

Chapter XX
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element
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Introduction

City parks and open space improve our physical and psychological health, strengthens our communities, and makes our neighborhoods more attractive places to live and work. This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element reflects the community's objectives, needs and priorities for parks and recreation planning and development in Cle Elum. Parks and recreation facilities are common areas enjoyed by people living within the City, as well as residents of unincorporated areas of Kittitas County and of course many other visitors from across the state. They provide places for exercise, sporting events, playgrounds, relaxation and community gatherings. Parks and recreation areas also enhance the aesthetic quality of the City and the overall quality of life for its residents. They serve as important community centers and are among the most enjoyed places within our community.

As with other facilities and services the City of Cle Elum provides, parks and recreation should be planned to meet the changing demands of growth. As our population and geographic boundaries continue to change, so too does the demand upon existing parks, recreation and open space facilities and services. As such parks, recreation and open space areas must be well planned, maintained and managed in order to meet the community's needs. Adequate land must be dedicated to these purposes and capital funds should be made available for future development. This Chapter makes the appropriate provisions and establishes appropriate goals, policies and objectives so future residents and visitors will be able to continue to enjoy a high level of parks, recreation and open space amenity in Cle Elum.

The Cle Elum Community Development Department conducted a Parks, Recreation and Open Space survey in 2007 aimed at identifying system wide resources, constraints and opportunities. The results of that survey have been incorporated into the planning and drafting process reflected in this Element.

Parks, recreation and open space perform numerous functions and provide numerous benefits, which are suggested in GMA and considered in this element. In summary they provide;

- Active and passive recreational opportunity.
- Direct health and safety benefits (such as flood control, protection for water supply and groundwater recharge areas, cleansing of air and separation from incompatible uses).
- Protection for important critical areas and natural systems (such as wetlands and shorelines).
- Commercially significant resources and jobs (such as forestry, fishery, mineral, agricultural products and tourism).
- Economic development including enhanced real estate values and increased tourism.
- Natural features and spaces important to defining community image and distinctive character.

- Boundaries between incompatible uses and breaks from continuous development (they can shape land use patterns to promote development that is more compact and more efficient to serve).
- Places for facilities such as a community pool, cultural and historic sites, and community centers and gathering places that foster education and local history.
- Opportunity to prevent youth crime through park and recreation programs [such as the annual Cle Elum Rock and Roll Pig Out] that offer social support from adult role models and authority figures; leadership and participation opportunities for youth; intensive and individualized attention from participants; a sense of community and acceptance; and provides opportunities for a broad range of community support, involvement and service.
- Healthy lifestyle enhancement by facilitating improvements in physical fitness through exercise.
- Historic preservation opportunities to remind people of what the Cle Elum community once was, is and could become.

Cle Elum has taken a proactive roll and senses the urgency and importance of viewing parks, recreation and open space as a significant community priority. Gone are the days where we simply view parks, recreation and open spaces as the “left over” land use after all the other “important” land uses and functions have been planned and developed and after all other budgetary needs satisfied.

Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) charts a new course for Washington communities that has tremendous implications for parks, recreation and open space planning. The GMA strongly encourages the enhancement of recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of Washington Citizens, and calls for the development of parks and recreation facilities which add to the quality of life in communities throughout the state. Parks, recreation and open space opportunities mean many things to many people. Although not specifically defined in GMA, it is clear that these opportunities may come in a variety of sizes and shapes and perform different functions, benefits and purposes. They range from developed parks and recreation facilities to undeveloped open spaces; from major regional attractions [such as the Coal Mines Trail and Yakima River] to small neighborhood parks [such as Centennial Park]; from active recreation areas to passive wooded areas which can serve separate conflicting land uses and provide areas for nature walking.

A mandatory requirement for a Park and Recreation Element was added to the required GMA comprehensive plan elements during the 2002 legislative session. The Parks and recreation Element must be consistent with the Capital Facilities Element as it relates to Park and Recreation facilities. The element must include estimates of park and recreation demand for a ten-year period, an evaluation of facilities and service needs, and an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand [RCW 36.70A.070(8)]. The parks, recreation and open space element should also seek to:

- Retain open space
- Enhance recreational opportunities
- Conserve fish and wildlife habitat
- Increase access to natural resource lands and water
- Develop parks and recreational facilities

As this element was developed, the Cle Elum Comprehensive Plan, County Wide Planning Policies and the requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) were reviewed and considered to ensure Cle Elum is consistent with those rules, guidelines and documents.

Purpose of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element gives a snapshot of the current state of the parks, recreation and open space system in Cle Elum and identifies a plan to address the existing and future parks, recreation and open space needs and demands. This element will serve as a guide and provide policy direction for the development of a comprehensive system of multipurpose tracks, trails, parks, open spaces and recreational resources to serve Cle Elum. It is also anticipated that this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element, as part of the Cle Elum Comprehensive Plan, will favorably position the city to be eligible for and to successfully compete for county, state and federal grants.

One of the primary purposes of this element is to ensure an integrated parks, recreation and open space system. To maximize the benefit of open space lands, communities should seek a meaningful system of open space. Like an orchestra, such a system can and should add up to more than simply the sum of its individual parts. The system should consist of a complementary set of parks and open spaces that, when considered together, meet a full range of community needs, interests and abilities. One of the fundamental keys is to examine parks, recreation and open spaces as a regional resource with impacts, opportunities and constraints that extend beyond the planning area of any singular municipality. Connections and relationships between individual open spaces should always be considered. A truly successful parks, recreation and open space program is comprised of linked, interdependent lands with open space value; the controlling premise is one of interrelationships. By emphasizing the importance of establishing an open space system (as opposed to conserving discreet parcels of land evaluated independently for their open space qualities), the Cle Elum Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element places high priority on protecting parks, recreation and open space resources that can be physically and/or functionally linked to other resources.

