



Leavenworth Community Visioning



HOUSING A COMMUNITY

September 9
(at Festhalle)



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

September 16
(at Festhalle)



ACCOUNTABLE STEWARDSHIP

September 23
(at Festhalle)



A PATH FORWARD (COLLECTIVE RECAP)

October 14
(at FIRE HALL)

Housing a Community Recap

The “Housing a Community” session facilitated discussions on Leavenworth’s future, focusing on community needs, housing, and maintaining quality of life with increased density.

Highlights

- *Community Engagement*: Residents appreciate the opportunity to voice their opinions and work together on future planning.
- *Sustainable Development*: Emphasis on balancing growth with environmental preservation and community character.
- *Diversity Matters*: Participants highlighted the importance of diverse populations and socioeconomic backgrounds in the community.
- *Green Spaces*: Many advocated for the protection of parks and natural areas amidst development.
- *Infrastructure Needs*: Discussions included the importance of improving infrastructure, like roads and public transport, to support growth.
- *Local Services*: There’s a call for increased local businesses and essential services to reduce reliance on other areas.
- *Long-term Planning*: Participants stressed the need for visionary long-term strategies that reflect community values and needs.

Key Insights

- *Importance of Listening*: Active listening from city officials is crucial in ensuring community voices shape future plans. This fosters trust and collaboration.
- *Comprehensive Planning*: The comprehensive plan must integrate state housing requirements while reflecting the unique characteristics of Leavenworth, ensuring local needs are prioritized.
- *Affordable Housing*: There’s a strong demand for affordable housing options to accommodate residents who work in the community, emphasizing the need for innovative solutions.
- *Adaptability in Development*: The community should learn from successful models in other cities to implement effective strategies for density and quality of life.
- *Balancing Density and Nature*: Increasing density must be balanced with maintaining green spaces, ensuring residents can enjoy both community living and nature.
- *Infrastructure Capacity*: The city should ensure that infrastructure can handle growth efficiently, addressing concerns about sanitation, water supply, and emergency services.
- *Community Representation*: Engaging a broader demographic, including those who may not typically participate, is essential to creating a comprehensive and inclusive vision for the future.

Session Summary

Introduction

The Community Visioning Session held on September 9, 2024, aimed to gather input from residents of Leavenworth regarding the future development of their community. Led by facilitator Michael Nash, the session focused on crucial topics such as housing, community dynamics, and sustainable tourism, among others. The significance of this gathering lies in its role as a foundational step in updating the comprehensive plan, a state-mandated requirement that shapes local growth and development for the next two decades. The gathering was underscored by a commitment to community engagement, with participants expressing their desires for a livable, inclusive, and sustainable community.

Community Engagement and Listening

- **Facilitator Introduction:** Michael Nash introduced himself, stating his long-term connection to the area, which provides him with an impartial perspective as he recently relocated.
- **Purpose of Gathering:** Participants were encouraged to share their love for Leavenworth and engage in meaningful discussions about the community's future.
- **Structure of the Session:** The evening was divided into various segments, including table discussions and group sharing, allowing residents to voice their opinions.

Key Themes from Discussions

1) What Makes Leavenworth Feel Like a Community?

- *Familiarity:* Knowing neighbors and community members fosters a sense of belonging.
- *Community Events:* Engagement through local events strengthens community ties.
- *Shared Spaces:* Gathering places and parks are essential for social interaction.
- *Support for Local Businesses:* Encouragement of small businesses enhances community character.
- *Volunteer Opportunities:* Active participation in community service strengthens connections.
- *Safety:* The perception of safety, especially for children, is a fundamental aspect of community life.

2) Ideal Community Composition

- *Diversity:* A mix of ages, backgrounds, and professions is desired.
- *Full-Time Residents:* Emphasis on the need for individuals who contribute to the local economy.
- *Community Engagement:* Residents should actively participate in local decision-making.
- *Inclusivity:* A welcoming environment for various socio-economic and cultural groups is essential.

3) Quality of Life in the Context of Higher Density

- *Green Spaces:* Preservation of parks and natural areas amidst urban development is vital.

- *Infrastructure Improvements*: Upgrades in roads, sidewalks, and public services are necessary to accommodate growth.
- *Community Services*: Access to essential services such as healthcare, childcare, and retail within the community is desired.
- *Sustainable Practices*: Emphasis on environmental stewardship and sustainable building practices.
- *Community Centers*: Facilities that foster social interaction and community engagement are important.

