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Parks & Recreation Planning

The City's 2019 Comprehensive Plan is a guide for City operation and development. Each "Element" (aka *chapter*) contains specific data and information formulated into a plan about that topic, and includes goals and policies the City should be using as a guide for comprehensive plan implementation, as required by the Growth Management Act. All development and actions in the City are required to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, which is a good reason to review the plan regularly and determine whether changes need to be made to policies or practices, or whether the Plan should be amended. The comprehensive plan can be found on the City's website at: <http://cityofcleelum.com/city-servicesplanningcomprehensive-plan-update/>

The Comprehensive Plan should be used as a guide to implementation of the Parks and Recreation element. In addition to the goals and policies, the [Parks and Recreation element](#) lists many specific parks and recreation projects, such as improving and expanding the picnic area shelter at City Park. These comments can be found in the Parks and Recreation element's appendices.

Lastly, park projects are for the community and should be designed by and for the users as much as possible. Once plans have been drafted for a particular park project, it is recommended to bring the community into the planning process in the form of an open house, a survey, or other mechanism to ensure planned projects will truly be with the users' preferences in mind.

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 abilities, ages, or interest groups.
- 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.

Policies:

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

Policies:

- PRO-3.1 Promote the provision and development of park and recreation facilities through public and private funding, including impact fees, 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 when 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.

Policies:

- 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.

Policies:

- 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, trails, and other connections with developed areas.

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

Policies:

- 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.

Policies:

- PRO-7.1 Identify, preserve, and enhance Cle Elum’s heritage, history, and traditions;

including historic sites, views, landscapes, 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, and open space acquisitions and improvements, such as grant funding and public-private partnerships.

Policies:

PRO-8.1 Investigate innovative and available methods such as growth impact fees, 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 with interests, and increase services.

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

Goal PRO-9: Create a comprehensive system of multi-purpose 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.

Policies:

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.

Policies:

- 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 near park sites, schools, or other community facilities to increase local access to and 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.