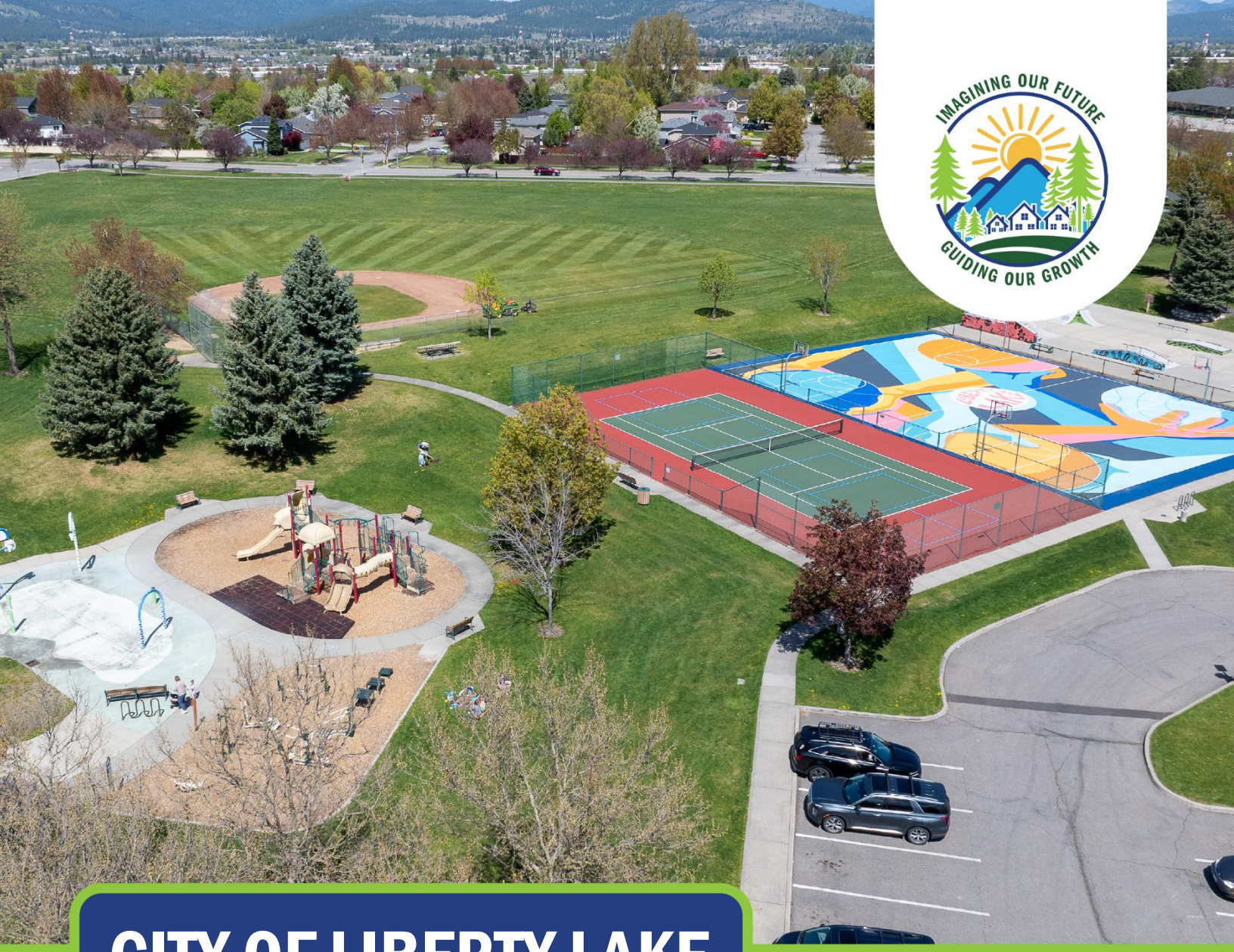


CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

MARCH 2026

The City of Liberty Lake

Project Information

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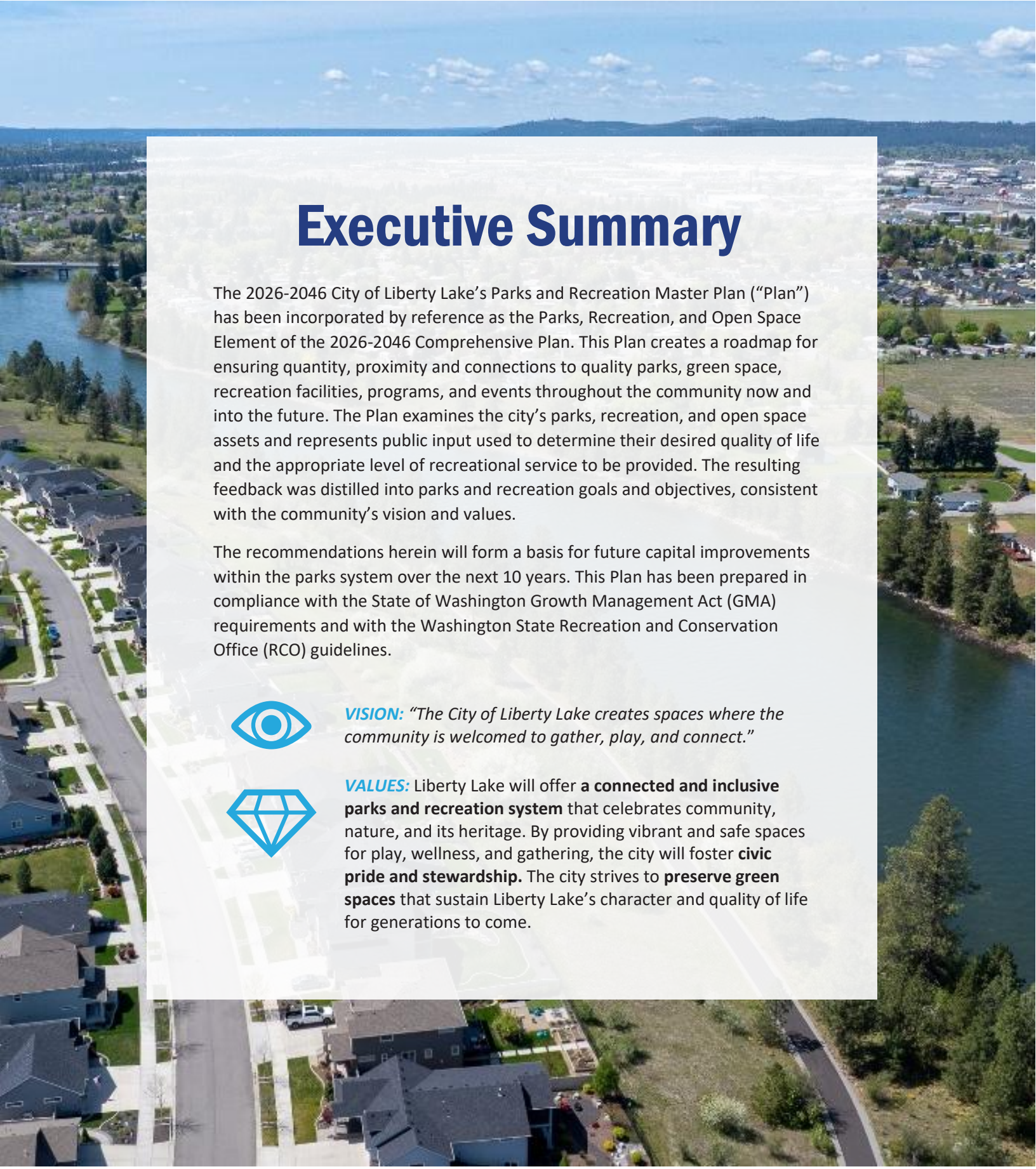
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Executive Summary

The 2026-2046 City of Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Master Plan ("Plan") has been incorporated by reference as the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element of the 2026-2046 Comprehensive Plan. This Plan creates a roadmap for ensuring quantity, proximity and connections to quality parks, green space, recreation facilities, programs, and events throughout the community now and into the future. The Plan examines the city's parks, recreation, and open space assets and represents public input used to determine their desired quality of life and the appropriate level of recreational service to be provided. The resulting feedback was distilled into parks and recreation goals and objectives, consistent with the community's vision and values.

The recommendations herein will form a basis for future capital improvements within the parks system over the next 10 years. This Plan has been prepared in compliance with the State of Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements and with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) guidelines.

VISION: *"The City of Liberty Lake creates spaces where the community is welcomed to gather, play, and connect."*

VALUES: Liberty Lake will offer **a connected and inclusive parks and recreation system** that celebrates community, nature, and its heritage. By providing vibrant and safe spaces for play, wellness, and gathering, the city will foster **civic pride and stewardship.** The city strives to **preserve green spaces** that sustain Liberty Lake's character and quality of life for generations to come.

Community Context

Liberty Lake has **14,110 residents** and has historically **grown at a significantly faster rate** than Spokane County. Population forecasts from the Spokane County Planning Technical Advisory committee and the state demography office anticipate this trend to continue. Liberty Lake is forecasted to grow by an average rate of 2.1% per year to a population of **approximately 21,934 residents by 2046.**

14,110 Residents
Current Population

2.1% Yearly Growth
Annual Growth

21,934 Residents
Projected by 2046

Key Findings

Icon	Theme	Key Point
	Growth Impact	Parks must be prepared to serve at least 7,824 new residents
	Family Demographics	System must serve families, multi-generational households, children
	Community Needs	Affordability, accessibility, and multilingual communication matter
	Inclusive Access	ADA and equitable access remain priorities

- Parks and recreational facilities, amenities, programming, and events will need to accommodate 7,824 new residents within the planning horizon.
- Liberty Lake is a very active and family-friendly community where over 30% of residents are children and there is a higher presence of family households than in the county at large.
- It is essential for the parks and recreation system to accommodate families, multi-generational households, and children.
- While Liberty Lake generally experiences lower social vulnerability indicators than regional averages where, based on the most recent estimates, about 5.2% of residents were living below the poverty level, approximately 8.7% of residents were living with a disability, and roughly 1% of residents had limited English proficiency, these populations may still face barriers to accessing parks, recreation programs, and community events.
- Park and recreation planning and services ought to place a continued emphasis on affordability, ADA-accessible design, inclusive programming, multilingual communication, and equitable park distribution to help ensure recreation opportunities remain accessible and welcoming to residents of all abilities, income levels, and language backgrounds.

Inventory

Liberty Lake currently has over **190 acres of public recreation spaces** and about **nine-and-a-quarter miles of trails and paths** in the city. In 2025, **533,525 visits** to public city parks were recorded, up 11% since 2022.

190+ Acres
Total Parkland

9.25 Miles
Total Trails and Pathways

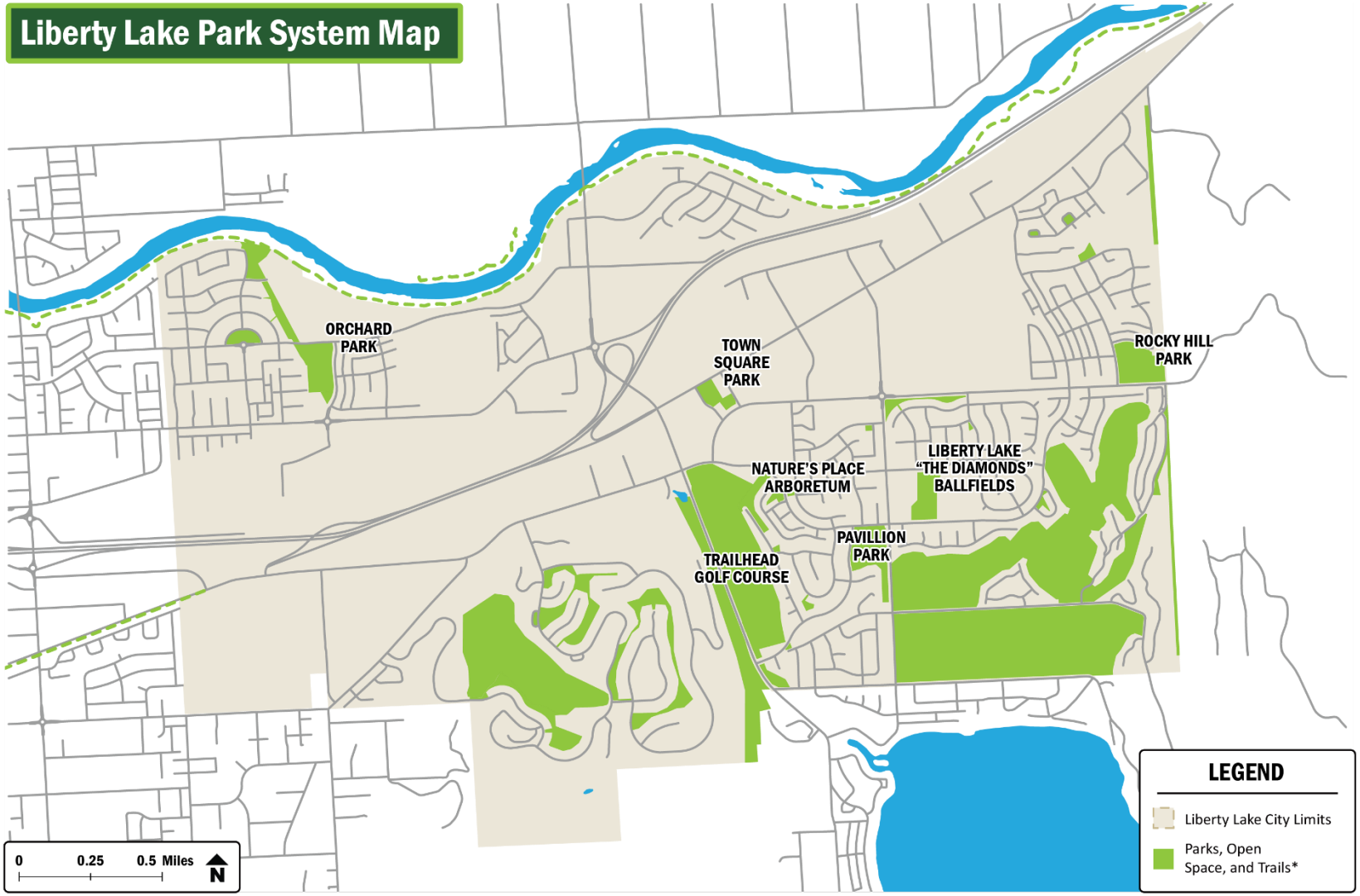
533,525 Visits
Annual Visits (2025)

Facilities and Amenities

Liberty Lake's parks and recreation system includes a **diverse range of amenities,** including 3 playgrounds, 2 splash pads, and **a mix of athletic facilities** such as 2 public multi-sport fields, 9 additional fields at regional partner sites (5 at HUB Sports Center and 4 at Central Valley School District), and 8 diamond fields overall. Court facilities include 7 racquet sports courts convertible to up to 14 pickleball courts, 4 basketball courts, and 5 outdoor fitness stations. The system also provides 6 reservable picnic shelters, 2 community gardens, and **specialized recreation features** including a skate park, disc golf course, amphitheater, and 3 public golf courses—1 9-hole and 2 18-hole championship courses—supported by 2 golf driving ranges.

Icon	Facility Type	Amenities Present
	Play & Water	♦ 3 playgrounds ♦ 2 splash pads
	Athletic Facilities	♦ 2 city-owned multi-sport fields ♦ 9 additional partner fields (5 at HUB Sports Center, 4 at Central Valley SD) ♦ 8 diamond fields
	Courts & Fitness	♦ 7 racquet courts (convertible to 14 pickleball courts) ♦ 4 basketball courts ♦ 5 outdoor fitness stations
	Community Spaces	♦ 6 picnic shelters ♦ 2 community gardens
	Specialized Recreation Features	♦ Skatepark ♦ Disc golf course ♦ Amphitheater ♦ 3 public golf courses ♦ 2 golf driving ranges

Liberty Lake Park System Map



** Parks include City-owned parks, HOA-owned parks, and golf courses. Labels indicate City-owned parks.*

Recreational Programming

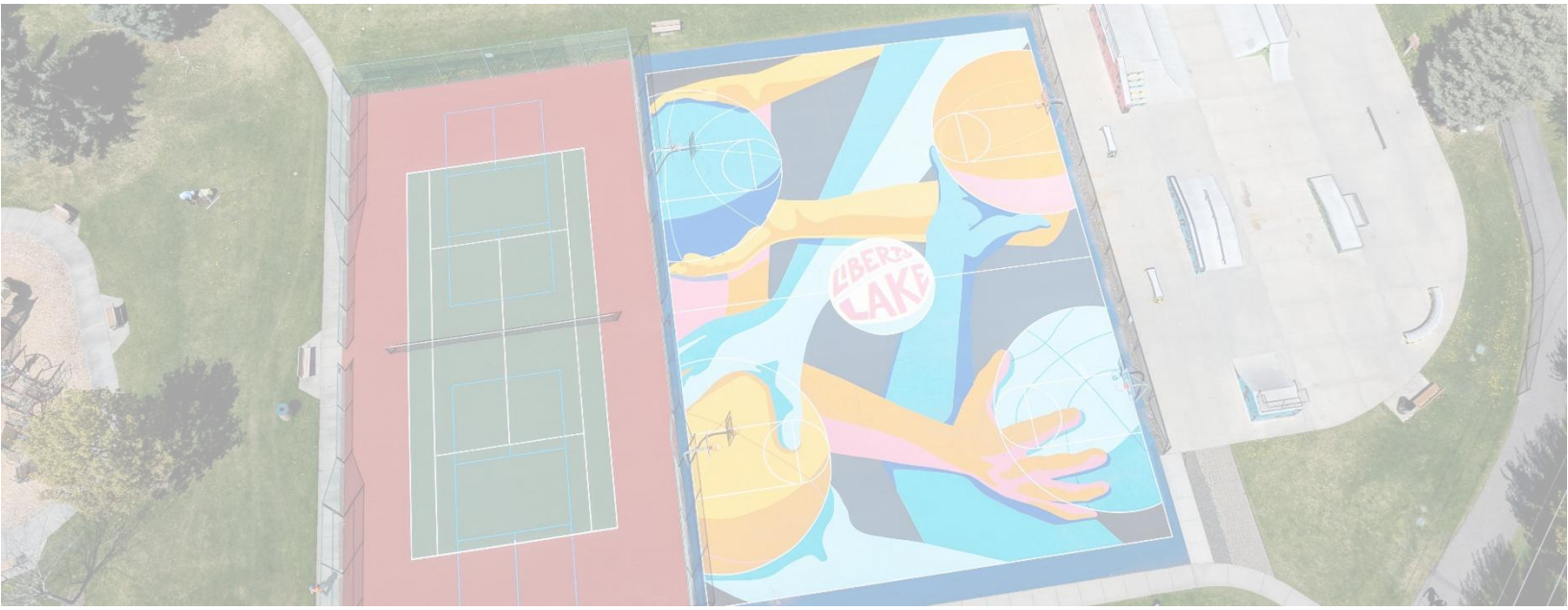
Liberty Lake offers a **wide variety of recreational programs,** particularly youth sports, camps, and community events, **supported through partnerships with regional recreation providers.** These collaborations help supplement local offerings, although the loss of indoor aquatics programming highlights an emerging service gap and community need.

Liberty Lake's parks and recreation programming aligns well with national norms for similarly sized communities, particularly in **youth sports, community events, and general recreation offerings.** However, compared to peer agencies there are **notable gaps in health and wellness programming, aquatics, arts, and age-specific programs for teens, seniors, and people with disabilities.** As the community grows, expanding these offerings will help maintain alignment with national best practices and evolving resident needs.

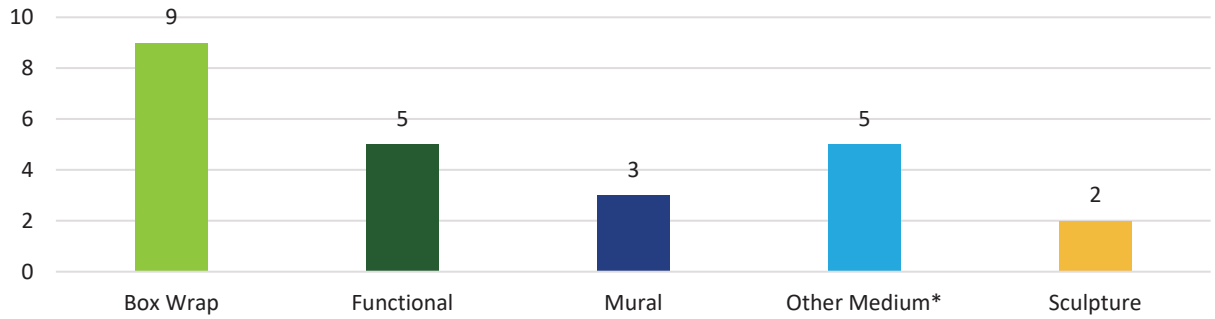
Regional parks contribute an **additional 4,744 acres within a 3-mile radius.** These recreation areas support activities such as hiking, BMX, cycling, youth sports, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, off-leash dog play, and public lakefront access.

Public Art

Liberty Lake currently has **25 pieces of public art** distributed throughout their city. There are **5 different types of art** present in the public art pieces, these include: box wraps (9), functional art (5), murals (3), other mediums (5), and sculptures (2). Other mediums include framed **illustrated pieces and park equipment.**



Types of Public Art

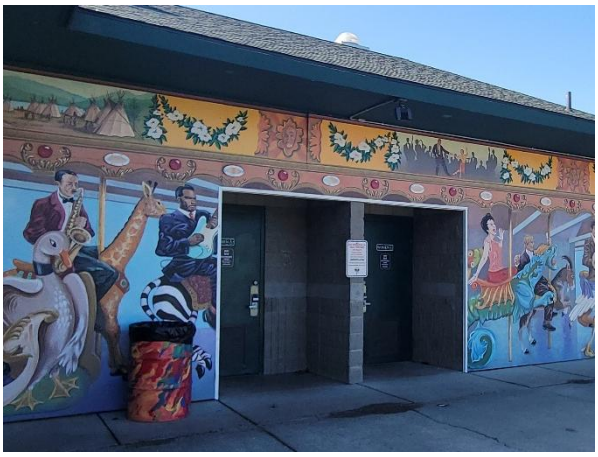


Other medium examples include Orchard Park Splash pad, “Requiem to the Horses” (painting), “Never Forget” (flagpole), etc.

Examples of Public Art in Liberty Lake



Functional: Town Square Park Bike Racks



Mural: The Pavillion Mural at Pavillion Park



Sculpture: "Growing Together" at Rocky Hill Park



Box Wrap: Liberty Lake Students Box Wrap

Public Engagement

Public involvement was a foundational component of the 2026–2046 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and occurred throughout 2025 and 2026 using workshops, surveys, stakeholder interviews, pop-up events, and targeted capital improvement prioritization activities. Engagement was intentionally layered to reach residents in parks, at schools, at community events, and online.

Engagement Reach

10+ Engagement Opportunities
Throughout the Process

376 Needs Survey Responses
Online and In-Person

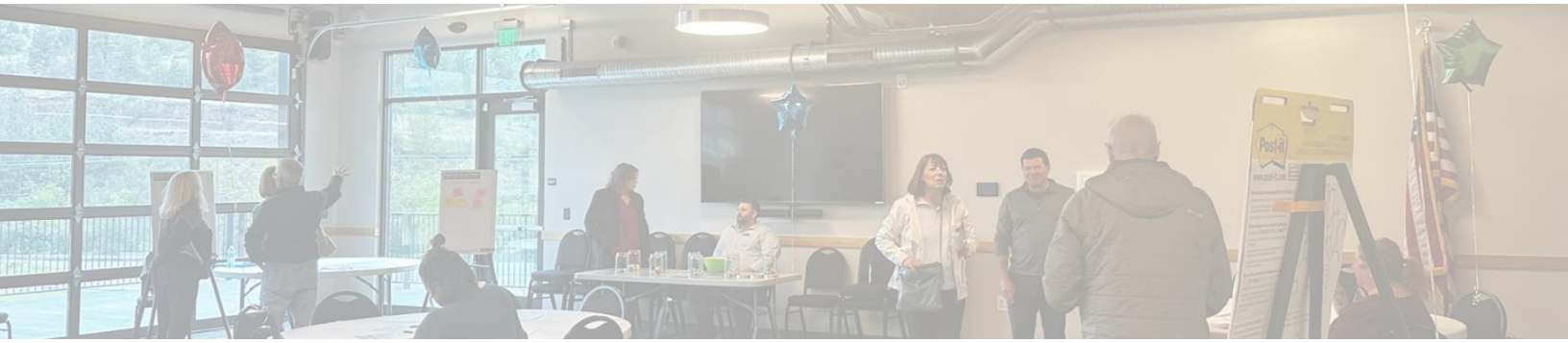
670 Total CIP Responses
For Prioritization and Funding

~500 In-Person Participants
For CIP Prioritization Pop-Up

1,950 Interactive Votes
From Phase 1 Pop-Up Activities

3,500+ Interactive Votes
Across All Activities

The city engaged the community through 10+ in-person events, stakeholder interviews, and multiple online surveys. In total, the process captured input from well over **2,000 unique participants,** in addition to thousands of individual activity votes; about **78% of those participants were Liberty Lake residents.**





Key Community Priorities

Ranking	Priority
1	**Aquatic Facilities** (Community Pool or Aquatic Center)
2	**Trails and Connectivity** (Expanded Connections and Improved Safety/Accessibility)
3	**Playgrounds & Family Spaces** (Shaded, Inclusive, and Nature-Based Play Areas)
4	**Maintenance of Existing Parks**

- Parks are central to quality of life. Over **80% of respondents** rated parks and recreation as very important.
- **Aquatic facilities** are the top systemwide priority. A community pool or aquatic center consistently ranked highest.
- **Trails and connectivity** remain highly valued. Residents support expanded neighborhood connections and improved safety and accessibility.
- **Playgrounds and family amenities** matter. Shaded, inclusive, and nature-based play areas were strongly supported.
- **Maintain existing assets** while planning for growth. Residents expressed pride in the current system and emphasized ongoing investment in maintenance.

Demands and Needs

Liberty Lake Has a strong overall park supply. Liberty Lake currently provides approximately **22.6 acres of public parkland per 1,000 residents** and about **743 residents per park,** outperforming national medians and remaining projected to provide about **15.36 acres per 1,000 residents by 2046** with planned park development. Liberty Lake's parks and open space network will continue to provide adequate capacity to serve future population growth.

Current and Future Level of Service Results

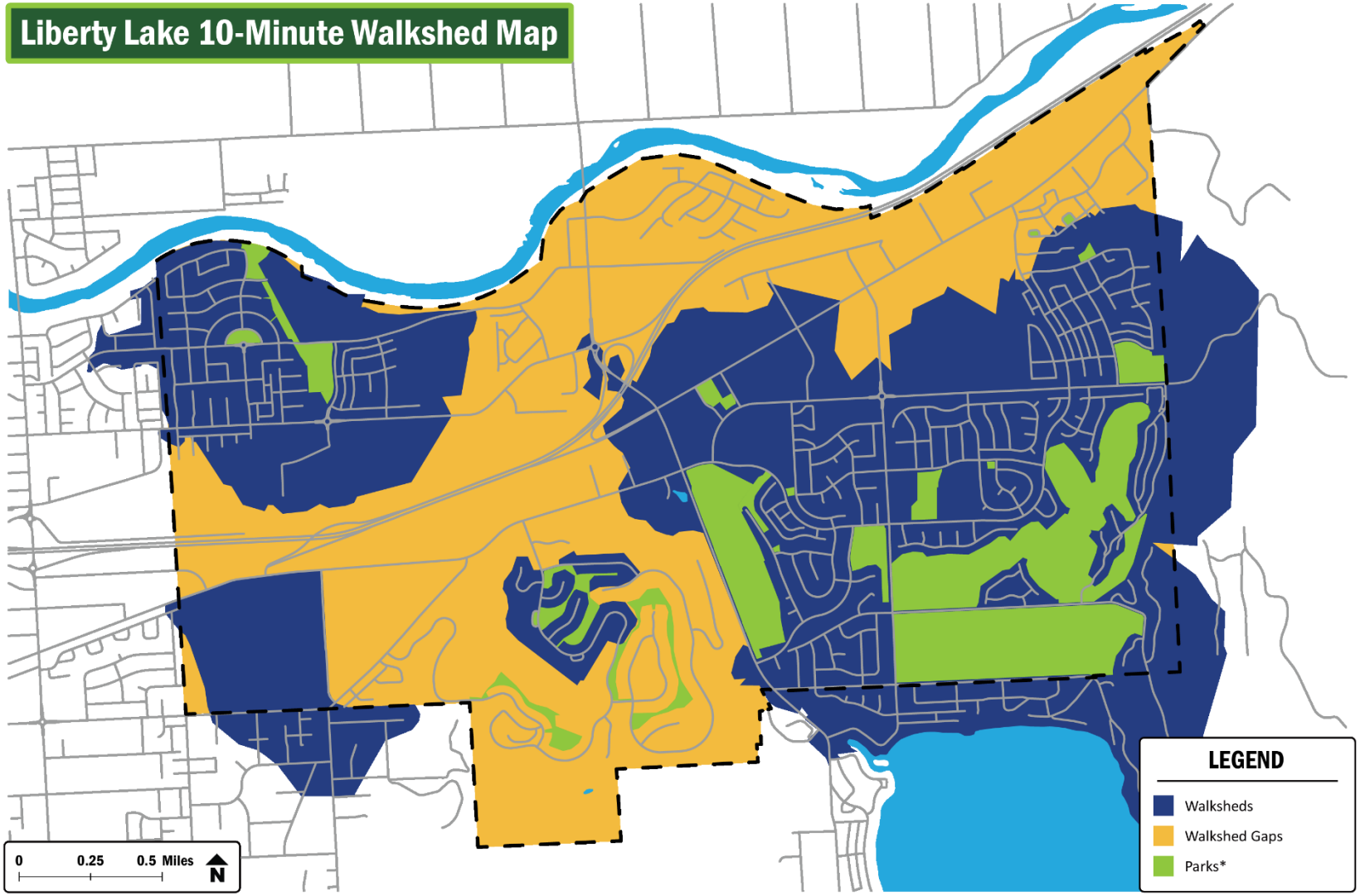
Metric	NRPA Median / Target	Current LOS (2025)	Future LOS (2046)	Future LOS + Planned Parks	Recommended LOS	Current Need?	Future Need?
A. Systemwide Park Metrics							
Total Parkland (acres per 1,000 residents)	10.9 acres / 1,000 pop.	22.59 acres/ 1,000 pop.	14.53 acres/ 1,000 pop.	15.36 acres / 1,000 pop.	10 acres / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target
Residents Per Park	1,001 pop. / park	743 pop./ park	1,154 pop./ park	914 pop./ park	1,000 pop. / park	Meets Target	Conditionally Meets Target
B. Level of Service by Park Classification							
Community Parks	5 acres / 1,000 pop.	2.76	1.78	2.23	2.75 acres / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Unmet Need
Neighborhood Parks	1 acres / 1,000 pop.	1.68	1.08	1.25	1 acre / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target
Open Space and Natural Areas	5 acres / 1,000 pop.	12.64	8.13	8.13	5 acres / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target
Trails (miles per 1,000 resident)	0.25 miles / 1,000 pop.	0.67	0.43	0.47*	0.25 miles / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target

** Includes planned Appleway Trail Extension (CFP Project TP-23).*

Liberty Lake generally has the right mix of parks to meet current needs, but **future success will depend on how planned parks are developed and classified, and how amenities are distributed across the system.** Strategic use of park classification, facility programming, and expansion opportunities, such as at Town Square Park, offers a means to improve system performance and better align park types with evolving community needs.

More than 75% of residents live within a ½-mile of a park, yet **approximately 11% of the population remains outside a 10-minute walkshed,** particularly in developing northern and southwestern neighborhoods (*refer to The "10–Minute Walk Metric", Page 144, for more information*).

Liberty Lake 10-Minute Walkshed Map



** Parks include City-owned, HOA-owned, and golf courses.*

Goals and Objectives

The goals, objectives, and actions consider how the Parks and Recreation Master Plan aligns with the City's broader Comprehensive Plan. Policies from the Land Use, Urban Design, Transportation, Natural Environment, Capital Facilities, and Cultural Resources elements are referenced to ensure that parks and recreation planning supports community growth, environmental stewardship, multimodal transportation, and civic identity. By linking park goals with these broader planning elements, the plan reinforces an integrated approach in which parks, trails, open spaces, and cultural resources contribute to Liberty Lake's overall quality of life and long-term community vision. The following topics are expanded on within the policy framework that guides how Liberty Lake will steward its parks, trails, recreation programs, open spaces, and public art resources over time (*refer to Chapter 6: Goals & Objectives, beginning on Page 169, for more information*).



Trails and Connectivity: The city will focus on developing an interconnected system of multipurpose trails that links neighborhoods, parks, schools, workplaces, and regional destinations while supporting safe and accessible non-motorized travel. The city will consider identifying potential trail corridors, preparing and maintaining a recreational trail enhancement program, and coordinating with regional partners to expand and improve the trail network.



Equity and Accessibility: The city will ensure that parks and recreation opportunities are accessible to all residents and are responsive to a wide range of community needs, including maintaining access to parks within a ten-minute walk of residential areas. The city will focus on incorporating accessibility considerations into park development and improvements and using community input and program feedback to guide recreation programming decisions.



Level of Service: Park acreage and access standards are established to guide park development, promote the preservation of open space and greenways, and inform long-term system planning as the city grows. Actions include identifying land acquisition opportunities, monitoring open space availability, coordinating partnerships to expand recreation opportunities, and ensuring parks and programs are developed in alignment with adopted plans and service standards.



Management and Maintenance: The city will prioritize maintaining and improving existing parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces while ensuring the system continues to meet current and future community needs. The city will focus on exploring innovative approaches to maintaining facilities, funding improvements, and supporting efficient management of recreation programs and services.



Public Art: The city supports the development and stewardship of a public art collection that reflects Liberty Lake's cultural identity and enhances public spaces. The city will emphasize pursuing grants and partnerships, identifying sites for permanent installations, engaging the community in art selection, and ensuring ongoing maintenance of public art assets.

Capital Improvement Projects

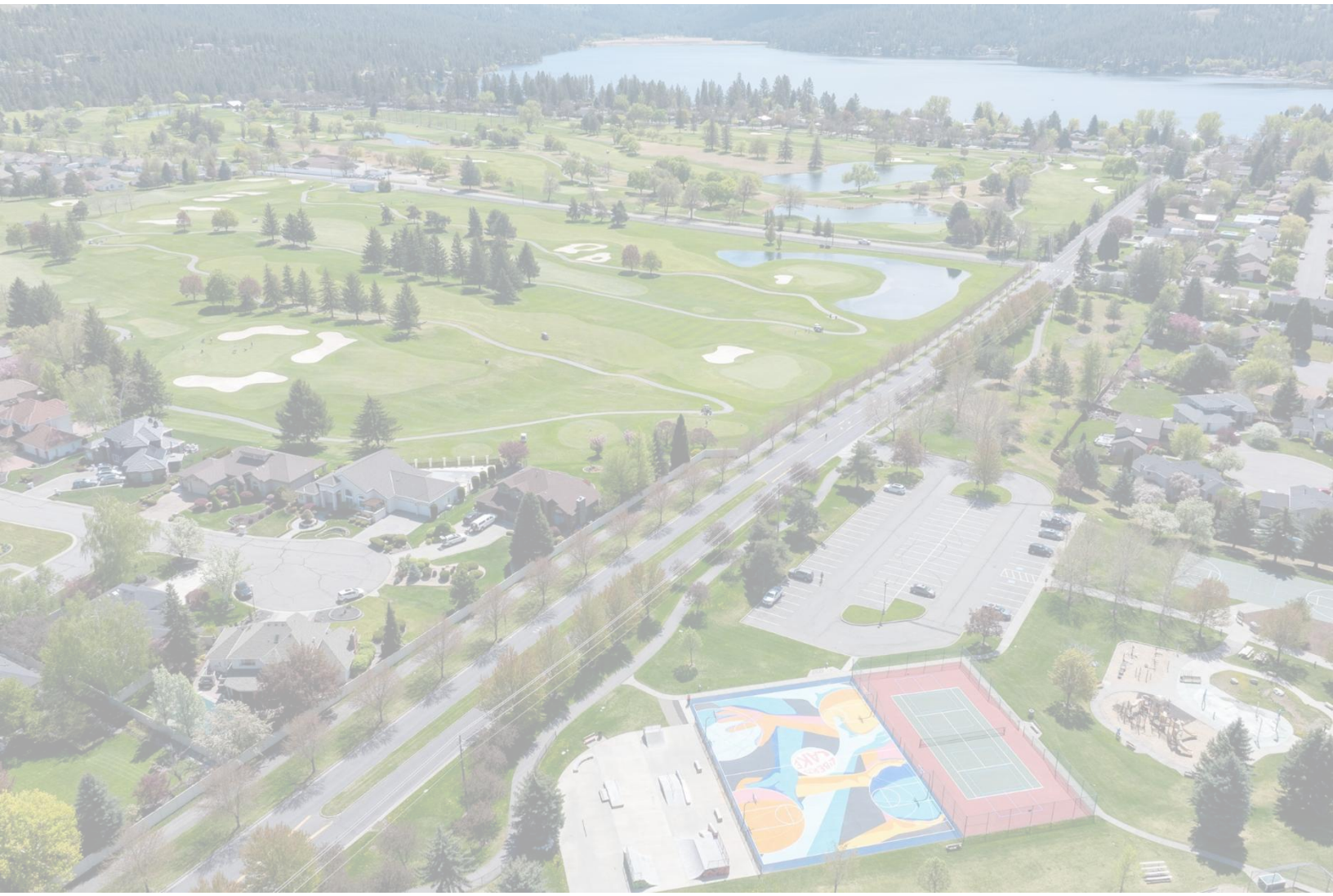
In the short term, Liberty Lake will prioritize the following projects during the **next 1 to 6 years:**

Icon	Short-Term Projects (2026-2031)
	Complete a feasibility or site planning study to evaluate potential locations, costs, and operational considerations for a future community pool.
	Undertake a feasibility study to assess the need, scope, and potential locations for either a recreation, community, or senior center to serve Liberty Lake residents.
	Playground improvements, including replacement of the playground at Pavillion Park and installation of shade structures at Orchard Park and Pavillion Park.
	Water play area improvements through replacement of the splash pad at Pavillion Park.
	Tree canopy enhancements at Orchard Park and Pavillion Park.
	Infrastructure improvements at Orchard Park through installation of electrical power to the north and south park shelters.
	Facility additions at Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum, including construction of restrooms and development of a new gazebo or shade structure to support visitor comfort and evens.
	Development of new public art installations throughout the park system as part of the City's Parks and Arts program.

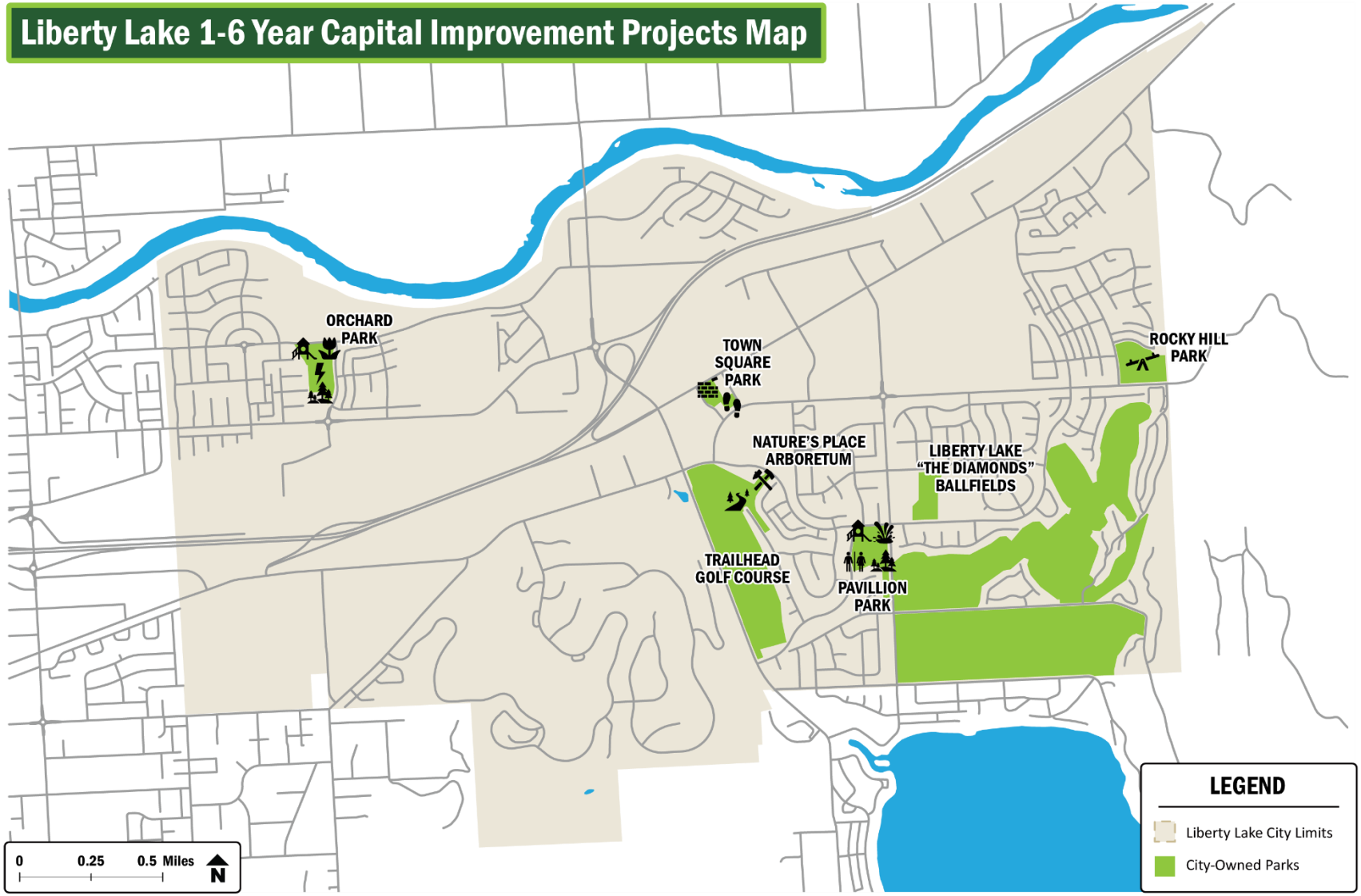
Longer range projects completed over the **next 6-12 years** will further enhance the parks system in response to community needs:

Icon	Long-Term Projects (2031-2036)
	Restroom facility upgrades at Pavillion Park to support year-round use of the park.
	A new community garden at Orchard Park to expand opportunities for community gathering and local food production.
	Major recreational additions at Rocky Hill Park, including replacement of the existing playground with inclusive play equipment and development of a new splash pad.

	Full development of Town Square Park consistent with the adopted master plan, including completion of key park features and supporting infrastructure.
	Pedestrian connectivity improvements near Town Square Park through completion of sidewalks along N Signal Drive and N MeadowWood Lane within the public right-of-way.
	Trail and accessibility improvements at Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum through paving of walking path surfaces.
	Future open space and community park development to maintain the City's target level of service of 2.75 acres of community parks per 1,000 residents, which will require approximately 11.5 additional acres of community parkland by 2046 as the community grows.



Liberty Lake 1-6 Year Capital Improvement Projects Map





1 Plan Overview



Introduction & Purpose

Introduction

Welcome to the City of Liberty Lake's Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This intentionally dynamic document is crafted to meet the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA) and maintain the city's eligibility for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) funding, along with other potential funding sources, over the next six years and beyond. This document provides a comprehensive overview and assessment of the City's parks and recreation areas, recreational offerings, and public art. It captures the community's recreational needs and preferences through surveys, public outreach initiatives, and online tools. Furthermore, the Master Plan establishes a vision, sets planning goals, and evaluates the current level of service offered by the existing mix of city parks and open spaces.

Purpose

The City of Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a forward-looking and community-focused initiative designed to guide the future planning of parks, recreation, open space, and trails in the area. As the city experiences growth and evolving community needs, this plan provides a comprehensive framework for meeting parks and programming level of service gaps and enhancing access to quality, in-demand recreational amenities and natural open spaces.

At its core, the Master Plan reflects a shared commitment among the City of Liberty Lake and its partners to invest in the health, well-being, and quality of life of all residents. The plan integrates local values with best practices in park and trail development, placemaking, and community engagement.

Drawing from extensive public input, demographic analysis, and environmental context, the Master Plan outlines key goals, strategies, and priority projects designed to create a more connected, resilient, and inclusive system of public spaces. Whether it's enhancing neighborhood parks, expanding multi-use trails, protecting habitat areas, or developing a potential recreation center, this plan serves as a roadmap for thoughtful, equitable growth and environmental stewardship, ensuring long-term community resilience and livability.



Vision & Values

Vision

"The City of Liberty Lake creates spaces where the community is welcomed to gather, play, and connect."

Values

Liberty Lake will offer a **connected and inclusive parks and recreation system** that celebrates community, nature, and its heritage.

By providing vibrant and safe spaces for play, wellness, and gathering, the city will foster **civic pride and stewardship**.

The City strives to **preserve green spaces** that sustain Liberty Lake's character and quality of life for generations to come.





Regulatory Requirements

Growth Management Act Requirements

The State of Washington, under RCW 36.70A.070 'Comprehensive Plans - Mandatory Elements', outlines the components that each city's comprehensive plan must include, stating the plan "shall consist of a map or maps, and descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards used to develop the comprehensive plan. The plan shall be an internally consistent document, and all elements shall be consistent with the future land use map. A comprehensive plan shall be adopted and amended with public participation as provided in RCW 36.70A.140.

Each comprehensive plan shall include a plan, scheme, or design for each of the following (with emphasis on the parks and recreation element in bold, italicized text):

1) A land use element designating the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the uses of land, where appropriate, for agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, general aviation airports, public utilities, public facilities, and other land uses.
2) A housing element ensuring the vitality and character of established residential neighborhoods.
3) A capital facilities plan element consisting of an inventory of existing capital elements, forecasts of future needs, proposed locations and capacities, a six-year financing plan, and a requirement to reassess if probable funding falls short of meeting existing needs. Park and recreation facilities shall be included in the capital facilities plan element.
4) A utilities element consisting of the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities.
5) Rural element including lands that are not designated for urban growth, agriculture, forest, or mineral resources.
6) A transportation element that implements, and is consistent with, the land use element.
7) An economic development element establishing local goals, policies, objectives, and provisions for economic growth and vitality and a high quality of life. A city that has chosen to be a residential community is exempt from the economic development element requirement of this subsection.
8) ***A park and recreation element that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. The element shall include:***
    a) ***Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period;***
    b) ***an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and***
    c) ***an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.***

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Requirements

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is a state agency that manages several grant programs to create outdoor recreation opportunities, protect the best of the state's wildlife habitat and farmland, and help return salmon from near extinction. To be eligible to apply for specific grant funding programs, a municipality or agency must have adopted a recreation or conservation plan before applying for a grant, and plans must meet specified requirements. The methodology, organization, and content of this PROST plan addresses the critical RCO eligibility guidelines.

City of Liberty Lake Requirements

The recommendations for improvements detailed in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan align with the City of Liberty Lake's Comprehensive Plan and Municipal Code.

The Liberty Lake Municipal Code includes provisions related to parks, recreation, and open space. Parks & Recreation facilities and uses such as athletic fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, nature resource preservation areas, and outdoor swimming facilities are permitted uses in all zones. Recreational exercise facilities are permitted in the Mixed-Use zones (M-1, M-2, and M-3); Commercial zones (C-1 and C-2); and the Industrial zone, with additional limited use in areas zoned as "Open Space" if the facility complies with the development standards of the "Open Space" zone. Community center facilities are permitted or granted limited use in all zones but the Industrial zone. Liberty Lake has two Special Area Plan Overlay District where parks and community centers are fully permitted, and recreational exercise facilities are also allowed. Liberty Lake's development code Article 10-2B-1E and 10-2C-1E specifies that development standards within the single family and mixed residential districts are based on the principle of providing direct and convenient access to schools, parks, and neighborhood services. In other words, development standards within Liberty Lake are intended to produce a park system with sufficient parklands to serve the entire city, connected by a safe, accessible, and multimodal bicycle lane and sidewalk network.

Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Master Plan informs the 6-year and 20-year Capital Improvement Plans (CIP), plans which further inform the City's near-term and long-term budgeting, procurement, and construction needs. The recommendations in this plan are also flexible and provisional to allow for unforeseen future opportunities that may arise during this plan's performance period.



Process

While RCO has no specific requirements for the number of pages, number of chapters, or format for comprehensive parks plans, it is expected that the plan will capture the needs of the organization and, more importantly, the quality of life desired by the community.

The process used to develop the City of Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Master Plan is modeled after elements noted in RCO Manual 2: Planning Policies & Guidelines. Whether this plan supports a grant application for a capital project (facility development and land acquisition) or a non-capital project (architectural, engineering, planning, etc.,) the organization of this plan and the process followed is purposefully designed to capture the elements expected by RCO.

Aside from this, the first section, the project overview, this plan is structured around six primary sections or elements needed for an effective comprehensive parks plan:

Community Context

This chapter provides the background context of who lives in Liberty Lake and establishes a future population forecast for later estimates of parks and recreation demands. Comparisons are drawn between the city's demographics compared to the county and state to identify higher need groups which ought to be considered in the parks master planning process.

Inventory & Assessment

This chapter details the physical spaces and assets in and around Liberty Lake, establishing the current condition of parks, facilities, and recreational infrastructure, along with a preliminary tree canopy assessment. The chapter also inventories recreational programming and public art, documenting the range of activities, events, and cultural assets offered by the city and its partners and comparing them to peer communities. Finally, it describes regional parks, trails, and recreation amenities that complement the local system and expand access to nature-based and destination recreation opportunities.

Public Involvement

This chapter describes how the Liberty Lake Parks and Recreation Master Plan planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in plan development and adoption.

Demand and Needs Analysis

This chapter presents an evaluation of park, recreation, and open space demands in Liberty Lake using a combination of quantitative metrics, qualitative input, and comparative benchmarking. It outlines the analytical framework used to assess level of service, including park acreage, facility distribution, walkable access, and trail and sidewalk connectivity, and describes how these measures are informed by national standards and peer community comparisons.

The chapter also documents recreation trends, community preferences, and projected population growth to frame future demand scenarios, and includes an assessment of park access, equity, and non-motorized connectivity through mapping and network analysis. Together, these components establish the basis for identifying future park, facility, and infrastructure needs and informing long-range planning and investment decisions.

Goals and Objectives

The plan must support Liberty Lake's park and recreation mission, including the current project, with broad statements of intent, or goals that capture a community's desired outdoor recreation resources.

Capital Improvement Program

This chapter identifies and prioritizes recommended capital projects to address current deficiencies, accommodate future demand, and guide investment in Liberty Lake's parks, recreation facilities, and trails over the planning horizon.

Plan Adoption

This section outlines the formal review and adoption process for the Liberty Lake Parks and Recreation Master Plan, including required approvals to establish the plan as an official policy document guiding future decision-making and implementation.

Figure 1-1: Liberty Lake Parks and Recreation Master Plan - Process and Report Structure





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.

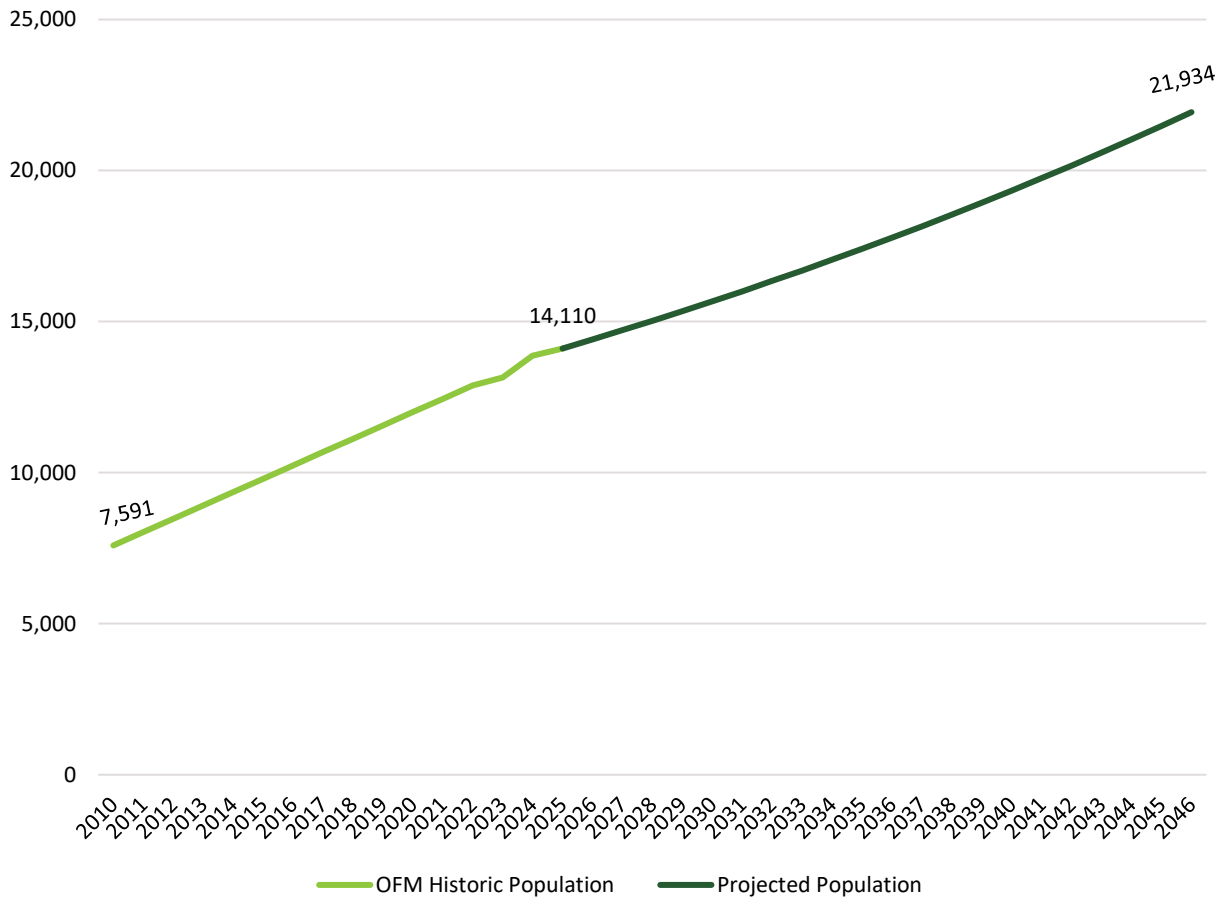
Population allocations for individual jurisdictions within the Spokane County went through a similar review and analysis, with a few hand adjustments for the very small jurisdictions where the regression analysis suggested negative growth, and that allocation was also adopted by the Board of County Commissioners 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.

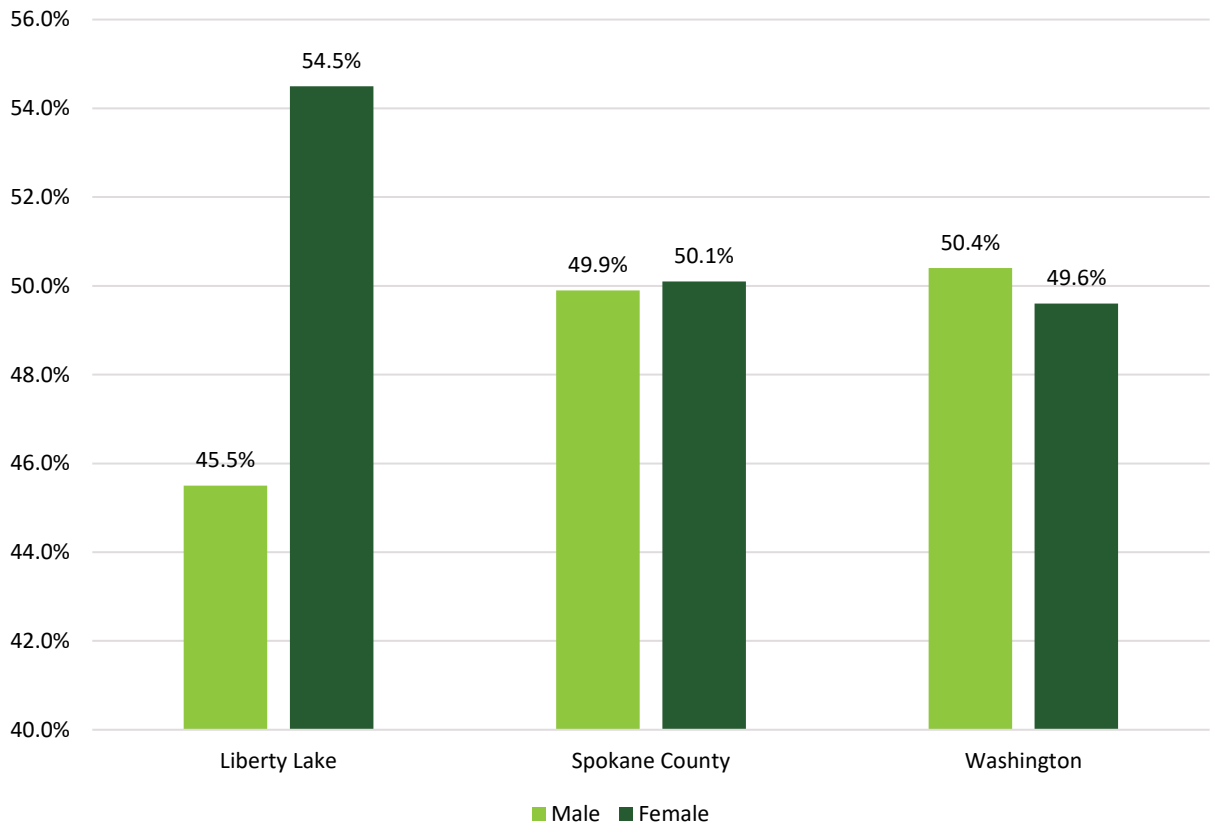
Using the OFM's medium-level projection as a baseline, Liberty Lake will grow to a population of approximately 21,934 people in the next 20 years and will need to accommodate 7,824 new residents by 2046.

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.

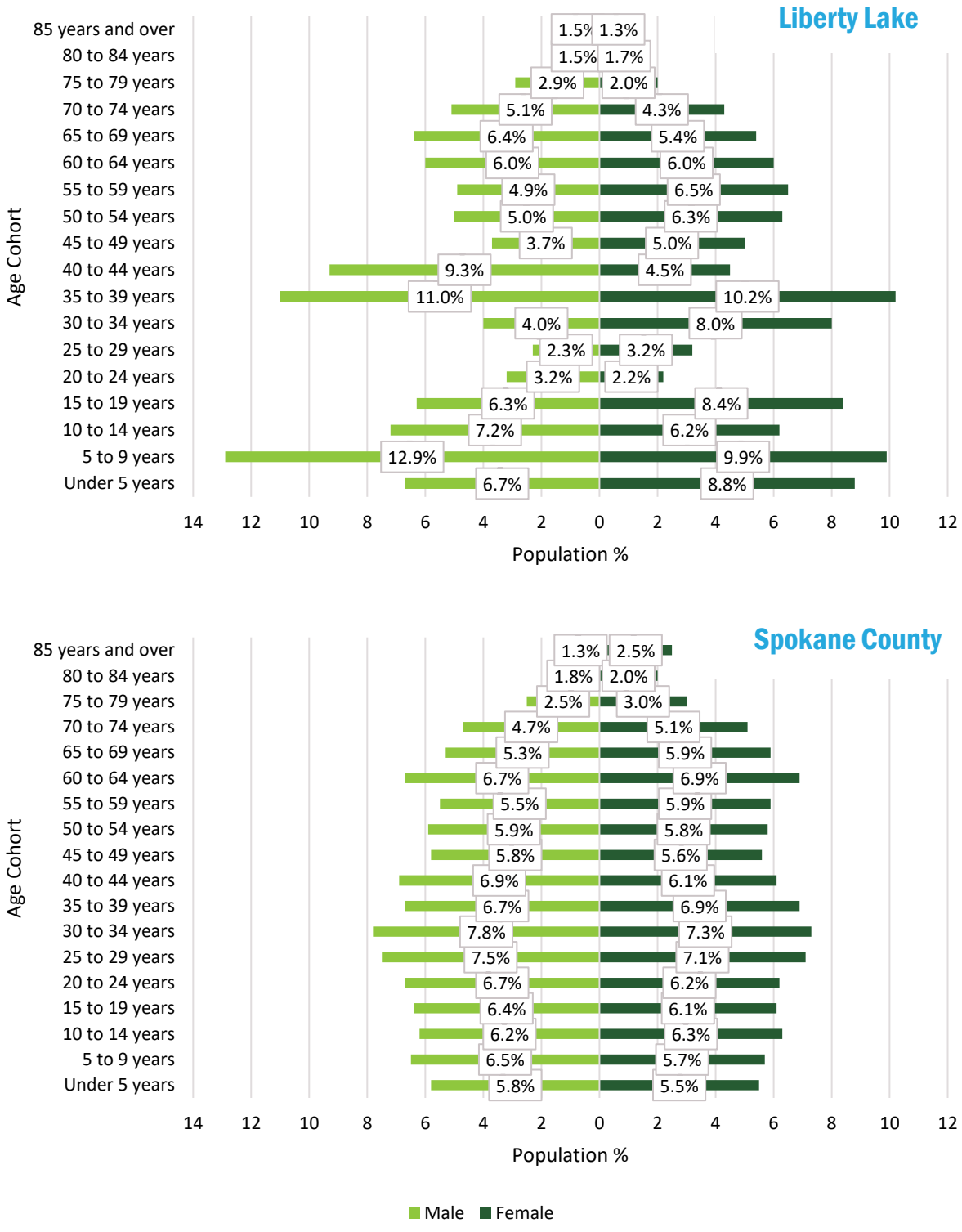
Table 2-5: Liberty Lake Notable Age Cohort Distribution in 2023

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.

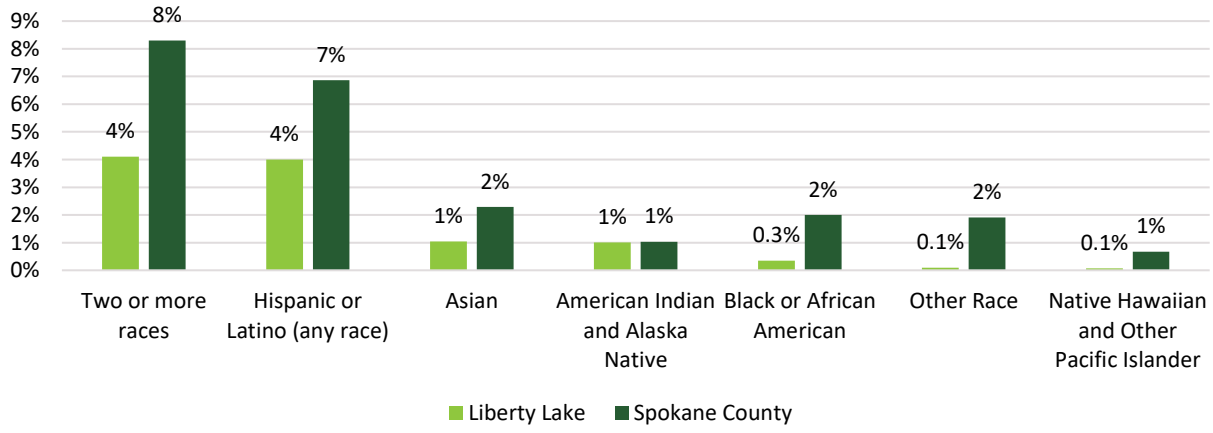
Race and Ethnicity

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

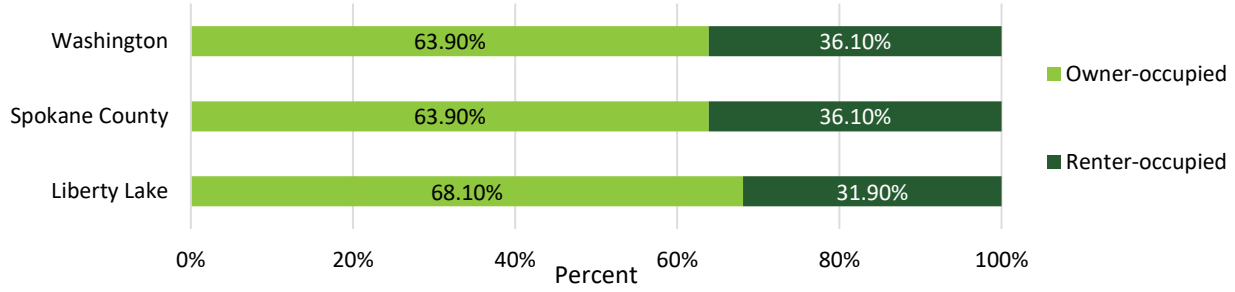
Housing Type	2025 Liberty Lake # of Units	2025 Liberty Lake %	2025 Spokane Valley %	2025 Spokane County %
1-unit, attached & detached	3,976	67.4%	58.4%	64.5%
2 or more units	1,793	30.4%	38.1%	29.5%
Mobile homes and specials	133	2.3%	3.5%	6.0%
Total	5,902	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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

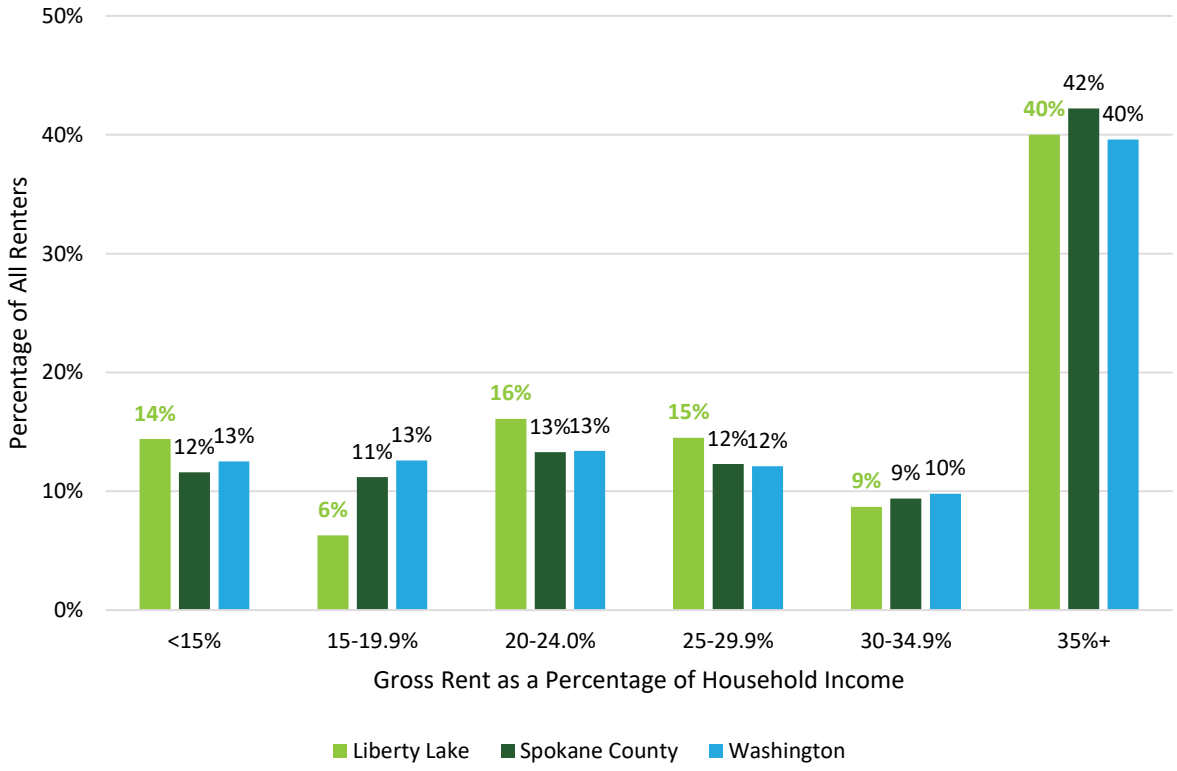
The median rent in Liberty Lake was $1,782 per month in 2023, which was higher than the median costs in both Spokane County ($1,200/mo) and Washington State ($1,682/mo). Table 2-13 shows a breakdown of what people are paying for rent in Liberty Lake's occupied units. Rents are priced at a higher cost 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

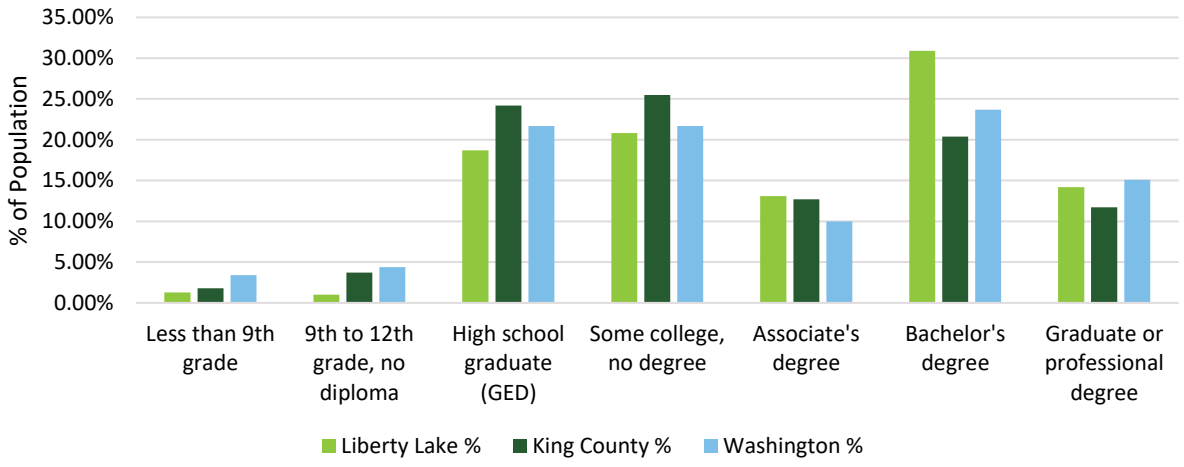
Liberty Lake exhibits higher educational attainment averages than either Spokane County or Washington State. Approximately 97.8% of City residents ages 25 and older have a high school diploma or higher. About 45.2% of Liberty Lake residents ages 25 and older have a bachelor's degree or graduate/professional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

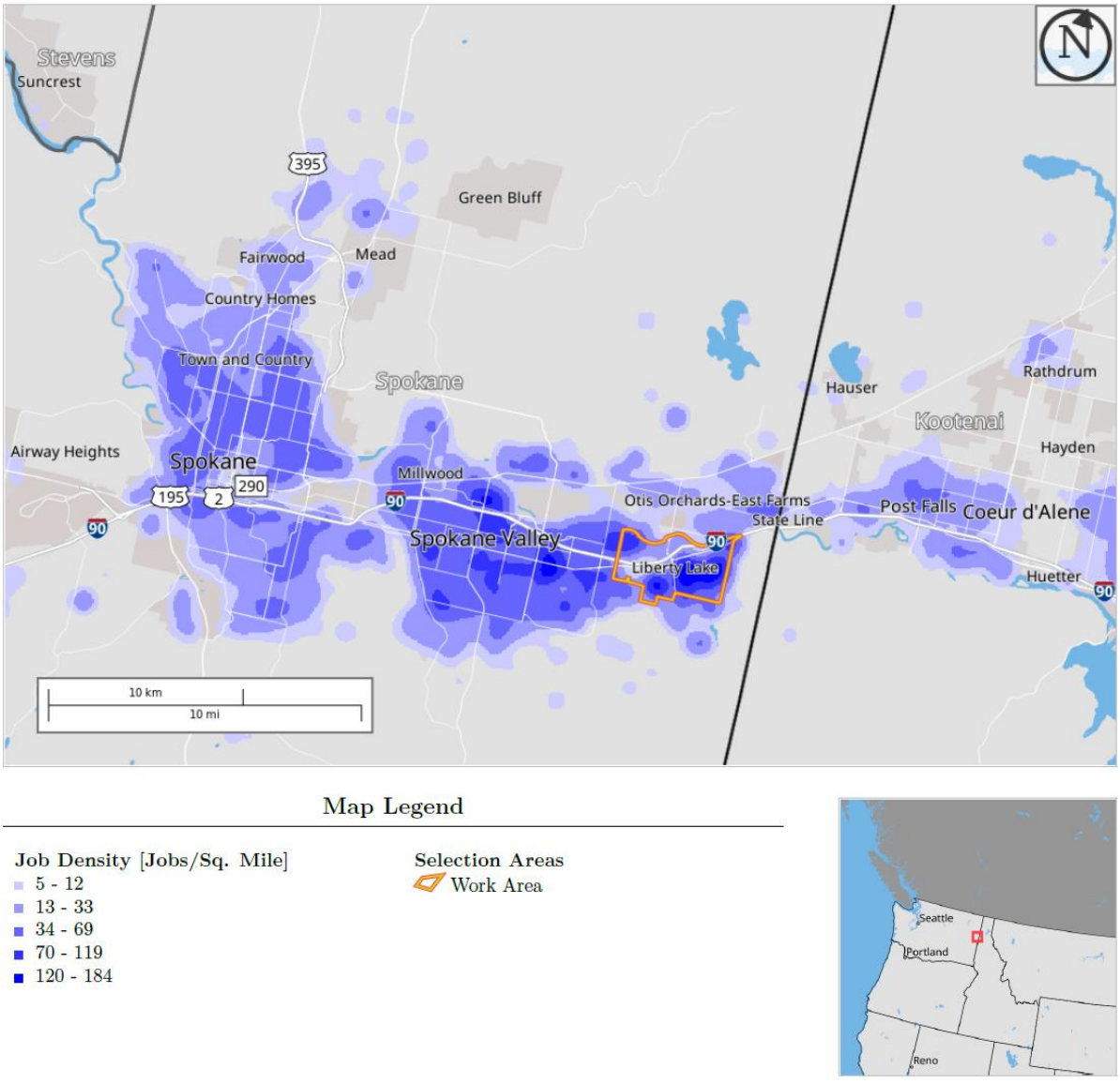


Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates, US Census OnTheMap.

Employment Locations

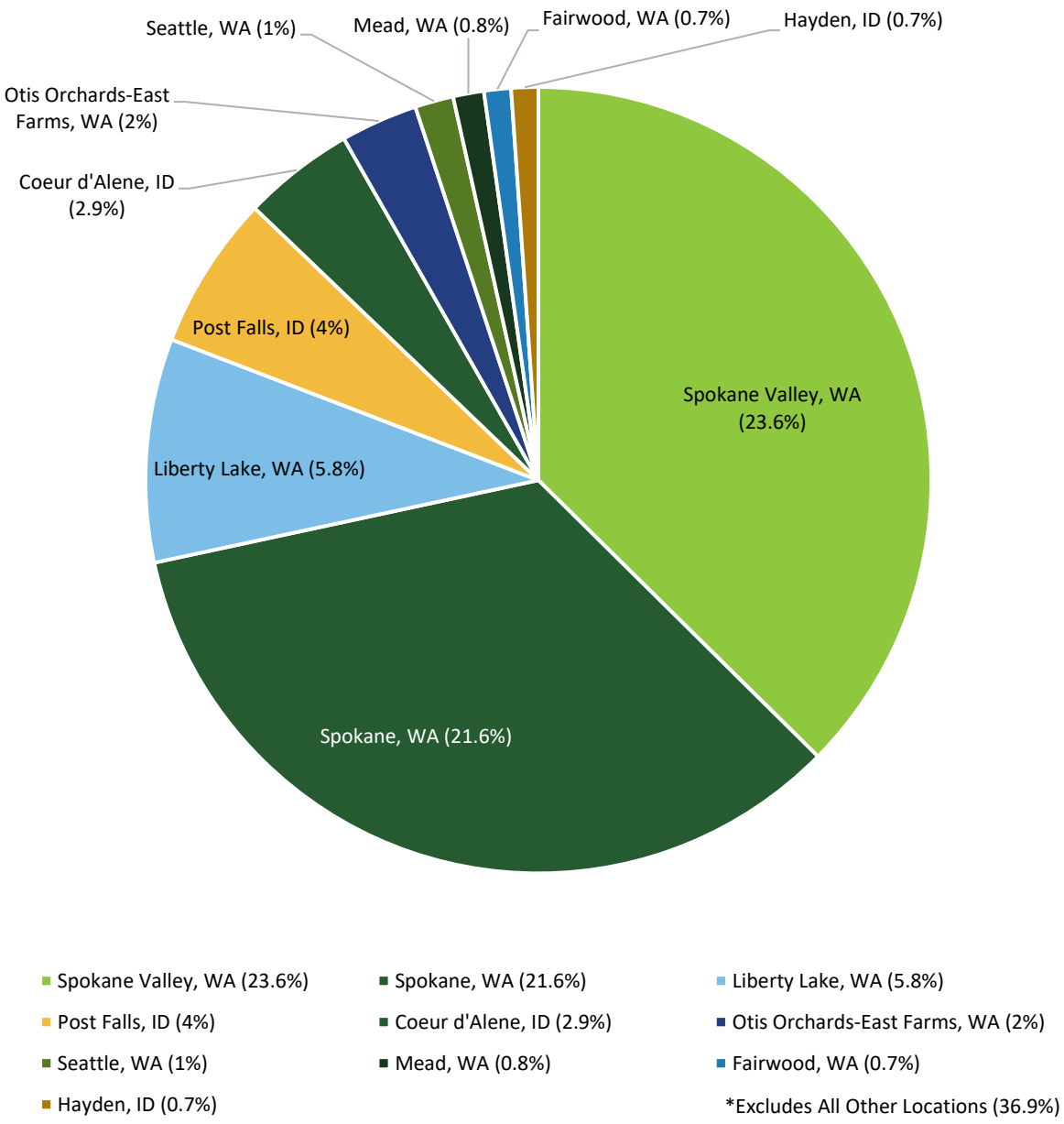
Figure 2-9 shows a thermal map of where Liberty Lake residents are employed. According to the OnTheMap visualization, job locations are most concentrated in Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley, with lower concentrations spatially distributed throughout the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene metropolitan area. The top 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)

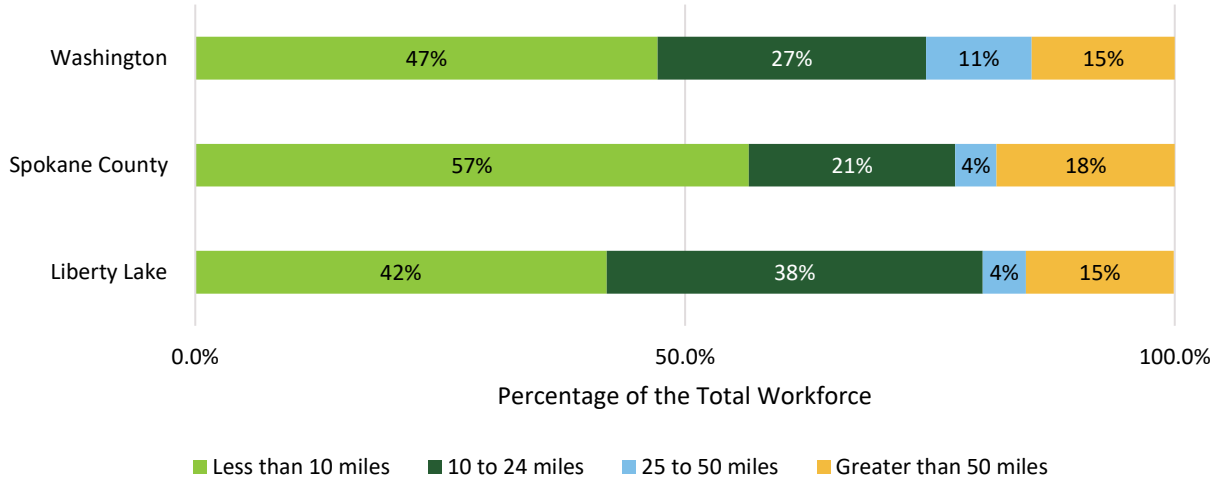


Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates, US Census OnTheMap.

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

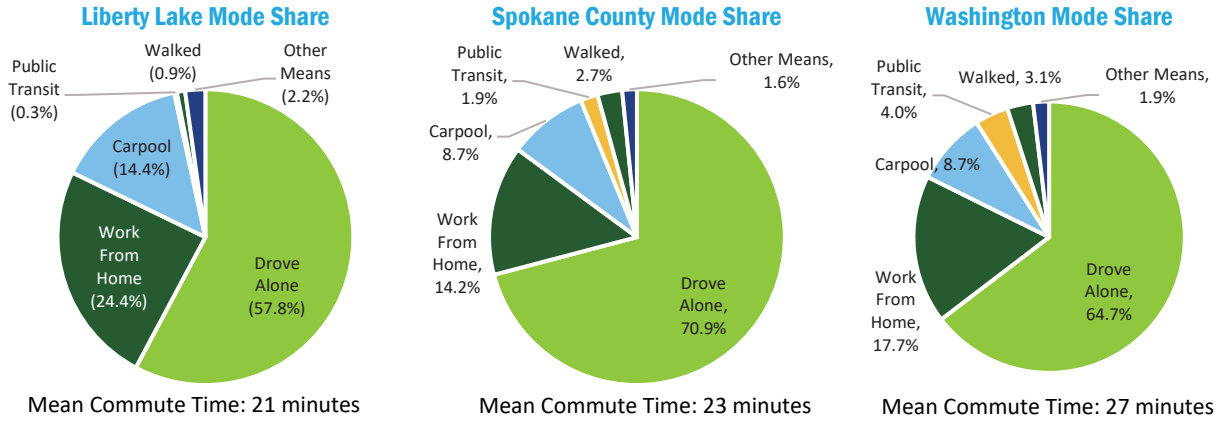


Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates, US Census OnTheMap.

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

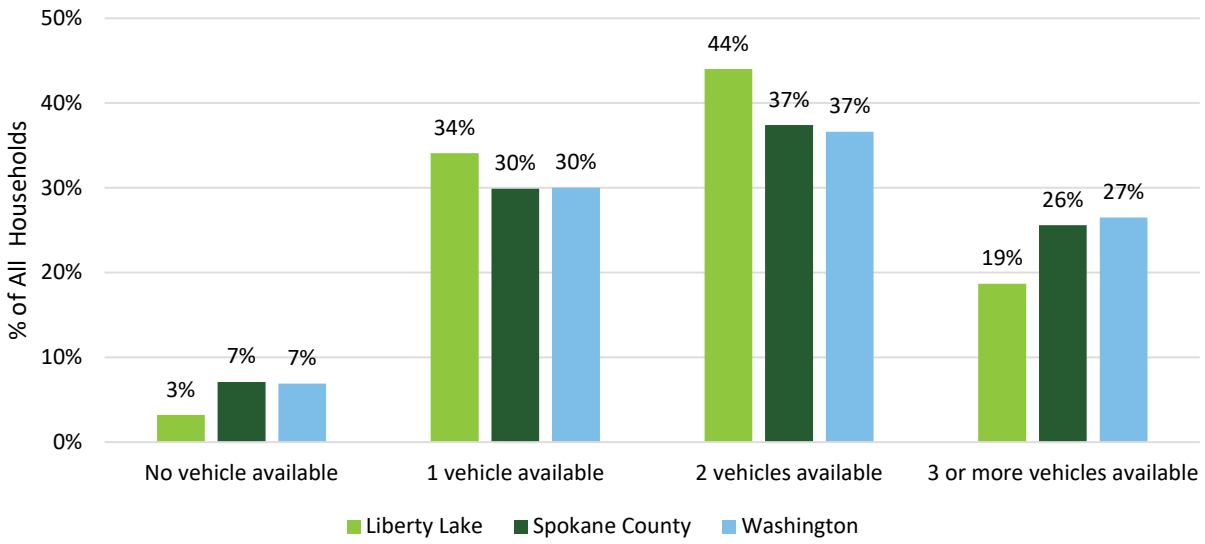


Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, Table S0801.

