

**CITY OF MONROE  
ORDINANCE NO. 005/2022**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON, REPEALING THE 2015 PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING IT WITH THE 2022 PROS PLAN ADOPTED HEREIN; AMENDING CHAPTER 7 – PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT OF THE 2015-2035 CITY OF MONROE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REFLECT THE 2022 PROS PLAN AND ADOPTING THE PROS PLAN BY REFERENCE AS APPENDIX — F; AFFIRMING THE CITY’S COMPLIANCE WITH RCW 36.70A.130; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE NON-SUBSTANTIVE EDITS FOLLOWING ADOPTION; ADOPTING SUPPORTIVE FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FIXING A TIME WHEN THE SAME SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE

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WHEREAS, in 2015 the City of Monroe adopted a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan compliant with the Growth Management Act and guidance from the State Department of Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO); and

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe initiated the 2022 PROS Plan review and revision process in 2020, which subsequently included community workshops, a citizen advisory groups, and meetings with stakeholders to foster public involvement and public participation; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe City Council adopted Ordinance No. 021/2015, adopting the City’s Comprehensive Plan Update, on December 8, 2015; and

WHEREAS, sections of the 2015 PROS Plan were adopted into Chapter 7 – Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element of the 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 PROS Plan was adopted in its entirety as Appendix – F in the 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, to accommodate population growth and needs, the park classifications, acreages of City-owned parklands, and the number and location of park facilities have changed since the adoption of the 2015 PROS Plan and the 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the Monroe Planning Commission on January 24, 2022 to take public comment on the proposed 2022 PROS Plan and amendments to 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2021, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106, the proposed amendments were transmitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce for 60-day state agency review; and

WHEREAS, an analysis of the environmental impacts of the amendments was conducted under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), resulting in the issuance of a SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) on December 13, 2021, with no comments or appeals received; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effects of all proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan have been analyzed by the City of Monroe, and said amendments have been considered concurrently as required by RCW 36.70A.130; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe City Council, after considering all information received, has determined to adopt the 2022 PROS Plan and the 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan amendments as provided for in this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, because no citizen-initiated Comprehensive Plan amendment applications were selected for the 2022 docket, and because no other City-initiated Comprehensive Plan amendments have been proposed for said docket, the City Council finds that it is appropriate to modify and accelerate the standard Comprehensive Plan amendment review schedule set forth in MMC Table 22.74.010, as specifically authorized pursuant to MMC 22.74.010(B); and

WHEREAS, modifying and accelerating the standard Comprehensive Plan amendment review schedule will enable the City to meet the February 28, 2022 eligibility deadline for submitting RCO grant applications for the 2022-23 state funding cycle, allowing the City to access a potentially significant source of funding for local parks, recreation and open space purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings. The City of Monroe Council hereby adopts the above recitals, the content of agenda bill AB 22-071 and the Planning Commission's January 24, 2022 Report and Recommendation as legislative findings in support of the 2022 PROS Plan and the proposed amendments to the 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan adopted by this ordinance. The City Council further makes the following additional findings:

- a. The proposed 2022 PROS Plan and amendments are consistent with the Growth Management Act and other applicable State laws;
- b. The proposed 2022 PROS Plan and amendments are consistent with applicable Countywide Planning Policies;

- c. The proposed 2022 PROS Plan and amendments are consistent with the Goals and Policies of the 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan;
- d. The proposed 2022 PROS Plan and amendments are beneficial to the city as a whole, and the health, safety and welfare of its residents;
- e. All relevant requirements of SEPA have been satisfied in relation to the proposed 2022 PROS Plan and amendments;
- f. The proposed 2022 PROS Plan and amendments have been processed in material compliance with all applicable procedural requirements.

Section 2. Adoption of the 2022 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan; Repealer. The 2015 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan set forth in Appendix – F of the 2015-2035 City of Monroe Comprehensive Plan is hereby repealed and replaced in its entirety with the 2022 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and by reference incorporated herein.

Section 3. Amendment of the 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan— Chapter 7. Chapter 7 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of the 2015-2035 City of Monroe Comprehensive Plan is hereby amended to incorporate revised park inventories, classifications, levels of service, capital facility needs, cost estimates and revenue sources, as set forth in its entirety in Exhibit B, attached hereto and by reference incorporated herein.

Section 4. Non-Substantive Editing Changes Authorized. The Mayor is hereby authorized to make non-substantive editing changes to the amendments adopted by this ordinance to provide for consistency and clarity in formatting.

Section 5. Copy to Department of Commerce. Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106, a complete and accurate copy of this ordinance shall be transmitted to the Department of Commerce within ten days of adoption.

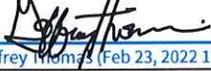
Section 6. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 7. Effective Date. This ordinance, being an exercise of a power specifically delegated to the City legislative body, is not subject to referendum and shall take effect five days after passage and publication of an approved summary thereof consisting of the title.

ADOPTED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Monroe, at a regular meeting held this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2022.

First Reading: 02/08/2022  
Adopted: 02/22/2022  
Published: 02/25/2022  
Effective: 03/02/2022

CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON:

  
Geoffrey Thomas (Feb 23, 2022 13:04 PST)  
Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Jodi Wycoff (Feb 24, 2022 08:28 PST)  
Jodi Wycoff, City Clerk

  
Zach Lell (Feb 23, 2022 12:56 PST)  
J. Zachary Lell, City Attorney

# ORD 005 2022 Adopting PROS Plan and Amend Ch 7

Final Audit Report

2022-02-24

Created:	2022-02-23
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## "ORD 005 2022 Adopting PROS Plan and Amend Ch 7" History

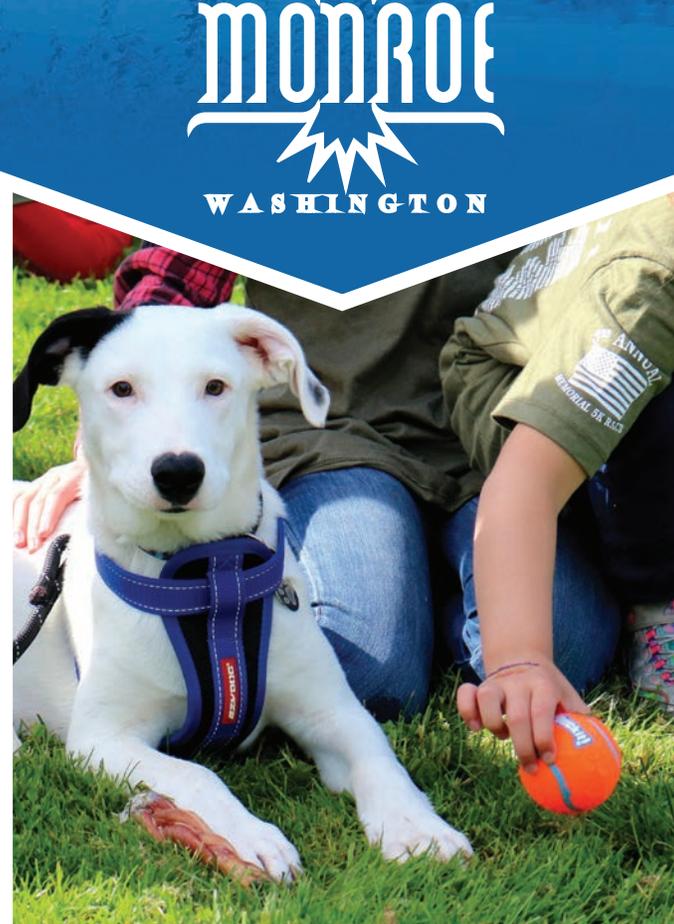
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✔ Agreement completed.

2022-02-24 - 4:28:58 PM GMT



# Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan



**FINAL DRAFT PLAN  
JANUARY 2022**





# City of Monroe Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan

Final Draft | January 2022



Prepared by:  
**MIG, Inc.**  
[www.migcom.com](http://www.migcom.com)

In association with Community Attributes, Inc.

# Letter from Our Mayor

January 2022

In 2021, the Monroe City Council adopted a vision for who we aspire to be today and the type of community we aspire to be in 2050. This vision is known as “*Imagine Monroe*.” All of our plans, policies, budgets, and City operations will strive to realize this vision. *Imagine Monroe* reads:

*Imagine Monroe -*

*A lively center **surrounded by nature**. A place of **beauty and goodwill**.*

***Our parks, waterways, and environment are healthy and accessible for everyone to enjoy.***

*Our historic downtown and business districts are thriving and full of locally-owned businesses and locally-sourced products.*

*We can find everything we need with regional connections and with **a variety of choices** for work, housing, dining, shopping, **arts, and activities**.*

*Friendly and responsive, **we strengthen connections through gathering spaces, events, services, and community-centered infrastructure – creating a safe place for all.***

***In Monroe, everyone feels at home, and everyone feels they belong.***

Monroe’s parks and green spaces are clearly reflected in and named in *Imagine Monroe*, especially in the text emphasized in bold above. And it is *Imagine Monroe* that has guided the development of our 2022 Monroe Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan. This PROS Plan, two years in the making, represents a comprehensive and collaborative blueprint to meet our growing recreation, and community-building needs of our residents of all ages, backgrounds, and lived experiences.

THANK YOU to all our residents, employers and employees, visitors, City Council, boards and commissions, community advocates and partners, and City staff who, through their participation and input with surveys, interviews, and community outreach events including the Monroe Farmer’s Market, Monroe PRIDE, and National Night Out Against Crime, helped us chart a path that leads us collectively to delivery of the highest quality parks, facilities, programs, and events for our diverse community.

Through this PROS Plan, and together, we will strive to realize *Imagine Monroe* through our parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces – creating a safe place for all, where everyone feels at home, and everyone feels they belong.

*-Mayor Geoffrey Thomas*

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## Acknowledgements

Thank you for the active involvement, support, and input from our community leaders including residents, the Park Board, Planning Commission, City staff, community organizations, frequent parks system users, and others who contributed to this Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan.

### Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas

### CITY OF MONROE STAFF TEAM

Deborah Knight, City Administrator  
Mike Farrell, Parks & Recreation Director  
Ben Swanson, Community Development Director  
Katie Darrow, Events & Tourism Coordinator  
Rich Huebner, Management Analyst  
Dale Olson, Parks Supervisor  
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### City Council

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## Boards and Commissions

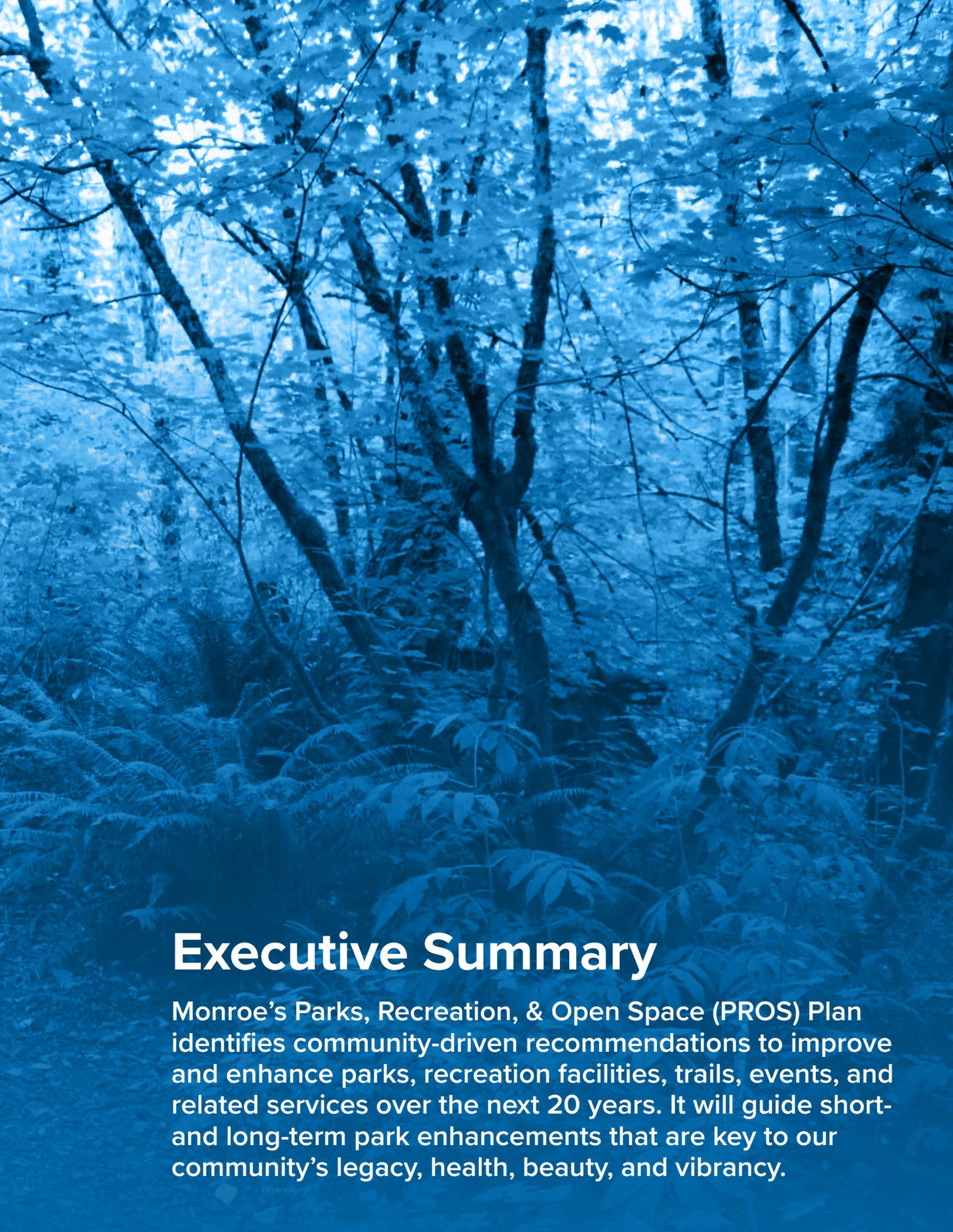
### PARK BOARD

Tami Kinney  
Ron Petrick  
Daniel Enrico  
Keith Dahlenburg  
Jessie Robinson  
Kyle Fisher  
Devlin Piplick

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Michael Stanger  
Dionne Miller  
Kyle Fisher  
Bridgette Tuttle  
Elly Britt  
W. Jay Bull, Jr.  
Liz Nugent





# Executive Summary

Monroe's Parks, Recreation, & Open Space (PROS) Plan identifies community-driven recommendations to improve and enhance parks, recreation facilities, trails, events, and related services over the next 20 years. It will guide short- and long-term park enhancements that are key to our community's legacy, health, beauty, and vibrancy.

