

**CITY OF WHITE SALMON
ORDINANCE NO. 2016-05-983**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON, WA, ADOPTING
A PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT ADDENDUM TO THE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY, INCLUDING
SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the City of White Salmon (“City”) is a partially planning city under RCW 36.70A in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the City has engaged in an extensive participation process to solicit input regarding the proposed Parks and Recreation Element update to the Comprehensive Plan, including a community survey open from March 22-April 8, 2016; a Community Visioning Workshop held on March 31, 2016; a public hearing with the Planning Commission on April 27, 2015; a public hearing with City Council on May 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the City has sought input from additional interested parties, such as the Mt. Adams Park and Recreation District, the Spoke Club, Mt. Adams Fish and Game Association and others, for the proposed Parks and Recreation Element updates to the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City has incorporated changes to the proposed Parks and Recreation Element updates to the Comprehensive Plan necessary to address public testimony and other agency input received throughout the public review process; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to adopt the following Parks and Recreation Element Addendum to the Comprehensive Plan to better reflect the City’s plan for development and vision for the future.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITE
SALMON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1- The City hereby adopts the attached Parks and Recreation Element Addendum to the Comprehensive Plan for the City of White Salmon.

SECTION 2- SEVERABILITY: If any section, sentence, or phrase of this Chapter is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence or phrase of this Chapter.

SECTION 3 - EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective following passage and publication as provided by law.

PASSED in regular session this 4th day of May, 2016.

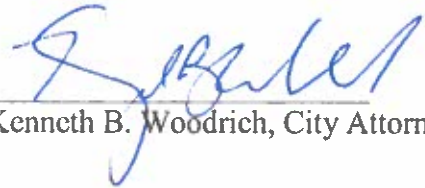


David Poucher, Mayor



Leana Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kenneth B. Woodrich, City Attorney

CITY OF WHITE SALMON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

Submitted to

**City of White Salmon
PO Box 2139
White Salmon, Washington**

Adopted May 4, 2016

Submitted by

**BergerABAM
210 East 13th Street, Suite 300
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A13.0277.01

**CITY OF WHITE SALMON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN –
PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION**

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CITY OF WHITE SALMON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The benefits of a vibrant parks, open space, and recreation system include positive effects on human health, welfare, and well-being, habitat conservation, and cultural resource protection. Providing a variety of active and passive parks and recreation opportunities is important to the City of White Salmon.

Parks and recreation needs vary widely among residents and visitors. Each person has a particular need whether it is active recreation, handicapped accessibility, or relaxation. For this reason, many types of parks and recreation opportunities are required to meet the needs of a community. Some people will use soccer fields, while others will hike or bike on a trail network and still others will sit quietly on benches to read or watch birds. These widely varying needs require a variety of opportunities. It is important to assess these needs by identifying what residents and visitors value, and how they prefer to access and use recreational resources. As new recreation areas are planned, it is equally important to protect and preserve natural, scenic, and cultural areas. The diverse habitat and landscape of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA) are essential elements of the setting of White Salmon and contribute significantly to its value for recreation and enjoyment.

The preparation of this plan analyzed existing park, open space, and recreation facilities in White Salmon, and assessed the demand for new, expanded, or improved facilities. The City's proposed strategies for new park and recreational development are a result of this analysis. Generally, the proposed strategies recommend that White Salmon focus its resources where facilities and needs are most critical and use of resources will be most effective for all users.

This document outlines the choices that are available to residents and visitors and the means for implementing the actions that are most preferred and beneficial.

2.0 PARKS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (POLICIES)

2.1 GOAL P&R-1

To develop and maintain a city park system which provides a variety of facilities, open space, and recreational opportunities for their recreational, ecological and aesthetic values.

2.2 POLICIES

Policy P&R-1

Park and recreation planning and improvements within the City and the County will be coordinated, especially to provide an integrated network of parks, open spaces, and pedestrian connections to and through the Urban Exempt Area.

Policy P&R-2

Parks and recreational facilities not provided by other jurisdictions shall be encouraged.

Policy P&R-3

Provisions shall be made for location of parks and/or open space within major developments.

Policy P&R-4

Recreational uses which capitalize on the City's assets shall be encouraged.

Policy P&R-5

Parks and recreational facilities shall be maintained to be clean, attractive and safe.

Policy P&R-6

A City Parks and Recreation Plan supplement to the comprehensive plan shall be prepared and adopted.

Policy P&R-7

Continue efforts to maintain the Parks and Recreation District and to support the funding of the District as it becomes possible to do so.

Policy P&R-8

Utilize floodplains or other natural hazards for recreational and open space purposes.

Policy P&R-9

Access and developments which include recreational opportunities along the Columbia River's shoreline shall be encouraged whenever practicable and feasible.

Policy P&R-10

Work with the Klickitat County, Washington State Parks, and the Columbia River Gorge Commission (CRGC) and other stakeholders to link the Urban Exempt Area parks, trails and open space system with the City of White Salmon.

Policy P&R-11

Continue to support the Klickitat County Health Department, White Salmon Valley School District and other interested agencies in planning for Safe Routes to Schools. Recognizing the mutual benefits of all such efforts to increase safety, encourage fitness, and support healthy independence amongst schoolchildren who live within walking distance of the City's schools while improving walkability and connectivity for bicycle and pedestrian use by residents of all ages within our community.

3.0 INVENTORY

3.1 Area Description

3.1.1 Setting

The City of White Salmon is located on a bluff dominated by expansive views of the Columbia River Gorge and Mount Hood. Many parts of the City overlook the shimmering water of the Columbia River, the surrounding steep terrain, and the City of Hood River to the south. The backdrop of hillside grazing lands, oak savanna, and Douglas fir forest provide equally vibrant views to the north. The City has approximately three-fourths of a mile of Columbia River frontage, including access to the Hood River Bridge. The City's name comes from the nearby White Salmon River, as members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition called it when they observed the salmon-filled river.

The town slogan, "the land where the sun meets the rain," is an apt description of the local climate. White Salmon sits in a transitional weather zone, where regional weather patterns are influenced by both the temperate coastal range to the west, and the arid side of the Cascade Mountains to the east. The City's location on the south-facing slope of the Columbia Gorge means that it receives direct sun and wind exposure throughout the year. The strong contrast of climate and vegetation in this region make White Salmon a valued and dynamic place for recreational activities. The reliable winds of the Columbia Gorge provide outstanding windsurfing and kiteboarding conditions. The relatively mild sunny climate provides year-round opportunities for hiking, bicycling, fishing, and boating.

3.1.2 Demographics and History

Washington is experiencing a period of population growth. Statewide population increased between 1990 and 2000 by more than 21 percent, making it one of the 10 fastest-growing states. A majority of state residents live between the coast and the Cascades. Statewide demographics have become more diverse with growth in the state's foreign-born populations, especially since the 1980s.

3.1.2.1 Historical Highlights of White Salmon

White Salmon has a rich Native American history. Four tribes are recognized as stakeholders within the City and its surrounding area: the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the Yakama Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (the tribes). Present-day City lands were ceded to the United States government in the treaties of 1855 and the tribes retained fishing rights to the White Salmon and Columbia rivers during treaty negotiations. Lands ceded to the government are managed under the National Scenic Area Act of 1986, which protects cultural resources by implementing stricter guidelines to proposed development beyond city limits. The City, however, is located in an Urban Exempt Area, meaning that it is exempt from NSA regulations.

