

ORDINANCE NO. 1723

CITY OF LEAVENWORTH, WASHINGTON

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LEAVENWORTH, WASHINGTON ADOPTING THE CITY'S 2026 PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN; INCORPORATING THE SAME INTO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), specifically RCW 36.70A.020(9), mandates and encourages the retention of open space, development of recreational opportunities, and development of parks; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requires municipal jurisdictions to update their comprehensive parks planning documents every six years to maintain community eligibility for state and federal grant funding programs; and

WHEREAS, the City does not have a current Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Community Development Department, alongside Parks Department, conducted extensive public outreach and community surveys between August 2025 and June 2026, to ensure robust citizen participation in shaping the plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 PROS Plan establishes service level standards, identifies park goals, lists localized recreational needs, and outlines a 6-year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) for parks; and

WHEREAS, a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist was completed for the 2026 PROS Plan, as an appendix to the City's 2026 Comprehensive Plan, and a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was officially issued by the City's SEPA Responsible Official on April 22, 2026, with all notice requirements fulfilled; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission held properly noticed public meetings and forwarded a recommendation of approval to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on July 14, 2026, to accept public testimony regarding the adoption of the plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEAVENWORTH, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council hereby approves and formally adopts the City of Leavenworth 2026 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated fully by this reference.

Section 2. The 2026 PROS Plan is hereby incorporated into the Parks and Recreation

Element of the City of Leavenworth Comprehensive Plan to satisfy the planning goals of the Growth Management Act.

Section 3. The Recreation and Tourism Manager or City Clerk is authorized and directed to file a certified copy of the adopted 2026 PROS Plan alongside this Ordinance with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to secure immediate grant eligibility.

Section 4. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after passage and publication as provided by law.

Passed by the City Council of City of Leavenworth, Washington and approved by the Mayor at an open public meeting on the 14th day of July, 2026.

CITY OF LEAVENWORTH

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Carl J. Florea, Mayor

Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:
Thom Graafstra
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Thom Graafstra, City Attorney

Attest:

Signed by:
Andrea Fischer
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Andrea Fischer, City Clerk

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan



CITY OF LEAVENWORTH

Adopted July 14, 2026





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All photos are from City staff, Jake M., or BHC Consultants, unless otherwise noted.

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Introduction

OVERVIEW

Greater Leavenworth is an alpine community sitting at the confluence of the Wenatchee River and Icicle Creek at the eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The City itself is nestled in the valley floor, surrounded by Tumwater Canyon to the west and Icicle Canyon to the south. The landscape features a unique combination of wildflower meadows, Ponderosa pines, Douglas firs, and Western larches. Leavenworth's natural environment provides an attractive setting for various recreational activities and supports a tourism-driven economy.

With over 20 percent of land in the City of Leavenworth maintained as parks or open space, and a critical two-mile reach of shoreline along the Wenatchee River, the preservation and recreational use of these natural features have long been established part of the community's values, lifestyles, and business interests. With a growing population, and over 3.4 million visitors annually¹, community members and visitors alike are drawn to the city for its environmental setting and natural beauty, and the outdoor recreational opportunities that it affords.

This continued growth and high level of tourism put a strain on Leavenworth's vital natural amenities. Population growth between 2026 and 2046 is expected to increase the number of residents; however, several of the parks and facilities are utilized by more visitors than residents. Depending on the type of user, each park/facility will require different types of amenities, management and future needs.

¹ Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, [2025 Annual Economic & Visitor Report](#).

PURPOSE

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan serves as the City's guide for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of a comprehensive system of parks, trails, recreational facilities, and open space for its community members. Where this Plan refers generally to "park and recreational facilities," that is inclusive of open space, natural areas, trails, and amenities such as ball fields and playgrounds.

The City's Comprehensive Plan includes a Park and Recreation Element which acknowledges this PROS Plan as the City's primary park planning document that reflects the guidelines established by Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA) on park and recreation planning. This PROS Plan will also be used to gain eligibility for outdoor recreation, conservation, and grants through the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Once this PROS Plan is certified by the RCO, the City is eligible for RCO grant funding for six calendar years from the date of adoption.

BACKGROUND

Planning Service Area

The PROS Plan establishes a strategic framework for parks, recreational facilities, and open space within the City of Leavenworth and its associated Urban Growth Area (UGA). This plan accounts for a service area that extends significantly beyond city limits due to Leavenworth's role as a regional tourism and recreation hub. The City's park system serves a diverse user base, ranging from local residents to visitors from the greater Wenatchee Valley and Pacific Northwest region. Furthermore, given Leavenworth's adjacency to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, this plan also addresses regional trail connections and associated interagency coordination necessary to manage trail maintenance and access issues associated with high-volume recreational use.

Community Profile

This section provides a brief overview of the demographics of the City of Leavenworth to ensure future investments in facilities are responsive to the evolving needs of year-round community members and visitors alike.

The City's population in 2024 was approximately 2,595 people². The population has seen steady growth over the last ten years, growing by an average of 45 people per year. This historical trajectory aligns closely with the City's population allocation; achieving the full 2046 population allocation of 3,555 people by 2046. The population is slightly older than the state average, with a median age of 42 years, though many households have children under the age of 18. Please reference the complete demographic profile for Leavenworth in Appendix A of the City's 2026 Comprehensive Plan.

Community members highly value the City's natural environment and recreational opportunities. While community members are generally satisfied with the diverse range of recreational opportunities available to them, several key improvements can be made to enhance quality of life for all. Specific feedback and community preferences are discussed in greater detail in the [Public Outreach](#) section of this plan.

Leavenworth attracts visitors from around the world, many of whom utilize the City's park and recreational facilities. As the community continues to grow and evolve, it is important to strategically plan for parks and recreation amenities that meet the needs of residents while accommodating visitor use.

Want to learn more?

A complete demographic profile of the City can be found in the 2026 Comprehensive Plan in Appendix A.

Relation to Existing Plans

This Plan is one of several documents comprising the City's long-range parks, trails, and open space planning and policy framework. It is meant to function in alignment with the City's Comprehensive Plan, Shoreline Management

² Washington State Office of Financial Management April 1st Estimates.

Plan and corresponding Public Access Plan, and regional parks planning efforts including the Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan and the Chelan-Douglas Pathways Master Plan, as summarized in the following subsections.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Under the Growth Management Act (GMA), the City is required to include a park and recreation element in the Comprehensive Plan. While the 2022 Comprehensive Plan included a Park and Recreation Element that meets GMA requirements, that element did not fulfill RCO certification requirements for grant eligibility. This PROS Plan was prepared as part of the 2026 periodic update of the City of Leavenworth's Comprehensive Plan and is included as an appendix. It is intended to fulfill both the GMA requirements for a Parks and Recreation Element and RCO requirements for certification. The goals and policies of this PROS Plan have been developed in conjunction with the goals and policies of the City's 2026 Comprehensive Plan to promote internal consistency and support a unified vision. The community's vision statement for Leavenworth is as follows:

Leavenworth is a deeply interconnected small town. We see a future where the people who live and work in our community are thriving, with housing options people can afford, vibrant small businesses, and good jobs.

We cherish our rivers, forests, and mountains as essential to our outdoor recreation system, and keeping them resilient is important to us. Infrastructure and services have been added efficiently and appropriately as the city has grown. Our enduring vitality, stability, and financial accountability allow us to welcome visitors and invite them to share our alpine-themed experiences.

Want to learn more?

The City's Comprehensive Plan can be found at: cityofleavenworth.com

In support of this vision statement, the PROS Plan prioritizes the provision of parks and recreational facilities in underserved areas of the City and encourages efforts to increase educational opportunities geared towards environmental awareness and stewardship.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN & PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN

The City's 2021 Shoreline Management Plan³ includes several policies related to recreational opportunities afforded by public access along the City's shorelines, which have been integrated into parks and recreation planning efforts. Broadly speaking, the City's shoreline management goals related to public access include policies to:

- ◆ increase public access within city limits,
- ◆ ensure that public access is safe, convenient, and diversified,
- ◆ minimize conflict between public and private property,
- ◆ balance ecological health and recreational access, and enhance and maintain existing areas of public access prior to acquiring or establishing new access points.

Similarly, Chelan County's Shoreline Public Access Plan⁴ (PAP), which is integrated with the overall Shoreline Master Program Update as Appendix E, outlines opportunities and strategies to provide greater public access (both physical and visual access) along the shoreline. Countywide policies related to public access include efforts to:

- ◆ increase public access where appropriate,
- ◆ prioritize maintenance of existing access sites,

³ Shoreline Management Plan (2021). From <https://cityofleavenworth.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021-Leavenworth-SMP-FINAL.pdf>

⁴ Public Access Plan – Appendix E, Chelan County Shoreline Master Program (2021). From https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/community-development/documents/shoreline_master_program/CC_FinalSMP_ApprovedbyEcology_effective09-30-2021%20w%20appendices.pdf

- ◆ respect private property,
- ◆ enhance safety and environmental conservation, and
- ◆ improve visual access to shorelines, among other policies.

The County's PAP also proposes level of service standards to achieve a shoreline public access system with:

- ◆ more than 90% of the residential population within 15 miles of regional recreational facilities including boating, fishing, trails, parks, and open space facilities.
- ◆ more than 50% of the residential population within 1.5 miles of local or community shoreline parks and trails.

As shown later on through the parks dispersion map (in the Demands and Needs section of this Plan) around 50% of the residential population is within a half-mile of local or community shoreline parks and trails (compared to the LOS of more than 50% of the population being within 1.5 miles of local or community shoreline parks and trails).

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACTION PLAN

To enhance safety for all users, the City is developing a Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) funded by the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program. This plan will guide long-term decisions regarding street design, speed limits, and safety improvements to ensure a safer environment for all modes of travel. Proposed projects include multi-use paths, protected bike lanes, and separated pedestrian facilities, among other safety improvements, which will help ensure users can travel safely to park facilities. As of March 2026, the Draft TSAP is currently under review.





UPPER VALLEY REGIONAL TRAILS PLAN

The City's 2009 Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan⁵ provides recommendations to create an interconnected regional trail system and improve connectivity between existing trails. It provides the necessary tools to plan, design, fund, and implement non-motorized trails with the overarching goal of creating an interconnected regional trail network that provides residents with diverse recreational opportunities, encourages non-motorized transportation, and supports tourism. This PROS Plan builds on this effort by prioritizing proposed trail connections based on extensive community outreach efforts and overarching recreational goals.

CHELAN-DOUGLAS PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN

The Chelan-Douglas Pathways Project⁶ outlines a plan for creating key regional pathway corridors that better connect communities with safe walking and biking routes. The Leavenworth to Cashmere to Wenatchee (LCW) corridor includes the cities of Cashmere and Leavenworth and the unincorporated agriculture communities of Monitor, Dryden, and Peshastin. The LCW Project Corridor Executive Study⁷ identifies the Leavenworth-to-Peshastin pathway as "immediately feasible," indicating minimal physical, environmental, or regulatory constraints; existing access and infrastructure to support construction; and a strong likelihood of near-term funding and stakeholder support, contingent upon available resources. The goals and policies of this PROS Plan were developed in alignment with the Pathways Master Plan, reflecting community preferences and advancing regional goals to increase connectivity.

⁵ City of Leavenworth, Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan (2009), <https://cityofleavenworth.com/documents/upper-valley-regional-trails-plan/>

⁶ Chelan-Douglas Transportation Council, Pathways Project, <https://chelandonglaspathways.org/#wrapper-hero>

⁷ Chelan-Douglas Transportation Council, Chelan-Douglas Pathways Master Plan: Leavenworth to Cashmere to Wenatchee, <https://chelandonglaspathways.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/LCW-ExecSumm-251111.pdf>



Public Outreach

Community engagement was embedded throughout the development of this PROS Plan and was accomplished through a variety of outreach activities and avenues, as described in this section, including:

- ◆ Community Visioning Workshops
- ◆ Quarterly Community Engagement Nights
- ◆ Community Block Party
- ◆ Tabling at Common Gathering Spaces
- ◆ Parks Survey
- ◆ City of Leavenworth Website Updates
- ◆ E-mail Newsletter
- ◆ Planning Commission and City Council Meetings

This section describes the various outreach activities conducted to determine community-wide parks and recreation priorities. Goals and policies were developed based on both the overarching themes and specific feedback received throughout outreach, as detailed below.

VISIONING WORKSHOPS

In the fall of 2024, the City conducted a trio of collaborative Community Visioning workshops that were well-attended by community members. Community Visioning workshops were held on the following dates and topics:

- ◆ September 9: Housing a Community
- ◆ September 16: Sustainable Tourism
- ◆ September 23: Accountable Stewardship
- ◆ October 14: A Path Forward (Collective Recap)

Key Findings

While the visioning workshops addressed a diverse range of topics, relevant findings for park and recreation facilities are summarized below for each workshop. A full report of the broader community discussions and outcomes that emerged from these workshops can be found in the Community Visioning Report⁸ on the City’s website.

HOUSING A COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The “Housing a Community” session facilitated discussions focused on Leavenworth’s future, including how to prioritize community needs, housing, and maintaining quality of life with increased density. In terms of parks and recreation facilities, there are overall concerns of the impacts of development encroaching on natural areas, increased population leading to congestion and parking shortages, and higher density putting pressure on local facilities.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

The “Sustainable Tourism” session centered discussions on how the City can balance tourism, which draws around 3 million visitors annually, and local needs.

ACCOUNTABLE STEWARDSHIP

The “Accountable Stewardship” session focused on strategies for effectively managing community resources and the built and natural environments, including recreational assets such as trails, to support a sustainable and community-oriented outdoor environment. Numerous suggestions were raised to enhance environmental stewardship while enhancing and improving access to recreational opportunities.

A PATH FORWARD

This Q+A session provided an opportunity to summarize and discuss questions asked throughout the previous sessions. A Q+A was posted on the City’s website.

Next Steps

These key findings have been integrated into the goals and policies of this plan, most notably under the topics of Parks & Natural Areas, Recreational Facilities & Programs, and Community Building & Education.

Social interaction is valued and desired through gathering places such as parks and community centers

Balance nature and recreation with increased density

Foster safe spaces for children to enhance community

Support ambassador and educational initiatives to increase community and visitors awareness around responsible outdoor recreation

Environmental stewardship and the sustainable management of outdoor resources is important!

Connect public transit to trailheads

Improve connectivity between recreation opportunities by encouraging non-motorized or public transportation

Balance wildlife conservation with increased recreational opportunities

Improve trail maintenance and address overcrowding through river and trail use management and monitoring

Engage youth through fun activities

Partner with local nonprofits, stakeholders, and the Forest Service to collaboratively manage resources

⁸ City of Leavenworth, Leavenworth Community Visioning (2024), https://cityofleavenworth.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Community-Visioning-2024_Recap.pdf

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

As part of the City’s 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update process, community members were invited on a number of occasions to participate in discussing their vision for the future of Leavenworth. The following events addressed a wide range of topics; relevant findings regarding park and recreation facilities are summarized below for each event. A full summary of engagement efforts and community priorities can be found in Appendix H of the City’s 2026 Comprehensive Plan.



Community Engagement Night

The City hosts quarterly Community Engagement Nights to offer residents and business owners the opportunity to connect, learn, and engage with staff and agency partners. At the event on May 6, 2025, the City maintained a table to discuss the 2026 Comprehensive Plan update process and collect feedback on park and recreation facilities. It was well attended by around 250 residents. Of those who engaged with the City’s interactive posters, most were year-long residents that live within city limits.

KEY FINDINGS

Interactive posters at the workshop gathered specific feedback on the existing park system. One of these posters featured a citywide map of existing facilities that identified related amenities. Participants were invited to mark up the map with desired parks and recreation facilities, amenities, or additional comments. Feedback indicated key priorities including: improved connections between trails, parks, and other recreational facilities; safety improvements to enhance pedestrian and bike trails; new parks north of Highway 2; and a new indoor pool or upgrades to the existing outdoor pool.

Community members were also invited to take the Parks Survey or were provided with a QR code to take the survey on their own time; results from this survey follow in the Parks Survey section of this plan. The final poster was intended for kids and featured the prompt “My dream park has…” with several options for kids to indicate what park amenities they would like to see in their dream park. The results are presented below in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1. “My Dream Park Has…” Poster Results

Park Amenity	Votes
Playgrounds	10
Nature Play Areas	8
Climbing Wall	5
Ballfields and Courts	4
Indoor Pool	17
Splash Park	10
Places to play with my dog	5

Along with voting on this poster, kids were invited to draw pictures of what their dream park would look like (Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2. Drawings of what kids would like to see in their dream park.



Kids in Leavenworth generally envision their dream park to include an indoor pool, playgrounds, and a splash park, but also had some other ideas for amenities including a tree house, tiny library, and a seesaw, among others. Detailed information, along with full size photos, can be found in Appendix H of the City's 2026 Comprehensive Plan.

Another poster at the event asked community members "Which highlights from the [Community Visioning Workshops] do you agree with?" People were given stickers to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed. The full poster results can be found in Appendix H of the City's 2026 Comprehensive Plan; relevant visioning principles related to parks and recreation are presented below in Exhibit 3. Everyone who responded to these relevant visioning principles agreed with them, indicating their importance to the community.

Exhibit 3. Visioning Poster Results Related to Parks and Recreation

Visioning Principle	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Green Space Many advocated for the protection of parks and natural areas amidst development.	15	0	0
Balance Density and Nature Increasing density must be balanced with maintaining green spaces, ensuring residents can enjoy both community living and nature.	15	0	0
Environmental Responsibility Emphasizing conservation and responsible tourism can enhance the community's natural beauty, attracting visitors who appreciate and respect the environment.	13	0	0

Community Block Party

The City of Leavenworth had a booth at the Community Block Party on August 21, 2025, to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and parks planning with community members. Prior to the Community Block Party, the city distributed a Parks Survey to gauge overall satisfaction with existing park and recreation facilities and identify interest in new facilities. To report on and substantiate these findings, a poster was provided to highlight major themes from the Parks Survey, which is discussed further in the following section: [Parks Survey](#).