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.





3 Inventory & Assessment



Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities

The City of Liberty Lake provides a variety of park spaces, recreational opportunities, and large community events for its residents and visitors. The City has focused on developing the parks system to suit the community's needs and values of expanded access and opportunities, environmental protection, and well-maintained facilities. In total, Liberty Lakes parks system includes over 80 acres of community and neighborhood parks and recreational fields, as well as a 9-hole golf course and driving range with a modern clubhouse and pro shop. Approximately 35 miles of sidewalks and trails and 20 miles of bike lanes add connections to the system.

This section catalogues and assesses the current conditions of all publicly accessible park spaces and facilities. It identifies the assets that the City of Liberty Lake currently owns, manages, and/or maintains, and evaluates them to identify whether they meet or exceed park development standards and safety criteria, or pose liability and risk concerns. A list and description of existing recreational programming offered by the city or through its partners is then compared with programming that is offered by communities of a similar population. The Liberty Lake Parks and Recreation department may then identify which programs it offers that are less commonly available in other communities and which ones are not available in Liberty Lake, but which are more prevalent elsewhere.

Process

The following steps were executed to capture the institutional knowledge of City staff, while allowing the consultant team to observe and assess each park and trail component:

1) **Inventory and build maps** of the existing parks.
2) **Develop a detailed inventory of each park** from the previous planning process, geospatial sources, and city asset management resources.
3) **Perform site tours and field investigations.**
4) **Update each park map and inventory form.**
5) **Assigning an assessment rating** for each park element or category. The overall park assessment was an average of the available individual assessments.



Parks Classifications

Classification systems provide a standardized method to develop, organize, operate, and manage parks based on certain criteria, which can include factors such as their size, ecological importance, recreational opportunities provided, historical or cultural significance, placemaking potential, economic development, and ability to support conservation & climate resiliency goals.

The Liberty Lake parks system facilities may be classified into five types which are typically used by municipalities of a similar size. The following definitions are based upon the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office and Washington State Parks guidelines.

Neighborhood Park

- **Typical Size:** Less than 10 Acres.
- **Existing Neighborhood Parks:** River Rock Park, Half Moon Park, Little Bear Park, Five Fingers Park, Pumphouse Park, Blueridge Ave Park, Harrier Lane Park, Osprey Lane Park, Legacy Ridge Parks.

Neighborhood parks are generally considered the basic unit of traditional park systems. They are small park areas designed for unstructured play and limited active and passive recreation. They are intended to serve residential areas within short walking distance (up to a ½-mile radius) of the park and are geographically distributed throughout the residential areas of Liberty Lake. The developed neighborhood parks include amenities such as pedestrian paths, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, a multi-use open field for youth soccer and baseball, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas, and landscaping and irrigation. Liberty Lake's neighborhood parks are accessible from the surrounding neighborhood and are too small to have off-street parking. Some have restroom facilities available.

Community Park

- **Typical Size:** Greater than 10 Acres.
- **Existing Community Parks:** Orchard Park, Pavillion Park, Rocky Hill Park.

Community parks are larger sites developed for organized play, contain a wider array of facilities and, as a result, appeal to a more diverse group of users. They are often more activated than neighborhood parks, including amenities such as athletic fields and sport courts, large play areas, internal trail networks and some specialized uses such as Pavillion Park's skate park and stage pavilion. These parks meet the needs of an entire local community by serving a larger area and offering more facilities than neighborhood parks. As they serve a larger area and host regional events, parking and restroom facilities are provided.

Special Use Park

- **Size:** Varies depending on use.
- **Existing Special Use Parks:** Town Square Park, Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum, Liberty Lake "The Diamonds" Ballfields, Trailhead Golf Course, Meadow Wood Golf Course, Liberty Lake Golf Course.

Special facilities include single-purpose recreational areas such as skateparks and display gardens, along with indoor community recreation centers and public plazas in or near the downtown core. Additionally, publicly accessible sport fields and play areas of public schools are classified as special facilities; while they often serve as proxies to public parks, school sites have restricted daytime access and offer limited recreational use during non-school hours. No standards based on acreage are proposed concerning special facilities, since facility size is a function of the specific use.

Natural Area (or Nature Parks)

- **Existing Natural Areas:** Liberty Lake Conservation Area, Mackenzie Natural Area, Saltese Uplands Conservation Area.

Natural areas are preserved to maintain the ecological integrity and natural character of a site, with management practices focused on protecting critical ecosystems such as riparian corridors, wetlands, and upland forests. These areas support biodiversity by preserving native habitat and providing essential fish and wildlife refuge. To minimize environmental impact, recreational use is generally limited to low-impact activities such as walking, nature observation, and fishing, with horseback riding permitted in designated locations. Site management prioritizes ecological restoration, habitat conservation, and long-term environmental stewardship.

Trails, Bikeways, and Pathways

Trails are non-motorized transportation networks separated from roads. Trails can be developed to accommodate multiple uses or shared uses, such as pedestrians, in line skaters, and bicyclists. Bikeways are different than trails in that their principal focus is on safe and efficient non-motorized transportation. Bikeways & pathways serve distinctly different user groups than trail users. For shared-use trails, it is important that the alignment and cross sections be designed with flexibility to accommodate higher speeds, passing zones and greater widths. Surfaces will vary with intended use and environmental considerations.



Park System Overview

There are more than 30 parks and open spaces in and around Liberty Lake, totaling over 4,900 acres of public lands. These areas are owned and managed by a mix of entities, including the City of Liberty Lake, various Homeowners Associations (HOAs), the Spokane County and Washington State Parks systems, and the Central Valley School District.

The parks fall into several categories reflecting their size, function, and ownership. The City of Liberty Lake owns and/or co-maintains ten park areas: Three community parks: Orchard, Pavillion, and Rocky Hill; Three special use parks: Town Square Park, Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum, and Trailhead Golf Course; Three school ballfield and playground areas: "The Diamonds" ballfields, Liberty Creek Elementary field, and Liberty Lake Elementary field; and the portion of Centennial Trail State Park passing through the city. Collectively, these public areas represent over 190 acres of public recreation spaces and about nine-and-a-quarter miles of trails and paths.

Within residential neighborhoods, nine HOA-managed neighborhood pocket parks provide smaller-scale recreational spaces, totaling about 23.8 acres and two and a third miles of trails, primarily serving nearby residents.

In addition to Trailhead, the two public, fee-based Spokane County golf courses add 273.2 of premier golf facilities to the city.

Beyond city limits, the regional park system, operated mainly by Spokane County and Washington State Parks, provides the largest share of parkland—more than 4,288 acres and 20 miles of trails—including major destinations such as Liberty Lake Regional Park, Gateway Park, and the Saltese Uplands Conservation Area.

This chapter provides a detailed inventory and assessment of the city-owned parks. Regional parks and open spaces are described in the last section of the chapter.

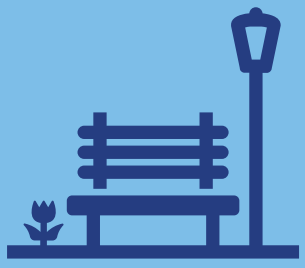
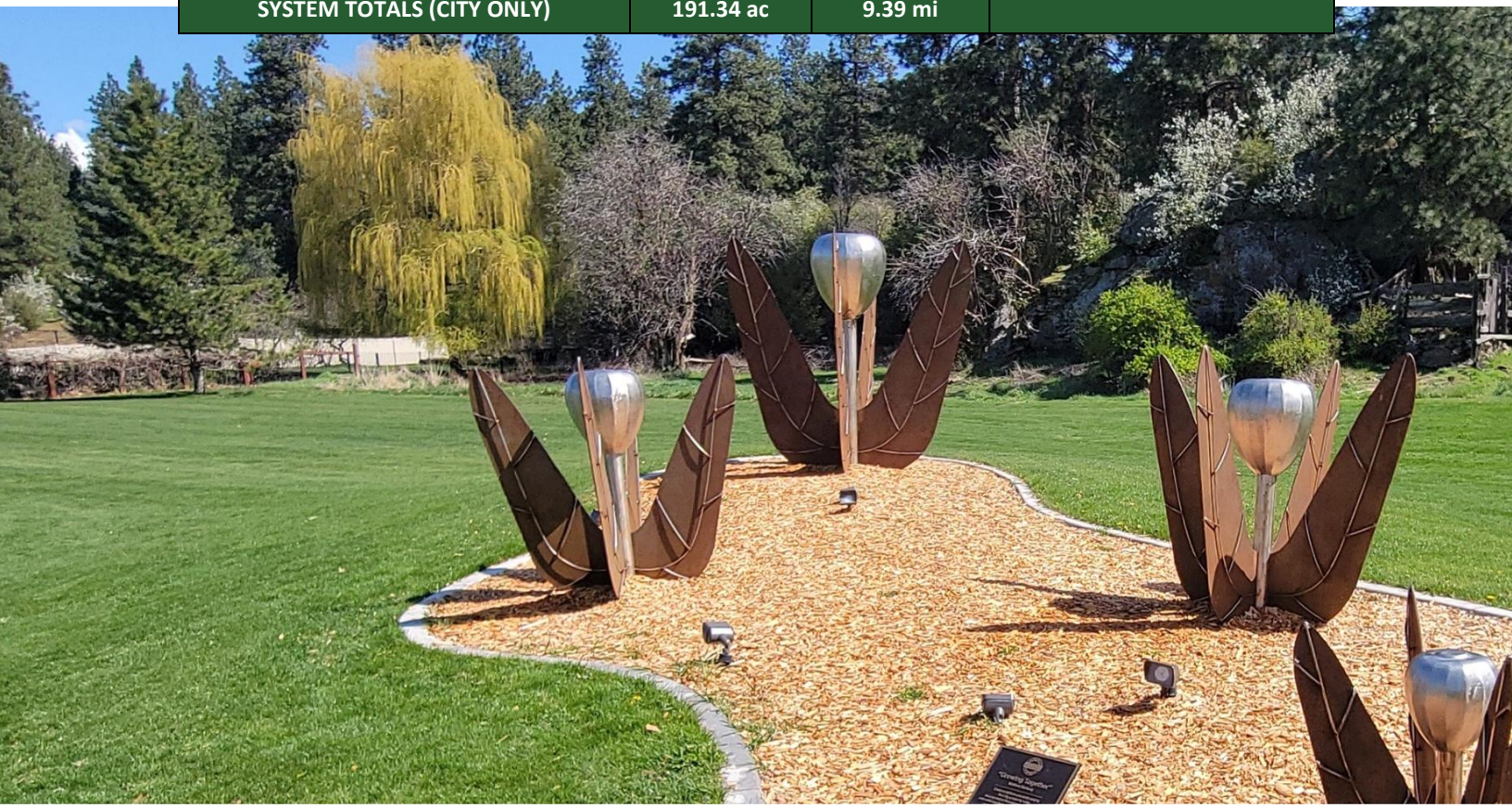


Table 3-1: Existing Parks and Open Spaces

Park	Acreage	Trail Miles	Ownership/Management
Community Parks			
Orchard Park	11.86	1.4	City
Pavillion Park	13.09	0.7	City
Rocky Hill Park	13.99	0.8	City
TOTALS	**38.94 ac**	**2.84 mi**	-
Open Spaces			
Open Spaces in the City limits	126.76 ac	0 mi	Public
Neighborhood Parks			
Blueridge Ave Park	1.27	0	HOA with public access
Five Fingers Park	0.8	0	HOA with public access
Half Moon Park	2.9	0	HOA with public access
Harrier Ln Park	0.3	0	HOA with public access
Legacy Ridge Parks (3 gated parks and trails)	12.0	1.83	HOA with public access
Little Bear Park	0.4	0	HOA with public access
Osprey Ln Park	0.6	0	HOA with public access
Pumphouse Park	0.6	0	HOA with public access
River Rock Park	4.9	0.5	HOA with public access
TOTALS	**23.77 ac**	**2.33 mi**	-
Regional Parks			
Centennial Trail (Liberty Lake segment)	51.66	2.75	Co-managed with State Parks
Gateway Conservation Area	7.0	0.3	Spokane County
Gateway Regional Park	30.0	1.09	Spokane County
Mackenzie Natural Area	110.0	2.41	Spokane County
Liberty Lake Regional Park (Day Use Park Area)	6.13	0	Spokane County
Liberty Lake Regional Park (Natural Area)	3,584.87	8.9	Spokane County
Saltese Uplands Conservation Area	606.0	7.0	Spokane County
S.C.R.A.P.S. Dog Park	3.0	0	Spokane County
TOTALS	**4,398.66 ac**	**22.45 mi**	-

School Ballfields			
Liberty Lake “The Diamonds” Ballfields	9.09	0.15	City
Liberty Creek Elementary	3.96	0	Shared-use Maintenance w/ Central Valley School District
Liberty Lake Elementary	4.97	0	Shared-use Maintenance w/ Central Valley School District
TOTALS	**18.02 ac**	**0.15 mi**	-
Special Use Parks			
Liberty Lake Golf Course	124.8	0	Spokane County
MeadowWood Golf Course	148.4	0	Spokane County
Nature's Place Arboretum	2.8	0.27	City
Town Square Park	6.3	0.25	City
Trailhead Golf Course	55.07	0.8	City
TOTALS	**337.37 ac**	**1.32 mi**	-
SYSTEM TOTALS	**4,935.77 ac**	**29.09 mi**	-
SYSTEM TOTALS (CITY ONLY)	**191.34 ac**	**9.39 mi**	





Assessment Methodology & System Map

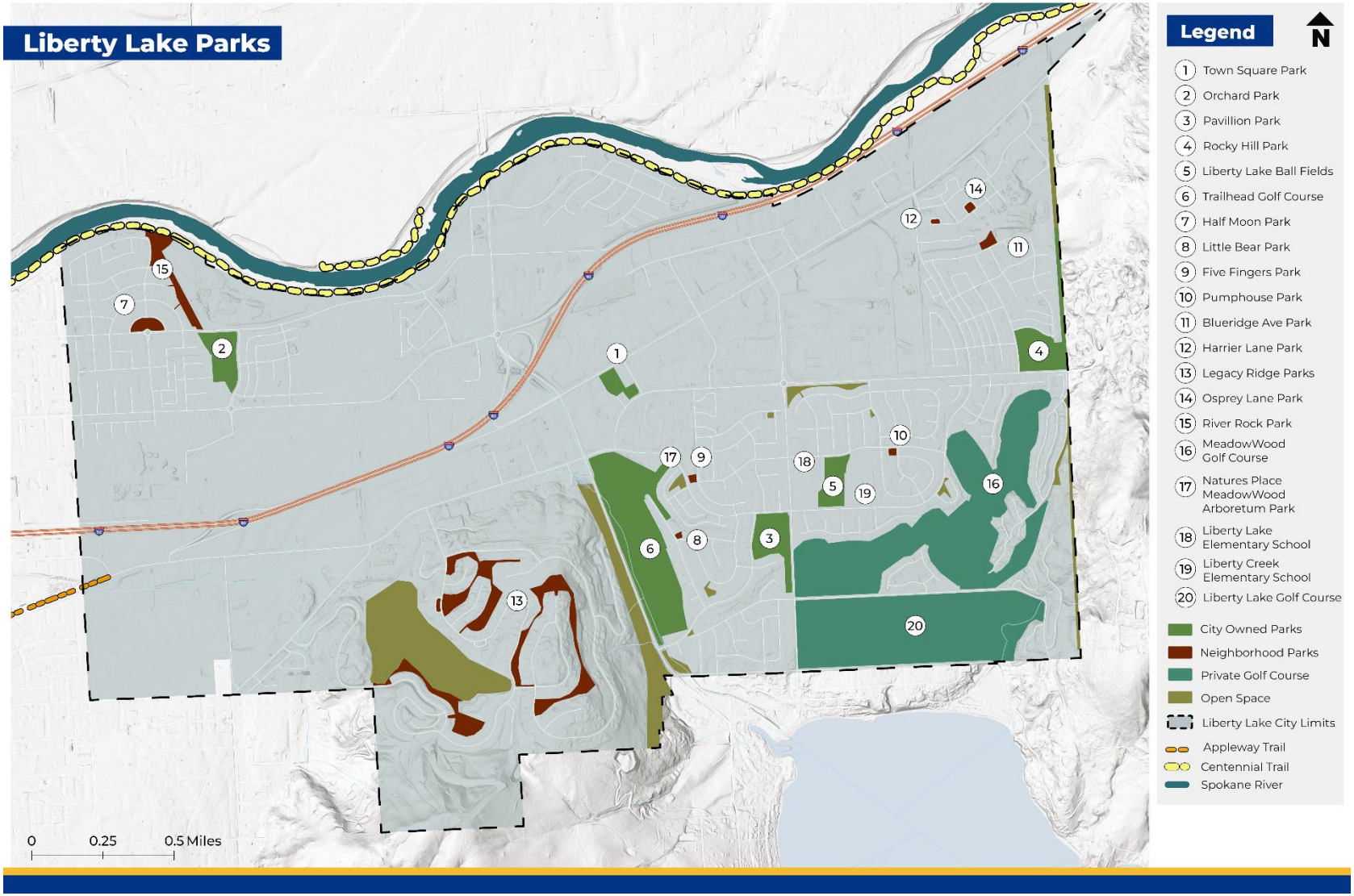
Modeled after the Recreation and Conservation Office's suggested Level of Service (LOS) grading system and NRPA's system level approach, a custom assessment methodology was applied to quantitatively rate the condition of each park's infrastructure including its amenities, recreational facilities, buildings, and parking lots, if applicable. Based on the evaluations of all the individual elements, an overall assessment for each park was calculated by averaging the individual ratings and weighting by each asset's maintenance cost. The methodology used in this report is rated on scale from 5 to 1, from high to low, across several different criteria as described in Table 3-2 below.

Table 3-2: Quantitative Rating System of Park Facility Conditions

Rating	Description
5	Perfect condition with a long-life cycle and no risk or liability issues.
4	Condition is very good with only minor cosmetic or maintenance issues observed.
3	Condition is fair with some major cosmetic or maintenance issues that create minor liability concerns.
2	Condition is poor with major structural, cosmetic, maintenance, and liability issues observed.
1	Major liability and structural failures present and imminent. Needs to be closed.



Figure 3-1: Parks System Map





Liberty Lake Park Profiles

Orchard Park

Orchard Park is a newly established community park located in the northwest area of Liberty Lake. It serves not only the River District neighborhood, but also the wider community by hosting several community events throughout the year. The approximately 12-acre park functions as a major community gathering space, hosting seasonal events, recreational programming, and informal daily use. Key amenities include a destination playground and seasonal splash pad, multi-sport courts, reservable picnic shelters, a large event pavilion, open lawn areas, and a park building with restrooms and storage facilities.

The playground is designed to reflect the local Inland Northwest landscape by incorporating custom equipment and thematic elements. Play opportunities are organized into three primary zones: a large adventure play area for children ages 5–12, a separate toddler play zone with age-appropriate equipment, and an interactive musical play area. Inclusive design features, sensory play components, communication boards, and accessible surfacing support use by children of varying abilities. Adjacent to the playground, the splash pad operates daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day (10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) and serves as a major warm-weather attraction.

Orchard Park also provides diverse recreational infrastructure beyond children's play. The site includes four tennis courts convertible to eight pickleball courts, a full-size basketball court, reservable picnic shelters, and a large pavilion suitable for community gatherings. The three reservable shelters vary in size and function: the North Shelter near the playground and splash pad receives the highest daily use; the centrally located "Depot" shelter accommodates large gatherings and includes lighting and a nearby water bottle filling station; and the South Shelter provides convenient access to parking, open lawn areas, and has a charcoal grill station.

Additional family-oriented amenities include a story walk along the park path, shaded seating areas, interpretive elements, public art features, and extensive pedestrian circulation routes that encourage walking and informal social interaction. Orchard Park is also a focal point for community events such as the annual Winter Wonderland holiday light display and the summer "Touch-A-Truck" event hosted with the library, reinforcing its role as both a neighborhood park and a citywide destination.

Table 3-3: Orchard Park Profile

Aspect	Description
Location	20298 E Indiana Ave
Size	11.86 Acres
Classification	Community Park
History	Established in 2018
Grass/Lawn Area	8 Acres
Paths Length	1.4 Miles
Landscaping/Beds	14,000 SqFt
	Overall Condition Rating: 4



Figure 3-2: Orchard Park Existing Conditions Map

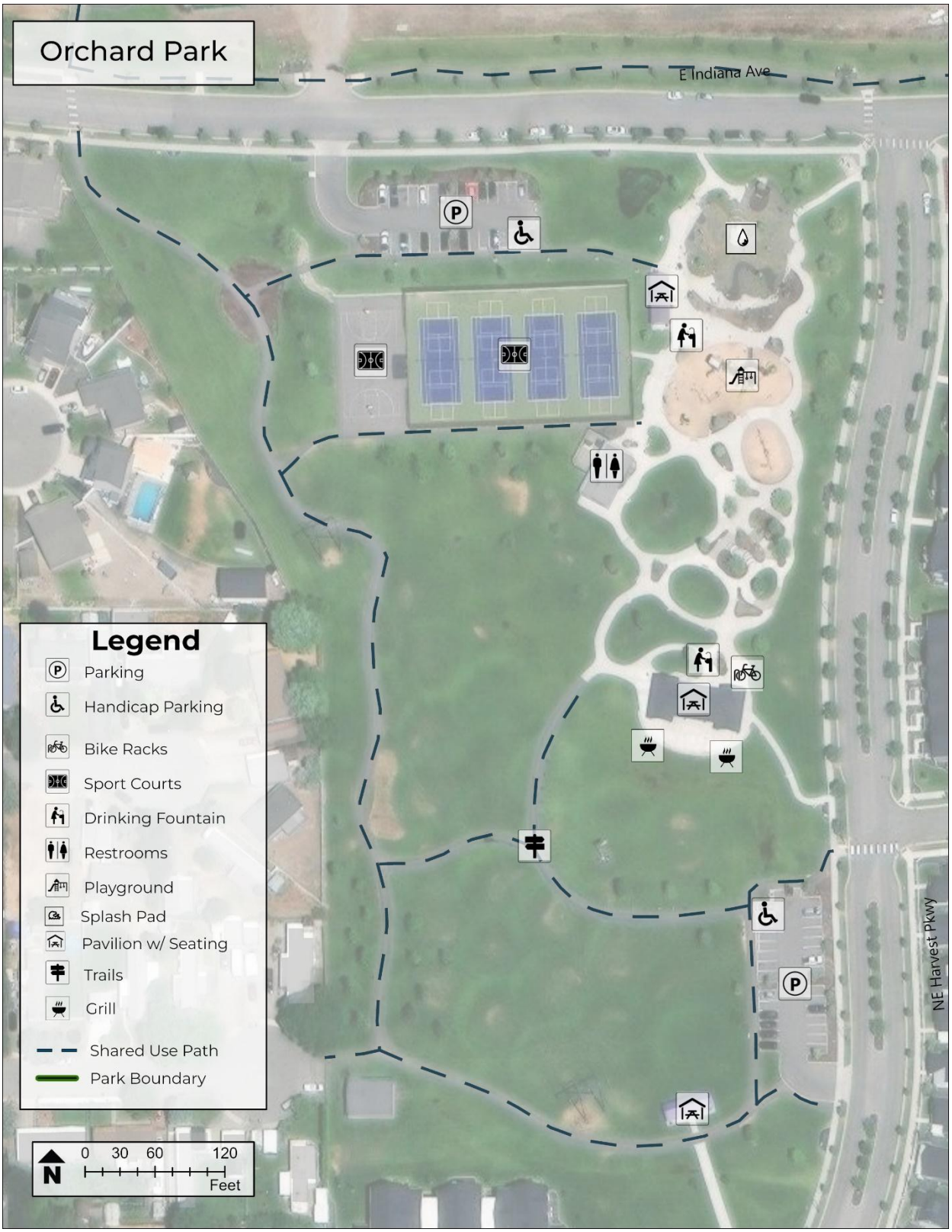


Table 3-4: Orchard Park Existing Conditions Inventory

Amenity, Facility, or Structure	Rating	Last Updated	Renovation Schedule	Notes
Amenities				
Bike Rack	4	2018	15 Years	
Bench	4	2018	15 Years	
Picnic Tables	4	2018	15 Years	24 Tables are distributed under the covered shelters.
Bollards/Lighting	4	2018	20 Years	
Drinking Fountain	4	2018	10-15 Years	
Recreation				
Basketball Court (Full)	4	2018	25 Years	
Multi-use Field	4	2018	N/A	Used for soccer, football, and other activities.
Tennis / Pickleball Sport Courts	3.5	2018	25 Years	Surface cracks present.
Splash Pad	4	2018	10-15 Years	
Playground	4	2018	30 Years	Large playground for ages 5-12, smaller tot playset, swing set
Structures				
Picnic Shelters	4	2018	30 Years	
Restroom Building	4	2018	20-30 Years	
Storage Building	4	2018	20-30 Years	
Parking/Access				
Parking (QTY 50)	3	2018	30 Years	Drainage issues in SE lot.
ADA Parking (QTY 4)	3	2018	30 Years	4 ADA designated spaces.
Off-Street Parking (QTY 54)	4	2018	30 Years	54 total off-street spaces, split between a northern lot accessed from E Indiana Ave and a central lot accessed from N Harvest Parkway.

Pavillion Park

Pavillion Park is Liberty Lake's premier and most historically significant community park, serving as a primary gathering space for residents and visitors throughout the region. The park hosts many of the city's largest civic celebrations, cultural events, and recreational activities, reinforcing its role as both a community focal point and regional destination. The Pavillion Structure, which serves as the visual and cultural centerpiece of the park, is a replica of the original early 20th-century dance pavilion and reflects the community's historic roots as a recreation destination. Additional commemorative features include memorials dedicated to founding Liberty Lake families, a veteran's memorial, and the Air Force Station Fallen Heroes Circuit Course, all of which contribute to the park's civic identity and heritage value.

The park offers a diverse range of recreational amenities designed to serve multiple age groups and activity interests. Facilities include a skate park, a full-size basketball court featuring a mural on the playing surface, a diamond athletic field with backstop and spectator seating, tennis courts convertible to pickleball use, and a seasonal splash pad and playground area. Public art installations, such as the Rose Garden Steel Arbor, the veterans "Never Forget" memorial, and a mural honoring the site's historic carousel, enhance the park's cultural character while supporting placemaking and community identity.

Pavillion Park is also the city's primary venue for community events and performances. Annual traditions include the Memorial Day ceremony and luminary tribute, the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Yard Sale weekend with vendors and community activities, the Fourth of July concert and fireworks celebration, and free summer outdoor movie nights. Cultural programming further includes performances such as Shakespeare in the Parks and the Lud Kramer Memorial Concert featuring the Spokane Symphony, held in the park's amphitheater setting. These events, combined with the park's recreational amenities and historical features, position Pavillion Park as a central hub for recreation, community gathering, and cultural expression within Liberty Lake.

Table 3-5: Pavillion Park Profile

Aspect	Description
Location	727 N Molter Rd
Size	13.09 Acres
Classification	Community Park
History	Established in 1995
Grass/Lawn Area	9.5 Acres
Paths Length	0.7 Miles
Landscaping/Beds	1,000 SqFt
Irrigation Schedule	7 ½ - 10 Hours / Week
	Overall Condition Rating: 3.5

Figure 3-3: Pavillion Park Existing Conditions Map

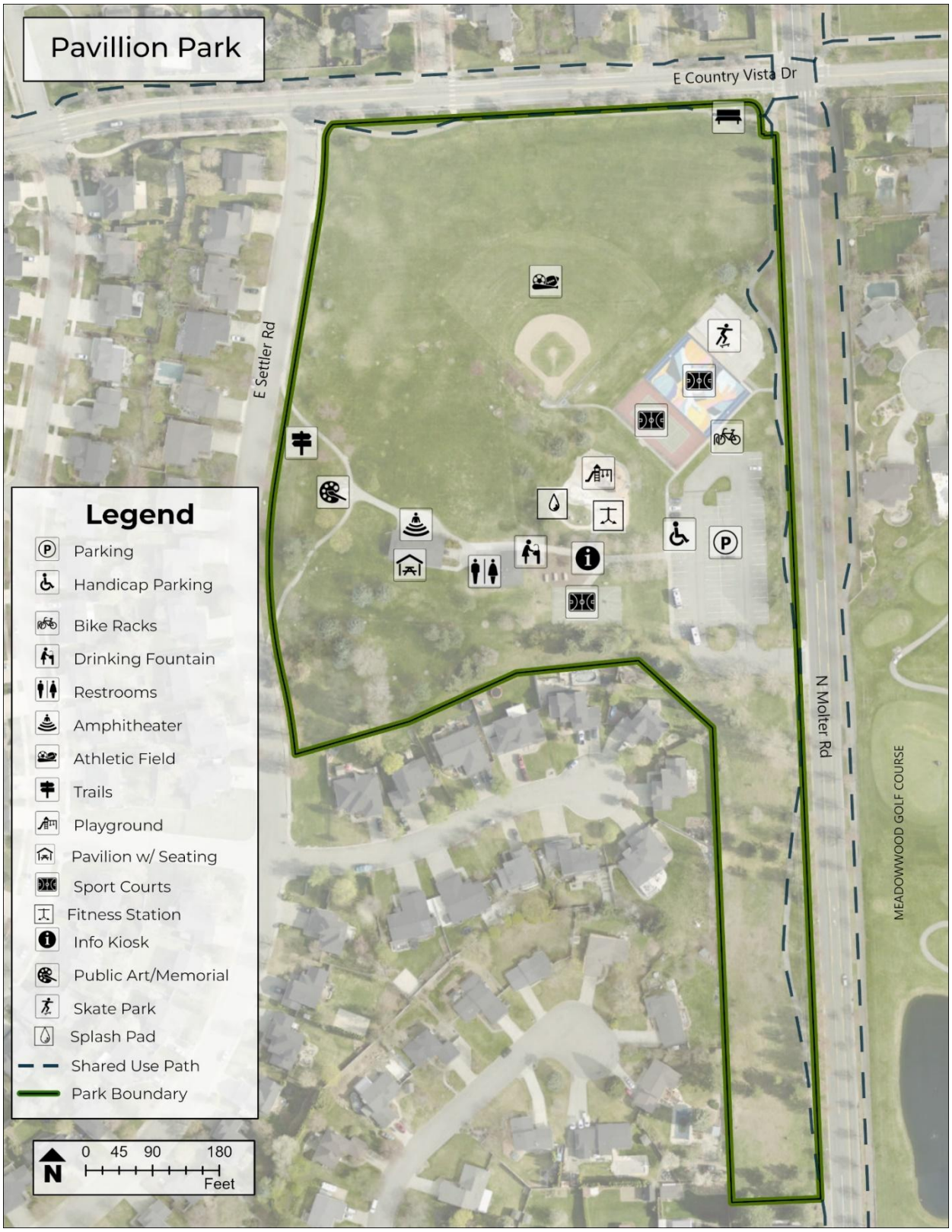


Table 3- 6: Pavillion Park Existing Conditions Inventory

Amenity, Facility, or Structure	Rating	Last Updated	Renovation Schedule	Notes
Amenities				
Amphitheater	4	1999	N/A	
Bike Rack	4	-	15 Years	
Benches	4	2013	15 Years	
Picnic Tables	4	2013	15 Years	3 tables are newer and were an Eagle Scout project.
Bollards/Lighting	4	2013	20 Years	Walkway bollard style exterior lighting. (2) dual pole lighting in parking lot. (1) single pole light in parking lot. (5) exterior lights mounted on restroom building. One motion light.
Drinking Fountain	4	-	10-15 Years	
Bulletin Board	4	-	N/A	
Recreation				
Basketball Courts (Full)	3.5	2023	5-25 Years	The 2 Hooptown courts were updated in 2023 with new backboards and court mural. The court near the concessions building was built in 1994.
Multi-use Field	4	1995	N/A	Used for youth soccer.
Tennis/Pickleball Court	2	1994	0-5 Years	Approaching End of its expected use.
Fitness Station	4	2014	15 Years	Fallen Heroes Circuit Course - Specialized Outdoor Equipment.
Playground	2	1994	0-5 Years	No swings, needs overall upgrading.
Skate Park	4	2009	10 Years	Mural added in 2023.
Baseball Field	4	2009	15 Years	Fenced batting area and uncovered bleachers.
Splash Pad	4	2013	10-15 Years	
Disc Golf Course	4	-	N/A	4 Holes with baskets in good condition.
Structures				
Pavilion	2.5	1996	0-5 Years	Railing and lighting are original. Roof shingles were recently replaced.

Restroom/ Concessions Building	3.5	2018	15-25 Years	Operated by Kiwanis, outdated plumbing. Roofing, skylights, and paint finishes updated in 2013. Exterior surveillance cameras added in 2017. Water heater replaced in 2018.
Security System	4	2017	15 Years	Exterior surveillance system attached to concessions/restroom building.
Parking/Access				
Parking (QTY 79)	2.5	1996	0-5 Years	Surface is mostly original and will require improvements.
ADA Parking (QTY 4)	2.5	1996	0-5 Years	



Rocky Hill Park

Rocky Hill Park is a 14-acre park accessed by east Mission Avenue and located on the eastern edge of Liberty Lake. The park gets its name from a large, natural hill where parkgoers can hike up unpaved trails to a viewing platform overlooking the park lawns and surrounding areas. This hill originally belonged to the 310-acre Rocky Hill Farmstead, which was subdivided into the parkland and adjacent residential neighborhood. The historic Domrese Barn, constructed in 1948, still remains on the site today and commemorates Liberty Lake's agricultural heritage through the Historic Barn Register. Recreational facilities in the park offer opportunities for people of all ages. There is a full basketball court and two tennis courts. The tennis courts can be adapted for pickleball using temporary nets that are stored in an on-site equipment locker. Next to the tennis courts is a community garden with 16 raised beds. The playground area has a covered playset with slides, a swing set, and a fitness zone with non-motorized exercise equipment. Benches line this area, along with a covered picnic area for gatherings and parental observation. A seasonal concessions stand called the "Snack Shack" provides a food option during the summer. A multi-acre open lawn area is used for youth soccer programming with nets brought out in the summer and fall seasons. Upon entering the park from the parking lot area, visitors can use ADA-accessible restrooms, a bike rack, and waste receptacles and find community information on a bulletin board display.

Table 3-7: Rocky Hill Park Profile

Aspect	Description
Location	24901 E Mission Ave
Size	13.99 Acres
Classification	Community Park
History	Established in 2010; Historic Domrese barn dated 1948
Grass/Lawn Area	9 Acres
Paths Length	0.8 Miles
Landscaping/Beds	450 SqFt
	Overall Condition Rating: 3.5

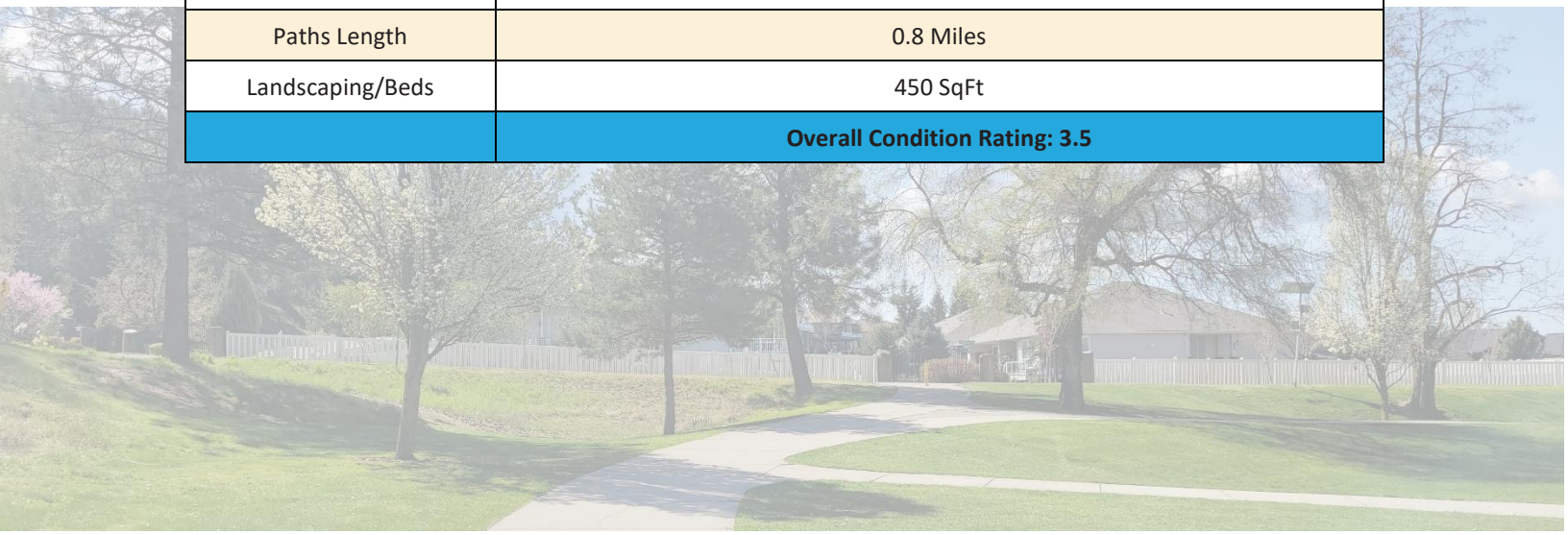


Figure 3-4: Rocky Hill Park Existing Conditions Map



Table 3-8: Rocky Hill Park Existing Conditions Inventory

Amenity, Facility, or Structure	Rating	Last Updated	Renovation Schedule	Notes
Amenities				
Bike Rack	4	2010	15 Years	
Bench	4	2010	15 Years	
Picnic Tables	4	2010	15 Years	
Bollards/Lighting	4	2010	20 Years	
Drinking Fountain	4	2010	10-15 Years	
Community Garden	4	2010	N/A	Total of 16 4’ x 8’ Plots.
Recreation				
Basketball Court (Full)	2	2009	0-5 Years	Approaching the end of expected useful life. Action: Replace playing surface.
Multi-use Field	4	2009	N/A	
Tennis / Pickleball Court Area	5	2010	0-5 Years	Fenced area with 2 courts and tennis nets and a pickleball nets storage locker. Court area was resurfaced in 2025.
Fitness Station	4	2013	8-10 Years	Fallen Heroes Circuit Course workout equipment.
Playground	3	2010	5-10 Years	Anticipated playground replacement in 2030 per the adopted CFP.
Structures				
Picnic Shelter	4	2010	7-10 Years	Branch wiring scheduled for repair in 2025.
Historic Barn	3.5	2015*	Varies**	Historic Structure. Lighting, wiring, surveillance, and sliding door replaced/added in 2015.
Storage Building	4	2010	20-30 Years	
Overlook Platform	4	2010	15 Years	
Restroom Building	3	2010	10-15 Years	Lighting and interior paint due for update.
Snack Shack	3.5	2012	20 Years	Interior re-painting assigned as a medium priority.
Parking/Access				
Parking (QTY 17)	4	2008	20 Years	17 parking spaces.
ADA Parking (QTY 2)	4	2008	20 Years	2 parking spaces.

** Walls, roofing and doors are original | ** Varies due to ongoing maintenance and upkeep.*

Town Square Park

Town Square Park is located in Liberty Lake's central business district and is most known for hosting the Liberty Lake Farmer's Market. The market operates seasonally from May to October and has the expressed vision of providing Liberty Lake residents with high quality local food products while also being a catalyst for community buy-in and a platform for younger people to incubate their agricultural businesses.

In its current form as a multi-purpose urban plaza and green space and host of the farmer's market, Town Square Park may be considered as a special use park. There have been proposals, however, to adopt a Master Plan to fully develop the remaining 4.55 acres of adjacent open space. The master planning process has been deferred to 2026, with this Parks & Recreation Master Plan being intended to inform the Town Square Master Plan, which in turn will inform future budgeting, phasing, design and construction of capital facilities improvements to the park.

Table 3-9: Town Square Park Profile

Aspect	Description
Location	1421 N Meadowwood Ln
Size	1.75 developed acres, 4.55 undeveloped acres (6.3 acres total)
Classification	Special Use
History	Established in 2014
Grass/Lawn Area	0.5 Acres
Paths Length	0.25 Miles
Landscaping/Beds	3,350 SqFt
	Overall Condition Rating: 4



Figure 3-5: Town Square Park Existing Conditions Map

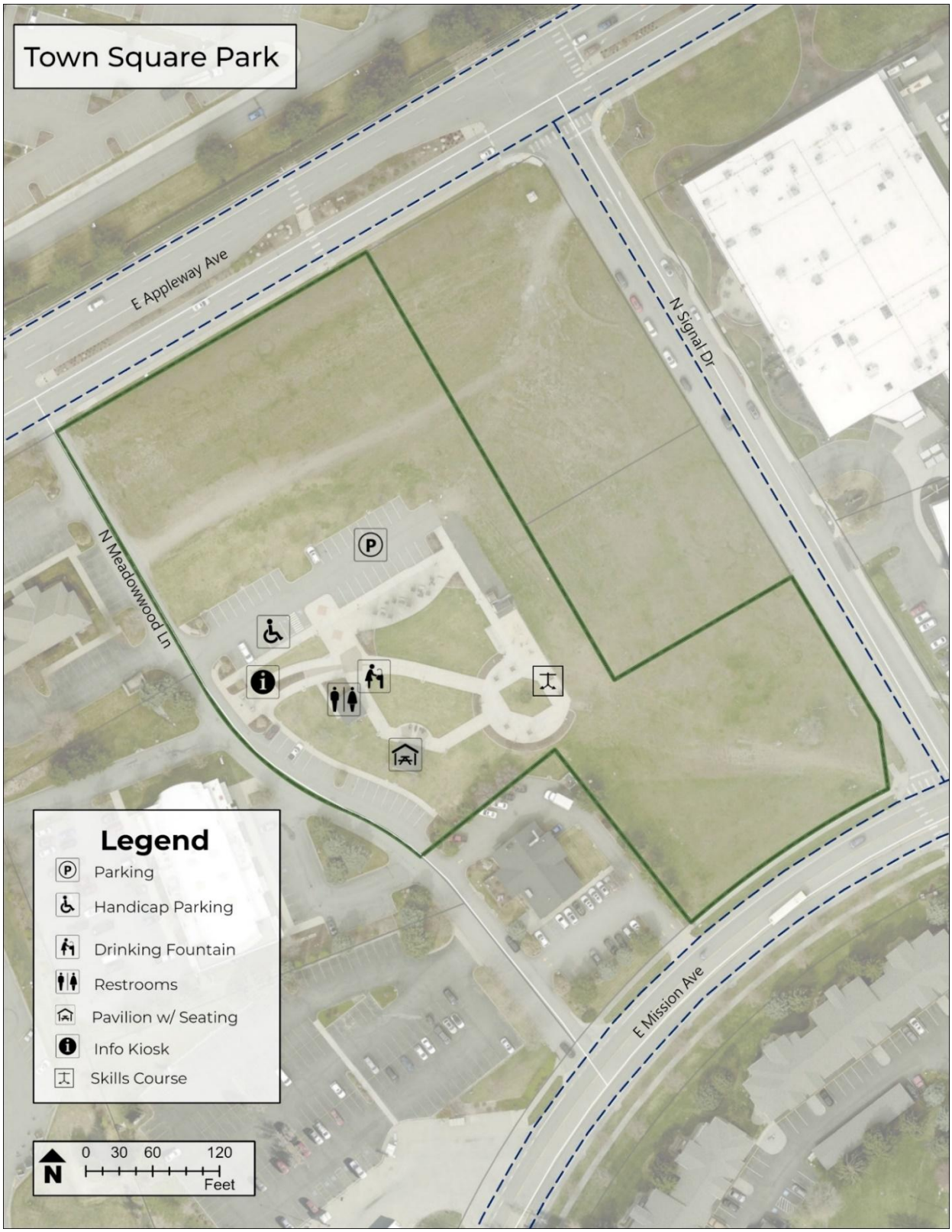


Table 3-10: Town Square Park Existing Conditions Inventory

Amenity, Facility, or Structure	Rating	Last Updated	Renovation Schedule	Notes
Amenities				
Bike Rack	4	2014	15 Years	
Benches	4	2014	15 Years	
Trash Receptacle	4	2014	10 Years	Functional art piece in good condition.
Picnic Tables	4	2014	15 Years	
Site Lighting	4	2014	10 Years	LED Pole lighting with power outlets.
Drinking Fountain	4	2014	10-15 Years	
Recreation				
Fitness Station	4	2015	10 Years	Fallen Heroes Circuit Course.
Structures				
Picnic Shelter	4	2014	10-15 Years	
Gateway Sign/ Trellis	4	2014	20 Years	
Restroom Building	4	2014	Varies	Routine maintenance of electrical wiring, lighting, plumbing, and paint.
Security System	4	2014	5-10 years	
Parking/Access				
Parking (QTY 53)	4	2014	30 Years	53 total stalls.
ADA Parking (QTY 2)	4	2014	30 Years	2 dedicated stalls.
EV Charging (QTY 2)	4	2014	15 Years	2 dedicated stalls and charging units.



Liberty Lake "The Diamonds" Ballfields

Located between the Liberty Creek and Liberty Lake Elementary school buildings, the Parks and Recreation Department operates and maintains two baseball and softball diamonds. These may be reserved according to a fee schedule on a first-come, first-served basis. The site hosts Liberty Lake-Spokane Valley Little League games, which draw in large numbers of players, coaches and families. Facilities which accommodate this include restrooms, concessions, bleachers, and two dedicated parking areas.

Table 3-11: "The Diamonds" Profile

Aspect	Description
Location	23900 E Boone Ave
Size	9.1 Acres
Classification	Special Use (Outdoor Sports Complex)
History	Established in 2014 via CVSD partnership
Grass/Lawn Area	6 Acres
Paths Length	0.15 Miles
Landscaping/Beds	4,150 SqFt
	Overall Condition Rating: 4



Figure 3-6: "The Diamonds" Existing Conditions Map



Table 3-12: "The Diamonds" Existing Conditions Inventory

Amenity, Facility, or Structure	Rating	Last Updated	Renovation Schedule	Notes
Amenities				
Bleacher	4	2014	15 Years	
Picnic Table	4	2014	15 Years	
Bollards/Lighting	4	2015	10 Years	
Recreation				
60' U-10 Baseball Diamond	4	2014	20 Years	
90' U-14 Baseball Diamond	4	2014	20 Years	
Structures				
Dugout	4	2014	10 Years	
Backstop/ Fencing	4	2014	10 Years	
Restroom	4	2014	15 Years	
Storage Shed	4	2014	15 Years	
Security Cameras	4	2015	10 Years	
Parking/Access				
Parking (QTY 130)	4	2014	20 Years	130 total.
ADA Parking (QTY 9)	4	2014	20 Years	9 Stalls.

Trailhead Golf Course

Trailhead Golf Course is an executive nine-hole course, which opened in 1973. When constructed, it was the only mid-length executive course in the Northwest. The city purchased the course in 2002 and has restored it to its original pristine condition. The original clubhouse building was demolished and replaced with a new building, which opened in August of 2023. The adjoining parking lot area was resurfaced and landscaped at the same time. The new facility contains a new pro shop, virtual golf simulation bay, a large 1,400 square foot outdoor deck, and a multi-purpose conference room that can accommodate up to 100 people. A new restaurant located on the east side of the main level is scheduled to open in 2025.

The course itself is a Par 33 course with four Par 3's, four full-length Par 4's and one Par 5, with four sets of tees to choose from. The longest set of tees is at 2,548 yards and the shortest is at 1,715 yards. The 55-acre course offers spacious, tree-lined fairways, fourteen bunkers, and one lake. The relatively flat course appeals to beginners, advanced beginners, and golfers who don't have the time to play a full round of 18 holes. Trailhead's practice facility consists of fourteen mat hitting stalls, ten of which are covered and newly enclosed on the back, and five are heated for those inclement weather practice sessions. The grass hitting area was improved in the Spring of 2014 with twice as much hitting area and there are three practice chipping/putting greens, one greenside, and one fairway bunker. The course accommodates weekly programming for both a men's and a women's 9-hole golf club. Social events are hosted on the course, such as the 22-par Men's Glow Golf tournament and the Ladies' President's Club Tournament, Club Championship, and year end awards banquet.

Amenities include: a nine-hole golf course, a driving range, a golf pro shop, a restaurant (opened in 2025), two golf simulation bays, the Rotary Room Event Center, and restroom facilities.

Table 3-13: Trailhead Golf Course Profile

Aspect	Description
Location	22302 E Country Vista Dr
Size	55.07 Acres
Classification	Special Use (Golf Course and Driving Range)
History	Opened in 1973 and purchased by the city in 2002.
Grass/Lawn Area	48 Acres
Paths Length	0.8 Miles
Landscaping/Beds	11,000 SqFt
	Overall Condition Rating: 5

Figure 3-7: Trailhead Golf Course Existing Conditions Map



Table 3-14: Trailhead Golf Course Existing Conditions Inventory

Amenity, Facility, or Structure	Rating	Last Updated	Renovation Schedule	Notes
Structures				
Clubhouse	5	2023	25+ Years	New facility opened in 2023.
Driving Range Structure/ Backstop Fence	4		Varies	
Parking/Access				
Parking (QTY 63)	5	2023	30 Years	Resurfaced in 2023.
ADA Parking (QTY 5)	5	2023	30 Years	



Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum Park

Located just east of City Hall and behind the Trailhead driving range, Nature's Place at MeadowWood Park is a linear park which provides several amenities as well as a meaningful trail connection. The path offers a non-motorized shortcut which connects the lower neighborhood, on and adjacent to North Garry Drive, to Country Vista Drive and the Central Business District. Upon entering the park from Country Vista Drive, there is a sensory garden, donated through contributions for the Lions Club. At the beginning of the pathway, there is a historic marker commemorating Stephen Liberty, an original settler of the Liberty Lake area and advocate for local tribes, for whom the Lake and the City get their namesake. The park also offers one of the four Fallen Heroes workout equipment stations. Further down the path, there is a community garden with 22 plots. These are managed by the Parks and Recreation coordinator and may be reserved for a one-time fee by Liberty Lake residents on a seasonal, first-come, first-served basis. In addition to the paved path, meandering gravel walkways weave around the ornamental trees. Several patios with picnic tables dot this area. Benches line the paved path donated by partners and private parties.

Table 3-15: Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum Park Profile

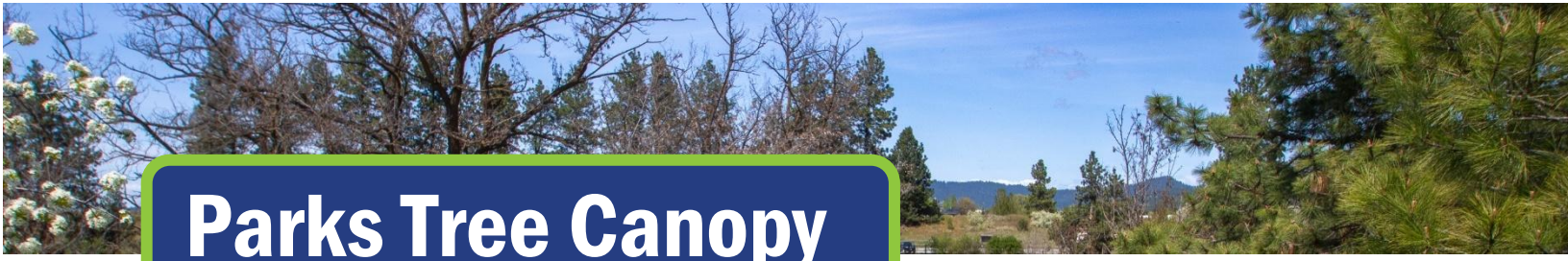
Aspect	Description
Location	Between Country Vista Dr. and Garry Dr.
Size	2.8 Acres
Classification	Special Use (Arboretum)
History	Established in 2008
Landscaping/Beds	22 Plots
	Overall Condition Rating: 4

Table 3-16: Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum Existing Conditions Inventory

Amenity, Facility, or Structure	Rating	Last Updated	Renovation Schedule	Notes
Community Garden	4	2012	N/A	22 Plots.
Fitness Equipment	4	2016	10 Years	Part of the Fallen Heroes Circuit Course.
Parking	4	2008	30 Years	3 off-street spaces.

Figure 3-8: Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum Park Existing Conditions Map





Parks Tree Canopy

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan functions as the parks and recreation element of the 2026 Liberty Lake Comprehensive Plan update. The Growth Management Act was amended in 2023 to require fully-planning communities to conduct an evaluation of the tree canopy coverage within the urban growth area (see: RCW 36.70A.070(8)(c)). As full funding to assist with this analysis has not been provided, a preliminary assessment of the tree canopy is provided here as a starting point for future analysis and decision-making to plan for and fund tree planting efforts.

Liberty Lake Values Trees

Liberty Lake is a community which deeply values its trees for their many benefits to the environment, economy, community health, and beauty. The city has achieved the Arbor Foundation's Tree City USA designation for the past 24 years. City staff and community members participate in tree plantings each year in observance of Arbor Day. The city has an established five-member tree board and a newly hired urban forester specialist. The city adopted a City Tree Ordinance and the City Development Code regulates public street tree plantings and oversight. For example, planting street trees is required of all developments that are subject to land division or site design review.

Trees For Climate Adaptation

Wildfire smoke is an increasing concern for outdoor recreation, especially in the Columbia Plateau Basin and the greater Western U.S. In recent years, fires burning throughout eastern Washington, north Idaho, and British Columbia have led to more frequent poor air quality during summer. These events blanket the region with fine particulate matter, posing health risks and limiting outdoor access. Smoke presents challenges for outdoor recreation, particularly for vulnerable groups like children, older adults, and those with respiratory conditions. Even healthy individuals often avoid outdoor spaces during heavy smoke, reducing park use.

The urban forest and other green infrastructure installations can significantly contribute to filtering pollutants and improving air quality. Reforestation and urban greening, such as planting trees that absorb particulate matter, create natural air quality buffers.

Public awareness campaigns on minimizing health risks and integrating green infrastructure into park planning further support long-term climate resilience. By incorporating forests, green spaces, and innovative facilities, communities can improve air quality, ensure safe outdoor access, and protect public health amid growing environmental challenges.

Liberty Lake Parks and Open Space Current Tree Canopy

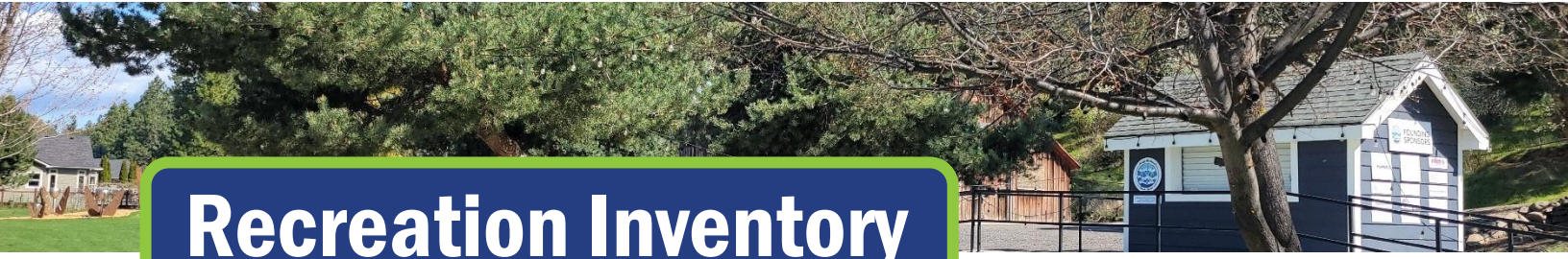
The Department of Natural Resource's Tree Equity Score tool estimates distribution for neighborhood block groups and offers tree canopy coverage for individual parks and open spaces is estimated using high-resolution land cover satellite imagery. The Tree Equity Score measures how well the benefits of trees are reaching communities living on low-incomes, communities of color and others disproportionately impacted by extreme heat and other environmental hazards.

Table 3-17: Parks and Open Space Tree Canopy Coverage & Neighborhood Equity Scores

Park / Open Space	Existing Tree Canopy Coverage	Unsuitable Area for Tree Planting	Potential Tree Canopy Coverage	Neighborhood Current Equity Score	Target Score
Rocky Hill Park	14%	11%	75%	63	68
Orchard Park	1%	28%	71%	68	73
Pavillion Park	12%	15%	73%	73	78
Town Square Park	3%	23%	74%	73	78
Nature's Place Arboretum	7%	15%	78%	73	78
Ballfields	0%	75%	25%	83	88

Source: Tree Equity Score Analyzer, American Forests and Washington DNR, 2025.

Preliminary analysis shows that many city-owned parks have low existing tree canopy coverage compared to their potential coverage. Parks like Orchard Park and Town Square Park are reported to have lower tree coverage as these are areas with ongoing development and tree planting efforts, with younger existing trees that have smaller crowns. Rocky Hill Park and Orchard Park are located in surrounding neighborhoods with the lowest current presence of trees and higher socio-economic vulnerability metrics. As these areas continue to develop, high priority should be placed upon tree plantings to address these disparities.



Recreation Inventory

Existing Programs

The city of Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programs and events for people to participate in. The city contracts with Skyhawks Sports Academy to operate seasonal sports camps and clinics, and year-round after school programs using city-owned parks and facilities. The following list is a broad description of recreational programs and services available in the City of Liberty Lake:

- Baseball/Softball
- Basketball (Skyhawks)
- Cheerleading Camp (Skyhawks)
- Challenger Sports British Soccer Camp
- Flag Football (Skyhawks)
- Frisbee Golf
- Youth Tennis Lessons and Clinics (Skyhawks)
- Golf Lessons (Skyhawks and Trailhead)
- Golf Clubs and Tournaments (Trailhead)
- Gravity Cart Race (Rotary Club)
- Hiking
- Lacrosse (Skyhawks)
- Pickleball (Skyhawks)
- Skyhawk's Sports Camps
- River Rafting Tour
- Skateboarding
- Soccer
- Tennis (Skyhawks)
- Virtual Golf (Trailhead)
- Volleyball (Skyhawks)
- Gardening

Private indoor facilities currently meet demand for additional year-round programming. Many Liberty Lake residents use the HUB Sports Center facility. They are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This 66,670 square foot indoor space is multi-purpose, supporting regional sports camps and tournaments for youth basketball, volleyball, boxing, wrestling, and judo. For a small admissions fee, the courts may also be configured for drop-in pickleball and badminton time slots. There is a batting cage for individual or team baseball and softball training. Birthday parties, corporate events, and community exercise classes can be hosted in the HUB's multi-purpose rooms and studios.

HUB Sports Center is currently in the process of construction and fundraising to expand its outdoor fields. The "Fields For Our Future" campaign seeks to add a total of 5 synthetic turf fields, pickleball and tennis courts, and a playground area. Restrooms, stadium lighting, and an expanded 280-stall parking lot will support these spaces. These facilities will expand the HUB's current programming which currently serves over 185,000 youth and families annually. The multi-sport fields will facilitate flag football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and ultimate frisbee camps and events.

An after-school program called HUB 360 serves 6-8th graders after-school on school days. Staff mentor students with their schoolwork, provide snacks, teach them about healthy living, and provide an opportunity to experience a variety of sports. Community businesses and individuals come and share their expertise in skills, trades, industries and/or talents with the students.

The Liberty Lake Athletic Club is a fitness facility and community center which offers a wide variety of programming. There is a full-size basketball gymnasium, a cardio machine floor, weight room, golf simulator, steam room, and dry saunas. Members may also register for personal training and a variety of fitness classes scheduled throughout the week. Drop-in daycare services are available for children to participate in supervised play while parents and guardians use the rest of the facilities and services.

The Athletic Club used to offer a lap swimming pool and hot tub which hosted swimming lessons and a swim team. The pool was decommissioned in 2024, ending the aquatics programs which were offered and leaving the community without a local indoor facility.

Liberty Lake residents also make use of the Spokane Valley YMCA of the Inland Northwest. This 48,000 sq. ft. facility is a regional destination for families, teens and youth and is located about 7 miles west of Liberty Lake's commercial center. The Valley YMCA offers many recreational amenities and programs that are otherwise not offered by Liberty Lake parks and recreation. These amenities include a large, indoor aquatics area with a lap pool, water slides, sauna, and jacuzzi. The facility has an indoor climbing wall and spacious fitness floor with free weights and machines. Childcare is also available for children ages 6 weeks to 6 years old. Exercise classes and social events are offered for seniors. The facility also offers birthday party room reservations.

NRPA Recreational Programming Comparison

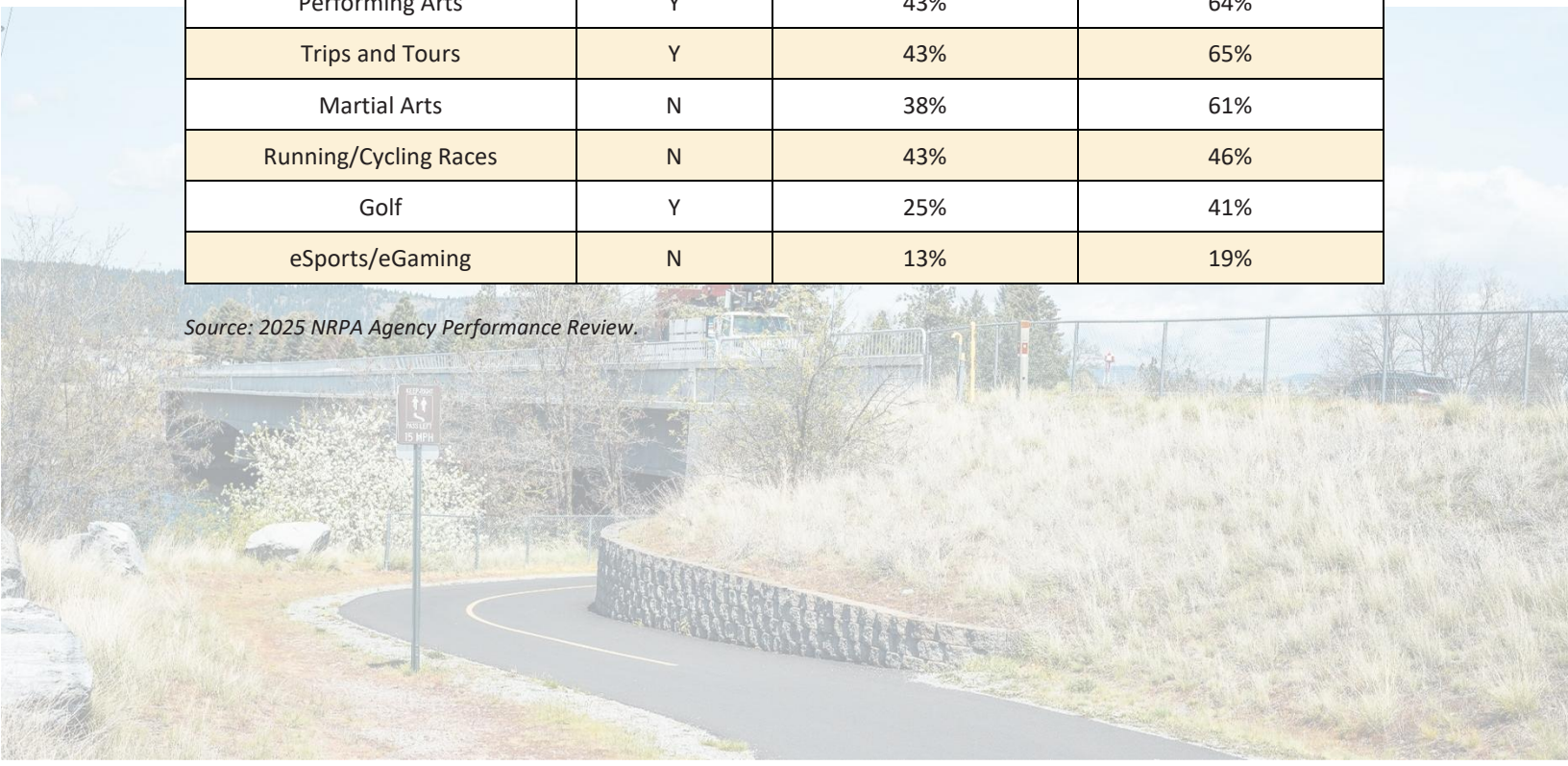
The existing programming offered by Liberty Lake's parks and recreation department might be compared to national averages based on the National Recreation and Park Association's 2025 Agency Performance Review. As of 2025, Liberty Lake is estimated to have a current population of 14,110 and is projected to grow to a population of 21,934 by 2046. Liberty Lake's current programming can then be compared to the percentage of communities of a similar size who offer each program. As Liberty Lake anticipates future growth, an additional comparison can be made to communities with a population above 20,000, knowing that an increased variety and increasingly diverse population base will have different needs and desires for programming than might currently exist.

Liberty Lake's current parks and recreation programming aligns strongly with the most commonly offered program types among similarly sized communities nationwide, particularly those that emphasize community-building, recreation, and special events. Based on the National Recreation and Park Association 2025 Agency Performance Review, Liberty Lake performs at or above national norms for several core program areas that are typically considered foundational for smaller park and recreation agencies.

Table 3-18: Programs Offered by Parks & Recreation Department Comparison

Program Offered	Does LL Offer This Program?	% of Agencies with < 20,000 Population w/these Programs	% of Agencies with 20,000-49,999 Population w/ these programs
Themed Special Events	Y	85%	93%
Social Recreation Events	Y	82%	90%
Team Sports	Y	81%	90%
Health and Wellness Education	N	69%	80%
Fitness Classes	N	72%	84%
Individual Sports	Y	64%	77%
Racquet Sports	Y	63%	79%
Safety Training	N	59%	67%
Natural/Cultural History Activities	N	44%	63%
Aquatics	N	50%	62%
Cultural Crafts	N	46%	65%
Visual Arts	N	46%	61%
Performing Arts	Y	43%	64%
Trips and Tours	Y	43%	65%
Martial Arts	N	38%	61%
Running/Cycling Races	N	43%	46%
Golf	Y	25%	41%
eSports/eGaming	N	13%	19%

Source: 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review.



Liberty Lake offers themed special events, social recreation events, and team sports, all of which are provided by more than 80 percent of agencies serving populations under 20,000. These program types represent the strongest area of alignment between Liberty Lake and national practice and reflect a focus on inclusive, high-participation activities that foster community identity and social interaction. As Liberty Lake grows toward the 20,000-resident threshold, these offerings will continue to align well with expectations for larger peer communities, where participation rates for these same programs increase to approximately 90 percent or more of agencies.

The City also performs well in individual sports, racquet sports, performing arts, trips and tours, and golf programming, all of which are less universally offered nationwide but remain common among mid-sized agencies. Liberty Lake's provision of these programs places it at or above the national average for communities under 20,000 residents and positions the City favorably for future growth. Notably, performing arts and trips/tours are offered by fewer than half of agencies in the under-20,000 category, suggesting that Liberty Lake already provides a broader program mix than many comparable jurisdictions.

Where Liberty Lake differs most from national averages is in the absence of several program types that become increasingly common as communities grow. Health and wellness programs, fitness classes, safety training, aquatics, arts and crafts, visual arts, and natural or cultural history activities are offered by a majority of agencies nationwide, even among communities under 20,000 residents. The gap widens further when compared to agencies serving populations between 20,000 and 49,999, where participation rates for many of these programs approach or exceed 60 to 80 percent. These categories often reflect more specialized programming that requires additional staffing, facilities, or partnerships, and they are commonly introduced as agencies mature and diversify their service delivery.

The lack of health- and wellness-oriented programming is particularly notable, as nearly 70 percent of smaller agencies and 80 percent of mid-sized agencies offer such programs nationally. Similarly, fitness classes are provided by nearly three-quarters of agencies serving populations under 20,000 and by more than 80 percent of agencies in the next population tier. As Liberty Lake's population ages and becomes more diverse, demand for these types of programs is likely to increase, especially among older adults and residents seeking low-impact, preventative health opportunities.



Table 3-19: Targeted Programs Offered by Parks & Recreation Department Comparison

Program Offered	Does LL Offer This Program?	Program Name	% of Agencies with < 20,000 Population w/these Programs	% of Agencies with 20,000-49,999 Population w/ these programs
Summer Camp	Y	Skyhawks Sports Day Camps	63%	85%
Senior Programs	N	--	60%	78%
Teen Programs	N	--	46%	66%
Programs For People With Disabilities	N*	Gravity Cart Race event in Pavillion Park operated by Rotary Club	35%	64%
STEM Programs	N*	Offered by Library	41%	51%
After-School Programs	Y	Fall sports camps	47%	41%
Preschool	N	--	24%	34%
Before-School Programs	N	--	16%	16%
Full Daycare	N	--	8%	2%

Source: 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

Targeted programming for specific age groups and populations including children, teens, older adults, and people with disabilities is an important indicator of how a parks and recreation system responds to diverse community needs.

Liberty Lake demonstrates its strongest alignment with national norms in youth-oriented programming, particularly through summer camps and after-school programs. The City offers summer camp programming through Skyhawks Sports Day Camps, aligning with the 63 percent of agencies under 20,000 residents that provide similar programs. This positions Liberty Lake well for future growth. After-school programming is also offered, primarily through fall sports camps, exceeding the benchmark for communities under 20,000 residents (47 percent) and remaining competitive with larger peer communities. These programs reflect a strong focus on serving families with children and meeting seasonal childcare and enrichment needs.

In contrast, Liberty Lake currently does not offer teen-specific or senior-focused programs through its parks and recreation department. Nationally, 60 percent of agencies serving populations under 20,000 residents offer senior programs, and nearly half offer teen programs, with participation increasing significantly in the next population tier.

As Liberty Lake grows and its demographic profile evolves, particularly with an aging population, these program gaps may become more pronounced. Peer agencies of similar size increasingly provide age-specific programming to support social connection, health, and lifelong recreation, especially for older adults.

Programs for people with disabilities and STEM-focused programming are noted with asterisks, indicating that while these opportunities exist in Liberty Lake, they are not directly administered by the parks and recreation department. Examples include special events hosted by partner organizations such as the Rotary Club or programming offered through the library. Nationally, approximately 35 percent of smaller agencies and nearly two-thirds of mid-sized agencies offer disability-focused programs directly. While Liberty Lake benefits from strong community partnerships that help meet these needs, reliance on external providers suggests an opportunity for more formal coordination, expansion, or direct program delivery as demand increases.

Liberty Lake does not currently provide preschool, before school, or full daycare programming, which is consistent with national trends showing lower participation rates for these services among smaller agencies. Even among communities under 20,000 residents, fewer than one-quarter offer preschool programs, and fewer than 10 percent offer full daycare. However, as Liberty Lake transitions into the 20,000–49,999 population range, expectations for broader childcare and youth support services—particularly before- and after-school programming—may increase, even if delivered through partnerships rather than direct operation.

Overall, Liberty Lake's parks and recreation programming reflects a strong foundation that is well aligned with national norms for smaller communities, particularly in event-based activities, general recreation, and youth-focused programming. As the City approaches and surpasses a population of 20,000 residents, NRPA benchmarks indicate growing expectations for a broader and more inclusive program portfolio, including expanded health and wellness, educational, arts-based, and age-specific offerings. Strategic expansion—through a combination of direct service delivery and strengthened partnerships with schools, nonprofits, and community organizations—would position Liberty Lake to remain competitive with peer communities while responding to the evolving needs of older adults, teens, people with disabilities, and a more diverse population overall.

Regional Recreation Amenities

In addition to citywide facilities, Liberty Lake residents have access to and make use of nearby recreational areas facilities which offer additional, unique opportunities not available in the city itself (*see Figure 3-9, Page 87*).

Liberty Lake Regional Park – Spokane County

The most widely used of these parks is the **Liberty Lake Regional Park** which is administered by Spokane County. The Regional Park provides 3,591 acres of wetlands, lake shore, montane forest, irrigated lawn areas, ORV Park and more. The park offers the only public access to Liberty Lake, complete with a fishing dock, swimming beach, restrooms, and reservable picnic shelters. There is a seasonal campground area with cabins, pull-through RV sites, group sites and tent sites available for reservation through the County website. Beyond the campground is an expansive conservation area compassing Liberty Creek and surrounding forests and wetland area flanking the slopes of Mica Peak. The 8.3-mile Liberty Lake Loop Trail is frequented by day hikers and backcountry campers, with portions of it also being accessible by horseback riding.

Centennial Trail – Washington State Parks

The **Spokane River Centennial Trail** is a 40-mile paved pathway stretching from Nine Mile Falls through downtown Spokane to the Idaho state line, connecting neighborhoods, parks, and natural landmarks along the river. It serves more than 2.5 million users each year, including thousands of Liberty Lake residents--from families out for a walk to cyclists training for long rides. According to this plan's community survey, 86.7% of survey participants use the Trail at least semi-regularly.

The trail prominently features the Spokane River throughout. The Spokane River corridor is ecologically important, has significant potential for interpretive purposes, provides outstanding scenic beauty, tranquil surroundings and valuable historic and prehistoric features, and is uniquely held in public ownership for more than 39 miles of its length. It is the common thread that links governments, communities and neighborhoods together, and has, for many thousands of years, been the corridor for commerce in the area and provides significant recreational opportunities.



In Liberty Lake, the Trail and Spokane River corridor are adjacent to the master-planned River District Neighborhood. Currently, the Trail is primarily accessed from a developed parking area at N Harvard Road. There is also a paved, public pathway which links the west side of the District and the Orchard Park path system to the Trail. The Trutina 55 and older community also has a paved linkage, along with several private residences. The central portion of the District is planned to add at least three paths which will link the E Indiana Ave to the Trail. A new park adjacent to the N Harvard Road trailhead is planned as a gateway to the Trail and transitional space between it and the commercial center.

The City of Spokane Parks & Recreation Department facilitates a cooperative management agreement between Washington State Parks, Spokane County, City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, and Liberty Lake.

Liberty Lake is responsible for management of adjacent city-owned or leased buffer lands and maintenance and law enforcement on or within the Trail corridor along, adjacent and/or within its municipal boundaries (current and future). The fiscal impact of the agreement is an annual commitment of $20,000 from the City's capital improvement budget. An additional $1,500 in supplies and $700 for professional services is also set aside annually.

Appleway Trail – Spokane Valley

The **Appleway Trail** is a 5.8 mile shared-use, paved path that currently provides a continuous, non-motorized connection through the center of Spokane Valley. This trail is designed to provide all-abilities access for pedestrians, bicyclists and other users.

The trail is constructed on the old Milwaukee Railroad right of way, an east-to-west urban space that parallels the Sprague Avenue corridor. It begins at N. Farr Road and Appleway Blvd. It travels east along Appleway to University Road, where it then utilizes the railroad right-of-way to Tschirley, just to the west of Liberty Lake.

There is substantial interest in expanding the Appleway Trail to form a connection with Liberty Lake's trail and shared-use path network. Concurrent with preservation and enhancement work on Country Vista Rd, the existing sidewalk from the west city limits to Kramer Parkway is scheduled for widening improvements to extend the Trail.

Saltese Uplands Conservation Area – Spokane County

The **Saltese Uplands Conservation Area** is a 606-acre recreation site and natural area, located about 2.5 miles from Liberty Lake's central commercial district. Low-impact activities are enjoyed in the interest of preserving the shrub steppe habitat. These include hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, dog walking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Over 7 miles of trail wind throughout the property, exploring canyons that embrace year-round springs and climbing ridge tops with views of Liberty Lake, Mount Spokane, and Saltese Flats. Because of its openness, the Saltese Uplands is a great place to view wildlife. White-tailed deer, badger, coyote, and bobcats have been sighted. There is also a notable concentration of raptors (hawks, eagles, etc.) that use the updrafts created by the topography of the "uplands" to hunt throughout the conservation area and adjacent Saltese Flats.

Due to its close proximity, this conservation area is frequented by many Liberty Lake residents looking to recreate in and enjoy its natural beauty. There are two access points on S Henry Rd: One at the hiking and equestrian trailhead and another at the wetland trailhead. Though just outside of city limits, this public park, in addition to the Regional Park, offers high quality experiences in undeveloped nature that cannot be found within the city.

Gateway Regional Park, Conservation Area, and Dog Park

Overlooking the Spokane River near the State border with Idaho, **Gateway Regional Park** is located on the Spokane River and bordered by Interstate 90 to the south. The parking area and trail head are located about 4 miles from Liberty Lake's commercial center. In 2004, Spokane County Parks and Recreation acquired the 30-acre park that includes over 2,000 feet of shoreline for a new regional park with funding assistance from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). An additional 20 acres of the area is leased for WSDOT. This area is linked to the Centennial Trail system.

Contiguous with the Regional Park is an additional 7-acre property named the **Gateway Conservation Area.** This open space preserves riparian habitat along the river corridor and it accessed by non-motorized hiking and equestrian trails. The area is used for hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and fishing.

The **Patricia Simonet Laughing Dog Park,** colloquially known as the **S.C.R.A.P.S. Dog Park,** is a 3-acre, fenced open space located within the Gateway Regional Park. It opened in 2006 as Spokane County's first dog park, made possible through a partnership between the S.C.R.A.P.S. agency and the County's Parks and Recreation Department. The park is run by dog-loving volunteers and funded solely by donations. The park features dog waste bag dispensers, dog play equipment, and covered picnic tables. This park is currently one of the only enclosed areas for Liberty Lake dog-owners to access.

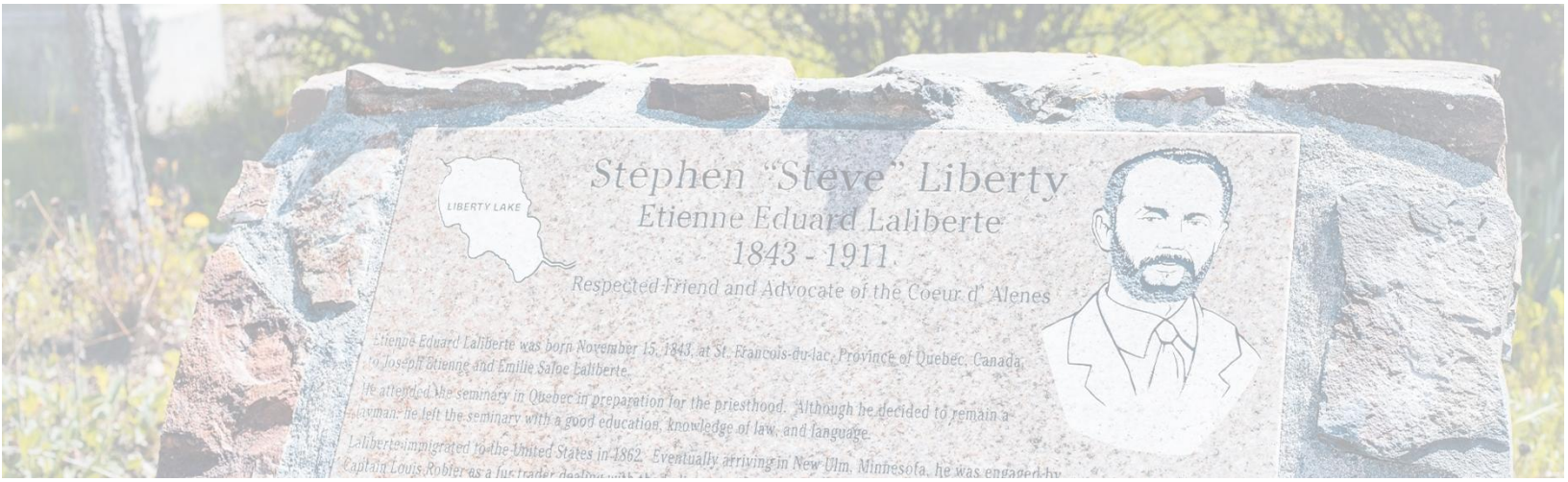
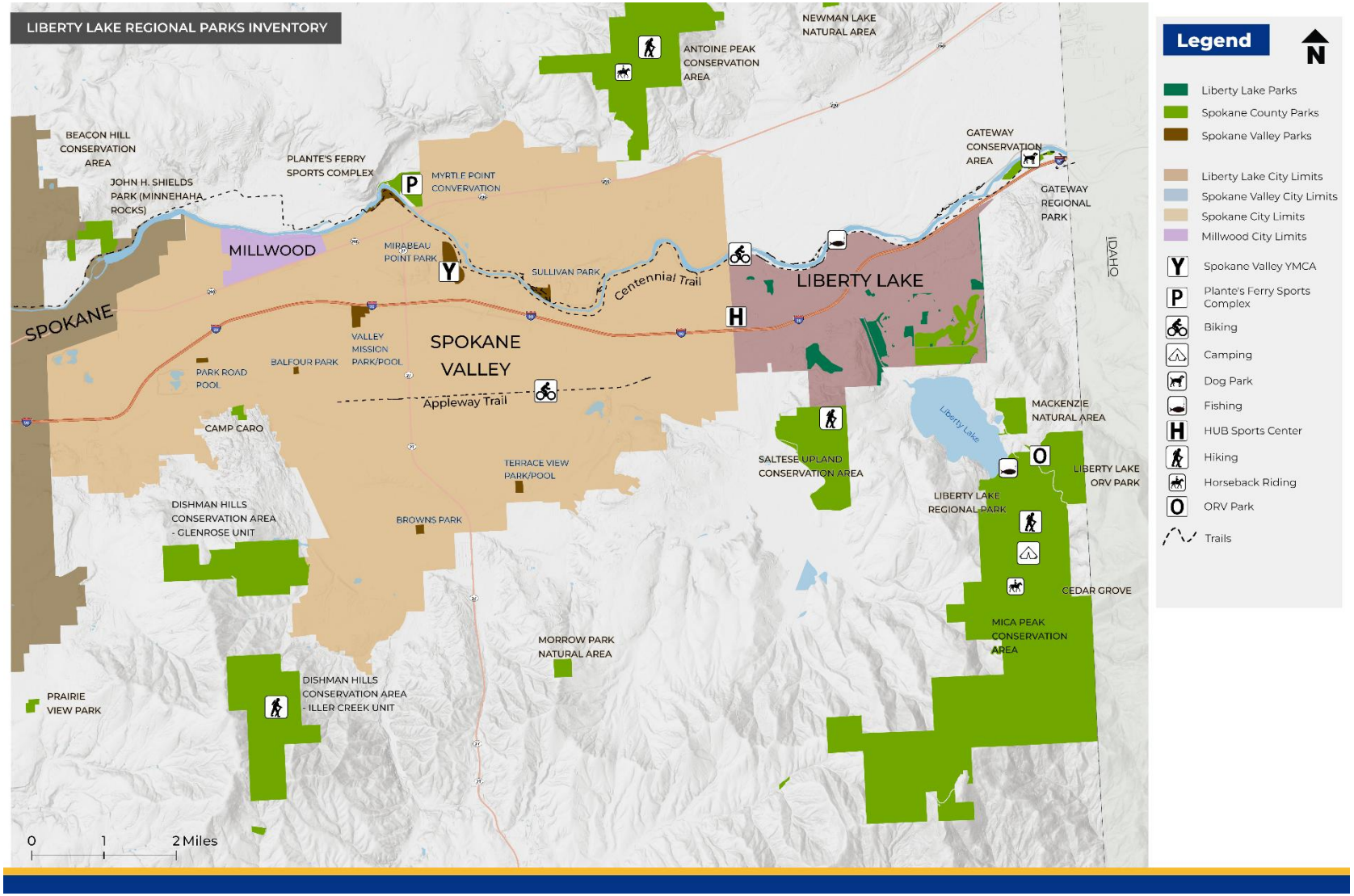
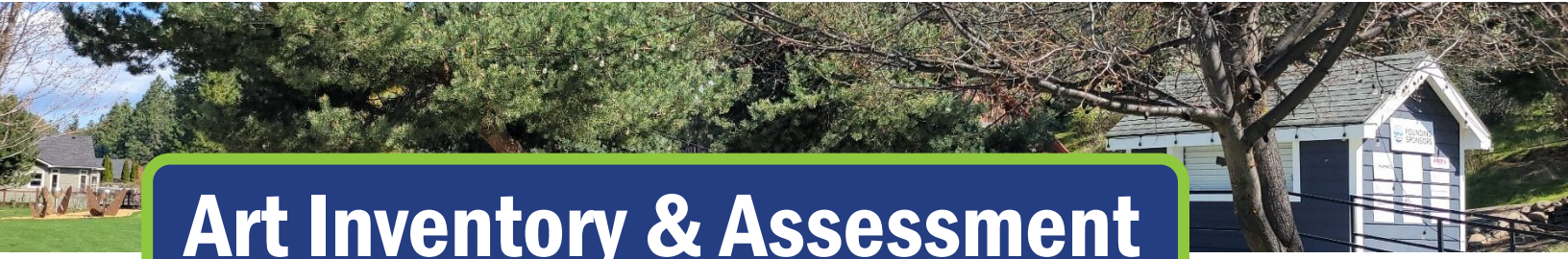


Figure 3-9: Regional Recreational Activities and Facilities





Art Inventory & Assessment

Introduction

This section provides a full inventory and assessment of Liberty Lake's Public Art located throughout the city. Understanding and analyzing this information will be vital for ensuring Liberty Lake has a comprehensive public art collection to enjoy for years to come.

