



Chapter 4: Demand and Needs Assessment

4.0 Demand and Need Methodology

There are several approaches to estimating needs for park and recreation facilities and services. They include the use of national standards, measurement of participation levels, user trend analysis, input from surveys and public meetings, goal setting and participation models. The following section describes each of these approaches as used in the preparation of this plan.

4.0.1 Overview of National Standards

Standards were first created by a group of professionals who established an easily understood format of what “seemed to be right” based on their practical experience in the field. These standards were felt of be most useful if stated in measurable terms of acres or facilities per given population level, i.e. 10 acres of park per 1,000 population. The most recognized standards have been those published by the National Recreation and Park Association.

The latest park, recreation, open space and greenway guidelines released in 1996 by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) are based on a new philosophy, with a "systems approach" to community facility planning at its core.

The new approach revisits the 1981 standards and considers the old notion of a national standard of 10 acres of park land for every 1,000 people and is generally recognized as deficient in the current recreation and open space environment.

NRPA presents an alternative premise which states that every community has its own unique blend of social and economic characteristics that define it. Each community must be considered on an individual basis in order to tailor the most appropriate range, quantity and quality of recreational facilities within fiscal limits.

4.0.2 Participation Analysis

Participation level is measured in terms of the number of occasions that a particular facility or program us attended in a given period of time. The information is then compared with similar data from other time periods to determine the amount of use and participation in particular facilities or activities.



4.0.3 Community Surveys

Using the questionnaire approach, future facility needs are sometimes developed from survey information on user demographics, participation patterns, opinions and perceived needs. An online survey tool was utilized to collect data for the plan. The survey was posted independently and on the City website and Facebook Page from August 29, 2011 through October 5, 2011. It was also advertised through direct emails to email lists and announced with links on the front page of the Wenatchee World.



4.0.4 Public Meetings

Some communities rely quite heavily on input from the general public at public meetings to assess needs. However, this approach may not reflect the true community need and should be used as a part of a larger data collection tool. By filling the room with their supporters, input from special interest groups has the potential to overwhelm the results which often times may not necessarily represent the true interest of the community.

The update of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive plan was the main agenda topic during eight Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meetings from May 2011 to December 2011 and also a City Council workshop on November 3, 2011 and regular meeting in February 2012. Comment was also accepted during four separate public workshops held throughout the community in September 2011. The meetings were advertised in the Wenatchee World, the City website, departmental Facebook page and local radio stations. They were open to the public.



4.0.5 Integration with other Planning Documents

Documents and studies that influence park and recreation facilities and services within the planning area were reviewed for policies, guidelines, and information relevant to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan. The

following documents were reviewed (in chronological order of adoption date):

- City of Wenatchee Parks and Recreation Design Standards and Development Policies, 2011.
- City of Wenatchee Parks and Recreation Capital Investment Plan, 2011.
- The Partnership For Children and Families Community Needs Assessment, 2010.
- City of Wenatchee Skate Area System Master Plan, 2010.
- City of Wenatchee Dog Off Leash Area Feasibility Study, 2010.
- Foothills Community Strategy, 2010.
- Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies, National Recreation and Park Association National Accreditation Standards, 2009.
- City of Wenatchee Community Forestry Plan 2009.
- Wenatchee Valley Recreation Center Feasibility Study 2008.
- Chelan County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan, 2007.
- Foothills Trail Plan, 2007.
- City of Wenatchee Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, 2006.

4.1 Park and Recreation Facility Level of Service Standards

This section provides recommended level of service standards for the following types of recreation resources:

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Regional Parks
- Trails
- Pathways
- Bikeways
- Recreation Facilities



Level of service standards for park facilities (LOS) are one recognized method of expressing the quantity of recreation service provided for a given amount of demand. It is simply a ratio of quantity versus demand (usually measured in numbers of people). It is commonly expressed as a number or acres or miles of facilities per a given population such as 2 acres of neighborhood park land per every 1,000 people.

For a comparison of park systems the amount of developed parkland in several eastern Washington cities were reviewed. Developed parkland includes only neighborhood, community and regional parks; Due to the high degree of variability, natural open space areas were not included. The cities of East Wenatchee, Chelan, Yakima, Ellensburg and

Moses Lake were used for comparison purposes. Their park systems range from 10 to 15 acres per 1,000 people.

