

City of Omak



Parks and Recreation Plan

April 7, 2020

Omak City Council

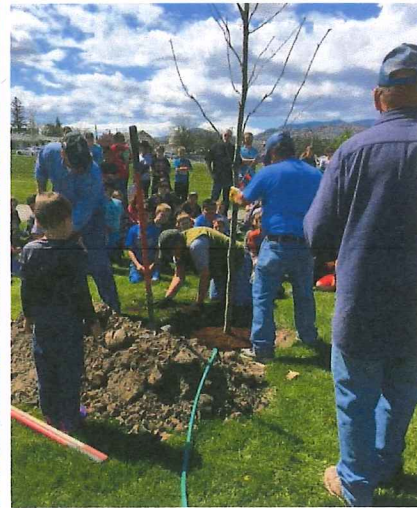
Cindy Gagne	Mayor
Michael Foth	Position #1
Michelle Gaines	Position #2
Natalie Carriker	Position #3
Dave Womack	Position #4
Barry Freel	Position #5
Steve Clark	Position #6
Walt Womack	Position #7

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;
- Increase walk-ability and make the City more bike friendly;
- Continue ongoing partnerships with the Omak School District, and encourage new partnerships that support operation, 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.

Table of Contents

Introduction	6
Description of Planning Area	7
Location and Setting.....	7
Demographics	8
Economics.....	10
Planning Area Boundaries.....	11
Goals and Objectives	12
Park and Open Space Inventory	14
Aston Island Open Space	15
Civic League Park.....	16
Dalton-Klessig Park.....	17
Eastside Park.....	17
Ivy Park.....	19
Johnny’s Park.....	19
Julia Maley Park	20
Kiwanis Park	20
Koala Parcel	21
Law Enforcement Memorial.....	21
Maley Park.....	22
Oak Street Park	22
Okanogan River.....	23
Omak Pioneer Park.....	24
Patterson Park	24
River Overlook Open Space	25
Suicide Race Hill	26
Non-City Recreation Facilities	26
Public Involvement.....	27
Park Board	27
Public Surveys	28
Public Meetings.....	28
Input Received in Prior Years	29
Demand and Need Analysis	29
Surveys	30
Park Use Levels	32
Open House Meetings and Tour.....	33
Park Board Recommendations.....	35
Conclusion	36
Action Plan.....	36
Current Expense Actions.....	38
Capital Improvement Program.....	40
Final Note	41
References	42
City Adoption of Plan.....	43

List of Figures

Figure 1. Location of Omak within Washington State.	7
Figure 2. Location of Omak within Okanogan County.	8
Figure 3. Omak Urban Growth Area.	11
Figure 4. Service Areas: Omak School District area within Okanogan County.	12
Figure 5. Park Locations.	15
Figure 6. A side channel of the Okanogan River in the Aston Island Open Space.	16
Figure 7. Civic League Park bandshell, restroom and play equipment in background.	16
Figure 8. Dalton-Klessig Park.	17
Figure 9. Eastside Park campground/RV park and dance pavilion (red roof visible past trees).	18
Figure 10. Eastside Park and Stampede Stadium viewed from Suicide Race Hill.	18
Figure 11. Ivy Park.	19
Figure 12. Johnny’s Park.	19
Figure 13. Julia Maley Park scheduled for landscaping, fence and play equipment in 2020.	20
Figure 14. Kiwanis Park.	20
Figure 15. Koala Parcel, a blank slate awaiting park development, provides expansive views.	21
Figure 16. Law Enforcement Memorial honors officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.	21
Figure 17. Maley Park.	22
Figure 18. Oak Street Park.	22
Figure 19. Okanogan River at downtown Omak viewed from levee.	23
Figure 20. Omak Pioneer Park.	24
Figure 21. Patterson Park (formerly Washington Elm Park).	24
Figure 22. View from the River Overlook Trail.	25
Figure 23. Race starting area.	26
Figure 24. Tour group discussion of park priorities at Dalton-Klessig Park, March 14, 2020.	29
Figure 25. Some Omak neighborhoods lack green space (imagery: Google Earth).	30
Figure 26. Allocation of general funding expenditures.	37
Figure 27. Volunteers pitch in to clean up river levee and shoreline.	39

List of Tables

Table 1. City Population Trend Since 1970	9
Table 2. Projected City Populations at .5%, 1% and 2% Annual Growth Rates	9
Table 3. Omak School District Enrollment Data	10
Table 4. Park Inventory Summary.	14
Table 5. Number of votes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Highest Priorities by 2018-2019 Park Survey Respondents	32
Table 6. Notes from Park Tour, March 14, 2020	34
Table 7. Current Expense Actions by Year.	38
Table 8. Capital Improvement Plan - Parks	40

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 right-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 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 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 adopted by the City in 2006, 2010, and 2012. 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. This revision was written 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 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.

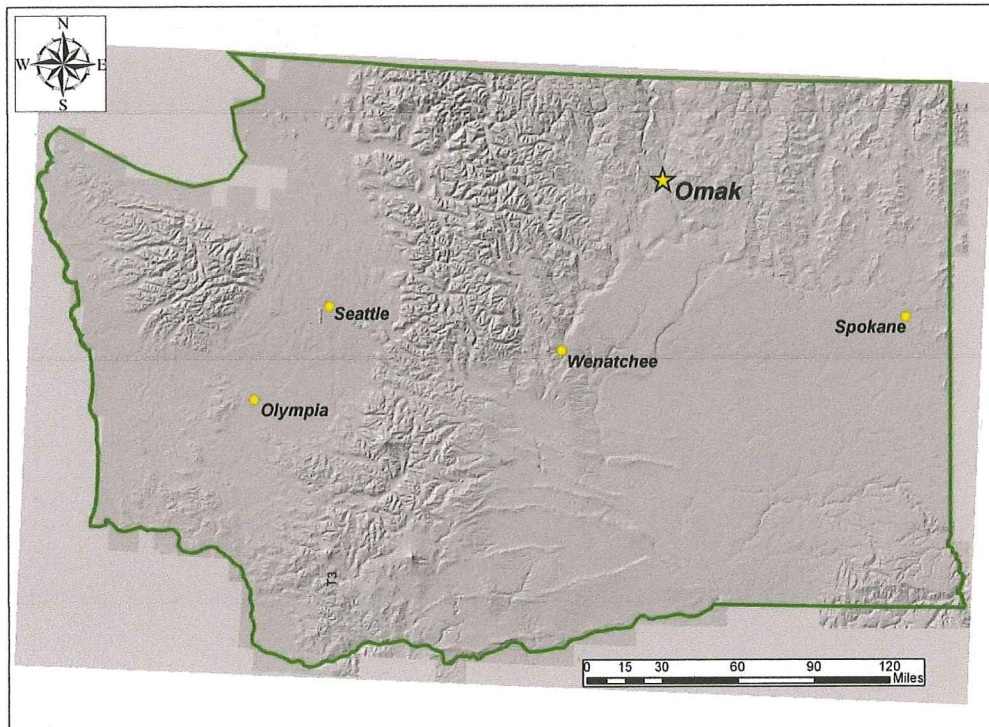


Figure 1. Location of Omak within Washington State.

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 toe of Washington's North Cascades mountains result in abundant dry sunny weather. Annual precipitation is about 13 inches falling mostly as snow.

Three highways 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. S.R. 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.

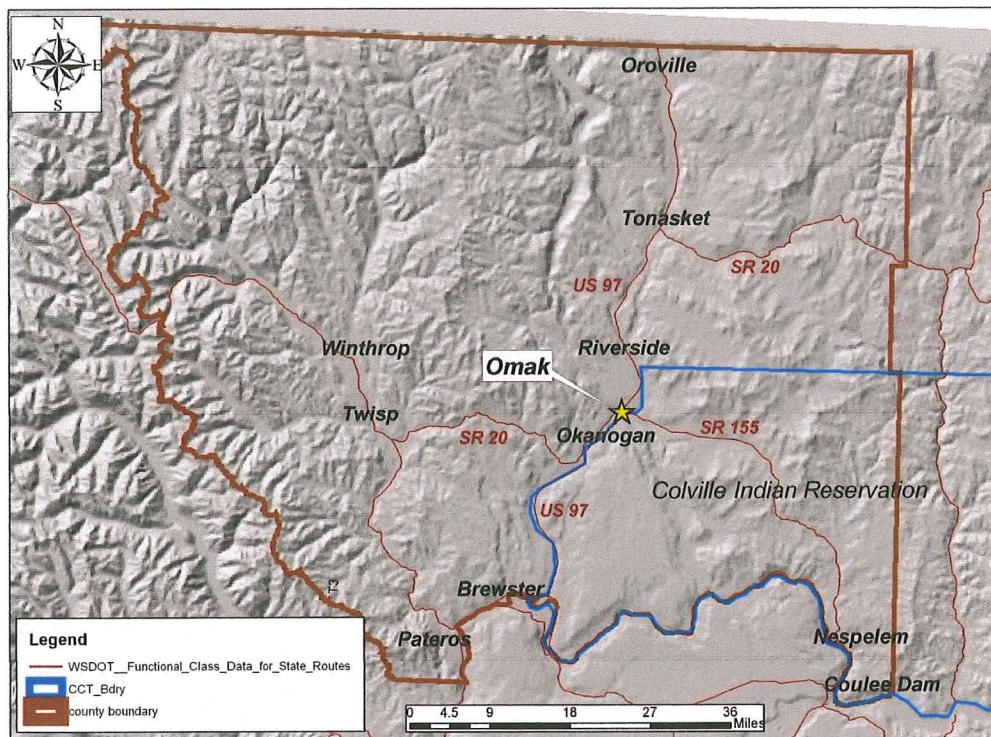


Figure 2. Location of Omak within Okanogan County.