KEY FINDINGS

There were three posters related to parks and recreation. One was a “Parks Survey Results” poster to report on the findings of the Parks Survey discussed in the following section. Another poster titled “Parks Dispersion” included a map of existing park and recreation facilities in the City, along with a ¼ mile, ½ mile, and ¾ mile buffers to approximate walking distances from the facilities. Most areas in the city limits are theoretically within ¾ miles of a park, but the buffers do not accurately reflect walking times. People were invited to provide comments on where they would like to see new parks or natural areas, what distance they are comfortable walking to parks, and what kind of recreational improvements or amenities they would like to see. The final poster, titled “Trails and Connections” included a map of existing and proposed trails in the City and connections to regional trails. Proposed trails within the City were included based on the 2009 Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan⁹. People were invited to mark where they would like to see trails connections prioritized or new trails created.



Conversations with community members and responses to these posters confirm the general findings of the Parks Survey, including desires to:

Add new parks in the northern side of the city to increase residential accessibility to parks

Increase shade at all parks

Build an indoor pool to provide year-round swimming facilities

Increase trail connections – both within the city and to regional trails and recreation opportunities

Improve safety for pedestrian and bike trails

Improve restroom facilities and increase restroom maintenance

⁹ “Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan,” City of Leavenworth (2009), <https://cityofleavenworth.com/documents/upper-valley-regional-trails-plan/>.

PARKS SURVEY

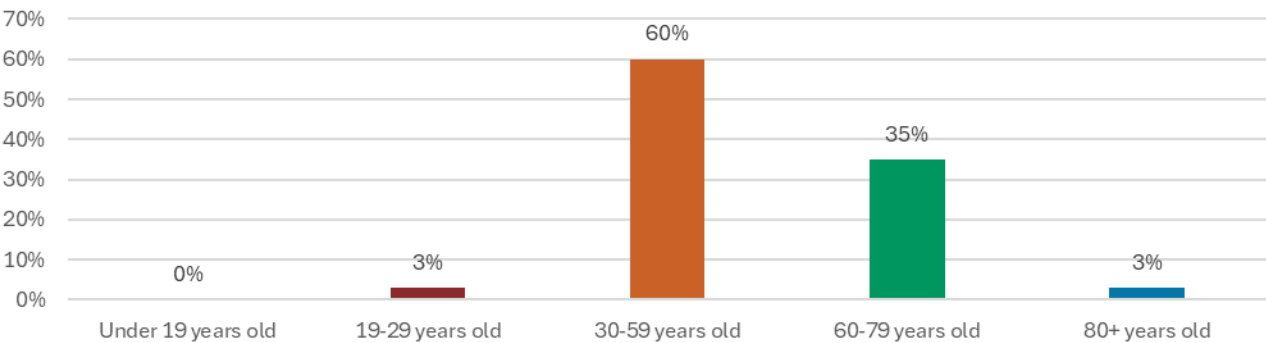
As part of the City’s 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update process, the City circulated a survey to better understand community members’ perception of existing park and recreational facilities, and desires for future improvements. The survey, which was open from May-July 2025, asked broad questions about the frequency of use, condition, and satisfaction of existing parks and recreation facilities, balanced by questions asking for specific ideas for new facilities, park improvements or maintenance needs, and open-ended questions for respondents to provide additional feedback. Several demographics questions were included to help understand who was and was not participating.

Demographics

Around 240 people completed the survey, though not every respondent answered every question. The majority of survey respondents (56%) reported that they live in Leavenworth. Another sizable percentage (38%) of respondents live in Chelan County, outside of city limits, while only 8 respondents (5%) live somewhere else in Washington, and 1 respondent (0.6%) lives out of state. More specifically, 85% of people are year-long residents, 6% are visitors, 5% are seasonal residents, and 4% work in the City of Leavenworth but live elsewhere.

The majority of survey respondents were between the ages of 30-59 years old, followed by those aged 60-79 years old. Only 5 respondents were between the ages of 19-29, and 4 respondents were 80 years of age or older, see Exhibit 4. Of the 154 people who responded to this question, 153 people (99%) reported English as their primary language, with only 1 person responding with “Other”.

Exhibit 4. How old are Parks Survey respondents?



Key Findings

There are several key findings that have emerged from the survey results, as described in this section. The full survey results can be found in [Appendix H-3](#) of the City’s 2026 Comprehensive Plan.

NEW FACILITIES

Survey respondents would most like to see more trails, a new indoor pool, and more natural areas and parks (see Exhibit 5). Specific recommendations for new facilities also include an ice skating rink, more parks for locals (north of Highway 2), pickleball/indoor courts, a community center, improved access between the river and downtown, increased connectivity and safety of bike and pedestrian trails, and improved accessibility of event spaces, outdoor seating, and other park amenities. Please reference additional ideas in the full survey results ([Appendix H-3](#) of the City’s 2026 Comprehensive Plan).

Exhibit 5. What new park and recreation facilities are desired?



USE AND SATISFACTION OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Most existing parks are used 1-2 times a month by survey respondents, except for Osborn Playground, the public boat launch, and public school grounds, which are used 1-2 times a year at most by the majority of respondents. Osborn Playground is likely more heavily used by households with children, which may not be reflected in these results. Blackbird Island, Waterfront Park, and Enchantment Park are used more frequently than others, at least once or twice a month or more (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6. How frequently are city parks used?



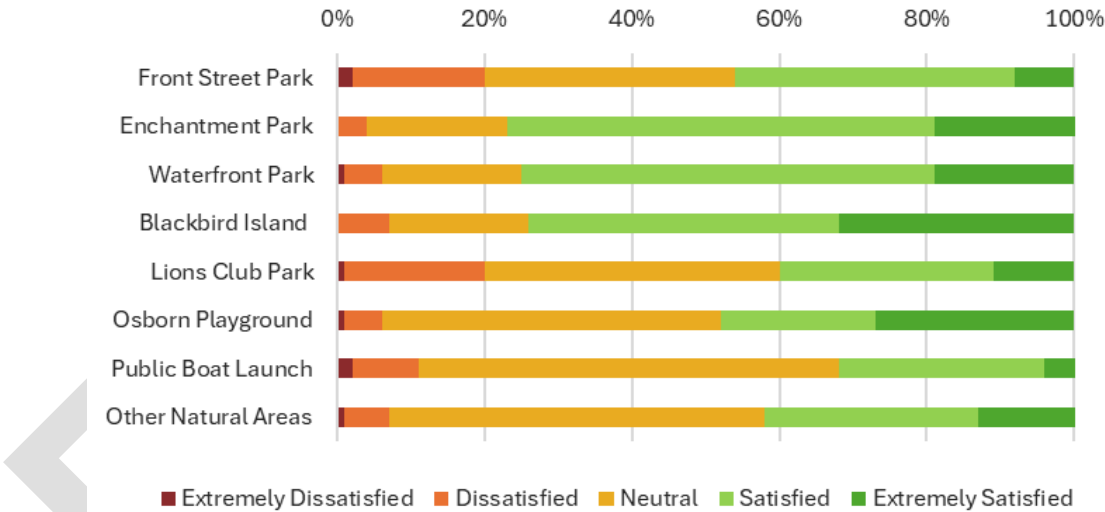
Trails are by far the most frequently used recreational facility; most people were split between using trails at least once a week, several times a week, or daily (Exhibit 7).

Exhibit 7. How frequently are city recreation facilities used?



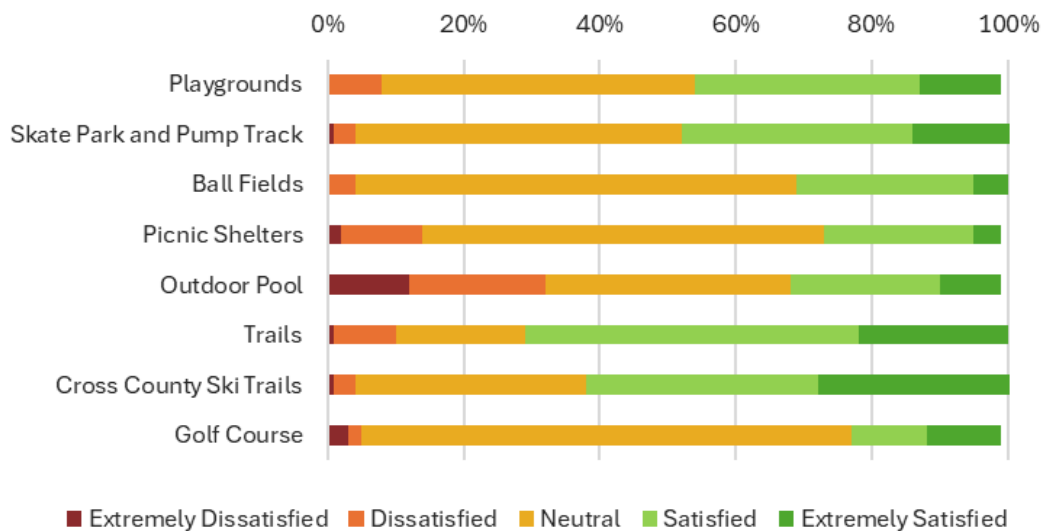
Satisfaction with existing parks and recreation facilities is generally high among survey respondents (see Exhibit 8). Community members are most satisfied with Blackbird Island, Enchantment Park, and Waterfront Park, which are also the most frequently used parks among survey respondents.

Exhibit 8. Level of satisfaction with existing parks.



Satisfaction with recreational facilities is generally high among those that use the facilities. For instance, those who use trails or cross country ski trails are generally more satisfied than not. However, the outdoor pool, and to a lesser degree, picnic shelters, received the highest level of dissatisfaction among users, as shown in Exhibit 9.

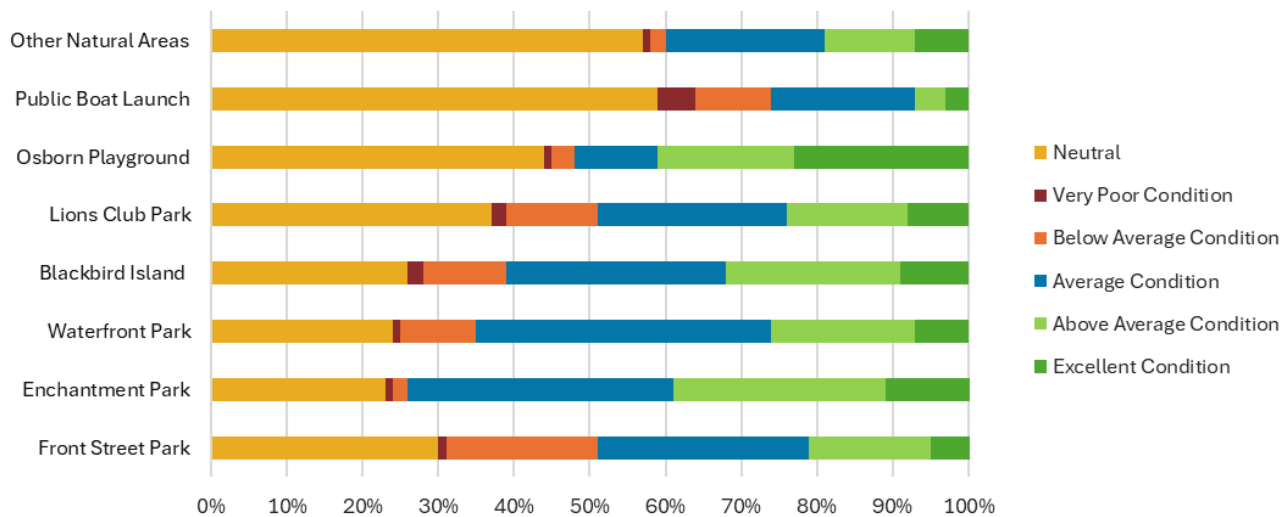
Exhibit 9. Level of satisfaction with existing recreational facilities.



CONDITIONS OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Overall, most parks are rated to be in “average condition” according to survey respondents (see Exhibit 10). A few parks are rated to be in relatively good condition, including Osborn Park (23% excellent condition, 18% above average condition), Enchantment Park (12% excellent condition, 28% above average condition), and Blackbird Island (9% excellent condition, 23% above average condition). On the other hand, Front Street Park is the top park rated “below average condition” (20%).

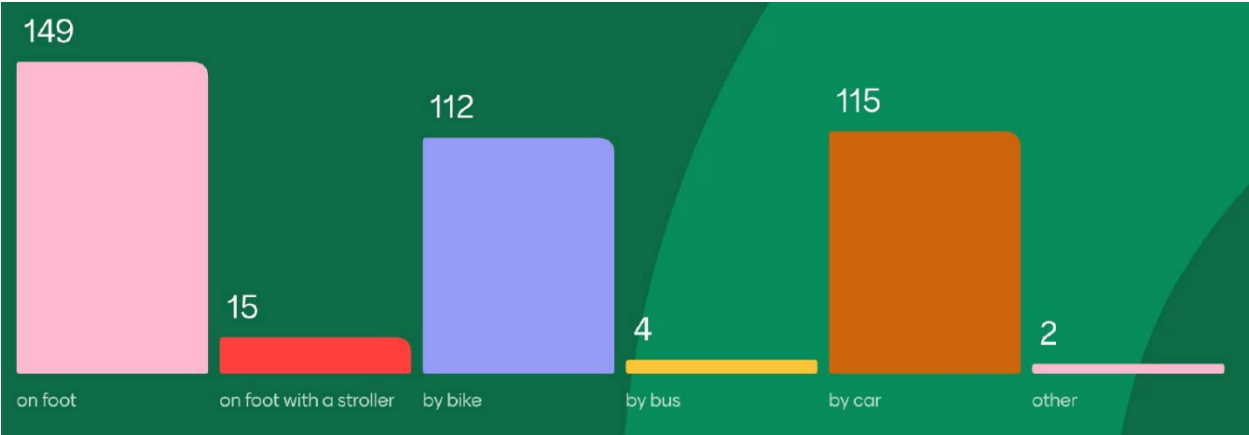
Exhibit 10. Condition of existing parks.



HOW PEOPLE ACCESS FACILITIES

Most survey respondents reported that they mostly get to parks, trails, and other recreational facilities by non-motorized means (walking (38%) and biking (28%)), rather than driving (29%), as shown in Exhibit 11. This corresponds well to survey respondents’ high interest in new trails and increased pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Exhibit 11. How people get to parks, trails, and other recreation facilities

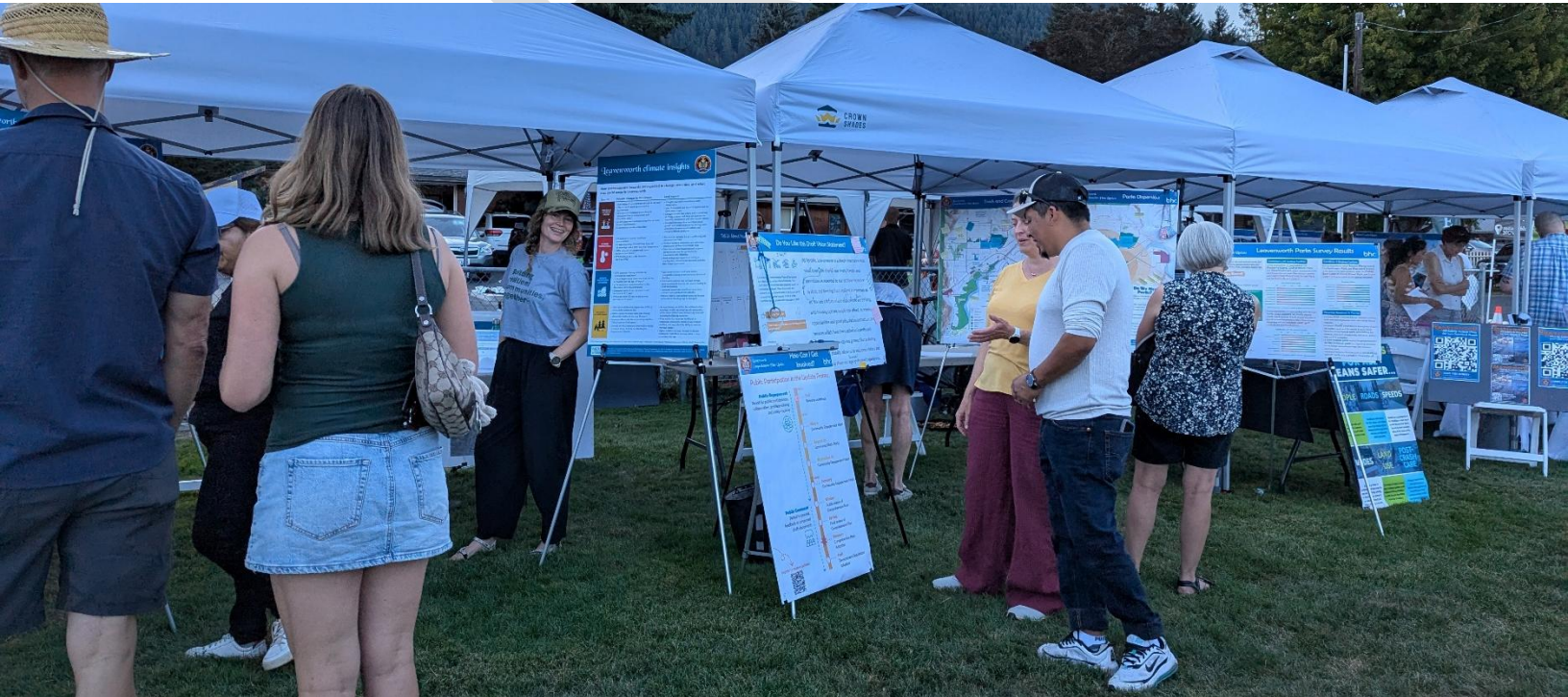


IDENTIFIED IMPROVEMENTS

Even among relatively highly rated parks, common survey responses indicate specific improvements to existing parks and recreational facilities would improve the condition and overall satisfaction with these facilities, such as:

- ◆ **More frequent maintenance** of trails, restrooms, sidewalks, and other park amenities.
- ◆ **Increased shade** at all parks, prioritizing parks that don't have any shade.
- ◆ **Improved amenities**, ranging from more restrooms, signage and updated interpretive signage, benches along trails, to covered and ADA compliant seating in parks, to
- ◆ **Increased swimming opportunities** such as an indoor pool, longer pool hours that aren't restricted to the summer, and adult-focused pool programming.
- ◆ Additional trails, **increased trail connections**, multi-use paths, and greater access to trails in the winter.

