



CHAPTER 4

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

The Needs Assessment is one of the most important elements of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan. 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.

Transitioning current parks, facilities and recreation programming to meet the changing needs of a community can be a challenging process for the department and community. The needs assessment reviews the current programs and determines the need for a new direction through involvement with the community. Development of the statement of need is dependent on local values, availability of land, financial resources, desired service levels plus local, state and national standards. The needs assessment represents a combination of results from the community survey, interviews, National Recreation Park Association (NRPA) and Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) standards, state and national trends related to the existing inventory, as well as current and future population demands.

Recently, the National Recreation Park Association concluded that their established recommendations for park service areas and recommended levels of service no longer worked as an exclusive “one size fits all” approach. Since that time, they have suggested several additional options along with the original approach. While some communities have embraced those suggested optional approaches, most continue to rely upon the earlier suggestions. In the case of the Moses Lake Parks & Recreation Department, it seems that the earlier approach works quite well for our size of community. As a result, we continue to utilize those recommendations and have applied them as such to this Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan.

These chapters discuss the need for parklands, recreation facilities, programs, services and open space in the Moses Lake Planning area, which encompasses the area within the current city limits as well as the land within the City’s Urban Growth Area.

The needs and recommendations are grouped into sections:

1. Parkland and Open Space
2. City Facilities
3. City Recreation Programs and Services

1. CITY PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE

Specific needs for each type of parkland are described on the following pages. Defining parkland, open space and community need is dependent on local values, financial resources, and desired levels of service. Classifying a park and open space is sometimes difficult. What defines a park or open space area? Should school playgrounds be considered? Are private golf courses, commercial landscape areas or private recreation areas being considered? To focus and resolve this issue, the needs assessment will consider only lands or quasi-land used and primarily available for recreation or open space use within the Moses Lake Urban Growth Area.

As elements of process of determining need, the following were also considered in determining need:

- Existing geographical deficiencies of parkland.
- Needs by participation projections.
- Existing Level of Service (ELOS) and Planned Level of Service (PLOS).
- State and national current trends.
- Feasibility of financial resources.
- Land available.
- **Population Forecast**

To determine the ratio of parkland as well as recreation facilities, a comparison of the existing population base is used to identify the existing level of service. To develop the desired level-of-service (recommended standard) the ratio is applied to the future population forecast which therefore determines the future needs.

The population within Moses Lake city limits and the unincorporated UGA were used to determine the existing ratio. Population growth predictions were determined in the adopted City of Moses Lake Comprehensive Plan. The target year is 2025.

Table 4-1
Moses Lake Planning Area*
Population Forecast

Year	2010	2015	2025
City Limits	20,366	22,080	31,729
Unincorporated UGA	11,499	13,330	17,915
Planning Area Population Total	31,865	35,410	49,644

* Source adopted Moses Lake Comprehensive Plan prepared by the City Community Development Department.

- **Existing and Proposed Level Of Service (ELOS & PLOS)**

In the City of Moses Lake there are presently 395.09 acres of developed and undeveloped parkland. If Moses Lake grows as planned at 3% per year, the 2015 population would be 35,410 and in 2025 it is estimated to be 49,644.

The National Recreation Park Association set standards are to be viewed as a **guide**. In looking at developed and undeveloped parkland, the current approach will include considerations of the NRPA 10 acres/1000 for acquisition and development of park, recreation, and open space lands. To keep the PLOS in perspective, the amount of developed parkland in several eastern Washington cities located east of the Cascade Mountains, e.g. Yakima, Ellensburg, Chelan, Ephrata and Wenatchee, are all in the range of 10-15 acres per 1000 population.

Parks are for people. Parks, recreation and planning were used to determine the Moses Lake Parks & Recreation level of service (PLOS). It also takes into account the percent of area placement of parks and open space within the overall geographic land-use pattern, as well as participation trends, user carrying capacity of the land and growing population projections.

▪ **Classifications of Parklands Standards**

Guidelines for providing parks and recreation opportunities for the citizens of Moses Lake provide the standards as general requirements. The National Recreation Park Association (NRPA) standards define general indications of the area served by a given type of park. For example Mini Parks have a ¼ - mile service area and recommended size between 2500 sq. ft. and 1-acre. Definitions of each park type were defined in the previous chapter 2 - Existing Facility and Program Resources and again will be clarified in this Chapter to define the needs for specific types of parkland. Chapter 5 will present the Implementation Action Plan. A matrix summary of all of the parks and facilities is shown on Table 4-11. The eight classifications of parklands include:

- A: Mini Parks
- B: Neighborhood Parks
- C: Community Parks
- D: Regional Parks
- E: Special Use Areas
- F: Natural Open Space
- G: Trails/Linear Parks/Corridors
- H: Beautification & Gateways

1-A: MINI PARKS

Presently there are nine Mini Parks with 10.75 total acres. They are are:

- Carl T. Ahlers Park (.48)
- Carpenter Park (1.12)
- Gillette Park (0.93)
- Hayden Park (0.52)
- Juniper Park (0.83)
- Peninsula Park (1.07)
- Power Point Park (1.65)
- Vista Park I (2.86)
- Unnamed Park - outside Japanese Gardens (1.29)

Most of the Mini Parks are located in the core downtown area and serve as enhancements to the immediate surrounding neighborhoods. Some provide a respite, as they are located along existing pathway and trail routes. In Moses Lake, the Mini Parks serve a purpose and support the neighborhood parks, as the Lake geographic layout is unique and vehicular barriers are safety access concerns for young families. Typical development may include turf, trees, shrubs, irrigation, benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, basketball hoops, paved parking or walkways, signage and lighting. On a per acre basis, this type of park is very expensive to maintain.

Mini Park Service Area:

The service area of a Mini Park is ¼-mile radius, which is the traditional recommendation. They are used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.

Comments and Trends Regarding Mini Parks:

Survey results:

- No specific comments regarding the need for Mini Parks were indicated in the survey but 28.2% of respondents indicated frequent use and 52.6% indicated occasional use of “a park near home” second when asked “how often do you use” a park located near your home.
- 31.8% of those surveyed indicated that they thought the “most needed facilities” in parks were playgrounds. Additionally, 26.6% indicated basketball courts as the “most needed facilities.” These types of elements could be accommodated in Mini Parks but in many cities are better suited for larger Neighborhood Parks.

Trends

- In some communities, the development of Mini Parks or playground sites has become very popular. In some cases, as they are relatively inexpensive to build, therefore they are designed to serve a specific subdivision. Mini Parks also provide a benefit when there are physical barriers that block easy access to most residents.
- However, on a per acre basis, Mini Parks are very expensive to maintain and provide a limited service, especially if they are located in the interior of a sub-division which lacks easy access to the ¼ mile service areas for the citizens.

Demand Standard for Mini Parks:

The NRPA recommends 0.25 - 0.50 acres per 1,000 populations. The nine Mini Parks in Moses Lake represent a current ratio of .49 acres per 1,000 populations. Currently the need for Mini Parks is met, but as the population grows the need for Mini Parks and the values they provide could be served by added Linear Parks with Mini Park amenities along pathway and trail access points.

Table 4.2
Mini Parks
Recommended Level-Of-Service (PLOS)
Demand Standard
City of Moses Lake

	2015 city limits 22,080	2015 city limits w/ UGA 35,410
Existing Inventory	10.75 acres	same
Existing sites	9 parks	same
Existing ratio ELOS	.49 acres/1,000	.30 acres/1000
	2025 city limits 31,729	2025 city limits w/ UGA 49,644
Existing + Future Inventory (to meet recommendation)	10.75 acres + 0 (within range)	10.75 acres + 1.66 to 14.07 acres
Existing + sites (to meet recommendation)	9 + 0 (within range)	9 + 2 to 18 more Mini Parks - based on 0.79 acres average size
Future LOS if no additional acreage added	.34 acres/1,000	.21 acres/1,000
Recommended PLOS	0.25 - 0.50 acres/ 1,000 Population	0.25 - 0.50 acres/ 1,000 Population

Observations Regarding Mini Parks

Mini Parks, tot lots and children's playgrounds are all small single purpose play lots designed primarily to be used by small children and homes located nearby. It is recommended that Mini Parks should be used in areas where the population is not sufficient to support a neighborhood park or where there is a limited amount of available land or in an area where the Mini Park can serve as an entrance or access to a pathway or trail corridor. Because of their size, the facilities are usually limited to a small open grass area and a children's playground. The geography of Moses Lake is unique, with major roads (Broadway, Pioneer Way, and Highway 17) and lake waterways that create a series of barriers that affect the ¼ mile radius access for residents. Therefore in the City of Moses Lake, a series of Mini Parks help serve the Neighborhood Park needs throughout the community



1-B: NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Currently there are eight Neighborhood Parks (33.62 acres) in the Moses Lake area. Two are undeveloped. The neighborhood parks are:

- Crossroads Park (3.08)
- Harrison K. Dano Park (4.70)
- Knolls Vista Park (3.01)
- Laguna Park (4.94)
- Lakeview Park (3.51)
- Longview Park (4.27) undeveloped
- Vista Park II (5.12) undeveloped
- Yonezawa Park (4.99)

Neighborhood Parks are not as efficient to maintain and operate as larger Community Parks. However, they are important in providing convenient access to residents. The developed sites in Moses Lake are well maintained, but there is a need to work toward development of the additional sites to serve the neighborhood needs throughout the City.

Neighborhood Park Service Area:

Neighborhood Parks serve a ½-mile distance and located if possible within an uninterrupted access. These could include non-residential streets or other physical barriers that would prevent easy access.

Comments and Trends Regarding Neighborhood Parks:

Survey results

- A theme emerged from the analysis of the community questionnaire results which expressed and emphasized the need for parks close-to-home. They indicated that "small parks in neighborhoods" (34.2%) were the types most needed.
- The majority of the respondents came from the 25-44 age group. This may be indicative of the large number of young families that will benefit from Neighborhood Parks, with added input (35.6%) stating that they support the need for "building stronger families and neighborhoods."
- In ranking how "often they use a certain park," the answers on a ranking scale of 1-14 was "a park near home" which ranked first.

Trends

- Communities are interested in unique new activities in their Neighborhood Parks.
- Today citizens want to get outside, be active and play with their children in a park that is within close proximity and can be accessed with pedestrian and bicycle usage.

- The Neighborhood Parks located near residents provides the ideal opportunity for play, fitness and exercise opportunities, as well as provides a social opportunity for those that live in close proximity to the park.
- In some communities where the availability of land is unyielding, a partnership with the schools is created to help meet the need for Neighborhood Park services. This option does not effectively meet the needs of the entire community, as access is limited to the school play areas during the school day. Today most physical activity for children occurs outside of the school setting.
- Playgrounds have a service area recommended at the same levels as Neighborhood Parks. It is therefore recommended that playgrounds be provided at each of the Neighborhood Park sites.

Demand Standard for Neighborhood Parks:

The NRPA recommends 1-2 acres per 1,000 population as a standard for Neighborhood Parks. Barriers to Neighborhood Parks in Moses Lake create a service area that cannot serve a true circumference area from most homes. Typically, eastern Washington cities have a higher standard, which is in the range of 3-5 acres per 1,000 population.

