

City of Soap Lake

Parks & Recreation Plan

2020 Update



Summer



Spring

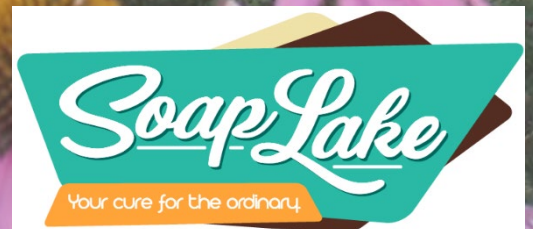


Fall



Winter

September 2020



Acknowledgements

The Soap Lake Parks & Recreation Plan was developed by the dedicated volunteer members of the Soap Lake Parks and Recreation Committee. Many hours were spent in research, discussion and collaboration with the community, Grant County Health District, WSU Rural Communities Design Initiative, the Downtown Improvement Committee, and members of the Soap Lake City Council and staff. Sincere thanks from the City and the citizens of Soap Lake.

Soap Lake City Council

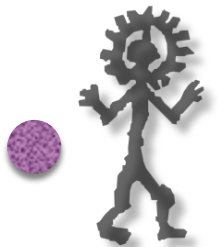
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Residents and Partners**

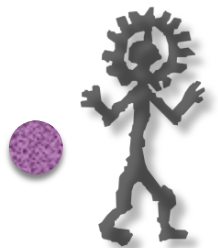
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Special thanks to Grant County Health District for their support, development, and implementation of the Parks and Recreation Survey. Together with their efforts in Developing a Complete Streets Program for the city, the Health District has provided many hours of staff time and talents to make this effort possible.

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Special thanks to the WSU Rural Communities Design Initiative (RCDI) for their guidance and facilitating our Public Meetings.

Robert Krikac
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School of Design and Construction, RCDI
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About WSU RCDI

The Rural Communities Design Initiative (RCDI) exists to promote economic prosperity in small, rural communities, by joining the tangible needs of small communities with the creative resources of university students and their faculty and strives to enhance the social, cultural, economic, and natural capital of unique rural places.

Acknowledging the value of the physical environment to the economic vitality and cultural identity of rural communities, Washington State University's School of Design and Construction and WSU Extension have collaborated to launch the RCDI. Through RCDI, we partner with small, rural communities to offer an innovative, cross-disciplinary approach for rebuilding and promoting a sustainable economy. The RCDI

focuses on the development of the rural community by identifying, designing and implementing community-driven projects in the sectors of housing, community facilities and community and economic development.

A typical intervention process consists of a series of interviews, and collaborative work sessions between the RCDI and the community stakeholders. These can vary from a single consultation to a series of workshops that strive to determine a community's shared vision to develop conceptual designs for specific, executable projects. RCDI is funded by grants from allied organizations and the participating communities. The funds cover travel and material expenses, as

well as support the community workshops. RCDI serves as a catalyst to strengthen small rural communities and improve quality of life by re-purposing community properties and built environment to determine and develop their potential related to community facilities and economic development. RCDI is an action-oriented program of research focusing on the revitalization of rural, under-resourced communities. Finding new ways to restore, preserve, and revitalize such communities can entice investors, encourage the young to stay, and provide opportunity for those who have left to return.

RCDI operates through the School of Design and Construction curriculum in

existing studios, and with graduate students in those programs. RCDI provides a written and visual summary of the community's vision, in preparation for the next step of engaging qualified design, planning and construction firms for bringing a community vision to reality. There is a fee for services, based on the scope of the project. Documents provided by RCDI are for conceptual purposes only. The documents and drawings are intended to facilitate discussion, not for use in construction. The documents and drawings may form the basis for work by qualified professionals.

Special thanks to every Soap Lake resident and visitor that has shaped the parks and recreation plan, including:

The students of Soap Lake Rise Academy
Lisa Guzman, Matthew Brewer & Billie Hill from Soap Lake Rise Academy
Sunshine Pray, Soap Lake School Superintendent

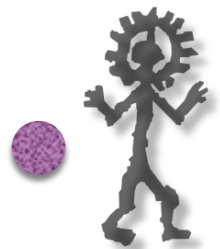
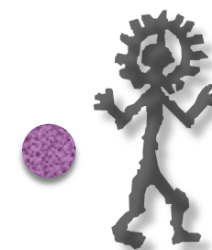


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1. Executive Summary

Impact of the Plan

The primary purpose of the Parks & Recreation Plan is to identify and guide the planning and development of recreational opportunities in Soap Lake to Planning Horizon Year 2032 and to position Soap Lake to pursue grant funding.

- A. Adopted goals related to the park and recreation cover:
- Land use
 - Transportation
 - Economic development - especially tourism
 - Preservation - especially related to the unique character of Soap Lake
- B. The Plan is intended to complement and be consistent with the City's other adopted plans:
- The Comprehensive Plan
 - The Downtown Redevelopment Plan
 - Shoreline Master Plan

The Soap Lake Parks and Recreation Plan is influenced by and offers opportunity to benefit other stakeholders and partners in the immediate and greater area.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| A. Soap Lake School District | K. Grant County Conservation District |
| B. Coulee Corridor National Scenic-Byway | L. Grant County Economic Development |
| C. Coulee Corridor Consortium | M. Soap Lake Chamber of Commerce |
| D. Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail | N. WSU Grant-Adams Master Gardeners |
| E. Ice Age Floods Institute | O. Soap Lake Garden Club |
| F. Central Basin Audubon Society | P. Ephrata Parks and Recreation |
| G. Soap Lake Conservancy | Q. Boy Scouts of America |
| H. Friends of the Lower Grand Coulee | R. US Bureau of Reclamation |
| I. City of Ephrata | S. McKay Healthcare & Rehab Center (Hospital District #4) |
| J. Grant County Health District | T. Soap Lake Community & Senior Center |



Scope of the Plan

The 2020 Parks & Recreation Plan Update is intended to act as a supplement to the adopted Comprehensive Plan for the long-range planning of park and recreational opportunities. Special recreational opportunities such as a trail system, recreation linkage, waterfront development, a community center, a science center and other large-scale recreational opportunities and the development of partnerships with a variety of groups are examined as part of the outreach efforts associated with the development of this plan.



Goals

The overall goal of the plan is to help enhance the quality of the City's lifestyle by creating recreation and open spaces that can be used as leisure areas by both visitors and residents. Supporting this overall goal is the primary goal of creating attractive park and playground areas for recreation opportunities, while preserving natural and scenic areas in the community.



Objectives

The primary objectives of the Parks and Recreation Plan

- Inventory the existing park and recreation land
- Identify parks and recreation needs as determined by the community and, when appropriate, users from outside the city boundaries.
- Provide for outdoor recreation needs for current and future residents
- Outline acquisition and/or development priorities
- Identify cooperative relationships with other agencies
- Place the City in a position to be eligible for federal and State grants.



2. Introduction

The City of Soap Lake is located on the shores of its namesake – Soap Lake – a lake recognized even before the arrival of Europeans as having special qualities. The unique mineral content was revered by Native Americans for its healing properties for themselves and their animals. Between the early 1900's and 1940's, Soap Lake thrived as a number of spas and sanitariums catered to people seeking sun, relaxation and healing. Over the succeeding years, the popularity of mineral waters has waned but remains.

Situated in a desert with only about 9 inches of annual precipitation and 200 or more sunshine days, our economy is still driven primarily by tourism, as Soap Lake continues to attract sun and water enthusiasts. The striking coulees and channeled scablands directly to the north, created by the last Ice Age's Missoula Floods, offer many sight-seeing and hiking opportunities.

Many visitors to the area come for the varied hunting and fishing opportunities that surround us. We are also situated at the northern edge of the Columbia Basin Project, which has transformed the desert into a wide and fertile basin green with crops, orchards and vineyards.

After the City's incorporation in 1919, it grew from a population of 352 residents to a peak of nearly 2,600 in the mid 1950's and has since experienced a decline to a current stable population of about 1,500. Because of the historical high tourist activity, our community has a larger than average acreage of parks for a city of its size, but little has been done to improve them over the last several years. Locals and tourists today expect more than just a spot to sit on the beach or swim. They want boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, walking and biking trails, kids' activities, bird watching, arts, music and information on other nearby recreational opportunities.

We recognize that the needs and expectations about park amenities and recreation activities don't match what our current parks can offer. Therefore, this Parks & Recreation Plan was developed to determine how best to improve and expand existing recreation opportunities for local citizens and the traveling public.



Public Land Park Inventory



Smokiam Park

Smokiam Park, recently renamed from East Beach, is the City's largest park and is the park most visitors to Soap Lake use. Its new name was intended to recognize the historical importance of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to Soap Lake. The Confederated Tribes hold an annual Pow Wow at Smokiam Park. The

Park is Located on SR 17, is highly visible and is the most used park in the City. The southern portion is developed as a traditional waterfront park with picnic areas, swimming, and play area. The Chamber of Commerce and Soap Lake Heritage organizations have use of a small building at the northern portion for a visitors' center

and small history museum. The Park's most visual asset is its more than 1,100 lineal feet of lake frontage, half of which is developed as a swimming beach. This park has the opportunity to function as the "green oasis" welcoming visitors to the community.





West Beach Park

This park, also located on Soap Lake, has more than 400 lineal feet of shoreline. This linear alignment along the Lake gives the park a strong aquatic orientation. It's location, away from the City's main thoroughfares, has reinforced this facility as the "park of choice" for many Soap Lake residents. The park's development is oriented to

the aquatic activities offered by the Lake. The entire length of the park is developed as a beach, and there are sun shelters and a play area. A parking area extends the length of the beach. A rest room with showers and a small grass area for picnics is located adjacent to the parking area.





Paul Lauzier Park

Located in a residential neighborhood, Paul Lauzier Community Park serves the community as a park with a large grass area, rest rooms and play equipment. Paul Lauzier Community Park has been previously named Elder Park, and as of 2003 the park held the name of Veterans Memorial Park.