Pros and Cons of Increased Density

Pros

- *Affordability*: More housing options can lead to increased affordability.
- *Economic Growth*: A larger population supports local businesses and enhances tax revenue.
- *Efficient Land Use*: Higher density can lead to better utilization of existing infrastructure.
- *Diverse Housing Options*: Opportunities for varied housing types, including Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

Cons

- *Traffic and Parking*: Increased population can lead to congestion and parking shortages.
- *Loss of Green Space*: Development may encroach on natural areas.
- *Community Character*: Risk of losing the small-town feel as density increases.
- *Resource Strain*: Higher density may put pressure on local services and resources.

Recommendations for Moving Forward

- *Transparent Development Plans*: Residents stressed the need for clear communication regarding development processes and infrastructure capacity.
- *Community Feedback Mechanisms*: Ongoing engagement with residents through surveys and public meetings is crucial.
- *Learning from Other Communities*: The importance of analyzing successful models from other towns to inform local decisions was highlighted.
- *Balancing Growth and Quality of Life*: Emphasis on ensuring that growth does not compromise the quality of life in Leavenworth.

Conclusion

The “Housing a Community” visioning session served as a hands-on opportunity for Leavenworth residents to articulate their aspirations and concerns regarding future development. Key takeaways included the importance of community engagement, the need for a diverse and inclusive population, and the careful consideration of how increased density can coexist with quality of life. Moving forward, community members felt city officials and stakeholders need to heed the voices of the community, ensuring that the comprehensive plan reflects the collective vision for a vibrant, sustainable, and livable Leavenworth. The commitment to ongoing dialogue and adaptation will be crucial in navigating the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Sustainable Tourism Recap

During the “Sustainable Tourism” session, community members discussed sustainable tourism, housing, and the balance between tourism and local needs in a recent visioning session.

Definition: Sustainable tourism takes into account current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts while addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and the hosting community.

Highlights

- *Community Engagement:* Participants emphasized the importance of understanding who lives in the area and their needs.
- *Sustainable Tourism:* The discussion highlighted the need for a balance between tourism growth and community welfare.
- *Transportation Solutions:* Ideas included shuttles and parking garages to alleviate congestion and improve access.
- *Environmental Stewardship:* Participants stressed the importance of managing outdoor resources sustainably.
- *Economic Impact:* The reliance on tourism for city revenue was acknowledged, along with its challenges.
- *Affordable Housing:* There was a strong call for solutions to the housing crisis affecting residents and the workforce.
- *Cultural Identity:* Maintaining the community's unique Bavarian theme was considered essential for tourism.

Key Insights

- *Balancing Growth and Community Needs:* Sustainable tourism should prioritize local residents' quality of life while attracting visitors. Focusing on community well-being fosters a more welcoming environment for tourists.
- *Environmental Responsibility:* Emphasizing conservation and responsible tourism can enhance the community's natural beauty, attracting visitors who appreciate and respect the environment.
- *Enhanced Transportation Options:* Developing shuttles and bike paths can reduce traffic congestion while promoting eco-friendly travel methods and improving access to local attractions.
- *Housing Solutions:* Addressing housing affordability directly impacts the community's stability. Policies favoring long-term rentals and taxes on vacant properties⁽¹⁾ may help residents thrive. (1. Please note that taxing vacant properties may not be feasible).
- *Community and Business Collaboration:* Building partnerships between local businesses, citizens, and government can lead to innovative solutions for tourism-related challenges, enhancing overall community health.
- *Cultural Preservation:* Maintaining the unique Bavarian theme is vital for attracting tourists. Celebrating local culture strengthens community identity and fosters pride among residents.

- **Sustainable Event Management**: Adjusting event schedules and promoting responsible visitor behavior can mitigate overcrowding, ensuring a better experience for both tourists and residents.

Session Summary

Introduction

The Community Visioning Session held on September 16, 2024, focused on the theme of sustainable tourism and its implications for the local community. As the city of Leavenworth prepares for increased tourism and population density, this session aimed to gather community input on what a sustainable tourism model looks like and how to balance the needs of residents with those of visitors. Key vocabulary terms such as sustainable tourism, community engagement, and density management were emphasized throughout the discussion, highlighting the importance of integrating feedback into the city's upcoming comprehensive plan.

Key Concepts

- **Sustainable Tourism**: Tourism that meets the needs of visitors while preserving resources for future generations.
- **Community Engagement**: Active participation from residents in planning processes to ensure diverse perspectives are considered.
- **Density Management**: Strategies to manage increased population density without compromising quality of life.

Overview of Attendee Demographics and Engagement

The session began with attendees introducing themselves and sharing personal facts, fostering a sense of community. Various demographic groups were identified based on years of residence and whether attendees lived within city limits. This exercise was crucial in understanding the diverse backgrounds and perspectives represented in the room.

Attendees were categorized by length of residence, revealing a mix of long-term residents and newcomers.