Similarly parks, recreation and open space planning must be integrated with planning for all other community needs. Cle Elum must plan for parks, recreation and open space lands together with other land uses and they must be well related toward the areas they are intended to serve. Resource lands and critical areas can and should be incorporated into the open space system, without compromising their primary resource protection or ecological functions. Open space uses, particularly recreation orientated open spaces, will

need to be supported with adequate access and infrastructure. Therefore parks, recreation and open space planning must similarly be coordinated with transportation and capital facility planning. In summary, parks recreation and open space planning must be an integral part of Cle Elum's planning process and of this Comprehensive Plan. The challenge then is for Cle Elum to effectively develop and integrate a cohesive parks, recreation and open space element that places the preservation and enhancement of parks, recreation and open space resources into the larger context of all of our development and conservation goals.

Planning Area

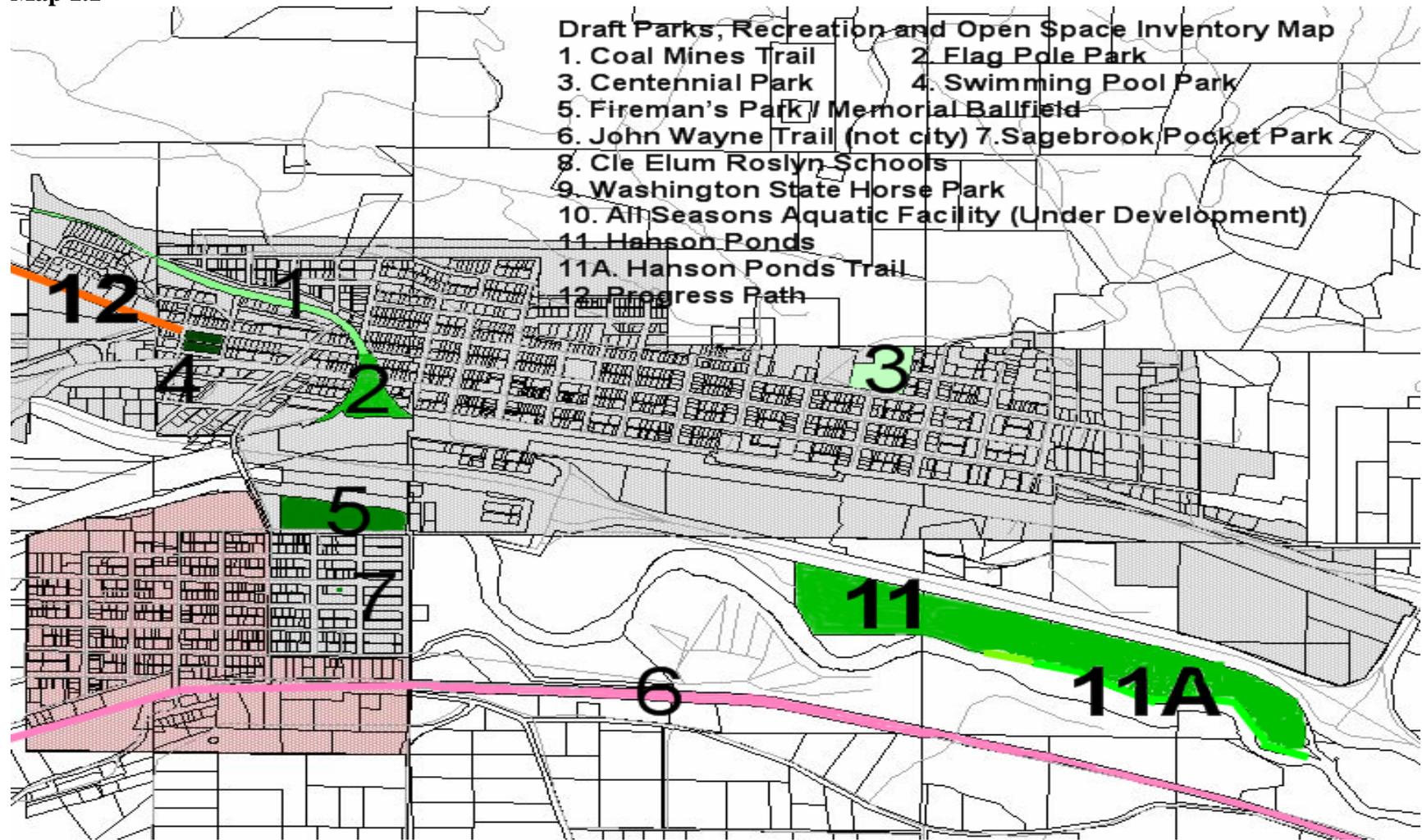
The City of Cle Elum is primarily a residential community located in Kittitas County. The total land area of the City and its Urban Growth Area is presently 3581.30 acres or 5.6 square miles. Additionally Cle Elum identified in its Land Use Element, a sphere of influence (for the purposes of determining adjacent planning and service impacts in heavily developed areas of Kittitas County) that is approximately 1,260 acres or 1.96 square miles. In 2007 the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) placed the population of Kittitas County at 38,300 persons and the population of Cle Elum at 1,835 persons. The Kittitas County Conference of Governments (COG) formally adopted a revised formula for population allocation to all cities, urban growth areas and urban growth nodes within Kittitas County in April, 2006. The revised formula was based off the OFM High Population Projection for the 20-year planning period [2005-2025]. This placed the year 2025 population of Kittitas County at 52,810 persons and the year 2025 population of the City of Cle Elum at 10,034 persons, or 19% of Kittitas County's overall growth (see Table 1-3 of the Housing Element for a graphic depiction of population trends data).