The volunteer Soap Lake Parks and Recreation Committee started to update the park in 2016. In the outdated park, shade trees tolerant of our climate conditions were

planted. Electrical service was added with an irrigation system to accommodate a newly seeded lawn; a full-size recreational soccer field, which can also be divided into smaller youth-size fields was developed. A sheltered picnic plaza with tables for seating, new playground equipment, restrooms, and vendor pads were also installed. All of these amenities are connected by new ADA accessible concrete sidewalks. The local Grant County Fire District 7 Auxiliary now sponsors

their annual children's community Easter egg hunt in Lauzier Park.

An informational kiosk was installed to provide acknowledgment of and appreciation for the volunteers and donors involved in making this newly renovated park possible. Work on this project began during the summer of 2016 and was completed in the fall of 2018.





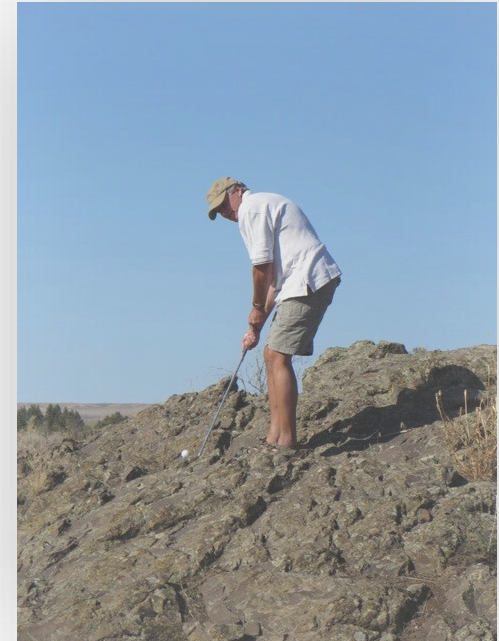
Dog Park

Located on city-owned property just west of the School District property,

the City operates a fenced dog park. This site was developed primarily

through volunteer efforts and continues to see regular use.





Lava Links Rustic Golf Course

The Lava Links golf course is a natural golf course unique to Soap Lake. The course requires no irrigation and minimal maintenance, as it is completely natural in its setting.

The course is in the center of town between Main Avenue, City Hall, and the Senior Center.





Soap Lake RV Park

The City of Soap Lake manages an RV and tent campground located at the north end of Smokiam Park along the shore of Soap Lake. This

facility is open year-round with limited availability during the winter months. There are 8 tent sites open year-round and 28 full-service RV

sites, 7 of which are open year-round. There is a seasonal shower and restroom facility and regular garbage pickup.





Gazebo Park

Gazebo Park is a small “pocket park” located near the center of the downtown business district on the

Southwest corner of Main Avenue and Canna Street. The park is home to a large log-framed gazebo, shade

trees, seating and a picnic area with views to Smokiam Park, the beach, and the lake.





Calling the Healing Waters Sundial Sculpture

Located within Smokiam Park, the sundial sculpture has become the main focal point of the shoreline. The sculpture is the largest human figure sundial in existence and is

unique in its design. This also serves as an observation area. The sculpture and sundial patio were developed completely through community involvement and

donations. The amenity was donated to the City of Soap Lake which is now responsible for its maintenance.



Summary

The City has almost 8 acres of park land in its inventory to serve a current population of 1,500.

However, with the heavy visitor use of Smokiam Park and the area set aside for the RV

campground, the effective park acreage for community residents is reduced 50% to about 4 acres.



3. Plan Development Process

In the development of this Parks & Recreation Plan, the Committee determined very early in the process that this should be a “bottom up” planning effort. In other words, the residents should have every opportunity to express the needs of the community in determining the future of parks and recreation in Soap Lake. Soap Lake citizens have identified and determined the priorities and overall needs of the community and have not relied on a pre-

established minimum criteria for various amenities. In doing so, the planning participants have established a list of priorities and needs that are as unique as the community itself and represents a well-considered, public-driven set of priorities outlining community needs and desires. As such, this is a plan that is specifically developed and designed to meet the needs and goals of this community.

Public Involvement

In addition to the 30 committee meetings which have taken place over the six-year planning period for this document, the community was invited to participate in the plan in several ways. The importance of community input in the development of the vision that would chart the course for future development priorities was critical in making this a plan that would serve the community needs over the next 12 years.



Public Participation Plan

The City of Soap Lake recognizes the need for early and continuous public involvement in the process of updating the City's Parks and Recreation Plan. The following public participation plan is intended to encourage public involvement in the update to the City's Parks and Recreation plan.

The City of Soap Lake will do this through the following actions.

1. Conduct at least two Community Visioning Meetings allowing the public to provide input into the Parks and Recreation Plan Update.
2. Conduct at least one public hearing before the City Council to hear and consider public input to the draft updated Comprehensive Plan prior to adoption.
3. Encourage written comment from the public and other interested parties.
4. Utilize the City water bills to keep the public informed of key dates and opportunities for public participation.
5. Utilize other methods, such as public postings, the City website (www.soaplakewa.gov) and Soap Lake for Locals website & Facebook page (www.soaplakeforlocals.com) to keep the public informed of the update process.

Community Survey - 2015

One of the most comprehensive efforts was to seek the opinions of the community regarding the use patterns, preferences in park features, goals for future park development, and an overall sense of the importance that parks have on the community. This survey was conducted in several formats and languages to ensure the greatest possible representation of the community. The entire survey and the results can be found in Appendix 1 to this plan. Following are some of the highlights of the survey.



Soap Lake Parks & Recreation Survey Highlights

Survey Participants

Age

37% had at least one person over the age of 65 living in their home
33% had at least one person under the age of 18 living in their home

Length of Residency

14% Lived in Soap Lake for 0-3 years
18% Lived in Soap Lake for 4-10 years
36% Lived in Soap Lake greater than 11 years

Soap Lake Home Ownership

9% Rent
64% Own
22% Visitors

Current Physical Activity and Barriers

How Physically Active are You?

23% Very active
50% Fairly active
18% A little active

Top Barriers to Walking and Biking to Parks

34% Rough or no sidewalks in some areas
8% Highway crossings
11% I do not feel safe due to stray animals
9% I do not feel safe due to crime

Park Visits (identified use at least one time)

Smokiam Park	75%
Skateboard Park	15%
Basketball Court	16%
West Beach	70%
Elder Street Park	27%
Lava Links Golf	29%



Soap Lake Parks & Recreation Survey Highlights - continued

Park Enjoyment

What do you enjoy doing at the park? (Time 5 responses)

Spend time outdoors

Enjoy the views

Explore the outdoors

Swim

People watch

Why don't you use the park? (Top 4 responses)

Bathrooms are not available

Facilities are not maintained

Parks do not have the types of facilities I want

Children's equipment is not satisfying

Trails

84% say they would like to see improvements to the informal trail between Smokiam Park and West Beach

Top 4 trail amenities

Shaded sitting areas

Benches

Dog waste stations

Compacted surfaces



Soap Lake Parks & Recreation Survey Highlights - continued

Top Important Structures/Programs

63% of the responses were for these 4 things:

- Preserving the Mineral Water of Soap Lake
- New/Improved Bathrooms
- Trail between the 2 beaches
- Increased number of walking and biking trails

Themes and Takeaways

Maintain Parks and Facilities

Open Bathrooms

Places to Sit and Enjoy the View

Water (lake) Related Activities

Dog Waste and Garbage Removal

Support sense of Community



Public Planning Workshop 1 – July 2015

“Today, we are going to imagine and discover ideas together. I believe we are going to do something spectacular, and it’s going to be for OUR town - Soap Lake.”

Former Mayor Raymond Gravelle

On July 11, 2015, at the invitation of the City of Soap Lake, the WSU Rural Communities Design Initiative (RCDI) brought a team of students and faculty to facilitate a discussion about the city’s parks. The team was composed of three faculty members, Michael Sanchez, Bob Krikac, and Kathleen Ryan, and three students, Ola Stuj, Uris Giron and Krisandrah Crall. The WSU team was joined by the Mayor of Soap Lake, Soap Lake Parks & Recreation Steering Committee, and involved citizens from the Soap Lake Community.

The meeting was opened with an introduction by Mayor Raymond Gravelle. Shawta Sackett of Grant County Health District followed with a presentation of the results of last summer’s survey on the parks and amenities of Soap Lake.

Next, the entire group discussed the findings of the survey as well as other issues related to the city’s parks, trails and recreational opportunities. From this discussion, items were sorted and logically grouped into areas of interest to large sections of the attendees. These areas (Play, Water’s Edge, Economics, Trails) were the focus of smaller group discussions that followed the larger group’s dialog.



Public Planning Workshop 2 – October 2015

The WSU RCDI Team led the group through the lists and created categories which had been established via previous public meetings and community discussions. Taking the numerous ideas and recommendations that have been brought forward through this public process the job of the Community at Workshop 2 was to narrow these ideas into an identifiable set of priorities that can serve as the focus for improvements. Those in attendance were separated into groups and were asked to rank a variety of areas and improvements that should be the top priorities of the community

The following six areas were identified as the top community priorities:

- Smokiam Park
- The Water's Edge
- Trails within the City
- Regional Parks and Trails
- Visitor's Center Complex
- Park Activities in all Parks

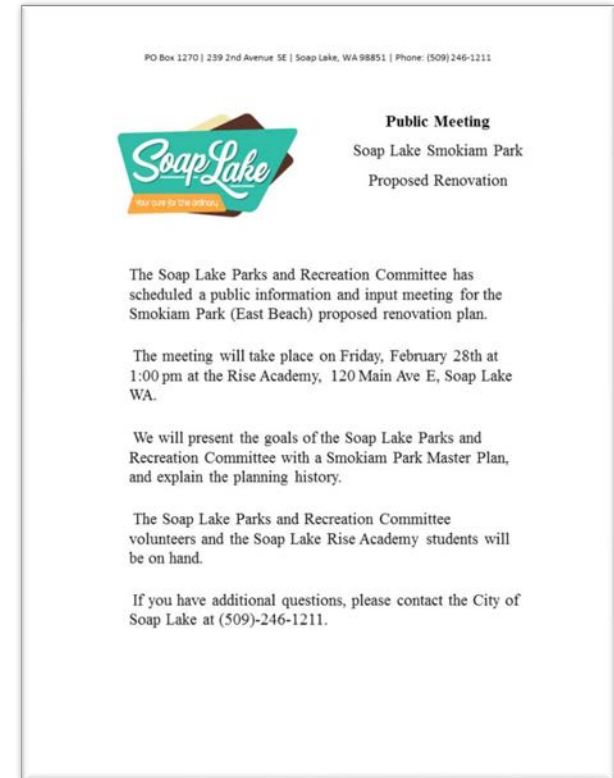
Within each area are several projects that the community also identified as critical to the success of each of the top six priorities. These will be identified in following action plan section.