Community members are generally satisfied with the parks and recreational opportunities in the City but would like a greater focus on additional facilities and improvements that benefit those that live or work in Leavenworth year-round, rather than focusing solely on tourists. These recommendations have been incorporated throughout the Demands and Needs section and in the Parks Inventory conditions assessments of this Plan, and have informed numerous goals and policies.



Parks Inventory

OVERVIEW

More than 20 percent of the land within the City of Leavenworth – approximately 170 acres – is maintained as public parks and open space supporting a range of active and passive recreational activities. This section provides an inventory of City-owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities, and evaluates existing conditions and community needs. This section also includes other public and privately owned lands and recreational programming that contribute to a comprehensive system of parks, open space, and recreation which is highly valued by community members and visitors alike.

The Existing Facilities table, located in the Capital Facilities Element provides a summary of all existing parks, school sites, and outdoor resources that are available. This section provides an overview of the City's park and recreation facilities, evaluates their condition, and identifies potential maintenance or upgrades

CLASSIFICATIONS

The characteristics of each park classification serve as general guidelines regarding the size, service area, and use of each park or recreational facility.

Community Park

Community parks provide a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities for the broadest audience. These parks, which are typically larger than five acres, are intended to serve the entire community and may also be a destination for visitors. Typical amenities may include natural areas, trails, water access, picnic shelters, sport fields, and skate parks. Community parks and their amenities may accommodate non-profit organized sports (e.g., soccer, baseball, softball, etc.), large community events, and commercial recreation companies with a special use permit (e.g., rafting and tubing companies). For this reason, supporting facilities such as restrooms, parking lots, lighting, and trash receptacles may be provided. The City's community parks are reservable and serve as local neighborhood parks to surrounding residents. They include:

- ◆ Waterfront Park
- ◆ Enchantment Park



Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks provide informal active and passive recreation opportunities for residents within one-half mile. They are intended to serve local residents and be centrally located within new and established residential neighborhoods. The classification is largely defined by the presence of surrounding residential uses. Neighborhood parks typically range from one-half to five acres. Typical amenities may include open lawn areas, playgrounds, courts, picnic tables and benches. The City's neighborhood parks are reservable and include:

- ◆ Lions Club
- ◆ Osborn Property

Pocket Park

Pocket parks are the smallest park classification, typically limited to a half-acre in size. Similar to neighborhood parks, pocket parks may provide informal, albeit limited, active and passive recreation opportunities within walking distance of residents of the surrounding neighborhood. Pocket parks may contain natural areas, a playground, and picnic tables or benches. There are currently no pocket parks within the City.

Special Use Facility

Special use facilities are typically limited in purpose and designed to support a specific recreational use, such as a pool, golf course, boat launch, or dog park. Special use facilities are not limited in size and may be sited in conjunction with a park of another classification. Similar to community parks, special use facilities may function as a destination and attract users from a broad service area. Users may include community members from within City limits and the surrounding unincorporated area, as well as visitors to Leavenworth. Special use facilities may be independently operated on City-owned land. There are many special use facilities in the city, as listed below:

- ◆ Front Street Park
- ◆ Howard Hopkins Memorial Pool
- ◆ Leavenworth Public Boat Launch
- ◆ Leavenworth Golf Course
- ◆ Blackbird Island Fishing Pond
- ◆ Icicle Bridge Put-In



Open Spaces

Open spaces may include undeveloped park lands, environmentally sensitive areas, or highly-vegetated natural areas maintained for passive recreational enjoyment. These areas may include forest, critical areas, wildlife habitat, floodplains, and shorelines. Open spaces are not limited in size. Open Spaces provide many community benefits, including health and wellness, tourism, natural resource protection, and wildlife viewing. Open Spaces are largely undeveloped, but may include features like trails, water access, and wayfinding or interpretative signage. Not all open spaces may be accessible to the public.

- ◆ Blackbird Island
- ◆ Poplar Street Wetlands

Pathways

In addition to public sidewalks, there are three classifications of pathways, including trails, multi-use paths, and bike lanes. Multi-use paths (and sidewalks) are also referred to as “pedestrian facilities”. These pathways function for transportation and recreation. Pathways that primarily provide internal access within parks, such as from a parking lot to a playground, are not classified. All pathways are intended to be non-motorized but may accommodate service or emergency access.

TRAILS

Trails are multipurpose pathways typically within parks and open spaces. Trails may provide active or passive recreational opportunities, such as trail

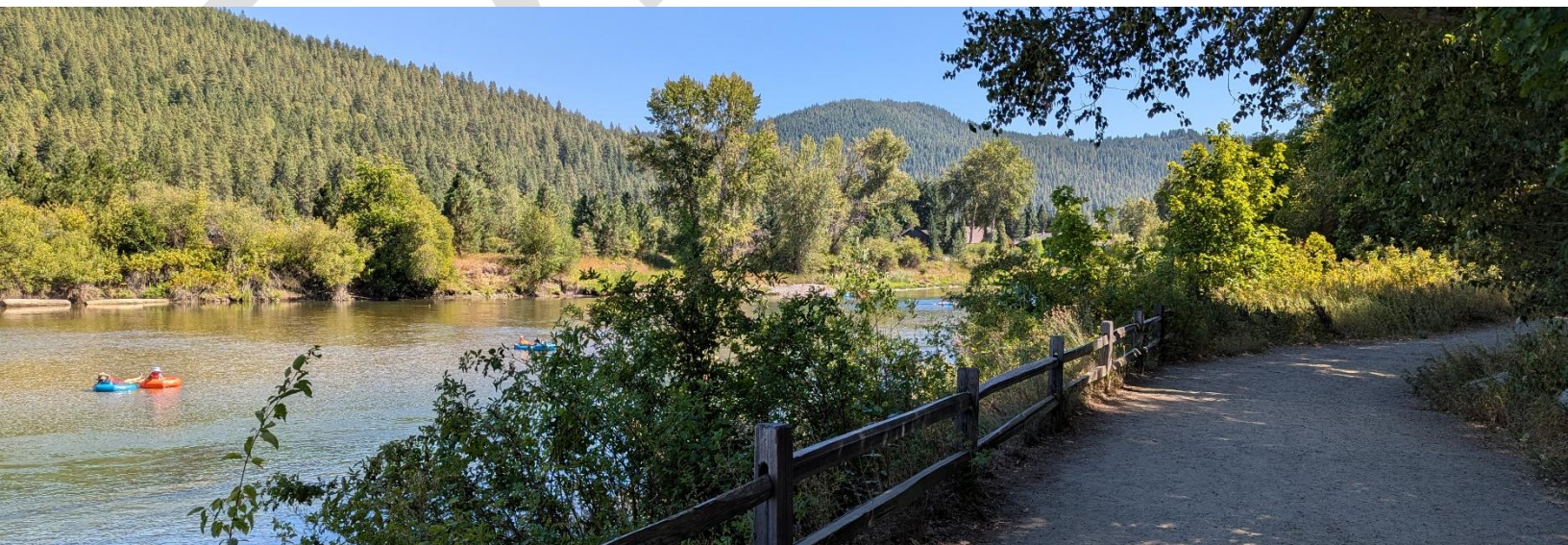
running, wildlife viewing, and water access. Educational opportunities may be provided through interpretative signage. Trails may be hard or soft-surfaced but are typically designed in harmony with the natural environment.

MULTI-USE PATHS

Multi-use paths are multipurpose paths that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians and bicyclists. They function as a non-motorized transportation facility to increase access to parks and public facilities, but also as a recreational amenity in itself. They are intended to align with popular walking/biking routes, and promote connectivity between parks, open spaces, schools, and the waterfront. Multi-use paths are often located along streets within public right-of-way and may coincide with sidewalks. They are typically hard-surfaced with well-marked street crossings, and separated from vehicles by grade, curb, or other buffer. Please see the Transportation Element of The City’s Comprehensive Plan for additional information.

BIKE LANES

Bike lanes are a designated area along a roadway for exclusive use by bicyclists. Bike lanes safely separate bicyclists from vehicle traffic to reduce the potential for collisions. Bike lanes are hard-surfaced and demarcated by painted pavement markings or physical buffers. The Transportation Element includes additional information on the City’s bike lanes, but numerous individuals provided feedback throughout public outreach highlighting the importance of additional bike lanes or multi-use paths to provide safer bike routes within the City.



INVENTORY

City Parks, Open Spaces, & Special Use Facilities

At present, the City of Leavenworth maintains about 76 acres of public land for active and passive recreational purposes (excluding the privately operated golf course). A map of the City's existing parks, open space, and recreational facilities can be found in Exhibit 12. An inventory of existing facilities can be found in Exhibit 13; Leavenworth's park system includes two community parks, two neighborhood parks, two open space facilities, and four special use facilities.

There are numerous other recreational opportunities in the City and throughout the region, provided by other public and private organizations. These include school grounds, National Forest land, and public land managed by non-profits and for-profit recreation companies.

In addition to the various publicly and privately managed recreation opportunities, the City entered into an interlocal agreement in 1998 with Chelan County, the Peshastin Community Council, the Chumstick Community Council, and the Cascade School District to form the Upper Valley Public Recreation Service Area (PRSA), a taxation district, to build, maintain, and operate the City's swimming pool. The legal boundaries for the PRSA includes all lands within the City of Leavenworth and the UGA.

In this inventory section, each aspect of the Leavenworth park system is described in further detail, including a description of each facility, the amenities located in each facility, and a brief assessment of the condition, including any planned improvements. The conditions discussions were developed by comparing a staff assessment worksheet with community assessments derived from the Park Survey; see Exhibit 10 for the full conditions assessment. City staff were asked to consider the conditions of amenities such as play equipment, restrooms and trash receptacles, parking or trail surfaces, in addition to the presence of invasive plants and recurring maintenance needs as they provided comments and rated facilities on a scale from one to five, as follows:

- ◆ 1 = critical condition/unsafe/unusable/needs immediate replacement
- ◆ 2 = fair condition/frequent or recurring maintenance needs/repair or replacement needed
- ◆ 3 = average condition/average maintenance needs
- ◆ 4 = above average condition/minor maintenance needs
- ◆ 5 = exceptional condition/like new

Staff assessments were compared to the Parks Survey, which asked respondents to rate the condition of facilities as follows:

- ◆ Very poor condition
- ◆ Below average condition
- ◆ Average condition
- ◆ Above average condition
- ◆ Excellent condition

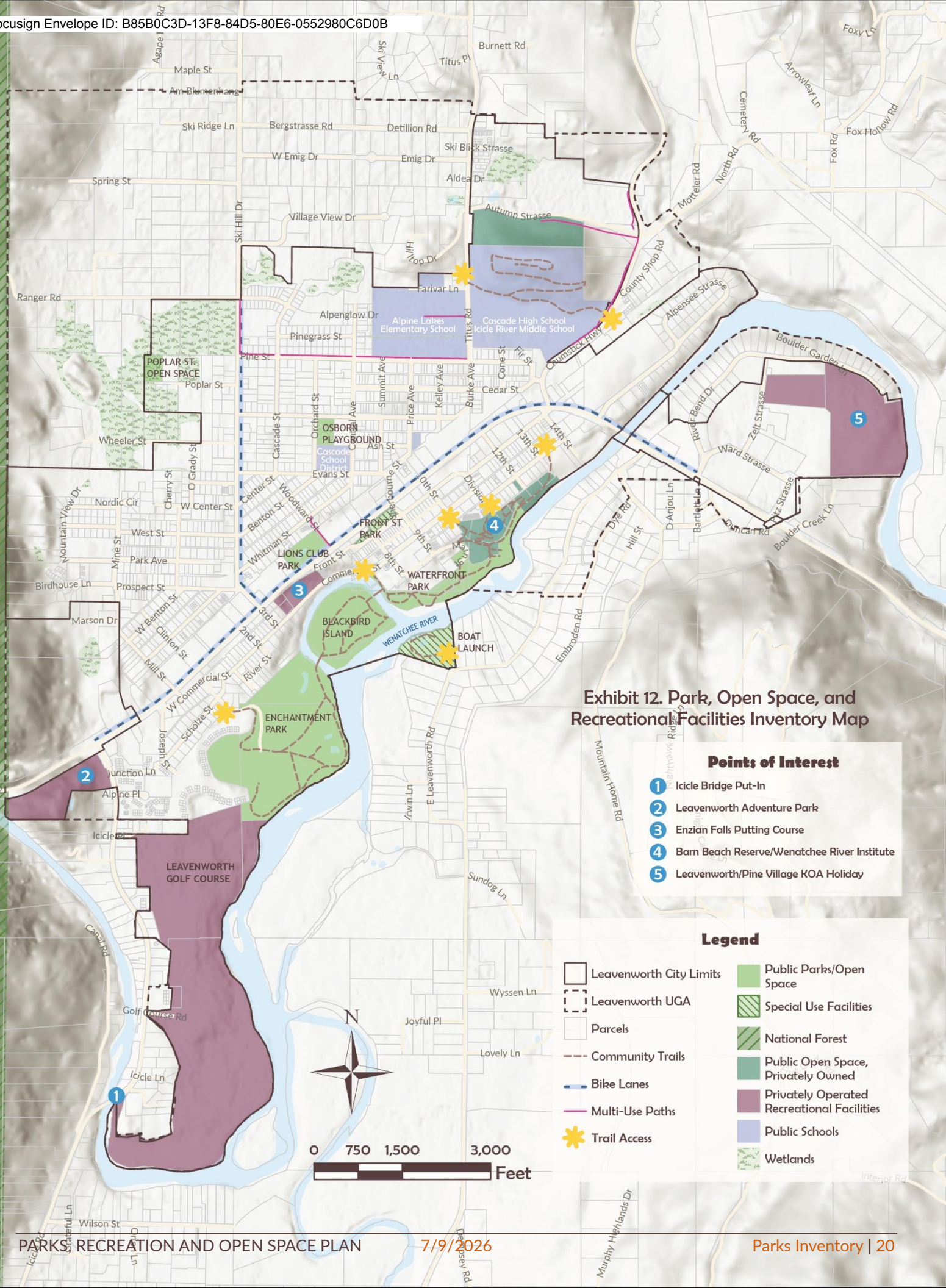
Community assessments were supplemented by discussions of respondents' overall satisfaction with facilities, where relevant.

Park Use Request

Anyone interested in reserving a City park, including local leagues, may submit a Park Use Request. Requests may be made up to one year in advance. Events with more than 100 attendees must also submit a Special Event Application. There is no reservation fee; however, there is a fee for requests to use the Front Street Park gazebo for personal use (i.e., weddings, proposals, etc.). The City's Park Policy (Resolution No. 22-2025, September 9, 2025) and additional Code requirements may apply (i.e., LMC 12.24 Park Use, LMC 9.34 Disorderly Conduct, etc.).

More information can be found on the city's website at: <https://cityofleavenworth.com/how-do-i/reserve-city-park/>





WELCOME TO LEAVENWORTH'S PARKS

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR PARKS ENJOYABLE FOR ALL BY FOLLOWING THESE RULES. THANKS:

OPEN AT 6:00 AM CLOSED AT 10:00 PM

 BICYCLES: ON TRAILS ONLY. SLOW SPEED ONLY. PARK IN BICYCLE RACKS.	 MOTOR VEHICLES: NOT ALLOWED BEYOND PARKING AREAS.
 FISHING: ONLY WHEN WA. STATE REGULATION PERMITS. DON'T CLEAN FISH WITHIN THIS PARK. PLEASE!	 PLEASE: DON'T TIE OR ATTACH ANY ITEM TO RAILINGS, STRUCTURES, TREES OR SHRUBS.
 PETS: LEASH AND CONTROL PETS. DON'T TIE PETS TO ANYTHING IN THE PARK. DO NOT LEAVE ANY PET UNATTENDED.	 WEAPONS: THE DISCHARGE OF ALL TYPES STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
 WATERCRAFT: LAUNCH BOATS AND RAFTS ONLY AT THE COMMERCIAL RAFT SITES. PERMITS REQUIRED FOR COMMERCIAL USERS.	 CAMPING: NO CAMPING ALLOWED.
 WILDLIFE: LOOK AT AND ENJOY BUT DON'T FEED. HARM, OR APPROACH.	 HORSES: ARE NOT PERMITTED.
	 FIRES: NO BAR-B-QUE DEVICES, CAMPFIRES, COALS, OR FIREWORKS ALLOWED.