To fully assess the art objectives in the city, a review of the 2018 Liberty Lake Parks & Arts Commission 5-Year Strategic Plan was conducted. The Strategic Plan identified key categories of art that are important to the city. Using these categories in the analysis provides a strong foundation for the inventory and gap analysis process.

Art Categories

1) **Functional Art** – beautification projects, fences, bike racks, benches, and other.
2) **Interactive Art** – art that actively engages the community such as playground equipment, story boards, festivals and other.
3) **Statement Pieces** – roundabouts, parks, statues, panels and other.
4) **Programming** – community theater, civic theater, literacy, dance, and other.
5) **Parks and Trails** – enhancement to existing and new parks and trails within the community.

To further inform the art inventory and assessment, a review of the 2019 goals developed by the City of Liberty Lake Parks and Arts Commission's Public Art Policy and Procedures document. Similar to the art categories, they help create a more accurate inventory of public art in Liberty Lake and distinguish between the impact each art piece has on the community.



Goals

1) Establish a diverse collection of public artworks.
2) Create works of public art with the cooperation of the community.
3) Involve local, regional and national artists of diverse backgrounds.
4) Consider economic development and cultural tourism when advocating for public art.
5) Encourage public dialogue and community involvement.
6) Incorporate art and design projects of the highest quality throughout the community, creating a museum without walls and making art accessible to all.
7) Provide a legacy of art and culture for future generations

Table 3-20 presents an inventory collection of current public art in Liberty Lake, including box wraps, murals, functional art, sculptures, and other mediums. For each piece, the table includes a picture of the art piece, the name or title of the art piece, link to the image and details on the city website, its location within the city, and a reference to the strategic plan goal it best corresponds with , the type of art installation, and the art category it is associated with (*1–5, see reference above*). The table also indicates the art piece's key audience, the degree it is visible by the community and visitors, its condition, the artist, and value of the art piece.



Table 3-20: Liberty Lake Public Art Inventory & Assessment

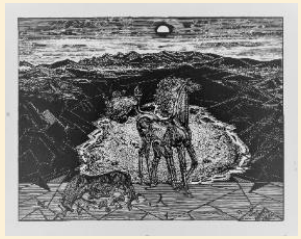
Picture	Name	Location and Coordinates	Goal (1-7)	Type of Art	Category (1-5)	Key Audience and Visibility	Condition / Ease of Maintenance / Appearance	Artist	Price / Value
	Country Vista & Henry	♦ NW Corner of Country Vista Dr. & N. Henry Ln ♦ 47.66402, -117.13247	2	Box Wrap	1	♦ Auto-oriented ♦ High Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Light wear	(Local) STCU Sponsored, Ridgeline High School Art Students	$1,864.50
	Four Seasons Mother Earth	♦ Corner of Signal Rd. & Appleway Ave. ♦ 47.67289, -117.10171	2	Box Wrap	1	♦ Auto-oriented ♦ High Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Light wear	(Local) STCU Sponsored, Stacie Boyer	$973.78
	Historical Images	♦ 727 N. Molter Rd. Liberty Lake, WA 99019 ♦ 47.6631, -117.09078	1	Box Wrap	1	♦ -Park User ♦ Moderate Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Heavy Wear	(Local) Parks and Arts Commission	$979.00

	Indiana & Harvard	♦ SE Corner Harvard Road and Indiana Avenue ♦ 47.678502, -117.110935	2	Box Wrap	1	♦ Auto-oriented ♦ High Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Light wear	STCU Sponsored, Artist Unknown	$1,864.50
	Liberty Lake Students	♦ SE Corner of E. Country Vista Dr. & N. Liberty Lake Rd. ♦ 47.66801, -117.10469	2	Box Wrap	1	♦ Auto-oriented ♦ High Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Light wear	(Local) STCU Sponsored, Liberty Lake Elementary Students	$1,598.48
	Ridin' A Rainbow	♦ Corner of Molter & Appleway ♦ 47.67682, -117.09013	2	Box Wrap	1	♦ Auto-oriented ♦ High Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Light wear	STCU Sponsored, Debbie McCulley	$973.78
	Sun Flight	♦ Town Square Park, Entrance ♦ 47.67182, -117.1031	3	Box Wrap	1 & 3	♦ Park User ♦ Moderate Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Light wear	(Local) Stacie Boyer	$650.00
	Sunflowers	♦ Appleway & Madison ♦ 47.67488, -117.09577	2	Box Wrap	1	♦ Auto-oriented ♦ High Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Light wear	(Local) STCU Sponsored, Frankie Benka	$999.58

	Starry Night	♦ SW Corner of E. Appleway Ave. & N. Liberty Lake Rd. ♦ 47.67106, -117.10665	2	Box Wrap	1	♦ Auto-oriented ♦ High Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Light wear	(Local) STCU Sponsored, Liberty Creek Elementary Students	$1,598.48
	The Race	♦ Orchard Park, Tennis Courts ♦ 47.67492, -117.13145	3	Box Wrap	1	♦ Park User ♦ Moderate Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Light wear	(Local) Debbie Hughbanks (artist paid $350)	$573.30
	Pavillion Mural	♦ 727 N. Molter Rd. Liberty Lake, WA ♦ Pavillion Park, Concession Stand/ Restroom Structure ♦ 47.66316, -117.09144	6	Mural	1 & 3	♦ Park User ♦ High Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Maintenance could be difficult if graffiti is present ♦ Heavy Wear	(Local) Rolf & Peter Goetzinger	$10,000.00
	Skate City	♦ 727 N. Molter Rd. Liberty Lake, WA ♦ Pavillion Park, Skate Park ♦ 47.6639, -117.09004	6	Mural	1, 2, & 3	♦ Park User ♦ High Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Maintenance could be difficult if graffiti is present ♦ Moderate Wear	(Local) Joshua Thomas	$9,000.00

	We Got This	♦ 727 N. Molter Rd. Liberty Lake, WA ♦ Basketball Court at Pavillion Park ♦ 47.66375, -117.09021	6	Mural	1, 2, & 3	♦ Park User ♦ High Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Maintenance could be difficult if graffiti is present ♦ Light wear	(Local) Danielle Davis	$16,000.00
	Orchard Park Story Walk	♦ Orchard Park ♦ 47.674043, -117.132332	3	Functional	1	♦ Park User ♦ Moderate Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Routine cleanings will be needed to read the sign ♦ Light wear	(Local) Spokane Valley Tech Students	$6,000.00
	Rocky Hill Park Story Walk	♦ Rocky Hill Park ♦ 47.671797, -117.069876	3	Functional	1	♦ Park User ♦ Moderate Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Routine cleanings will be needed to read the sign ♦ Light wear	(Local) Spokane Valley Tech Students	$6,855.87
	Town Square Park Waste Receptacles	♦ Town Square Park ♦ 47.671445, -117.102427	1	Functional	1	♦ Park User ♦ Moderate Visibility	♦ Fair condition ♦ Cleanings and paint touch-ups will be needed soon ♦ Moderate Wear	Unknown	Unknown
	Town Square Park Bike Racks	♦ Town Square Park ♦ 47.671618, -117.101937	1	Functional	1	♦ Park User ♦ Moderate Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Moderate Wear	Unknown	Unknown

	Paver Memorial Project	♦ In the Arboretum next to City Hall ♦ 47.666759, -117.099632	2	Functional	1	♦ Park User ♦ Moderate Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Moderate Wear	Donated by: Liberty Lake Lion's Club Designed by: (Local) Haase Landscape	$16,300.00
	Art at Trailhead	♦ 22302 E. Country Vista Dr. Liberty Lake, WA ♦ Trailhead Golf Course Event Center ♦ 47.66755, -117.10307	3	Other Mediums	3	♦ Foot Traffic ♦ Poor Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Only maintenance is dusting ♦ Light wear	(Local) Ridgeline High school students, Matt Jarvis, London Jeffries, Vi Quach, Savannah Woodruff, Jack Ross, and Mikayla Clark	N/A
	Everyone Has Value.	♦ 22710 E. Country Vista Dr. Liberty Lake, WA ♦ City of Liberty Lake City Hall ♦ 47.66769, -117.10019	4	Other Mediums	3	♦ Foot Traffic ♦ Poor Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Only maintenance is dusting ♦ Light wear	(Local) Sindu Surapaneni	Unknown

	Never Forget	♦ 20298 E. Indiana Ave. ♦ Orchard Park, Flag Pole ♦ 47.67367, -117.13145	2	Other Mediums	3	♦ Park User ♦ Moderate Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Easy maintenance ♦ Heavy Wear	Donated by: (Local) Daughters of the American Revolution	$922.00
	Requiem to the Horses	♦ 22710 E. Country Vista Drive. Liberty Lake, WA ♦ Council Chambers, Liberty Lake City Hall ♦ 47.6676, -117.10014	3	Other Mediums	3	♦ Foot Traffic ♦ Poor Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Only maintenance is dusting ♦ Heavy Wear	Gennady Klyushin	$7,500.00
	Family Pieces	♦ 22710 E. Country Vista Dr. Liberty Lake, WA ♦ Liberty Lake City Hall ♦ 47.66762, -117.09997	3	Sculptures	3	♦ Foot Traffic ♦ Poor Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Only maintenance is dusting ♦ Moderate Wear	(Local) Richard Warrington	$25,000.00

	Growing Together	♦ 24901 E. Mission Ave. Liberty Lake, WA ♦ Rocky Hill Park ♦ 47.67218, -117.0687	6	Sculptures	3	♦ Park User ♦ High Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Routine cleanings and landscape are required ♦ Heavy Wear	(Local) Matthew Dockrey	$20,000.00
	Orchard Park Splashpad	♦ 20298 E Indiana Ave, Liberty Lake ♦ Orchard Park ♦ 47.675111, -117.130956	6	Other Medium	2	♦ Park User ♦ High Visibility	♦ Great Condition ♦ Routine cleanings and mechanical fixes are required ♦ Light wear	(Local) SPVV Landscape Architects, Cortner Architectural Company, and Coffman Engineers	Unknown
	Rose Garden Steel Arbor	♦ 727 N. Molter Rd. Liberty Lake, WA ♦ Pavillion Park ♦ 47.663409, -117.092170	6	Sculpture	1	♦ Park User ♦ Moderate Visibility	♦ Good Condition ♦ Routine cleanings and landscape are required ♦ Heavy Wear	Rolf Goetzinger	Unknown

Public Art in the Parks

Liberty Lake currently has 25 pieces of public art distributed throughout their city. There are four in Orchard Park, four in Pavillion Park, two in Rocky Hill Park, two in or around Town Square Park, two in or around Trailhead Golf Course, and four in or around Arboretum Park. The other 5 are in the city of Liberty Lake, outside of designated parks.

To fully assess the diversity of art and identify gaps, the city's art collection was analyzed further considering the following factors to best determine how well the art collection meets the vision for art within the community.

Art Assessment Considerations:

- Goal
- Type of art
- Category
- Price/value

The city of Liberty Lake Parks and Arts Commission prepared 7 goals when writing the Public Art Policy and Procedures document in 2019. Including:

1) Establish a diverse collection of public artworks.
2) Create works of public art with the cooperation of the community.
3) Involve local, regional and national artists of diverse backgrounds.
4) Consider economic development and cultural tourism when advocating for public art.
5) Encourage public dialogue and community involvement.
6) Incorporate art and design projects of the highest quality throughout the community, creating a museum without walls and making art accessible to all.
7) Provide a legacy of art and culture for future generations.

Nine art pieces meet Goal 2 criteria, goal 3 has seven art pieces in alignment, and goal 6 is represented by five art pieces. There are 5 different types of art represented among the city collection of art pieces, these include: box wraps (9), functional art (4), murals (3), other mediums (5), and sculptures (2). Other mediums include framed illustrated pieces and park equipment.

Seven of the nine box wraps are sponsored by STCU, and five of those are designed by local artists. In addition, art categories were created with the Liberty Lake Parks & Arts Commission 5-Year Strategic Plan in 2018. Including:

1) **Functional Art** – beautification projects, fences, bike racks, benches, and other.
2) **Interactive Art** – art that actively engages the community such as playground equipment, story boards, festivals and other.
3) **Statement Pieces** – roundabouts, parks, statues, panels and other.
4) **Programming** – community theater, civic theater, literacy, dance, and other.
5) **Parks and Trails** – enhancement to existing and new parks and trails within the community.

Categories 4 and 5 refer to recreational programming, and parks and trails so they are not fully applicable to use in the art assessment.

The majority of art pieces are categorized as functional art (18) with statement pieces following behind (10). The average price/value for public art pieces in Liberty Lake is about $6,500 with the lowest being $573.33 and the highest $25,000.

Figure 3-10: Public Art Types Present in Liberty Lake

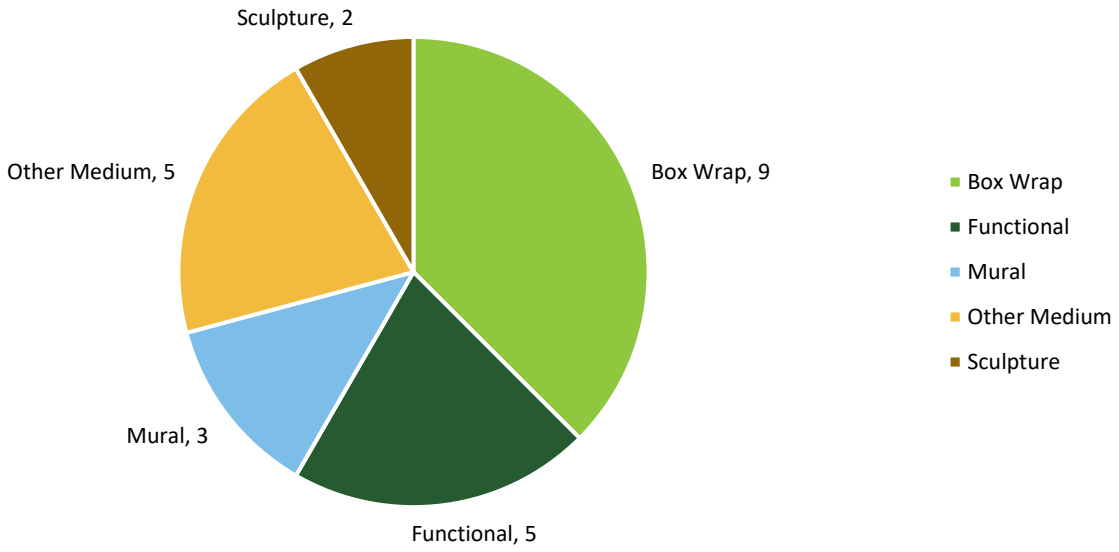


Table 3-21: Public Art Pieces in Liberty Lake's Parks

Park Name	Number of Art Pieces
Orchard Park	4
Pavillion Park	5
Rocky Hill Park	2
Town Square Park	3
Trailhead Golf Course	2
Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum	4

Public Art Recommendations

The Liberty Lake art inventory demonstrates a strong and growing collection of community-centered artwork distributed through parks and corridors as well as civic spaces. The following recommendations are pulled directly from the plan's comprehensive public engagement and analysis of the current public art system. They are intended to guide future investment, improve balance across art types, and ensure continued alignment with the city's public art goals and strategic plan categories.

Recommendation 1: Diversify and Expand the Public Art Collection

The current inventory is largely composed of box wraps and functional art elements. While these installations are successful and well-maintained, expanding the range of mediums and scales will strengthen the overall diversity of the collection.

Future efforts should prioritize:

- Additional large-scale sculptures in highly visible park locations.
- Permanent landmark installations that create recognizable gathering points.
- Interactive elements that invite touch, movement, or participation.
- Decorative enhancements to site furnishings such as benches, planters, and receptacles.

Broadening the portfolio will help advance the goal of establishing a diverse and balanced public art collection in Liberty Lake.

Recommendation 2: Align Future Art with Community Identity and Themes

Community engagement identified nature, local history, including Native heritage, culture, and shared values as top priorities. Future public art investments should intentionally reflect Liberty Lake's environmental setting and cultural identity.

Opportunities include:

- Nature-inspired installations along trails and park entryways.
- Interpretive art acknowledging Indigenous history and local heritage.
- Sculptural or mural elements celebrating wildlife, water, and regional landscapes.
- Art that reflects inclusivity and shared community values.

Intentional thematic alignment will strengthen the City's goal of creating a museum without walls and ensure the collection reflects Liberty Lake's character.

Recommendation 3: Prioritize Strategic Placement and Long-Term Stewardship

Survey feedback identified preferred locations for future public art in central gathering spaces, park entryways, and along trails and pathways. Coordinating art placement with park improvements and capital projects will maximize visibility and impact.

Future implementation should:

- Integrate art into gateway features and high-traffic plazas.
- Coordinate installations with planned park and trail upgrades.
- Establish routine condition assessments and maintenance planning.
- Budget for restoration and lifecycle costs as the collection grows.

Strategic siting and proactive maintenance will ensure public art remains visible, accessible, and well cared for over time.

Together, these recommendations provide a focused framework for strengthening Liberty Lake's public art program while preserving the community-centered partnerships and high-quality installations that define the current collection.

Orchard Park

Orchard Park has four art pieces scattered throughout the area. There is an electrical box wrap, story walk, military remembrance, and functional play equipment. These were all created between 2018 and 2023 and two were donated to the city of Liberty Lake. There are two functional pieces of art, one interactive piece, and one statement piece.

Table 3-22: Public Art in Orchard Park

Art Title	Description	Artist	Year Created	Donated By	Art Type
"The Race"	Electrical Box Wrap	Debbie Hughbanks	2019	n/a	Functional, Box Wrap
Rocky Hill Park Story Walk	Story Walk	Spokane Valley Tech Students	2023	Liberty Lake Kiwanis	Functional
"Never Forget"	Military Remembrance	Unknown	2023	Daughters of the American Revolution	Statement Piece, Other Medium
Orchard Park Splashpad	Functional Play Equipment	SPVV Landscape Architects	2018	n/a	Interactive Art, Other Medium

Figure 3-11: Orchard Park Public Art Inventory



Pavillion Park

Pavillion Park also has five pieces of public art, which are a mix of functional art, interactive art, and statement pieces. There are two Hooptown inspired art pieces - a court mural, and painted backboards – there are also two mural art pieces in the park, and a sculpture. Three of the art pieces were installed in 2023, one in 2020, and the other in 2016. They are functional, interactive, and statement art pieces.

Table 3-23: Public Art in Pavillion Park

Art Title	Description	Artist	Year Created	Donated By	Art Type
"We Got This"	Hooptown Court Mural	Danielle Davis	2023	n/a	Functional, Interactive, Statement, Mural
Untitled	Hooptown Backboards	Spokane Hoopfest	2023	Spokane Hoopfest	Interactive
"Skate City"	Mural/Graffiti Style	Joshua Thomas	2023	n/a	Functional, Interactive, Statement, Mural
Untitled	Mural depicting a carousel	Rolf and Peter Goetzinger	2020	Ross and Kelli Schneidmiler	Functional, Statement, Mural
Rose Garden Steel Arbor	Steel Trellis	Rolf Goetzinger	2016	n/a	Functional, Statement



Figure 3-12: Pavillion Park Public Art Inventory



Rocky Hill Park

There are two art pieces in Rocky Hill Park, including a sculpture and a story walk created in 2021 and in 2019. They represent functional art and statement pieces. The Story Walk was designed by Spokane Valley Tech Students and was donated by Liberty Lake Kiwanis.

Table 3-24: Public Art in Rocky Hill Park

Art Title	Description	Artist	Year Created	Donated By	Art Type
"Growing Together"	Liberty Lake Together Art, Sculpture	Matthey Dockrey	2021	n/a	Statement, Sculpture
Untitled	StoryWalk	Spokane Valley Tech Students	2019	Liberty Lake Kiwanis	Functional

Figure 3-13: Rocky Hill Public Art Inventory



Town Square Park

There are three public art pieces in Town Square Park. At the entrance, there is a wrapped electrical box and throughout the park there are two functional pieces, painted waste receptacles and bike racks designed to look like cyclists.

Table 3-25: Public Art in Rocky Hill Park

Art Title	Description	Artist	Year Created	Donated By	Art Type
"Sun Flight"	Mural Art/ Electrical Box Wrap	Stacie Boyer	2019	Liberty Lake Centennial Rotary	Functional, Statement, Box Wrap
Waste Receptacles	Functional	Unknown	?	n/a	Functional
Bike Racks	Functional	Unknown	?	n/a	Functional

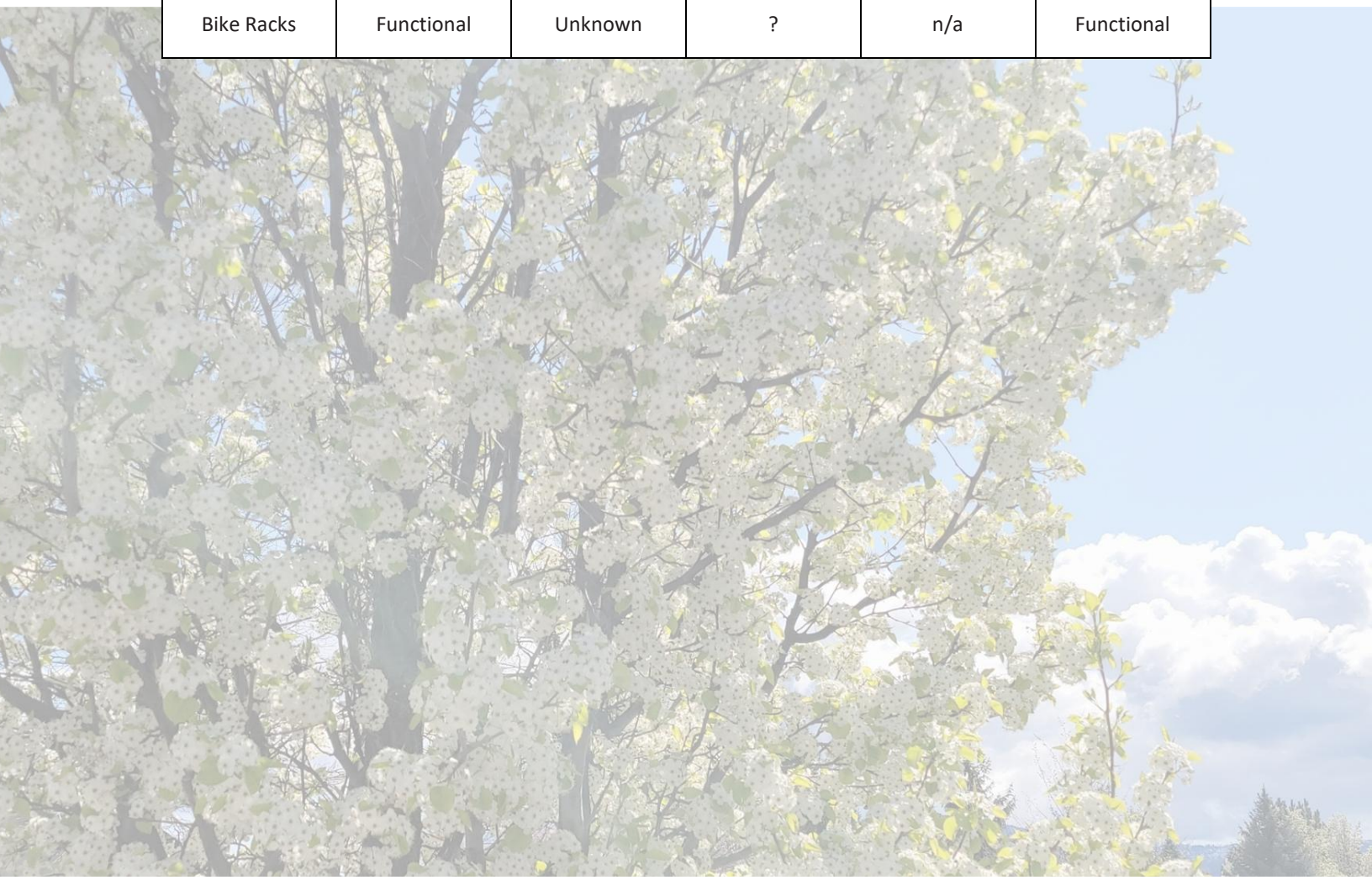


Figure 3-14: Town Square Park Public Art Inventory



Trailhead Golf Course

There are two public art pieces in and around the Trailhead Golf Course. The first is located inside the Trailhead Event Center Wall and the other at the E Corner Liberty Lake Road and Country Vista Drive. They represent statement pieces, functional, and statement art and were created in 2018 and in 2024.

Table 3-26: Public Art in Trailhead Golf Course

Art Title	Description	Artist	Year Created	Donated By	Art Type
Art at Trailhead	Rotating Art Program	Ridgeline High school students, Matt Jarvis, London Jeffries, Vi Quach, Savannah Woodruff, Jack Ross, and Mikayla Clark	2024	n/a	Statement, Art
Liberty Lake Students	Mural Art/ Electrical Box Wrap	Liberty Lake Elementary Students	2018	STCU	Functional, Statement, Box Wrap



Figure 3-15: Trailhead Golf Course Public Art Inventory



Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum

There is one art piece located in the arboretum and three others nearby inside Liberty Lake City Hall. There is a memorial, sculpture, historical piece, and painting that were created in 2024, 2019, and 2018. Three of the public art pieces are statement pieces with the paver memorial project being defined as functional art piece.

Table 3-27: Public Art in Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum

Art Title	Description	Artist	Year Created	Donated By	Art Type
Paver Memorial Project	Memorial	Haase Landscape	2024	Liberty Lake Lion's Club	Functional, other medium
"Family Pieces"	Sculpture	Richard Warrington	2018	Jerry Jaeger	Statement, Sculpture
"Requiem To Horses"	Historical	Gennadi Kliushn	2019	John Vickery	Statement, Woodcut art
"Everyone has Value"	Painting	Sindu Surapaneni	Unknown	Unknown	Statement, other medium

Figure 3-16: Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum Public Art





4 Public Outreach & Community Engagement



Public Involvement

Engagement Process Overview

The Liberty Lake Parks and Recreation Master Plan was shaped by a layered engagement process conducted throughout 2025 and 2026. The city sought to reach residents through multiple methods, including online surveys, stakeholder conversations, interactive community events, and targeted capital improvement prioritization activities. This ensured broad participation from a wide variety of the community. Below is a summary of all engagement efforts and results. See Appendix B: Community Engagement Summary (*Page 208*) for all results.

Stakeholder Interviews: City staff from a variety of city departments, including Parks & Recreation, Community Development, Public Works, Police, Communications, and Parks & Arts Commission, identified early themes such as equitable access, maintenance needs, programming gaps, and opportunities for partnerships

Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey: 376 responses provided significant insight into how residents use parks, which amenities they value, and where they see opportunities for improvement.

Community Satisfaction Survey: 226 households responded, park maintenance ranked among the highest-rated city services, while recreation programs and trails were identified as priorities for additional focus. *A City-led survey assessed to support parks planning process.*

Kick-Off Workshop: On May 22, 2025, about 17 participants engaged in interactive stations to share their vision for future parks, prioritize features, and identify preferred public art.

Pop-Up Events: To reach a wider audience and interact directly with park users, several pop-ups were held at Pavillion Park, Orchard Park's Touch a Truck event, the Liberty Lake Farmers Market, the 4th of July celebration, and Barefoot in the Park. These events successfully gathered spontaneous feedback from families, youth, and seniors.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Engagement: Phase 2 engagement started with prioritizing park system investments through interactive "priority path" activities conducted at community and school-based events and through an online survey. This effort gathered detailed input on preferred capital projects and funding priorities. The CIP projects were then identified and brought back to the community through an online prioritization/funding tool to understand the community's priorities.

Engagement Activity and Response Summary

The city engaged the community through 10+ in-person events, stakeholder interviews, and multiple online surveys.

- 376 Needs Assessment survey responses;
- 268 online CIP prioritization responses;
- 402 online CIP Funding tool responses;
- Nearly 500 in-person CIP prioritization participants; and
- Approximately 1,950 interactive votes collected during Phase 1 pop-up activities.

In total, the process captured input from well over 1,000 unique participants, in addition to thousands of individual activity votes

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"Over 80% of residents said parks are very important to their quality of life."

Engagement Kick-Off Workshop

An open-house-style engagement kick-off was held in May 2025 to introduce the Parks and Recreation Master plan and gather early input from the community. Approximately 20 community members attended the workshop. The event provided residents with an opportunity to learn about the purpose and scope of the plan, ask questions, and share their thoughts about Liberty Lake's parks and recreation system.

Interactive stations were used to encourage participation and discussion. These stations focused on long-term vision, park experiences, public art, park features, and preferred types of play. Participants were invited to describe what success for the plan would look like and feel like in the future, as well as the sights, sounds, and experiences they associate with an ideal park system. Feedback emphasized parks as places that bring people together, support all ages and abilities and provide safe, welcoming environments for both active and passive recreation.

Key Priorities from the Engagement Kick-Off Workshop:

- Park features preferences:
  - Nature (35), shaded gathering spaces (26), and sports (24) received the highest interest through interactive polling
- Public art preferences:
  - Nature-inspired art (10) received the most votes among art options.
- Play preferences:
  - Natural-style play equipment (4) ranked highest, followed by traditional (2) and modern play elements (2).

Input gathered during the kick-off workshop helped shape the focus of subsequent engagement efforts.

Stakeholder Interviews

In addition to community-wide engagement, the city and project team conducted a small number of stakeholder interviews with city staff, department leadership, and advisory representatives early in the planning process. These interviews provided focused insight into park operations, facility conditions, service gaps, and long-term planning considerations.

Across interviews, stakeholders identified consistent themes related to equitable access to parks, aging facilities, deferred maintenance, and limited indoor recreation space, which constrains programming capacity. Interviewees also emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship, trail connectivity, and proactive planning to address future growth as Liberty Lake approaches full build-out.

Stakeholder input reinforced many of the priorities identified through public engagement and helped inform recommendations related to capital investments, operations, partnerships, and implementation strategies.

Key Priorities from Stakeholder Interviews:

- Improve equity, access, and system capacity.
- Invest in existing assets and operations.
- Strengthen stewardship, connectivity, and partnerships.



Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

Following the kick-off workshop, an online needs assessment survey was launched on May 23 and closed on July 22 to gather broader community input. The survey received 376 total responses, including 235 complete and 141 partial responses, providing a strong dataset for understanding systemwide trends and priorities.

Survey results demonstrated that parks and recreation are highly important to the overall quality of life in Liberty Lake. 82.9% of respondents rated parks and recreation as very important to their quality of life. In addition, 59.2% of respondents reported visiting the park closest to their home weekly or more often, indicating frequent use of neighborhood parks and trails. Natural features and open space were consistently rated as system strengths, with over 80% of respondents rating natural features and open space as excellent or pretty good.

Physical Activity

Walking and biking paths, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and open space were among the most commonly used amenities. More than 50% of respondents reported using walking and biking paths, children's play structures, and picnic shelters within the past year, reinforcing the importance of these core park amenities.

Park Improvements

When asked about desired improvements, respondents expressed a strong interest in expanded recreation programming. Camps and classes were selected by nearly half of the respondents, making them the most desired program type. Water-based recreation and outdoor nature programs were each selected by 44.7% of respondents, reflecting strong interest in both aquatic amenities and nature-based experiences. Aquatic amenities, including swimming opportunities, emerged as a recurring theme throughout survey responses, with many respondents noting they currently travel outside of Liberty Lake for swimming lessons, aquatic exercise, and family water recreation.

Barriers to Use

The survey also identified several barriers that limit park use. 41.6% of respondents indicated they are unsure about what parks and recreation programs are available, making this the most commonly cited barrier. 27.9% reported that facilities are overcrowded or frequently booked, while 16.2% cited being too busy or parks not being a priority. Lack of shade, limited restroom access, and accessibility concerns also appeared in both structured responses and write-in comments, highlighting the importance of comfort amenities and equitable access across the park system.



Public Art

Public art was addressed through multiple survey questions. Respondents showed the strongest preference for interactive and nature-inspired public art and identified parks as locations where art can enhance a sense of place, support community identity, and create engaging destinations.

Key Priorities from the Needs Assessment Survey:

- Top desired recreation programs:
  - Camps and classes (~50% of respondents)
  - Water-based recreation (44.7%)
  - Outdoor nature programs (44.7%)
- Most frequently requested system improvement: Aquatic amenities, including swimming opportunities
- Top valued amenities: Trails, open space, playgrounds, and picnic areas (each used by over 50% of respondents)
- Most commonly cited barriers:
  - Uncertainty about available programs (41.6%)
  - Overcrowded or booked facilities (27.9%)
  - Lack of shade and restroom access (Common write-in response)

Overall, survey results reinforced the importance of parks as everyday spaces for recreation and connection, while identifying specific needs related to programming, amenities, comfort, and system capacity that informed subsequent engagement and plan recommendations.

Pop-Up Engagement Events

To complement the survey and reach residents in more informal settings, a series of pop-up engagement events were held throughout summer 2025 at parks and community gatherings, including Pavillion Park, Orchard Park, and Town Square Park. These events engaged hundreds of participants, including families, children, and individuals who may not typically attend formal public meetings.

Pop-up activities relied on visual and interactive tools such as sticker-dot boards, pom-pom polls, and image-based preference exercises. Topics included preferred types of play, desired recreation amenities and programs, and public art. The pop-up format proved especially effective for engaging families and youth, allowing participants of all ages to provide input in accessible and engaging ways.

Across pop-up events, participants consistently expressed interest in water features, play opportunities, nature-based amenities, and shaded gathering spaces. Recreation programming preferences closely aligned with survey results, and public art activities revealed interest in interactive, nature-inspired, and community-created art.

Key Priorities from Phase 1 Pop-Up Engagement:

- Pom-Pom Poll (1,950 total votes):
  - Water: 409 votes
  - Play: 395 votes
  - Nature: 372 votes
- Recreation programs and activities (555 total votes):
  - Water & recreation: 102 votes
  - Camps & classes: 95 votes
  - Youth sports leagues: 85 votes
- Public art preferences (235 total votes):
  - Interactive art: 80 votes
  - Nature-inspired art: 57 votes
  - Sculptures: 30 votes

Feedback from pop-up events helped validate survey findings while providing additional insight into how residents experience specific parks and amenities.



Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Engagement

Phase 2 of the public involvement process focused on gathering more detailed input to inform updates to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Capital Improvement Program. The Capital Improvement Program will inform park improvements over the next 1-6 years. During fall 2025, targeted pop-up engagement events were held at well-attended community and school-based events, including the Liberty Lake Municipal Library Halloween Event (nearly 325 participants), Liberty Lake Elementary STEM Night (approximately 100 participants), and a Girl Scouts meeting (approximately 15 participants).

A priority path activity was used to guide participants through decisions related to park system investments and funding priorities. This interactive, decision-tree format encouraged participants to consider tradeoffs and identify the improvements they believe should be prioritized. A youth-friendly activity was also provided to ensure younger participants understood planning before completing the activity, so they could meaningfully engage.

To broaden participation, the same priority path activity was offered through an online survey, which received 268 responses. Participants were first asked whether they were Liberty Lake residents, allowing results from both the in-person and online engagement to be summarized by resident and non-resident participation. Results from both engagement formats were then combined to identify consistent priorities across all responses.

Key Priorities from CIP Engagement:

Overall Park System Priorities (487 votes):

- Community Pool: 224 votes
  - Resident: 201
  - Non-Resident: 23
- New Playground Equipment: 66 votes
  - Resident: 54
  - Non-Resident: 12
- New Trails: 63 votes
  - Resident: 55
  - Non-Resident: 8

Overall Funding Priorities (511 votes):

- Natural-Style Play Equipment: 148 votes
  - Resident: 125
  - Non-Resident: 23
- Free Community Events: 85 votes
  - Resident: 72
  - Non-Resident: 13
- Traditional-Style Play Equipment: 55 votes
  - Resident: 46
  - Non-Resident: 9

Fund it Tool

After the results from the priority path activity were analyzed and compared with earlier engagement findings, a list of potential capital projects was developed and presented back to the community through an online “fund-it tool.” This activity allowed participants to allocate 500 points across a range of proposed projects, with point values assigned based on the relative scale and estimated cost of each improvement. The exercise encouraged participants to consider tradeoffs while identifying which investments they believed should be prioritized.

The results of this activity helped further refine the Capital Improvement Program by highlighting the projects that received the highest level of community support. Using a required zip code question, 79.6% of respondents were identified as Liberty Lake residents. The top five projects identified through this tool are shown below and represent the projects funded by the highest percentage of respondents.

Key Priorities from Fund It Tool:

- Feasibility & Site Planning Study: Community Pool (81.2%)
- Pavillion Park Playground Renovation 67.7%
- Orchard Park Playground Shade 61.8%
- The Pavillion Park Splash Pad (59.4%)
- Orchard Park Tree Canopy Project (57.7%)

This Capital Improvement Program (CIP) engagement directly influenced the final CIP for the City of Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Plan.

Key Takeaways from Engagement

Community members expressed pride in Liberty Lake's parks system while highlighting opportunities to expand programming, add new facilities, improve trails, and ensure equitable access.

Recreation Programming

Residents want more programs that are inclusive, diverse, and accessible:

- **Camps & classes:** nature exploration, STEAM, arts & creativity
- **Water recreation:** learn-to-swim programs, splash events, kayaking & paddleboarding
- **Youth leagues:** soccer, volleyball, baseball
- **Inclusive options for seniors, families, and people with disabilities**

Facilities & Amenities

High-priority facilities and amenities include:

- **Aquatic center/public pool** (the top request across all engagement)
- **Indoor community/recreation center** for year-round use
- Expanded **sidewalks & trails** linking neighborhoods to parks
- **More amenities overall:** benches, shelters, restrooms, shade structures, and dog areas

Playgrounds

Families called for shaded, inclusive, and engaging play areas:

- **Traditional equipment:** swings, slides, merry-go-rounds
- **Natural features:** hillside slides, climbing areas, nature play zones
- **Core activities:** swinging, climbing, and sliding

Trails & Connectivity

Trails are among the most beloved assets, with the Centennial Trail standing out. Residents want:

- Expanded **neighborhood trail connections**
- A **5–15-minute walk standard** for park access
- **Better lighting, signage, and safety**
- **ADA accessibility** for all ages and abilities
- **Conservation values** integrated into trail planning

Public Art

Residents view public art as an opportunity to reflect Liberty Lake's identity:

- **Interactive and nature-inspired installations**
- **Murals & mosaics** on benches, planters, and walls
- **Historical & cultural themes** celebrating heritage and inclusivity
- **Key locations:** gathering spaces, park entryways, trails, and playgrounds

Community Values & Experiences

Residents consistently described parks as central to Liberty Lake's identity. They want:

- **Safe, well-lit spaces** with good visibility
- **Natural areas & shade** for comfort and conservation
- **Accessible parks** for all ages, abilities, and income levels
- Stronger **outreach and communication** so residents know about available programs
- **Continued support for signature events** such as Barefoot in the Park, Home for the Holidays, Pavillion Park concerts, and the Farmers Market

Overall Insight

Liberty Lake residents are proud of their parks and eager to see them evolve. The strongest priorities are creating a pool/aquatic center, building an indoor community center, expanding trails, upgrading playgrounds, and maintaining existing facilities. At the same time, residents emphasized safety, accessibility, natural spaces, and public art as ways to strengthen community connection.





5 Demand & Needs Analysis



Introduction

Liberty Lake's quality of life and desirability is directly tied to its parks and recreation system. When asked, **"How important do you think parks and recreation are to the overall quality of life Liberty Lake?"** 83% of survey respondents said, "Very Important". Liberty Lake residents greatly value their parks, and a comprehensive parks system that is easily accessed and well used by the public provides a multitude of civic and public benefits. People living near well-designed and maintained parks report greater community connection and greater satisfaction with local government. The public appreciates parks which represent them by way of public art, events, and programming reflective of the community's culture and interests. Parks that are easily accessible are associated with greater civic trust and appreciation. According to a literature review conducted by the research nonprofit Urban Institute, parks positively contribute to the public's physical health, mental health, and social health. Parks also improve a city's environmental quality, improving the place's overall livability and resiliency. A summary of the benefits and impacts are listed in Table 5-1 below.

Table 5-1: Reported Health Benefits of Parks

	Benefits and Impacts
Physical Health	♦ **Well Being:** Spending 120 minutes per week in green spaces has been associated with higher levels of reported good health and well-being. ♦ **Physical Health:** Evidence suggests that proximity to green space has a positive effect on self-perceived general physical health, with a larger effect for the elderly, youth, and families with low incomes. ♦ **Reduced Complications:** Evidence has associated time spent in parks and green spaces with reductions in complications from chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.
Mental Health	♦ **Reduced Stress:** Several international studies have linked access to green space, whether through physical presence or views, to reduced stress levels. ♦ **Workplace Improvement:** The frequency, duration, and activity of open space usage reduced the stress levels and stress-related experiences of employees in the workplace as recorded by a self-reported questionnaire. ♦ **Job Satisfaction:** Open space, including greenery and outdoor space, fostered overall improvements to employee health and well-being, even leading to higher job satisfaction.
Social Health	♦ **Social Cohesion:** Park spaces were significantly correlated with positive impacts on stress and social support, suggesting that programmed park space may have a greater impact on overall health than general levels of neighborhood vegetation. ♦ **Social Capital:** Environmental education programs, volunteer programs, and community-led stewardship are associated with increased levels of social capital. Urban parks can serve as an access point to social participation through nature-based recreation. ♦ **Social Resilience:** Faced with increased social and psychological strain, emerging research indicates people seek out parks and green spaces as restorative resources.

Environmental Quality	♦ **Air Quality:** There is a relationship between exposure to air pollution and higher cardiovascular mortality and an association between green space and a reduction in air pollution. ♦ **Climate Adaptations:** Parks and green spaces can serve as natural ways to increase urban hazard resiliency. Green space can serve a crucial role in protecting against flood risk by reducing runoff.

Source: Urban Institute (2022). The Health Benefits of Parks and their Economic Impacts. Retrieved from https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/the-health-benefits-of-parks-and-their-economic-impacts_0.pdf.

Given how important the parks system is to the overall health and well-being of everyone who lives and recreates in Liberty Lake, this chapter seeks to help answer the following questions:

1. Does Liberty Lake Have Enough Parklands to Serve Its Current and Future Population?

2. Does Liberty Lake Have the Right Kind of Parks?

3. Are Liberty Lake's Parks Accessible to All Residents?

4. Are Liberty Lake's Facilities Accommodating Residents' Desired Recreational Opportunities?

The following analysis evaluates, quantifies, and considers facility and recreation demands, and identifies existing and future needs for parkland, facilities, and open spaces. The needs include both the preservation of existing services and resources, as well as projected future needs based on population forecasts and economic outlooks. The current update reflects the needs, desires, and recommended priorities that set the foundation for the next 6 to 10 years, as well as providing aspiration for the next 15 to 20 years.





Methodology

Both quantitative and qualitative metrics are provided to give a fuller understanding of the demands and needs. Quantitative standards are traditionally used to assess the need for additional parks and recreation elements. Based on the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) guidelines and park metric database, simple comparisons of adequate land based on normalized averages across the country were the traditional way of determining what the minimum amount of parklands should be. This plan assesses the recreational demands of the City of Liberty Lake, starting with benchmarking level-of-service (LOS) performance metrics, reporting on recreation trends, and conducting a service coverage, 10-minute walkshed analysis of the current park system.

Quantitative Metrics

- Level of Service as Park Acres per 1,000 Residents.
- Number of Residents per Park.
- Areas Accessible Within 10-Minute Walk of Parks (Walkshed).
- Sidewalk Condition Assessment Scoring.

While quantifiable metrics allow for easy comparisons to be made, they are analytically and programmatically weak compared to understanding a community's quality of life. Qualitative indicators include identifying the percentage of facilities that are capturing public demand and are in good condition according to their function. By engaging with community members through surveys, pop-up events, and other forms of public consultation, the public's level of satisfaction with the condition, quantity, or distribution of existing active park and recreation facilities creates metrics that can be better utilized in developing strong strategies and improvements. The full community engagement report which assessed qualitative demands can be found in Appendix B: Community Engagement .

Qualitative Metrics

- Local, State, and National Recreation Trends.
- Community Satisfaction Survey.
- Community Facility Demand.



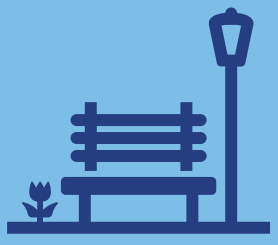
Quantitative Metrics

Level of Service Assessment

A “Level of Service” (Abbrev. LOS) refers to the amount and quality of recreation facilities that are necessary to meet current and future needs of the population. The LOS standards cited in the section may be thought of as guidelines and recommendations that Liberty Lake has the freedom to modify in whatever manner best serves the needs and desires of the community. Whatever standards are established shall also take into full consideration the City’s obligation to ensure that the operational and maintenance needs of the existing parks system are met.

Liberty Lake’s current adopted Parks and Open Space LOS is 30 acres per 1,000 population. Policies supporting this LOS include 10-3G-3 of City Development Code and the River District SAP-08-0001 which requires that all proposed residential uses shall be located within ½ mile of a park or greenway area. As development occurs, the developer and the City shall work concurrently to identify the size, location, and configuration of proposed parks and greenways, ensuring consistency with the City’s adopted Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Consistent with Article 10-3B of the Development Code, trails, sidewalks, and pathways must also be built concurrent with new construction to ensure adequate pedestrian access and circulation necessary to serve the development.

As of 2025, Liberty Lake is estimated to have a current population of 14,110 and is projected to grow to a population of 21,934 by 2046. The following section will demonstrate if Liberty Lake is meeting its adopted LOS standard and how the current parks and recreation system compares to communities of similar population sizes. As Liberty Lake anticipates future growth, an additional comparison can be made to small cities in the next population threshold with a population above 20,000, knowing that an increasingly diverse population base will have different needs and desires for programming than might currently exist. The supply of parks and recreation spaces with specific functions can then be compared with recommended LOS targets for those specific types of parks.



National Recreation and Park Association

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting parks, recreation, and environmental conservation as integral components of healthy communities. Its mission is "to advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people." NRPA is a service organization that serves communities of over 60,000 park professionals and is a vocal advocate for the cause they serve by providing professional development, advocacy, grants, research, and publications. In summary, the importance of the NRPA's role in urban planning is to advocate for and provide guidance, ensuring that cities treat parks and recreation as fundamental services.

Defining Liberty Lake Parks to Match National Standards

There are several ways by which Liberty Lake's provision of parklands can be measured. Liberty Lake's current goal and adopted standard of 30 acres per 1,000 population is comprehensive in that it considers all parks, open space, and recreational areas, inclusive of all park classifications and forms of ownership and management. In other words, in real world terms, recreational spaces such as the County golf courses, though not governed by the City, nevertheless contribute significantly to the total parkland acreage and program offerings which serve the local population. Defined in this manner, the total parkland acreage in Liberty Lake is determined to be approximately 608 acres, yielding a LOS of 43.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in 2025.

The NRPA employs a narrower definition of "parkland" to make LOS comparisons and recommendations. "Parkland" refers to both formal parks and non-park sites of other classification types which are directly managed or maintained by the submitting municipal parks and recreation agency. This means that **agencies only submit park metrics that are within their jurisdictional control,** a limitation which contrasts with Liberty Lake's adopted LOS that comprehensively considers all parks and open spaces, regardless of ownership or public access

A conventional standard used by local agencies has been to provide 6.25 to 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 population as a general standard for municipal park systems. Current NRPA guidelines have shifted toward broader measures that are based on national statistics (through the NRPA Park Metrics database). These measures enable cities to compare themselves against the nation's medians and peer agencies, but do not insist upon a rigid "standard." Under this definition of parks, owned and managed directly by the municipality, Liberty Lake is determined to have 318.77 acres of public parkland, as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** on the following page.

Table 5-2: Public Parks and Open Spaces Level of Service Inventory

Park	Acreage	Trail Miles	Ownership/Management
Community Parks			
Orchard Park	11.86	1.4	City
Pavillion Park	13.09	0.7	City
Rocky Hill Park	13.99	0.8	City
TOTALS	**38.94 ac**	**2.84 mi**	-
Open Spaces and Natural Areas			
Open Spaces and Natural Areas	126.76 ac	0 mi	Public
Neighborhood Parks			
Blueridge Ave Park	1.27	0	HOA with public access
Five Fingers Park	0.8	0	HOA with public access
Half Moon Park	2.9	0	HOA with public access
Harrier Ln Park	0.3	0	HOA with public access
Legacy Ridge Parks (3 gated parks and trails)	12.0	1.83	HOA with public access
Little Bear Park	0.4	0	HOA with public access
Osprey Ln Park	0.6	0	HOA with public access
Pumphouse Park	0.6	0	HOA with public access
River Rock Park	4.9	0.5	HOA with public access
TOTALS	**23.77 ac**	**2.33 mi**	-
Regional Parks			
Centennial Trail (part maintained by Liberty Lake)	51.66	2.75	State Parks
TOTALS	**51.66 ac**	**2.75mi**	-
School Ballfields			
Liberty Lake “The Diamonds” Ballfields	9.09	0.15	City
Liberty Creek Elementary	3.96	0	Central Valley School District
Liberty Lake Elementary	4.97	0	Central Valley School District
TOTALS	**18.02 ac**	**0.15 mi**	-
Special Use Parks			

Nature's Place Arboretum	2.8	0.27	City
Town Square Park (developed area)	1.75	0.25	City
Trailhead Golf Course	55.07	0.8	City
TOTALS	**59.62 ac**	**1.32 mi**	-
Overall System			
PUBLIC SYSTEM TOTAL	**318.77 ac**	**9.45 mi**	-
2025 Level of Service (Acres / 1,000 pop.)	22.59 ac/ 1,000 pop.	0.67 mi/ 1,000 pop.	
2046 Level of Service (Acres / 1,000 pop.)	14.53 ac/ 1,000 pop.	0.43 mi/ 1,000 pop.	*Note: This represents the baseline conditions without planned parks and trail facilities.*

Source: NRPA. (2025). 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review. NRPA Agency Performance Review.

Benchmarking Liberty Lake Parks with Similar Communities

NRPA collects annual nationwide data on characteristics of agencies, including types of programs offered, size of population served, budget and staffing. For a given metric, NRPA reports the median value of all reporting agencies within a certain population range to represent the “typical agency.” The following analysis will benchmark Liberty Lake’s performance metrics in comparison to the national median values of communities of a similar population size. The performance metrics compared here fall into three categories looking at the supply of parks, programming, and financing, including staffing, budgeting, and revenue. Table 5-3 provides an overview of all criteria provided by staff in comparison with the national median.



Table 5-3: NRPA Performance Metrics for Cities (2025)

Description	Liberty Lake (Pop. 14,110)	National Median Cities Less Than 20,000 Pop.	National Median Cities of 20,000-49,999 Pop.
Number of residents per park (median)	**743**	1,001	2,071
Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (median)	**22.59**	10.9	9.2
Miles of trails (median)	**9.4**	4	10
Number of programs offered annually (median)	**19**	45	164
Percentage of programs that are fee-based	**37%**	83%	85%
Full-time equivalent staff (median)	**19**	13.8	30.5
Full-time equivalent staff per 10,000 (median)	**13.5**	13.7	9.6
Annual operation expenditures (rounded median)	$2,081,735.00	$1,451,763.00	$3,682,806.00
Operating expenditures per capita (median)	$147.54	$139.87	$112.38
Operating expenditure per acre of park and non-park sites (median)	$18,971.43	$9,512.00	$8,979.00
Operating expenditure per full-time equivalent (median)	$109,565.00	$107,982.00	$116,895.00
Park and recreation revenue per capita (median)	$2.61	$49.67	$28.40
Revenue as a percentage of operating expenditures (cost recovery)	1.8%	31.1%	25.8%
Five-year capital budget spending (rounded median)	$916,958.00	$2,211,950.00	$7,971,329.00

Table Key	
Green	Better Than National Median of Cities < 20,000 Pop.
Red	Worse Than National Median of Cities < 20,000 Pop.

Source: NRPA. (2025). 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review. NRPA Agency Performance Review.

Liberty Lake's park and recreation system demonstrates a distinct set of strengths and structural characteristics when compared to national median values for both cities with populations under 20,000 and those in the 20,000–49,999 population range, as reported by the National Recreation and Park Association 2025 Agency Performance Review.

Liberty Lake performs particularly well in measures related to park access and system capacity. With 743 residents per park, the City serves fewer residents per facility than the national median for cities under 20,000 population (1,001), indicating a comparatively high level of access. Similarly, Liberty Lake provides 22.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, more than double the national median for smaller cities and well above the benchmark for larger communities. The City also exceeds the national median for trail provision among small cities, with 9.4 miles of trails, approaching the median reported for communities in the 20,000–49,999 population range. Staffing levels further reinforce this service capacity, as Liberty Lake maintains 13.5 full-time equivalent employees per 10,000 residents, closely aligned with the national median for small cities and exceeding the staffing intensity of larger peer communities.

Operational investment in the park system is also relatively strong. Liberty Lake's operating expenditures per capita ($147.54) exceed the national median for cities under 20,000 residents, reflecting a solid commitment to day-to-day system maintenance and service delivery. Spending per full-time equivalent employee is comparable to national norms, while operating expenditures per acre are substantially higher than peer medians, consistent with a system characterized by well-maintained facilities and higher service expectations.

In contrast, Liberty Lake differs markedly from national peers in programming volume, revenue generation, and capital investment. The City offers 19 programs annually, significantly fewer than the national median of 45 for cities under 20,000 residents and far below the level reported for larger communities. A relatively small share of these programs are fee-based (37 percent), compared to more than 80 percent nationally, contributing to very low revenue generation. Liberty Lake reports $2.61 in park and recreation revenue per capita and a cost recovery rate of 1.8 percent, well below national benchmarks. These figures reflect a system that is intentionally structured to minimize user fees and relies upon external partnerships and private facilities to meet community demand for year-round and specialized programming. Facilities such as HUB Sports Center, Liberty Lake Athletic Club, and regional providers such as the Spokane Valley YMCA of the Inland Northwest supply a wide range of sports, fitness, aquatics, youth enrichment, and after-school programs that are not directly offered through the City's parks and recreation department. This partnership-oriented service model helps fill program gaps without requiring direct municipal investment but also limits the City's ability to generate program-based revenue or directly control access, pricing, and long-term service availability.

Capital investment further distinguishes Liberty Lake from its peers. The City's five-year capital spending level of approximately $917,000 is substantially below national medians for both comparison groups, suggesting limited near-term capacity to expand, renovate, or diversify park facilities without new funding strategies.

Overall, Liberty Lake's park and recreation system is characterized by high levels of parkland access, strong staffing support, and sustained operational investment, resulting in a system that prioritizes availability and quality of public spaces. At the same time, comparatively low levels of programming, revenue generation, and capital spending indicate a model that is highly service-oriented but fiscally dependent on non-program funding sources. As Liberty Lake grows, these characteristics may shape future policy discussions around program expansion, financial sustainability, and long-term capital planning.

Local Peer Community Comparisons

Using NRPA's national database, as well as information about the park systems gathered directly from the agency staff, Liberty Lake's parks performance metrics may also be compared with those of other local agencies of similar populations sizes and geographies, located in Spokane County, Washington and Kootenai County, Idaho. Benchmarking these parks' performance indicators not only with national values, but also with local peer communities helps to identify which metrics Liberty Lake scores strongly in and which are performing lower. Further context and analysis can provide insights into why this is the case. The peer communities selected for comparison include:

- **Airway Heights, Washington:** Pop. 12,120.
- **Cheney, Washington:** Pop. 13,180.
- **Hayden, Idaho:** Pop. 16,531.
- **Rathdrum, Idaho:** Pop. 13,107.

Table 5-4: Peer Community Comparison Across Park Metrics

Description	Liberty Lake, WA	Airway Heights, WA	Cheney, WA	Hayden, ID	Rathdrum, ID
Level of Service Metrics					
Population (2025 Est.)	14,110	12,120	13,180	16,531	13,107
Number of Public Parks	19	7	11	6	10
Number of residents per park	**743**	1,731	1,198	2,755	1,310
Acres of Public Parks and Opens Space	**318.77**	83.11	79.22	73.65	32.56
Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents	**22.59**	6.9	6.0	4.5	2.5
Programs					
Number of programs offered annually	**19**	74	94	71	81

Percentage of programs that are fee-based	**37%**	89%	93%	76%	65%
Department Staffing and Budget					
Full-time equivalent staff	**19**	11	6	9	7
Full-time equivalent staff per 10,000 residents	**13.5**	9.1	4.6	5.4	5.3
Annual operation expenditures	$2,081,735.00	$2,421,163.65	1,342,341.60	$1,432,405.48	$1,146,525.00
Operating expenditures per capita	$147.54	$199.77	$101.85	$86.65	$87.47
Operating expenditure per acre of parklands	$10,523.38	$29,132.04	$16,944.48	$19,448.82	$35,212.68
Operating expenditure per full-time equivalent staff member	$109,565.00	$220,105.79	$223,723.60	$159,156.16	$163,789.29

Table Key	
Green	Better Than National Median of Cities < 20,000 Pop.
Red	Worse Than National Median of Cities < 20,000 Pop.

Source: NRPA. (2025). 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review. NRPA Agency Performance Review.

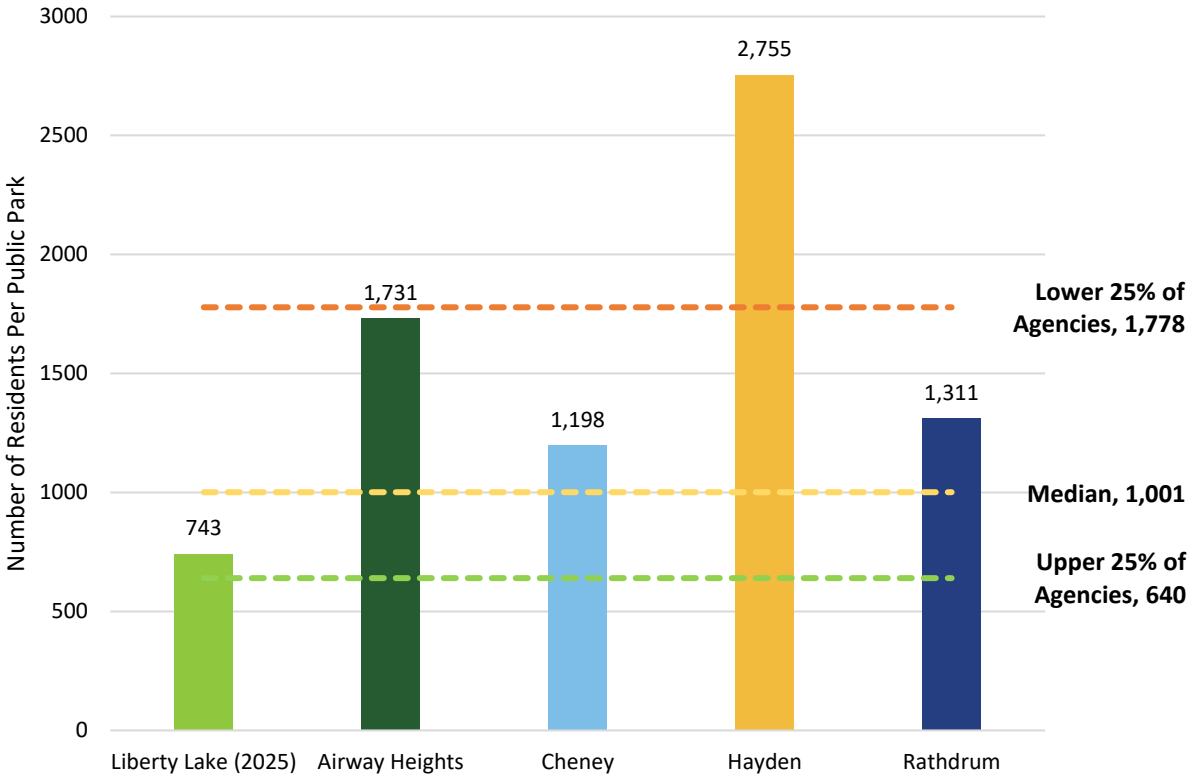
When benchmarking Liberty Lake with the four local peer communities of comparable populations, several findings emerge which will be discussed in further detail in the following sections:

Level of Service Metrics

Key Finding: Liberty Lake has more public parks and open spaces that are larger in size than its peer communities. This contributes to the lowest density of residents per park, but also the highest amount of acreage offered per capita.

For the purposes of comparison, the analysis includes public parks and recreational spaces directly owned by the city, as well as the portion of the Centennial Trail for which Liberty Lake is responsible for maintaining under a joint management agreement, and the Central Valley School District lawn and ballfield spaces for which the City maintains in exchange for programming reservations throughout the year. These parklands are inventoried in detail in Chapter 3. These facilities are determined to currently offer a LOS of 22.59 acres of public parkland per 1,000 residents in 2025.

Figure 5-1: Number of Residents per Park Comparison

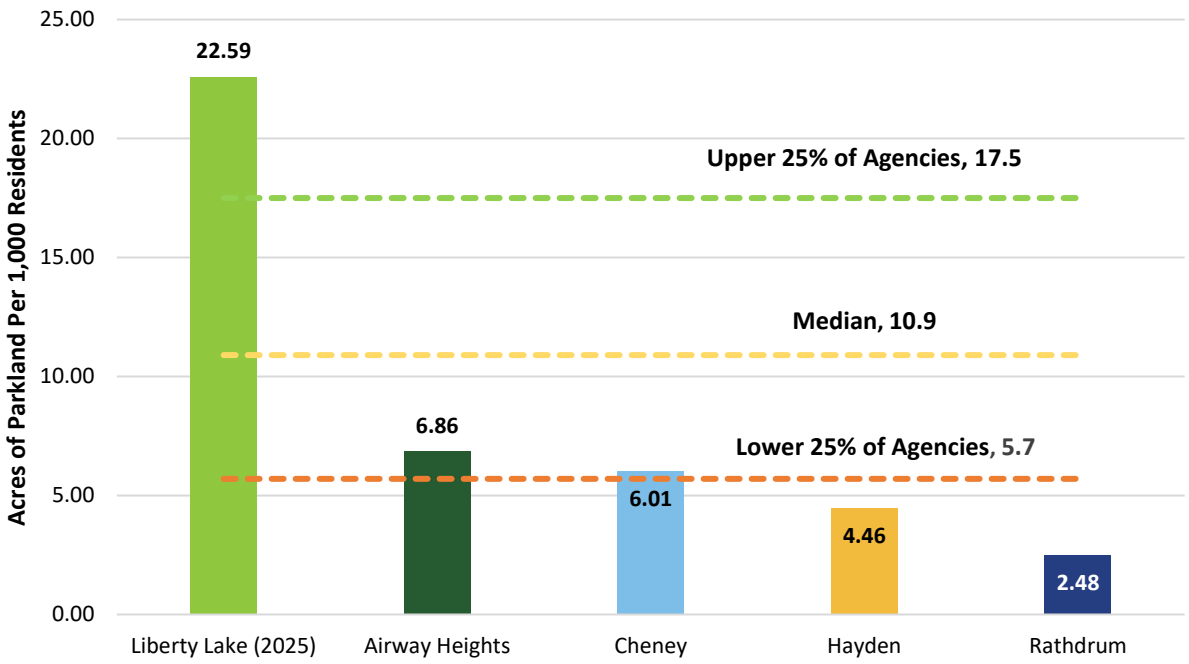


Source: NRPA. (2025). 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review. NRPA Agency Performance Review.

Figure 5-1 compares the number of residents served per public park in Liberty Lake to selected peer communities and national benchmarks reported by the NRPA. The figure also illustrates the lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values from the NRPA dataset, providing context for how Liberty Lake compares across the full range of agency outcomes. Approximately 25 percent of agencies report fewer than 640 residents per park, while half of agencies fall between the upper quartile and the lower quartile benchmark of 1,778 residents per park.

Based on 2025 data, Liberty Lake serves approximately 743 residents per public park, which outperforms the national median of 1,001 residents per park and is within the upper-performing quartile of agencies. Overall, Liberty Lake's parks and open space system achieves a higher level of service than its local peer communities. This metric reflects park quantity only and does not account for the unique functions, classifications, or amenity types provided within each park, as documented in the full inventory. While the city's larger number of neighborhood parks may help distribute park access and day-to-day use throughout the community, these parks may not provide the specialized or destination amenities that many users seek. As a result, higher-intensity activities and visitor demand may continue to concentrate within the City's community parks, potentially contributing to localized crowding despite a comparatively strong overall level of service.

Figure 5-2: Local Peer Community and NRPA Level of Service Comparison



Source: NRPA. (2025). 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review. NRPA Agency Performance Review.

Figure 5-2 compares Liberty Lake's current public parkland supply per 1,000 residents to selected peer communities and national benchmarks derived from the NRPA dataset. In addition to peer city comparisons, the figure illustrates the lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values reported in the NRPA survey, providing important context on how Liberty Lake compares across the full national distribution of park level-of-service (LOS) outcomes. Approximately 25 percent of agencies fall below the lower quartile benchmark (5.7 acres per 1,000 residents), 50 percent fall between the lower and upper quartiles, and the remaining 25 percent exceed the upper quartile benchmark (17.5 acres per 1,000 residents).

Based on 2025 data, Liberty Lake provides approximately 22.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, placing the city well above the NRPA median value of 10.9 acres and within the upper quartile of agencies nationwide. Liberty Lake's parkland LOS exceeds that of all identified peer communities shown in the comparison. Overall, the chart demonstrates that Liberty Lake's current park system provides a comparatively high level of park access when measured against both peer jurisdictions and national NRPA benchmarks for communities of a similar size.

Amenities Offered

A review of Liberty Lake's public park and recreation amenities was conducted and compared with national benchmarks reported by the National Recreation and Park Association for communities with populations under 20,000. These benchmarks provide a useful point of comparison for understanding how Liberty Lake's system aligns with the types of amenities commonly provided by similarly sized agencies across the United States. **Overall, the analysis found that Liberty Lake provides a solid baseline of core park amenities and does not exhibit any significant gaps of concern when compared with national averages.**

Table 5-5: Amenity Offering Comparison

Amenity. Managed by Agency	Liberty Lake # of Amenities	Peer Community Average # of Amenities	% of Peer Communities Which Offer Amenity	Average # of Residents per Amenity*	Liberty Lake # of Residents per Amenity**
Playgrounds or play structures	8	7	60%	1,575	1,764
Outdoor Basketball Courts	4	3	54%	3,676	3,528
Diamond Fields	8	6	51%	1,838	1,764
Rectangular Fields	2	6	48%	1,838	7,055
Outdoor Tennis Courts	0	5	38%	2,206	0
Tot lots primarily dedicated for kids aged 2-5	5	3	35%	3,676	2,822
Playgrounds primarily dedicated for kids aged 5-12	3	5	31%	2,206	4,703
Dog Parks	0	1	30%	11,028	0
Outdoor Pickleball Courts	0	4	30%	2,757	0
Community Gardens	2	4	28%	2,757	7,055
Skateboard Parks	1	1	27%	11,028	14,110
Multiuse Racquet Courts-Tennis, Pickleball	7	3	22%	3,676	2,016
Recreation Centers	0	1	33%	11,028	0
Community Centers	0	1	28%	11,028	0
Aquatics Centers	0	1	14%	11,028	0

**Average Population of Sample = 11,028 | ** 2025 Population = 14,110 | Source: 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review.*

Findings Overview

Liberty Lake performs particularly well in several of the most common park amenities provided nationwide. The City offers diamond fields, basketball courts, and neighborhood playgrounds at levels generally consistent with peer agencies. For example, Liberty Lake offers more playgrounds and diamond fields than the national average and a comparable number of outdoor basketball courts. Playgrounds represent the most widely provided amenity nationwide and Liberty Lake maintains a strong foundation of play opportunities that serve multiple age groups, including tot lots and playground areas for older children.

The analysis identified rectangular athletic fields as one of the few amenities where Liberty Lake's publicly managed inventory is smaller than the national average. While comparable communities typically maintain an average of approximately six rectangular fields, Liberty Lake currently manages two fields within the municipal park system. However, this apparent gap is largely addressed through partnerships with the HUB Sports Center and the Central Valley School District to expand the community's overall inventory of athletic fields. Local schools contribute approximately four grass rectangular fields that are periodically available for community use. In addition, the HUB Sports Center is in the process of developing five new outdoor synthetic turf fields that will support sports such as soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby, and ultimate frisbee. Once completed, these facilities will significantly expand the supply of rectangular fields available to Liberty Lake residents.

A similar dynamic applies to racquet sport facilities. Liberty Lake does not currently have outdoor courts solely dedicated to tennis or pickleball within its park system, which could appear as a mild gap when compared with national averages. However, the City intentionally relies on a shared-use model for racquet sport facilities, allowing courts to accommodate multiple sports rather than dedicating land to single-use tennis courts. This approach helps conserve park space while allowing flexibility for sports such as pickleball and tennis. While shared-use courts can occasionally create scheduling conflicts between users, they also enable the City to provide racquet sport opportunities more efficiently within a limited park footprint.

Potential Need

Liberty Lake Parks and Recreation does not currently operate any indoor recreation facilities or community centers. Among agencies serving populations under 20,000, approximately 33% report operating community centers, 28% report recreation centers, and 14% report aquatics centers. While these facilities are often not provided by smaller park agencies, community engagement conducted for this plan suggests that residents have a strong interest in expanding indoor recreation opportunities, particularly those related to aquatic recreation. Public input consistently identified water-based recreation as a priority, ranking it among the highest or second-highest priorities across the engagement activities summarized in Chapter 04 Public Outreach & Community Engagement. These findings suggest that although indoor recreation and aquatic facilities are not standard among all peer communities, the absence of these amenities is strongly felt and consistently expressed by Liberty Lake residents.

Conclusion

Overall, Liberty Lake's park system compares favorably with national benchmarks for communities of similar size. While some amenities appear less prevalent within the City's municipal park inventory, these differences are largely explained by strong partnerships with regional sports facilities and local schools. Together, these partnerships expand access to key recreational amenities while allowing the City to use its park space efficiently and focus resources on maintaining a balanced and flexible park system.

Programs Offered

- As an agency, Liberty Lake currently offers fewer programs than the national median (45), placing it in the lower-middle range of performance. Despite being below the median, Liberty Lake still exceeds the lower quartile threshold (10 programs), meaning it offers more programs than roughly the bottom 25% of park agencies nationwide. All of the local peer communities exceed the national median, suggesting a regional trend toward higher-than-average program offerings.
- Liberty Lake's programming volume appears to trail behind its peer group and the national median, however much of this programming gap is currently being filled by contracted third parties, such as the Skyhawks Sports day camps run through the H.U.B. Sports Center. Through the sharing of public facilities and private programming, Liberty Lake is able to offer the public a wider variety of activities, particularly youth sports, with lower personnel costs.
- Many of the programs that are offered by Liberty Lake Parks and Recreation are free events to the public. Therefore, a much lower percentage of the programming is fee-based in Liberty Lake than might be expected if recreational center memberships and sports camp fees comprised a high percentage of program offerings. Fees charges for golf activities at the City-owned Trailhead golf course are accounted as a separate revenue source and are not here considered.

Staffing and Budget

- Liberty Lake has the highest number of full-time staff members who work under the department's budget compared to its peer communities. This also contributes to the highest staffing to population ratio of any community.
- Liberty Lake has the second highest parks operating budget and expenditure per capita among the peer communities. This indicates a higher-than-average investment in the public parks system per resident.
- Trailhead Golf Course's maintenance staff, operations, and capital purchases are not budgeted through the Parks Department's General fund, but rather through a separate Enterprise fund. This indicates that municipal investment in golfing opportunities is higher than just what is budgeted for the department.
- Liberty Lake currently invests $10,523.38 per acre of parklands, indicating efficient spending to cover the larger size of the city's parks system.
- Liberty Lake reports the lowest operating expenses per full-time employee among its peer communities. This suggests that the City is using staff more efficiently and/or has a leaner cost structure per employee.

Evaluating Future Demand

In order to estimate whether or not Liberty Lake will have sufficient parkland to serve its future population, several variables influencing the calculation will be defined. The first variable to consider is Liberty Lake's planned future population. There are two future population scenarios: As described in Chapter 2: Community Context, Spokane County estimates that Liberty Lake's population will be 21,934, based upon the Office of Financial Management's (OFM) medium growth scenario.

Another scenario, however, is basing a realistic population estimate upon the city's growth constraints. Liberty Lake is unique in that that all residential areas of the city have been platted or have an approved special area plan to guide the nature and intensity of future development. As such, a full 100% build-out scenario, supported by what has been platted or approved, yields a maximum future population within the city's current growth area of 15,861 residents. Therefore, two population projections could be considered to calculate future parkland level of service: 1) Future projections for local jurisdictions are a share of the total county population and 2) The maximum population that can be supported by a full land use build-out scenario, assuming no future UGA adjustments or annexation occurs.

The parkland LOS numerator is defined by the total acreage in 2046. The existing 318.77-acre footprint of the public parks and open space system in 2025 can be used as a baseline. The resulting LOS then represents the maximum service gap between the target LOS and the projected population or build-out population.

Many parks are planned for development in the near future before 2046. Table 5-5 lists which parks are currently planned as of 2025 with their corresponding size, classification, and owner. Factoring the total acreage of these known developments would add about 18.09 acres of parklands and 0.9 miles of trails to the total system.



Table 5-6: List of Currently Planned Park Facilities in Liberty Lake (as of 2025)

Location	Currently Planned Parks and/or Trails	Acres or Trail Mileage	Classification	Ownership
Parks				
Town Square Park	Master Plan Additional Undeveloped Acreage	4.55	Special Use	Public
Villages at Stonehill	"Village Green"	2.21	Open Space	Stonehill HOA
Villages at Stonehill	"Neighborhood Park" on Snowy Owl Loop	0.33	Pocket Park	Stonehill HOA
River District	"Quinimose Park"	Approx. 10	Community Park	Greenstone Homes
River District	Pocket Park #1	Approx. 0.5	Neighborhood Park	Greenstone Homes
River District	Pocket Park #2	Approx. 0.5	Neighborhood Park	Greenstone Homes
Total		**Approx. 18.09**		
Trails				
E Appleway Ave/ E Country Vista Dr	Appleway Trail Extension to Kramer Rd (CFP Project TP-23)	0.9	Regional Trail	Public

Using these assumptions for future population projections and the footprint of the total parks system, Liberty Lake's future LOS can be estimated. Applying the current LOS standard to the designated 2025 public parks and open space inventory shown in Table 5-2 results in major deficiencies. A new approach is therefore considered to better align with national best practices and the peer community benchmarks:

- **Establish a Level of Service standard** for the total public parks and open spaces that **more closely aligns** with the national median and NRPA minimum recommendation of 10 Acres per 1,000 residents.
- **Community Parks:** Establish a Level of Service standard of 2.75 acres per 1,000 residents.
- **Neighborhood Parks:** Establish a Level of Service standard of 1 acre per 1,000 residents.
- **Open Space and Natural Areas:** Establish a Level of Service standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents.
- **Trails and Pathways:** Establish a Level of Service standard of ¼ mile of urban trails and pathways per 1,000 residents.

Using the defined inventory of existing parklands and the anticipated acreage of planned parklands, service levels for existing conditions, future projections, and modified LOS recommendations by park classification have been calculated, as summarized in Table 5-7 on the following page.

Table 5-7: Current and Future Level of Service Results

Metric	NRPA Median / Target	Current LOS (2025)	Future LOS (2046)	Future LOS + Planned Parks	Recommended LOS	Current Need?	Future Need?
A. Systemwide Park Metrics							
Total Parkland (acres per 1,000 residents)	10.9 acres / 1,000 pop.	22.59 acres/ 1,000 pop.	14.53 acres/ 1,000 pop.	15.36 acres / 1,000 pop.	10 acres / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target
Residents Per Park	1,001 pop. / park	743 pop./ park	1,154 pop./ park	914 pop./ park	1,000 pop. / park	Meets Target	Conditionally Meets Target
B. Level of Service by Park Classification							
Community Parks	5 acres / 1,000 pop.	2.76	1.78	2.23	2.75 acres / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Unmet Need
Neighborhood Parks	1 acres / 1,000 pop.	1.68	1.08	1.25	1 acre / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target
Open Space and Natural Areas	5 acres / 1,000 pop.	12.64	8.13	8.13	5 acres / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target
Trails (miles per 1,000 resident)	0.25 miles / 1,000 pop.	0.67	0.43	0.47*	0.25 miles / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target

** Includes planned Appleway Trail Extension (CFP Project TP-23).*

Factoring in planned parklands results in an increase in both the number of parks and total systemwide parkland acreage. Under future conditions, the City's parks system is projected to include **24 parks and recreation areas** totaling approximately **336.86 acres.** This equates to an average of **914 residents per park** and a projected **2046 Level of Service of 15.36 acres per 1,000 residents,** exceeding the proposed LOS standard.

With the inclusion of planned park projects, Liberty Lake is projected to **conditionally meet** the NRPA recommended level of service of **1,000 residents per public park facility** by 2046. This outcome assumes that identified park acquisitions and developments occur as planned and are delivered in step with population growth. Continued monitoring of park development timing, facility mix, and user demand will be essential to ensure that service levels are maintained. If planned parks are delayed or do not provide sufficient functional capacity, increased crowding at existing facilities could lead to user discomfort, scheduling conflicts, and diminished park experiences.

Liberty Lake currently offers three parks which are classified as community parks: Orchard Park, Pavillion Park, and Rocky Hill Park. Community parks typically range in size from 10 acres to as large as 50 acres. All three community parks in Liberty Lake are on the smaller size of the typical range, resulting in a current level of service gap of 2-and-a-quarter acres fewer per 1,000 residents than the NRPA's recommended LOS standard. Adopting a standard of 2.75 acres per 1,000 residents would aim to maintain current levels of satisfaction with Liberty Lake's premier parks into the future. By 2046, without the addition of new community parkland, the community park LOS is projected to decline to 1.78 acres per 1,000 residents, reflecting the effects of population growth and resulting in a substantial service gap relative to the adopted standard.

To partially address this decline in service levels, an approximately 10-acre park is planned along the River District waterfront, intended to interface with both the Centennial Trail and newly developed commercial area. This area can accommodate unique amenities such as a large community amphitheater and trailhead facilities. The addition of this park improves the LOS to 2.23 acres per 1,000 residents, representing a future deficiency of about 11.5 acres.

Town Square Park Potential Park Classification Change

Town Square Park is located within the central business district of Liberty Lake and currently functions as a multi-purpose urban plaza and green space. In its existing form, the park is appropriately classified as a Special Use Park, reflecting its role as a civic gathering space that includes enhanced picnic seating, paved plaza areas oriented toward nearby office and commercial uses, and its primary function as the host site of the seasonal weekly Liberty Lake Farmer's Market.

There is, however, a future opportunity to reconsider this classification, pending the outcome of the Town Square Park Master Plan. The master planning process would address the full buildout of approximately 4.55 acres of adjacent undeveloped open space, expanding the park from its current developed footprint to a total of approximately 6.3 acres. The site planning and design will be influenced by the community demands and needs identified in this plan, which would then guide capital budgeting, phasing, and construction of new park facilities.

Community Park Redesignation Scenario

If the master plan results in the introduction of facilities that extend beyond a civic plaza function, such as organized recreation amenities, unique and specialized uses, event-support infrastructure, and/or park features designed to serve residents citywide, Town Square Park may warrant reclassification.

While the expanded park would remain smaller than the typical size threshold for a Community Park, its central location, programming intensity, and community-wide draw could justify its designation as a Community Park rather than a Neighborhood or Special Use facility, particularly if it is designed to host large events, organized activities, and amenities that serve a broader service area.

Reclassifying Town Square Park as a Community Park would have a meaningful impact on the City's long-range park system performance. Under the 2046 planning horizon, **this change would increase the projected Community Park Level of Service from 1.78 acres per 1,000 residents to approximately 2.52 acres per 1,000 residents.** While this would still fall short of the adopted LOS target of 2.75 acres per 1,000 residents, it would substantially reduce the deficiency and place the City within a more achievable range for meeting its community park standard through incremental land acquisition, park expansion, or future park development.

Table 5-8: Level of Service by Town Square Park Classification Scenarios

Park Category	Future LOS (2046)	Future LOS + Planned Parks	Recommended LOS	Future Acreage Needed
Community Parks	1.78	2.23	2.75 acres / 1,000 pop.	+11.5 Acres
Community Parks (Town Square Redesignated)	1.78	2.52	2.75 acres / 1,000 pop.	+5 Acres
Neighborhood Parks	1.08	1.25	1 acre / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target
Neighborhood Parks (Town Square Redesignated)	1.08	1.53	1 acre / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target

Neighborhood Park Redesignation Scenario

As an alternative to reclassification as a Community Park, Town Square Park could also be considered for designation as a Neighborhood Park, contingent on the scale and character of improvements identified through the future master planning process. Under this scenario, the park would continue to function primarily as a walk-to amenity serving the nearby residential neighborhood and offices, while retaining limited civic programming such as the seasonal farmer's market.

To warrant reclassification as a Neighborhood Park, the master plan would need to emphasize amenities typically associated with neighborhood-scale recreation and unstructured use rather than citywide or regional programming. Improvements that would support this designation may include the addition of a playground or inclusive play elements, small multi-use open lawn areas suitable for informal youth play or neighborhood gatherings, pedestrian paths or short loop trails, and passive recreation amenities such as benches, picnic tables, shade structures, landscaping, and irrigation.

Limited sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas could also be appropriate, provided they are designed to serve nearby residents rather than organized league play. Facilities would generally be sized and programmed to avoid the need for significant off-street parking or event-support infrastructure, consistent with the characteristics of other neighborhood parks in Liberty Lake.

Reclassification of Town Square Park as a Neighborhood Park would have a measurable benefit to the City's park system performance. With the full development of the additional 4.55 acres, **this scenario would increase the projected Neighborhood Park Level of Service in 2046 from 1.08 acres per 1,000 residents to approximately 1.53 acres per 1,000 residents,** exceeding the adopted standard of 1.0 acre per 1,000 residents. This outcome would fully address the City's neighborhood park acreage deficiency and provide additional capacity within the system to accommodate future population growth.

Under this scenario, Town Square Park would continue to play an important civic role but would be formally recognized as part of the City's distributed neighborhood park network. As with the Community Park scenario, final classification should be determined through the master planning process based on the mix of amenities provided, the park's intended service area, and its functional role within the broader Liberty Lake parks system.