Cle Elum's natural environment is defined by three major water systems: the Crystal Creek corridor flows from the Roslyn area in a southeast direction through Cle Elum, along portions of the Coal Mines Trail and into the Yakima River. The Cle Elum River is located near Cle Elum's western boundary and contours the area commonly known as the Bullfrog Flats, ultimately connecting to the Yakima River. Finally the Yakima River flows along Cle Elum's boundary [from west to east] and bisects Cle Elum on its journey to the Columbia River. There are also significant wooded areas, slopes, ravines, forest land, wet forest land and wetlands throughout Cle Elum. Wildlife habitats are supported by these natural resources.

Cle Elum's parks system consists of 39.6 acres of active parks and recreation areas, 3 miles of paths and trails and 36 acres of passive open space. These resources are described in greater detail in the following section and are depicted on Map 1.1.

Cle Elum's parks, recreation and open space facilities are used extensively by City and county residents and recreational enthusiasts from across the state and region. In general, the overall demand for non-resident usage of Cle Elum's parks, recreation and open space facilities is estimated to be about 45% or more.

Map 1.1



Existing Condition of Parks, Recreation and Open Space and Facilities

I. Defining Parks and Open Space

There are two primary types of parks within Cle Elum: Active and Passive Open Space. Active open space includes regional, neighborhood and community parks. The Regional Park Designation was recently created to better identify the Washington State Horse Park which was created by the Washington State Legislature in 2007. This 106 acre facility is expected to draw activity and users from the greater Pacific Northwest and the Canadian Province of British Columbia. Neighborhood parks are defined as smaller open space areas usually comprising 43,560 square feet or less and are located close to, or within, neighborhoods they are intended to serve. The service area for this type of park is ½ mile. Community Parks are defined as larger parks generally more than 1 acre in size. These centrally located parks offer a balance of active and passive recreational facilities to serve a diverse population. This type of parks service area is 1 mile or more. Open space does not have a particular service area, but is generally associated with the environmental or geographical features which it either highlights or draws its significance from. These areas are either minimally developed or undeveloped and meant to be used in their natural state. Cle Elum's Parks and Open Spaces are summarized in Table 1.2., and Cle Elum's Trails and Connections are summarized in Table 1.3. The data from Table 1.2 and 1.3 comprise the current visual inventory of Cle Elum's parks, recreation and open spaces shown in Map 1.1. Table 1.4 inventories the Existing Amenities and Services at Cle Elum Park, Open Space, Trail and School Facilities

II. Facilities Within Cle Elum

In 2007 Cle Elum had 7 active parks and 1 passive/open space area. The Washington State Horse Park, as a regionally operated facility governed by RCW is listed but not included in the calculation for park and open space land within Cle Elum. In addition the Cle Elum Roslyn Schools have recreation and open space facilities onsite. Because the school facilities are controlled and operated by the Cle Elum Roslyn School District and not always available for general public use, they have been listed but not included in the calculation for park and open space land within Cle Elum. Cle Elum's parks, recreation and open space facilities are inventoried and assessed below.

Table 1.2 Cle Elum Parks and Open Space Facilities

Park Facility	Regional	Active Community	Active Neighborhood	Open Space
Active				
Flag Pole Park W/ Wye		7.7		
Centennial Park		7.3		
Swimming Pool Park		2.3		
Fireman’s Park / Memorial Ball Field		12.3		
Four Seasons Aquatic Facility		10		
Sagebrook Community			.10	
Open Space				
Hanson Ponds / Kiwanis Pond				82
Total Acreage		39.6 acres	.10 acres	82 acres
Cle Elum Roslyn Schools		23 acres		
Washington State Horse Park	106 acres			

Table 1.3 Trails and Connections

Developed Trails and Connections	Miles
Coal Mines Trail	1.0
Hanson Ponds Trail	1.0
Progress Path	1.0
Total Developed Miles	3.0

Table 1.4 Existing Amenities and Services at Cle Elum Park, Open Space, Trail and School Facilities

Park Name	Sports Fields	Interpretative Signs/markers	Play Equipment	Equestrian Facilities	Picnic Shelter	Walkway, Trail or Trail Connection	Open Lawn Areas	Skateboard Facilities	Games (horseshoes, etc)	Parking	Restrooms	Water Access (or potential)
*Washington Horse Park				X		X	X			X	X	
Flag Pole Park W/ Wye						X	X			X		
Centennial Park	X						X			X		
Swimming Pool Park			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Fireman's Park / Memorial Ball Field					X	X	X		X	X		X
*Four Seasons Aquatic	X		X			X	X			X	X	
Sagebrook Community							X					
Hanson Ponds & Trail						X				X		X
Cle Elum Roslyn Schools	X		X			X	X			X		
Coal Mines Trail		X				X				X		
Progress Path												
Coal Mines Trail		X				X				X		

* Indicates facility is under development and not yet open/constructed

A. Active Parks

Washington State Horse Park is a proposed 106 acre equestrian facility located in the Bullfrog Flats. The park is designed to be the premiere equestrian facility in Washington State drawing competitors, showman and tourists from the Greater Pacific Northwest and the Canadian province of British Columbia. As a regional show and competition facility, the horse park will accommodate large scale regional events such as the Arabian and Quarter Horse Shows, The North American Young Riders program, Dressage and World Cup Competitions. The facility is proposed to have a 200 by 300 foot covered arena, an 175 by 300 foot open arena, seating for over 1,000 spectators, a polo field, cross county competition course, 400 stalls [located in 8-separate barns] and the required appurtenant and support facilities to service the Horse Park.

