

2 Community Context



Community Profile & Demographics

Key Takeaways

- **Population Growth:** Liberty Lake's population was estimated to be 14,110 in 2025, and its 20-year projected population is estimated to be 21,934. Liberty Lake will need to accommodate roughly 7,824 new residents by 2046. The current projections are important for implementing a park plan to accommodate the level of service desired by the community.
- **Need to accommodate children under 18:** Liberty Lake has higher percentages of young children under 10 years old compared to Spokane County and Washington State. 30.7% of Liberty Lake's population is under 18 compared to 21.8% and 21.6% for Spokane County and Washington State, respectively.
- **Need to accommodate families and multigenerational households:** The average household size in Liberty Lake is 2.65 people, which is a larger average household size than Spokane County at 2.45 people. Liberty Lake has a higher percentage of married households (63.1%) than the Spokane County (46.6%) and Washington State percentages (49.4%). Of these married couples in Liberty Lake, approximately half have children under the age of 18. Overall, 39% of all household types have one or more children, a much higher demographic in Liberty Lake than observed in either Spokane County (28.4% of all households) or Washington State (29.8% of all households).
- **Planning with accessibility in mind:** 8.7% of all residents within Liberty Lake are living with a disability. Specific categories of disability include, 3.7% have difficulty with hearing, 0.7% have significantly impaired vision, 3.5% have cognitive difficulty, and 3.5% have difficulty with walking. 3.5% need assistance with independent living, and 1.7% need assistance with self-care. Disability impacts most people at some point in their lives, so the more accessible communities are, the more they will be able to benefit the whole population.
- **Planning parks that serve a mobile workforce:** A significant percentage of the workforce works from home and/or commute longer distances outside of the community. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan can accommodate those who live and work within local neighborhoods and consider parks near office parks and employment centers, which could better serve the local workforce.

Introduction

The process of making planning recommendations for Liberty Lake can be informed by its demographic, income, housing, education, employment, and transportation characteristics. In short: **Who lives in Liberty Lake and what might be their specific needs?**

This section aims to provide an in-depth analysis of these characteristics, as well as establish a population forecast for Liberty Lake in 2050. This population forecast will be used throughout the plan as the number of people that Liberty Lake needs to plan for over the next twenty-five years.

With each data point, it is important to consider how parks, trails, and open spaces can better serve the Liberty Lake's population including underserved communities. It is imperative that the parks system functions well for both frequent parkgoers, as well as potential users who don't frequent the park system. The data in this report provides a touchpoint for sparking conversation about how Liberty Lake might make its parks and recreation system more accessible for the whole community.

Community Context

The City of Liberty Lake is located within Spokane County with the Spokane River to the north and Liberty Lake to its south. Between the river and the lake, the city is bisected by the I-90 freeway which brings in goods and people from the surrounding, cross-state metropolitan region.

It is a desirable place to live, with the picturesque backdrop of Liberty Lake, nestled by Mica Peak and its surrounding forests and hills. Quiet tree-lined streets lead to the three manicured golf courses and leafy city parks. To the north, the River District abuts the Spokane River and continues to expand its existing pathway network and high-quality open space amenities for all residents to enjoy. The city is known for its premier golf courses, abundant natural spaces, and vibrant community events. The city experiences all four seasons, with cold and snowy winters, followed by wet springs and hot, dry summers. The nearby lake and Centennial Trail draw in many recreational visitors from the surrounding region, particularly during the warmer months.

Historical Context

The community of Liberty Lake has a storied history of parks and recreation that has shaped today's landscape. While not exhaustive, the following timeline highlights the attractions, developments, and events which have most impacted the community's recreational experiences over the past decades:

Early History

- **Indigenous Roots & Early Traditions:** Long before settlement, various Indian tribes inhabited the area. Annual gatherings were held on the shores of Liberty Lake, including horse races, athletic events, and songs sung by tribal members. These were the community's earliest recreational traditions.
- **Early 1900s Recreation:** Winter events included evening dances at Spokane Bridge, card parties, and hayrides between Liberty Lake and Newman Lake.
- **Resort Development:** By the early 1900s, resorts began emerging around the lake. Liberty Lake became a popular summer destination for Spokane residents, featuring pleasure boats, live music, dancing at the Pavillion, picnicking, swimming, and fishing.
- **Railway Access & Liberty Lake Park:** In 1903, electric trains from Spokane connected visitors to Liberty Lake. Additionally, the Spokane Inland Empire Railroad opened Liberty Lake Park in 1909. These transit connections brought in many day visitors to the area, now marketed as "Spokane's Inland Seashore."

- **1920s Boom & Shift:** The 1920s brought record crowds—14,000 people attended the 4th of July celebration in 1924. By 1926, trains stopped running due to the rise of automobiles. Liberty Lake Park was sold, renamed Silver City, and became a carnival-style attraction with a carousel that operated until 1961.
- **Community Growth:** The area developed with homes, businesses, and farms. By 1951, six resorts and four public beaches operated on the lake. The Liberty Lake Golf Course opened in 1959 at Sprague and Molter.

1960–1990s

- **Decline of Early Attractions and Land Use Changes:** Many original attractions faded. The Liberty Lake Park dance pavilion was destroyed by fire in 1962. By the 1970s, poor water quality of the lake led to the closure of more resorts. The last remaining lakeside resort located at Sandy Beach closed in 1991. In the 1970s, the west side Carlson Hill became Holiday Hills, a ski and snowmobile area with a lodge, later offering equestrian, motocross, and youth camps. Unfortunately, this also closed by the decade's end due to financial difficulties. The former Liberty Lake Park was redeveloped with new housing.
- **New Developments:** Spokane County created the 3,000-acre Spokane County Regional Park in 1966, providing a public beach access and a boat launch. Recreation opportunities increased in 1973 with the development of the Valley View Golf Course east of Liberty Lake Road. which was, at the time, the only mid-length executive course in the northwest. In the 1990s, Liberty Lake experienced a housing boom with MeadowWood, which included MeadowWood Golf Course. This coincided with the additions of Pavillion Park and Liberty Lake Elementary School.

21st Century

- **City Incorporation & Continued Growth:** Liberty Lake officially incorporated on August 31, 2001. With three golf courses, it has become known as a premier golf community.
- **Preserving Traditions:** Liberty Lake draws crowds for the annual Fourth of July celebration with a parade by the lake, and live music and dancing at Pavillion Park, which contains a replica of the original pavillion for the next generation to enjoy. Musical traditions from years past still exist as the music echoes throughout the area.
- **New Cultural Events:** The city celebrates annual events such as Barefoot in the Park, Liberty Lake Kiwanis Yard Sales, the Lud Kramer Memorial Concert with the Spokane Symphony, its 4th of July Concert and Fireworks, Shakespeare in the Park, and the Pavillion Park summer festival that includes outdoor movies, concerts, and other special events.
- **Historic Preservation:** Few historic structures remain. The Domrese Barn (1948), preserved in Rocky Hill Park, is the oldest city-owned structure and listed on the WA State Heritage Barn Registry. Now located in a residential development, there are still former Holiday Hills structures that remain, such as the pole barn, track, and lodge fireplace, though the original lodge burned down in the 1980s.
- **Trails & Pocket Parks:** As new neighborhoods were built starting in the 1990s, trails and small parks were developed, enhancing community recreation throughout the city.

Population

Historic Trends

Table 2-1: Historic Population (US Census)

Census Population by Location	Liberty Lake: Count	Liberty Lake: % Growth	Spokane Co: Count	Spokane Co: % Growth	Washington State: Count	Washington State: % Growth
2010	7,591	--	471,221	--	6,724,540	--
2020	12,003	58.1%	539,339	14.5%	7,706,310	14.6%

Source: OFM Decennial Census Counts of Population for the State, Counties, Cities, and Towns 2010-2020.