The Klickitat Tribe (a member of the Yakama Nation) owned City lands prior to modern-day settlers. The City was first settled in 1852 and incorporated on June 3, 1907. Individuals mentioned in the Gorge Heritage Museum arrived in White Salmon between 1852 and 1892. Erastus S. Joslyn; A. H. and Jerry Jewett; Theodore, Wilhelm, and Detlev Suksdorf; Rudolf Lauterbach; and Teunis Wyers Jr. served on City committees, identified native plant species and biological resources, provided U.S. postal services, and promoted early town development.

3.1.3 White Salmon Today

Table 1. Demographic Profile by Geographic Location

Demographics	White Salmon	Klickitat County	Washington
<i>Population Characteristics</i>			
Population (1990)	1,861	16,616	4,866,692
Population (2000)	2,153	19,161	5,894,121
Population (2010)	2,224	20,318	6,724,540
Population (2015)	2,420	21,000	7,061,410
Percent of Change (1990–2000)	15.7	15.3	21.1
Percent of Change (2000–2010)	3.29	6.03	14.08
Percent of Change (2010–2015)	8.81	3.35	5.0
Communities of Color (2010) (%) (Non-Hispanic, Non-White)	21.1	16.2	22.7
<i>Household Characteristics</i>			
Households	921	8,327	2,620,076
Percent with Children	28.2	24.2	2.9
Median Income of Households	\$50,213	\$46,368	\$60,294
Average Household Size	2.41	2.42	2.51
Average Family Size	3.09	2.88	3.06
Home Ownership Rate (%)	56.02	70.43	63.88
<i>Age Groups</i>			
Median Age (Years)	38.1	45.3	37.3
Population < 5 Years	165	1,458	439,657
Population 5 < 19 Years	442	4,168	1,330,238
Population 19 < 64	1,266	11,805	4,126,968
Population > 65 Years	351	3,625	827,677
Percent between 19 < 64 Years	56.9	58.1	61.4
Percent between > 65 Years	15.8	17.8	12.3

Sources: U.S. Census SF 2000 and 2010; Office of Financial Management SF 2000 and 2010; ACS 5 Year Median Income Estimates 2010-2014

3.1.3.1 Population Growth

Rates of growth have fluctuated in White Salmon but the City has maintained increases in population. The fastest rate of growth occurred between 1990 and 2000

when the City's population grew nearly 16 percent. In the following decade, the rate slowed to just over 3 percent but increased again between 2010 and 2015 to almost 9 percent. Rates of growth in Klickitat County and the City were comparable between 1990 and 2000, but in the following decade, growth in the County maintained nearly twice the rate of the City. Statewide growth exceeded Klickitat County and the City in both decades (1990-2010) but slowed between 2010 and 2015. The City grew over the last five years at a faster rate than County and statewide populations.

3.1.3.2 Land Growth

White Salmon added significant land area in 2013 and 2014 through a land annexation process. The City annexed two large areas of vacant land (totaling 106 acres) that are currently going through the development process. A smaller 20 acre annexation has also been completed and is developed primarily as residential land.

3.1.3.3 Demographics

The U.S. Census collects information from the City about its population in five racial categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. People of Hispanic descent may identify with any race. White Salmon residents primarily self-identify as people of white descent. Individuals identifying with Hispanic backgrounds comprise almost 25 percent of the population. The rate of residents identifying with a non-white and non-Hispanic background (20 percent of the City's population) is comparable to the demographics of the state. Non-English speaking populations make up roughly 30 percent of City residents with non-English speaking students making up approximately one third of school age children in White Salmon.

3.1.3.4 Age

Statewide, the proportion of residents that is nearing retirement is lower than the proportion in the City. Although the local community has an older population, its population is diverse, with a mixture of children, adults, and the elderly. The greatest share of residents is between 19 and 64 years old and roughly 25 percent of households have children. The median age citywide is about 38, which is comparable to communities statewide.

3.1.3.5 Households

Households in White Salmon have more children, lower homeownership rates, and earn less income annually than those statewide. Households have more children and fewer persons per home than populations statewide. Median wages are higher within city limits than in the County, with median income for City residents coming in approximately \$4,000 higher than incomes for County residents. However, the median income for City residents is \$10,000 less than the income of earners statewide.

3.2 Existing Parks Plans and Policies

The development of this comprehensive plan included a review and analysis of the plans and policies developed for existing parks, recreation, and open space within the City and the surrounding area. This section summarizes those plans and policies, which include:

- 2012 City of White Salmon Comprehensive Parks, and Recreation Plan
- 2016 Loop Trail Plan
- 2016 Shoreline Master Plan (Draft)
- 2015 White Salmon Pool Feasibility Study

The documents are summarized below.

3.2.1 City of White Salmon Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan (2012)

The City's 2012 Comprehensive Parks, and Recreation Plan provides the framework for developing and maintaining a variety of facilities, open space, and recreational opportunities within the City. The 2012 plan establishes the community's desire to provide an integrated network of parks, open space, and pedestrian connections to and through the City's Urban Exempt Area. The plan further promotes provisions that encourage clean and safe parks and recreational facilities, the development of recreational opportunities and open space within critical areas, development of the Columbia River shoreline, and the creation of interconnected trails, parks, and open space systems through coordinating with the County, Washington State Parks, and the CRGC.

3.2.2 Loop Trail Plan (2016)

The Loop Trail, a planned 11.5-mile pathway in existing City, White Salmon, Bingen, and Klickitat County rights-of-way, is intended to improve regional multimodal transportation. The plan, includes directional signage and visual separation between vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. As envisioned, the trail would be located in public rights-of-way, include three scenic viewpoints, and connect public parks (see section 5.2 for additional information).

3.2.3 Shoreline Master Program (Draft) (2016)

The City's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) champions the development of active and passive recreational opportunities within the City's shoreline jurisdiction on the Columbia River. The goals of the SMP include prioritizing the planning, funding, and development of a waterfront park on the City's Columbia River waterfront with water-dependent and water-enjoyment recreational uses and preserving the high-quality natural areas of the shoreline.

3.2.4 White Salmon Pool Feasibility Study (2015)

The City developed a pool feasibility study to determine the demand for and the potential location of a new pool and associated upgrades that would replace the City Pool constructed in the 1930s. The City published the study in June 2015. It proposes

five pool options that show pool configurations, locations, and improvements. The primary components of this study include analyses of potential relocation sites, the feasibility of constructing a covered pool, and possible pool configurations and performance improvements.

3.2.5 County and Regional Guiding Documents

The City of White Salmon is in Klickitat County, adjacent to the City of Bingen, and within the Columbia River Gorge NSA. City Policy P&R-10 (see section 2.2) states the community's desire to cooperate with Klickitat County, Washington State Parks, and the CRGC planning programs to create an integrated network of trails, open space, and parks. To assist in identifying and developing future park, recreation, and open space goals, the City analyzed the plans and programs of the neighboring regulatory entities. This analysis is discussed below.

3.2.5.1 Tourism Development Plan

A Columbia River Gorge-wide tourism assessment was conducted in 1973 to identify deficiencies in each jurisdiction's recreation/tourist attractions. The outcome of the assessment is the Tourism Development Plan, which outlines a plan for the region to revitalize tourism in the area. Since that time, the City has worked to further region-wide coordination with the goal of expanding key components of the plan such as hiking trails, camping areas, and other recreational opportunities (e.g., hunting, fishing, and sightseeing).