**PROS Vision: Great parks, natural areas, and trails foster safe and welcoming places for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather and recreate, while these spaces protect our waterways and create an active, beautiful, livable, and inclusive city.**



Imagine Monroe as a lively community surrounded by nature. Our accessible parks, waterways, and greenspace offer a serene backdrop for our healthy, vibrant neighborhoods. Walking and biking trails connect our historic downtown, business district, neighborhoods, and schools, expanding access to parks, gathering spaces, and other destinations. Friendly and responsive, the city is widely recognized for its outdoor recreation activities, special events, and community-centered infrastructure – creating safe and welcoming places for all.

***Parks, trails, and open space are critical to this vision for the future.***

The 2022 PROS Plan guides the City’s future investment in parks, facilities, trails, programs, and events—so that Monroe can be the community that residents want to see. Based on outreach and a technical assessment of community priorities and needs, the PROS Plan provides 20-year, strategic guidance for the entire park and recreation system. It also identifies specific park enhancement projects and a funding plan for the next 6-years. This plan addresses the requirements of the State of Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) and the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

## **Advancing Equitable Access to Parks and Recreation**

Spanning a spectrum of different ages, ethnicities, incomes levels, and interests, all Monroe residents need safe and accessible greenspace and recreation opportunities. To understand the diverse needs of the community, development of the PROS Plan included a robust outreach process. This effort resulted in more than 1,100 participants providing input into shaping the PROS Plan.



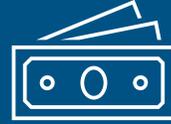


### Who We Are

Monroe has 17,373 residents, excluding MCC. Of this, nearly 20% are Hispanic or Latino, 69% White, and 11% other races and ethnicities. Monroe is expected to grow by 13% by 2035.



Monroe is known as a family-friendly city. Nearly one-third of residents are children and youth under the age of 20, and 38% are younger adults between the ages of 20-45.



A relatively high income gives 56% of Monroe households the ability to spend more on leisure and recreation than the average American. The remaining 44% do not have that luxury.



Monroe's parks and events attract many visitors from the Seattle-Tacoma area. Nearly 57% visit for the day, while 43% stay overnight contributing to Monroe's economic vibrancy.



### What We Currently Have

288 acres of park land at 17 sites, ranging from 0.1 acre to 104 acres in size.



23 local trails providing more than 14 miles of walking/biking opportunities



14 sports fields, 12 playgrounds, 7 sports courts, 7 picnic shelters, and specialized facilities such as a dog park and skate park



Boat launches, fishing access, and interpretive elements connect residents to Skykomish River and natural areas.



### What We Need

Continued quality park maintenance and the repair of aging and worn assets and parks



A greater variety of recreation facilities and programs



Park acquisition and development at key sites, such as North Hill, Cadman and the river greenbelt, downtown, and new neighborhoods



Enhanced trail connections, nature trails, and access to water trails

### What we Value

- Equity and Inclusion
- Safety
- Stewardship
- Community Livability
- Health
- Family-Friendly Activities
- Nature Access
- Trail Connectivity
- Vibrancy
- Commitment
- Collaboration

## Achieving our Community's Goals for Parks

The PROS Plan identifies new policies and an investment strategy to achieve the following goals over the next twenty years:

**Well-Stewarded Parks:** Manage, maintain, and revitalize parks, facilities, and natural resources to support safe, attractive, inclusive, and engaging recreation and green space.

**Vibrant Riverfront:** Enhance parks, recreation amenities, and trails along the Skykomish River to create a welcoming riverfront system that supports local use and recreation tourism.

**Outdoor Recreation Hub:** Provide unique and inclusive amenities that attract residents and visitors to Monroe's outdoor opportunities, activities, and events.

**Park Access:** Develop parks and remove barriers to ensure residents have equitable access to open spaces and recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance from home.

**Connectivity:** Provide an interconnected network of multi-use trails, walkways, and bikeways connecting city and regional destinations.

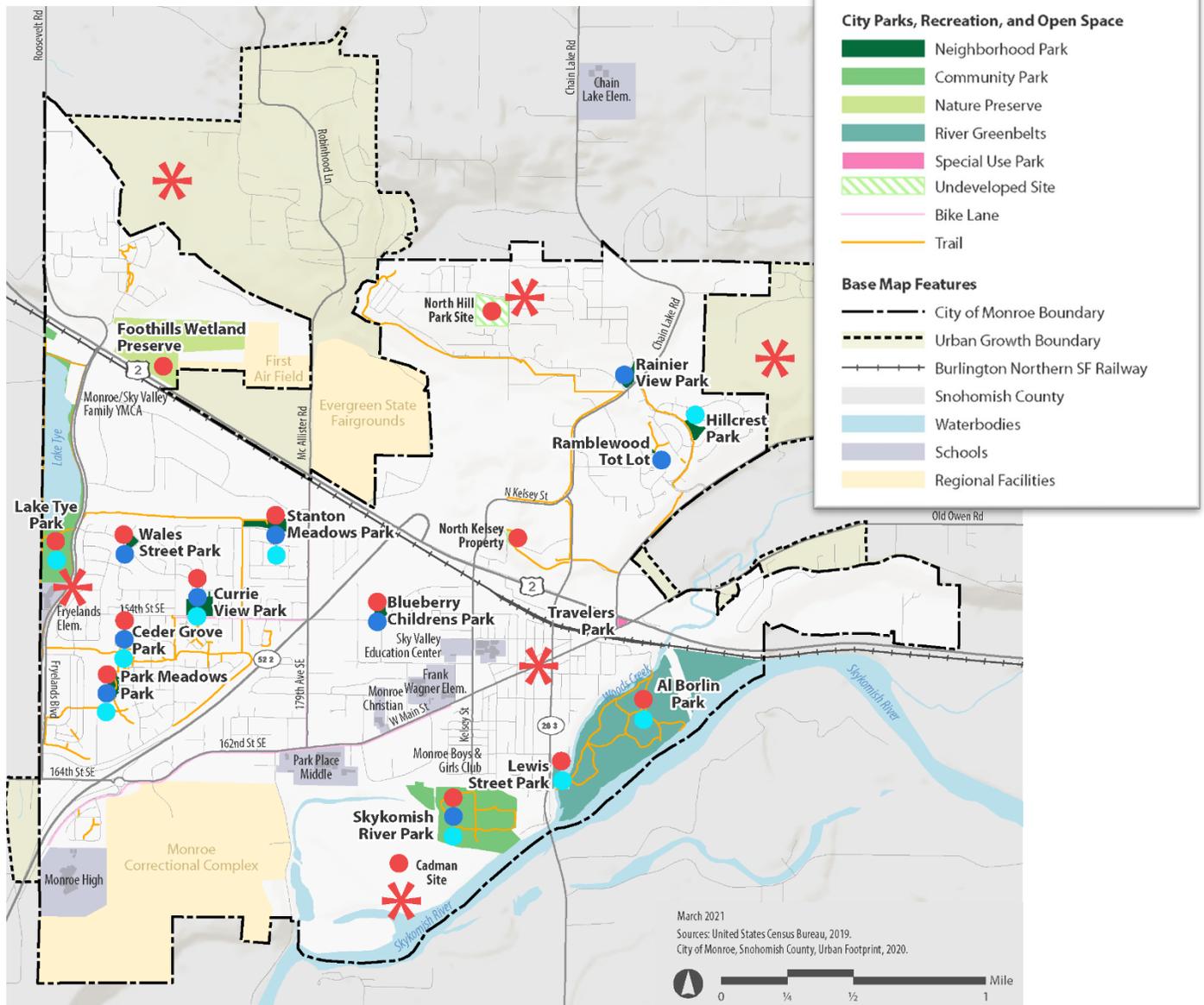


# 20-Year Park System

In the long term, the City will move towards a park system with the following enhancements:

- Three new neighborhood parks that provide close-to-home recreation options in residential areas;
- An interconnected river greenbelt with a riverwalk trail and improved Al Borlin and Cadman parks;
- Major renovations to Lake Tye Park to provide new types of recreation options and more events;
- New gathering spaces downtown and at the North Kelsey site;
- Replaced aging amenities at nine sites;
- Enhancements at eight existing parks; and
- An interconnected local and regional trail system.

## Site Recommendations



## Investing in our Future

To achieve the community’s priorities for parks, recreation, and open space, Monroe should focus on the key projects identified in the short-term Action Plan. These projects will require a mix of capital, operations, and maintenance funds.



### Capital Funding:

- Grants
- Impact fees
- Voter-approved bond
- REET



### Maintenance and Operations Funding:

- General Fund \$
- Program fees
- Interest and other revenues

## Capital Projects Action Plan

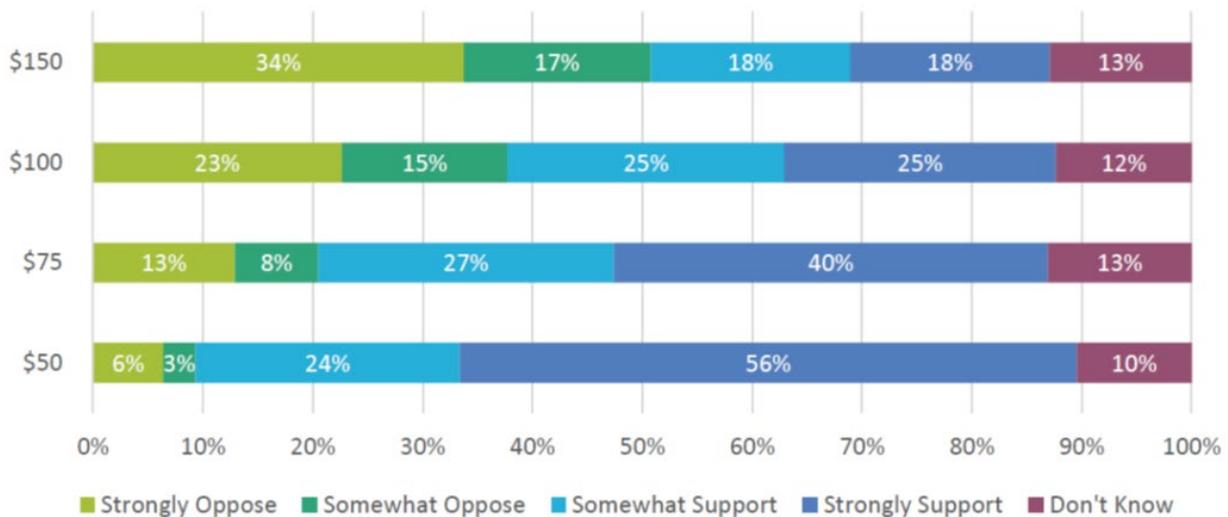
Project	Capital Total
Public Art/Banners	\$40,000
Riverfront Master Plan	\$4,050,000
Cadman Phase I & II	\$17,825,000
Centennial Trailhead	\$3,960,000
Lake Tye Phase II	\$1,000,000
North Hill Park Design & Development	\$4,445,000
Northeast Monroe New Park Acquisition	\$3,000,000
Park Playground Equipment	\$4,245,000
North Kelsey - Public Plaza Festival Lot (EDAB)	\$1,775,000
Parks Info Stations (3)	\$18,000
Park Safety Security Cameras	\$30,000
River Interpretive Signs	\$200,000
Trail System Master Plan Connectivity (EDAB)	\$1,775,000
Trail Planning & Repair	\$90,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,453,000</b>

The PROS Plan engagement findings have already identified broad support for new park funding measures—especially those that help implement the priority projects in the Action Plan. The challenges faced over the last two years (including COVID, climate change, and changing economic circumstances) have helped us realize the importance of investing in City parks to support health, social gatherings, community resiliency, and economic vibrancy. The PROS Plan provides a successful blueprint and guidance for our community to rally behind the projects that will enhance our quality of life.