Flag Pole Park is a community park located between the Cle Elum “wye” and the Coal Mines Trailhead. The park derives its name from the large American flag that has been traditionally flown here to welcome visitors to Cle Elum and as a reminder to its residents of Cle Elum’s tradition of duty and service to America. The park is an open lawn with room for active and passive activities.

Centennial Park is a community park located north of Third Street and nestled against a wooded hillside. This park has facilities for active recreation including; a marked and goal posted football field, a baseball/softball diamond and ample open lawn.

Swimming Pool Park is perhaps Cle Elum’s most diverse community Park which is located on the site of the old [now non-existent] community swimming pool. It includes a state-of-the art skate board facility, play ground equipment, horseshoe games, a large covered picnic shelter with tables and in ground barbeques, a large open lawn and is the eastern “trail head” for the Cle Elum Roslyn School community Progress Path.

Fireman’s Park / Memorial Ball Field are actually two adjoining community parks located in Cle Elum on the South Side of the Yakima River. Fireman’s Park is home to a large covered shelter, picnic tables, a wide open lawn and riverfront access. Memorial Ball Field is a competition youth baseball field complete with concessions, bleachers and high quality baseball fields.

Sagebrook Community is a neighborhood park designed to serve as a community meeting place and child’s play area. The park is a small grassy area with a community gazebo and barbeque area.

Four Seasons Aquatic Center The Four Seasons Recreational board is examining the possibility of constructing a community recreation center behind the Cle Elum-Roslyn School District campus. The center, expected to cost upward of \$1.5 million, may have several features, including a large indoor multi-use pool, baseball and soccer fields and concessions.

B. Passive/Natural Open Space

Hanson Ponds comprise three parcels, totaling approximately 82 acres in size, that are part of a larger riverine area owned by the City of Cle Elum. The main ponds were “breached” to allow for greater hydrologic continuity with the Yakima River and now provide exceptional salmon habitat. The Hanson Ponds area is also home to the Kiwanis youth fishing pond. The remainder of area is considered passive/open space with access to wooded areas, wetlands and riverine habitat.

C. Tracks, Trails and Connections

Coal Mines Trail is a 6-mile [1-mile located in the Cle Elum City Limits] year round multi purpose, maintained trail constructed from an abandoned coal mining rail car siding. As such the trail has a graveled surface and less than 1% grade; making it accessible to virtually all user groups. The trail connects Cle Elum and Roslyn and is used year round by hikers, bikers, snowmobiles, snowshoers, equestrian users and nature walkers.

Hanson Ponds Trail is a 1-mile un-maintained nature trail that follows the banks of the Yakima River and Hanson Ponds.

Progress Path is a 1-mile long rough and steep path that serves as walking access from Cle Elum to the Cle Elum Roslyn School Campus [K-12]. The Progress path will be re-surfaced [with a permanent all weather surface] in 2008 and regraded to accommodate a broader segment of users and conform to ADA accessibility standards.

D. School Facilities

Cle Elum Roslyn School Campus [K-12] is located just west of the City of Cle Elum along SR-903. The school is operated by the Cle Elum Roslyn School District. School facilities are made available through the district with school functions having priority over general public use. The total available recreational area is approximately 23 acres. There are 4 tennis courts, 3 baseball fields, 1 soccer/football field, a surfaced track and a large open grassy area.

E. Facilities within the Cle Elum Sphere of Influence

Coal Mines Trail see above.

Public Participation

There were multiple public meetings and a written survey that was undertaken for the purposes of updating this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element. 250 parks, recreation and open space surveys were mailed out to random households in Cle Elum in the summer of 2007. In addition there were two public visioning sessions and two public

meetings with members of the Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District, with comments from those sessions and meetings added to the public record. This Element was available to the public in draft form on October 9, 2007. The City of Cle Elum Planning Commission held a series of public meetings to review and take testimony on this draft in the fall and winter of 2007. Additional written comments were received through December 2007.

2007 Community Survey Results

The Cle Elum Parks, Recreation and Open Space survey was made available at all public sessions and meetings and was mailed to 250 random Cle Elum residents in summer 2007. The City received 33 responses to the survey, or 13%. While these survey results are not considered scientific, it was one of the tools Cle Elum used to gather the current opinions and interests of the Cle Elum community regarding the parks, recreation and open space system. This data, therefore, was used as a measurement of the overall public participation program to help gauge what is important to the community and to determine the future plan for the Cle Elum parks, recreation and open space system in the City.

The most used resource in 2007 was the Coal Mines Trail with 80% of the respondents indicating they use this facility “frequently”. Swimming Pool Park was the second most visited facility with 41% of the respondents indicating they use this facility frequently. Athletic Fields were listed by 40% of respondents as receiving frequent use, followed by playgrounds 30% and picnic shelter/tables 24%.