The Decennial U.S. Census data reveals that Liberty Lake has experienced significant growth over the past decade. Population growth has far outpaced both the regionwide and statewide trends. The Office of Financial Management's Population Estimates show that Liberty Lake has seen steady year-on-year growth, increasing its population at an average of 4% per year.

Table 2-2: Liberty Lake Population Estimates by Year

Year	Population	% Change
2010	7,591	--
2011	7,732	1.8%
2012	7,954	2.8%
2013	8,261	3.7%
2014	8,853	6.7%
2015	9,178	3.5%
2016	9,541	3.8%
2017	10,196	6.4%
2018	10,711	4.8%
2019	11,441	6.4%
2020	12,003	4.7%
2021	12,480	4.0%
2022	12,870	3.1%
2023	13,150	2.2%
2024	13,870	5.5%
2025	14,110	1.7%

Source: OFM April 1 Intercensal Estimates 2010-2020; OFM April 1, 2025, Official Population Estimates.

Population Forecast

The 20-year forecasted growth for the City of Liberty Lake is based upon the projected County-wide population growth, which is then allocated by jurisdiction. The Spokane County Planning Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) and the Steering Committee of Elected Officials (SCEO) reviewed Washington States' Office of Financial Management's (OFM's) high, medium, and low population projections for Spokane County (*see Table 2-3*), and based upon a regression analysis of the County's actual population growth since the 2017 Periodic Comprehensive Plan, the medium 2046 population projection of 654,665 for Spokane County was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners for planning purposes.

Table 2-3: 2046 OFM Population Projections for Spokane County

	Low	Medium	High
2046 Population	575,281	654,665	770,248

Sources: Spokane County, OFM 2023 GMA Countywide Population Forecast.

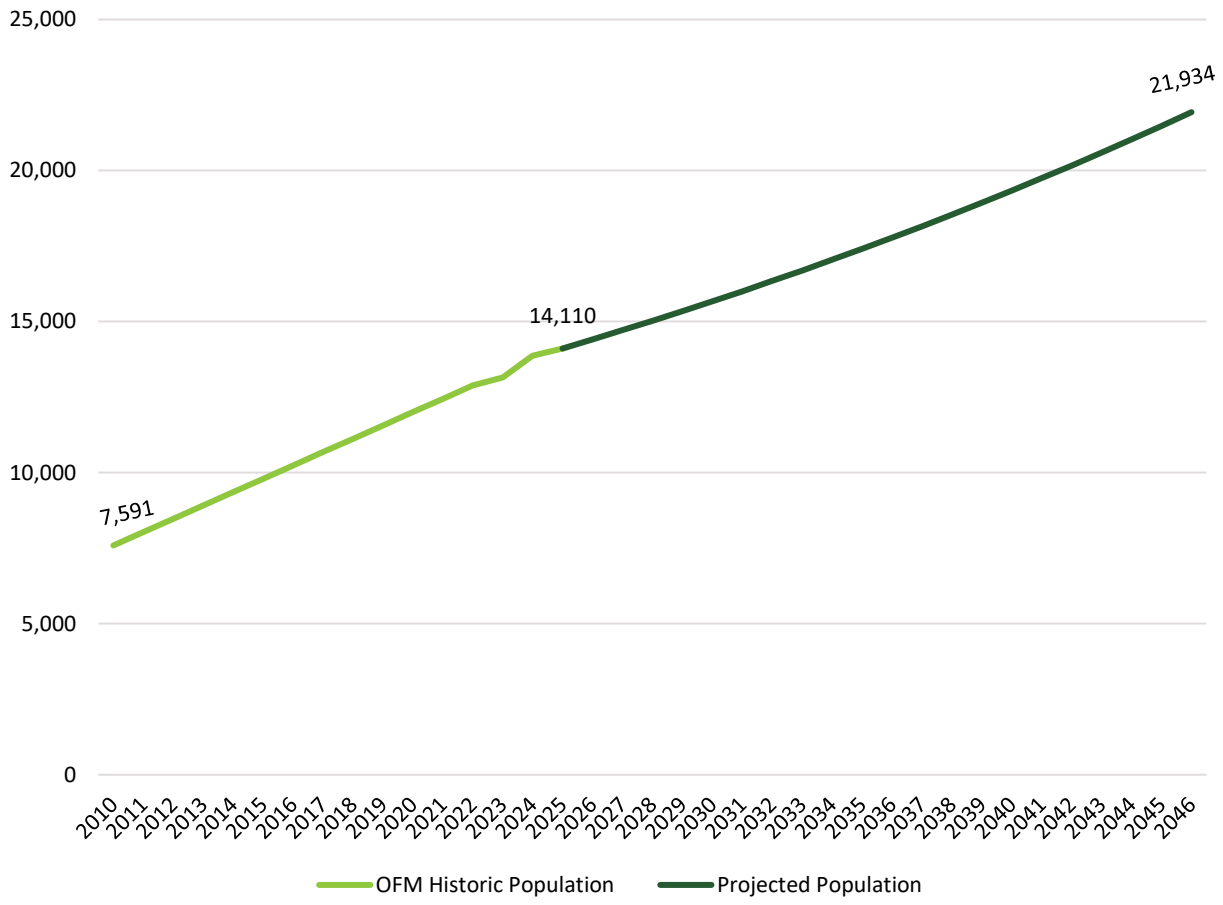
Population allocations for individual jurisdictions within the Spokane County went through a similar review and analysis, with a few hand adjustments for the very small jurisdictions where the regression analysis suggested negative growth, and that allocation was also adopted by the Board of County Commissioners for planning purposes. According to its forecasted share of the total County population, Liberty Lake's projected 2046 population was identified as 21,934 (*see Table 2-4*). This results in a projected average population growth rate of about 2.1% every year (*see Figure 2-1 on the following page*).

Table 2-4: Spokane County Population Allocations for Liberty Lake

	Share 2023	Share 2046	2023 Population	2046 Projected Population
Liberty Lake	2.37%	3.35%	13,150	21,934
Spokane County	100.00%	100.00%	554,600	654,665

Sources: Spokane County, OFM 2023 GMA Countywide Population Forecast.

Figure 2-1: City of Liberty Lake Population Projection



Sources: Spokane County, OFM 2023 GMA Countywide Population Forecast.