Public Planning Workshop 3 – February 2020

Public participants in Public Workshop 3 made the following statements, observations and recommendations.

- Carnival can be set up as Festival street on 1st Ave.
- Truckers pull thru parking lot vs landscape islands
- RV Camp – trees block fire exit
- Storm water was expressed as a concern.
- Paved the parking lot; would help to keep stormwater confined.
- Lower the level of the parking lot to act as a catch-basin for water run-off.
- Stormwater way upstream treatment
- Phase in tree replacements
- Amphitheater in shade area
- Drinking Fountain @ Sculpture
- Skate Park; CIP Concrete Freestyle
- LED Lights as a display/attraction
- Focus on entertainment
- Accommodate Semis VS Recreational Vehicles
- Prefer Smokiam Park to be a family park, not focused on use as a truck stop.
- Establish Visitor Center farther to the south end of the park. Leave old building for RV check-in, build new Visitor Center building.
- Paint with bright colors to attract people into Soap Lake.
- Remove amphitheater at camping point.
- Fresh water fountain by sculpture. Money is in-hand for this project.
- Information signs: unified signage program for the parks with a location map.
- A pedestrian focused way-finding program around town to be used as walking trails.
- Interpretive panels located at strategic viewpoint. These would later become part of the trail master plan.
- Re-locate horseshoe pits



Parks and Recreation Volunteer Committee Statement on Workshop 3



The City of Soap Lake Parks and Recreation Volunteer Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Soap Lake Smokiam Park Renovation Public Meeting of February 28, 2020. At this point, we will accept the Park Plan Design as it was presented on February 28th. The Committee has discussed these topics many times during their meetings in the past years. We will continue to keep these topics in discussion as we work to improve Smokiam Park with renovations when funding is available. Many of these topics are not stand-alone topics. Resolving a certain mentioned topic often involves other pieces of the park that don't necessarily flow together when being financially smart with renovations.

We plan to work toward a beautiful renovated park that will safely serve each of our citizens of all age groups and have attributes to attract visitors. As we move forward, we understand that access to funding may change the outlook of what is considered to be a perfect plan. There are stakeholders; agencies and non-profit groups that will be given input to our plans and may play a role in the renovation.



4. Action Plan - Community Assessment & Identified Needs

Smokiam Park - Community Assessment

First and foremost, the community identified the need of a Comprehensive Redevelopment Plan for Smokiam Park (also known as East Beach). The community sees this location as the cornerstone of park development in Soap Lake. There are many reasons for this, but the most compelling is the relationship of this facility to the traveling public in that this location serves as the “front porch” to Soap Lake. With direct access from the State Highway this location is generally the first stop for many visitors.

This is also an extremely popular park among residents receiving heavy use during the summer months.

Existing facilities include:

- A large parking area which lacks definition, stormwater facilities, landscaping, lighting and other amenities that take away from the welcoming nature that the community feels is important.
- Large grass area
- Several picnic shelters and a large pavilion
- Campground
- Water access
- Limited playground equipment
- Outdoor showers
- Visitor Center



Smokiam Park - Community Defined Needs

- A comprehensive plan which ties together the best of existing facilities and inclusion of new projects which will develop a more cohesive facility in terms of recreational opportunities.
- Developed parking area that provides landscaping, water quality features such as stormwater controls, and an inviting and welcoming entrance.
- New and improved playground equipment.
- Improved access to the Lake and water-related recreational opportunities. (Note: this is also addressed as a separate category due to its overall importance and that the need extends beyond one area or park facility.)
- Interpretive kiosks or panels that describe the qualities of the lake shoreline, water, and mud.
- Coordination with local and regional trail systems.
- Community facilities such as picnic tables, seating benches, walkways with ADA consideration.
- Splash Pad.
- Annual Community Picnic.



Water's Edge - Community Assessment

Perhaps the most important attribute that Soap Lake has to offer is the opportunity for access to and over Soap Lake. Currently this unique and valuable attribute is limited to water entry at two public locations, West Beach and Smokiam Park. The community's voice was clear regarding the need to provide additional opportunities to enjoy all that the Lake has to offer and to provide facilities that are inclusive to all. There are currently no facilities that provide ADA access to the water's edge, nor are there any facilities such as docks or piers that allow any member of the public access over the water. Currently no established boating facilities exist for either the launching of watercraft or moorage.



Water's Edge - Community Defined Needs

- Comprehensive Plan for Water's Edge development which identifies potential locations for water's edge access and recreational amenities.
- Analysis and recommendations regarding type and location of facilities which allow boating access to the lake.
- Piers and Docks that provide public access to and over the water including ADA access.
- Development of a maintenance plan to ensure safe and clean beaches.
- Access to the water's edge on a year-round basis, not just seasonal.
- Development of a Roman Bath for public use.
- Enlist development practices that not only comply with our Shoreline Plan but take into consideration the special conditions where the lake's water and notable shoreline geological attributes overlay standard conditions.



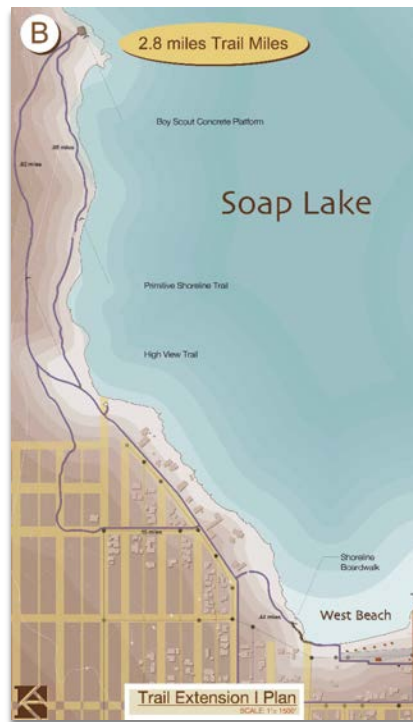
Trails in Town - Community Assessment

One of the key themes that ran through the public process in the development of this park plan was the need to create opportunities to develop Soap Lake into a walkable community allowing both residents and visitors to enjoy the health and environmental benefits that having safe and identifiable walking areas throughout the city. In short, the goal is to make the entire town part of an overall trail system that links neighborhoods, parks, key facilities such as the post office, schools, city hall, shopping, art, and culture.

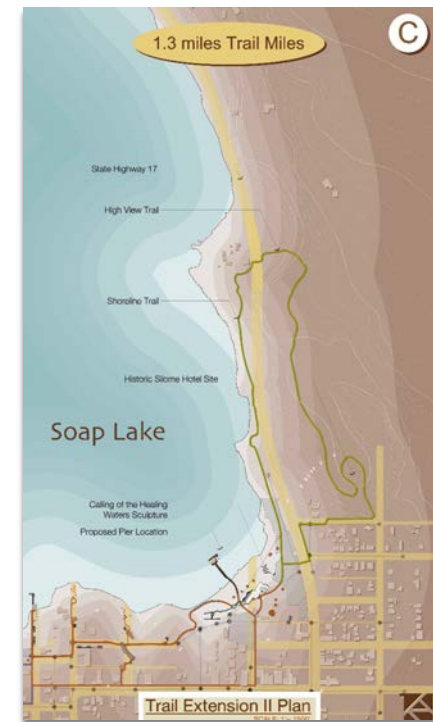


Trails in Town - Community Defined Need

- Development of comprehensive plan to link key facilities and activities by walking trails including existing sidewalks, pedestrian trails and identification of missing elements.
- Identification of various waypoints and distances.
- Utilization of technology to provide feedback to trail users to identify location and distance between points and activities.
- Benches, water and shade areas and interpretive signage.
- Coordination with regional planning efforts.
- Acquisition of rights of way as needed.
- Creating a map of the Urban Trail System.



Proposed walking routes



Regional Parks & Trails - Community Assessment

In addition to the local needs for parks and recreation, the community also identified advantages and a desire to be part of a regional vision. By joining efforts and coordinating with nearby jurisdictions, the City of Soap Lake can address broader recreational needs. This will allow for the expansion of recreational opportunities well beyond the City's municipal boundaries.

These opportunities include regional trail facilities, for example a fully developed trail around Soap Lake and a connecting trail to the nearby City of Ephrata. These trails will enhance opportunities for inter-community linkage, geological exploration, and nature studies. Also, general health and fitness will be promoted by providing safe alternative routes to streets and highways.

Development of a regional parks district could help create funding opportunities for construction and maintenance of joint recreation facilities and programs.



Regional Parks & Trails - Community Defined Need



- Leadership in the development of discussions with adjacent and nearby jurisdictions to establish a regional approach to recreational needs.
- Creation of a regional parks board that can guide local jurisdictions in the development of local projects while supporting the regional approach.
- Long range regional planning effort to assist in the coordination of recreational development.
- Funding sources and funding strategies for regional facility development.

Proposed bike and trail routes



Visitor's Center & Information Complex - Community Assessment

It continues to be the goal and a strong priority of the citizens of Soap Lake to provide a friendly, inviting and informative experience to visitors to Soap Lake. Soap Lake and the surrounding area offer a unique history, not just human relationship to Soap Lake, but the science and geology of the lake and surrounding area as well. The community feels that there is a valuable and fascinating story to be told that will help current and future generations appreciate the unique and special characteristics that this area has to offer. This is a story that involves Native Americans, Early settlers, Lake chemistry and geology, modern engineering and development of water resources that literally changed a region into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the country.