Table 4.3
Neighborhood Parks
Recommended Level-Of-Service (PLOS)
Demand Standard
City of Moses Lake

	2015 city limits 22,080	2015 city limits w/ UGA 35,410
Existing Inventory	33.62 acres	same
Existing sites	8 (2 of which are undeveloped)	same
Existing ratio ELOS	1.52 acres/1,000	0.95/1000

	2025 city limits 31,729	2025 city limits w/ UGA 49,644
Existing + Future Inventory (to meet recommendation)	33.62 acres + 0 (within range)	33.62 acres + 16.02 to 32.04 acres
Existing + sites (to meet recommendation)	8 + 0 (within range)	8 + 2 to 4 more Neighborhood Parks - based on 7.5 acres average size
Future LOS if no additional acreage added	1.05 acres/1,000	0.68 acres/1,000

Recommended PLOS	1.0 - 2.0 acres/ 1,000 Population	1.0 - 2.0 acres/ 1,000 Population
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Observations Regarding Neighborhood Parks

Currently, two of the existing Neighborhood Park sites are undeveloped. Securing the land before it goes to development and working with local private developers and landowners has provided the acreage in the goal of meeting the existing needs in the core area of Moses Lake. Capital funds should be used to concentrate on the development of these existing sites. The existing need for additional Neighborhood parkland in the northern and southern growth areas provides for opportunities to continue to identify potential parkland opportunities in these areas (see Appendix A-1-8 and A-1-9).

1-C: COMMUNITY PARKS

There are six Community Parks in Moses Lake, with a total of 141.7 acres. Two of the sites have undeveloped acreage. The Community Parks are:

- Cascade Park (34.45)
- Larson Playfield Complex (19.62)
- Lower Peninsula Park (23.21) 13.21 acres undeveloped
- McCosh Park (20.06)
- Montlake Park (9.24) 1.24 acres undeveloped
- Paul Lauzier Athletic Complex (35.12)

The Community Parks in Moses Lake provide fairly even coverage throughout the community. The existing sites are developed to serve a broad range of recreational opportunities. *Cascade Park* located on Lewis Horn, provides camping, athletic fields, water and boating access to the lake. *McCosh Park*, located in the central core along the north portion of Pelican Horn, provides swimming and water recreation at the water park, as well as tennis, basketball, picnicking, sports courts and lake access. The *Larson Playfield* and *Paul Lauzier Athletic Complexes* provide tournament level athletic fields, playground and group picnicking areas. *Montlake* and *Lower Peninsula Park* provide boat launches, fishing, lake access, playgrounds and trails. Montlake also has a picnic shelter.

Community Park Service Area:

The service areas of a Community Park are generally a 1-3 mile radius. Using this service area, the City of Moses Lake appears to be fairly well served, except those remaining portions in the northern growth areas which are not being served by parks that provide the Community Park function (see Appendix A-1-8 and A-1-9).

Comments and trends regarding Community parks:

Survey results

- As a major community attraction, McCosh Community Park was the highest ranked destination among respondents.
- The Surf 'Slide Water Park, which is an element of McCosh, ranked very high as third in the "how often do you use the following parks and facilities."
- In answer to "types of parks most needed" 35.9% (third of 6 types) desired the large multi-use parks, which were indicated as the most used parks in the system currently.
- When asked the "types of recreation facilities" (#10) results included: shoreline and water access (30.9%), along with more traditional park elements such as basketball courts (26.2%), playground (31.4%) and sports fields (28.1%) made up the next group (second in importance) of responses.

Trends

- The larger multi-service Community Parks, such as those in Moses Lake, have become popular in many communities as they provide a wider range of activities, are easier to program for a broader population and are more efficient to maintain on a per-acre basis than the smaller Mini and Neighborhood Parks.

- Youth need to have greater opportunities to experience play outdoors. The National Wildlife Federation 2008 Policy Action Plan (endnotes) identifies known facts that research shows:
 - Children are spending less time outdoors than they did 20 years ago.
 - Playing outdoors can increase creativity, reduce stress and lead to increased physical fitness.
 - The Centers for Disease Control recommends that children and adolescents participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity most days of the week
- As land becomes scarce, housing more dense and Neighborhood Parks become smaller, many communities rely on the City’s Community Parks to serve multiple functions. These included organized active recreation (e.g. ball fields, soccer, swimming) as well as spectator events (e.g. concerts, community family events) and passive recreational opportunities.

Demand Standard for Community Parks:

The NRPA recommends 5-8 acres per 1,000 population as a standard for Community Parks. An average size of the community parks is generally between 30 and 50 acres.

Table 4.4
Community Parks
Recommended Level-Of-Service (PLOS)
Demand Standard
City of Moses Lake

	2015 city limits 22,080	2015 city limits w/ UGA 35,410
Existing Inventory	141.7 acres	same
Existing sites	6	same
Existing ratio ELOS	6.4 acres/1,000	4.0 acres/1000
	2025 city limits 31,729	2025 city limits w/ UGA 49,644
Existing + Future Inventory (to meet recommendation)	141.7 acres + 16.95 to 112.13	141.7 acres + 106.52 to 255.45 acres
Existing + sites (to meet recommendation)	6 + 1 to 3 more sites	6 + 3 to 7 more Community Parks - based on 40 acres average size
Future LOS if no additional acreage added	4.5 acres/1,000	2.8 acres/1,000
Recommended PLOS	5.0 - 8.0 acres/1,000 Population	5.0 - 8.0 acres/1,000 Population

Observations Regarding Community Parks:

It is important again to look at the geographic layout of Moses Lake and the need for parkland to address the land and water configurations which create a non-typical method of providing an overlay of park service areas.

The Community Parks in Moses Lake currently, and in the future, could continue to be parks that provide the addition of major attractions that draw visitors, and also serve as an asset for the citizens. As many citizens indicated in their comments, the Community Parks could provide additional athletic fields, or become the site for a community center with gyms, play area, exercise, recreation programming or even indoor tennis.

1-D: REGIONAL/URBAN PARKS

Two Regional/Urban Park sites are identified in the Moses Lake area. The Regional/Urban Parks are:

- Blue Heron Park (76.68 acres) 53.68 undeveloped
- Municipal Tracts Property (64.43 acres) 64.43 undeveloped

Regional/Urban Park Service Area:

The Regional/Urban Parks provide outdoor recreation facilities with regional significance (e.g. camping, boating) and can serve several communities. The service area is estimated to be a one-hour driving time. The *Blue Heron* Regional/Urban Park was the former Moses Lake State Park and is located along the north side of I-90 on the west side of the City.

Comments and trends regarding Regional/Urban Parks:

Survey results

- One of the top selections for the most important benefits of parks, recreation and open space was: "Providing opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors." (64.5%)
- When asked the types of parks most needed, respondents indicated (35.9%) large multi-use parks as one of the most used parks in the system currently.
- Write-in comment indicated that "As we continue to grow, I feel it's important to have areas of natural surrounds to retreat to providing grass, shade trees and plant material to get people outdoors, especially the youngsters." Also "Frisbee golf is wonderful" at Blue Heron Park.

Trends

- Demand for mini-vacation opportunities in the local area is predicted to increase. Camping in Regional/Urban Parks may become more popular, even on the local level. There may be increased interest and markets for packages that combine camping with resource education programs or specific organized events such as walking (e.g. Volksmarch), astronomy or adventure recreation.
- In looking at the coming years, the number of recreational vehicles (RVs) and proportion of households with an RV should rise moderately, estimated to continue at around 3% of all households. Regional Parks will be challenged with the pressure to develop more RV-oriented sites while trying to meet the needs and desire of the local residents.
- The baby boom generation will continue to have a large presence in the regional park system, but their needs will change. ADA access and opportunities for low impact and educational learning should be provided to meet the needs of this growing user base.
- Facilities in Regional Parks need to be assessed to ensure they help meet the needs of the growing ethnically-diverse segments of the population.

Demand Standard for Regional Parks:

Regional/Urban Parks are generally between 30-100 acres, but NRPA also lists 200+ acre sizes. The NRPA recommends 5-10 acres per 1000 population for Regional/Urban Parks. They define the Regional/Urban Park to be potentially contiguous to or encompassing natural resources and an area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail use; also may include play areas.

**Table 4.5
Regional/Urban Parks
Recommended Level-Of-Service (PLOS)
Demand Standard
*City of Moses Lake***

	2015 city limits 22,080	2015 city limits w/ UGA 35,410
Existing Inventory	141.11 acres (<i>only 23 acres developed</i>)	same
Existing sites	2	same
Existing ratio ELOS	6.4 acres/1,000	4.0 acres/1000

	2025 city limits 31,729	2025 city limits w/ UGA 49,644
Existing + Future Inventory (to meet recommendation)	141.11 acres + 17.53 to 176.18 acres	141.11 acres + 107.11 to 355.33 acres
Existing + sites (to meet recommendation)	2 + 1 to 3 more sites	9 parks + 2 to 6 more Regional Parks - based on 62.5 acres average size
Future LOS if no additional acreage added	4.4 acres/1,000	2.8 acres/1,000

Recommended PLOS	5.0 - 10.0 acres/1,000 Population	5.0 - 10.0 acres/1,000 Population
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Observations Regarding Regional/Urban Parks

Regional/Urban Park demand standards are not specific to each local park system, therefore Moses Lake should continue to take advantage of opportunities, when assessed, to acquire additional parkland for Regional/Urban Parks, particularly on the Lake. The City should continue to coordinate with the State in any effort to pursue partnerships and in cooperation with Grant County, when surplus property becomes available which may be beneficial to the Regional/Urban Park needs of the Moses Lake UGA.

1-E: SPECIAL USE AREAS

There are nine Special Use Areas with a total of 37.67 acres in Moses Lake. The Special Use Areas are:

- Basin Homes Park - Dog Park (9.43) 7.93 acres undeveloped
- Civic Center Park (3.84)
- Community Gardens (0.8)
- Larson Recreation Center (7.03)
- Moses Lake Museum & Art Center (0.78)

- Sinkiuse Square (0.64)
- Skate Park (0.42)
- The Learning Center (0.95)
- Three Ponds Resource Area – including The Japanese Peace Garden (13.78)
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Special Use Areas are sites that provide space for varied functions benefiting the community. For example, the *Moses Lake Museum & Art Center* provides a broad range of events and services with regard to the region’s historical and cultural value. In the Recreation Facilities section (Chapter 4-Section 2) Special Use Areas that provide recreation programming are discussed in detail. Discussion regarding recreational facilities will detail other identified recreational facility needs. There are nine Special Use Areas (*Basin Homes Dog Park, Civic Center Park, Community Gardens, Larson Recreation Center (LRC), Sinkiuse Square, Skate Park, and Three Ponds Resource Area (including The Japanese Peace Garden)*) are outdoor facilities. The *Moses Lake Museum & Art Center* and *The Learning Center (TLC)* are indoor facilities.

Special Use Service Area:

NRPA does not list a specific standard for special use areas. Special Use Areas serve the community as a whole. Considering the various types of facilities, as well as the services on a community and regional basis, special use areas benefit the entire Moses Lake area.