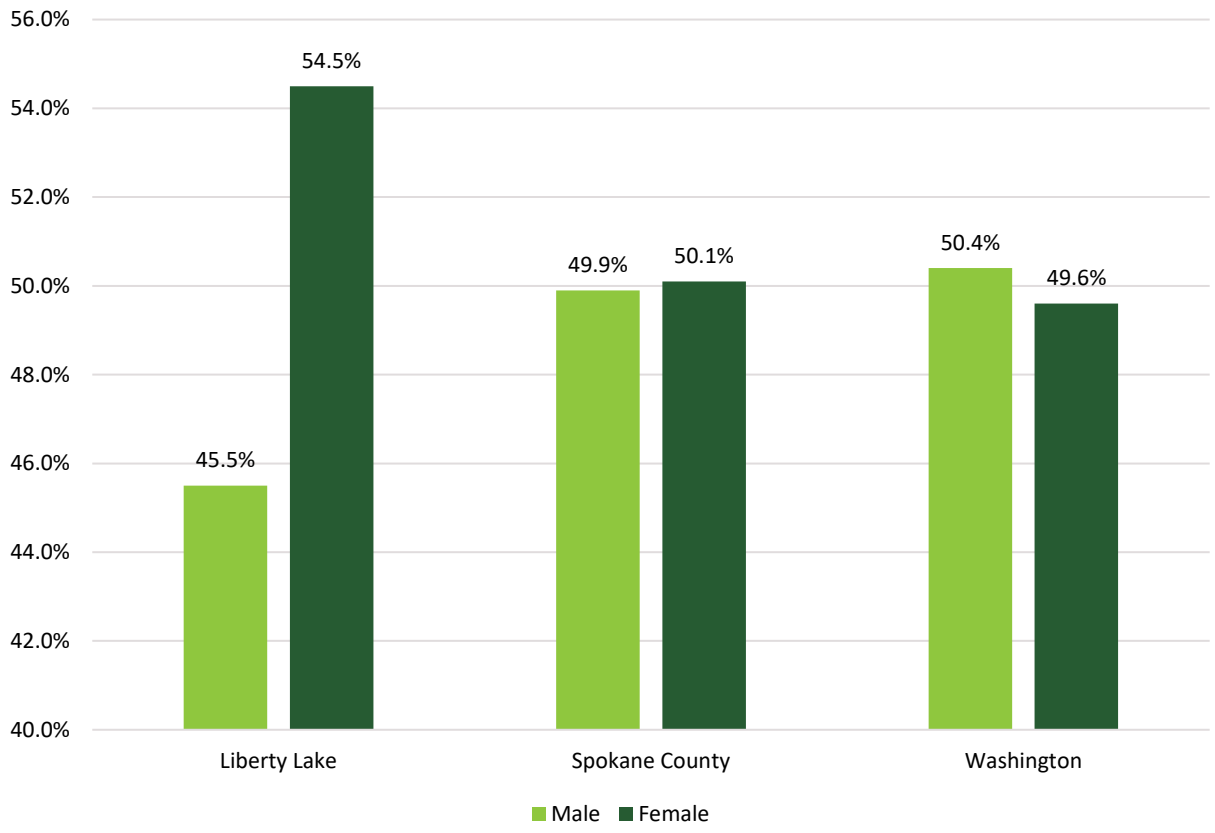
Using the OFM's medium-level projection as a baseline, Liberty Lake will grow to a population of approximately 21,934 people in the next 20 years and will need to accommodate 7,824 new residents by 2046.

Demographics

Age & Gender

The City of Liberty Lake has a higher percentage of female residents than male residents. The City's gender balance reports a higher female to male ratio than either Spokane County or Washington State (*see Figure 2-2*). The 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates indicate the age categories with the highest populations in Liberty Lake are 35-44 years (17.3%), 5-9 years (11.3%), and 65-74 years (10.5%). The median age in Liberty Lake is 37 years old, which is slightly younger than the County and State median age of 38.

Figure 2-2: Liberty Lake Gender Demographics Comparison with Spokane County and Washington



Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, DP05.

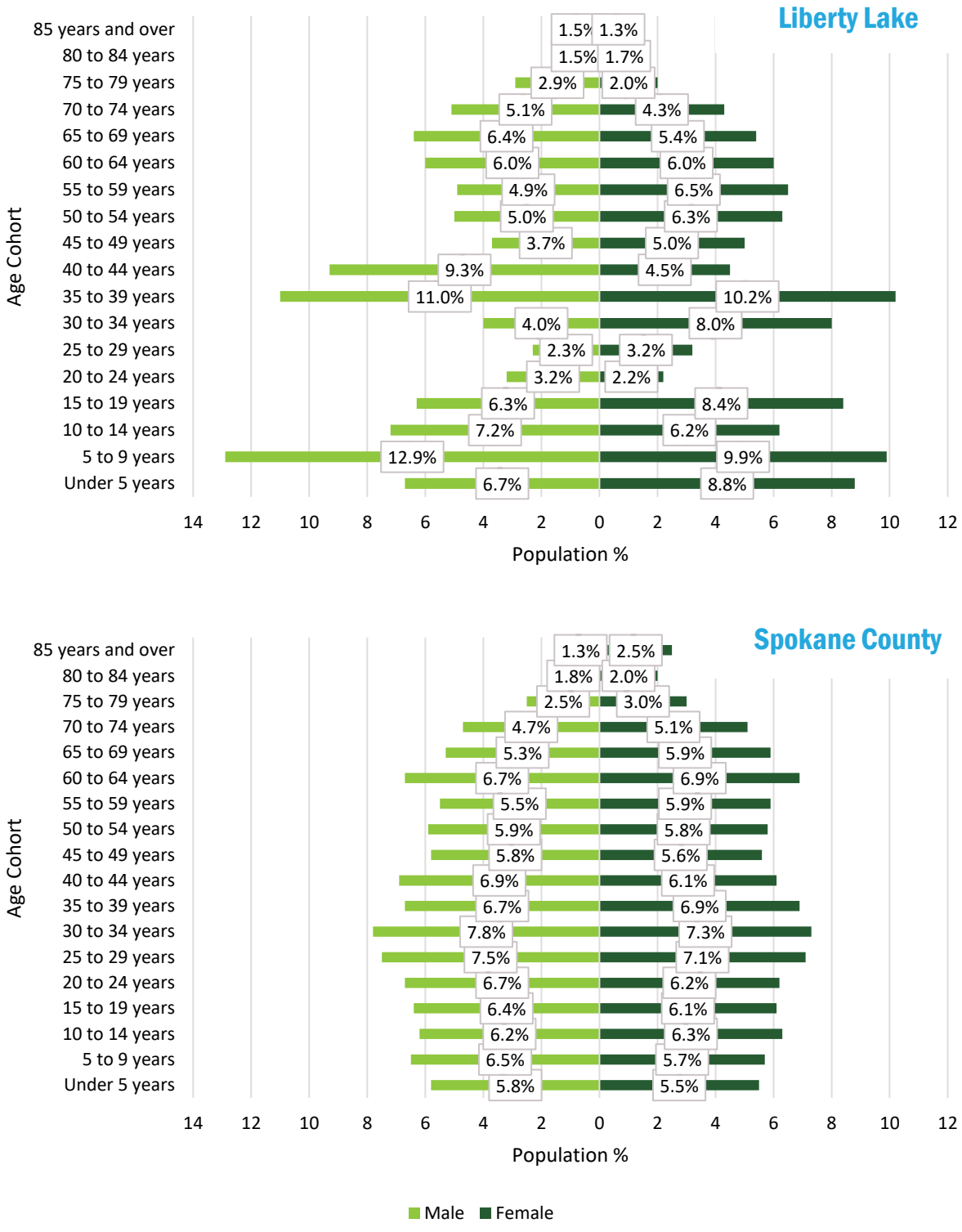
Table 2-5: Liberty Lake Notable Age Cohort Distribution in 2023

Age	Pop. Estimate	Percent Share
Under 18 years	3,820	30.7%
18 to 59 years	5,887	47.3%
60 years and over	2,728	21.9%

Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, S0101.

This census age cohort data suggests several trends which will be taken into consideration with parks in mind. Notably, 30.7% of Liberty Lake's population is under 18 compared to 22.3% of Spokane County's population. Figure 2-3 indicates that the city's population "bulges" with the age cohorts of 5–9-year-olds and 35–39-year-olds representing larger shares of Liberty Lake's male and female population than the County. This suggests a higher presence of families with young children who require ample green space and amenities.

Figure 2-3: Liberty Lake 2023 Population Pyramid Compared with Spokane County



Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, DP05.