Recap of Previous Session

The previous session centered on housing, exploring the implications of increased population density mandated by state regulations. Discussions highlighted the need for affordable housing and the desire for a community that supports long-term residents, including those who work locally.

Key Takeaways

- The community expressed a desire for diversity and a supportive environment.
- There was a consensus on the importance of maintaining quality of life amid growth.
- Sustainable tourism requires a balanced approach that prioritizes community needs alongside visitor experiences.
- Active community engagement is crucial for developing effective strategies for tourism management.

- Ongoing dialogue and collaboration will help shape a positive future for Leavenworth, enhancing both its economic viability and quality of life for residents.

Sustainable Tourism Discussion

The primary focus of this session was to define sustainable tourism and identify its non-sustainable counterparts. Participants were encouraged to consider what a thriving tourism model would look like, emphasizing the need for balance between community needs and tourist activities.

Important Concepts

- **Quality vs. Quantity:** A sustainable tourism model prioritizes quality experiences over sheer numbers of visitors.
- **Community Identity:** How the community is marketed to visitors affects both the experience and the perception of Leavenworth.

Proposed Solutions and Innovations

Throughout the discussions, multiple solutions emerged to support sustainable tourism. Key suggestions included:

Housing and Infrastructure:

- Implementing occupancy regulations to balance short-term rentals and primary residences.
- Exploring options for second home taxes to ensure long-term housing availability.
- Advocating for improved public transportation, such as shuttles and parking garages, to alleviate congestion.

Environmental Stewardship:

- Promoting responsible outdoor recreation practices through education and community campaigns.
- Supporting waste reduction initiatives, including composting and recycling programs.

Community Partnerships:

- Encouraging collaboration among local businesses, nonprofits, and governmental entities to address common challenges.
- Developing an identity and mission statement for the community that resonates with both residents and visitors.

Statistical Context:

- Leavenworth's tourism economy draws approximately 3 million visitors annually, significantly impacting local resources and infrastructure.
- The city's budget is heavily reliant on sales tax, with \$2.75 million generated in 2023, highlighting the financial stakes involved in managing tourism effectively.

Opinions and Arguments

- Participants voiced concerns over the potential downsides of tourism, such as increased traffic, noise pollution, and the risk of losing community character. It was argued that without proactive measures, the impact of tourism could overwhelm local resources and diminish the quality of life for residents.
- Increased housing costs and the challenge of maintaining community spaces were identified as critical areas needing attention.
- The need for a community stewardship program was emphasized, promoting a shared responsibility for maintaining the environment.

Real-World Examples

The session drew on historical context, referencing Project LIFE from the 1960s, which revitalized the city and established its current identity. This historical example highlights the importance of community engagement in shaping the city's future, as well as the ongoing need for adaptation and innovation.

Conclusion

The “Sustainable Tourism” visioning session underscored the importance of creating a sustainable tourism model that benefits both residents and visitors. The collaborative dialogue fostered a sense of shared ownership over the future of Leavenworth, emphasizing that community engagement is essential in navigating the complexities of growth and tourism. Moving forward, the insights and recommendations gathered during this session will play a pivotal role in guiding the city's comprehensive plan, ensuring that Leavenworth remains a vibrant, welcoming community for all.

Accountable Stewardship Recap

The “Accountable Stewardship” visioning session discussed several topics including fire safety and prevention amidst increasing wildfire risks, with community initiatives focused on mitigation and environmental protection. This session synthesized key points from discussions on trails, public lands, and transportation in the Upper Valley, highlighting both the challenges faced and the proactive measures being taken to foster a sustainable outdoor and community-oriented environment.

Key Insights

- The importance of maintaining trails and addressing concerns about overcrowding and trail use management.
- Community engagement in fire safety and resource management is crucial, with an emphasis on collaboration among landowners and local authorities.
- Climate change significantly impacts water resources, necessitating proactive measures for conservation and efficient management.
- The rise of data centers in the region poses challenges for both energy and water supply, highlighting the need for sustainable energy solutions.
- Educational initiatives can enhance community awareness regarding environmental stewardship and responsible outdoor recreation.
- Engaging the community is crucial for developing a comprehensive plan that reflects the needs and desires of its residents. Continuous participation is encouraged to ensure the plan remains relevant and effective for the community of Leavenworth.
- Identifying risks and changes in the physical environment will help guide future decision-making.

Topic Tables Summary

The individual breakout tables discussed various topics related to trails, public lands, green transit, fire safety, and water management in the Upper Valley area. Discussions highlighted concerns regarding trail access, maintenance, and overcrowding while pointing out ongoing efforts in user education and advocacy for multi-use trails. Fire safety is a major concern, with discussions on evacuation plans, communication strategies, and community engagement in fuel reduction efforts. Additionally, a few attendees addressed water rights, the impact of climate change on water resources, the influence of data centers on power and water supply, and the importance of sustainable practices for local ecosystems.