As with any set of standards, LOS standards should be used as guidelines for evaluating the baseline adequacy of facilities in the community. All communities are different, and all communities have needs and demands for park, trail, and open space facilities that vary with population and economic characteristics, as well as with local attitudes. Thus, Wenatchee’s recommended standards have been customized for the community after reviewing national and local standards. The demand and need methodology and the City’s demographics were also important considerations.

Table 4.1 shows the standards (guidelines) that have been recommended for parks and recreational facilities, including trails, in Wenatchee. The 6-year demand and need for these facilities is shown, based on the LOS standards. It is important to bear in mind that the suggested LOS standards are an expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of Wenatchee. The suggested LOS standards (guidelines) are a starting point for local LOS levels.

Only public owned land and recreation facilities were used to calculate level of service needs. Private and semi-public spaces were not included.

Table 4.1: Level of Service Standards

PARK CLASSIFICATION TYPE	EXISTING ACRES (A)	WENATCHEE STANDARD (D)	2012 ACRES LOS (B)	2018 ACRES LOS (C)	DIFFERENCE NEED (E)
Park System Standard	325.31	10 acres/1,000 people	319.30	344.60	19.29
Neighborhood Park	25.35	2 acres/1,000 people	63.86	68.92	43.57
Community Park	93.40	7 acres/1,000 people	223.51	241.22	147.82
Regional Park	206.56	8 acres/1,000 people	255.44	275.68	69.12
Natural Open Space	566.04	20 acres/1,000 people	638.60	689.20	123.16
Special Use Areas	213.38	5 acres/1,000 people	159.65	172.30	-41.08
SPECIALIZED FACILITY TYPE	EXISTING FACILITIES	RECOMMENDED STANDARD	2012 FACILITIES LOS	2018 FACILITIES LOS	DIFFERENCE NEED
Trails	4.7	0.5 miles/1,000 people	15.97	17.23	12.53
Pathways	3.6	0.25 miles/1,000 people	7.98	8.62	5.02
Bikeways	3.6	0.25 miles/1,000 people	7.98	8.62	5.02
Baseball Field	3	1 field/8,500 people	4	4	1.00
Youth Baseball Field	7	1 field/2,500/ people	13	14	7.00
Basketball Hoops	49	1 hoop/1,000 people	32	35	-14.00
BMX Area	0	1 area/30,000 people	1	1	1.00
Dog Off Leash Area	0	1 area/30,000 people	1	1	1.00
Football Field	4	1 field /8,000 people	4	4	0.00
Disc Golf Course	1	1 course/35,000 people	1	1	0.00
Gymnasium	12	1 gym/2,500 people	13	14	2.00
Horseshoe Pitch	5	1 pitch/10,000 people	3	3	-2.00
Picnic Area	15	1 area/2,000 people	16	17	2.00
Play Area	13	1 area/2,000 people	16	17	4.00
Indoor Pool	1	1 pool/30,000 people	1	1	0.00

Outdoor Pool	1	1 pool/30,000 people	1	1	0.00
Recreation Center	0	1 center/30,000 people	1	1	1.00
Golf Courses	0	1 course/50,000 people	1	1	1.00
Rock Climbing Wall	0	1 wall/35,000 people	1	1	1.00
Sand Volleyball Court	3	1 court/10,000 people	3	3	0.00
Skate Spot, Dot, Area	1	1 area/2,000 people	6	7	6.00
Soccer Field	9	1 field/2,500 people	13	14	5.00
Softball Field	10	1 field/2,500 people	13	14	4.00
Tennis Court	19	1 court/2,000 people	16	17	-2.00
Indoor Tennis Court	0	1 court/30,000 people	1	1	1.00
Indoor Soccer Field	0	1 field/30,000 people	1	1	1.00
Water Play Area	4	1 area/5,000 people	6	7	3.00

B = 31,925/1,000 x D = existing acres

C = 34,460/1,000 x D

E = C-A

Existing Acres A includes public areas

Facilities have been rounded to the nearest number.

In E, the negative number is over standard. Positive number is quantity needed to meet standard.

The Park Design Policies and Development Standards companion document contains a detailed listing of development criteria for each type of facility.