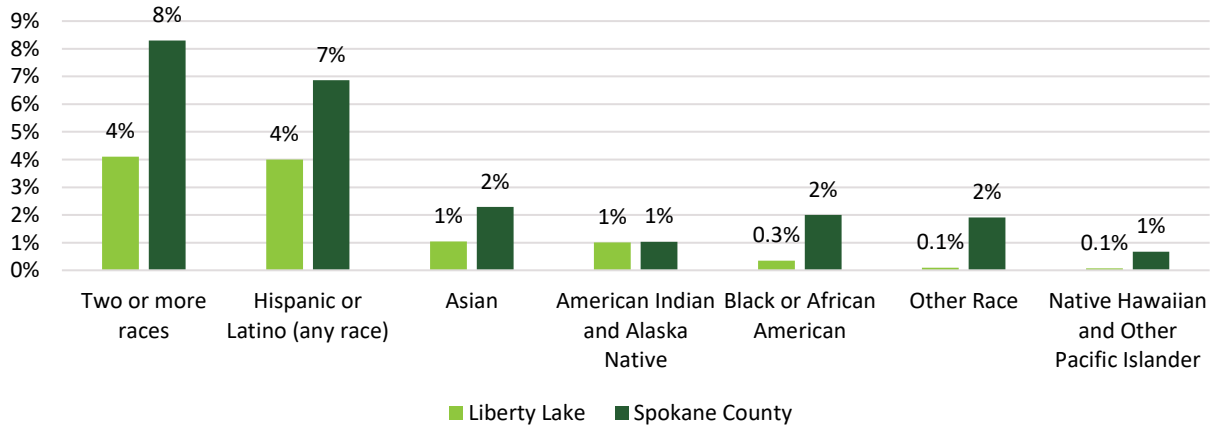
Race and Ethnicity

In 2023, the majority, or 91.2% of Liberty Lake's population, identifies as white alone. When compared to Spokane County, the City went from 90 percent white to 93 percent white over the course of five years while the County's population went from 88 percent white to 84 percent white, with Hispanic or Latino and multiracial residents seeing the biggest countywide gains. Of the Non-White population, about 4.1% are two or more races, and about 4% are Hispanic or Latino origin. The remaining racial groups comprise about 2.5% of the population.

Table 2-6: Change in Population by Race/Ethnicity for Liberty Lake and Spokane County

Race/Ethnicity	Liberty Lake: 2018	Liberty Lake: 2023	Liberty Lake: Change	Spokane County: 2018	Spokane County: 2023	Spokane County: Change
American Indian and Alaska Native	27	125	98	7,248	5,624	(1,624)
Asian	398	130	(268)	11,117	12,438	1,321
Black or African American	0	43	43	8,009	10,866	2,857
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	252	497	245	27,693	37,356	9,663
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	9	9	2,507	3,673	1,166
Other Race	62	12	(50)	7,063	10,357	3,294
Two or More Races	428	511	83	23,093	45,201	22,108
White	8,467	11,605	3,138	438,838	456,164	17,326
Total Population	9,382	12,435	3,053	497,875	544,323	46,448

Figure 2-4: Race and Ethnicity Percentages for Liberty Lake, Spokane County, and Washington



Source: 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, DP05.

While understanding racial and ethnic demographics can help identify the need for incorporating languages other than English into parks planning, operations, and programming, it is even more critical to examine English proficiency and languages spoken at home, as census data does not indicate cultural identities of populations. Increasing efforts to engage with residents in the languages represented by community members could help make planning efforts and parks more accessible to all. Of Liberty Lake residents over the age of 5 who were included in the ACS data, 2.4% speak a language other than English (*2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates, S1601*). About 1% of residents in Liberty Lake indicated that they speak English "less than very well" (*2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates, S0601*).

Disability

Disability metrics for Liberty Lake are important to understand, as they help in identifying the accessibility needs of the population and incorporating amenities within the parks system for greater access. This information also helps to determine how many people are likely to travel to parks and open spaces. According to the U.S. Census, 9.5% of residents under 65 have a disability. When including all residents across every age group, that number jumps to 13.6% of the population (*2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates, S1810*).

Table 2-7: Liberty Lake Percentage of Liberty Lake's Population Living with a Disability

Liberty Lake Residents	Liberty Lake	Spokane County	Washington
With a hearing difficulty	3.7%	5%	4%
With a vision difficulty	0.7%	3%	2%
With a cognitive difficulty	3.5%	7%	6%
With an ambulatory difficulty	3.5%	7%	6%
With a self-care difficulty	1.7%	3%	3%
With an independent living difficulty	3.5%	7%	6%
With any disability	8.7%	16%	13%

Source: 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, S1810.

According to the U.S. Census, Table 2-7 indicates that 8.7% of all residents within Liberty Lake are living with a disability. This includes all age ranges. Broken down into specific categories of disability, 3.7% have difficulty with hearing, 0.7% have significantly impaired vision, 3.5% have cognitive difficulty, and 3.5% have difficulty with walking. These disability categories should be taken into consideration when planning public spaces. Additionally, 3.5% need assistance with independent living, and 1.7% need assistance with self-care. Disability impacts most people at some point in their lives, so the more accessible communities are, the more that all residents can benefit from public investments.

Income

The median household income in Liberty Lake per 2023 ACS estimates was approximately $105,599, compared with Spokane County at $73,513 and Washington State at $94,952. The annual household income brackets earning above $100,000 are higher than Spokane County but are similar to the percentages for Washington State as a whole. Approximately 82% of Liberty Lake households earn more than $50,000 or more a year, compared to just 67% of all Spokane County households.

Table 2-8: Household Income

Household Income	Liberty Lake	Spokane County	Washington
Less Than $10,000	5%	4%	4%
$10,000 to $14,999	1%	4%	3%
$15,000 to $24,999	1%	6%	5%
$25,000 to $34,999	5%	8%	5%
$35,000 to $49,999	8%	11%	9%
$50,000 to $74,999	15%	18%	15%
$75,000 to $99,999	15%	14%	13%
$100,000 to $149,999	20%	18%	19%
$150,000 to $199,999	10%	8%	11%
$200,000 Or More	22%	9%	17%
Total Households	4,678	215,879	3,020,558
Median Income	$105,599	$73,513	$94,952

Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, DP03

Table 2-9: Percentage of Residents Living Below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level

	Liberty Lake	Spokane County	Washington
% of All Residents	5.20%	12.20%	9.90%
% of All Families w/ Children	1.50%	7.70%	6.40%

Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, S0701

Table 2-9, above, identifies the number of residents over the age of one and their poverty status in 2023.

For reference, according to the 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines, being below the poverty level for a one-person household would earn less than $14,580 or for a four-person household it would be $30,000, with other amounts for other household sizes. 150% of the poverty level for a one-person household is $21,870 or $45,000 for a four-person household. This paints a picture of finances for all residents in Liberty Lake, indicating that a small percentage of the population has limited disposable income available for recreational activities.

Housing

Housing Type

Table 2-10 presents the distribution of various housing unit types in Liberty Lake, along with their corresponding percentages relative to the total housing within the city of Liberty Lake, Spokane Valley, and Spokane County. The Office of Financial Management publishes yearly estimates of the number and type of housing units for communities in Washington state. Housing unit estimates after 2020 are developed using housing completion data reported by cities and counties (2021-present), and annexation census data (2021-present). As of the April 1, 2025, report, Liberty Lake is estimated to have 5,902 units of housing. In Liberty Lake, 67.4% are attached or detached single units compared to only 58.4% in Spokane Valley. About 30% of the housing stock is of 2 or more attached units, which is slightly higher than in Spokane County, but lower than in neighboring Spokane Valley. Mobile homes and special housing like ADUs make up 133 units or about 2% of the total housing supply.