The overall quality of the parks was rated as “good” by 60% of the survey participants, which is a positive endorsement of our efforts to create an “excellent” parks, recreation and open space system. Most of the respondents universally agreed that they would like to see increased maintenance and investment in Cle Elum’s parks, recreation and open space system.

The highest number of survey respondents were in the 60+ age category followed by the 40-59 age category and then the 26-39 age category.

According to the survey, the top ten most desired enhancements and/or additions to the Cle Elum parks, recreation and open space system are:

1. Indoor Pool
2. Unpaved Trails
3. Basketball Courts
4. City Commons
5. Bicycle Lanes
6. Play Ground Enhancements
7. Open Space / Greenways
8. River Access
9. Paved Trails
10. Canoe / Kayak Access

Survey respondents identified the five most desirable facilities that should be targeted for acquisition [addition of new types of these facilities to the city) they are:

1. Tracks and Trails
2. Community Parks
3. Neighborhood Parks
4. Lands for Passive recreation
5. Open Space

Survey respondents overwhelmingly indicated that;

1. Walking access to a neighborhood park from their home is important
2. Walking access to a regional park from their home is important
3. Walking access to a track/trail from their home is important

[Walking access was considered to be no more than 10-15 minutes]

Preservation of natural areas and open spaces ranked consistently high on all surveys received. There appears to be significant interest in preserving and enhancing Cle Elum's natural environment and mountainous setting, which shows a consistent interest that is apparent in the Land Use [and all other] Elements of the Cle Elum Comprehensive Plan. Survey respondent's indicated the following projects that Cle Elum should prioritize funding for:

1. City Park Amenities (restrooms, water fountains, etc)
2. Construct Aquatic Facility
3. Acquire Land for City Parks
4. Improved Maintenance of Facilities
5. Recreational Programming and Activities
6. Bicycle Lanes
7. Acquire and Enhance Open Space and Greenbelt
8. Sport Specific amenities (football, soccer, basketball, etc)
9. Provide Fishing Access

An Evaluation of Parks and Recreation Demand and Needs

There no longer exists a nationally recognized acceptable standard to determine level-of-service measurements (LOS) for parks and recreation facilities. In the past many communities used the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standard of 39.3 acres for all types of park land (neighborhood, community, open space, regional parks, etc) per 1,000 people in the community. However the NRPA no longer recommends a standard for facility and park land based on population rations. Today the NRPA, recognizing that every community is different, suggests that LOS should be developed by the community and used as a guide in the planning process.

Washington State has used tools such as surveys, focus groups and participation by park and recreation professionals to solicit public input on outdoor recreation needs. The

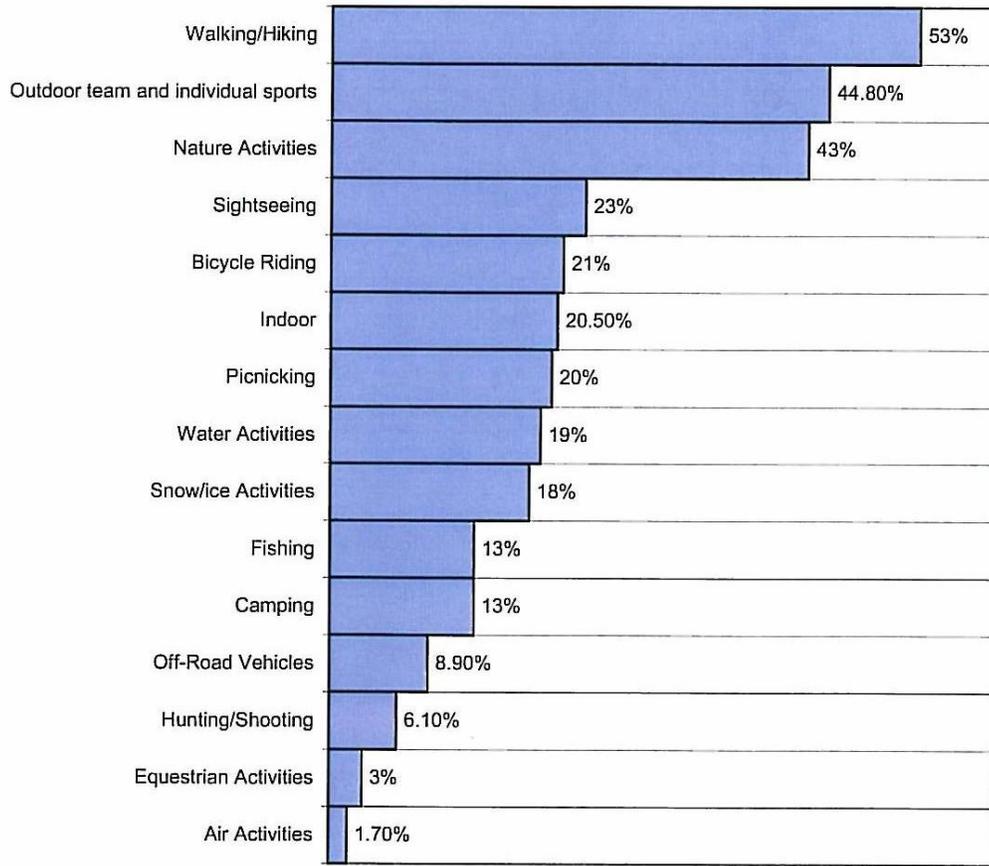
findings of this outreach are important as a guide for Cle Elum as another piece of data to be considered as the parks and recreation plan is developed.