Visitor's Center Complex - Community Defined Need

- Strategy for funding, staffing and program development.
- Location
- Coordination with Regional efforts.
- Strategy to promote Soap Lake as a regional center for Birding, Hunting, Fishing and other nearby recreational pursuits.
- Science Center
- Gallery for local artisans
- Strategy for the dissemination of information and educational materials.



Activities in All Parks - Community Assessment

During public participation and input, several improvements and needs were addressed that are relevant to all parks within Soap Lake. These include a variety of improvements and needs that can best be described as a community wish list which encompasses an eclectic mix of recreational needs. Each park area and local neighborhood has different specific needs and desires but generally these improvements and amenities fit well with all park areas within the City.

Activities in All Parks - Community Defined Need

- Playground equipment
- Basketball Courts
- Multi-age activities.
- Climbing Tower
- Splash Pad
- Skate Park
- Food Vendors
- Farmers Market
- Youth Programs
- Preservation and Maintenance of existing facilities
- Artwork
- Restrooms
- Athletic Fields
- Volleyball Courts
- Benches and Tables
- Shade
- Music Events
- Movies in the Park
- Safe Barbecue Facilities



5. Capital Improvements Plan

The following summarizes the park improvements by park as determined by the Parks & Recreation Committee. Park and Trail Capital Improvements Priorities by Park and Planning Horizon years are shown in Table 5.1. A detailed estimate of Probable Cost for Smokiam Park can be found in the Appendix.

Smokiam Park

As the signature park for Soap Lake, Smokiam Park improvements are envisioned to celebrate the Soap Lake waterfront, provide a broader range of multigenerational recreational experiences for residents and visitors, reduce maintenance, renovate existing park assets, and address stormwater treatment concerns. The following represents the Park Committee's vision of improvements.

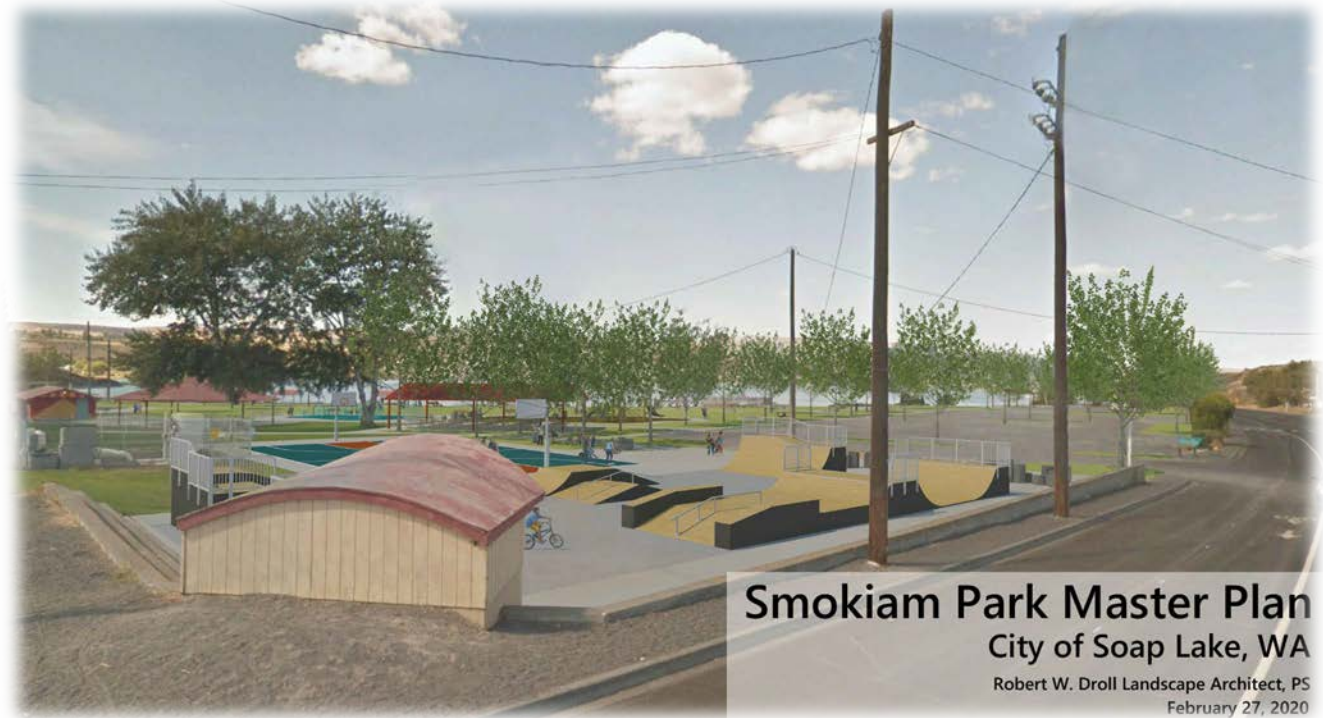
- ❑ Healing Waters Sculpture is sited with a welcoming foreground and transition walk, it is dominant in the landscape, and is framed from SR 17.
- ❑ The existing Park Concessions and Restrooms Building will be renovated to meet all codes and update their exterior and interior appearance.
- ❑ The Play Area, Plaza, and Splash Pad are within close proximity of one another and are supported by large lawn areas.
- ❑ Large areas of beach sand/crushed rock are transformed to natural grass (lawn).
- ❑ A "Festival Street" on First Ave is proposed: this flexible street design enables Soap Lake to easily and safely open the street to pedestrians, vendors, and entertainers during special events.
- ❑ A turnaround/drop-off zone at the end of Canna St. functions well while serving as a ceremonial park entrance.



- ❑ A basalt stream edge/rock garden will be strategically designed to create pools/ripples, stone foot bridges, and meander paths for storm water flow.
- ❑ The concrete edge/steps define the transition from beach to lawn.
- ❑ A wide pedestrian path with seating nodes that roughly parallels the shoreline (Esplanade).
- ❑ Renovated beach cabanas.
- ❑ Picnic tables on concrete pads located under trees.
- ❑ Parking improvements (144-146 paved stalls).
- ❑ An Interpretive program focusing on Soap Lake, Coulee Corridor landforms, and the Ice Age Floods is found throughout the park in various forms (not shown).
- ❑ Stormwater treatment Basins and/or Infiltration Galleries (funded by stormwater funding sources, not in this Capital Improvement Plan).
- ❑ No major modifications are proposed for the open lawn/treed area between the existing restroom and First Street.
- ❑ Although not shown, many of the existing trees will be sequentially removed and replaced with wind-strong trees with broad canopies and a striking form over time.



- ❑ Direct Pedestrian and Bike connections are provided to SR 17.
- ❑ The Visitor Information Center remains where is. However, a code-compliant renovation is proposed.
- ❑ The Skate Court stays where it is presently, but modifications and new modular or freestyle cast-in-place concrete skate features would be installed.
- ❑ The Parking Lot Restroom will be renovated where is.
- ❑ A new Group Picnic Shelter anchors the “Park Core”.
- ❑ The existing Picnic Pavilion is retained and renovated.
- ❑ A full court Basketball Court, Plaza, Horseshoes, and renovated Skate Court will help to anchor the “Park Core”.
- ❑ A “Great Lawn” provides the foreground for views of Soap Lake from the “Park Core”.
- ❑ The RV Wastewater Disposal Station remains and is partially buffered by landscape islands.



Smokiam Park Master Plan
 City of Soap Lake, WA
 Robert W. Droll Landscape Architect, PS
 February 27, 2020

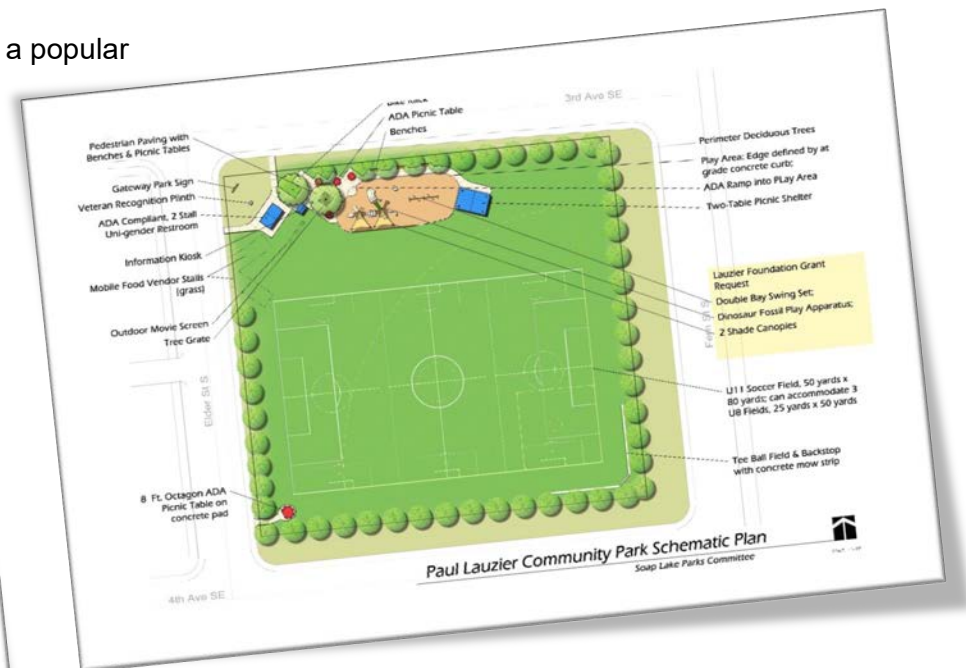
Smokiam RV Campground

A retaining wall in the RV campground creates 4 new campsites and accommodates emergency access.