Comments and trends regarding Special Use Areas:

Survey results

- When asked what is “we most needed” 30.9% indicated that it was shoreline and water access.”
- Respondents indicated that “would like a BMX park so we can ride on it instead of the skate park” skate park...”please add a skate board bowl (concrete)”

Trends

- Economic development projects have provided major opportunities for communities to grow, as well as address the needs of the local community. The 2007 adopted Moses Lake Community Branding, Development & Marketing Plan focused with community input to develop a comprehensive vision for tourism. Recommendations from the plan identify facilities, if located independently, could fall under the Special Use category.
- The community gardens were a result of the work completed by the “Healthy Communities-Moses Lake.” It was formed as a result of the Healthy Communities Project in partnership with the National Centers for Disease Control, Washington State Health, the University of Washington and the Moses Lake community to provide a pilot program promoting physical activity and good nutrition to prevent obesity and chronic diseases that are associated with obesity. Development of special use facilities provides opportunities to address health and fitness activities.
- Communities continue to provide shooting and archery ranges as special use areas. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grants funds for the acquisition, development and renovation of and private nonprofit firearm ranges, archery training and practice facilities under the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Programs (FARR).

Demand Standard for Special Use Areas:

To locate the identified special use facilities, parkland is needed to accommodate the various types of facilities it could encompass. The community has identified the need for constructing an indoor community center, indoor pool, indoor tennis, and shoreline access points. Many of these facilities can be located in community park acreage or at existing parkland sites.

Table 4.6
Special Use Areas
Recommended Level-Of-Service (PLOS)
Demand Standard
City of Moses Lake

	2015 city limits 22,080	2015 city limits w/ UGA 35,410
Existing Inventory	37.67 acres	same
Existing sites	9	same
Existing ratio ELOS	1.7/1,000	1.06/1000

	2025 city limits 31,729	2025 city limits w/ UGA 49,644
Existing + Future Inventory (to meet recommendation)	37.67 acres + 0 acres (within range)	37.67 acres + 15.44 acres
Existing + sites (to meet recommendation)	9 + 0 acres (within range)	9 sites + (number unknown due to variable sizes) to Special Use Areas
Future LOS if no additional acreage added	1.2 acres/1,000	.76 acres/1,000

Recommended PLOS	1.07 acres/1,000 Population	1.07 acres/1,000 Population
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Observations Regarding Special Use Areas:

[See details in this Chapter under Recreation Facility Use for comments regarding the need for a recreation community center and skateboard park.] The land necessary to site special use facilities can be achieved by locating them in existing community or regional parklands, which would allow the possibility of development.

- Special use parkland with facilities that have a tourism draw also becomes a benefit to the local community. Moses Lake understands the value of these facilities, which at times are located in special use parkland.
- The identification of a need for a new skate park (potentially in-ground) or BMX could become a state-wide draw for visitors, events and competition, while serving the community users.
- Continue to look for opportunities to expand and provide waterfront access along the Lake as well as providing a link to the downtown and connection to the trail system.
- Planning for and creating a traditional indoor community recreation center to provide for indoor activities, events and programs would meet the identified need for gymnasiums, winter indoor play areas for children and potentially could address the identified need for indoor tennis opportunities. The center would centralize the existing and future opportunities for recreational programming.

1-F: NATURAL OPEN SPACE/GREENWAYS

There are three natural open space / greenway areas in Moses Lake. They are:

- Golden Gate Property (6.37) undeveloped
- John E. Calbom Island Park (6.37) undeveloped
- Vehrs Wetland Property (8.07) undeveloped

Natural open space areas and greenways provide for the protection and management of natural or cultural features with environments, such as wetlands or unique habitat. They are used for nature-oriented recreation such as wildlife viewing, studying nature and habitats with non-intrusive use.

Natural Open Space / Greenways Service Area:

Natural Open Space/Greenways areas do not have a defined service area as they are dependent upon the function they serve. Open space can preserve wildlife habitat, be a part of a trail system, provide a separation between neighborhoods, or provide a place for quiet and solitude.

Comments and trends regarding Natural Open Space/ Greenways:

Survey results

- Respondents rate the importance of preserving open space and natural areas to quality of life in Moses Lake as very important (40.5%), important (29.1%) and moderately important (20.9%).
- When asked “uses,” respondents are generally in favor of providing some form of access to open spaces and natural areas.
- Desired uses appear to be non-motorized activities (56.6%), nature walks & interpretive signage (33%) and passive recreational uses like picnicking or bird watching (24.6%)

Trends

- Local adopted Shoreline Master Plans include descriptive and inclusive language regarding parks and shoreline access and use for recreational opportunities.
- Communities are increasingly interested in policies and practices that promote long term sustainability and protection of natural resources and open spaces.
- Government resources through various grants have become available for the protection and preservation of urban habitat areas to support conservation of natural resources.
- Education about the value and functions of Natural Open Space is increasing across many age groups.
- Natural resources within communities across the state have resulted in visitor attraction and successful tourism, e.g. Mt. Vernon tulips, Skagit Snow Geese etc.
- Creation of linear-greenbelts through developments.

Demand Standard for Natural Open Space/Greenways:

As stated in the City’s *Comprehensive Plan*, the City works to provide lakeshore and protected wildlife and natural habitat for maximum enjoyment with integrated users. NRPA does not have a recommended standard for natural open space and greenways, however protection of natural resources to provide management for the natural/cultural environment is primary with recreational use as secondary. There should be sufficient acreage to protect the resource while planning for passive recreational opportunities.

Table 4.7
Natural Open Space/Greenways
Recommended Level-Of-Service (PLOS)
Demand Standard
City of Moses Lake

	2015 city limits 22,080	2015 city limits w/ UGA 35,410
Existing Inventory	20.81 acres	same
Existing sites	3	same
Existing ratio ELOS	.94 acres/1,000	.59 acres/1000
	2025 city limits 31,729	2025 city limits w/ UGA 49,644
Existing + Future Inventory (to meet recommendation)	20.81 acres + 17.26	20.81 acres + 38.8
Existing + sites (to meet recommendation)	3 + (number unknown due to variable sizes)	3 sites + (number unknown due to variable sizes) to Natural Open Spaces
Future LOS if no additional acreage added	.66 acres/1,000	.42 acres/1,000
Recommended PLOS	1.20 acres/1,000 Population	1.20 acres/1,000 Population

Observations Regarding Natural Open Space/Greenways:

- The Moses Lake area outside of the Urban Growth Area presently provides extensive natural open space resources and landholdings of the Washington Department of Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources that provide a wide variety of recreation and sporting uses which include hunting and fishing.
- In the adopted Community Branding, Development & Marketing Plan (DDI) the value of the “Lake” is emphasized in the stated *Vision*, emphasizing the natural resource for which it is named. The importance is the warm water and the varied recreational additions which are attractions along this natural resource. The existing and new water activities provide for the opportunity to not only entice visitors but also provide for the ability to introduce new water sports and activities.

1-G: TRAILS/ LINEAR PARKS/CONNECTIONS

There are 62.98 miles of existing Activity Trails which are:

- Multi-Use Path (23.18 miles)
- Greater than 4’ Shoulder (31.03 miles)
- Bike Lane (4.06 miles)
- Sharrow (2.16 miles)
- Future (2.55 miles)

There are two linear or connection parks located along the trails and pathways, which are:

- Marina Park (0.86 acres)
- Neppel Landing -leased (8.57 acres)

There are nine access sites to the Water Trails owned by the City of Moses Lake, two of which are owned by other agencies:

- Connelly Park (Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District)
- Cascade Park
- Neppel Landing
- Marina Park
- McCosh Park
- Montlake Park
- Peninsula Park
- Blue Heron Park
- Bureau Irrigation Dams (owed by the Bureau)

Neppel Landing is identified as a Linear Park, or Connection Site, due to the unique character and purpose of the park to provide not only a future entrance to a greater proposed shoreline trail system, but it also provides waterfront access benefits and linking to the downtown core. Marina Park also has Linear Park characteristics that provide for a respite in the trail system, as well as a waterfront Connection as a landscaped park.

Trails/ Linear Parks/Connections:

Trails/Linear Parks/Connections serve, as stated in Chapter 2, to provide the links, routes and connections for walking and bicycling and add to the complemented visual values through scenic corridors. It needs to be pointed out that the "Greater than 4' Shoulder" is not an ideal category within our trail system but in some cases it is the only option we have available to make much needed connections and that the 31.03 miles should not be calculated into our inventory. Additionally, there are several miles of the trails system that are not within the city limits. The water trails provide recreational paths through the largest natural body of water in Grant County. Moses Lake is over 18 miles long and covers 6,500 acre of water and has over 120 miles of shoreline. The Linear Parks along the route provide the opportunity for placement of art. The Activity Trail Master Plan is an ideal community based concentrated effort to define and establish the basis for interconnecting routes for pedestrians and bicyclists. Continual work with the Municipal Services Department, through transportation planning, will be critical in the continued progress of adding and creating new routes and important connections. The Trails Planning Team (TPT) serves as the citizen and staff based team that works toward the creation and completion of new and improved community routes. TPT will work with key Parks & Recreation and Engineering Department staff to identify city-wide bike path routes in addition to the current work on the Activity Paths. One of the most significant regional trail opportunities for Moses Lake is the future vision for potential use of the existing Columbia Basin Railroad track (10-miles) owned by the Port of Moses Lake.

Comments and trends regarding Trail/Linear Parks/Connections:

Survey results

- According to questionnaire results, the most needed types of parks are Linear Trail corridors, a park type that is a natural fit for the highly desired trails which ranked highly in several responses.
- Slightly over 77% of respondents are trail users at some level of frequency.
- Currently, trail use is infrequent for many respondents: "Sometimes (1-2 times a month)" (26.9%) and "Rarely (Less than 5 times a year)" (36.1%).
- Considering that "Linear Trail Corridors" was the most selected type of needed park, there is likely significant latent demand (demand that rises when opportunities for participation increase) for trail related activities.

- Barriers to frequent trail use are due mainly to lack of Trail facilities or Connections between destinations (26.7%) and lack of awareness about where facilities are located (26.2%)
- Safety, maintenance and user conflicts do not appear to be major issues when asked about current and frequency of trail use, but missing connections was a factor in respondents' lack of use.
- The top three most needed Trail facilities chosen by respondents included Connections between parks and community destinations such as the current downtown loop (44.8%), paved multi-use trails (42.6%), and nature & hiking trails (47.8%).

Trends

- Today, more than 60% of older adults are inactive.¹
- A combination of urban design, land use patterns, and transportation systems that promote walking and bicycling will help create active, healthier, and more livable communities.²
- Research continues to confirm that well tended natural resources attract businesses. Walkable, trail-laden, tree-lined communities are more stable, safer and have higher real estate values. Communities using parks, greenways and trails to connect to each other and to natural, recreational and heritage assets are discovering new economic development and revitalization opportunities.³
- Access to waterways for small, non-motorized boats is growing throughout the northwest. The Washington Water Trails Association works with local citizen groups to establish stewardship teams to assist local agencies in the creation and maintenance of water trail access sites.
- Rails-To-Trails program throughout the state has been working to potentially use active and abandoned rail corridors to serve as a regional trail. Shared rail corridors have also successfully served a number of regional trails in Washington and other states, e.g. the Foothills Trail in Pierce County shares the right-of-way with an active rail line.