Park Equity and Access

As outlined in the Goals & Objectives and related policies, ensuring that residents have fair and easy access to parks located within a half mile of their homes is crucial for the overall health and well-being of the community. This section of the report provides a set of maps that offer insights into population density and conducts a network analysis of park accessibility. This analysis examines each property's ability to reach a nearby park within a half mile, either via a street or a trail. The service area maps are designed to demonstrate how accessible parks with various amenities are to the community and how accessibility could be enhanced through improvements to parks that currently offer limited amenities. It's worth noting that these accessibility gaps can be reduced by ensuring safe access to parks can be increased with new sidewalks and transportation improvements.

The "10–Minute Walk Metric"

An important concept in sustainable urban design is creating places at a walkable scale to promote community, safety, and healthy outcomes, yielding a higher quality of life for all residents. Parks are a vital recreational and social gathering space that should be accessible within a 10-minute walk of the surrounding areas for many reasons. A 10-minute walk, representing a distance of approximately 1/2 mile on level ground, as a park access metric is important because it promotes physical activity, equity, sustainability, social interaction, and overall community well-being. It aligns with various health, environmental, and social goals that Liberty Lake has and should encourage urban planners and policymakers to prioritize accessible green spaces as a fundamental part of Liberty Lake's development and the community's desired quality of life.

The following maps identify the service areas, AKA the 10-minute “walksheds”, for each of the distinct park classifications according to their function and recreational offerings: community parks, special use parks and facilities, public school facilities and open space, and other parks not owned by the City. No walkshed data was found for Liberty Lake’s open space areas and was therefore not analyzed. A combined walkshed map then highlights all remaining areas of the city currently not accessible within a 10-minute walk of any public park.

Figure 5-3: Community Park 10-Minute Walksheds

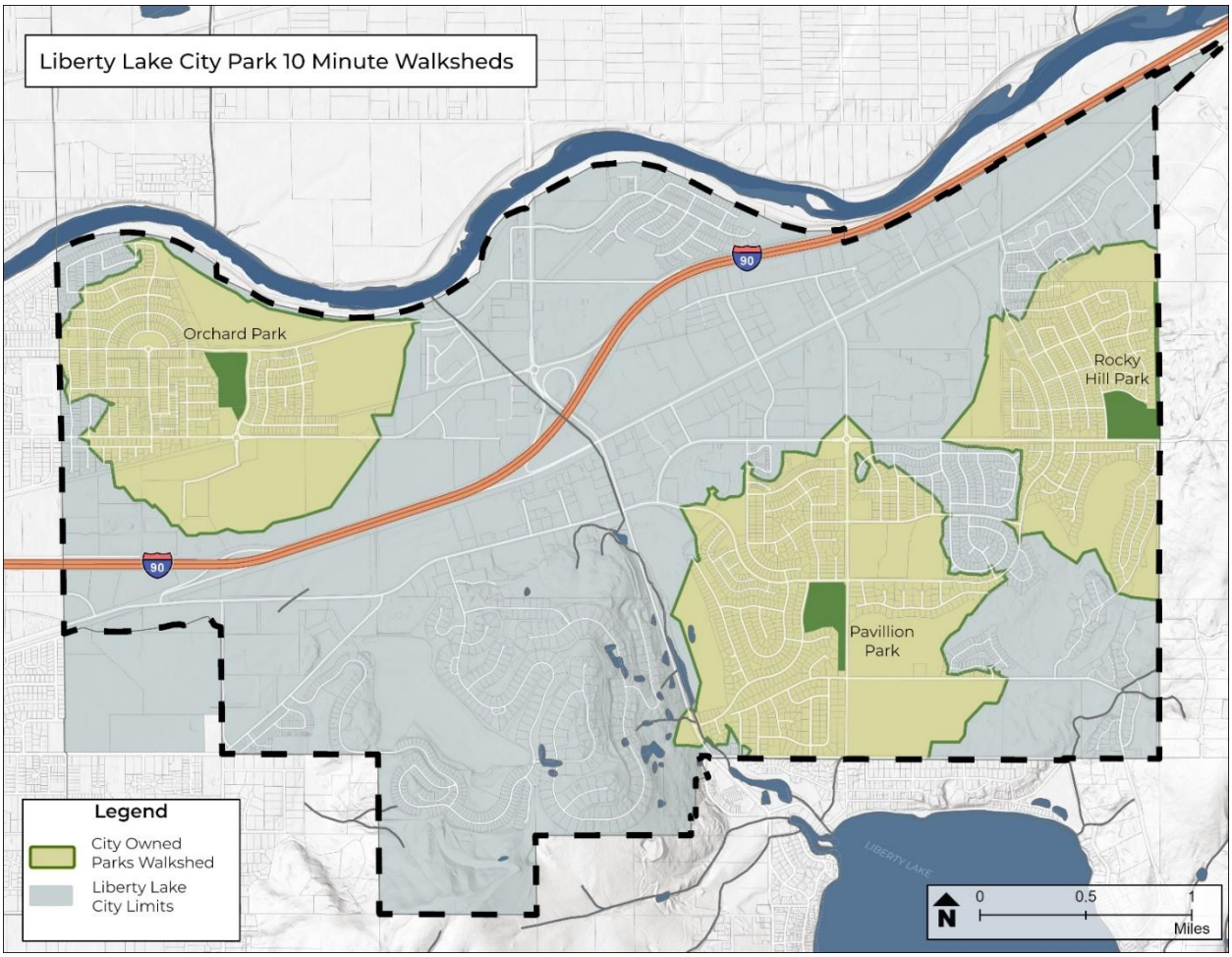
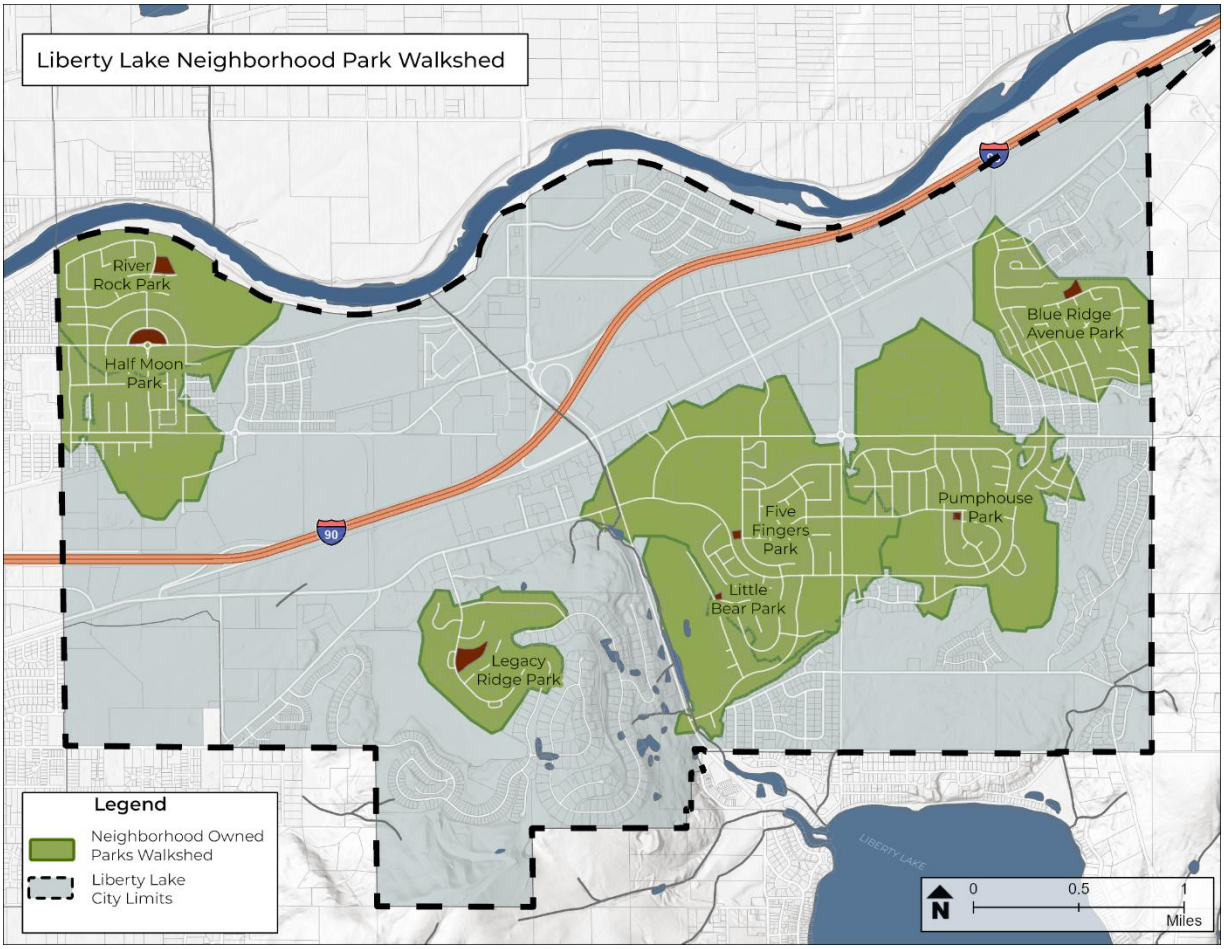


Figure 5-3, above, maps Liberty Lake’s three premier parks that have a wide array of facilities and generous supply of open space, able to accommodate the needs of the entire community: Orchard Park, Pavillion Park, and Rocky Hill Park. As these parks host large community events like Touch a Truck at Orchard Park and the Fourth of July Fireworks at Pavillion Park, high numbers of visitors are accommodated by parking areas are present at each of these parks. For day-to-day use of facilities like the playgrounds and sports courts, each park is centrally located within its neighborhood.

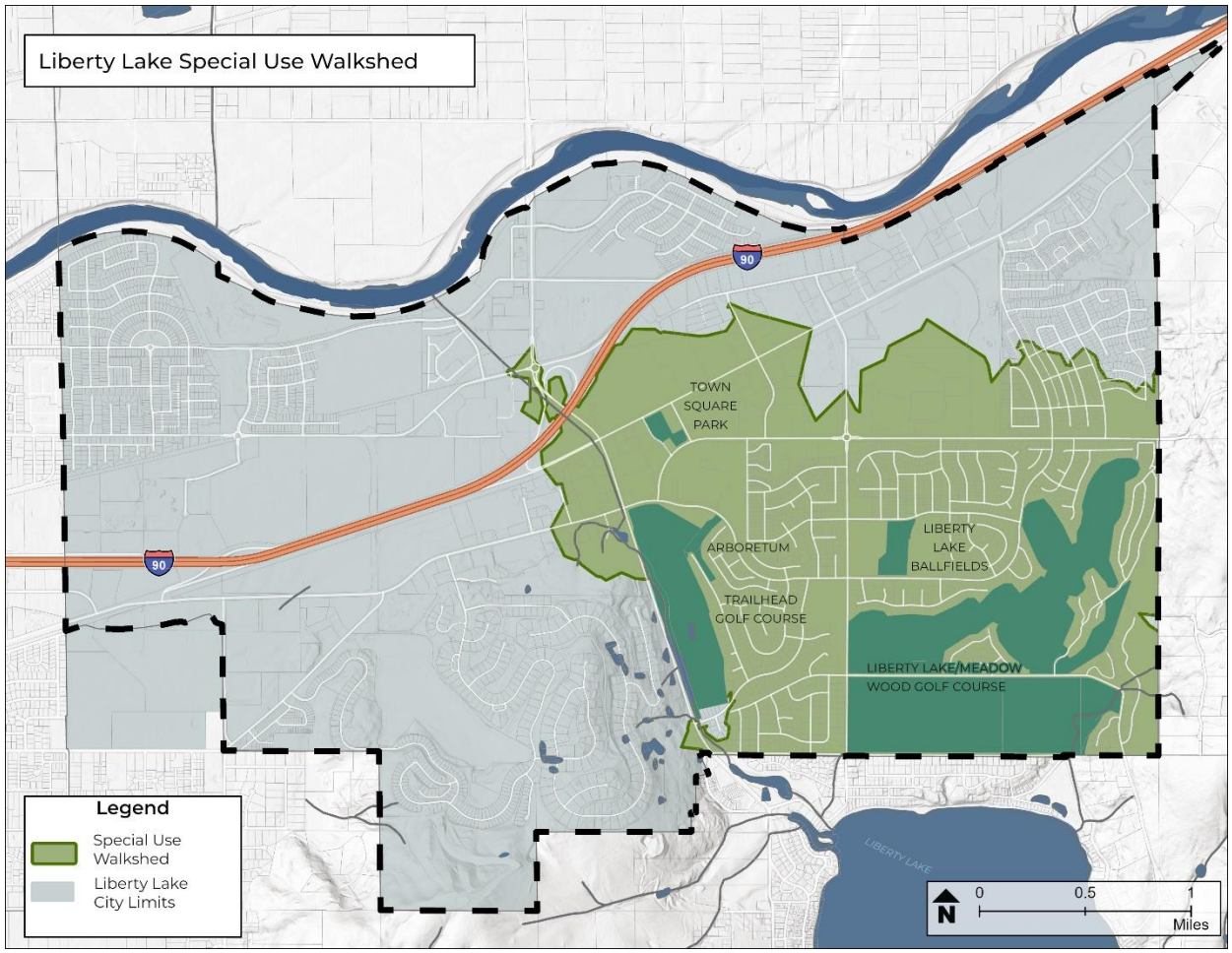
The results of the 10-minute walkshed service areas reveal that some parts of the neighborhood and broader swaths of Liberty Lake are not within a short walking distance of these premier parks. The residential area located east of Malvern St and between E Mission Ave and E Country Vista Drive has less direct, non-motorized access to either Rocky Hill Park or Pavillion Park. The developing areas surrounding N Harvard Rd north of I-90 and E Country Vista Dr south of I-90 are located much farther outside of these walksheds. This indicates a lack of convenient and equitable, non-motorized access to the most desirable park amenities that Liberty Lake currently has to offer.

Figure 5-4: Neighborhood Parks 10-Minute Walksheds



As shown by Figure 5-4, several parks owned by other entities are located with the City of Liberty Lake, primarily managed by local Homeowners Associations. These small, private parks are characterized by having a limited amount of space and facilities, functioning to primarily provide passive and play-oriented recreational opportunities for residents living in the immediate vicinity. They provide little to no parking spaces, so non-motorized transportation methods are likely the most viable option to access them. Their private status means that they may not be accessible to the public. Despite their limited offerings and accessibility, they do supplement the public parks system by meaningfully filling in gaps in open space coverage.

Figure 5-5: Golf Courses and Special Use Facilities 10-Minute Walksheds



Many of the public recreational spaces in Liberty Lake are dedicated to specific activities, such as the driving range and courses used for golfing. The recreational areas and facilities used for golf and baseball/ softball have ample off-street parking spaces provided as they generate trips from the wider surrounding region and necessitate the use of sports equipment and other cargo, rendering non-motorized uses to be less relevant. However, other parks with specific uses, like Town Square Park and the Nature's Place Arboretum at MeadowWood, do facilitate more passive recreation activities like picnicking and leisure walking. Users of these two parks are more likely to use non-motorized means to access from the surrounding areas, making their walksheds highly relevant. Town Square Park can be accessed within a 10-minute walk of the Central Business District and many of the workplaces and homes west of N Molter Rd.

As noted in the trails and bicycle pathways assessment, gaps in the sidewalk network or poor condition of the sidewalks surrounding Town Square Park pose barriers to access even from places within the walkshed. The Arboretum park offers a non-motorized path connection between E Country Vista and N Garry Drive. It is primarily accessible to the neighborhoods in the vicinity of those two roads.

Figure 5-6, below, maps the four public schools that currently exist within Liberty Lake's city limits: Ridgeline High School, Selkirk Middle School Liberty Creek Elementary School, and Liberty Lake Elementary School, and are all part of the Central Valley School District. These schools offer sports courts, fields, baseball diamonds, and playgrounds that are primarily used for school programming; however, they can also sometimes be accessed by the general public when official programming is not occurring. Ridgeline High School, located in the southwest portion of the city, offers recreational fields that may partially fill in a meaningful recreational gap for nearby residents located within a ten-minute walk as no other public facilities are accessible.

Figure 5-6: School Recreational Facilities 10-Minute Walksheds

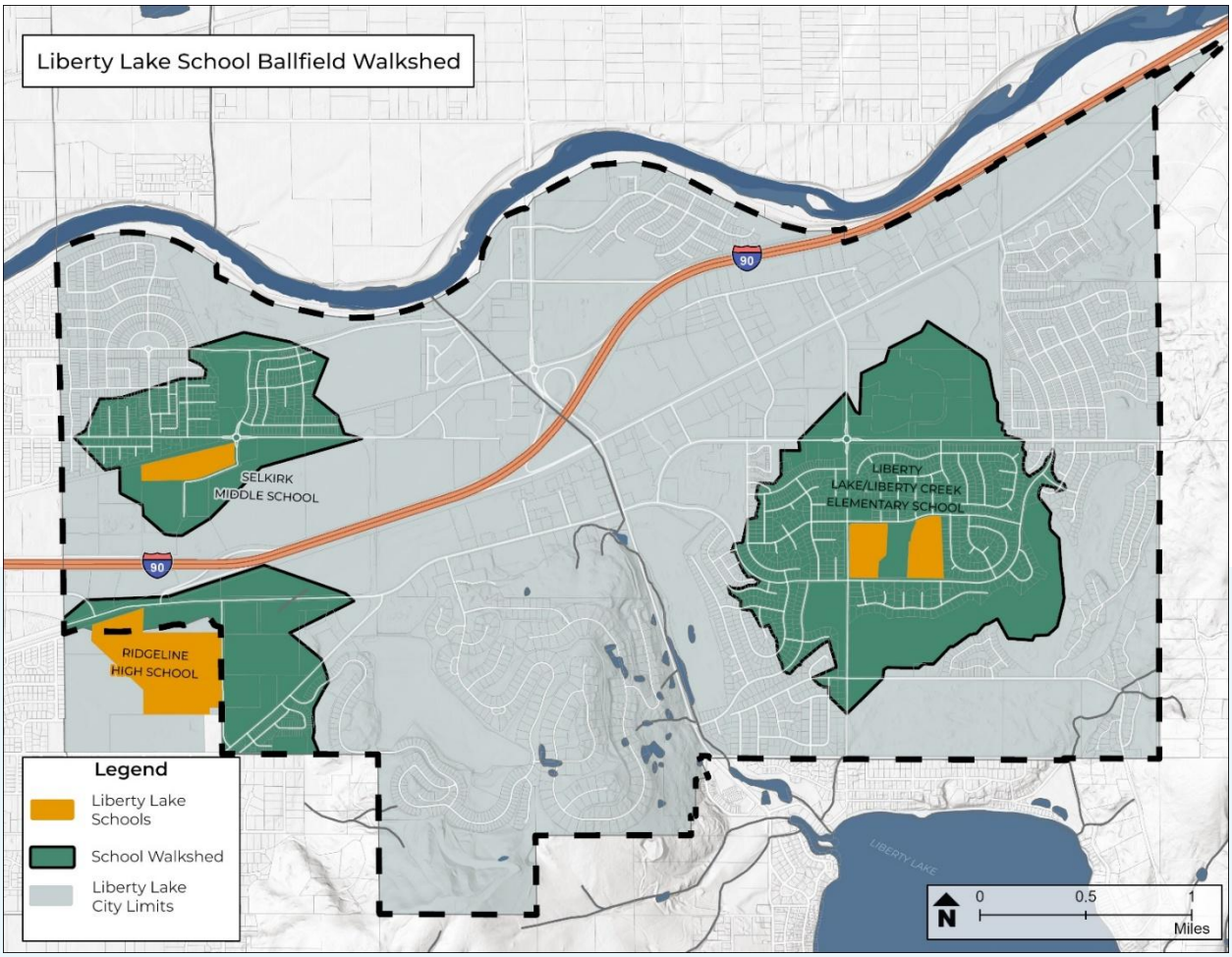


Figure 5-7: Combined Walkshed Gap Analysis

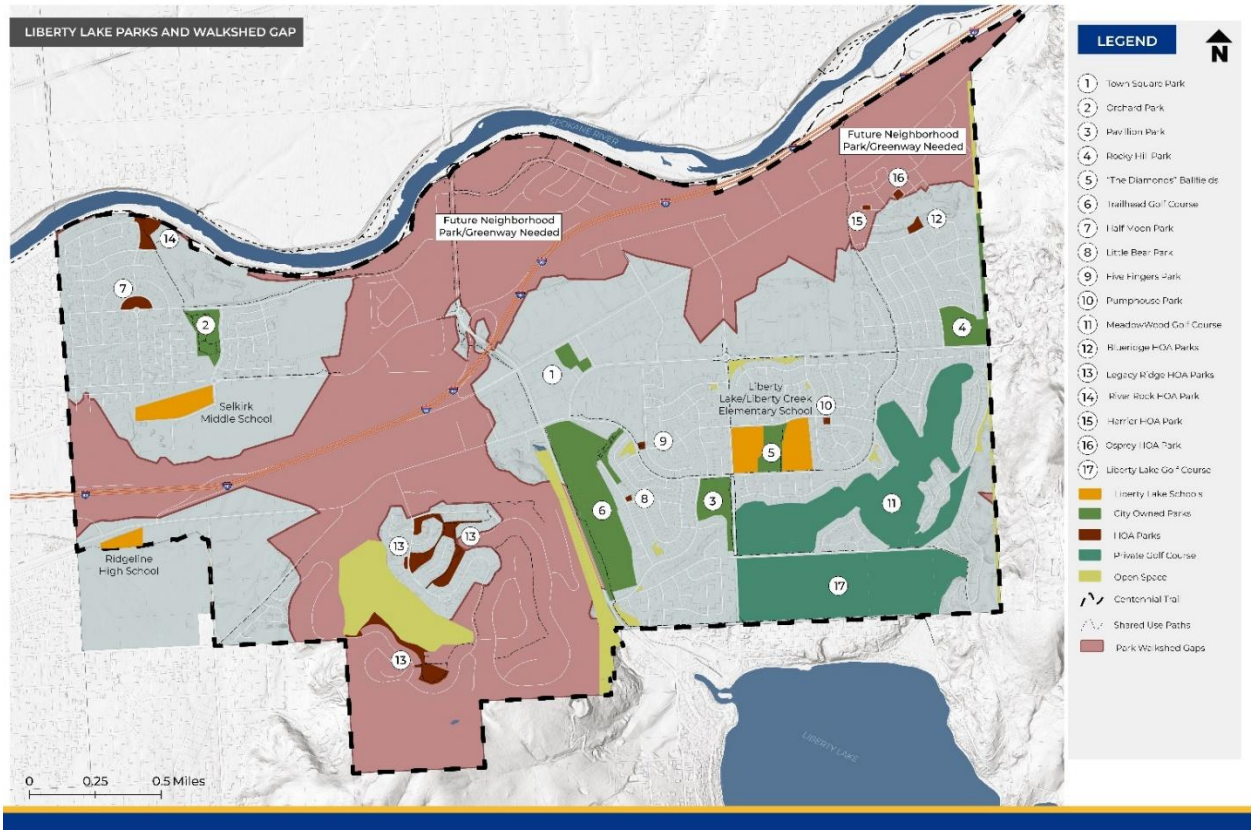


Figure 5-7 shows the remaining areas in Liberty Lake which are currently beyond a 10-minute walk of any public open space facility. These include the neighborhood north of I-90 surrounding N Harvard Rd and the residential area in the northeast corner of the city south of E Appleway Ave. Both areas are actively being developed as of 2025 and have access to regional trails: The Centennial Trail and Liberty Lake-State Line Trail. Planned parks exist in both areas, so the implementation of both Special Area Plans should be closely monitored to ensure that these concept parks are constructed to meet adequate service levels. As the southwest portion of the city develops, planning measures will necessitate adding open space facilities to serve new developments in this area as well.

Trails and Bicycle Network Assessment

Trails, both within parks and connecting parks, schools, shops, and destinations, are generally the top demand seen across the country. Providing trail connections between these popular destinations enhances a community's walkability and encourages active lifestyles. Trails can be developed to accommodate multiple uses or shared uses, such as pedestrians, in line skaters, and bicyclists.

Trail usage has seen a significant uptick in recent years, with data suggesting a surge in demand starting in 2020. This trend underscores the growing importance of well-maintained and comprehensive trail networks. A useful trails system should not only be present within parks, but also provide useful connections between destinations like parks, homes, and businesses.

There is also growing enthusiasm for cycle tracks or bicycle highways between urban areas. A popular example would be the 40-mile long Centennial Trail which offers a non-motorized connection between Liberty Lake to the western cities of Spokane and Spokane Valley.

In its trails network, Liberty Lake has approximately 9.4 miles of non-motorized, shared-use trails and pathways. A trailhead at Harvard Road provides a linkage between Liberty Lake's urban trail and bicycle network and the Centennial Trail multi-use cycle track.

Bikeways are different than trails in that their principal focus is on safe and efficient non-motorized transportation. Bikeways and pathways serve distinctly different user groups than trail users. Liberty Lake offers approximately 20 miles of bike lanes throughout the city along arterial streets and collector roads. The city is recognized as a "Bicycle Friendly Community," being awarded the designation in 2007 by the League of American Bicyclists. As the smallest city to receive this award in the award's history, the City of Liberty Lake continues to strive to maintain the 5 E's of a bicycle friendly community:

- **Engineering:** Creating safe and convenient places to ride and park
- **Education:** Giving people of all ages and abilities the skills and confidence to ride
- **Encouragement:** Creating a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates bicycling
- **Enforcement:** Ensuring safe roads for all users
- **Evaluation & Planning:** Planning for bicycling as a safe and viable transportation option

Liberty Lake also uniquely accommodates golf carts as a form of transportation from residential areas to the three golf courses located within city limits. Golf carts must be operated at low speeds not exceeding 20 miles per hour. They must be driven in the extreme right of the roadway and yield to all vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic. Roadway designs should consider the presence of golf carts and prioritize bicycle facilities designs which maintain higher levels of protection for bicycle lane users in the shared right of way. Wayfinding and rule enforcement signage should also be considered, signs which clearly communicate where golf carts are allowed, where they are prohibited, and provide directions to each of the three courses.

Bike lanes are bicycle facilities built along city streets that generally provide a 5-foot wide "lane" to accommodate bicycles, usually on both sides of the street adjacent to the curb. The City Development Codes have implemented a "complete streets" program that requires all new development to have sidewalks, pathways, bike lanes, etc. as applicable, that provide connections or future connections to the existing system. The City Development Codes also enforce bicycle parking standards for new development. Additionally, all new or substantially improved arterial and collector streets have bike lanes.

From the Liberty Lake Police Department's bike patrol, to educating kids about bicycle safety, to promoting community bicycling events, Liberty Lake is a "Bicycle Friendly Community" and lots of people of all ages and abilities are riding bikes.

The current bicycle and pedestrian pathway networks (*Figure 5-8, Page 152*) have been analyzed to understand where facility gaps exist due to either the poor condition of a facility, or where nothing exists at all. Seeking to repair and/or fill in gaps in the network can improve rates of non-motorized use. Even small gaps can cause people to avoid walking or biking to parks out of discomfort for their own safety or simply because the gap renders the route to be inconvenient compared to driving.

Figure 5-9 (*Page 153*) is a map of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities which reveals a notable gap between Town Square Park and the existing sidewalk network. In its current form, the park is can only be accessed by walking, biking, or rolling in the shared roadway of N MeadowWood Ln, or by traversing the undeveloped open space of the park site. The future Town Square Park site master plan should put forward design concepts for enhanced bicycle and pedestrian connections from the park to the main arterials of E Appleway Ave and E Mission Ave to better connect the park to surrounding neighborhoods.

The City of Liberty Lake is in the process of developing a Sidewalk Master Plan with recommendations for capital improvements based upon current conditions. The existing path conditions have been evaluated on a quantitative scale from 0-100. Figure 5-10 reveals that the sidewalks found to be of fair to poor condition are located on central arterials such as N Molter Rd, between E Appleway Ave and E Valleyway Ave; and along E Country Vista Dr, between E Mission Ave and Pinehurst Ln. These arterials connect neighborhoods in the eastern half of the city to important parks and recreation facilities such as Pavillion Park and the Liberty Lake Ballfields, both located at or near the intersection of E Country Vista and N Molter. Fair-to-poor conditions indicate that even though a shared use pathway may exist along a certain corridor, its surface quality may impose enough of a barrier to deter people from using that path. Resurfacing these pathways should then be given higher priority in the sidewalk master planning project list, as they are a critical means of access to these parks from nearby neighborhoods.

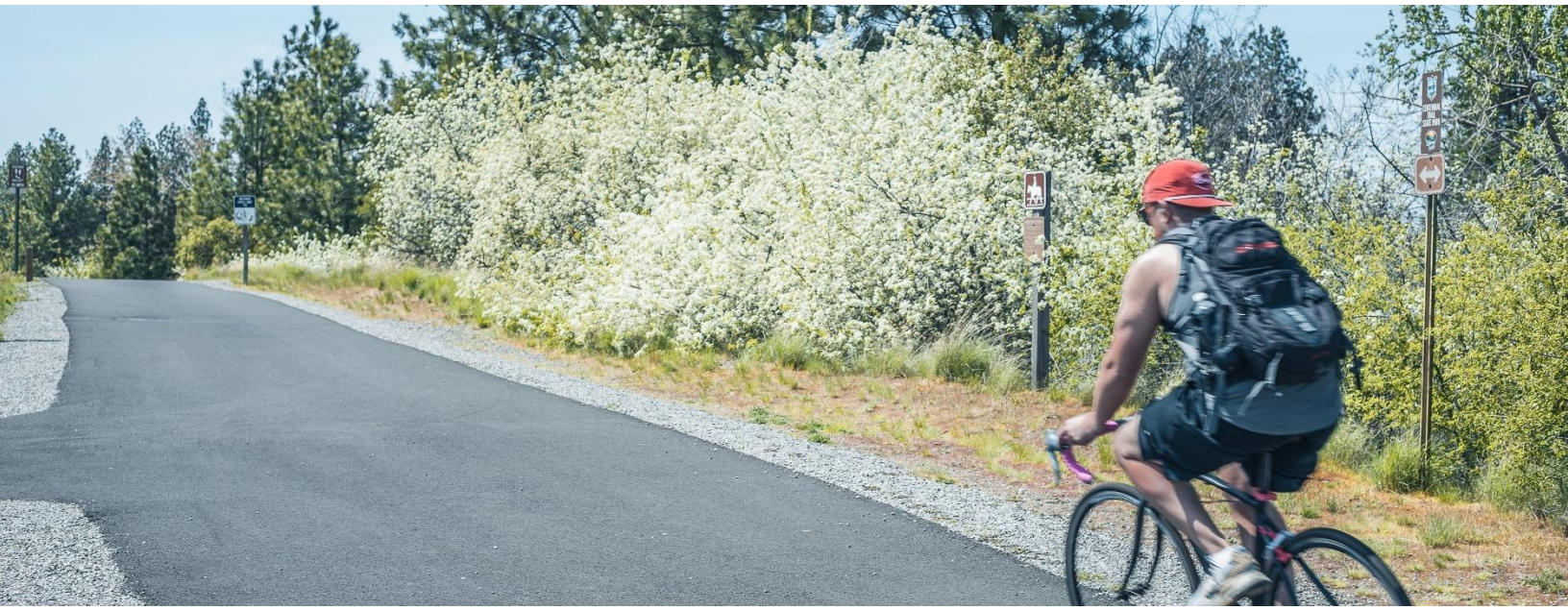


Figure 5-8: Bicycle & Pedestrian Pathways Map

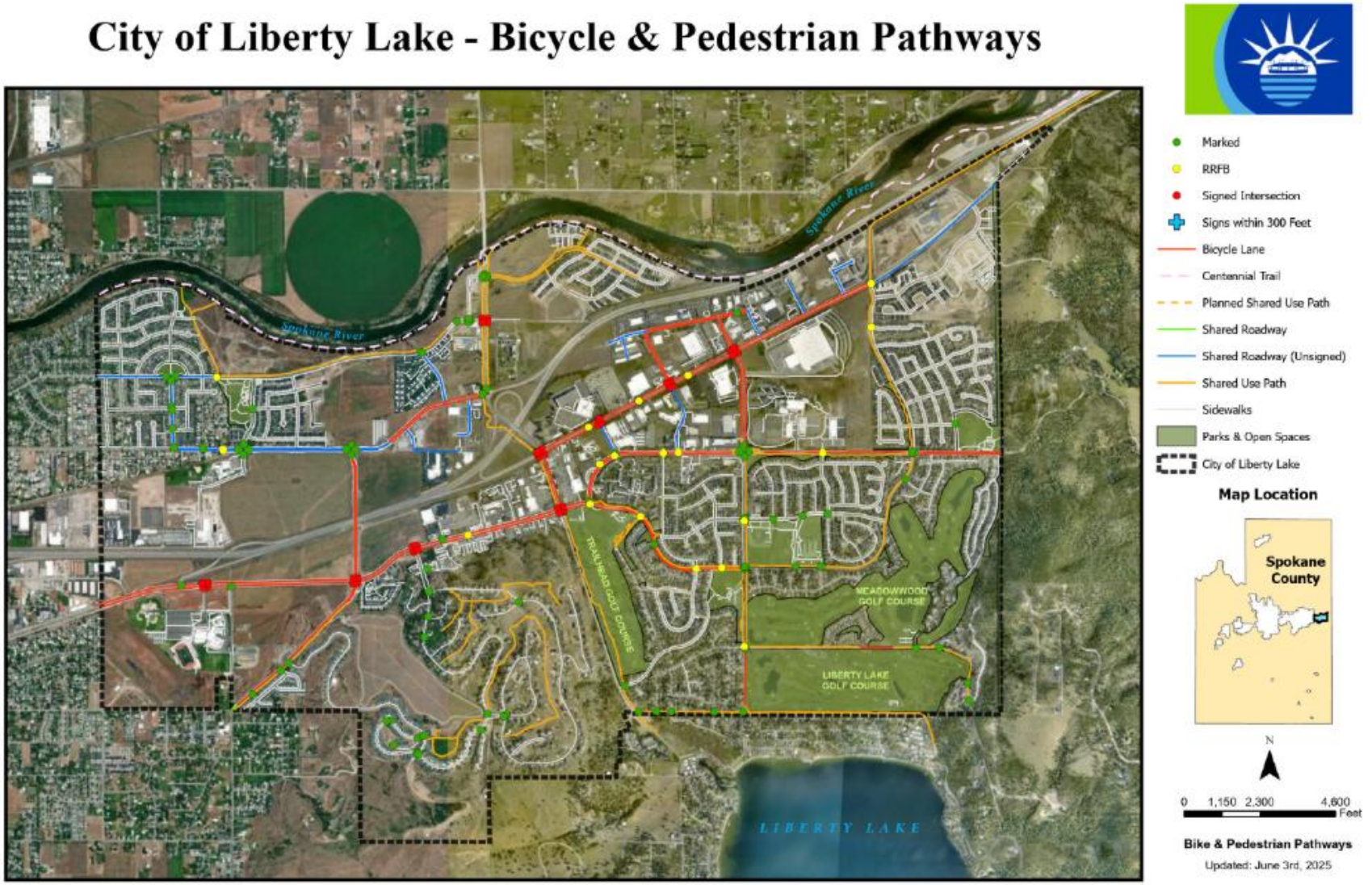
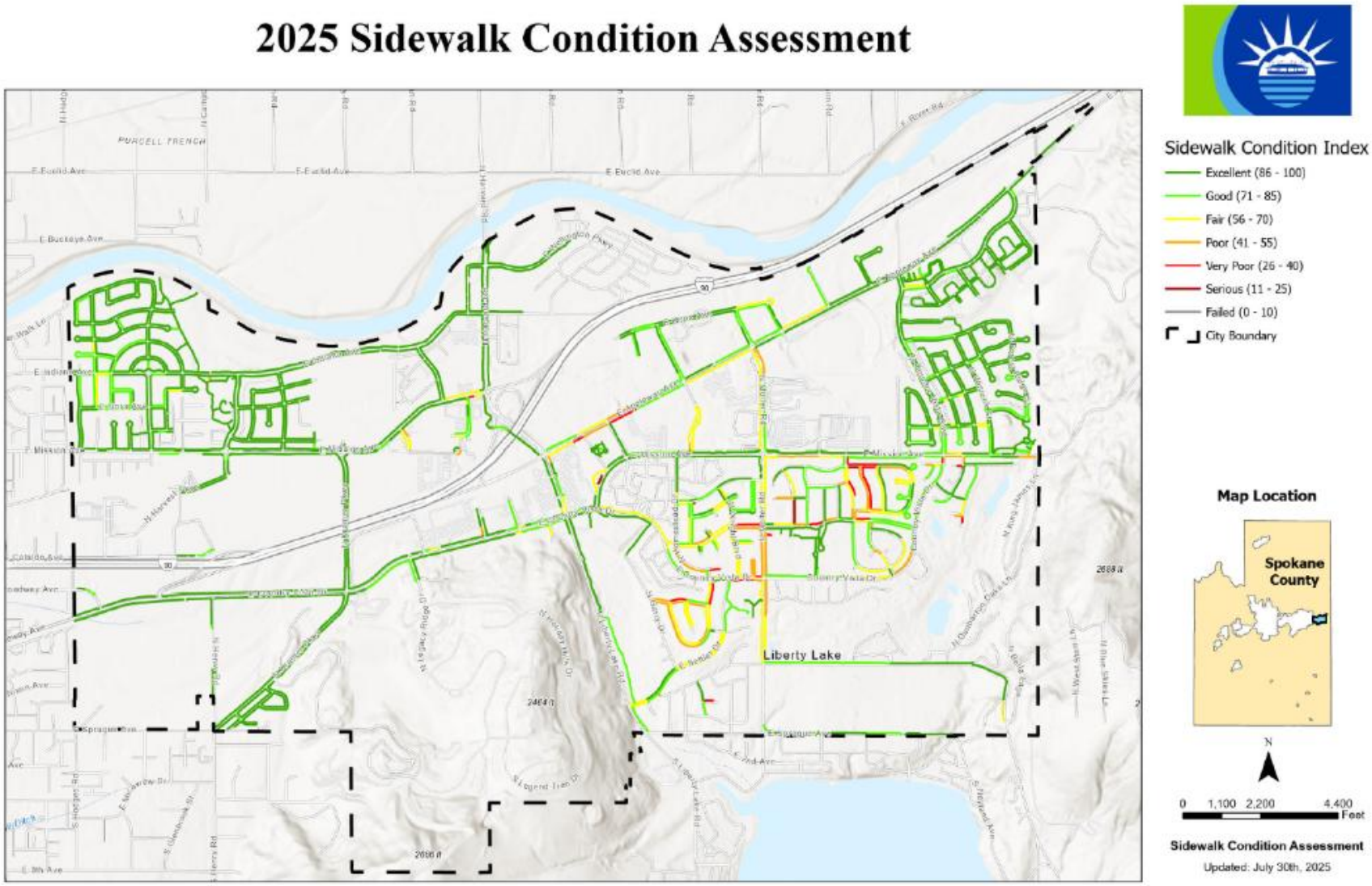


Figure 5-9: Sidewalk Condition Assessment



Recreation Trends

Outdoor recreation is on the rise nationwide, and Washington State and its communities are no exception. From 2019 until the most recent reports in 2023, outdoor recreation equipment sales have seen significant increases across all major product categories. In Washington, there has been a notable surge in the participation rates of 20 outdoor activities since 2017. Among these activities, non-motorized trails, nature and wildlife viewing, camping, paddling, winter recreation, and leisure activities in nearby parks are consistently in high demand among Washington residents. With an expected statewide population increase of 2 million residents in the next 25 years, it's more critical for cities such as Liberty Lake to plan demand for outdoor recreation facilities.

National Trends

Canines

The trend of dog ownership in the United States is experiencing a significant upswing, with estimates suggesting a population exceeding 89 and 94 million canine companions nationwide. This surge translates to a parallel rise in demand for designated dog parks across the country. These parks, particularly larger facilities, have become popular destinations, attracting dog owners and potentially boosting agency revenue through user fees and contributing to tourism. Cities are responding to this trend by incorporating more designated dog walking areas, off-leash spaces, and waste disposal stations into their parks and recreation land use planning strategies.

Pickleball and Padel

The participation in pickleball has witnessed a remarkable surge, growing by 159% in just three years, reaching 8.9 million participants in 2022, as reported by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association. Like pickleball, Padel is a racket sport of Mexican origin gaining popularity across the United States. This game is a cross between tennis, racquetball, and squash. It's currently estimated that Padel has over 100,000 players in the United States, and the number of courts has more than doubled in the last two years, expecting to grow to 30,000 courts by 2030.

This rapid increase in paddle sports' popularity and subsequent facility expansion has presented challenges for public parks and recreation departments, which must strike a balance between the competing interests of diverse recreational activities while working within the constraints of limited space and budgets. Parks agencies are becoming increasingly confronted with the task of accommodating pickleball enthusiasts, who favor this tennis-like sport with a smaller court, without causing discomfort or inconvenience to others. The noise and disruption generated by pickleball is becoming more a source of frustration for some neighbors, tennis enthusiasts, parents with young children, and other community members. Therefore, continued community feedback and monitoring of these facilities is essential to maintain an attractive offering of amenities that also accommodates those who do not participate.

Youth Sports

Participation in youth sports leagues has undergone a complex transformation in recent years. While traditional team sports remain popular, data suggests a decline in children (ages 6-12) consistently playing on teams. The Aspen Project reports a drop from 45% in 2008 to 38% in 2018, and the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) confirms this trend with a 6% decline in core participation (ages 6-17) between 2019 and 2022. This translates to roughly 1.2 million fewer participants. Several factors may contribute to this decline, including the financial burden of participation fees, equipment, and travel expenses, concerns about over-specialization leading to burnout, and time constraints due to competing academic and extracurricular demands.

This changing landscape has potential implications for the need for large regional sports facilities. While the decline in regular participation suggests a decreased demand for facilities solely focused on traditional team sports, total team sports participation (including those playing at least once a year) remained stable between 2019 and 2022, suggesting a potential shift towards less structured forms of sports involvement. Basketball continues to be the most popular sport, with nearly a quarter of youth (ages 6-17) participating at least once in 2022.

Multi-sport facilities catering to a wider range of activities and hosting tournaments or events attracting teams from a broader area are expected to see continued use. Well-designed facilities could also become community hubs, offering recreational activities for all ages and potentially incorporating amenities like fitness centers or indoor walking tracks that would not be affected by inclement weather.

Electric Vehicles

As electric technology develops, maintenance equipment, vehicles, mowers, and other equipment used in parks and recreation are transitioning from gas powered resources to electric assets. This transition provides long-term cost savings, environmental benefits, and decreased noise. Additionally, parks and trailheads should consider the addition of EV charging stations in parking lots, as the number of EV cars on the road continues to grow. Washington State has led this transition to electric vehicles, with over 18% of new cars sold in the first half of 2023 being fully electric or plug-in hybrids according to the Seattle Times. Vehicle chargers located at park facilities enable drivers to enjoy the park while waiting for a full charge.

Climate Resiliency

The concept of electrification pertains to growing needs for climate resilience and the ways in which future park implementations can accommodate the increase of hotter days and nights, as well as the increase of storm and wildfire impacts. Parks create a great opportunity to address these goals through smart design and engineering. Parks and open space can mitigate urban heat islands, absorb flood and stormwater, and create fire breaks through green space and linear trail corridors. Climate change, stormwater/flooding implementations, and tree canopy coverage should be considered in future park renovations to increase resiliency.

Statewide Trends

The 2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan, commonly referred to as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), is a comprehensive document outlining the state's vision for outdoor recreation and public land conservation. Developed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the plan guides investments for the next 5-10 years. It considers the challenges and benefits of outdoor recreation, assesses current demand, and inventories existing opportunities. By establishing statewide priorities and goals, the plan serves a crucial role in securing funding, guiding investments strategically, and fostering collaboration between land managers. Ultimately, the WA State RCO SCORP Plan serves as a blueprint for a sustainable future where outdoor recreation and public lands are preserved and accessible for all.

To assess demand and satisfaction with recreation opportunities in Washington State, SCORP solicited public input through surveys and outreach to ensure the plan reflects the needs of Washington residents. The SCORP survey includes Liberty Lake in the Northeast Region, which includes Spokane County. According to the 2022 Assessment of Resident Demand report, participation rates for 45 recreational activities were compared to data from 2017.

The top four activities with the highest rates of participation were:

1) Walking or Using a Mobility Device on Roads or Sidewalks (91%)
2) Walking or Day Hiking or Using a Mobility Device on Trails (90%)
3) Scenic Driving (Sightseeing) (85%)
4) Wildlife or Nature Viewing (85%)

All but two activities—technology-based games and collecting or gathering things in nature—showed increased participation. The activities with the most significant increases in participation in the past five years included:

1) Wildlife and Nature Viewing (+28%)
2) Paddle Sports (Whitewater, Canoes, Kayaks, Stand-Up Paddle Boards, Rowing) (+28%)
3) Visiting outdoor cultural and/or historical sites and attending cultural events (+19%)
4) Tent Camping in Developed Areas (+19%)
5) Casual Use or Hanging Out in Parks (+19%)
6) Mountain Biking (+18%).

Golf In Liberty Lake

Liberty Lake is a golfing community that fully embraces the sport as a key part of what makes the city so livable and attractive. The City of Liberty Lake is currently the home to three public golf courses within the city limits. The three courses offer golfers a variety of choices in course design and playing conditions, all immaculately maintained and priced competitively with other courses in the Spokane area. The scenic hillsides, uncrowded surroundings, easy access, and availability of tee-times, even on short notice, make Liberty Lake a premier golfing locale. Approximately 100,000 rounds of golf are played each year in the City of Liberty Lake. Trailhead Golf Course is publicly-owned and operated by the City, while Liberty Lake Golf Course and MeadowWood Golf Course are Spokane County operated public courses located within the city limits.

Trailhead Golf Course: See Chapter 3: Inventory & Assessment (*Page 71*).

Liberty Lake Golf Course: Owned and operated by Spokane County, this course is 124.50 acres in size and is the oldest of the three; however it underwent a recent remodel. Liberty Lake Golf Course is an 18-hole championship public municipal golf course, re-designed in 2008 and opened in 2010. The course boasts a 6,607-yard, Par 70 layout and is a fun challenge for all skill levels. Players will enjoy white sand bunkers, large greens, and water as they experience a marvelous new golfing creation. Liberty Lake utilizes a grass tee driving range with targets and yardage indicators. Separate chipping and putting areas allow players to hone their short game skills. Liberty Lake Golf Course also has a practice driving range on grass, a large practice sand bunker and chipping area, a practice putting green, and a clubhouse with restaurant and bar.

MeadowWood Golf Course: Owned and operated by Spokane County, MeadowWood is an 18-hole par 72 championship public municipal golf course. In 1985, the land on which MeadowWood Golf Course sits was used to grow alfalfa, wheat, and grass seed. With the generosity of Jeslyn Morris Schultz and in the interest of conservation, the Schultz family donated 150 acres to Spokane County on which to build MeadowWood Golf Course. MeadowWood is a Robert Muir Graves designed, Links style golf course. Opened in 1988, MeadowWood is mainly an open course with strategically placed trees, bunkers, and water features. With a varying set of tees, it can be enjoyed by golfers of all skill levels. The course can be played as short as 5709 yards or as far as 6900 yards for those golfers who want to be challenged. Golf Digest once ranked MeadowWood “One of the Top 10 Best Public Golf Courses in the State of Washington”. MeadowWood is the newest of the three courses located within the city, and due to the numerous tournaments that are held there each year, it is likely the most well-known. MeadowWood also includes an aquatic practice driving range, practice sand bunker, a putting green, and a clubhouse with restaurant and bar.

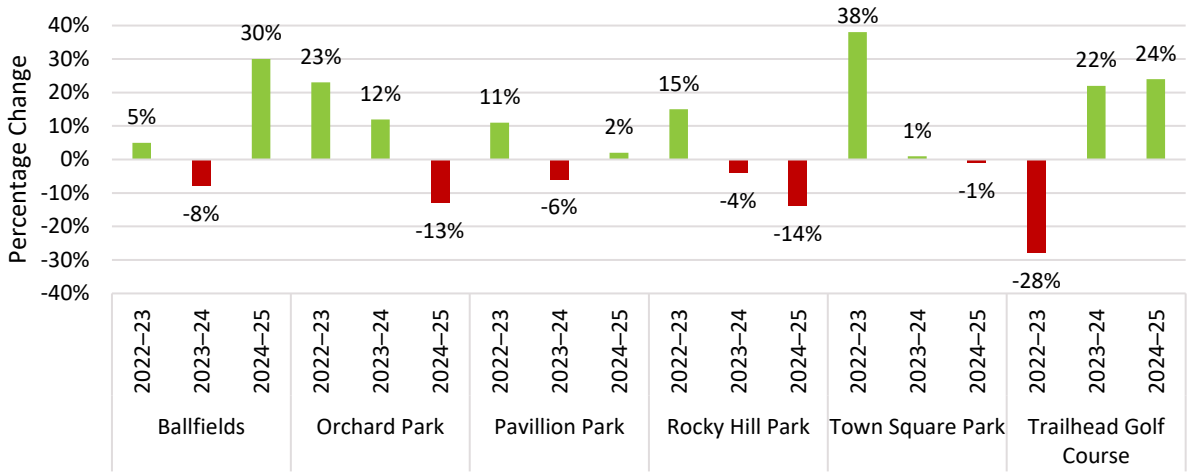
Parks Visitation Trends

Recent visitation data for Liberty Lake's city parks was collected using anonymous location signals from mobile devices via a third-party data provider. These signals are aggregated and analyzed using statistical modeling and machine learning to estimate the number of visits to the parks each year. This data reflects total visits rather than unique individuals, meaning repeated visits by the same person are counted multiple times. While not an exact headcount, this dataset provides a reliable indicator of relative park use trends, seasonal patterns, and overall demand for recreational spaces.

Table 5-9: Number of Park Visits

Parks	2022	2023	% Change 2022-23	2024	% Change 2023-24	2025	% Change 2024-25
Orchard Park	132,100	162,100	23%	181,400	12%	157,800	-13%
Pavillion Park	136,000	151,400	11%	142,700	-6%	145,000	2%
Trailhead Golf Course	81,700	59,100	-28%	72,200	22%	89,500	24%
Town Square Park	44,200	61,000	38%	61,600	1%	60,900	-1%
Rocky Hill Park	58,300	67,200	15%	64,200	-4%	54,900	-14%
Ballfields	18,500	19,500	5%	18,000	-8%	23,400	30%
TOTAL	472,822	522,323	10%	542,124	4%	533,525	-2%

Figure 5-10: Yearly Percentage Change in Number of Park Visits, 2022-2025



These results indicate that Orchard Park was the most visited in 2025, followed closely by Pavillion Park as the two most visited parks. Orchard Park recorded the highest visitation levels across most years and remains the most visited park in 2025, while Pavillion Park continues to serve as a major community gathering space with relatively stable use over time. Both parks experience peak visitation primarily between April and September, reflecting seasonal outdoor recreation patterns, with Orchard Park also seeing some increased winter activity in December due to the Winter Wonderland holiday lights event.

The trends show that Orchard Park, Pavillion Park, Rocky Hill Park, and Town Square Park have all shown relative declines in visitation since 2023. Meanwhile, Trailhead Golf Course and the Ballfields have seen a significant uptick in usage over the same period.

Town Square Park has maintained moderate and relatively consistent visitation since 2023 following earlier growth, with peak use occurring between May and September when the Farmers Market is held. Similarly, Rocky Hill Park shows spring through early fall peak usage but has experienced a gradual decline in visitation since 2023, which may reflect shifts in recreational preferences or competition from other amenities.

Athletic facilities, including the Ballfields, have shown an overall upward trend, particularly between 2024 and 2025. Their peak usage occurs primarily during organized sports seasons in spring and early fall (April–June and September–October), reflecting scheduled league play, tournaments, and community athletic programming rather than casual daily recreation.

Trailhead Golf Course exhibits a distinct seasonal visitation pattern consistent with its operation as an executive nine-hole municipal golf course that is typically open from March through November. The facility experienced a decline in visitation in 2023 followed by a strong rebound in 2024 and 2025, influenced by the completion of the new clubhouse building in 2023 with expanded amenities such as a pro shop, simulation bays, and an event space. The extended operating season compared to traditional parks, combined with structured programming, tournaments, and practice facilities, contributes to sustained visitation across much of the year.



RCO Local Agencies Level of Service Tool

The WA State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has adopted a Level of Service (LOS) tool in their 2024 Planning Policies and Guidelines which is recommended as a planning tool for grant recipients. RCO's LOS tool provides specific, measurable criteria for local agencies to assess three primary areas: quantity, quality, and access. Based upon current percentages for each given criteria, Liberty Lake is evaluated on an "A" to "E" grading scale, with "A" being the highest possible mark and most desirable outcome and "E" representing the lowest possible mark and least desirable outcome. Lower grades can indicate a need for more investment in those areas of the parks system to achieve the target LOS.

The RCO LOS Tool framework is offered here as another means to evaluate Liberty Lake's park metrics. The framework incorporates quantitative data from the demand and need analysis above, as well as qualitative feedback from the community survey and public engagement efforts. In this section, the quantitative metrics which have been calculated and benchmarked will be graded using the RCO grading scale. At the end of the following section, the RCO qualitative metrics will also be evaluated using the tool.

RCO Quantitative Indicators and Criteria

Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities	A	B	C	D	E
Percent difference (the gap) between existing quantity of parks and recreation facilities and the desired quantity (e.g., eight out of ten would be a Level B: 20 percent gap) (also may use per capita average).	<10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	>41%

Metrics Considered: Acreage per 1,000 Residents (LOS); Number of Residents per Park; 10-Minute Walkshed Analysis; LOS by Park Classification.

Grade Assigned: B.

Rationale: The adequacy of Liberty Lake's parks and recreation facilities has been evaluated using the revised level of service (LOS) standards by park classification established in this plan, including community parks, neighborhood parks, open space and natural areas, and trails.

These standards are informed by NRPA benchmarks, peer community comparisons, and local context, and are intended to reflect the functional role each park type plays within the overall system.

Under current conditions, Liberty Lake meets or exceeds the revised LOS standards for neighborhood parks, open space and natural areas, and trails, both systemwide and in projected future conditions. Neighborhood parks provide sufficient acreage to support distributed, walk-to access, while open space and trail facilities continue to exceed recommended service levels and contribute significantly to recreational access, environmental quality, and active transportation.

The only identified future deficiency under the revised LOS framework is associated with community parks. While the City currently meets the adopted community park standard, population growth is projected to reduce the community park LOS to 1.78 acres per 1,000 residents by 2046 if no new community parkland is added. With the inclusion of planned park projects, including the River District community park, the LOS is projected to improve to 2.23 acres per 1,000 residents. Despite this improvement, the system would still experience a projected service gap of approximately 11.5 acres, representing a 19 percent shortfall relative to the revised community park LOS standard of 2.75 acres per 1,000 residents.

As a result of the 10-minute walkshed analysis, Liberty Lake is found to have several neighborhoods not within a 10-minute service area of any type of park. Service gaps are identified where some of the new parks and greenways in the NW Quadrant (River District) have not yet been dedicated or developed, nor have several parks in the NE Quadrant (Lakemore). With potential residential development in the SW and SE Quadrants, additional parks or greenways will be needed in these neighborhoods as well. This results in a walkshed gap where at least 11% of the population is found not to reside within a 10-minute walk of any existing parks.



Based on the revised LOS standards and projected conditions, Liberty Lake's overall park system demonstrates strong performance with a moderate, targeted future gap limited to community parks. This gap falls within the 11–20 percent range defined by the RCO grading rubric for the Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities metric, supporting the assignment of a "B" grade.

While many areas are currently served by the parks system, others were found to not be within a 10-minute walkshed of any existing park, result in a difference between the demand for park access and supply of parks of at least 11%, resulting in a "B" grade.

Number of Support Active Recreation Opportunities

Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities	A	B	C	D	E
Percentage of facilities that support or encourage active (muscle-powered) recreation opportunities (e.g., eight out of ten would be Level A: more than 60 percent)	>60%	51-60%	41-50%	31-40%	<30%

Metrics Considered: Parks LOS by Classification.

Grade Assigned: A.

Rationale: The City of Liberty Lake currently scores an "A" for facilities that support active recreation opportunities. Most of the parks and open space facilities in the City of Liberty Lake support active recreation in some form due to our extensive network of trails and pathways, as well as the incorporation of the Fallen Heroes Circuit Course Outdoor Exercise Equipment Stations throughout the city. Approximately 193 acres or 60% of the current parks system supports active recreation opportunities.

Facility Capacity

Facility Capacity	A	B	C	D	E
Percentage of demand met by existing facilities (e.g., 65 percent of reservation requests at a facility can be met would be Level B)	>75%	61-75%	46-60%	30-45%	<30%

Metrics Considered: NRPA programming comparison; Survey results; Reservation requests.

Grade Assigned: A.

Rationale: The City of Liberty Lake currently scores a "A" for percent of demand met by existing facilities. According to the Community Survey recorded in Chapter 4 and Appendix B, 67.4% of survey respondents indicated that the capacity of amenities in Liberty Lake parks are "excellent" or "pretty good". About 17.6% said that the existing facilities "Could Use Work" or were "Bad". When asked, "Are your needs for programs/activities being met in the Liberty Lake parks system?" there were 47.8% of respondents who said that their needs were being fully met and additional 40.8% who said that their needs were being partially met, yielding a result that at least 88.6% are having their recreational needs partially or fully met by the current system. Reservation requests are generally able to be accommodated by the current system. This chapter has recommended that additional community parks with a diverse range of amenities and sports courts will be required to keep up with resident demand as the population grows over the next 15-20 years. The community feedback results in a level of satisfaction with the current facility capacity that exceeds 75% of the surveyed population.

RCO Distribution and Access Criteria

Population Within Service Areas

Population Within Service Areas	A	B	C	D	E
Percentage of population within the following services areas (considering barriers to access): ♦ Within a ½ mile of a Neighborhood Park or trail ♦ Within 5 miles of a Community Park or trail ♦ Within 25 miles of a Regional Park or trail	>75%	61-75%	46-60%	30-45%	<30%

Metrics Considered: Walksheds Analyses.

Grade Assigned: A.

Rationale: Greater than 75% of Liberty Lake residents are located within the service areas. RCO grades a community's access to its park system based upon the population's proximity to parks, differentiated by park classification i.e. what function the park serves by the quantity and type of amenities that it offers. According to these criteria, 100% of Liberty Lake residents are within 5 miles of a Community Park. All residents are also located within 25 miles of a "Regional Park," such as the Centennial Trail and the Liberty Lake Regional Park (located 1.5 miles outside of the city limits). Greater than 75 percent of residents live within 0.5 miles of a neighborhood or pocket park, however gaps do exist as noted in the Gap Analysis section of this chapter. Should new parks and greenways not be constructed to keep pace with residential development, the city's grade for its service area coverage will be significantly reduced for the neighborhood park/trail and slightly reduced for the community park/trail.

Access

Access	A	B	C	D	E
Percentage of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation.	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	20-40%	<20%

Metrics Considered: Trails and Bicycle Network Assessment.

Grade Assigned: A.

Rationale: As noted in assessment, though some gaps do exist between certain parks and neighborhoods, greater than 80 percent of parks and recreation facilities may be safety accessed by non-motorized means. The city has an extensive trail, pathway, and bike lane system that connects facilities to users and expansion of the trail network is consistently desired by the community. In the community survey, residents voiced their need for continued accessibility upgrades such as expanding neighborhood trail connections and providing more safe enhancements along trail corridors.





Key Findings

Summary

This Demands and Needs Analysis has used quantitative and qualitative metrics to help determine if there are gaps in park access, quantity, or specific types of parks that are necessary to serve the public's current and future needs. The analysis finds that Liberty Lake performs strongly at a systemwide level, exceeding national benchmarks for park access and parkland provision when compared to peer communities. Under the revised level of service standards by park classification, the system is projected to continue meeting targets for neighborhood parks, open space and natural areas, and trails through the 2046 planning horizon. The only identified future service gap is associated with community parks, where population growth is expected to outpace available acreage and functional capacity, resulting in a projected 19 percent service gap even with currently planned park projects. Planned parks and potential park reclassification scenarios, including at Town Square Park, offer meaningful opportunities to reduce this gap; however, timely implementation and ongoing monitoring will be essential to maintain service levels. The highest priority areas for new parks are in the north and southwest neighborhoods where no community or neighborhood parks currently exist. Sidewalk gaps around Town Square Park and paths that are currently in poor condition along key arterials between parks and schools should be given the highest priority for improvements.

Does Liberty Lake Have Enough Parklands to Serve Its Current and Future Population?

When evaluated using peer community comparisons and systemwide park metrics, Liberty Lake's parks and open space system currently performs at a high level relative to communities of similar size. Based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) benchmarks, Liberty Lake provides 22.59 acres of public parkland per 1,000 residents, more than double the national median for cities under 20,000 population and well above the median for cities in the 20,000–49,999 population range. This places Liberty Lake within the upper quartile of parkland provision nationally and above all local peer communities evaluated.

Liberty Lake also performs strongly in terms of park access and distribution. With approximately 743 residents per public park, the City serves fewer residents per facility than the NRPA median of 1,001 residents per park, indicating a comparatively high level of access. Peer community comparisons show that Liberty Lake has both more parks and larger total park acreage than neighboring jurisdictions of similar population size, resulting in the lowest resident-to-park ratio among the peer group.

Looking ahead to 2046, systemwide metrics indicate that Liberty Lake is projected to continue meeting the recommended benchmarks for total parkland acreage and residents per park, assuming currently planned park projects are constructed. With planned parks included, Liberty Lake is projected to provide approximately 15.36 acres of public parkland per 1,000 residents and an average of 914 residents per park, remaining above the recommended LOS thresholds. These findings suggest that, at a systemwide level, Liberty Lake's parks and open space network will continue to provide adequate capacity to serve future population growth.

Does Liberty Lake have the right kind of parks to meet public demands and needs?

While systemwide metrics indicate that Liberty Lake provides a sufficient quantity of parkland and compares favorably to peer communities, evaluating whether the City has the right kind of parks requires a closer look at park classifications, functional roles, and the distribution of amenities across the system. Different park types serve different purposes, and overall acreage alone does not fully capture how well recreational demand is being met.

Liberty Lake's park system is characterized by a strong supply of open space, natural areas, and trails, which together exceed recommended service levels and contribute significantly to everyday recreation, environmental quality, and active transportation. These facilities provide broad community benefits and help distribute passive recreation and trail use throughout the city. Neighborhood-scale parks also perform well under the revised LOS standards, supporting walk-to access and informal recreation in many residential areas.

This analysis has identified a potential future deficit of community parks, which serve as the City's primary locations for destination amenities, large events, organized recreation, and higher-intensity use. Liberty Lake currently has three community parks—Orchard Park, Pavillion Park, and Rocky Hill Park—all of which are smaller than the typical size range for community parks. As population grows, demand for community-scale amenities is expected to increase, placing greater pressure on these facilities even when systemwide acreage targets are met.

Planned park development, including the River District community park, will improve the balance of park types and partially address future community park service needs. However, even with planned parks, community parks are projected to still fall short of meeting current service levels by about 19%, representing a demand for an additional 11.5 acres of high-quality community parkland.

One such strategy to further meet this need is the potential reclassification of Town Square Park, contingent on the outcome of the future master planning process. If the park is expanded to its full buildout area and incorporates destination-level amenities, event-support infrastructure, and facilities intended to serve residents citywide, reclassification as a Community Park could meaningfully increase the community park level of service and reduce future service gaps. Alternatively, if improvements emphasize walk-to amenities and neighborhood-scale recreation, reclassification as a Neighborhood Park would further strengthen the City's distributed park network and increase neighborhood park service levels beyond the adopted standard.

Together, these findings indicate that Liberty Lake generally has the right mix of parks to meet current needs, but future success will depend on how planned parks are developed and classified, and how amenities are distributed across the system. Strategic use of park classification, facility programming, and expansion opportunities, such as at Town Square Park, offers a means to improve system performance and better align park types with evolving community needs.

Recommendations

Set new LOS standards as Goals and Objectives for the next five to ten years:

1) For all parks, consider the following measures:
   a) Offer parks that meet the interests and needs of the Liberty Lake community based upon continuous public feedback.
   b) Provide parks within a 10-minute walk of all city residents.
   c) Ensure high operations and maintenance standards are achieved for all parks.
   d) Prioritize the enhancement of non-motorized connections to parks.
2) For Community Parks, establish a base target LOS of 2.75 acres per 1,000 Liberty Lake residents to maintain current levels of satisfaction with Liberty Lake's premier parks into the future.
3) For Neighborhood Parks, establish a base target LOS of 1 acre per 1,000 residents.
4) For Passive Open Space:
   a) Establish a base target of 7.5 acres per 1,000 residents.
   b) As open spaces have the potential to be developed, consider acquiring new properties to create spaces that also meet the City's environmental objectives, offering preserved natural areas that can also provide educational programming and benefits.

Parks System Expansion and Acquisition:

- Future park development should prioritize providing amenities that directly respond to community-identified needs and preferences, as documented through the public engagement process, rather than focusing solely on meeting acreage-based level of service targets. New parks or park expansions should be strategically located within identified service gaps to improve walkable access while also delivering facilities that residents have requested.
- To achieve a target LOS for community parks of 2.75 acres/1,000 residents, by 2046 Liberty Lake would need to add about 11.5 acres of community parks to its system.
- Golf remains very popular in Liberty Lake and represents a part of the City's distinctive identity. As the population and commercial sector grows, the City can facilitate expanded golfing venues and programming to continue to promote and accommodate the sport.
- Rocky Hill and Orchard Park are in neighborhoods with the lowest current presence of trees and higher socio-economic vulnerability metrics. As these areas continue to develop, high priority should be placed upon planting trees in these parks to address existing disparities.

Are Liberty Lake's Parks Accessible to All Residents?

The 10-minute walkshed gap analysis finds that, while greater than 75% of the residential and working population are located within a 10-minute walk of a public park facility in Liberty Lake's center, residents living and working in developing peripheral areas often cannot access a park within a 10-minute walking distance.

There are currently no community or neighborhood parks located in the north or southwest portions of Liberty Lake. These developing neighborhoods currently lack desirable park amenities like playgrounds, splash pads, sports courts, and walking paths.

The current bicycle and pedestrian path network supports non-motorized access to most park facilities. Gaps do exist, however, such as between Town Square Park and its surrounding neighborhood and commercial area. Sidewalks in poor condition are located on arterials which connect residential streets to Pavillion Park, Rocky Hill Parks, and "The Diamonds" ballfields.

Recommendations

As neighborhoods continue to develop, plan for and construct neighborhood parks in these areas to achieve a level of service that facilitates community recreational demands. Closely monitor the neighborhoods being developed under the regulation of Special Area Plans to ensure that concept parks are constructed to meet adequate service levels. As the southwest portion of the City develops, planning measures will necessitate adding open space facilities to concurrently serve new developments in this area as well.

Prioritize sidewalks that are currently in fair to poor condition as they are a critical means of access to parks from nearby neighborhoods. The future Town Square Park site master plan should put forward design concepts for enhanced bicycle and pedestrian connections from the park to the main arterials of E Appleway Ave and E Mission Ave to better connect the park to surrounding neighborhoods. Filling in gaps in the network can improve rates of non-motorized use.

Are Liberty Lake's Facilities Accommodating Residents' Desired Recreational Opportunities?

According to feedback gathered from the community engagement surveys and pop-up events, recommendations related to desired park facilities and recreational opportunities are outlined in Chapter 4: Public Outreach & Community Engagement, Key Takeaways from Engagement (*Pages 120-122*).



6 Goals & Objectives



Goals, Policies, & Actions

Introduction

The goals, policies, and actions form a practical roadmap for how Liberty Lake will care for and enhance its parks, trails, recreational programs, open spaces, and public art offerings. They reflect community priorities and help guide city decisions, from setting priorities for new investments to taking care of what already exists. By laying out both big-picture directions and concrete next steps, this framework helps ensure that Liberty Lake's parks and recreation system continues to reflect community values and supports a vibrant, connected, and accessible future.

Goals, Policies, & Actions Matrix

Trails and Connectivity

Type	#	Goal/Policy
Goal	TC1	Develop a connected system of multipurpose trails that meets current and future recreation needs.
Goal	TC2	Make the enhancement of the existing trail system a priority project.
Goal	TC3	Connect trails to population centers, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, parks, and cultural sites.
Policy	TC1.1	Ensure trails are handicap accessible.
Policy	TC2.1	Ensure grade-separated trails and/or bike lanes are developed along new arterials
Policy	TC3.1	Maintain participation in the Centennial Trail Coordinating Agreement to preserve, maintain, and enhance the valuable regional amenity.

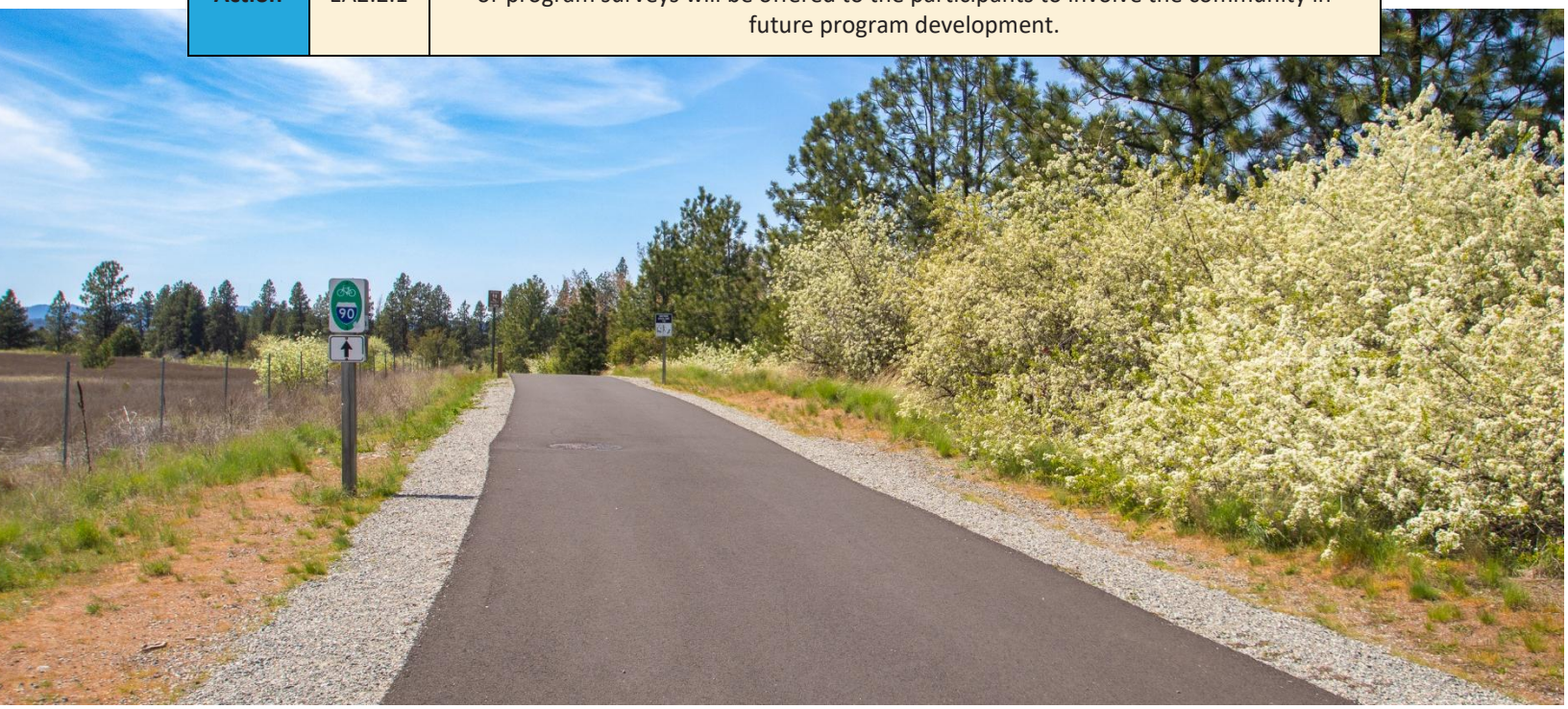
Type	#	Action
Action	TC2.1.1	Inventory and examine existing rights-of-way (including abandoned rail and utility easements) for possible use as multipurpose non-motorized trails.*
Action	TC2.1.2	Prepare and maintain a recreational enhancements program for the trails system.
Action	TC3.1.1	Coordinate with other agencies/jurisdictions and trails committee(s) to ensure a comprehensive approach to trail system planning.

** Reference Note: Comprehensive plan utilities and public facilities element policy 7 states: Encourage the use of utility easements and corridors for trails, in accordance with Industry standards, as appropriate.*

Equity and Accessibility

Type	#	Goal/Policy
Goal	EA1	Parks and recreational programs are accessible to all.
Goal	EA2	Parks and recreational programs meet a wide range of public needs and wants.
Policy	EA1.1	Parks should be within a ten-minute walk of all residents.
Policy	EA1.2	Parks' facilities should be accessible to the widest range of citizens.
Policy	EA2.1	Provide recreation programs from passive use to organized.
Policy	EA2.2	Include the community in the development and improvement of parks and recreational programs.

Type	#	Action
Action	EA1.2.1	New parks or major park improvements will be reviewed for accessibility and involve community input in development.
Action	EA2.2.1	Recreational programming will be reviewed by the Parks and Art Commission, and end-of-program surveys will be offered to the participants to involve the community in future program development.



Level of Service

Type	#	Goal/Policy
Goal	LS1	Level of service for parks and open space is… per 1,000 population.
Goal	LS2	The level of service for parks and open spaces is a 10-minute walking distance.
Goal	LS3	Preserve open spaces and greenways to protect the environment, enhance community character, and connect parks and neighborhoods.
Policy	LS1.1	Develop parks and recreational programs within city Plans and Code.
Policy	LS1.2	Use Parks Plan Demand and Needs Analysis and Level of Service as a guide in park development and improvements.
Policy	LS1.3	Develop or improve parks while preserving natural features.
Policy	LS1.4	Coordinate and partner with other organizations to minimize costs to taxpayers and further park and recreational opportunities.
Policy	LS1.5	City-owned facilities and programs should recover operating costs whenever possible.
Policy	LS3.1	Monitor open space level of service over time to ensure access to natural spaces in the parks system.

Type	#	Action
Action	LS1.2.1	The city will identify land acquisition opportunities based on the Level of Service standards and the land preservation policy.
Action	LS1.5.1	Staff will suggest fee adoptions that will recover costs of providing services whenever possible.
Action	LS1.5.2	Staff will explore all opportunities to minimize costs to taxpayers.
Action	LS3.1.1	Plan and design current open space areas and corridors throughout the city. These open spaces shall include lands useful for recreation areas between and among developments, greenbelt buffers, wildlife habitat, trails, and connections of critical areas.
Action	LS1.4.1	Establish partnerships with nonprofit organizations to program or develop city-owned open space.

**Reference Note: Comprehensive plan GHG element policy 6.1.1 states: Require open space set-asides (such as parks) for new residential and multifamily development.*

Management and Maintenance

Type	#	Goal/Policy
Goal	MM1	Provide parks, recreation, and open space that meet current and future needs.
Policy	MM1.1	Maintenance and the improvement of existing parks, recreation, and open spaces will take priority.
Policy	MM1.2	Staff will look at new and creative ways to enhance existing parks, amenities, and programs.

Type	#	Action
Action	MM1.2.1	Staff will be innovative in maintaining and funding parks and recreational programs.

Public Art

Type	#	Goal/Policy
Goal	PA1	Establish a collection of public art involving local, regional, and national artists and provide a legacy of art and culture.
Goal	PA2	Ensure maintenance and repair occurs for all public art pieces.
Policy	PA1.1	Consider art accessibility, quality, and appropriateness when selecting art or an artist.

**Reference Note: Comprehensive plan cultural & historical resources element goal 3 states: Recognize that the arts contribute to the character of the physical, mental, social, and economic well-being of the community and encourage public and private commitment and investment.*

Type	#	Action
Action	PA1.1.1	Seek grant funding and private sponsorships to support public art projects that enhance Liberty Lake's cultural and economic vitality.
Action	PA1.1.2	Identify city-owned sites for permanent public art installations that reflect Liberty Lake's culture, history, and values.
Action	PA1.1.3	Partner with the community engagement commission to gather community input when selecting new public art installations.

**Reference Note: Comprehensive plan cultural & historical resources element policy 6 states: Encourage permanent displays of art in new public facilities.*

Introduction

Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Master Plan is closely tied to the broader vision established in the City's Comprehensive Plan. The goals and policies in those elements – such as land use, transportation, natural environment, capital facilities, and cultural resources – provide essential direction that shapes how the parks system grows, operates, and serves the community. The following summaries highlight where these Comprehensive Plan policies align with and support the Parks Plan, demonstrating how the City's long-range planning efforts work together to create a connected and accessible parks and recreation system.

Policy Connections

The **Land Use element** includes policies that encourage development, preserve open space, address neighborhood concerns, and support quality of life.

The **Urban Design element** promotes well-designed public and private spaces, including streetscapes, gateways, and neighborhood centers. It encourages pedestrian, bicycle, and alternative transportation access, as well as the integration of public art and cultural resources.

The **Transportation element** supports safe, convenient connections for walking, biking, and other non-motorized travel between housing, recreation, schools, and commercial areas. It also promotes the development and maintenance of trails and alternative transportation corridors.

The **Natural Environment element** includes policies to protect sensitive areas, wetlands, and trees. It encourages native landscaping, water conservation, and public awareness of environmental stewardship.

The **Capital Facilities element** demonstrates how parks, trails, and recreation facilities will be maintained and enhanced. It emphasizes coordination with land use, transportation, and utilities planning and opportunities for shared or multi-use facilities.

The **Cultural Resources element** includes policies to preserve and promote cultural resources and public art. It supports programs that enhance Liberty Lake's identity and community spirit.





7 Capital Improvement Program



Introduction

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) establishes a focused plan to address the priorities identified in the City of Liberty Lake's Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The CIP was shaped by direct community feedback and supported by the analyses of existing conditions and future demands. This plan then addresses the immediate needs of Liberty Lake's diverse communities while preparing the parks system to meet future demands, delivering significant economic, social, and environmental benefits.

This plan update serves as a pivotal blueprint, profoundly impacting residents' quality of life through the City's Parks & Recreation system. Given limited departmental capacity, the administration of these services necessitates a strategic allocation of resources from the municipal budget and pursuit of external funding opportunities.

Public Feedback as Foundational to the CIP

Liberty Lake is committed to addressing public feedback and improving deficiencies within the parks system by making annual investments in parks staff, equipment, and supplies that are crucial for providing and maintaining a diverse array of outdoor recreational opportunities, ensuring safety, and meeting public expectations. This program outlines specific park projects and broader strategies to close service gaps and enhance recreational opportunities. The plan includes both short-term improvements scheduled for implementation over the next six years and long-term visionary projects, ensuring the County can take advantage of funding opportunities and evolving community needs.



The plan's recommendations are designed to tackle current challenges, anticipate future demands, and maximize funding flexibility while aligning with public priorities. By taking a balanced and sustainable approach, Liberty Lake aims to enhance its parks system in a way that serves both present and future generations.

Through two community surveys, key stakeholder interviews, and pop-up events, important themes have emerged that reflect residents' priorities and concerns regarding parks, recreation, and open space planning. These themes, shaped by community input, form the foundation for future improvements and strategic investments in Liberty Lake's parks system.

Desired Capital Improvements from the Public Engagement Process

The community expressed strong support for expanding and enhancing recreation facilities to meet growing demand. Key priorities included:

- **Developing an aquatic center/community pool.** This improvement received 46% of the total CIP votes (224 of 487), including 201 resident votes, making it the single most supported project. In the Needs Assessment Survey, 44.7% of respondents selected water-based recreation as a top program priority, and aquatic amenities were the most frequently requested system improvement.
- **Upgrading and expanding playgrounds.** New playground equipment received the second most CIP votes (14%). The community most supported natural style playground equipment, above all other funding priorities, with 29% of the overall vote.
- **Expanding and improving trails and neighborhood connectivity.** Trails are among the most valued and used amenities, with over 50% of respondents reporting use of walking and biking paths in the past year. In CIP engagement, new trails received 63 of 487 votes (13%), including 55 resident votes, placing it among the top capital priorities.
- **Enhancing comfort amenities and equitable access.** While natural features and open space were rated positively by over 80% of respondents, barriers such as uncertainty about available programs (41.6%), overcrowded facilities (27.9%), and concerns about shade, restrooms, and accessibility were frequently cited, indicating the need to improve communication, comfort amenities, and inclusive access across the system.
- **Incorporating interactive and nature-inspired public art.** Interactive art received the most support in pop-up engagement (80 votes), and nature-inspired art was consistently preferred in both workshops and surveys, reinforcing the community's interest in art that reflects Liberty Lake's identity.

Overall, engagement results demonstrate broad and measurable support for a community pool/aquatic center, expanded programming and indoor space, enhanced trails and connectivity, upgraded playgrounds, and improved comfort amenities. Investments in these areas will honor and reflect community priorities and will help ensure Liberty Lake's park system continues to achieve high levels of user satisfaction.



Developing the Capital Improvement Plan

The plan is designed for a full six-year lifespan with the intent that it will guide improvements from 2026 through 2032 while providing a conceptual vision of additional aspirational improvements beyond that are focused on the projected growth of Liberty Lake. As stated earlier, this plan is not a strict "script" to guide any and all park & recreation improvements. Since funding may be diverted or not secured or public needs or political will may change, this plan is designed to be a fluid and dynamic strategic guide for the city to base decisions around. Unforeseen opportunities may present themselves that are not covered in this plan, which may create better service to the public.

The proposed projects have been scheduled in the short-term, 1–6-year timeframe; mid-range, 6–12-year timeframe; or are grouped as aspirational to be completed in the later window of the 20-year planning horizon. For planning purposes, the timeline of implementation has been estimated but may be impacted by a multitude of factors, including likely design and permitting time, other critical public work projects, grant funding cycles and available budgets, and finally, city staff project management capacity. Note that this is for planning purposes only and is not a commitment to implementation in a particular year. This plan should be a living document, constantly updated as conditions change.

Beginning in early-to-mid 2030, a plan update process should be officially undertaken to engage the residents, staff, and parks-related committee members in reviewing changing level of service needs, proposing new capital improvements, and renewing WA RCO eligibility for the next performance period.

To reinforce, the CIP project lists reflect the demand and needs of the public and have been vetted with both city staff, commission members, and City Council. Actual implementation over the next six years will be driven by available funding, The City's success in securing grant funding as well as critical liability maintenance and repair improvements.

Liberty Lake's Funding Sources

Liberty Lake's parks budget is supported by a diverse range of funding sources. The General Fund, which includes revenue from property taxes, sales taxes, and utilities taxes, serves as the primary funding source for the Parks and Recreation Department. Additional funding comes from Transportation Benefit District for trail improvements, as well as revenues from fees for recreational programs, facility rentals, and special events. The Recreation Department partners with the Planning and Building Services to apply for both state and federal grants to pay for park amenities. Historically, the city has been successful in obtaining grant funding for new parks and new park amenities in the past such as the skate park at Pavillion Park and Rocky Hill Park. City staff plan to apply for future Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Park grants to continue to offer citizens improvements at local parks as well as future park opportunities.

To support growth, the county charges impact fees on new developments to help fund the expansion of parks and recreational facilities. A portion of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and a dedicated sales tax also contribute to the budget. Occasionally, bonds are issued for large-scale park projects, with funds repaid over time. Additional resources come from donations, sponsorships, and partnerships with businesses, non-profits, and other governmental agencies.