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 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, 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 population estimate from the Washington Office of Financial Management indicates a population of 4,985 within the City of Omak, and a population of 42,490 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 U.S. Census population of 4,845, almost equally divided between the sexes (47.57% male, 52.43% female). Census data offers general characteristics of the City's population including the following information: about 25% of the population was under 18 years of age and 18% of the population was over 65; the City and surrounding area is a diverse community with 17% Native American and a Hispanic or Latino population of 13%. For 2017 the Census estimated a slight population

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%

For planning purposes, annual growth rates for the City of .05%, 1%, and 2% are projected over five year increments to 2040. 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

	2018	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Population at .5% per year	4,985	5,035	5,136	5,266	5,399	5,535
Population increase		50	126	280	413	548
Population at 1% per year	4,985	5,085	5,292	5,562	5,845	6,143
Population increase		100	254	573	854	1,150
Population at 2% per year	4,985	5,186	5,614	6,198	6,843	7,556
Population increase		202	519	1,200	1,832	2,350

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%

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 central Okanogan Valley, Omak is the central location for retail trade, cultural activities, 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 decade. Increasing acreage devoted to agriculture and recent positive markets for cattle have resulted in some stabilization of the economic base. The local economy is increasingly dependent on tourism, retail sales, and services.

Local cultural and tourism venues that attract visitors include the Omak Stampede, 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 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 and downtown stores. As well, two county and one regional health clinic and the Mid-Valley Hospital are located in Omak, and most other professional services.

Funding of the City's parks and recreation facilities and programs comes from the City’s general fund, which is dependent upon sales, utilities, 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 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.

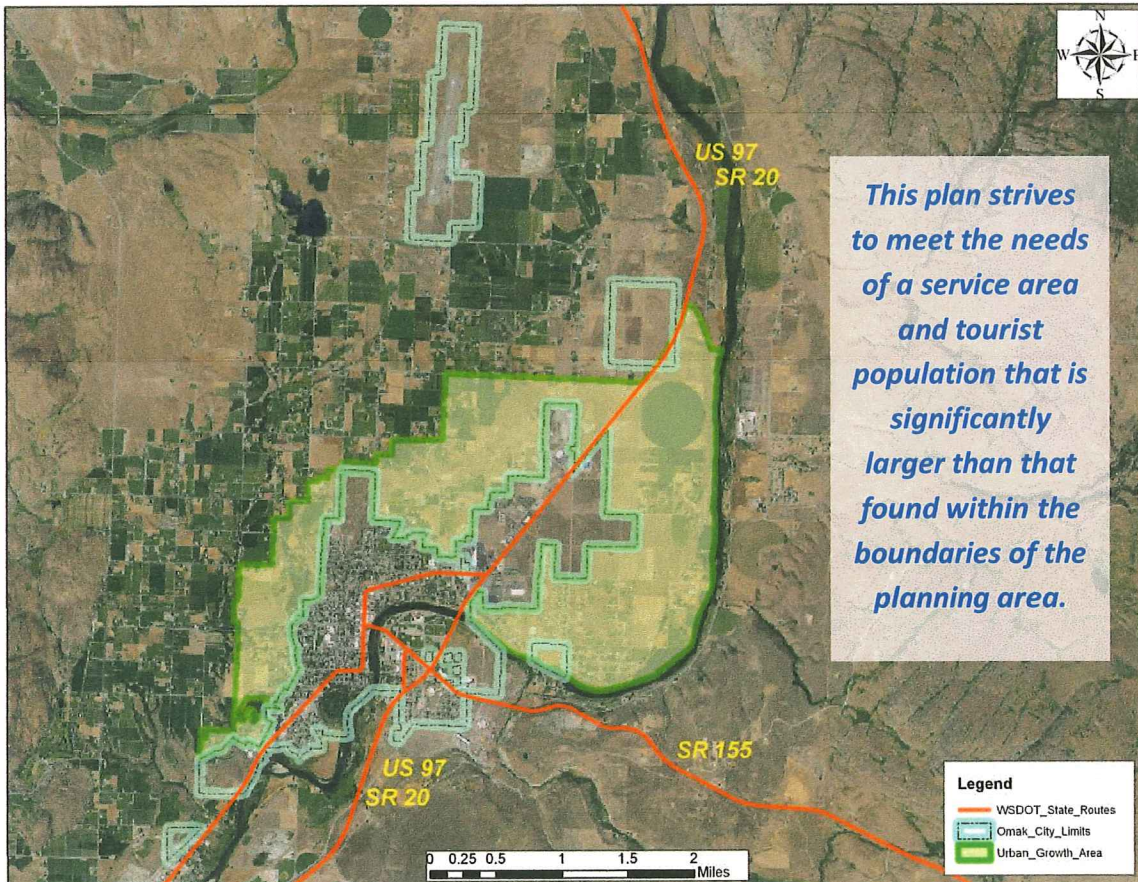


Figure 3. Omak Urban Growth Area.

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's park facilities.

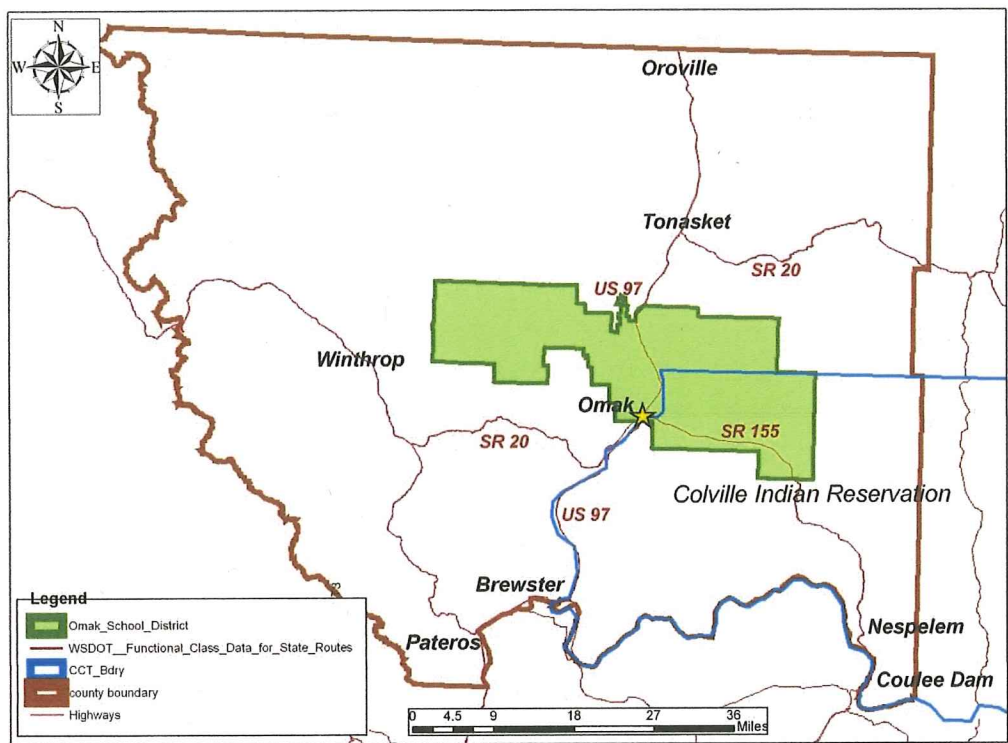


Figure 4. Service Areas: Omak School District area within Okanogan County.

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 (2005).

