



Chapter 2: Planning Area Description

2.0 Growth Management Act

While the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan is considered an optional element under the Growth Management Act (GMA), park and recreation facilities are required to be included in the mandatory Capital Facilities Plan. Additionally, the GMA encourages jurisdictions to retain open space, develop recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop park facilities. The GMA also addresses open space in requiring that land use plans include identification of "...open space corridors within and between urban growth areas. They shall include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection for critical areas" (RCW 36.70A.160). Land use plans are also required to "identify lands useful for public purposes such as utility corridors, transportation corridors, landfills, sewage treatment facilities, storm water management facilities, recreation, schools, and other public uses" (RCW 36.70A.150).

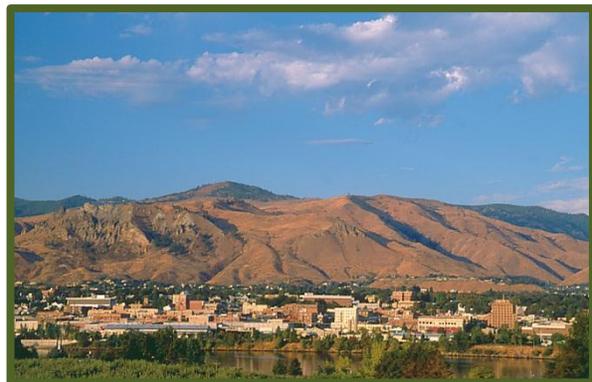
This document is an update of the 2006 City of Wenatchee Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, which is an element of the City's adopted comprehensive plan. To retain eligibility for a variety of grant and funding opportunities, Washington State requires that park and recreational plans be adopted and updated every six (6) years. In addition to the statutory requirements, the six (6) year timeframe also provides a means to set realistic goals and objectives based on a relatively limited basis.

This document provides a mechanism to document and evaluate trends, uses and community preferences and offers a consistent and coordinated direction for the City of Wenatchee.

2.1 Overview

The City of Wenatchee is located in Chelan County in eastern Washington. It lies on the east-facing slopes of the Cascade Mountains along the shores of the Wenatchee and Columbia Rivers.

Other communities that within service area of the City of Wenatchee include: East Wenatchee, Malaga, Rock Island, Cashmere, Monitor, Peshastin, Dryden, Orondo, Entiat and Leavenworth. State Routes 2 on the North and SR 28 on the south feed into the City of Wenatchee along the main north-south Mission Street which is State Route 285.



Wenatchee is a primary destination along the Stevens Pass Electric Vehicle Highway.

Link Transit bus services has intra-city and intercity routes that connects to an

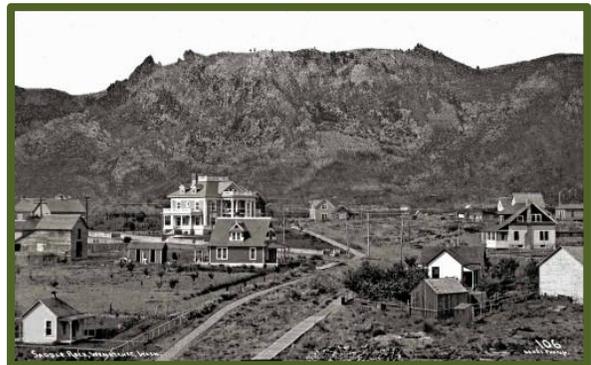
expanding network of on-road and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Amtrak's *Empire Builder* offers daily westbound rail service in the early morning and eastbound service in the late evening. There are two daily westbound Northwestern Trailways intercity bus routes and a single eastbound route. Connecting bus service in downtown Wenatchee is Columbia Station, a nationally recognized multimodal transportation center.

2.2 History



The Wenatchee tribe (also spelled Wenatchi) lived along the Wenatchee River, which flowed from the Cascades into the Columbia. Wahnaachee is the name given the tribe by the Yakima's, who passed it to explorer Captain William Clark in 1804. They spoke a version of the Salish language. The culture and economy of the tribes centered on fishing, with some members gathering roots and berries and hunted game. Trappers visited the Wenatchee Valley from 1810's through the 1840's in search of beaver pelts. White settlers arrived in the Wenatchee Valley in the 1870's and 1880's. Don Carlos Corbett founded the town of Wenatchee in 1888. He named it after the tribe. As with the rest of the state, the spur to growth and development came with the arrival of the railroad. The first trail from the East arrived on October 17, 1892. The residents of Wenatchee voted for incorporation on December 23, 1892. In 1899, the State Legislature created Chelan County out of Kittitas and Okanogan counties with Wenatchee as the county seat. Cash crops could not succeed without water and the story of agriculture in Chelan County is that of irrigation.

