



IV. WHAT WE HAVE NOW

INVENTORY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS



Moses Lake has 45 facilities that include 38 developed parks and six undeveloped but maintained by the Department as well as some indoor facilities. In total the parks system encompasses approximately 400 acres of park land and approximately 63 miles of paths and trails. Undeveloped park lands include Laguna Park, Longview Park, Municipal Tracts, Sun Terrace, Three Ponds Wetland Park, and Vehrs Wetland Property.

A. LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

In May of 2021 the consultant team used the GRASP audit tool to inventory and analyze each park facility in Moses Lake. The tool uses analysis to score the function and quality of each park facility. Each evaluation reviewed two different aspects-components and modifiers.

- Components – things you go to a park to use such as playground, tennis court, picnic shelter, etc.
- Modifiers – things that enhance comfort and convenience, examples: shade, drinking fountains, restrooms, etc.

Evaluators assigned a quality value (between 0 and 3) to each park site, component, and modifiers, allowing the comparison of sites and analysis of the overall level of service provided by the Moses Lake park system. Photos depict various examples and conditions from those visits.

System wide observations based on visits to each park or facility include the following:

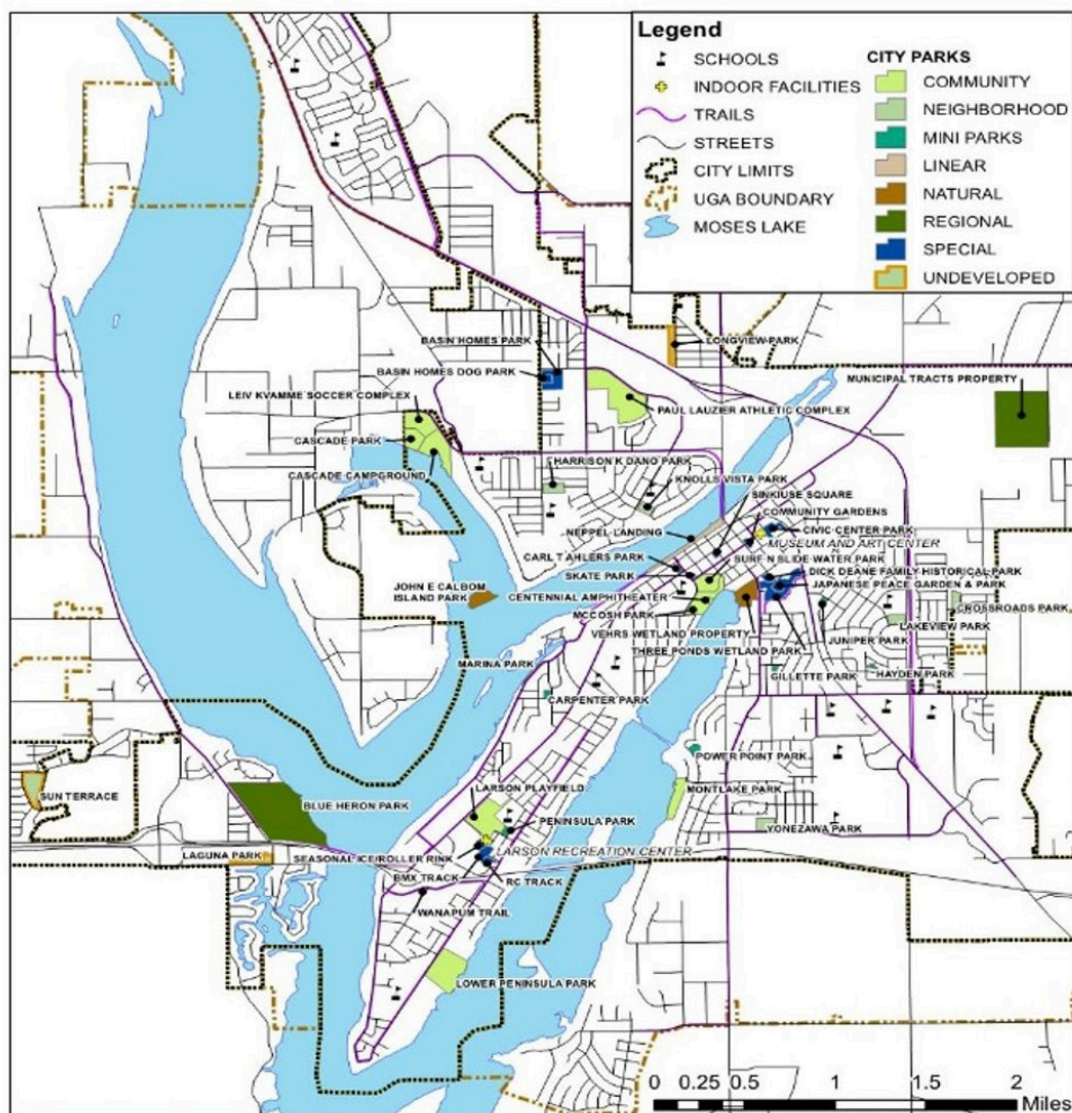
- Overall, parks are in good condition and well maintained
- Notable old growth trees and shade opportunities
- Significant water access
- Park entry signage consistent across the system
- Some access and ADA issues, particularly accessing playgrounds
- Turf conditions vary
- Some undeveloped or underdeveloped properties
- Varied site furnishings
- Many smaller/pocket parks with narrow or small parcel size, difficult for park development
- System includes many unique facilities, communities of similar sized generally do not have (BMX, water park, etc.)



