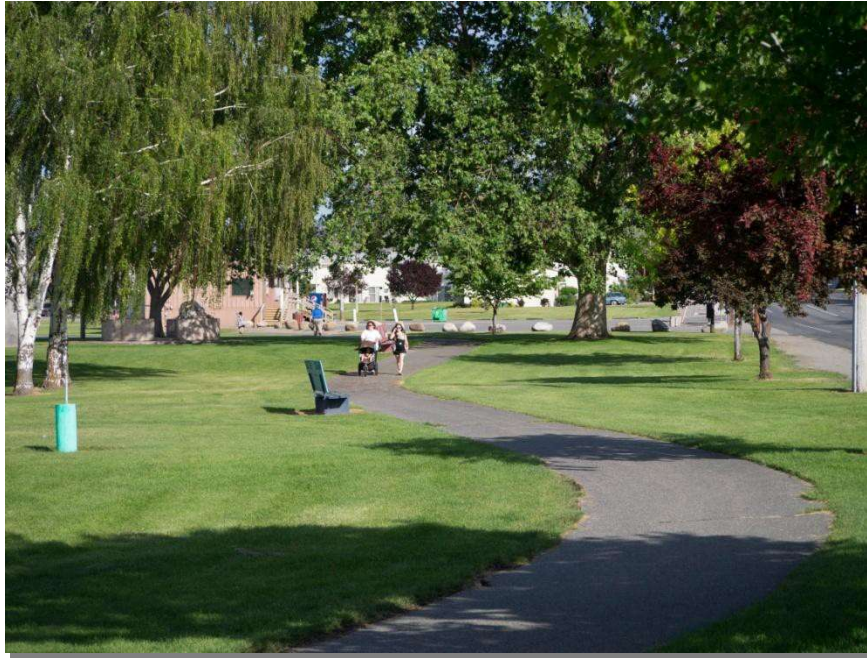


City of Omak



Parks and Recreation Plan

~~April 7, 2020~~ **DRAFT August 2025**

Omak City Council

Cindy Gagne	Mayor
Michael Foth	Position #1
Michelle Gaines	Position #2
Natalie Carriker	Position #3
Dave Womack	Position #4
Barry Freel	Position #5
Steve Clark	Position #6
<u>Maria Lassila</u>	Position #7

Omak Park Board

~~Bob Clark~~ — ~~Chair~~
~~Sarah Spence~~
~~Joe LaGrou~~

Vision

Omak's parks provide attractive open spaces and facilities for sports, wellness, and connection with nature, distributed throughout the community for residents and visitors, providing a focus on the river, and encouraging walking and bicycling. The City of Omak will foster community involvement and partnerships that support the operation, improvement, and utilization of its parks.



Community members engage in healthy lifestyles utilizing our local parks.

Summary

In carrying out the Parks and Recreation Plan, the City of Omak (the city) will:

- Continue development of the Eastside Park in partnership with the Omak Stampede Inc, Omak Stampede Indian Encampment and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Tribes), guided by the Park's master plan;
- Improve access to and along the Okanogan River which runs through the city;
- Improve use and public benefit from Omak's various small neighborhood parks;
- Strive to make all parks well-tended, family friendly and safe;
- Increase walk-ability and make the city more bike friendly;
- Continue ongoing and encourage partnerships with the Omak School District, sports leagues, and community organizations/service clubs and encourage new partnerships that support operation, safety, maintenance and improvement of the parks;
- Encourage involvement and consider input from City residents, planning area residents and visitors through an engaged and active Park Board;
- Replace recreational facilities at the end of their service life or as needed to improve function and safety as funding allows;
- Pursue funding to tackle the capital improvements identified in this plan.

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Introduction

Omak is fortunate to have a nice set of parks and open spaces. Some are well-known and offer a variety of recreational facilities, such as the Eastside and Civic League parks. The park system also includes small open spaces which may not be readily recognizable as parks, such as Patterson, Johnny's, and Ivy parks. Two large relatively natural open spaces adjoin the Okanogan River and the river itself provides a recreational corridor through town. Although arterial streets bustle with traffic, quiet side streets offer pleasant walking and bicycling. In addition to the City's parks and rights-of-ways, school district playfields and track are accessible to the public after hours and between events. Portions of a flood control levee along the river are open to the public, providing great opportunities to walk beside and enjoy the river. The City has been engaging additional owners with land underlying the levee to open an additional length of the levee as a riverfront trail.

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is a major source of funding for recreational facilities within the state. RCO grants have provided significant funding for city park facilities in the past. To maintain funding eligibility, the City must have a comprehensive plan that is approved by the RCO and has been adopted within the past six years.

This Parks and Recreation Plan provides a comprehensive approach to development and management of the city's parks and recreation facilities for the next six years. The Plan will:

- Establish goals and objectives for the city's park system;
- Describe the planning area and provide an inventory of existing city parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, their condition and capacity;
- Describe public involvement in development of the Plan;
- Analyze demand and need for the city's recreational facilities;
- Provide an action plan and six-year capital improvement program;
- Provide the city resolution and self-certification checklist approving the plan;
- Qualify the city for Washington Recreation and Conservation Office grant funding.

The Plan builds upon and updates previous plans prepared by ~~Kurt Danison and~~ Highlands Associates and adopted by the City in 2006, 2010, ~~and 2012~~ and 2020. It considers the results of public input surveys prepared and distributed by the Omak Park Board in 2018 and 2019 as well as direct input from the Park Board, park users and other residents, city staff, civic leaders and the Omak City Planner. The 2020 is update revision was written-prepared by immediate past Park Board member Todd Thorn.

Description of Planning Area

Location and Setting

Omak is situated in North Central Washington along the Okanogan River approximately 45 miles south of the Canadian border and 90 miles north of Wenatchee. The City community is located along the western boundary of the Colville Indian Reservation and extends within a portion of the Reservation. Figure 1 shows the City's location within Washington State.