See summaries of the individual topic breakdowns on the following pages.

Session Summary

Introduction

The “Accountable Stewardship” visioning session held on September 23, 2024, focused on key topics including the physical environment and community resources. The goal of this gathering was to engage community members in discussions that would inform the planning process, ensuring diverse opinions are considered.

Recap of Previous Gatherings

The first two gatherings focused on:

- Housing density and its implications for quality of life.
- Sustainable tourism, analyzing how to balance tourism growth with community integrity.
- Feedback from these sessions was well-received, and participants were encouraged to continue sharing their thoughts.

Current Focus: The Physical Environment

- The topic for this gathering centered around the physical environment, particularly the community's natural resources.
- The community expressed concerns regarding the increasing density of the population and its implications for natural spaces.

Key Discussion Points

Attendees engaged in discussions about what attracted them to Leavenworth:

- Outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, skiing, and river sports.
- The community's natural beauty and the accessibility to wilderness areas.

Concerns raised included:

- Overcrowding of popular natural sites due to increased tourism.
- Potential risks to wildlife habitats and the natural ecosystem.
- The effects of climate change, including altered weather patterns and water availability.
- Increased fire risks associated with higher density living and tourism.
- The impact of development on wetlands and local ecosystems.

Several community members noted changes in the environment and resources since their arrival:

- Increased tourism leads to crowded conditions in natural areas.
- Changes in wildlife interactions and a noted decrease in species diversity.

Opinions and Arguments Presented

- Community members expressed a strong desire for sustainability and the preservation of natural resources.
- Many attendees advocated for better communication from local authorities about environmental management and community resources.

- The importance of maintaining the small-town charm and diversity of the community was emphasized repeatedly.

Real-World Examples and Case Studies

- The gathering provided a platform for participants to share personal experiences about how changes in the environment affected their daily lives and community well-being.
- Discussion included the successful implementation of public transportation initiatives to reduce carbon emissions.
- Waste Loop was highlighted as a community initiative focused on sustainability and waste reduction.

Conclusion

The “Accountable Stewardship” visioning session successfully facilitated an exchange of ideas and concerns regarding Leavenworth's physical environment and resources. The discussions underscored the significance of community involvement in shaping the future of the town while balancing growth and sustainability. The next gathering on October 14, 2024, promises to build on these insights, aiming to present a synthesized plan based on community feedback. The ongoing dialogue reaffirms that collective input is essential for creating a vibrant, resilient community that honors its natural heritage while accommodating growth.

Topic Summary: Zero Waste

Glass recycling faces challenges due to facility closures and market limitations. Waste Loop seeks to expand collection capacity through partnerships and funding while addressing contamination issues. Education and community involvement are crucial for improving recycling rates and supporting local economies.

Key Insights

- Market Limitations: The glass recycling market has been severely impacted by supply chain issues and lack of local demand, leading to halted production and storage problems. To address this, Waste Loop must explore new partnerships and market opportunities to create a sustainable recycling environment.
- Expansion of Collection Capacity: Waste Loop is looking to expand collection facilities to handle larger volumes of glass, which could help mitigate storage issues and increase efficiency in recycling efforts. This will require strategic planning and investment in infrastructure.
- Importance of Education: Continuous education is crucial as public understanding of recycling processes and their importance remains low. Waste Loop's efforts in outreach can help change perceptions and improve participation in recycling programs.
- Contamination as a Major Hurdle: Contamination from non-recyclable materials, especially plastics, significantly complicates the recycling process. Developing clear guidelines for residents could improve sorting practices and reduce contamination levels.
- Support for Circular Economy Legislation: Legislative support for initiatives like a bottle bill could incentivize recycling and encourage local businesses to participate, thus fostering a more sustainable local economy.
- Collaboration with Local Governments: Strong partnerships with local government entities are necessary to secure funding and support for recycling initiatives. Engaging elected officials can lead to more effective policy changes.
- Potential for Commercial Composting: The expansion of composting initiatives presents an opportunity to reduce waste and promote sustainability. By collaborating with businesses and providing resources, Waste Loop can facilitate community-wide composting efforts.

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Topic Summary: **Fire Safety**

This breakout topic discussed fire safety and evacuation protocols in a city prone to wildfire threats. The discussion outlined the roles of local authorities, such as Chelan County Emergency Management, which manages evacuations, and Chelan County Fire District 3, which focuses on reducing fire risks. The city has adopted WUI codes to enhance structural fire resistance and designated residents' safety zones. Communication strategies for informing the public about fire dangers include using EverBridge.