Parks system budgeting consists of three basic elements:

- Land costs;
- Site improvement costs; and
- Ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

Land Costs and Considerations

Land costs are typically the single most costly component of park system development. Fortunately, since the majority of housing within the City of Liberty Lake was platted as Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), developers donated land for parks and open space as a part of the platting process. Today, the City Development Code also requires that all proposed residential uses shall be located within ½ mile of a park or greenway area when land is divided, which also generally requires land donation. The City may have to purchase land for parks or open space if additional land is required.

For future park acquisition and development, the following criteria can be used as points to consider when looking at different parcels of land:

- Is the site located appropriately for its intended use? – (i.e. centrally for community parks)
- Are there safety concerns with the site? – (i.e. traffic, crime, etc.)
- Is the site topography proper for the proposed facility?
- Does the site have the necessary infrastructure available?
- Does the site have access to the Spokane River?
- Does the site have access to Liberty Lake?
- Does the site contain environmentally sensitive areas?
- If facilities on the site will be lit, will the lighting be a nuisance to nearby residents?
- Will the sounds from activities proposed at the site be a nuisance to nearby residents?
- Does the site topography allow naturally for the separation of activities?
- Will extensive site landscaping be needed?
- Is there existing off-site parking near the site?
- Is it desirable to have the site strategically located? (i.e. near the Central Business District, library, etc.)?
- Will existing traffic egress and ingress to the site be changed by higher intensity use?
- Is the site historically or culturally significant?

Site Improvement, Operation, & Maintenance Costs

Once land has been acquired for parks and recreation uses, it is incumbent upon the City to improve that land with facilities that are in demand from the citizens. The types and quantities of facilities are discussed in this Plan. Cost for construction and improvements of park facilities should be determined prior to construction. Long-term maintenance expenses of the facilities must also be considered. Maintenance costs of various facilities will vary depending on facility type, location, or other factors and therefore should be calculated on a case-by-case basis as part of the planning process.

Estimate of Probable Cost

Included in this chapter is an estimate of the probable construction costs associated with the improvements recommended for each park or city-wide. Note that these estimates are preliminary for use in budgeting and scoping future design and construction projects, and are subject to change due to site conditions, final design, and market circumstances. Many of the estimates are from the current park master planning projects that have already been started.

Each item in the estimate is keyed to the recommendations on the park plans in this section and includes funding source availability and anticipated cost. Inflation, annual cost escalators, cost & design contingencies, permitting and other soft costs have been factored in as well based upon staff experience with comparable projects. The cost for staff time is not included in the cost opinions.



Developing Projects with Strategic Co-Benefits to Maximize Funding Opportunities

Funding improvements to the parks system should not rely solely on the City's resources. To maximize public investment in parks, recreation, and open space facilities and services, the City should adopt a proactive approach to securing grants, donations, and other external funding sources. This includes identifying and aligning specific improvements with well-established grant programs that have a strong history of funding success.

To maximize funding potential in a competitive environment, the City should focus on projects that integrate multiple elements beyond traditional park improvements. By combining transportation, critical areas, open space conservation, and economic development components into park projects, the City can broaden their appeal to a wider range of funding sources and create more flexible implementation options.

For example, park improvements that include trail and access enhancements can align with transportation-focused grants such as Safe Routes to School or pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure programs. Similarly, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grants, like the Youth Athletic Facility or Land and Water Conservation Fund, can be paired with projects that address broader community needs, such as habitat restoration, stormwater management, or urban connectivity.

This multidimensional approach not only increases the likelihood of securing funding but also supports collaboration with County, State, and Federal programs. By strategically aligning park improvements with overlapping goals in transportation, environmental conservation, and economic development, Liberty Lake can expand its funding flexibility, optimize resources, and deliver projects with greater community impact.

Performance and Monitoring

The Capital Improvement Program for Liberty Lake's parks, recreation, open space, and trails is intended to be a dynamic and adaptable tool to guide improvements throughout the life cycle of this plan. Recognizing the changing nature of community needs, funding opportunities, and priorities, it should be integrated into the City's annual capital improvement budgeting process and supported by consistent performance monitoring and evaluation.

To ensure the program remains effective and responsive to evolving circumstances, the following actions should be embedded into the City's annual processes:

Annual Prioritization Review

Each year, City staff, along with advisory volunteers or committees, should evaluate the current state of the park system and review the recommendations in the plan. This process should consider changes in funding availability, demographic shifts, or emerging needs. Adjustments to the priorities and timelines should be made as necessary to ensure alignment with community goals and available resources.

Funding Source Review

A detailed review of anticipated versus actual funding sources should be conducted annually. This includes evaluating the success of grant applications and identifying new funding opportunities. Staff should use lessons learned from previous funding cycles to refine strategies, adapt project scopes, and adjust timelines if funding goals are not met or if additional resources become available.

Maintenance and Operational Review

Before implementing any park improvement or pursuing funding, the associated maintenance and operational costs should be thoroughly evaluated. Ensuring that resources are allocated for ongoing upkeep prevents overextension of the City's capacity and ensures long-term sustainability of improvements.

Coordination With Other City Projects

Park and open space improvements should be reviewed alongside other planned municipal projects, such as transportation and public works initiatives. Coordinating efforts allows for shared resources, reduces redundancy, and enhances the overall impact of improvements. Aligning projects with broader Town goals ensures that parks contribute to Liberty Lake's desired quality of life.

Capital Improvements Funding Sources

The project funding matrix (*see Table 7*- 2) for Liberty Lake's parks, recreation, and open space improvements outlines secured and unsecured funding options tailored to each proposed project. These funding options consider the unique characteristics of each improvement, providing a mix of pathways to finance both immediate and long-term goals.

Secured Funding Sources

Secured funding sources include mechanisms that provide guaranteed financial backing. These include:

- **Municipal Bonds:** Debt issued by the City and repaid over time, typically through property taxes or other dedicated revenue streams. These bonds provide upfront capital for major park and recreation projects, allowing improvements to be made without immediate full payment from the City's budget.
- **Revenue Bonds:** Backed by specific revenue streams, such as user fees from park facilities or events.
- **General Obligation Bonds:** Secured by the City's taxing authority and used for larger-scale investments.
- **Park Revenues:** Operations and maintenance for Liberty Lake's park system are heavily supported by the General Fund. This fund plays a critical role in sustaining the City's parks and recreation system.
- **Municipal Budget:** Certain smaller projects or urgent needs may be financed directly from the City's existing parks budget or general fund.

Unsecured Funding Sources

Unsecured sources depend on competitive or discretionary funding. These include:

- **Grant Programs:** Outdoor recreation funding available through the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), such as:
  - Youth Athletic Facility Grants
  - Land and Water Conservation Fund
  - Trails or Non-Motorized Infrastructure Grants
- **Donations and Sponsorships:** Partnerships with community organizations, local businesses, or individuals to sponsor specific improvements or events.
- **Partnerships:** Collaboration with local school districts, neighboring municipalities, or non-profit organizations to share costs and resources for mutual benefit.

To support Liberty Lake's planning efforts, Appendix D: CIP Supplemental Funding Guide (*Page 351*) provides a comprehensive description of all available funding options, offering additional guidance for financing park improvements. This appendix serves as a resource for identifying new opportunities and aligning funding strategies with project needs.

By leveraging a combination of secured and unsecured sources, along with operational revenues, Liberty Lake can effectively fund its parks, recreation, and open space initiatives. This diversified approach ensures the flexibility and adaptability needed to respond to evolving community needs and funding opportunities.

Table 7-1: Funding Sources Key

Key	Funding Program
A	City General Fund (unspecified)
B	Real Estate Excise Tax
C	Parks and Arts Fund
D	Parks Maintenance and Operations Fund
E	Developer Transportation Impact Fees
F	RCO WWRP - Local Parks Category
G	RCO Land and Water Conservation Fund
H	RCO WWRP – Trails Category
I	RCO - Planning for Recreation Access



Capital Improvement Projects

Short-Term, Medium-Term, and Long-Range Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects

Across the following pages are listed the short-term, medium-term, and long-range parks and recreation capital improvement projects for the City of Liberty Lake.



CIP Map

Figure 7-1: Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program Project Locations



Capital Improvement Project Table

Short-term projects were ranked based on their importance to the community, as indicated by participation in the CIP funding survey. Rankings reflect how frequently each project was selected within the 500-point budget exercise. For example, 81% of participants allocated funding to the Community Pool Feasibility and Site Planning Study (150 points), making it the most widely supported project and the top-ranked priority.

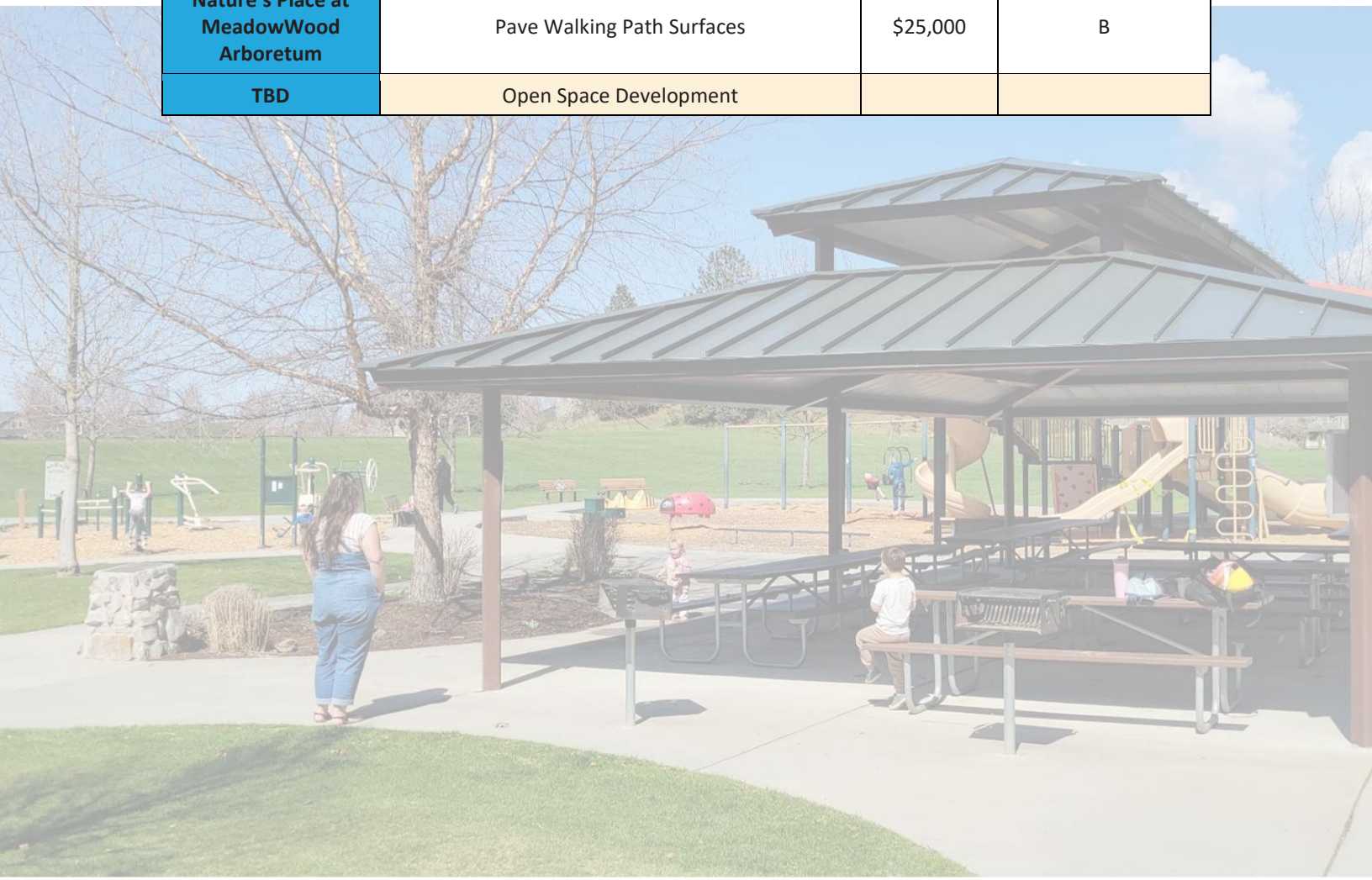
Table 7- 2: Capital Improvement Program 1-to-6 Year Schedule

Rank	Project	Location	Cost	Potential Funding Source	Note
1	Community Pool Feasibility and Site Planning Study	Unspecified	$100,000 - $200,000	I, A	--
2	Playground Replacement	Pavillion Park	$250,000 - $500,000	F, G, B	Assumes a structure cost of $100k to $200k with prevailing wage install at 2.5x cost of structure.
3	Playground Shade Structure	Orchard Park	$12,500 - $30,000	B	Assumes a structure cost of $5k to $12k with prevailing wage install at 2.5x cost of structure.
4	Splash Pad Replacement	Pavillion Park	$250,000 - $500,000	F, G, B, D	Assumes a pad with more features with a price range of some equipment being reused (surge tank, filter, and pump) up to a complete replacement of all equipment.

5	Tree Canopy Enhancement	Orchard Park & Pavillion Park	$10,000 - $15,000	C	20-30 tree installations priced at $500 apiece.
6	Playground Shade Structure	Pavillion Park	$12,500 - $30,000	F, G, B	Assumes a structure cost of $5k to $12k with prevailing wage install at 2.5x cost of structure.
7	Install electrical power to shelters	Orchard Park	$11,000 – $15,000	D	--
8	Recreation, Community, or Senior Center Feasibility Study	Unspecified	$100,000 - $200,000	I	No RCO Match Requirement.
9	Construct Restrooms	Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum	$100,000 - $300,000	B	Estimated based on recent project quote for nearby peer community.
10	Develop and Install New Public Art Elements	Systemwide	Varies	C	$540,500 currently allocated for Parks and Arts. See Chapter 3 Arts recommendation.
11	Add Gazebo / Shade Structure	Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum	$250,000 - $500,000	B	Assumes a structure cost of $100k to $200k with prevailing wage install at 2.5x cost of structure.

Table 7- 3: Capital Improvement Program 6-to-12 Year Schedule

Location	Project	Cost	Potential Funding Source
Pavillion Park	Upgrade Restroom Facilities for Year-Round Use	$20,000	B, D
Orchard Park	Add a Community Garden	$15,000	B, C
Rocky Hill Park	Playground Replacement w/ Inclusive Play Equipment	$250,000 - $500,000	F, G, B
Rocky Hill Park	Add a Splash Pad	$350,000 - $500,000	F, G, B
Town Square Park	Develop Full Site via Master Plan (PF-13)	TBD	F, G, B
Town Square Park	Complete Sidewalks on N Signal Dr and N MeadowWood Ln in the Public Right-of-Way.	$300,000	A, B, E
Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum	Pave Walking Path Surfaces	$25,000	B
TBD	Open Space Development		



Project Locations

Figure 7- 2: Pavillion Park Improvement Projects



Figure 7- 3: Orchard Park Improvement Projects



Figure 7- 4: Rocky Hill Park Improvement Projects

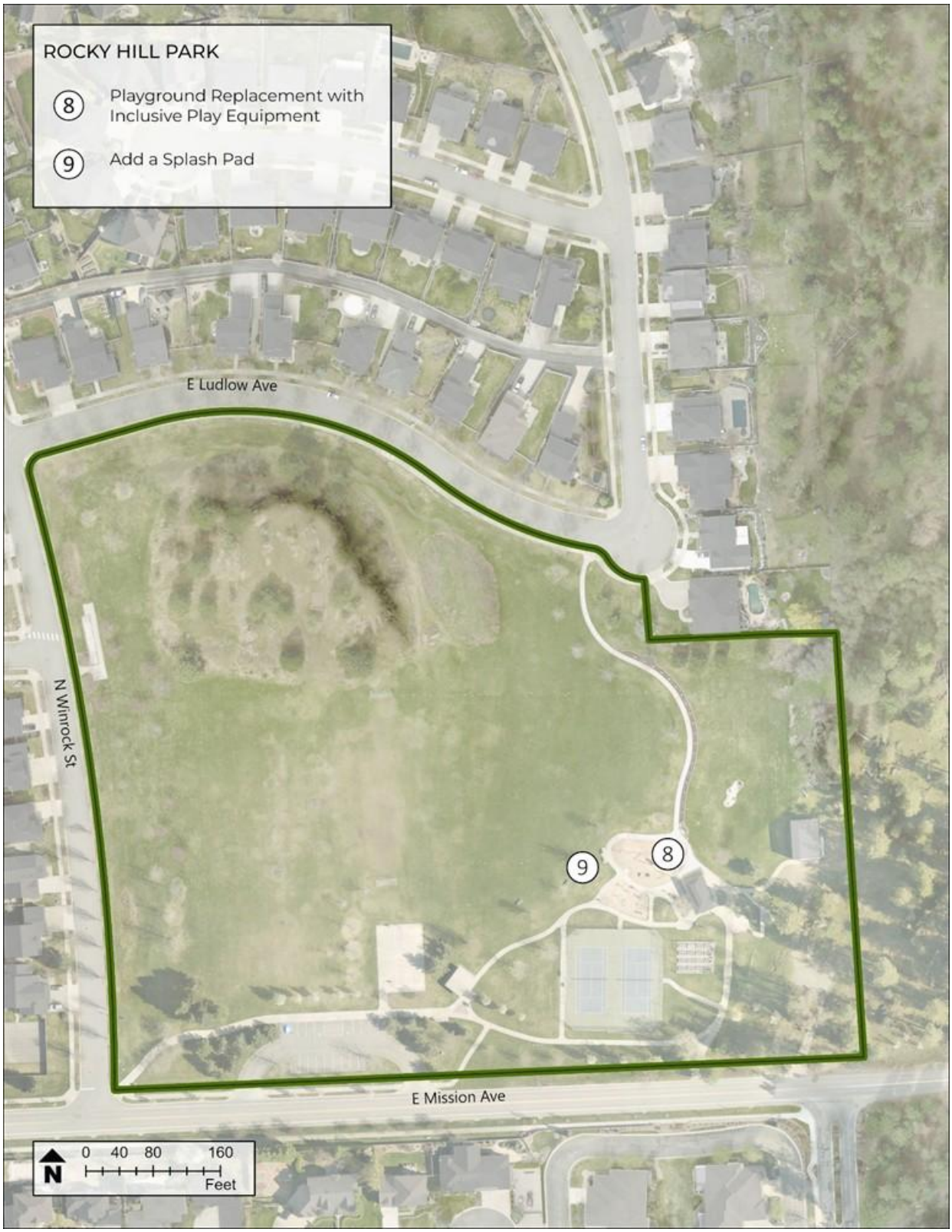


Figure 7- 5: Town Square Park Improvement Projects



Figure 7- 6: Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum Improvement Projects



Long-term Maintenance and Aspirational Projects

Various categories of intended improvements have been identified in planning for, and addressing, the life cycle costs associated with specific elements within the park system. One proposed solution involves the establishment of a revolving fund or account dedicated to specific park elements that require a substantial investment to replace. These funds could be utilized for emergency repairs, enable the city to seize unforeseen opportunities, and prepare for larger O&M specific costs, e.g., sport court play surfacing replacements, Tree City USA funds, Recreation & Programming funds, and Wayfinding & Signage funds.

Aspirational Projects

- Construct an Indoor Aquatics Facility;
- Develop a Dog Park;
- Construct a Community/Senior Center;
- Add Protection to Bike Lanes; and
- Develop a new park between 10 and 20 acres in the service area gap with unique amenities to serve the whole community.





8 Plan Adoption



Adoption Process

For this plan to be formally adopted and meet the requirements outlined by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), it has undergone a thorough review and approval process involving the Planning Commission, Parks and Arts Commission, and Public Engagement Commission. This process ensures transparency, public engagement, and compliance with all necessary guidelines, ultimately culminating in the formal adoption by City Council. Once approved by RCO, the plan qualifies the City of Liberty Lake to apply for RCO-administered grants for up to six calendar years from the date of adoption.

With the depth of public and staff involvement made over the execution of this planning process, the following review and approvals have been included:

- City Council Ordinance; and
- RCO Self Certification Checklist.





City Council Ordinance

CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE

SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 3__

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE 2026 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, The City of Liberty Lake Parks & Recreation Master Plan ("Plan") has been developed and adopted to guide and shape the future parks, recreation open space, and trails system in Liberty Lake; and

WHEREAS, A Complete and adopted Parks & Recreation Master Plan that is less than six years old is a requirement for obtaining grant funds from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO); and

WHEREAS, The City of Liberty Lake's current Parks Plan was last updated in 2015 and is therefore in need of updating to meet RCO requirements; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 Plan combines technical analysis with the input of the community to establish priorities for the future improvements of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services in Liberty Lake; and

WHEREAS, The multifaceted public input process utilized for the plan update was designed to provide multiple opportunities for a range of audiences and constituencies to participate.

WHEREAS, the City began its update process by conducting two community surveys to understand the values, needs, opportunities, and priorities for park improvements expressed by residents; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the surveys, the City conducted an in-depth community workshop, several pop-up tabling information sessions at city events throughout the summer, community stakeholder interviews, and targeted community and school-based engagement exercises to develop the Plan update and to solicit public feedback on proposed capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, The format of the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Plan Update was based on the RCO six (6) required plan elements; and

WHEREAS, Public notice requirements have been exceeded and comments have been solicited from the public, focus groups and interested parties, affected agencies, and tribes on the 2026 Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, The Plan will be incorporated by reference as the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space element of the City's Comprehensive Plan by expanding on the information contained in the Comprehensive Plan to provide significantly greater detail regarding the inventory of park and recreation facilities, demands and needs for the future, and level of service standards; and

WHEREAS, The Parks and Arts Commission, Public Engagement Commission, Planning Commission, and City Staff have recommended that the Liberty Lake City Council adopt the 2026 Parks & Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Liberty Lake City Council has considered the recommendations of the Parks and Arts Commission, Public Engagement Commission, Planning Commission and the desires of the community and has determined to adopt the 2026 Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Contents of the 2026 Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The 2026 City of Liberty Lake Parks Plan, in the form on file with the Liberty Lake City Clerk as of the date of this ordinance, is hereby adopted as the City's official Parks Plan for all public purposes, including but not limited to, eligibility for grant funding from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office. The 2026 Parks & Recreation Master Plan supersedes and completely replaces the 2014/2015 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Trails Plan Update and all previous parks plans and updates thereto adopted by the City.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and the attachments hereto shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section 3. Administration and Enforcement.

A. Administration. Planning & Building Services shall be responsible for the administration of this Ordinance and projects shall be reviewed prior to the issuance of any permits or approvals to ensure the project conforms to the adopted Parks & Recreation Master Plan.
B. Enforcement. Projects that do not conform to the adopted Parks & Recreation Master Plan shall be subject to the denial of permits or approvals until the project is brought into conformance.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect five (5) days after publication of this Ordinance or a summary thereof in the official newspaper of the City as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council this 21st day of April, 2026, and signed in authentication of its passage this 21st day of April, 2026.

_____
Mayor, Cristella Kaminskas

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk, Rochelle Caton

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
City Attorney, Sean P. Boutz

Date of Publication: _____

Effective Date: _____



RCO Self-Certification Checklist

Planning Eligibility Self-Certification Form		
Use this form to certify the need for any grant projects have been developed through an appropriate planning process. Provide the completed form with the subject plans and adoption documentation to RCO via e-mail or other means of electronic access (i.e. Web link, Box.com, etc.).		
Organization Name:		
Contact Name:		
Adoption Date of Submitted Documents:		
Seeking Eligibility for: ☐ Recreation Grants ☐ Habitat Conservation Grants ☐ Both		
Initial Each to Certify Completion	**Plan Element Certification**	**Document and Page Number Location of Information**
	1. Goals, objectives: The attached plan supports our project with broad statements of intent (goals) *and* measures that describe when these intents will be attained (objectives). Goals may include a higher level of service (see Appendix C).	
	2. Inventory: The plan includes a description of the service area's facilities, lands, programs, and their condition. *(This may be done in a quantitative format or in a qualitative/ narrative format.)*	
	3. Public involvement*:* The planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in plan development and adoption.	
	4. Demand and need analysis: In the plan: An analysis defines priorities, as appropriate, for acquisition, development, preservation, enhancement, management, etc., and explains why these actions are needed. The process used in developing the analysis assessed community desires for parks, recreation, open space, and/or habitat, as appropriate, in a manner appropriate for the service area (personal observation, informal talks, formal survey(s), workshops, etc.).	

	5. Capital Improvement Program:* The plan includes a capital improvement/facility program that lists land acquisition, development, and renovation projects by year of anticipated implementation; include funding source. The program includes any capital project submitted to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for funding. *Nonprofit conservancies are exempt from this requirement.	
	6. Adoption: The plan and process has received formal governing body approval *(that is, city/county department head, district ranger, regional manager/supervisor, etc., as appropriate).* Attach signed resolution, letter, or other adoption instrument.	

Certification Signature

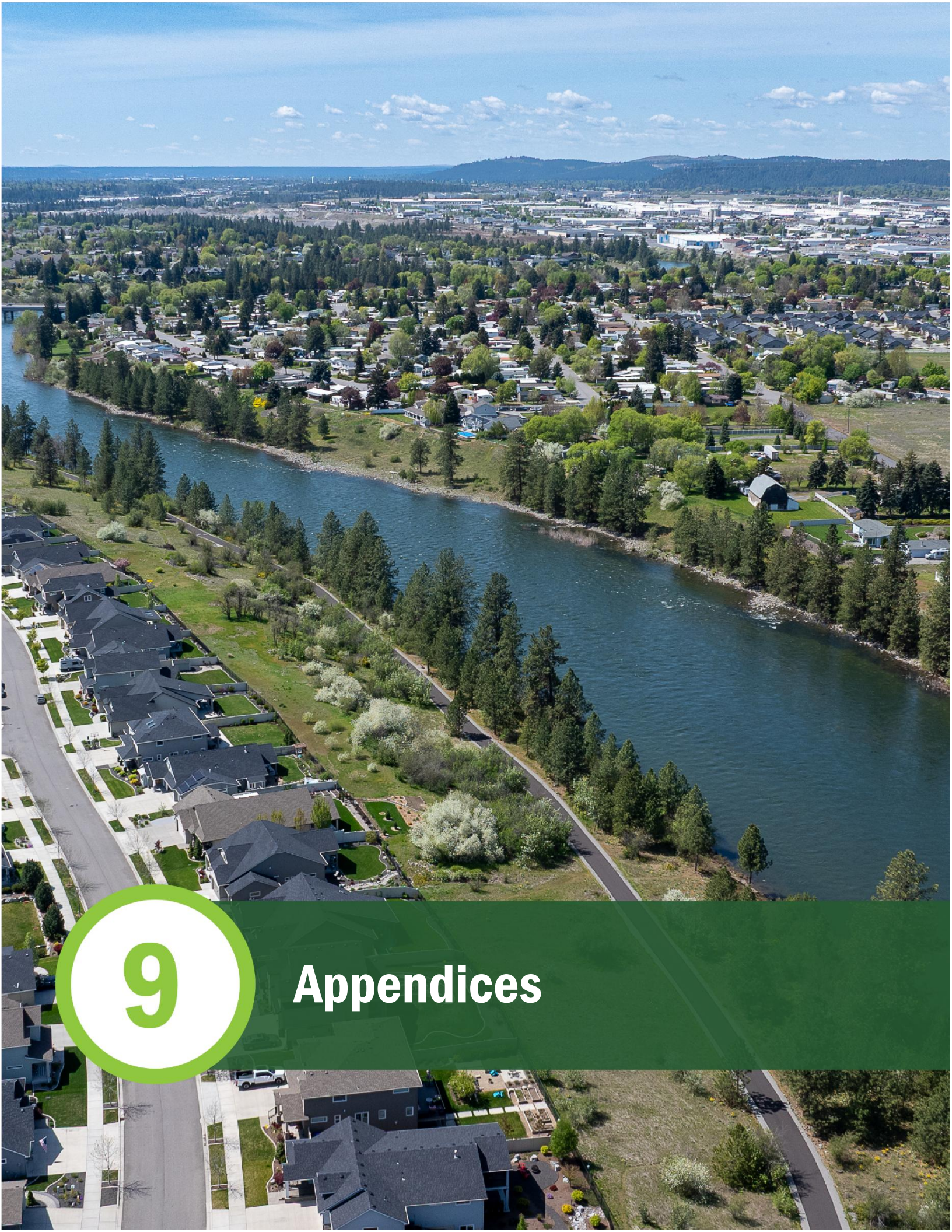
I certify that this information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Print/Type Name

Signature (Handwritten or Digital)

Title

Date



9 Appendices



Appendix A: Public Participation Plan

Public Participation Plan Objectives

Background

The City of Liberty Lake is updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Master Plan is a long-range policy document that guides the City's decisions for park system enhancements related to park facilities, programming, activities, access, and more. Public outreach is a key component of this update effort and will be used as a guide throughout the process, ensuring meaningful and ongoing engagement in decision-making. Efforts to encourage broad participation will continue over the course of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update.

This document outlines the public participation opportunities for Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Master Plan update, including engagement methods, timeline, and implementation strategies. It is a working document that may be updated over time as needed to reflect the evolving needs of the community.

The objectives for this Public Participation Plan are to:

- **Inform residents** of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the process, and outcomes. Utilize outreach methods to inform residents and property owners of the variety of participation opportunities.
- **Exchange information** by conducting collaborative events that engage the community in conversation and the exchange of ideas and information. By exchanging information, we can give participants more ownership in the outcome of planning processes, leading to buy-in, a sense of pride, and higher-quality planning documents.
- **Be inclusive** of a range of perspectives, engaging residents in unique ways to reach a broader audience and understand their goals, needs, and desires.
- **Provide access** to engagement opportunities, events, and participation for all residents, including disadvantaged groups and those who historically have not been heard from throughout community planning processes.
- **Be transparent** and openly reflect a variety of viewpoints within the community and share the City's process for the development and implementation of the PROST Plan.

Roles and Responsibilities

City of Liberty Lake

The City of Liberty Lake is responsible for the update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This responsibility includes actively inviting public comment and coordinating with other city, state, regional, and county planning policies. The City has hired a consultant, SCJ Alliance, to work alongside City staff in facilitating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update process.

Parks and Arts Commission

Liberty Lake's Parks and Arts Commission, a volunteer advisory body, will be regularly updated and integral to the development and implementation of this plan. SCJ will provide regular updates to the Commission with opportunities for the Commission to review amendments to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and provide a recommendation to the City Council for consideration and adoption.

Community Engagement Commission

Liberty Lake's Community Engagement Commission, a volunteer advisory body, will be regularly updated and integral to the development and implementation of this plan. SCJ will provide regular updates to the Commission with an intentional effort to coordinate on community engagement attendance and outreach methods.

City Council

City Council will seek out their constituents' goals for Liberty Lake and connect people to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan through outreach in public spaces. The Liberty Lake City Council will carefully consider recommendations provided by the Planning Commission as part of the decision-making process. Once the Master Plan is complete, the City Council serves as the final decision-making body responsible for adopting the plan.

Outreach

Key Audiences

The City of Liberty Lake is committed to engaging a diverse range of audiences to ensure the Parks and Recreation Master Plan reflects the values, priorities, and needs of the entire community. Key audiences include:

- **Liberty Lake Residents:** Individuals and families living in the city, with specific efforts to include renters, homeowners, and residents of all neighborhoods and income levels.
- **Community Leaders, Small Businesses, and Advocates:** Representatives from local nonprofits, advocacy organizations, civic organizations, and the small business community who can provide unique perspectives, support economic insights, and mobilize community involvement.

- **Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions, and City Staff:** Members of the Liberty Lake City Council, Parks and Art Commission, Community Engagement Commission, and city departments responsible for implementing the plan and aligning it with ongoing municipal priorities.
- **State and Regional Organizations and Agencies:** Spokane County, neighboring municipalities, Washington State Parks, and Washington Department of Commerce.
- **Key Stakeholders:** Residents and business people that will provide input on public participation and assist in identifying key themes, core values, and community-driven solutions.
- **Students:** Youth who are receiving an education in Liberty Lake, specifically grades K-12, who have a unique perspective on parks within the City and how they can continue to develop in the future.

Communication Channels

It is important that information be made available so any interested person can review the materials and participate. Throughout the planning process, the City and SCJ will coordinate to maintain several channels for notifying the public and other participants of relevant meetings and events. Regular opportunities for education and notification include:

- Project website (Hosted by Liberty Lake);
- Social media posts (SCJ/City coordination);
- Mailers and other City communications;
- Local newspapers;
- Email;
- Public Engagement Commission;
- Parks & Arts Commission;
- Presentations to city staff, commissions and councils; and
- Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

Engagement Topics

Our goal is to design engagement strategies to maximize the involvement of the largest number of residents, ensuring that the plan is built upon input from a wide range of opinions among people who live, work, and recreate in Liberty Lake. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be most successful if all sectors of the community have a say in the future of the parks system. This input will be targeted toward hearing about the following topics, plus others that may come up through the process:

- Current park, trail, and open space inventory and uses;
- Public art displays and opportunities;
- Bicycle network and connectivity;
- Trail network and connectivity;
- Facility use and needs;
- Desired system improvements;
- Recreation programs and special events; and
- Expectations and preferences from various user groups.

Engagement Methods

The specific methods for engagement include workshops, surveys, pop-ups, and stakeholder interviews. These are each detailed here:

City Staff Stakeholder Interviews

April 2025

SCJ Staff will interview identified City staff to build a foundational understanding of the Liberty Lake community and its parks and recreation system. This will allow SCJ to enter the planning process with internal knowledge that can be built upon through the rest of the engagement methods.

Kick-off Workshop

Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Trailhead Event Center

We will conduct a kick-off workshop to initiate the public conversation about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This meeting will orient participants to the larger parks and recreation context and vision and describe how they can influence the process. There will be engagement boards for community members to provide feedback and help cast a vision for this planning process.

Results from this workshop will establish a foundational understanding of the community's strengths and issues within the parks system and will create connections for the remainder of the project. Efforts will be made to include vulnerable and overburdened populations with specific outreach to faith communities, veterans' groups, HOAs, schools, people with disabilities, and assisted living communities.

Needs Assessment Survey

Open from May 22-June 25, 2025

SCJ will develop and implement a digital needs assessment survey in both English and Spanish to be administered digitally, with paper copies also made available. We'll launch the survey at the Kick-off Workshop. The online survey and public workshop will be used to identify a qualitative snapshot of how the community currently utilizes the City's parks, recreation, open spaces, athletic facilities, and programs, what they believe is missing, and explore the public's needs for desired park improvements. Paper versions will be made available for pickup at City Hall and other identified community spaces. The results will be analyzed and compared with City demographics to ensure we capture an inclusive and equitable population set.

Community Stakeholder Interviews

May-June 2025

SCJ Staff will interview community members who have been identified in order to hear more about their experience of the parks and recreation system in Liberty Lake. These interviews provide a good opportunity to talk more in depth with people from certain groups who may not be heard from as often – such as those with lower incomes, racial minorities, youth, people with disabilities, and more. Conversations will also be prioritized with people who lead community groups that have to do with parks and recreation, who can provide further insight on use and desired amenities.

Social Pinpoint Mapping Workshop and Survey

Early July 2025

The next workshop and online community input tool will focus on mapping. Participants both in-person and online will be able to contribute community insights, pinpoint concerns, share comments, upload images, and participate in discussions with other community members about the areas, issues, and ideas important to them. Social Pinpoint can be used on any cell phone or computer and can be distributed out through the identified communication channels for increased visibility and participation. Our second public workshop will focus on engaging people in these topics and getting specific locations in mind for needed improvements.

Community Priorities Survey and Pop-ups

August-September 2025

The final coordinated effort for engagement in this part of the plan will involve SCJ creating an interactive Community Priorities Survey. This will be after a clear set of possible park improvement projects or policy enhancements have been developed and a rough draft of a Capital Improvements Program (CIP) has been reviewed. The survey will be live and available online, and we will have an in-person engagement opportunity that mirrors the online survey. We will have pop-up engagement sessions in popular locations (such as community events, outside of the grocery store, etc.) in order to go to where people are instead of making them come to us to provide feedback. People will be able to share what they would most likely see. This will allow SCJ and the City to confirm and defend community-wide project priorities as they are implemented.

Deliverables

Summaries of engagement events will be compiled by SCJ and made available to the City throughout the engagement process. Deliverables that can be expected are:

- Stakeholder Interview Summary;
  - *Completed by end of June 2025*
- Kick-off Workshop Summary;
  - *Completed by early June 2025*
- Needs Assessment Survey Summary;
  - *Completed by early July 2025*
- Social Pinpoint Mapping Workshop and Survey Summary; and
  - *Completed by end of July 2025*
- CIP Engagement Summary.
  - *Completed by September 2025*

In the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, all detailed engagement summaries will be included as appendices and key takeaways will be provided in the text of the plan.

Timeline

More specific dates are detailed above along with each engagement method, and this document will continue to be updated as each method of engagement approaches. This highlights the overall timeline for engagement for the first phase of this project.

		2025									
		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Public Outreach & Engagement											
1.0	Public Participation Plan: Phase 1										
2.0	Needs Assessment Survey & Community Workshops: Phase 1										
3.0	Stakeholder Interviews										
4.0	Community Priorities Survey: Phase 1										
5.0	Community Engagement Pop-Ups										



Appendix B: Community Engagement Summary

Stakeholder Interviews Summary

List of Interviewees

Through initial discussions with City Staff, several people were identified as stakeholders who may have valuable insight for the City's PROS Master Plan. The identified staff members are below:

Table B-1: List of Interviewees

Contact	Affiliation & Role
Mickael Stevens	Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Derek Kosanke	Park Superintendent
Lisa Key	Community Development Director
Jennifer Camp	Parks and Recreation Director
David Goehner	Communications Director
Nancy Hill	Parks and Art Commission Chair
Mark McAvoy	City Administrator
Darin Morgan	Deputy Chief of Police
Ben Turner	Public Works Director

Foundational Themes

Throughout the interview process, a few key themes emerged as priorities to address:

- Inequities in access and investment;
- Deferred maintenance and aging infrastructure;
- Lack of a recreation center limits programming capacity; and
- Desire for greater environmental stewardship & natural open space protection.

Stakeholders were generally aligned on these issues, and the details that follow act as a compilation of the input received.

Community Needs and Priorities

Park System Expansion

Provide ample access to parks. Multiple interviewees highlighted challenges and opportunities related to expanding the footprint of the current parks system. Liberty Lake is expected to be fully built out in 20 years, meaning that there is a sense of urgency to preserve and plan for additional open space to accommodate the new population and housing growth. There is an existing service gap in the southwestern area of Liberty Lake where there are higher density housing developments not near any public parks. Land constraints limit options for constructing a new park in this vicinity. A possible partnership exists between the city and the Central Valley School District at the Ridgeline High School site where 35 acres of adjacent land belonging to a former gun club is being remediated and could be developed to provide recreational facilities.

There is also a strong need for additional baseball fields. The HUB Sports Center in Spokane Valley, which is heavily frequented by community members, is expanding their outdoor turf space, but the expansion does not include baseball facilities. The local Little League teams, as well as several other groups request to use the fields at Pavillion Park and the Elementary School every season on a first-come, first-serve basis. Some users are left out because of the limited capacity. Adding fields would meet this demand.

Increase Park Amenities and Facilities

While the parks do have many amenities that the public currently enjoy, the staff stakeholders noted several specific improvements needed to enhance the parks system. **Dog-related needs within the parks system have become a prominent topic of discussion in the community, particularly the desire for a local dog park.** This lack of designated space has created challenges such as waste creation in high traffic areas and the necessity for dogs to be leashed. While a dog park is currently on the city's list of unfunded projects, it is not recognized as a priority. Space limitations may require integrating the dog park into an existing park rather than developing a new site.

Adding more benches, restrooms, shelters, and picnic tables would better facilitate the large events which are hosted at Pavillion Park and Orchard Park. The city should continue to partner with the nonprofit event facilitators to better understand their needs and priorities.

It is necessary to update the current, aging playground equipment at several parks. Rigorous public engagement should determine what play facilities that children, adults, parents, and grandparents would like to see.

Operational Improvements

The stakeholders communicated several operational challenges and improvements that are needed to enhance the park system. Currently, a significant management challenge is the education and enforcement of the park rules. Unfamiliarity with the rules has led to unwanted situations like golf carts being driven on park paths and noise complaints from teenagers using the park after hours.

Additionally, tennis and pickleball players share the same sport courts, which has sometimes resulted in scheduling conflicts. The parks also suffer from inadequate wayfinding and informational signage, making navigation difficult for visitors. Enhancing the rules communication tools would help improve clarity and the user experience of all parkgoers.

Currently lacking or insufficient infrastructure also creates management challenges. The amount of off-street parking can be insufficient during large events, creating congestion and spill-over into neighborhood on-street parking. There are limited alternative transportation options to such events. Some shelters lack electrical power, which limits their functionality for users. Drainage improvements could be made to reduce standing water collection under the shelters and amphitheaters.

Public Safety Improvements

Deputy Police Chief Darin Morgan emphasized the need to enhance public safety features in local parks. He suggested updating the surveillance system with new camera equipment that integrates seamlessly with the broader public security network. Specific improvements include installing new cameras at the skate park to help deter vandalism, adding coverage around the shed at Rocky Hill Park to prevent break-ins, and placing additional cameras at the Centennial Trail access points to monitor and discourage camping activity. Furthermore, he recommended increasing lighting around park perimeters and replacing existing fixtures with energy-efficient LED lights to improve brightness. He also proposed adding lighting to the platform at Rocky Hill to enhance safety and visibility.

Enhanced Programming Capacity

Liberty Lake lacks an indoor recreation facility/community center, which limits its programming capacity. Much of the existing activity is offered by external partners like the HUB Sports Center, YMCA, or other private organizations. Stakeholders felt the city could either build up its own programs or it should better coordinate with existing providers to increase their program visibility and fill in service gaps. There is a strong consensus that programs should include not only structured youth sports, but also targeted activities for seniors, families, and people with disabilities.

Community Values and Vision

The Liberty Lake community values a strong commitment to environmental sustainability through various initiatives and educational programming. The city should ensure that public spaces and facilities are well-maintained.

Many also value a well-connected, multimodal trail system to support their active lifestyles. Existing events such as the 4th of July celebration in the park, Barefoot in the Park, the local farmers market, outdoor concerts, Winter Glow, and Touch a Truck are very well attended. The city and nonprofits who host and organize the events have a great partnership. Therefore, the community would support and value additional similar programming.

According to the stakeholders, a future success scenario for the PROS Plan would include the following:

- The community continues to use the system and expresses their high satisfaction with it.
- Public facilities and spaces are well-maintained and operated.
- There are uniform park management policy guidelines so that procedures are clear and standardized across the system.
- There is an expanded capacity for community events including more picnic shelters, restrooms, and transportation accommodations.
- Open space is acquired and set aside for the future to accommodate additional growth as the city fully builds out.
- The Town Square Park site master plan is reconsidered and put to a vote so that the public can decide if the plan should proceed to fully utilize the space.
- Every resident is within a 10-minute walk of a park or recreational opportunity.
- The trail system has continued to expand, increasing multimodal connectivity.
- Parks programming has incorporated environmental stewardship educational opportunities.
- Youth, seniors, families, and people with disabilities have adequate programs and places to gather, be active, and feel ownership.

Opportunities

Table B-2: Opportunities Identified by Stakeholder Interviewees

Area	Suggestions
Park Amenities	Dog park, additional dog waste disposal stations, additional benches, additional shelters, additional restrooms, disc golf course, new playground equipment, swing sets, functional art installations.
Programs	Increase programs for all ages and abilities.
New Parks	Fill in service gap in southwest Liberty Lake, add more ballfields to meet high demand, create meaningful multimodal trail connections between neighborhoods.
New Facilities	Indoor community/ recreation center.
Partnerships	Spokane County (Parks, Recreation, and Golf Department), Central Valley School District (Ridgeline HS), City of Spokane Valley.
Operations	Public safety enhancements, wayfinding signage, park rules and guidelines communication channels, provide electrical power to shelters, improved stormwater drainage system, replace aging splash pad equipment.

Specific Parks

Table B- 3: Challenges & Opportunities Identified at Specific Parks

Park	Challenges	Opportunities
Pavillion Park	♦ Lacking enough amenities for large events (shelters, restrooms, parking spaces). ♦ Not inclusive to current assessment standards.	♦ Space to accommodate additional amenities.
Orchard Park	♦ Water drainage at the amphitheater. ♦ Limited parking for large events (Winter Glow, Touch a Truck, etc.)	♦ Continued partnerships with local nonprofits for event planning and expansion.
Town Square Park	♦ Less accessible from surrounding neighborhoods than other parks	♦ Parcel is not fully utilized and could be master planned in the future.
Rocky Hill Park	♦ Inadequate surveillance coverage. ♦ Inadequate dog waste disposal stations.	♦ Upgrade surveillance system. ♦ Engage dog-walkers to further advocate their needs.
Ball Fields	♦ High demand creates conflicts with reserving access.	♦ Opportunity to work with CV School District to construct additional fields and negotiate public access and programming.

Community Survey Summary

The online survey received 376 total responses – 235 of which were complete and 141 that were partially complete. **This represents 3.02% of Liberty Lake's total population.** The respondents provided feedback on how often they use parks and trails, what types of amenities they value, and what improvements they would like to see. The majority of respondents indicated that parks and recreation are "very important" to their quality of life, and most visit Liberty Lake parks multiple times per week. Trails, open space, restrooms, and access to water emerged as top priorities for investment. When asked about barriers to park use, the most common responses were related to facility maintenance and lack of amenities. Respondents also showed strong interest in expanded recreation programming, especially swimming, fitness, and youth activities. These results will help the city identify where to focus future resources and how to best support the community's evolving needs.

This summary presents the key findings from the survey and highlights the community's values, concerns, and aspirations to help guide future planning decisions. The responses offer valuable insights into the strengths of Liberty Lake's parks system, areas in need of enhancement, and the sense of connection residents feel toward programs and activities, play equipment in Pavillion Park, and public art.

Key Takeaways from the Community Survey

Community Priorities

Aquatics and Indoor Facilities

- Strongest request: a public swimming pool or aquatic center.
- Broad support for a community center/indoor recreation facility to provide year-round opportunities.

Trails and Connectivity

- Walking and biking paths are the most-used amenities.
- Desire for more connected trails, protected bike lanes, and safe pedestrian routes linking parks and neighborhoods.

Playgrounds and Youth Amenities

- Families want upgraded, shaded, and inclusive playgrounds.
- Strong support for natural play features at Pavillion Park.
- Most popular play options: swinging, climbing, sliding, and imaginative play.

Recreation Programs and Activities

- Current offerings partly meet needs but leave gaps.
- Residents want more camps, youth sports leagues, fitness classes, and outdoor nature programs.
- High demand for dedicated pickleball courts and structured leagues.

Events and Community Identity

- Events like Barefoot in the Park, Winter Glow, concerts, and the farmers market are highly valued.
- Support for public art - especially interactive and nature-inspired pieces - that reflect Liberty Lake's character and strengthen its community identity.

Specific Priorities for Improvement

Top Facilities/Spaces Desired

- Public pool or aquatics facility (nearly 70% support).
- Community center/indoor recreation facility.
- Expanded urban trails and sidewalks.
- Splash/spray parks.
- Shaded picnic and gathering spaces.
- Off-leash dog parks.
- Pickleball courts.

Top Park Improvements

- Improved safety and security.
- More walking and biking trails.
- Upgraded playgrounds with inclusive features.
- Increased tree canopy and environmental conservation.
- More support amenities: benches, restrooms, and lighting.

Key Barriers to Use

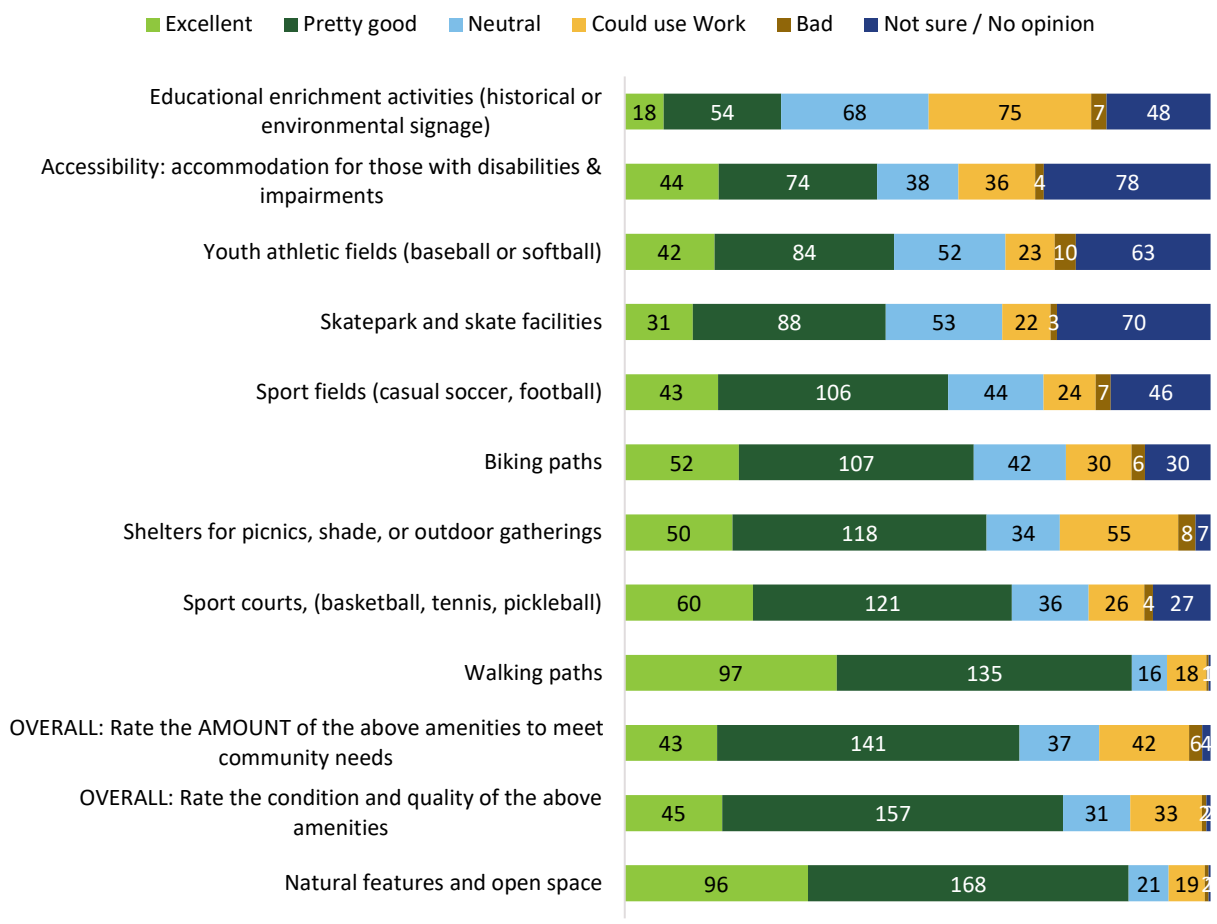
- Lack of information about programs and amenities.
- Overcrowding and limited facility availability.
- Need for more shade and restroom access.
- Safety concerns, particularly for youth and along trails.

Survey Results

Current Conditions

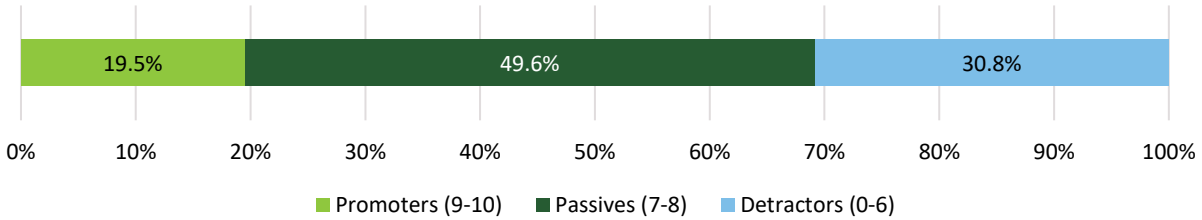
The survey began by asking people to rate the overall quality of specific aspects of the parks and recreation system in Liberty Lake. Survey responses indicate that natural features and open space in Liberty Lake's Park system are highly valued, with over 80% rating them as "Excellent" or "Pretty Good". However, other aspects received more mixed reviews. Outdoor game activities and accessibility accommodations for those with disabilities and impairments were frequently rated as "Bad" or "Could use work". Many respondents expressed uncertainty or no opinion for youth and adult sport fields. Respondents were asked about the overall condition and quality of amenities and the amount of amenities. Overall, both of these categories received over 60% of responses as being "excellent" or "pretty good" although it was noted that the amount of amenities could use work.

Figure B-1: How would you rate the overall quality of each of these aspects of Liberty Lake's parks and recreation system?



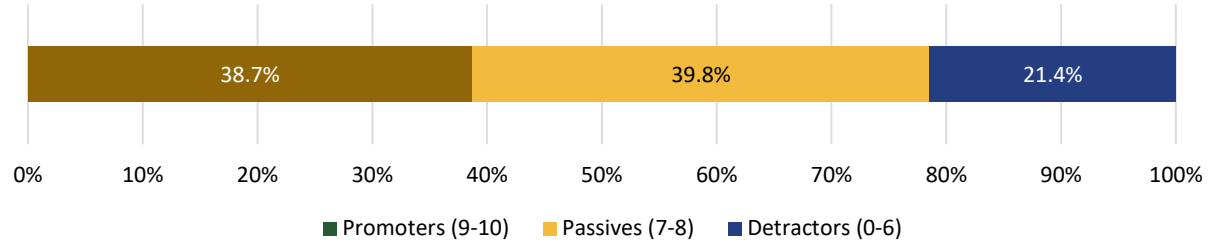
When asked about accessibility to residents of all ages and abilities, respondents rated the facilities on a scale of 0-10. When participants selected numbers 0-6, it is recorded as a “detractor”, while 7-8 are “passives”, and 9-10 are “promoters”. Overall, 49.6% of respondents selected options that are passive, indicating that Liberty Lake’s parks system is not notable as a significantly accessible system.

Figure B-2: We want Liberty Lake's parks and recreation facilities to be accessible to residents of all ages and abilities. This includes those with disabilities, children, seniors, etc. Rate how well we're currently doing.



Using the same scale from 0-10 for the next question, respondents were asked about how accessible parks and recreational offerings are to residents of all income levels. This question had a combined vote of 78.5% for promoters and passive responses. This indicates that survey respondents are currently satisfied with the parks and recreational opportunities Liberty Lake offers to residents of all income levels.

Figure B-3: We want Liberty Lake's parks and recreational offerings to be accessible to residents of all income levels. Rate how well we're currently doing



Park Usage

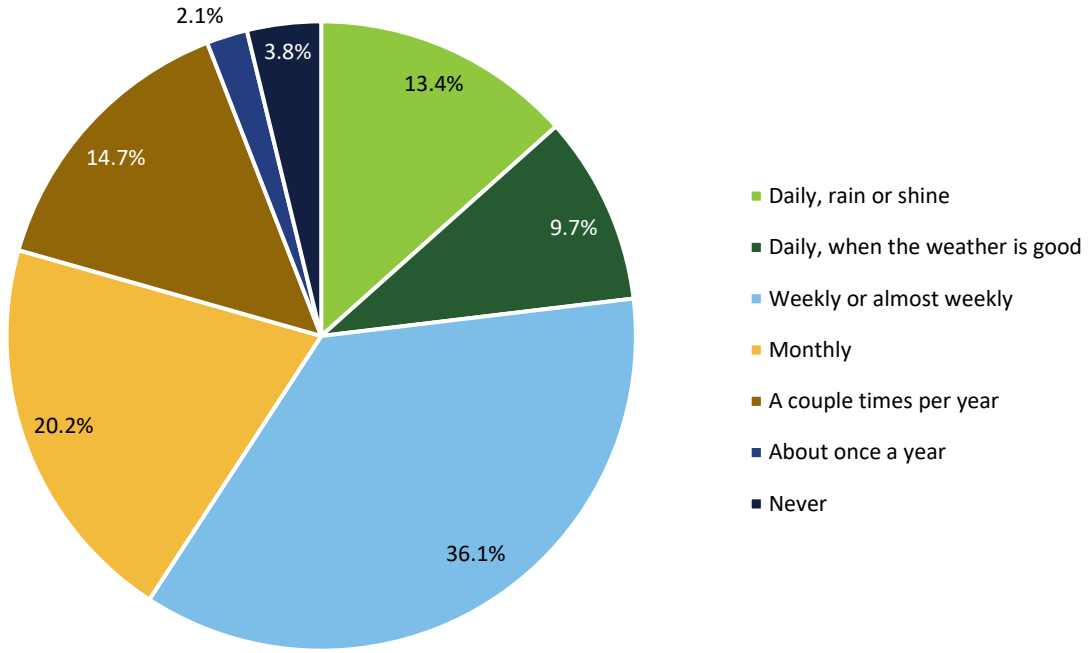
The survey then asked which park is closest to respondents' homes, both to understand who the survey reached and to see which parks might be in closest walking distance for community members. Results are seen in Table B-4 below.

Table B-4: Which park is closest to your home?

Park Name	Percent
Orchard Park	40.4%
Pavillion Park	25.9%
Rocky Hill Park	18.8%
Town Square Park	1.2%
Liberty Lake Ballfields	6.3%
Trailhead Golf Course	7.1%
Nature's Place at Meadowwood Arboretum	0.4%

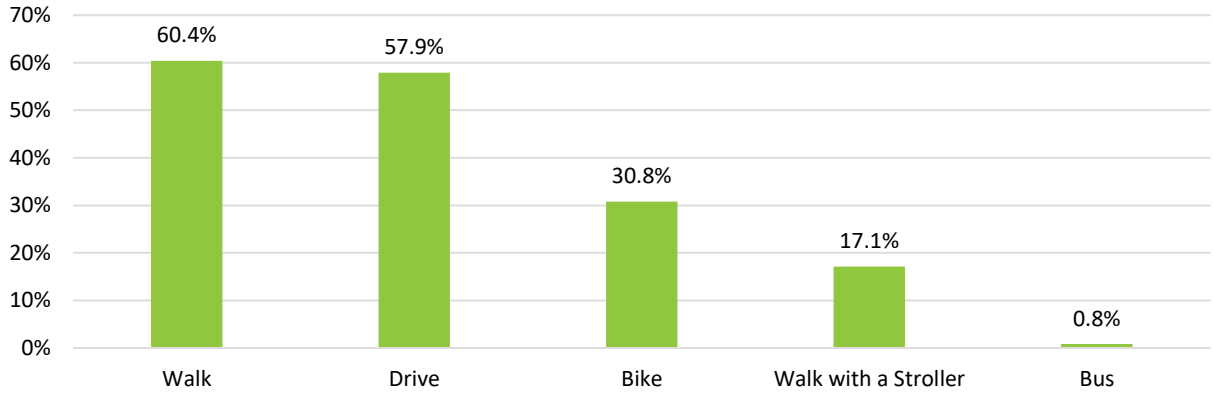
When asked how often they visit the park closest to their home, 59.2% selected weekly, daily (rain or shine), or daily (when the weather is good), showing that the majority of respondents frequently visit the park closest to them, rather than traveling to other parks. While on the other hand, 20.6% of respondents said they rarely or never visit their nearest park, suggesting that while many residents make frequent use of their nearest park, a significant portion do not.

Figure B-4: How often do you visit the park closest to your home? Choose the most accurate option.



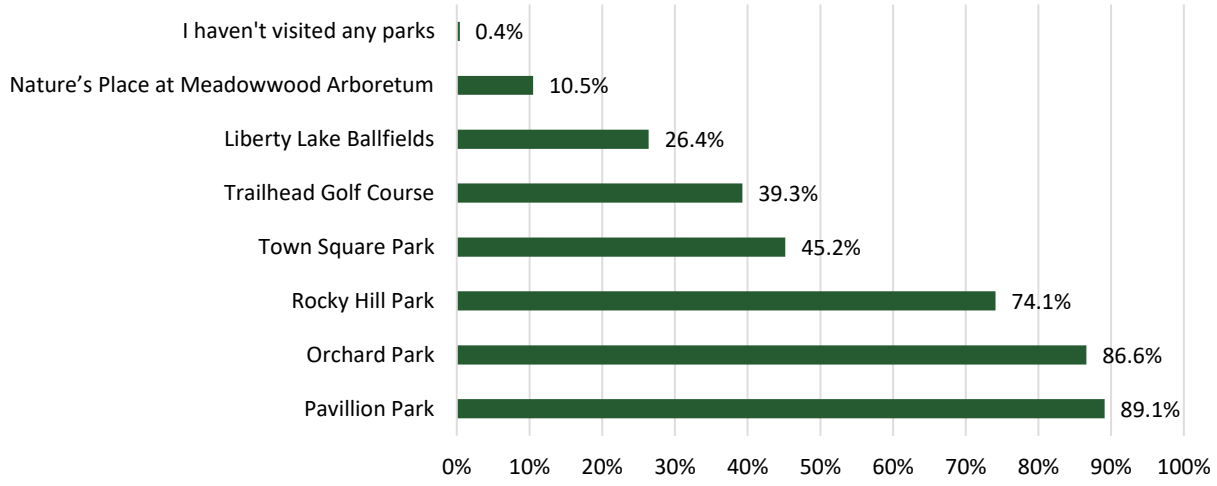
The survey then asked respondents how they are most likely to travel to a park. Most respondents are most likely to either walk (60.4%) or drive (57.9%) to a park in Liberty Lake. Biking and walking with a stroller are also popular modes of traveling to Liberty Lake parks. Only a very small portion (0.8%) prefer taking the bus. These results indicate that walking and driving are the most commonly used methods for getting to parks in Liberty Lake. These results can be considered while planning for parking, bike racks, and pedestrian crossings and pathways.

Figure B-5: How are you most likely to travel to parks in Liberty Lake? Select any that apply.



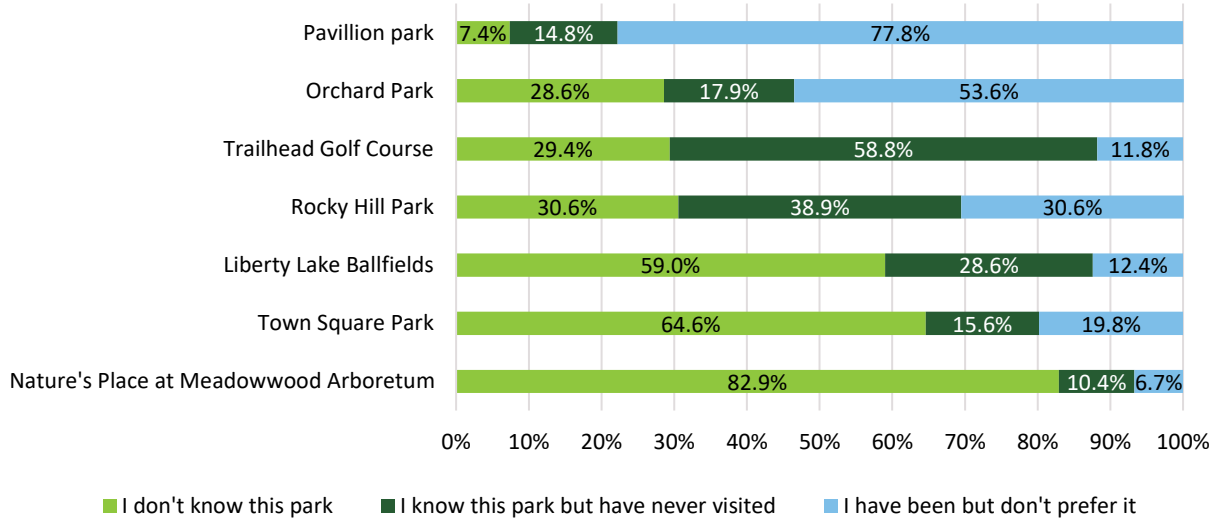
The three most visited parks in the past year are Pavillion Park (89.1%), Orchard Park (86.6%), and Rocky Hill Park (74.1%). The remainder of the parks were all visited less than 50% by survey respondents. The full list of results can be seen in Figure B-6 on the following page.

Figure B-6: Which parks have you or members of your household visited in the past year? Select all that apply.



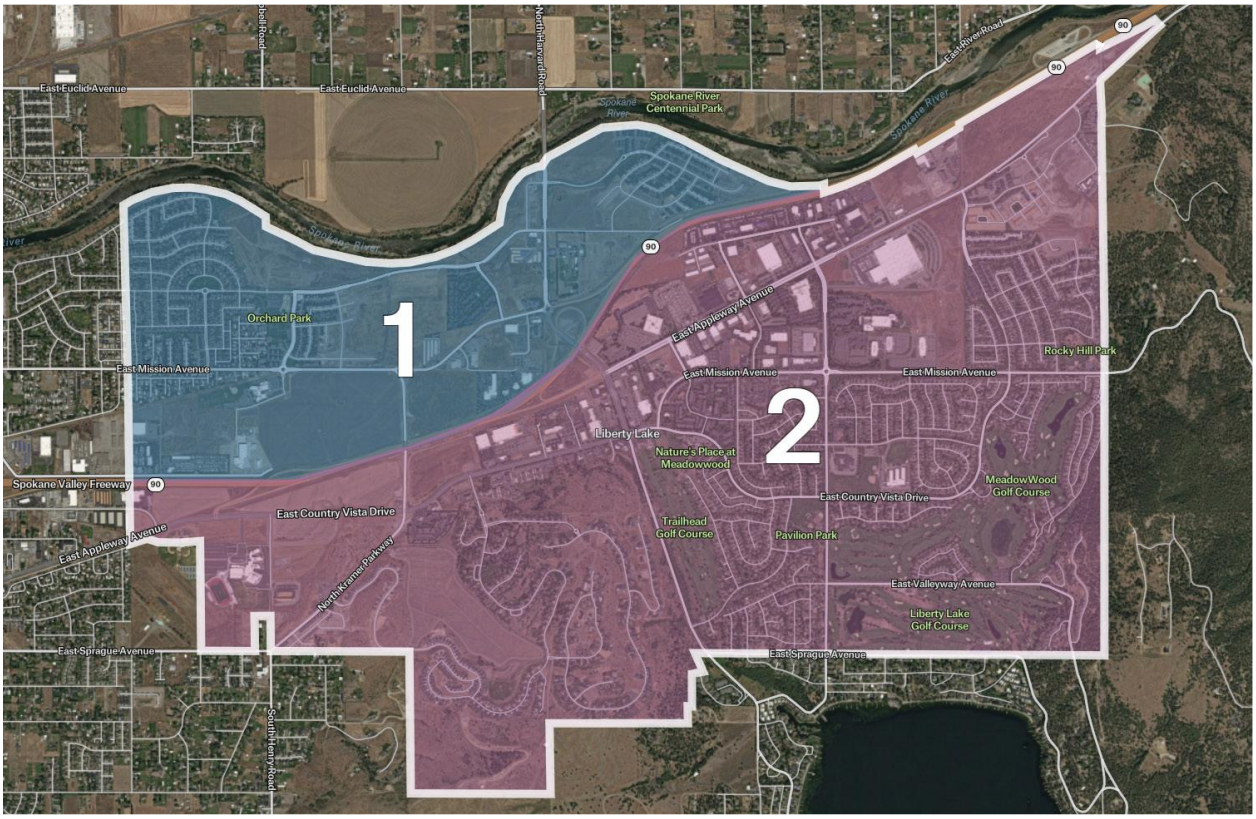
Survey respondents were directed to choose which parks in Liberty Lake that they either don't know about, haven't visited before, or don't prefer. The most unknown park is Nature's Place at Meadowood Arboretum with almost 83% marking that they don't know it. The park that is most well-known but never visited is Trailhead Golf Course (58.8%). Finally, the park that is frequently visited but not preferred is Pavillion Park with almost 78% marking that option. This feedback about Pavillion Park comes at a good time as the Pavillion Park playground is about to be redone, which might make it more of a preferred park for many.

Figure B-7: Are there parks in this list you either don't know about, haven't visited before, or don't prefer? Only select an option for those that apply



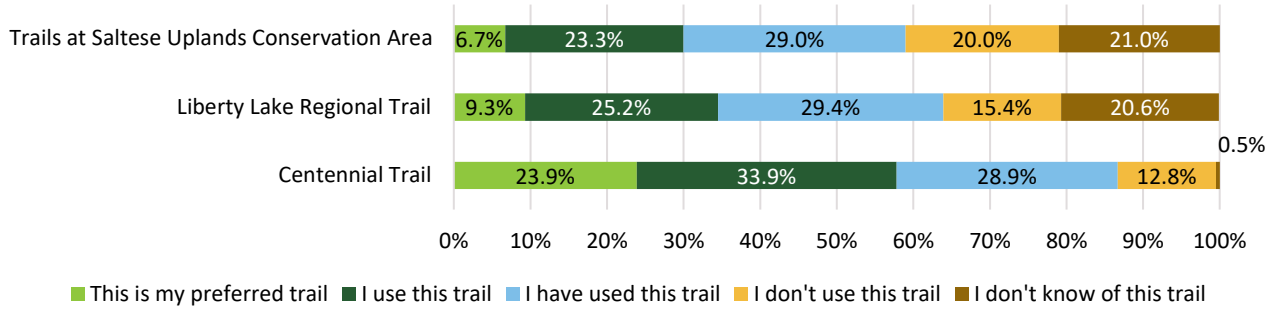
The image seen in Figure B-8, below, was presented in the survey to gather input on what areas of town lack access to parks and recreation. The responses were very close to being the same. Area 1 was marked by 55% of respondents and area 2 was marked by 53.2% of respondents. This shows that while Liberty Lake as a whole lacks the access to public parks and recreation spaces that the community would like to see, Area 1 needs more improvement than Area 2.

Figure B-8: What area(s) of town lack access to public parks and recreation spaces? Select any areas that apply. Use the map to answer.



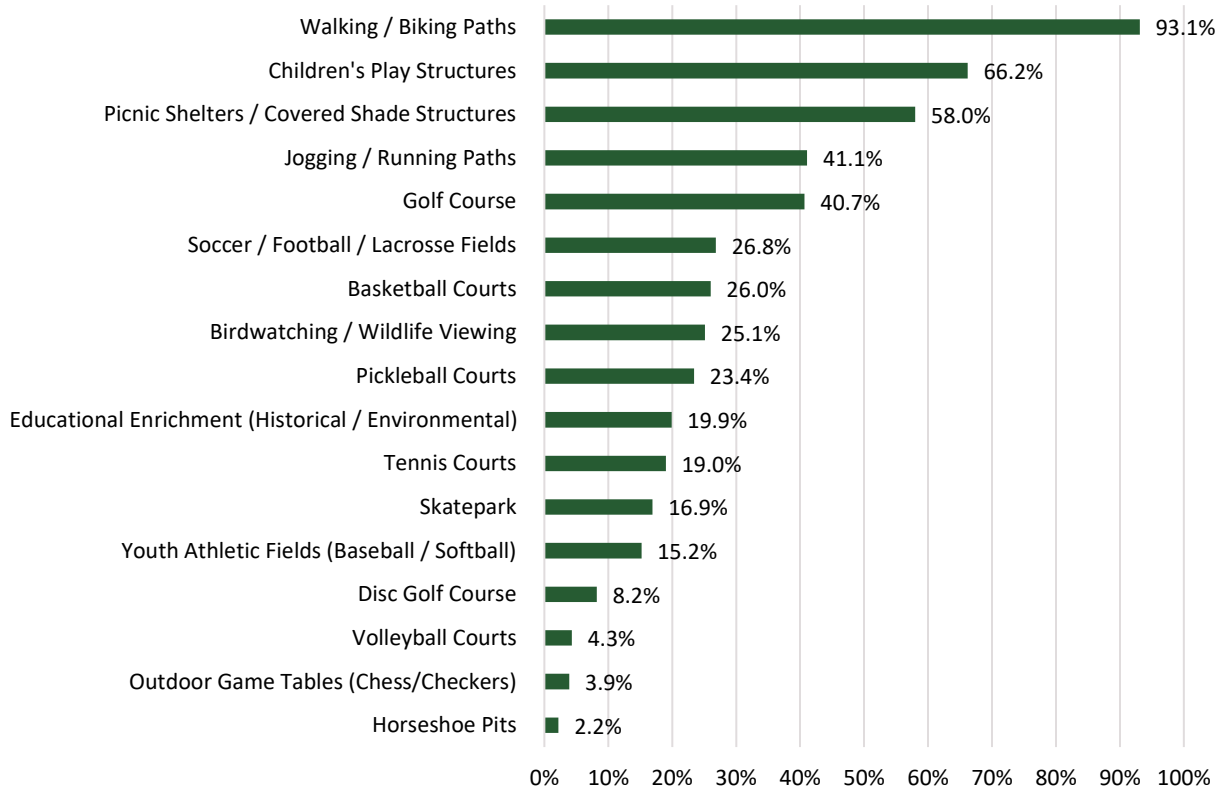
The survey then asked respondents about their recreational trail use. The Centennial Trail received the highest response for "This is my preferred trail", and the Trails at Saltese Uplands Conservation Area got the highest response for "I don't use this trail" and "I don't know of this trail". The statement "If you prefer other trails not listed above, please list them here" was presented in the survey and received quite a few responses. There were a couple responses for Mackenzie Natural Area and for Liberty Lake County Park. There were some concerns about the safety and accessibility of Liberty Lake's Trail system. This reinforces the importance of high-quality amenities and increased accessibility.

Figure B-9: Which recreational trails do you/your household use in Liberty Lake.



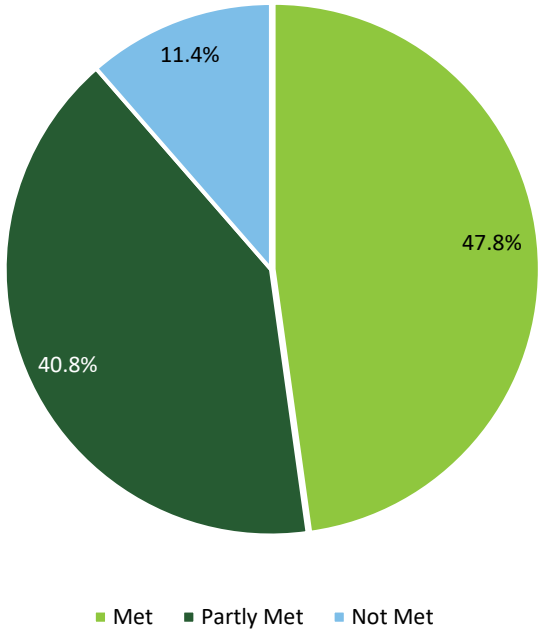
In Figure B-10, respondents chose all the recreational facilities they/their household used in the past year. More than 50% used the walking/biking paths, children's play structures, and the picnic shelters/covered shade structures. More than 25% used those facilities and jogging/running paths, golf course, soccer/football/lacrosse fields, basketball courts, and birdwatching/wildlife viewing. All the other amenities were used in the past year by less than 25% of survey respondents with horseshoe pits being the lowest at only 2%. The full list of results can be found below in Figure B-10.

Figure B-10: What types of recreational facilities have you/your household used in the past year? Select all that apply.



The majority of survey respondents feel that their needs for programs and activities are being met in Liberty Lakes parks system with only 11.4% marking that their needs are not being met. However, this shows that there is still room for improvement for programs and activities in the Liberty Lake Parks System, with 40.8% identifying that their needs are partly met.

Figure B-11: Are your needs for programs/activities being met in the Liberty Lake parks system.

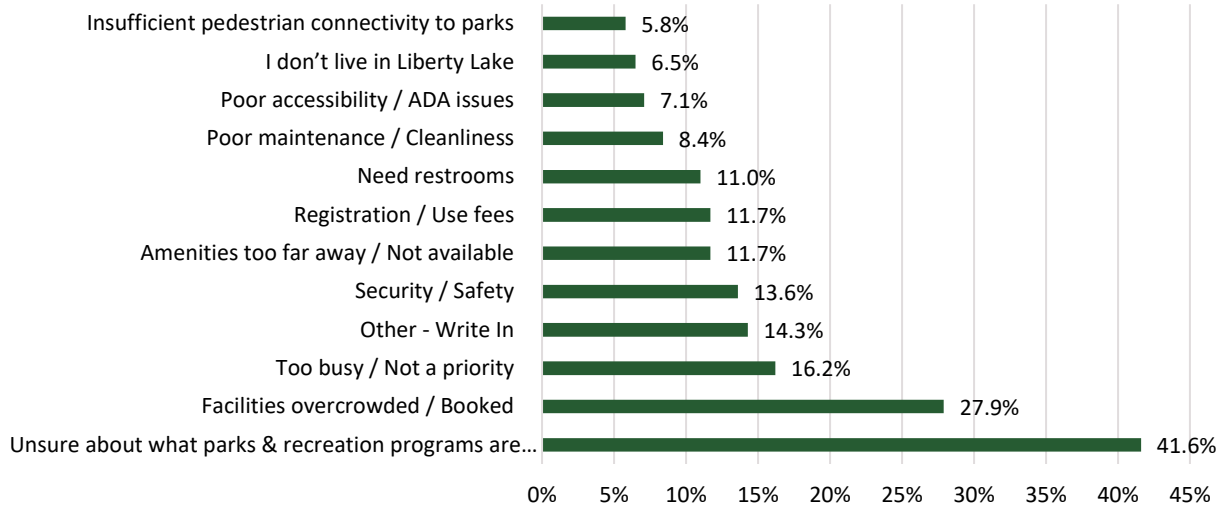


The survey question **"Which specific needs for programs/activities are not being met?"** received over 100 responses. There were several recurring themes about parks and recreation opportunities in Liberty Lake. The most frequently mentioned need was for a public swimming pool. Many residents expressed frustration with having to travel outside of Liberty Lake for swimming lessons, aquatic exercise, or accessible water recreation, particularly for families with young children and individuals with mobility challenges. Organized youth sports also emerged as a major theme, with multiple respondents calling for more local leagues (rather than seasonal camps), especially for soccer, baseball, and softball. Many noted that current programs are either too limited or unaffordable. Another area that was mentioned multiple times was the need for dedicated pickleball courts, with permanent nets, wind barriers, and structured programming. Survey respondents also highlighted the gaps in inclusive recreation, asking for more activities for children with disabilities like sensory-friendly playgrounds, and intergenerational programs that bring youth and seniors together. Beyond structured programs, respondents expressed a desire for more natural open spaces, shaded picnic areas, and safe walking paths.

Comments frequently emphasized the need to plan for growth, reduce overuse at existing parks, and ensure equitable access to recreation opportunities across all age groups and abilities.

In the next question, the most commonly reported barriers preventing use of Liberty Lake's recreational facilities were people being unsure about what parks and recreation programs are available, the facilities are overcrowded / booked, and that they are too busy or it's not a priority for them. There were a high number of write in responses as well. Several respondents noted that a lack of shade, limited restroom access, and overcrowded facilities discourage regular use of Liberty Lake's parks. Additional barriers mentioned include inadequate river access, safety concerns related to unsupervised teens and environmental conditions, and a broader desire for more natural spaces and continuous bike connections.

Figure B-12: What barriers keep you/your household from using Liberty Lake's parks and recreational facilities? Select all that apply



Responses to the question **"Please share one place, event, attribute, or something you love about Liberty Lake's parks system"** reveal widespread appreciation for the community's well-maintained parks, walkable access, and variety of events. Residents highlighted specific favorites such as Barefoot in the Park, Winter Glow, movies and concerts at Pavillion Park, and the Farmers Market at Town Square, all of which contribute to a strong sense of community connection and seasonal enjoyment. Many praised the splash pad at Orchard Park, shade structures at Rocky Hill Park, and the ability to walk or bike between parks using the extensive trail system. Several noted the cleanliness of parks and the abundance of large and small neighborhood parks which create lots of options.

In addition to special events and amenities, respondents recognized the attributes important to them, like proximity to home, dog-friendly paths, well-kept playgrounds, tree-lined areas, and inclusive features like illustrative signage. Families emphasized how the parks support multi-generational use and encourage daily recreation, whether for social events, quiet nature time, or active play. A few also shared hopes for future improvements, including an indoor aquatic center, more shaded picnic areas, and a dedicated dog park. Overall, the comments paint a picture of a loved and integral parks system that helps define Liberty Lake's identity as a welcoming, connected, and livable community.

Pavillion Park

The next four questions focus on the amount of use and the type of play needed in Liberty Lake's parks system. In Figure B-13**Error! Reference source not found.**, it shows that 53.3% of respondents and or their children use the playground at Pavillion Park. If respondents answered "yes" to this question, they received a question about the number of children in each age range in their household that use Pavillion Park. The age group "6-12-year-olds" had the highest count at 97 children and "6 months to 23 months" had the lowest count at 34. The full list of results can be found in Figure B-13 and Figure B-14**Error! Reference source not found.** below.

Figure B-13: Do you or your children use the playground at Pavillion Park

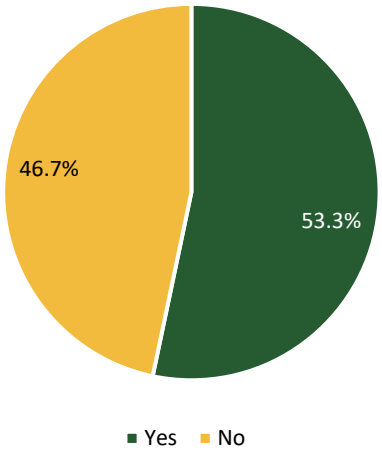
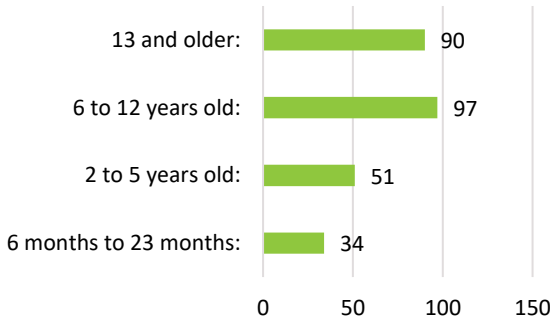


Figure B-14: If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, enter the number of children in your household using the Pavillion Park playground in these age groups. If an age group is not applicable, please leave it blank.

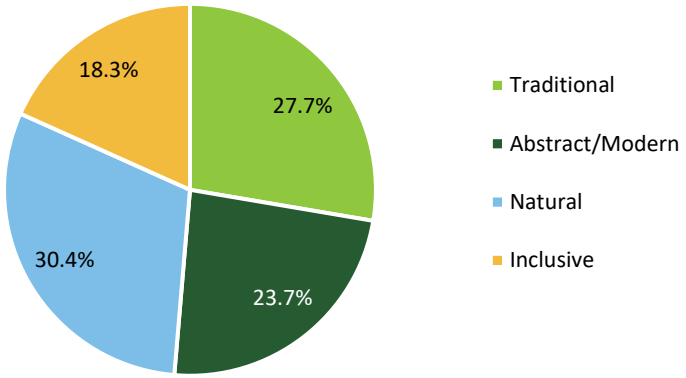


The next question asked about the general style of equipment the survey respondents would like to see at the Pavillion Park Playground. Natural style equipment had the highest number of votes, with traditional and then abstract/modern styles following closely behind.