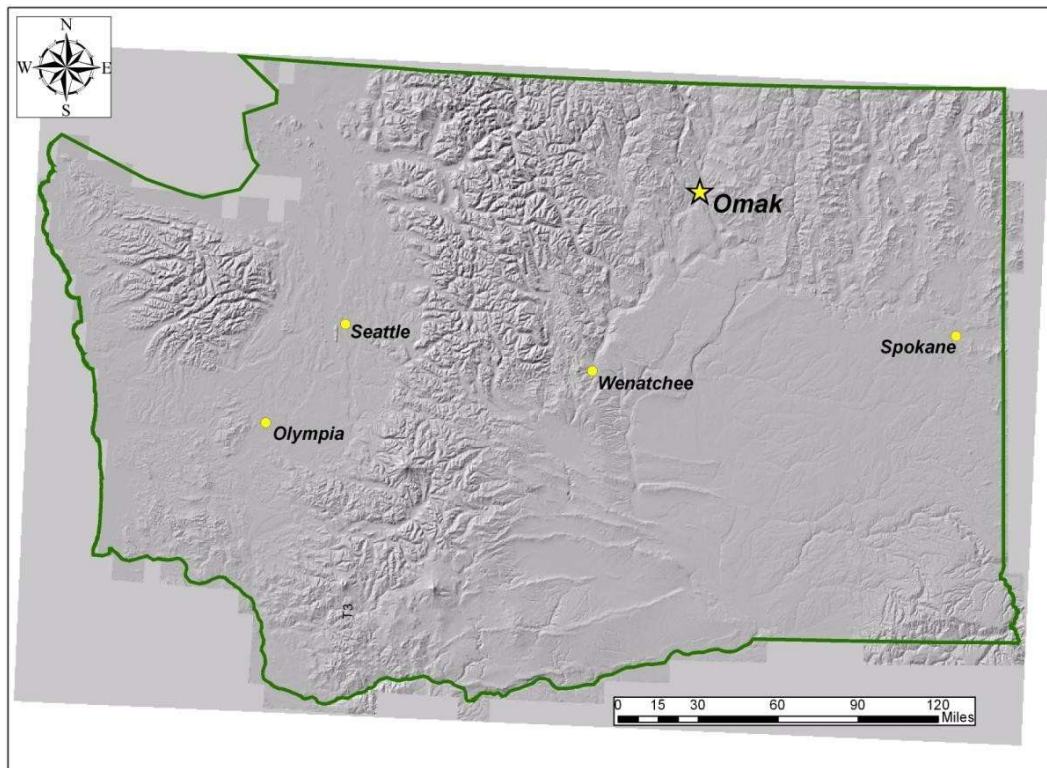


Figure 1. Location of Omak within Washington State.

Omak's location in the Okanogan Valley provides a four-season climate with contrasting hot summer and cold winter seasons. The elevation (825-1,000 feet MSL) and location at the eastern tree-edge of Washington's North Cascades mountains result in abundant dry sunny weather. Annual precipitation is about 13 inches falling mostly as snow.

Three highways, two are designated as National Scenic Byways, come together here, making the City a hub for Okanogan County and the surrounding region. U.S. 97 is a major north/south transportation corridor in Washington, extending from British Columbia to California, and is designated the Okanogan Trails Scenic Byway. The scenic North Cascades Highway (S.R. 20) is the primary route east/west route through the County and provides access from the Methow Valley into Omak and the Central Okanogan Valley. State Route 155 is part of the Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway and provides a link from the Okanogan Valley through the Colville Indian Reservation to the Grand Coulee Dam area and Spokane to the east. All three highways are heavily used for commerce and recreational travel. Figure 2 shows Omak's

central location within Okanogan County.

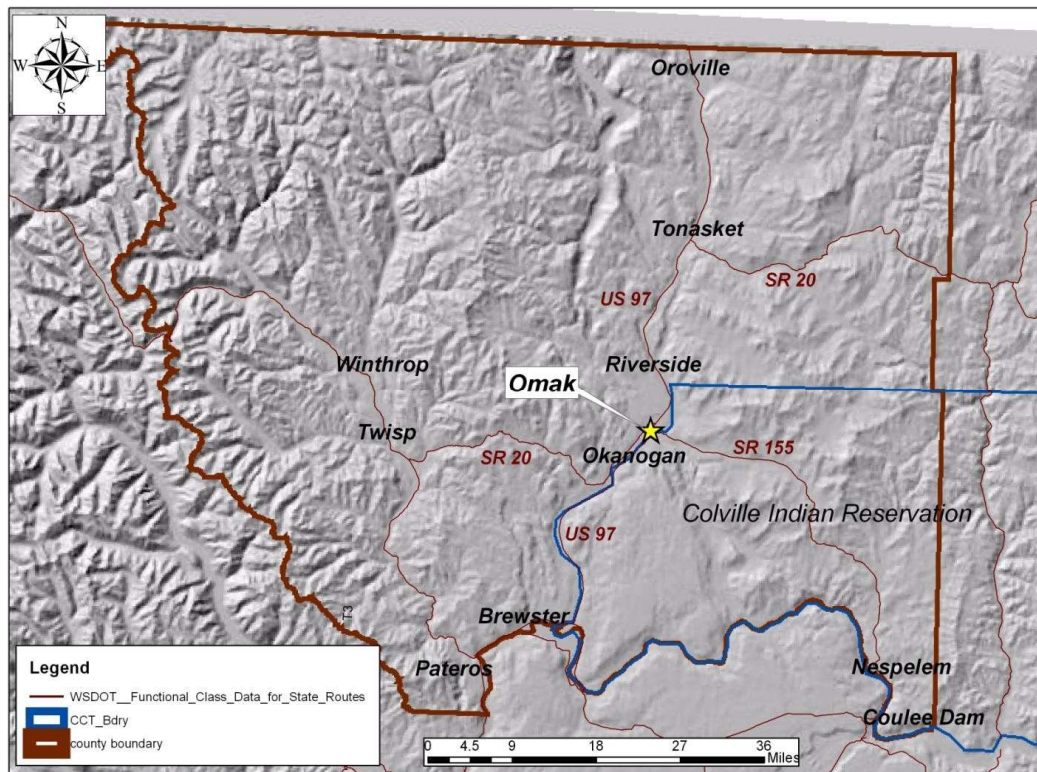


Figure 2. Location of Omak within Okanogan County.

The county seat is located a few miles south of Omak in the City of Okanogan. Many homes on small acreage, farms, ranches, and fruit orchards surround both towns within the valley bottom and wide terraces. The broad Okanogan Valley is bounded by steep hills and mountains extending to the east and west, which become forested at higher elevations. The Okanogan River drains an expansive watershed extending well north of the international border and over to the crest of Cascades. Considerable public land within the county is managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Federal Bureau of Land Management, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Fish and Wildlife, all of which allow dispersed recreational use. Recreation within the Colville Reservation is generally limited to tribal members with the exception of specific sites or activities that may be permitted by the Tribe.