In 2002 the Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation [now the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board] published an Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State. The following major conclusions, which parallel the result of Cle Elum parks, recreation and open space survey, were identified;

1. There is a need to provide better managed land and facilities supporting virtually all outdoor recreation categories
2. Linear activities are the most popular activities. A significant portion of all linear activity, especially walking and bicycling, takes place close to home on sidewalks, streets and roads.
3. Sports, individual and team types combined, is second in popularity, with many, sometimes incompatible, sports competing for use of available facilities.
4. Nature and natural settings play an important role in many activities by category and type. There is high participation in observing and photographing the outdoors, especially wildlife, as well as continued participation in the established nature-dependent activities of hunting and fishing, all of which indicates the importance of preserving habitat for fish and wildlife.
5. There is growing evidence of declining public health related to inactivity, and a need to address the whole of outdoor recreation in helping to reverse this decline.
6. There is a need to find acceptable means to pay for maintenance and operation, including improved on-the-ground management presence, of public lands and facilities.
7. There is a need for improved data on public recreation behavior and preferences, as well as the inventory of available facilities, in order to ensure that public resources are more effectively utilized in meeting public needs.

A high demand for recreation facilities within 15-minutes [walking time] of a residence was shown in the results of the Cle Elum parks, recreation and open space survey and the Washington Outdoor: Assessment and Policy Plan, 1990-1995 (IAC, April 1990). This data is important in establishing LOS standards for Cle Elum. Additionally the 2002 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State [this accurately reflected nearly identical results obtained by the 2007 Cle Elum parks, recreation and open space survey] found that most people pursue close-to-home, low cost activities. Walking, hiking, outdoor team sports, nature activities, sight seeing and bicycling ranked as the top five most popular activities statewide. Table 1.5 below depicts participation in general Recreation Categories as a percent of the Washington State Population [again, the result mirrored Cle Elum's survey findings]

Table 1.5 Participation in General Recreation Categories as a Percent of Population Statewide and Cle Elum



The Cle Elum population and age demographic is also a vital piece of information used to hone LOS, direct funding allocations, and determine the prioritization of needs and facilities based off the demand of actual current and future users. The median age of the Cle Elum general population in 2000 was 40.5 years of age. The following Table 1.6 depicts Cle Elum's 2000 population demographic.

Table 1.6 Cle Elum Population by Age

Age Group	Number of Persons-2000	% of 2000 population
<5	106	6
5 to 9	116	6.6
10 to 14	110	6.3
15 to 19	114	6.5
20 to 24	95	5.4
25 to 34	195	11.1
35 to 44	273	15.6
45 to 54	256	14.6
55 to 59	98	5.6
60 to 64	78	4.4
65 to 74	139	7.9
75 to 84	118	6.7
85 +	57	3.2

Source: U.S. Census 2000

Level of Service Standards

The level of service standards (LOS) were determined by evaluating current and future users, the 2007 survey results, past NRPA and neighboring communities' [including Kittitas County] level of service standards, state parks and recreation trends, public input, age and population demographics and projections, and the findings and major conclusions of the IAC 2002 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State.

The proposed level of service for parks and passive open space in Cle Elum is 15 acres per 1,000 population. Of the 15 acres, 6 acres per 1,000 population is slated for active parks and 9 acres per 1,000 population is slated for passive open space. Additionally this LOS expects 4 miles of trails and connections [all types] per 1,000 population. Table 1.7 below depicts Cle Elum current and future needs. It is important to note that the City is responsible for the acquisition and development of the parks and open space to meet current and future demands. These needs will be primarily sought to be funded through grants, donations and as regional/intergovernmental projects. Some future needs may also be "funded" by dedication of lands by developers and development impact fees (or other mitigation) for parks and recreation.

Table 1.7 Current Parks and Recreation Needs to Meet Established LOS

Facility	Total Existing	2007 LOS Demand (1,835 Persons)	2007 Current Needs	2025 LOS Needs (10,034 Persons)
Active Parks (6 ac./1,000)	39.6	10.5	N/A	61 total
Open Space (9 ac./1,000)	82	16.5	N/A	91 total
Tracks, Trails and Connections* (4 mi./1,000)	3.0	6.5	3.5	41 total

*Includes hiking and walking trails, walking routes [new or over existing streets/facilities], bicycle lanes, bicycle routes, tracks, trails and connections.

As with levels of service for parks and open space, the facilities standards were developed by evaluating current and future users, the 2007 survey results, past NRPA and neighboring communities' [including Kittitas County] level of service standards, state parks and recreation trends, public input, age and population demographics and projections, and the findings and major conclusions of the IAC 2002 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State. It is more difficult to establish levels of service for specific facilities, since some of these facilities may be available privately or regionally [for example, Roslyn recently constructed a large-scale playground, a local church has an "open gym" basketball policy and the City of Ellensburg maintains a year round aquatic facility]. Table 1.7 below examines facility needs, demand and level of service.

