



CHAPTER 5

PARKS AND RECREATION

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS CHAPTER:

- Background information on the development of the Parks and Recreation System Plan (PRSP).
- General overview of Ellensburg's parks and recreation department.
- Incorporation of the PRSP into the Comprehensive Plan by reference.
- Summary of PRSP Goals.

OVERVIEW

The Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department has six program divisions: youth programs, adult senior services, athletics, aquatics, fitness and recreation, and park maintenance.

In 2016, Ellensburg updated and adopted a Parks and Recreation System Plan (PRSP) that provides guidance on the management and development of Ellensburg's parklands, recreation programs, trails, and open spaces.

The PRSP also serves to unite the system into a coordinated network that reflects the needs and recommended priorities for the benefit of city residents, the surrounding community, and visitors.

The PRSP is on a six-year update cycle, in alignment with the requirements of the

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to maintain eligibility for state and federal grant programs, and is an important tool for meeting Growth Management Act requirements.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Ellensburg maintains a parks and recreation system that includes a wide variety of facilities and activities for Ellensburg and Kittitas County residents.

The 2016 Parks and Recreation System Plan (PRSP) provides a detailed description of Ellensburg’s important natural features and an inventory of existing parks, facilities, and programs that make up Ellensburg’s parks and recreation system. The PRSP provides detailed descriptions of each area that includes: existing conditions, current inventory of facilities, and recommended capital needs. In addition, the City Parks and Recreation Department maintains and operates four indoor year-round facilities including an adult senior center, municipal pool/fitness center, youth center, and racquet and recreation center.



The PRSP combines technical analysis with input from the community to set a direction for the future of the park and recreation system. The PRSP represents the needs, desires, and recommended priorities of the community in relation to parks and recreation.

The PRSP includes an action plan that includes specific measures for the park and recreation system and park master plans for Kiwanis Park, Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park, Veterans Memorial Park, Lions Mountain View Park, and Reed Park that address current and future community needs and recommendations. The action plan includes the necessary steps to address the goals, policies, guidelines, and standards adopted in the PRSP.

In 2016 the City, Ellensburg Business Development Authority, Ellensburg Downtown Association, and the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce jointly contracted

ELLENSBURG PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Pocket parks – 8

- Craig’s Hill Triangles
- Catherine Park (undeveloped)
- Entry Park
- Friendship Park
- Jennison-Repp
- Kleinberg Park
- Rotary Pavilion
- Wippel Park

Neighborhood parks – 6

- Kiwanis Park
- Lions Mountain View Park
- McElroy Park
- North Alder Street Park
- Veteran Memorial Park
- West Ellensburg Park

Community parks – 2

- Paul Rogers Wildlife Park
- Reed Community Park

Regional parks – 2

- Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park
- Rotary Park

with Arnett Muldrow and Associates to prepare a Downtown Market Study and Economic Development Plan. Findings from this study included a recommendation to develop a public gathering space in or near the City Central Business District. In addition to the action plan in the PRSP, action to acquire property and develop a downtown public space is anticipated. By purchasing property, the City, with community and user-group input, would design and develop a space that meets the current and future park needs in downtown Ellensburg. Through partnerships with various local organizations, the City will be able to host and co-sponsor events held throughout the year in downtown Ellensburg.

The needs identified in the PRSP are based on population projections consistent with the growth anticipated during the planning period of this comprehensive plan. It is the intention to implement the PRSP through existing and future partnerships, pursuing grant-funding opportunities, and including parks projects in the annual capital improvement plan as appropriate.

Existing funding sources for implementation of the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan include the City's general obligation fund, growth impact fees, and capital funding. The 2015-2016 general fund budget for Parks and Recreation was about \$2.2 million with a 25% increase from the previous year. The City has collected park impact fees since 1994 per single family home, new multifamily residential unit, and manufactured home space or lot. Under the City's adopted State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) ordinance park impacts may also be collected for new commercial, industrial, and institutional uses based on the impact the project will have on such facilities.

According to the City's PRSP, the cost of meeting future park and recreation needs could exceed current anticipated financial capabilities which might require additional funding sources.

The PRSP is hereby adopted by reference into this Comprehensive Plan.

ELLENSBURG PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Natural open space – 3

- Naneum Watershed (city owned)
- Naneum Watershed (leased from DNR)
- Reecer Creek Restoration

Special use areas – 5

- Adult Activity Center
- Memorial Pool/Fitness
- Skate Park
- Youth Center

Trails and connections - 15

Beautification areas

GOALS, POLICIES, & PROGRAMS

The following goals are directly from the PRSP. For the full list of objectives that pertain to each of the following goals refer to Chapter 2: Goals and Objectives in the Parks and Recreation System Plan hereby adopted by reference.

Goal PR-1 Administrative

Goal PR 1.1: Sustainable resources and coordinated management: Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

Goal PR-2 Recreation facilities and programs

Goal PR 2.1 Citywide programs and services: Develop high quality recreational programs and services that meet all community and group needs.

Goal PR 2.2 Recreational facilities: Develop a high quality, diversified recreation system that provides for all age and interest groups.

Goal PR 2.3 Design and access standards: Design and develop facilities that are accessible, safe, and easy to maintain with life cycle features that account for long-term costs and benefits.

Goal PR-3 Special historical and cultural resources/special use areas

Goal PR 3.1 Historical resources: Develop a high quality, diversified park system that preserves historical opportunity areas and features.

Goal PR 3.2 Manmade environments and features: Incorporate interesting manmade environments, structures, activities, and areas into the park system to preserve these features and provide a balanced park, recreation and open space experience – such as the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot, Cascade and Town Canals.

Goal PR 3.3 Cultural arts programs and resources: Develop high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase community awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities.

ACTION ITEMS

Action items are included as objectives in the 2016 Park, Recreation, and System Plan adopted by reference into this Comprehensive Plan.

POLICY CONNECTIONS

The **Transportation** element contains a set of policies on active modes of transportation and ways to improve streets and trails, and neighborhood connectivity.

The **Land Use** element establish land use patterns that promote walking and biking and policies that locate new higher density housing near existing parks.