Table 2-10: Types of Housing Structures in Liberty Lake vs. Spokane Valley and County

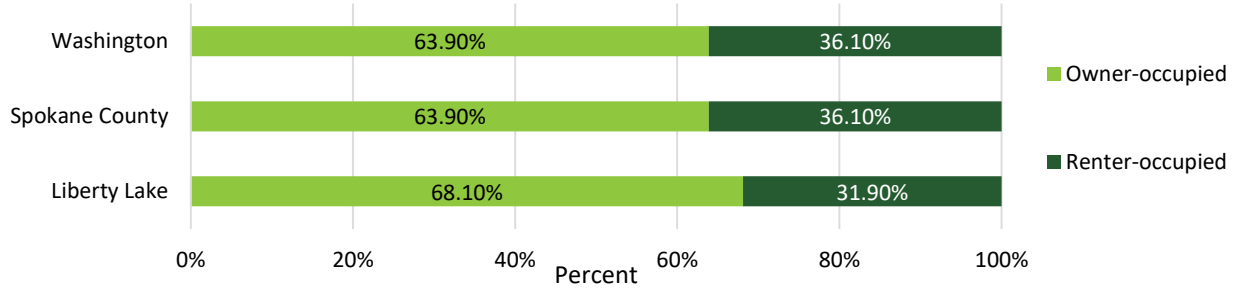
Housing Type	2025 Liberty Lake # of Units	2025 Liberty Lake %	2025 Spokane Valley %	2025 Spokane County %
1-unit, attached & detached	3,976	67.4%	58.4%	64.5%
2 or more units	1,793	30.4%	38.1%	29.5%
Mobile homes and specials	133	2.3%	3.5%	6.0%
Total	5,902	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: OFM Postcensal Estimates of Housing Units, April 1, 2025.

Housing Occupancy

The 2023 ACS housing data for Liberty Lake estimates that 68.1% of occupied units are owner-occupied while 31.9% are rented. This percentage of owner-occupied housing is higher than Spokane County (63.9%) and Washington State (63.9%) percentages. This statistic appears to be consistent with Liberty Lake's higher median income and its higher prevalence of families with children. Notably, this comparison excludes an estimated vacancy rate of 7.30% of all housing units.

Figure 2-5: Owner Vs. Renter Occupancy in Liberty Lake, Spokane County, and Washington



Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, DP04.

Average Household Type

The average household size in Liberty Lake is 2.65 people, which is a larger average household size than Spokane County's 2.45 people. Table 2-11 provides a breakdown of the average number of households per type of household. This information is useful while considering what parks and recreational facilities might be best suited for people in Liberty Lake with differing life circumstances. The American Community Survey data reveals that Liberty Lake has a higher percentage of married households (63.1%) than the Spokane County (46.6%) and Washington State percentages (49.4%). Of these married couples in Liberty Lake, approximately half have children under the age of 18. Overall, 39% of all household types have one or more children under 18, a much higher demographic in Liberty Lake than observed in either Spokane County (28.4% of all households) or Washington State (29.8% of all households). The percentage of households with an elderly person over 65 years old is similar to the county and state figures.

Table 2-11: Average Household Type

Household Type	Liberty Lake # of Households	Liberty Lake %	Spokane County %	Washington %
Total households	4,678	-	-	-
Married-couple household	2,953	63.10%	46.60%	49.40%
Cohabiting couple household	224	4.80%	8.30%	8.60%
Male householder, no spouse/partner present	394	8.40%	18.40%	18.30%
Female householder, no spouse/partner present	1,107	23.70%	26.60%	23.70%
All households with one or more people under 18 years	1,824	39.00%	28.40%	29.80%
All Households with one or more people 65 years and over	1,312	28.00%	30.50%	29.40%

Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, DP02

Home Value

The median value of the 3,188 owner-occupied units in Liberty Lake was $506,000 in 2023. Table 2-12 shows the number of units in each price range for a broader picture of what people are paying to own housing in Liberty Lake, Spokane County, and Washington State. This shows that median home values in Liberty Lake ($506,000) are comparatively higher than Spokane County ($370,500) but slightly lower than Washington State ($519,800). It is notable that only 9.4% of Liberty Lake's housing stock are affordable housing units valued at under $300,000, compared to a 31.4% share of affordable units located in Spokane County. Approximately 51% of Liberty Lake's owner-occupied housing stock is valued at above $500,000 dollars.

Table 2-12: Value of Owner-Occupied Units

Value of Owner-Occupied Units	Liberty Lake # of Units	Liberty Lake %	Spokane County %	Washington %
Less than $50,000	8	0.3%	2.9%	2.9%
$50,000 to $99,999	49	1.5%	1.8%	1.9%
$100,000 to $149,999	28	0.9%	2.9%	2.1%
$150,000 to $199,999	22	0.7%	5.1%	2.6%
$200,000 to $299,999	190	6.0%	21.4%	9.6%
$300,000 to $499,999	1,269	39.8%	39.6%	28.9%
$500,000 to $999,999	1,313	41.2%	22.9%	38.0%
$1,000,000 or more	309	9.7%	3.3%	14.0%
Total	3,188	-	-	-
Median Home Value	-	$506,000	$370,500	$519,800

Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, DP04.

Rent Costs

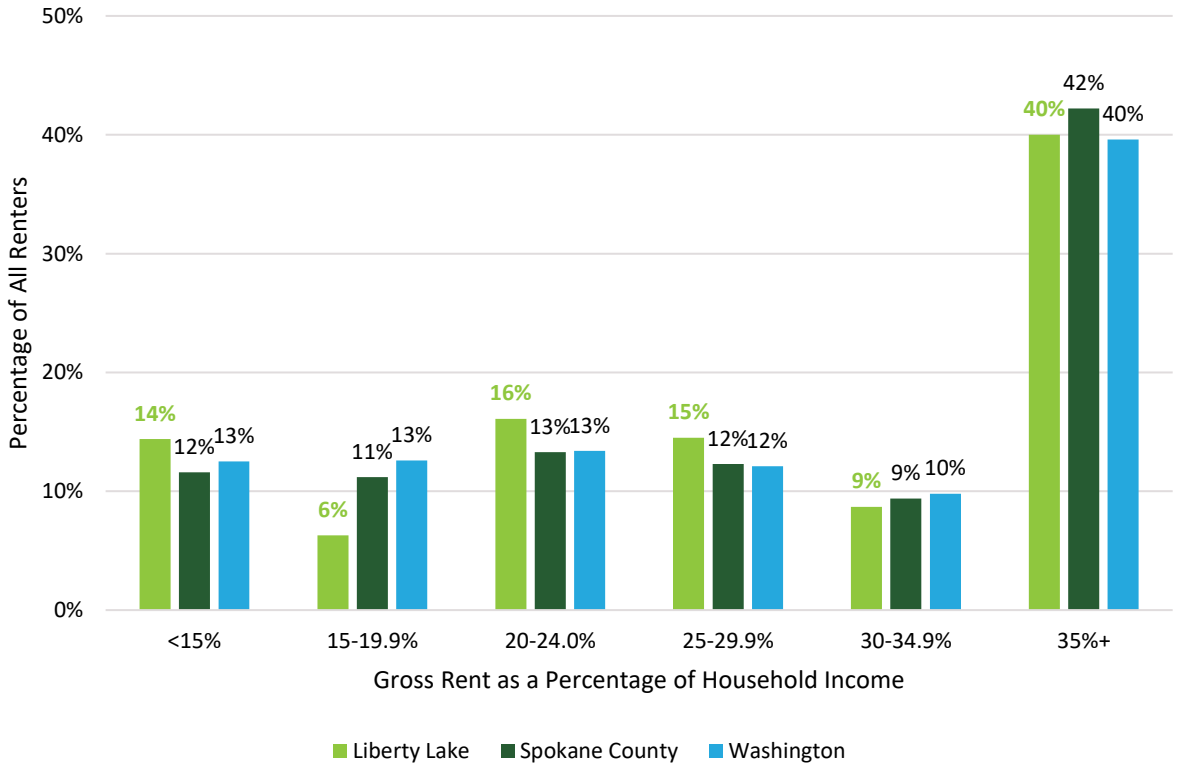
The median rent in Liberty Lake was $1,782 per month in 2023, which was higher than the median costs in both Spokane County ($1,200/mo) and Washington State ($1,682/mo). Table 2-13 shows a breakdown of what people are paying for rent in Liberty Lake's occupied units. Rents are priced at a higher cost on average than in either Spokane County or Washington State. About 74% of rent costs are over $1,500, with 42% of all rents in Liberty Lake being in the $1,500 to $1,999 range. Figure 2-6 on the following page indicates that, of the 1,490 occupied units paying rent, 40% of households pay a rent that is 35% or more of their total household income, which is comparable to the County and State percentages.