### Post COVID, should parks funding change?

- 26%** Increase greatly
- 50%** Increase somewhat

(Source: Bilingual Questionnaire)



**SUPPORT FOR BOND MEASURE:** At least half of residents or more that responded to the Bilingual Questionnaire reported a willingness to support or strongly support a tax measure to increase investment in parks and recreation.

## Next Steps





# CHAPTER 1

## Introduction

Parks, recreation opportunities, trails, and open space are vital to Monroe's identity and community livability. Monroe's parks and open spaces provide safe places for residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds to socialize, play, exercise, socialize, and relax. Large parks with natural features or sports facilities such as, respectively, Al Borlin Park, Lake Tye Park and Skykomish River Park have become focal points for Monroe's community. As such, creating a Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan will steward and support the parks and recreation system so that it continues to enhance the community's quality of life and access to nearby nature. This chapter introduces the Master Plan by defining its purpose, describing the planning process, providing an overview of document content and identifying alignment with other existing plans.

## Purpose of the Plan

The City of Monroe has updated its Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) to inventory existing physical and programmatic assets, identify community needs and priorities, and explore funding options. The plan also provides recommendations concerning the stewardship, improvements, and enhancements of parks, recreation facilities, trails, programs, events, and related services. This PROS Plan provides a 20-year, strategic directions for the park system, including needed park enhancement projects for the next 6-years. By outlining realistic funding options and grant eligibility, this plan provides implementable recommendations that align with PROS planning goals and overarching city goals and strategic directions.

## Planning Process

The PROS Plan process (Figure 1-1) guided City staff and community leaders throughout the project. Monroe's community developed their vision and priorities through ongoing public engagement and technical assessments. This included a review of the City's park inventory and resources, plus a more detailed assessment of needs for new and renovated parks, recreation facilities, and trails. This input and analysis provided a foundation for the development of long-term strategies and a short-term action plan that supports vibrant parks and recreation experiences for residents and visitors. The process culminated with this final adopted PROS Plan.

Figure 1-1: The Planning Process



## Relationship to Other Plans

The PROS Plan is consistent with and incorporates findings from the following documents. The dates of plan adoption are included in parentheses:

- **Imagine Monroe (2021):** The City adopted an aspirational vision that will guide the development of Monroe's plans, policies, budgets, and operations. The aspirational vision provides the framework for all of Monroe's plans and policies.
- **Comprehensive Plan (2015):** The City's current Comprehensive Plan provides policies to guide Monroe's future growth and development through the year 2035. This 2022 PROS Plan is consistent with those growth assumptions and will be adopted as an appendix to the plan. When the Comprehensive Plan is updated 2022-2024, the population-based park standards and recommendations for new parks in the PROS Plan will be updated simultaneously to reflect newer growth forecasts.
- **Monroe Transportation Plan (2015):** This plan guides the community, City staff, and City officials to provide a safe, balanced, multimodal transportation network. This PROS Plan assessed and incorporated trail recommendations from the Transportation Plan.
- **Lake Tye Park and Cadman Site Master Plans (2018):** These park master plans provide concept designs and cost estimates for two large undeveloped park sites in Monroe. Park programming recommendations were incorporated into this PROS Plan.
- **Skykomish and Snohomish Rivers Wayfinding Signage Design Intent (2019):** This project provided a county-wide sign package with guidelines for use associated with recreation and tourism projects along and adjacent to the Skykomish and Snohomish Rivers. This PROS Plan incorporated these sign guidelines for parks along the Skykomish River.
- **Skykomish-Snohomish Rivers Recreation Concept Plan (2018):** This document provides a framework for coordinating recreation management and informs related activities on the Skykomish and Snohomish Rivers across jurisdictions. The PROS Plan was guided by the Concept Plan's recommendations for recreational experiences along the rivers.

### Monroe Community Vision

Imagine Monroe: A lively center surrounded by nature. A place of beauty and goodwill.

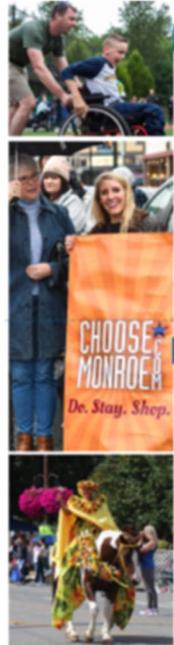
Our parks, waterways, and environment are healthy and accessible for everyone to enjoy.

Our historic downtown and business districts are thriving and full of locally owned businesses and locally sourced products.

We can find everything we need with a variety of choices for work, housing, dining, shopping, arts, and activities.

Friendly and responsive, we strengthen connections through gathering spaces, events, services, and community-centered infrastructure— creating a safe place for all.

**In Monroe, everyone feels at home, and everyone feels they belong.**



Imagine Monroe is an aspirational visioning project that was adopted in December 2021.

## Plan Organization

The Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan provides direction for the City's enhancement, preservation, and maintenance of parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities over the next 20 years. In addition to this chapter (**Chapter 1: Introduction**), the remainder of this document is organized as follows:

**Chapter 2: Existing Park System** provides an overview of the existing parks and recreation assets, as well as the resources needed to maintain and operate those assets.

**Chapter 3: Needs Assessment** summarizes findings for parks, facilities, programs, and operational resources to define the level of service desired by the community and assess whether there are gaps between existing resources and future needs.

**Chapter 4: Vision and Goals** conveys the park system vision framework, goals, and objectives established by the community.

**Chapter 5: Implementation** presents 20-year recommendations and a 6-year action plan for priority short-term projects, summarizes capital and operations costs, and provides prioritization criteria and funding strategies.



**Appendix A: Park and Facility Inventory** summarizes and classifies existing park and facility data.

**Appendix B: Online Questionnaire Summary** provides the results from the online community questionnaire.

**Appendix C: Prioritization Workshop /National Night Out Event Summary** provides notes and key takeaways from the Prioritization Workshop and pop-up event held at Lake Tye Park to gather community input on priority projects.

**Appendix D: Site Renovation Needs** compiles site condition assessment findings and a list of potential site improvement opportunities.

**Appendix E: Park Development** describes in added detail recommendations for four key projects, including Lake Tye Park renovations, the development and enhancement of the City's riverfront parks and riverwalk trail, and the development of the North Hill park and North Kelsey park.

**Appendix F: Site Recommendations Matrix** provides site-specific recommendations for Monroe's existing and proposed parks and trails to guide projects over the next 20 years.

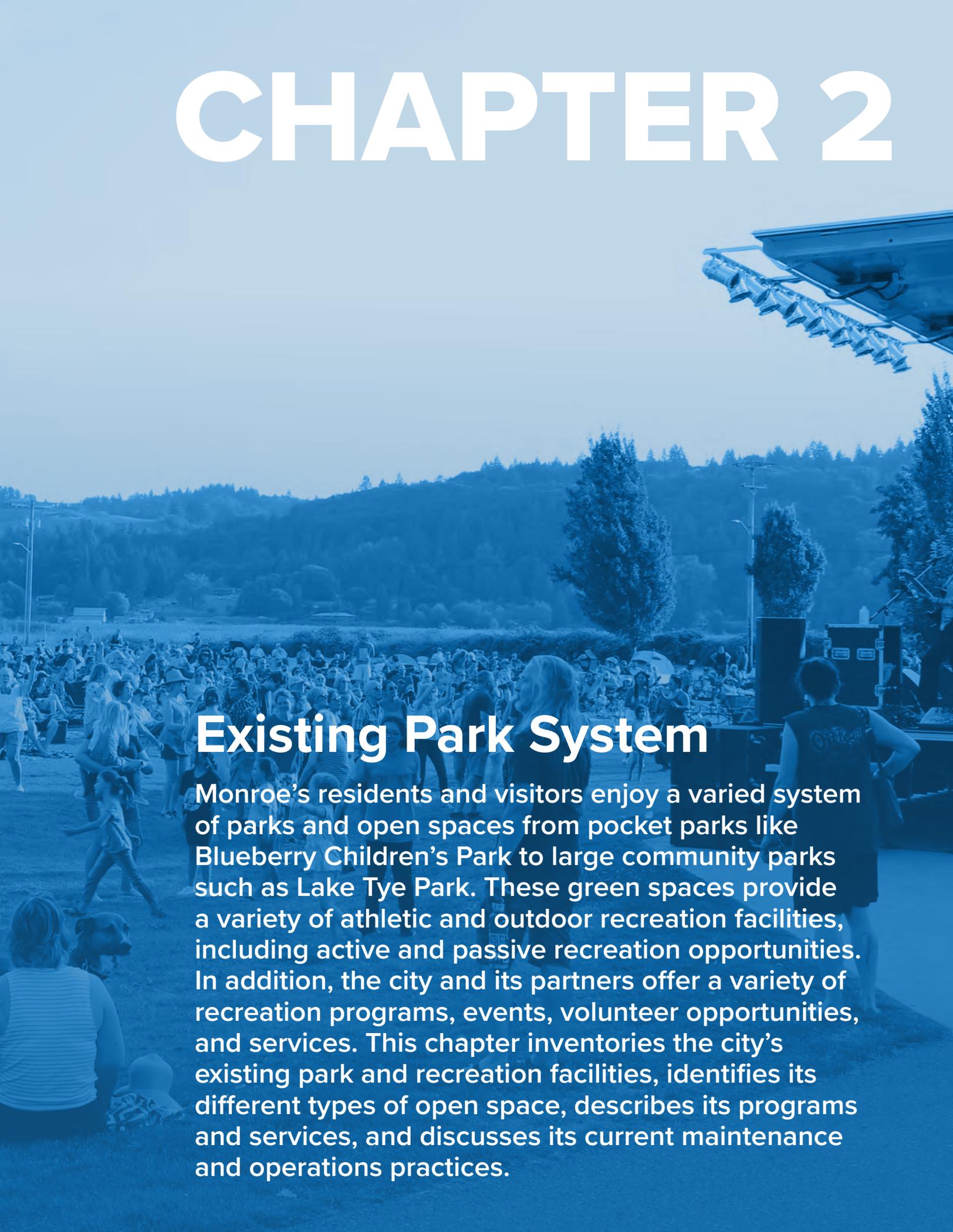
**Appendix G: Capital Project List and Costs** introduces planning-level cost estimates for the 20-year Capital Improvement Plan and defines the assumptions used to estimate the costs.

**Appendix H: Funding Strategy** identifies potential capital and operations revenues and funding gaps in implementing the City's preferred Action Plan.





# CHAPTER 2



## Existing Park System

Monroe's residents and visitors enjoy a varied system of parks and open spaces from pocket parks like Blueberry Children's Park to large community parks such as Lake Tye Park. These green spaces provide a variety of athletic and outdoor recreation facilities, including active and passive recreation opportunities. In addition, the city and its partners offer a variety of recreation programs, events, volunteer opportunities, and services. This chapter inventories the city's existing park and recreation facilities, identifies its different types of open space, describes its programs and services, and discusses its current maintenance and operations practices.

## Park Land

The City of Monroe owns approximately 288 acres of park land at 17 sites, and more than 14 miles of trails. Fifteen of these parks (282 acres) are developed, providing places to play, gather, and experience nature. Two sites (six acres) are undeveloped, holding acreage in reserve for future park use (not including the Cadman site which is a planned park and not currently owned by the City). Map 2-1 in the following pages shows the location of existing parks and trails and Table 1, below, provides a summary of the inventory. At the end of the document, Appendix A provides the entire inventory by classification.

### PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Monroe’s parks can be classified in six categories that describe the function of these sites.

#### Community Parks

Community Parks are large parks, approximately 50-75 acres in size, that serve city residents and visitors. These parks support active and passive recreation activities, sports programs, large group gatherings and community events. Sites typically provide a variety of facilities and features such as destination playgrounds, group picnic areas, sports fields and courts, event space, and unique natural areas that attract most park users from within 5 miles and some visitors from throughout the region. These sites include support amenities such as off-street parking, restrooms, and shade to encourage longer use.



Lake Tye Park - a community park that offers a variety of amenities and facilities for group use.

#### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks are smaller parks intended to serve nearby residents within walking or cycling distance of the park. These sites are smaller than five acres in size and typically provide easily accessible playgrounds, picnic areas, sports courts, and open grass areas for leisure and play.



Rainier View Park – a neighborhood park with ample space for picnicking and play.

#### Special Use Parks

Special Use Parks are parks intended to support a single function or specialized use. These vary in size and character and may include small urban plazas or green spaces serving residents, visitors, and tourists.

#### Nature Preserves

Nature Preserves are natural park sites intended primarily to preserve open spaces, natural resources, and critical areas. These sites may conserve unique or sensitive natural environments, provide wildlife habitat, and enhance ecological functions. Secondly, these sites may support passive uses such as, gathering, hiking, walking, boating, fishing, etc.

### River Greenbelts

River Greenbelts are park sites along the Skykomish River that support passive recreation and natural resource protection. Sites range in size and feature passive recreation and nature interpretation.

### Undeveloped Park Sites

Undeveloped Park Sites are unimproved City-owned properties intended for future park use. Sites may not allow current park access.



The Skykomish River adjacent to River Greenbelts such as Al Borlin Park, offers opportunities for fishing, floating, and whitewater rafting.