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

Objectives:

- Recruit 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 facilities and open space in excellent condition.
- Upgrade or replace facilities at end of service life or when appropriate, to improve public benefits or reduce maintenance and operational costs.
- Carry out 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.
- 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 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, 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 courts, picnic area, skate park, visitors center and Stampede museum, veteran memorial
Ivy Park	.25	Green space; lawn
Johnny's Park	.25	Green space; lawn
Julia Maley Park	.15	Neighborhood park with playground equipment
Kiwanis Park	.25	Neighborhood park; children's ball field and basketball court
Koala Parcel	.35	Open space reserved for future park development
Law Enforcement Memorial	.15	Green space/stormwater retention area; hardscaped, law enforcement memorial
Maley Park	.50	Green space; lawn, shade trees
Oak Street Park	3.00	Neighborhood park; ball fields and concession stand
Okanogan River		Water of Statewide Significance; 2.7 miles of river lie within or bound city limits
Omak Pioneer Park	1.00	Neighborhood park on river levee; river overlook with benches and gazebo
Patterson Park	.25	Green space; lawn, bench
River Overlook open space	28	Covered landfill with shrub steppe vegetation; river front (overlook only at this time), walking trail
Suicide Race Hill	.58	Open space, site of start and hill for World Famous Suicide Race

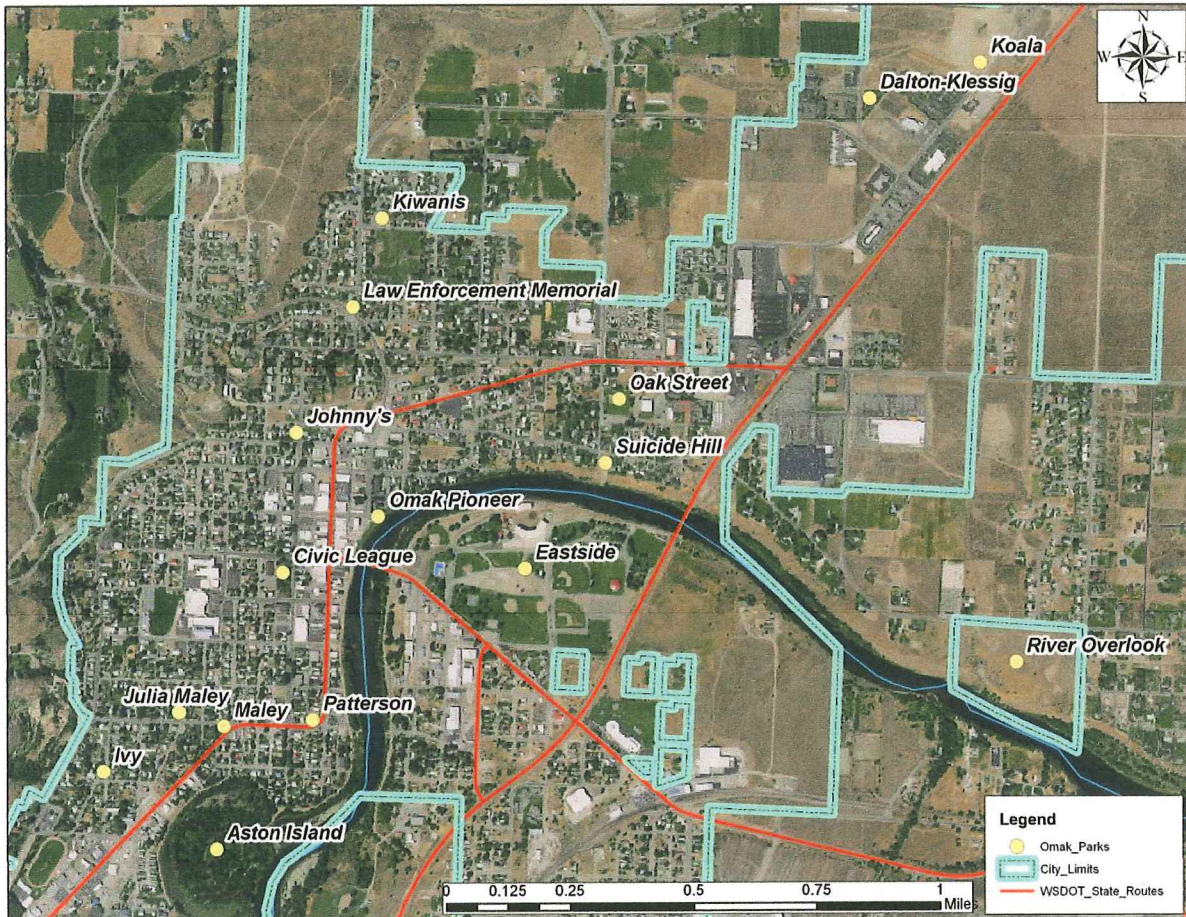


Figure 5. Park Locations.

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 the band shell. It provides a spacious lawn well shaded by mature trees, with picnic tables, playground equipment, band shell, and rest room.



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

Dalton-Klessig Park

Elizabeth Felgenhauer donated this park to the City in memory of her parents and grandparents. It is located close by several health clinics and an assisted living facility 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 Rodeo and Native American Center Association (ORNAC) and Tribes. The park is located within the City, east of the river 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 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, playground equipment, 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 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 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 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 utilized for development of 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 landscape the remaining park area bordering 4th Avenue during 2020.



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

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 improvements, although play equipment and picnic tables have been suggested over the years.



Figure 14. Kiwanis Park.

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.

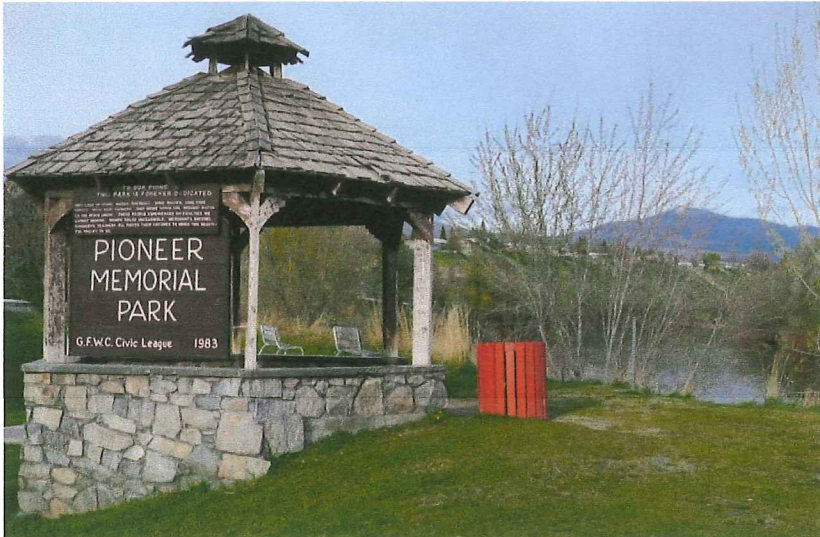


Figure 20. Omak Pioneer Park.

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 install 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 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.

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 State and volunteer maintained Sno-Parks. 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!).

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 and the City is taking this opportunity to revise the Park and Park Board city codes, after which new Board members will be chosen and functions resumed.

During the last two years, 14 Board meetings occurred with a quorum of members. Typically the City Public Works Director or City Administrator and a Council member attend these meetings. Several additional informal meetings took place when the required quorum did not attend. Park Board discussion and recommendations covered multiple park topics during this two-year run-up to the park plan revision. Topics and recommendations involved trail development on portions of the levee and at the Old Landfill site, selection of the skate park designer, relocation of the Eastside Park veteran memorial, repairs of tennis court cracks, Eastside Park improvement needs, park funding and grant development, commercial business use in parks, swimming pool assessment and replacement process, and other items. The Board heard from user groups regarding need for more and better hockey, pickleball, and skate park facilities. Large and small park needs were recorded in the minutes of meetings.

Public Surveys

Board involvement in the park plan revision process began in April of 2018. The Board reviewed the prior plan and identified plan revision steps. The Board recognized the need for a survey and developed one, working with the City on its distribution in July and August of 2018. Initially paper copies of the survey were distributed while a fillable PDF digital version was created. The survey was announced in the monthly newsletter sent to all households in the City, on Facebook, offered to City Hall visitors, and distributed by email. 40 responses were received and tabulated by the Board. Because more responses were desired, the survey was reformatted using SurveyMonkey and flown again in the fall of 2019. During this second round both the School District and Wenatchee Valley College were provided with the survey link to increase input from students. The second survey round netted 38 responses. Survey responses identified strong support for trails, swimming pool, play equipment, more benches, and interest in roller or ice-skating facilities, to be discussed further in the Demand and Need Analysis section of the plan.

In 2016, the Paths and River Ways group conducted a survey canvassing landowners beside the river levee from Central Avenue to Ash Street. Landowners were asked whether they support a trail on the levee and about their concerns. The survey revealed that most owners of land beside and underlying the levee approved of its use as a non-motorized trail. Because many people walk the levee despite signs posting its closure, some owners felt resigned to its use and recognized that trail designation and management would be an improvement. Several owners were opposed to a trail due primarily privacy or security concerns. Results from this survey led to the City conducting an open house on a levee trail, described in the next section. The results will also be examined further in the Demand and Need Analysis section of the plan.

Public Meetings

It is important to recognize that Park Board meetings are regularly scheduled and posted public meetings where guests are welcomed and heard. The Park Board and its meetings provide one of the primary conduits of input from Planning Area residents to the City.

In addition to the regular Park Board meetings, the City hosted several open house style public meetings focused on recreation use and facilities in recent years.

The Paths and River Ways group presented results of the levee landowner survey to the Park Board, which recommended the City pursue trail creation on the levee. Subsequently, the City sent letters to each of the landowners, inviting them to a public open house regarding the proposal. 50 people attended the open house, held in November 2016. The majority of participants voiced support for the levee trail while several underlying landowners expressed opposition. Gauging this input, the City decided to proceed with asking underlying landowners to sign easement amendments voluntarily allowing public use of the levee.