3.2.5.2 Klickitat County and City of Bingen Plans and Programs

The City's analysis reviewed the Klickitat County Bingen/White Salmon Urban-Exempt Area Plan, the County's SMP, and its Recreational Park Standards ordinance to determine the compatibility of Klickitat County planning programs with City of White Salmon parks, recreation, and open space goals and policies. In general, the County and the City of Bingen parks, recreation, and open space goals and policies include preserving open space, constructing multijurisdictional pedestrian walkways, promoting diverse waterfront development to provide or enhance public access and recreation, and encourage the development of recreational facilities as a part of new residential and commercial development.

3.2.5.3 Columbia River Gorge Commission Plans and Programs

The Columbia River Gorge is a region of outstanding natural beauty. The NSA designation places federal control on both public and private lands in Oregon and Washington. These regulations seek to protect scenic, cultural, and natural resources, and require significant design and environmental analysis and assessment of visual impacts from key viewing areas to meet the visual subordination standards.

Congress established the NSA in 1986; it extends 85 miles along both sides of the Columbia River and encompasses 292,500 acres of land in the Columbia River Gorge. The two purposes of the NSA are economic development and resource protection. The NSA regulations seek to protect scenic, cultural and natural resources, and

require significant design and environmental analysis and assessment of visual impacts from key viewing areas to meet the visual subordination standards. However, NSA mandates do not apply to the City of White Salmon adopted urban areas or to unincorporated Klickitat County within those urban growth boundaries. In general, CRGC's (the governing body responsible for managing the NSA) recreational plans and programs aim to increase recreational access to the Columbia River, protect and enhance open space, create new trails, and convert agricultural or forest land into areas with recreational opportunities.

3.3 Inventory of Existing Facilities

Figure 1 identifies the existing parks and recreational facilities in the City of White Salmon. A description of each follows.

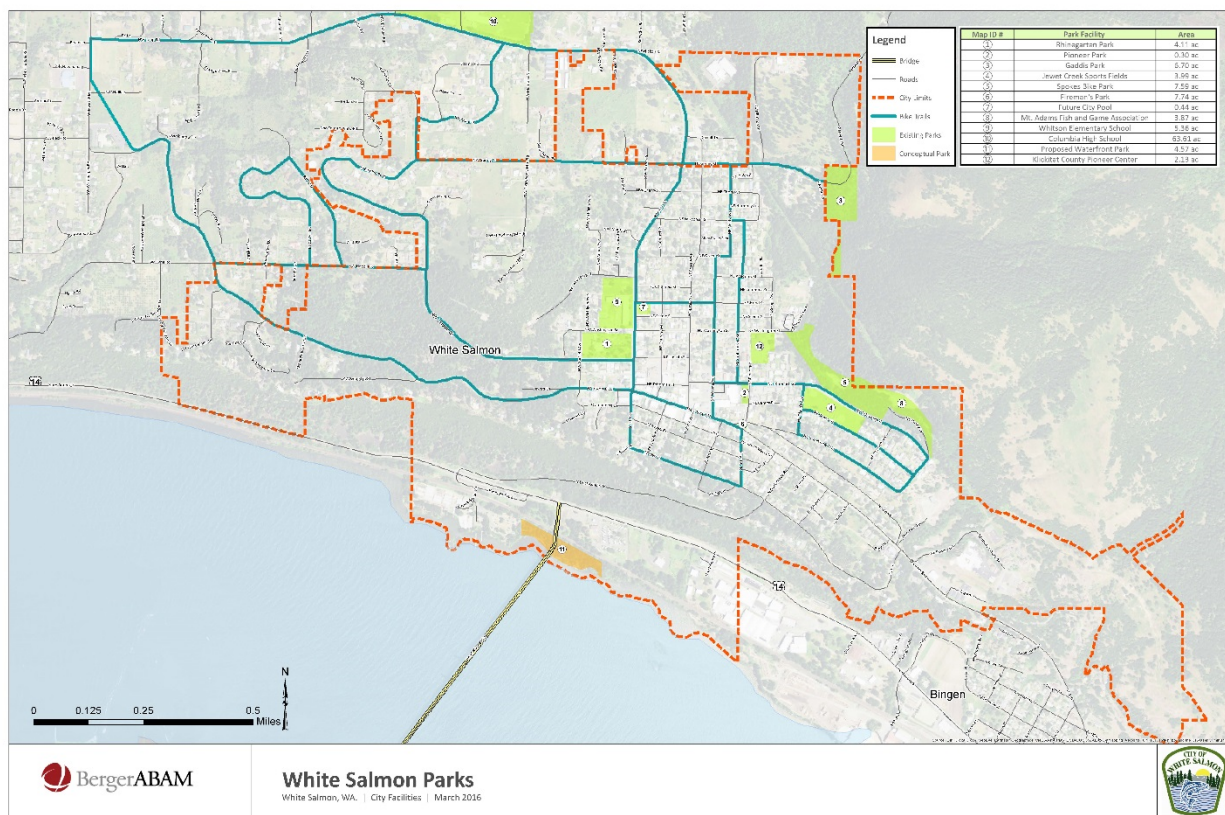


Figure 1. Existing White Salmon Parks

3.3.1 Rhinegarten Park

This 4.11-acre community park is located at the intersection of N Main Avenue and NW Lincoln Street. The park is used for community activities such as Springfest, and houses the Park Center building (Columbia High School until 1972). The location has expansive views of Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge. Popular features of this park include tennis courts, a play structure, open space, and picnic areas.

Amenities

- Park center building
- Play structure
- Water fountains

- Picnic tables and benches
- Covered picnic areas
- Bulletin board
- Tennis courts
- Restrooms
- Bike parking station
- On-street parking facilities
- Interpretive signs
- Views of Mount Hood and Columbia River Gorge

3.3.2 Pioneer Park

Pioneer Park is a small (0.39-acre) park located off NE Tohomish Street. It provides a grassy expanse with views of Mount Hood. Central to the park is a memorial in tribute to White Salmon’s first burial ground. The land was operated as a cemetery until 1962, when the City designated it as a memorial park.

Amenities

- Welcome signs
- Memorial to Pioneer Cemetery
- Views of Mount Hood
- Dog clean-up station
- Trash cans
- Decommissioned gravestones

3.3.3 Mamie and Francis Gaddis Memorial Park

Mamie and Francis Gaddis Memorial Park, which is 6.70 acres, is located in a natural setting along the eastern edge of White Salmon and adjacent to Jewett Creek. This park, dedicated in 2003, was originally named in memory of Mamie Gaddis; the name was changed to Mamie and Francis Gaddis Memorial Park in July 2004 and the park was rededicated in 2007 with the completion of a kiosk. Notable features of this park include interpretive signs which provide information on native plant species, and creekside picnic tables and trails.

Amenities

- Picnic tables
- Interpretive signs
- Views of Jewett Creek
- Dog clean-up station
- Informational kiosk
- Garbage and recycling
- Welcome signs
- Trail system

3.3.4 Sports Fields

The Sports Fields is a 3.99-acre park with recreational fields. The White Salmon Community Youth organization constructed and maintains the fields but the property is owned by the White Salmon Valley School District. The fields are used for community baseball, softball, and soccer. The Jewett family donated the property to the White Salmon Valley School in 1925.