The conversation emphasized the importance of community cooperation for fuel reduction and highlighted various programs like the Community Wildfire Defense Grant aimed at fostering FireWise practices among property owners.

Key Insights

- Chelan County Emergency Management is responsible for managing evacuations, relying on pre-planned strategies due to the dynamic nature of fire threats.
- Safety zones have been identified to provide refuge for residents during evacuations, with a focus on maintaining green spaces.
- There is a strong emphasis on community engagement and collaboration, particularly in allowing access to fuel reduction efforts on private properties.
- Various educational programs are in place for different age groups to raise awareness about fire safety and prevention measures.
- Communication methods are crucial, with a preference for email and social media, yet there is a noted challenge in reaching residents effectively.

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Topic Summary: Water

The “water” breakout topic covered critical issues regarding water management and energy needs in the region, including the impact of climate change, the balance between recreation and environmental protection, and strategies for sustainable energy and water use. Discussions included the growth of data centers, energy efficiency, and the need for improved infrastructure to support both local residents and the increasing demands from commercial operations.

Key Insights

- *Balancing Recreation and Conservation*: The need to limit commercial use of rivers is vital for environmental protection and local landowner rights. Ensuring responsible recreational practices can mitigate negative impacts on wildlife.
- *Climate Resilience*: Climate change is significantly impacting water levels and snowpack, necessitating innovative solutions such as hydro power adjustments to maintain energy reliability and water supply.
- *Energy Supply Challenges*: The rapid growth of data centers is straining local energy resources, prompting the need for new energy generation methods to meet both local and commercial demands.
- *Sustainable Energy Innovations*: Exploring hydrogen energy as a storage solution could alleviate pressure on existing infrastructure, offering a way to balance energy supply and demand effectively.
- *Fish and River Management*: Protecting fish populations is crucial; ongoing discussions highlight the importance of habitat management alongside energy production, indicating a need for comprehensive environmental policies.
- *Infrastructure Needs*: Current infrastructure may not meet the growing demands from both residential and commercial energy users, indicating an urgent need for expansion and upgrades to maintain reliability.
- *Community Awareness Initiatives*: Educational programs and ambassador initiatives are essential to promote responsible river usage and environmental stewardship among locals and visitors alike.

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Topic Summary: Green Transit

The discussion outlined various ideas and concerns regarding public transit improvements, particularly focusing on Link Transit. Key suggestions include implementing new shuttle services, promoting awareness among teenagers, enhancing connectivity to trailheads, and exploring options for transporting recreational gear. Funding sources and operational challenges were also discussed, highlighting the need for better services in rural areas and innovative solutions to boost ridership.

Key Insights

- Need for More Transit Options: Expanding shuttles and creating dedicated routes can alleviate road congestion and enhance accessibility, particularly on busy weekends.
- Community Engagement is Crucial: Engaging teenagers through fun activities can foster a culture of public transit use, potentially increasing ridership and reducing reliance on cars.
- Sustainability in Transit Planning: Transitioning to electric and hydrogen buses not only supports environmental goals but also addresses operational costs and longevity of the fleet.
- Funding Diversification Needed: With a significant portion of funding coming from alternative sources, identifying new revenue streams is essential to sustain and improve transit services.
- Rural Areas Require Attention: Enhancing transit options in rural areas can reduce isolation and improve access to essential services, benefiting the broader community.
- Leveraging Outdoor Activities: Integrating transit with outdoor recreation (like trailheads) can attract more users and manage overcrowding in popular areas.
- Innovative Promotions Could Boost Ridership: Creating events around public transit use, such as Earth Day promotions, can serve as effective marketing strategies to increase awareness and participation.

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Topic Summary: Trails

Discussion centered around improving access and communication for outdoor activities, focusing on car-free options, trailhead access, and community engagement. Concerns include parking, maintenance, and overcrowding, while positive points highlight effective advocacy and trail diversity. Suggestions for improvement include better education, marketing, and connectivity of trails, with an emphasis on youth safety and funding.

Key Insights

- Access to Outdoor Activities: Increasing awareness about non-car options can reduce parking congestion and foster a culture of outdoor enjoyment. This could lead to more sustainable tourism and community health benefits.
- Scavenger Hunts as Engagement Tools: Engaging youth through fun activities not only fosters a love for nature but also builds community ties, making outdoor spaces more inclusive and vibrant.
- Trailhead and Emergency Access: Ensuring accessible and safe ingress/egress points is critical for user safety and emergency response, enhancing the overall outdoor experience.
- Balancing Use and Conservation: Addressing concerns like overcrowding and trail maintenance is essential for preserving natural resources while accommodating increasing user interest.
- Education for Trail Stewardship: Promoting responsible use through targeted educational campaigns can mitigate negative impacts like trail erosion and waste, fostering a community of conscientious users.
- Multimodal Connectivity: Better connectivity between various trails and public transport options, like Amtrak, can enhance access for both locals and tourists, making outdoor activities more appealing and reachable.
- Funding and Resource Allocation: Exploring diverse funding sources can provide necessary resources for maintaining and improving outdoor infrastructure, ensuring long-term sustainability.