Demand Standard for Trails/Linear Parks/Connections:

Add identified projects:

- Pioneer Meadows Trail (Division Street to Pioneer Way and Japanese Gardens) 0.72 miles
- Complete Wanupum Trail Loop (Lakeshore Drive) 1.5 miles
- Bike Lanes on Division Street 3.3 miles
- Bike Lanes on Wheeler Road 6.0 miles
- Bike Lanes on Randolph Road 9.7 miles
- Stratford Road Bridge crossing over Highway 17
- Montlake Trail (through park and connect to pedestrian bridge) 2.8 miles

Trails: In order to accommodate the overall goals and policies of the Moses Lake Planning Commission Recommended Comprehensive Plan for bicycle and pedestrian transportation, Moses Lake Parks & Recreation needs to recognize the importance of providing access to safe, convenient, and pleasurable alternative transportation options. This can be done by completing already identified projects and to seek additional projects as opportunities arise.

Linear/Connections: Linear upland corridors connect trails throughout Moses Lake. Currently, there are two parks that serve the need along the existing community trails system. *Marina Park* that serves as a linear link along the existing Marina Drive trail. Amenities include

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008.

² Handy et al, 2002; Ewing et al, 2003; Lopez, 2004.

³ *Using Conservation to Fuel Sustainable Communities and 21st Century Economies/ 2008 NRPA Congress;* Secretary Michael DiBerardinis, PA. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

fishing access, open space and wildlife viewing along Pelican Horn. North of Marina Drive is *Neppel Landing*, which also serves as a Linear Park site. This site has many of the amenities that are identified in a neighborhood park, but the value of the site serves a greater trail value for walkers along the shoreline of Pelican Horn, where there are additional walking links to the downtown. Demand standards for Linear Parks along trail corridors will be determined by the opportunities to use the right-of-ways or designated property along the waterfront shorelines. The Shoreline Master Plan identifies the need for water access and linear parks as well as water trail access points serving the intended purpose of access to the shoreline.

Table 4.8
Trails/Linear Parks/Connections
Recommended Level-Of-Service (PLOS)
Demand Standard
City of Moses Lake

Trails	
Existing Inventory	62.98 miles
Existing trails	Various sections
Existing ratio (with shoulders)	2.8 miles/1,000
Existing ratio (without shoulders)	1.44 miles/1,000
Recommended PLOS	Secure additional mileage to make biking and walking a safe, convenient, and pleasurable form of alternative transportation.
Linear Parks	
Existing Inventory	9.43 acres
Existing linear sites	2
Existing ratio	.42 acres/1,000
Recommended PLOS	Under the SMP secure additional sites whenever opportunities become available.
Water Trail Connections	
Existing water access sites	9
Existing ratio	.040 sites/1,000
Recommended PLOS	Develop additional water trail access sites whenever possible at new or existing waterfront park sites.

Observations Regarding Trails/Linear Parks/Connection

- The Trails Planning Team (TPT) plays a critical role in the progress made in the creation of paths, trails and connections throughout the City for recreational walking and bicycling.
- The five category system for identification of the paths, trails, connections as well as the bike lanes is more in line with the U.S. Department of Transportation manual, “A Residents Guide For Creating Safe and Walkable Communities.” Those categories are: Connections, Activity Paths, Multi-Use Paths which are defined in this Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan. The TIP (working with a team from the TPT) will define demand, need and recommendations for the last two categories which are Designated Bike Lanes and Shared Bike Lanes.
- The definition of the three Activity Path, Trail and Connections categories are:
 1. Connectors: Sidewalks under 8-foot wide. The goal will be to provide connections to the Activity Paths and Multi-Use Trails.
 2. Activity Paths: Sidewalks over 10-foot wide. These will serve as the major paths for recreational walking, running, skating and can function as transportation foot- paths and safe routes to school and parks. Young children and family bike riding will be allowed but adult bike-to-work traffic will use designated on-street bike lanes and shared use lanes.
 3. Multi-Use Paths: Traditional accessible pedestrian and bicycling trails as hard or soft surface, in alignment but separated from, vehicular or other motorized transportation.
- The TPT defined categories that need to be included as part of the City TIP are:
 4. Designated Bike Lanes: Practical and safe bicycle-touring routes in urban neighborhoods to create an integrated on-road bicycle system developed under WDOT/AASHTO⁴ standards that provide opportunities to link neighborhoods/schools/ businesses as well as identify trailheads, rest stops and other bicycle touring and commuter uses.
 5. Shared Bike Lanes: Routes identified for joint vehicular/bicycle use on a shared highway which provide connections to and from transit centers, places of employment, business districts, schools and facilities which will be used by adult and youth recreational bike riders and commuters.
- Look for opportunities to develop Linear Parks along the trail system throughout Moses Lake. Neppel and Marina Park are great examples of the value of providing a Linear Park site for both upland trails users and water access points for non-motorized boaters.
- The continued work to enhance and expand the Moses Lake Water Trails will provide additional opportunities for people to experience the Lake while preserving the natural environment and building better individual health.
- Continue to work with the Port of Moses Lake, transportation leaders and the elected to look to the future to provide trail use and access in and around the Columbia Basin Railroad corridor while keeping in mind its economic value as an infrastructure to attract businesses.

⁴ Washington State Department of Transportation/ American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials standards.

1-H: BEAUTIFICATION & GATEWAYS

There are 22 beautification and gateway sites as well nearly 80 acres of open lands managed for noxious weed control. The sites are:

- Central Drive
- Chamber of Commerce
- Civic Center
- Downtown (3rd Ave./Broadway)
- East Broadway
- Edgewater Lift Station
- Fire Station #1
- Fire Station #2
- Grape Drive
- Library
- Marina Triangle
- Operations Complex
- Pioneer Way (Lower/Upper/Triangle)
- Police Firing Range
- Police Station/Parks and Recreation Office
- Quicky Corner
- Water/Sewer Treatment Plants
- Weavers Peak
- West Broadway
- Wheeler Road
- Yonezawa Blvd.
- Wanapum Trail

Beautification & Gateways:

Beautification & Gateways, as stated in Chapter 2, provide opportunities for cities to beautify not only their gateways and entries into the city, but to continue the flow of greenery and beautification throughout the community.

Comments and trends regarding Beautification & Gateways:

Survey results

- Over 90% of respondents rated the quality of maintenance for Parks & Recreation facilities in Moses Lake at a 4 or 5 on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being “Excellent.”
- According to the questionnaire results, the most needed types of parks are Linear Trail corridors, a park type that is a natural fit for the highly desired trails which ranked high in several responses or can serve as beautification/gateways to the City.

Trends

- The City of Moses Lake Destination Development Plan (DDI) identified trends to attract numbers of new visitors who will bring revenue into the local community. Streetscape landscaping was identified as one of the items that helps create a unique destination that visitors and residents will enjoy over and over again.
- Within beautification areas and spaces, communities have identified the power of gathering places with flowers and art displays that provide beautiful settings, a feeling of “place.”
- The DDI report states that “showing your community’s assets doesn’t just attract tourists, it also builds community pride, fosters a sense of cooperative spirit, and promotes economic development.”

Demand Standard for Beautification & Gateways:

The demand standard for the beautification areas will be determined by the opportunities to use right of ways or designated property that allows for placement of landscaping, flowers and adopted signage. Currently the Parks & Recreation Department provides beautification to over 80 acres, which includes landscaping in and around civic buildings and natural areas. Continued work with the Engineering and Public Works Departments as new or improved streets are developed, then with maintenance funding beautification, areas should continue to be created, improved or expanded, especially when partnerships with residents or local businesses can be formed.

Observations Regarding Beautification & Gateways:

The Destination Development Inc. (DDI) adopted report provides extensive suggestions and identified recommendations with regard to beautification and gateways into the community. Specifically, recommendation #10 states the need to “Implement the Signage, Way Finding, and Gateway Plan.” As stated in the plan “gateways are critical to create a sense of arrival and awareness of place.” They also point out that “gateways help slow traffic, identify places for visitors to spend money, instill community pride, and increase the perceived value of the community.” The DDI provides a great deal of discussion and adopted recommendations regarding signage which may be incorporated within the identified beautification and gateway entrances into the City.

[Beautification & Gateways Implementation Action Plan defined in Chapter 5]

2. RECREATION FACILITIES:

On the following pages, specific needs for a number of types of facilities were selected to highlight because of the community input through the survey, community workshop comments and due to the annual patron program participation. Not all of the recreational facilities are highlighted. The recreation facility categories include:

- A. Soccer Fields
- B. Tennis
- C. Playgrounds
- D. Community Centers
- E. Skatepark
- F. Boat launches & Docks
- G. Other specialized facilities

To establish a level of service and to determine need for recreation facilities, descriptions were obtained from a number of sources. The analysis includes the current recreation participation levels, responses reflected in the comments of the survey and workshop, trend and levels identified on national reports and data, from historic play and practice time requirements of leagues and from traditional use models from comparable communities. The identified needs for each of the highlighted recreational facilities will be defined for action and financing in Chapters 5 and 6.

2-A: SOCCER FIELDS

Currently there are two full size soccer field, eleven U-12 modified fields and seven micro/modified youth fields on Moses Lake parkland. The Moses Lake High School Lions field, with artificial turf, provides U12 and older players, but the majority of use is for High School jr. varsity and varsity games. The City of Moses Lake youth/adult soccer fields that are included are:

- 4 regulation youth (U4-U6) Paul Lauzier Athletic Complex
- 3 regulation youth (U7) Paul Lauzier Athletic Complex
- 3 regulation youth (U8) Kvamme Soccer Complex
- 2 regulation youth (U9) Kvamme Soccer Complex
- 1 regulation youth (U10) Dano Park
- 2 regulation youth (U10) Kvamme Soccer Complex
- 1 regulation youth (U11) Dano Park
- 2 regulation youth (U11) Kvamme Soccer Complex
- 1 regulation Kvamme Soccer Complex
- 1 regulation Yonezawa Park

The Moses Lake Parks & Department offers beginner youth soccer programs for children 4-7 years, which is held in the outfield area of *Paul Lauzier Athletic Complex*. The Columbia Basin Youth Soccer Association (CBYSA) -Washington Youth Soccer as the parent association provides two seasons, with August practice and September-October games and the February practice followed by the March-April spring season. Moses Lake recreation staff facilitates coordination of field use for the CBYSA for those under the U10 level. Columbia Basin United is a competitive soccer club organized to provide high level competition on a regional basis, which includes players from Othello, Moses Lake, Ephrata, Warden, Quincy, and Wenatchee. The Endeavor Soccer Academy provides two seasons of play in an academy style of coaching and play games at **Dano Park**.

Comments and Trends Regarding Soccer Fields:

Survey results

- Respondents ranked the need for before and after school programs at 23.4% indicating popularity with programmed sports activities which includes soccer.
- When asked what recreation facilities are most needed, a number of the write-in comments indicated a need for “a big soccer complex that could host tournaments” and that “could use better lighting” of the soccer fields at Kvamme Soccer Complex was necessary and that over 1,000 kids participate in soccer annually.

Trends

- Soccer play in the western states has increased significantly in the last ten years.
- According to the Sports Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), there are more than 15 million soccer players in the U.S. That ranks the sport as the third most popular sport in this country.⁵
- While soccer has always been a game played mainly by children, that’s no longer the case as nearly 30% of all soccer players are over the age of 24.⁵

Demand Standard for soccer fields:

NRPA recommends a 1.7-2.1 acre space requirement for a field 195’ to 225’x330’ to 360’ with a minimum 10’ clearance on all sides for a regulation field. The NRPA standard recommends a ratio of one regulation field per 10,000 population. NRPA also recommends a service area of 1 to 2 miles for soccer fields. The number of units depends on the popularity of the game. Youth soccer is generally addressed on smaller youth regulation fields located within the parkland inventory or adjacent to schools. The service level should remain the same with one game and two practice games per week which maintains 232 games per week for two seasons each year.