**Table 2-1: City Park Lands by Classification**

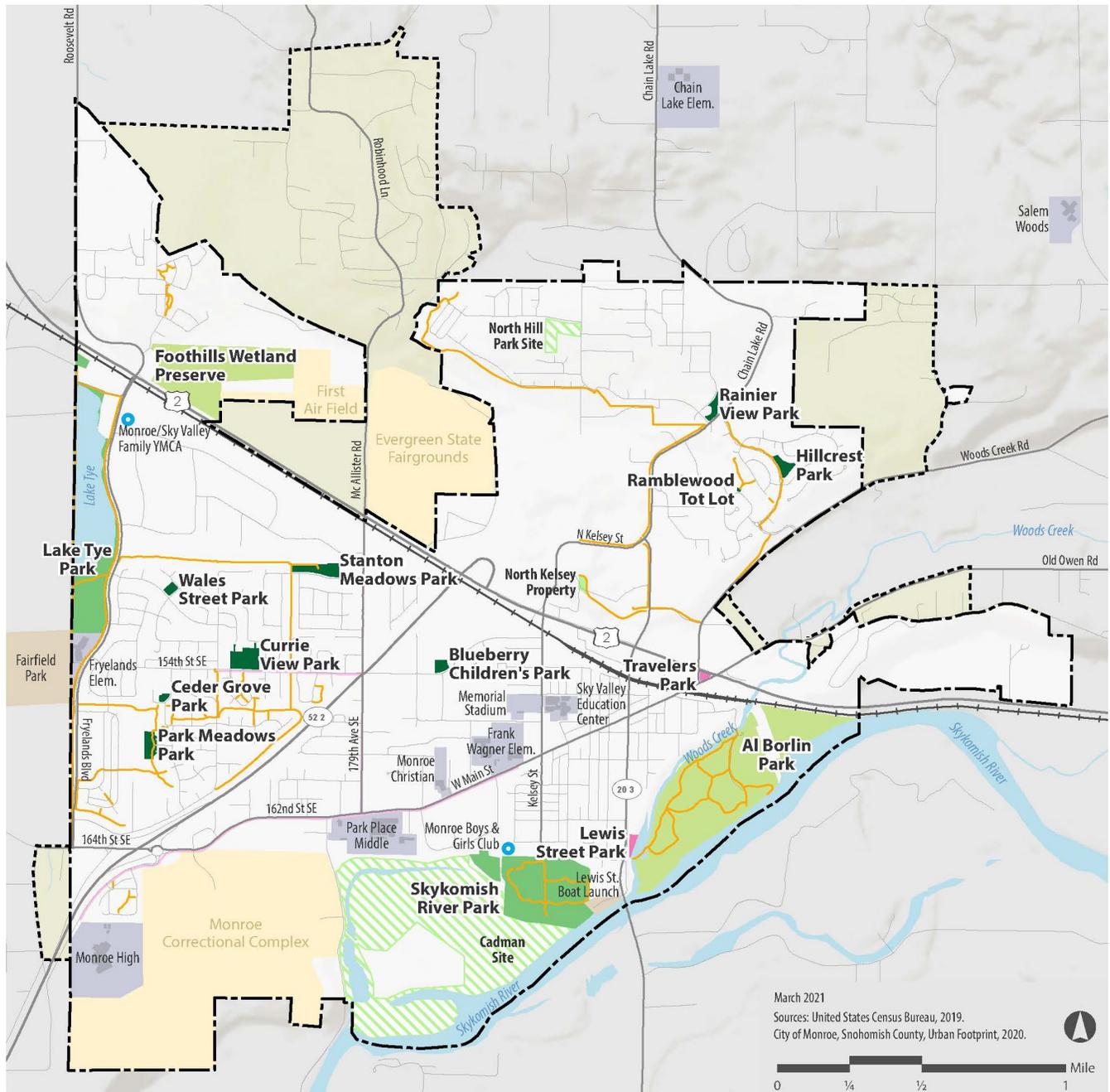
Classification	# of Sites	Total Acreage	Examples
Community Parks	2	114.3	Lake Tye Park & Skykomish River Park
Neighborhood Parks	9	15.0	Currie View Park, Rainier View Park, Wales Street Park
Special Use Sites	1	0.6	Travelers Park
Nature Preserves	1	46.7	Foothills Wetland Preserve
River Greenbelts	2	105.1	Al Borlin Park, Lewis Street Park
Undeveloped Park Sites	3	6.0	North Hill Site, North Kelsey Site
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>287.7</b>	

Note: The complete park and facility inventory is located in Appendix A.

## Park Land Summary

- City parks range in size from 0.1 acres (Ramblewood Tot Lot) to 104.1 acres (Al Borlin Park).
- The City's park land is dominated by a few large community parks, river greenbelts, and nature preserves (over 90% of developed park acreage), mainly along the Skykomish River.
- The larger developed park sites provide the greatest variety of amenities and attract the most use from locals and visitors alike.
- Smaller neighborhood parks are the most plentiful in quantity (60% of developed park sites, but only 5% of the developed park acreage).
- Neighborhood Parks are primarily built by the initial housing developer and are well-distributed throughout Monroe to serve their adjacent neighborhoods (ranging from 0.1 to 4.3 acres in size).

**Map 1-1: Existing Parks and Trails**



**Legend**

**City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space**

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Nature Preserve
- Special Use Park
- Undeveloped Site
- Bike Lane
- Trail

**Other Parks/Recreation Facilities**

- Recreation Facility
- Other Recreation Site

**Base Map Features**

- City of Monroe Boundary
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Burlington Northern SF Railway
- Snohomish County
- Waterbodies
- Schools
- Regional Facilities

## Recreation Facilities

Monroe’s park facilities support sports/athletics, outdoor recreation, specialized uses, and connections to nature. City parks also include amenities such as benches, tables, and restrooms that make parks comfortable and functional for all users. Monroe’s residents also have access to nearby facilities and amenities provided at state or county parks, schools, and other public providers or non-profits.

Table 2-2 summarizes facilities and amenities in City parks. City parks are rich with sports facilities, including basketball courts, baseball/softball fields, and soccer pitches. These, and many other facility types, are primarily located within community parks.

On the other hand, play structures are chiefly positioned within neighborhood parks, giving nearby neighbors walkable access to children's recreation. However, many of these play structures need updating, and neighborhood parks lack facilities for adults and young adults.

**Table 2-2: City Recreation Facilities by Type**

Facility Type	#
<b>Outdoor Recreation</b>	
Dog Park	1
Grass Play Area	9
Picnic Shelter	7
Play Structure	12
Skate Park	1
<b>Athletic/Sports</b>	
Baseball / Softball Field	7*
Basketball Court	5
Fitness Equipment	7
Soccer Field	5**
Tennis Court	2
<b>Natural Features / Trails</b>	
Adjacent Water Feature	At 3 sites
Natural Area / Open Space	At 5 sites
Interpretive Elements	12***
Trails (Soft-Surface)	At 2 site
Trails (Hard-Surface)	At 3 sites

Facility Type	#
<b>Amenities</b>	
Barbecue	13
Benches****	62
Drinking Fountain	11
Flagpole	4
Parking (Off-Street)	At 9 sites
Picnic Tables***	44
Restroom (Permanent)	4
Shade Structure	7
<b>Specialized</b>	
Boat Launch	1
Concession Stand	2
Fishing Access	At 2 sites

\* Two fields located within Lake Tye Park have a joint-use agreement with Fryelands Elementary.

\*\* Two fields at Lake Tye Park are also striped for lacrosse.

\*\*\* This includes interpretive signage, historical markers, and dedication plaques.

\*\*\*\* These numbers only include tables that are permanently installed.

The complete park inventory is located in Appendix A.

## Trail Corridors

The City of Monroe provides 23 local trails that total over 14 miles in length. Most trails are part of the City’s non-motorized transportation network, but all are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. These hard-surfaced, multi-purposed trails support both recreation and active (non-motorized) transportation. Several are interconnected creating two separate city networks, which are divided by Highway 2 and the railroad:

- **West Network:** Neighborhoods west of Highway 522 to Lake Tye Park
- **North Network:** Commercial areas north of Highway 2 to the North Hill neighborhoods



Al Borlin Park Trail provides a nature experience for various types of trail users.

In addition to these trail corridors, several large parks include additional soft- and/or hard-surfaced walking trails. While Skykomish River Park and Al Borlin Park provide trails in parks along the river, the city core (areas south of Hwy. 2 and east of 522) is mostly void of trails. This leaves Monroe’s historic district, the majority of schools and a large number of small businesses disconnected from the City’s active transportation infrastructure network.

**Table 2-3: City Trails**

Trail Name	Trail Type	Length in Miles
171 <sup>st</sup> Ave Trail	Asphalt Path	0.17
175 <sup>th</sup> Ave Trail	Asphalt Path	0.33
Al Borlin Park Pedestrian	Bark/Gravel Path	1.53
Al Borlin Park Vehicle/Pedestrian Access	Asphalt Path	0.30
Arbor Heights	Asphalt Path	0.14
Chain Lake Road	Asphalt Path	0.78
County Crescent	Asphalt Path	0.19
Farm at Woods Creek Concrete Blvd	Asphalt Path	0.56
Farm at Woods Creek Trail	Unspecified	0.27
Foothills Blvd Trail	Asphalt Path	0.27
Fryelands Blvd Trail	Asphalt Path	1.68
Lords Lake Trail	Asphalt Path	0.68

Trail Name	Trail Type	Length in Miles
Mountain View Trail	Asphalt Path	1.36
N. Kelsey	Asphalt Path	0.22
North Lords Lake	Asphalt Path	0.13
Park Meadows Trail	Asphalt and Bark/Gravel Path	0.69
Park Place Meadows	Asphalt Path	0.17
Sinclair Heights	Asphalt Path	0.53
Sky River Park Trail	Asphalt Path	0.90
Stanton Meadows Trail	Asphalt Path	0.75
Tjerne Place	Asphalt Path	0.53
Trombley Hill Trail	Asphalt Path	0.84
West Lake Tye	Asphalt Path	1.16
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>14.2</b>

## Activities and Programs

Programs and services include organized, scheduled recreation, and leisure activities, such as events, camps, classes, sports league play. The City facilitates events and activities in parks and support other agencies and entities to help meet this need for Monroe's residents.

The City Parks and Recreation Department directly offers recreation programs and activities in three primary program areas:

- Community Events
- Volunteerism and Stewardship
- Outdoor Recreation

The City also hosts some adult sports and arts and culture programs. Outdoor recreation activities (nature-based adventure events, competitions, classes, and activities held outdoors) and large events (with the option off a mobile stage) attract a number of regional visitors and are very popular due to the presence of Lake Tye, the proximity of the Evergreen Fairgrounds (Speedway and Equestrian Facility), and the City's location *en route* to the mountain recreation areas to the east.

In Monroe, partners lead the following types of programs and services. In some cases, the City may support these by providing facilities, funding, or marketing or promotions.

- Aquatics (e.g., swimming, boating, fishing)
- Youth and Adult Sports
- Fairs and Festivals
- Special Interest
- Specialized/Therapeutic Recreation
- Health and Fitness
- Senior Programs
- Arts and Culture
- Environmental Education/Nature Interpretation
- Youth Camps
- Classes, and
- School Age Childcare

Groups that provide recreation, art, and tourism programs in Monroe include:

- Other public agencies,
- Community-based organizations and non-profits, and
- Local recreation and tourism businesses



Volunteers are a vital part of the care and well-being of the parks, recreation, and open space system.



Choose Monroe – the slogan of the tourism activity in Monroe is distributed via brochure, publication, and website to get all the latest information on events and activities being held in Monroe.

## Maintenance and Operations

Maintenance in Monroe’s parks is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department’s Operations and Maintenance team. Staffed by six maintenance employees and four seasonal maintenance workers, the city employs 11 full-time maintenance positions in 2020, including supervision and administrative support positions. Table 2-4 shows the staffing changes by position since the 2008 recession. While the department’s responsibilities have increased, reflected in new planning and events coordination positions, total staffing has not reached pre-recession levels. Notably, the total number of full-time operations staff is down three positions from 2008, while maintenance demands have increased as aging systems break down and need replacement. This staffing shortage is partially backfilled with additional seasonal positions (two to three in 2008 and five in 2020).

**Table 2-4: Full-Time Park Operations and Maintenance Staffing History (FTE)**

	2008	2020
Director	1	1
Senior Park Planner	0	1
Admin Support	1	1
Events & Tourism Coordinator	0	1
Supervisor	1	1
Park Operations Lead	0	1
Full-Time Maintenance Workers	9	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>

Source: 2008 and 2020 Organization Charts, City of Monroe.  
 Note: In 2020, some positions are vacant.