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Topic Summary: Public Lands

The discussion covered public lands, trail management, and resource allocation, highlighting issues such as day-use permits, resource abuse, fire safety, and the role of partnerships. Concerns include the Forest Service's handling of closures and the impact of logging on forest management. Budget constraints and community engagement were emphasized, along with the need for improved communication about multi-use trails and conservation strategies.

Key Insights

- Day-use Permits: Implementing day-use permits could alleviate overcrowding but may face resistance. More community education is needed on the benefits of such systems.
- Resource Management Challenges: The management of resources, especially in high-traffic areas, raised concerns about environmental sustainability and user safety. Effective monitoring systems were suggested to prevent resource abuse.
- Fire Budget Allocation: The fire budget raised questions about its allocation towards both prevention and recreational activities.
- Forest Service Efficiency: Timely communication regarding trail closures was covered. Improved communication strategies should be established to enhance public awareness and compliance.
- Logging and Forest Health: Per feedback, logging was viewed as a necessary practice to meet timber quotas and manage forest health but requires careful balancing with conservation efforts.
- Community Collaboration: Engaging local nonprofits and stakeholders is essential for addressing public land concerns, emphasizing a collaborative approach to resource management. Partnerships can leverage more resources and expertise.
- Wildlife vs. Recreation: The ongoing debate about prioritizing wildlife conservation over recreational development highlights a critical tension in land management policies. Balancing these interests will be crucial for sustainable land use.

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CHELAN~DOUGLAS



LAND TRUST

Our Land, Our Water, Our Future

Q&A

Community Visioning Recap

[Draft responses to the questions received during the previous three visioning sessions are provided below and will be posted on the City's website as well. Please note that the following responses are provided for informational purposes and are subject to change.]

There should be a hard look at what increased density's effect on evacuation times/feasibility. Especially in the highest fire-risk zip code in the nation. Planning requirements for developments should be required as well as reserving green spaces that can double as "safety zones"

These are great ideas to consider during the comprehensive plan update. The City relies heavily on input from the Chelan County Fire District #3 (CCFD3) with all new developments, specifically related to access. Deputy Chief, Mike Smith, of CCFD3 recently gave a presentation regarding best practices for wildfire-resilient neighborhoods during a City Council study session. You can view a copy of the PowerPoint on the City's FireWise page (cityofleavenworth.com/community/firewise/).

Is it possible to get a link to the State requirements and put it on the city website?

Yes, we will add links for the changes on the city's website. Visit <https://cityofleavenworth.com/your-city-hall/departments/community-development/2026-comprehensive-plan-update> to view the links.

No [short-term-rentals] STRs in residential neighborhoods.

Short-term rentals are currently not allowed in residential zones. The City does allow owner-occupied bed & breakfasts with a Conditional Use Permit. The City recently amended the code to cap the number allowed to 4 percent of the housing stock.

UGA [residents] should be able to vote in city elections.

The Urban Growth Area (UGA) is outside of city limits and therefore UGA residents are unable to participate in local city elections. This is outside of the City's control.

[For] all new construction, mandatory street & sidewalk improvements [should be] paid for by builders, not the city.

New developments are required to provide street and sidewalk improvements. These improvements are paid for by the Developer (example: Alpenglow subdivision). In cases of limited infill development (e.g., ADU construction, 2 lot short plat), the standards for road improvements can be waived by the Community Development and Public Works Directors.

Will the urban growth boundary be revised?

As part of the comprehensive plan update, the City is considering a UGA swap. This involves looking at the existing boundary and removing some areas from the UGA while potentially incorporating other areas into the UGA to fit development patterns.

What happened to all the previous planning results (community center drawings, sidewalks, etc.)?

Previous planning results are available on the city's website. Depending on the type of planning document you are looking for, the Document Portal or Project Tracker is a great place to start. If you can't seem to find what you're looking for, you can always reach out to our City Clerk, Andrea Fischer, by submitting a public records request.

What is the process for making changes in the existing residential codes for existing lots? We own a residential lot and we need a larger percent of the buildable area to accommodate a 3-generation family home.