B. THE MOSES LAKE SYSTEM OF PARKS

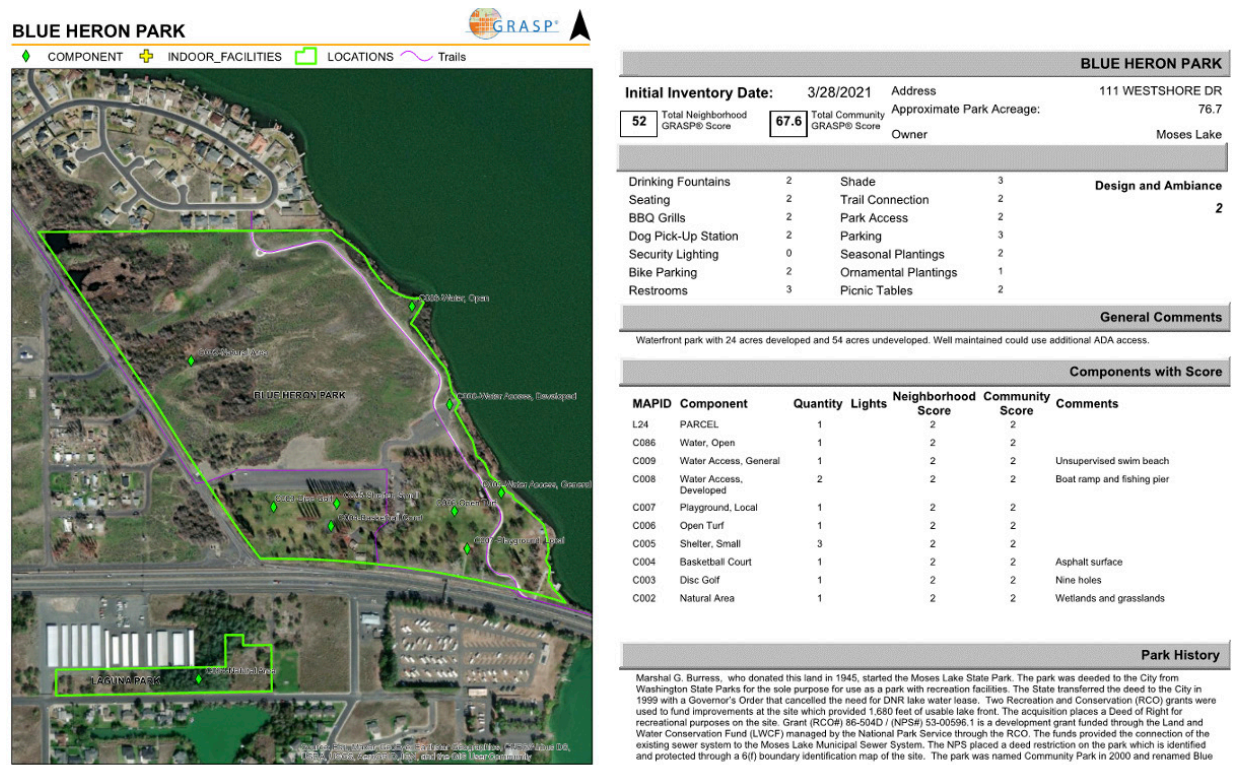
The system inventory map (**Figure 18**) shows the relative size and distribution of existing parks and recreation facilities across Moses Lake, with parks labeled in varying colors based on category. A wide range of the system is connected via bike lanes, and neighborhood parks are frequently connected with adjacent sidewalks.