Demographics

Omak is the population center of Okanogan County. The April 1, 2018-2024 population estimate from the Washington Office of Financial Management indicates a population of 4,985-980 within the City of Omak, and a population of 42,490-43,200 countywide. An estimated one-half of the County's total population lives within a 40-mile radius of the City.

The City of Omak had a 2010-2020 U.S. Census population of 4,845-860, almost equally divided between the sexes (47.57-46.6% male, 52.43-53.60% female). Census data offers general characteristics of the City's population including the following information: about-25-28.50% of the population was under 18 years of age and 18-17.20% of the population was over 65; the City and surrounding area is a diverse community with 17.5-20% Native American, and a Hispanic or Latino population of 13-18.9% and two or more races

18.90%. For 2017-2024 the Census estimated a slight decrease for Omak at 4,787, the percentages of females and those under the age of 18 increasing. The 2017 census estimated 18% of the population to be Native American and 19.6% Hispanic. The April 1, 2018 official population from the Washington State Official of Financial Management was 4,985.

The population of Omak grew steadily from the early 1900's through the 1970's, reaching 4,440 in 1975. Population then declined to 4,000 by 1980 and only surpassed that peak by the mid-1990's. Growth continued up to 2010, declining again slightly through 2017 according to U.S. Census estimates. Table 1 contains historic population data and notes the percent of change by decade from 1970 through 2010, for the five-year period from 2010-2015 and annually from 2015 through 2018. Average annual growth in population from 1990 to 2000 was 1.39%, but since 2000 has slowed to less than 1% per year.

Table 1. City Population Trend Since 1970

Year	Population	% Change
1970	4,164	
1980	4,007	-3.77%
1990	4,117	2.75%
2000	4,721	14.67%
2010	4,845	3.00%
2015	4,784	-1.28%
2016	4,774	-0.21%
2017	4,787	0.27%
2018	4,985	3.79%
<u>2019</u>	<u>4,860</u>	<u>-0.91%</u>
<u>2020</u>	<u>4,870</u>	<u>-1.65%</u>
<u>2021</u>	<u>4,950</u>	<u>0.21%</u>
<u>2022</u>	<u>4,980</u>	<u>1.62%</u>
<u>2023</u>	<u>4,860</u>	<u>0.60%</u>

For planning purposes, annual growth rates for the City of .05%, 1%, and 2% are projected over five-year increments to 2040-2045. Table 2 shows these projections. Omak's population history indicates that .05% growth is the slowest rate to be expected over time. The second (1%) and third (2%) rates reflect moderate rates of growth, corresponding with electrical load increases noted by the Public Utility District in recent years. Recent annexations of areas intended for commercial development and new home construction are expected to facilitate increasing growth of the City.

Table 2. Projected City Populations at .5%, 1% and 2% Annual Growth Rates

	<u>2018</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>2030</u>	<u>2025</u> <u>2035</u>	<u>2030</u> <u>2040</u>	<u>2035</u> <u>2045</u>
Population at .5% per year	<u>4,985</u> <u>980</u>	<u>5,229</u> <u>5,035</u>	<u>5,490</u> <u>5,136</u>	<u>5,765</u> <u>5,266</u>	<u>6,053</u> <u>5,399</u>
Population increase		<u>249</u> <u>50</u>	<u>261</u> <u>126</u>	<u>275</u> <u>280</u>	<u>288</u> <u>413</u>
Population at 1% per year	<u>4,985</u> <u>980</u>	<u>5,478</u> <u>5,085</u>	<u>6,026</u> <u>5,292</u>	<u>6,628</u> <u>5,562</u>	<u>7,291</u> <u>5,845</u>
Population increase		<u>498</u> <u>100</u>	<u>548</u> <u>254</u>	<u>603</u> <u>573</u>	<u>663</u> <u>854</u>
Population at 2% per year	<u>4,985</u> <u>980</u>	<u>5,976</u> <u>5,186</u>	<u>7,171</u> <u>5,614</u>	<u>8,605</u> <u>6,198</u>	<u>10,327</u> <u>6,843</u>
Population increase		<u>996</u> <u>202</u>	<u>1,195</u> <u>519</u>	<u>1,434</u> <u>1,200</u>	<u>1,721</u> <u>1,832</u>

School district enrollment provides another way to look at the local population. Omak School District enrollment decreased from 2008 through 2014 but has been rising since. Table 3 provides enrollment figures for the District beginning with the 2007/2008 school year.

Table 3. Omak School District Enrollment Data

Year	Total Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
2007-08	1,805	10.33%
2008-09	1,754	-2.83%
2009-2010	1,702	-2.96%
2010-11	1,509	-11.34%
2011-2012	1,469	-2.65%
2012-2013	1,424	-3.06%
2013-2014	1,403	-1.47%
2014-2015	1,415	0.86%
2015-2016	1,423	0.57%
2016-2017	1,482	4.15%
2017-2018	1,515	2.23%
<u>2018-2019</u>		
<u>2019-2020</u>		
<u>2020-2021</u>		
<u>2021-2022</u>		
<u>2022-2023</u>		
<u>2023-2024</u>		
<u>2024-2025</u>		

City population projections, school district enrollment, and visitor records all point to slow but steady increases in demand for recreational facilities in the future.

Records kept by Omak's Visitor Information Center show a steady increase in the visiting population, attributed to the increasing emphasis on drawing tourism into the area, primarily for scenic and natural resource enjoyment.

City population projections, school district enrollment, and visitor records all point to slow but steady increases in demand for recreational facilities in the future.

Economics

As the largest community in the county central Okanogan Valley, Omak is the central location for retail services and trade, cultural activities, health care, social services and organized recreation. The local economy historically depended on resource industries including orchards, cattle ranching, logging, and wood products manufacturing, but the two Tribal mills in the Omak area have been closed much of the last for over a decade. Increasing acreage devoted to agriculture, primarily tree fruit production, and recent positive markets for cattle have resulted in some stabilization of the economic base. However, the local economy is increasingly dependent on tourism, retail sales, and services.

Local cultural and tourism venues that attract visitors include the Omak Stampede, Stampede Museum, Omak Performing Arts Center, and 12 Tribes Casino. The Stampede Arena and Grounds host additional events through the year and the Eastside Park's ball fields, new skate park and swimming pool attract visitors from throughout the service area. Camping is also offered at the park and the City has several hotels and motels. People throughout the county visit Omak to shop at its large retail stores in the northeast part of the City along US 97 and downtown shops and boutiques~~stores~~. ~~As well, t~~wo county and one regional health clinic and the Mid-Valley Hospital are located in Omak, and most other professional services are available.