PET WASTE
TRANSMITS DISEASE
LEASH YOUR DOG AND CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

PLEASE KEEP THIS AREA CLEAN



Exhibit 13. City of Leavenworth Park Inventory

			Features																	
			Lawn	Natural Areas	Trails	Cross-Country Ski Trails	Interpretative Signage	Water Access	Playground	Exercise Equipment	Ballfield	Soccer Field	Skate Park	Pump Track	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Trash Receptacles	Restrooms	Parking Lot	Reservable
Park Facilities	Size (Acres)	Trail Miles																		
Community Parks																				
Enchantment Park	40.74	1.15	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Waterfront Park	9.67	0.63	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆							◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Subtotal	50.41	1.78																		
Neighborhood Parks																				
Lions Club Park	1.02	0	◆												◆	◆	◆	◆		◆
Osborn Property	2.73	0	◆						◆	◆	◆	◆					◆			◆
Subtotal	3.75	0																		
Open Space																				
Blackbird Island	12.61	0.55		◆	◆		◆	◆									◆			
Poplar Street Wetlands	1.48	0		◆																
Subtotal	14.09	0.55																		
Special Use Facilities																				
East Leavenworth Boat Launch	4.74	0.14		◆	◆			◆									◆		◆	
Golf Course	95.29	0	◆	◆		◆											◆	◆	◆	
Front Street Park	1.15	0	◆				◆								◆	◆	◆	◆		◆
Howard Hopkins Memorial Pool	1.93	0	◆													◆	◆	◆	◆	
Subtotal	103.11	0.14																		
Total	171.36	2.47	7	6	4	2	4	4	3	1	2	2	1	1	2	5	9	6	5	5

COMMUNITY PARKS

Enchantment Park

Enchantment Park is a 40.74 acre Community Park located along the Wenatchee River. The park is accessed from West Commercial St via Enchantment Park Way. The park functions as a sports complex that accommodates both active and passive recreational uses, as well as organized community events. Over half of the park is a forested natural area with trails, water access, and a stocked fishing pond. Trails within the park connect users to Blackbird Island and Waterfront Park.

Other park amenities include picnic facilities, a playground, three ballfields, a skate park, a pump track, a paved parking lot, and restrooms. Ballfields include two softball fields (one lighted), and a junior baseball field that doubles as a youth soccer field. Trails and restrooms are open in the winter for walking and cross-country skiing. The park may be reserved. The park also includes a fishing pond, which is maintained and operated by the Icicle Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Conditions Assessment

The park is in average condition, as reported by City staff. Most of the trails, water access points, and park facilities like the skate park, soccer fields, and lawn have been identified as being in above average condition, with minor maintenance needs. Other amenities, including the playground, restrooms, and asphalt in the parking lot and pump track, may require more immediate maintenance or replacement in the short-term. In the Parks Survey, community members rated Enchantment Park as above average – excellent condition. Despite higher ratings, feedback provided in the Parks Survey aligns well with staff assessments determining that Enchantment Park needs updated restrooms, better winter parking, and additional play structures such as one with swings.



Conditions Assessment of Park Amenities	
Lawn	4
Natural Areas	3
Trails	4
Interpretive Signage	2
Water Access	4
Playground	2
Ballfield	3
Soccer Field	4
Skate Park	4
Pump Track	3
Picnic Tables	3
Trash Receptacles	4
Restrooms	2
Parking Lot	3
Staff Assessment Average	3.2
Community Assessment	Above Average - Excellent







Waterfront Park

Waterfront Park is a 9.67 acre park with approximately 3,000 feet of shoreline along the Wenatchee River. The park was largely funded by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation in 1975 and made possible by land donations. Waterfront Park offers great wildlife viewing opportunities, including deer, beaver, numerous birds, and fish jumping in the river.

Primary vehicular access is from Main Street with additional pedestrian access points. The park is a largely forested natural area with trails connecting pockets of open lawn, a playground, viewing platform, water access, and beach area. Trails are broad, well-lit, and lined with benches and interpretative signage. Support facilities include restrooms (open seasonally) and a gravel parking lot. Trails connect to Blackbird Island and Enchantment Park to the southwest, and the Barn Beach Reserve and privately owned natural areas (open to the public) to the northeast. Trails are open in the winter for walking and cross-country skiing. The park may be reserved.

Conditions Assessment

Waterfront Park is in fair to average condition, as reported by City staff. Most of the park amenities, including water access points, playground, picnic tables, and trash receptacles are in above average condition, and other amenities including natural areas, trails, restrooms, and amphitheater are in average condition with routine maintenance needs. Facilities that require immediate replacement and maintenance include the lawn, which needs a full replacement of the irrigation system, interpretive signage and viewing platform, which are due for an update, and the parking lot, which requires significant upgrades to ensure safe pedestrian access, prevent standing water and erosion, and encourage the efficient use of space.

Waterfront Park was relatively highly rated by community members in the Park Survey as being in average to above average condition. Community members reported wanting to see more benches, picnic tables, ADA accessible amenities, parking improvements, and drinking fountains in Waterfront Park. Community feedback provided in the Parks Survey aligns well with staff assessments determining that Waterfront Park would greatly benefit from upgraded and accessible parking, better-defined trailheads, and additional amenities like drinking fountains and updated restrooms, among other maintenance items.

Conditions Assessment of Park Amenities	
Lawn	2
Natural Areas	3
Trails	3
Interpretive Signage	2
Water Access	4
Playground	4
Picnic Tables	4
Trash Receptacles	4
Restrooms	3
Parking Lot	1
Staff Assessment Average	3.0
Community Assessment	Average - Above Average



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Lions Club Park

Lions Club Park is a 1.02 acre Neighborhood Park on the north side of Highway 2 between City Hall and the public pool. While located amidst bustling commercial activity and in proximity to downtown, the park is bordered by multifamily residential areas to the north. Park amenities include an open lawn with shade trees, picnic facilities, and a building with a kitchen and public restrooms. The kitchen is not open to the general public and is primarily used by the Lions Club, who obtains an annual Special Use Permit to host community events, such as the pancake breakfast, in the park throughout the year. Picnic tables belong to and are maintained by the Lion’s Club. In the summer, the park is also used every Saturday for a farmers market. The park may be reserved.

Conditions Assessment

Lions Club Park is primarily managed by the Lions Club, who maintain the picnic tables. Among the amenities maintained by the City: the lawn, trash receptacles, restrooms, and the building, have been rated as above average condition by staff, requiring only minor maintenance needs, though the lawn is frequently uneven and poses accessibility issues. A mural has been identified as a potential improvement to help distinguish the restroom from the rest of the park and adjacent highway. Given the frequent use of the community breakfasts and farmers market, staff have also identified the need for a plaza or covered picnic area to increase accessibility.

Although community members participating in the Parks Survey have noted they use Lions Club Park fairly infrequently, they have also expressed dissatisfaction with the park and have rated it as average condition. Potential improvements identified by community members, similar to staff assessments, include repaired or new sidewalks, additional picnic areas, increased shade, and new play structures. While the existing amenities seem to be in good condition, there are still numerous improvements that could be made to increase use and enhance user experience, especially for residents who may not currently be inclined to use the park as often.

The Lions Club

Lions Club Park is home to the Lions Club of Leavenworth. The Lions Club is a worldwide service club where members volunteer their time and skills to improve their communities, driven by their motto “We Serve.” The Lions Club of Leavenworth serves the community in many ways, including serving community breakfasts throughout most of the spring to early fall, organizing highway cleanups, free health screenings, and numerous other community-wide projects.

Conditions Assessment of Park Amenities	
Lawn	4
Trash Receptacles	4
Restrooms	4
Staff Assessment Average	4.0
Community Assessment	Average - Above Average





Osborn Property

The City acquired the Osborn Property from the Cascade School District in 2021. The property includes a playground, 25,328 square foot former school building which is currently vacant, 10,373 square foot covered storage area, plus open space. It is also adjacent to the Cascade School District’s tennis courts. The Osborn playground was constructed in 2024, in the northwest corner of the site. Additional amenities include a play structure and exercise equipment. A little league-sized ball field is located to the south of the playground. The Osborn Property may be reserved, and is used for community events such as the Community Block Party.

Conditions Assessment

The developed portion of the Osborn Property, particularly the playground area, exercise equipment, and trash receptacles, is in excellent condition. The lawn, ballfields, and soccer fields are in fair or average condition, with frequent maintenance needed. The lawn, which is irrigated separately from the Cascade School District portion of the property, needs a new irrigation system, and the ballfields need new backstops and proper maintenance of the infield. Overall, considering the high-quality playground and required maintenance for the rest of the park, the Osborn Property is in average – above average condition as rated by staff. Community members rank Osborn as one of the City’s top parks in terms of condition. Though they visit the park less frequently than other parks, they report high satisfaction alongside a desire for future improvements like increased shade and drinking fountains.

Conditions Assessment of Park Amenities	
Lawn	3
Playground	5
Exercise Equipment	5
Ballfield	2
Soccer Field	3
Trash Receptacles	4
Staff Assessment Average	3.7
Community Assessment	Above Average - Excellent

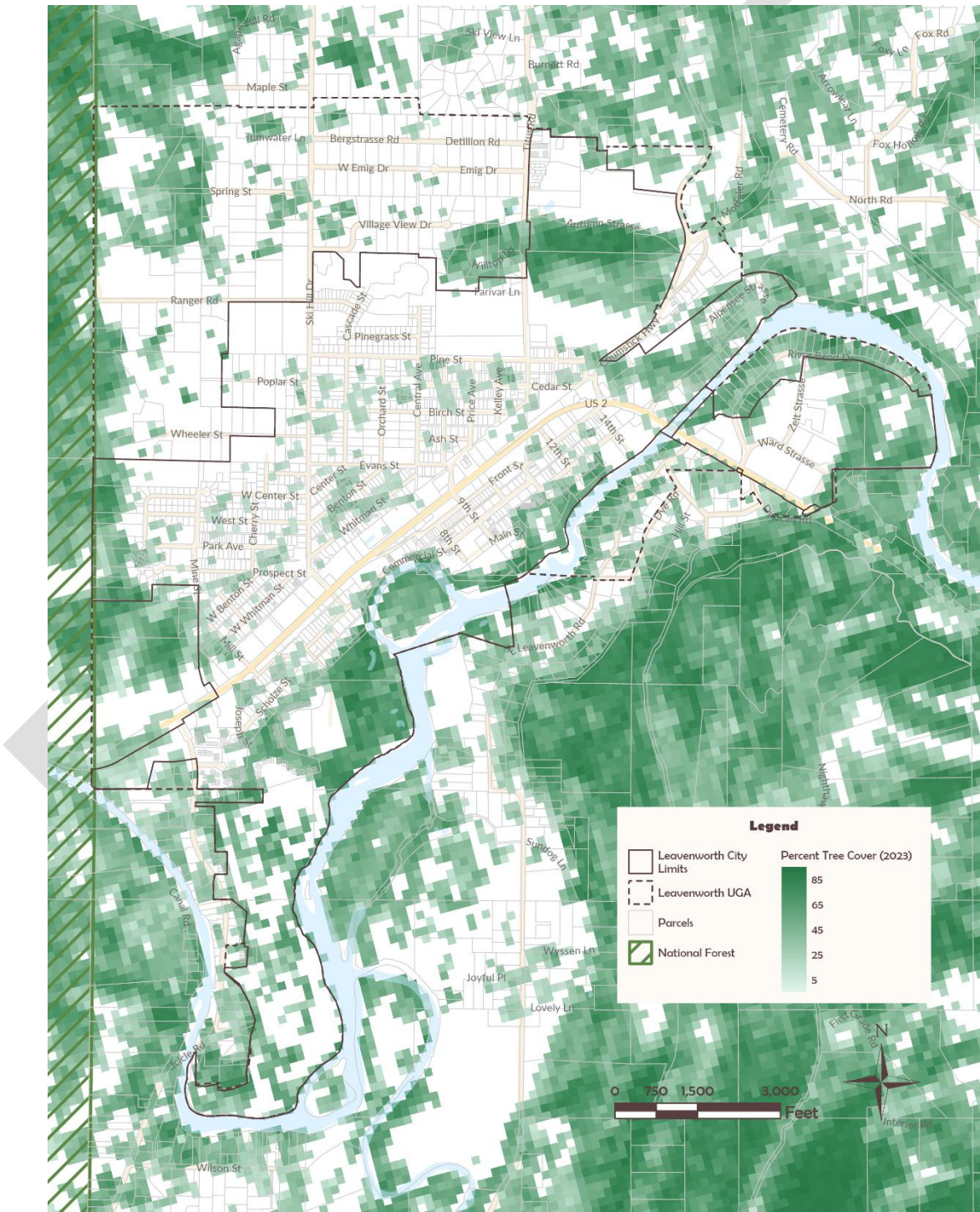
As further discussed in the Demands and Needs section, the Osborn Property has been identified as a viable location for a combined indoor aquatic center, public library, and multi-functional indoor/outdoor community gathering space. The existing playground will be preserved and integrated into future site designs, regardless of the ultimate scope of development.

OPEN SPACES

Designated open spaces include Blackbird Island and the Poplar Street Wetlands, which not only provide opportunities for passive recreation but also provide critical habitat and improve climate resilience.

Blackbird Island in particular, along with Enchantment and Waterfront Parks, is a large contributor to the City’s tree canopy, as shown in Exhibit 14. This canopy is primarily composed of Black Cottonwood trees, complemented by a mix of Douglas-Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Sugar Maple, and Lodgepole Pine trees. These open space resources contribute to City’s green infrastructure, which the City seeks to expand through strategic land acquisition and the preservation and restoration of native trees and vegetation.

Exhibit 14. Existing Tree Canopy Coverage



Blackbird Island

Blackbird Island is a 12.61 acre forested natural area set within the Wenatchee River. Blackbird Island is accessed by trails over non-motorized bridges from Waterfront Park to the northeast and Enchantment Park to the southwest. Amenities include soft-surfaced trails, water access, and interpretative signage. It is a critical resource for shoreline access and wildlife viewing.

Conditions Assessment

Blackbird island is highly valued and used frequently by community members. The island’s natural areas and trails are a vital part of the City’s park system, and provide an essential connection to both the water and to the adjacent parks of Enchantment and Waterfront Park. City staff have rated its amenities to be in above average condition, aside from the interpretive signage which is outdated and in need of replacement. Feedback from community members highlight additional opportunities for improvement, including new benches and more frequent trail maintenance to repair worn paths and reduce wildfire loads.

Conditions Assessment of Park Amenities	
Natural Areas	4
Trails	4
Interpretive Trails	2
Water Access	4
Trash Receptacles	4
Staff Assessment Average	3.6
Community Assessment	Average - Above Average



Poplar Street Wetlands

Poplar Street Wetlands is a 1.48 acre natural area located at the western terminus of Poplar Street. This natural area is made up of two parcels, which were acquired by the City as mitigation for wetland impacts on School District property. The wetland is a Category II wetland according to the Leavenworth Regional Stormwater Plan Wetland Inventory Report¹⁰, meaning it provides high-level ecological functions for water quality improvement, stormwater management, and wildlife habitats that are difficult to replace.

Conditions Assessment

City staff have rated the Poplar Street Wetlands as average condition. This natural area is unimproved; however, the City is considering the feasibility of a trail that would span from the Poplar Street Wetlands to the wetlands on the north side of city limits near the Alpine Lakes Elementary School. The establishment of a trail, consistent with the City’s Critical Areas Ordinance, could include additional amenities in the natural area, such as wayfinding or interpretive signage, benches, and trash receptacles. While the Parks Survey did not explicitly ask community members about the condition of the wetlands, they rated the City’s “other natural areas” as being in average to above average condition.

¹⁰ Grete Associates (July 19, 2016).



SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Front Street Park

Front Street Park is a 1.15 acre special use facility located between Front Street and Highway 2. Due to its central location in downtown Leavenworth, the park serves a diverse audience and acts as a vibrant hub for numerous community events throughout the year. The park's sloping topography provides a connection between Front Street and the river, providing plenty of space for community members and visitors to picnic or watch performances held in the park. In addition to the park's main amenities, the park also includes a plaza, gazebo, maypole, and a community bulletin which all contribute to the event space and community feel.

The park's gazebo often serves as an outdoor stage for the performing arts, while the maypole facilitates the City's Maifest celebrations. Several regional events are hosted here, including Christkindlmarkt, the Christmas Lighting Festival, Icefest, the Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration, Leavenworth Spring Bird Festival, Kinderfest, Washington State Autumn Leaf Festival, and Oktoberfest, among others. Additionally, the open lawn is utilized throughout the year for community events, such as Art in the Park, and transforms into a popular destination for sledding and snow play in the winter. Front Street Park and the gazebo are reservable, aside from December, for a fee.

The park's overall capacity was enhanced by the recently completed Front Street Restroom and Stairway Expansion project¹¹, which expanded restroom facilities to also include gender-neutral facilities, and reconstructed the covered concrete stairs to improve accessibility and safety.

Conditions Assessment

City staff have identified a couple of necessary improvements for Front Street Park, focusing on structural repairs to the gazebo and increased maintenance for the highly-trafficked lawn. The remaining amenities, including the interpretive signage, community bulletin, restrooms, and trash receptacles have all been identified as above average condition or exceptional condition, with minor ongoing maintenance needs. Despite this, Park Survey results indicate the park would benefit from sidewalk improvements, increased shade, and new picnic areas, picnic shelters, and play structures. These community needs align well with the park's role as a central corridor in the City's downtown.

Front Street Park is permanently closed to vehicular traffic (with limited hours for delivery access) and serves as a pedestrian-oriented corridor in the heart of downtown. As of March 2026, the Front Street Pedestrian Plaza project¹² is in the design phase. Planned improvements include the creation of Royal Lady Plaza, envisioned as an inviting public gathering space featuring a small green area, seating, public art, and additional tree plantings to enhance shade and comfort. The project may also include upgrades to the existing gazebo and enhancements to the adjacent Front Street Park area, further strengthening the corridor as a vibrant community destination for residents and visitors.

Conditions Assessment of Park Amenities	
Lawn	3
Interpretive Signage	4
Trash Receptacles	5
Restrooms	5
Staff Assessment Average	4.3
Community Assessment	Below Average - Average

¹¹ City of Leavenworth "Front Street Restroom & Stairway Expansion,"

<https://cityofleavenworth.com/projects/front-street-restroom-stairway-expansion/>

¹² City of Leavenworth "Front Street Pedestrian Plaza Project," <https://cityofleavenworth.com/your-city-hall/news-notice/update-on-the-front-street-pedestrian-plaza-project/>



East Leavenworth Boat Launch

The City provides a public boat launch on a 4.74 acre site on the south bank of the Wenatchee River. Accessed via East Leavenworth Road, this facility serves as a critical resource for shoreline access and a primary hub for river-based recreation. The site currently features a natural area, short trail, concrete ramp for water access, and a gravel parking lot. While the boat launch is heavily trafficked by residents and visitors, commercial rafting companies also utilize the launch for put-in/take-out with a Special Use Permit. There is no fee for public use.