Table 1.8 Projected Facility Needs to Meet Established LOS

Facility	Total Existing	2007 LOS Demand (1,835 Persons)	2007 Current Needs	2025 LOS Needs (10,034 Persons)
Restrooms at City parks	0	7 (1-per park)	7	1 per park
Aquatic Facility	0	0	1	1
Basketball Courts	0	2	2	8
Soccer Field	0	1	1	4
Tennis Court	0	1	1	4
Water Fountain at each city park/trail head	2	12 (1-per park/trail head)	10	1 per park/trail head

In summary, there is a need for active and passive recreation lands, as well as a general need for the addition to and the maintenance of existing facilities. The strong desire for the acquisition and maintenance of multi-use trails has been consistently demonstrated by the community. The parks and open space system should be continued to be improved and linked where practicable by tracks, trails, bicycle lanes or improved walking routes. Improvements to current facilities should be made to preserve and enhance existing parks and open space resources. As noted in table 1.7 and 1.8 above the acquisition of lands and the development of several facilities are warranted. After careful analysis, the following parks, recreation and open space priorities can therefore be established [**not in order of priority**];

1. **Acquire passive open space to meet level of service standard.** This open space should be accessible to the public and could be located in new subdivisions or in locations throughout the City. This open space should be linked to other facilities as part of the Cle Elum parks, recreation and open space system. Environmentally sensitive areas should be preserved and enhanced. Greenbelts are an important component of the City's open space needs, especially as Cle Elum and the surrounding areas continue to be developed.
2. **Expand and redevelop existing parks.** Create detailed park development plans including expansion, park facilities improvements, uniform signage and annual maintenance requirements. Preservation and enhancement of existing parks resources is a good investment for the City and the parks system users.
3. **Continue to develop a multi-use trail system.** A total of 41 miles of tracks, trails and connections will be needed by 2025 to meet LOS standards. The City should continue to acquire and develop [e.g. construction specifications, materials, surfacing, signage, maintenance plans, etc] tracks, trails and connections to ensure uniformity and consistency. A map of trails, parks and open spaces could be developed for the public. The Cle Elum Skyline Trail has been identified as a priority for acquisition and completion (See Map 1.8 on page 24).
4. **Acquire land for active parks, especially neighborhood parks.** Active parkland acquisition is an important component of Cle Elum's parks, recreation and open space system. Potential sites and connections to them (and other facilities) should be identified early on to preserve and protect these resources from development and to ensure a comprehensive, cohesive, and linked multi-use system.
5. **Develop a park maintenance action plan.** In addition to establishing regular maintenance plan, consider developing an "adopt a park" program for local community groups and business to participate in.
6. **Develop a park, recreation and open space funding plan.** This plan would help the City better allocate its existing resources and position it to seek out all possible funding sources for the maintenance, preservation and enhancement of our parks, recreation and open space resources.
7. **Continue community events.** Community events, such as Christmas in Cle Elum, Pioneer Days and the Cle Elum 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament help create and sustain a strong sense of community.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element Goals and Policies

Goal PRO-1: Develop an outstanding parks, recreation and open space system in Cle Elum to meet the needs of a diverse community.

Policies:

PRO-1.1 Preserve a wide variety of lands for park, recreation and open space purposes including, but not limited to:

- a. Natural areas and natural features with scenic or recreational value.
- b. Land that may provide public access to water bodies, trails, natural areas and parks.
- c. Lands that visually or physically connect natural areas or provide important linkages for recreation and wildlife habitat.
- d. Environmentally sensitive areas, including steep slopes, floodways, wetlands, stream corridors and habitat.

PRO-1.2 Locate facilities and resources where they are easily accessible to the public.

PRO-1.3 Strive to achieve adopted level of service standards and integrate capital expenditures with municipal budgeting and capital facilities planning.

PRO-1.4 Seek funding from multiple sources for parks, recreation and open space acquisition and development

PRO-1.5 Establish an annual parks maintenance program which includes tasks for city staff, volunteers and community groups.

PRO-1.6 Continue to support, and where appropriate, sponsor community events.

PRO-1.7 Acquire and develop a system of parks, recreation and open spaces that any resident can access by walking no more than 15-minutes from their home.

PRO-1.8 Where appropriate and practicable provide parks, recreation and open space facilities that are accessible to all.

PRO-1.9 Develop a variety of parks, recreation and open space facilities to encourage access by persons of all ability, age or interest group.

PRO-1.10 Prepare a master plan for each facility in the City to identify site specific future improvements and needs.

Goal PRO-2: Acquire and develop a City wide, integrated, multiple use track, trail and connection system that is functional, safe and convenient.

PRO-2.1 Develop specific design and maintenance standards for tracks, trails and connections.

PRO-2.2 Develop a network of open space corridors, tracks, trails, paths and connections throughout the City. This network should provide links between developments and subdivisions and also provide links to parks, open spaces, other trails, shopping, and local government services [such as the hospital and library].

PRO-2.3 Provide [where appropriate] for the safe integration of bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian and motorized multi-use networks.

PRO-2.4 Encourage the development of pedestrian rights of way and well lighted trails which can provide safe passage between neighborhoods, schools, commercial and recreational areas.

PRO-2.5 Upgrade existing trails and acquire new easements or lands to extend trails.

PRO-2.6 Create a comprehensive system of on-road trails to improve connectivity for the pedestrian and bicycle commuter, recreationalist and touring enthusiast using local road rights of way and alignments.

PRO-2.7 Develop the Cle Elum Skyline Trail to connect Cle Elum's trail system with other trail systems, parks and open space resources and Upper Kittitas County.

Goal PRO-3: Work Cooperatively with the State, Kittitas County, School District, Parks and Recreation District and the community in parks planning, acquisition and development.

PRO-3.1 Promote the provision and development of park and recreation facilities through public and private funding, including impact fees (or other mitigation) and partnerships with other agencies.

PRO-3.2 Require all new developments to contribute their fair share to parks, recreation and open space. Contributions could either include land dedication or fees in lieu of land.