Requests for code amendments can be made by the public when the Planning Commission and Council are considering the annual docket. They can also be submitted as an individual zoning code amendment. There is also the option of requesting a formal variance to the Hearing Examiner to provide relief from the strict application requirements of the zoning code due to site conditions.

Can the UGA be annexed into the city? They don't get to vote on city officials or serve on city limit only positions but many changes to code directly impact them (like increased density)

Properties within the UGA that are contiguous to the City may petition to annex. For annexation to occur, the City needs to be able to provide water and sewer services to the property. Some areas of the UGA do not yet have services available and therefore would be unable to annex without an extension of those services. As services **become** available, annexation would be considered.

Where are the representatives from Chelan County? They need to be here!

Chelan County Commissioner, Shon Smith, was able to attend the first visioning session, "Housing a Community". Mike Kaputa, Director of Chelan County's Department of Natural Resources is recapping the "Accountable Stewardship" session on October 14 at the Fire Hall. In addition, Chelan County recently held an open house at Leavenworth City Hall to discuss and obtain feedback regarding the update to the multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (which includes Leavenworth).

Could we have an annual resident & UGA resident parking permit that is affordable?

The City does offer two permit parking programs: ParkSmart Permit and Residential Parking Zone Permit. In addition, City staff and the Parking Advisory Committee are exploring potential parking programs for city residents.

How will snow storage & winter maintenance & sidewalks be communicated to residents and visitors? How will this change in years to come?

Currently, the city utilizes its website, social media platforms, weekly Sunday email, and updates in the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce's Bavarian Bulletin for messaging. The city is considering implementing a mass communication system that would allow individuals to sign up to receive specific updates/alerts via text, email, or phone calls.

Is there a way to include a webpage of vital city statistics? Budget breakdowns, utilities, visitors & tourism, recreation, wildlife/environment, firewise & snow management? Historical & current?

Budget data is currently available online via the Document Portal. Visitor and tourism data is provided by the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce annually. As far as the other categories are concerned, we are open to looking at collaborating with our community partners to provide additional information online. In addition, the city is considering a new program that would allow us to be able to showcase those categories online in one place (e.g., budget, recreation, utilities, etc.).

What snowpack models were used for the survey?

[Response provided by Chelan PUD] In the Big Sort exercise, a part of Chelan PUD's Imagine 2075 outreach, one of the trends (#23) was titled, "Decreasing Snowpack in Columbia and Chelan Basins". Two underlying sources were cited 1) UW Climate Impacts Group, Shifting Snowlines and Shorelines, 2020, and 2) Power Plan Supporting Material, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Trends in Historical and Climate Change River Flows, 2021.

How many people do we need to house?

While the City is not struggling with a homeless population, we are struggling with affordable housing - as are most cities and towns statewide. We do not have an exact number of individuals needing housing within city limits.

How many employees are here? How many full-time employees?

Per the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Economic and Visitor Profile Report, just over 3,200 people are employed by Leavenworth's economy with the largest industries being accommodation and food services, followed by retail trade and finally, health care and social assistance. Not every industry is directly related to tourism. For more information, please visit <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/leavenworth-wa#economy>.

800 people responded. What percentage of [the] population is that?

The City received 908 responses from individuals living in either city limits, the UGA, and/or the Cascade School District's boundaries. The current population of the City of Leavenworth is approximately 2430. The number of responses equates to about 37% of the city's population (NOTE: not all respondents live within city limits).

It became really clear in the first two sessions that in order to keep new young families that will stay until the children go to school, this community needs a daycare center!!! Many families solved their childcare problems by enticing their parents to move to Leavenworth. But that option is not available to everyone, nor is it as readily an option now that home prices are astronomical. And there are so few available homes. Could there be a grandmother co-op? A city/chamber collaboration?

The City recognizes the need for accessible childcare to support families in our community. Exploring innovative solutions like a grandmother co-op is a great idea that could be pursued by interested individuals as a private and/or non-profit business venture. We are open to collaborating with the local chamber, businesses, and community members to develop sustainable childcare options.

Can you please create a segment from the 3-hour video of just Selby's presentation about how our tax dollars can be spent? How do we use this to educate all citizens of Leavenworth? I wish more people attended [the] Sept. 16th event to learn this. It was an amazing presentation. Very digestible.

Certainly! Selby's "Then and Now" presentation from the September 16 visioning session will be available on our website and YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@BavarianTown>). A portion of this information was presented in a "Monthly Mythbuster" but could also be a study topic for the city's proposed Citizens Academy program.

Where did funds come from to chip-seal the roads?

The 2024 Scrub Seal project is 90% funded by the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB). Funding for TIB's grant programs comes from revenue generated by three cents of the statewide gas tax. Learn more about the Scrub Seal project at <https://cityofleavenworth.com/projects/2024-scrub-seal/>.