Conditions Assessment

Despite its high utility, City staff categorize the boat launch as being in fair to average condition, with key infrastructure requiring significant upgrades. The parking lot experiences drainage issues and is often full of puddles; paving and striping are needed to ensure accessibility, improve safety, and manage high-volume traffic. The concrete boat ramp also requires replacement to maintain shoreline access. While the trails and natural areas are in average condition, they require additional restoration to mitigate the impacts of heavy foot and vehicle traffic, especially in the summer months. The trash receptacles, which are only out seasonally, are in good condition.

To maintain the boat launch as a critical recreational facility and transition it to a more functional asset, the City is planning improvements to modernize the parking facilities and add picnic tables and shelters.

Parks Survey respondents also rated the boat launch as being in average condition and specified the need for parking improvements and additional amenities like picnic tables. Community members have also suggested expanding the boat launch to include the beach next to it. The UVRT Plan also proposes a pedestrian bridge from Waterfront Park to the boat launch to further increase shoreline access and connectivity between parks; this potential pedestrian bridge is also reflected in Policy PR-7.5 to increase connectivity among the City’s parks.

Conditions Assessment of Park Amenities	
Natural Areas	3
Trails	3
Water Access	2
Trash Receptacles	4
Parking Lot	2
Staff Assessment Average	2.8
Community Assessment	Below Average - Very Poor



Golf Course

The Leavenworth Golf Club is an 18-hole, Par 71 course encompassing 5,746 yards on a 95.29 acre City-owned property. While the course was established in 1927, the City has owned the property since 1968, currently maintaining a long-term lease for private operation. Located at the City's southern boundary, the property features over one mile of shoreline along the Wenatchee River; however, there is no public access, with primary vehicular access provided via Icicle Road. The facility serves as a key regional asset for Cascade High School and the Upper Valley. During the winter season, the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club maintains cross-country ski trails, snowshoe trails, and a sledding hill on the golf course grounds in agreement with the City.

Conditions Assessment

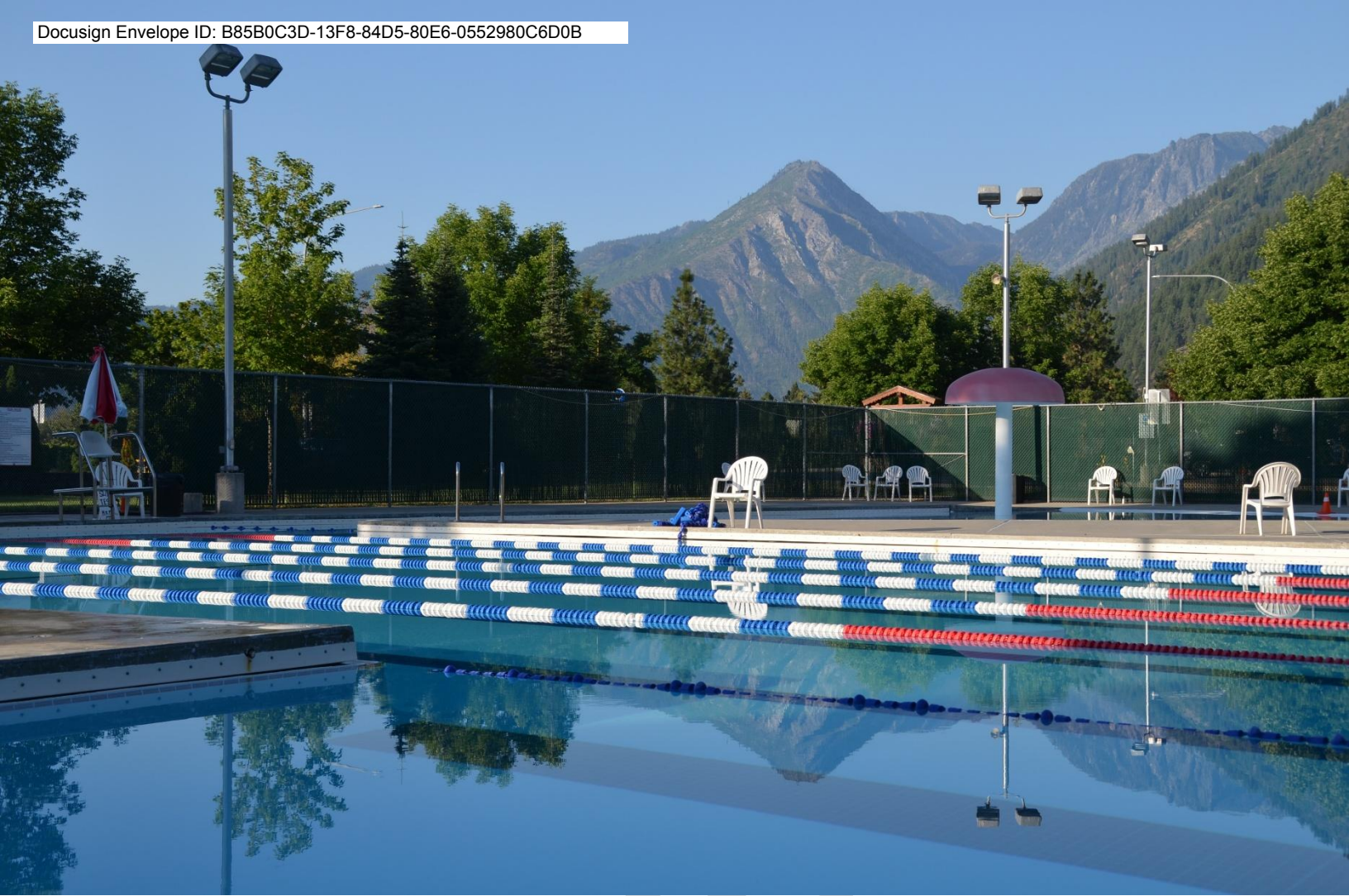
As a privately operated facility, City staff did not assess the condition of the golf course nor did the Parks Survey ask respondents to rate the condition of the golf course. However, for community members who use the golf course, they are mostly satisfied or extremely satisfied with the golf course, with only a small percentage voicing dissatisfaction. Some community members have expressed a desire for public access trails on the golf course, especially to connect Enchantment Park to the Icicle Bridge put-in.

Amenities

The Leavenworth Golf Club, in addition to an 18 hole course, provides the following amenities to patrons:

- ◆ Lawn
- ◆ Natural Areas
- ◆ Cross-Country Ski Trails
- ◆ Trash Receptacles
- ◆ Restrooms
- ◆ Parking Lot
- ◆ Clubhouse





Howard Hopkins Memorial Pool

The Howard Hopkins Memorial Pool was built in 2003 and is located on the north side of Highway 2, west of Lions Club Park. The outdoor pool facility is open seasonally during warm weather months, and accommodates open swim, lap swim, and swimming lessons. The parking lot, which is accessed off Highway 2, is restricted to designated permit parking; a seasonal pool parking pass is required.

Pool maintenance and operational costs are supported by a property tax levy on residents within the Upper Valley Park and Recreation Service Area (PRSA), as well as user fees. The PRSA was formed in 1997 with the primary purpose of funding the reconstruction and maintenance of the pool. The City has an interlocal agreement with the PRSA, which designates the City to act as lead agency for the purpose of planning, operation and maintenance of the pool; the interlocal agreement expires in 2042.

Conditions Assessment

City staff have rated the overall condition of the facilities to be average. The pool itself is in fair condition and requires recurring maintenance and repairs. The parking lot is in fair condition, with occasional maintenance needs, and the rest of the pool amenities including the picnic tables, trash receptacles, and restrooms are in average condition overall. While the Parks Survey did not include a conditions rating for the pool, community members have expressed significant dissatisfaction with the pool (Exhibit 9) and numerous suggestions were received in the open-ended survey questions that relate to the pool, as described in the [Demands and Needs](#) section.

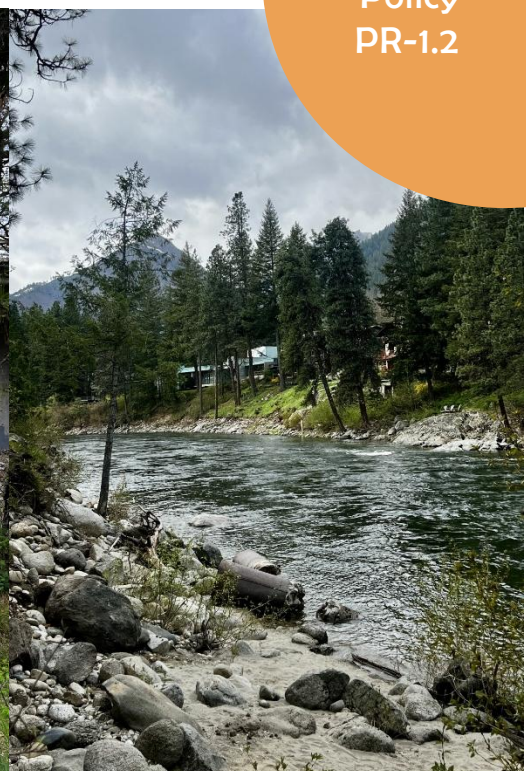
Conditions Assessment of Park Amenities	
Picnic Tables	5
Trash Receptacles	3
Restrooms	2
Parking Lot	2
Staff Assessment Average	3
Community Assessment	N/A



Icicle Bridge Put-In

The Icicle Bridge Put-In is located on City-owned property to the south of the Icicle Road Bridge on the east side of the Wenatchee River. The site includes dirt parking area and portable toilets. Commercial tubing and rafting companies utilize the site for water access with a Special Use Permit. The Icicle Bridge Put-In is open to the public with limited parking options. The City is considering improvements to this site to provide safe water access and ensure ADA accessibility (see Policy PR-1.2).

See
related
Policy
PR-1.2



PATHWAYS AND TRAILS

Trails along the Wenatchee River provide significant benefits to both the community and the natural environment, including wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and educational purposes related to habitat protection and stewardship. Additional trails provide connections within parks – particularly along the waterfront – and link residents and visitors to recreational amenities throughout the city.

In an effort to meet the community's goals for increased connectivity and accessibility, the city supports complete streets and connected trail systems both within the City and regionally. The 2009 Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan outlines numerous trail types which could be developed in the region. Chelan County is currently working on developing a Pathways Plan (a draft was issued in 2020) outlining potential improvements and expansions of non-motorized and micro-motorized pathways throughout the region. The Leavenworth to Cashmere to Wenatchee Corridor Study¹³ was completed in November 2025 as part of this effort.

Exhibit 15. Inventory of Existing Pathways

Name	Miles
Trails	
Enchantment Park	1.15
Waterfront Park	0.63
Blackbird Island	0.55
Boat Launch	0.14
Rattlesnake Trail	0.96
Barn Beach Reserve	0.74
Subtotal	4.17
Multi-Use Paths	
Pine Street	0.5
Chumstick Hwy	0.4
Subtotal	0.90
Bike Lanes	
Highway 2	1.3
Ski Hill Drive	0.69
Subtotal	1.99
Total	7.06

The City's existing trails are described below. Please reference the individual park inventory pages for a full description of each park and its amenities.

Enchantment Park

Trails in Enchantment Park primarily connect the Waterfront Park trail system to the golf course and provide cross-country skiing opportunities in winter, when the park is otherwise closed.

Waterfront Park

Trails in Waterfront Park connect people to the beach, picnic areas, restroom facilities, playgrounds, parking, and the amphitheater. They also provide opportunities for bird watching, benches, shoreline access, and connections to Enchantment Park, the golf course, and Barn Beach Reserve. The trails include numerous interpretive signs to explain the natural and cultural history of the area.

Blackbird Island

Blackbird Island bridges the gap between Waterfront Park and Enchantment Park, providing over half a mile of trails and recreational opportunities including bird watching, shoreline access, and interpretive signage.

Boat Launch

The Leavenworth Boat Launch features a short, 0.14 mile trail adjacent to the parking lot.

Rattlesnake Trail

Rattlesnake Trail is located behind Cascade High School and Icicle River Middle School and provides around 2 miles of round-trip hiking.

Barn Beach Reserve

The interpretive trails provided in the Barn Beach Reserve connect to Waterfront Park and are complimented by the numerous recreational opportunities provided by the Wenatchee River Institute.

See Goals PR-7 and PR-8 for trails and connectivity related policies.

¹³ Leavenworth to Cashmere to Wenatchee Corridor Study.

Multi-Use Paths

There are a couple of multi-use paths in the City, which are widely used by residents: one extending along Pine Street and another following Chumstick Highway heading north out of the city. They allow for safer pedestrian and bicycle travel and are an important part of the City's transportation network. Both paths are paved and physically separated from the road by curbing and functional bioswales. The path on the north side of Pine Street was completed in 2019, and Phase 2 is anticipated for completion by 2028. This next phase will connect the existing Pine Street path, which ends at Titus Road, to the multi-use path along Chumstick Highway, and includes a new roundabout at the intersection of Pine Street and Chumstick Highway to calm traffic and further increase pedestrian safety and access.

The City's Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan identifies several additional multi-use trail corridors, many of which were highlighted by community members throughout community outreach for this PROS Plan. These corridors align with the data-driven priorities for the City's Transportation Safety Action Plan (currently under review as of March 2026), which identifies multi-use paths and protected bike lanes as crucial strategies to improve safety. For a detailed discussion on future multi-use trail priorities, please refer to the [Demands and Needs](#) section.

Want to learn more?

Information about Phase 2 can be found on the city's website at:
<https://cityofleavenworth.com/projects/pine-street-phase-2-titus-road-to-chumstick-highway/>



Other Public Lands & Recreational Opportunities

In addition to the City's inventoried public parks and trails, the community is also served by other recreational opportunities provided by public lands and facilities, which are viewed as "park amenities" by community members.

CASCADE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cascade School District No. 228 is a public school district in western Chelan County that covers a service area of 1,175 square miles. Four of the five district schools are located in Leavenworth, which draw students from the surrounding communities of Dryden, Peshastin, Lake Wenatchee, Plain, Lower Blewett, and Winton. Cascade School District facilities in Leavenworth include:

- ◆ **Alpine Lakes Elementary School** – fields, children's play equipment;
- ◆ **Icicle River Middle School / Cascade High School** - fields, children's play equipment;
- ◆ **Rattlesnake Hill** (north of middle/high school) – natural area, trails;
- ◆ **Cascade School District Property** (south of Osborn Property) – field, tennis courts.

The School District maintains around 55 acres of land, including land designated for various types of outdoor recreation and organized sports, along with other activities. While these amenities are intensively used mid-week throughout the school year, they are otherwise underutilized.

The City does not have a formal agreement with the School District for public use of the grounds or facilities, but it does have a maintenance agreement for shared use of the irrigation system at the Osborn Property.

OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest encompasses 3.8 million acres along the eastern slopes of the Cascade Range, from the Canadian border to the Yakama Reservation. The Leavenworth Ranger Station is located on the north side of Highway 2 (600 Sherbourne St.) within city limits.

The very popular Enchantments area in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's Alpine Lakes Wilderness, along with numerous other natural areas, campgrounds, and trailheads, are accessed via Icicle Road. Icicle Road extends south from the City and eventually becomes a network of forest service roads. Leavenworth community members and visitors highly value this proximity for year-round access to natural areas and recreation opportunities, including camping, hiking, biking, climbing, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and winter sports.



Other Private Lands & Recreational Opportunities

Community members and visitors alike are also well-served by private lands and recreational opportunities.

WENATCHEE RIVER INSTITUTE

The Wenatchee River Institute (WRI) is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to connect people, communities and the natural world. The WRI owns and operates a learning center adjacent to Waterfront Park at the Barn Beach Reserve. The 13 acre campus includes the River Haus (offices and visitor center), Red Barn Learning Center (education and event space), E. Lorene Young House (program space), an outdoor classroom, gardens, natural areas, and trails. The WRI trails seamlessly connect to trails within Waterfront Park and City property. The campus is open to the public.

The WRI provides diverse environmental educational programs to engage learners of all ages in their Red Barn Learning Center and outdoor classroom, maintains seven different gardens throughout their campus, and provides public access to educational collections including a taxidermy, butterfly and moth, and a Watershed Art collection in the historic River Haus. They also maintain many trails on their campus, which are publicly accessible and provide connections to the City's parks.

Conversations with the WRI have informed the development of the goals and policies of this plan, specifically as related to trail maintenance, ADA accessibility, bike facilities, additional restrooms, and nature-based recreation and education. When coordinating trail maintenance and development, the city should consider partnering with the WRI to prioritize the ADA accessibility of trails, improve maintenance, and promote nature-based education programs or campaigns.

Relevant policies can be found in PR-6.4 and PR-8.1.

COMMUNITY RECREATION LEAGUES

Several recreation leagues operate within the community. These leagues may reserve City parks and recreation fields through a Park Use Request. Local leagues have priority for reserving and using ball fields per City Park Policy. Local leagues include but are not limited to the Leavenworth Soccer Club, Leavenworth BAMS softball league, Cascade Youth Baseball, and Upper Valley Little League.



Want to learn more?

Information about the WRI, their work, and educational programs may be found at: wenatcheeriverinstitute.org

LEAVENWORTH WINTER SPORTS CLUB

The Leavenworth Winter Sports Club has facilitated winter recreation in the vicinity since 1928. The Club has operated the Leavenworth Ski Hill since 1930 on land within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The ski area is located at the north terminus of Ski Hill Road about a half mile north of City limits. The ski area includes downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, a ski jump, a sledding hill, and trails. The Club maintains over 15 miles of cross-country ski trails at four locations in the vicinity, including the Icicle River Trails, Leavenworth Golf Course, Peshastin Mill Site, and the Ski Hill trail system.

