in the CIP were identified and selected based on information from:

- Quantitative results from the 2022 Park System Plan Needs Assessment;
- Qualitative findings from community input;
- City staff input;
- Geospatial analysis;
- Census data
- City of White Salmon Comprehensive Plan
- White Salmon Urbanization Study
- Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022
- Other relevant plans and policies.

Proposed project funding responds to an ongoing assessment of capital assets, as well as assessments of current and future service delivery needs.

PRIORITIZATION

Projects included in the CIP were evaluated based on consideration of the following information sources to determine a prioritization schedule:

- Planning documents and tools. The City uses a variety of planning documents and tools to determine service level needs for the development of parks, trails, and recreational facilities. These documents include but are not limited to the City of White Salmon's Comprehensive Plan, the Urbanization Study; and various population and demographic forecasting resources.
- Level of Service (LOS). The Park System Plan defines level of service benchmarks for parks and trails that meet current and future community needs. These benchmarks help the City determine how well existing facilities are meeting current park and recreation needs, and what investments are needed in the future to reach or maintain the LOS as the population grows.
- Geographic distribution. The Park

System Plan and CIP consider the appropriate location for specific parks based on the facility type and their overall geographic distribution throughout the City, as well as the recommended distance of certain types of parks and facilities to residents.

- Maintaining existing facilities. The Park System Plan Needs Assessment results place a high priority on maintaining and improving existing facilities prior to developing new facilities.
- Grants. Grants provide an opportunity to seek alternative funding sources for a project. If the project matches the grant requirements and meets the needs of the City, the project may be moved up in priority to take advantage of the funding opportunity, or to match the grant funding cycle.

Each project is prioritized based on a High, Medium, and Low prioritization schedule.

- **High** priority projects are planned for the first 7-year planning period, through 2030;
- **Medium** priority projects are planned for the second 7-year planning period, through 2037;
- **Low** priority projects are planned for the third 6-year planning period, which begins in 2037 and extends to 2043.

Detailed cost estimates were developed for each project. Additional detail is provided in the 2023-2043 Capital Improvements Plan.

PLANNED PROJECTS

Planned projects listed in Table 6.1 include project and site information, which corresponds to the recommendations listed in Chapter 5.

Table 6.1 Planned Projects

ND - Not Determined

PLANNED PROJECTS				
Project ID	Project Title	Description	Size	Cost
R1	Community Center ¹⁶	Conduct a feasibility study and master plan for a community center.	0.8 acre (Site)	ND
R2	Basketball court (unsited)	Identify a site and construct 1 full-size basketball court.	5000 square feet	\$226,300
P1	Pioneer Park	Construct a walking loop, install benches, and upgrade trash receptacles.	0.4 acres	\$39,500
P2	Fireman's Park	Construct a sidewalk and a stormwater facility with educational signage along E Jewett Blvd.	0.2 acres	\$74,100
P3	Rheingarten Park	Evaluate irrigation system coverage and watering schedule and repair/update as needed. Construct replacement playground, construct splash pad, resurface and restripe tennis courts and update equipment and add pickleball striping. Replace restrooms to include gender-neutral restrooms and a family restroom. Upgrade bike racks, sidewalks and landscape.	4.1 acres	\$1,068,200
P4	Gaddis Park	Acquire additional park property and construct facilities, circulation, parking, and landscape in 2001 master plan design. Restore riparian vegetation, maintain, and expand trail system. Specific projects and amenities identified in the 2001 plan may be modified, adjusted, reduced or deleted based on current conditions and changes that have occurred since 2001.	6.7 acres	\$20,650,000
P5	Jewett Sports Complex	Develop shared-use agreement, contribute to facility maintenance, and improve pedestrian circulation with accessible sidewalks.	4.0 acres	\$607,500
P6	Spokes Bike Park	Install portable restroom enclosure, signage and trash receptacles.	7.6 acres	\$275,900
A1	Future North Neighborhood Park	Acquire and develop ~5 acres for a neighborhood park to serve the northern residential area of White Salmon.	5-15 acres	\$3,255,000

¹⁶ Funding dependent on completion of feasibility study.