Amenities

- Baseball diamonds
- Scoreboards
- Seasonal batting cage
- Dugouts for each field
- Recycling and trash
- Snack shack
- Youth soccer goals
- Water spigot
- Soccer field

- Bleachers for each field
- Storage and concession stands

3.3.5 Washington Gorge Action Program Youth Center

The Washington Gorge Action Program (WGAP) Youth Center is located just east of downtown White Salmon, on property owned by the City. WGAP initiated youth programs in 1994 and over the past 20 years has provided opportunities for youth to build positive relationships through healthy activities. Activities offered at the youth center include billiards, foosball, ping pong, computers with limited internet access, video and board games, music, Guitar Hero, books, and places to relax.

Amenities

- Billiards
- Computers
- Music
- Books
- Foosball
- Video games
- Guitar Hero
- Couches/furniture
- Ping pong
- Board games
- Books

3.3.6 Spokes Bike Park

Spokes Bike Park is a 7.60-acre park located adjacent to Jewett Creek and across from the Sports Fields. The park is located on City land and is maintained by volunteers. The bike park hosts a series of jumps, berms, and other challenges for riders of all skills and ages.

Amenities

- Trails
- Bike challenges

3.3.7 Fireman’s Park

Fireman’s Park is a small gateway park located on the corner of Jewett Boulevard and Grandview Avenue. This site welcomes visitors to White Salmon and provides views of the Columbia River Gorge and Mount Hood.

Amenities

- Flagpole
- Welcome to White Salmon sign
- Gravel parking area

3.3.8 City Pool

The City owns and operates a public pool located on 0.43 acre adjacent to Whitson Elementary School, at the intersection of Washington Street and Main Avenue. The City built the pool in the early 1930s to serve residents and the surrounding community. Renovations completed in the early 1950s added a bathhouse. The City is developing plans to relocate the pool to a nearby parcel across the street from Whitson Elementary School.

Amenities

- Swimming pool
- Diving board
- Basketball Court
- Bathhouse
- Lounge chairs
- Storage shed
- Safety fencing

3.3.9 Non-City-Owned Parks and Recreational Facilities in White Salmon

In addition to the City-owned parks and recreational facilities, the area has a number of privately owned recreational facilities. These include facilities at two schools, one located within the City, the other in Klickitat County, and a privately owned and operated gun club.

Whitson Elementary School is located adjacent to City Pool and across from Rhinegarten Park. The school offers amenities such as play structures, open space, and basketball courts. Columbia High School is located just outside the City limits, within the County. The high school provides recreational fields for football, soccer, baseball, and track. Basketball courts, open space, and various play structures are available as well.

The Mount Adams Fish and Game Association, which was established in 1939, owns and operates a gun range adjacent to Jewett Creek, off Park Avenue. The range features an indoor pistol range and an outdoor 100-yard rifle range with a trap house. The gun range provides a safe place to shoot pistol, rifle, or trap for members drawn from the Columbia River Gorge area.

3.3.10 Parks and Recreational Facilities in the Region

There are many parks and recreational opportunities in the region surrounding White Salmon. They include the Columbia River Gorge, Mount Hood, and Gifford Pinchot National Forest. These resources provide a large and diverse range of water, snow, and land activities. Some of the most popular activities in the Gorge region include skiing at Mount Hood, snowmobiling at Mount Adams, hiking, and water-related recreation on the Columbia River.

3.3.10.1 City of Bingen

The City of Bingen is located east of White Salmon and contains Daubenspeck Park, a public park with benches, picnic tables, restrooms, a basketball court, baseball field, children's playground, skateboard park, and views of Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge. Daubenspeck Park is a popular destination for local residents and is known for hosting the annual Huckleberry Festival.

3.3.10.2 Klickitat County

There are numerous parks and recreational opportunities in Klickitat County. The County is situated centrally in the Columbia River Gorge. Popular destinations near White Salmon include the Kreps Ranch, White Salmon River, and the Columbia River. These destinations are the scenes of both passive and active activities such as hiking, swimming, biking, boating, windsurfing, and fishing.

3.3.10.3 Port of Klickitat

The Port of Klickitat owns and operates several areas as parks that are open to the public.

Marina Park is a 1.75 acre park located in the Bingen Point Business Park. It is at the east end of Marina Way and just north of Bingen Harbor and the Marina. Amenities include shade trees, lighting, parking, picnic tables, and restroom facilities.

Sailboard Park is 1.75 acre park located along the Columbia River; also in the Bingen Point Business Park. Near the eastern end of the point, it offers a large, open area, access to the Columbia River, parking, picnic tables, and limited, portable restroom facilities. The park is a popular place for beginning sailboarders.

Bingen Harbor is a small marina with boat launch and other amenities. The Port of Klickitat plans to develop a full-service boat moorage and appropriate related amenities.

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Local input for parks and recreation facilities was gathered by surveying community members and conducting a public visioning workshop. The results and the public process are described below in greater detail.

4.1 Survey

Residents of White Salmon and the surrounding area were asked to complete a survey between March 22 and April 8, 2016. The survey consisted of 11 questions to determine geographic and background information, park usage, and parks and recreation preferences, and to ask if the respondent would attend the workshop on Thursday, March 31. The survey consisted of the following questions:

- Q1. Do you live inside the city limits of White Salmon?
- Q2. How often do you use the parks in the City of White Salmon?
- Q3. Which park do you use most often?
- Q4. Which feature or features would you like most in a new or existing park?
- Q5. If you answered “Sports Fields” in the previous question, which type?
- Q6. What types of parks would you like to see in White Salmon?
- Q7. How far would you walk to reach a park with these features?
- Q8. Would you support a new park on the White Salmon waterfront on either side of the Hood River Bridge for walking trails and habitat restoration?
- Q9. Is there an existing park you would use more often if it were in better condition?
- Q10. What could be improved about the park you specified above in question 9?
- Q11. Will you be attending the upcoming City of White Salmon Parks and Recreation workshop on March 31? At the meeting, ideas and park-related requests will be discussed for consideration by the City for future parks and recreation projects. See the workshop website for more information about the meeting.

4.1.1 Results

Conclusions drawn from the survey results are that local residents are content with existing White Salmon parks and recreation facilities, but would like to see improvements. Suggestions included improving existing facilities, constructing new and/or reconstructing existing facilities, and providing more desired park features.

A total of 127 residents completed the survey using three electronic platforms (Facebook and two www.SurveyMonkey.com web links). Of the residents responding, 60 percent live within the city limits with 40 percent living in the surrounding area.

Local residents surveyed stated they use City parks on a weekly or seasonal basis (primarily in summertime), prefer a diversity of features in natural and waterfront parks, and would walk up to 15 minutes to reach a City park.

Residents use Rhinegarten Park and the local pool more than any other existing recreation facilities, but Rhinegarten Park is used more often by roughly 30 percent of those surveyed. Pioneer Park received zero responses, demonstrating it is an underutilized property.