The City hosted another open house meeting in December 2018 to connect local skateboarders with the skate park design consultant. 20 skateboarders attended and discussed desired park features with the designer, who also collected written input and contact information. A follow-up meeting was conducted in early 2019 to present the draft skate park design.

To generate additional input and discussion of priorities, a park tour was conducted in March 14, 2020, providing another forum for discussion and ideas for the parks and park plan. The group viewed most of the parks and discussed needs and improvements for them all. Figure 24 shows the group discussion at Dalton-Klessig Park. Table 5 summarizes needs and suggested improvements for each park stemming from the tour.



Figure 24. Tour group discussion of park priorities at Dalton-Klessig Park, March 14, 2020.

Input Received in Prior Years

The City strongly values citizen input and feels recent public input regarding park priorities should be considered along with input received during past plan development. Development of the 2012 comprehensive park plan involved surveys and public meetings conducted during 2011 and 2012. The Eastside Park master plan was revised in 2009 and 2012 with input gathered from Park Board and workshop meetings. Many of the values and desires expressed then continue to be reflected in recent input, though some changes have occurred. Consideration of recent and past input serves to identify true and long-standing demand and need of the community for recreation.

Demand and Need Analysis

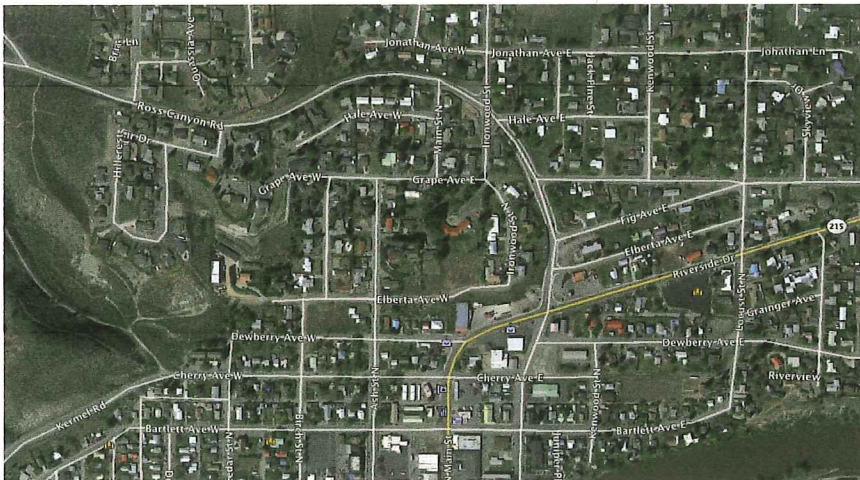
Given its importance, gauging of demand and need should be approached through several means. For this purpose, the City has relied on surveys and input received during public meetings, reviewed park use levels, considered Park Board input and utilized observations of City staff, civic leaders and citizens provided during a public parks tour.

Surveys and park use provide quantitative measures of demand to some extent. Several surveys and open house meetings have been conducted recently to gauge demand and support for existing or desired recreational features. These include the general park surveys distributed in 2018 and 2019, the

survey of landowners adjacent a segment of the river levee in 2016, and open house meetings regarding a new skatepark and the river levee trail. Two earlier surveys and assessments that are pertinent include the Okanogan County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2004), and Community Assessment completed by the Washington Rural Development Council.

Observation and ideas shared among City staff, civic leaders, and the Park Board provide important qualitative assessment of demand. Staff, who coordinate events and use or perform park maintenance, know a lot about the different parks, their use, and condition.

Using the measure of park acreage per person in the Planning Area, it would seem Omak offers a relatively high level of recreational opportunity for its population. However, this assessment should consider that a significant portion of the Eastside Park awaits redevelopment and two sizable open space properties have little to no recreational improvements. While most of Omak's recreation facilities are concentrated in the 76-acre Eastside Park, approximately 25% of the park area is available for redevelopment. Many of the City's other neighborhoods and developing areas lack significant parks or green space.



Many of the City's other neighborhoods and developing areas lack significant parks or green space.

Figure 25. Some Omak neighborhoods lack green space (imagery: Google Earth).

Surveys

Two assessments performed in the early 2000's surveyed people from the Planning Area and their results remain relevant. These are the Okanogan County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2004) and the Community Assessment completed by the Washington Rural Development Council (2005).

The Okanogan County Outdoor Recreation Plan resulted from nearly a year of public meetings, an on-line and handout survey and monthly meetings of the County's Paths and Trails Advisory Committee. The survey conducted as part of the planning effort found, "Recreational facilities are very important to those members of the community who responded to the 2003 Okanogan County Recreational Online Survey. Nearly 75% of respondents stated that parks, trails, and other recreational facilities were 'very important' to their families. Interestingly, a similar proportion of respondents (79%) believe that parks, trails, and recreational facilities were 'very important' contributor to the economy of Okanogan County."

The Demand/Needs Summary of the County's Plan notes:

It is clear from public response that the citizens of Okanogan County and those that visit the County place a very high value on recreation, and have strong a desire for new and/or improved recreational facilities. Examples of the growth of recreation demand include the Methow Valley Sports Trails Association, which has seen a twenty to thirty percent increased growth in the use of the Methow Valley Trails System and a growing demand for similar trail systems in the Okanogan Valley (e.g. the conversion of the old railbed along the Similkameen River).

The Washington Rural Development Council provided a resource team to assist Omak/Okanogan and surrounding area in evaluating the community's assets and liabilities and in developing suggestions for improving the environment, social, and economic future of the community (2005). The Cities of Okanogan and Omak requested a Resource Team/Community Assessment and named Edna Siniff as the local coordinator. The team conducted over 20 listening sessions, with over 400 local individuals, asking them to identify the major problems and challenges in their community, the major strengths and assets of the community, and projects desired in the future.

The Community Assessment confirmed that parks and recreation facilities and programs are an important part of the quality of life for area residents and noted that replacement of the Stampede Arena and an indoor pool were high community priorities. Since this survey, replacement of the arena has occurred.

In 2012, Okanogan County sponsored an online recreational survey to which 70 residents of Omak responded. The County analysis of results grouped together responses from Omak, Okanogan, Riverside and Conconully. Respondents from this mid-county area indicated demand for river/lake access, picnic areas, playgrounds and indoor pool. Popular recreational activities include pleasure driving, walking or hiking trails, fishing from shore and picnicking.

A survey was conducted in 2016 by the Paths and River Ways group, surveying neighbors of the river levee from Central Avenue to Aston Island. Half of landowners adjacent this segment of the levee were interviewed. Of those contacted 78% supported use of the levee as a public trail, 22% expressed concerns but were not opposed. Most accepted its long-time use by the public. Several owners indicated concerns about security. A majority disliked the amount of homeless use along the shoreline.

Omak Park surveys distributed by the City and Park Board in 2018 and 2019 gathered 74 responses. Although a limited number of people responded, the surveys provide valuable current information from citizens. Findings include:

- Most respondents indicated feeling moderately informed regarding parks.
- Most visited Omak parks 1 to 4 times per month or more.
- Nearly all visited Civic League and Eastside parks.
- Respondents indicated play equipment and Eastside Park's walking path and swimming pool are most used.
- Improvements most desired (in order of level of support) were trails, a water (splash) park, and indoor year/round pool. Table 5 shows the number of votes by priority for improvements suggested by respondents.
- Nearly every respondent indicated a pool is necessary and most wanted a year-round facility.
- Most supported new or additional financial methods to support Omak parks and recreation.
- Most indicated the parks need improvements to satisfy expectations.

Table 5. Number of votes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Highest Priorities by 2018-2019 Park Survey Respondents

Feature	# 1 st Priority	# 2 nd Priority	# 3 rd Priority
Trails/walkways	22	13	7
Splash Park	12	1	2
Indoor pool/pool improvements	10	5	2
Play equipment	5	11	2
Roller hockey rink	5	3	
Better security- homeless concerns	4	4	1
Improved signage	3		
Ice rink	3	1	2
Lighting	1	1	3
River access	1	4	
Hockey box	1		
Recreational activity programs		4	5
Maintenance		3	3
Community center		3	2
Rest rooms/drinking water		2	2
Disk/Frisbee golf		1	4
Natural areas		1	3
Bike lanes		1	1
Plant trees		1	1
Dog parks		1	
Redevelop center of Eastside Park		1	
Tennis courts		1	
Stampede bleachers		1	
Seating		1	
Skatepark			2
Additional sports fields			1
Batting cages			1
Homeless shelter			1
Archery range			1
Elderly facility/equipment			1

Park Use Levels

The City doesn't keep user counts of park or park facility use except in a few instances, but prevailing use levels are noted by City staff, Council, and Park Board. The number of events held annually within each park provides another measure of use.