⁵ Sources: SGMA’s Trends in Team Sports (2008 Edition).

Table 4.9
Supply Calculations for Soccer Fields
City of Moses Lake

Facility	# fields	Games & practices per weekday	# Days per weekday	Total weekday	Fri-Sun Games on weekends	Total Weekend	Total games/practices per week
Kvamme field 1	1	3	4	12	3	3	15
Kvamme fields 2-10	9	5	4	180	7	7	187
Dano fields 1-2	2	1	5	10	3	3	13
Yonezawa	1	2	4	8	2	2	16
Paul Lauzier temporary fields	7	5	4	140	0	0	140
Total Game Supply	20	-	-	350	-	15	371

Table 4.10
Demand Calculations for Soccer Fields
City of Moses Lake

	# of teams	Games play/week	Total Game requirement ^{6*}	Total practices	Total games/practices
CBYSA U7-U10 Boys & Girls	26	1	13*	52	65
CBU U11-U18 Boys & Girls	6	1	6	12	18
Endeavor U8-U12 Boys & Girls	6	1	6	12	18
Beg. Soccer U4-U7 Boys & Girls	20	1	10*	20	30
Total	58	-	-	-	72

Observations regarding soccer fields:

The Moses Lake School District has a number of regulation fields, one of which is the newly improved Lions Field at Frontier Middle School. There are a number of youth grass fields located at elementary and middle schools. Even with the site scheduling provided through the school district priority, use depends on the needs of the school district student demand.

The service level for soccer team play should remain at its current level, which provides for two practices a week and up to two games at most fields.

In addition to the 20 soccer fields of various sizes and configurations that are owned and operated by the City of Moses Lake, the Moses Lake School District has a number of fields as well. While NRPA suggested guidelines address full-sized regulation adult sized fields, they do not provide suggestions for the numerous youth sized field configurations as it really is dependent upon local resources and levels of programming. Most communities, including Moses

⁶ Divide number in half as each game requires two teams.

Lake in the past plans has utilized that same calculation of 1 field per 4,000 in population. For our calculations, we are continuing to use that same approach. As their recommendation on regulation adult sized soccer fields is one field per 4000 in population, and that would call for 5.52 full-sized regulation adult sized fields. Moses Lake falls below the standard between the City's two large fields. That calculation recognized that our current LOS leaves us 3.52 fields short of the standard. PLOS based upon 2025 population projections calculated with the standard would call for a total of 12.41 full-sized regulation adult sized fields. Efforts should be made to meet the standard based upon current population and to plan towards the future requirements as referenced above.

2-B: TENNIS

There are currently 6 lighted outdoor tennis courts in Moses Lake on parkland. Additionally there are two sets of courts on Moses Lake School District property. One set is located at Chief Moses Middle School and the other at the Moses Lake High School. Priority use is for school athletics. The community tennis courts are: McCosh Tennis Courts

Comments and Trends Regarding Tennis Courts:

Survey results

- Recreation facility needs ranked the "need for tennis courts" (17.5%) below the need for indoor centers and water access and traditional park elements such as basketball courts, playgrounds and sports fields.
- Write-in comments indicated the desire to have an indoor tennis facility and one stated the need for continued maintenance at the existing courts.

Trends

- According to the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) racket activities have had "statistically significant" growth in overall participation from 2007 to 2008-tennis up 9.6% and table tennis up 7.8%.
- Participation changes from 2000-2008 indicate that tennis has grown by 43% compared to traditional sports such as soccer, baseball, football, ice hockey and softball, with a total player increase of +9.6% and +8.6% frequency of players.⁷
- The U.S. Congress continues to work toward legislation that encourages increased physical activity in America. SGMA and NRPA sponsored the March 2009 Health Through Fitness Day to foster participation in physical activity.
- NRPA and the US Tennis Association (USTA) provides data and resource information on current legislation and partnerships for planning, designing and community facilitation of plans for creating outdoor tennis courts, indoor facilities and paddle sport courts.⁸
- In colder winter climates the game of *platform* tennis has seen increased growth. These versions of lawn tennis are on an elevated wooden or aluminum court which is fully enclosed, with a mesh screen and a court that is ¼ the size of a standard court. The game was devised in 1928 to provide for winter tennis, the platform being more easily cleared of snow than a regular court.

Demand Standard for Tennis Courts:

The current ratio is one tennis court (City owned and operated) for 3,680 in population. This falls below the recommendation from the NRPA of one court per 2,000 in population. Tennis courts should be available within a 1-mile to 3-mile radius of residents, or similar to a Community Park service area. The recommended standard of one court per 2,000 in population results in a current need of five additional courts based upon the current population base. If you calculate future need based upon a 2025 population of 49,644 residents, fourteen additional courts will be required to bring the total up to 25 (24.8) total courts. While it is recognized that there are several

⁷ Source: 2009 Sports and Fitness Participation Report - SGMA.

⁸ 2009 USTA Facility Assistance Program at: www.usta.com/technical.

courts owned and maintained by the Moses Lake School District, unfortunately, they are not available to residents most typical daytime hours. It should also be noted that the tennis courts owned and maintained by the City are beginning to show their age as there is significant wear in the court surface itself along with the screening around them. Efforts should be made to repair and provide the appropriate maintenance to lengthen their potential service life.

Observations Regarding Tennis Courts:

Tennis has continued to stay steady over the past ten years, with an increased interest in tennis but also interest in all paddle sports nationwide. Lighted courts increase the amount of play during the evenings. In the future, community support organizations can gather to talk and plan specifically to look at solutions for additional tennis courts. The community focus group would work with staff and the USTA to secure available grants and resources for planning and development. The community focus group should also look into the introduction of platform tennis. Introduction of this winter sport for the Moses Lake community would provide additional opportunities for citizens to be involved in racket sports, even in the winter season.



2-C: PLAYGROUNDS

There are 17 children’s play areas in Moses Lakes’ park system. Additionally, there are ten school sites with playgrounds which are located near the edge of the school ground and available for use during restricted times.

- 1 Blue Heron Park
- 1 Carpenter Park (no restroom)
- 1 Cascade Park
- 1 Gillette Park (no restroom)
- 1 Hayden Park (no restroom)
- 1 Juniper Park (no restroom)
- 1 Knolls Vista Park
- 1 Lakeview Park
- 2 Larson Playfield Complex
- 2 McCosh Park
- 1 Montlake Park
- 1 Paul Lauzier Athletic Complex
- 1 Peninsula Park
- 1 Surf ‘n Slide
- 1 Yonezawa Park (no restroom)

Comments and Trends Regarding Playgrounds:

Survey results

- Roughly 56% of the respondents were female, which is typical for community surveys. The majority of respondents came from the 25-44 age group. This may be indicative of a large number of young families.
- Top selections for the most important benefits of parks, recreation and open space were: “Providing opportunities for youth” (79.6%) and “Building strong families and neighborhoods.” (58.8%)
- The second highest ranked use was “A park near home, but when asked why they do not use parks “not conveniently located” ranked third as a reason.

- Desired types of parks indicated that “small parks in neighborhoods” (34.2%) as most needed.
- Below the priority need of indoor recreation facilities, respondents listed the need for traditional elements, which included playgrounds and basketball court pads.
- Write-in comments reflected the need for “indoor playground” areas due to the “cold, harsh winter.” One write-in comment stated that “it would be nice to have an indoor play area for the winter.”

Trends

- Neighborhood playgrounds have been identified where citizens can create a sense of place and community by fostering a sense of identity with neighbors and the places where people live.
- Playground promote social interaction and foster youth development.
- Play is important. Contemporary research by neuroscientists reveal, through the aid of high-tech brain imaging techniques, the concrete support of the centuries-old contention of noted philosophers and other academicians that play is critical to children’s health development.⁹
- Sally Jenkinson, author of *The Genius of Play* (2001), concurs: “Success in social play, skill in the use of good interventions, good interactions, and flexibility all develop social competence and prepare the child not only for integration into school but also for life itself.”
- Play environments are the ideal place for infants to engage in motor skill practice. Unfortunately, infant playgrounds are the most overlooked play environments (Frost, 1992-1997).
- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) collect data and provide consumer product standards for playground equipment. The CPSC commissioned the National Recreation Park Association (NRPA) to develop a safety standard for playground equipment in 1976.
- Some communities rely on the school system to meet the demand for playgrounds. In most school districts playgrounds are not maintained and “no one is doing the daily and monthly work that needs to be done.”¹⁰
- Accessibility is one of the critical issues of playground design. The U.S. Access Board has issued a Final Rule (36 CFR Part 1191) regulating the accessibility of playgrounds.

Demand Standard for Playgrounds:

Moses Lake has 16 playgrounds throughout the park system, which is 1 playground for 1,380 residents. With the addition of several neighborhood parks in the past five years, plans should be made to add additional playgrounds as they are considered a key component to most neighborhood parks. By 2025, 25 (24.8) total playgrounds are required to meet the recommended standard of 1 playground for every 2,000 residents.

Observations Regarding Playgrounds:

Children’s playgrounds and play equipment has been a high priority for the City of Moses Lake. The Parks & Recreation Department has consistently looked to identify areas where children can play close to home, where a playground is designed and installed with access and full integration for all children, and to continually monitor the play equipment to meet the National Playground Safety Standards through NRPA. In many communities, service organizations work with the City to partner in providing play areas and playgrounds. The question of safety is absolutely essential and either contracting or employing Certified Playground Safety Inspectors (CPSI’s) to audit all park playground equipment is absolutely necessary. Use of school playgrounds to meet the

⁹ The Developmental Benefits of Playgrounds, Frost, Brown, Sutterby, Thonton, 2004 Association of Childhood Education International.

¹⁰ April 2009 NRPA Magazine article “It’s A Question of Keeping Kids Safe” by Clare Leschin-Hoar.

City's demand standard is not recommended unless schools can document safety audits and monthly inspections and they are available for use by the neighborhood at all times.

2-D: RECREATION CENTERS

Moses Lake Parks & Recreation provides a substantial number of traditional recreational programs at various sites throughout the community. Moses Lake does not have a traditional recreation community center that would meet the indoor recreation programming needs for sports and fitness, indoor play areas and classroom /meeting rooms for the community and family, adult and youth programs. Currently, recreation programs and activities are scheduled in the small *The Learning Center*, at private partnership sites or on a limited basis at the Moses Lake School District indoor facilities. Environmental, art and cultural activities are held at the *Moses Lake Museum & Art Center*. The City facilities are:

The Learning Center: (5,978 sq ft) Located 0.41 miles from the Parks & Recreation office. *The Learning Center* has had various uses by the City over the history of the site. Currently it serves as the only facility that is scheduled by the department for recreational programming classes. Activities range from dance, fitness to language classes. The ability to schedule and provide adequate space for demand is limited.