Figure 18: The Moses Lake System Inventory Map



Team members created a scorecard rating and GIS Inventory Map (**Appendix G**) for each park and facility in Moses Lake. The Inventory Atlas is provided in **Appendix G** and includes relevant information about each facility including history of the site. Nearly all the Moses Lake facilities received a Design and Ambiance score of 2 or higher on the scale of 1-3 discussed above.

Figure 19: Example of Park Inventory Atlas Scorecard in Moses Lake



C. GAPS IN LEVEL OF SERVICE

The level of service analysis (LOS) also identifies gaps in service areas. The map area shown in **Figure 19** reflects that in Moses Lake nearly all the City is served by a park within 3 miles. Another way to evaluate the system is by how walkable it is relative to a standard of half-mile or 10-minute walk to a park that includes recreation components. There are areas where gaps of service occur within the city limits using this standard. Generally, areas between Cascade Park and the Lake as well as a couple locations within the core of town have gaps in service at the half-mile level.

Table 6: Inventory of Components in Moses Lake Parks

2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review: Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks						
Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities						
Outdoor Facility	Agencies Offering this Facility	Median Number of Residents per Facility	Moses Lake Residents per Facility	Moses Lake Current Quantity	Need to add to meet current median	Need to add with population growth
Residents Per Park	NA	1,900	548	45		
Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents	NA	9.8	5.4	375 acres		
Basketball courts	87.4%	7,000	3,524	7	-3	-3
Community gardens	48.3%	25,480	NA	0	1	1
Diamond fields: Baseball - adult	51.3%	20,522	2,056	12	-1	-1
Diamond fields: Baseball - youth	78.0%	5,099			3	3
Diamond fields: Softball fields – adult	65.5%	11,184			0	0
Diamond fields: Softball fields – youth	59.3%	9,891			0	1
Dog park	64.9%	27,528	24,666	1	1	1
Playgrounds	94.4%	2,961	1,370	18	-10	-9
Rectangular fields: overlay	8.7%	8,935		8	3	3
Rectangular fields: Multi-purpose	66.4%	7,400	4,111	6	-3	-2
Rectangular fields: Soccer field – adult	43.6%	11,161			2	2
Rectangular fields: Soccer field – youth	48.9%	5,833			4	4
Skate park	39.3%	31,248	24,666	1	0	0
Tennis courts (outdoor only)	81.4%	4,819	4,111	6	-1	-1
<i>Comparison based on median for 20,000 to 49,999 population comparison</i>						
Surplus						
Possible Deficit						

Table 7: Acres of Parkland per 1,000 residents

NRPA Reported Acres of Parkland per 1,000 residents		
	All Agencies	Population 20,000 to 49,999
Median	9.9	9.8
Lower Quartile	5.2	5.6
Upper Quartile	17.6	15.7