Certainly the Eastside Park receives the greatest use given the number of facilities it offers. The Omak Stampede weekend draws about 16,000 attendees each August. During 2.5 months of operation, about 12,000 people use the outdoor pool, primarily youth. Other events throughout the year include a truck show, barrels club, junior and high school rodeos, and several organized runs. Baseball and soccer fields

receive school district, league, and pick-up use during three seasons. The campground and RV park has about 3,500 registrations annually. People are nearly always present using the exercise trail and shooting hoops on the tennis courts. On-going demand for an improved skatepark facility is evident in the level of skateboarding around town, at the current facility, and at other sites such as the bandshell at Civic League Park.

The Civic League Park is much smaller but also heavily used. Music performances using the bandshell, annual events such as Harvest Festival, Health Fair, Back to School night, Easter egg hunt, and the three season weekly Farmer's Market occur in the park. Its size, recreation features, lawn, mature shade trees, and central location adjacent the library, City Hall, and other services one block from the center of downtown all serve to attract park use.

Dalton-Klessig Park receives considerable use given its location near assisted living and health clinic facilities, apartments, and hotels. This part of the City is developing, so use of this park will only increase. More park green space in this area should accompany development as it occurs.

The Omak Pioneer Park receives light to moderate use. Given its location downtown and riverside setting at the north end of the river levee, there is potential for much greater use. When a levee trail is developed on the levee west of the river, the park would make a good trailhead at its northern endpoint. Utilization of this and other neighborhood parks and open spaces is likely to increase with improved information and signage provided by the City.

Although posted and officially closed, the river levee is walked and bicycled frequently. From spring to fall, boating and floating occurs on the river. With significant salmon, steelhead, and river restoration efforts underway, increasing demand and opportunity for fishing is anticipated in the future.

Open House Meetings and Tour

The City's open house meetings about a levee trail and new skatepark demonstrate the extent of support for both features.

- 50 people attended the levee open house, nearly all supporting creation of a trail on the levee.
- 20 skateboarders attended an open house to discuss skatepark design features with the park designer.

On March 14, 2020, the City hosted a tour of its parks. Eight people participated and discussed park needs. Participants included City Planner, Kurt Danison, Mayor Cindy Gagne, Omak Stampede Indian Encampment representative Vince McDonald, citizen Martina Spirritts, City Administrator Todd McDaniel, Assistant Public Works Director Wayne Beetchenow, City council member Mike Foth, and immediate past Park Board member Todd Thorn. Notes from discussion of each park are provided in Table 6.

Table 6. Notes from Park Tour, March 14, 2020

Park Name	Needs Identified
Civic League	Tree planting to replace trees removed or that will need removal due to disease.
Maley Julie Maley	Benches/picnic tables- could be in park year round. New play equipment, lawn, low fence to keep kids from running out into street
Ivy Aston Island	Hardscape, include native plants, picnic table Replace sign at access from Ash St, welcoming public use of Aston Island Open Space. Signs may be needed along street to reserve parking for residents. Create trailhead for parking on City-owned lot at Juniper St and 5 th Ave. Construct a walking trail on Aston Island- could be interpretive.
Okanogan River	City should continue requesting voluntary easement amendments from owners with land underlying the levee, eventually extending this effort from Omak Pioneer Park to the sewer treatment plant. City property at 5 th and Juniper can enable access across the levee at this location to City-owned floodplain between the levee and river, and parking for a short walk to Aston Island. This location could serve as one of several trailheads providing access to a levee trail.
Eastside	Skatepark is the top priority as the City has invested in a design for the park. Redevelop the center of the park, reclaiming the current skatepark and center road to create more playfield space. Build new restrooms at arena. Create signage to guide use of boat launch behind arena. Create a concourse/pedestrian corridor between arena and Native American encampment. Improve loop drive through park, maintaining emergency access to the Native American encampment. Reconstruct Buell Stevens Veterans Memorial to location adjacent visitor center. Install dog waste station at visitor center.
Eastside Pool	Contract out professional swim pool condition assessment to inform planning for pool maintenance or replacement. If installing a splash park, this is the location to do so.
Omak Pioneer	Clean plaques and repaint gazebo as needed. Move large gazebo sign to location near street. Construct parking for 2-3 cars.
Suicide Hill	Work with Tribes regarding a year-round viewing deck at the site. Consider the possibility of a zipline operated through a concession agreement.
Oak Street	Install play equipment, shade trees, picnic tables by the parking area.

River Overlook	Finalize alignment of mowed trail. Install trailhead sign and trail markers. River access may be feasible at parcel's southeast corner.
Koala	This growing part of town can use additional park development. Totally undeveloped at present, a trail will connect this park to Dalton-Klessig through a planned development.
Dalton-Klessig	Install a dog waste station. Construct trail connecting to Koala Parcel.
Kiwanis	Maintain as is, sign painting needed.
Law Enforcement Memorial	Good as is.
All parks	At a minimum, all parks and open spaces need consistent Omak Parks signage and a bench or table. Small parks such as Ivy, Patterson, and Johnny's could be landscaped but should include native shrub and flower planting. Greater improvement of the small parks and open spaces could occur through "adoption" by civic groups or schools.

Park Board Recommendations

During 2018 and 2019 Park Board recommendations included:

- Support for grant funding of Eastside Park improvements identified in the Parks Comp Plan and Eastside Park master plan, including realignment and construction of additional ball fields, moving and rebuilding the skate park to a higher standard, relocating portions of the walking trail, and constructing parking including parking for the disabled;
- Support for hiring a consultant to design/plan new skatepark to move forward with redevelopment of Eastside Park and quadplex;
- Endorsement of the hockey group volunteering the repairs subject to approval by Public Works of the sealant, and that they be allowed to use the court when not in use for tennis;
- Support for City to continue efforts to open levee trail (Board goal);
- Support for next steps to develop Old Landfill trail (Board goal);
- Vendor (for-profit) activity in the parks being authorized by the City as a special exception, or prohibited as stated in City ordinance, with appropriate fees assessed for the use.
- Development an assessment of the condition of the pool, itemizing necessary repairs and their cost, and anticipated repairs, cost and schedule;
- Support for painting lines on an existing concrete slab in Eastside Park and setup of portable fencing by users to enable pickleball use;
- Support for cleaning of tennis court surface cracks by hockey group followed by crack repairs conducted or contracted by the City;
- Support for approval of the proposed 2020 budget line for rebuilding Julia Maley Park;
- Supports for the name of "River Overlook Trail" and creation of a trailhead with sign at the old landfill property.
- The Board also discussed relocating the Buell Stevens Veterans Memorial within Eastside Park and felt this project needed involvement and leadership by veterans.

The Board was engaged in revision of the comprehensive park plan, conducting initial review and providing comment on the previous plan. Board members also reviewed other park plans for comparison. To obtain public input, the Board developed the Omak Parks survey, which was distributed by paper copy and email in 2018 and again in 2019 using SurveyMonkey (2019). Board members also reviewed the 2018 grant request to the RCO for skatepark funding, advised selection of a consultant for skatepark design, and researched methods and contractors for tennis court repairs.

Conclusion

Combining information collected through these various methods allows rating the community support and demand for certain recreation features and improvements. Improvements having the greatest demand include:

- Additional trails including a river trail;
- A year-round pool facility;
- Additional and improved play equipment;
- A splash park;
- Continued development and improvement of the Eastside Park guided by its master plan;
- Additional points of access to the river;
- A roller rink and pickleball courts;
- Improved and additional restroom facilities;
- Improved signage identifying parks, trails, and water access points;
- Additional lighting;
- A community center.

Recreation-related services desired include improved policing and security, provision of recreation programs, and improved pedestrian and bike lane access to parks and through town. Both the Omak Parks and Paths and River Ways surveys indicate concerns about the increasing presence of homeless people within parks and along the river levee.

Action Plan

This action plan identifies actions the City will take to manage and improve its parks and open spaces during the next six years. Actions will focus on priorities identified in the Demand and Need Analysis section considered to provide the greatest value to the most people, at costs the City can afford, while maintaining all parks in excellent condition.

The City spends about 15% of all non-dedicated revenues on culture and recreation. Park funding must compete with public safety (fire protection, law enforcement) and other needs. Figure 22 shows the allocation of general funds among the various categories.

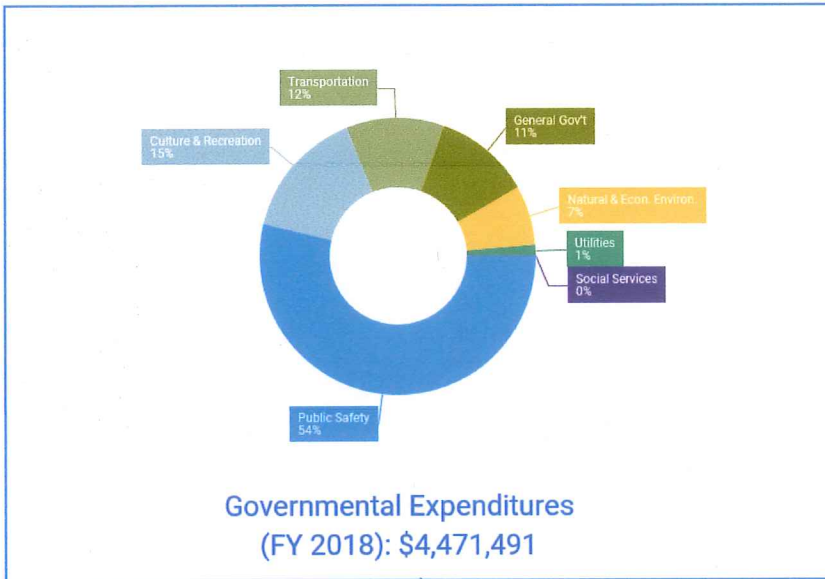


Figure 26. Allocation of general funding expenditures.