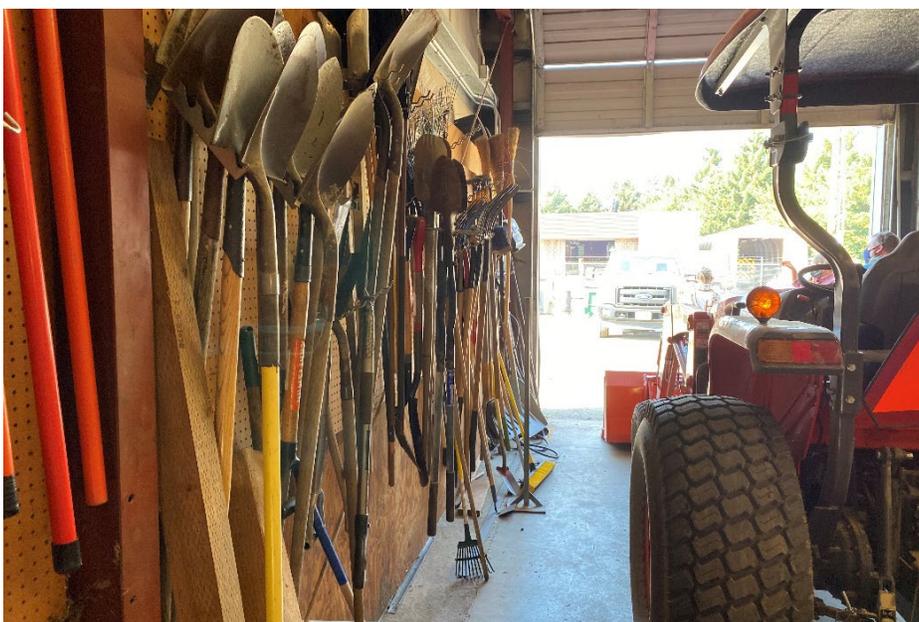
**Managed Acres per Maintenance FTE**

In 2008, 17.3 acres per FTE

In 2020, 26.2 acres per FTE

*\*1 FTE equals one full-time staff person*

This team maintains the parks and recreation facilities as well as right of way landscaping, medians, and amenities at City Hall on a twelve-month schedule. Their efforts are focused on equipment, furniture, and restroom maintenance in the slow winter months and then beautification and upkeep efforts ranging from planting and pruning flowers to renewing the safety surfacing (wood chip) at play areas through the spring and summer. In the fall, maintenance staff play an important role preparing for seasonal celebrations, including tree lights and decorations, end of season maintenance and cleanup, flood repairs, and prepping and maintaining fields for fall sports (football, baseball, soccer, and lacrosse).



Full-time maintenance workers fulfill a variety of roles for the Parks and Recreation Department.

## Other Resources

Monroe is not the only provider of parks and recreation opportunities in and around the city. Snohomish County and the State agency provide parks and recreation access with some outdoor opportunities and amenities. Monroe has interlocal agreements with Monroe School District and non-profits for the joint use of some school-owned recreational facilities. In addition, Homeowners Associations (HOA) provide recreation facilities in some of the newer residential areas. Together, these resources help meet local recreation needs and attract people from throughout the County and region.

### STATE/COUNTY

Snohomish County and the State agency own five parks in the city and nearby. Sites range from a boat launch area along the Skykomish River to Evergreen State Fair Park, including speedway and equestrian center. Specifically, Snohomish County Parks manages 1,531 acres nearby at Evergreen State Fair Park, Lord Hill Park, and Fairfield Park. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife manages 2.6 acres at the Lewis Street Boat Launch. Park facilities are limited due to the specialized nature of these sites and primarily feature amenities such as parking and restrooms. Some sites have recreation facilities such as soccer fields and a play area at Fairfield County Park, and natural areas with soft surface trails at Lord Hill Regional Park.

### SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Monroe School District owns twelve sites in the city, located primarily along the Main Street/162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue corridor. The sites are primarily schools but also include fields, a stadium, and a performing arts center. There is a Joint Use Agreement with the district for use of Fryelands Elementary School Site and Lake Tye Park, along with the potential joint acquisition, development, and operation of integrated School-Park sites.

### NON-PROFITS

Two non-profit entities provide park space within the city. A Professional Services Agreement with the Monroe/Sky Valley Family YMCA provides about five acres of park space and individual and family oriented recreational programs in the northwest part of the city. Additionally, a Property Use and License Agreement with the Monroe Boys and Girls Club provides 2.5 park acres with a grass play area and restrooms in the southeast part of the city.

### HOA

HOAs provide parks and trails that primarily serve residential areas. The City does not track or count them to meet their parkland level of service requirements, yet they are an important parks and open space resource for Monroe's residential neighborhoods. The City has needed to step in and maintain some parks where HOAs have stopped maintenance.

### EAST COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

The East County Park and Recreation District (ECPRD) is an independent recreation district serving the areas of Monroe, Maltby, and Echo Lake. Its boundaries are similar to those of the Monroe School District. It's meant to fill a niche between the city and county parks systems. ECPRD owns and operates 16 acres of parkland at Maltby Community Park. It has coordinated with the City on other park projects, such as its \$400,000 contribution to the initial development of Skykomish River Park.



# CHAPTER 3

## Needs Assessment

Monroe's parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities support community livability and serve as recreational and passive use magnets for residents and visitors alike. Changing demographics, Monroe's market characteristics, tourism, and community priorities and preferences all influence the community's needs and expectations for the park, open space, and recreation system, including maintenance and operations, park and facility renovation, site acquisition, preservation, and new development.

## Demographics and Market Characteristics

Demographic and societal changes impact parks and recreation needs and preferences. This section provides an overview of demographics and market characteristics that influence parks and recreation demands in Monroe.

### DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

The City of Monroe is home to many different residents, including those of the Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC). Since the MCC population does not use City parks and facilities, they have been excluded when calculating park level of service and standards. The following information comes from the City's Comprehensive Plan, U.S. Census Bureau and American Community Survey (ACS) data, and a demographic analysis conducted by Community Attributes, Inc., in December 2020.



Monroe is home to a total population of 19,800, including Monroe Correctional Center (MCC) inmates. By 2035, the population is expected to grow over to 22,102 residents in the city and to 25,119 within the Urban Growth Area (UGA). By excluding the MCC population (2,467), the City has a clearer understanding of how many people are served by the City's park system now and in the future\*.

**CURRENT CITY POPULATION (EXCLUDING MCC): 17,373\***

**FORECASTED CITY POPULATION IN 2035 (EXCLUDING MCC): 19,635\***



More than 82% of Monroe's population is white, and 19% of the population is of Hispanic origin. Almost 8% of residents identify as two or more races, almost 7% identify as some other race, 2% identify as Asian and Pacific Islander, almost 1% identifies as Black, and 0.5% identifies as American Indian. The total percentage adds up to over 100% because people can identify as more than one race and ethnicity. This data excludes the MCC population\*.

**19% OF RESIDENTS ARE HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NEARLY 11% IDENTIFY AS OTHER RACES (NON-WHITE)**



Excluding the MCC population, Monroe is younger, with 31% of residents under the age of 20 and 38% between the ages of 20-45. Approximately 16% are over the age of 55. While the current population is younger, the population of older adults and seniors is anticipated to grow more quickly than other demographic groups\*.

**THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS ARE YOUNGER, BUT THE OLDER POPULATION IS EXPECTED TO GROW MORE QUICKLY.**

\* Demographic Analysis conducted by Community Attributes Inc. (December 2020) excludes the incarcerated population at the MCC.

\*\* Data received from the U.S. Census Bureau (ACS 2019) includes the incarcerated population at the MCC.



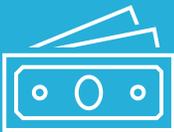
Almost three quarters of Monroe households are comprised of families<sup>\*\*\*</sup>. Average household sizes are larger in Monroe, averaging 3 people per household compared to 2.7 in Snohomish County and 2.6 in the State of Washington. By 2035, proportionally more Monroe households will be smaller and “non-traditional”. The share of small household types, including single people, couples, single parents with children, and roommates, is expected to increase<sup>\*\*</sup>.

**HIGH PROPORTION OF FAMILIES, BUT HOUSEHOLD ARE BECOMING MORE DIVERSIFIED**



The Monroe School District has more than 6,900 students enrolled in ten schools. Nearly 90% of residents are high school graduates. Nearly 37% have some college or an Associate’s degree, on par with Snohomish County and higher than the Puget Sound region or State. Another 22% have a bachelor’s degree or higher, lower than the State average of 31%<sup>\*\*</sup>.

**HIGH PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**



The median household income in 2018 was \$79,700, more than the median household income in Washington (\$70,100) and the United States (\$61,937). This represents a 7.51% annual growth from 2017<sup>\*</sup>.

**RELATIVELY HIGH MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME**



In 2018, 63% of housing units were owner occupied. New development will have significant impacts on parks, housing and other land uses in Monroe. Demographic trends point to an interest in infill development for middle-income households, where residents can access goods, services, parks, and other amenities on foot, by bicycle, and by car.

**CHANGING DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR SERVICES**



The largest industries in Monroe are manufacturing, retail trade, health care, and social assistance. The primary sectors of the region’s existing economy - including high tech, clean tech, aerospace, and international trade – are expected to grow vigorously during the 21st century. Only 15% of Monroe’s employed residents remain in Monroe for their jobs, 85% commute elsewhere.

**85% OF RESIDENTS COMMUTE ELSEWHERE FOR WORK**

\* Demographic Analysis conducted by Community Attributes Inc. (December 2020) excludes the incarcerated population at the MCC.

\*\* Data received from the U.S. Census Bureau (ACS 2019) includes the incarcerated population at the MCC.

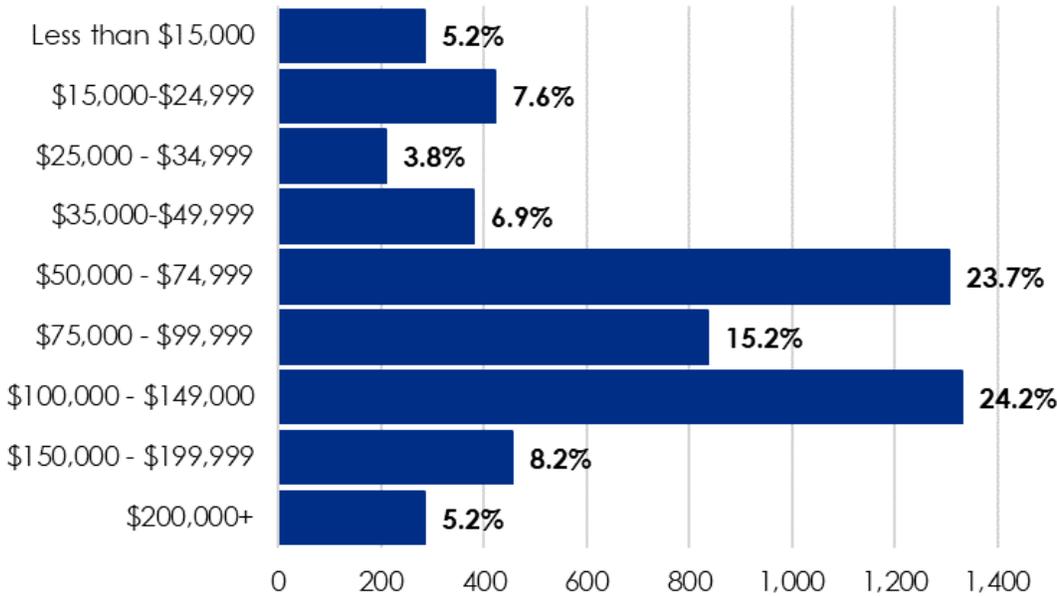
\*\*\* Families are defined here by the U.S. Census Bureau as, “a family group is any two or more people (not necessarily including a householder) residing together, and related by birth, marriage, or adoption. A household may be composed of one such group, more than one, or none at all.”

## FORECASTED POPULATION AND INCOME DIVERSITY

More than all others, two demographic factors are driving the changing demands and needs for parks and recreation opportunities: population growth and household income. Since 2015, the City has seen annual population growth of 2.4%. However, that growth rate is slowing. The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is allocating an average annual rate of 1.3% between 2020 and 2025 and 0.8% annually between 2025 and 2040, although actual growth rates may vary.

In Monroe, household income varies greatly, resulting in different levels of discretionary income to invest in parks and recreation. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 63% of Monroe households have income between \$50,000 and \$150,000. Nearly 17% of households have income less than \$35,000, and 13% have income greater than \$150,000 (Figure 3-1). This income range will increase the community grows and new housing is added.

Figure 3-1: City of Monroe Share of Households by Household Income, 2018



Note: These data do not include the incarcerated population of MCC.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2018 5-Year Estimates, 2020.

## MARKET SEGMENTS

Monroe's demographics affect the community's spending on recreation and entertainment. This is clearly shown through ESRI's Tapestry™ Segmentation. Segmentation data are used to map and classify United States neighborhoods and their market preferences in 14 different LifeMode groups and 67 unique segments. Tapestry data categorize lifestyle choices, purchase options, and recreation preferences based on demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Monroe's neighborhoods are classified in seven different tapestry segments.

### The Monroe Recreation Market

ESRI distinguishes seven different Tapestry Segments in Monroe. Of these, many show a strong interest in sports and outdoor recreation:

- Residents in five segments participate in or enjoy watching sports.
- Residents in five segments participate in outdoor recreation activities such as jogging, walking, hiking, biking, swimming, boating, bird watching, golf, rock climbing or beach visits.

On average, Monroe's annual recreation spending is slightly lower than the average spending across the United States (index of 98.6 in Monroe and 100 on average in the United States). However, there is a tremendous range in what City residents are spending. Approximately 44% of Monroe residents spend 15 to 43% less annually on entertainment and recreation than the average American, while 6.7% of residents spend 69% more than the average American. This statistic suggests that not only spending but also expectations for recreation and leisure services may be vastly different across the city.