Starting in 1901, businessmen and landowners raised money for the Wenatchee Canal Company and the Highline Canal to run 14 miles from Dryden to Wenatchee. This later became the Wenatchee Reclamation District. Wenatchee got its first electric lights in 1923 from a water-powered generator on the Squilchuck River built by druggist and schoolteacher L.V. Wells. In 1930,



Washington voters approved an initiative allowing the formation of public utilities districts. Congress created the Bonneville Power Administration in 1937 to distribute the dams' cheap and abundant electricity to publicly owned utilities.

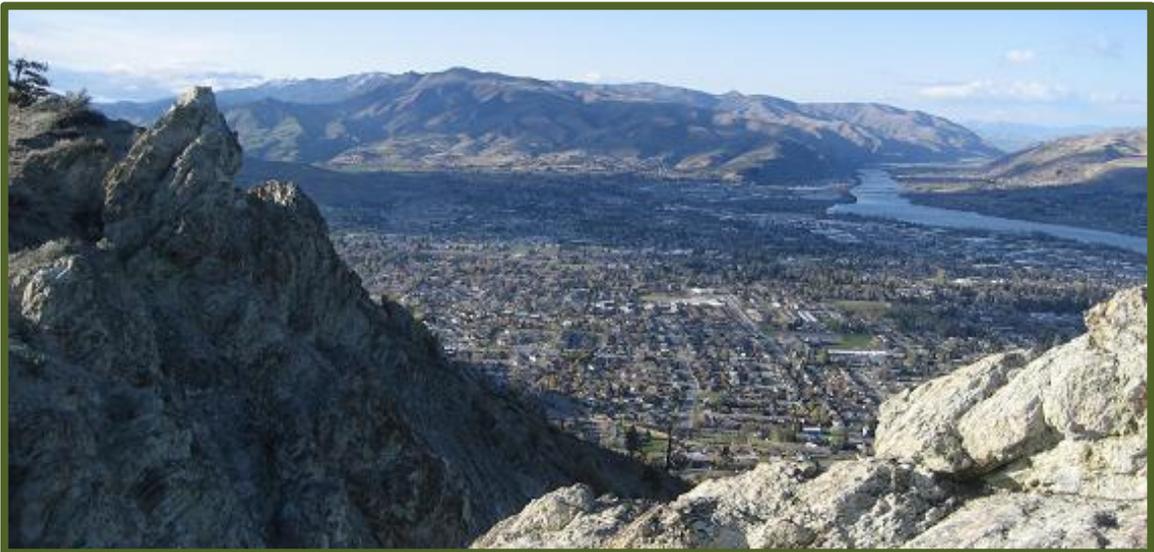
2.3 Planning Area Description

The boundary of the planning area is defined by the shore of the Columbia River to the east, the Wenatchee Foothills and Saddle Rock on the west and the Wenatchee Urban Growth Boundary (UGA) to the North and South.

Wenatchee is primarily a residential community that provides many opportunities and amenities for residents and visitors. Wenatchee attracts visitors and new residents each year due to the area's abundant outdoor recreation activities, natural beauty, and low-cost energy. It is an active sports community with state and regional events, boating activities, winter sports and annual festivals that draw visitors from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

2.4 Physical Setting

The Wenatchee Valley is composed of a series of ridges and benches which are bisected by a number of drainage corridors. Over time, this has created dramatic vistas of the Columbia River from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Wildlife corridors within publicly owned lands such as Sage Hills, Castle Rock and Saddle Rock provide areas for protection of mule deer and other common game species. The foothills with bluffs, hills and vegetation zones provides for Washington plants such as natural grasslands and



shrub steppe communities. The Columbia and Wenatchee Rivers are the two major rivers. There are a number of seasonal or minor streams in the Number One Canyon, Number Two Canyon, Dry Gulch and Pitcher Canyon that drain into the Columbia River. Located at the confluence of the Wenatchee and Columbia River and as part of Confluence State Park is the Horan Natural area. This area provides a vegetated riparian corridor and streamside wetland coverage for wildlife habitat.