These descriptions of the different styles of equipment were given to survey respondents, for further context:

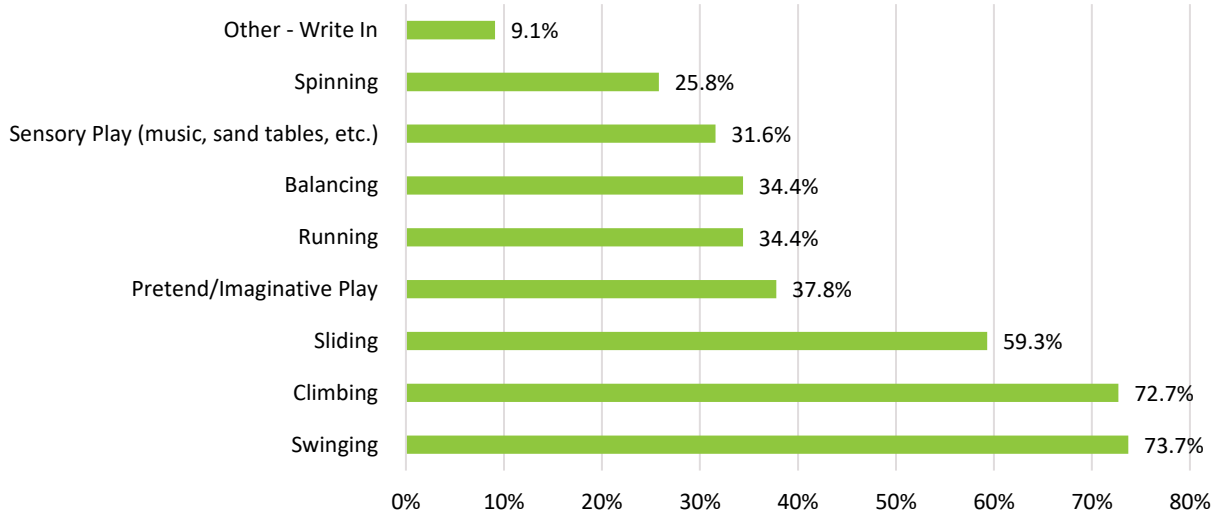
- **Traditional:** Classic structures like slides, swings, monkey bars, and seesaws. Usually made from metal or plastic, these are familiar and often designed for specific age groups.
- **Abstract/Modern:** Creative, sculptural equipment with unique shapes that encourage open-ended play. Often less prescriptive, allowing kids to climb, balance, and explore in their own ways.
- **Natural:** Incorporates elements like logs, boulders, sand, water, and plants. Aims to blend with the environment and foster connection with nature through tactile and imaginative play.
- **Inclusive:** Designed to be accessible to children of all abilities. Features ramps, sensory panels, and ground-level activities to ensure everyone can participate equally.

Figure B-15: What general style of equipment would you most like to see for the Pavillion Park playground.



Respondents were then directed to select the top three play options that children in their household would enjoy most. The top three play options were Swinging (73.7%), Climbing (72.7%), and Sliding (59.3%). The most common themes present in the other/write in response are water and play features, active recreation like exercise equipment or obstacle courses, and amenities suited for families with children of different ages.

Figure B-16: What type of play options do the kids in your household or that you know enjoy most? Select your top three answers

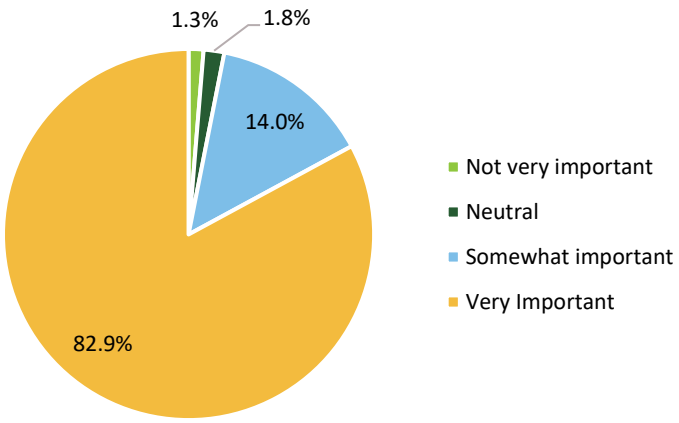


How Can the System Improve?

The next section of the survey focused on questions to learn how respondents believe the system can improve and what they value most within the current parks system that should remain the same.

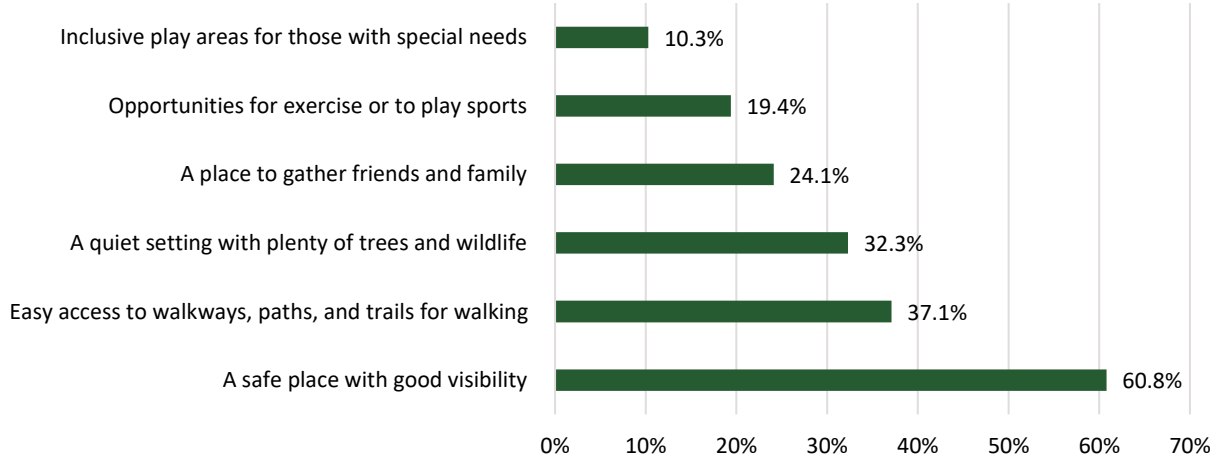
Survey respondents were asked how important parks and recreation are to the overall quality of life in Liberty Lake. The response "Very Important" received 82.9% of the total 228 responses to this question and the response "Not Very Important" received 1.3% of responses to this question. The vast majority of respondents view parks and recreation as a very important aspect of their overall quality of life in Liberty Lake.

Figure B-17: How important do you think parks & recreation are to the overall quality of life in Liberty Lake?



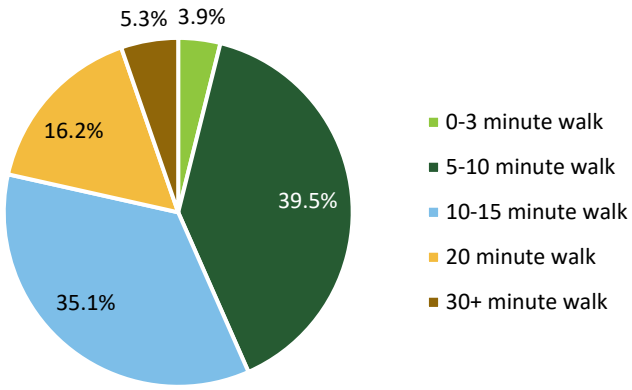
The next question was for respondents to select their top two priorities about what's important to them when considering a park visit. The statement "a safe place with good visibility" rose to the top as the highest priority with 60.8% of community members who participated in the survey selecting that option. The next highest priority was the statement "Easy access to walkways, paths, and trails for walking" receiving 37.1% of votes.

Figure B-18: When considering a park visit, what is most important to you/your household? Select your top two priorities.



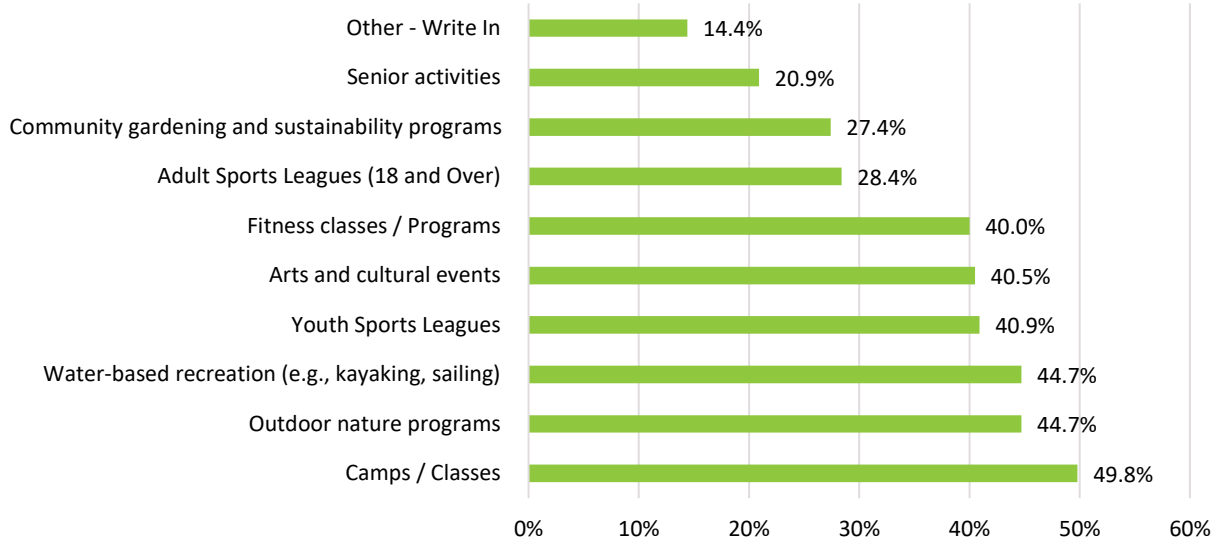
Next, survey respondents were asked to choose how long they would be willing to walk to a park; the top two answers were a 5–10-minute walk (39.5%) and a 10–15-minute walk (35.1%). The full list of results can be found in Figure B-19. This is important in considering level of service standards within a parks system.

Figure B-19: How long would you be willing to walk to a park?



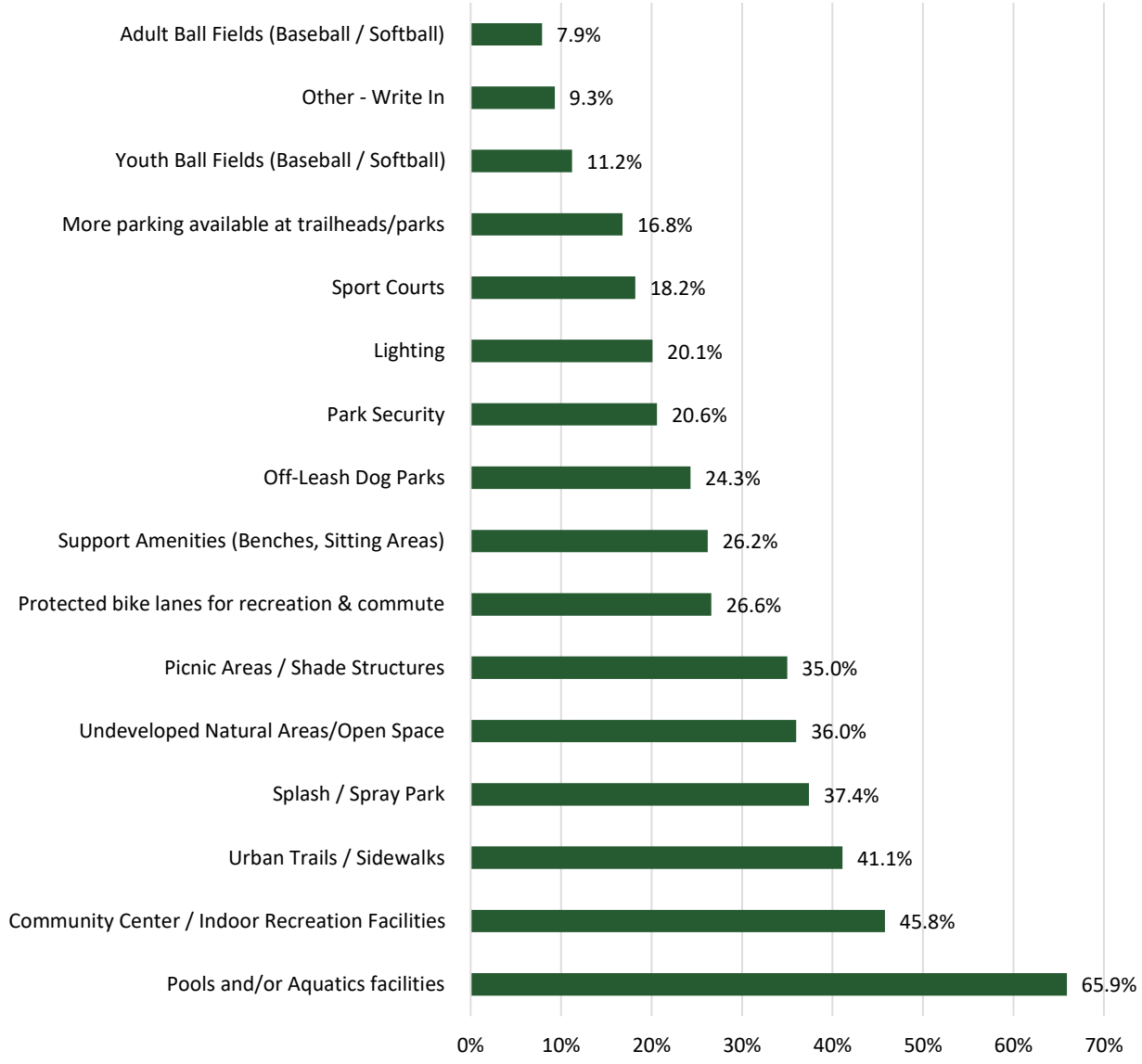
Over 25% of survey respondents are in favor of the vast majority of the proposed recreation programs or activities in Liberty Lake. However, camps and classes were shown to be the highest in demand with almost 50% of survey takers selecting that option. Outdoor nature programs and water-based recreation also received a high number of votes with 44.7% of respondents selecting those activities. The themes of swimming and aquatics, events and entertainment, and sports and recreation facilities were seen in the write in responses.

Figure B-20: What types of recreation programs or activities would you/your household like to see more in Liberty Lake? Select all that apply.



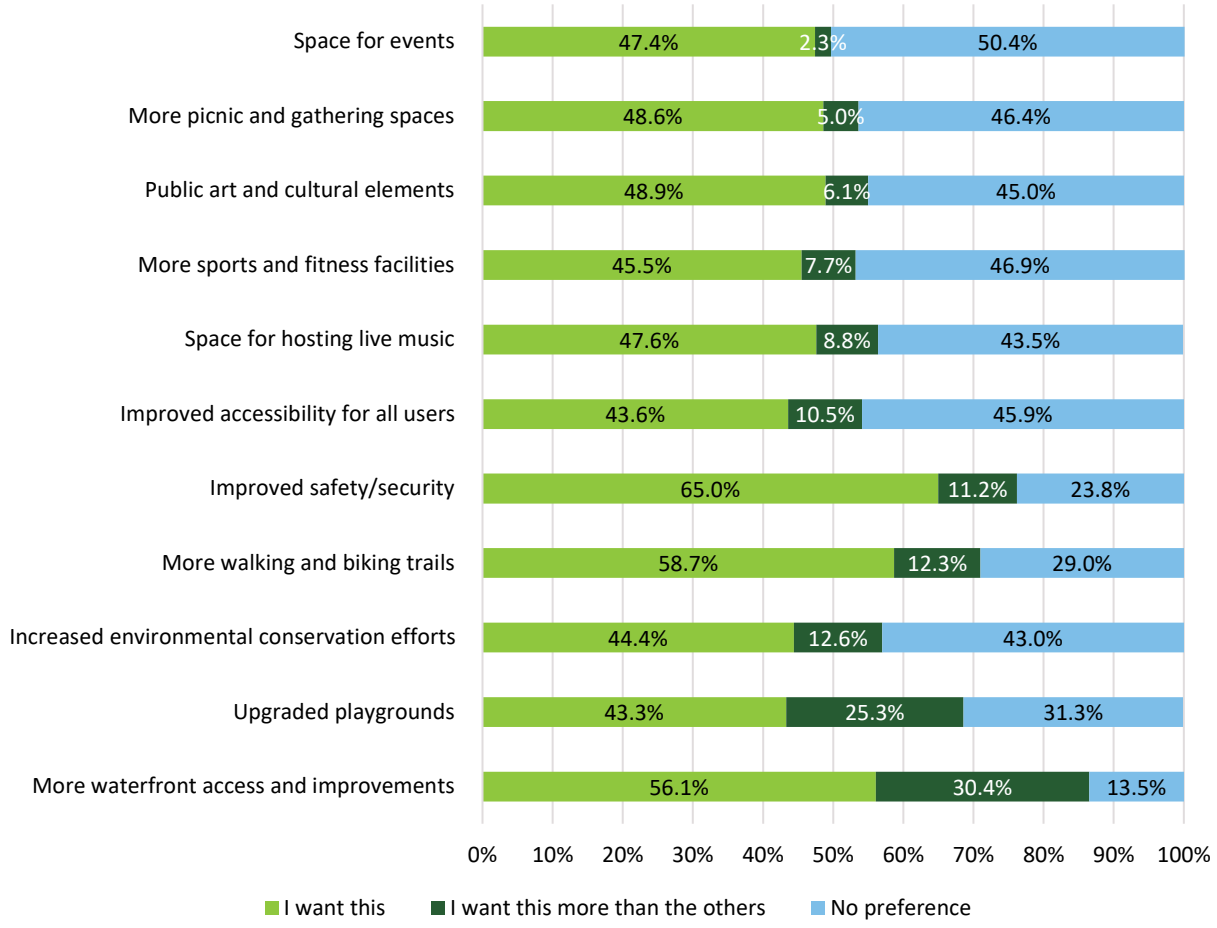
Directly after asking about recreation programs and activities, survey participants were asked what type of recreation facilities and spaces they or their household would like to see more of in Liberty Lake. Pools and/or aquatics facilities received the highest number of votes with almost 70% of respondents choosing that option. The three options following were community center/indoor recreation facilities (45.8%), urban trails/sidewalks (41.1%), and splash/spray park (37.4%). The option with the least number of votes was adult ball fields (baseball/softball) receiving about 8% of votes. There were 20 write-in responses, and the themes present were: swimming facilities, pickleball and other sports facilities, and general recreation improvements. The full list of responses can be found in Figure B-21.

Figure B-21: What types of recreation facilities and spaces would you/your household like to see more in Liberty Lake? Select all that apply



Then survey respondents were asked to select either "I want this" or "I want this more than the others" for eleven different possible park improvements. The option that received the greatest number of votes for "I want this more than the others" was more waterfront access and improvements. That same option also had the most overall votes (combined "I want this" and "I want this more than the others") totaling 86.5% of votes. Improved safety/security, more walking and biking trails, upgraded playgrounds, and increased environmental conservation efforts also had a high number of votes in both categories. The full list of categories and responses are listed below in Figure B-22.

Figure B-22: What types of park improvements would you/your household most like to see?



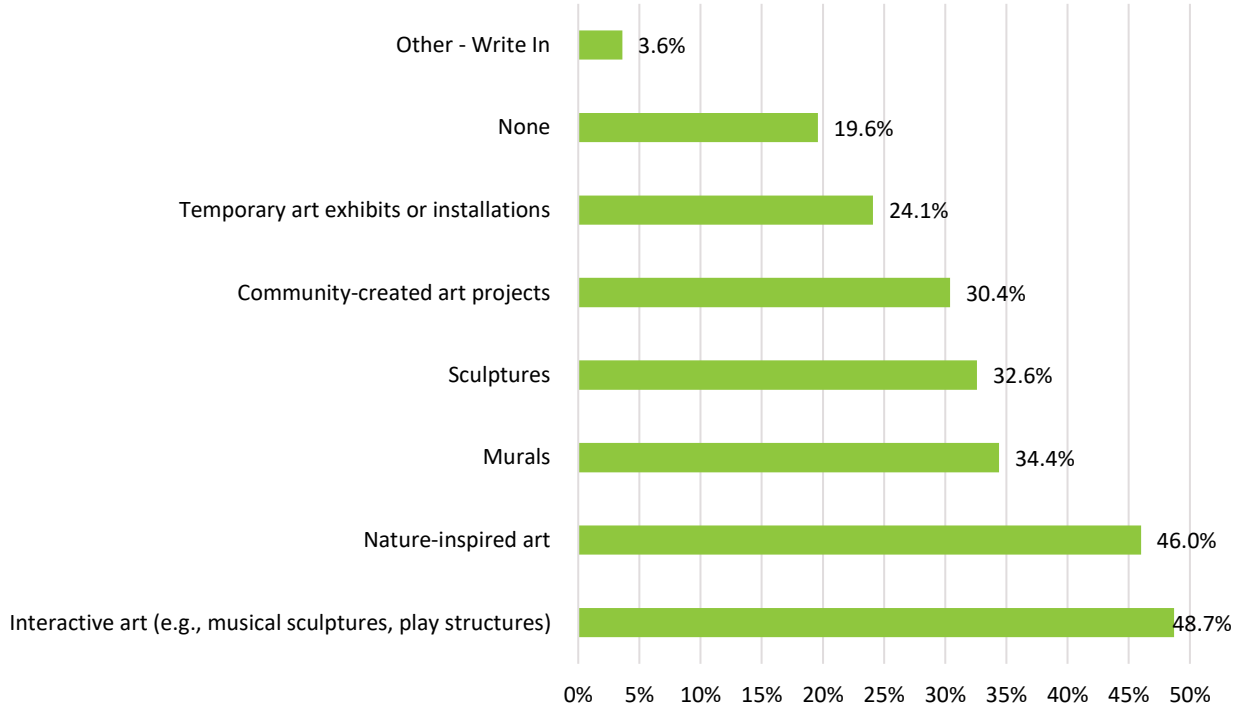
A review of community feedback to the question "**If you could make one change to Liberty Lake's parks and recreation system, what would it be?**" reveals a clear desire for a public pool or aquatic center. Respondents mentioned this need in many ways, emphasizing both recreational and safety aspects. Many see this as a gap, especially with the closure of the Liberty Lake Athletic Club pool and limited lake access. Some proposed multipurpose facilities like a year-round community center that could offer swimming, classes, and gathering spaces for all age groups.

Other key themes included the need for upgraded and inclusive playgrounds, more natural areas and tree canopy for shade, and dedicated pickleball courts. Several residents also voiced concerns about safety, accessibility, and overcrowding at existing parks, along with calls for better park maintenance, improved bike and walking paths, and enhanced programming for older children, teens, and adults. Collectively, these comments reflect a desire for Liberty Lake to balance new investments with stewardship of existing spaces, while building a recreation system that is inclusive, sustainable, and adaptable to a growing community.

Public Art

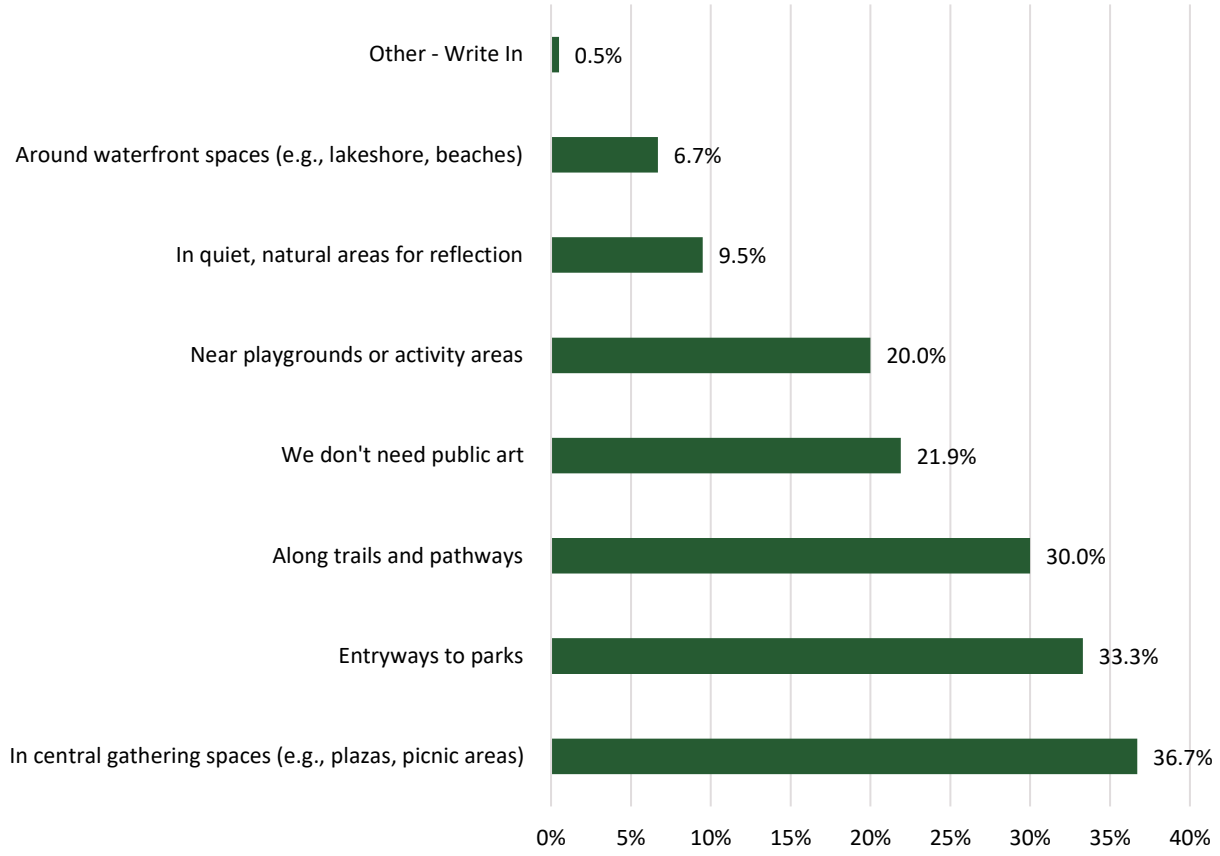
This section asked respondents three questions about public art in Liberty Lake. The first one can be seen in Figure B-23 and it asks the question of what types of public art would residents like to see in Liberty Lake parks. The top answer receiving 48.7% of votes is interactive art (e.g., musical sculptures, play structures), with nature inspired art following closely behind with 46% of votes.

Figure B-23: What types of public art would you most like to see in Liberty Lake parks?



The following question asks where the community feels public art would have the greatest impact within the Liberty Lake parks system. They were directed to select their top 2 answers. The answer “In central gathering spaces (e.g., plazas, picnic areas)” received the highest number of votes (36.7%) with “entryways to parks” following closely behind (33.3%). The options “along trails and pathways”, “we don’t need public art”, and “near playgrounds or activity areas” all received more than 20% of the total votes.

Figure B-24: Where do you feel public art would have the greatest impact within the Liberty Lake parks system? Select your top 2.



The final question asked, **"In your opinion, what should public art in Liberty Lake express or represent?"** Survey respondents most commonly felt that public art in Liberty Lake should reflect the community's natural beauty, local history, and shared values, with frequent mentions of nature, the lake, cultural heritage, and inclusivity. Many emphasized that art should foster a sense of unity, creativity, and belonging, while inspiring reflection and connection to place. However, some respondents expressed concern about the use of public funds for art, with several stating that art should avoid political messaging or that it is not a current priority. The feedback reflects a desire for meaningful, place-based art that resonates with the community, while balancing practical considerations.

About You and Final Insights

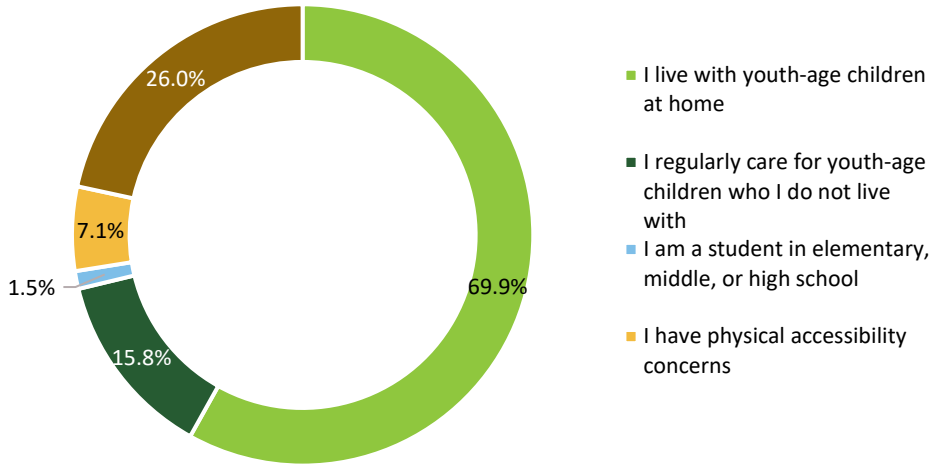
The final section of the survey asked respondents for some information about themselves. This is asked so that we can better understand who we have heard from and who we might still need to hear from through the survey or from other engagement efforts to ensure we hear from a variety of perspectives throughout Liberty Lake.

Table B-5: Demographics of Survey Respondents

Question	Responses
Where do you live?	♦ City of Liberty Lake: 78.8% ♦ Spokane County, but outside of Liberty Lake: 17.3% ♦ Kootenai County: 0.4% ♦ Other - Write In: 3.5% The majority of responses were from residents of Liberty Lake.
What is your age range?	♦ Under 12: 0.4% ♦ 20-29: 4.8% ♦ **30-39:** 33.8% ♦ **40-49:** 25.4% ♦ **50-59:** 13.2% ♦ **60-69:** 14.0% ♦ 70 or older: 8.3% There was a diverse age range responding to the survey, with ages 30-39 being the highest.
How many people live in your household?	♦ I live alone: 6.9% ♦ 2 people: 26.7% ♦ 3 to 4 people: 45.6% ♦ 5 to 6 people: 18.4% ♦ 7+ people: 2.3%
What ethnic or racial group do you identify with?	♦ African American/Black: 0.9% ♦ Asian or Asian American: 3.3% ♦ Caucasian/White: 84.0% ♦ Hispanic/Latino: 3.3% ♦ Native American: 3.8% ♦ Pacific Islander: 0.5% ♦ Prefer not to say: 14.6% ♦ Other - Write In: 0.5%
What is your gender?	♦ Female: 74.0% ♦ **Male:** 25.1% ♦ Non-binary: 0.5% ♦ I identify in a different way - Write In: 0.5% The majority of respondents to this survey were women.
What language(s) are most often spoken in your home?	♦ English: 100.0% ♦ Spanish: 1.9% ♦ I speak another language - Write In: 1.9%

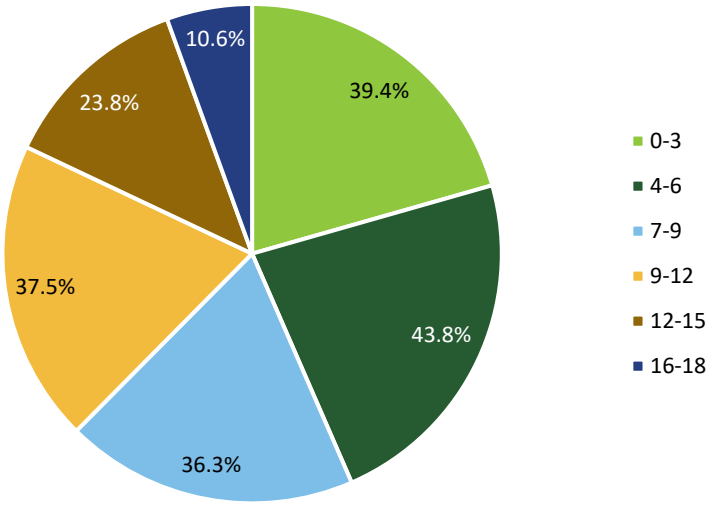
Respondents were asked if certain life factors apply to them, to understand the daily perspectives of some respondents. Figure B-25 shows that the majority of respondents live with youth-age children at home.

Figure B-25: Please let us know if any of the following apply to you. Select all that apply.



If survey takers selected that they live with youth-age children at home or regularly care for youth-age children who they do not live with, they were asked a follow-up question to share the age ranges of the children they care for. Those results can be seen in Figure B-26**Error! Reference source not found.**.

Figure B-26: What are the age ranges of the children you care for? Select all that apply.



The final question asked, “If you have any additional thoughts that you would like to be considered in the development of this plan, please share them with us here.” Community feedback highlights a strong desire for expanded recreational amenities, especially a public pool or aquatic center, which was mentioned frequently as a missing resource for families and youth. Residents also emphasized the need for more inclusive, challenging, and shaded playgrounds, upgraded park infrastructure, and expanded access to the lake, with concerns about limited public entry points and lack of waterfront activities. Many called for continued investment in trails, natural spaces, and trees, along with better maintenance of existing parks, such as weed control, tree care, and surface safety. A recurring theme was support for arts and cultural initiatives, including festivals, public art, and making Liberty Lake an "artist oasis" with vibrant creative opportunities. Other suggestions included dog parks, youth sports leagues, senior activities, community centers, and better safety around motorized devices on shared paths. Overall, responses reflect pride in Liberty Lake’s existing amenities and a clear interest in thoughtful, community-driven improvements.

Community Satisfaction Survey

Introduction

The Community Satisfaction Survey is conducted by Liberty Lake each year and aims to capture Liberty Lake residents' attitudes toward city life, with a special focus on core services, including parks and recreation. This survey, which was conducted from January to March 2025, plays a critical role in informing city leaders about the evolving priorities and needs of the community. The result helps to ensure that the city's strategic priorities are aligned with residents' expectations and allows continued refinement of service provision. The survey also assists data-based decision-making, with input to help streamline budget appropriations and refine the quality of services. The survey yielded valuable information from 226 households. The summary addresses significant questions and answers related to parks and recreation services, providing a clear picture of residents' satisfaction levels, safety perceptions, and areas for improvement.

This summary section highlights questions in the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey that provide insight on Liberty Lake and its parks system. These highlights are bullet points in an overview, and the full results can be seen through the City of Liberty Lake.



Figure B-27: City of Liberty Lake 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey



CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE

2025
COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

May 6, 2025

Response Highlights

When asked how satisfied they were with their quality of life in Liberty Lake generally, 35% of respondents said they were extremely satisfied, and 45% said they were satisfied. This reflects an **overall sense of satisfaction** among residents, but areas remain where quality of life can be improved.

The survey asked respondents to determine how important 35 different factors were in determining their answer about quality of life in Liberty Lake. The response that ranked most important was “Liberty Lake as a place where you feel safe”. **A response that ranked as very important is “cleanliness of city parks and open spaces”,** where nearly 70% responded “extremely important” and another 25% responding as “important”.

Residents were asked whether they planned to go to a 2025 community event. 70% responded that they were either likely or very likely to attend, and 20% were somewhat likely. **This shows a strong sense of community interest.**

The survey asked “How safe do you feel in the following places in Liberty Lake?” and one of the prompts asked about “while visiting parks or open spaces”. **Over 80% indicated that they feel extremely safe or safe while visiting parks or open spaces.** A small percentage did say they did not feel safe. Then when asked about **“while visiting parks or open spaces after dark”, the answers changed significantly,** with approximately 20% indicating they feel less safe or not safe.

Respondents were asked to rate the quality of certain core city services, with 19 different options. **Parks maintenance was the best scoring option, with over 80% selecting excellent or good.**

When asked to select **three items that need the most attention from city leaders in the next year,** parks maintenance ranked 7th out of 19, recreation programs ranked 8th out of 19, and trail maintenance ranked 12th out of 19.

Engagement Kick-Off Summary

About the Workshop

On Thursday, May 22nd, 2025, SCJ Alliance and the City of Liberty Lake hosted an open house-style kick-off to share information about the plan and gather initial feedback from the community on park needs and preferences. Community members were invited to come and enjoy snacks and refreshments, while sharing their thoughts on Liberty Lake’s future direction.

Approximately 17 people attended this event. The majority of attendees were over the age of 60, with just a few being between 18-60.

Engagement Activities

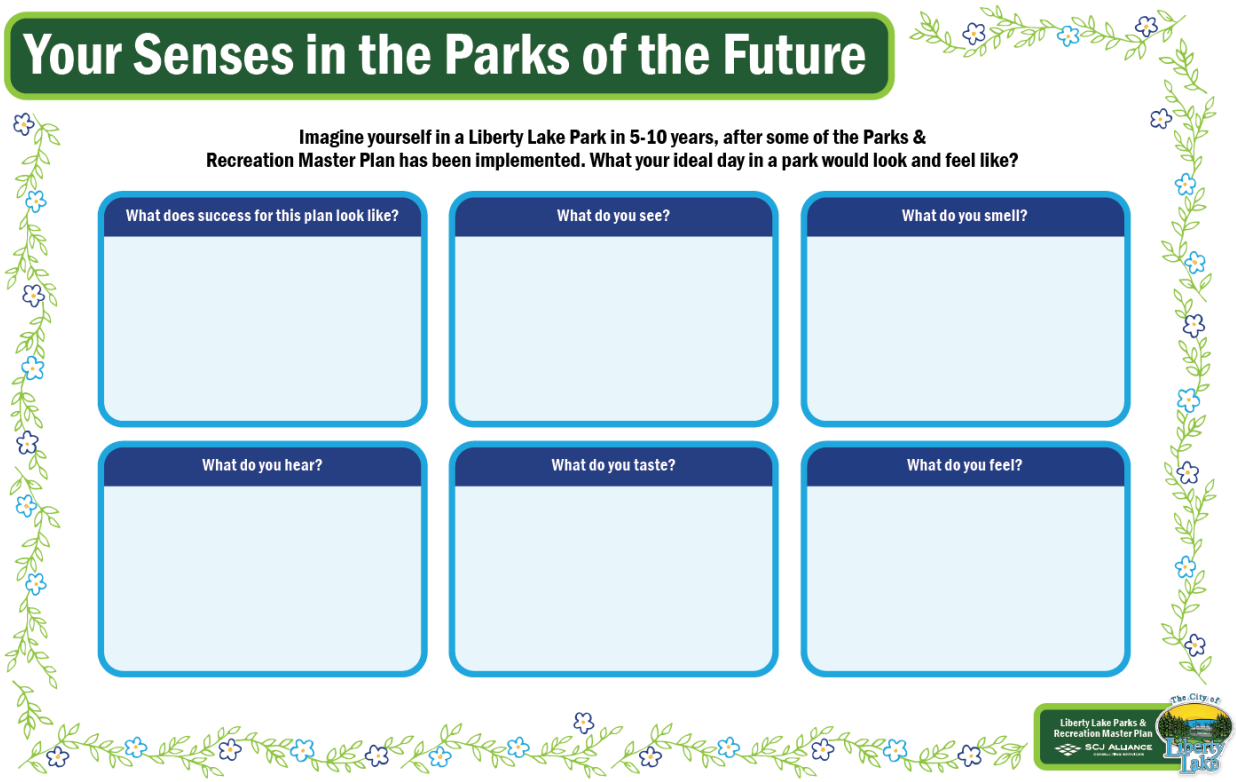
Station #1: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Info Wall

The first station that attendees interacted with was a large information wall that shared about the plan and identified the names of the City parks in Liberty Lake so that attendees knew which parks were being focused on. People could share what excites them about the plan and could identify spots on a map that they had thoughts about.

Station #2: What does plan success look and feel like?

The next station aimed to gather the public's long-term vision for what Liberty Lake's park system should look and feel like. Handouts were provided asking participates to describe their sensory experiences of visiting the parks in the future. The handout looked like this:

Figure B-28: Your Senses in the Parks of the Future Activity



The following sections highlight the written responses that were shared during this activity.

What does success for this plan look like?

- Having a solid plan
- Parks used for year-round activities. How can people get outside in the winter?
- Lots of recreation events. More tree cover. Safe and secure environment.
- Neighborhood park area communities accessible by bike or by foot from every neighborhood.
- Plenty of parks and green space – accessible to all
- Parks that bring people together
- Creating an environment that appeals to all ages. A safe place.
- Clean and serene open space
- Enjoyable space, recreation for all
- Continuous improvement
- Something for everyone in the area
- User friendly and understandable
- Many family events

What do you see?

- Open Space
- People walking/running. People picnicking. Children playing. Adults visiting
- Trees. Shrubs. Flowers. Water features.
- Play structures which are engaging for all abilities. Water features. Open games play area.
- Open space with dogs on a leash
- Color, trails, and people.
- Trees and flowers, natural landscapes, wildlife.
- I would hope to see a well maintained park.
- Trees, grassy areas, picnic areas, splash pads, ballfields
- Recreational equipment, ample trash cans, and comfortable restrooms
- Birds, trees, nature
- People of all ages, dog areas--but not all over the parks, swimming pads, food trucks, community garden beds
- Lots of smiling faces

What do you smell?

- Food located at the parks
- Springtime flowers! BBQs
- Flowers
- Fresh grass and native flowers.
- Flowers and blooming trees
- Grass, trees, fresh air
- Odors of the trees, grass, fresh air, BBQ
- Hopefully nothing!
- Blooming trees, fresh mowed grass
- Flowers, sport courts, food
- Hotdogs
-

What do you hear?

- People talk swimming pool but too old to care
- Birds chirping. Children and families laughing. Music. Goats.
- Kids laughing. Birds singing. Water falling.
- Children laughing and playing.
- Birds singing
- Children playing. Birds chirping
- Kids playing, birds, water.
- Birds, laughter
- Kids playing, families gathering, soft music
- Kids playing
- Children, splash pad water, live music at events
- Children laughing, music, rollerblades, sports being played
- People having a great time, concerts
- Kids laughing. Birds singing. Water falling.

What do you taste?

- Organic food
- Picnic lunch
- Ice cream. Shaved ice
- Clean, fresh air
- Picnic food
- Food from vendors at events
- Cool water
- Food and drink from good food trucks!

What do you feel?

- Sometimes I feel like a nut, sometimes I don't
- Warm sun. Happy.
- Cool breeze. Peaceful. Happy
- Joy that youth have a safe place to play and interact.
- Happy!
- Grass underfoot.
- Peacefulness, joy from interactions.
- calm, refreshment, happy
- Happy!
- Peaceful, pride
- Happiness, stress relief, good about outdoor activity.
- Limited electric bikes and motorcycles. Pickleball courts.
- Good

Station #3: Public Art

Another topic that this plan is addressing is public art. At the third station, attendees were asked to provide input by interacting with two different prompts, each on a separate board. The first (*see Figure B-29 on the following page*) asked, "What types of public art would you like to see in the parks?" Participants could choose from several art categories with a corresponding color key, casting a vote for any that they would like to see in Liberty Lake. Nature-inspired art received the most votes at the kick-off event. All results are as follows:

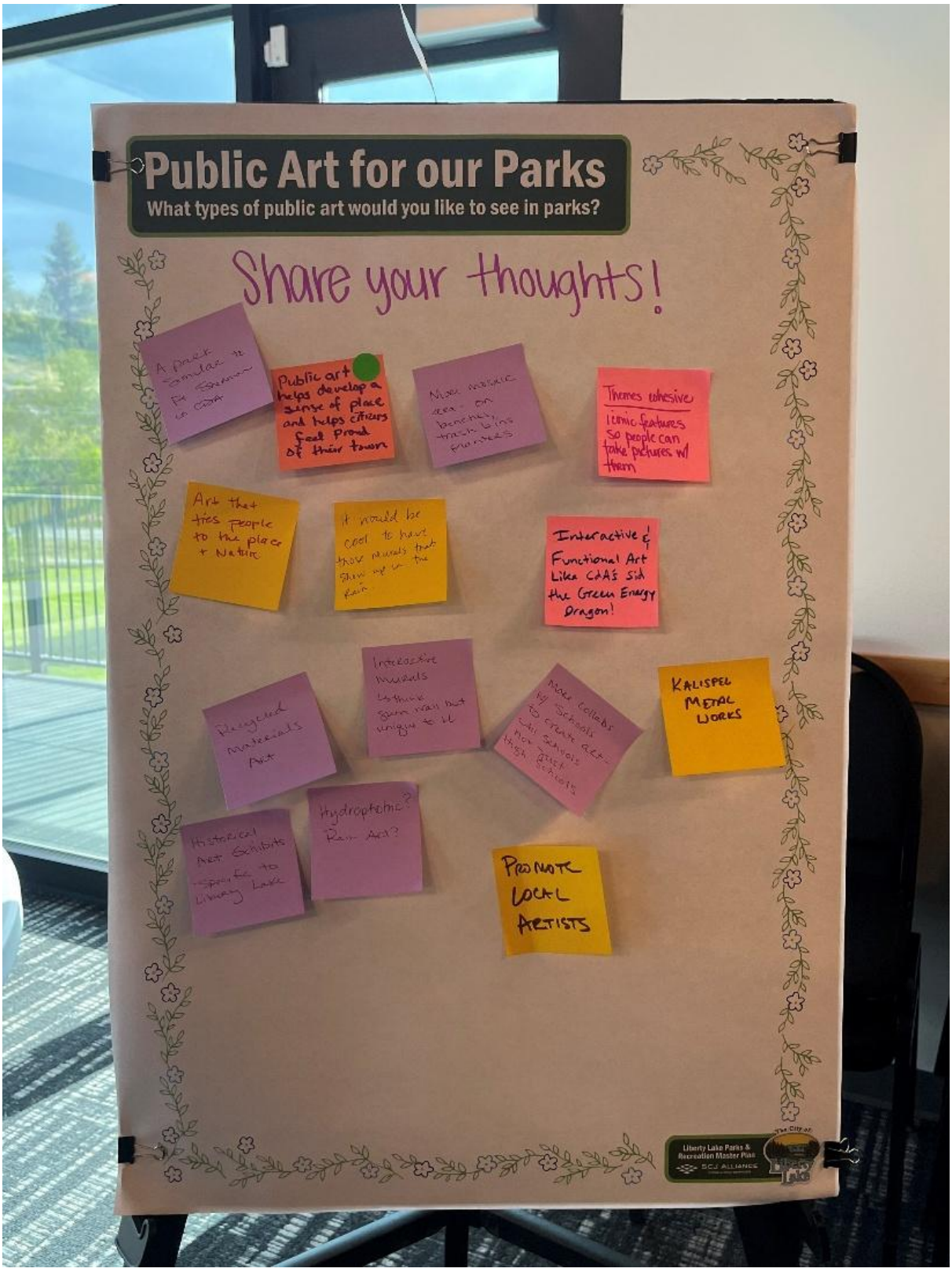
Table B-6: Public Art for our Parks Responses

Type of Art	Votes
Nature-Inspired Art	10
Murals	6
Community-Created Art	4
Interactive Art	3
Sculptures	1
Temporary Art Installations	1

The second prompt regarding public art was more open-ended and asked the public to record their additional thoughts related to the kinds of art that they would like to see in parks. These comments were:

- Public art helps develop a sense of place and helps citizens feel proud of their town;
- Art that ties people to the place and nature;
- Cohesive themes: Iconic features so people can take pictures with them;
- Interactive and functional art like CDA's Sid the Green Energy Dragon!;
- A park similar to Fort Sherman in CDA;
- More collabs with schools to create art, including all schools and not just high schools;
- It would be cool to have those murals that show up in the rain;
- More mosaic art – on benches, trash bins, planters;
- Promote local artists;
- Historical art exhibits, specific to Liberty Lake history;
- Recycled materials art;
- Kalispel Metal Works;
- Interactive murals like Seattle's gum wall, but unique to Liberty Lake; and
- Hydrophobic? Rain Art?

Figure B-29: Public Art for Our Parks Activity Board



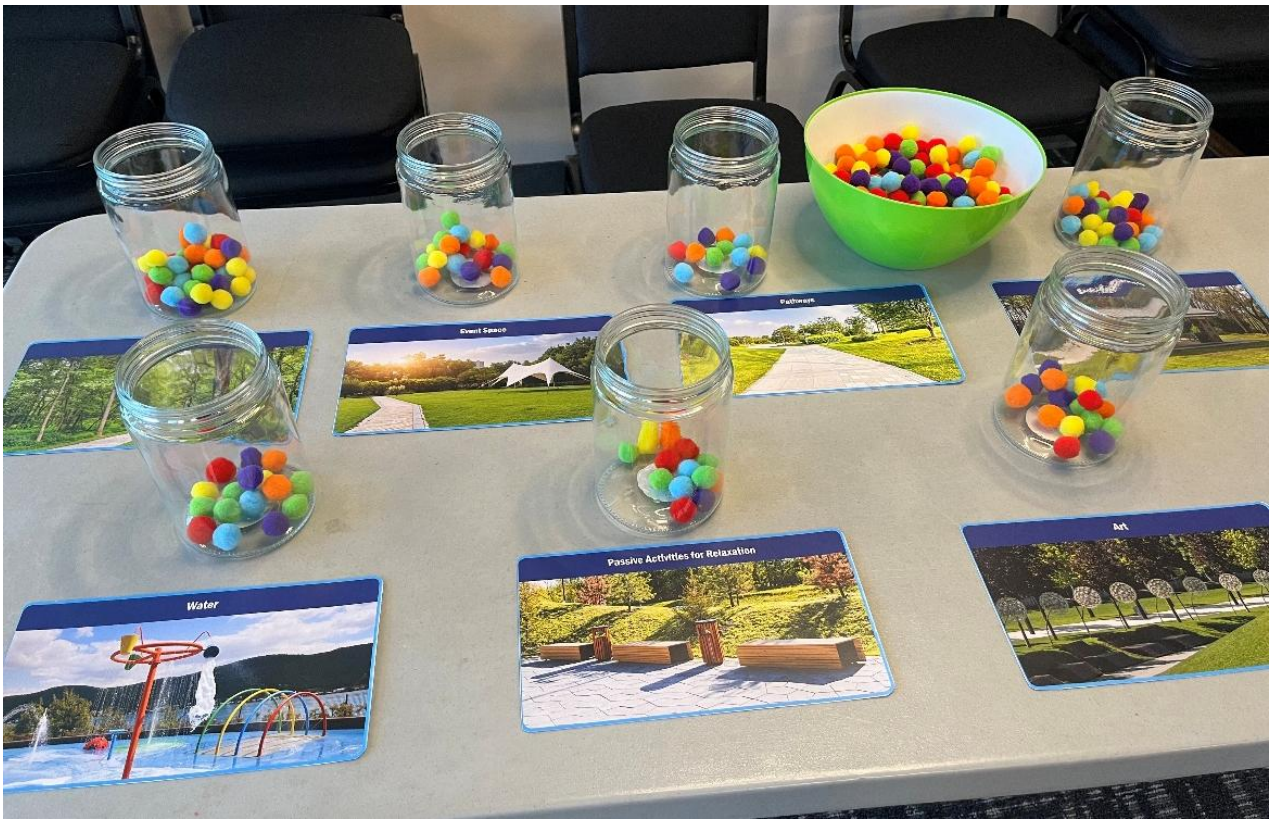
Station #4: Parks Features Polling

The next station had nine glass jars on the table, with a photo and label of a different type of park feature or amenity that could enhance Liberty Lake's parks system in front of each. Each participant was given nine pom-poms and were told that they could distribute their votes among the nine park features or amenities in any way they wish – whether they wanted to just put one in each jar because they want to see them all, or putting more pom-poms in amenities that they desire more. The top three features that received the most votes were nature, shaded gathering spaces, and sports. The full results at the event are as follows:

Table B-7: Parks Features Polling Results

Park Feature	Votes	Park Feature	Votes	Park Feature	Votes
Nature	35	**Event Space**	19	**Water**	16
Gathering Spaces	26	**Art**	19	**Passive Activities**	13
Sports	24	**Play**	16	**Pathways**	12

Figure B-30: Pom-Pom Polling Activity



Station #5: Preferred Types of Play

In the center of the room, a table was themed around gauging children's needs and interests in the parks system. A handout was provided that was geared toward kids, but also welcomed adult input, to share how they (or the kids they know) would prefer to play in Liberty Lake. The overall results can be seen below on an image of the worksheet. The numbers on each image represent how many votes that type of play received. The worksheet also had two question prompts. One asked what they currently like to do in the parks and the other asked what they would like to do in parks that they can't do right now. The existing skate park and sport courts are being enjoyed by several participants. People would like to see future spaces be more accessible to accommodate activities like swimming at the pool and more food concessions being offered.

Figure B-31: How Do YOU Play in Liberty Lake? Handout



Final Steps at the Workshop

At the end of the workshop, there was an opportunity to provide any additional comments on an open piece of easel paper and to also speak more with the project team. As people left the workshop, survey flyers were passed out to encourage people to take the online survey that is open through the end of June. If people had time then, there were paper surveys printed that they could fill out and return back at the event.

Pop-Up Events Summary

Introduction

As part of the ongoing update to the Liberty Lake Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a series of informal pop-up engagement events were held at parks and community gatherings throughout the summer of 2025. These events were designed to meet residents where they already gather – at Pavillion Park, Orchard Park's Touch a Truck event, the Liberty Lake Farmers Market at Town Square Park – to gather broad, inclusive feedback on current park usage and desired future improvements. Through interactive boards, visual polls, and one-on-one conversations, community members of all ages were invited to share their thoughts on playground design, park amenities, recreation programs, and public art. The pop-up format allowed for spontaneous and genuine input from a diverse range of park users, especially those who may not typically attend formal public meetings. There were three different sets of pop-up boards, each of which were used at two different pop-up events. The boards continued to change to gain additional insight and build upon feedback as engagement continued through the summer. Insights gathered from these events will directly inform future planning decisions and help ensure Liberty Lake's Park system reflects the needs and priorities of its community.

Figure B-32: Pop-Up Engagement Flyer



Pop-ups for Pavillion Park

As part of the update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Liberty Lake, a series of pop-up engagement events were organized at Pavillion Park to engage the community. These two events were:

- **June 20th:** Engagement boards were set up alongside tables along the sidewalk near the playground at Pavillion Park. The consultant from Great Western Recreation joined to talk about playground updates, as well. Consultants were able to talk with many adults who were walking by and wanted to share their thoughts. Skyhawks was hosting a basketball camp, and many kids came and placed stickers for their preferences during breaks. The YMCA brought a large group of kids to the playground, and the kids eagerly all surrounded the boards to place stickers and provide feedback.
- **July 4th:** City staff held a pop-up event in conjunction with the 4th of July Concert and Fireworks show at Pavillion Park. The boards were placed to be in full view of park users during this community event, encouraging residents to provide feedback on park amenities and future improvements. Since the event brings a lot of Liberty Lake residents and visitors, staff were able to hear from frequent park users and occasional users to better understand park needs.

Activity One: Favorite Ways to Play at Pavillion Park

For both events, two interactive boards were used to gather community input on the park's desire for play and future playground design. On the first board, participants were requested to select their favorite ways to play by placing stickers on a maximum of three pictures, which were representative of different types of play, such as climbing, swinging, obstacle course, etc. These pictures and the combined results from both pop-ups can be seen in **Error! Reference source not found.**. In the results, the image with the embankment slide and wooden platform to climb up was most preferred, with 44 sticker selections. This was followed by the more natural-looking play image in the woods with 30 votes.

Activity Two: Pavillion Park Playground Update

The second board contained three pictures of playgrounds that came from Great Western Recreation, the company updating the playground equipment. Participants were asked to vote for which playground they liked best by placing a sticker on the playground they would most like to have installed. It served to measure aesthetic and functionality preferences for potential future upgrades. The board also asked about the park's currently installed exercise equipment, specifically whether it should be relocated to accommodate an enlarged playground area. Participants responded by placing a sticker on "Yes, move it" or "No, keep it where it is." The board presented a valuable opportunity to gauge the community's attitude not only regarding what they would like to see in terms of new installations, but also how they would like to see currently installed facilities modified. On the following page are the images of the two boards (*Figure B-33* and *Figure B-34*), along with a tally of the stickers placed on them.

Pop-ups for Needs Assessment

The next set of pop-up engagement boards focused on gathering feedback on what parks and recreation activities and amenities people would like to see in the Liberty Lake parks system. There were 3 engagement activities for the public to participate in and provide feedback on these pop-up boards.

Figure B-33: Combined Results from Two Pop-Ups about Play Preferences at Pavillion Park



Figure B-34: Combined Results from Two Pop-Ups about Pavillion Park Playground Update



These engagement activities were at community events that are highly attended by Liberty Lake residents, which are:

- **Touch a Truck Event – July 18th at Orchard Park:** This community event attracted approximately 3,000 people from across the region, including many local families with children, who frequently use Liberty Lake's parks, to explore and interact with trucks, participate in games, music and visit food vendors.
- **Liberty Lake Farmers Market – July 26th at Town Square Park:** There was high attendance between 9am and about 11:30am when the majority of votes were collected. The Farmers Market typically hosts 40–50 vendors each Saturday and draws many families and individuals who come to build community, meet new people, and support local farmers and artisans from across the Northwest.

Overall, the pop-up events resulted in high levels of participation and provided valuable feedback that will help inform future engagement questions and updates to Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. There was a lot of feedback from the public on the pompom poll activity. The public art board was fun and engaging for all ages, which gathered input from a diverse range of community members. Allowing people to select their top three preferred recreation activities and programs provides a broader range of responses, which will be helpful in determining which programs and activities to pursue in the future.

Activity One: The Pom-Pom Poll

A pom-pom poll with 9 jars labeled with a variety of recreation activities and park amenities, including pictures of each, were set up. Participants were given 9 pompoms to vote on which amenities they would like to see in future Liberty Lake parks. Participants were able to distribute their 9 pompoms however they wanted to, whether they wanted to put all 9 in their most preferred option, equally distribute them all, or otherwise. In

Table B-8, we also included the results from this activity at the kick-off workshop, so that overall totals from this activity throughout the plan can be seen. The most desired amenity selected was “water” in the overall totals, followed by “play.”

Table B-8: Combined Results of Pom-Pom Poll

Recreational Activities & Park Amenities	Kick-Off Workshop	Touch-a-Truck	Farmers Market	Totals
Water	16	349	44	409
Play	16	355	24	395
Nature	35	289	48	372
Sports	24	161	5	190
Shaded Gathering Space	26	116	17	159
Art	19	114	16	149
Passive Activities for Relaxation	13	67	23	103
Pathways	12	57	23	92
Event Space	19	53	9	81
Total Votes	**180**	**1561**	**209**	**1950**

Figure B-35: Images of Participation in the Pom-Pom Poll



Activity Two: Public Art for Parks Sticker Dot Board

The next activity asked participants what types of public art they would like to see in Liberty Lake's parks. Each participant placed one colored sticker dot to vote for their preferred art option, with the option to place a dot for any public art types they would like to see in Liberty Lake. Results from the kick-off event are included as well, since this activity was used there too.

Table B-9: Combined Results of Public Art for Parks Sticker Dot Board

Type of Public Art	Kick-Off Workshop	Touch-a-Truck	Farmers Market	Totals
Sculptures	1	17	12	30
Murals	6	19	3	28
Interactive Art	3	66	11	80
Temporary Installations	1	9	3	13
Community-Created Art	4	21	2	27
Nature-Inspired Art	10	35	12	57
Total Votes	**25**	**167**	**43**	**235**

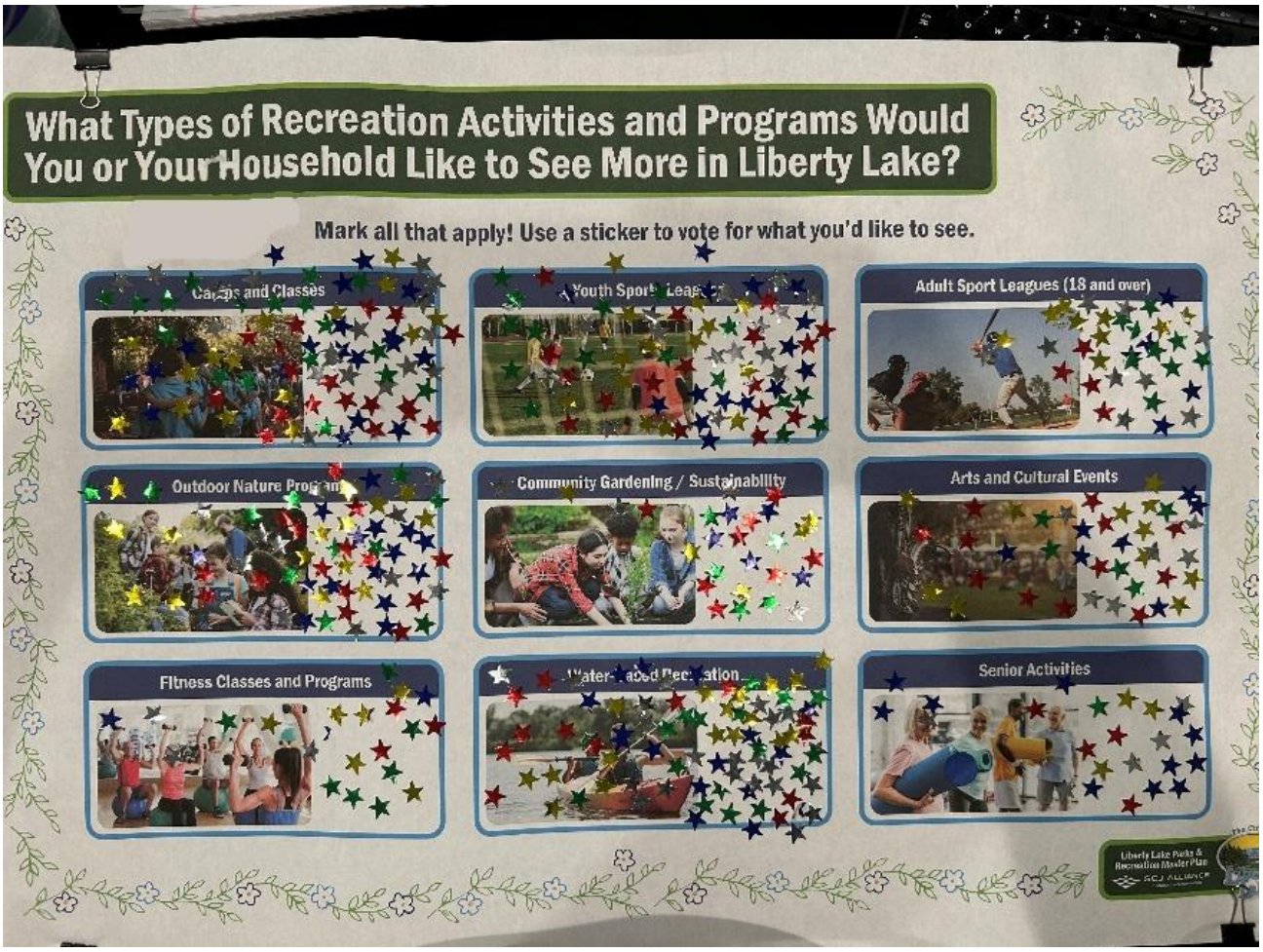
Activity Three: General Recreation Activities and Programs Sticker Dot Board

The final activity asked community members "What type of recreation activities and programs would you or your household like to see more in Liberty Lake?" They were given three star-shaped stickers and were directed to place them on their preferred activities or programs.

Table B-10: Combined Results of Recreation Activities & Programs Sticker Dot Board

Recreation Activities & Programs	Touch-a-Truck	Farmers Market	Totals
Camps & Classes	87	8	95
Water & Recreation	86	16	102
Youth Sports Leagues	76	9	85
Outdoor Nature Programs	66	11	77
Adult Sport Leagues (18 & over)	34	9	43
Community Gardening / Sustainability	27	7	34
Arts & Cultural Events	41	12	53
Fitness Classes & Programs	21	12	33
Senior Activities	24	9	33
Total Votes	462	93	555

Figure B-36: Example of a Board after a Pop-Up Event



Pop-up for Implementation Actions

Using the information we gathered during the first two sets of pop ups and the survey, two new boards were created to ask the community detailed and precise questions. These boards were at this community event:

- **Barefoot in the Park – August 2nd – at Pavillion Park:** This is a free event with an all-day celebration that includes games and entertainment for all ages, food and beverage vendors, a local car show, inflatable bouncy houses and water slides, bed races, live music, and so much more. It is a well-attended event that shows the fun and exciting opportunities available at Liberty Lake parks.

Activity One: Recreation Activities & Programming

This board summarized the past engagement in this category and asked more specific questions about each. It said “At our community pop-ups for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan so far, the top priorities for recreation and programming have been Camps and Classes, Water & Recreation, and Youth Sports Leagues. We’d like to better understand which options would be most interesting to you or your family in each of these categories. Please select one option in each category.” Community members at the event then marked their votes with a tally mark for each section. The water and recreation section got the most votes overall, and the Learn-To-Swim Programs (Group Lessons By Age/Skill Level) received the most votes out of all the suggested activities and programs. Nature Exploration (E.G., Wildlife Tracking, Outdoor Survival, Native Plants Education) and Family Water Days Or Splash Events (Pop-Up Splash Pad Activities, Inflatable Water Features) were close behind. Table B-11 through Table B-14 across the following pages display the data from the board shown below.

Figure B-37: Recreation Activities & Programming Board after the Barefoot in the Park Event

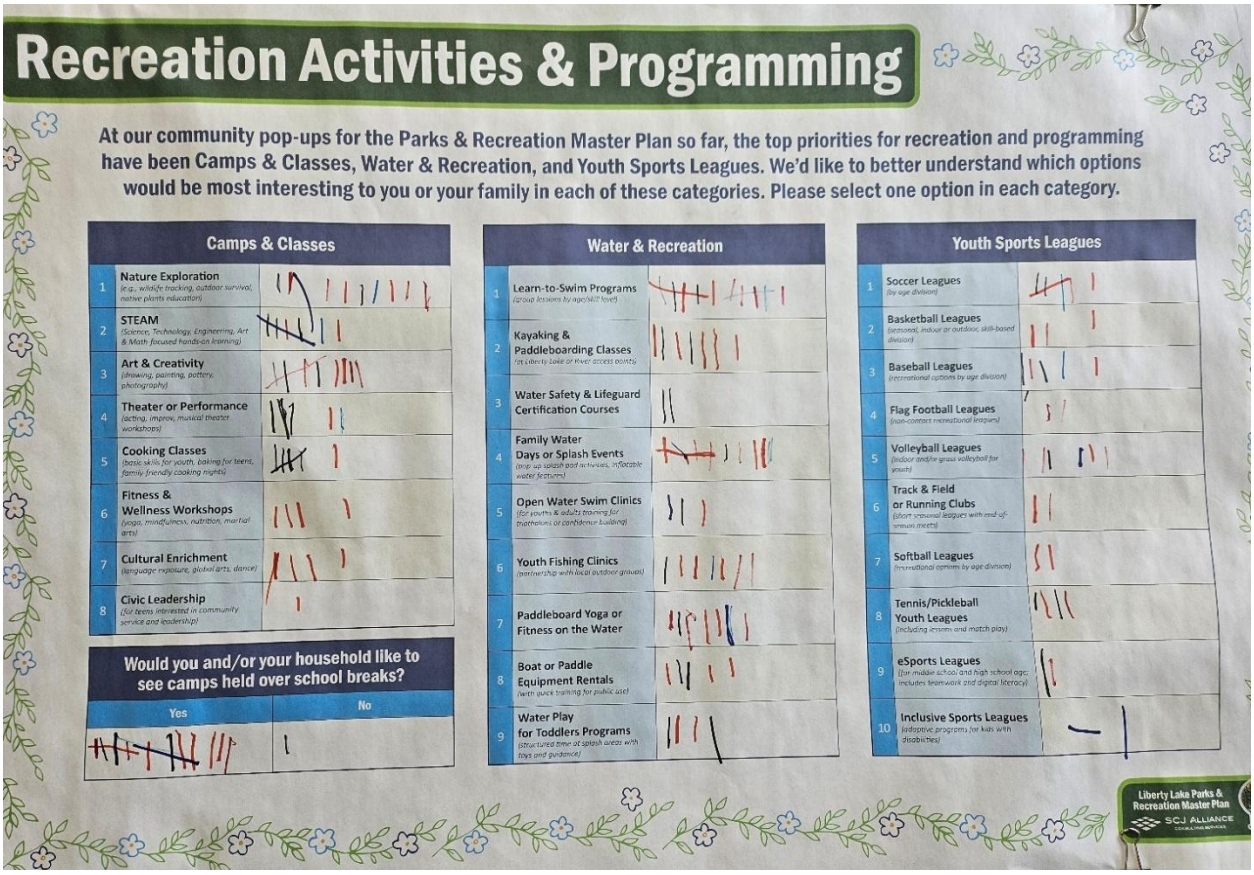


Table B-11: Results of Recreation Activities & Programming (Camps & Classes)

Recreation Activity or Program	Votes
Nature Exploration (E.G., Wildlife Tracking, Outdoor Survival, Native Plants Education)	10
STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math-Focused Hands-On Learning)	7
Art & Creativity (Drawing, Painting, Pottery, Photography)	9
Theater Or Performance (Acting, Improv, Musical Theater Workshops)	5
Cooking Classes (Basic Skills For Youth, Baking For Teens, Family-Friendly Cooking Nights)	6
Fitness & Wellness Workshops (Yoga, Mindfulness, Nutrition, Martial Arts)	4
Cultural Enrichment (Language Exposure, Global Arts, Dance)	4
Civic Leadership (For Teens Interested In Community Service And Leadership)	1
Total	**46**

Table B-12: Results of Recreation Activities & Programming (Additional Question)

Would you and/or your household like to see camps held over school breaks?	Votes
Yes	13
No	1

Table B-13: Results of Recreation Activities & Programming (Water & Recreation)

Recreation Activity or Program	Votes
Learn-To-Swim Programs (Group Lessons By Age/Skill Level)	12
Kayaking & Paddleboarding Classes (At Liberty Lake Or River Access Points)	7
Water Safety & Lifeguard Certification Courses	2
Family Water Days Or Splash Events (Pop-Up Splash Pad Activities, Inflatable Water Features)	10
Open Water Swim Clinics (For Youths & Adults Training For Triathlons Or Confidence Building)	3
Youth Fishing Clinics (Partnership With Local Outdoor Groups)	7
Paddleboard Yoga Or Fitness On The Water	7
Boat Or Paddle Equipment Rentals (With Quick Training For Public Use)	5
Water Play For Toddlers Programs (Structured Time At Splash Areas With Toys And Guidance)	4
Total	**57**

Table B-14: Results of Recreation Activities & Programming (Youth Sports Leagues)

Recreation Activity or Program	Votes
Soccer Leagues (By Age Division)	6
Basketball Leagues (Seasonal, Indoor Or Outdoor, Skill-Based Division)	3
Baseball Leagues (Recreational Options By Age Division)	5
Flag Football Leagues (Non-Contact Recreational Leagues)	3
Volleyball Leagues (Indoor and/or Grass Volleyball For Youth)	6
Track & Field Or Running Clubs (Short Seasonal Leagues with End-Of-Season Meets)	2
Softball Leagues (Recreational Options by Age Division)	2
Tennis/Pickleball Youth Leagues (Including Lessons and Match Play)	4
Esports Leagues (For Middle School and High School Age; Includes Teamwork/Digital Literacy)	2
Inclusive Sports Leagues (Adaptive Programs For Kids With Disabilities)	2
Total	**35**

Figure B-38: Results for Play Structure and Amenity Preferences at Pavillion Park



Activity Two: Pavillion Park Playground Update

This activity showcased a rendering of what the new Pavillion Park playground could look like. Community members were asked "What structures and amenities are a priority for you and/or your household?" They were instructed to use a sticker to vote on their top three options. A merry-go-round got the most votes (27) with shade structure (25), and swings (19) close behind.

Figure B-38, on the previous page, shows all results.

Phase 2 Pop-Up Events Summary

Introduction

Phase 2 of the Liberty Lake Parks and Recreation Master Plan update included a series of pop-up engagement events throughout the fall of 2025 to gather focused community input to inform updates to the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Events

To support community-driven updates to the Capital Improvement Program for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a series of pop-up engagement events were organized throughout the Liberty Lake community to engage residents, including:

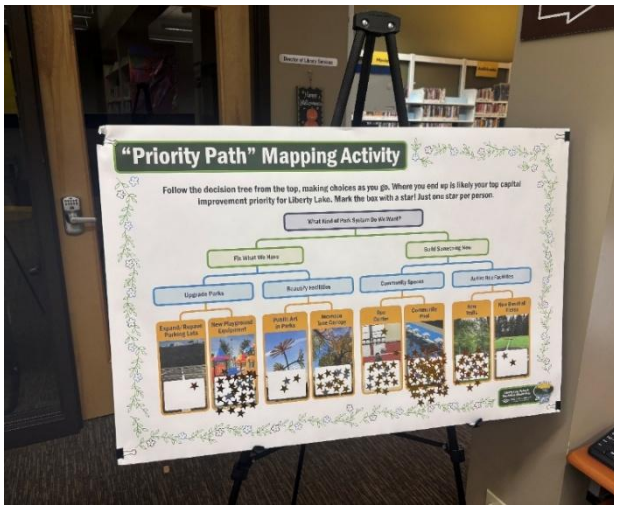
- **Liberty Lake Municipal Library Community Halloween Event**
  - Date: October 30th, 2025
  - Location: 23123 E Mission Ave, Liberty Lake, WA 99019
  - Responses: Nearly 325
  - Participation: Children and parents
- **Liberty Lake Elementary STEM Night**
  - Date: November 19th, 2025
  - Location: 23606 E Boone Ave, Liberty Lake, WA 99019
  - Responses: Approximately 100
  - Participation: Children (ages 7-12) and parents
- **Liberty Lake Girl Scouts Meeting**
  - Date: November 20th, 2025
  - Location: 3830 N Sullivan Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99216
  - Responses: About 15
  - Participation: Girl Scouts and Parents

Priority Paths Activity

The priority path activity was developed to gauge the public's interest in investing in existing facilities, such as playgrounds and shelters, or adding new amenities. To guide the public through the decision process, the activity board asked participants to select a sticker—gold for residents and silver for non-residents—and move through a decision tree by making choices at each step. Once they reached the end of the path, participants placed their sticker on that option, which likely reflected their top capital improvement priority.

At the STEM Night and Girl Scout Meeting, there was also a matching activity that helped the younger participants understand the impact of planning before participating in the priority paths activity.

Figure B-39: Priority Paths Activity Boards





Engagement Results

Engagement results are grouped below by engagement questions and activity used in pop up events throughout Liberty Lake. Responses are summarized in tables and include a breakdown by resident and non-resident participation, where applicable.

"What Kind of Park System Do We Want?"

Table B-15 on the following page shows results from the priority path activity regarding Liberty Lake's park system, displaying votes cast by residents and non-residents of Liberty Lake. The top three selections were:

1) **Community Pool**
   a) Resident: 77
   b) Non-Resident: 14
2) **New playground equipment**
   a) Resident: 30
   b) Non-Resident: 9
3) **New Trails**
   a) Resident: 27
   b) Non-Resident: 8

Table B-15: Results of Priority Path Activity – Park System

Priority	Halloween Party	STEM Night	Girl Scouts Meeting	Totals
Expand/Repave Parking Lots	**1**	**2**	**0**	**3**
Resident	1	1	0	2
Non-Resident	0	1	0	1
New Playground Equipment	**29**	**6**	**4**	**39**
Resident	20	6	4	30
Non-Resident	9	0	0	9
Public Art in Parks	**3**	**1**	**0**	**4**
Resident	2	0	0	2
Non-Resident	1	1	0	2
Increase Tree Canopy	**14**	**8**	**0**	**22**
Resident	8	6	0	14
Non-Resident	6	2	0	8
Rec Center	**18**	**4**	**0**	**22**
Resident	13	3	0	16
Non-Resident	5	1	0	6
Community Pool	**59**	**23**	**9**	**91**
Resident	52	16	9	77
Non-Resident	7	7	0	14
New Trails	**25**	**9**	**1**	**35**
Resident	19	7	1	27
Non-Resident	6	2	0	8
New Baseball Fields	**2**	**1**	**0**	**3**
Residents	1	1	0	2
Non-Resident	1	0	0	1
Total Votes	**151**	**54**	**14**	**219**
Resident	116	40	14	170
Non-Resident	35	14	0	49

Figure B-40: Priority Path Activity: Park System Results (Combined)

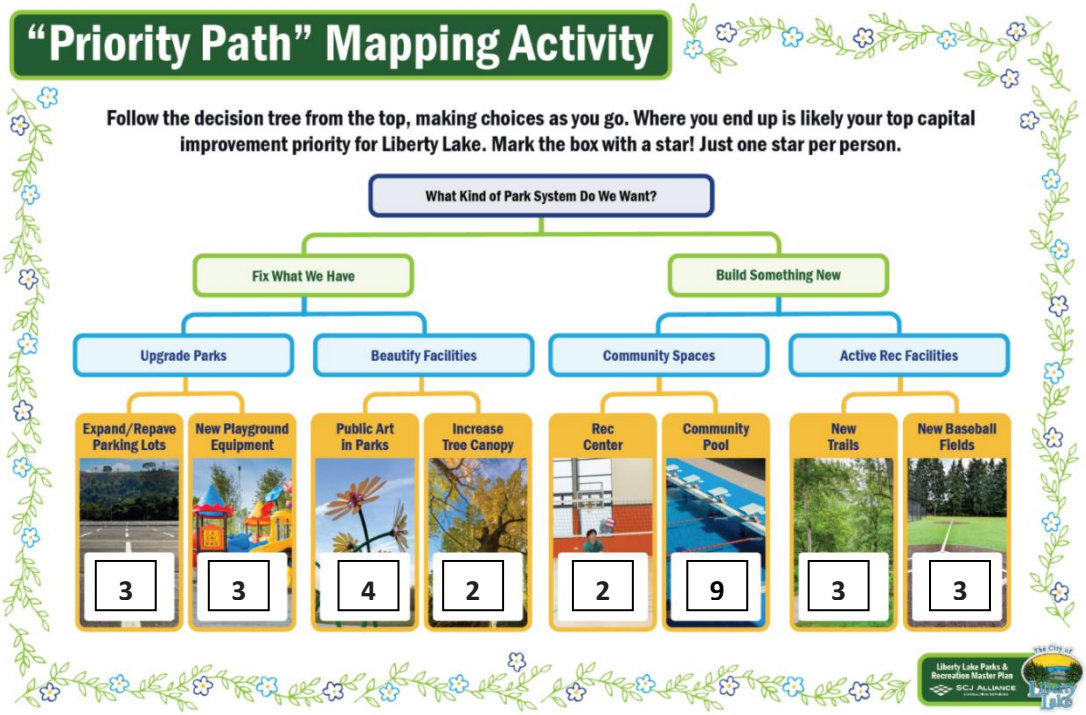
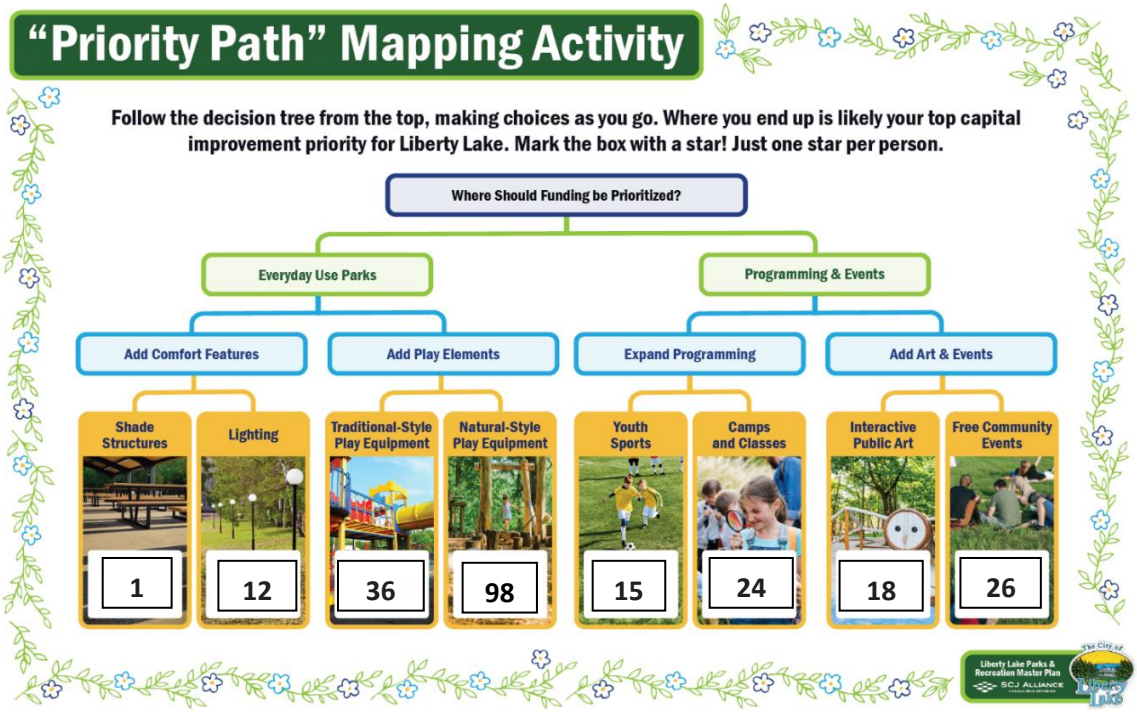


Figure B- 41: Priority Path Activity: Funding Prioritization Results (Combined)



"Where Should Funding Be Prioritized?"

Table B-16, beginning below, displays results from the "Funding Priorities Priority Path Activity", broken down by whether the vote was cast by a resident or a non-resident of Liberty Lake. The top three selections were:

1) **Natural Style Play Equipment**
   a) Resident: 79
   b) Non-Resident: 19
2) **Traditional Style Play Equipment**
   a) Resident: 30
   b) Non-Resident: 6
3) **Free Community Events**
   a) Resident: 17
   b) Non-Resident: 9

Table B-16: Results of Priority Path Activity – Funding Priorities

Priority	Halloween Party	STEM Night	Girl Scouts Meeting	Totals
Shade Structures	**7**	**7**	**0**	**14**
Resident	2	4	0	6
Non-Resident	5	3	0	8
Lighting	**9**	**3**		**12**
Resident	5	3	0	8
Non-Resident	4	0	0	4
Traditional-Style Play Equipment	**35**	**1**	**0**	**36**
Resident	29	1	0	30
Non-Resident	6	0	0	6
Natural-Style Play Equipment	**62**	**24**	**12**	**98**
Resident	49	18	12	79
Non-Resident	13	6	0	19
Youth Sports	**14**	**1**	**0**	**15**
Resident	10	1	0	11
Non-Resident	4	0	0	4
Camps And Classes	**16**	**6**	**2**	**24**
Resident	12	6	2	20
Non-Resident	4	0	0	4
Interactive Public Art	**14**	**4**	**0**	**18**

Resident	12	4	0	16
Non-Resident	2	0	0	2
Free Community Events	**19**	**7**	**0**	**26**
Resident	14	3	0	17
Non-Resident	5	4	0	9
Total Votes	**176**	**53**	**14**	**243**
Resident	133	40	14	187
Non-Resident	43	13	0	56

Priority Path Mapping: Online Survey

The same priority path mapping activity used at the in-person pop-up events was also offered through an online survey, with results organized by residents and non-residents.

Priority Path Mapping: Engagement Results

Responses are summarized in tables below and include a breakdown of resident and non-resident participation.

"What Kind of Park System Do We Want?"

Table B-17 on the following page shows results from the priority path activity regarding Liberty Lake's park system, displaying votes cast by residents and non-residents of Liberty Lake. The top three selections were:

1) **Community Pool**
   a) Resident: 124
   b) Non-Resident: 9
2) **Increase Tree Canopy**
   a) Resident: 27
   b) Non-Resident: 3
3) **New Trails**
   a) Resident: 28
   b) Non-Resident: 0

"Where Should Funding be Prioritized?"