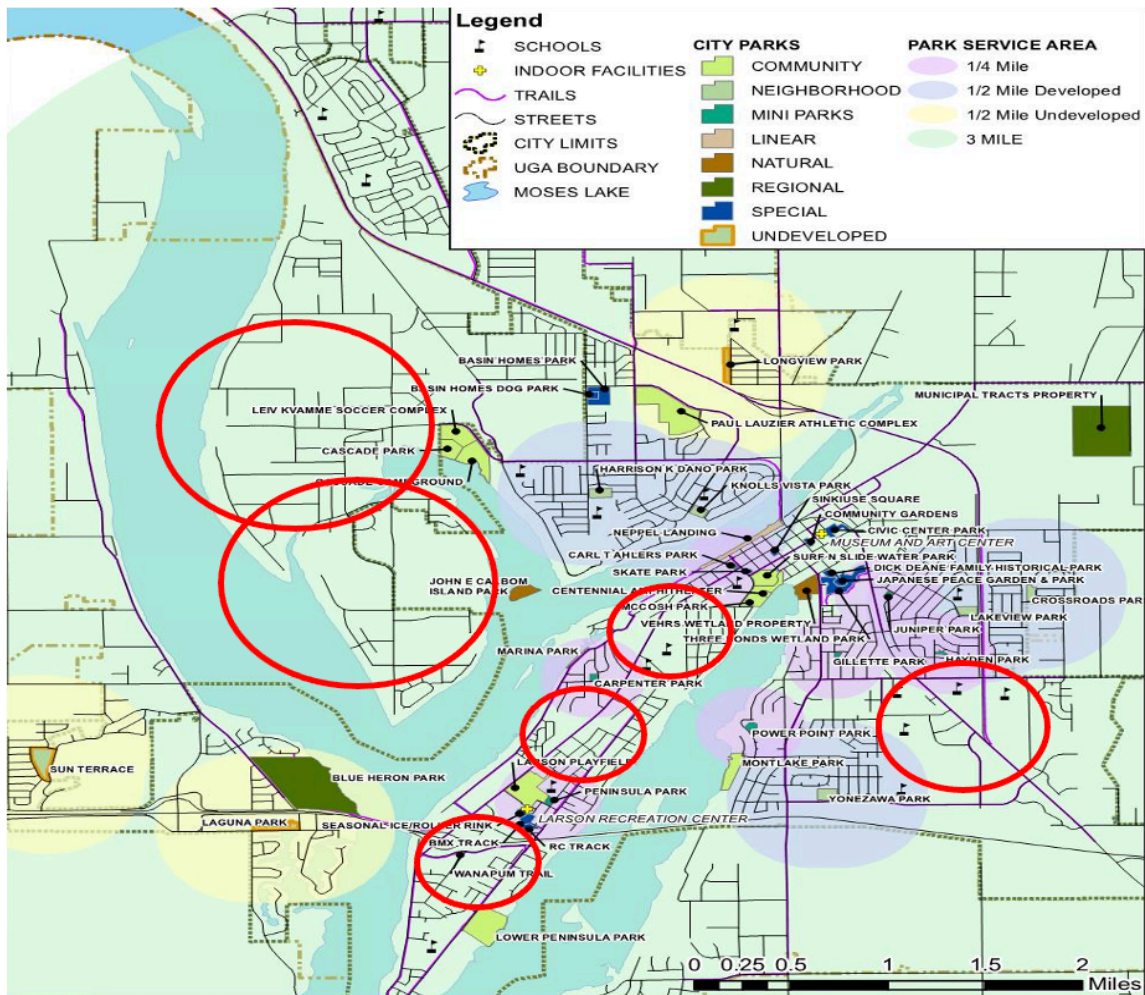
Table 8: Residents per Park (Density)

NRPA Reported Residents per Park (Density)		
	All Agencies	Population 20,000 to 49,999
Median	2,277	1,900
Lower Quartile	1,302	1,207
Upper Quartile	4,359	3,083