2.5 Climate

Wenatchee is located on the arid eastern side of the Cascade Mountains at an elevation of about 600 feet above sea level. With four distinct seasons, and a boasting of over 300 sunshine-filled days a year as well as a snow filled winter season, the area realizes temperatures in the high 80's and low 90's in July and mean lows at 35 degrees in January. The average annual precipitation is about 9 inches with a mean growing season of 170-190 days. As the famed *Apple Capital of the World*, the climate supports

a variety of fruit orchards and provides an outdoor recreation paradise.

2.6 Land Use

Land use plays an important role in the location, distribution and availability of park and recreation facilities.

According to the Washington State Office of Financial Management, there are over 8.05 square miles of existing land within Wenatchee. 71.5% is designated as residential and slightly less than 10% is designated as commercial and 7.9% designated parks and public facilities.

2.7 Housing

The expected population increase of 7,060 by 2030 for the Wenatchee urban area creates an additional demand for housing. With an average size of 2.42 persons per household there is a 2,917 housing unit demand based on the “medium” Washington State Office of Financial Management estimated population forecast.

2.8 Demographics

Population characteristics of a community are vital to determining local demands for parks and recreation facilities and programs. A review of Wenatchee’s population characteristics helps to determine what types of recreational facilities should be developed.

Table 2.8: Demographic characteristics – Age

AGE	QUANTITY	PERCENT
0 to 9 years	4,774	15%
10 to 19 years	4,511	14.1%
20 to 29 years	4,572	14.3%
30 to 39 years	3,894	12.2%
40 to 49 years	3,807	11.9%
50 to 59 years	4,002	12.5%
60 to 69 years	2,700	8.5%
70 to 79 years	1,854	5.8%
80 and older	1,811	5.7%

Source: 2010 U.S. Census

2.8.1 Current and Forecasted Population

To determine population growth projections, figures were extrapolated from the Office of Financial Management medium estimated population forecast. The projected total includes those areas outside of the City limits of Wenatchee but within the planning area.

Table 2.8.1: Population Forecast

	2000	2010	2020	2030
Wenatchee	27,856	31,925	35,166	38,985
Projected total	31,976	34,777	45,584	48,892
Chelan County	66,616	75,093	84,833	93,523

2.8.2 Race and Ethnicity

Wenatchee is slightly more racially diverse than Chelan County and Washington State. In terms of ethnicity, Hispanics make up a larger percent of the population in Wenatchee than in the County or the State.

Table 2.8.2: Demographic Characteristics - Race

RACE	WENATCHEE	COUNTY	STATE
White alone	77%	79%	77%
Black/African-American alone	< 1%	< 1%	4%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	1%	1%	2%
Asian or Pacific Islander alone	1%	< 1%	7%
Other race alone	17%	16%	5%
Two or more races	3%	2%	4%
ETHNICITY	WENATCHEE	COUNTY	STATE
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	29%	26%	11%

Source: U.S. Census, 2010.

2.8.3 Income and Education

In 2009, 82 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 24 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Eighteen percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Wenatchee was 7,000 in 2009. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 830 and elementary or high school enrollment was 5,100 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 1,100.

In May 2011, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$444, compared with \$633 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,150 for those holding at least a bachelor's degree. Among college graduates with advanced degrees (professional or master's degree and above), the highest earning 10 percent of male workers made \$3,336 or more per week, compared with \$2,291 or more for their female counterparts.

The median income of households in Wenatchee was \$42,591. Seventy-one percent of the households received earnings and 18 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty-two percent of the households received

Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$13,616. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 34 percent; Sales and office occupations, 23 percent; Service occupations, 18 percent; Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 11 percent; and Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 10 percent. Seventy-five percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 18 percent was Federal, state, or local government workers; and 6 percent was Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers.

2.8.4 Disability

In Wenatchee, among people at least five years old in 2009, 15 percent reported a disability of some kind that limited daily activities or self-care. The likelihood of having a disability varied by age - from 5 percent of people 5 to 17 years old, to 10 percent of people 18 to 64 years old, and 39.5 percent of those 65 and older.



2.9 Management and Operations

The City operates under the strong Mayor-Council form of government. Parks and recreational services receive policy direction and advice from the City Council and their appointed advisory bodies including the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Park maintenance and operations are organized and operated primarily under the Public Works Department.