Table B-17 also presents the results from the online survey of the funding priorities priority path activity, organized by resident or non-resident of Liberty Lake. The top three selections were:

1) **Free Community Events**
   a) Resident: 55
   b) Non-Resident: 4
2) **Natural Style Play Equipment**
   a) Resident: 46
   b) Non-Resident: 4
3) **Shade Structures**
   a) Resident: 38
   b) Non-Resident: 1

Table B-17: Results of Priority Path Activities Park System and Funding Priorities in Online Survey

Park System	Total	Funding Priorities	Total
Expand/Repave Parking Lots	**13**	**Shade Structures**	**39**
Resident	13	Resident	38
Non-Resident	0	Non-Resident	1
New Playground Equipment	**27**	**Lighting**	**32**
Resident	24	Resident	30
Non-Resident	3	Non-Resident	2
Public Art in Parks	**7**	**Traditional-Style Play Equipment**	**19**
Resident	5	Resident	16
Non-Resident	2	Non-Resident	3
Increase Tree Canopy	**30**	**Natural-Style Play Equipment**	**50**
Resident	27	Resident	46
Non-Resident	3	Non-Resident	4
Rec Center	**21**	**Youth Sports**	**37**
Resident	19	Resident	33
Non-Resident	3	Non-Resident	4
Community Pool	**133**	**Camps And Classes**	**26**
Resident	124	Resident	24
Non-Resident	9	Non-Resident	2
New Trails	**28**	**Interactive Public Art**	**6**
Resident	28	Resident	5
Non-Resident	0	Non-Resident	1
New Baseball Fields	**8**	**Free Community Events**	**59**
Resident	7	Resident	55
Non-Resident	1	Non-Resident	4
Total Votes	**268**	**Total Votes**	**268**
Resident	**247**	**Resident**	**247**
Non-Resident	**21**	**Non-Resident**	**21**

Results Summary

This section summarizes the combined results from the Phase 2 pop-up engagement events and the online priority path survey to identify the community's highest-priority capital improvement projects. Results are presented for both park system investments and funding priorities, with responses organized by residents and non-residents of Liberty Lake to highlight overall trends and areas of consensus.

"What Kind of Park System Do We Want?"

Table B-18 presents the results from both the online version and the in-person activities of the priority path activity regarding Liberty Lake's park system, displaying the votes cast by residents and non-residents of Liberty Lake. The top three selections were:

1) **Community Pool**
   a) Resident: 201
   b) Non-Resident: 23
2) **New Playground Equipment**
   a) Resident: 54
   b) Non-Resident: 12
3) **New Trails**
   a) Resident: 55
   b) Non-Resident: 8

Table B-18: Overall Results of Priority Path Activity: Park System

	Pop-Up Results	Survey Results	Totals
Expand/Repave Parking Lots	**3**	**13**	**16**
Resident	2	13	15
Non-Resident	1	0	1
New Playground Equipment	**39**	**27**	**66**
Resident	30	24	54
Non-Resident	9	3	12
Public Art in Parks	**4**	**7**	**11**
Resident	2	5	7
Non-Resident	2	2	4
Increase Tree Canopy	**22**	**30**	**52**
Resident	14	27	41
Non-Resident	8	3	11
Rec Center	**22**	**21**	**43**
Resident	16	19	35
Non-Resident	6	3	9
Community Pool	**91**	**133**	**224**
Resident	77	124	201
Non-Resident	14	9	23
New Trails	**35**	**28**	**63**

Resident	27	28	55
Non-Resident	8	0	8
New Baseball Fields	**3**	**8**	**11**
Resident	2	7	9
Non-Resident	1	1	2
Total Votes	**219**	**268**	**487**
Resident	170	247	417
Non-Resident	49	21	70

"What Kind of Park System Do We Want?"

Table B-19 presents the results from both the online version and the in-person activities of the priority path activity regarding Liberty Lake's park system, displaying the votes cast by residents and non-residents of Liberty Lake. The top three selections were:

1) **Natural-Style Play Equipment**
   a) Resident: 125
   b) Non-Resident: 23
2) **Free Community Events**
   a) Resident: 72
   b) Non-Resident: 13
3) **Traditional-Style Play Equipment**
   a) Resident: 46
   b) Non-Resident: 9

Table B-19: Overall Results of Priority Path Activity: Funding Priorities

	Pop-Up Results	Survey Results	Totals
Shade Structures	14	39	53
Resident	6	38	44
Non-Resident	8	1	9
Lighting	12	32	44
Resident	8	30	38
Non-Resident	4	2	6
Traditional-Style Play Equipment	36	19	55
Resident	30	16	46
Non-Resident	6	3	9
Natural-Style Play Equipment	98	50	148
Resident	79	46	125
Non-Resident	19	4	23
Youth Sports	15	37	52
Resident	11	33	44

Non-Resident	4	4	8
Camps And Classes	24	26	50
Resident	20	24	44
Non-Resident	4	2	6
Interactive Public Art	18	6	24
Resident	16	5	21
Non-Resident	2	1	3
Free Community Events	26	59	85
Resident	17	55	72
Non-Resident	9	4	13
Total Votes	243	268	511
Resident	187	247	434
Non-Resident	56	21	77

Online Survey Conclusion

The online priority path survey provided additional insight into community preferences for parks and recreation investments in Liberty Lake, expanding participation beyond the in-person pop-up events. Survey responses showed strong support for a community pool, playground equipment, trails, and nature-based amenities, as well as funding priorities focused on play equipment and free community events. This online feedback will be used to supplement in-person engagement results and help inform refinements to the Capital Improvement Program in a way that reflects broader community input.

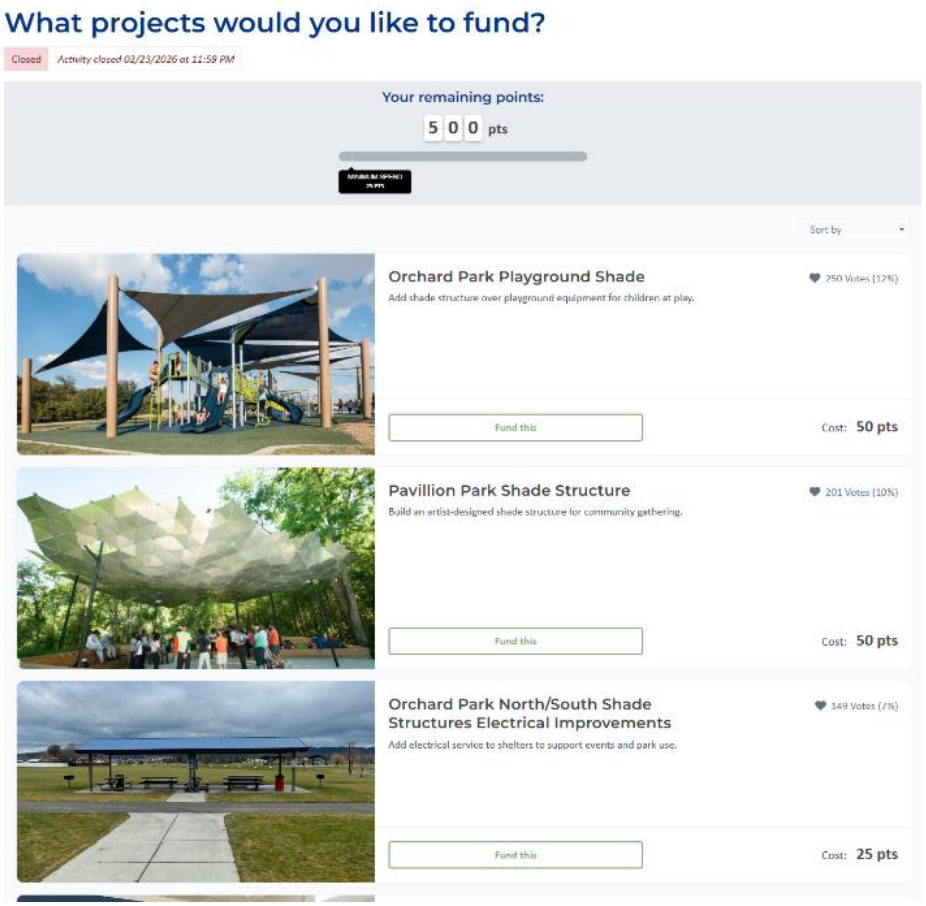
Priority Path Mapping: Key Takeaways

- A community pool clearly emerged as the top priority across all engagement methods and respondent groups.
- Playground improvements and new trails consistently ranked among the highest priorities, reflecting strong support for family-friendly and active recreation amenities.
- Nature-based features, including increased tree canopy and natural-style play equipment, were frequently selected, highlighting a desire for shade, comfort, and environmentally focused park spaces.
- Free community events and programming were a leading funding priority, signaling interest in accessible, low-cost recreation opportunities.
- Residents generally expressed stronger preferences than non-residents, reinforcing the importance of aligning major investments with resident needs.
- The consistency of results across in-person and online engagement provides clear, community-driven direction for refining the Capital Improvement Program.

CIP Prioritization Activity

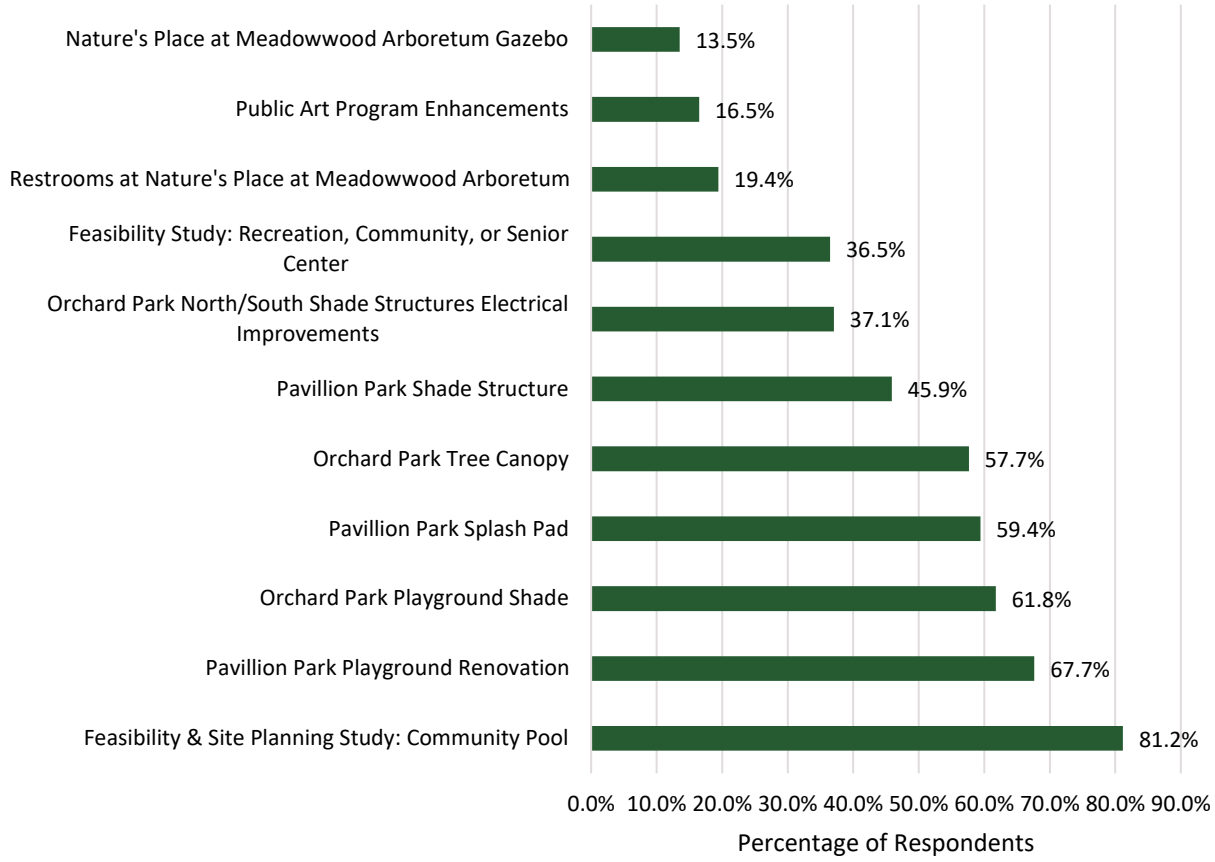
The Liberty Lake Parks CIP Priorities tool was an online engagement platform that was used to gather community input on future park and recreation investments. As part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Capital Improvement Program (CIP) prioritization process, we used an online engagement tool that allowed participants to review proposed projects and assign priorities based on what they consider most important for the community, using points to represent the monetary city investment of their selections.

Figure B- 42: A Screencap of the Digital CIP Prioritization Survey



The projects were developed to reflect themes and needs identified through previous surveys, city input, previous capital planning priorities, stakeholder conversations, and pop-up events. Feedback from this tool was used to inform project prioritization in the capital improvement program for Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The online voting tool was open for 14 days and received 402 contributions. Each participant received 500 points to "spend" on their preferred projects. Before submitting their responses, participants were required to enter their zip code. Based on this information, 79.6% of respondents were identified as Liberty Lake residents, listing their zip code as 99019. The average points allocated to a project were 412 points, with each contributor funding an average of 5 out of 11 projects. **Overall, 2066 votes were distributed among the 11 projects.**

Figure B-43: Liberty Lake CIP Prioritization Tool Results



The top 5 projects the public would like to see the city invest in include:

1) **Feasibility & Site Planning Study: Community Pool** (81.2%)
2) **Pavillion Park Playground Renovation** (67.7%)
3) **Orchard Park Playground Shade** (61.8%)
4) **The Pavilion Park Splash Pad** (59.4%)
5) **Orchard Park Tree Canopy Project** (57.7%)

These community-identified priorities will be reflected in the Capital Improvement Project list and integrated into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to support next steps on park improvement implementation and investments by the city.

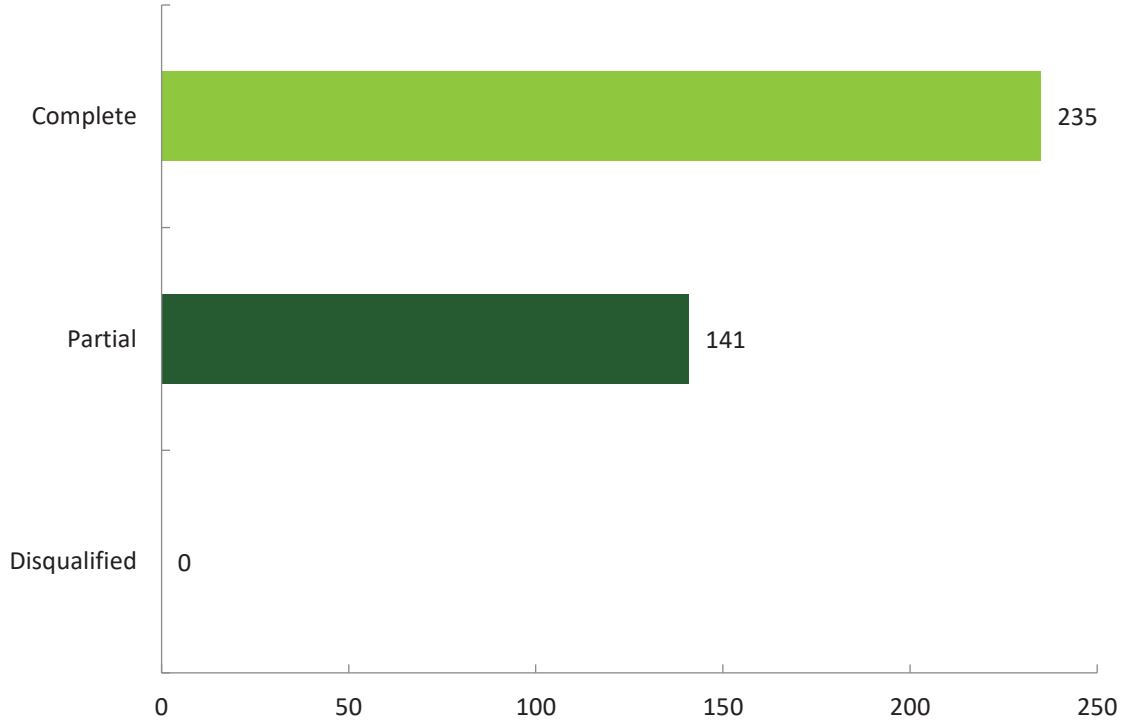
Conclusion

The Phase 2 pop-up engagement events provided focused, place-based input that helped clarify community priorities for parks and recreation investments in Liberty Lake. This feedback will inform refinements to the Capital Improvement Program and support a balanced, community-driven approach to future park and recreation projects.



Appendix C: Community Survey Report

Response Statistics



	Count	Percent
Complete	235	62.5
Partial	141	37.5
Disqualified	0	0
Totals	**376**	

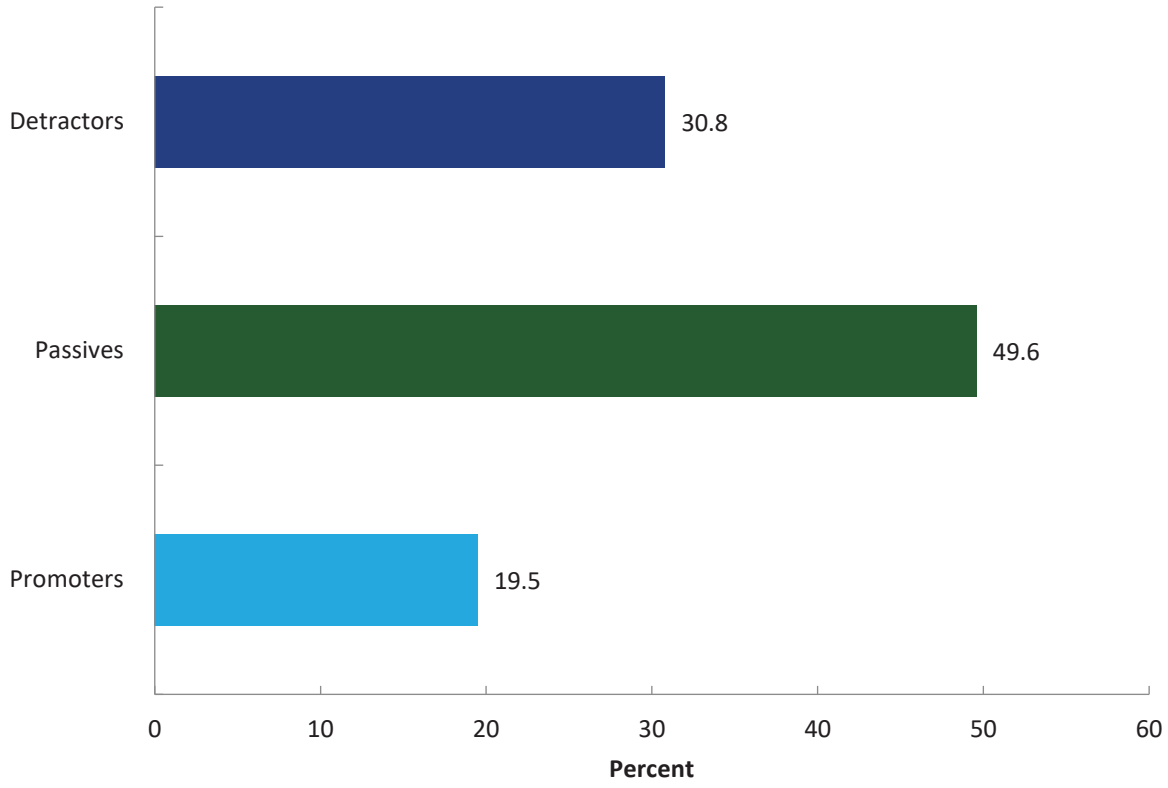
Total Responses

1. How would you rate the overall quality of each of these aspects of Liberty Lake's parks and recreation system?

	Excellent		Pretty good		Neutral		Could use work		Bad		Not sure/No opinion		Responses
	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count
Natural features and open space	96	31.3 %	168	54.7 %	21	6.8 %	19	6.2 %	2	0.7 %	1	0.3 %	307
Walking paths	97	36.2 %	135	50.4 %	16	6.0 %	18	6.7 %	1	0.4 %	1	0.4 %	268
Accessibility: accommodation for those with disabilities & impairments	44	16.1 %	74	27.0 %	38	13.9 %	36	13.1 %	4	1.5 %	78	28.5 %	274
Shelters for picnics, shade, or outdoor gatherings	50	18.4 %	118	43.4 %	34	12.5 %	55	20.2 %	8	2.9 %	7	2.6 %	272
Biking paths	52	19.5 %	107	40.1 %	42	15.7 %	30	11.2 %	6	2.2 %	30	11.2 %	267
Sport courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball)	60	21.9 %	121	44.2 %	36	13.1 %	26	9.5 %	4	1.5 %	27	9.9 %	274
Sport fields (casual soccer, football)	43	15.9 %	106	39.3 %	44	16.3 %	24	8.9 %	7	2.6 %	46	17.0 %	270
Youth athletic fields (baseball or softball)	42	15.3 %	84	30.7 %	52	19.0 %	23	8.4 %	10	3.6 %	63	23.0 %	274

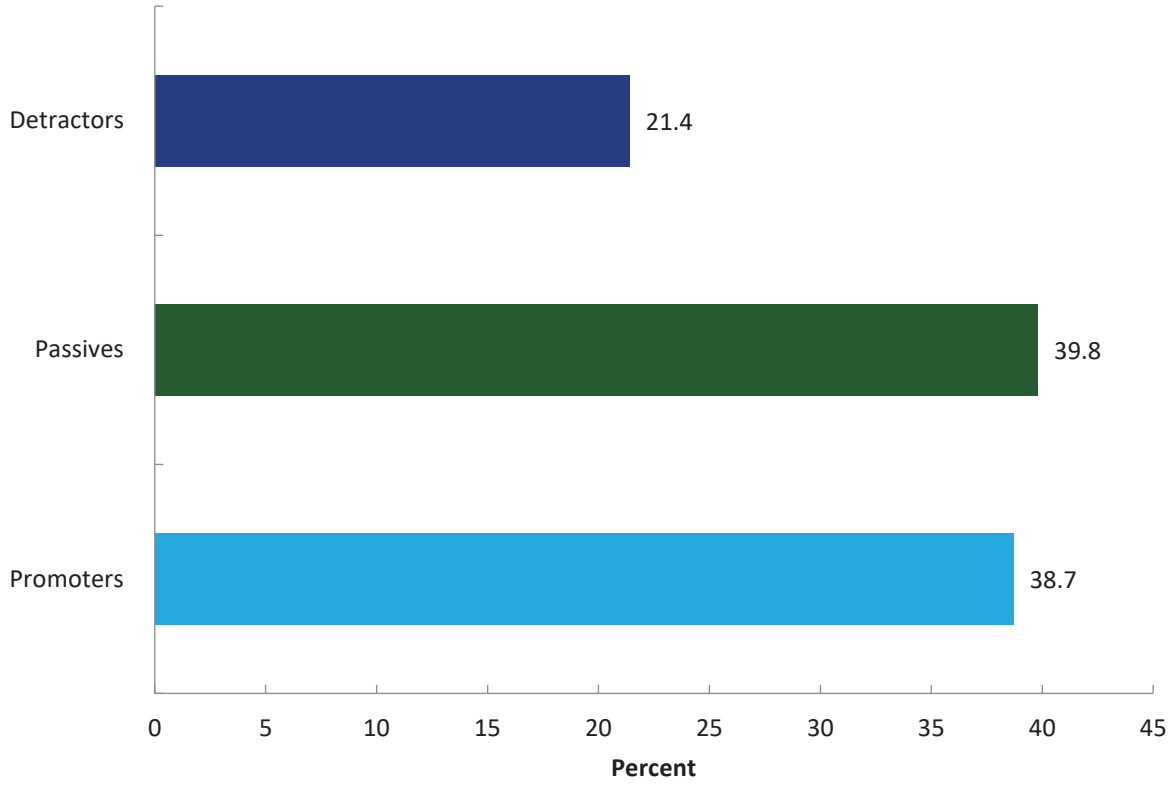
Educational enrichment activities (historical or environmental signage)	18	6.7%	54	20.0 %	68	25.2 %	75	27.8 %	7	2.6 %	48	17.8 %	270
Skatepark and skate facilities	31	11.6 %	88	33.0 %	53	19.9 %	22	8.2 %	3	1.1 %	70	26.2 %	267
OVERALL: Rate the AMOUNT of the above amenities to meet community needs	43	15.8 %	141	51.6 %	37	13.6 %	42	15.4 %	6	2.2 %	4	1.5 %	273
OVERALL: Rate the condition and quality of the above amenities	45	16.7 %	157	58.1 %	31	11.5 %	33	12.2 %	2	0.7 %	2	0.7 %	270

2. We want Liberty Lake's parks and recreation facilities to be accessible to residents of all ages and abilities. This includes those with disabilities, children, seniors, etc. Rate how well we're currently doing.



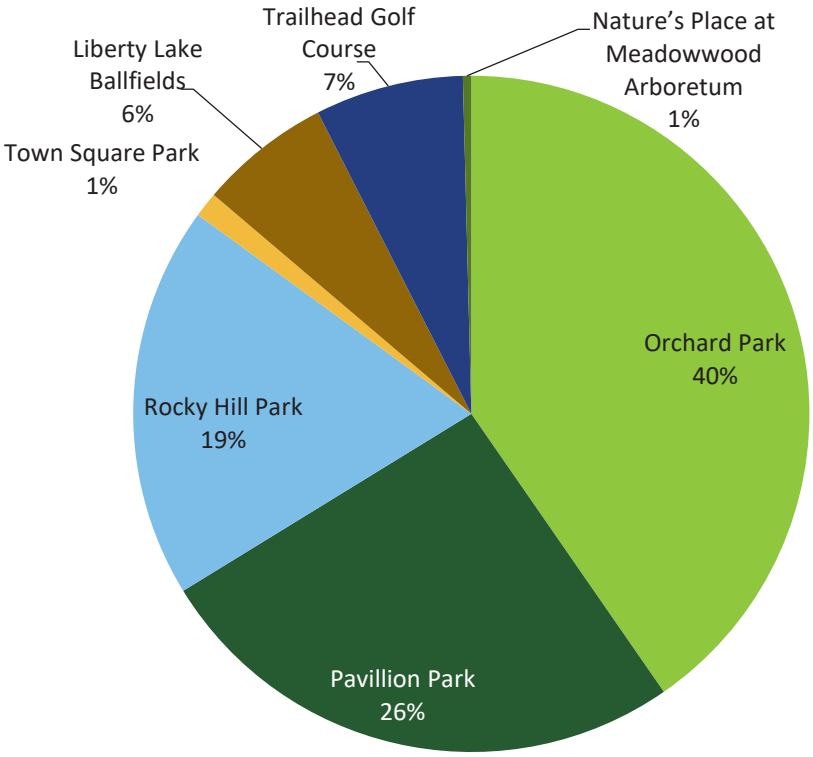
Value	Percent	Count
Detractors	30.8%	82
Passives	49.6%	132
Promoters	19.5%	52
	Totals	**266**

3. We want Liberty Lake's parks and recreational offerings to be accessible to residents of all income levels. Rate how well we're currently doing.



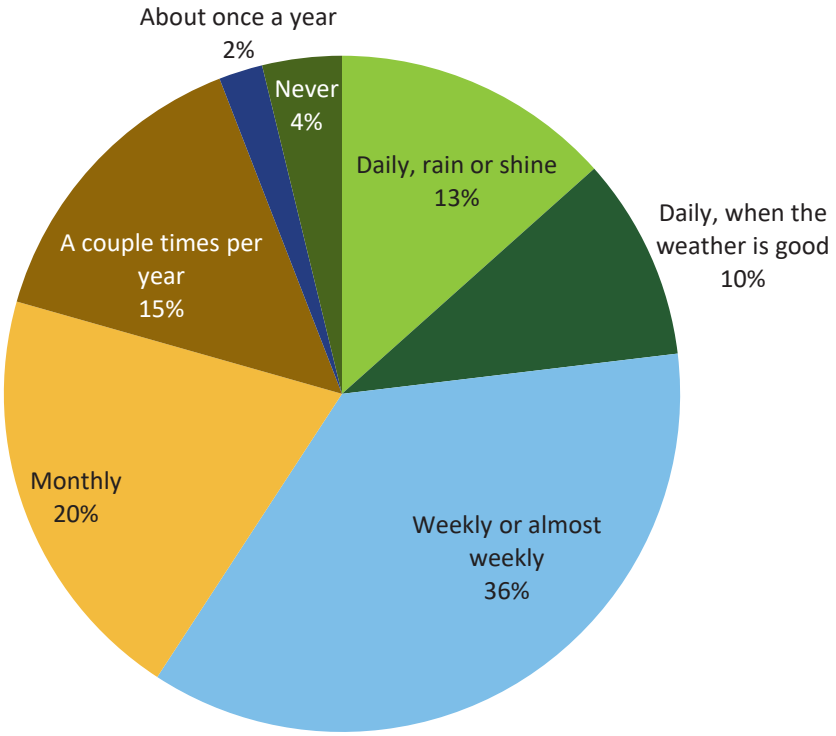
Value	Percent	Count
Detractors	21.4%	57
Passives	39.8%	106
Promoters	38.7%	103
	Totals	**266**

4.Which public park is closest to your home?



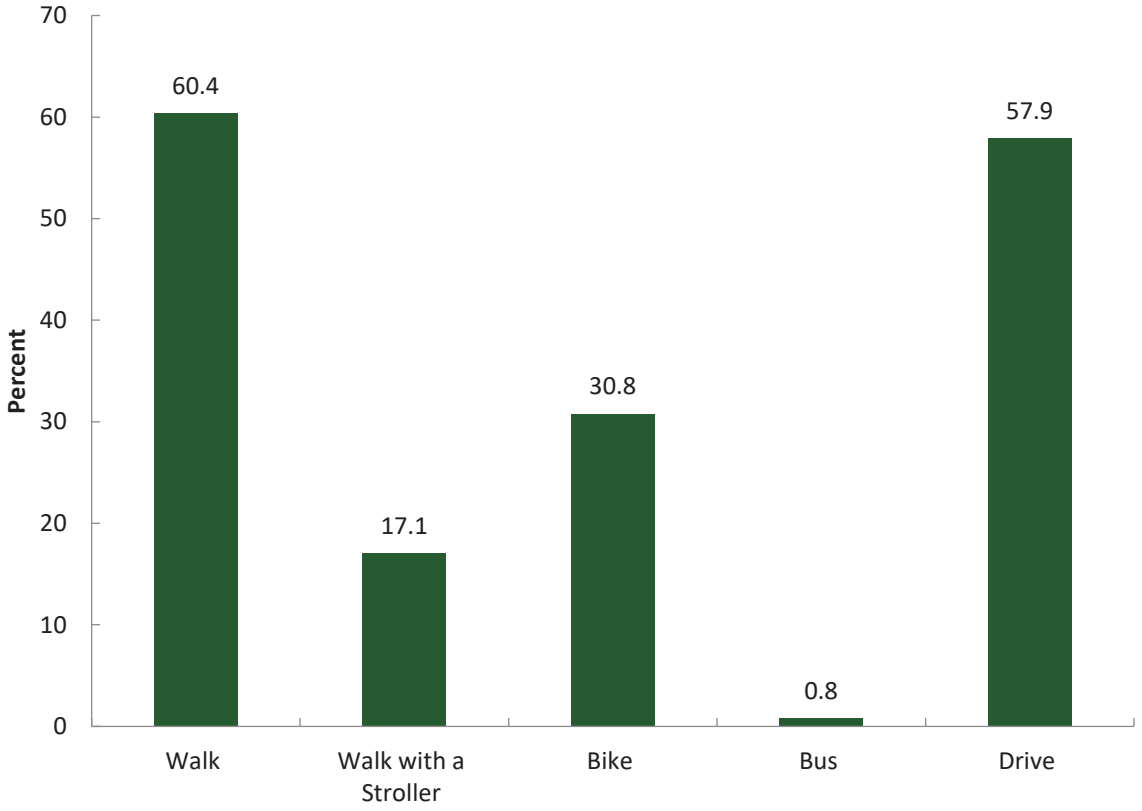
Value	Percent	Count
Orchard Park	40.4%	103
Pavillion Park	25.9%	66
Rocky Hill Park	18.8%	48
Town Square Park	1.2%	3
Liberty Lake Ballfields	6.3%	16
Trailhead Golf Course	7.1%	18
Nature's Place at Meadowwood Arboretum	0.4%	1
	Totals	**255**

5. How often do you visit the park closest to your home? Choose the most accurate option.



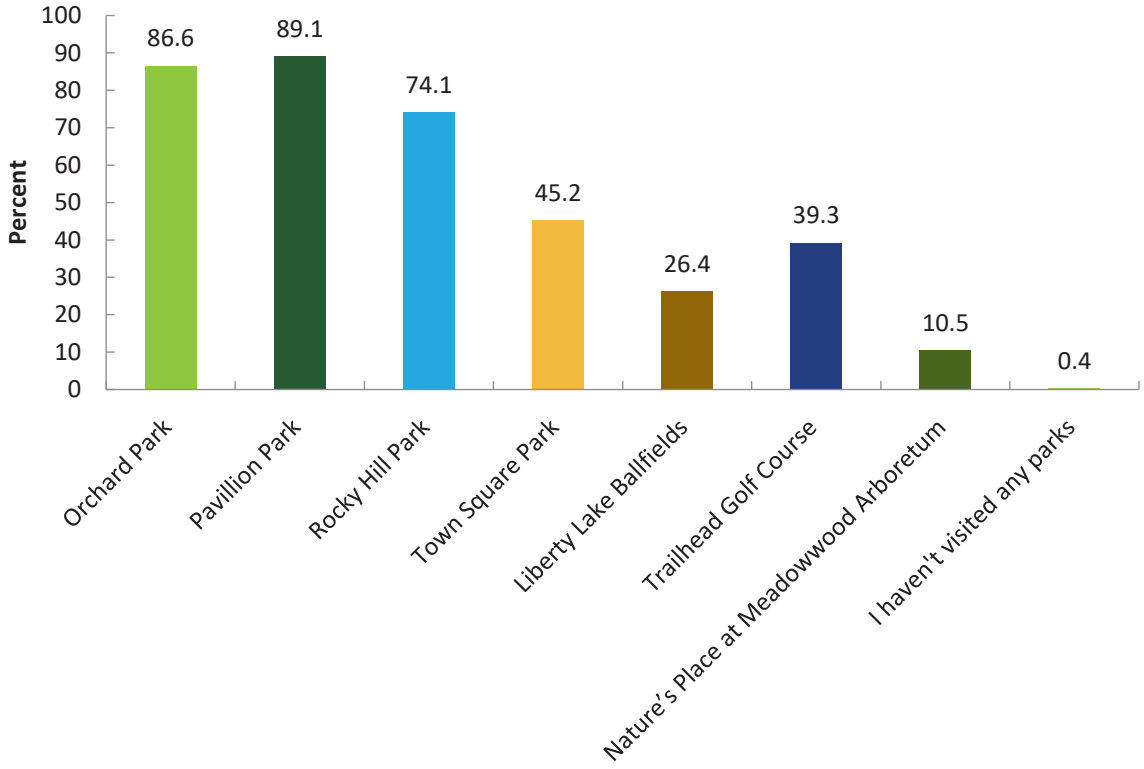
Value	Percent	Count
Daily, rain or shine	13.4%	32
Daily, when the weather is good	9.7%	23
Weekly or almost weekly	36.1%	86
Monthly	20.2%	48
A couple times per year	14.7%	35
About once a year	2.1%	5
Never	3.8%	9
	Totals	**238**

6. How are you most likely to travel to parks in Liberty Lake? Select any that apply.



Value	Percent	Count
Walk	60.4%	145
Walk with a Stroller	17.1%	41
Bike	30.8%	74
Bus	0.8%	2
Drive	57.9%	139

7. Which parks have you or members of your household visited in the past year? Select all that apply.

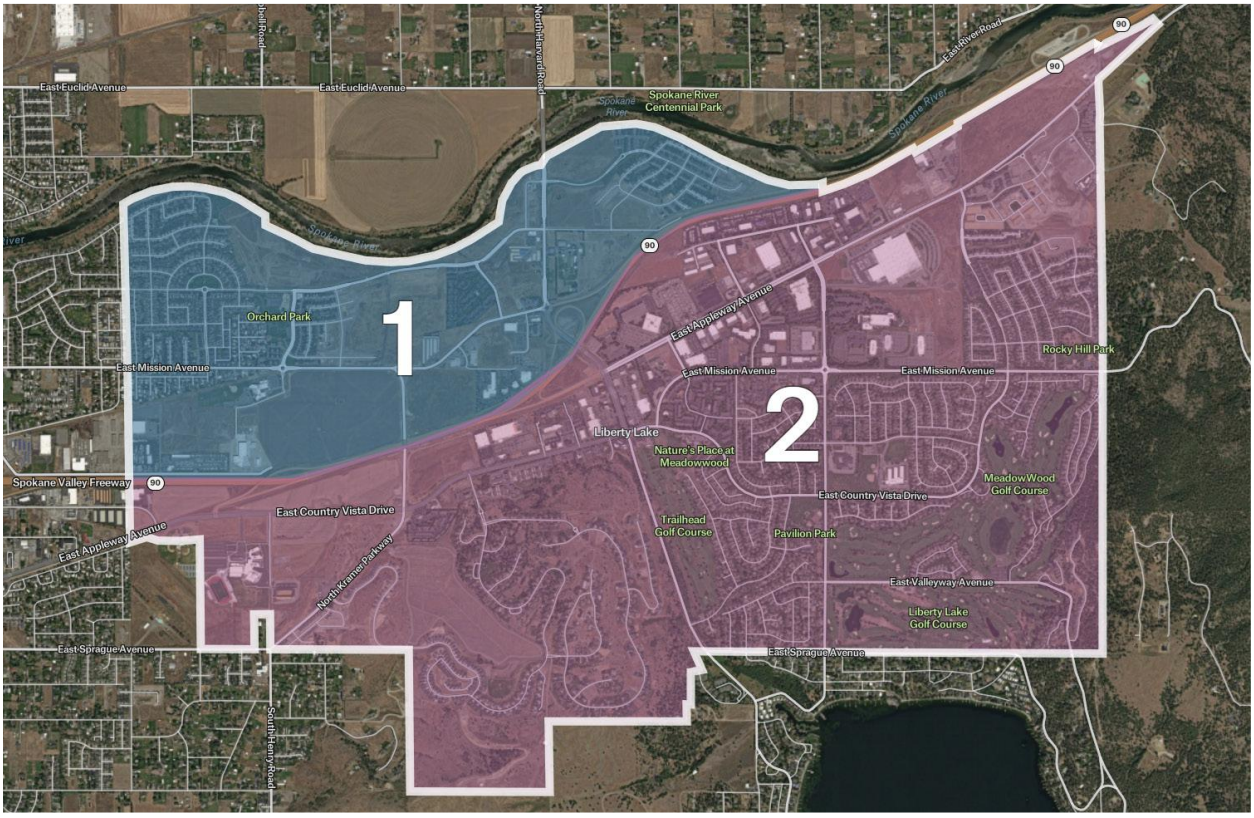


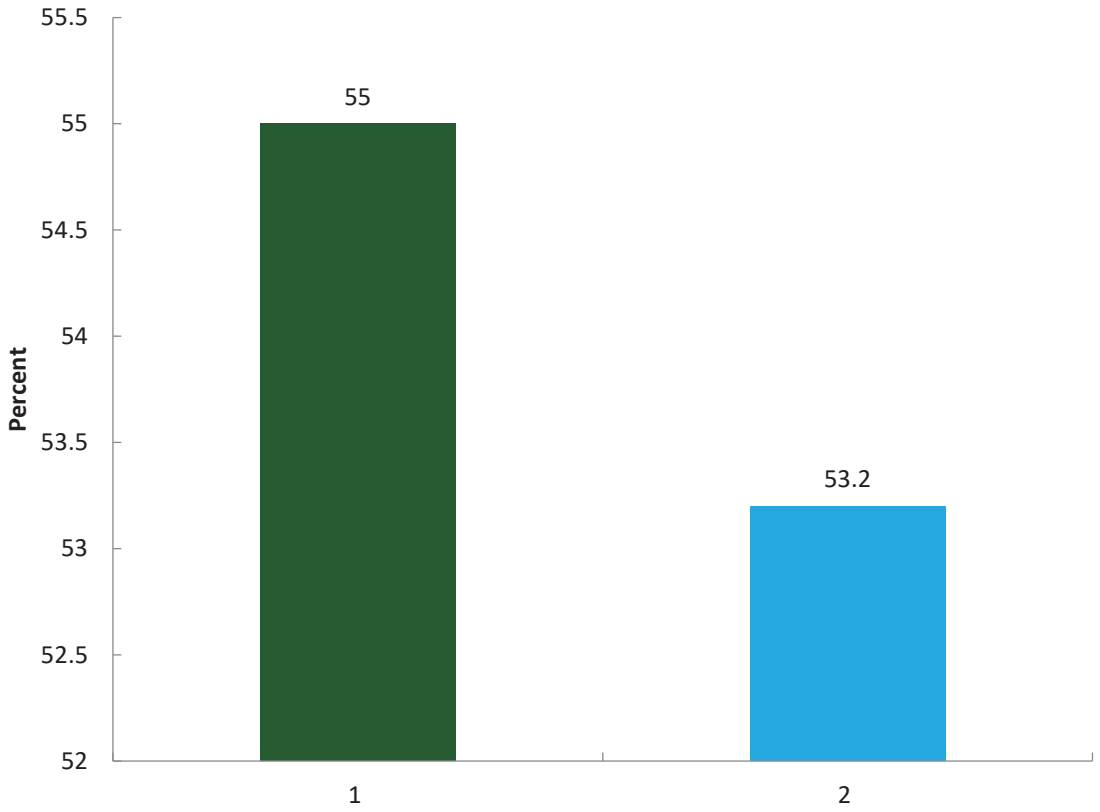
Value	Percent	Count
Orchard Park	86.6%	207
Pavillion Park	89.1%	213
Rocky Hill Park	74.1%	177
Town Square Park	45.2%	108
Liberty Lake Ballfields	26.4%	63
Trailhead Golf Course	39.3%	94
Nature's Place at Meadowwood Arboretum	10.5%	25
I haven't visited any parks	0.4%	1

8. Are there parks in this list you either don't know about, haven't visited before, or don't prefer? Only select an option for those that apply.

	I don't know this park		I know this park but have never visited		I have been but don't prefer it		Responses
	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	
Orchard Park	28.6%	8	17.9%	5	53.6%	15	28
Pavillion Park	7.4%	2	14.8%	4	77.8%	21	27
Rocky Hill Park	30.6%	11	38.9%	14	30.6%	11	36
Town Square Park	64.6%	62	15.6%	15	19.8%	19	96
Liberty Lake Ballfields	59.0%	62	28.6%	30	12.4%	13	105
Trailhead Golf Course	29.4%	25	58.8%	50	11.8%	10	85
Nature's Place at Meadowwood Arboretum	82.9%	136	10.4%	17	6.7%	11	164
Totals				**541**			

9. What area(s) of town lack access to public parks and recreation spaces? Select any areas that apply. Use the map below to answer.





Value	Percent	Count
1	55.0%	60
2	53.2%	58

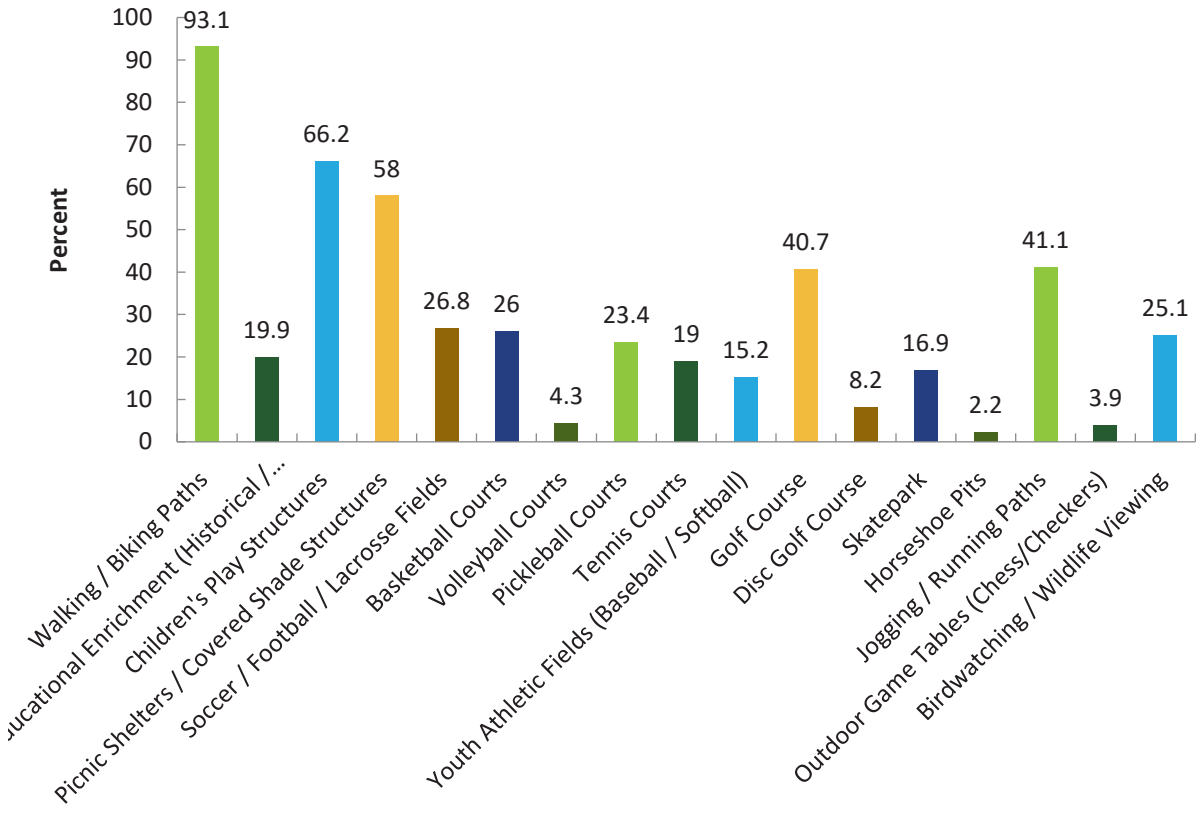
10. Which recreational trails do you/your household use in Liberty Lake?

	This is my preferred trail		I use this trail		I have used this trail		I don't use this trail		I don't know of this trail		Responses
	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	
Centennial Trail	23.9%	52	33.9%	74	28.9%	63	12.8%	28	0.5%	1	218
Liberty Lake Regional Trail	9.3%	20	25.2%	54	29.4%	63	15.4%	33	20.6%	44	214
Trails at Saltese Uplands Conservation Area	6.7%	14	23.3%	49	29.0%	61	20.0%	42	21.0%	44	210
Totals						**642**					

11. If you prefer other trails not listed above, please list them here.

ResponseID	Response
55	Liberty lake county park trail system, Iiler creek, dishman hills, mt spokane state park
68	Disabled - walk only where the ground is mostly flat.
86	McKenzie
135	Beacon Hill
202	If they were safer we may use them.
213	Mackenzie
238	Golf cart path on country vista
244	All non vehicular paths
280	liberty lake county park
318	Appleway Trail
373	Legacy Ridge trails

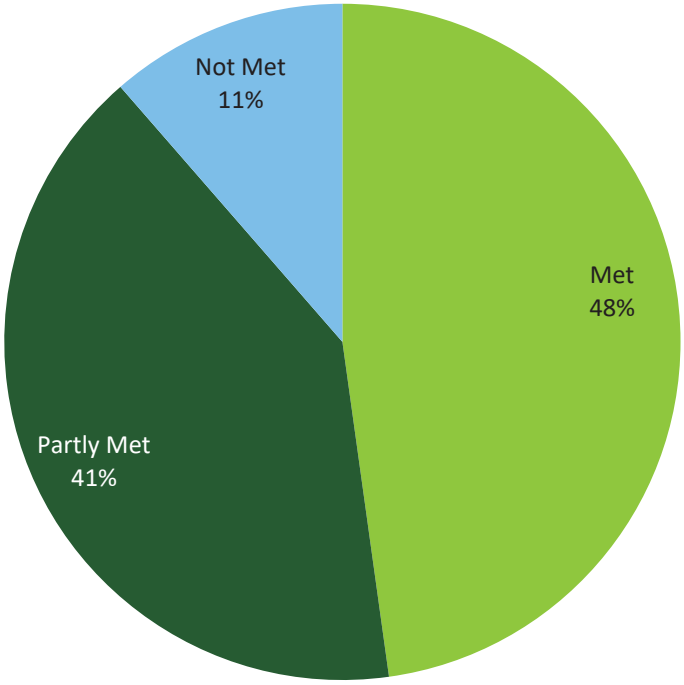
12. What types of recreational facilities have you/your household used in the past year? Select all that apply.



Value	Percent	Count
Walking / Biking Paths	93.1%	215
Educational Enrichment (Historical / Environmental)	19.9%	46
Children's Play Structures	66.2%	153
Picnic Shelters / Covered Shade Structures	58.0%	134
Soccer / Football / Lacrosse Fields	26.8%	62
Basketball Courts	26.0%	60
Volleyball Courts	4.3%	10
Pickleball Courts	23.4%	54

Tennis Courts	19.0%	44
Youth Athletic Fields (Baseball / Softball)	15.2%	35
Golf Course	40.7%	94
Disc Golf Course	8.2%	19
Skatepark	16.9%	39
Horseshoe Pits	2.2%	5
Jogging / Running Paths	41.1%	95
Outdoor Game Tables (Chess/Checkers)	3.9%	9
Birdwatching / Wildlife Viewing	25.1%	58

13. Are your needs for programs/activities being met in the Liberty Lake parks system?



Value	Percent	Count
Met	47.8%	109
Partly Met	40.8%	93
Not Met	11.4%	26
	Totals	**228**

14. Which specific needs for programs/activities are not being met?

ResponseID	Response
30	We need more shelters, seating areas, playground at town square, pickleball courts
32	Programs for children with disabilities
35	Safety features & pump track
36	More events, more organized runs, music
39	More open natural area with trails
43	Dedicated pickle ball courts and an off leash dog park
45	Swimming
47	Pool
49	More sponsored community activities, a public pool
52	Sports for kids (not camps, but leagues)
53	Shade & picnic areas. More advanced/ interesting play structures.
57	Liberty lake needs a community pool and the new library is needed asap
61	Would like more activities for tweensactivity
66	more outdoor art programming; more local kid and adult active programs, something that bridges a generational divide between seniors and youth would be cool, a kickball league for adults that incorporates cup in hand was fun in other places I lived, more local youth programming where LL locals don't have to travel to other schools/park fields to play baseball, softball, soccer, etc
68	Swimming, swim lessons, aqua aerobics
69	I'd love to see more nstructured play / sports / activities - it seems parks always being used for skyhawks, little league, etc. and no space for just kid led activities.
81	Clean the bike lanes!!! My god they are atrocious.
85	Dedicated Pickleball courts would be a great addition
97	More adult recreation/ classes
98	Soccer field

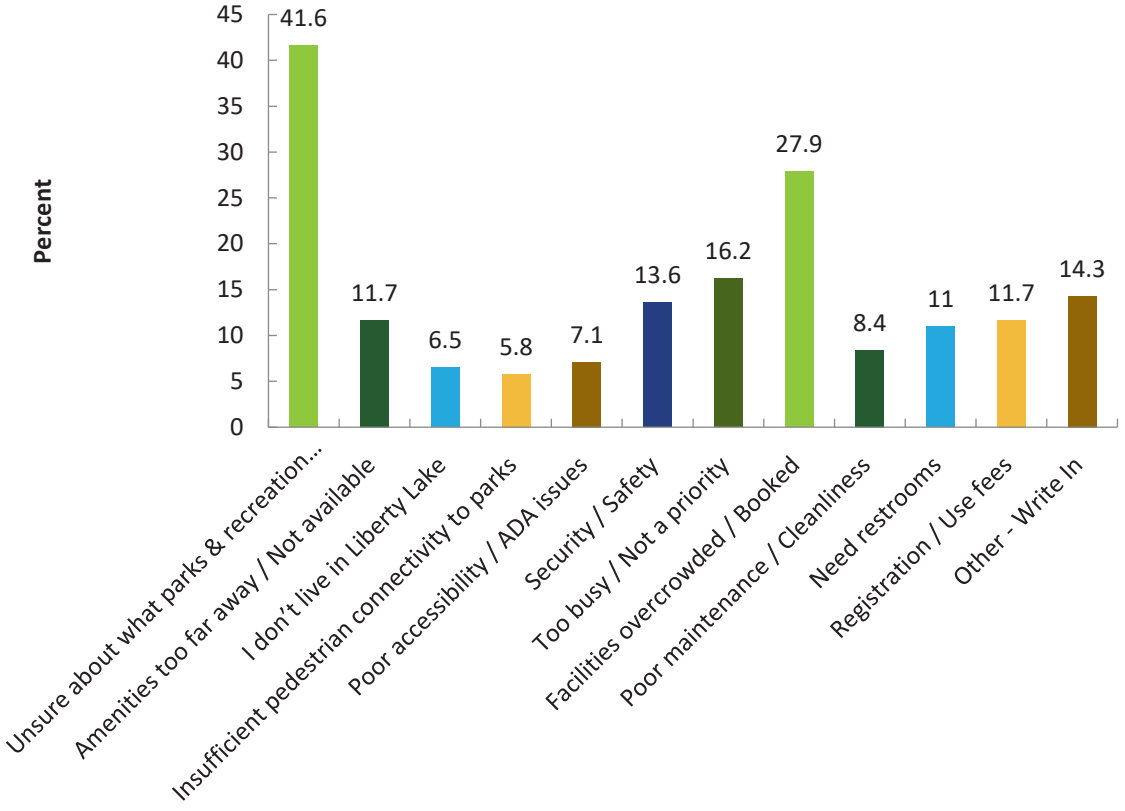
100	summer music
108	Pool
109	Community pool with swim lessons-BADLY needed.
112	Pool
114	Would like for there to be more
120	Pool
125	Swimming
126	Disc golf
127	More special needs programs/activities please
130	Turf sports fields
131	Inclusion and accessibility
133	Please make permanent pickleball courts (not the portable nets that are locked up)
135	We could use more pickleball courts other than orchard. Orchard desperately also need wind barriers.
140	Need more safe places to skate and scooter
145	More open air music
148	Day camps / summer camps
154	Too much manicured space, not enough natural area. Too much grass- high input, low output. We need to be planning for lower water use, and take better care of the trees.
156	Pool. The lake does not allow disability access at all
160	Aquatics
164	Public pool
165	more programs for homeschooling kids that don't fill up in 30 seconds or cost hundreds of dollars to attend
166	We need a pool.
175	Free kids lunches! Clean restrooms and available trash cans!
176	Soccer
178	Shade needed over playground equipment. Very dangerously hot, could cause burns.

185	Swimming and the desperate need for a pool, we are commuting to 61st and regal for kids swim classes and summer pool access
187	Swimming Pool
188	Pool!!!
189	Dog park
192	Outdoor games
198	Handicap accessible
202	Need a community pool/ aquatics/ indoor outdoor for family's year round like a ymca or something
206	Swimming pool
211	In door adult activity
219	Swimming
220	A pool would be great. We don't have easy access to the lake. The river can be unsafe.
222	Need public swimming pool
223	More bb courts
231	Public pool
235	Swimming Pool
238	Better walking path between Safeway and Ridgeline HS.
243	More activities for sensory seeking kids. Merry go rounds, see saws, spinning toys, bigger and taller slides
245	Swimming program.
248	Skyhawks is only acceptable for kids 6 and under who have not been exposed to sports before. Otherwise it's a joke/waste of money! We need our own sports/rec league for older kids and adult!
266	Kids programs and activities are limited to expensive Skyhawks programs
268	Need more park options or specifics for different age groups
269	More little kid sports or classes
273	Wish more parks had shade on the playgrounds! Equipment gets too hot.
274	Better soccer facilities

275	There could be more
280	adult activities
281	there needs to be more seating along the roads and paths
292	More walking paths
295	No swimming activities and limited baseball and soccer
297	Would love to have a place for kids to swim. More swings at parks, most don't have swings which kids love.
299	would enjoy more library activities
322	Organized Pickleball programs and leasons
323	Some nature activities for kids,
326	Trees! There are no parks with just trees and shady spots to sit and read. Or put up a hammock. All we have are open fields.
328	Needs more community activity and programs for all ages
335	Rude teens are taking over the parks and it makes it hard to bring kids of age there to enjoy the park.
338	Pre teen and teen opportunities for meeting and engaging with peers
339	Pool and aquatic center
344	Not enough open space and natural areas
346	The current parks are so overpopulated all the time. We need more, especially south of the freeway near legacy ridge.
349	Public pool since LL athletic club took theirs out
362	Outdoot swimming pool. Our family moved from an area that had several public swimming pools. Someone in our family has mobility challenges and swimming was an activity we did together. Liberty Lake has activities for most people but they are geared toward particular abilities.
373	senior adult activities
374	More baseball field. More dedicated pickleball courts
377	Swimming Pool
379	Would love a city pool
380	Swimming

381	Have not seen programs geared for kids under age of 2
383	More organized kid activities
392	Touch a truck should be during the weekend, not on a Friday.
393	Children's swim lessons/program
408	Bike path upkeep
409	We need a pool. Would love to have somewhere for kids to be on a future swim team too!
412	Not accounting for the growth of little league baseball and softball

15. What barriers keep you/your household from using Liberty Lake's parks and recreational facilities? Select all that apply.



Value	Percent	Count
Unsure about what parks & recreation programs are available	41.6%	64
Amenities too far away / Not available	11.7%	18
I don't live in Liberty Lake	6.5%	10
Insufficient pedestrian connectivity to parks	5.8%	9
Poor accessibility / ADA issues	7.1%	11
Security / Safety	13.6%	21

Too busy / Not a priority	16.2%	25
Facilities overcrowded / Booked	27.9%	43
Poor maintenance / Cleanliness	8.4%	13
Need restrooms	11.0%	17
Registration / Use fees	11.7%	18
Other - Write In	14.3%	22

Other - Write In	Count
County Park should be free	1
Don't use Orchard Park; too many kids and PB are crowded	1
I believe that a park does not need to be developed and have ball fields. We need to have some open space natural areas too	1
I would be at a poll 5x a week if available, possibly more.	1
Need a dog park so bad	1
Need more places to enjoy skate boards and scooters safely	1
Need more shade in Orchard Park	1
Need more shaded areas with view of play ground	1
Need restrooms year round like in CDA at McEuen park	1
Not enough shade. Poor bathroom maintenance.	1
Not enough water play activities for younger kids. The ones we have get really busy. It's harder for my family because our youngest son has autism and our can be difficult with large groups of children who don't understand him and his inability to communicate like them.	1
Open the restrooms longer during the year.	1
Play structures at pavilion too hot, no swings for kids; rocky hill has no splash pad or way for kids to cool off but play area is great and covered. Orchard park is great but lack of shade	1
Rocky hill could use more parking	1
Rocky hill park could use updating, equipment is often broken. Love the park space, but my son doesn't seem to enjoy the playground as much.	1
Smoking/vaping/profanity	1

Some parks need more shade and benches. Some parks don't even have a water fountain.	1
There are no trees … no nice pretty place to sit and enjoy nature. I have to go far away to find a park with trees not just open fields.	1
Unsupervised disrespectful teenagers abusing play structures.	1
Wish there was a LARGER public access to the river on the north side of Harvard and the river! It used to be GREAT! Now you can barely get down there and there are homeless in RVs dumping sewage on the ground! I would LOVE to see picnic tables there! I LOVE the large rocks that make a good swimming spot!!	1
a continue bike lane that connect to centennial trail would be nice in the whole city	1
when mowing the cuttings are let behind on paths and lead to growth of grass/weeds on paths	1
Totals	**22**

16. Please share one place, event, attribute, or something you love about Liberty Lake's parks system.

ResponseID	Response
11	Golf
30	Walking trails are awesome! Wish there were restrooms open year round at Pavilion Park for us old walking folks
32	Loved concerts in the parks.
35	Seeing neighbors & friends
37	Movies at Pavilion park
39	Parks are inviting and well maintained.
40	Liberty Lake Ballfields. Wish we had a larger complex similar to this somewhere in LL.
41	We have a multitude of parks, green space, trails and nearby destinations to explore & enjoy!
43	Holidays at Pavilion park, Xmas at Orchard Park, bike path to Centennial Trail
44	water parks
45	Labor Day Concert
46	they are well kept.
49	More accessibility for people with disabilities. Beef a public pool structure. More events that are fitness or outdoors oriented for groups. I am willing to lead this effort.
52	Love Orchard Park. Appreciate a fun play structure for kids and plenty of shade for parents.
53	The ability to walk, bike or golf cart there year round!
55	Live music in the summer
57	The community events and the goats
61	The fact you all try to make it better for everyone is greatly appreciated.
64	Events in pavillion park
66	when I see youth exploring nature, digging holes, getting dirty - and not being led by adults on how or what to play

68	I loved the music in Town Square Park and the food trucks.
69	I love the snack shack at Rocky Hill Park.
77	Bike Trails are great
80	Love Barefoot in the Parks free activities, love the new shade over rocky hill park. The parks are all beautiful and well maintained.
81	Saltese uplands
84	Farmers Market in Town Square
86	Commitment to art
89	I prefer events and shelters to be liberty lake residents.
96	The parks are well maintained
97	Farmers market is nice
99	Walking, running
106	Movies in the park, city fireworks, dunk city council members, youth baseball, all youth sports practicing in the parks during the week, etc…
107	Barefoot in the Park
109	Maintained parks
110	Lots of parks, variety, well kept
114	We love everything about Orchard Park, especially the splash pad in summer and the Christmas lights even in winter. We love the story walk too!
116	Would be awesome if we had an indoor year round aquatic center. I know the old proposal 1-2 decade [outdoor] didn't work out, but indoor now that LLAC closed down their pool would be great..
118	I love that the parks have a strong community feel. They aren't overcrowded, but everyone that is there is really kind and pleasant to talk to.
119	I'd love a public pool!
125	Rocky Hill (especially new shade covers)
126	I love that park are embedded in neighborhoods
127	That we have an amazing hiking trail and multiple park options!
130	Good grounds care.
131	The parks are well maintained and very clean

132	The food truck and music events at the parks on summer evenings. Great community connections! Sometimes too many bees
133	Please make permanent pickleball courts!! I don't know how to access the portable nets and that's too hard. I would love to play more pickleball if there were permanent outdoor courts
134	4th of July fireworks in the park
135	Love the courts at Rocky Hill for Pickleball.
140	Well maintained
144	Clean and safe
145	Pavilion Park music
148	We love Orchard Park's splash pad, gets pretty crowded. Would love to see Pavillion Parks structure and splash pad get an upgrade
150	4th of July, music at Pavilion Park and fireworks! Also the farmers market
151	Pavilion park activities… town square.. market… walking/biking paths..our Liberty Lake City employees/ police department.. grounds keeping.. you are the best… thank you
154	Walking paths
156	The goats at Rocky Hill Park are definitely the best. I also really love the tribute to the fallen soldiers.
159	Connectivity and ease of access
160	We have a little bit of everything and love that they have kept such open green space. I believe a pool (either indoors or outdoors) would complete the system. It is hard having to travel into Spokane to use community pools when the weather is hot and deal with the crowds.
161	We love having Orchard Park in our backyard! The kids love the splash pad, there's lots of open space for other activities, sidewalks are great for walking/walking our dog, our youngest loves the stories that get put in by the sidewalk, we love the Christmas lights (and hope they return)!
163	The park staff is amazing. They work hard every morning we see themon our morning walk.
164	Christmas lights in orchard park
166	We like pickleball and basketball courts, and the children's playgrounds.
168	I live a block from Pavilion Park. We go to almost every event and we use the park or the paths around it several times a week in certain times of year. We also love Winter Glow at Orchard Park.

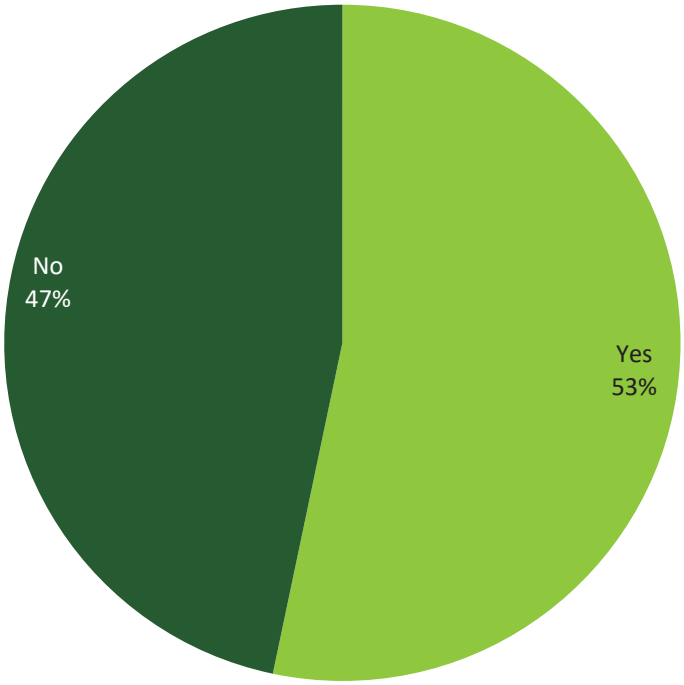
170	Love the PB courts at Rocky Hill and love the open space
171	We love all the events at Pavilion Park (movies, barefoot in the park)
174	I love that there are businesses by Orchard Park. It feels all inclusive. You can grab lunch or ice cream and then hit the park. There's a lot to do there as well. It's our favorite.
176	Orchard park is almost too busy so we avoid it now.
177	Everything is well thought out, clean and different enough to enjoy at all levels
178	Love our parks in Liberty lake. I think more shade is needed over playgrounds to prevent children from getting burned on the equipment. Love all the movies and concerts in the parks and events that bring community together.
180	I like the play structures for multiple age ranges
182	Winter Glow Christmas display at Orchard Park
185	The centennial trail is a gem in our city and we use it almost daily
187	Our parks are nicely maintained
188	Can walk from park to park. Love events. Love seeing families and children enjoying and using the parks Love saying hi. Could use dog park in town
190	We have great parks! I love that my kids can just walk or ride bikes over to the park whenever to meet friends.
192	Get rid of the woodchips and replace woth rubber
198	I do love they have added signage for non verbal kids at orchard park.
202	Movies in the park are fun for families
206	First... this is symbolism over substance. We need a pool... just a pool!
208	The parks here are really well kept and beautiful.
210	Winter Glow is great. Our favorite parks for kids are Orchard and Pavilion.
211	Summer concert at pavilions
219	Walking trails.
220	We live very close to Orchard Park and truly appreciate this beautiful park. It's one of the reasons we moved to our community. I wish we didn't feel so disconnected from the rest of this town.
232	We love rocky hill park! The play area and big open fields are great for flying kites. Our daughter loves running around rock hilll and exploring. Great for creative play. We have used the comminity garden in the past too!

235	I really love that we have multiple parks for kids included some smaller neighborhood ones like Pumphouse park and the one on Blue Ridge Ave.
238	Good walking paths in the older part of town.
241	There are already a ton of options, we don't need more money put into more.
242	There are some great playgrounds
243	My special needs kids love the goats at rocky hill park!
245	The parks are usually in a wide open space with lots of room to play or picnic
248	That there is still plenty of open space for potential growth to meet the citys needs!
255	My kids love the skate park I love the nature access
259	We greatly appreciate the cleanliness/upkeep of all the liberty lake parks! We also love attending the Winter Glow Spectacular in Orchard Park every year, but since that is being discontinued, it would be great if the city was able to establish an alternative winter lights event. Maybe a neighborhood candy-cane lane?
260	Love having multiple parks in town to use
266	I love that we have several different options of parks to visit, even if we have to drive to visit some of them.
267	Thank you for keeping Trailhead Golf course.
270	I appreciate the wide bike and walking paths
271	Close to most housing areas and very accessible.
272	Movies @ Pavilion Park
273	We love living near orchard park and go almost every day sometimes more than once a day! Has so many fun amenities. Would love shade not just from the pavilion coverage.
274	Rocky Park is quiet and well-kept enjoy it each and every day the other parks are overcrowded and we need to expand towards the West we need a designated soccer and baseball fields for the future somewhere in Liberty Lake a complex
275	Love all our parks, just feel that the County Park should be free to the public to utilize as our tax dollars go to it.
279	The restrooms are not open early enough in the spring and close to early in the fall!! They should be open in March-Nov
280	paved trail system around meadow wood
281	trees
285	I love it all. So much to do, so walkable and convenient

291	The quantity of little parks is incredible. Love little bear park and 5 finger park and the other little neighborhood gems tucked away. Also love the big trees in pavillion park.
292	Proximity to my home
295	Love Winter Glow at Orchard park!$
297	We love the parks. I like that there are events at Pavillion park like the movies in the park, fireworks, etc
299	really well maintained
301	I love the trails and the tree lined streets.
306	Love the farmers market every saturday at Town Square
307	We like music shows. We like picnic areas--need more tables and tree shaded areas.
308	We recently moved here, and the parks were a big attraction when we were looking.
309	Symphony
310	Different park for each day or if somewhere is busy, there are options!
322	Would love to see a dedicated Pickleball facility, not shared tennis facility with a minimum of 8 courts.
323	The use fee for liberty lake regional park seems very high, and seasonal pass is high too.
325	I love the prioritization of covered areas and enrichment/structures for kids under 3!
326	I love the farmers market! I also love the garage sale event :) I love how many parks are around us but not happy that they are a play structure and a field. We need some trees! :)
333	Movies
334	We love youth sports programs like Skyhawks
335	They have a nice clean bathrooms
336	I love how the parks are well maintained and clean (usually). I love that Orchard Park has businesses nearby, making it more of a destination we can spend the day enjoying.
338	We love the large splash pad at Orchard Park
342	Rocky Hill park, great for walking my dogs.
346	I love the updated parks, the shade at rocky is much appreciated
348	Barefoot in the park
349	All the things at pavillion like movies, barefoot, concerts, etc

353	We need a dog park so bad. The one at state line is okay.
355	Love the community focus!
359	Like the small parks through out Liberty Lake. We go to Pumphouse Park quite frequently.
362	When we have family with small children visit from out of town they enjoy the splash pad at Orchard Park.
363	Tennis Courts, Parks, Children's play structures, bike and walking paths.
364	The cover over the playground at rocky hill to keep it cool!
373	Beginning to provide activities for community
381	Loved the light festival at Orchard park and the fact that seating area in the parks I use have coverings.
384	Our family enjoys the small disc golf course.
387	Living near Pavillion park we walk there in the evening and have listened to movies and enjoyed the music.
391	Love the paths and trails around town between parks, we use these all the time. Love the access to so many parks, love the playgrounds and community events, love the skatepark although it is set up for expert users. Love the tennis courts although they are often in use.
392	My kid LOVES the splash pad and playground at Orchard Park. It is by far our favorite park around and the best splash pad in the area (Cda, post falls, Spokane)
399	We could connect the bike lane to the trails so make all the trails bike accessable, especially from Downtown area, that has Yokes annd Safeways, traffic is always very heavy
402	I love the splash pads.
408	Why did you not include half moon park? The trail along country vista from mission Ave on west end to pavilion park is in terrible condition for wheeled vehicles like bikes, strollers and wheelchairs.
409	That they are in walking or golf cart distance
412	The ballfield 1 little league field is nice

17. Do you or your children use the playground at Pavillion Park?



Value	Percent	Count
Yes	53.3%	131
No	46.7%	115
	Totals	**246**

18. Enter the number of children in your household using the Pavillion Park playground in these age groups. If an age group is not applicable, please leave it blank.

6 months to 23 months

ResponseID	Response
53	2
66	1
98	2
112	2
114	0
132	0
133	1
142	2
171	1
177	1
183	1
192	1
202	1
210	1
270	1
286	2
291	1
318	1
325	1
364	3
374	1

382	4
383	1
391	1
396	1
409	1

2 to 5 years old

ResponseID	Response
40	1
66	1
69	2
81	1
93	1
106	3
114	0
124	1
125	1
129	1
132	1
144	1
148	2
183	1
185	2
192	0
194	1
205	1

210	1
235	1
242	2
245	1
255	1
259	2
265	1
286	2
299	2
310	1
322	I
323	1
325	1
328	1
329	1
348	1
381	1
382	1
383	2
391	2
396	2

6 to 12 years old

ResponseID	Response
33	1
40	1
52	2

57	1
66	1
69	1
75	1
80	3
88	2
106	1
108	1
112	1
113	1
114	1
119	1
125	1
127	1
132	2
134	2
144	3
148	1
156	1
160	1
161	2
166	2
171	1
172	2
177	1
178	1
187	2

190	1
192	1
194	1
202	2
205	1
210	2
222	2
228	1
231	2
232	1
235	2
242	2
243	1
245	1
248	2
254	1
255	2
260	1
266	3
268	2
269	1
277	2
279	1
285	1
292	2
297	2
302	1

308	1
310	1
317	1
318	1
323	1
328	1
334	1
348	2
349	1
351	1
358	1
359	1
363	1
364	2
365	1
379	2
380	3
381	1
382	2
383	1
392	1
395	1
406	1
409	1
412	2

13 and older

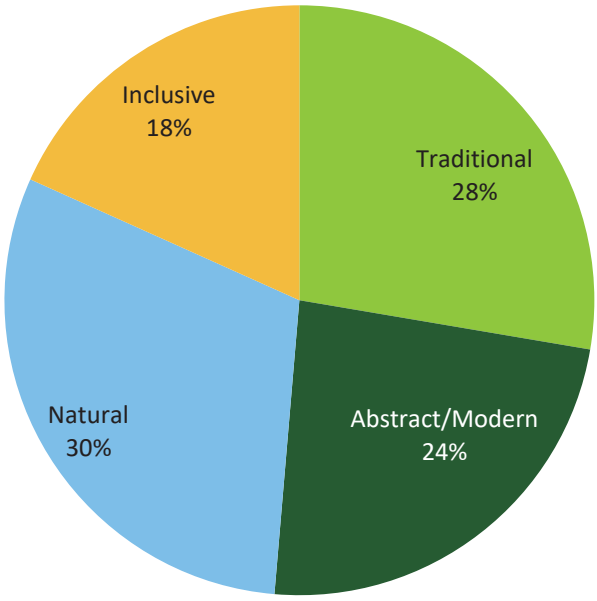
ResponseID	Response
36	3
48	2
52	1
53	2
57	2
66	0
98	2
108	1
109	2
110	1
112	1
114	0
116	3
127	1
133	3
139	1
142	1
147	2
151	2
156	1
161	1
176	2
178	2
184	1
192	2

202	2
206	1
222	2
223	1
228	1
234	3
235	1
243	1
266	1
268	1
271	2
275	3
277	6
279	1
285	1
295	2
308	1
334	1
348	1
349	1
351	2
355	1
370	3
374	1
380	2
382	1
392	1

395	2
402	2
406	1
409	1
412	1

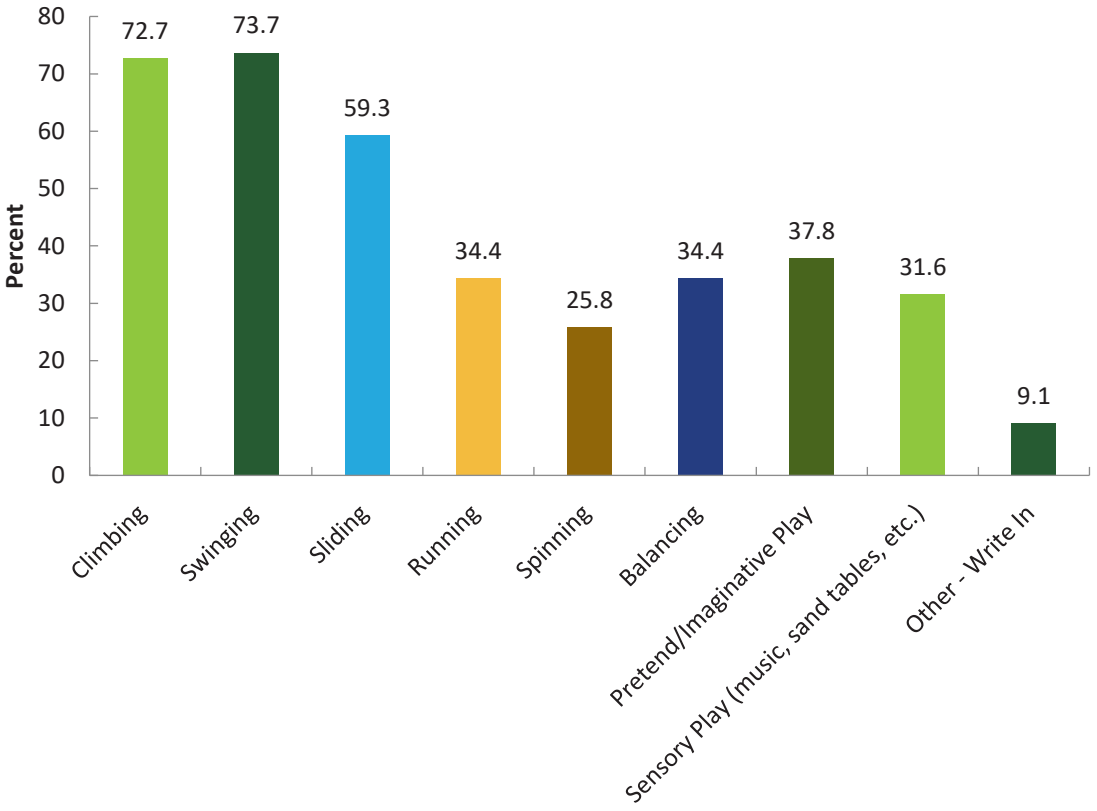
19. What general style of equipment would you most like to see for the Pavillion Park playground? For further context:

- **Traditional:** Classic structures like slides, swings, monkey bars, and seesaws. Usually made from metal or plastic, these are familiar and often designed for specific age groups.
- **Abstract/Modern:** Creative, sculptural equipment with unique shapes that encourage open-ended play. Often less prescriptive, allowing kids to climb, balance, and explore in their own ways.
- **Natural:** Incorporates elements like logs, boulders, sand, water, and plants. Aims to blend with the environment and foster connection with nature through tactile and imaginative play.
- **Inclusive:** Designed to be accessible to children of all abilities. Features ramps, sensory panels, and ground-level activities to ensure everyone can participate equally.



Value	Percent	Count
Traditional	27.7%	62
Abstract/Modern	23.7%	53
Natural	30.4%	68
Inclusive	18.3%	41
	Totals	**224**

20. What type of play options do the kids in your household or that you know enjoy most? Select your top three answers.

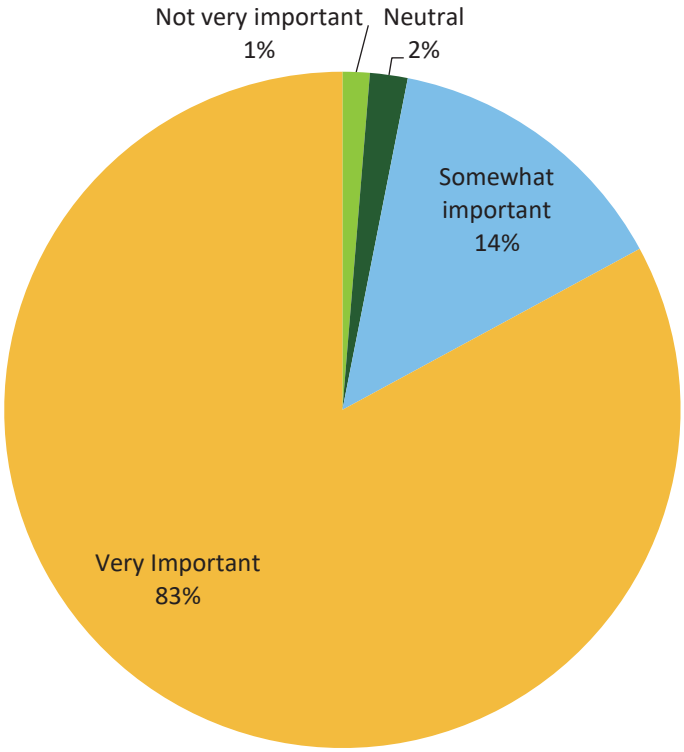


Value	Percent	Count
Climbing	72.7%	152
Swinging	73.7%	154
Sliding	59.3%	124
Running	34.4%	72
Spinning	25.8%	54
Balancing	34.4%	72
Pretend/Imaginative Play	37.8%	79
Sensory Play (music, sand tables, etc.)	31.6%	66

Other - Write In	9.1%	19

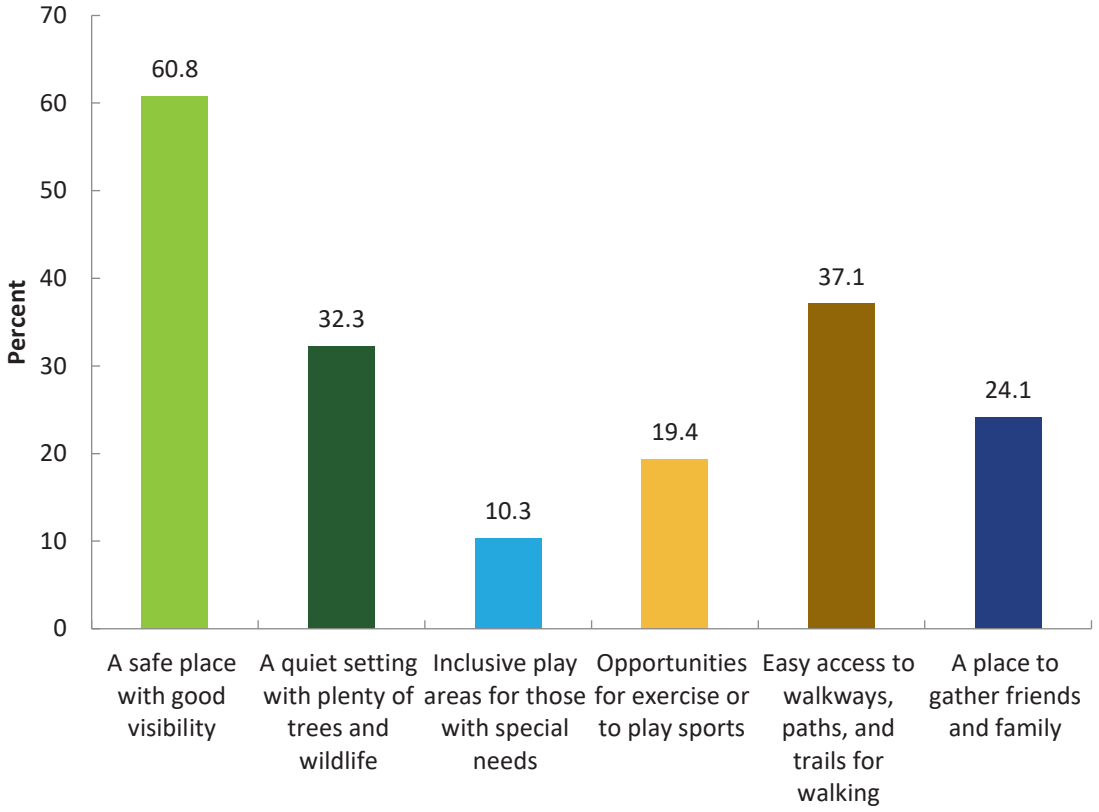
Other - Write In	Count
Dog like to run around	1
I think sand volleyball and Crossnet would get used by teens and adults. We like to play, too.	1
I'm a senior citizen, no kids	1
Nature: Sandbox, water play, etc	1
No kids	1
None	1
Obstacle course	1
Question 18 and 19 are all of the above. Different kids in the same family need different things.	1
Sledding	1
The splash pad!!! Use daily in the summer	1
Water features	1
Water park	1
Water play	1
Water play of any kind!	1
Water play, swimming	1
Water play.	1
We have no children by choice	1
We use the outdoor exercise equipment even though people say it is not used. I particularly love the rowing machine. We avoid weekends. Use during the week.	1
swimming, jumping, riding bike	1
Totals	**19**

21. How important do you think parks and recreation are to the overall quality of life in Liberty Lake?



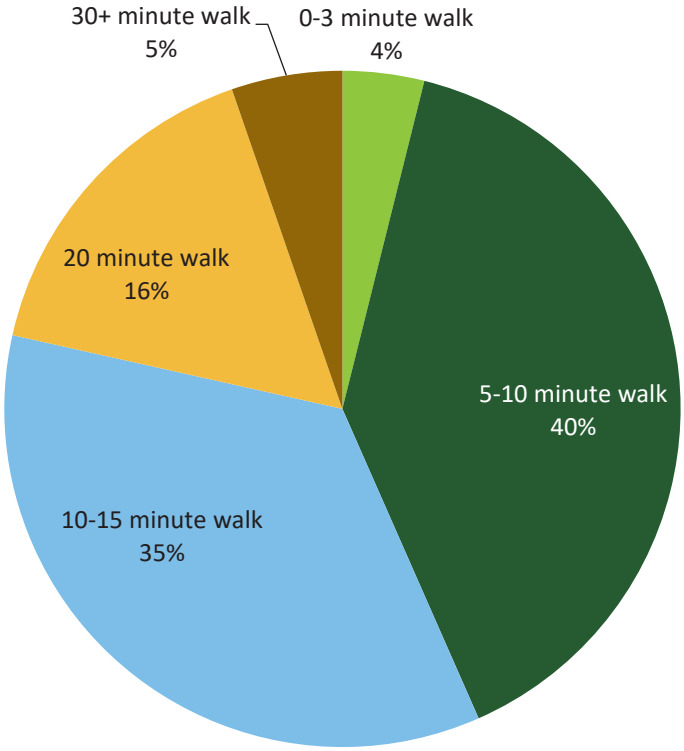
Value	Percent	Count
Not very important	1.3%	3
Neutral	1.8%	4
Somewhat important	14.0%	32
Very Important	82.9%	189
	Totals	**228**

22. When considering a park visit, what is most important to you/your household? Select your top two priorities.



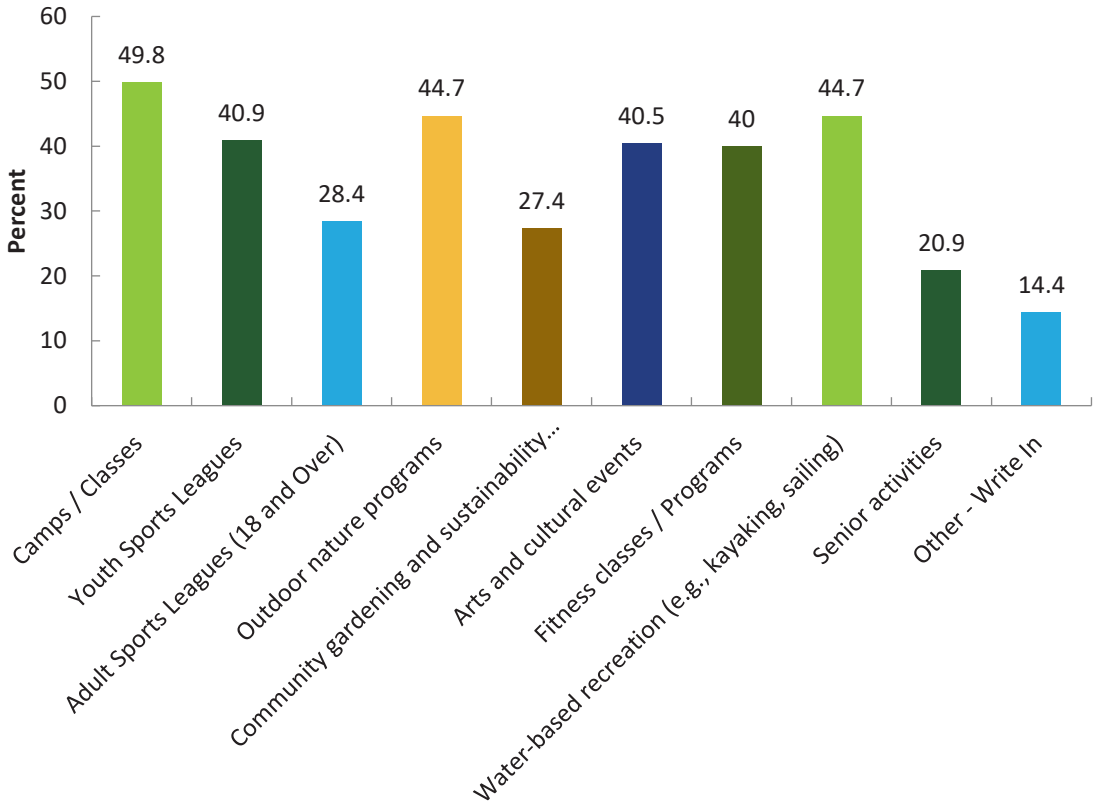
Value	Percent	Count
A safe place with good visibility	60.8%	141
A quiet setting with plenty of trees and wildlife	32.3%	75
Inclusive play areas for those with special needs	10.3%	24
Opportunities for exercise or to play sports	19.4%	45
Easy access to walkways, paths, and trails for walking	37.1%	86
A place to gather friends and family	24.1%	56

23. How long would you be willing to walk to a park?



Value	Percent	Count
0-3 minute walk	3.9%	9
5-10 minute walk	39.5%	90
10-15 minute walk	35.1%	80
20 minute walk	16.2%	37
30+ minute walk	5.3%	12
	Totals	**228**

24. What types of recreation programs or activities would you/your household like to see more in Liberty Lake? Select all that apply.



