

Element 8: Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces

This Comprehensive Plan along with the Capital Facilities Plan creates an overall plan that details the existing conditions, needs, costs and funding mechanisms for the City's parks and open spaces needs.

- ❖ To ensure that park land is acquired, developed and maintained in an economically efficient way to meet the needs of the area residents and provide adequate and continuous funding for maintaining and updating park facilities.
- ❖ To support and facilitate the Park Board in developing, managing and enhancing existing parks and future acquisitions.
- ❖ Create an in-depth master plan that sets policy for future parks development.
- ❖ Expand the range of recreational facilities, parks, paths, and open space accessible to residents of all ages, incomes and abilities.
- ❖ Conserve Wildlife habitat, wildlife movement corridors, and habitat linkages through the provision of significant open space.
- ❖ Video security of all parks is desirable due to vandalism and illegal activities
- ❖ Improve night time lighting at parks
- ❖ Improve maintenance and functionality of each park.
- ❖ Identify neighborhoods that do not have a park or open space nearby and plan for future opportunities.
- ❖ Future park amenities shall include passive use feature, community gardens, cultural features, dog parks, and structures for community members of various ages and mobilities.
- ❖ Promote volunteer programs to plan, develop, operate, maintain and improve parks.
- ❖ Promote and enhance multi-use facilities for youth sports, festivals, and community gatherings.

8.1 Introduction

The City of Winlock places a high value on the acquisition, development and maintenance of park and recreation facilities, these values include:

- ❖ Enhancement of existing public open space
- ❖ Acquisitions of new open space in a manner reflective of current and future population needs and growth
- ❖ Protection of environmental quality
- ❖ Efficient use of land and equipment
- ❖ Creation of open spaces, trails and general recreational opportunities

8.2 Existing Parks and Open Spaces

The City of Winlock currently has approximately 30 acres of parkland, and at this time there are no developed trails.

8.2.1 Winolequa Park

Winolequa Park is nearly 28 acres and provides active and passive outdoor activities. Park facilities include a covered area, picnic tables, benches and barbeque pits; along with a playground, two baseball fields, a performance art stage and overnight camping close to the Olequa Creek. There is a full-time maintenance and caretaker onsite.

Winolequa Park hosts baseball tournaments almost every weekend in late spring and early summer and the covered picnic area is rented throughout the year for various parties, celebrations and reunions. The stage and baseball fields are also available to rent for events. The fees are paid to the City.

8.2.2 Vern Zander Memorial Park

Vern Zander Memorial Park is located on the corner of NW Kerron Street and Fir Street. This park is approximately 6,100 square feet and is home to the World's Largest Egg, giving it the nickname of "Egg Park". The park is completely fenced, landscaped, and has a picnic area. The property is owned by Burlington Northern Sante Fe; however, the City maintains the park.

8.2.3 Volunteer Park



In 2009, the Park Board took an interest in a narrow lot at 305 N.E. First Street where an old building had burned down and began the long process of creating the Volunteer Park. Through many fundraisers and volunteer hours the park was completed in 2012. The multi-level park is approximately 1,450 square feet complete with gardens, sitting areas, pathways and a fountain.

8. 2.4 Winlock Skate Park

The Winlock Skate Park is located on the corner of Dexter and King Roads near the City Shop and across from the elementary school. The park is a concreted area with three skateboard ramps and bench for spectators.

8. 2.5 Other Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities can also be found at the three area schools. The Winlock Elementary school, located west of the downtown area includes play fields, a walking track and climbing equipment.

The middle and high schools, located about 3 miles east of Winlock, were built on a 40-acre site. Facilities include fields for baseball, football and soccer, a running track and stadium seating.

8. 3 Future Needs

Future needs of parks and opens spaces is addressed more fully in the Capital Facilities Element.

8.3.1 Village Square

Winlock has a need for a community gathering space for city wide activities and events such as holidays or summer markets.