



Moses Lake

2022

**Parks, Recreation &
Open Space Plan**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A. PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

The Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services operates parks and facilities and delivers recreation services to the Moses Lake community. The Department is overseen by a Department Director under a Council/Manager form of governance.

This 5-Year Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan is an update to the Department's 2016 master plan, adopted in compliance with the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office guidelines. This plan along with a series of other planning documents provide a framework for future planning efforts and will act as a road map, guiding the City and Department over the next 5 years and beyond.

B. PLANNING PROCESS SUMMARY

Updating and development of this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan was accomplished by a team of staff, community members and the consulting team. Assisting BerryDunn were the teams from Bernardo Wills Architects and RRC Associates. City staff provided considerable input and assistance throughout the project. This collaborative process led to the creation of a plan that blends consultant expertise with the local knowledge of staff, community members, appointed and elected City officials and stakeholders.

The development of this plan included the following tasks:

- Document collection and review
- Demographics and trends analysis
- Community engagement
- Creation of new Department Mission and Vision statements and Hallmarks
- Organizational, financial, and recreation programming analysis
- Maintenance and operations analysis
- Facility inventory and level of service (LOS) analysis
- Potential funding opportunities
- Recommendations: Goals, objectives, an action plan, and a capital improvement plan

Figure 1: Key Elements of the Master Planning Process



C. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The planning process included a thorough, inclusive, and comprehensive needs analysis that incorporated the opinions, needs, and desires of many Moses Lake residents. The needs analysis included a series of stakeholder interviews, focus group meetings, public forums, and statistically valid and open link surveys. This process helped to create recommendations, prioritized action items, and a capital improvement plan for the Department to implement over the next five years. Over 700 community members provided input or completed the statistically valid and open link surveys.

D. KEY ISSUES SUMMARY

From review of all the input and findings, the key issues below were identified and presented in a series of meetings with staff, key stakeholders, and the public. The key issues formed the basis for potential recommendations and are organized by categories.

To develop the goals, objectives, and actions for the master plan, qualitative input (staff, community, and leadership input) and quantitative input (survey, planning documents, and an evaluation of parks and facilities level of service) was synthesized and prioritized by the consultants. A visioning workshop with City and Department Leadership was held to assist in clarifying and prioritizing the issues.

Organizational

- There is significant room for improvement in marketing and communication about parks and recreation facilities and services
- The Department does not have a detailed marketing plan
- The Department should adopt the new mission and vision statements and hallmarks developed during the master planning process
- A consistent program evaluation process is needed across all programs and services

Programs and Service Delivery

- Additional programs for various age groups (teens, adults, 20 somethings, and seniors are a priority)
- Environmental education programs are needed
- There is a need for increased youth sports/fitness programs, camps, and classes
- The Department should focus on access to programs and activities desired by low- and moderate-income residents (focusing on the new Larson Recreation Center)
- The Department should focus on access to programs and activities desired by residents of Hispanic background
- Outdoor concerts and movies in neighborhood parks are in great demand
- A community arts program is desired
- The Department lacks a comprehensive adaptive/therapeutic recreation program, outside of a series of Special Olympics programs focusing on the new Larson Recreation Center

Financial

- The campground and aquatics program cost recovery is excellent. The Museum & Art Center's cost recovery is minimal (11 percent)
- The scholarship program needs additional promotion and attention
- The Department may benefit by creating and implementing a cost recovery philosophy and resource allocation model
- Fee increases may affect participation in programs and activities
- City residents do not support new taxes but may support a variety of alternative financing options
- Park maintenance funding is 26 percent lower than other typical parks and recreation departments