PLANNED PROJECTS (CONT.)				
Project ID	Project Title	Description	Size	Cost
A2	Future North Mini Park	Acquire and develop 2,500 SF to 1 acre for a mini park to serve the northern residential area of White Salmon.	2,500 SF to 1 acre	\$651,000
A3	Future West Neighborhood Park	Acquire and develop ~5 acres for a neighborhood park to serve the western residential area of White Salmon.	5-15 acres	\$3,255,000
A4	Future Riverfront Park	Acquire and develop 13-acre riverfront parcel from Klickitat County to provide a natural area park with water access.	13 acres	\$1,674,000
T1	Loop Trail	Improve the 11.5-mile pathway for multimodal transportation. Provide directional signage, visual separation between vehicles, and bicycles and pedestrians. Improvements are intended to be on WSDOT right of way and property easements.	11.5 miles	\$2,554,700
T2	Riverfront Park Trail Bridge ¹⁷	Conduct a feasibility study for the design and construction of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the railroad tracks to connect the future Riverfront Park to the area's upland and downtown. The connection location is to be determined and will be informed by a future Hood River replacement project.	ND	ND
T3	Gaddis Park-Spokes Bike Park Trail	Design and construct a trail that connects Gaddis Park and Spokes Bike Park. Obtain easements from adjacent property owners between the two city parks.	0.25 to 1 mile	\$343,200
T4	Rheingarten-Pioneer-Jewett Sports Complex Trail	Design and construct bicycle and pedestrian facilities that connect Rheingarten Park, Pioneer Park, Jewett Sports Complex and Spokes Bike Park. Route follows NW Lincoln Street, 1st Street, Hood, Wauna, and Tohomish Street.	1 mile	\$161,900

¹⁷ Funding dependent on completion of project feasibility study and a future Hood River replacement bridge project.

FUNDING

Capital improvement project costs are estimated based on considerations including timing, design, construction, and land acquisition. Improvement costs vary widely based on local conditions, economic factors, environmental constraints, and the application of specific funding sources. The following land

acquisition and development parameters are used for estimating costs and are based on current market conditions in the City, past projects, and other local information.

- Land acquisition costs are based on a conservative estimate of \$120,000 per acre for undeveloped land within the UGB and \$30,000 per acre for

- undeveloped land outside the UGB;
- Development costs for new parkland are estimated at \$300,000 per acre for neighborhood parks, \$180,000 per acre for special use parks, and \$60,000 per acre for open space areas;
 - Development costs for trails are estimated at \$200 per linear foot of 10-foot wide paved trail, \$580,000 for site development of each trailhead, and \$175,000 for each bridge structure.
 - Operational and maintenance costs account for the additional future costs of operating and maintaining each capital project upon its completion.

There are three primary funding sources the City may utilize for capital improvements:

- ***Municipal Capital Improvement Fund.*** Property tax revenues from this City fund are the major funding source for park and recreation annual operating costs and reserves for future operations. CIP projects not eligible for other funding sources can be funded from this source.
- ***General Obligation Bonds.*** This type of bond is a tax assessment on real and personal property that can supplement other revenue streams. The City may issue a general obligation bond at an election after providing legally required notice but not more than twice a calendar year. A minimum voter participation of forty percent of all voters who voted in the previous state election and a three-fifths majority approval are required to

approve a bond. The City does not have any current bond obligations.

- ***Alternative Funding.***
 - Grants are funds from federal or state governmental agencies or non-profit organizations that support a portion of the capital costs.
 - Donations include of monies or real property from individuals and/or non-profit organizations.
 - Partnerships include financial agreements with non-profit organizations and/or user groups to share in the cost of building facilities.
 - Other includes proceeds from the sale of surplus properties and user fees and charges for facilities.



OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

As the recommendations and implementation measures are realized, the park system will increase in size, number of facilities, and diversity. As the park system grows, the City will need to obtain additional funds to cover operations and maintenance costs associated with the expanding system. Significantly fewer revenue sources are available for funding operations than for capital projects. Following are a variety of options available for funding operations and maintenance as the system expands.

- **Grants and Donations**
Grants are typically harder to secure for operations than for capital projects. However, mechanisms such as endowment funds can be set up for park operations or the operation of a specific park facility.
- **Operating Efficiency**
Improve operating efficiency by examining possible ways to reduce costs, such as additional outsourcing, additional cost-sharing with other public agencies, avoiding duplication of services, and improving efficiency in specific maintenance tasks.
- **Volunteers**
Utilize volunteers to offset some maintenance costs, while acknowledging that it takes staff time to coordinate volunteer programs.
- **Park Services Revenue**
Increase park services revenue by expanding rental facilities, charging for maintenance services that benefit specific groups rather than the whole community, and charging for other services at highly used parks.