What about infrastructure to support all residences (Ski Hill sidewalk revealed old wooden pipes)?

We understand the concerns about the old wooden pipes revealed during the Ski Hill sidewalk project. The city is committed to maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure to support all residences within city limits. We have several ongoing efforts and planned projects aimed at improving our water, sewer, and transportation systems. This includes securing funding for critical infrastructure projects and implementing modern materials and technologies to replace aging systems. We are prioritizing the replacement of outdated infrastructure to ensure the safety and reliability of our services.

If Leavenworth wasn't Bavarian-themed, what unique culture and identity would Leavenworth create inspired by its residents, landscape, and culture?

If Leavenworth wasn't Bavarian-themed, we would still be able to draw inspiration from our rich history, stunning natural surroundings, and vibrant community to create a unique cultural identity. Nestled in the Cascade Mountains, Leavenworth is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. Leavenworth is an adventure destination, with activities like hiking, skiing, river rafting, and mountain biking. In addition, our community has a rich history of Native American Heritage, a thriving logging industry, and deep agricultural roots. By blending these elements, even without our iconic and beloved Bavarian theme, Leavenworth has a unique cultural identity that reflects our diverse history and natural beauty.

You talk of listening to the community. You've posted 3 or 4 surveys and that's all we hear of it. No updates or information about the results.

You can access recent survey results on the Document Portal on the city's website. Here's a direct link:

<https://cityofleavenworth.com/documents/category/survey-results/>.

Question for Link Transit: Bus to Stevens?

[Response provided by Link Transit] As an agency, Link Transit is very interested in connecting our community to recreation opportunities. We've had sporadic requests for service to Stevens Pass over the years, and it is definitely something we are open to exploring. Of course, there are many considerations for this type of service, including financial impacts, vehicle needs, and difficult winter driving conditions. Mission Ridge does contribute to our existing SkiLink service, so we would likely look to coordinate with Vail Resorts regarding support to get this service up and running. If there is a strong community desire for this service, continued requests to operate it will be helpful as we look to prioritize future expansion in the region.

Question for Link Transit: Bus to Lake Wenatchee?

[Response provided by Link Transit] The difficult decision to suspend Link Transit service to the Plain/Lake Wenatchee area was made in 2013. The combination of extremely low ridership and loss of grant funding that had been keeping the route alive were the primary factors in the suspension. Bus service in this area is a challenge due to a lack of population density combined with an abundance of car-dependent households. These factors make it unlikely that we would be able to return fixed-route bus service to the area in the immediate future. However, there are still legitimate transportation issues in the Plain/Lake Wenatchee area for those without reliable access to a vehicle.

We are looking at alternative transportation options for communities within our service area that do not currently have bus service. Our idea is to establish a public dial-a-ride "zone" service in the Plain/Lake Wenatchee area (along with other potential rural locations throughout the region like Valley Hi, Ardenvoir, Badger Mountain, Orondo, etc.) that would provide connections to Leavenworth. From a rider's house (or another predetermined location), riders could tie into Link Transit's fixed-route bus system in Leavenworth where they could access the Routes 22, 32, 122, and/or DART and on to other destinations throughout the system. We would likely begin by offering the zone service one day per week in each geographic location, and then we could look to expand the program depending on demand. There are still a lot of details that would need to be worked out since this would be a new service for us. We are currently anticipating a possible implementation in late 2025 or 2026.

Trolleys through downtown Leavenworth again?!?

[Response provided by Link Transit] Link Transit is aware that trolleys were very popular vehicles in Leavenworth, as well as other locations where they used to operate. As we have continued to prioritize electrification of our vehicle fleet, viable options are more limited compared to what is available for diesel vehicles. Additionally, operating multiple different vehicle types can be very challenging for an agency, as it requires stocking of different parts and specialized knowledge to both operate and maintain the vehicle fleet, which can lead to greater overall costs and training time required. Rather than pursuing future trolleys in Leavenworth, Link has moved forward with operating battery-electric buses on Route 32, Route 122, and select trips on Route 22 to reduce emissions and promote environmental stewardship in our communities. Link intends to continue moving forward with fleet electrification, including developing options for our longer-distance commuter routes like Route 22.

Question regarding Ski Hill trails: How are you keeping them safe for equestrians and communicating the multi-use for wheels?

This inquiry has been sent to the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club which manages the Ski Hill Trails. We are currently awaiting a response.

Why not put x-mas lights on a timer and turn them off at night? Less light pollution and less electricity.

The Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce manages the light installation and display in Front Street Park from December through February. The lights were all converted to LED years ago in our efforts to be more energy-conscious and are currently on times that match Front Street Park's hours.