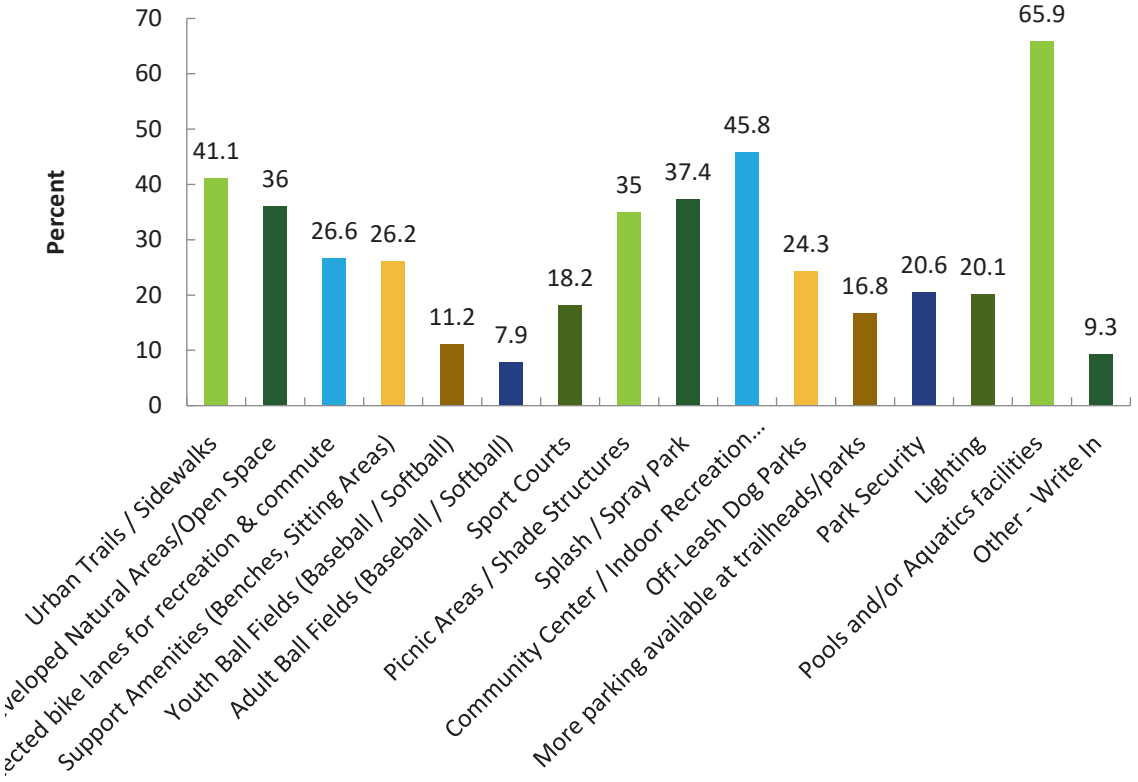
Value	Percent	Count
Camps / Classes	49.8%	107
Youth Sports Leagues	40.9%	88
Adult Sports Leagues (18 and Over)	28.4%	61
Outdoor nature programs	44.7%	96
Community gardening and sustainability programs	27.4%	59
Arts and cultural events	40.5%	87
Fitness classes / Programs	40.0%	86

Water-based recreation (e.g., kayaking, sailing)	44.7%	96
Senior activities	20.9%	45
Other - Write In	14.4%	31

Other - Write In	Count
Dog park	3
Swimming	3
Pool	2
Aquatics	1
Children swim lessons	1
Community Pools	1
Concerts	1
Day camp for learning about our area!	1
Mini golf	1
More baseball	1
More older child activities	1
Opportunity for swimming lessons	1
Public pool	1
Roller hockey rinks	1
Rowing club	1
Special needs camps	1
Swim lessons	1
Swimming Center	1
Swimming Pool	1
Swimming lessons	1
bands in the park	1

dedicated pickleball courts	1
octoberfest, winter/holiday, more events at town square market	1
pickleball	1
swimming - aqua aerobics	1
we have enough events already	1
Totals	**31**

25. What types of recreation facilities and spaces would you/your household like to see more in Liberty Lake? Select all that apply.



Value	Percent	Count
Urban Trails / Sidewalks	41.1%	88
Undeveloped Natural Areas/Open Space	36.0%	77
Protected bike lanes for recreation & commute	26.6%	57
Support Amenities (Benches, Sitting Areas)	26.2%	56
Youth Ball Fields (Baseball / Softball)	11.2%	24
Adult Ball Fields (Baseball / Softball)	7.9%	17

Sport Courts	18.2%	39
Picnic Areas / Shade Structures	35.0%	75
Splash / Spray Park	37.4%	80
Community Center / Indoor Recreation Facilities	45.8%	98
Off-Leash Dog Parks	24.3%	52
More parking available at trailheads/parks	16.8%	36
Park Security	20.6%	44
Lighting	20.1%	43
Pools and/or Aquatics facilities	65.9%	141
Other - Write In	9.3%	20

Other - Write In	Count
A gated in play area for children with special needs or those that 'elope'.	1
Dog friendly swimming spot	1
Focus on maintaining what you have.	1
Lake access	1
Permanent pickleball courts and better temporary nets in sufficient quantity	1
Pickleball courts	1
Possibly more skating/scooter areas	1
Public lake access on the north side of the lake	1
Public lake access/beach near town	1
Roller hockey area	1
Senior	1
Shade around the playground over the benches	1
Sledding hill	1

Soccer turf field we have access to since the Hub kicks youth who are playing soccer off their field.	1
Swimming pool and indoor tennis	1
We have a big police department with little visibility.	1
With Liberty Lake Athletic Club pool gone, a pool is sorely needed in Liberty Lake or Post Falls	1
indoor pool would be awesome	1
meadowscaping - less grass	1
please a new library, the current one does not meet the communities needs	1
Totals	**20**

26. What types of park improvements would you/your household most like to see?

	I want this		I want this more than the others		No preference		Responses
	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	
More walking and biking trails	58.7%	91	12.3%	19	29.0%	45	155
Upgraded playgrounds	43.3%	65	25.3%	38	31.3%	47	150
More picnic and gathering spaces	48.6%	68	5.0%	7	46.4%	65	140
Improved accessibility for all users	43.6%	58	10.5%	14	45.9%	61	133
More waterfront access and improvements	56.1%	96	30.4%	52	13.5%	23	171
Space for hosting live music	47.6%	70	8.8%	13	43.5%	64	147
Space for events	47.4%	63	2.3%	3	50.4%	67	133
Increased environmental conservation efforts	44.4%	60	12.6%	17	43.0%	58	135
More sports and fitness facilities	45.5%	65	7.7%	11	46.9%	67	143
Public art and cultural elements	48.9%	64	6.1%	8	45.0%	59	131

Improved safety/security	65.0%	93	11.2%	16	23.8%	34	143
Totals				**1581**			

27. If you could make one change to Liberty Lake's parks and recreation system, what would it be?

ResponseID	Response
30	More cultural events and public art.
32	Public pool accessible to all citizens regardless of ability!!
33	Get rid of the exercise equipment directly next to the children's play structures. They are unsafe.
37	Our open spaces/parks are good. What is needed is more programming for tween to adults.
41	More accessible to all users
43	Better placement of art and ability for residents to approve art in the park
45	Add a swimming pool…indoor or outdoor.
47	Add a pool
49	Pool and aquatic fitness facilities
53	"More exciting playgrounds for older kids (with shade" - 11 year old's answer
55	Less grass, more trees. Grass is high input, low out put in terms of environmental benefits. Turn the grassy swales (swamps) into habitat patches with native shrubs and trees. Less grass mowing, less watering, less chemicals for weeds, fertilizers.
57	Community center and pool for families. Something that could be used year round
61	Pool
66	I wish the quality of programming would improve - it seems like there is a lot going on, but it lacks in quality. For example, most parents I know will not enroll in skyhawks because coaches are poor and often don't even engage with the children on their level. It also seems like parks are so often used for structured programs that kids don;t even have the space to just play freely or play a pick up game of baseball or soccer because there is always a group using it
68	Swimming Facility
77	System addresses needs of public. Nothing needing change.
80	New playground at pavilion park. More one off kids activities/ classes, not just sports camps.

81	Protected bike lanes and regular cleaning of existing bike lanes. The bike lanes in Liberty Lake are terribly cluttered with debris and virtually unrideable. I've suffered multiple flats commuting into and out of Liberty Lake due to construction debris on Mission where the apartments are being built.
85	Dedicated Pickleball courts with lights
88	update children's play equipment
89	Better security with population increase and event advertising.
90	Better signage for street parking
97	You need park monitors or at least someone here in the afternoons! We go to the parks later in the day and there's no one monitoring anything.
98	We need access to a pool like other surrounding areas (Spokane and Airway Heights)
99	Get rid of the e-toys or regulate them and enforce the rules.
101	Orchard Park has gotten dangerous with the amount of parking along the road and sheer amount of children. It's overcrowded now and kids are often running across the roads.
106	1. Add more trees to the parks where the trees were cut down. 2. Pool
108	Pool
109	We need a community pool that offers swim lessons. This cannot be overstated.
110	More walking paths and pickleball courts
113	Orchard park bathroom needs some work, it feels icky in there compared to the beautifully maintained park.
114	I wish that we had more walking trails. I also wish we had more good playground options. Pavillion is pretty terrible. We love Orchard and go often, but it's so crowded much of the time because it's the only really nice playground in the area.
118	Water fountains with dog bowl access
127	Add recreational pool/waterpark
129	A public pool would be ideal!!
130	Turf sports fields
131	Stop using bark!! You make all playground equipment inaccessible to children with limited mobility, in wheelchairs etc. make smooth transitions and alternative ground surfaces
132	An indoor option for the long winter season

134	Move the adult exercise equipment away from the kids play area!
135	Dog friendly place so my pup can swim
137	Add a community center with various recreational and social activities for all ages.
138	Aquire the County Park.
140	More inclusive areas
144	Better toys and shade cover at Pavillion Park for older kids
148	More visibility and covered seating
154	Less grass, more natural areas. Better tree maintenance- stop using landscape companies and lawnmowers to do tree maintenance. Use arborists.
156	Pool!!
157	More parks. Orchard park brings people from all over and it becomes so crowded you can hardly even drive by at time during the day and summer. I kinda wish we could have our own neighborhood parts that are closed off to public.
158	A city pool!
160	Upgraded playground equipment at rocky hill and pavilion park
163	Weed the parks, they are a MESS
164	More activities indoors when the weather is bad.
166	A pool
168	I know work is being done, but it's been so sad to see the trees die. I hope there's money in the budget to pay for prevention measures to keep the trees healthy. In the fall I walk for miles because the trees are so beautiful. They're one of the city's greatest draws for me.
171	More seating areas outside of the grass (I am highly allergic).
172	pool
175	More bathrooms and trash cans! Then, more access to the river for more people!
176	We need a city pool!
177	More natural woodsy spaces (like rocky hills)
179	More pickleball only designated courts.
180	Access to lake or pools
182	More shade at Orchard Park

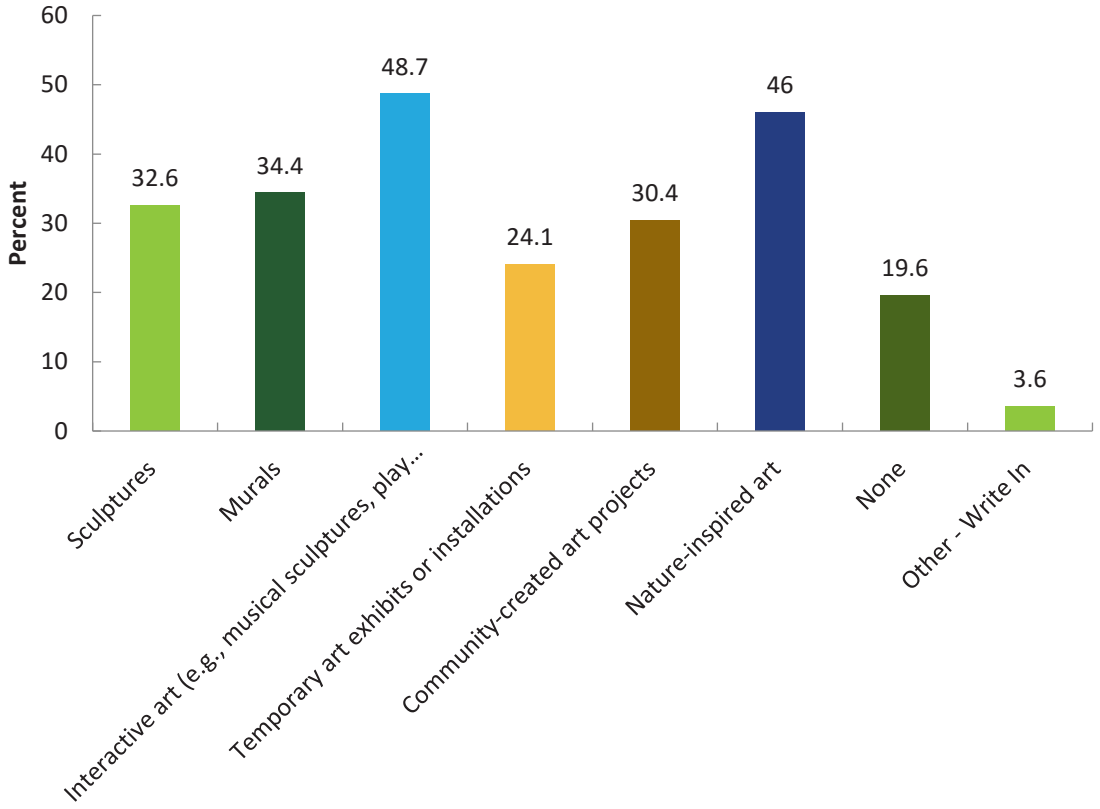
185	Development of a pool complex, preservation of more green space in the HOA development, mandate more pocket parks be built in neighborhoods by developers requesting building approval, public lake access beyond the county park and boat access
187	An indoor pool facility similar to the one in Cheney
188	Indoor pool
190	Not sure.
198	More handicap accessible play structures. There are non profits out there that partner with parks systems that can aid in guidance on what is considered truly accessible and what is not. Having mulch around play structures deemed accessible sort of cancels out the accessibility portion when a child in a wheelchair can't easily access that structure
202	A community center/acquatic center for family's of all ages to gather, swim, play sports, work out and have camps year around. Community bbqs etc
205	A POOL FOR GOODNESS SAKE - a splash pad is great but that doesn't teach kids how to swim.
206	Swimming pool
208	More mature trees.
210	Dedicated Pickleball courts with lights to play at night.
213	Reduce annual fee for Liberty Lake Regional Park to $30
219	Better lake access!
220	I would love safe water access for the community. The river can be dangerous and the lake has limited access (almost all privately owned). Liberty Lake has a great history of people accessing the lake as a gathering place. Now folks can barely share a boat launch. The county park is not accessible for youth unless they can drive and have cash for parking. This leaves the river, with no access fee, as a summer cooling off place. But, it's not always safe and has claimed too many lives.
222	Public pool
223	Orchard park needs shaded sitting areas. There are no trees, even, that provide any shade.
232	Pavilion park improvements to play structure. HOWEVER, if the public boat launch is park of liberty lake larks and rec, then I would choose improving that area- parking, doc and deck where people fish.
235	Better lake access and a swimming pool.
238	Add a golf cart path/bike path between Safeway and Ridgeline HS.
242	More accessible programming

243	Parks with fencing would be nice. Since most families with special needs kids are elopers and will run off at any given moment
253	Longer disk golf opportunities, community pool
254	Modernize
259	Adding some type of aquatic center would be amazing!
266	Add swings at Pavillion Park
270	The weeds and dandelions have been terrible recently, we have beautiful spaces however they need to be maintained.
273	More shaded playgrounds and remove bark from playgrounds
275	to not be charged to go to the county park.
277	I would like to see more education about our local area included in the parks as well as more education about the importance of environment conservation and how it impacts us and the wildlife
280	more walking trails, and less golf cart access to walking trails
281	the maintenance of the grounds is careless. The mowers go thru standing water and create ruts, they injure trees. They drive too fast on the roadways, and cut through walkways. Overgrowth of plants is allowed and walkways are covered or crowded out.
285	Add a public pool
286	Better maintenance of the parks
291	Seems silly, but just adding swings at pavillion park would be awesome just because my son loves to swing. The parks system here was actually a huge draw for us to move here! We love the parks
292	Modern play structures for kids that integrate more nature and curiosity. A play structure or area that is fenced in for kids to play.
295	Add a city pool
297	Would love to see a community center that can bring the different generations together. Be a fun place for the younger and older generations to visit. A senior center feel with a youth community feel too, and a space for the in between ages. Bring the community together. With an indoor pool for community members that can offer lessons to kids.
299	?
301	We need a community center, a place where teens and seniors can hang out.
306	More public space around the lake to enjoy fishing/swimming

307	Pavillion Park is essentially the centerpiece for Liberty Lake. I would like to see more trees and public features on the model of Coeur D'Alene's city park.
308	Larger play structures at Pavillion park
310	Working drinking fountains
318	I would add an aquatics center with indoor and outdoor swimming pools.
320	Dedicated pickleball courts please
323	Add an indoor pool
326	I would plant more trees! We don't need 100 open fields… we need a nice nature park with trees and a walking path and picnic space under the trees.
328	More shade and water play
333	Stop e-bike cruising across grass at breakneck speeds!
334	Access to a pool
336	Liberty Lake needs an aquatics center. One with indoor and outdoor pools and spaces for all ages to enjoy. The outdoor pools in the Valley are not great and there are hardly any indoor pools in the area. Check out the one in Moab, UT!
338	Swimming Pool
344	More open spaces, natural areas, more trees, more wild flowers, wildlife viewing
346	We need more natural park areas. Saltese and liberty lake loop are so overpopulated all the time. We need more parking, especially around orchard
347	Add an off leash dog park
348	Lake accessibility in safe, kid friendly environment.
349	Public pool
353	Add a dog park
354	More dog parks.
358	More play areas / equipment suitable for toddlers as smaller children
359	Include a pool or more lake access.
362	Adding an aquatic center like South Spokane Aquatic Center that has an area for young children to play, water slides for bigger kids, lazy river and an additional area for swimming laps.
363	Pool Indoor tennis

364	More parks to reduce over crowding
369	Indoor community gathering space
370	A pool would be great
373	Communication to all, often find out at last minute of activities...
377	Build an Aquatics Center
379	We need a city pool
380	Pools....not splash pads.
381	A few more benches around play areas that provide visibility to watch over your kiddos while they play.
387	N/A
391	The one change would be more waterfront access or a pool, these would be huge leaps in Liberty Lake recreation options. Most of the others are small improvements/expansions.
392	Bigger trees put in for more shade. Open a water park similar to spokanes aquatic centers.
393	That the playgrounds wouldn't be so crowded. It's hard to keep a visual on your children because it's SO crowded with daycares and outside groups. It feels so unsafe! BUSES FULL of children descent on the park and take over, making it less desirable for this of us who live in the neighborhood.
395	Community pool.
396	An actual recreation department. Lots of parks. No recreation is offered by the city.
398	
406	More of them
407	More shade
408	Maintain / upgrade what you have. The bike paths all need an asphalt overlay.
409	A pool
412	The closest baseball and or softball facilities that Spokane uses is Franklin park or Merkel fields. If you build it, they will come. It will boost economy and weekend visitors while accompanying the need to provide more field space for fall and spring and summer softball and baseball teams and tournaments.

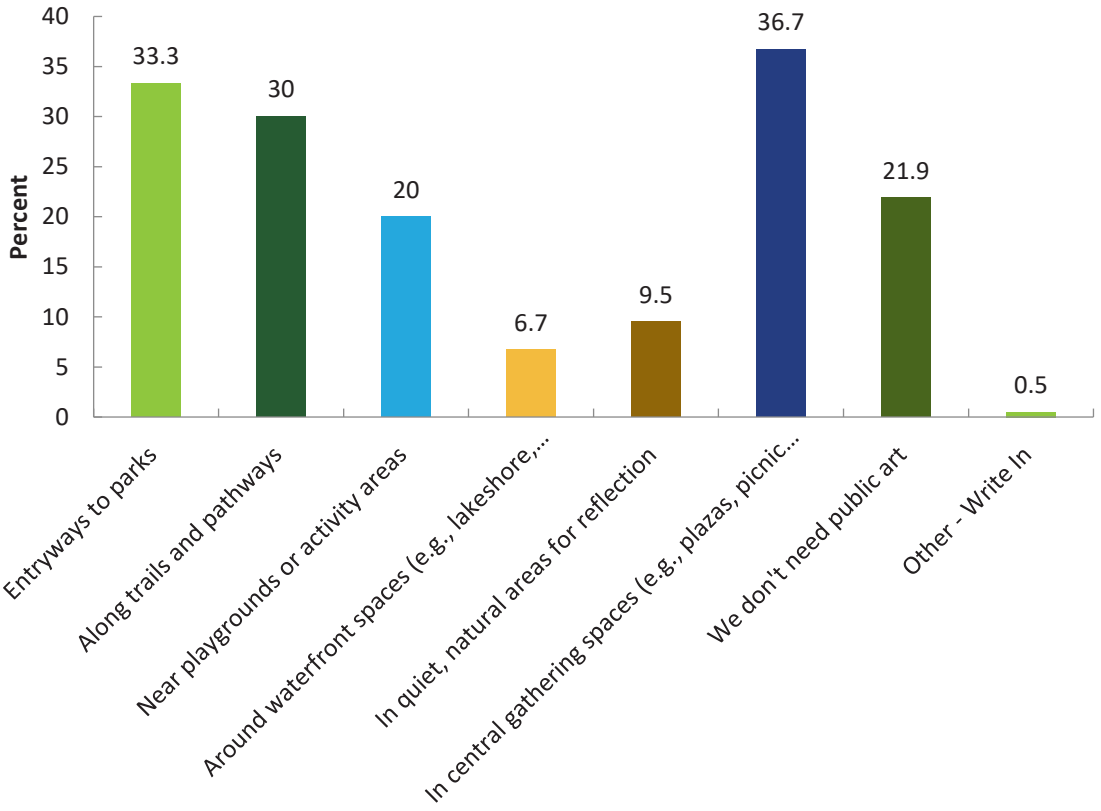
28. What types of public art would you most like to see in Liberty Lake parks? Select all that apply.



Value	Percent	Count
Sculptures	32.6%	73
Murals	34.4%	77
Interactive art (e.g., musical sculptures, play structures)	48.7%	109
Temporary art exhibits or installations	24.1%	54
Community-created art projects	30.4%	68
Nature-inspired art	46.0%	103
None	19.6%	44
Other - Write In	3.6%	8

Other - Write In	Count
Art that incorporates our local native and settlers early history	1
Bring it all on! And get teens involved.	1
Don't clutter the parks with art	1
Historical and plaques, monuments.	1
I like the painting of the basketball court and skateboard park	1
Living Statues	1
See below	1
none. just trees and grass	1
Totals	**8**

29. Where do you feel public art would have the greatest impact within the Liberty Lake parks system? Select your top 2.



Value	Percent	Count
Entryways to parks	33.3%	70
Along trails and pathways	30.0%	63
Near playgrounds or activity areas	20.0%	42
Around waterfront spaces (e.g., lakeshore, beaches)	6.7%	14
In quiet, natural areas for reflection	9.5%	20
In central gathering spaces (e.g., plazas, picnic areas)	36.7%	77
We don't need public art	21.9%	46

Other - Write In	0.5%	1

Other - Write In	Count
little pieces of art everywhere - in crosswalks, on sides of buildings, on businesses. Just sprinkled about town.	1
Totals	**1**

30. In your opinion, what should public art in Liberty Lake express or represent?

ResponseID	Response
30	What purpose does this question serve? Art should inspire the observer to think, wonder and reflect.
32	History and culture
37	Nature and history.
39	Nature and hope
41	Nature, history, creativity
43	Rocky hills park is not good art - we can do better
45	Nature
52	If you have to add it, I would say patriotic, historical, or nature.
53	People from history
55	The natural world, community of humans,indigenous people, history
56	Natural beauty
57	The beauty of our nature
61	We are Liberty Lake. Let celebrate our Liberty!!
66	inclusiveness - providing art that inspires everyone in some way
68	Native things
69	Nature, expression, culture, individuality, Variety
77	History
81	Nothing, keep it generic. It need not be political or social.
83	Represent
85	Nature
88	historical
89	The art here is wonderful but money should be used elsewhere.
90	Our communities history

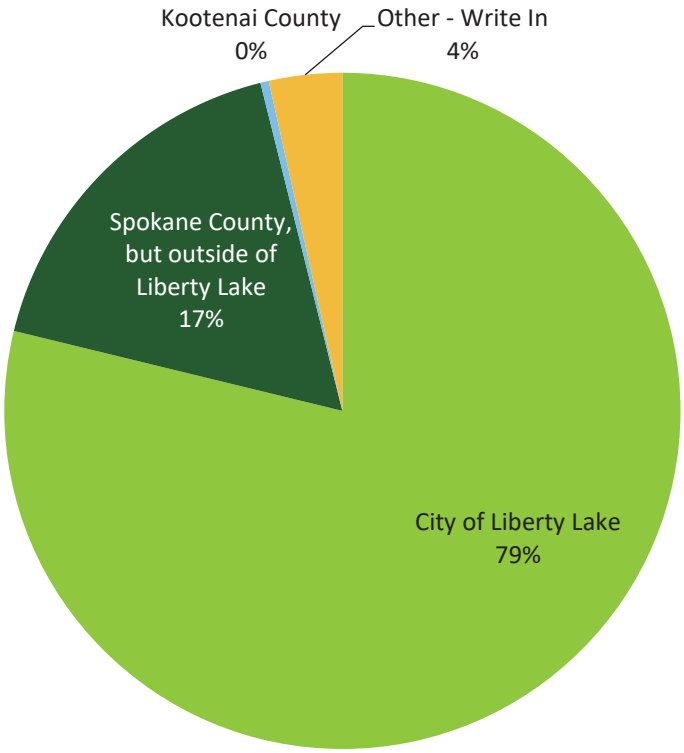
93	Community for all
94	Unity in community
97	It should be about the area we live in, not just about golf and "together" even though that's what your park commissions seem to be overly invested in..
98	Inclusivity, and nature elements
99	Nature and environment
106	Our natural beauty
109	Inclusivity
110	Community
113	Nature in the area-STEM focused
114	Nature
118	Connecting to nature and/or the history of the area
120	City History and Values
126	Nature, culture, diversity
127	Local history, nature, community
129	The local community
136	Nature, and community/kindness/humanity
137	Public art is a misuse of citizens' tax dollars
138	'merica
140	Love, including everyone.
144	No art-it's too subjective
145	Nature, beauty, peace
148	Community and inclusivity
150	Natural areas, the water and lake
154	Respect for the cultural heritage of native people
156	The children
161	Public art should make people think, it should also tell stories and teach. Public art in playground/activity areas would encourage creativity in kids. Public art should represent our community, what we offer, and what we stand for.

163	The history of Liberty Lake
164	History or the area, aspersions of what the community should be
167	History
168	A celebration of community, humanity, nature, something to brighten us up through The Long Dark. Maybe something a little funny so we don't get pretentious.
171	An inclusive and welcoming community. Connection with nature.
175	Mother Earth
177	Natures gift economy
178	Community
180	Community and nature
182	Past and present culture of the area
185	the lake and nature
188	Caring spirit
206	Nature
208	Inclusiveness, community, happiness, love and not hate.
210	Nothing
219	Beauty and peace
232	Community, growth, love
238	Make utility boxes more interesting
241	PLEASE FOR THE LOVE OF HUMANITY NO political statement pieces or modern issues
242	Our community values
243	A diverse expression of art
245	Joy and happiness fun and play
254	Connection with place, history and each other
259	History, the community, nature
266	Creativity, Diversity & Culture
274	The heritage of the community and area

275	The history of the city
277	Creative freedom and local community
280	community artists, natural beauty of the PNW
285	Community
290	Don't use taxpayer money for it
291	Family
292	The history of Liberty lake. Opportunity for local artists.
297	Community. Nature.
299	safe place to live
301	The history of LL
308	The relationship between people and place
309	Need to focus on other things
310	Kindness, inclusion
325	Celebration of natural features in the land. Not the goats!!!
326	Community and equality
328	The values of the families that live here
333	Love of the environment. There is a school in CDA--in downtownish area--which has an amazing mural/relief which features mouse, deer, elk, beaver, owls, butterfly, heron, and bears. It is sometype of magnate school.
334	Liberty Lake is naturally beautiful & doesn't need public art
336	Everyone and everything
338	Cultural history
344	Nature, joy, hope
346	Nature, community
347	I think it's a waste of money to add art.
348	Nature, history
354	Natural art if anything. Keep it natural.
356	unity, strength, kindness, power
358	Community & inclusion

362	Respectfully, I don't think this should be a priority. We live in a beautiful city. This is unnecessary in my opinion.
364	Liberty lakes history (ski lodge, water front)
373	history
379	Community
381	The outdoors or maybe family unity
383	Nature
384	The community and its history
387	History of the area
391	For me, Liberty Lake's strengths are family, community, connection, simple living in harmony with nature
392	Nature
393	None
396	It represents wasting money
401	Celebrate and thank our hero's. Firefighters, police, veterans
406	Don't really care

31. Where do you live?

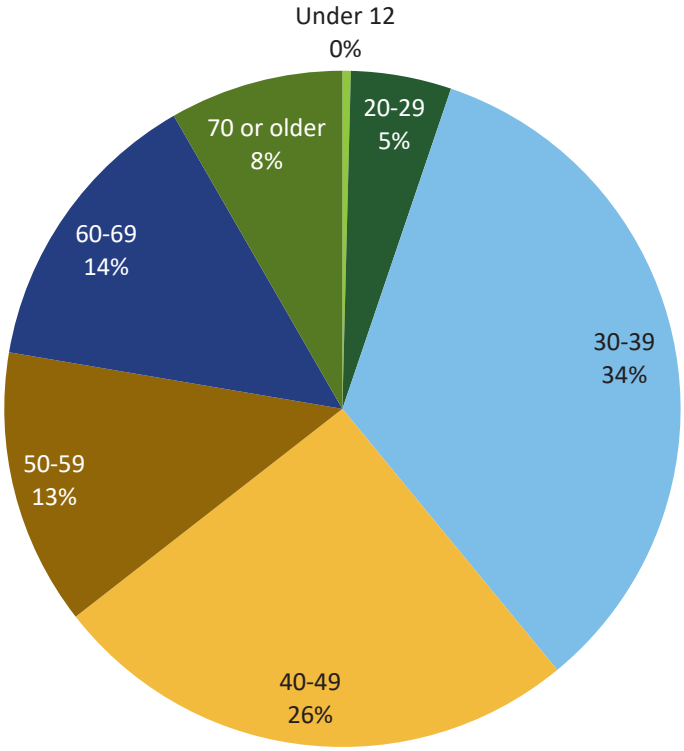


Value	Percent	Count
City of Liberty Lake	78.8%	182
Spokane County, but outside of Liberty Lake	17.3%	40
Kootenai County	0.4%	1
Other - Write In	3.5%	8
	Totals	**231**

Other - Write In	Count
Greenacres	1
In Greenacres across the street from Liberty Lake, near Orchard	1

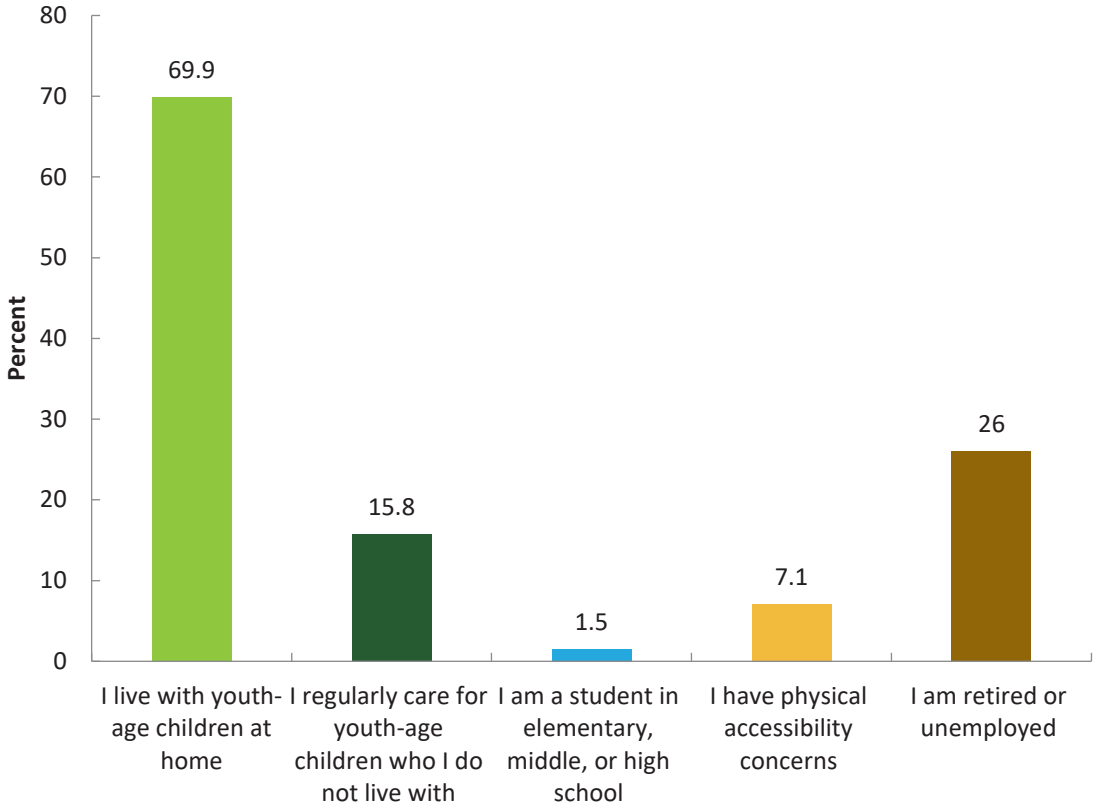
Lakeside in the county	1
North Pole	1
Otis Orchards	1
Outside city limits in Liberty Lake	1
River District	1
South of Sprague on Liberty lake.	1
Totals	**8**

32. What is your age range?



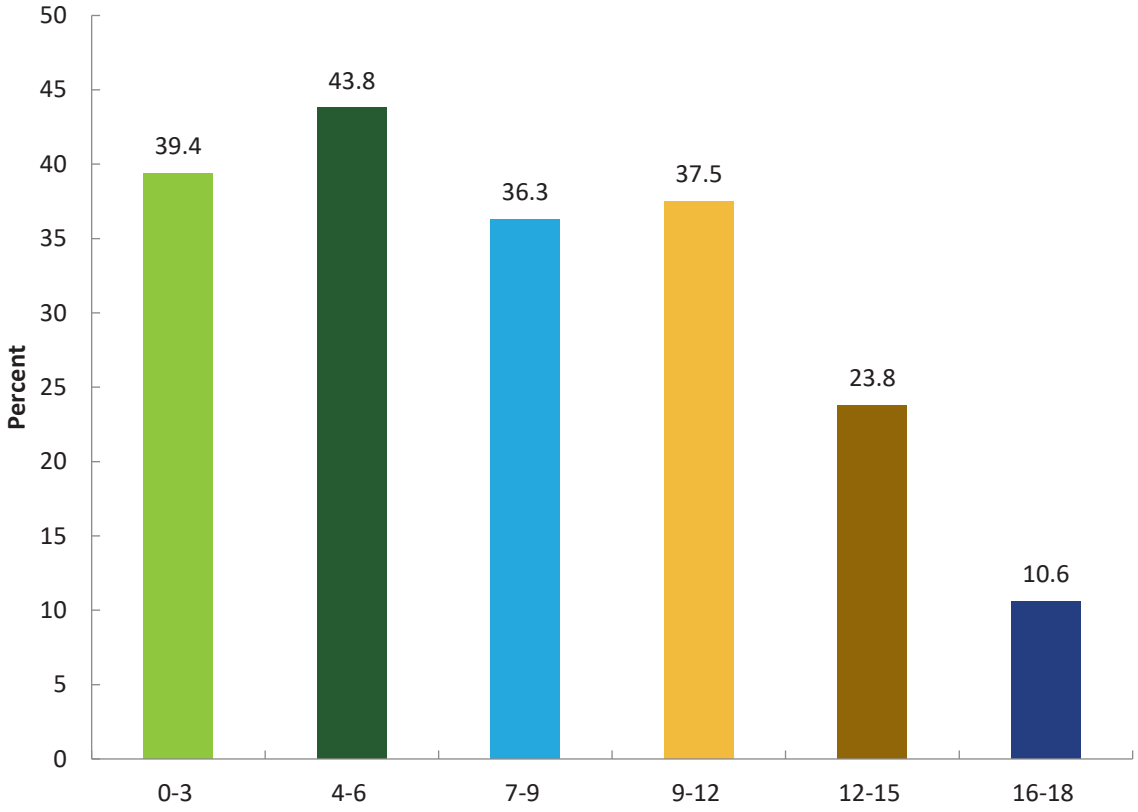
Value	Percent	Count
Under 12	0.4%	1
20-29	4.8%	11
30-39	33.8%	77
40-49	25.4%	58
50-59	13.2%	30
60-69	14.0%	32
70 or older	8.3%	19
	Totals	**228**

33. Please let us know if any of the following apply to you. Select all that apply.



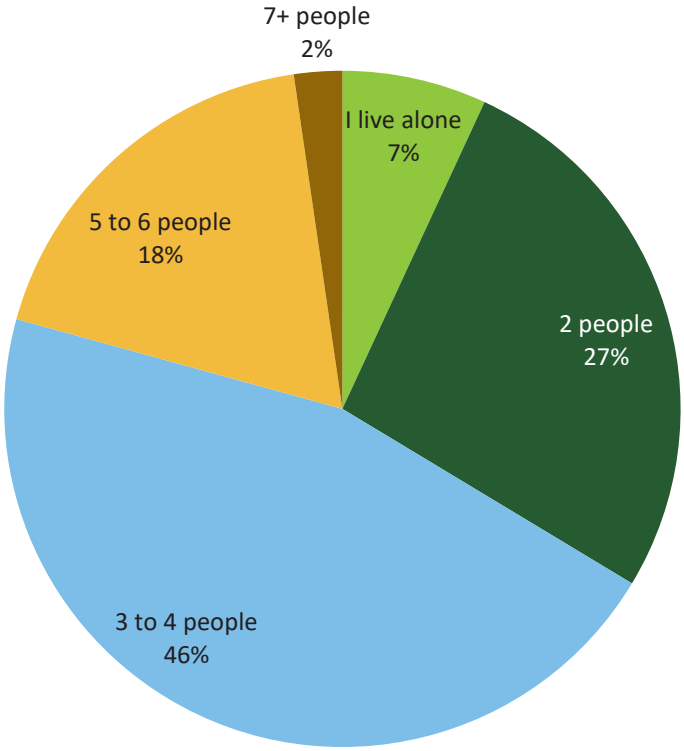
Value	Percent	Count
I live with youth-age children at home	69.9%	137
I regularly care for youth-age children who I do not live with	15.8%	31
I am a student in elementary, middle, or high school	1.5%	3
I have physical accessibility concerns	7.1%	14
I am retired or unemployed	26.0%	51

34. What are the age ranges of the children you care for? Select all that apply.



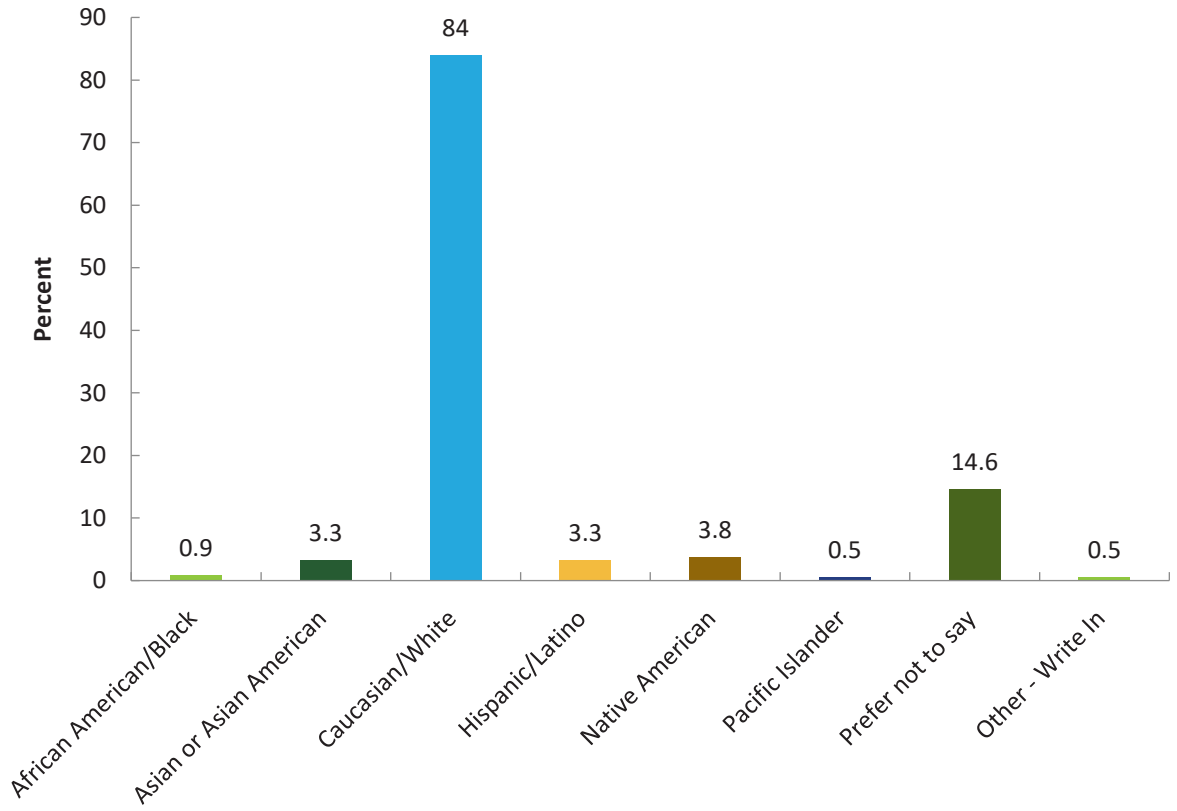
Value	Percent	Count
0-3	39.4%	63
4-6	43.8%	70
7-9	36.3%	58
9-12	37.5%	60
12-15	23.8%	38
16-18	10.6%	17

35. How many people live in your household?



Value	Percent	Count
I live alone	6.9%	15
2 people	26.7%	58
3 to 4 people	45.6%	99
5 to 6 people	18.4%	40
7+ people	2.3%	5
	Totals	**217**

36. What ethnic or racial group do you identify with? Select all that apply. (Note: We ask this to ensure this survey reaches a representative demographic sample of Liberty Lake).

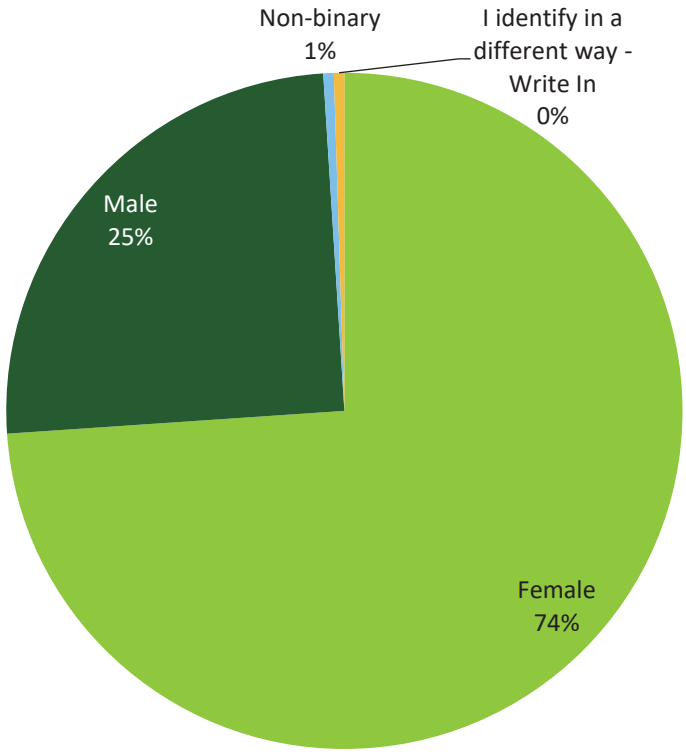


Value	Percent	Count
African American/Black	0.9%	2
Asian or Asian American	3.3%	7
Caucasian/White	84.0%	179
Hispanic/Latino	3.3%	7
Native American	3.8%	8
Pacific Islander	0.5%	1
Prefer not to say	14.6%	31

Other - Write In	0.5%	1

Other - Write In	Count
American	1
Totals	**1**

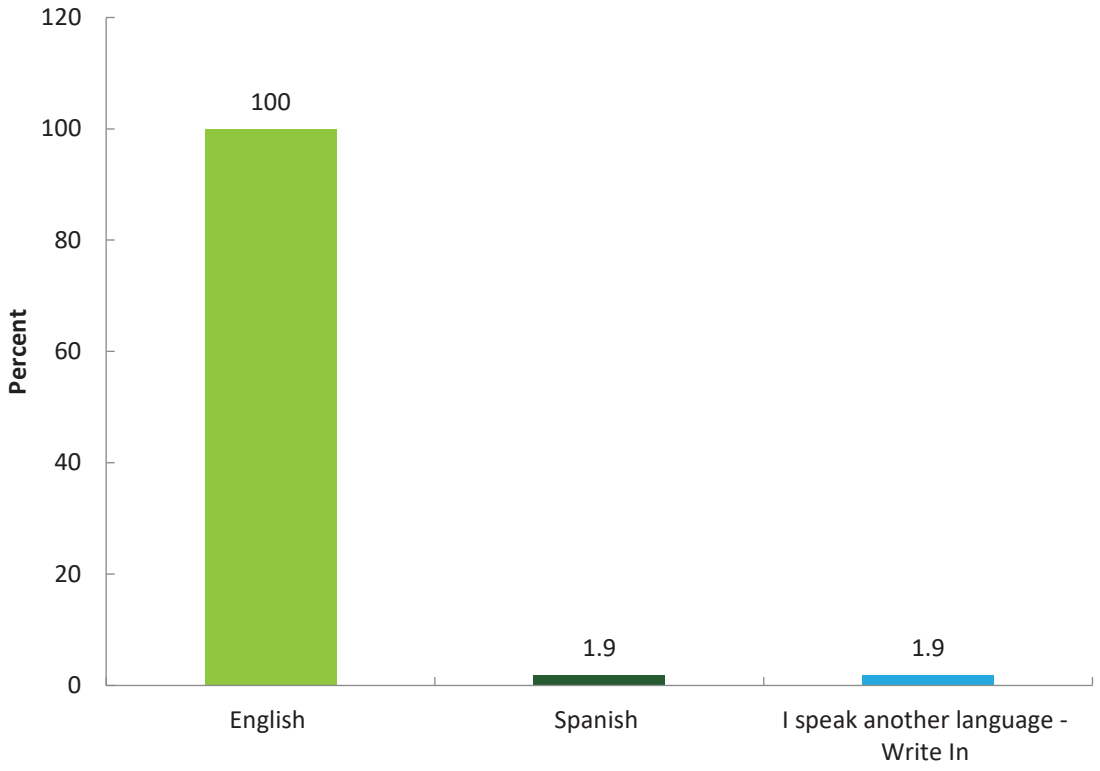
37. What is your gender?



Value	Percent	Count
Female	74.0%	159
Male	25.1%	54
Non-binary	0.5%	1
I identify in a different way - Write In	0.5%	1
	Totals	**215**

I identify in a different way - Write In	Count
Two of us filled this out. 1 male 1 female	1
Totals	**1**

38. What languages are most often spoken in your home? Select any that apply.



Value	Percent	Count
English	100.0%	214
Spanish	1.9%	4
I speak another language - Write In	1.9%	4

I speak another language - Write In	Count
American Sign Language	1
Brazilian Portuguese	1
Russian/Ukrainian	1
Totals	**3**

39. If you have any additional thoughts that you would like to be considered in the development of this plan, please share them with us here.

ResponseID	Response
30	As we approach build-out, it especially important to remember to include parks and arts to help LL reach its greatest potential, as parks and arts are an essential part of a thriving community. I would like for us to develop arts festivals or celebrations, and would love to see more winter time activities in our parks to help people get outside and moving. This is such a great little town, growing into its best self with your help.
39	Liberty Lake has done an excellent job establishing three major parks for community use. But there is a need for additional parks and natural open space as we grow. I would love to see the community connected completely by scenic walking and hiking trails.
52	I think playgrounds should be designed for kids to be challenged and make them move. I have recently been to multiple parks that have lots or long wide ramps and little puzzles on the sides and they are all horrible. My kids last 5 minutes and want to go home. They need tall things to climb, lots of movement, variety. Also sports leagues would be great so we don't have to travel all over Spokane Valley/Spokane or Post Falls.
53	Please get rid of the wood chips in the playground areas. They cause splinters and are not fun to be barefoot or wearing crocs or sandals with. (Age 11)
55	The street trees are generally in poor condition. Greenstone spent millions planting street trees,but there is no concerted effort for maintenance. The existing trees are we-30 years old and should be much larger and growing more vigorously than they are. Keep the lawn mowers and string trimmers away from the base of the trees. Have a program of certified arborists pruning and maintaining the trees- starting early to develope good branch structure.
66	I would love to see Liberty Lake become an artists oasis - Creating an artist oasis in a small city like ours is a fantastic way to revitalize the local economy, attract tourism, and nurture a vibrant creative community. Here are some key strategies that can help transform Liberty Lake into a thriving artistic hub: 1. Encourage Public Art Installations Murals and Sculptures: Work with local artists to add murals, sculptures, and interactive installations across the city. Public art not only beautifies but also attracts visitors looking for unique photo opportunities. Art Trails: Create an art trail with a map to guide people to different installations, murals, and studios across town. 2. Establish Artist-In-Residence Programs Offer residencies to both local and international artists. These programs can provide housing, studio space, and stipends for artists to create and exhibit work in the city, with public workshops or shows as part of the exchange. Collaborations with Local Businesses: Partner with local hotels, B&Bs, or unused spaces to host resident artists. 3. Repurpose Vacant Buildings as Studios and Galleries Affordable Workspaces: Transform unused buildings into affordable studios and galleries. Lower rent spaces can attract artists who might be priced out of larger cities. Collective Studios and Pop-up Galleries: Consider multi-

	purpose spaces where artists can share resources, hold workshops, or host pop-up shows. 4. Support Art Festivals and Markets Annual Art Festivals: Launch an annual festival to celebrate various art forms. Art fairs and open studio days can be a big draw for both artists and tourists. Local Art Markets: A weekly or monthly market where artists and artisans can sell their work creates a vibrant place for visitors to buy unique, handmade items. 5. Leverage Local Schools and Universities Partnership Programs: Collaborate with nearby schools to provide art programs, workshops, or mentorships for young artists. University involvement can bring a steady stream of talent and new ideas. Workshops and Classes: Offer continuing education art classes for the public, creating a more art-savvy community that appreciates and supports local artists. 6. Incorporate Arts in City Planning and Zoning Artist-Friendly Zoning Policies: Adopt zoning policies that allow live-work spaces for artists and create designated "arts districts." Grants and Tax Incentives: Offer grants or tax incentives for businesses and developers who support arts-related spaces or collaborate on arts initiatives. 7. Foster Community Engagement with Art Community Art Projects: Host community art days where residents can participate in creating a mural or contributing to a public sculpture. Interactive Installations: Include installations that invite public participation or digital art experiences, appealing to a wide range of visitors and social media audiences. 8. Build Partnerships with Art Organizations and Foundations Funding Opportunities: Partner with arts councils, foundations, or non-profits for funding. This can help provide financial stability to support residencies, exhibitions, and festivals. Local Business Sponsorships: Work with local businesses to sponsor art events and offer artist discounts, especially those in hospitality, like restaurants and hotels. 9. Promote Through Digital Channels Social Media and Influencer Campaigns: Engage local influencers and create Instagrammable spots that artists and visitors want to share. Online Directory of Local Artists: Develop a website showcasing the city's artists, their portfolios, and any upcoming events or residencies. This helps locals and tourists alike explore and engage with the local art scene. 10. Nurture a Creative and Welcoming Culture Regular Art Walks or Open Studios: Host monthly or quarterly art walks where galleries, studios, and cafés stay open late, creating a welcoming, arts-centered atmosphere. Art-Friendly Cafés and Co-Working Spaces: Encourage local businesses to host artists or display art on their walls, creating more community spots for art lovers. By implementing a mix of these initiatives, a small city can become a unique and inviting artist oasis, drawing in creative talent and art appreciators from near and far. Let's implement: Kindergarten Art Club Crack art Asphalt Art Scavenger hunt - the goats of LL Murals on businesses/fences Indigenous art City musicians Poetry Writing groups Dance Meadow scaping Stained glass - glass blowing - etched glass Pottery Free little art galleries Food Artist retreats Art that shows in the rain Create a website dedicated to art and artists in LL Quality music and arts to retirement communities and nursing homes Live performances Dinner theatres Nature art Neon sign art Architecture Art district Film Sculpture park Animal art Ice sculpture Retro art Salvage art Art for the blind History museum Modern art museum Children's art museum Engaging art with military
69	I'm hopeful to see lots of green space that invites people to exercise, play, recreate, relax by all ages and abilities. Wild flowers and native plants and trees over sod and manicured lawns.
80	I am in favor of a community center that will offer more classes to kids adults and seniors in Liberty Lake.
81	Clean the bike lanes and keep cyclist and motorists safe. This is immediate and low costs

90	Keep golf carts off pathways meant for walking. A monitored off leash dog park would be great. I would pay a small annual fee to help keep it clean.
97	Please do something productive with this survey! I see your booth at the farmers market and it seems to be the same information but you guys aren't doing much to make changes. We moved here because it's beautiful and seems to be progressing towards a nice place to live. Make changes as the community recommends!
99	Please regulate all of the e-toys
101	If Liberty Lake is building, advertising and is seen as a family community, then Orchard Park needs to be bigger with bigger parking lots.
106	1. Plant more trees (not the ornamental plum trees). 2. A city pool (or similar) where residents get in for free and non-citizens would pay to enter. 3. Access to Liberty Lake (the lake) for city residents. We only have access thru the county park that costs us money. So, annex the lake area.
109	Community pool is needed
110	None
113	If there is any way to provide some shade like Rocky Hill park has at the other parks to keep Structures cool in the sun that would be amazing!
116	I love living in Liberty Lake. Lets keep it safe and family oriented.
130	Turf sports fields are missing for public use and would be a huge benefit for the community.
131	Orchard parks swings are too far from the rest playground, one parent is not able to watch kids on swings and other areas. Pavilion park doesn't even have swings. All parks have bark. Most parking is a far distance from the parks (Rocky hill)
134	New children's play structure for Pavilion Park. Move adult exercise equipment away from play structure. Pavilion Park Bleachers for ball field updated. TALL netting needs to be installed in front on the parking lot over at the ball fields by Liberty Creek Elementary to protect teacher and staff cars. from fly balls
138	Corporate sponsorship is one idea. I frequently ride bicycle. It's critical to keep the paths connected as I will NEVER ride on the street or bike lane next to cars.
145	Having more art display/sculpture like the giant feather in Coeur D'Alene would be cool. Something distinctive. Continue to have more public walking and cycling trails. And more live music!
147	Indoor activities for seniors
151	Make the natural area between Pavilion Park and Valleyway a tiered parking lot for big events.. not paved.. just park on grass.. biggest problem with events.. thx
156	Pool

158	A community pool!
160	1. Upgraded playgrounds 2. Keep green spaces 3. POOL
163	We have beautiful parks and public facilities. Please pull the weeds. Look at Orchard Park, the flowerbeds have NEVER been planted, the weeds have taken over. Look at the Library, there are so many weeds!
166	We need a pool in Liberty Lake
168	Thanks for asking questions! I hope you tune-in to the positive answers that come from people who like to see positive change and growth in the community, and not to the humbugs who never want to pay a cent more in taxes for a single dang thing. Together we can afford nice things! Also, I really want my kids to move back here when they grow up, so please keep making it cooler and cooler so they have no choice but to come back.
175	Maybe people could sponsor planting a tree??
176	Love the communication boards at Orchard Park and Rocky Hill!!
185	Please develop a pool in our town. I have so many core memories as a kid learning to swim and playing at the pool, in a town as affluent as ours it is a real shame there is no year round pool/recreation center available. We have the resources and space.
188	I think it's a shame that the our high school kids have to go to Cheney for swim team. No LAKE access in walking distance from Liberty Lake and it's costly if you go to the park, the boat ramp is the only place to get into the water and there's no beach there. Nothing for people or to put in a kayak safely.
206	If this is a real survey.. we will have a pool.
211	Nice to have sheet of ice for hockey and recreation ice skating
219	I think better public access to the lake would be very appropriate. Living in Liberty Lake and not being able to go to the lake is ironic!
220	I also think a pump track would be wonderful addition to one of our parks
232	Thanks for improving and maintaining our parks and trails! It's what we love most about living in Liberty Lake! Would be amazing to see programs making use of the lake as well, like the sailing that was suggested. Thank you!
234	A splash pad at rocky hill.
235	Liberty Lake is a great community with just a few glaring gaps despite our amazing resources. There is no public beach access in the city itself. There is no swimming pool. And Town Square is basically an empty field.
238	A public pool would be great. I think the city should cover initial capital costs, then charge enough so thet the pool is self sustaining. Put it near the high school so that basic swimming skills can be taught in PE and the swim team can practice there.

245	It would be nice to have shade at orchard park. And more benches and swings. At rock park it would be nice to have a water fountain and shade. At half moon park it would be nice to have a water feature and another play area with swings for kids close to the sand pit.
266	Thank you for collecting input from the community. I hope you publish the full results of this survey publicly (not summaries or interpretations, but the actual data).
267	Safety and feeling secure is important. Knowing police are available. More crime seems to be moving in.
270	Please consider the maintenance involved with all park improvements
275	Please make the county park free for entry
280	more events at town square
281	yes, what happened to the new library? We have lost funding, how was this allowed to happen. all that money for a fence at the golf range but still no new library. And what will become of the building purchased for the library ?????
295	Please include a communication board to support individuals with limited verbal communication skills
297	Having shade over the play structure at rocky hill has been nice so the play structure isn't too hot.
301	We need to address the increased risk to pedestrians now that we have so many on motorized devices.
309	As a walker who daily uses the sidewalks, something needs to change. Already this year, I was almost hit by golf carts--they use the sidewalks and do not heed to pedestrians. Secondly, there is a big arrival of electric bikes/scooters which are even worse than golf carts. Absolutely no sense of care for others--speeding through the intersections, sidewalks, and paths. No public presence! Suggestion: Anything electric must be driven by a licensed driver and be limited to the roads, not the sidewalks. Or do something else major. Someone is going to get hurt or die seriously.
310	We love the lights at orchard park in the winter. Lights could move around to different parks each year for creative interest.
323	Top picks: indoor pool for swim lessons, upgraded playground at pavilion park, more public access to lake
326	Trees! As the Lorax says "let it grow"!!
333	Good luck! Thanks for asking.
336	It would be amazing if Liberty Lake could provide their own youth sports leagues instead of using Skyhawks.
339	Pool and aquatic center is needed Also sand volleyball courts

344	Don't turn Liberty Lake into the valley. Preserve natural spaces and wildlife.
346	We desperately need more water areas like a public pool, bigger public beach. More parks. So many people go to orchard park it's impossible to ever have a nice quiet time. More benches for parents trying to sit and watch their kids.
353	Pls add a dog park
354	Dog parks would be nice. Artwork should ideally be replaced with plant life and natural items.
359	Orchard Park is great, but because of that, it's so busy and doesnt feel safe for little kids. Lots of teenagers that don't have parents around making it uncomfortable.
362	We need an aquatic center in Liberty Lake!
363	Pool and Indoor tennis
373	Community center with a pool that can be indoors for winter and then opened up for summer
391	Thank you for providing a great service for Liberty Lake, and for working to improve it even more. Parks and Rec. is a huge part of what makes Liberty Lake great.
392	Spokane has 2 water parks that have affordable entrance fees. I think this would be an amazing addition to liberty lake and highly sought after.
395	Community pool and off leash dog park
396	Summer camps for kids and a public pool are really needed.
398	
401	The whole town of LL is kept so clean!!! Thanks to all the maintenance workers!
402	Thank you for not using artificial turf in the parks.
406	No
408	Focus on making what you have better and more usable.
412	I would say close to 75-80% of liberty lake families have children that play youth sports. Building a gym with various facilities and fields for various sports would fill several needs. Look at the hub and their new fields. Then look how terrible the CVSD fields look and are maintained. It's sad how many families have to travel 45 minutes for baseball games or even to east farms for the "Liberty Lake" little league. Hundreds of players. The CVSD gyms are full every night for club volleyball and basketball. Lastly field two baseball field has tons of rocks and pebbles in it. Kids take bad hops and get hit in the face regularly. Real life ministries runs their own sport programs at their fields and their courts. Ours are fine, but they could be much better to accommodate our families more locally.



Appendix D: CIP Supplemental Funding Guide

Local Funding Options

Councilmanic Bonds

Councilmanic bonds may be sold by cities without public vote. The bonds, both principal and interest, are retired with payments from existing city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. The state constitution has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of 1-½% of the value of taxable property in the city.

General Obligation Bond

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default. aspx?cite=84.52.056

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. The state constitution (Article VIII, Section 6) limits total debt to 5% of the total assessed value of property in the jurisdiction.

Excess Levy

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default. aspx?cite=84.52.052

Washington law allows cities and counties, along with other specified junior taxing districts, to levy property taxes in excess of limitations imposed by statute when authorized by the voters. Levy approval requires 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election.

Regular Property Tax - Lid Lift

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default. aspx?cite=84.55.050

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall; however, in no case may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent or may be for a specific purpose and time period.

Sales Tax

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.14

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of cities and counties to impose sales and use taxes at a rate set by the statute to help "carry out essential county and municipal purposes." The authority is divided into two parts. Cities may impose by resolution or ordinance a sales and use tax at a rate of ½% on any taxable event within their jurisdictions. Cities may also impose an additional sales tax at a rate up to ½% on any taxable event within the city. In this case, the statute provides an electoral process for repealing the tax or altering the rate.

Impact Fees

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default. aspx?cite=82.02.050

Impact fees are charges placed on new development as a condition of development approval to help pay for various public facilities the need for which is directly created by that new growth and development. Counties, cities, and towns may impose impact fees on residential and commercial "development activity" to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space and recreation facilities. Funds received must be spent on approved capital projects within 10 years of collection.

Real Estate Excise Tax

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default. aspx?cite=82.46.010

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of counties and cities to impose excise taxes on the sale of real property within limits set by the statute. This authority may be divided into three parts relevant to park systems.

A city or county may impose a real estate excise tax (REET 1) on the sale of all real property in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed ¼% of the selling price, to fund "local capital improvements," including parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, water systems, bridges, sewers, etc. Also, the funds must be used "primarily for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan.

A city or county may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed ½%, in lieu of a ½% sales tax option authorized under state law. These funds are not restricted to capital projects. The statute provides for a repeal mechanism.

A city or county – in counties that are required to prepare comprehensive plans under the new Growth Management Act – are authorized to impose an additional real estate excise tax (REET 2) on all real property sales in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed ¼%. These funds must be used "solely for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan."

The city share of the real estate excise tax is two one- quarter percent amounts (0.5%) that are restricted for capital projects per RCW 82.46. Revenues collected by this tax are deposited in a special capital improvement fund. Since REET collections are directly tied to the frequency and valuation of real estate transactions, this funding source is widely variable with local real estate conditions. REET 1 funds capital projects for parks.

Real Estate Excise Tax - Local Conservation Areas

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default. aspx?cite=82.46.070

Boards of County Commissioners may impose, with majority voter approval, an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at a rate not to exceed 1% of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. The authorizing legislation defines conservation areas as "land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations..." These areas include "open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna."

Federal and State Grants and Conservation Programs

RCO Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – Local Parks Category

https://rco.wa.gov/grant/washington-wildlife-and-recreation-program-recreation/

Application Schedule: Call for projects on a bi-annual basis (latest year was February 2026)

Table D-1: WWRP – Local Parks Category Application Schedule

Item	Month	Year
Application Opens	February (mid)	2026, 2028, 2030
Application Due	April (late)	2026, 2028, 2030
Technical Review	May-July	2026, 2028, 2030
Evaluation	August	2026, 2028, 2030
Board Approves Preliminary Ranked Lists	October (late)	2026, 2028, 2030

Grant Limits:

- Acquisition Projects: Up to $1 million.
- Development Projects: Up to $500,000.
- Combination Projects: Acquisition with either development or renovation: $1 million, of which not more than $500,000 may be for development costs.

Match Requirement: 50% contribution required for project sponsor.

Grants in this category provide for active (organized activities, higher development impact) or passive (unstructured activities, lower development impact) parks. Grants may be used to buy land or develop or renovate land or facilities for parks. A project may contain both upland and water-oriented elements. A project with a primary focus on upland recreation elements and all outdoor swimming pools will be classified as a Local Parks Category project.

Recent Local Project Examples:

- *Spokane Valley:* Balfour Playground and Spray Park (Awarded $500,000)
    - The City of Spokane Valley used this grant to continue development of the six-acre Balfour Park by building a playground and spray park in one of the most underserved areas of the community. In the first phase of development, the City added pathways, lighting, parking, public artwork, a soccer mini pitch, a Veterans Memorial and event plaza, a central plaza, and a multi-purpose building with restrooms and a police field office. This second phase added the playground and spray park, and a planned third phase included basketball and pickleball courts, a large picnic shelter, additional artwork, and an outdoor amphitheater with a covered stage.
- *Spokane:* Meadowglen Neighborhood Park Development Phase One (Awarded $500,000)
    - The Spokane Parks and Recreation Division used this grant to begin developing a neighborhood park on city land in the North Indian Trail neighborhood in northwest Spokane. The new park was planned to be within walking distance of 650 homes, with nearly half the occupants under twenty years old or sixty-five and older. This project had been a primary desire of the neighborhood for more than thirty years. Park plans included a playground, restroom, parking lot, trailhead, pickleball courts, paved pathways and nature trails, and a lawn.

Playground Upgrade Examples:

- *City of Sequim:* Building an Inclusive Playground at Margaret Kirner Park
    - The City of Sequim used this grant to design and build an inclusive playground at Margaret Kirner Park. The playground featured new play equipment including inclusive swings, a spinner, a net climber, and an interactive sound wall. The City improved the park in other ways by building a paved walking loop, adding parking for people with disabilities, building a sidewalk along the parking area, upgrading a restroom, and installing an entry gate, picnic tables, and benches. By providing a universally accessible playground, the City sought to create a space where youth of varying abilities and their caregivers could come together, play, and forge lasting connections.

- *Spokane:* Replacing the Coeur d'Alene Park Playground and Restroom
    - The Spokane Parks and Recreation Division will use this grant to design and replace the playground and restroom in the city's oldest park, Coeur d Alene Park. The park is in the Brownes Addition neighborhood, a relatively low-earning and socially vulnerable neighborhood where about 86 percent of the houses are rented. Most residents rely on the park for outdoor exercise. The historic restroom is often vandalized and closed. The City also will pave pathways to the renovated park facilities.
- *Benton City:* Installing a Splash Pad
    - Benton City used this grant to build a splash pad to provide a fun, safe, and accessible water play area for children and their families. The splash pad featured a water loop, dumping buckets, mini mushrooms, rain blasters, a water rain tunnel, and ground sprayers. Located in a sunny, semi-arid climate, Benton City previously had no parks or recreational facilities with water play and no dedicated recreational facilities for children kindergarten age and younger, despite preschoolers comprising the largest age bracket (15.9 percent) in the area.

RCO Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – Trails and Water Access Categories

Grants in this category provide for projects whose primary intent is to acquire, develop, or renovate pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, or cross-country ski trails. A project may include land and/or facilities, such as trailheads; parking; rest, picnic, or view areas; and restrooms that directly support an existing or proposed public trail. These trails and their landscapes, signs, amenities, and barriers must conform to applicable federal, state, and/or local codes and regulations. Trails funded through this program may have either hard or natural surfacing, or a combination thereof.

The intent of this funding source is to acquire, develop, or renovate statewide, regional, and community-oriented recreational trails that provide linkages between communities or other trails, or provide access to destinations of interest to recreationists. Trails in this category are routes constructed for recreational use and may be used as alternatives to other forms of transportation.

Trails in this category must be for nonmotorized use and cannot be part of a city street or county road ("roadway") such as a sidewalk or unprotected road shoulder, or any other area on the roadway such as a designated bike or combination bike and pedestrian lane.

Trails adjacent to a roadway must be separated by space and potentially physical barriers to ensure a quality recreational experience. Where a trail funded in this category is wholly or partially along a roadway, that portion of the trail along the roadway must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be separated from the roadway by a pervious strip of land no less than ten feet wide (or run length).
- If less than ten feet, be separated from a roadway by no less than three feet of pervious land as long as a contiguous barrier exists between the roadway and trail.

A circulation path or access route developed for pedestrian travel to connect elements, spaces, or facilities within a site is not a trail.

Example: Spokane Fish Lake Trail Extension (Awarded $1,000,000)

- The City of Spokane will use this grant to build about a half-mile of the Fish Lake Trail, extending it north from the Fish Lake Trailhead near Lindeke Street. This section of the trail will run parallel to Government Way and end near the High Bridge Dog Park. This first phase of construction also will connect the trail to Thorpe Road.

Example: Covington Jenkins Creek Trail Development (Awarded $2,109,000)

- The City of Covington will use this grant to buy 0.1 mile of trail easement and develop 0.8 mile of trail. This trail will run through city-owned open space and Jenkins Creek Park and connect the sidewalk along State Route 516 to Southeast 264th Place. The paved trail will be ten feet wide with two-foot gravel shoulders on either side. The City also will add signs and site furnishings, and restore habitat. The new trail will connect multiple neighborhoods, a school, a shopping center, health facilities, and a park.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

https://rco.wa.gov/grant/land-and-water- conservation-fund/

Grant Limits: $200,000 to $2 million.

Administrative costs are not eligible. Architecture and engineering costs for development and renovation projects are limited to 20 percent of the total development project cost.

Match Requirement: 50 Percent.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding to preserve and develop outdoor recreation resources, including parks, trails, and wildlife lands.

Typical projects include:

- Renovating community parks;
- Building skate parks, tennis courts, swimming pools, and trails;
- Protecting wildlife habitat; and
- Building athletic fields.

Example: Longview, WA: Building an Inclusive Playground in Cloney Park (Awarded $2,000,000)

- The City of Longview will use this grant to build a fully inclusive playground at Cloney Park. The playground will have smooth surfacing, wide pathways, and diverse sensory experiences. The play equipment includes specifically designed inclusive pieces for swinging, sliding, and spinning. All play elements will offer wheeled access in, on, around, below, or through. The City also will build parking and restrooms and landscape the area. The park will have a nature-based design that draws from local heritage, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the lumber industry.

Youth Athletic Facilities Program (YAF)

https://rco.wa.gov/grant/youth-athletic-facilities/

Grant Limits for Large Grants (pop. over 10,000 residents): $25,000-$1.5 million.

Match Requirement: 50%.

The Youth Athletic Facilities program provides grants to buy land and develop or renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as ball fields, courts, swimming pools, mountain bike tracks, and skate parks that serve youth through the age of eighteen.

While the program focuses on youth, RCO strongly encourages grant recipients to design facilities to serve all ages and multiple activities.

An athletic facility is an outdoor facility used for playing sports or participating in competitive athletics and excludes playgrounds, tot lots, vacant lots, open or undeveloped fields, and level open space used for non-athletic play.

Example: Spokane Valley HUB - Helping Build a Synthetic Turf Field at Liberty Lake (Awarded $1,500,000)

- The Spokane Valley HUB will use this grant to design, prepare the site, and buy synthetic turf for a multiuse field in the Liberty Lake community. Spokane County lacks accessible synthetic turf fields, with only two available for public use despite a population of more than 500,000. The new field will provide year-round opportunities for field sports such as soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby, ultimate Frisbee, and t-ball.

Planning for Recreation Access (PRA)

https://rco.wa.gov/grant/plan-rec-access/

Grant Limits/ Match: No grant limits or match requirement.

Last Call for Projects was in 2022.

The Washington State Legislature created the Planning for Recreation Access program to fund planning projects in communities that lack adequate access to outdoor recreation opportunities. This program specifically focuses on diverse urban neighborhoods, small rural communities, and those that are less experienced with RCO's grant process.

Grants are used to support planning, community engagement, and collaboration between local governments, community-based organizations, and residents to define outdoor recreation needs, prioritize investments to address those needs, and prepare on-the-ground projects for RCO and other funding opportunities.

Eligible projects include all phases of planning, pre-design, and technical assistance for public outdoor recreation facilities including comprehensive plans, construction drawings, environmental assessments, feasibility and preconstruction studies, cultural resources surveys, and site master plans.

Example: North Central Washington Sports Rink and Event Center Planning an Ice Rink (Awarded $250,000)

- The North Central Washington Sports Rink and Event Center will use this grant to plan for an outdoor ice rink and supporting facilities that when built would provide opportunities for ice skating, hockey, and figure skating in the winter and pickle ball, roller hockey, and roller skating in the summer. The grant will be used to develop site assessments and construction plans, conduct surveys and support community engagement. The rink site is on Pateros School District land along the Columbia River. North central Washington has little or no outdoor opportunities for youth from November to March. The rink will offer affordable rentals, tickets and scholarships, free skating for fourth graders, field trips, discount pricing for groups, and season passes.

Example: Chelan County: Planning a Peshastin Community Park

- Chelan County, in partnership with the Peshastin Community Council, will use this grant to engage the community, evaluate outdoor recreation alternatives, and develop a preferred alternative for development of the Peshastin Mill site. The sixty-five-acre site is the former home of the Peshastin Mill. Peshastin is a rural community in the Wenatchee River valley near Dryden and midway between Leavenworth and Cashmere. A majority of its residents are low to moderate income. The community generally lacks access to parks and outdoor recreation and must drive to enjoy these opportunities. There is high community interest in evaluating alternatives for use of the land for outdoor recreation, and the landowner is supportive of these efforts.

Community Forests Program

https://rco.wa.gov/grant/community-forests- program/

The Community Forests Program gives communities a way to preserve their working forest heritage. The grant program balances the many benefits forests provide – from providing money from use of the land, to safeguarding against climate and other environmental changes, to providing opportunities for recreation, education, and cultural enrichment. As Washington's population continues to grow and forestlands are increasingly threatened by development, the Community Forests Program is a valuable tool for preserving working lands for the benefit of Washingtonians now and into the future.

No Child Left Inside (NCLI)

https://rco.wa.gov/grant/no-child-left-inside/ Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's

No Child Left Inside (NCLI) grant program provides quality opportunities for underserved, underrepresented, and historically excluded youth to learn, play, and experience the outdoors.

The Washington State Legislature established the program in 2007 with two primary goals: to improve the overall academic performance, self-esteem, health, community involvement, and connection to nature for youth; and to empower local communities to engage youth in outdoor education and recreation experiences.

NCLI provides grants for a wide range of outdoor education and recreation activities including environmental education, leadership development, outdoor recreation and adventure, stewardship activities, and camp programs. RCO administers NCLI for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Outdoor Learning Grants

https://rco.wa.gov/grant/outdoor-learning-grants/

The Washington State Legislature funded the Outdoor Learning Grants program, administered by the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the goal to develop and support outdoor educational experiences for students in Washington public schools.

All children deserve access to outdoor spaces where they can learn, play, and grow, but access to outdoor educational opportunities is inequitable.

From reducing stress, to improving mental and physical health, outdoor-based learning helps kids thrive. Research shows that kids who participate in outdoor educational activities are more likely to graduate, are better behaved in school, and have more relationships with peers, higher academic achievement, more critical thinking skills, and more direct experience of scientific concepts in the field. They also have better leadership and collaboration skills and a deeper engagement with learning, place, and community.

Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/atiip/

Park Funding Use: Planning/Capital Improvements.

Match From Other Sources: 20% State or Local Match.

The ATIIP provides grants to states and localities to strategically invest in projects that connect active transportation networks and spines, such as safe bike paths and walking trails, while reducing carbon emissions and creating new jobs. The program will help connect people to destinations within or between communities, including schools, workplaces and other community areas. Active transportation spines can connect communities, metropolitan regions and states.

ATIIP will award two types of grants: Planning and Design grants and Construction grants. FHWA will award Planning and Design grants for eligible applicants to develop plans for active transportation networks and active transportation spines. Projects seeking Planning and Design grants must have planning and design costs of at least $100,000 to be eligible.

Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/

Park Funding Use: Planning/Capital/Maintenance.

Match From Other Sources: 20% State or Local Match.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law continued the Transportation Alternatives set-aside from the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. The Transportation Alternatives (TA) program is the nation's largest dedicated source of funding for trail and active transportation projects. It provides federal funds for a variety of generally smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities; construction of overlooks, and viewing areas; community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management; environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trails; safe routes to school projects; and vulnerable road user safety assessments.

Other Methods and Funding Sources

Parks and Recreation District

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.69

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities and must be initiated by petition of at least 15% percent of the registered voters within the proposed district. Upon completion of the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at the next general election.

Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies and general obligation bonds. All three require 60% percent voter approval and 40% percent voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

The City of Liberty Lake could potentially set up a parks district under RCW 35.61, but it would require careful consideration of the City's ability to generate sufficient revenue, public support, and whether the benefits outweigh the costs. The City would also need to follow the legal process, including gathering enough voter support and successfully passing a ballot measure.

Interagency of Inter-Local Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

Business Sponsorships and Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

Private Grants, Donations, and Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

Acquisition Tools and Methods of Direct Purchase

Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

Life Estates & Bequest

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the city in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted.

Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide

trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Park or Open Space Dedication Requirements

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Ch. 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development's impact.

Landowner Incentive Measures

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low- income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the "sending" and "receiving" property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes.

No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irc.gov for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the City.

Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their "highest and best" use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/ preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years worth of differential tax rates is waived.

Other Land Protection Options

Land Trusts and Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. The Nisqually Land Trust is the regional land trust serving the region. These efforts primarily focus on protecting working farms, ranchlands, wildlife habitats, and other significant natural landscapes from subdivision and development. Other national organizations with local representation include the Nisqually River Council, Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, and Conservation Northwest.

Regulatory Measures

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinances, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

Public/Private Utility Corridors

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.