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I'D LOVE TO SEE THE CITY SUPPORT A PARKS-FOCUSED GROUP...I THINK COMMUNITY MEMBERS NEED AN OUTLET TO BE INVOLVED WITH WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP. IT CAN HELP THE CITY FOSTER MORE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND STRATEGIES

The park system will increase in acreage over the planning period. To maintain the current level of service and number of facilities per resident benchmarks discussed in Chapter 2, the City will need to acquire and develop approximately 5 acres of new park facilities by 2043.

Table 6.2 presents a summary of proposed projects categorized by site and priority level. Total costs for planned projects are estimated to be approximately \$34,836,400. The plan includes:

- \$8,064,000 in funding for High Priority projects (2023-2030)
- \$8,750,800 in funding for Medium Priority projects (2031-2037)
- \$18,021,600 in funding for Low Priority project (2038-2043)

Table 6.2 Project Prioritization

ND - Not Determined

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION				
Project ID	Project Title	High FY 2023-2030	Medium FY 2031-2037	Low FY 2038-2043
R1	Community Center ¹⁸	ND	ND	ND
R2	Basketball court (unsited)	-	\$226,300	-
P1	Pioneer Park	-	\$39,500	-
P2	Fireman’s Park	-	\$74,100	-
P3	Rheingarten Park	\$589,500	\$478,700	-
P4	Gaddis Park	\$1,636,900	\$1,363,600	\$17,649,600
P5	Jewett Sports Complex	\$108,500	\$406,000	\$93,000
P6	Spokes Bike Park	\$43,400	\$232,500	-
A1	Future North Neighborhood Park	\$1,860,000	\$1,395,000	-
A2	Future North Mini Park	\$186,000	\$465,000	-
A3	Future West Neighborhood Park	\$930,000	\$2,325,000	-
A4	Future Riverfront Park	-	\$1,395,000	\$279,000
T1	Loop Trail	\$2,554,700	-	-
T2	Riverfront Park Trail Bridge ¹⁹	-	ND	ND
T3	Gaddis Park-Spokes Bike Park Trail	\$155,000	\$188,200	-
T4	Rheingarten-Pioneer-Jewett Sports Complex Trail	-	\$161,900	-
	TOTAL	\$8,064,000	\$8,750,800	\$18,021,600

¹⁸ Funding dependent on completion of feasibility study.

¹⁹ Funding dependent on completion of project feasibility study and a future Hood River bridge replacement project.

Park system improvement actions have been historically funded from Municipal Capital Improvement Fund expenditures. These funds consist of revenue from the local tax base. The Plan discusses anticipated funding sources as well as associated recommendations for leveraging resources, including:

- **Grants**
The City should pursue grants, both state and federal, for parks and trail-related capital improvements. Other planned projects are good candidates for future grant funding opportunities including Recreation and Conservation Grants, State Wildlife Grants, Federal Transportation Grants, Local Government Grants, Watershed Restoration Grants, Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants, and Urban and Community Forestry Grants. State, regional, and federal grants can provide funding for a variety of park, open space, and trail projects. The City should balance the potential application's competitiveness with required outlays of staff time when applying for grant funds.
- **General Obligation Bonds**
This type of bond is a tax assessment on real and personal property. This fund can supplement existing revenue and is more widely distributed. Funds can be used for capital projects but cannot be used for the replacement of equipment. The City should evaluate the feasibility of a bond measure with a defined development plan as outlined in the Park System Plan.
- **Partnerships**
The City should develop partnerships with local recreation service providers, specifically the School District, to improve operational efficiencies and leveraging of funds. Pursuing relationships with land trusts also provides an opportunity for collaborative efforts to contribute to the open space and natural areas of the park system.
- **Relationships**
The City should cultivate relationships with landowners, developers, and employers who may be interested in donating land or services to the City or allowing purchase at a reduced cost. Private landowners have supported local recreation in the park system in the past and may continue to do so in the future.



- ***Performance Measures***

The City should explore measures to minimize acquisition, development, and operational costs: The City should investigate how to reduce operational costs, potentially through cost-efficient design and facilities; to reduce development costs through the use of volunteers and donations; and to reduce land acquisition costs by exploring alternative means of acquiring land.

CONCLUSION

The 2022 White Salmon Park System Plan is a guiding document based on a continuous and collective vision for maintaining and improving the quality of life for White Salmon residents through parks and recreation facilities. The Plan synthesizes a vision, actions, recommendations, and specific projects designed to be implemented over a 20+ year planning period.

The City recognizes that park facilities are essential to the physical and mental health of White Salmon residents and the park system provides a key foundation for a healthy community. The planning framework ensures that the future park system will provide accessible and welcoming facilities and programs that support the needs of an increasingly diverse and growing community.