## TOURISM MARKET

In addition to residents, visitors to Monroe also drive demands and needs for parks, recreation facilities and events. Understanding the characteristics of the tourism market helps identify needs.



Tourism is a significant economic driver in Washington state and Snohomish County and continues to grow. Estimates from 2018 show that tourism spending in Snohomish County totaled nearly \$1.2 billion, of which \$1.1 billion was in the form of “destination spending.” This spending included \$771.1 million among overnight visitors who spent on average nearly three nights in the county.

**\$1.2 BILLION IN  
TOURISM SPENDING IN  
SNOHOMISH COUNTY**



Monroe’s location along the Route 2/Skykomish River corridor and proximity to Stevens Pass creates a tourism market that spans all four seasons. In the winter months, each weekend thousands of travelers pass through Monroe to and from the Steven’s Pass Ski Area. The summer and autumn months see a large flow of visitors also heading to the Cascades for hiking, rafting, cycling, and other outdoor recreation activities.

**LOCATION 1 HOUR  
FROM STEVENS PASS**



Monroe is positioned as the last major node along the Route 2 corridor for a wide selection of food and beverage services, as well as for groceries, household supplies, and gasoline; the cities of Sultan and Gold Bar do offer similar amenities, but not at the same volume, scale or range of selection as offered in Monroe.

**MONROE OFFERS  
PLACES TO STAY, EAT,  
AND SHOP**



Most visitors to Monroe are from the Seattle-Tacoma area and a little over 5% are from out of state. Nearly 57% of visitors are same day visitors while 43% stay overnight. The average length of stay for out of state visitors is 17 hours and 40 minutes.

**57% ARE SAME DAY  
VISITORS**



In Monroe, the Evergreen State Fair Park, Evergreen Speedway, Lake Tye Park, and parks along the Skykomish River support facilities and events that attract visitors to water sports and recreation activities.

**MONROE PROVIDES  
RECREATION  
DESTINATIONS**

## COVID & EVOLVING PARK DEMANDS

Since March of 2020, the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has severely impacted the management and use of the public spaces and facilities, such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, and especially local community and recreation centers. As the State, County and the rest of the country navigate new health policies, restrictions on social gatherings and the opening and closings of businesses, the City of Monroe has continued to ensure the health and safety of residents while managing the availability of park resources.

The COVID-19 pandemic also shed a large light on the essential role of parks and recreation. More people than ever flocked to parks, seeking destinations outside the home, respite, and opportunities to exercise and gather in safe and healthy ways. In the last year, parks and open spaces have been increasingly important as places where people can experience the health benefits of being in nature, including reduced stress and increased energy. Parks and recreation departments, including Monroe's, have successfully re-allocated resources to respond to this increasing demand, but many communities now feel that an increased investment in parks and facilities is more important than ever.



Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, parks and outdoor facilities have played an increased role in the community for exercise and outdoor gathering.

## Community Preferences and Priorities

The City conducted a robust public engagement program to identify community needs and preferences, develop a future community vision and goals, and shape the development of the Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan.

### ENGAGEMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW

Monroe implemented a robust public engagement program to engage a broad cross-section of the Monroe community and beyond to identify key needs and priorities to inform the PROS Plan. Between October 2020 and August 2021, the City conducted two joint Parks and Recreation Board and Planning Commission meetings, several interest-focused interviews, a bilingual questionnaire, a Prioritization Workshop and a National Night Out pop-up event. Activities were promoted through website updates, social media posts, press releases, mass emails, utility bill notices, and outreach materials, including flyers and posters. The Mayor also helped promote the questionnaire launch at the Lake Tye Project Groundbreaking held in December 2020. More recently the City has conducted additional outreach as part of the Imagine Monroe process. These findings have been crosschecked with PROS Plan priorities.

#### Interest-Focused Interviews

In October 2020, 11 community members and key leaders were interviewed early in the planning process to provide direction for updating the PROS Plan. The Mayor, Councilmembers, City staff, and representatives from the Monroe School District, State Fair Administration, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Parks Board, discussed opportunities and challenges facing parks, trails, and recreational programs.

#### Bilingual Questionnaire

The City conducted an online and paper questionnaire in English and Spanish between December 2020 and January 2021, collecting 996 responses and 22 pages of open-ended comments. The questionnaire collected information regarding how respondents used the park system, their satisfaction with it and what they'd like to see enhanced. The survey also collected input regarding priority projects, funding, and potential support for a future bond measure. A detailed summary is available in Appendix B.

#### Prioritization Workshop

The City held an online Prioritization Workshop on July 29, 2021, using Zoom video conferencing. The meeting format included a short presentation to inform participants, live polling and an interactive discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to gather community opinions to understand the needs and priorities of Monroe's park users and reflect them in this planning effort. Among those in attendance were government officials, including the Mayor and some Council members, members of the Monroe/Sky Valley Family YMCA and Monroe School District, and Monroe residents who live there with their families. The combined Prioritization Workshop and pop-up event summary are available in Appendix C.

#### National Night Out Pop-Up Event

On August 3, 2021, the City held a pop-up activity at the National Night Out event at Lake Tye Park to solicit broader participation in the planning process. National Night Out is an annual community event addressing all forms of crime prevention that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. City staff set up display boards with the same questions used in the Prioritization Workshop and invited residents and key

Figure 3-2: Social Media Posts



The City posted survey links and QR codes in English and Spanish to encourage strong participation.

leaders to respond to questions using stickers to indicate their responses. The combined Prioritization Workshop and pop-up event summary is provided in Appendix C.

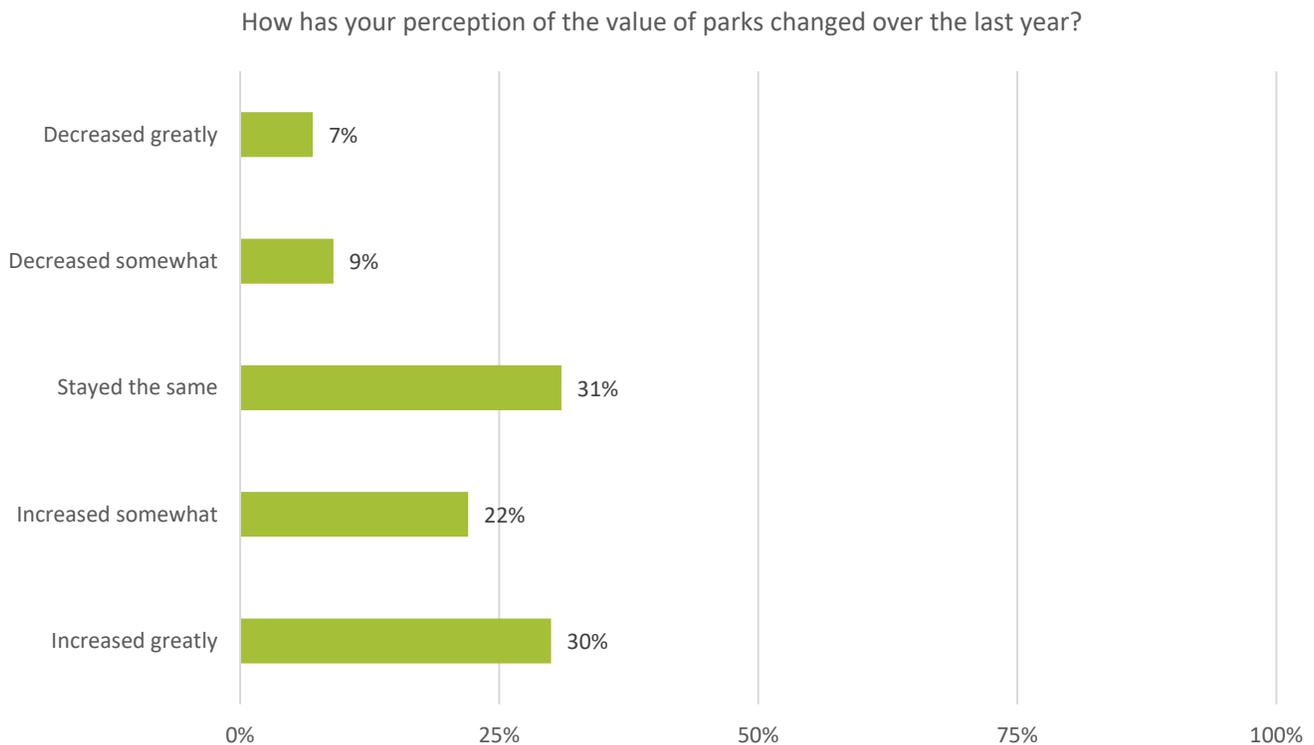
## KEY THEMES AND PRIORITIES

The key themes that emerged from the engagement activities are summarized below. This input helped to identify planning recommendations to improve and invest in Monroe parks and recreational facilities, trails, programs, and events.

### Park Benefits

Community members recognize that parks, recreation, and open space are critical to providing quality-of-life benefits. These benefits include recreation and social opportunities, including play, exercise and fitness, gatherings with family and friends, and programming and events. COVID-19 appears to have affected respondents' perception of the value of parks in the last year. While a third of survey respondents reported that their perceived park valuation had stayed the same, over half felt that it had increased during the pandemic.

**Figure 3-3: Perception of Park Value**



### Sample of Comments Received

*"I love our parks/public works department. They do a great job."*

*"Parks are so important for bringing families together to play, enjoy outdoor time together, exercise, get quiet time, commune with nature and spend quality time with our pets who are also part of our families!"*

## Activities and Facilities

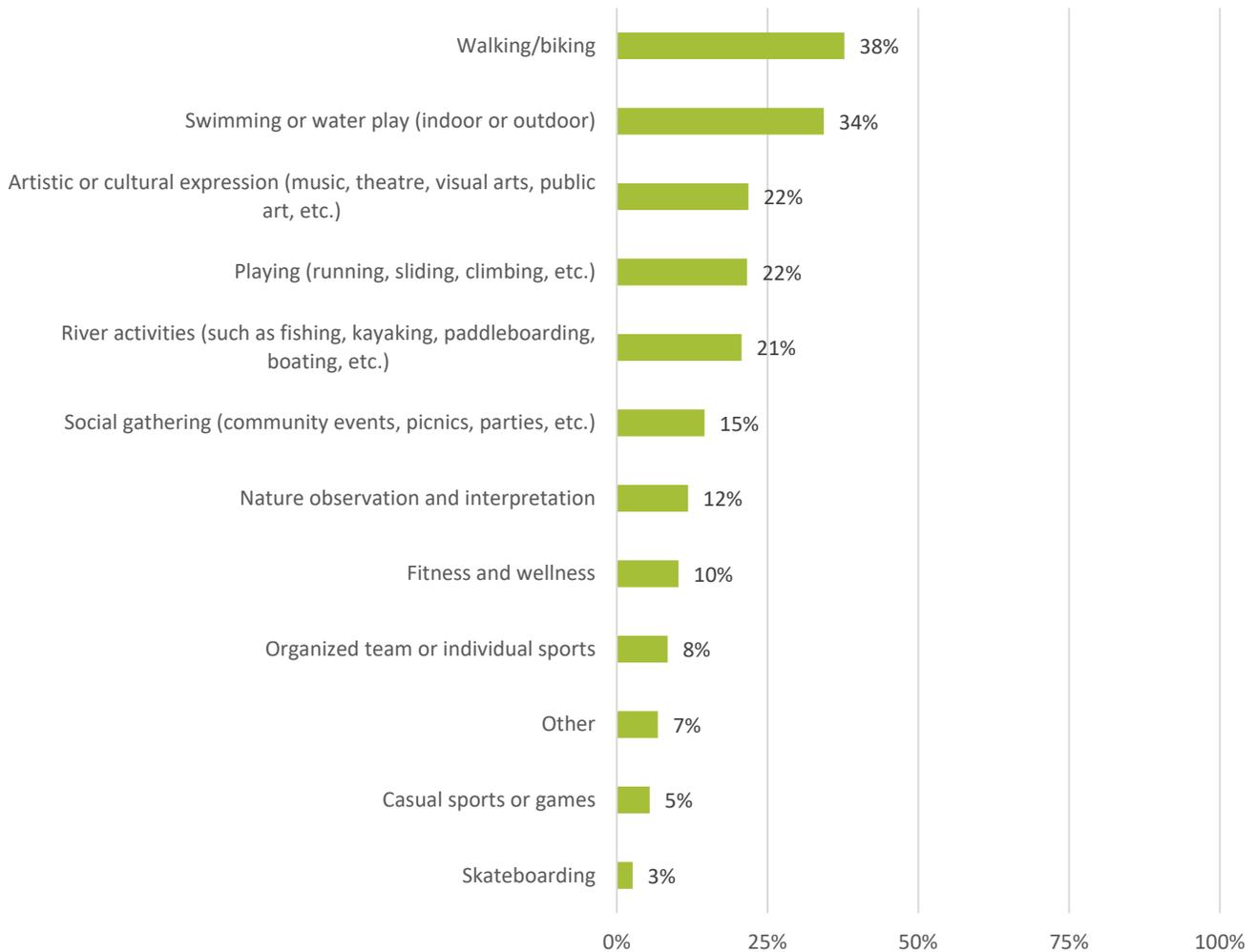
Community members desire a variety of recreation activities and experiences in their parks. Participants would like to see more opportunities for walking, biking, swimming, arts and cultural activities, playing, and river activities. With regard to park amenities, participants would like to see new play features, trails, challenge elements (e.g., climbing walls, bike skills courses, and zip lines), dog parks, sports courts, and restrooms. Adding additional play spaces to parks and trails will allow residents to engage with these spaces in a whole new way. Participants would like to connect people to Monroe's Riverfront to create a publicly accessible, riparian open space network that supports local use and recreational tourism by enhancing parks, amenities, and trails along the Skykomish River.