The Larson Recreation Center: (9,909 sq ft) The *Larson Recreation Center* is located adjacent to Larson Playfield. It is an indoor facility that is open most evenings through the week and half-days on weekends. The features of the facility include Wii, air hockey, ping pong, pool tables and foosball which are free to use. The facility also has batting cages and concessions. The LOFT (Learning Opportunities For Today) is located in the upper level of the Center and provides a safe facility for a diverse group of youth to utilize technology, interact and recreate in a positive environment. The facility is programmed with daily activities and monthly special events. The computer equipment provides internet access and software programs to assist with homework and technology. In the winter, when the adjacent ice rink opens, the Larson Recreation Center provides a space for gathering and access to services in the cold weather. *Currently closed due to budget challenges.*

The Moses Lake Museum & Art Center: 13,000 sq ft - Located in Civic Center, houses the Adam East Collection of Native American artifacts, hosts gallery exhibits featuring northwest and regional artists, historic and traveling exhibitions, gift shop, classes and other educational programs. Designed by the Miller/Hull Partnership, LLP, this new phase in the evolution of the original volunteer-built Adam East Museum is the region's premier example of LEED inspired architecture. The purpose of the *Moses Lake Museum & Art Center* is to serve as a cultural center with an emphasis on local history, natural history and visual arts.

Comments and Trends Regarding Recreation Centers:

Survey results

- Recreation facility needs focused heavily on indoor opportunities with Indoor Community Centers (51.1%) and Indoor Gymnasiums (44.7%) taking the top two listed priority need slots by a wide margin.
- 64.1% of respondents participate in services or programs offered by the City of Moses Lake.
- "Building major new facilities" (e.g. community center, amphitheater, sports complex) was important, chosen by 36.5%.
- Classes, special events and afterschool programs were all popular selections when asked about programming needs.
- One write-in comment stated that "We do need some sort of community center for meetings, parties, wedding receptions, etc."

Trends

- More than one-third of U.S. adults -- over 72 million people -- were obese in 2005-2006.¹¹
- Being physically active is one of the most important steps that you can take to improve your health. Bone-strengthening suggestions for youth include hopping, skipping, jumping rope, running and sports such as gymnastics, basketball, volleyball, tennis.¹²
- The Centers for Disease Control recommends that community programs provide a range of developmentally appropriate community sports and recreation programs that are attractive to all young people.

Demand Standard for Recreation Centers:

To meet indoor needs for recreation classes, gymnasium space, sports, events, fitness and community meetings, it is recommended that the City build a traditional recreation center. NRPA does not have a specific level-of-service for recreation centers, but does list a combination of indoor elements (gym/volleyball/racquetball) at 2.35 sq ft/1,000 population. Using this standard, which is comparable to other eastern Washington communities, the current need is for 54,491 sf of indoor recreation space. The existing indoor space, which includes the *Museum, LRC* and *TLC* (28,887 sq ft) identifies a current need for a 47,800 sf indoor recreation facility. As the population grows, by 2025 Moses Lake will need 98,415 sq ft of indoor community center space.

Observations Regarding Recreation Centers:

They identified the need for a traditional recreation center providing opportunities for indoor winter activities, sports, fitness and recreational programming. To get started on future plans for a traditional recreation center, the community needs to take steps-to-success which begin with: development of a full understanding of the City strategic objectives, define the facilities required to achieve those objectives and measure the market ability to support those facilities. The process of planning for the successful completion of providing a community recreation center includes: a *Needs Assessment*, defined *Vision and Goals*, a *Space Program*, the *Total Project Budget*, a *Business Plan*, *Site Selection*, *Concept Plan* and the *Funding Strategy*.

2-E: SKATE PARK

The existing Skateboard Park is located across the street from McCosh Park. The facility is an unsupervised above-ground park with features that include a "half-pipe", "ollie-box", "rail", and launch ramp. It is open for skateboards & in-line skates but bicycles are prohibited. The site has continued use and shows signs of age from extended use.

Comments and Trends Regarding Skate Parks:

Survey results

- Skate Park facility (13.9%) and BMX (9.8%) facility needs ranked lower on the choice of top types, however when asked what is the most important benefit of parks, recreation and open space in Moses Lake, 79.6% listed "providing opportunities for youth" as most important.
- Other desired types of parks include "Large multi-use parks" which were indicated as the second most used parks (35.9%) in the system currently.

Trends

- Clark County and the City of Vancouver, which is a consolidated parks department, are providing a mix of larger Skate Parks and smaller skate-spot opportunities for every one of their new parks. This is a visionary model - one that many communities would be wise to pay attention to.

¹¹ *New CDC Study Finds No Increase in Obesity Among Adults; But Levels Still High*; November 28, 2007.

¹² *Aerobic, Muscle- and Bone-Strengthening: What Counts?* CDC action.

- Skateboarding is one of the fastest growing sports in the nation and in most communities there is a need for additional, legal places to ride.
- Communities are understanding that skateboarding and BMX bicycling facilities need to be provided along with other outdoor sports like basketball, baseball and soccer. It is important that children and adults be allowed to engage in a variety of sports in a safe and fun environment, including skateboarding.
- The best way to ensure success in a project is to involve the community, the youth and secure appropriate expertise to design and build the skateboarding and BMX facilities.
- American Sports Data estimates that the number of skateboarders between 12-18 years old will reach 9.3 million this year.
- Communities realize the regional and tourist draw of a larger Skate Park designed for exhibitions.

Demand Standard for Skate Parks:

NRPA does not have a demand standard for Skate Parks. In the last 20 years the demand and growth of the sport has seen a rapid growth. Most communities throughout the state and within cities in Eastern Washington have built one or two Skate Parks for their community. Typically one large regional skate park facility meets the demand for the community.



Smaller skate-spots demand standards generally follow the demand for Neighborhood Parks which are geographically spaced throughout the city. One large Skate Park would serve the needs of Moses Lake with smaller skate-spots located in existing or planned park sites.

Observations Regarding Skate Parks:

A Skate Park is a purpose-built recreational environment for skateboarders to ride and develop their technique. A Skate Park is generally an in-ground structure with elements that may contain half-pipes, quarter pipes, handrails, fun boxes, vert ramps, pyramids, banked ramps, full pipes, stairsets, and any number of other objects. Skate Parks are generally located in large commercial areas or in community parks, which presents less of a problem when it comes to noise concerns for adjacent neighbors. They are mostly self-contained, serve larger numbers of skaters and are used by skaters of various skill levels. A Skate Park designed and built well can help attract out of town visitors who bring tourism dollars to the area. Skate-spots, which are another skate facility, are smaller than typical Skate Parks. They are less expensive to build, keep maintained. They provide a less crowded and intimidating option for younger children who are learning to skateboard, thus allowing for practice and opportunities to build confidence before graduating to larger Skate Parks. Skate spots are usually located at smaller neighborhood parks closer to home, which makes it easier for younger children to use. There are over 200 commercial recreation equipment providers in the U.S. that produce an array of skateboard items - from boards and wheels to shirts, shoes and hats as well as posters, videos and magazines. Over 100,000 skateboards are made every month, and 25,000 wheels every day. All in all, skateboarding is a \$50 million a month business, with yearly sales estimated at over \$800 million. Examples of Skate Parks that have seen visitor tourism success is the 28,500 sq ft facility in Battleground, Washington. The design, engineering and elements have provided a benefit not only for the resident skaters but also for those who travel to view exhibitions as well as personally experience the value of this well designed, skilled facility.

2-F: BOAT LAUNCHES & DOCKS

Moses Lake Parks & Recreation Department manages seven moorage facilities and four boat launches with docks throughout the community.

Comments and Trends Regarding Boat Launches & Docks:

Survey results

- Top selections for the most important benefits of parks, recreation and open space ranked “providing opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors” third, with 64.5% of the choices.
- Use of the *Blue Heron Park* and Boat Launch (former state park) ranked 5th in a weighted average out of 14 choices.
- Inadequate or inconvenient facilities present the largest opportunity for removing barriers to participate. “Lack of facilities” (19.2%); “Too far away, not conveniently located” (11.1%); and “Too crowded” (8.9%).
- A number of write-in comments stated the need for “better shoreline access.”

Trends

- The Moses Lake adopted Destination Development, Inc. (DDI) plan Recommendation #1 states “Adopt the ‘Lake Sports’ brand for Moses Lake” which reflects that the “Lake Sports” brand with the lake and waterfront parks serves a key focus in becoming a gathering place for visitors and locals alike.¹³
- The DDI adopted report under Recommendation #6 states, “Identify different areas of the lake for brand-specific use,” e.g. access for ski boats, jet skis, paddleboats, canoes etc.
- DDI Recommendation #7 states that Moses Lake needs to “Build docks, small buildings and sports equipment moorage at specific parks to accommodate concessionaires requirements” and Recommendation #8 states, “Contract for a feasibility/engineering study regarding development of water-based resources.”
- The Outdoor Industry Foundation states that active outdoor recreation which includes paddling and fishing contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy and specifically in the Pacific Division of the study at \$81,696 million.¹⁴
- The Outdoor Industry Foundation in the *Active Outdoor Recreation Economy* report points out that “more Americans paddle (kayak, canoe, raft) than play soccer.¹⁵
- The jobs, tax revenues, and business created by the *Active Outdoor Recreation Economy* are the lifeblood of rural communities that rely on recreation tourism to enjoy a high quality of life. According to U.S. Department of Agriculture, rural tourism and recreation development: spikes employment growth rates, boosts earnings and income levels, lowers local poverty rates and shepherds improvements in local educational attainment and health.¹⁶

Observations Regarding Boat Launches & Docks:

Boater access to Moses Lake and the connecting waterways is of critical importance to the citizens and visitors to Moses Lake. The “Lake” is a major asset to the community and the region and boater access is key to the recreational opportunities that are currently available and potential growth of use for water related activities. Coordinated uses from motorized to non-motorized recreational use provide extensive benefit for recreational enjoyment as well as healthy out-of-doors experiences in this unique and beautiful water “oasis” in eastern Washington. The City needs to continue with retaining the existing access points and look to the future for opportunities to increase and broaden water access points along the lake.

¹³ 2007 Destination Development, Inc. Recommendation #1; (p. 16).

¹⁴ The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy Report from the Outdoor Industry Foundation, Fall 2006.

¹⁵ Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association (SGMA) estimates 17 million Americans 6+ played soccer in 2005.

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, August 2005, “Recreation Tourism, and Rural Well-Being,” Richard J. Reeder, and Dennis M. Brown.

2-G: OTHER SPECIALIZED FACILITIES

ICE SKATING RINK: The City operated outdoor rink features 17,000 square feet of groomed ice. It is located adjacent to the *Larson Recreation Center (LRC)* and is open mid-November through early-March. Ice skating lessons are available through the recreation program. The Moses Lake Youth and Moses Lake Adult Hockey Associations provide league play as well as hockey oriented games and drills for youth. The NRPA recommended size for an ice rink is 85'X200' with additional square feet for a complex support area. The existing rink with the LRC meets this recommendation. The NRPA guidelines for level of service indicate that there should be one ice hockey rink for 100,000 population if it is an indoor site. An outdoor rink does not have a standard. The existing rink does meet the NRPA indoor rink standards for existing population demand as well as the 2025 population estimate.