Table 2-13: Comparison of the Monthly Rent Costs as a % of All Occupied Rental Units

Gross Rent Per Month	Liberty Lake Number of Units	% of Liberty Lake Renters	% of Spokane County Renters	% of Washington Renters
Total occupied rental units	1,490	--	--	--
Less than $500	17	1.10%	6.50%	4.90%
$500 to $999	144	9.70%	25.30%	11.90%
$1,000 to $1,499	230	15.40%	40.50%	23.90%
$1,500 to $1,999	628	42.10%	17.60%	25.90%
$2,000 to $2,499	249	16.70%	6.20%	17.30%
$2,500 to $2,999	184	12.30%	2.10%	8.10%
$3,000 or more	38	2.60%	1.80%	8.10%
Median Rent	-	$1,782	$1,200	$1,682

Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, DP04.

Figure 2-6: Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income



Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, DP04.

Education, Employment, Transportation

Education

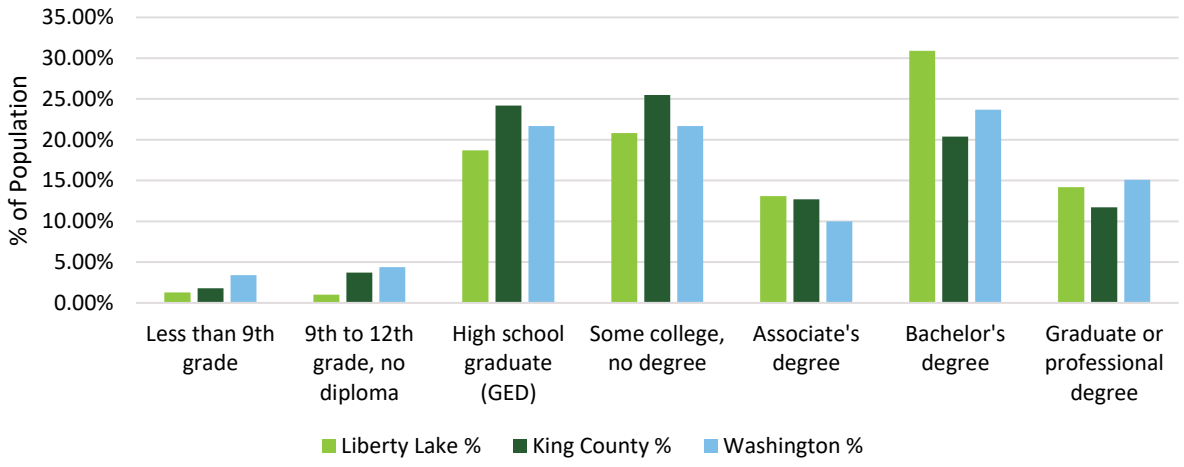
Liberty Lake exhibits higher educational attainment averages than either Spokane County or Washington State. Approximately 97.8% of City residents ages 25 and older have a high school diploma or higher. About 45.2% of Liberty Lake residents ages 25 and older have a bachelor's degree or graduate/professional degree, and about 13% have an associate's degree.

Table 2-14: Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Liberty Lake Pop. Estimate	Liberty Lake %	Spokane County %	Washington %
Population 25 years and over	7,966	-	-	-
Less than 9th grade	100	1.3%	1.8%	3.4%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	78	1.0%	3.7%	4.4%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	1,490	18.7%	24.2%	21.7%
Some college, no degree	1,653	20.8%	25.5%	21.7%
Associate's degree	1,046	13.1%	12.7%	10.0%
Bachelor's degree	2,465	30.9%	20.4%	23.7%
Graduate or professional degree	1,134	14.2%	11.7%	15.1%
High school graduate or higher	7,788	97.8%	94.5%	92.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,599	45.2%	32.1%	38.8%

Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, S1501

Figure 2-7: Educational Attainment in Liberty Lake vs. Spokane County and Washington



Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, S1501.

Employment Sectors

As of 2022, the employed population in Liberty Lake is 7,901 according to the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Economic Analysis' Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) dataset. Table 2-15 compares Liberty Lake's employment sectors and resident occupations with those of Spokane County and Washington State using 2023 American Community Survey estimates. The largest employment sector for Liberty Lake residents is Educational, Health Care, and Social Assistance Services at 29.6% of employment, followed by Manufacturing at 12.8% and Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate at 12.5%. Compared to Spokane County and statewide averages, Liberty Lake has a notably higher share of workers in education and health services, as well as slightly higher representation in manufacturing and finance-related industries.

Occupationally, Liberty Lake has a particularly high share of residents employed in Management, Business, Science, and Arts occupations at 53.5%, substantially exceeding both Spokane County (40.1%) and Washington State (45.5%). Sales and office-related occupation constitute an additional 18.2% of Liberty Lake's workforce. With approximately 24% of all workers reportedly working from home, this relatively high prevalence of remote work may increase daytime demand for nearby park facilities, particularly those that support short visits during the workday such as lunch breaks, informal meetings, or outdoor co-working opportunities. As a result, parks that provide comfortable gathering areas and walking paths may play an important role in supporting the daily routines of Liberty Lake residents compared to communities with lower rates of remote work.

Table 2-15: Top Employment Sectors and Occupations in Liberty Lake Compared to Spokane County and Washington

	Liberty Lake	Spokane County	WA State
Top Employment Sectors			
Educational, Health Care, and Social Assistance Services	29.6%	25.9%	21.4%
Manufacturing	12.8%	7.4%	9.2%
Finance and Insurance; Real Estate	12.5%	7.2%	5.3%
Professional, Scientific, Managerial, and Private Administrative Services	10.4%	10.5%	14.5%
Construction	7.2%	7.1%	7.2%
Top Occupations of Residents			
Management, Business, Science, and Arts Occupations	53.5%	40.1%	45.5%
Sales and Office Occupations	18.2%	21.3%	18.0%
Service Occupations	13.5%	17.9%	15.6%
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations	8.6%	12.7%	11.6%
Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance Occupations	6.2%	8.0%	9.3%

Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, S1501

Employment Inflow/Outflow

Reviewing the commute patterns of both residents and non-residents in and out of Liberty Lake is important for understanding the current housing and transportation demands. The employed population (aged 16+) of Liberty Lake residents is estimated to be 4,812, according to the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. According to these estimates, a significantly higher number of people travel into Liberty Lake for employment (8,869) than travel out of the City (4,187). An estimated 625 residents both live and work in Liberty Lake. It is important to note that employment and commute patterns have changed for many people since the 2020 Census. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, many more people now work from home, and these counts continue to change each year.

Figure 2-8: Inflow/Outflow of Employment in Liberty Lake (2022)



Map Legend

Selection Areas
- Selection Area

Inflow/Outflow
- Employed and Live in Selection Area
- Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside
- Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside

Note: Overlay arrows do not indicate directionality of worker flow between home and employment locations.