### Sample of Comments Received

*"As a family, we love playing pickleball. Having courts open where people could sign up for "pickup" games for doubles or singles would be an awesome way to connect the community-young and old- to one another and to engage in physical exercise."*

Figure 3-4: New Activities

What activities would you most like to see more of in Monroe's park system?

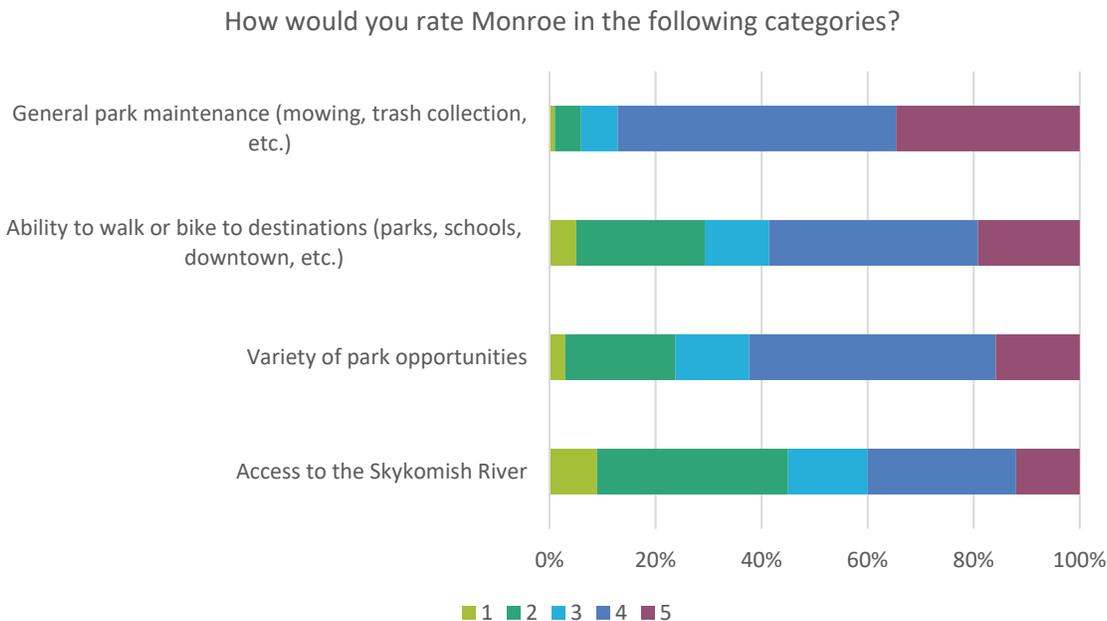


### Park Maintenance, Safety, and Conditions

While many community members and key leaders indicated they are satisfied with park maintenance and conditions, others identified maintenance and safety as top priorities. Approximately 44% of Prioritization Workshop and National Night Out pop-up participants identified “keeping parks clean and green” as the most pressing challenge in Monroe’s parks. New and improved support amenities are needed, including restrooms and lighting. Additionally, some survey participants identified specific parks that feel unsafe, in part because of unhoused residents. Although, key leaders identified that the City is currently working interdepartmentally and interjurisdictionally to better address homelessness issues that residents are experiencing as part of a larger effort to improve the health and safety for all residents and visitors in public spaces, e.g., Community Human Services Advisory Board.

*36% of survey respondents said that investing in the repair and replacement of older and worn park features is a top funding priority.*

Figure 3-5: System Satisfaction



#### Sample of Comments Received

*“Love the trails but they need to be maintained and parks need to be updated and add TRASH cans!”*

*“I won’t utilize the trails if I don’t feel safe.”*

*“I love the Monroe parks. They feel safe and are well maintained. Al Borlin has amazing trails amongst the trees and river, but I never walk by myself there as I feel unsafe due to the homeless population, and it seems like not many people use this park. It is not as well maintained and has lots of litter.”*

## Trails

Many engagement participants noted that they use trails frequently for recreation activities such as walking, biking, and jogging, and to a lesser extent for non-motorized transportation. Participants identified specific trails that need maintenance and safety improvements. They also suggested developing new trails and enhancing connections between neighborhoods and parks and recreation facilities.

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*51% of survey respondents said that building more trails and pathways is a top funding priority.*

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### Sample of Comments Received

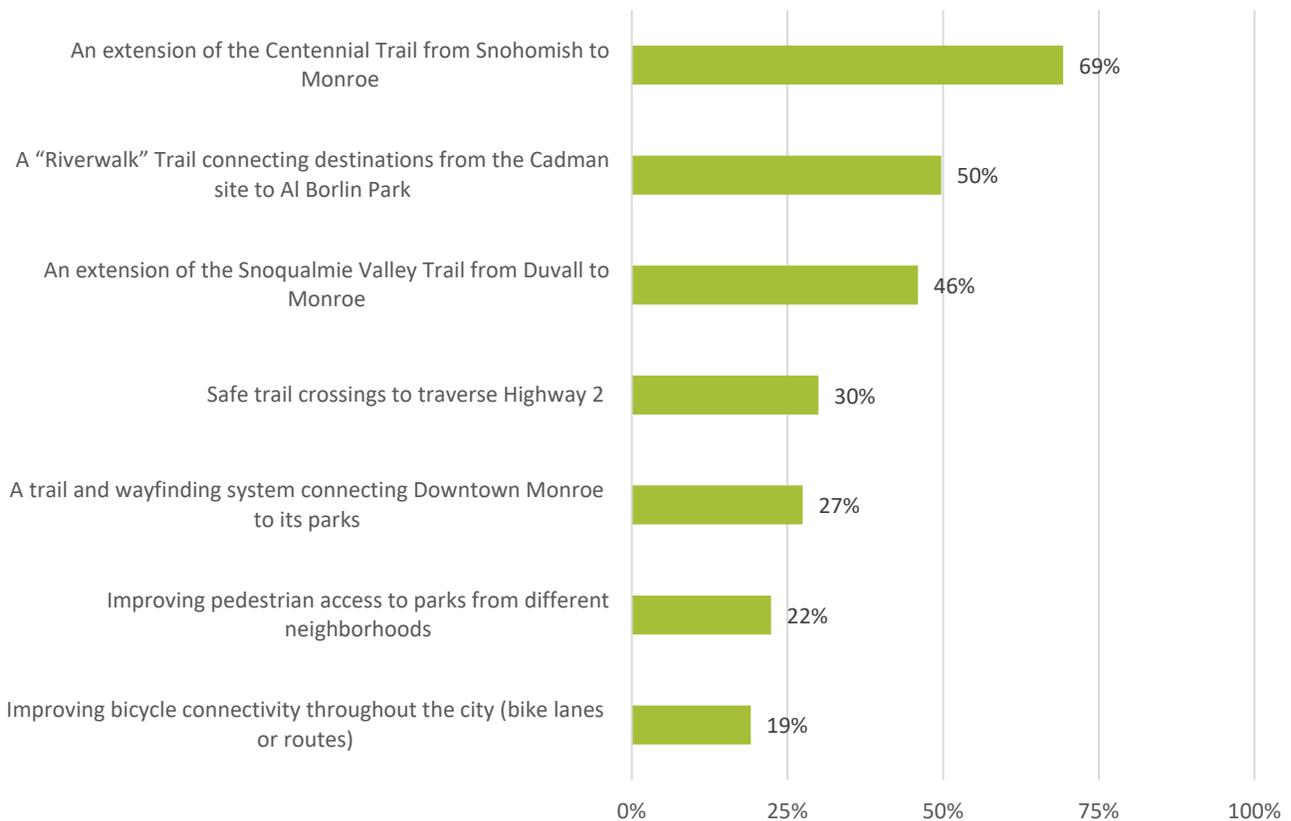
*“We love the trails that go through the neighborhoods in the Fyrelands by Curry View Road and mini parks to Tye Lake!”*

*“It would be nice to have a safe, maintained nature trail system more like the Redmond watershed with restrooms, groomed trails, and walking access to downtown areas.”*

*“I think you should consider connecting some of the new neighborhood’s that have popped up in Monroe with the more established neighborhoods via walking trails.”*

**Figure 3-6: Trail Connections**

How important are each of these trail connections to you?



### Connections to the River

In keeping with the desire for more trails and recreation opportunities, participants were excited about the idea of a linked Riverfront Trail. Survey participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with certain components of the Monroe parks system on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very unsatisfied and 5 being very satisfied.

Survey respondents indicated they were least satisfied with existing access to the Skykomish River.

Respondents were also asked how exciting a linked riverfront would be. Overall respondents found this idea very exciting, with 94% giving 4's and 5's and an average rating of 4.58.

Prioritization Workshop and National Night Out pop-up participants agreed, with a third selecting "vibrant riverfront" as the PROS Plan goal most important to them, and over half prioritizing "connecting people to Monroe's riverfront, including trails and improvements" as the investment they would like to see happen first.

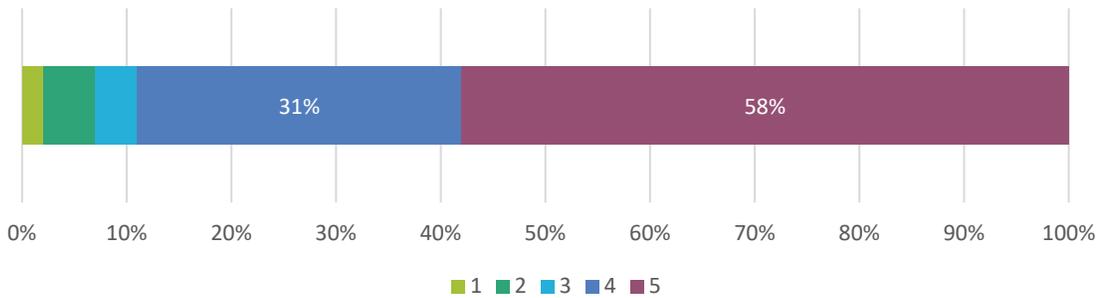
#### Sample of Comments Received

*"Why not add something along the river that is both fun, safe, and adds beauty!"*

*"I like the idea of more access to the river."*

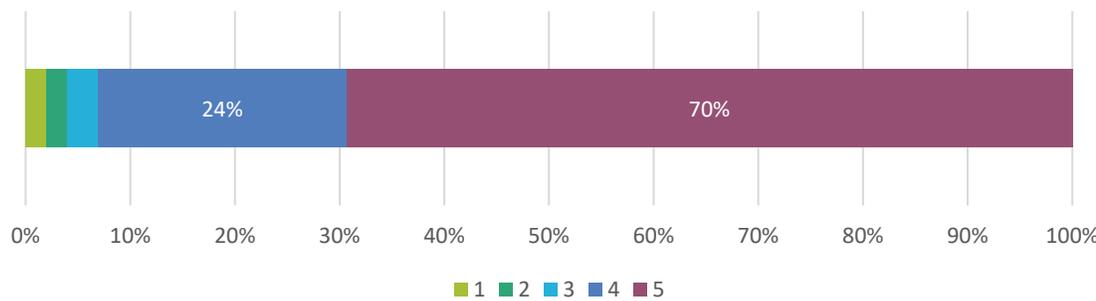
*"It would be nice to enjoy the river and trails while feeling safe."*

Figure 3-7: How exciting are the planned improvements for Cadman Site?



89% are excited or very excited about Cadman Park development.

Figure 3-8: How exciting would a linked "riverfront" be?



94% are excited or very excited to see a linked riverfront.

## Park Investment

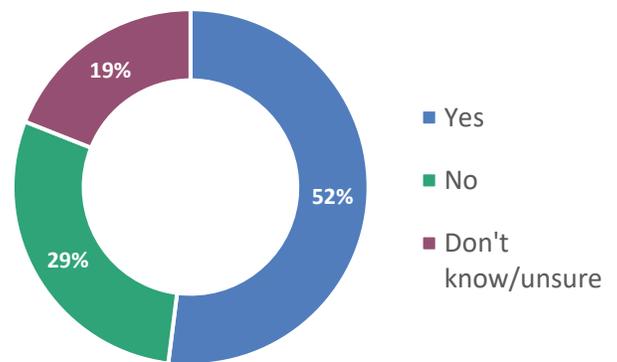
Residents and key leaders would like to increase funding to reflect the high value placed on parks. As parks age and new assets come online, community input indicated that the City should invest more to increase care for assets, landscaping, and natural resources.

A little over half of survey respondents (52%) indicated that they would support a bond measure, and three quarters believe that parks funding should increase. Based on a home with a \$500,000 value, approximately 80% of survey respondents indicated that they would support or strongly support a bond measure that increases property taxes between \$50 to \$75. Survey respondents felt that 'Great parks and trails ensure that Monroe is a healthy, active, and livable community' the most persuasive reason to continue to invest in the future of Monroe's parks.