4.1.1 Neighborhood Parks

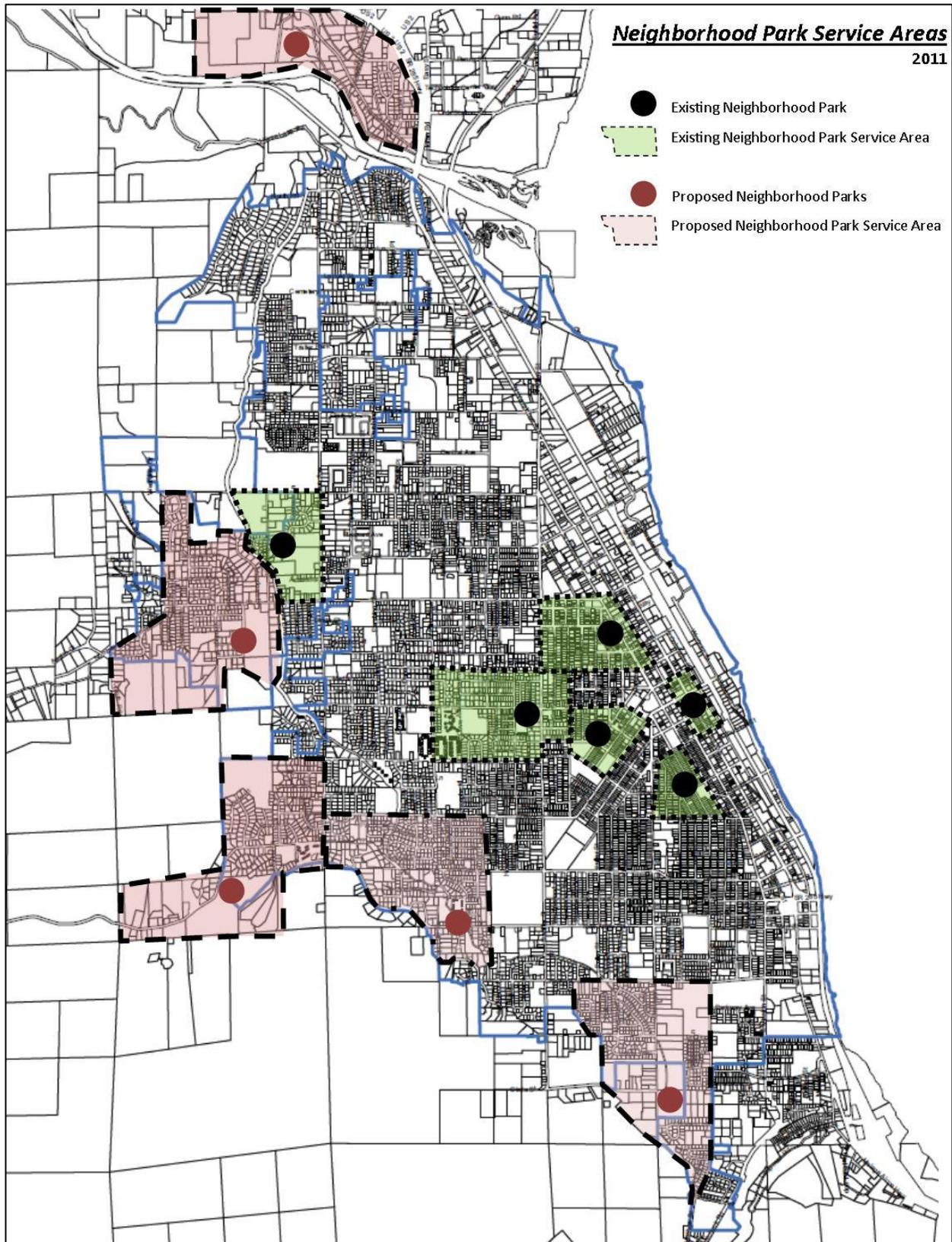
Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residents living within comfortable and safe walking or bicycling distance, and to provide activities geared toward a wide variety of age and user groups including children, adults, the elderly, and special populations.

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific comments and recommendations for neighborhood parks in Wenatchee include:

Existing Acres	25.35 acres
Recommended Standard:	2.00 acres per 1,000 population
2018 Need:	43.57 acres

- Turn the wading pools into splash pads and allow them to be open all day.
- It would be nice for the wading pools to be open rotating/more/different hours that would accommodate parents who both work an 8-5 job. We don't get to utilize this service. Should be available to EVERYONE, not just those that don't work/have night or weekend jobs. It's a service that you don't make available to everyone.
- Nature oriented play areas.

Figure 4.1.1: Neighborhood Park Service Area Map



4.1.2 Community Parks

Community parks are usually larger, diverse recreation areas serving both formalized active recreation needs as well as recreation use benefiting the neighborhood surrounding the site.