GROUP PICNIC AREAS: Currently, there are eight picnic shelters that can accommodate large groups of people for company picnics, large family gatherings and other events. There are three shelters at *Blue Heron Park*, two at *Cascade Park* and one each at *McCosh*, inside the *Surf 'n Slide Water Park* and at *Montlake Park*. The group size for each ranges from 40-160 with the typical site able to accommodate 80 people. The group shelters are rented on a reserved basis. To continue to meet the demand for small group gatherings, it is recommended that proposed community parks develop facilities to continue to accommodate this need. The sites should provide the same amenities as the existing group picnic sites with a large shelter building equipped with BBQ's and an outdoor patio area. To provide some privacy, it should be located somewhat separate from other part of the park and provided with shade trees and landscaping. There is not a recommended standard for group picnic shelters, but could be the amenities that are added to additional need for community parks and regional/urban site.

BASKETBALL COURT OUTDOOR PADS: City of Moses Lake has five outdoor basketball pads with multi-use at *McCosh Park* tennis courts. The elected, advisory and staff indicated that there is a tremendous value to the placement of outdoor basketball pads located within the neighborhoods throughout the City. As stated "every time you pass these sites a full group of citizens are enjoying a friendly game of basketball. They are very well used and possibly there could be some lighted courts added." On a national scale, interest in basketball has remained somewhat constant for the last ten years. This shows the need for not only outdoor courts throughout the neighborhoods,



but also the need for indoor gym space during the winter peak basketball season. For indoor gymnasiums NRPA recommends 1 court for 5,000 population (see further discussion on Recreation Center needs) and as outdoor basketball court pads are a recreation element of mini and neighborhood parks and noted in the comments regarding value, the addition at these current and future proposed sites should be a priority.

SPORTS FIELDS: Moses Lake currently owns or controls twelve sports fields. While the service area of a baseball or softball field is often considered to be a ½-mile service radius, or the same as a Neighborhood Park or Community Park, Moses Lake has favored the development of fields into complexes. Support for a field complex allows for larger tournament play. In Moses Lake the complexes located in community parks meets this definition. The need for new or improved sports fields ranked moderately compared to other proposed facilities. The upgrading of existing fields ranked much higher than the addition of new fields. Youth baseball/softball is especially popular and co-ed adult leagues are also increasing. Additional fields should be provided as new

park sites are considered as part of a neighborhood park and lighted fields as part of a community complex. Baseball fields could be developed using the NRPA 1/5000 population. One additional adult field is required to meet the standard. There are three lighted softball fields in Moses Lake. Using the NRPA standard of 1/5000 if also used for youth baseball, the existing inventory would also require one additional youth baseball field. One more softball field is needed to meet current demand.

CAMPGROUNDS: Moses Lake has 33 tent camping sites and 42 recreational vehicle (RV) sites at Cascade Campground in *Cascade Park*. There is also one group campground site available for large group rentals. The campground is open April through September. The boat launch and moorage, in addition to sanitary dump station, is provided to paid campers. A playground area is located inside the park. The campground has an on-site caretaker. Annually, the campground is full throughout the summer season. Camping and localized travel has increased in recent years with the increase of gasoline prices and economic need to reduce costs for summer vacations. The recreational attractions developed in Moses Lake that are incentive for campers to enjoy are such facilities as the *Surf 'n Slide*. The water park and the regional tournament ballfields have become destination attractions for extended stay campers visiting the City. A level of service for camping is broad and not specifically defined on a national or state level. Additional camping opportunities should be investigated for future increase to the existing camping options. Most recent work by the City has identified the opportunity to add camping/RV to the *Blue Heron Park* located on the north side of I-90, which is ideal as it lies on the western shoreline of Moses Lake. The elected/advisory/staff comments stated that the “transfer of the state park to the City has worked well and the next step is the development of the new RV area which is important and needs to move forward.” Staff added that the design is in motion so timing and funding are the next steps to completion.

Table 4-11
Summary ELOS/PLOS Moses Lake
City of Moses Lake

	Existing Ratio ELOS 2015 population 22,080	Recommended Demand Standard PLOS	Existing Inventory	Existing Acres	Current Add'l Need	Year 2025 total need (existing +add'l) Population estimate 49,644
PARKLAND						
Mini Parks	.49 acres/1000	.25 – 0.5 acres/1000	9 sites	10.75 acres	0 acres	12.4 - 24.8 acres
Neighborhood Parks	1.52 acres/1000	1.0 – 2.0 acres/1000	8 sites	33.62 acres	0 acres	49.6 – 65.6 acres
Community Parks	6.4 acres/1000	5.0 – 8.0 acres/1000	6 sites	141.7 acres	0 acres	248.2 – 397.1 acres
Regional/Urban Parks	6.4 acres/1000	5.0 – 10.0 acres/1000	2 sites	141.11 acres	0 acres	248.2 – 496.4 acres
Special Use Areas	1.7 acres/1000	1.07 acres/1000	9 sites	37.67 acres	0 acres	90.8 acres
Natural Open Space	.94 acres/1000	1.20 acres/1000	3 sites	20.81 acres	5.69 acres	59.6 acres
Total Parkland PLOS	17.4 acres/1000	13.5 – 22.8 acres/1000	37 sites	395.09 acres ¹⁷	5.69 acres	460.06 – 1134.3
Linear Parks	.42 acres/1000	n/a	2 sites	9.43 acres ¹⁸	n/a	n/a
Total Parkland Acreage	-	-	-	380.0	-	-
Pathways & Trails	2.8 miles/1000	.86 miles/1000	62.98 miles	n/a	0 miles	139 miles
<hr/>						
	Existing Ratio ELOS 2015 population 22,080	Recommended Demand Standard PLOS	Existing Inventory	Existing	Add'l Need	Year 2025 total need (existing +add'l) Population estimate 49,644
RECREATION FACILITIES						
Soccer fields [Full size]	1 field/11040	1 field/4000	2	2	2.52	12.41
Soccer fields [Modified]	1 field/2007	1 field/4000	11	11	1.41	12.41
Tennis Courts	1 court/7360	1 court/2000	3	3	8	24.8
Playgrounds	1 set /1299	1 set/2000	17	17	8	24.8
Museum	1/22080	n/a	13,000 sq ft	1	0	TBD*
Skate Park	1 skate spot/22080	n/a	1	0.5	0	2.24

18. Marine Drive Park and Neppel Landing are two additional Linear Park sites with +9.43 acres = 395.09 total park acreage.

* The current new Moses Lake Museum & Art Center (13,000 sq. ft.) was overbuilt in anticipation of futurgrowth. Specific needs for increased square footage oriented towards the projections for 2025 are difficult given the fact that there is no specific standard provided by the NRPA. Future programming and specific needs should be factored into any plans to expand this facility.

¹⁸ Demand standards for linear parks along trail corridors will be determined by the opportunities to use the right-of-ways or designated property along the waterfront shorelines. The Shoreline Master Plan identifies the need for water access and linear parks as well as water trail access points serving the intended purpose of access to the shoreline.

3. RECREATION PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:

- A. Aquatics
- B. Athletics/Sports/Fitness
- C. Youth Programs
- D. General Recreation Programs
- E. Art & Cultural Programs/Services

3-A: AQUATICS

In 2008, Moses Lake rebranded and expanded the Moses Lake Family Aquatic Center which originally opened in 1994 to become the new and improved “**Surf ‘n Slide” Water Park**. This premiere outdoor facility features a 50-meter competitive pool, (2) 200’ water slides, Flowrider (wet surf simulator), lazy river, drop slide and zero-depth beach and bay area along with several water toys (geared towards young children). The complex provides concessions, ample deck and grass area with sand volleyball courts, a picnic shelter and multiple shade structures and large shade umbrellas. In addition to the City’s facility, the Moses Lake High School features an indoor 8-lane 25-yard competitive pool (which provides limited hours to the public during non-school hours).

Comments and Trends Regarding Aquatics:

Survey results

- The *Surf ‘n Slide Water Park* facility located in McCosh Park ranked third when asked how often they “used this facility” (1.91 weighted average).
- Nearly 65% of respondents participate in services or programs offered by the City of Moses Lake.
- Participants’ ideas of what programs are most needed included “Aquatic Programs” (30.4%).

Trends

- Many communities are looking to construct theme waterparks, like Surf ‘n Slide Water Park, with a variety of play amenities which provide enhanced revenue to off-set the annual cost of operation.
- On a national scale, swimming continues to be a very popular recreation activity.
- Citizens continue to enjoy a summer lake swimming opportunity, which provides a natural recreational experience.

Demand Standard for Swimming:

The NRPA standard is 1 pool per 20,000 in population. Utilizing either the NRPA Standard, the demand for swimming pools based on the 2015 population of 22,080 is currently met. In calculating future needs, based upon the standard of 1 pool per 20,000 in population, a 2025 population of 49,644 would call for 2.48 pools to serve the community area.



Table 4.12
Swimming
Recommended Level-Of-Service (PLOS)
Demand Standard for UGA

City of Moses Lake

Existing Inventory	1 Pool plus (Water Park - 20, 620 sq ft)*
Current LOS Satisfied	Yes**
Recommended PLOS for 2025 Population	2.48 50-meter Pools or equivalent to (i.e. 31,125 sq. ft.) which would require an additional 10,505 sq. ft. to meet the standard.

*NRPA Standard calls for 1 50-meter pool (12,450 sq. ft.) per 20,000 in population.

** It should be noted that the indoor 25 yard pool owned and operated by the Moses Lake School District is available to the public for very limited hours and could fractionally be included in future calculations if desired.

Observations Regarding Aquatics:

The Moses Lake *Surf 'n Slide Water Park* is a unique and valued asset for the community on a seasonal basis. The residents in the UGA benefit from the facility, while the annual operational costs are shared with visitors and tourist to the community. Because of this revenue return the daily admissions and the annual seasonal passes can be cost effective for the Moses Lake residents. Due to the size of the seasonal water park, the square foot demand is currently satisfied. The City of Moses Lake does not have an indoor swimming pool, therefore, a cooperative agreement with the Moses Lake School District would be recommended and beneficial to the swimmer needs for an indoor facility in the winter months.

3-B: ATHLETICS/SPORTS/FITNESS

Moses Lake Parks & Recreation provides a variety of athletic and fitness programs which include basketball, volleyball, softball, golf, disc golf, baseball and Special Olympics and Track and Field. The department provides fitness and wellness programs for youth and adults, such as martial art, yoga, and dance. Understanding the benefit of healthy lifestyles and providing the community with opportunities, the quarterly program brochure is full of options for participation.

Comments and Trends Regarding Athletics/Sports/Fitness:

Survey results

- Listed in the top most important benefits of park, recreation and open space was “improving health and quality of life” (59.2%).
- When asked what types of recreation “facilities” are currently most needed, the traditional park elements such as “basketball courts,”(26.2%) “playgrounds” (31.4%) and “sports fields”(28.1%) make up the second highest group of responses.
- Fitness classes (aerobics, yoga etc.) and before and after -school programs were popular selections (21.8%) and (23.4%) when asked what kinds of programs are most needed.
- The relatively low interest in drop-in activities may be a result of the lack of a traditional recreation center. However, programs such as open gym, play leaders and social spaces (fitness rooms/game rooms) can be a good way to attract new programming participants.
- Building a community center was identified as the highest importance (51.1%) in response to the survey question of “What types of facilities are most needed in Moses Lake.”

- A large number of the write-in comments reflected the need and desire to have additional opportunities for athletics, sports and fitness and specifically emphasized the desire to see these opportunities in the winter when the weather in Moses Lake prevents opportunities outdoors. In question #10, the Recreation Facility needs focus heavily on indoor opportunities, with Indoor Community Centers (51.1%) and Indoor Gymnasiums (44.7%) taking the top two slots by a wide margin.