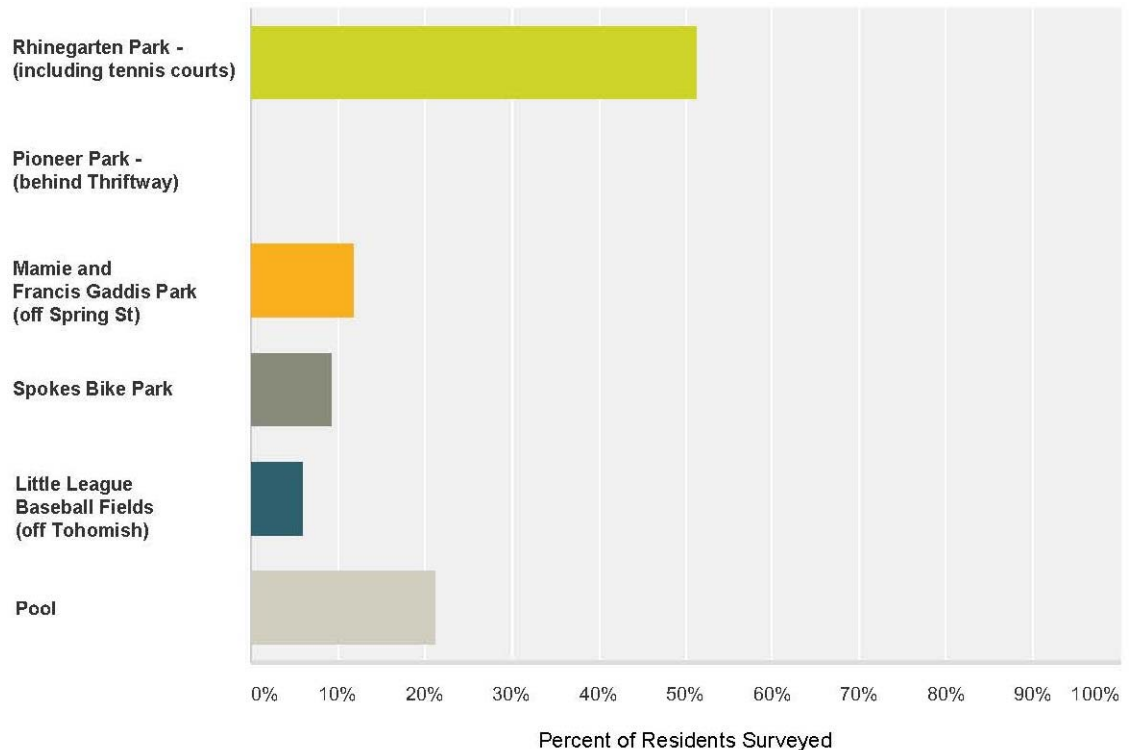


Figure 2. Parks Used Most Often

Preferred park categories described in the survey consisted of pocket, neighborhood, natural, and waterfront. Nearly 90 percent of survey respondents support a waterfront park, and almost 40 percent prefer waterfront access over other categories described in the survey. Features requested within local parks consisted primarily of picnic tables, children’s playgrounds, sports fields, water features, Frisbee golf, off-leash dog areas, and open grass. Respondents also described other features and sports fields they prefer for recreation. Almost 50 percent of those choosing sports fields preferred soccer over any other sport.

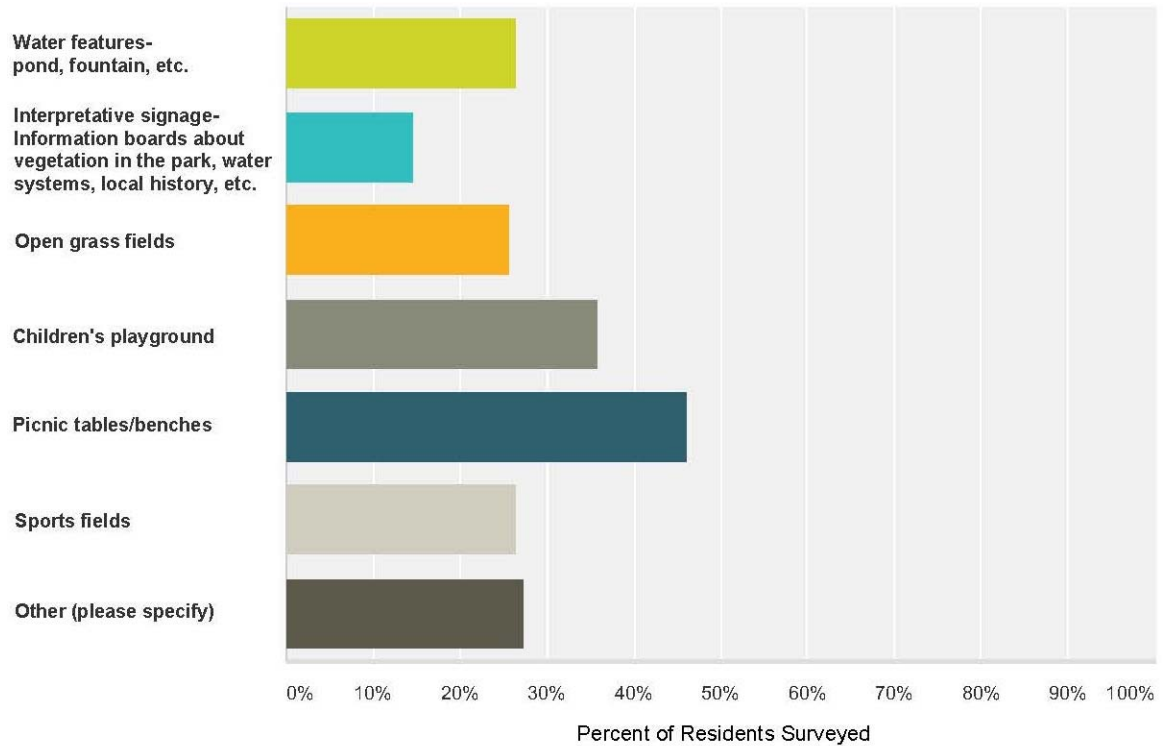


Figure 3. Desired Park Features

One existing recreation site and its features were identified for improvement: more than 60 percent want the existing pool to be redeveloped. Other sites suggested by respondents for redevelopment or improvement include Mamie and Francis Gaddis Park, Rhinegarten Memorial Park, and Pioneer Park. Each of these sites received a little less than 10 percent of the responses.