Funding of the City's parks and recreation facilities and programs comes from the City's general fund, which is dependent upon donations and sales, utilityies, and property taxes. Park maintenance and smaller improvements are supported by the general fund, also referred to as current expense. Major capital improvements rely upon donations and grant funding.

Planning Area Boundaries

Omak Park planning must address the needs of people who live in Omak or who visit either for recreational pursuits or for business and commerce. The Planning Area consists of the lands within the incorporated boundaries and Urban Growth Area (UGA) of the City of Omak (Figure 3). However, this plan strives to meet the needs of a service area and tourist population that is significantly larger than that found within the boundaries of the planning area.

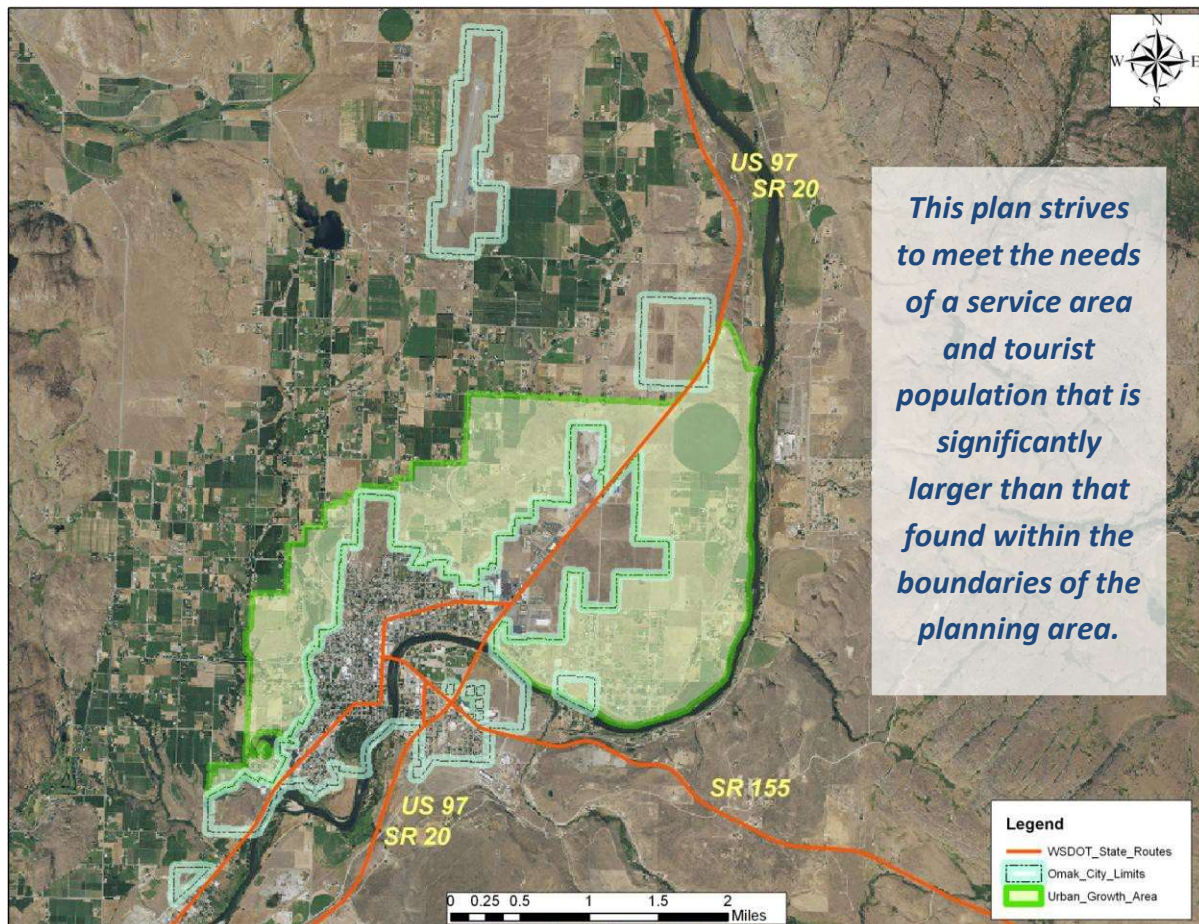


Figure 3. Omak Urban Growth Area.

The Omak School District, which includes the primary user population for Omak parks, encompasses approximately 370 square miles and constitutes the principal service area for the City's park system. The service area can also be considered to encompass Okanogan County and much of north central Washington. Figure 4 shows the extent of the service area. Residents from the nearby communities of Okanogan, Riverside, and Conconully depend on the recreational opportunities available in Omak. Events including, but not limited to, athletic and equestrian competitions, the Omak Stampede, World Famous Suicide Race and Indian Encampment, [Arts in the Park](#), the Omak Farmers Market, and myriad community events draw people from throughout the county, region, and beyond to Omak's parks. Records from the Visitor's Center in the Eastside Park indicate that visitors from around the world make use of Omak park facilities.