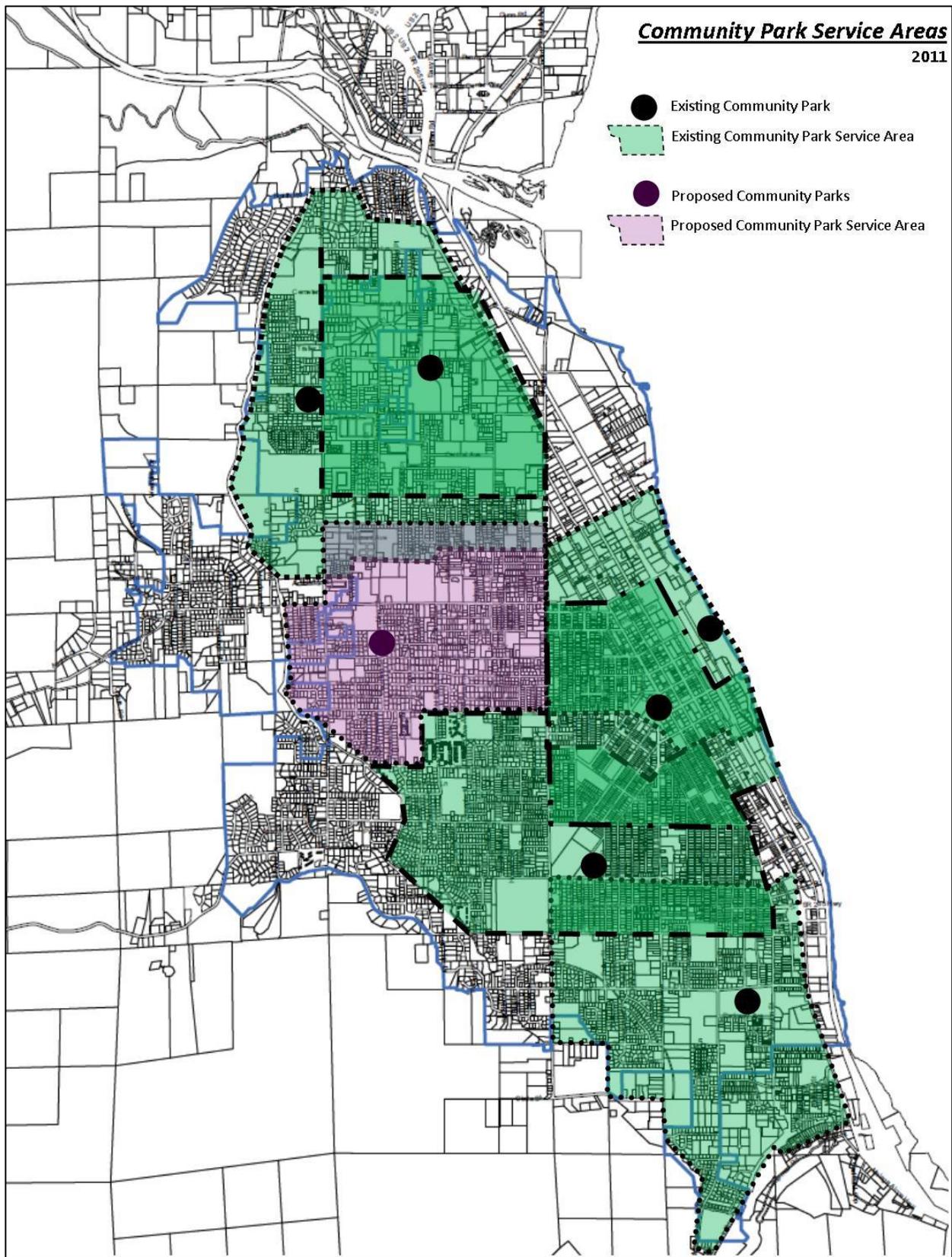
As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific comments and recommendations for community parks in Wenatchee include:

Existing Acres	93.40 acres
Recommended Standard:	7.00 acres per 1,000 population
2018 Need:	147.82 acres

- Rotary Park is awesome.
- There should be another water feature in town.
- Need to implement skate system master plan.
- Disc golf and shelter are good (Rotary).
- Construct an 18 hole disc golf course.
- Construct a bmx bicycle track or riding area.
- Maintain what you have.
- More appropriate nature oriented play equipment. Rotary play equipment does not seem fun for kids.



Figure 4.1.2: Community Park Service Area Map



4.1.3 Regional Parks

Regional parks are large recreation areas that may serve an entire City or region.