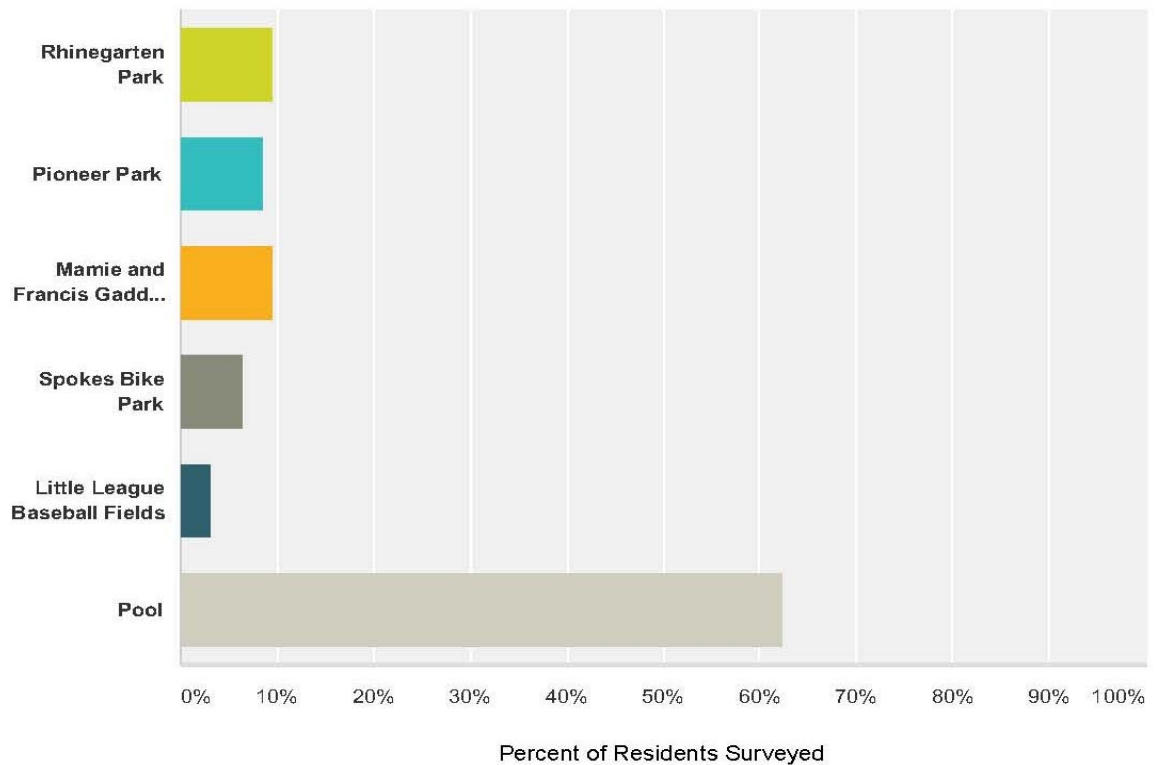


Figure 4. Desired Recreation Sites for Improvement

4.2 Workshop

The Community Visioning Workshop held at the Council chambers on March 31, 2016 drew 18 participants. The purpose of the workshop was to present the initial parks inventory and assessment findings and to solicit input and direction on acquisitions, capital improvements, and maintenance. The workshop started with a brief description of the process of developing the parks and open space comprehensive plan. Next, participants heard a presentation about the preliminary inventory and condition assessment findings. The workshop participants then helped generate a list of potential park improvements and recommendations for land acquisitions. The group’s feedback highlighted the importance of the existing trails within the park sites and made recommendations for new trails and pathways that would improve connectivity between park sites and points of interest within the City. Feedback from the workshop will be incorporated into the plan needs assessment and goals.

The section below outlines the findings of the workshop, including site opportunities and challenges.

4.2.1 Rhinegarten Memorial Park

Workshop participants indicated that this was one of the most popular and successful parks in the system and that it is home to numerous community events.

Activities at the park include both active and passive recreation. The bullets that follow summarize additional feedback and recommendations for Rhinegarten Park.

- Some participants suggested adding a designated, fenced off-leash dog area. Unleashed dogs at the park are resulting in conflicts with park users and other dogs. Other community members indicated that this park is already very busy and that other park sites would better accommodate a designated off-leash dog area.
- The restrooms at the park need to be updated; the existing facilities feel dated and are dark and uninviting. One community member suggested replacing the restrooms with composting toilets.
- The park's demonstration composting area is valued but there are concerns about its longevity and maintenance. Suggestions included ways to expand or add educational value to this zone or to repurpose this area as a community garden.
- Some suggested adding a formal stage and amphitheater to accommodate live music or other performances.
- The addition of exercise equipment like pull up bars was also suggested.
- Attendees noted that a temporary street closure on Washington Street adjacent to the park could accommodate a farmers' market and add value and use to the park.

4.2.2 Waterfront Park

There was strong support for the proposed waterfront park. Community members emphasized that this park site should be kept natural and passive in nature with a local focus and not become a regional draw like Hood River's Waterfront Park. Participants discussed access to the site – this is one of the challenges to developing the site and providing public access along the waterfront. Private property and the railroad right-of-way along the site's northern boundary constrain access to it. The City is discussing an option that includes a pedestrian bridge that would use Port of Hood River property to cross the railroad and afford access from the Chamber of Commerce parking area to the site. The bullets that follow summarize additional feedback and recommendations for the new waterfront park.

- Promote passive, dispersed recreation including boating, water access, fishing, and walking.
- Provide picnic tables and benches.
- Maintain mature vegetation to provide shade along the shoreline.
- This section of the Columbia River is in a wind-shadow and is ideally suited for non-motorized boats such as standup paddleboards and kayaks. Local businesses have expressed interest in providing rental and concessions if the public has access to this section of the shoreline. The participants suggested constructing non-motorized, walk-off boat launch facilities here.

- This site may be a good location for an off-leash dog park or dog beach; if one is developed, it should include dog waste stations.
- Work with the Chamber of Commerce to designate or share parking for the waterfront park. Consider building additional parking spaces at the Chamber to accommodate park users.
- Design a pedestrian bridge to accommodate hand-carried boats.
- At this time, the City does not have permission to use the existing, private railroad underpass located adjacent to the RV park. The City may want to consider negotiating access at this location for maintenance and emergency vehicles to improve operations, surveillance, and safety.
- Providing utilities to this site may be challenging. Consider composting toilets.
- Participants expressed no interest in Frisbee golf or other active recreation.
- Illegal camping and negative use were noted. The site should be fenced to limit trespassing and improve safety.
- Continue to partner with the Klickitat County to acquire the site and to develop site access.

4.2.3 Sports Fields and Spokes Bike Park

The meeting participants indicated that these facilities were very popular and that combined amenities work well together. The group recommended additional planning to look for opportunities to improve trail and walking, including linkages to adjacent recreation sites such as trail connections to Gaddis Park. In the long term, the participants identified an opportunity to relocate the gun club to County-owned land outside city limits. This land exchange would expand public park acreage in this area for more recreational amenities. Additional feedback and recommendations include:

- Expand walking path and bike trail networks between sites and along Jewett Creek.
- Partner with adjacent private property owners to establish trail or conservation easements on grazing land to extend the trail system to Bingen.
- Create a trail connection north to Gaddis Park.
- Add bike racks.
- Expand vehicle parking.
- Add signage and crosswalks to improve pedestrian access to the sites.

4.2.4 Mamie and Francis Gaddis Park

Workshop participants indicated that Mamie and Francis Gaddis Park was appreciated for its quiet and natural character and that any planning and development at this site should support the site's passive qualities. Participants recommended improving parking and accessibility at the site and expanding trail connections from nearby park facilities.

4.2.5 Pioneer Park

This park is unique because of its historic nature and because it is a burial site. The park is fenced and signed but is relatively undeveloped. Participants recommended improvements that are passive and respectful of the historic nature of the site, including:

- Add wood chip walking path and tree plantings.
- Add benches, group seating areas, and tables for chess/checkers.
- Limit excavation because remains may still be located on the site.
- Take advantage of opportunities to enlist master gardeners for assistance with park plantings.
- Consider installing a surface maze or labyrinth.

4.2.6 Trail and Pathways

Participants identified improving trails and pathways as a priority. They recommended improving wayfinding and safety in parks and along streets by adding more signs and striping and enhancing pedestrian crossings. Participants said improving connectivity between White Salmon and Bingen is a priority, and commented that the cities should work with the County and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to improve routes and safety. Participants also referenced the multimodal circulation plan, noted regional connections to Snowden and Courtney Road, and remarked on the need for bike and pedestrian improvements along Lincoln Street and Jewett Boulevard. They also think the City should provide modern bike racks in all its parks to which a bike's frame and wheels could be locked. The attendees identified vehicle speeds as a challenge for bikes and pedestrians and believe the City should implement traffic calming and crossings to improve safety. The "fish crosswalks" were noted as a traffic calming success.

4.2.7 White Salmon Branding

The participants noted that it will be important to maintain the "City of White Salmon" branding during the development of new park facilities, signs, maps, and printed materials.