RAFTING & TUBING COMPANIES

Several private rafting and tubing companies operate on the Wenatchee River. These companies obtain a Special Use Permit for Commercial Water Access, which allows them to put-in and take-out on City property. This occurs at the Icicle Bridge Put-In, the Boat Launch, Enchantment Park, and Waterfront Park (Barn Beach).

The City issues approximately three Special Use Permits a year for this purpose. These companies are required to obtain liability insurance, provide an operations plan, and comply with the terms and conditions of the permit. There is a one-time permit fee, as well as a fee per customer collected monthly.

COMMERCIAL RECREATION

Several private resorts and commercial attractions provide recreational amenities that support both the tourism economy and local recreational opportunities and complement the City's public park and recreational facilities. Such recreational amenities include indoor and outdoor pools, arcades, golf simulators, multi-functional sports courts, cross-country ski rentals, and an 18-hole professional putting course that provides equipment rentals. Other recreational opportunities include an alpine coaster, climbing wall, and a mining sluice for gemstone panning. These commercial attractions provide specialized recreational options that compliment the City's natural setting and existing park and recreational system.

Special Use Permit

The City may issue a Special Use Permit (SUP) to a private business to allow commercial use of City properties. An applicant is required to pay a fee and provide a detailed description of the proposal, a copy of liability insurance coverage, and a Management Plan that addresses hours of operation, sanitation facilities, security, clean-up, etc. Additional information may be required depending on the nature of the use. The proposed use is subject to the terms and conditions of the permit. The City's Park Policy and additional Code requirements may apply (i.e., LMC 5.38 Festivals, LMC 12.24 Park Regulations, etc.).

SUP examples include: the use of City-owned waterfront by private rafting and tubing company launch boats; the use of Lions Club Park for a community pancake breakfast; and the use of Front Street Park for a festival.

TROUT UNLIMITED FISHING POND

Trout Unlimited maintains and operates a fishing pond in Enchantment Park through a land use agreement with the City. The stocked fishing pond is available for use by children under 15 years of age, seniors, and anglers with a disability who possess a designated harvested companion card. The pond is stocked with Cutthroat trout every year before it opens on July 1st for the season. Trout Unlimited also conducts educational programming on site. In 2025, Trout Unlimited obtained a permit to replace the existing failing pump system and to add ADA accessible amenities and new interpretive signs to the fishing pond.

LEAVENWORTH NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

The Leavenworth Fish Hatchery raises 1.2 million spring Chinook salmon each year.¹⁴ The hatchery maintains a public boat launch, tribal fishing area, and over 5 miles of public trails. On site, the Icicle Creek Nature Trail provides a wide, level, and scenic trail that is perfect for those of all ages and abilities. The Fish Hatchery provides an interpretive brochure that allows users to learn about local ecology and the role of fish hatcheries.

SLEEPING LADY MOUNTAIN RESORT

Along Icicle Creek is the Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort, which provides vital recreational and cultural amenities for the City and the broader service area. The resort maintains a network of well-maintained, low-impact trails that are open to the public and cater to a variety of skill levels, many of which are ADA accessible. In the winter, the trails are accessible for snowshoeing and cross country skiing. The resort is also known for its art walk, which features numerous pieces of both indoor and outdoor art, including sculptures, rotating exhibits, and permanent exhibits on regional history and ecology. The resort also shares its grounds with the Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, a music and theater venue that provides additional recreational opportunities.

¹⁴ Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, <https://www.fws.gov/fish-hatchery/leavenworth>



Exhibit 16. Conditions Assessment of Park Amenities

			Staff Assessment of Park Amenities																	
			Lawn	Natural Areas	Trails	Cross-Country Ski Trails	Interpretative Signage	Water Access	Playground	Exercise Equipment	Ballfield	Soccer Field	Skate Park	Pump Track	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Trash Receptacles	Restrooms	Parking Lot	Reservable
Park Facilities	Community Assessment	Park Average																		
Community Parks																				
Enchantment Park	Above Average - Excellent	3.2	4	3	4		2	4	2		3	4	4	3		3	4	2	3	
Waterfront Park	Average - Above Average	3.0	2	3	3		2	4	4						4	4	3	1		
Neighborhood Parks																				
Lions Club Park	Average - Above Average	4.0	4												*	4	4			
Osborn Property	Above Average - Excellent	3.7	3						5	5	2	3				4				
Open Space																				
Blackbird Island	Average - Above Average	3.6		4	4		2	4								4				
Poplar Street Wetlands	N/A	3.0		3																
Other Natural Areas	Average - Above Average																			
Special Use Facilities																				
Boat Launch	Below Average - Very Poor	2.8		3	3			2								4		2		
Golf Course	N/A																			
Front Street Park	Below Average - Average	4.3	3				4									5	5			
Howard Hopkins Memorial Pool	N/A	3.0													5	3	2	2		
Averages		3.4	3	3	4		3	4	3.7	5	3	4	4	3		4	4.1	4	2.3	

* Picnic tables in Lions Club Park belong to and are maintained by the Lion's Club.

Demands and Needs

LEVEL OF SERVICE

The City's 1997 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan established a parks level of service (LOS) standard of six acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Using that standard, the 2024 population estimate of 2,595 would result in a demand of 15.57 acres and the 2046 population estimate of 3,555 would result in a demand of 21.33 acres. The City currently has about 55 acres of park land, which does not even include the 115 acres of open space and special use facilities. This population-based LOS gives the impression that the current supply of park land far exceeds what is needed over the next 20 years. However, based on community feedback on parks and recreation availability and the unique role tourism plays in Leavenworth's recreation demand, a purely population-based LOS standard does not meaningfully reflect whether existing park and recreation facilities are meeting the community's needs.

Tourism effectively increases the user population of Leavenworth's recreational facilities by an estimated 3.4 million visitors per year. These visitors utilize the parks, trails, and recreational facilities, reducing the availability for community members. If that total is conservatively divided equally over a 365 day period, the City may host over 9,000 visitors a day. If the 2024 population included visitors, the resulting demand would be about 72 acres of park land. When visitors utilize available park and recreational facilities, community members may feel crowded out. It is important for this Plan to establish a level of service standard that prioritizes the needs of community, while accommodating visitors that share their appreciation of these resources and contribute to the local economy.

In assessing demand and needs, this Plan moves beyond a LOS based on acreage per population to utilize a LOS based on a half-mile walkshed analysis from city parks. In this analysis, a qualifying park facility is defined as a City-owned park containing developed amenities that support passive or active use, ensuring that proximity translates to actual recreational utility.

Leavenworth's parks level of service (LOS) standard is that all residential areas are located within a ½ mile walk of a city park facility.

This data-driven approach is directly supportive of and confirmed by extensive community conversations, survey results, and conditions assessment. While the 1997 acreage-based LOS would suggest the City has a surplus of park land, it fails to account for how park and recreational facilities are distributed throughout the City or the impact of Leavenworth's 3.4 million annual visitors. By adopting a half-mile walkshed standard, the City can objectively identify service gaps, as further described in the next section. Feedback from public outreach and the Parks Survey substantiate this gap, with many community members expressing that high tourist volumes and insufficient pedestrian crossings (i.e., across Highway 2) make existing parks feel overcrowded or inaccessible. Furthermore, the conditions assessment verifies that some parks are experiencing accelerated wear due to high volume-use.

Based on the LOS analysis and public outreach conducted for the preparation of this PROS Plan and the 2026 Comprehensive Plan periodic update process, several key demands and needs have been identified, as follows. The adoption of the half-mile walkshed LOS also allows the City to prioritize capital improvement projects in gap areas, or neighborhoods currently lacking safe, pedestrian-oriented access to recreation, thereby increasing the competitiveness of City projects for state-level grant funding.

NEW FACILITIES

Public Parks & Open Spaces

The map in Exhibit 17 illustrates the geographical dispersion of existing parks, access to existing parks, and what portions of the City are underserved. The map identifies quarter-mile and half-mile walking distances (approximately a 5- to 10-minute walk) to and from existing City-owned parks. Most residential areas in city limits are within a half-mile of existing parks; however, unincorporated land within the City's UGA and certain residential areas within city limits are largely underserved.

Exhibit 17 shows three primary areas within city limits that fall outside the half-mile LOS standard:

- ◆ Area A: Residential neighborhood on the west side of the City near the Mountain Meadows Senior Living Campus
- ◆ Area B: The residential area north of Rattlesnake Trail
- ◆ Area C: Residential areas on the east side of the city near Safeway.

While these areas may have proximity to undeveloped open space, the waterfront, trails, school grounds, or privately owned or operated recreational facilities, they lack access to City parks with amenities (i.e., play structures, restrooms, and seating) that community members have identified as high priorities. Specifically, residents north of Highway 2 face insufficient safe pedestrian crossings, which effectively isolates them from the City's park core near the waterfront, especially as more than a third of residents reported walking to park facilities in the Parks Survey. Therefore, new parks in these residential areas, namely residential areas in the north side of the City and its UGA would greatly help increase park access for residents.

To address these watershed gaps, meet the City's LOS, and address community concerns, the following priorities are established and reflected in the goals and policies of this Plan:

- ◆ Prioritize the acquisition of land for new parks in the northern residential sections and UGA to bridge the current service gap. New parkland should be zoned Recreation Public District per Policy PR-1.5.
- ◆ Establish pocket parks (there are no existing pocket parks in the City) or small pockets of open space on City-owned parcels or unimproved rights of way to help fill service gaps.
- ◆ Develop underutilized properties into functional open spaces through land acquisition or the establishment of public access easements.
- ◆ Ensure that new and redeveloped parks incorporate high priority amenities, including shade, ADA accessible covered picnic shelters, nature play areas, bike racks, restrooms, swings, and a splash park or aquatic play area.

See Goals PR-1, PR-2, and PR-3 for policies related to park and open space development and acquisition



Private Parks & Open Spaces

As the City experiences population growth and incorporates land within the unincorporated UGA over the planning period, large parcels may be developed at higher residential densities, increasing the demand and need for parks and open spaces, particularly in the northern portion of the City. This demand could be relieved by the inclusion of open space in private development. The City's Subdivision Code (Title 17) and Zoning Code (Title 18) include limited open space provisions. Cottage Housing development allows for shared yards and open space; however, lacks objective standards dictating the required minimum open space or amenities. Cluster Subdivisions allow for a reduction in minimum lot size if the remainder of the site includes open space and areas for recreational use.

While the approval of short and major subdivisions require findings that adequate provisions are made for open space and parks and recreation, the Subdivision Code lacks objective standards for how to meet these requirements. To relieve the demand created by new residential growth, the City could strengthen the Subdivisions Code and establish development standards specifying minimum requirements for common open space or recreational amenities in new subdivisions (i.e., 10-percent of developable area). Furthermore, open spaces could be required to meet dimensional standards so that spaces are a useable size, such a minimum 25-feet in any direction; be designed to accommodate passive or active recreational uses, such as trails, natural areas, playground, etc.; and require siting standards to design around existing mature trees to preserve tree canopy (see Policy PR-3.7).



OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE
NATIONAL FOREST

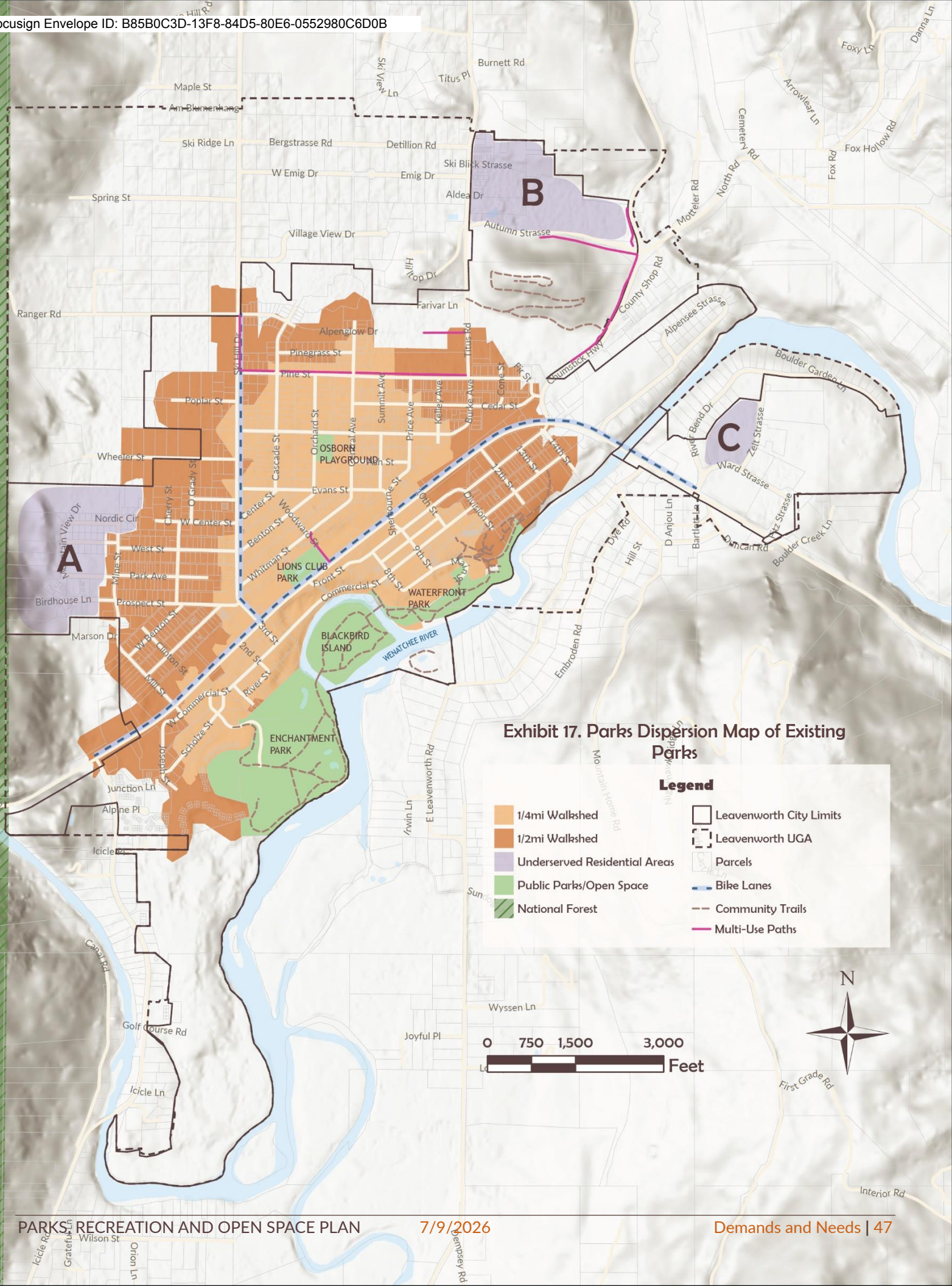


Exhibit 17. Parks Dispersion Map of Existing Parks



0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet



Howard Hopkins Memorial Pool

While the existing outdoor pool is in fair condition, adjustments to the programming and operations and management of the pool would greatly improve the recreational opportunities and satisfaction among community members. Currently, the pool is not open year-round and does not provide diverse programming. It opens at inconsistent times during the year – i.e., some years it opens for the season on Memorial Day, but other years it may not open until the end of June. This unpredictability makes it hard for community members to plan their recreational activities, especially for kids. Community members have also proposed adding shade structures to the existing pool, which currently has minimal shade available.

Community members would welcome the addition of a new indoor pool to not only provide an opportunity for year-round swimming recreation, but to expand swimming opportunities for adults. When asked in the Parks Survey, “indoor pool” was the second highest facility ranking community members desire. An indoor pool with longer daily hours would accommodate those who are hoping to swim before or after work. Furthermore, there are strong desires for additional programming options such as adult lap swim times, water aerobics, and other adult classes to ensure pool programming is reflective of all ages and interests. Expanding programmatic opportunities at the existing outdoor pool would be a welcome improvement.

Goal PR-5 captures community desires for pool-related recreation



Upper Valley Community Center

The Howard Hopkins Memorial Pool is approaching the end of its lifecycle, and while the pool has been a well-loved element of Leavenworth's overall recreation landscape, the community's desire for expanded and improved programming has been thoroughly documented over the last decade. Additionally, while the planning phase of an expanded trails and open space program is underway, opportunities for residents fall short; community members have also cited the lack of accessible third places in Leavenworth as a high priority for improvement.

The City has identified the site of the defunct Osborn Elementary School as a viable location for a combined indoor aquatic center, public library, and indoor/outdoor community gathering space. Currently, the site is home to Cascade School District tennis courts and Leavenworth's newest playground, which is highly regarded for quality, but largely underutilized. The site is also home to the Cascade School District Administrative offices and Cascade Homelink, an Alternative Learning Experience that operates under the guidelines of the State of Washington and Cascade School District. Any improvements to the site would seek not to impede, but to build upon these existing, high value community assets.

The vision for the Upper Valley Community Center (UVCC) would address many of the community's highest priority needs with respect to opportunities for recreation and social engagement, as reported earlier in this plan. An indoor aquatic center would provide year-round access to aquatic programming that would be completely untethered from weather conditions. The inclusion of a modernized public library in a greater community center anchors a broad spectrum of demographics and strengthens the long-term financial efficacy of the facility. Finally, a thoughtfully designed outdoor component that ties into current and planned multi-use pathways would more readily balance the needs of residents with high tourism. While elements of the UVCC have been studied independently of one another, the current vision for a campus that combines all of the above facilities and programming opportunities is relatively novel. The City anticipates that the financial capacity building and pre-design phase of the project will commence in earnest by mid-2026 with the goal of opening by 2031.



Osborn Property, where the Upper Valley Community Center would be located.



One of the preliminary design concepts for the Upper Valley Community Center.