City expenditures for park facilities have been increasing and the total amount budgeted in 2020 is about \$622,000. These *Current Expense* expenditures cover basic maintenance and operations, limiting what improvements or new facilities can be provided without external funding or other support. The top priority each year is maintenance of the existing park infrastructure. Maintenance includes park cleanup of trash or vandalism, repairs, mowing, watering, and weed control. Operation of the parks requires financial administration, management of staff, responding to the public, RV park registration, operating the pool, reservations to use picnic shelters, coordination of use of playing fields, and coordination of events such as the Stampede.

Actions called out in the Action Plan are based on City revenue estimates and plans for grant funding applications. They fall into two categories, *Current Expense* actions and *Capital Improvement* actions.

The first category, *Current Expense*, includes improvements or other actions that the City believes can be accomplished keeping within its current expense budget. This budget is set annually by the Council. The amount budgeted depends on estimates of non-dedicated revenues the City will receive.

The second category of actions is *Capital Improvements*. These cost more and depend on additional outside funding such as grants. Grant funding is typically competitive, meaning the City’s applications compete with others based on scoring criteria set by funding agencies. An important consideration in pursuing additional park improvements is the subsequent cost of maintenance and operations. Some improvements desired by Planning Area residents cost more to operate and maintain than the City can currently afford, so are not identified as actions for this planning period.

Potential exists to accomplish more through additional collaboration and support from others such as the Tribes, other agencies, the Park Board, the Tree Board, civic organizations, and volunteers.

Current Expense Actions

Current expense actions are listed in Table 7. The table provides a work schedule, listing actions by the calendar year(s) in which they are planned.

Table 7. Current Expense Actions by Year.

Year Action Will Occur	Action	Cost	
2020	Apply for Eastside Park skatepark grant funding	\$ 1,500	
	Develop standard template for Omak Park signs	\$ 2,500	
	Install signs as needed to identify all parks, water access	\$ 4,000	
	Begin neighbor outreach, hardscape and planting designs for Ivy, Patterson, Johnny's Parks	\$ 4,000	
	Install trail markers for River Overlook Trail	\$ 500	
	Assess play equipment condition/schedule for acquisition or replacement for Eastside, Civic, Dalton-Klessig, Oak Street Parks	\$ 500	
	Continue on-going utility upgrades for RV park (2020-2025)	\$10,000	
	Continue fill/regrading in central area of Eastside Park (ongoing 2020-2025)	\$ 1,500	
	Acquire levee easements for river trail (Pioneer Park to Aston Island)	\$10,000	
	Begin parks updates in City newsletter	\$ 0	
	2021	Complete hardscape and planting designs for Ivy, Patterson, Johnny's Parks	\$ 1,500
		Install hardscape and plants at Ivy Park	\$ 8,000
Initiate levee trail use between Central Avenue and Aston Island where easements allow public use		\$ 2,000	
Begin development of City-wide River Trail and Access Plan		\$10,000	
Continue acquiring levee easements for river trail		\$ 5,000	
2022		Complete development of River Trail and Access Plan	\$ 5,000
	Apply for river trail/access grant funding	\$ 5,000	
	Install hardscape and plants at Patterson Park	\$ 8,000	
	Plant shade trees at Civic League, Oak Street Parks	\$ 2,000	
	Continue acquiring levee easements for river trail	\$ 5,000	
	Open additional segments of levee where easements allow public use	\$ 500	
	Plant shade trees at Civic League, Oak Street Parks	\$ 2,000	
2023	Install hardscape and plants at Johnny's Park	\$ 8,000	
	Open additional segments of levee where easements allow public use	\$ 500	
	Begin work on trail and water access improvements guided by River Trail and Access Plan	\$ 2,000	
	Develop design for Koala Parcel and connecting trail to Dalton-Klessig Park	\$ 5,000	
2024	Plant shade trees at Eastside Park	\$ 2,000	
	Begin improvement of Koala Parcel	\$ 8,000	
	Apply for river trail/access grant funding	\$ 6,000	
	Open additional segments of levee where easements allow public use	\$ 1,000	
	Work to develop trail and water access improvements guided by River Trail and Access Plan	\$10,000	
2025	Continue improvements at Koala Parcel	\$10,000	
	Work to develop trail and water access improvements guided by River Trail and Access Plan	\$10,000	
	Open additional segments of levee where easements allow public use	\$ 1,000	

The Action Plan calls out application for grant funding of capital improvements. Actual installation of capital improvements will depend upon successful award of grant funding. Should the City succeed in winning grant awards, the Public Works Department will administer the grants, oversee contractors, and may perform some of the work in-house. Should a new skatepark be funded, the slab on which the current skatepark is set will be retained for roller hockey, pickleball, or other hard court use for an interim period prior to further capital improvement within Eastside Park. An existing slab used in the past for basketball is also available for pickleball.

Successful implementation of the Action Plan will require involvement by the public. Park Board and Tree Board members will play a key role in advising parks planning and design, play equipment assessment and selection, park tree and plant selection, performing outreach, writing park updates for the newsletter, researching new concepts in parks, and searching for additional funding. Support and involvement by businesses, civic organizations, and schools will contribute to successful implementation of this plan. Figure 27 provides an example of trail enthusiasts cleaning the levee and river shoreline.



Figure 27. Volunteers pitch in to clean up river levee and shoreline.

Capital Improvement Program

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) identifies more expensive projects the City aims to fund and carry out. Funding is typically derived from grants or other external sources though more expensive *Current Expense* projects are also listed in this section. The CIP is consistent with the City’s 2011 Capital Facilities Plan (CFP), the most current City capital budgeting document that includes capital expenditures for parks. Applications for grants developed in-house are not considered projects but are listed in Table 7 to assure they are scheduled and performed on time.

The CIP is the heavy lifter in accomplishing major park improvements. It is important that the projects identified and funded directly address the parks and recreation goals identified in this plan. Each capital project addresses one or more goals from the Goals and Objectives section of the plan. Table 8 lists projects with associated goals, estimated cost, match requirement if grant funded, and funding source for each year of the planning period.

“Match” signifies the City’s contribution to a project. Most grants require a match demonstrating local commitment to the project and to spread money from the grant program to a greater number of projects. Often the match requirement is 50% of the overall project cost. Areas within Omak are identified by the RCO as underserved populations or communities in need. Grants awarded in those areas have reduced match requirements.

Capital improvement projects identified for this planning period emphasize continued Eastside Park investments (skatepark, tennis court renovation, pool assessment and veterans memorial relocation) in keeping with the park master plan. In 2018, the City contracted design of a new skatepark by a professional skatepark design/build company and has obtained a design and specifications for a new park. A second emphasis is improving river access and trails. The community has voiced strong support for trails, especially a river trail, and trails are important health and economic improvement drivers (2019). Trail-based activities have been shown to improve physical and mental health. A third emphasis is replacing or installing new play equipment at up to five parks (Julia Maley, Civic League, Eastside, Oak Street and Dalton-Klessig).

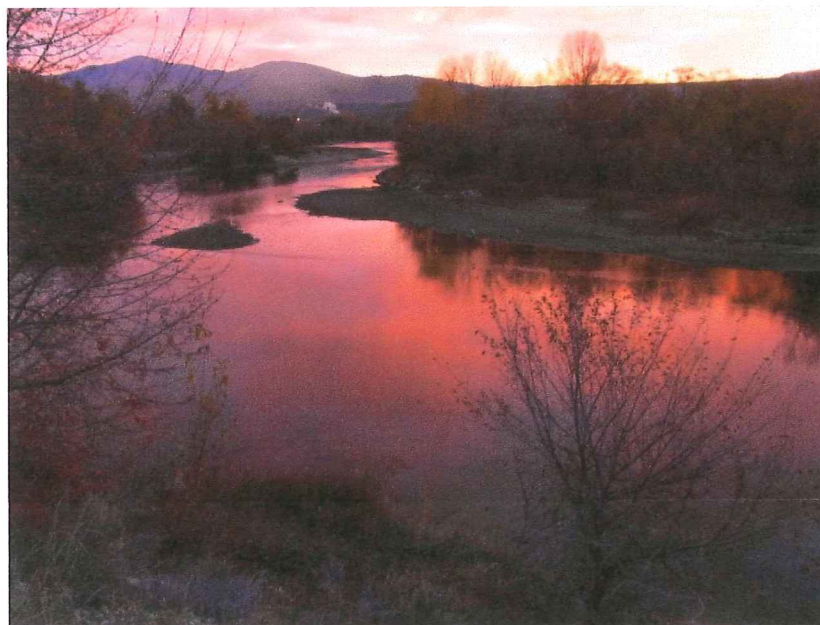
Table 8. Capital Improvement Plan - Parks