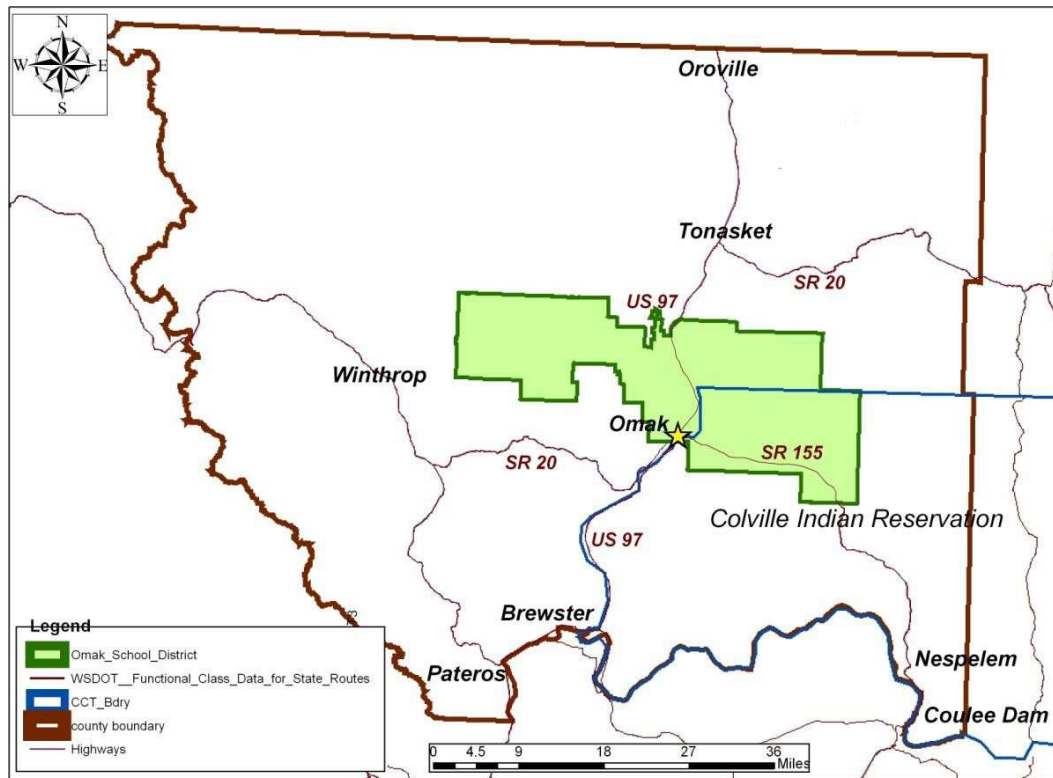


Figure 4. Service Areas: Omak School District area within Okanogan County.

Goals and Objectives

Omak has long recognized that parks and recreation make a substantial contribution to the "quality of life" for Omak area residents. At the same time, resources available to support recreation are limited, so the City must prioritize among many possible alternatives and desires. Well-defined parks and recreation goals and objectives are intended to guide the City's decisions in addressing residents' most important recreational needs.

Goals are broad statements of intent or ambition. Objectives provide more specific measurable targets to aid in achieving goals. The goals and objectives in this plan align with the City's Comprehensive Plan Community Facilities Element ([20052024](#)).

Goal 1: Provide recreational opportunities for all ages and for the diverse population of the community and its visitors.

Objectives:

- [Recruit](#) [Maintain](#) Park Board membership representing the age and cultural diversity of the Planning Area.
- Strengthen involvement, coordination, and support from the Tribes and tribal membership, particularly regarding the Eastside Park.
- Assess and balance the provision of facilities that invite participation from the full range of ages and abilities.

Goal 2: Maintain and improve parks facilities to provide positive recreational experiences for residents and visitors.Objectives:

- Maintain ~~park~~ recreational facilities and open space in ~~excellent~~ a condition appropriate for its use.
- Upgrade or replace facilities at end of service life or when appropriate, to improve public benefits or reduce maintenance and operational costs.
- ~~Carry out~~ Follow through on the ~~an~~ assessment of the swimming pool condition to develop a plan and schedule for its replacement.

Goal 3: Encourage involvement by residents and partnerships with other organizations in the development and management of parks.Objectives:

- Coordinate with the Tribes, Omak School District, other public agencies, and other entities in planning for parks and recreational facilities and management of open spaces.
- Encourage and foster partnerships to maintain and improve Omak's neighborhood parks.
- Recruit and support an active, ambitious Park Board to assist in public outreach and advise the city regarding implementation of this plan.

Goal 4: Balance provision of facilities for organized sports and events with neighborhood parks and trails.Objectives:

- Improve linkage between parks with pedestrian and bicycle-friendly pathways.
- Install signage or other identifying markers for each park and open space, welcoming use, and stating park rules appropriate to each park's setting.
- Continue redevelopment of the Eastside Park, guided by its master plan and continued evaluation of community and Tribes recreational needs.

Goal 5: Increase water access to and enjoyment of the Okanogan River.Objectives:

- Provide/improve trails that utilize the River Overlook and Aston Island open space areas.
- Increase the length of flood control levee accessible to public trail use.
- Develop additional access points to the Okanogan River that balance human use with ecosystem function.

Goal 6: Broaden and increase sources of funding for recreational features and programs.Objectives:

- Encourage and honor contributions by volunteers, local organizations, businesses, and Tribes.
- Search for and connect with grant agencies and foundations with goals matching the City's recreational goals and objectives.
- Evaluate formation of a parks and recreation district to build additional capacity supporting recreation within the Planning Area.

Park and Open Space Inventory

The Omak park system includes 16 different parks and open spaces, ranging in size from .15 acres to over 76 acres. Total acreage for the system is about 125 acres. The system is diverse, from the Eastside Park with its Stampede stadium, ball fields (baseball, softball, t-ball and soccer), skatepark, tennis courts and campground, to compact neighborhood or pocket parks, and expansive, relatively natural open spaces. The Okanogan River also merits consideration as an open space within the city. Features, condition, and needs of each park and open space are described in this section and summarized in Table 4. Figure 5 provides an overview of park locations.

Table 4. Park Inventory Summary.

Park/Open Space Name	Acreage	Primary Purpose
Aston Island open space	19.00	River front; forested floodplain, wildlife and nature observation, informal trail
Civic League Park	1.50	At City center; lawn, band shell, playground equipment, restroom facilities, picnic tables, events
Dalton-Klessig Park	1.00	Neighborhood park; lawn, walking trail, memorial trees/benches, rest area, play equipment
Eastside Park	76.60	Destination park; 8,000 seat rodeo arena, swimming pool, baseball and soccer fields, Native American dance pavilion, camping with RV hookups, exercise and river levee trails, basketball <u>and tennis and pickle ball</u> courts, <u>paved trail</u> , picnic areas, skatepark, visitors center and Stampede museum <u>and</u> veterans memorial
Ivy Park	.25	<u>Green-Open</u> space; <u>lawn</u> xeriscaped <u>stormwater retention/snow storage</u>
Johnny's Park	.25	<u>Green-Open</u> space; lawn/ <u>landscaping</u>
Julia Maley Park	.15	Neighborhood park with playground equipment
Kiwanis Park	.25	Neighborhood park; children's ball field, <u>and</u> basketball court <u>and playground</u>
Koala Parcel	.35	Open space reserved for future park development
Law Enforcement Memorial	.15	<u>Green-Open</u> space/stormwater retention area; hardscaped, law enforcement memorial
Maley Park	.50	<u>Green-Open</u> space; lawn, shade trees
Oak Street Park	3.00	Neighborhood park; ball fields and concession stand
Okanogan River		Water <u>body</u> of Statewide Significance; 2.7 miles of river lie within or <u>is</u> <u>bounded</u> city limits
Omak Pioneer Park	1.00	Neighborhood park on river levee; river overlook with benches and gazebo
Patterson Park	.25	<u>OpenGreen</u> space; lawn, bench
River Overlook open space	28	Covered landfill with shrub steppe vegetation; river front (overlook only at this time), <u>primitive</u> walking trail
Suicide Race Hill	.58	Open space, site of start and hill for World Famous Suicide Race