Skating Rink

The special character of Leavenworth and its surroundings, coupled with resident and visitor populations that are unusually active in winter recreation, make the City a uniquely viable location for a seasonal ice-skating rink. A 2015 feasibility study¹⁵ found that, given a free afternoon, 56% of residents surveyed were either "likely" or "extremely likely" to go ice-skating if the rink was located near downtown, and 29% of visiting households include someone who already participates in an ice sport (curling, hockey, or skating). The same study calculated that 13.78% of residents and 11.99% of visitors skate once per year or more, far outpacing the national baseline of 4%. Community feedback gathered during the preparation of this PROS Plan reinforces this interest, with Parks Survey respondents specifically naming an ice-skating rink as a community priority, as reflected in Policies PR-6.6 and 10.1. In the event that the municipal pool is closed or relocated to the Osborn property, the current pool site at Lions Club Park could become a feasible location for a seasonal ice-skating rink or covered pavillion.

See
related
Policies
PR-6.6
and
10.1.

¹⁵ "Ice Rink Feasibility Study," City of Leavenworth (2015). From <https://cityofleavenworth.com/documents/2015-ice-rink-feasibility-study/>

Trails & Increased Connections

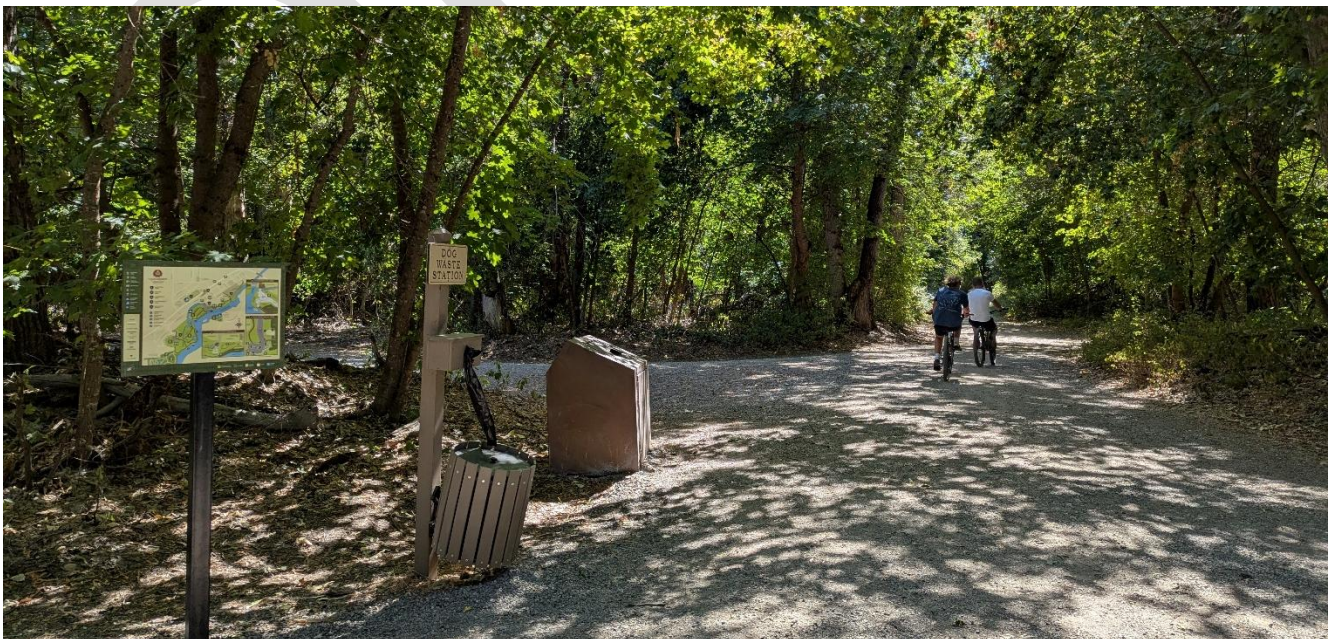
Leavenworth's existing trail network provides the community with numerous short hikes, access to the waterfront, and connections between parks near the waterfront. Newer multiuse paths help connect residential areas to recreational opportunities and establish safer routes for non-motorized travel. As the Parks Survey reveals, trails are widely used by community members on a relatively frequent basis. As such, it is no surprise that new trails and trail connections are widely requested by community members. New trails are desired, not only to serve areas currently lacking in trails, but also to provide better connections between existing trails and other parks and recreational facilities.

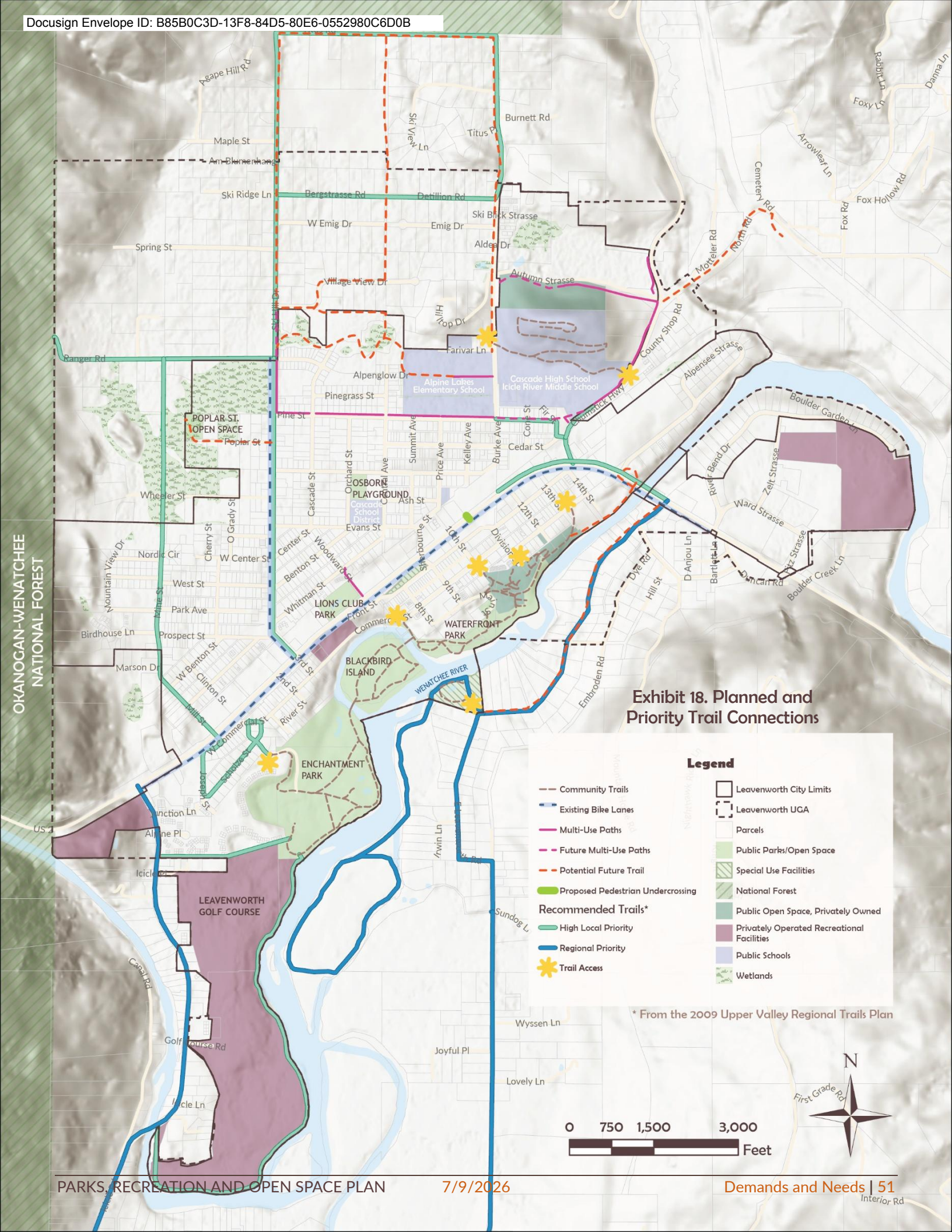
As such, the City is considering the establishment of new wetlands trails among the Poplar Street Wetlands and the wetlands south of Village View Drive along Ski Hill Road. The Poplar Street wetlands could be improved with trailhead amenities, such as signage, trash receptacles, and benches with opportunities for wildlife viewing. In accordance with the City's Critical Areas Ordinance, trails and walkways with pervious surfaces are allowed within the outer 25-percent of wetland buffer areas. Raised boardwalks are also acceptable.

The City has also planned a future 10 foot wide multi-use path on the north side of Rattlesnake Hill from Chumstick Highway to Titus Road, which would also include a trail extension to the existing multi use trail along Chumstick. The Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan (UVRTP) provides recommendations to create an interconnected regional trail system and improve connectivity between existing trails, including a network of proposed trails. Throughout outreach efforts, several key connections identified in the UVRTP have been highlighted by community members, as shown in Exhibit 18, including:

- ◆ Along Ski Hill Dr, from residential areas north to Titus Road, looping back south into the City
- ◆ Along Highway 2, especially where it intersects with Chumstick Highway
- ◆ Along Chumstick Highway north to Plain
- ◆ Connections from residential areas, schools, and existing recreational facilities to the waterfront
- ◆ Along E Leavenworth Road and Icicle Road
- ◆ Connections from existing trails along the river to the Highway 2 crossing
- ◆ Along the Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company (COIC) irrigation ditch
- ◆ Along North Road, connecting the City to the train station
- ◆ Along the river around the golf course to connect to Enchantment Park and nearby Forest Service trails (e.g., Icicle Ridge and Penstock trails).
- ◆ Along Ranger Road to better connect the City to Forest Service trails

See Goals
PR-7 and
PR-8 for
trails-
related
policies





IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

Leavenworth takes pride in its well-maintained park system, particularly given the high volume of visitors it welcomes each year. While existing facilities serve residents and the broader service area effectively, many key assets are reaching their functional capacity. Peak-season demand frequently results in overflowing trailhead parking lots, while high interest in organized sports and events often leads to the City having to turn away reservations for athletic fields.

These capacity constraints, paired with evolving community needs, present opportunities to enhance amenities and infrastructure to improve user experience and safety. The current park condition assessments conducted by City staff, complemented by feedback from the Parks Survey, highlight significant opportunities for targeted and ongoing maintenance, repairs, and upgrades for existing facilities. Exhibit 16 synthesizes feedback from community members and City staff to highlight areas where targeted investment can increase park safety, enhance user experience, and ensure long-term sustainability. The following discussions provide specific examples of park improvements, from additional amenities to increased maintenance and safety improvements.

Park Amenities

Existing parks are largely reported to be in average condition. Given this, there are a few parks that are less frequently attended by year-round residents, perhaps because they are heavily visited by tourists, but perhaps because they are also lacking in amenities desired by community members. Both improvements to existing facilities and new facilities should consider including the following amenities, which have been identified by community members (in no particular order):

- ◆ Shade structures
- ◆ Splash parks or aquatic play features
- ◆ Covered picnic shelters
- ◆ ADA accessibility
- ◆ Restrooms
- ◆ Drinking fountains
- ◆ Bike racks
- ◆ Swings
- ◆ Benches
- ◆ Signage – including both wayfinding signage for restrooms, trails, and leash laws, as well as interpretive signage in natural areas
- ◆ Wind prevention and adequate lighting at sport courts and ball fields

SHADE

Increased shade was a primary request identified by community members in the Park Survey and throughout other outreach events. All parks would benefit from increased shade structures, especially parks like Osborn Park that don't currently have shade structures. Shade structures would also be a welcome amenity in addition to existing and new park and

recreation amenities such as outdoor seating, picnic tables, and bleachers. While satisfaction is generally high among most parks, increased shade would greatly improve satisfaction among community members. While shade is highly desired throughout the park system, it has been most requested for:

- ◆ Front Street and Lions Club Park, in conjunction with new picnic tables and play structures
- ◆ Osborn Park
- ◆ Leavenworth Municipal Pool
- ◆ Enchantment Park, specifically for the pump track
- ◆ Covered seating at sports fields

See Goals PR-1, PR-2, and PR-12 for policies related to park system improvements, among others.

Maintenance

Even among parks identified by community members as being in above average or excellent condition, targeted improvements could further enhance facility conditions and increase overall community satisfaction with existing parks and recreational amenities. Park Survey respondents noted that maintenance of trails, restrooms, and park amenities is greatly needed. In particular:

- ◆ Improve maintenance of trails to remove weeds, trash, and reduce wildfire fuel loads.
- ◆ Better maintain trails in the winter to remove ice and increase the safety of trails and bridges.
- ◆ Increase the frequency of restroom maintenance and cleaning, especially during peak tourism.

Safety Improvements

Some parks face challenges in providing accessible routes to amenities such as picnic tables, benches, and parking lots. Numerous recommendations have been received from community members to improve the accessibility and safety of park and recreation facilities, as follows:

- ◆ Ensure ADA compliance at all facilities by upgrading pathways to meet ADA standards, including the use of appropriate materials, slope, width, and features like curb cuts, ramps, and tactile warning strips, as well as installing ADA accessible picnic shelters, benches, and parking lots.
- ◆ Improve ADA access to the river.
- ◆ Repair worn paths, especially in Blackbird Island and Waterfront Park.
- ◆ Remove dying trees to increase safety during storms or high winds.
- ◆ Conduct periodic safety checks of playground structures to ensure safe places for kids to play.
- ◆ Repair or pave parking lot areas in parks such as Waterfront Park and the Boat Launch to prevent standing water, erosion, and improve pedestrian access and safety.

See Goals PR-2, PR-7, PR-12, and PR-13 for policies related to safety and accessibility improvements.

Numerous pedestrian and bike facility improvements have also been identified by community members to improve connections between park and recreational facilities and increase safety, as follows:

- ◆ Improve pedestrian crossings at Highway 2, particularly where it intersects with Chumstick Highway.
- ◆ Extend the multi-use path south along Chumstick to where it intersects with Highway 2.
- ◆ Improve pedestrian and bicycle access along Ski Hill Drive and Titus Road, a common walking loop.
- ◆ Improve pedestrian access and crossings along Highway 2 heading to Peshastin.
- ◆ Improve connections to the waterfront.

Regional trail improvements have also been identified to help increase pedestrian safety throughout regional recreational facilities. The City is a key partner in the implementation of the Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan (UVRTP) which identifies several key regional connections that were well-supported in outreach efforts, such as:

- ◆ Icicle Road to E Leavenworth Road loop.
- ◆ Plain to Cashmere.
- ◆ Along Dye/Embroden Road, by installing improvements in the shoulder.

By further considering these recommendations and collaborating with regional partners, the City can continue to improve the accessibility and safety of park and recreation facilities for all community members and ensure that all community members can safely and comfortably recreate in the City and throughout the region.



Goals and Policies

The following goals and policies have been identified based on the gaps in parks and recreational facilities, and to reflect and support the [Public Outreach](#) and [Demands and Needs](#) sections of this plan. Goals and policies with a mountain icon  contribute to the Climate Resilience Element of the City's 2026 Comprehensive Plan by managing the park system as critical green infrastructure to mitigate risks from severe storms and drought, prioritizing tree canopy and vegetation maintenance, and encouraging water conservation.

PARKS & NATURAL AREAS

Goal PR 1. Establish new parks in residential areas that are underserved and lack walkable access to outdoor recreation.

- Policy PR 1.1.** Prioritize land acquisition for new parks within watershed gaps as identified in the Parks Dispersion Map to increase the availability of parks in proximity to residential neighborhoods.
- Policy PR 1.2.** Establish a framework for the temporary use of vacant lots as pocket parks or dog parks, such as through public-private partnerships or temporary land use agreements.
- Policy PR 1.3.** New public parks and open space should be zoned Recreation Public District.
- Policy PR 1.4.** Provide incentives or standards within the Subdivision Code to guide the design, location, and connectivity of parks and open spaces to enhance access, usability, and integration with the City's overall park system.

Goal PR 2. Develop plans to improve existing parks and ensure new and redeveloped parks, open spaces, trails, and other recreational facilities reflect community interests.

- Policy PR 2.1.** Ensure new parks feature amenities most requested by the community and specifically kids, such as playgrounds and swings, splash park or aquatic play areas, nature play areas, bike racks, drinking fountains, ADA accessible and covered picnic shelters, and adequate shade.
- Policy PR 2.2.** Engage community members and stakeholders (e.g., Wenatchee River Institute, Leavenworth Winter Sports Club, rafting/tubing companies,

recreation leagues, etc.) in planning for parks projects and recreational facilities at events such as the City's quarterly Community Engagement Night.

Policy PR 2.3. Build on previous planning efforts and support the implementation of redevelopment plans for the Osborn Property and Front Street Park, ensuring these projects enhance community access and recreational opportunities.

Policy PR 2.4. Prioritize improvements to existing parks and amenities rated 1-2 in the Conditions Assessment.

Policy PR 2.5. Improve the East Leavenworth Boat Launch to enhance user experience and safety, such as by adding picnic tables, a picnic shelter, and upgrading the parking lot.

Policy PR 2.6. Periodically evaluate maintenance needs for all parks, open space, and recreational facilities, including but not limited to trails, playgrounds, ballfields, and supporting facilities like restrooms and parking lots.

Policy PR 2.7. Acquire undeveloped properties to create new parks, trails, and open space within the UGA.

Policy PR 2.8. Establish pocket parks or open space on City-owned parcels or unimproved rights of way.

Policy PR 2.9. Preserve public park and recreational facilities by preventing the conversion of existing facilities to non-recreational uses.

Goal PR 3. Conserve, protect, restore, and enhance sensitive areas and open spaces to expand opportunities for passive recreation and climate resilience.

Policy PR 3.1. Expand opportunities for wildlife viewing, education, conservation, and low impact recreational activities by preserving open space and natural areas for public enjoyment.

Policy PR 3.2. Examine the feasibility of obtaining easements on private land for public open space and passive recreational use.