Table 9: Moses Lake Miles of Trails

NRPA Reported Miles of Trails		
	All Agencies	Population 20,000 to 49,999
Median	12	9
Lower Quartile	4	4
Upper Quartile	36	16

Figure 20: Gaps in Moses Lake Level of Service Map

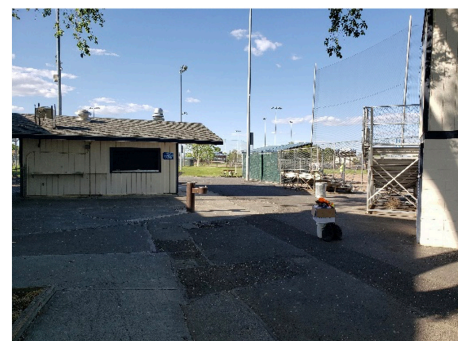


D. KEY FINDINGS

As previously mentioned, the consultant team was, by and large, impressed with the quality and maintenance level of the Moses Lake parks. Key findings for future improvements or enhancements are included below.

Connectivity and Access

In many of the parks, sidewalk access to main facilities such as restrooms, picnic areas, and playgrounds was missing. It is suggested that the City evaluate connectivity and ADA accessibility, including the quantity of ADA parking stalls for each of the parks and prioritize improvements in accessibility by use level. Specific to the Larson Playfield Facility, pedestrian walkways should be evaluated. The facility is heavily used but appeared to have some maintenance concerns in walking surfaces and organization of spaces.



Site Furnishings

In general, the consistency of park site furnishings varied. The consultant team suggests the City establish a parts inventory or product standard manual that informs all future furnishing installation and/or replacement. Specifically, inventory noted the need for additional dog waste stations and upgrades to some drinking fountains. Additionally, lighting and light levels should be evaluated further. Lighting at park areas varied. Lighting in many parking lots was found to be greatly insufficient and requires upgrades. ADA picnic tables should also be considered when locating future furnishings.

Playgrounds

In general playground equipment was dated. The consultant team suggested the City evaluate the potential for playground upgrades in association with use level. Larger scale regional playground improvements could be considered at park locations where both high local use meets high use by park visitors during events such as sporting tournaments. The playground safety surface varied with playgrounds including easily accessible rubberized safety surfacing. Playground improvements should include ADA ramps into play spaces and modernized play equipment. The department is encouraged to consider all-inclusive playground upgrades, particularly in North Base, Cascade Valley, Peninsula and Downtown areas where households with very high numbers of individuals with disabilities reside. The following table shows the percentage of individual with disabilities as distributed among the four mentioned neighborhoods.



Table 10: Percentage of Individuals with Disabilities

North Base	45%
Cascade Valley	36%
Peninsula	22%
Downtown	21%

Revenue Opportunities

The consultant team observed a couple smaller park parcels with limited facilities located throughout the system. The City may consider evaluating the value of these smaller limited parcels as it compares to the value in revenue that could be acquired through sale of the property. Sales of parcels such as these could support revenue for future park development in other park lands. The City should further evaluate the revenue opportunities that development of the Blue Heron RV Park facility would provide. Additionally the City should consider leveraging both water craft vendors and facility access fees for revenue generation.

General Maintenance, Potential Enhancements, and Infill Opportunities

The City should consider upgrading park signage to dual language, including both English and Spanish and consider the addition of restroom facilities in parks that have portable restroom service. The City should also consider establishing a system wide tree replacement and pruning plan to ensure park forestation remains healthy and die-out is mitigated with new and continued growth. Lastly, the system includes several undeveloped properties which have the potential to serve the community in a valuable way. The City shall prioritize the improvement of these facilities to best serve the needs of the community as it grows. See **Table 11** for a detailed list of potential improvements and enhancements in parks.