Level of Service/Facilities and Amenities

- Levels of Service standards for Mini-Parks, Neighborhood, and Community Parks published in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan remain relevant and shall describe park types and standards
- A year-round indoor aquatics facility is needed
- The health of the lake presents a barrier to recreational use
- Better lake access (higher quality piers and boat access) is needed
- Parks lack connectivity to walking areas and trails
- Additional dog parks are needed
- Better maintenance of existing parks and open spaces, including trails is needed
- There are many smaller pocket parks/parcels that cannot be developed into high functioning neighborhood serving parks
- There are ADA access issues in the parks-playgrounds, pathways, picnic tables, etc.
- Park site amenities are not consistent
- Five neighborhood areas are without significant access at .5 and 1 mile from parks
- Playgrounds at various parks account for low scoring components and need to be enhanced
- Park signs are mainly in English (although in 2022, the Department is replacing park rule signs in English and Spanish)
- Many parks need flushable restrooms
- Lighting in parks is poor and needs to be improved
- Many park areas lack shade
- Splash pads are desired
- Community gardens are desired
- Additional sports facilities are needed
- Land use elements from the Comprehensive Plan (2014) remain important criteria for assessing capital improvement plans and future park development
- The Department needs a focus on sustainability and climate resiliency
- Comfort amenities in parks-access to quality drinking fountains, trash receptacles, and benches could be improved
- The Department needs to develop a philosophy for operating the new Larson Recreation Center, which will determine potential cost recovery, revenue generation goals, and subsidy

E. INVENTORY ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The Department provides parks and trails of various sizes and use that encompass just under 400 acres of parkland as well as an ice rink, BMX course, the Museum & Art Center, and the Surf n'Slide Water Park. A new recreation center (the Larson Recreation Center) is anticipated to open in 2022.

The City's park facilities are currently comprised of 45 parks, trails and recreation facilities. The size of each of these parks is listed in **Table 1** which represents a summary of the entire Moses Lake inventory of parks and facilities and the number of components and amenities within each facility.

Current Level of Service

The City offers residents a wide range of park opportunities at over 16 acres per 1,000 population. To maintain the same level of service given an anticipated population growth of six percent, the City will need add an additional twenty-five acres of developed parkland. In addition, capital projects to maintain and enhance the system are anticipated to require an additional investment of ten million dollars over the five-year planning horizon.

Park Classification	Acres per 1,000 Population
Community Parks	5.73
Special Use Parks	1.46
Linear Parks	0.38
Regional Parks	5.72
Natural Areas	1.08
Mini Parks	0.28
Neighborhood Parks	1.40

F. RECOMMENDED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SUMMARY TABLE

The BerryDunn team along with the Department, identified goals and objectives during the planning process to best meet the community's needs and desires related to parks, recreational opportunities, facilities, and services.

Goal #1:

Maintain organizational resilience, effectiveness, and position the organization for continuous improvement and change

- Objective 1.1** Review and enhance Department policies to align with the Department's Mission and Vision statements and Hallmarks
- Objective 1.2** Develop a model of sustainable staffing and recruitment
- Objective 1.3** Enhance communication to City residents
- Objective 1.4** Explore additional funding options
- Objective 1.5** Develop a resource allocation philosophy/cost recovery model
- Objective 1.6** Update the Department's land dedication and impact fee policy and procedures

Goal #2:

Prioritize access to parks and programs for all Moses Lake residents

- Objective 2.1** Focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice
- Objective 2.2** Enhance services for individuals with disabilities
- Objective 2.3** Enhance and prioritize program opportunities for individuals of modest or low income

Goal #3:

Prioritize sustainability and climate resiliency as core values for the Department

- Objective 3.1** Advocate for and implement sustainable practices and climate education
- Objective 3.2** Initiate recycling programs in parks and facilities

Goal #4:

Provide enhanced healthy recreation opportunities and services

- Objective 4.1** Maximize effective operation of the Larson Recreation Center in a financially responsible and sustainable manner
- Objective 4.2** Increase staffing and resources to create new program opportunities for City residents
- Objective 4.3** Develop a community art plan for inclusion in parks, programs, and department facilities
- Objective 4.4** Continue to promote healthy lifestyles for Moses Lake residents
- Objective 4.5** Explore opportunities to increase the number of community events based on demand, trends, and cultural opportunities
- Objective 4.6** Develop a formal recreation program evaluation process
- Objective 4.7** Explore a new year-round indoor aquatic facility

Goal #5:

Enhance and expand quality park experiences

- Objective 5.1** Continue to expand and improve existing facilities and amenities
- Objective 5.2** Explore additional sports and athletic fields to best meet current and future demand
- Objective 5.3** Improve daily upkeep and user experiences in the parks
- Objective 5.4** Expand pathways and trails connectivity
- Objective 5.5** Provide additional facilities for dogs off-leash

Table 1: Park Facilities, Size, and Components

|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

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