4.2.8 Maintenance

The City currently provides full-service maintenance to Rhinegarten Park and limited maintenance to other facilities. The workshop participants noted that volunteers and community organizations maintain many park facilities. They believe the City should continue to seek out and develop partnerships to keep these community assets safe and clean. A participant suggested that the City consider corporate and individual sponsorships to help develop and maintain park facilities.

4.3 Agency Coordination

The City of White Salmon contacted other agencies and organizations that have a vested interest in updating the Parks and Recreation element of the Comprehensive

Plan. As part of this process the City requested their input on community preferences, needs, and demands for parks and recreation facilities. Assessing these needs and demands informed and guided the direction and development of the system master plan. It also provided information on the Community Visioning Meeting and public hearings before the planning commission and city council.

The City contacted the following agencies and organizations:

- Mt Adams Chamber of Commerce
- Underwood Conservation District
- White Salmon Valley School District
- Klickitat County Health Department
- Mt. Adams Park and Recreation District
- Mt. Adams Fish and Game Association
- White Salmon Lions Club
- White Salmon Community Youth
- Kreps Ranch
- The Spoke Club

4.4

5.0 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

White Salmon parks have a geographical advantage for affording expansive views and outdoor recreation. The City is perched above the Columbia River facing south toward Mount Hood in the NSA, an area nationally recognized for its splendor. Most parks citywide enjoy expansive views of the Columbia and Mount Hood. Visual resources and recreational opportunities result in a populace passionate about local parks and recreation projects.

Public meetings prior to the March 2016 visioning workshop and community survey sparked citywide interest in future parks and recreation projects. These efforts demonstrated that a new pool, waterfront park, and inter-city multimodal circulation plan should be considered as future recreational opportunities. Recent outreach efforts supported the findings of previous meetings and further refined community needs and wishes. Prior efforts and recent outreach show White Salmon residents want:

- A redeveloped pool
- Parks with waterfront access
- Improved multimodal inter-city circulation
- Citywide “branding”

Residents provided in-depth information on existing pool conditions and their preferred improvements. More than 60 percent of those surveyed felt the pool would be used more often once it has been redeveloped. A new pool should accommodate the needs of today's community with a larger pool that is open year-round and includes competitive swim lanes, locker rooms, showers, and a kiddie pool.

Outreach efforts demonstrated a demand for water access and water-based recreational opportunities in City parks. Waterbodies within city limits include the Columbia River and Jewett Creek. Annual rates of water flow limit recreational opportunities on Jewett Creek – the creek is too small to provide larger-scale opportunities (e.g., boating, paddleboarding, kayaking, etc.). Existing City parks do not provide access to the Columbia River, a regional attraction for recreational opportunities in the NSA. Less than a mile of the Columbia River shoreline is located within the city limits; therefore, access to waterways for boating, paddleboarding, kayaking, and other water-based opportunities is limited.

Improved multimodal connectivity between White Salmon, Bingen, and Klickitat County sparked residents' interest. People want interconnected roadways and trail systems. More specifically, residents want a trail system that connects Spokes Bike Park and Mamie and Francis Gaddis Park and a multimodal roadway system between White Salmon, Bingen, and Klickitat County. Citywide branding should be considered during development of these multimodal systems, perhaps through uniform signage and representative City graphics.

5.1 Underutilized Park Lands

Pioneer Park is an underutilized park. None of the residents who responded to the survey visit Pioneer Park at any point in a calendar year. The 0.39-acre park offers no recreational opportunities to attract residents. Historical relevance is the park's primary purpose.

The Sports Fields contains three baseball fields and one T-ball field. Outreach efforts showed a declining interest in baseball, while soccer received overwhelming support. Nearly 50 percent of those responding to the survey said they would prefer fields devoted to soccer in City parks over those dedicated to other common sports. Less than 10 percent chose baseball. In addition, less than 5 percent said they would use the baseball fields even if conditions were improved. The City has committed nearly 4 acres of parklands to baseball and T-ball fields.

Recent outreach and efforts concluded that residents are content with City parks but would like to see specific improvements. Existing City parks contain a little less than 5 acres of underutilized lands (Pioneer Park and Sports Fields). There are no plans to redevelop underutilized lands. Recommendations for existing parks without plans for redevelopment or improvements include adding:

- Additional picnic space
- Barbeques

- Benches
- Frisbee golf
- Trail connections

Pioneer Park serves as an open space with local historical relevance. Dogs are permitted on-leash but the park is not designated an official dog park. Local residents do not tend to visit the park. Additional picnic spaces, barbeques, benches, and up to two short Frisbee golf “holes” should be considered. The space given over within park boundaries to dogs should be limited to allow these uses. A portion of the park should be fenced as an off-leash dog area segregating the new park activities from pet-friendly areas. Residents would likely visit the park more often if it served more recreational uses.

The Sports Fields provides baseball and T-ball recreation for local residents, but outreach efforts concluded baseball is considerably less favored when compared to other sports, with soccer receiving favorable feedback from a majority of residents surveyed. The baseball fields could be converted into multi-use fields serving both baseball and soccer because the dimensions of the typical soccer field fit within the boundaries of a baseball field. Multi-use fields or appropriate park lands serving soccer uses should be considered in future parks and recreation improvements.

Mamie and Francis Gaddis Park contains one existing trail in a forested setting. The trail follows alongside segments of Jewett Creek in a southerly direction toward Bike Spokes Park. The March 2016 Community Visioning Workshop attendees and the respondents to the survey indicated that a trail connecting Bike Spokes Park and Mamie and Francis Gaddis Park would be ideal. The existing trail terminates without connecting to other trail systems or roadways. Developing an extended trail system that connects existing parklands or creates an uninterrupted continuous trail is recommended. Extending the existing trail roughly 1,200 linear feet could connect the two parks and improve citywide trail systems.

5.2 Future Projects

White Salmon will propose four future park projects between 2016 and 2021: a new community pool, a community center, a waterfront park, and a multimodal inter-city circulation plan.

Community Pool: The future pool will be located on a 1-acre site directly west of Whitson Elementary School. The site may include a new parking area, restrooms, competitive swim lanes, locker rooms, showers, and a kiddie pool.

Community Center: The City is considering the construction of a new community center located adjacent to the community pool. The facility would also house the WGAP Youth Center, which would be relocated from its current location in a city-owned building built in 1950 and in need of repair.

Waterfront Park: The waterfront park would be nearly 13 acres in size and may accommodate water-based activities such as boating, paddleboarding, kayaking, and

other in-water recreation. The park would be accessed by crossing the BNSF tracks from the existing Mount Adams Chamber of Commerce parking area. Multimodal access could be provided to the waterfront as an extension of the multimodal Loop Trail system. Current planning envisions additional park features such as two viewing platforms, benches, picnic tables, bike racks, and a rental hut for water equipment.