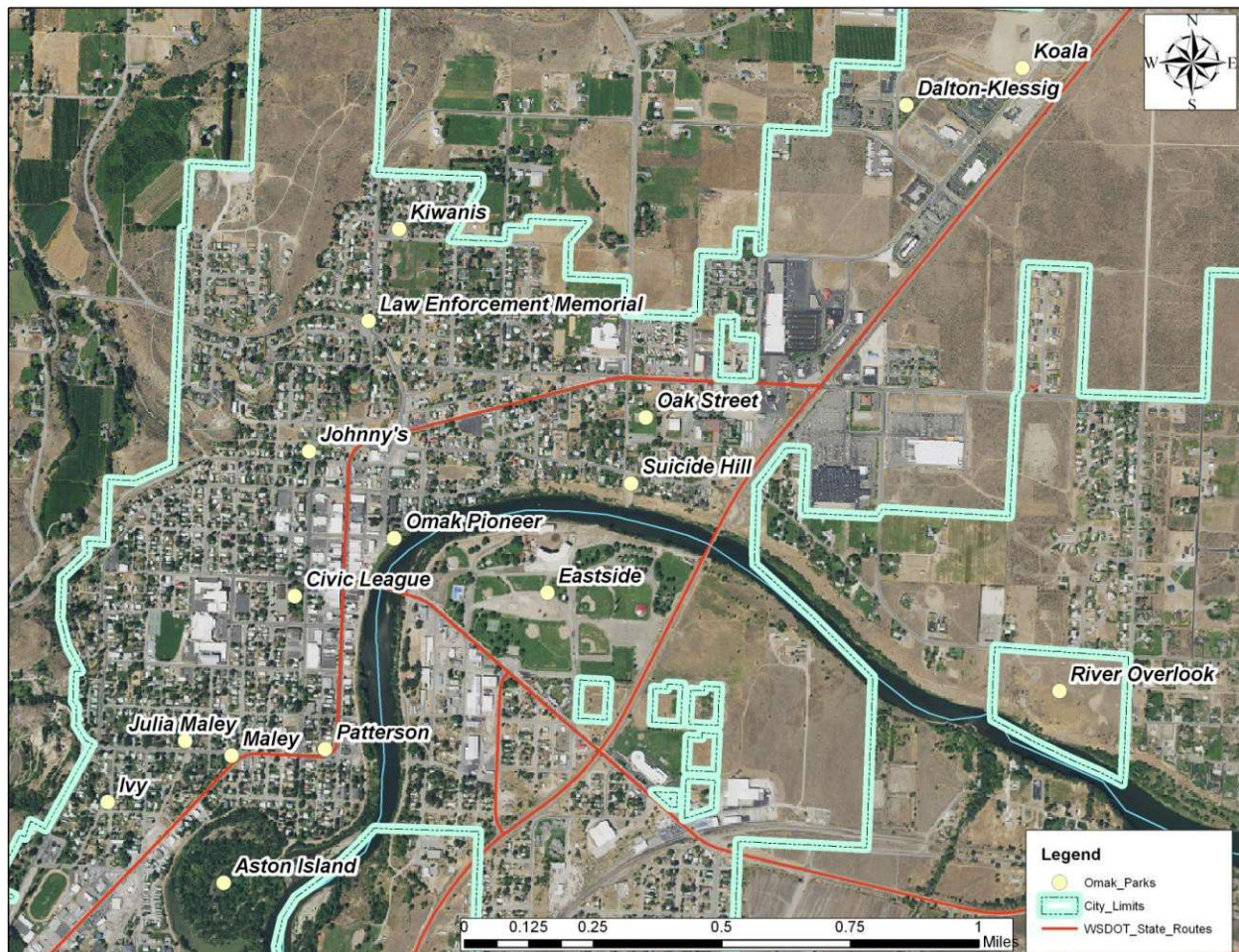


Figure 5. Park Locations.

Aston Island Open Space

Aston Island is a forested riverfront floodplain area, lying within a former meander bend of the Okanogan River. It is bounded by the river and flood control levee. The City maintains driving access for mosquito control, a sewer line, and law enforcement. The area is otherwise undeveloped. It is accessible for walking and provides access to the river shoreline. Challenges to recreational use include regular flooding, considerable poison ivy, homeless use, and limited parking at the access point crossing the levee. Nonetheless, Aston Island has great potential for improved river access, nature appreciation, trails, and as an outdoor classroom.



Figure 6. A side channel of the Okanogan River in the Aston Island Open Space.

Civic League Park

Civic League Park may be the heart of Omak, located a block off Main Street and the central business district. The Omak Library occupies a portion of the property. The park is a frequent gathering place, hosting events such as the Omak Farmer's Market, [Art in the Park](#), and performances set ~~on~~[in](#) the band shell. It provides a spacious lawn well shaded by mature trees, with picnic tables, playground equipment, band shell, and rest room. Recently the park has become an attraction for homeless people which results in trash, open drug use and other behaviors that have caused many in the community to complain and limit use of the library and park.

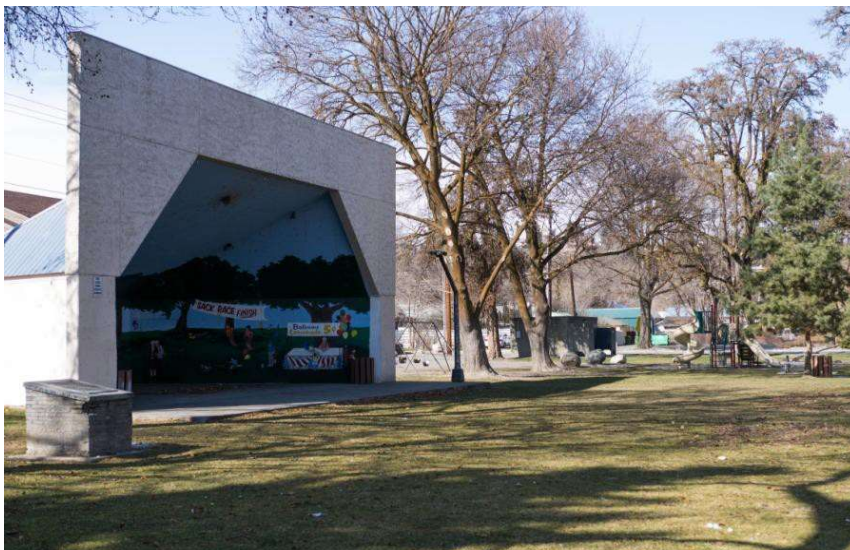


Figure 7. Civic League Park bandshell, restroom and play equipment in background.