Year	Capital Project/Goal	Estimated Total Cost (est. 2020 dollars)	City Match	Funding Source
2020	Julia Maley playground restoration (Goals 1,2)	\$14,000	100%	Current Expense
2021	Build skatepark (Goals 1,2,4)	\$350,000	Reduced	Contingent on grant funding
	Survey property lines for river access/levee trail (Goals 4,5)	\$ 30,000	100%	Current Expense
	Renovate tennis court surface at Eastside Park (Goals 1,2,4)	\$ 40,000	100%	Current Expense

2022	Professional pool assessment (Goal 2)	\$ 30,000	100%	Current Expense
	Implement play equipment upgrades (Goals 1,2)	\$ 15,000	100%	Current Expense
2023	Develop river trail/access development designs (Goals 1,4,5)	\$ 25,000	50%	Contingent on grant funding
	Implement play equipment upgrades (Goals 1,2)	\$ 15,000	100%	Current Expense
2024	Construct river trail/access improvements (Goals 1,4,5)	\$To be determined	50%	Contingent on grant funding
	Implement play equipment upgrades (Goals 1,2)	\$ 15,000	100%	Current Expense
2025	Relocate Veterans Memorial within Eastside Park (Goal 4)	\$ 20,000	100%	Current Expense

Final Note

Carrying out the actions identified in this Action Plan will result in significant, visible improvements to Omak parks. The plan is ambitious but feasible both operationally and financially. The City feels it best serves the community’s recreation goals, demand, and need during the next six years and beyond.



Okanogan River sunrise at Shellrock Point

References

2004. Okanogan County. Okanogan County Outdoor Recreation Plan.
2005. City of Omak. Comprehensive Plan.
2005. Rural Development Council. Omak/Okanogan Community Assessment.
2011. City of Omak. Omak Eastside Park Master Plan.
2012. Okanogan County. Online Recreation Survey.
2016. Paths and River Ways Group. Omak River Levee Neighbor Survey.
2019. Omak Park Board. Omak Parks Survey
2019. EcoNorthwest. Economic, Environmental and Social Benefits of Recreational Trails in Washington State.
2019. Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. Economic and Health Benefits of Walking, Hiking and Bicycling on Recreational Trails in Washington State.

City Adoption of Plan

RESOLUTION NO. 27-2020

**A RESOLUTION OF THE OMAK CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING THE 2020
COMPREHENSIVE PARK AND RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, an updated Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan is required to maintain eligibility for grants from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, the plan is required to contain an inventory of existing park facilities, an analysis and determination of the community's desires, and an evaluation of alternatives for meeting community park and recreation needs; and

WHEREAS, Highlands Associates, in conjunction with Canyon Wren Conservation, did prepare and review with the City Council a Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OMAK DOES RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING:

Section 1. The Park Board of the City of Omak advertised and held a public workshop and park tour on the draft Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan on March 14, 2020.

Section 2. The Omak City Council advertised and held a public hearing on the draft Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan on Monday April 6, 2020.

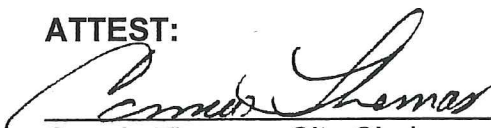
Section 3. The 2020 Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan is adopted, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" to this Resolution, and three copies of the document are on file in Omak City Hall.

**APPROVED AND PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OMAK,
WASHINGTON, this 6th day of April, 2020.**

APPROVED:


Cindy Gagné, Mayor

ATTEST:


Connie Thomas, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Michael Howe, City Attorney

City of Omak
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
Determination of Non-Significance

Date: March 6, 2020

Lead agency: City of Omak

Agency Contact: Tyler Wells, build@omakcity.com, City of Omak, P.O. Box 72, Omak, WA 98841, 509 826 1170

Agency File Number: PARKPLAN 2020

The City of Omak is proposing to adopt an updated Park and Recreation Plan prepared in accordance with the requirements of the State Recreation and Conservation Office.

The City has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). A copy of the Environmental Checklist and draft plan are available for review at Omak City Hall.

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

Adoption of the updated plan is considered a non-project action and will have no adverse-affect-on the environment. Prior to any development activities within the parks, additional SEPA review will be required as appropriate.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and the comment/appeal period will end on April 1, 2020. Comments and/or appeals must be made in writing to Connie Thomas, City Clerk, Clerk@omakcity.com, City of Omak, P.O. Box 72, Omak, WA 98841, 509 826 1170

Signature Tyler Wells
(electronic signature or name of signor is sufficient)

Date 3-6-2020

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals: [\[help\]](#)

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [\[help\]](#)

Update of the City of Omak Park and Recreation Plan

2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#)

City of Omak

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#)

Todd McDaniel, City Administrator
PO Box 72
Omak, WA 98841
(509) 826-1170

4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#)
March 6, 2020

5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#)
City of Omak

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#)
The City Council will hold a Public Hearing on the Plan on April 6, 2020 with adoption to follow.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)
As the plan is implemented projects will be eliminated from the plan and new projects added with a substantial revision planned every six years.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)
Previous editions of the plan, implemented projects and other City planning documents have all been subject to SEPA review.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)
The City intends to apply for an RCO grant in May 2020 for construction of a new skate park.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)
The plan needs to be accepted by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [\[help\]](#)
See Attachment A – Copy of Updated Plan.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, Cityship, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [\[help\]](#)
The incorporated City of Omak is located on the Okanogan River approximately 45 miles south of the Canadian border. The City is about 140 miles northwest of Spokane and 240 east of Seattle. A portion of the City is located within the Colville Indian Reservation. The elevation is 850' at City Hall.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [\[help\]](#)

1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

a. General description of the site: [\[help\]](#)

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other benchlands

The City is generally flat, although has some steep slopes along the northwest to southwest edge and along the Okanogan River.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#) The steepest slopes exceed 45% and are limited to several small areas on the western edge of the City and a small area along the Okanogan River in the center of the city.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [\[help\]](#)

Many different types of soils are found in Omak and the immediately adjacent area. Generally these soils are not conducive to agricultural pursuits. For the most part soils are permeable and erosion is low to moderate.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

There are no surface indications or history of unstable soils within the present corporate limits. However there is a history of slope failure along the bluff that forms the northern edge of the City's Urban Growth Area.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [\[help\]](#)

Adoption of the proposed updated Park Plan is a non-project action and does not involve any filling or grading. However, actions taken pursuant to the Plan could involve grading and site preparation. As these projects commence, further review will be required and this information will be provided. Until that time, it is difficult to estimate the exact need for fill and grading.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

The updated plan will not have a direct impact on erosion, although the improvements it contemplates may involve clearing and construction. At the time such actions are proposed, further review will be required.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the adoption of the updated Park Plan does not change the amount of impervious surface. Improvements subsequent to adoption may introduce new impervious surfaces to the community, but the amount cannot be estimated at this time. Further review will be required.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Approval of the updated Park Plan is a non-project action and does not require any such measures.

2. Air [\[help\]](#)

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

No emissions to the air will result from adoption of the updated plan. If emissions should result from improvements to adoption, these impacts will be identified under additional review prior to development.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the adoption of the updated plan does not require measures to address emissions.

3. Water [\[help\]](#)

a. Surface Water:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [\[help\]](#)

The only major body of water within the affected area is the Okanogan River, which runs north to south through the center of the City on its way to joining the Columbia River approximately 20 miles downstream. There is a small area of wetlands near the southwest corner of City limits.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. [\[help\]](#)

The updated plan does contain improvements within 200' of the Okanogan. Improvements include public access to the water and identification and improvement of trails along the top of the existing flood control levee. Such improvements will require shoreline permitting and specific environmental review prior to any construction/improvements.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. [\[help\]](#)

No filling or dredging of wetlands or surface water will result from adoption of the update Park Plan.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [\[help\]](#)

Omak is protected by a Corps of Engineers approved levee, however there are several areas in the southern portion of the City that lie outside of the levee and within the 100-year floodplain.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [\[help\]](#)

The non-project action will require no discharge of waste materials into surface water.

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

This non-project action requires no withdrawal of discharges of waste material into ground water.

However, development pursuant to adoption could require additional withdrawals of ground water. As plan implementation occurs, this need will be addressed specifically.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [\[help\]](#)

None.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No waste materials will enter ground or surface waters as a direct result of the adoption of the updated plan.

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

No, non project action.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None.

4. Plants [\[help\]](#)

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)

- _X_deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
_X_evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
_X_shrubs
_X_grass

- pasture
- crop or grain
- Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [\[help\]](#)

The adoption of the updated Park Plan is a non-project action and will not involve removal of vegetation. As development occurs subsequent to adoption, vegetation may be altered or removed. These impacts will be reviewed prior to development.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

There are no known federal or state listed plant species within the City or its UGA.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

All noxious weed species common to North Central Washington can be found in Omak.