PRO-3.3 Require all new development projects along trail routes to provide easements for trails and/or for connections to the City's existing trail system.

PRO-3.4 Encourage the preservation and dedication of lands for parks, recreation and open space through density incentives, trades, purchases of land, easements or transfer of development rights.

PRO-3.5 Proactively participate in regional parks and recreation planning activities, forums and joint projects [where appropriate].

Goal PRO-4: Preserve and provide access to significant environmental features and lands where such access does not harm the functions associated with the feature.

PRO-4.1 Identify and conserve critical wildlife habitat, foraging areas and migration corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces and developable urban lands.

PRO-4.2 Enhance habitat within parks, recreation and open space lands by maintaining our healthy urban forest that provides food, shelter and cover to wildlife.

PRO-4.3 Enhance habitat within environmentally sensitive areas by maintaining native vegetation.

PRO-4.4 Preserve and protect significant environmental features including wetlands, open spaces, woodlands, shorelines, water fronts and other features that support Cle Elum's wildlife and natural heritage.

Goal PRO-5: Establish an open space pattern that will provide definition of and separation between developed lands, and provide open space linkages among parks and recreation resources.

PRO-5.1 Define and conserve a system of open space corridors as urban buffers to provide definition between natural areas and urban land uses within Cle Elum.

PRO-5.2 Increase linkages of trails, in-street bike lanes and trails, and other connections with developed areas.

Goal PRO-6: Identify and protect significant recreation lands/opportunities before they are lost to development.

PRO-6.1 Cooperate with developers, public agencies and private land owners to protect land and resources for high-quality parks, recreation and open space facilities before the most suitable sites and appropriate connections are lost to development.

PRO-6.2 In future land developments, preserve unique environmental features or areas, and increase public use/access to those areas. Cooperate with public and private agencies and landowners to protect unique features, lands and connections.

Goal PRO-7: Preserve, enhance and incorporate historic and cultural resources and interests into the parks, recreation and open space system.

PRO-7.1 Identify, preserve and enhance Cle Elum's heritage, history and traditions; including historic sites, views and archaeological resources.

PRO-7.2 Identify and incorporate significant historic and cultural resources lands, sites, artifacts and facilities into the Cle Elum parks, recreation and open space system.

PRO-7.3 Work with the Local Historical society and Museums to incorporate community activities at the Carpenter House and the Telephone Museum.

Goal PRO-8: Investigate and implement methods of financing parks, recreation open space acquisitions and improvements such as grant funding, public private partnerships, etc.

PRO-8.1 Investigate innovative, available methods, such as growth impact fees (or other mitigation), land set-a-side or fee-in-lieu-of-donation ordinances, and inter local agreements, to finance facility development, maintenance, and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match use benefits and interests and increase services.

PRO-8.2 Where feasible and desirable, consider joint ventures with Kittitas County, So. Cle Elum, Roslyn, the Cle Elum Roslyn School District, Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District, state, federal and other agencies and private organizations to acquire and develop parks, recreation and open space facilities.

Goal PRO-9: Create a comprehensive system of multipurpose tracks and trails that link parks and recreation resources with residential areas, public facilities, and commercial and employment centers within Cle Elum and the Upper Kittitas County Region.

PRO-9.1 Provide connections from residential neighborhoods to community facilities like the Carpenter Memorial Library, City Hall and the Upper Kittitas County Primary Care Facility.

PRO-9.2 Create a comprehensive system of on-road trails to improve connectivity for the pedestrian and bicycle commuter, recreationalist and touring enthusiast using local road rights of way and alignments.

PRO-9.3 With proposed vacation of right-of-way and street improvement plans, consider potential connectivity with existing or proposed trail corridors, parks, open spaces and neighborhoods.

PRO-9.4 Continue to enhance and maintain the Progress Path from the Cle Elum Roslyn School District Campus to the Carpenter Memorial Library.

Goal PRO-10: Furnish parks, recreation and open space with convenient amenities and improvements

PRO-10.1 Furnish trail systems with appropriate improvements including; directory and interpretative signage, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, emergency call boxes and other services.

PRO-10.2 Where appropriate locate trailheads at or in conjunctions with park sites, schools, or other community facilities to increase local access and to reduce the duplication of supporting improvements and amenities.

PRO-10.2 Design and develop parks, recreation and open space improvements to emphasize access and safety for all users.

Cle Elum Skyline Trail

As discussed in detail in this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element a fundamental and significant community priority is the establishment of additional tracks, trails and connections. The Level of Service Standards requires Cle Elum to have 41 total miles of tracks, trails and connections by the year 2025 (4 mi. /per 1,000 population). Another fundamental priority is for tracks, trails and connections to “link” to as many parks recreation and open space resources as possible. The Cle Elum Skyline Trail has the broad support of the community and of affected land owners for just those reasons.

The Skyline Trail is proposed to circumnavigate Cle Elum, linking a single city-loop trail to the Coal Mines Trail, the John Wayne Trail, the Mountains to Sound Greenway, the Progress Pathway, the Cle Elum and Yakima River corridors, the Hanson Ponds Area, the Cle Elum “Wye” and would provide access throughout Cle Elum and connect to South Cle Elum and Roslyn. Much of the potential trail is already designated, or the land owned by the City or sympathetic landowners. Map 1.8 on the following page represents a *possible* route for the Skyline Trail that was designed through the public visioning sessions and public meetings.

Map 1.8 Skyline Trail