Multimodal Circulation Plan: Regional multimodal transportation will be improved by developing the Loop Trail, an 11.5-mile pathway located in existing City of Bingen, White Salmon, and Klickitat County rights-of-way. The Loop Trail will include directional signage and visual separation between vehicles and other forms of transportation (bicycles and pedestrians). The Loop Trail includes three scenic viewpoints with views of the Columbia River Gorge, Mount Hood, and the Columbia River. The plan will provide visitors and residents with a trail connecting publicly owned parks. The Loop Trail would be located in the following public rights-of-way:

- Highway 141 (East Jewett Boulevard)
- West Jewett Boulevard
- NW Loop Road
- North Main Avenue
- Cochran Lane
- NW Country View Road
- NW Spring Street
- El Camino Real
- Rio Vista
- Palos Verde
- Northwest Lincoln
- NE Spring Street
- South 1st Avenue
- SE Oak Street
- SE 5th Avenue
- NE Wauna Drive
- NE Fields Avenue
- NE Snohomish Avenue
- NE Tohomish Street
- NE Center Street
- NE O'Keefe Avenue
- NE Grandview Boulevard
- NE Park Avenue

6.0 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The capital facility plan summarizes potential park improvement and acquisition projects within White Salmon for the next 5 years. The plan's capital project list focuses on the pool renovations, a community center, the acquisition and development of land for the waterfront park, and the extension of the City's trail and pathway system. The site assessment task identified additional park-specific upgrades that are listed in the capital facility plan that follows. The plan describes potential projects and estimated rough order of magnitude costs to be used for planning purposes.

6.1 Potential Capital Projects (Land Acquisitions, New Facilities, etc.)

Table 2 identifies potential capital improvements for the City of White Salmon. Descriptions follow of each project. (Note: The community center is not included at this time due to limited information about the facility needs. The potential project will be included in and update of the Capital Improvements Plan.)

Table 2. Potential Capital Improvements

City of White Salmon Capital Improvements							
Priority of Parks/Recreational Improvements	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 +	5 Year Total
1. City Pool							
Swimming Pool		\$ 500,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00				\$ 1,500,000.00
						Total	\$ 1,500,000.00
2. Loop Trail Bike and Pedestrian System							
Striping & Signage	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 37,500.00
Pathway Amenities (benches, bike racks, etc.)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
						Total	\$ 67,500.00
3. Waterfront Park							
Acquisition (Partnership with Port)	\$ 10,000.00						\$ 10,000.00
Design /Engineering		\$ 315,000.00					\$ 315,000.00
Pedestrian Bridge/Railroad Crossing ¹			\$ 2,000,000.00				\$ 2,000,000.00
Park Improvements				\$ 650,000.00			\$ 650,000.00
						Total	\$ 2,975,000.00
4. City Park Sites							
Rhinegarten Memorial Park ²		\$ 40,000.00			\$ 50,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 130,000.00
Pioneer Park ³	\$ 4,500.00		\$ 18,000.00			\$ 11,000.00	\$ 33,500.00
Mamie and Francis Gaddis Memorial Park ⁴				\$ 25,000.00		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
Jewett Creek Sports Fields						\$ 455,000.00	\$ 455,000.00
Spokes Bike Park						\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Firemen's Park						\$ 53,000.00	\$ 53,000.00
						Total	\$ 734,000.00
Year Totals	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 859,500.00	\$ 3,022,500.00	\$ 679,500.00	\$ 54,500.00	\$ 641,500.00	\$ 5,276,500.00

¹ Estimated cost, additional feasibility analysis and engineering is required to establish costs
² Priority projects include restroom renovation and performance area/stage
³ Priority projects include new trees and wood chip path, benches, and picnic/chess tables
⁴ Priority projects include new parking area and access improvements

6.2 Project Maintenance and Operational Costs (for existing facilities)

City parks are maintained through a combination of the efforts of City maintenance and operations staff and of volunteers and service organizations. In 2015, the City expended approximately \$70,835 to cover salaries and benefits, supplies and equipment, fuel, utilities, and repair and replacement to maintain park facilities. The parks system includes approximately 34.69 acres; based on that total acreage, the amount spent to maintain City park facilities is \$2,041 per acre. As new, developed park acreage is added to the system, the City budget should be adjusted proportionally to reflect the additional maintenance costs. In 2015, the City expended approximately \$101,775 to cover salaries and benefits, supplies and equipment, utilities, and general repairs to maintain and operate the White Salmon City Pool. The figures cited in this paragraph do not include major repair and replacement work that will be required as facilities age and major park elements need upgrading to maintain their safety and usability.

Upcoming major potential projects, including replacing the pool and developing a waterfront park, may require reassessing maintenance needs and updating operations budgets. These facilities have more complex systems, are larger in scale, and may require additional equipment and staff to maintain. As they come online over the next few years, the City should consider the additional maintenance costs and staffing associated with them.

Additional recommendations and considerations include:

- Continuing to work closely with volunteers and service organizations for parks maintenance.
- Maintaining updated inventories of park facilities, their physical condition, and the anticipated need for repair and replacement over the coming years.
- Considering maintenance early in project planning and design to ensure that projects can be maintained cost effectively.
- Addressing repair items early before issues become significant and repair costs escalate.

6.3 Plan Implementation

The primary source of funding for park development and maintenance has been the City's general fund, as no designated source exists to fund parks. New projects and a stronger demand for park and recreation facilities will put additional demand on finite City resources. The community has demonstrated interest and support for existing and new park amenities as noted in the survey and visioning workshop. The community must make difficult decisions in the coming years on how to fund their parks system within the framework of limited resources and increased demand for other City functions.

6.3.1 Local Funding and Dedicated Funding

The City has the ability to adjust general-fund expenditures to support park development and maintenance. The City may consider financing tools such as a levy or a bond to fund specific projects and defer project costs over time. Financing packages may include land acquisition, park upgrades, and trail development. Community willingness to support additional public debt should be assessed and proposed financing packages may necessitate voter action and approval. Because general fund support for parks is not likely to grow significantly in the future, it is assumed that the parks system will continue to rely on partnerships, grants, and other non-general fund sources.

Dedicated park funding in the form of system development charges and transaction taxes may be available to the City for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of its park system. The City should consider system development charges if future residential growth is expected to help finance new demands on the park systems and their facilities.

Voters can form park and recreation special districts to provide parks, recreation facilities, and trails. The City may want to consider partnering with adjacent communities to establish a parks district to acquire land for parks, recreation, and trail facilities and to maintain them.

6.3.2 Grants

The state manages several competitive grant programs for the development of park, recreation, and trail facilities. These programs are competitive and obtaining a grant requires meaningful planning and community support. In addition, most grant programs available to the City impose a requirement that local funding pay 50 percent of the project. The City should continue to explore grant opportunities and pursue those having the greatest community support and opportunities for partnerships.

6.3.3 Community Support

Partnerships and community-based activities have been instrumental in developing the City parks system. Grass-roots initiatives have yielded new parks, improved and renovated existing parks, and funded regular park maintenance. These community-

sponsored actions also engage and energize residents and help build community pride in the parks system.

The City should continue to pursue and nurture partnerships with community groups, sport leagues, garden clubs, and other special interest groups. Enhanced partnership efforts may include the following types of outreach and events:

- Organizing park clean-up and improvement events
- Reaching out to local businesses, schools, and service organizations (i.e., Rotary) for maintenance workdays and project sponsorship
- Maintaining a list of potential projects and volunteer opportunities to help organize and focus community efforts
- Expanding partnerships with adjacent cities, school districts, the County, the Port of Hood River, and WSDOT
- Partnering with WSDOT to develop trail and pathway projects
- Connecting with private landowners regarding trail and conservation easements
- Providing branding and communications (e.g., park signs, maps, press and website presence) to grow interest and support for the park system and recreation offerings

6.4 Plan Adoption

The parks plan is an element of the adopted 2012 City of White Salmon Comprehensive Plan. Adoption of the plan is a legislative action undertaken by the City in an effort to secure grant funding for the community pool from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. The adoption of the plan will require a recommendation by the Planning Commission and approval by the City Council. The Planning Commission considers comprehensive plan amendments before April 30 of each year.