

CHAPTER 1



CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION & COMMUNITY PROFILE

Introduction

The Moses Lake Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Planning process establishes a road map for providing quality, community-driven parklands, facilities, open spaces, trails and recreation programs. The current update, presented here, reflects the needs, desires and recommended priorities that set the foundation for the next 15-20 years.

▪ **Purpose of Plan**

The purpose of the plan, through involvement, is to identify current and future recreation needs within the Moses Lake planning area (UGA). The goals, strategies and recommended actions for improving the parks, focus the priorities on acquisition, development and programming. The result implements these priorities into the City's services and capital facilities plans. The benefit will be an accessible, community-oriented parks and recreation system that will meet residents' needs as a better place to live, work and play.

The plan is organized into six chapters and three appendices of technical information:

Chapter 1 - Introduction & Community Profile provides the why, the purpose, and the approach to the plan; it describes the community, the demographics and historical characteristics, the planning area boundaries, and the land and cultural resources. It details the planning process, involvement and integration of data from other relevant documents.

Chapter 2 - Existing Facility & Program Inventory details the parkland classifications and existing facility and park inventory

Chapter 3 - Goals & Objectives explains the core goals as well as the guiding objectives of the Moses Lake Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan.

Chapter 4- Community Needs Assessment evaluates the current inventory, state and national trends and identifies present and future needs for additional parkland, recreation facilities and open space within the Moses Lake planning area.

Chapter 5 - Implementation Action Plan describes a summary of the assessed needs and specific recommended actions related to the acquisition and development of future park sites, and details projected recreational programming, maintenance and staffing recommendations.

Chapter 6 - Funding Plan:

Appendix A - Facility Inventory & Park Descriptions contains descriptions of the individual parks, location, size, ownership, status, deficiencies, planned improvement, deed restrictions, comments and site location map.

Appendix B - Community Survey includes involvement activities, community meetings and results of the community survey.

▪ Planning Process

The planning process for the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan considers the unique historical, demographic and physical characteristics, as well as the recreation needs of the residents who live in the Moses Lake area.

This plan is an update to the City's 2010 adopted plan and is consistent with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) guidelines. The RCO administers most state and federal park oriented grant programs. To be grant eligible, Moses Lake must maintain an updated parks and recreation plan. The Plan also meets the framework of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan Guidelines and provides for coordination with the City of Moses Lake's Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The plan draws from and builds on previous planning work for the City of Moses Lake, including:

- *2013, 2014 & 2015 Final Adopted City of Moses Lake Budgets*
- *2007 Community Branding, Development & Marketing Plan prepared by Destination Development, Inc. for the City of Moses Lake.*
- *2006 City of Moses Lake Visitor/Tourism Assessment*
- *2015 City of Moses Lake Planning Commission Recommended Comprehensive Plan (as amended in 2015)*
- *2004 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Orientation Manual*
- *2005 Moses Lake Activity Trails Master Plan*
- *The Development Benefits of Playgrounds, Joe L. Front, 2004*
- *Step To A Healthier US, Washington State Department of Health, background, partnerships, leadership and funding 2006*

The planning process includes four phases:

Phase I: Identification of Resource Inventory & Goals

Current conditions, inventory of existing parkland, facilities and recreation services were documented. Phase I also included the mapping of resources and identification of the Department's inventory, as well as introductory meetings with the staff, elected and citizens. A future vision and set of goals for the Department were defined by the Parks & Recreation Commission based on an understanding of the community needs and priorities.

Phase II: Community Outreach & Needs

Phase II involved community outreach through involvement that included a community survey, staff, elected and stakeholder gathering and community meetings. A copy of the Community Survey and key findings from this outreach are included in Appendix B. Through these forums, community members identified park and recreation issues, priorities and future needs. Along with an analysis of parkland, facilities and recreation services, key involvement findings and park and recreation trends were the basis for the Community Needs Assessment.

Phase III: Implementation & Funding

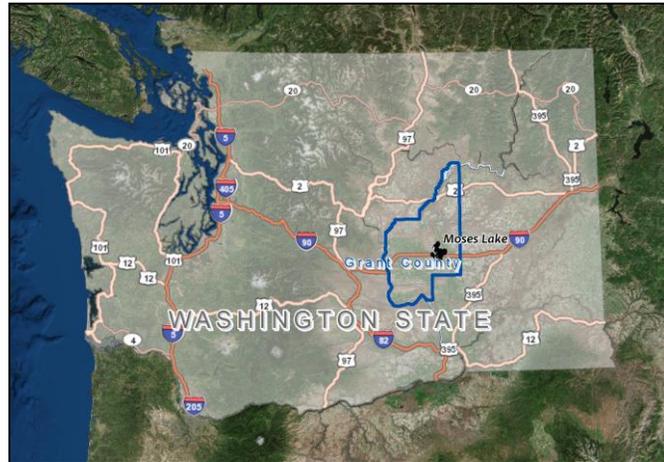
Based on the findings of the Community Needs Assessment, recommendations and strategies were developed to guide the realization of the community's vision for parklands, facilities and recreation services for Moses Lake. This blueprint for parks and recreation establishes a capital facilities plan and defines a financing plan, which identifies potential funding sources, costs and timing for the proposed park projects.