Paul Lauzier Park

Formerly known as Elder Park, this small community park has been a popular recreation site for years, but as with most older parks, Soap Lake decided it was time for a renovation in 2017. The Park Committee examined several site plan concepts and playground ideas and ultimately implemented a plan that address multigenerational recreation opportunities. The City of Soap Lake was fortunate to receive two grants from the Paul Lauzier Foundation which along with city funds, provided the resources for a restroom, perimeter trees, multipurpose sports field, irrigation, utilities, power and lighting, picnic shelter, park furnishings, and a space for a mobile food vendor. Paul Lauzier Park is the only park in Soap Lake that has a sports field. Paul Lauzier Park opened in the summer of 2018.



Soap Lake Park/Trail	Planning Horizons		
	2020-2026	2026-2032	2032+
Planning Horizon Total	\$ 1,974,000.00	\$ 2,465,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
Smokiam Park			
Skate Court Renovation	\$ 600,000.00		
Basketball Court & Plaza	\$ 250,000.00		
Playground	\$ 400,000.00		
Restroom/Concessions Renovation	\$ 120,000.00		
Splash Pad		\$ 700,000.00	
New Group Shelter		\$ 150,000.00	
Soap Lake Esplanade/Beach Restoration/Rock		\$ 200,000.00	
Visitor Center Renovation, Paddlesports Shelter, & Coulee Corridor Kiosk Turnaround/Drop-Off		\$ 100,000.00	
Existing Shelter Renovation	\$ 30,000.00		
Existing Cabanas Renovation	\$ 45,000.00		
Existing Parking Lot Restroom Renovation	\$ 16,000.00		
Parking Lot Renovation		TBD	
Park Lighting	\$ 50,000.00		
Open Field Play/Stormwater Basins		\$ 60,000.00	
Tree, Landscape & Improvements	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	
OHWM Delineation for Smokiam & West Beach	\$ 6,000.00		
Design and Engineering	\$ 300,000.00		
Planning Horizon Total	\$ 1,877,000.00	\$ 1,350,000.00	\$ -
Smokiam RV Campground			
4 New Campsites & Emergency Access		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Planning Horizon Total	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Paul Lauzier Park			
Backstop Replacement		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Engineered Wood Fiber Replenishment	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Planning Horizon Total	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
West Beach			
Ex. Restroom Renovation		\$ 60,000.00	
Parking Lot signage & Striping	\$ 4,000.00		
ADA Access Improvements		\$ 60,000.00	
Existing Cabanas Renovation		\$ 500,000.00	
Planning Horizon Total	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 620,000.00	\$ -
Lava Links Rustic Golf Course			
Miscellaneous Golf Course Improvements	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
Planning Horizon Total	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Gazebo Park			
Gazebo Painting & Miscellaneous Improvements		\$ 15,000.00	
Planning Horizon Total	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
Dog Park			
Miscellaneous Improvements	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
Planning Horizon Total	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Smokiam Trail			
Smokiam Trail Feasibility Study	\$ 80,000.00		
Smokiam Trail Easement Procurement		\$ 300,000.00	
Planning Horizon Total	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -
Soap Lake to Ephrata Trail			
Soap Lake to Ephrata Trail Feasibility Study		\$ 80,000.00	
Planning Horizon Total	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -
All Costs founded on the Base Year 2020			

Table 5.1: Capital Facilities Priorities for Parks & Trails

West Beach

Improvements envisioned for West Beach Park include aesthetic and ADA compliant renovations to the Restroom, renovations to the Cabanas, and signing/stripping the parking lot.

Lava Links Rustic Golf Course

Minor landscape and trail surfacing improvements are proposed to maintain the unique and iconic Lava Links Rustic Golf Course.

Gazebo Park

Minor renovations to Gazebo Park include painting, landscape and irrigation improvements.

Dog Park

Soap Lake plans to implement modest improvements which may include an entry gate system and fencing to create separate small dog and large dog areas, Doggie Station, trash receptacle, and agility apparatus.

Smokiam Trail

Soap Lake and Grant county should partner to pursue the feasibility of this nonmotorized trail corridor by funding and implementing a Trail Corridor Feasibility Study within the next twelve years.

Soap Lake to Ephrata Trail

Soap Lake, Ephrata and Grant County should partner to pursue the feasibility of this nonmotorized trail corridor by funding and implementing a Trail Corridor Feasibility Study within the next 12 years.



Potential Funding Sources

EXISTING FUNDING SOURCES

GENERAL FUND: The City's primary source of funding is operating revenue from the general fund. The general funds come from taxes levied on property and a combination of special revenue, debt service or enterprise funds. General funds are used to finance operations, staff, equipment and maintenance.

PARK IMPACT FEES: Cities planning under the Growth Management Act, in title RCW 82.02.050 (2) can collect Park Growth Impact Fees to be used to pay the proportionate share of the cost of public facilities that benefit a new development. The fees cannot be used to correct existing deficiencies.

OPTIONAL LEGISLATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

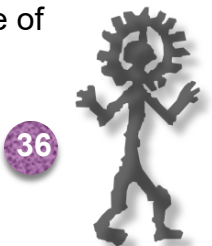
The following funding sources provide information and background for future analysis as potential options.

PROPERTY TAX: Property taxes are capped by the Washington State Regular Levy Rate Limits.

VOTER APPROVED UTILITY TAX INCREASE: A Citizen-voted increase in utility taxes is an option as a Parks and Recreation Facilities Funding Measure. Reference RCW 84.55.005 (110) Washington Department of Revenue & Tax Reference Manual 84.52.043 (111) and 84.52.010 (112).

SALES AND USE TAX: Washington State sales and use is an important funding source for cities and counties, second only to the property tax. Almost half of the state's taxes for the general fund are from the imposed sales tax of 6.5%. Local Governments have several different optional sales and use taxes which also represent a substantial support for the local general fund budget. The cities as well as counties can levy a basic sales and use tax of 0.5% and can add an optional tax of up to an additional 0.5% for a total of 1.0%.

REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX (REET): Tax imposed at the time of a real estate sale. There are two components of the tax: the first 0.25% of the sale is to be used for acquisition and development projects and the second 0.25% for development projects only. Many cities and counties that are planning under GMA and levying both REET-1 and REET-2 need to keep track of each of these revenues separately because of the different uses RCW 82.46.030(2). As a priority, many cities and counties dedicate the revenues to be used for park and recreation capital projects. This tax does not require the vote of the people but an action through the governing body can establish the Real Estate Excise Tax.



SPECIAL EXCISE TAX: (Lodging Tax): This tax is levied as a special excise tax of 2% on lodging as allowed under RCW 82.08. The funds collected are placed in the “Tourism Activities Fund” to be used solely for tourist promotion, acquisition and operation of tourism-related facilities or all other uses authorized under RCW 67.28.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION: This is a lease-purchase approach where a city COP’s to a lending institution and does not require a public vote. The governing body then pays the loan off from revenue produced by the facility or from its general operating budget. This lending institution holds title to the property until the COP is paid off.

CONSERVATION FUTURES (County Funding Option): Conservation Futures is a useful funding tool for counties to preserve lands of public interest for future generations in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County. RCW 84.34.230 allows a property tax levy to provide a reliable and predictable source of funds to help acquire interests in open space, habitat areas, wetlands, farm, agricultural and timberlands for conservation and for maintaining and operating any property acquired with these funds. Enactment of Conservation Futures by Grant County (Grant County presently does not have a Conservation Futures Program) would provide the opportunity to secure vital park, trail, and habitat lands and would have the maintenance costs funded through the levy.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS: These are voter-approved or councilmanic bonds with the assessment placed on real property. The funds can be used for capital improvements not maintenance. The property tax is levied for a specified period (usually 20-30 years), and the passage of a voter-ratified bond requires a 60% majority vote. Councilmanic bonds, on the other hand, require only a city council majority. One disadvantage of using this type of levy may be the interest rates on the bonds.

UNLIMITED TAX GENERAL (UTGO) BONDS: Must be approved by at least 60% of resident voters during an election with a turnout of at least 40% of those who voted in the last general election. The bond may be repaid from a special levy, which is not governed by the 1% statutory limitation on the property tax growth rate. Any levy lift may not exceed the maximum amount.



WASHINGTON STATE FUNDING

Washington State agencies provide various grants to benefit public recreation for acquisition and development through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the Department of Commerce, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and programs from the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) programs.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO): The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes. Depending on the program, eligible project applicants can include municipal subdivisions of the state such as cities and counties, state agencies, special districts such as ports, metropolitan park districts, school districts, Native American tribes and non-profit organizations. To be considered for funding assistance, most grant programs require that the proposed project will be operated and maintained in perpetuity for the funded purpose. Most grant programs also require that sponsors complete a systematic planning process prior to seeking RCFB funding. Grants are awarded by the RCFB Board based on a public, competitive process which weighs the merits of proposed projects against established program criteria. See rco.wa.gov for more information. The grant categories include:

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP): Funds the acquisition and development of conservation and recreation lands. The Outdoor Recreation Account of the WWRP provides matching grant funds for local and state park projects, which include active parks, playgrounds, sports fields, water access sites, trails, natural areas, and urban wildlife. The RCO accepts grant applications by May 1st of each even year. The successfully scored projects are presented to the governor, who recommends them to the legislature for capital funding the following year.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Grant Program: This grant-in-aid program supports the purchase, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes and for providing and improving access to such lands. It is guided by concepts originally developed by the Department of Natural Resources, including re-establishment of naturally self-sustaining ecological functions related to aquatic lands, providing or restoring public access to the water, and increasing public awareness of aquatic lands as a finite natural resource and irreplaceable public heritage.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF): The program was approved by Washington voters as part of Referendum 48, which provides funding for the Seattle Seahawks stadium. The purpose is acquiring, developing, equipping, maintaining, and improving youth and community athletic facilities. Eligible grant recipients are cities, counties and qualified



non-profit organizations. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions (match amounts may be different for underserved communities and may change on a biennium basis; check with RCO).

Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR): This funding is used to acquire, develop and renovate public and private non-profit firearm range and archery training and practice facilities. To qualify for funding, ranges must be open on a regular basis to law enforcement personnel, hunter safety education classes and the general public. Grant recipients must provide matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Funding comes from \$3.00 for each concealed pistol license fee. Acquisition, development, renovation projects, capital equipment purchase, safety and environmental improvements, noise abatement and liability protection are all funded through this grant program.

Salmon Recovery Grant Program: Funding is for protection and/or restoration of salmon habitat. It also supports feasibility assessments for future projects and other activities. Applicants must provide at least 15% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. State funding has been provided through fund shifts from other funding accounts and general obligation bonds. Federal funds are appropriated through the Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries (NMFS). Working with the Watershed Resource Area (WRIA) 16/15 as lead agency, projects and funding can be identified for various salmon habitat projects.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE: The Department of Commerce provides grants to enhance economic opportunities for local communities and throughout Washington State. Grant programs identified below are typically program provided through many local park and recreation departments.

Building for the Arts: Building for the Arts awards grants to 501c3 nonprofit performing arts, art museums and cultural organizations to defray up to 20 percent of eligible capital costs. This is a reimbursement-style grant, and operating costs are ineligible.

Direct Appropriation: Direct appropriations are placed in the state budget by the governor or legislature. The Department of Commerce Capital Programs has no role in the selection of grant recipients. These types of grants may be used by designated local governments, tribes and nonprofit organizations throughout the state to acquire or construct a variety of capital projects. Each project funded under these programs stimulates the state and local economies by providing construction-related employment and associated revenues.



Humanities Washington: Humanities Washington supports public programs that have as their primary purpose the presentation of insights gained from the humanities. Humanities Washington offers two types of grants. Quick Grants are available year-round to small or rural organizations for program planning or implementation. Project Grants are usually awarded twice a year through a competitive grant process for larger projects.

FEDERAL FUNDING

On the Federal level, Congress appropriates funds through a variety of programs that may provide potential funding sources for various capital projects. These include the Environmental Protection Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund Account (LWCF), Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Economic Development Funding (EDI), Community Block Grant HUD, Environmental Protection Act with Brownfield's clean-up funding, United States Department of Agriculture low interest loans and through direct Congressional Appropriation (see specifics regarding each grant below). Links to government grant sources can be found at firstgov.com and grants.gov.

CONGRESSIONAL GRANTS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVES: These are received annually and are by invitation only through your congressional Representative or U.S. Senator. The fiscal year (FY) invitations will come out in the spring and are administered under the Homes and Communities Division of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION: Annually, U.S. Senators and House Members accept letters of proposals and applications for appropriation requests. Project descriptions and letters of request for appropriation are due March 1st for the upcoming fiscal year (FY) budget preparations.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF): In June 2020, the LWCF was permanently funded by the U.S. Congress. Program funds come through congressional appropriation for recreation resources including, but not limited to, parks, trails, wildlife lands and other lands and facilities desirable for individual active outdoor recreation. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. A portion of federal revenue for the LWCF is derived from sale or lease of offshore oil and gas resources and was re-appropriated to projects through the U.S. Congress to the Department of the Interior under the National Park Service (NPS). The program is administered in Washington State by the. New funding was re-enacted by Congress to fund new LWCF projects, the existing sites purchased or developed with LWCF funds are deed protected for outdoor recreation purposes in perpetuity and are defined using "6f" federal map delineation. The



National Park Service manages and monitors the LWCF outdoor recreation lands and projects. This program is led by the RCO in coordination with the National Park Service.

RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RCTA): RCTA is a technical assistance program of the National Park Service (NPS) that implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the NPS in cooperation with local communities and the state agencies for trail planning, greenways, water trails and special recreation projects. Through the RTCA program, the National Park Service has launched a nationwide goal to encourage healthful outdoor physical activity in National Parks and in local communities to demonstrate practical approaches for public land managers and community leaders who want to encourage active lifestyles. The National Park Service promotes benefit support information through the NPS's Pathways to Healthy Living: Promoting Physical Activity in Parks and Communities. The data and support documentation reiterate the following: Close-to-home value of recreation on neighborhood trails and greenways is vital for improving America's public health. Working with the National Park Service, grant seekers will realize the value of the current work and understand that, as a value to local communities, the NPS is ideally positioned to respond to this urgent need to increase Americans' level of physical activity.

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM (NRTP): The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) provides funds to rehabilitate and maintain recreational trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience. Eligible Projects are: Maintenance of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, construction of new trails, and operation of environmental education and trails safety programs. Revenue Source: Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Federal Highway Administration and in Washington State by the RCO.

THE BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM (BIG): This federal program provides funding for recreational transient boating facilities, targeting the needs of recreational boats 25-feet and larger. This program is administered through the RCO.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR THE 21st CENTURY: Enacted in 1998, provides funds for programs that increase alternative modes of transportation, enhance recreation, and protect the environment. The new "Transportation Alternatives" federal transportation funding authority was recently passed by bi-partisan compromise. The issue of paying for long-term transportation improvements was left for the next Congress. Transportation Alternatives: Under the new agreement, funding for key bicycle and pedestrian programs such as Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to School is eliminated. A new program "Transportation Alternatives," consolidates the current twelve eligible activities under six new headings.



These are the six eligible categories for types of projects; 1. "on-road and off-road trail facilities" — Construction, planning, and design of bike/ped infrastructure 2. "safe routes for non-drivers" — Also bike/ped infrastructure, specifically mentioning children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities 3. "abandoned railroad corridors for trails" — Conversion of rail corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users 4. "turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas" — Apparently roadside facilities previously included in the scenic byways program 5. "community improvement activities" — Rights-of-way improvements: billboards, historic and archeological preservation, and vegetation management and erosion control. 6. "environmental mitigation" — Storm water management, wildlife mortality, and " connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats" Transportation Alternatives funding and administration:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Brownfield's Economic Development Initiative (BEDI): The BEDI program provides funding to local governments to be used in conjunction with Section 108 loan guarantees to finance redevelopment of Brownfield's sites. Environmental Protection Agency: Brownfield's Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilots: The BCRLF program allows states and local governments to receive loan funds for environmental clean-up of Brownfield's. The purpose of the program is to enable states and local governments to make low interest loans to facilitate the clean-up and re-development of Brownfield's properties.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE ARTS GRANT: In working with the Washington State Arts Commission, grants are available in January. See arts.gov/grants for more information.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES: The NEH is an independent grant-making federal agency dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities. View grant opportunities at neh.gov/grants.

NATIONAL TREE TRUST: National Tree Trust provides trees through two programs: America's Tree Ways and Community Tree Planting. These programs require trees to be planted by volunteers on public lands. Additionally, the America's Tree Way program requires a minimum of 100 seedlings be planted along public highways.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA): Low Impact Development Storm Water Management Grants (LID) providing financial assistance through the Washington State Department of Ecology. One of the most effective ways to manage storm water-runoff pollution is to minimize how much run-off occurs in the first place. LID-designed sites have fewer impervious surfaces and use vegetation, healthy soils, small-scale storage and dispersion/infiltration techniques to manage storm water. This grant program began as a pilot in 2006. If successful and federal funds continue to support the program, park improvements such as shoreline



enhancements, parking roadway and walkway replacement with pervious surfaces would all meet the criteria of the LID grant goals. See ecology.wa.gov/about-us/how-we-operate/grants-loans for more information.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD): Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Economic Development Funding (EDI) program administers the following: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) which provides block grants to eligible local governments. Approximately \$100 million of CDBG funds are utilized annually for park and recreation projects which often are initiated along with more comprehensive community redevelopment initiatives. In addition to the sources for capital funding listed above, grant funding is also available from a variety of sources for community recreation programs. Special health and youth related grant information can be obtained from the National Center for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Nutrition Service.

HUD BLOCK GRANTS: Grants from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development are available for a wide variety of park projects (5% of total). With existing lower income areas in the city, park improvements and facility upgrades can benefit from Community Development Block Grants. Grants can fund up to 100% of the project. Projects to improve access to parks and playgrounds to comply with The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are eligible for this funding.

PRIVATE FUNDING

DONATIONS: The donation of labor, land or cash by service agencies, private clubs, corporations or individuals is a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects. The private funds are critical to show commitment of non-government dollars and as a positive result can elevate the standing of the grant proposal. Such service agencies as the Kiwanis and Rotary often fund small project improvements in partnership or provide the donated labor to serve as a match with State RCO grants to bring the project to fruition. Environmental groups such as the Trust for Public Land, Nature Conservancy, and Forterra in Grant County organize and in partnership provide volunteer labor for habitat restoration which can serve as a value for consideration toward the local match requirement on specific grants. Principle property taxpayers in the city such as Safeway or Super One are sources of local contributions for civic and environmental benefits. As a partnership opportunity they should be contacted, provided with collateral project information and approached regarding an initial request for partnership support. As with all grant programs, grant agencies are looking to local communities to work with local advocates, sponsors and private partners to bring the project to completion. Community advocates can elevate the level of project scores in a competitive funding cycle. In some grant programs, grants require private partnerships as a condition of application.



CORPERATE & CHARITY GRANTS: Many private foundations provide money for a wide range of projects. Grants are available for children, cultural enrichment and heritage preservation. In many cases, foundations require grant requests from non-profit 501c3 organizations. On all phases of park projects, staff should work with or create a partnership with private nonprofit organizations and seek opportunities to secure grant funds from private non-profit foundations. Kaboom.com/grants is one example of charity grants. The Paul Lauzier Foundation (lauzier.org) has shown great community interest in Soap Lake by funding the playground improvements at Paul Lauzier Park.



6. Consistency with Adopted Plans and Programs

The development of the Parks and Recreation Plan is intended to be consistent with and complement other adopted plans and programs that currently help to guide and direct the future development and growth of the City of Soap Lake. Much effort and community support went into the development of those plans and demonstrates the high level of active and involved community participation. It is important that this previous work is

considered in the development of this plan. These include the City's Comprehensive Plan, The Soap Lake Downtown Master Plan, and the most recently adopted Soap Lake Shoreline Management Master Program. Key elements of each of these plans are identified below.