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for regional parks in Wenatchee include:

Existing Acres	206.56 acres
Recommended Standard:	8.00 acres per 1,000 population
2018 Need:	69.12 acres

4.1.4 Natural Open Space Areas

Open space areas are typically those areas that do not fall within one of the major park or recreation facility classifications. Open space areas can contribute to the City's image of a coordinated park and open space system, can provide critical habitat and can provide a visual and/or functional link between other City parks and open space lands

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific comments and recommendations for natural open space areas in Wenatchee include:

Existing Acres	566.04 acres
Recommended Standard:	20.00 acres per 1,000 population
2018 Need:	123.12 acres

- Keep Saddle Rock wild, don't require leashes.
- Stop trying to develop everything. Just (let) it be natural. There is already too many people up there right now. Kids partying and people sleeping not good. If you want to do something, just clean it up from all the people that camp up there and make a mess.
- Saddle Rock parking blocks gate.
- Bicycles are an issue and shouldn't be allowed on Saddle Rock
- Dogs must be on leash at Saddle Rock.
- Parking lot at Circle Street should have limited parking time.
- Gang activity, vandalism and graffiti at Saddlerock.
- Saddle rock users are dangerous for Appleatchee.

4.1.5 Special Use Areas

Special Use Areas are public recreation facilities used for a special purpose such as community services, cultural activities, historic facilities,

and specialized recreation.

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific comments and recommendations for special use areas in Wenatchee include:

Existing Acres	213.38 acres
Recommended Standard:	5.00 acres per 1,000 population
2018 Need:	-41.08 acres

- Construct a restroom at Locomotive Park.
- Complete circulation plan at Linden Tree Park including an urban connector, parking plan for annex building, dock study for safety boat use and rowing shell access.
- Buy or trade Recreation Park with the Wenatchee School District and remodel it. Move the Wenatchee AppleSox into that facility and charge admissions tax per person to help pay for it.

4.1.6 Trails, Pathways and Bikeways

Trails, pathways and bikeways are designed to provide walking, bicycling and other non-motorized recreational opportunities.

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for trails, pathways and bikeways in Wenatchee include:

TRAILS

Existing Acres	4.70 miles
Recommended Standard:	0.50 miles per 1,000 population
2018 Need:	12.53 miles

PATHWAYS

Existing Acres	3.6 miles
Recommended Standard:	0.25 miles per 1,000 population
2018 Need:	5.08 miles

BIKEWAYS

Existing Acres	3.6 miles
Recommended Standard:	0.25 miles per 1,000 population
2018 Need:	5.08 miles

4.1.7 Recreation Facilities

Recreation Facilities are designed to accommodate both structured and unstructured play and organized teams or leagues. In most cases, they are the amenities that are contained within a park area. The following is a summary of comments received during the input collecting process about some of the more common recreation facilities types.

- The top priorities for development from survey results are the construction of soccer fields and a dog off leash area.
- Construct an 18 hole disc golf course.
- Construct a bmx bicycle track or riding area.
- Implement the skate area system master plan.
- Nature oriented play areas.
- Turn wading pools into splash pads.
- Construct a dog off leash area.
- There should be another water feature in town.
- Rotary Park shelter, splash pad and disc golf are good.
- Add a restroom to Locomotive Park.

4.1.8 Recreation Programs

Recreation programs and services are provided to promote an engaged and healthy community. The benefits of providing recreational programs may be seen in the outcome areas of:

- Full and meaningful life
- Increased quality of life
- Creativity and adaptability
- Life satisfaction
- Personal development and growth
- Self-esteem and self-reliance
- Sense of accomplishment
- Sense of adventure
- Problem solving and decision making
- Physical health and maintenance
- Psychological well being
- Economic stimulant
- Reduced healthcare costs
- Reduced vandalism and crime
- Revenue generator
- Catalyst for tourism
- Strong, vital involved communities
- Connected families



- Ethnic and cultural understanding and harmony
- Community pride
- Support for youth
- Lifelines for the elderly
- Reduced alienation
- Reduced delinquency
- Outlets for conflict resolution
- Social bonding
- Understanding and tolerance

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific comments and recommendations for recreation programs in Wenatchee include:

- Develop a recreation program. The current option is club sport and can be cost prohibitive.
- Youth Recreation programs ranked highest in order of importance to the community followed by aquatics, community special events, athletics, special needs programs and outdoor programs.
- 65% of people surveyed had participated in a City sponsored recreation program or event. Of those 90% rated the program as excellent or good quality.