Phase IV: Adoption

The draft **Moses Lake Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan** will be presented to the staff, Park & Recreation Commission and the Moses Lake City Council for final adoption. Upon adoption, the final document will guide parks and recreation service delivery in the planning area over the next 20 years.

▪ **Community Profile**

The City of Moses Lake is located in Grant County Washington in the heart of the Columbia Basin. Located along I-90, it is 175 miles east of Seattle and 110 miles west of Spokane. Moses Lake is one of the state's largest natural fresh water lakes. The numerous parks and beaches along Moses Lake offer a variety of fun recreational water opportunities. As the Moses Lake area touts, Mother Nature has provided a wealth of recreational features and opportunities coupled with over 300 days of sunshine and only 7.8 inches of rainfall per year. Moses Lake and the surrounding County climate become a destination for year-round activities for residents and travelers. It is one of the most active areas in the region for golf, world class fishing, boat racing, watchable wildlife, pleasure boating, hunting, historical landmarks, agricultural projects, live music and concerts, camping, swimming, ice skating and walking nature trails.



The unique landscape is a geologic wonderland created by major forces of nature, where prehistoric lava flows and ice age floods played a major role in shaping the geology of the area. Museums help explain and interpret the unbelievable geologic formations. As an example, visitors at the Dry Falls Interpretive Center can view the 400-foot high, 3.5-mile wide former waterfall, the largest on earth. The Potholes Reservoir south of Moses Lake was created 60-years ago by the Army Corp of Engineers as part of the Columbia Basin Project. The reservoir collects water for redistribution, providing irrigation benefits for a wide variety of crops grown in the area, such as winter and spring wheat, potatoes and hay, apples, cherries, and other fruits along with corn, asparagus, spearmint and peppermint. This unique reservoir attracts large numbers of Canada geese and over 100,000 ducks during the winter seasons. Mallard ducks are the species most often seen, but redheads and cinnamon teal also nest at the Columbia National Wildlife refuge. More than 200 species of birds, including songbirds, hawks, owls, great blue heron, sandhill cranes and tundra swans also call the refuge home. The geology of the Columbia Basin accounts for its compatibility with both agriculture and outdoor recreation.

Prior to the first farmers and ranchers, the area was used by the Columbia Salish Indian Tribe (now called the Moses Columbia People) as a summer encampment. The first settler, who lived

near the foot of a hill northwest of where the town lies today, was a horse trader named Parker. In 1911 the Town of Neppel was founded to support pioneer farmers who settled on the shore of the lake. By 1938 the city was incorporated and was renamed Moses Lake after an Indian chief of the Sinkiuse Tribe who was named "Moses" by early Presbyterian missionaries. In that same year the transcontinental U.S. Highway 10 was built through town. In the 1940s the U.S. Army built a Bomber Training Base which later became the military installation, renamed Larson Air Force Base. It served as an enlarged outpost of the Strategic Air Command. The Columbia Basin Irrigation Project, constructed in the 1950s by the Bureau of Reclamation, was the nation's largest single reclamation project. Construction of the irrigation system included about 2,300 miles of canals and laterals and 3,200 miles of drains and waterways that made the City and Basin flourish by allowing irrigation to over 200,000 acres of farmland.

With the Air Force Base and the irrigation project, agriculturally oriented business and industry developed in the Columbia Basin. By the 1960s the deactivated facility was transferred to the control of the Port of Moses Lake, where business and industry complemented the Grant County Airport and adjacent Big Bend Community College, which occupies many of the buildings today. The facility most recently served as a flight-training center for Japan Air Lines and both domestic and other foreign airlines used the field for training pilots and flight crews. With a change and closure of federally funded projects, the area has broadened to an agriculture supported economy, diversified expanded industry base and has a 3% anticipated population growth in the City's UGA. Agriculture, with over 550,000 acres and about 6,000 farms provided irrigation and remains the base of the economy. Over 90 major industries and businesses, not counting the retail outlets, contribute to the stability of the area.