Soap Lake Comprehensive Plan

Vision Statement

The following is the vision statement adopted by the City's comprehensive plan. In addition to the goals and objectives identified above this Parks and Recreation Plan will also be true to the following statement.

We, the citizens of Soap Lake have the following vision for the future of the Community:

Soap Lake is a community that respects and preserves its historical and cultural resources.

Soap Lake is a community that recognizes the importance of Soap Lake and other natural elements and provides an effective stewardship of its outstanding scenic and natural features.

Soap Lake is a community that maintains its historic identity while encouraging a balanced, cohesive yet diverse community as it grows.

Soap Lake is a Community that utilizes its special features and characteristics where residents' various physical, educational, economic and social activities can be pursued in a safe, attractive and healthy environment.

Soap Lake is a community that strives to improve and increase the tax base to provide a high level of service to its residents, and to improve and increase employment opportunities by encouraging new businesses to join the community.



Goals and Policies

The Growth Management Act compliant Comprehensive Plan has specific goals and policies that directly relate to the Parks and Recreation Plan for the City of Soap Lake.

Goals

- 1.1 Active citizen participation in community goals and government
- 1.3 Encourage citizen participation in community activities and government
- 1.4 Develop a functional continuing City planning process.
- 1.6 Encourage the inclusion and participation in community activities by all segments of the Soap Lake Community.
- 1.7 Increase planning coordination with the other jurisdictions of Grant County.

Policies

- LU1.2 Encourage new development to provide land for parks, links to parks through the development of trails, and tourist recreational opportunities throughout the City.
- LU3.3 Promote improvement of the area economy through diversification of commercial and tourist-oriented business.
- LU 5.2 Promote through streets, sidewalks, streetscape, bike lanes, and other design concepts that promote traffic flows to the Central Business District.
- LU 5.3 Support tourist uses and stays by allowing service and tourist destination activities and land uses.



Soap Lake Downtown Master Plan

The Downtown Master Plan has been adopted by reference into the City's Comprehensive Plan and offers several goals and policies that are consistent with and complement the Parks and Recreation Plan.

Vision Statement

The following is the Vision Statement was prepared by Soap Lake stakeholders at the 2003 Washington Certified Economic Revitalization Team (WA-CERT) Symposium and was modified during the Downtown Master Plan process based on input from citizens and suggestions from the consulting team.

We the residents will revitalize our Soap lake community into a place recognized and appreciated for its healing attributes for the mind, body and spirit. We will support development of small businesses to enhance the sustainability of our community, the quality of life for our residents, and the experiences of our visitors.

In revitalizing our community, we will create an environment for residents and visitors to participate in the arts, culture, and recreational opportunities, to

appreciate Soap Lake's unique heritage and culture, and to learn about its unique geology. We will create improved year-round opportunities to enjoy the healing waters and mud of Soap Lake.

We value the physical character and natural scenery of Soap Lake. We will encourage development that is oriented to the lake and sensitive to the natural context of its surroundings.



Objectives

The following Objectives were identified in the Downtown Master Plan that support and are consistent with this Parks and Recreation Plan.

Urban Design (UD)

- UD1: Improve and enhance the physical visibility of Downtown Soap Lake by creating a logical entry sequence into town while improving pedestrian and vehicular safety
- UD2: Enhance East Beach (now Smokiam Park) so that it becomes an inviting “front door” to the City of Soap Lake from SR 17
- UD3: Improve the attractiveness and “curb appeal” of the downtown district property and businesses.
- UD4: Build a stronger connection between the City and the Soap Lake waterfront, natural scenery, and dramatic view of the Coulee Corridor region
- UD5: Highlight the unique characteristics of Soap Lane – its history and geology – to create a “Sense of Place”
- UD6: Integrate art and culture into the city, particularly the downtown district.
- UD 7: Provide recreational opportunities to meet the needs of all target market sectors.

Preservation (P)

- P1: Partner with developers and conservation groups to ensure the preservation of the quality of Soap Lake water

Economic Development and Marketing (EM)

- EM2 Improve the visitor information system for the Soap Lake area.
- EM3: Create a strategic, highly targeted and effective marketing program for Soap Lake.
- EM4; Work with investors/developers to encourage and enhance spa facilities and amenities.
- EM 6: Enhance events in off-peak seasons to increase business sales.



Shoreline Management Master Plan

The following Elements were identified in the Shoreline Management Master Plan that support and are consistent with this Parks and Recreation Plan. Most of Soap Lake's Parks have direct relationship to the lake shoreline.

Economic Development

Goals

1. Support the development of water-oriented commercial services and attractions that serve tourism and support the community's economy and shoreline environment. Utilize the unique attribute of Soap Lake's "Healing Waters" as an economic development theme.
2. Promote economic growth that conserves natural resources and open spaces and maintains environmental quality.

Policies

Commercial Development Policies

1. Assure that commercial uses will not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological functions or have significant adverse impacts on navigation, recreation and public access.
2. Promote water-oriented commercial uses in shoreline areas that support recreation and tourism.
3. Encourage multi-use commercial projects that include some combination of ecological restoration, public access, open space, and recreation.

General Development Policies

1. Promote shoreline areas of the City of Soap Lake as an economic asset to the community.
2. Promote recreational opportunities and tourist-oriented businesses along shoreline that are compatible with or complement the character and existing uses of critical areas and shoreline.
3. Give preference to economic activities which either leave natural shoreline features such as trees, native plants and wildlife habitat unmodified, or which modify them in a way which enhances human awareness and appreciation of the shoreline and other natural and non-natural surroundings.
4. Give first preference to water-dependent uses, second preference to water-related or water-enjoyment economic activities, and last preference to non-water-oriented uses in areas where limited commercial development space along shorelines is in demand for a number of competing uses.
5. Ensure that any economic activity taking place along the shorelines operates without causing irreparable harm to the quality of the site's environment or adjacent shore-lands.
6. Where possible, developments are encouraged to incorporate low impact development techniques into new and existing projects and integrate architectural and landscape elements that recognize the lake
7. Environment.
8. Require non-water-oriented commercial or recreational development provide for ecological restoration and public access as appropriate.



Public Access and Recreation

Goals

1. Ensure that a diverse public access system to and along Soap Lake is maintained and encouraged that is consistent with private property rights, public safety and the natural shoreline character.
2. Increase diverse, convenient and adequate recreational opportunities along the shorelines of Soap Lake for public.

Policies

1. Enhance recreational opportunities and public access to open spaces and shoreline areas.
2. Promote tourism and recreational opportunities that are compatible with or complement the character and existing uses of shoreline.
3. Encourage new development to provide links to parks through the development of trails, and tourist recreational opportunities.
4. Identify opportunities for public access on publicly owned shorelines. Preserve, maintain and enhance public access afforded by shoreline street ends, public utilities and rights-of-way.
5. Provide physical and visual public access in the shoreline jurisdiction in association with the following uses when feasible: residential developments with five or more dwellings; commercial development; and public agency recreational development.
6. Provide public access and interpretive displays as part of publicly funded restoration projects where significant ecological impacts are addressed.
7. Give priority to water-oriented recreational opportunities in order to provide access, use, and enjoyment. Give water-dependent recreation priority over water-enjoyment recreation uses. Give water-enjoyment recreational uses priority over non-water-oriented recreational uses.
8. Allow for passive and active shoreline recreation that emphasizes location along shorelines in association with the City's parks, recreation, wildlife habitat and open space plans.
9. Promote recreational developments and plans that conserve the shoreline's natural character, ecological functions, and processes.
10. Integrate and link recreation facilities with linear systems, such as walking trail, bicycle paths, easements, and scenic drives when feasible.



Circulation

Goals

1. Implement multi-modal transportation system that provide for mobility and access and that minimize adverse impacts on the shoreline environment.



Policies

1. Provide safe, reasonable, and adequate circulation systems to shorelines where routes will minimize adverse effects on unique or fragile shoreline features and existing ecological systems, while contributing to the functional and visual enhancement of the shoreline.
2. Within the shoreline jurisdiction, locate land circulation systems that are not shoreline dependent as far from the land-water interface as practicable to reduce interference with either natural shoreline resources or other appropriate shoreline uses.
3. Allow for maintenance and improvements to existing roads and parking areas. Allow for necessary new roads and parking areas where other locations outside of shoreline jurisdiction are not feasible.
4. Consider pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation where appropriate and compatible with the natural character, resources, and ecology of the shoreline.
5. Promote existing transportation corridors for reuse for water-dependent uses or public access when they are abandoned.
6. Plan parking to achieve optimum use. Where possible, parking should serve more than one use (e.g. serving recreational use on weekends, commercial uses on weekdays).
7. Encourage low-impact parking facilities, such as those with permeable pavements and bio-swales.
8. Encourage the linkage of shoreline parks, recreation areas, and public access points with linear systems, such as trails, bicycle paths, easements and/or scenic drives.



Shoreline Use and Modifications

Goals

1. Encourage shoreline development that recognizes the City of Soap Lake's natural and cultural values and its unique aesthetic qualities offered by its variety of shoreline environment
 - A) Ensure that uses, activities and facilities are located on the shorelines in such a manner as to retain or improve the quality of the environment and will maintain or improve the health, safety and welfare of the public.
 - B) Ensure that proposed shoreline uses do not infringe upon the rights of others, upon the rights of private ownership, upon the rights of the public under the Public Trust Doctrine and treaty rights of Indian tribes.

Policies

Shoreline Environment Designation Policies

1. Provide a comprehensive shoreline environment designation system to categorize Soap Lake's shorelines into environments based upon the primary characteristics of shoreline areas to guide the use and management of these areas.
2. Assign appropriate environment designations for preservation of wildlife habitat area, natural resources and public agency operations.

Shoreline Habitat and Natural Systems Enhancement Projects Policies

1. Include provisions for shoreline vegetation restoration, aquatic and wildlife habitat enhancement, and low impact development techniques in projects located within shoreline jurisdiction, where feasible.
2. Encourage and facilitate implementation of projects and programs included in the Shoreline Master Program Shoreline Restoration Plan.