5. **Animals** [\[help\]](#)

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

Examples include:

birds: hawk, eagle, songbirds, quail, and variety of other birds, other:

mammals: humans, domestic pets, deer, coyote, moose, bear, raccoons, and variety of rodents, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other Steelhead.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

There are no threatened or endangered species reside, nest or spawn within the City or it's UGA, however several endangered fish species run up and down the Okanogan River and decisions related to restoration of such species have direct and indirect impacts on the City. Species of birds, which are "threatened", or "endangered" by Federal or State status are Aleutian Canada Goose, American Peregrine Falcon, American White Pelican, Common Loon, Bald eagle, Golden Eagle, Steelhead and Summer/Fall Chinook Salmon.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [\[help\]](#)

The Okanogan River provides passage for several species of anadromous fish that spawn in the upper reaches of the Okanogan River and several smaller tributaries.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The City has Shorelines and Floodplain regulations adopted to preserve and enhance wildlife that will be used to review park related improvements prior to development.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

None known.

6. Energy and Natural Resources [\[help\]](#)

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [\[help\]](#)

Adoption of the updated plan does not involve use of energy resources. As improvements occur to implement the plan, these impacts will be reviewed in further SEPA checklists.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

Approval of the update plan will not affect solar energy use within the planning area.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None, however the plan does include potential non-motorized trails which may provide the opportunity for people to leave their cars behind and walk.

7. Environmental Health [\[help\]](#)

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

No, approval of the updated plan will not directly result in any environmental health hazards.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. [\[help\]](#)

None known.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. [\[help\]](#)

None known.

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project. [\[help\]](#)

None.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. [\[help\]](#)

None.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None.

b. Noise [\[help\]](#)

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [\[help\]](#)

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation; other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [\[help\]](#)

Adoption of the updated plan will not directly result in increased noise, however improvements developed to implement the plan may result in short term construction related noise and longer term noise generated by facility useage.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None.

8. Land and Shoreline Use [\[help\]](#)

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

The planning area consists of numerous commercial, industrial, single and multi-family residential homes along with City, Tribal, School and other public uses. Adjacent properties include rural businesses, homes, agriculture and open space.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [\[help\]](#)

Portions of the City and UGA have been and will continue to be used for agriculture.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how: [\[help\]](#)

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)

The planning area consists of numerous commercial, industrial, single and multi-family residential homes along with City, Tribal, School and other public uses. Adjacent properties include rural businesses, homes, agriculture and open space.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)

The City presently contains eleven zoning classifications –Airport Industrial, Light Industrial, Heavy Industrial, Commercial-Industrial, Highway Business, Planned Shopping, Central Business, Residential Multi-family, Residential Duplex, Residential Single-Family, and Public Use.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

The areas covered by the plan update include designations for Airport Industrial, Mixed Use, Heavy Industrial, Commercial Auto, Planned Shopping, Central Commercial, Residential High

Density, Residential Medium Density, Residential Low Density, and Public Use.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)
Shoreline Designations within the City include Urban, Suburban and Conservancy. Portions of the UGA are designated as Rural.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)
Yes, portions of the community include one or more critical areas and any development within areas so designated are subject to further review.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)
Non project action.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)
Non project action.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
None.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)
None.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: [\[help\]](#)
None.

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)
As non-project actions, the adoption of the updated plan has no direct impact on the number of people residing or working in the City.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)
None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
None.

10. Aesthetics [\[help\]](#)

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)
The Plan does not call for any structures exceeding that permitted under the zoning and shorelines codes.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)

The adoption of the updated plan is a non-project action, however improvements resulting from implementation of the plan could potentially alter existing views with the addition of recreational facilities.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Implementation projects will be reviewed in compliance with applicable codes and regulations.

11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)

This non-project action will not directly result in additional light or glare. As development occurs subsequent to adoption, any potential light and glare will be addressed in further SEPA review.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)

None.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)

None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None.

12. Recreation [\[help\]](#)

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)

The City of Omak has eleven city parks covering 110 acres, which include a public swimming pool, recreational vehicle and spectator sports facilities. The City also has two movie theaters and a bowling alley. There is also a 9-hole golf course and Bingo-Casino nearby.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The non-project action is adoption of an updated Park and Recreation Plan which sets forth a vision and prioritized improvements to improve recreation opportunities within the City.

13. Historic and cultural preservation [\[help\]](#)

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe. [\[help\]](#)

Presently the City has no properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, State Register of Historic Places, nor listed as eligible for listing in the National Register.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation?

This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts,

or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [\[help\]](#)

Currently there are no designated archaeological sites within Omak's planning area that have been identified by the Washington State office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHF) as having historic interest.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [\[help\]](#)

The non-project action does not require such review, however implementation of projects will require specific cultural resources surveys prior to development.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required. [\[help\]](#)
A qualified monitor will be present on the site for any development that may uncover remains.

14. **Transportation** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [\[help\]](#)

The City has a comprehensive street system with US 97 and SR 215 providing the primary travel corridors. See attache City Map.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [\[help\]](#)

Yes, TRANGO provides daily service to Tonasket and Okanogan where connections can be made to other Okanogan County cities and towns. There are numerous transit stops in City.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)

The non-project action does not designate a specific number of parking spaces.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [\[help\]](#)

Implementation of the updated Park Plan may require improvements as part of development of a trail system connecting the different parks of the community.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

Omak has access to rail and air transportation although there is no scheduled passenger service on either.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [\[help\]](#)

This non-project action does not designate how many vehicular trips would be generated by the the various projects identified for implementation. Projects will be evaluated prior to

development for any such impacts.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Projects will be evaluated prior to development for any such impacts.

15. Public Services [\[help\]](#)

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)

Non project action.

16. Utilities [\[help\]](#)

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other telecommunications

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable.

C. Signature [\[help\]](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____



Name of signee Tyler Wells

Position and Agency/Organization Omak Building Official

Date Submitted: 3/9/2020

D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[help\]](#)

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Not applicable, non-project action.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Public and agency review and comment periods.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Not applicable, non-project action

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

The action entails adoption of updated park plan.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Not applicable, non-project action

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

None.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Not applicable, non-project action.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

The action entails adoption of updated park plan.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Not applicable, non-project action

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

The action entails adoption of updated park plan.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Not applicable, non-project action

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

Public and agency review and comment periods.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

No conflicts.

City of Omak Park and Recreation Plan

Attachment B

Planning Eligibility Self-Certification Form		
Use this form to certify that the need for any grant projects have been developed through an appropriate planning process. Provide the completed form with the subject plans and adoption documentation to RCO via e-mail or other means of electronic access (i.e. Web link, Box.com, etc.).		
Organization Name: City of Omak		
Contact Name: Todd McDaniel		
Adoption Date of Submitted Documents: April 6, 2020		
Seeking Eligibility for: <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Grants <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Grants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both		
Initial Each to Certify Completion	Plan Element Certification	Document and Page Number Location of Information
	1. Goals, objectives: The attached plan supports our project with broad statements of intent (goals) <i>and</i> measures that describe when these intents will be attained (objectives). Goals may include a higher level of service.	Park and Recreation Plan, Pages 12 and 13
	2. Inventory: The plan includes a description of the service area's facilities, lands, programs, and their condition. <i>(This may be done in a quantitative format or in a qualitative/narrative format.)</i>	Park and Recreation Plan, Pages 14 - 26
	3. Public involvement: The planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in plan development and adoption.	Park and Recreation Plan, Pages 27 - 29
	4a. Demand and need analysis: In the plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An analysis defines priorities, as appropriate, for acquisition, development, preservation, enhancement, management, etc., and explains why these actions are needed. The process used in developing the analysis assessed community desires for parks, recreation, open space, and/or habitat, as appropriate, in a manner appropriate for the service area (personal observation, informal talks, formal survey(s), workshops, etc.). 	Park and Recreation Plan, Pages 29 - 36
	4b. Level of Service assessment (optional): An assessment of the criterion appropriate to your community. Possibly establish a higher level of service as a plan goal (above).	
	5. Capital Improvement Program: The plan includes a capital improvement/facility program that lists land acquisition, development, and renovation projects by year of anticipated implementation; include funding source. The program includes any capital project submitted to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for funding.	Park and Recreation Plan, Page 40
	6. Adoption: The plan and process has received formal governing body approval <i>(that is, city/county department head, district ranger, regional manager/supervisor, etc., as appropriate)</i> . Attach signed resolution, letter, or other adoption instrument.	Park and Recreation Plan, Attachment A

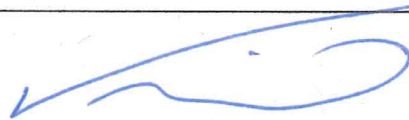
City of Omak Park and Recreation Plan Attachment B

Certification Signature

I certify that this information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Print/Type Name: Todd McDaniel

Signature (Hand Written or Digital):



Title: City Administrator

Date: April 7, 2020