Trends

- There is a widespread worry about the fitness of America’s kids. Currently, more than 33% of youth aged 2 to 19-more than 25 million youth- are overweight or obese. In addition, 60% of obese youth aged five to 10 have a least one risk factor for cardiovascular disease¹⁹

Demand Standard for Athletics/Sports/Fitness:

Recreational facilities are required to provide and expand programming for athletics, sports and fitness. As defined in the various parks and facilities demand standards for fields, courts and indoor recreational space providing the identified need for these facilities will allow for community programming to address the demand. See demand for soccer fields 2-A and Recreation Centers 2-D.

Observations Regarding Athletics/Sports/Fitness:

Recreational programming for team sports and individual opportunities for health and fitness are a priority in the goal of programming for the Moses Lake Parks & Recreation Department. The variety of offerings and the range of ages are reflected in the comprehensive program offerings and the cooperative partnerships between the city and other entities. The cooperative effort to work as a community in the *Healthy Communities* initiative is an example of the intent of the City to be a leader in an active community. Direct programming costs and revenue return reflect the goal of cost recovery for program offering while maintaining efficiency in provision of the programming. The programming reflects the national intent to provide a wide range of opportunities for a recreational experience that have mental and physical benefits for the citizens.

3-C: YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Moses Lake Parks & Recreation provides a large number of youth activities, camps and tournaments at their various playfields, water park and athletic complexes. Youth programs from younger ages through the teen years are offered by the department. The Annual Youth Day honors youth and kicks-off the summer ball season. The BMX, ice skating rink, and youth recreation center with batting cages and learning center all provide a wide range of opportunities for the youth in the community.

Comments and Trends Regarding Youth Programming:

Survey results

- The majority of respondents came from the 25-44 age group. This may be indicative of a large number of young families.
- The top selection of most important benefits of parks, recreation and open space were: “providing opportunities for youth” (79.6%)
- Classes (44%), special events (38%) and after-school programs (23.4%) were all popular selections when asked what kinds of programs are most needed in Moses Lake.

¹⁹ *Youth Fitness: An Action Plan for Shaping America’s Kids*; by Matt Brzycki & Fred Fronicola.

Trends

The feature of a positive program for teens identifies important goals which reach to:

- Promote healthy lifestyles lifetime leisure skills,
- Enhance opportunities for out of school and unstructured time,
- Increase experiences that protect and steward natural, cultural and historic resources, and
- Develop and strengthen outreach efforts.

The features of a positive development setting include elements of:

- Physical and psychological safety,
 - Appropriate structure,
 - Supportive relationships,
 - Opportunities to belong,
 - Positive social norms,
 - Support for efficiency and mattering,
 - Opportunities for skill building; and integration of family, school and community efforts.²⁰
- After-school programs can make significant social, physical and educational differences.²¹
 - After-school programs can be used as a conduit for developing competence, which can transfer to school settings, leading to increases in school engagement. Increasing school engagement has the theoretical potential to lead to increased academic performance. While achieving increases in state standardized tests takes time, changes in more proximal outcomes (e.g. school engagement) is something that can be observed in the short term.²²

Demand Standard for Youth Programming:

Youth programming continues to be a need in the Moses Lake community. A variety of private recreational services in the community provide programs for youth. The City of Moses Lake works with the Moses Lake School District to provide after school programming for youth sports and activities. This program is vital to the provision of opportunities to introduce and retain active involvement for youth in the community.

Observations Regarding Youth Programming:

As they grow up, youth are exposed to a number of factors which may either increase their risk for, or protect them from, problems such as abusing drugs or engaging in delinquent behavior.

“Risk factors” are any circumstances that may increase youths’ likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors. Conversely, “protective factors” are any circumstances that promote healthy youth behaviors and decrease the chance that youth will engage in risky behaviors. The community, and particularly the parks and recreation, can provide opportunities through recreational programming and youth involvement to increase “protective factors.” Peer protective factors include opportunities for involvement with positive peer group activities, safe and health-promoting environments, opportunities to encourage positive social norms with high community expectations and the provision of neighborhood social cohesion. The City of Moses Lake’s continued support of youth



²⁰ *Forum for Youth Investment & Youth Action Plan*; Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Riverdale, MD. 20737.

²¹ Little & Harris, 2003; Little, Harris & Buffard, 2004).

²² Study of: *The Association of Program Elements & Outcomes of After-School Programs*; 2008 NRPA Congress; Chris Harrist and Peter A. Witt, Texas A&M University and Clifton Watts, East Carolina University.

and the Moses Lake Parks & Recreation Department who serve as the source and the key to youth involvement in recreational activities, reflects the positive results seen City-wide in the commitment to youth.

3-D: GENERAL RECREATION

[General recreation, ice rink, special events, rentals]

Cultural/educational programs are offered for all ages. Most are held at *The Learning Center* (TLC). The pay-as-you-go reimbursed programs provide on average 100% of the direct program costs. Annually facilities rentals range from garden plots to camping sites. The ice rink provides hockey and recreational skating. There are a large number of City-wide events, tournaments, and festivals that are managed or hosted in partnership annually throughout the community. Rentals of picnic shelters offer opportunities to bring larger groups together. The outdoor park at Sinkiuse Square located downtown provides for cultural events and performances.

Comments and Trends Regarding General Recreation Programming:

Survey results

- Top selection of the most important benefits of parks, recreation and open space were: “Providing opportunities for youth (79.6%); “Providing opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors” (64.5%); “Building stronger families and neighborhoods” (58.8%); and “Improving health and quality of life” (59.2%).
- Nearly 65% of respondents participate in services or programs offered by the City of Moses Lake. The survey questionnaire effectively reached current park and recreation system users.
- Most people find out about programming options through materials provided directly by the Department, which include the published schedule or programs, the e-notification list, and www.mlrec.com While this is over half of the responses to this question, 65% of the total indicated they participate in recreation programs.
- Written comments state that they “would support a Bond or Tax for a community Center...we need additional support for families and youth in our area.” Respondents would also help with the youth sports programs to have more access to gyms.

Workshop comments

- Citizens identified the changes with population growth and new annexations which will increase the need for recreational services and more parks.
- They pointed out the positive changes that have happened with the schools, the parks and the recreation community.
- In the Community Input Sessions the citizens pointed out the need to provide an indoor recreation center with gym, play area, tennis and recreation programs.

Trends

- It is important to deliver benefits that address important community issues and meet fundamental human needs.
- It is important to develop outcome-oriented performance measures and to provide “evidence-based” justifications for budget requests.²³
- The two biggest challenges facing the leisure professionals are for each to (a) understand the science-based knowledge about the benefits of leisure and its important contributions to a society and (b) to communicate those contributions to others outside the profession. (Moore & Driver, 2005, p22)²⁴

²³ *Evolution and implications of a paradigm shift in the marketing of leisure services in the USA*; John L. Crompton, Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences, Texas A&M University, (final version January 2008).

²⁴ *Introduction to outdoor recreation: Providing and managing natural resources based opportunities*. State College, PA: Venture 2005.

Demand Standard for General Recreation:

While the NRPA does not provide a specific level-of-service for recreation centers, but instead encourages a combination of features and elements to determine the community's standard for such facilities. Until a future design phase where specific individual elements are selected, calculating an appropriate standard and PLOS are impossible to create accurately. Currently, between The Learning Center (5,978 sq ft), the Larson Recreation Center (9,909 sq ft) and the Moses Lake Museum & Art Center (13,000 s. ft) for a combined total of 28,887 sq ft that are all used for general recreation needs. This equates into a ratio of 1,308 sq. ft. per 1,000 in population. Based upon 2025 population projections of 49,644, to maintain the current LOS would require an additional 36,042.12 sq ft of general recreational multi-purpose space (i.e. a traditional recreation center).

Observations Regarding General Recreation:

The demand for recreational programming in Moses Lake continues to reflect a supportive interest by the citizens. The present varied and wide offerings reflect the community interest. The ability to meet the demand and needs is limited without a traditional recreation facility or the availability of gym space in the community. The City of Moses Lake and the elected understand the importance of recreational programs and the community reflection it portrays to the region. The citizen advocates continue to express the need and desire to look to the future as the population growth continues for the Moses Lake area. Knowing the support for programming and the commitment of resources, staff needs to continue to provide the recreational programs but as a community Moses Lake needs to look at opportunities to expand year-round recreation services.

3-E: ART & CULTURAL PROGRAMS/SERVICES

The *Moses Lake Museum & Art Center* offers exhibitions, classes, lectures, demonstrations and special events in order to achieve its programming goals. Special events at the museum are characterized as programming that is intended as either a fundraiser, as part of collaborative events or to complement exhibitions. Funding support for museum programs comes from annual memberships. The Museum Store sells retail merchandise and consignment artwork, benefitting the general fund. Fundraising events supported with volunteer commitments and additional donations supplement the programming budget for family and education services. [See facility description in Chapter 4 Section 2-D]

Comments and Trends Regarding Art & Cultural Programs/Services:

Survey results

- Additional write-in comments showed strong support for the Museum & Art Center.
- Recreation facility needs focused heavily on indoor opportunities, with Indoor Community Centers (51.1%) taking the top slot.
- The printed Parks & Recreation brochure (52.0%), word-of-mouth (46.3%) and Facebook or other social media (24.9%) are important sources of park and recreation information in the community.
- Participant ideas of what programs are most needed ranked special events (38%) and art (19.9%) as high need.
- Write-in comments indicated that art and the museum were important benefits to the community. One specific comment stated, "I love the art shows and classes at the Moses Lake Art Center. The beautiful facility is welcoming and inspiring."

Trends

- Communities have focused on the value of cultural facilities to provide community and visitor interest in local art and historic culture of their area.
- Cities have moved to create proactive design guidelines and codes to encourage inclusion of small spaces in downtown mixed use developments that include art or venues to support cultural activities.

- Cultural services in many communities provide a range of programs for varied ages in literary, visual, historic and performing arts, and serve as a central information center for the network of artists, art, humanities/historic organizations, and cultural art programs.
- Many communities are creating cultural corridors which strengthen the connectivity of cultural venues, e.g. the new MAC with the downtown and the waterfront.

Demand Standard for Art & Culture:

While the NRPA does not provide a specific level-of-service for art & culture, they encourage a combination of features and elements to determine the facilities square footage requirements. As the new Moses Lake Museum & Art Center was just completed with 13,000 sq ft of programmable space. The current LOS for that facility is 588.78 sq ft per 1,000 in population. Utilizing that calculation and referencing the projected 2025 population forecast, the PLOS for Art & Culture would require an additional 259.06 sq ft per 1,000 in population.

Observations Regarding Art & Culture:

Moses Lake has a long history of support for art and culture. Citizen involvement formed the initial phase for the museum facility. The new City Civic Center/Museum facility has contributed to the stewardship and interpretation of local history and actively contribute to the cultural and aesthetic lives of the citizens of Moses Lake. The larger facility has allowed the museum to build upon successful existing programs as well as offer new outreach programs. For example, expanded collections storage has allowed for a more active collection program. In addition, the 262 seat auditorium has provided four times the capacity of the previous location for hosting special programs and performances.