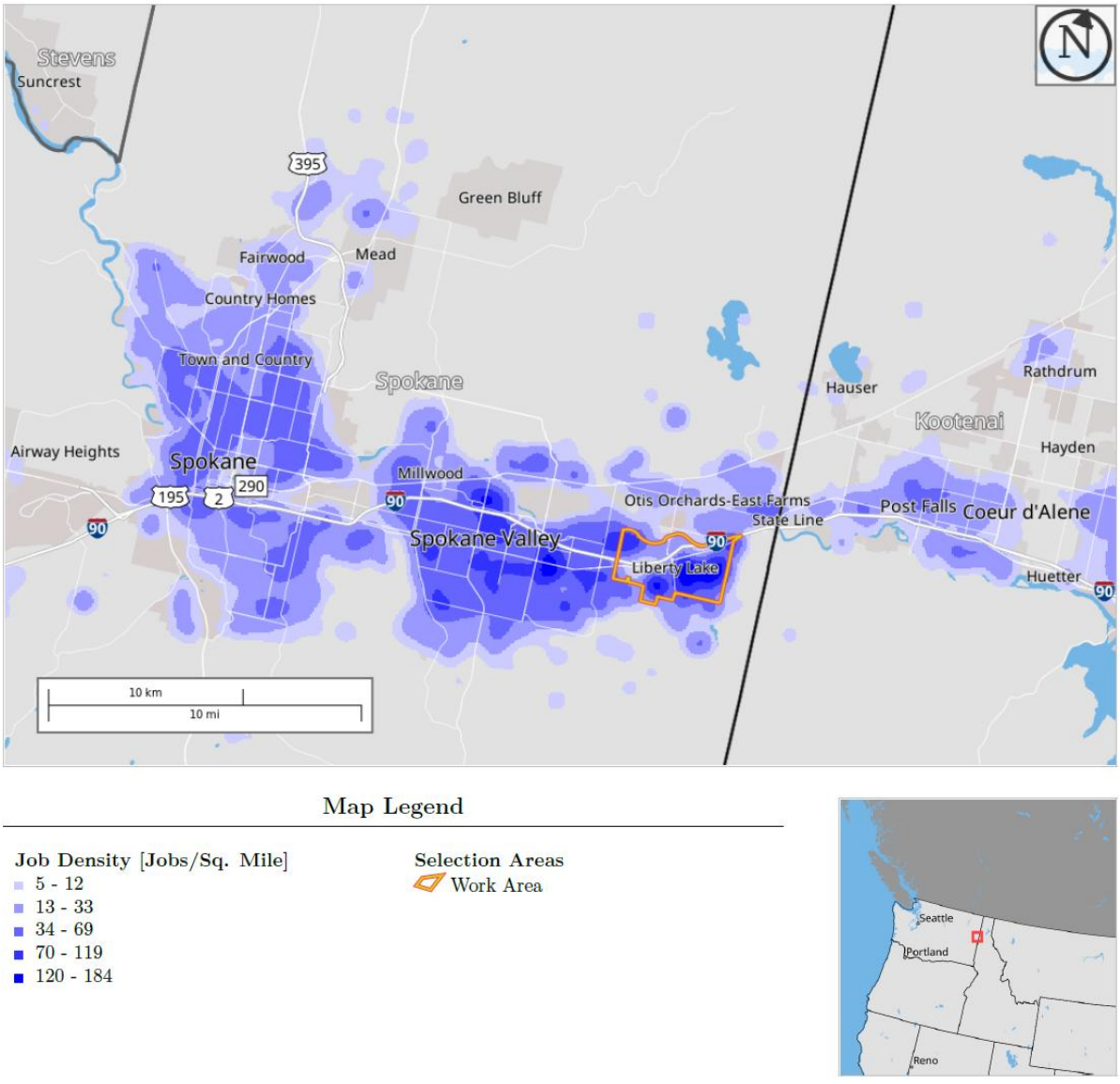


Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates, US Census OnTheMap.

Employment Locations

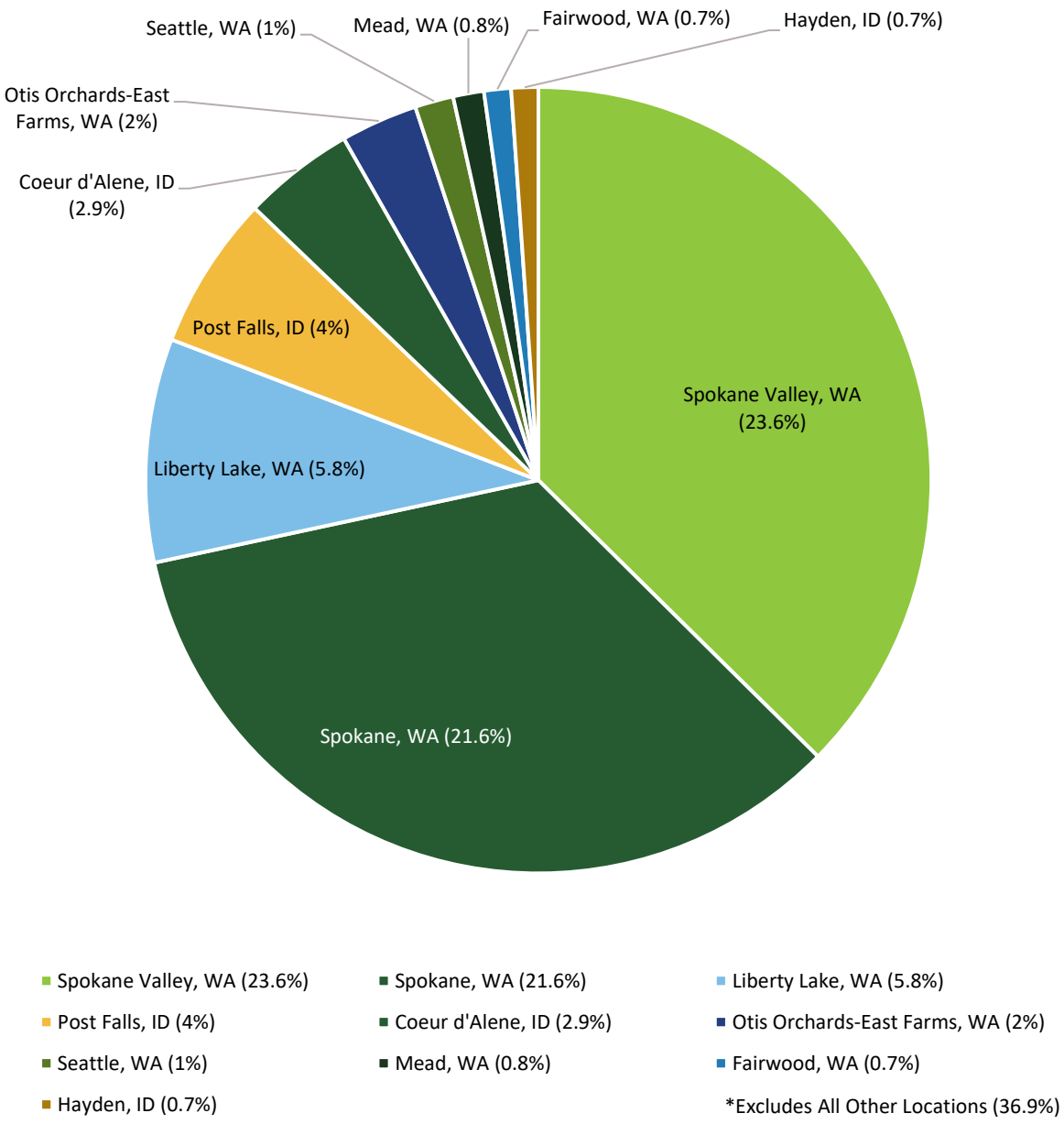
Figure 2-9 shows a thermal map of where Liberty Lake residents are employed. According to the OnTheMap visualization, job locations are most concentrated in Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley, with lower concentrations spatially distributed throughout the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene metropolitan area. The top two employment locations are Spokane Valley and Spokane, with those who live and work in Liberty Lake comprising 5.8% of the workforce. Over 7% of residents work in Idaho. These patterns suggest that the community has a high degree of familiarity with employment centers and parks in the greater Eastern Washington and North Idaho region.

Figure 2-9: Spatial Distribution of Where Liberty Lake Residents Are Employed



Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates, US Census OnTheMap.