Shoreline Stabilization Policies

1. Locate and design new development, including subdivisions, to eliminate the need for new shoreline modification or stabilization.
2. Design, locate, size and construct new or replacement structural shoreline stabilization measures to minimize and mitigate the impact of these modifications on the City's shorelines.
3. Give preference to non-structural shoreline stabilization measures over structural shoreline stabilization, and give preference to soft structural shoreline stabilization over hard structural shoreline stabilization.
4. Allow location, design, and construction of riprap and other bank stabilization measures primarily to prevent damage to existing development or to protect the health, safety and welfare of the City of Soap Lake's residents.



Shoreline Use and Modifications - continued

Boating Facilities Policies

1. Locate and design boating facilities so that their structures and operations will be compatible with the area affected such as environmental conditions, shoreline configuration, access, and neighboring upland and aquatic uses.
2. Require restoration activities when substantial improvements or repair to existing boating facilities is planned.
3. Boating facilities that minimize the amount of shoreline modification are preferred.
4. Boating facilities should provide physical and visual public shoreline access and provide for multiple use, including water-related use, to the extent compatible with shoreline ecological functions and processes and adjacent shoreline use.
5. Boating facilities should be located and designed to avoid adverse effects upon riverine, and nearshore processes such as erosion, littoral or riparian transport, and accretion, and, should where feasible, enhance degraded, scarce, and/or valuable shore features including accretion shore-forms.
6. Location and design of boating facilities should not unduly obstruct navigable waters and should avoid adverse effects to recreational opportunities such as pleasure boating, commercial aquaculture, swimming, beach walking, picnicking and shoreline viewing.
7. Dredging and Dredge Material Disposal Policies
8. Dredging and dredge material disposal should avoid and minimize significant ecological impacts. Impacts which cannot be avoided should be mitigated.
9. Design and locate new shoreline development to avoid the need for dredging.

Policies - continued

10. Limit dredging and dredge material disposal to the minimum necessary to allow for shoreline restoration, flood hazard reduction, and maintenance of existing legal moorage and navigation. Dredging to provide for new navigation uses is prohibited.
11. Allow dredging for the primary purposes of flood hazard reduction only as part of a long-term management strategy consistent with an approved flood hazard management plan.
12. Ensure that dredging operations are planned and conducted in a manner that will minimize interference with navigation and that will lessen adverse impacts to other shoreline uses.



Shoreline Use and Modifications - continued

Docks and Piers Policies

1. Moorage associated with a single-family residence is considered a water-dependent use if it is designed and used as a facility to access watercraft, and other moorage facilities are not available or feasible. Moorage for water-related and water enjoyment uses or shared moorage for multifamily use should be allowed as part of a mixed-use development or where it provides public access.
2. New moorage, excluding docks accessory to single family residences, should be permitted only when the applicant/proponent has demonstrated that a specific need exists to support the intended water-dependent or public access use.
3. As an alternative to continued proliferation of individual private moorage, mooring buoys are preferred over docks or floats. Shared moorage facilities are preferred over single user moorage where feasible, especially where water use conflicts exist or are predictable. New subdivisions of more than two (2) lots and new multifamily development of more than two (2) dwelling units should provide shared moorage where feasible.
4. Docks, piers, and mooring buoys, including those accessory to single family residences, should avoid locations where they will adversely impact shoreline ecological functions or processes, including currents and littoral drift.
5. Moorage should be spaced and oriented in a manner that minimizes hazards and obstructions to public navigation rights and corollary rights thereto such as, but not limited to swimming and pleasure boating, as well as private riparian rights of adjacent landowners.

Policies - continued

6. Moorage should be restricted to the minimum size necessary to meet the needs of the proposed use. The length, width, and height of piers and docks should be no greater than that required for safety and practicality for the primary use.
7. Pile supports are preferred over fills because piles do not displace water surface and intertidal or aquatic habitat and are removable and thus more flexible in terms of long-term use patterns. Floats may be less desirable than pile structures where aquatic habitat or littoral drift are significant.
8. The use of buoys for small craft moorage is preferred over pile or float structures because of lesser long-term impact on shore features and users; moorage buoys should be placed as close to shore as possible to minimize obstruction to navigation.
9. Piers and docks should be constructed of materials that will not adversely affect water quality or aquatic plants and animals in the long term.
10. New pier and dock development should be designed so as not to interfere with lawful public access to or use of shorelines. Developers of new piers and shared moorage should be encouraged to provide physical or visual public access to shorelines whenever safe and compatible with the primary use and shore features.



Shoreline Use and Modifications - continued

Fill and Excavation Policies

1. Limit fill water-ward of the OHWM to support ecological restoration or to facilitate water-dependent or public access uses.
2. Allow fill consistent with floodplain regulations upland of the OHWM provided it is located, designed and constructed to protect shoreline ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes, including channel migration, and is the minimum necessary to implement an approved project.

Policies - continued

Groins and Weirs Policies

1. To the extent feasible, limit the use of jetties, groins, weirs or other similar structures to those projects providing ecological restoration or other public benefits. These structures should avoid and minimize significant ecological impacts. Impacts which cannot be avoided should be mitigated.



7. Maintenance and Operations Recommendations

- It is recommended that the City continue to actively encourage volunteerism in an effort to reduce staff time.
- Careful design of park improvements can reduce maintenance needs long-term. Such items as correct selection of plant materials, tree spacing, security system installation, placement of curb separations and other items should be considered.
- Consistency of design and materials provides similar features and products that will reduce costs. Use of known amenities and quality site features provides predictability and helps in keeping them in good condition.
- From 2016 to 2019, Parks Maintenance Costs averaged \$135,000 annually shared by 4 Full-Time Employees and 1 Seasonal Employee.
- Maintenance requirements may not substantially increase for Planning Horizon Years 2020-2026. Most of the 2020-2026 improvements are renovations to

existing Smokiam Park facilities with some minor improvements in other parks.

- For Planning Horizon Years 2026-2032, new facilities such as the Splash Pad, Esplanade, and Group Shelter will increase maintenance. The splash pad will require the most ongoing maintenance.
- Due to the cost of living allowances, materials cost increases, and other operating cost increases, Soap Lake should plan for Park Maintenance Costs to increase 10%-12% for Planning Horizon Years 2020-2026 and 12%-15% for Planning Horizon Years 2026-2032 and budget accordingly.



8. Transportation, Circulation, and Access

Complete Streets

Nationally, communities are being encouraged to improve their walkability, or make their neighborhoods and cities more walkable. According the America Walks group and the US Surgeon General's call to action, "Walkable communities help to promote physically, mentally and economically healthy neighborhoods".

According to America Walks, the core principles of a walkable America are:

- *People of all abilities can safely walk and move along and across all streets in their communities.*
- *Communities of all sizes are designed so that most people can walk comfortably to places where they work, study, shop, play, and pray.*
- *States, counties, and cities revise existing transportation and development policies, standards, and programs to encourage walking, bicycling, and transit use.*
- *Transportation and development design decisions explicitly consider public health outcomes.*

Soap Lake residents have shown the desire to follow these recommendations by creating and connecting local trails, sidewalks, pathways and bike lanes to increase the walkability of the community. The goal is to create an environment that increases physical activity by encouraging physically active transportation to and from downtown locations, local residences, and parks, as well as increasing recreational walking and biking. The City Council has also shown interest and support for this action plan. A Complete Streets Policy was adopted in 2013 which encourages the City staff and Council to consider all modes of transportation, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit, freight, and motorists any time that a road construction or street improvement project is planned. The vision of this action plan is to create an overall trail system that makes neighborhoods and key facilities accessible for all residents of varying ability. Some of the locations include parks, the post office, schools, city hall, and shopping centers. It is also a priority of the trail system to bring out the culture and diversity of the community by including local art in the design as well as creating a map that will encourage residents and visitors to enjoy the beauty of the area and the work of local artists.

Source: americawalks.org/a-walkable-america



9. Conclusion

The adoption of the Soap Lake Parks & Recreation Plan is the first step in the implementation and development of the Citizens' vision and direction for parks and recreation in the City of Soap Lake. We are fortunate to have such an abundance of natural beauty, unique Soap Lake water, a spirited and engaged community who have demonstrated time and again their willingness to pitch in to get the job done, a supportive City Council and Mayor and a history that is deep and diversified. The Parks & Recreation Committee members look forward to the implementation of the various elements of this plan. The committee commits to responding to the needs and desires of the community to improve and further develop parks, trails and open spaces throughout the community. They will continue to provide guidance and input to the City Council to promote recreation and active living as needs change over time.

The Committee pledges to:

- Continue to function as a recommending committee to share information to the City Council for furthering recreation and active living opportunities throughout the community.
- Manage and seek out funding sources for construction of new projects and maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities and spaces as they relate to parks, trails and recreation.
- Seek out opportunities to include all residents with different physical capabilities, age level, socio-economic status, and activity interest as parks and open spaces are developed and maintained.
- Manage the development of parks and open spaces that will benefit the economic value of the community.
- Provide and maintain a long-term vision for creating pleasing outdoor opportunities for both residents and visitors to enjoy the unique environment of the mineral water and the landscape of the area.





Appendicies

- Appendix 1 Parks Survey and Results
- Appendix 2 Parks Survey Presentation Slides
- Appendix 3 WSU Public Planning Workshop Report
- Appendix 4 Committee Meeting Minutes
- Appendix 5 Comprehensive Plan
- Appendix 6 Downtown Masterplan
- Appendix 7 Shoreline Management Master Plan
- Appendix 8 Resolution No. 2016 – 825
- Appendix 9 Estimate of Probable Cost for Smokiam Park
- Appendix 10 RCO Self Certification Form

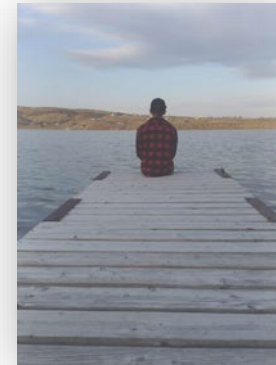


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