Table 11: Moses Lake Park Improvements and Enhancement

Park	Improvement/Enhancement
Basin Homes Dog Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restroom to replace portable • Shade structure
Blue Heron Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayak launch • Security lighting (Parking lot)
BMX Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike rack • Shade structure • Additional seating
Carl T Ahlers Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security lighting • Seating • Shade • Landscaping improvements
Carpenter Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA picnic tables • ADA access to playground • Improved landscaping • Shade structure • Playground upgrade
Cascade Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security lighting (in parking lot) • Additional seating • Restroom upgrade • Improved landscaping
Centennial Amphitheater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog stations • Ornamental plantings upgrade
Civic Center Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved landscaping • Shade
Community Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security lighting • Seating • Additional trash cans
Harrison Dano Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restroom upgrade • Seating • Shade • Drinking fountains
Hayden Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground upgrade • Add an entrance sign
Juniper Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground upgrade
Knolls Vista Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security lighting • Additional seating • Ornamental planting
Laguna Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept plan
Lakeview Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground upgrade • Add ADA picnic tables • Ornamental planting

Park	Improvement/Enhancement
Larson Playfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ornamental plantings • ADA ramp into the playground
Leiv Kvamme Soccer Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground upgrade • Shade for playground • Picnic tables • Additional seating • Drinking fountain
Longview Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept plan
Lower Peninsula Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog stations • Trash cans • Drinking fountains • Ornamental plantings • Kayak launch
Municipal Tracks Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept plan
Paul Lauzier Athletic Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade seating • Dog stations • Bike racks
Skate Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating • Shade structure
Sun Terrace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept plan
Three Ponds Wetland Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boardwalk • Better access
Vehrs Wetland Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept plan
Wanapum Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating • Shade structure

Dog Off-Leash Parks

NRPA tracks the number of dog parks of similar sized communities and to meet the median, Moses Lake should consider adding a dog park. Siting a dog park (fenced) and/or an off-leash area (unfenced) should consider the following and should include formally adopted criteria after a robust community engagement process when siting.

Access

- Walkable access
- Provide ADA access from ADA parking stalls to Dog Off Leash Area (DOLA) entrances to a shaded area with benches and ADA companion seating
- Distributed throughout the city
- Not near other dog parks
- Must have sufficient adjacent parking, preferably off street, that does not require users to cross a street; curbside parking is less desirable, but optional

Size

- Recommended minimum is one acre and should comprise an area a minimum of three quarters of an acre for big dogs and an area a minimum one quarter of an acre for small, or older dogs

Environmental Considerations

- Avoid affecting fish & wildlife habitat
- Avoid risk to water quality
- Adjacent land use compatibility
- Avoid areas with identified threatened species of animal/plants
- Consider seasonal suspensions of off-leash activities to allow wildlife to nest, breed, and rear their young

Design/Operation and Maintenance Considerations

- Relatively level (slopes and heavy tree canopy should be avoided whenever possible)
- Areas should be dry and irrigated rather than wet (place barriers and buffer zones to protect sensitive and highly erodible areas)
- Avoid siting dog parks adjacent to streets with heavy traffic
- Maintainable in a way that is safe for dogs and people
- Areas that can easily be closed to allow for turf regeneration/rest
- Available shade
- O&M funding availability/staff capacity to empty dog waste (much more dense than regular park trash)
- Appropriate soil with moderate erosion, drainage, etc.
- Close to potable water supply

Park Use

- Siting decisions made after robust community engagement process
- Away from school playgrounds
- Park's main circulation should be outside off-leash areas
- Consider areas with current high dog off-leash use (informal)
- Consider potential user conflicts
- Not close to or on sports fields/courts
- Dog Off Leash Areas (DOLA) shall not displace organized recreational use or unstructured use in a park
- Minimal impact on adjacent residential areas (100' from residents with moderate buffer, 200' from residents and good buffer)
- The location designated Dog Off Leash Areas (DOLA) should be far enough away from residential or commercial land use that the single-event sound of a dog bark would generally be perceived as a background or ambient noise or would be screened by traffic noise

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