Dalton-Klessig Park

Elizabeth Felgenhauer donated ~~this~~ the property for this park to the City in memory of her parents and grandparents. It is located close by several health clinics and ~~an~~ two assisted living facilities in north Omak. The park is landscaped with lawn and a variety of young trees. It offers a paved walking path, gazebo, benches, and play equipment, and is intended to serve as a peaceful outdoor space.



Figure 8. Dalton-Klessig Park.

Eastside Park

Eastside Park is a large destination park, drawing visitors from around the world for the Omak Stampede each August, and people from throughout the greater service area who utilize its various facilities throughout the year. Both activities and facilities within the park have been developed and are managed in partnership with the Omak Stampede Inc. Rodeo and Native American Center Association (ORNAC) and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. The park is located within the ~~c~~City, east of the river within the bounds of ~~on~~ the Colville Indian Reservation. The Stampede originated and has a long history and popularity with Tribal members, as well as participation by Native American riders. A Tribal encampment and pow wow occurs during the Stampede and a dance pavilion, built by the Tribe in 2010, provides a space for ~~their~~ dancing and other activities.

Along with the 8,000 seat arena, the park is home to a seasonal swimming pool, seven baseball fields, four soccer fields, four tennis courts, two basketball courts, two pickleball courts, playground equipment, in ground skate park, a 68- space full service RV park, two picnic shelters and cooking areas, three restroom facilities, a fitness trail, a small dog park, the Buell Stevens Veterans Memorial Garden, Tourist Information Center, and Stampede Museum. The park is located adjacent the Okanogan River, enabling riverfront walking and access on .6 miles of river levee.

Given its size, scope of facilities, and cooperative development and management, the park has a master plan initially adopted in 1997 with revisions in 2005 and 2009. The master plan has provided a comprehensive list of park development and redevelopment projects. Completed projects include construction of a new arena, dance pavilion, skate park, dog park, and relocation of soccer fields. Remaining priorities include ~~construction of an improved skate park~~, a baseball quadplex, repair or replacement of the swimming pool, improvement of the levee trail, parking, tree planting, relocation of the Veterans Memorial Garden, and improvement of the arena concourse and Native American encampment facilities. A number of these projects are identified in this plan's six-year capital improvement plan.

The park's location along the river and length of shoreline on the inside of a river bend provide significant potential for improved river access, a goal of this plan.



Figure 9. Eastside Park campground/RV park and dance pavilion (red roof visible past trees).



Figure 10. Eastside Park and Stampede Stadium viewed from Suicide Race Hill.

Ivy Park

Ivy Park provides a small patch of ~~lawn~~ gravel in a triangle bordered by Ivy and Granite Streets and 5th Avenue in south Omak. Ideas suggested to improve its utility include stormwater retention, landscaping to reduce water use and mowing (hardscaping with native plants), and/or a garden. Any redevelopment will need to require minimal maintenance unless the park is adopted by committed volunteers, an organization, or a school. The park is not identified with a sign or other park feature.



Figure 11. Ivy Park.

Johnny's Park

Johnny's Park consists of a sloping lawn with shrubs and several shade trees. It is located at the corner of Ash Street and West Cherry Avenue and is crossed by a private driveway. The park is not identified by a sign or other park feature.



Figure 12. Johnny's Park.

Julia Maley Park

Julia Maley Park is a neighborhood park donated to the City by John and Julia Maley. The park had offered shade trees, picnic facilities, and playground equipment, but a portion of the space ~~was recently~~ has been developed ~~utilized for development of~~ with a city well and protective enclosure. A mural painted in 2005 by local children and adults on the east retaining wall of an adjacent alley faces the park. The City ~~plans to~~ install new play equipment and landscaping in the e ~~the~~ remaining park area bordering 4th Avenue during 2024 with new fencing for the playground are planned for 2026.



Figure 13. Julia Maley Park ~~scheduled for~~ landscaping, fence and play equipment in ~~2020~~ 2025.

Kiwanis Park

Kiwanis Park provides a small playfield for neighborhood children with a diamond for T-ball. It was originally reserved to capture stormwater runoff anticipated from local development. The Kiwanis Club initially seeded and fenced the playfield and later installed a cement pad for a small basketball court. There are currently no plans for additional improvements with new ~~although~~ play equipment ~~and picnic tables have been suggested over the years~~ installed in 2025.



Figure 14. Kiwanis Park play equipment 2025.

Koala Parcel

This .35-acre parcel was acquired with the Dalton-Klessig Park parcel, and though currently undeveloped, has been reserved for a park. It is located along Koala Avenue in north Omak near several health clinics. Consideration has been given to a trail connecting the parcel to the nearby Dalton-Klessig Park.



Figure 15. Koala Parcel, a blank slate awaiting park development, provides expansive views.

Law Enforcement Memorial

The Law Enforcement Memorial occupies a small area at the intersection of Ironwood Street and Ross Canyon Road. The parcel was donated in 2009 as part of the property acquired for the upgrade of Ross Canyon Road. As stipulated by the donor, a memorial was created for law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The site is covered with stone and gravel to minimize maintenance and provides storm water retention.



Figure 16. Law Enforcement Memorial honors officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Maley Park

Like the Julia Maley Park down the street, Maley Park was donated by John and Julia Maley. The park is located beside their former home at the intersection of 4th Avenue and Okoma Drive. Its lawn is shaded by several mature hardwood trees. The park is not identified by a sign or other park feature.



Figure 17. Maley Park.

Oak Street Park

Oak Street Park is located on Oak Street between Riverside Drive and Dewberry Avenue. Three acres in size, the park includes two softball fields, picnic tables, and a concession stand. Trees have been planted to provide future shade. Permanent restrooms have been identified as a needed improvement for the park.



Figure 18. Oak Street Park.

Okanogan River

The Okanogan River is neither owned nor maintained by the City, but must be recognized as a natural open space having exceptional recreational value for residents and visitors. Boating, floating, and fishing all occur on the river. Walking, birding, and nature appreciation occur along its shoreline.