 **Policy PR 3.3.** Enhance the public use and enjoyment of sensitive areas as permitted by the City's Critical Areas Ordinance, such as developing pervious trails through wetland buffers.

 **Policy PR 3.4.** Preserve, restore, and plant native vegetation and trees in public parks and open spaces, while managing and controlling the spread of noxious weeds.

 **Policy PR 3.5.** Ensure the long-term resilience of parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities by continually assessing and addressing climate hazards and impacts, such as wildfire risk or flooding.

 **Policy PR 3.6.** Utilize water conservation methods, native plantings and xeriscaping, and climate-smart irrigation systems within parks and recreation areas to reduce water usage, increase stormwater management, and enhance climate resilience.

 **Policy PR 3.7.** Strengthen the Subdivisions Code and establish development standards that specify minimum requirements for common open space or recreational

amenities in new subdivisions and set dimensional standards to ensure open spaces are usable, can accommodate passive or active recreational uses, and retain mature trees to preserve tree canopy.

 **Policy PR 3.8.** Coordinate with the Leavenworth Golf Club to provide emergency irrigation water in the event of a wildfire.

 **Policy PR 3.9.** Encourage partnership between the Leavenworth Golf Club, Ecology, and Chelan County to restore shoreline habitats. As part of these efforts, encourage the Golf Club to continue using organic practices on the course grounds to mitigate runoff and prevent impacts on the Wenatchee River.

Goal PR 4. Improve parking availability and access for community members.

Policy PR 4.1. Maximize the availability of parking lots at City parks for community members.

Policy PR 4.2. Manage parking demand created by commercial rafting/tubing activities to maintain capacity in public parking lots for access to parks and trails.

Policy PR 4.3. Study whether a paid parking model would reduce parking lot spillover and use of parking lots as “free parking” by visitors to the downtown core.

Policy PR 4.4. Integrate public transit options with outdoor recreation to attract more users, reduce parking spillover, and manage overcrowding in popular areas.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

Goal PR 5. Increase pool safety, opportunities, and programming to serve all community members who recreate at different times throughout the day.

Policy PR 5.1. Maintain the existing municipal pool and explore improvements to enhance public use and longevity of the facility.

Policy PR 5.2. Expand adult and youth aquatic opportunities and programming by extending operating hours to better accommodate working schedules and diversifying fitness options, such as lap swimming, water aerobics, and other classes for people of all ages and abilities.

Policy PR 5.3. Establish a consistent and reliable pool schedule to improve predictability. Explore the possibility of opening the pool for the season earlier in the year.

Policy PR 5.4. Study the feasibility of the development of an indoor pool to promote year-round access.

Policy PR 5.5. Evaluate and pursue opportunities for the future relocation of City pool facilities to better meet community needs and improve accessibility, functionality, and safety.

Goal PR 6. Work with other agencies, neighboring jurisdictions, and coordinate internally to enhance recreational programming.

- Policy PR 6.1.** Incorporate recreational facilities into public works projects by the Public Works Department, such as bike lanes, pedestrian improvements, and trails.
- Policy PR 6.2.** Coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service and Chelan County to plan, develop, and maintain trails that connect City parks and open spaces to National Forest lands, enhancing public access, recreational opportunities, and sustainable trail management.
- Policy PR 6.3.** Partner with the Cascade School District to support public access to school grounds and to maintain and improve recreational facilities, such as ballfields, courts playgrounds, trails, and natural areas like Rattlesnake Hill.
- Policy PR 6.4.** Partner with the Wenatchee River Institute (WRI) to further common goals, enhance trails, improve ADA accessibility, and strengthen connectivity between the WRI property and public parks.

This partnership aims to expand accessible nature-based recreation and education through potential projects such as:

- ◆ Maintaining trail linkages between City parks and the WRI campus
- ◆ Enhancing ADA accessibility, prioritizing upgraded restroom facilities, parking access, and trail improvements
- ◆ Supporting development of a nature playscape on the WRI campus
- ◆ Supporting development of a bike parking and service station

- Policy PR 6.5.** Engage local nonprofits and stakeholders through a collaborative approach to resource management to address public land concerns and leverage resources and expertise.
- Policy PR 6.6.** Collaborate with regional partners to explore the feasibility of establishing additional recreational opportunities in the City or surrounding region, such as an ice skating rink, indoor pool, sport courts (e.g., volleyball, basketball, pickleball), and dog park, among others.
- Policy PR 6.7.** Support partnerships with other public agencies and private entities, such as the Upper Valley Parks and Recreation Service Area, the Winter Sports Club, Trout Unlimited, the Leavenworth Golf Club, and others, which provide recreational facilities within the UGA and the region.

TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

Goal PR 7. Promote equitable access, connectivity, and public safety for all residents by establishing a system of trails, pedestrian facilities, and bike lanes between public parks, open spaces, trailheads, and recreational facilities.

- Policy PR 7.1.** Coordinate infrastructure and transportation planning for new pedestrian facilities, bike lanes, and street crossings with recreational facilities to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety, access, and connectivity.
- Policy PR 7.2.** Coordinate with public agencies, such as the Washington State Department of Transportation, to establish safe pedestrian and bicycle connections across

and along Highway 2 and other high-volume roads, including highly visible crosswalks, bike lanes, well-lit sidewalks, and protected shoulders where appropriate.

Policy PR 7.3. Engage the Cascade School District to identify infrastructure improvements necessary to establish and support safe walking routes for children traveling between residential neighborhoods, public schools, and City parks.

Policy PR 7.4. Support implementation of the Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan and prioritize projects that align with the Recommended Trails Plan, including:

- ◆ On-road trails to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle users on Ski Hill Drive and Titus Road
- ◆ Sidewalk connections from residential areas to park & ride facilities, schools, downtown, and the waterfront
- ◆ Golf Course Shoreline Trail
- ◆ E Leavenworth Optional Trail near the Boat Launch
- ◆ WDFW Shoreline Trail connecting to the Boat Launch

Policy PR 7.5. Evaluate and study the feasibility of key non-motorized connectivity and safety improvements to connect city parks along the Wenatchee River corridor, including:

- ◆ A potential pedestrian bridge connecting the Boat Launch to Waterfront Park, as proposed in the UVTRP.
- ◆ A potential pedestrian underpass under the Highway 2 crossing of the Wenatchee River from Alpanse Strasse connecting to the Pea Vine Trail.

Goal PR 8. Promote active living by increasing total trail mileage and reducing gaps in the City's existing trail system through partnerships, land acquisition, or use agreements.

Policy PR 8.1. Partner with property owners, such as the Wenatchee River Institute and Housing Authority of Chelan County and City of Wenatchee, to expand the City's trail system along the Wenatchee River. Consider access easements or use agreements.

Policy PR 8.2. Advance the east-west wetlands trails project by developing a route design and infrastructure that prioritizes environmental protection and is consistent with the City's Critical Areas Ordinance while providing opportunities for interpretive signage.

Policy PR 8.3. Support regional planning, partnerships, and funding efforts to establish connections between Leavenworth's trail system and regional trails, including but not limited to those identified in the Upper Valley Regional Trails Plan and Chelan-Douglas Transportation Council Pathways Master Plan.

TRIBAL COLLABORATION

Goal PR 9. Acknowledge tribal lands and collaborate with tribal partners throughout the planning and implementation phase of any PROS project.

- Policy PR 9.1.** Partner and collaborate with local tribes to enrich cultural and historical resources within park and recreation facilities, and to ensure Indigenous perspectives lead the development of educational signage, programming, and the preservation of tribal heritage.
- Policy PR 9.2.** Proactively engage Tribal leaders and communities throughout the parks planning process to protect and acknowledge cultural heritage sites, and to identify opportunities for education, stewardship, and interpretation of historical, cultural, and natural resources.
- Policy PR 9.3.** Advance the planning of the p'squosa Heritage Site at Waterfront Park, which includes updated interpretive signage, new benches, artwork, and native plantings.
- Policy PR 9.4.** Engage Tribal leaders and communities when naming new parks, trails, and recreational facilities to recognize and honor cultural heritage, history, and traditional place names.



COMMUNITY BUILDING & EDUCATION

Goal PR 10. Establish recreational facilities and programs that foster social interaction and community engagement.

Policy PR 10.1. Pursue the development of a Community Center, such as proposed by the Osborn Property Vision Report, or other shared and multi-use facilities that host athletic events, performing arts, community meetings, and other community events or amenities (e.g., a gym or seasonal ice skating rink).

Policy PR 10.2. Encourage the development of a Parks and Recreation Program.

Policy PR 10.3. Support the use of public parks and open spaces for youth programming and outdoor education to foster a love for nature and build community ties, collaborating with the school district and local organizations (e.g., Wenatchee River Institute) where appropriate.

Policy PR 10.4. Support the inclusion of public art in parks and encourage the development of art walks throughout the community.

Policy PR 10.5. Support the continued use of City parks for a farmer's market and/or food truck events.

Goal PR 11. Balance increased community density and tourism with the preservation of nature and park facilities through proactive management and public education.

Policy PR 11.1. Encourage the development of ambassador and educational initiatives to enhance community and visitors' awareness around environmental stewardship, responsible outdoor recreation, and responsible river usage.

Policy PR 11.2. Collaborate with local and regional organizations and programs, such as the Leavenworth Recreation Ambassador program, to develop educational campaigns and interact with users at trailheads and shoreline access areas.

Policy PR 11.3. Enhance signage at City parks and trailheads to inform users about responsible recreation practices (e.g., pet leash requirements, leave no trace, etc.) to minimize negative impacts such as trail erosion, improper waste disposal, and habitat destruction.

Policy PR 11.4. Balance public access with conservation efforts to protect shorelines and wildlife habitat, utilizing monitoring systems such as beach and nature area stewards to prevent resource abuse, overuse, and ensure user safety.

Policy PR 11.5. Encourage the development of new interpretive trails and maintain and periodically update existing interpretive signage.

ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY

Goal PR 12. Provide safe, accessible, and well-maintained recreational facilities for all users.

- Policy PR 12.1.** Increase the lighting at all parks to enhance safety, extend usability of recreational facilities, and increase accessibility, while adhering to dark skies principles to reduce light pollution and protect ecosystems.
- Policy PR 12.2.** Provide, maintain, and periodically upgrade support facilities—including restrooms, parking areas, lighting, and other security features—to ensure safe, accessible, and convenient use of the park and recreation system.
- Policy PR 12.3.** Monitor restroom cleanliness and respond to maintenance needs on a frequent and regular basis.
- Policy PR 12.4.** Install animal-proof trash and recycling receptacles and pet waste stations at trailheads and in parks.
- Policy PR 12.5.** Maintain up-to-date trail maps, trail markers, and wayfinding throughout parks and trails to help users navigate safely.
- Policy PR 12.6.** Maintain and enhance trails, sidewalks, and other park pathways; improve ADA accessibility; reduce wildfire fuels; and manage weeds and litter, coordinating with local ambassador programs and community partners where appropriate.
- Policy PR 12.7.** Improve the winter maintenance of parks, trails, and pedestrian facilities, including timely snow removal and the removal of hazardous trees, to ensure users can safely access facilities and recreate year-round.
- Policy PR 12.8.** Improve facilities at the Icicle Bridge Put-In to ensure safer, ADA-accessible river access.

Goal PR 13. Provide a variety of year-round active and passive recreational activities for all users, regardless of age and ability.

- Policy PR 13.1.** Ensure safe ingress/egress points that are accessible – for user safety, emergency response, and to enhance the overall outdoor experience.
- Policy PR 13.2.** Establish alternative park entrances for pedestrians and differentiate the pedestrian entry experience from that of a driver arriving at a parking lot.
- Policy PR 13.3.** Study the experience of a pedestrian entering a park from the perspective of a variety of users, such as a person in a wheelchair or pushing a stroller, to inform ADA improvements.
- Policy PR 13.4.** Ensure recreation opportunities are accessible to people of all ages and abilities by creating new facilities or expanding existing facilities with

consideration for ADA accessibility, diverse usership, and specialty user groups.

Policy PR 13.5. Develop new or expanded facilities, such as interpretive trails, designed for diverse age groups and abilities.

Policy PR 13.6. Provide a variety of trail experiences by locating trails of varying lengths and difficulty through diverse terrain, scenery, and points of interest to draw a variety of users.

MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

Goal PR 14. Explore diverse funding sources to secure the necessary resources to maintain and improve outdoor recreational infrastructure and ensure the long-term stability of these resources for the community.

Policy PR 14.1. Fund parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities through a variety of funding sources, including grants, tax levies, and fees.

Policy PR 14.2. Partner with neighboring jurisdictions to pursue regional grant opportunities, leveraging shared resources to secure funding that enhances regional trail and park connectivity, diversifies recreational opportunities, and supports environmental protection.

Policy PR 14.3. Require a long-term maintenance and funding plan prior to the development of new park or recreational facilities to ensure they remain safe and functional for their entire lifecycle.

Policy PR 14.4. Prioritize improvements to City park and recreation facilities that enhance ADA accessibility, strengthen pedestrian connectivity, support necessary structural upgrades, and consider strategic expansion opportunities.

Goal PR 15. Establish a park management framework that prioritizes equitable community access while ensuring commercial revenue is reinvested into the local community.

Policy PR 15.1. Establish a tiered fee structure for park facilities that distinguishes between commercial (e.g., paid fitness classes or ticketed events) and non-commercial use, offering reduced rates for local residents hosting private, not-for-profit events such as a birthday party or family gathering.

Policy PR 15.2. Consider implementing a day-use permit system to manage park and trail capacity, accompanied by community outreach and education to communicate benefits and address potential concerns.

Capital Improvement Program

The city park facilities are generally funded through the City's operating budget, mostly derived from retail sales tax and managed by the Public Works Department. A critical component of the City's financial capacity is the ongoing operation and maintenance costs to manage existing recreational facilities. Exhibit 19 summarizes the estimated annual operational and maintenance costs required to sustain the City's existing recreational facilities as reflected in the Parks Inventory of this Plan.

Throughout this Plan, numerous new facilities, upgrades, or renovations have been identified for the City's park and recreation facilities. The Capital Improvement Plan in Exhibit 20 outlines multiple projects focused on park improvements identified by the City Council. The 6-Year CIP list below outlines priority projects designed to implement the goals and policies of this Plan. This list is intended to be adaptive and may be amended over time to ensure capital investments remain aligned with the community's long-term vision and available funding opportunities.

Exhibit 19. Estimated Annual Maintenance & Operational Costs of Existing Recreational Facilities

Facility Name	Estimated Annual Maintenance & Operational Costs
Community Parks	
Enchantment Park	\$ 200,000.00
Waterfront Park	\$ 40,000.00
Neighborhood Parks	
Lions Club Park	\$ 75,000.00
Osborn Property	\$ 65,000.00
Open Spaces	
Blackbird Island	\$ 25,000.00
Poplar Street Wetlands	\$ -
Special Use Facilities	
Boat Launch	\$ 10,000.00
Front Street Park	\$ 110,000.00
Golf Course	N/A - Not maintained by the City
Howard Hopkins Memorial Pool	\$ 700,000.00
Subtotal	\$ 1,225,000.00
Trails	
Enchantment Park	\$ 5,040.00
Waterfront Park	\$ 2,700.00
Blackbird Island	\$ 2,340.00
Boat Launch	\$ 540.00
Rattlesnake Trail	\$ 4,140.00
Barn Beach Reserve	\$ 3,240.00
Subtotal	\$ 18,000.00
Multi-Use Paths	
Pine Street	N/A - Transportation related
Chumstick Hwy	N/A - Transportation related
Bike Lanes	
Highway 2	N/A - Transportation related
Ski Hill Drive	N/A - Transportation related
Total	\$ 1,243,000.00

Exhibit 20. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space 6-Year Capital Improvement Program

Project Name	Description	Estimated Project Cost	Funding Source	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Waterfront Park Irrigation	Replace irrigation system.	\$ 100,000.00	General Fund	\$ 100,000.00					
Lions Club Park Pavilion	Construct new pavilion.	\$ 300,000.00	General Fund	\$ 300,000.00					
Waterfront Park	Additional parking.	\$ 250,000.00	Parking Fund	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 200,000.00				
Waterfront Park	Install restroom facility along trail system near Barn Beach Reserve - vaulted facility (estimate 500-600,000 full facility).	\$ 110,000.00	Lodging Tax	\$ 110,000.00					
Pump Track Wall	Add new wall feature to pump track.	\$ 50,000.00	General Fund		\$ 50,000.00				
Icicle Bridge Parking Lot Improvements	Reduce bank erosion, improve ADA access to the river, maintaining access to the well fields, reevaluating parking, vault toilet.	\$ 800,000.00	General Fund	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 680,000.00				
City Park Master Plan	Master plan for all City parks to determine improvements to be made including pedestrian improvements, park connectivity, structure replacement, expansion opportunities.	\$ 250,000.00	General Fund	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00				
Osborn Park New Water Source	Add new 2" irrigation line and double-check for park to separate service from the School District.	\$ 40,000.00	General Fund	\$ 40,000.00					
p'squosa Heritage Park	Heritage site/ADA improvements to battlement site.	\$ 1,500,000.00	General Fund		\$ 250,000.00	\$1,250,000.00			
Enchantment Park Playground Equipment	New equipment at Enchantment Park.	\$ 1,000,000.00	General Fund				\$ 100,000.00	\$ 900,000.00	
Pocket Park Development	Poplar Street new residential pocket park - planning only.	\$ 175,000.00	General Fund				\$ 175,000.00		
Total		\$ 4,575,000.00		\$ 845,000.00	\$1,305,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 900,000.00	\$ -

REVENUE SOURCES									
Parking Fund		\$ 250,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 200,000.00				
General Fund		\$ 4,215,000.00		\$ 685,000.00	\$1,105,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 900,000.00	
Lodging Tax		\$ 110,000.00		\$ 110,000.00					
Pool Fund									
Total Estimated Revenue		\$ 4,575,000.00		\$ 845,000.00	\$1,305,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 900,000.00	