▪ **Plan, Planning Area & Demographics**

The City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was last adopted in 2010. The City of Moses Lake plans under the Growth Management Act (GMA) which guides a managed framework for growth and development for the next twenty years. The GMA requires the designation of urban growth areas (UGA) which includes areas and densities to sufficiently provide for anticipated growth to occur in the City of over the next twenty years. As of 2016, the City covers approximately 21 square miles [13,351 acres]. The UGA encompasses over 26 square miles [17,455 acres] equal to 57% of the total area. As stated in the adopted Moses Lake Comprehensive Plan, the plan is more than a mandate; it is "an essential tool and guide to the preservation and enhancement of Moses Lake's long term economic growth and community viability and identity. It expresses the vision of the community and how that vision may be realized." Moses Lake's Park & Recreation Comprehensive Plan is adopted as an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan through the annual amendment process.

▪ **Population Forecast / Land Use**

The population of Moses Lake and the unincorporated UGA areas was 31,865 as of the 2010 U.S. Census. The Moses Lake Comprehensive Plan indicates that the population within the UGA will grow at a rate of 3.0 percent per year. The Washington State Office of Financial Management, as of April 1, 2015, estimates the population is 22,080 within the Moses Lake city limits versus the actual 2010 census population of 20,366. The population forecast indicates that there will be 49,644 residents in 2025 with 31,729 in the city limits and 17,915 in the unincorporated UGA.

Moses Lake is the largest, most populated city in Grant County. The Land Use element of Moses Lake's Comprehensive Plan identifies the need to recognize that the future of the urban and rural area depends on the City providing sufficient affordable housing and a livable urban community to meet the needs of the area's growing population. In Land Use/Chapter 3, Goal 11 identifies the need to "**Preserve Open Spaces which Contribute to Community Character, Protect**

Resources and Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and Enhance Recreational, Educational and Aesthetic Opportunities” with policies regarding conservation easements, habitat restoration, development design criteria, preservation of natural resources and features, protection and enhancement of critical areas, trail connectivity, accessibility to shoreline for access and linking of national open space lands with connective corridors for aesthetic and recreational benefit.

Section 3.2 of the Land Use designations defines **Parks/Open Space** as a category for private use, parklands and open spaces currently owned, and future sites reserved for park development. Section 3.2 with benefit for park open space, identifies **Sensitive Areas Open Space** which provides the identification of critical natural environments with wetlands, priority habitats and those sites designated as Natural or Conservancy under the updated Shoreline Master Program.

Chapter 3 in Section 3.6/Environment under the Open Space topic identifies the planning goal **“Encouraging the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water and develop parks.”**

▪ **Public Involvement**

In understanding the recreation needs and preferences of the residents of Moses Lake, the planning process incorporated community input, which was obtained through several involvement activities:

- **Survey (online and printed in English and Spanish):** Community questionnaires were administered online through the Moses Lake Parks & Recreation Department website to obtain adult and youth input and preferences on recreation patterns, needs and priorities.
- **Advertised:** Moses Lake Parks & Recreation, Moses Lake Museum & Art Center, and City of Moses Lake Facebook Pages, City Website, Staff signature lines, personal invites, E-Notification, City Calendar
- **Community Input Meetings:** The meeting provided the opportunity for citizens to gather to provide input, visions and participate in developing the plan for the future. (Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting 12/9/15, Trails Planning Team Meeting 1/12/16, and Museum and Art Center Opening Reception 1/15/16)
- **Focus Advisory Gathering:** Parks & Recreation staff, citizens, elected and advisory appointments provided history, technical knowledge and guidance to the planning process, community vision and feedback regarding key documents in support of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- **Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission:** The seven-member citizen advisory board furnished the sense of direction for facilities and services in providing the key role of setting the goals and objectives that form the basic framework for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.



▪ **Integration with Other Documents**

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan provides a 20-year vision for the provision of parks and recreation in Moses Lake. This Plan is an update of the 2010 plan adopted in 2010, with the May 12, 2004 Addendum #1 recognizing the 2001 Parks Plan level-of-service standards with inclusion of county park, school district and fairgrounds properties. Comprehensive planning documents for parks and recreation jurisdictions are required every six years to maintain eligibility for grants administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). This Plan is intended to comply with all RCO requirements.

The City of Moses Lake Comprehensive Plan discusses park, recreation and open space issues in Section 7.3. This Plan does not propose changes to the Goals and Policies 1-15 of the Comprehensive Plan section regarding Parks, Recreation Facilities and Open Space. The goals, objectives and policies presented in this Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan amplify those goals and policies that are referenced in the City Comprehensive Plan. Planning documents and studies that influence park and recreation facilities and services within the City were reviewed for policies, guidelines and information relevant to the Park, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan, which were:

City of Moses Lake Planning Commission Recommended Comprehensive Plan, as amended in 2015

US Census 2010 & Washington Office of Financial Management - Population Estimates

Community Branding, Development & Marketing Plan, 2007

Moses Lake Activity Trails Master Plan, 2005

Shoreline Master Plan, 1988