Portions of the City's river levee constructed following extensive flooding in 1972 are open to public use, such as the levee in the Eastside Park. Recently trail enthusiasts convinced the City to pursue opening another segment of the levee to the public, from Central Avenue to Ash Street, requiring easement amendments from underlying landowners. To date, most but not all of the landowners have granted permission. Yet another segment of levee continues south to the radio station, bordering the oxbow slough along Aston Island. Potential exists for the City to offer an attractive and popular river walk the length of the levee through town.

Increasing river access is also identified as a need and objective of this plan. Specific plans have not yet been developed, but may include walk-in or vehicular boat and float put-in and take out sites, viewing platforms or benches, improved fishing access and interpretive signs. Ideally a launch facility could be sited near the upstream end of town with a take-out site near the downstream end to support summertime floating and non-motorized boating activity. Several parks and open spaces owned by the City should be assessed for this purpose as well as other well-suited sites that might be acquired.



Figure 19. Okanogan River at downtown Omak viewed from levee.

Omak Pioneer Park

Omak Pioneer Park is a downtown pocket park, located where Apple Avenue ends at the river. Several benches and a gazebo are set on the levee allowing viewing of the river. The gazebo has plaques memorializing Omak pioneers, donated by their families. Loretta Nansen, a Civic League member, spearheaded development of this park in the early 1980's. The Park saw some improvements in 2025 when volunteers painted and did maintenance on the structure.



Figure 20. Omak Pioneer Park.

Patterson Park

Originally the park was named for an elm tree planted in the early 1900's, said to have come from a tree grown by George Washington. The tree was removed in 1992 due to disease and the park was subsequently renamed Patterson Park. Located at the corner of south Main Street and Fourth Avenue, the park provides a small lawn and bench for passersby. Like Ivy and Johnny's Parks, Patterson Park is considered a candidate for hardscaping.



Figure 21. Patterson Park (formerly Washington Elm Park).

River Overlook Open Space

The River Overlook Open Space is a City property located along the Omak River Road, east of US 97 on the north shore of the Okanogan River. Prior to the early 1970's, the City's landfill occupied a portion of this property. The landfill was covered with soil and the land has sat idle since. Vegetation is a mix of native shrub steppe and introduced species of grass, forbs, and shrubs. Aspect is south-facing with gentle slopes throughout the northern half and moderately steep slopes breaking to the river. The property includes about 1,500 feet of river shoreline.

In 2015, the local Paths and River Ways group suggested development of a loop trail on the site, affording expansive views of the river and landscape surrounding town. Following Council approval, the group and City held a cleanup event along the pathway and trail development began. The trail is mowed occasionally and is about .8 miles in length. In 2020, the City ~~will~~ installed several parking spaces and a trailhead sign.

With an area of about 28 acres, the property offers potential for additional recreational improvements. With careful design, river access might be provided at its southeast corner where hillslopes are less steep and the river current is slower. The property should be included in a City-wide river access and trail plan given its shoreline and potential for river access.



Figure 22. View from the River Overlook Trail.

Suicide Race Hill

Suicide Race Hill is located on Dewberry Avenue. This park serves as the starting area and hill for the World Famous Suicide Race. The level start area is fenced and lighted. Most maintenance on the property is performed by Suicide Race Owners and Jockeys prior to each year's event. Use for the race is of short duration and the park otherwise is little used, yet offers great views of the river, Eastside Park, and most of Omak from the crest of the hill. There are no plans for improvements. One idea has been to install a zip-line from the top of the hill to Eastside Park as a potential attraction.



Figure 23. Race starting area.

Non-City Recreation Facilities

The Omak School District also owns substantial property within the City; however, recreation facilities owned and maintained by the school are limited to playgrounds at the two elementary schools, indoor gymnasiums at the high school, middle school and elementary schools, a football/track practice complex in the southern end of the City, and the formal football field and four tennis courts located adjacent to the high school. The school utilizes City-owned and operated ball fields, soccer fields, and tennis courts located at Eastside Park.

In addition to traditional sports related facilities, the School District also operates and maintains the Omak Performing Arts Center, a 550-seat auditorium that hosts a wide array of community and cultural events.

Private facilities in the area include the Okanogan Valley nine-hole golf course on the flats west of Omak, Valley Lanes (bowling facility) and the North Cascades Athletic Club, which includes two racquetball courts, three outdoor tennis courts four indoor tennis courts, a weight room, exercise equipment and a half-court basketball court.

Immediately south of Omak, the City of Okanogan maintains its own system of parks, which includes the Central Valley Sports Complex, a swimming pool, several picnic facilities, playground equipment, boat launch, RV parking, and green spaces.

Additionally, the Tribes owns and maintains a Community Center just outside the eastern City limits and ~~has plans to develop~~ing a health center at the former veneer mill log yard along SR 155. The Community Center includes a basketball court, weight room and various indoor recreational areas. The Tribes also have a park, Nicholson Beach, with a beach and boat launch on Omak Lake approximately six miles from Omak where non-tribal use is allowed with a Tribal permit.

Within a thirty-minute drive of the City, recreational opportunities abound on lands managed by the State Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, State Parks and the Department of Fish & Wildlife. These government agencies maintain a variety of recreational facilities, including campgrounds, boat launches on the Okanogan River and several area lakes, hiking, biking and horseback riding trails, opportunities for wildlife viewing, and driving for pleasure. During winter months, there are opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling on both groomed and ungroomed trails accessed from SR 20 ~~tate and volunteer~~ and maintained with Sno-Parks funding. The Loup Loup Ski Bowl, approximately 20 miles from Omak, offers a variety of terrain for cross-country and alpine skiers, snowshoeing, snowboarding, tubing, ~~and~~ skijoring (skiing with your dog!) and newly developed mountain bike and equestrian trails.

Public Involvement

The City has used a variety of means to gather input from residents within the Planning Area. These include parks surveys, open house meetings, Omak Park Board meetings and comment received by City staff, Mayor, and Council members.

Park Board

A primary mechanism for recreation input to the City is the Park Board. The Park Board has five positions with one reserved for the school district. Board members serve three-year terms. The role of the Board is to collect input from community members and advise the City and Council. Meetings are scheduled monthly. ~~Two Board members left in late 2019~~ A new Park Board was established in April 2025 and the City is taking this opportunity to update the 2020 plan in order to maintain eligibility for Recreation Conservation Office funding. ~~revise the Park and Park Board city codes, after which new Board members will be chosen and functions resumed.~~