Figure 2-10: Where Liberty Lake Residents are Employed (2022)

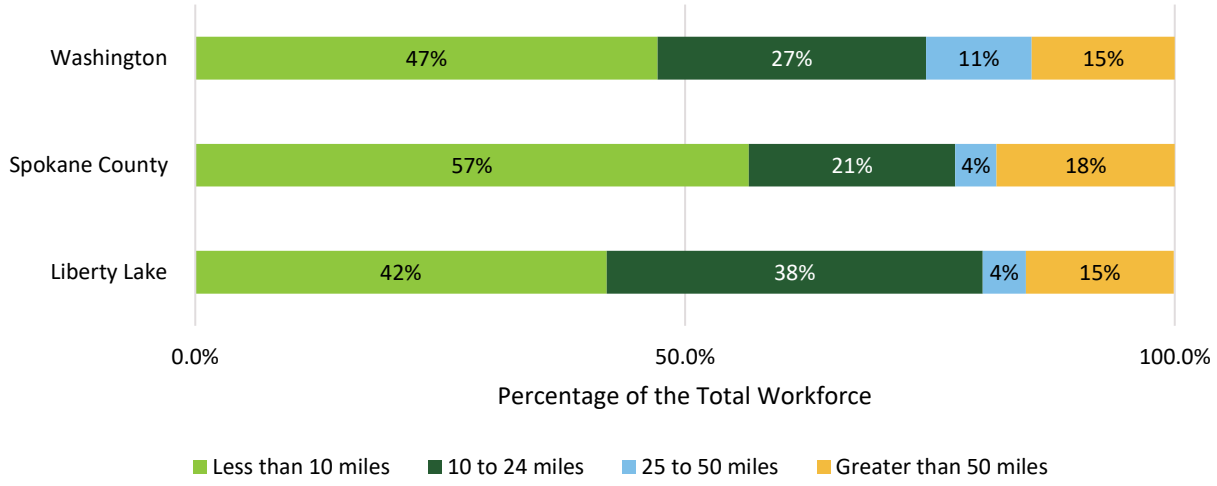


Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates, US Census OnTheMap.

Distance Traveled to Work

Figure 2-11 on the following page shows the distances Liberty Lake residents travel to work from home and the percentage of the populations in Liberty Lake, Spokane County, and Washington. Nearly the same percentage of Liberty Lake residents commute 10 to 24 miles as those who commute less than 10 miles. This commute pattern differs significantly from Spokane County where it is observed that 57% of all employed residents commute less than 10 miles to their workplace.

Figure 2-11: Liberty Lake Workforce Commute Distances vs. Spokane County and Washington

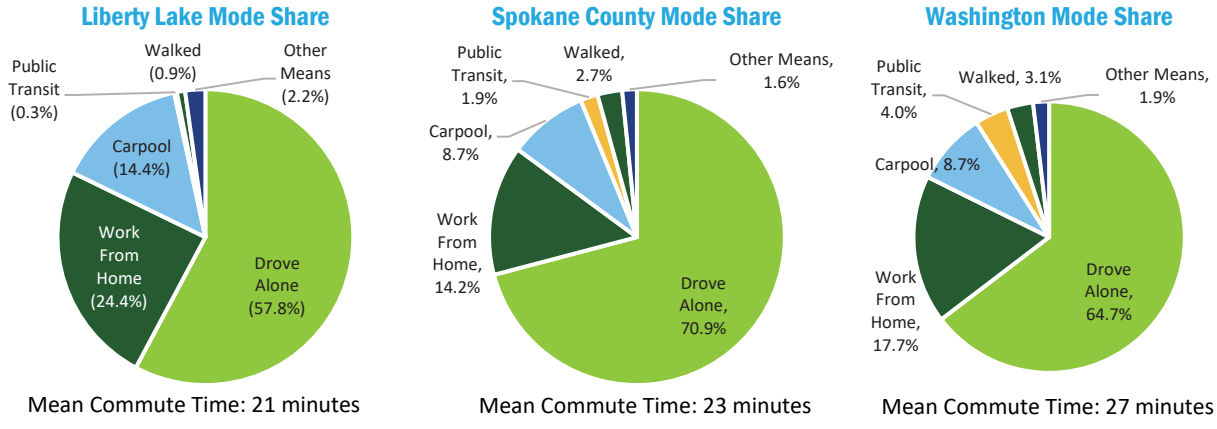


Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates, US Census OnTheMap.

Means of Transportation to Work

Figure 2-12 below shows the means of transportation for the populations of Normandy Park, King County, and Washington. A higher percentage of people work from home and carpool in Liberty Lake (38.8%) than residents of either Spokane County (22.9%) or Washington (26.4%). This contributes to a lower percentage of Liberty Lake residents driving alone to work than in the other jurisdictions. 1.2% of residents walk or take public transit to work compared to 4.6% of Spokane County residents.

Figure 2-12: Liberty Lake Means of Transportation

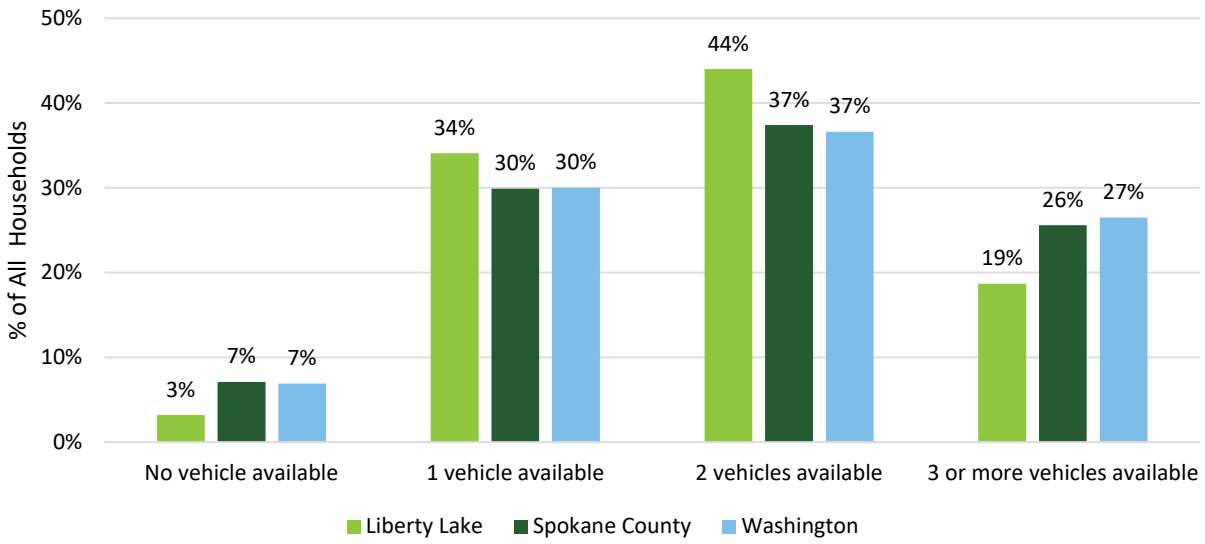


Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, Table S0801.

Access to Vehicles

Figure 2-13 illustrates the level of vehicle access among Liberty Lake residents. Compared with Spokane County and statewide averages, Liberty Lake households generally have higher access to personal vehicles, with 97% of households reporting access to at least one vehicle. As a result, community parks that offer unique or destination-style amenities should provide some off-street parking to accommodate visitors who choose to drive from farther distances. Parking areas should include ADA-compliant accessible stalls and may also incorporate electric vehicle charging stations. In addition, given the proximity to several golf courses and the popularity of golf cart ownership in the community, providing designated golf cart parking may also be appropriate in certain locations.

Figure 2-13: Percentage of Liberty Lake Vehicle Availability vs. Spokane County and Washington



Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, Table S2504.