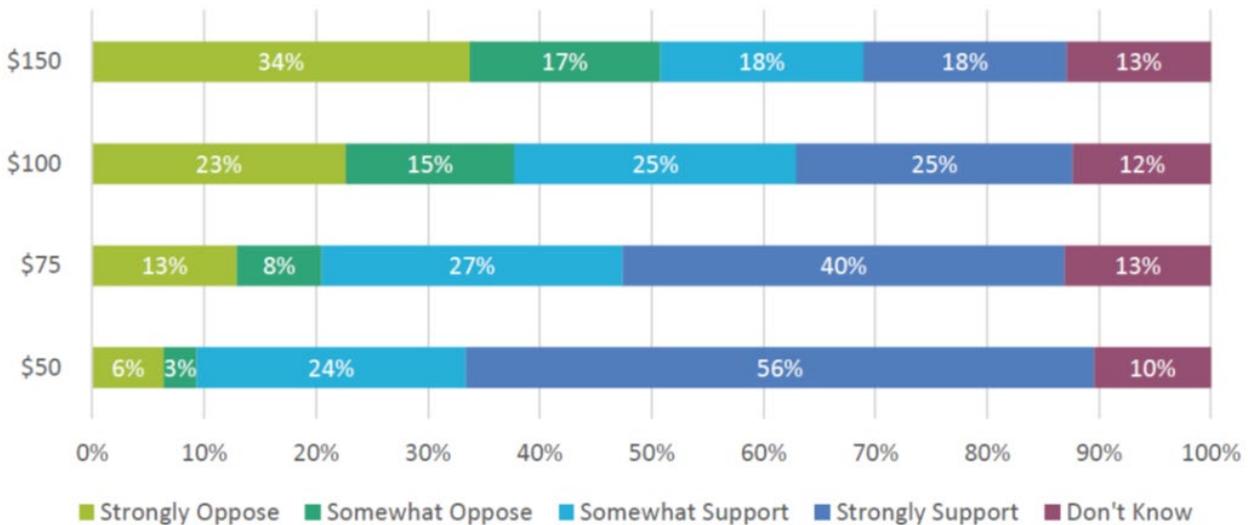
**Figure 3-9: Should parks funding change to reflect your value of parks?**

- 26%** Increase greatly.
- 50%** Increase somewhat.
- 20%** Stay the same.
- 2%** Decrease somewhat.
- 1%** Decrease greatly.

**Figure 3-10: Bond Measure Support**



**Figure 3-11: Support for Property Tax Rate Increase**



## Programming

Residents value park and recreation programming and events. Community members and key leaders would like to see more special events, downtown activities, nature programs, health and fitness programs, and events that attract visitors.

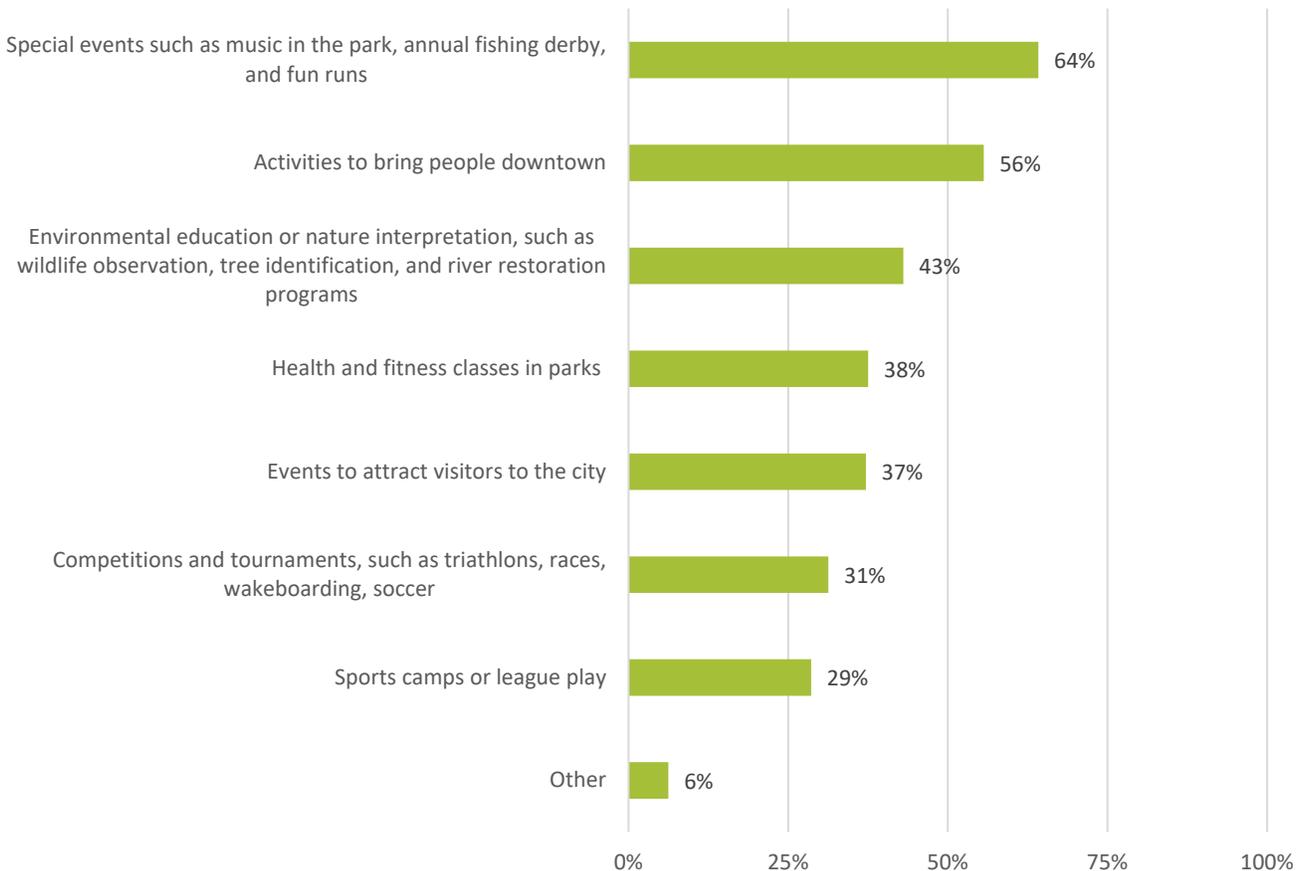
*37% of survey respondents said that providing more community events and festivals is a top funding priority.*

### Sample of Comments Received

*“Environmental education events like reading a map with a compass...testing pH of water, hikes, piano art around town, children entertainment and music in the park would be excellent activities!”*

**Figure 3-12: New or Expanded Programming and Events**

What types of programs and events should be added or expanded in Monroe?  
Check all that apply.



## Community Park and Recreation Needs

While demographic and market characteristics and community preferences help understand park and recreation needs, a technical analysis of the City's park and recreation system help explain key needs for park system management and enhancements. The rest of this chapter incorporates additional data to describe needs for the following:

- Improvements to existing sites
- Major renovations and new development
- New park acquisition
- Trail connectivity
- Desired recreation facilities
- Events and programs
- Staffing to maintain and operate parks
- Opportunities for partnerships and collaboration

### PARK IMPROVEMENTS

As parks age, their facilities need repair and replacement to ensure safe, usable park features. The PROS Plan included a park condition assessment that identified improvements needed to reinvigorate existing City parks. Site improvements needs are noted in four categories, which are listed below and described in greater detail in Appendix D.

- **Deferred Maintenance Needs:** Many of Monroe's parks were constructed in the period between 1990 and the mid-2000s, when the City experienced significant residential growth. This means that long-term maintenance obligations at many sites have recently surfaced, and immediate improvements are needed. As budget impacts have reduced the numbers of maintenance staff in Monroe, the City has delayed making improvements at several parks until funding is available. As one example of site improvements needed, engineered wood fiber (EWF) used as playground surfacing has lost volume over time through compression and use. These wood chips will need replacement to maintain their play and safety performance. Other examples of deferred maintenance needs include pavement mending and painting, such as were noted at Stanton Meadows Park and Currie View Park.
- **Enhancements at Parks Originally Built by Developers:** Several small neighborhood parks, built by developers from the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s, feel generic, dated, and underutilized. Despite their small size, there are opportunities to make modest improvements that reinvigorate these spaces, making them unique and tailored for use by nearby neighbors. Appendix D identifies the small improvements needed to revitalize the following parks:
  - Blueberry Children's Park
  - Cedar Grove Park
  - Currie View Park
  - Hillcrest Park
  - Park Meadows Park
  - Rainier View Park
  - Stanton Meadows Park
  - Wales Street Park
  - Ramblewood Tot Lot

- **Asset Management:** As facilities age and wear from use, they need regular repair or replacement at the end of their lifecycle. Needs for asset management and the replacement of playgrounds and sports courts are noted in Appendix D, including some key trends for their replacement. Most types of play equipment need to be replaced in 15 to 20 year cycles. Monroe has several playgrounds at the end of their lifecycle that will need replacement in the short-term. Whether for playgrounds, sports courts, picnic shelters or other facilities, regular asset management present an opportunity to re-think what is needed before an amenity or facility is replaced. For example, traditional play equipment can be replaced with nature play or thematic play elements to provide variety. Sports courts may be renovated to support new uses, including diverse types of courts, active recreation in every neighborhood and multi-use sports courts. Through effective asset management, the City’s park system will evolve and better respond to changing recreation trends.
- **Accessibility Improvements:** When parks and facilities are renovated, they need to adhere to the current requirements provided by the Access Board and Washington State code for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Several sites will need ADA and accessibility enhancements to bring them up to code. However, major event venues may need to exceed ADA requirements to ensure that sites all accessible to all users. This includes considering wider paths of travel, accessible loading/unloading zones, clear access paths from parking to all major facilities, family-style “plop” benches, restrooms, and water bottle fillers near activity areas and at trailheads, family-style or unisex restrooms, etc. Appendix D identifies 8 sites that will need accessibility improvements when renovated. The City should pay close attention to needs for accessible paths of circulation, playgrounds, amenities, and parking.



Cedar Grove Park has an example of a playground at the end of its lifecycle that will need to be replaced soon.

## PARK RENOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

New park development and major renovations would completely change resident's and visitor's impression of Monroe to truly one of the most remarkable small towns and outdoor gateway destinations in Washington. The City has or is in the process of acquiring several significant assets that can be leveraged to attract residents and visitors and increase use. There are four projects that stand out as unique opportunities to position Monroe as a destination venue and family-friendly community. These are noted below and described in more detail in Appendix E.

- Lake Tye Park:** This site needs extensive renovations to support outdoor activities, events, and connections to the regional trail system. An acquisition of adjacent acreage would expand development options.
- Riverfront Parks:** The co-development and connections of Al Borlin Park, Skykomish River Park, the Cadman site, Lewis Street Park, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Lewis Street Boat Launch provide an opportunity to change the waterfront. Among other recreation opportunities, a new Riverwalk Trail will connect these sites together and to the regional trail system.

**Map 3-1: Proposed Riverfront Park Development**

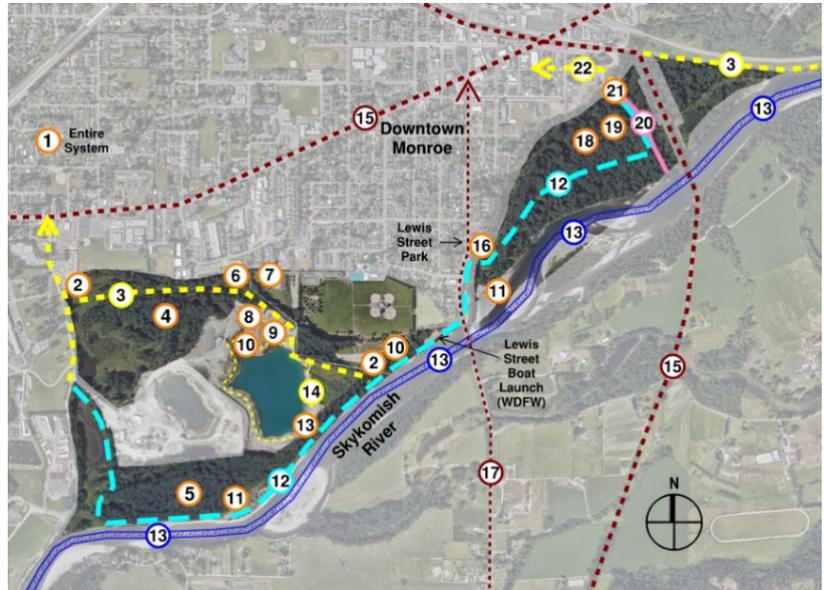


Figure 3-13: Proposed Riverfront Park Development (Skykomish-Snohomish Rivers Recreation Concept Plan 2018). Appendix E identifies needs for park and trail development along the Skykomish River, describing new recreation features tied to each of the numbers on the graphic.

- North Hill Park:** The development and potential expansion of this site as a neighbor park and community viewpoint diversify recreation options and meet needs for close-to-home park space.
- North Kelsey Park:** The development of this site as an urban plaza and small event venue will help meet needs for small community gatherings.

### Top Park Development Considerations

When developing new parks or renovating Lake Tye Park, the City needs to consider the following:

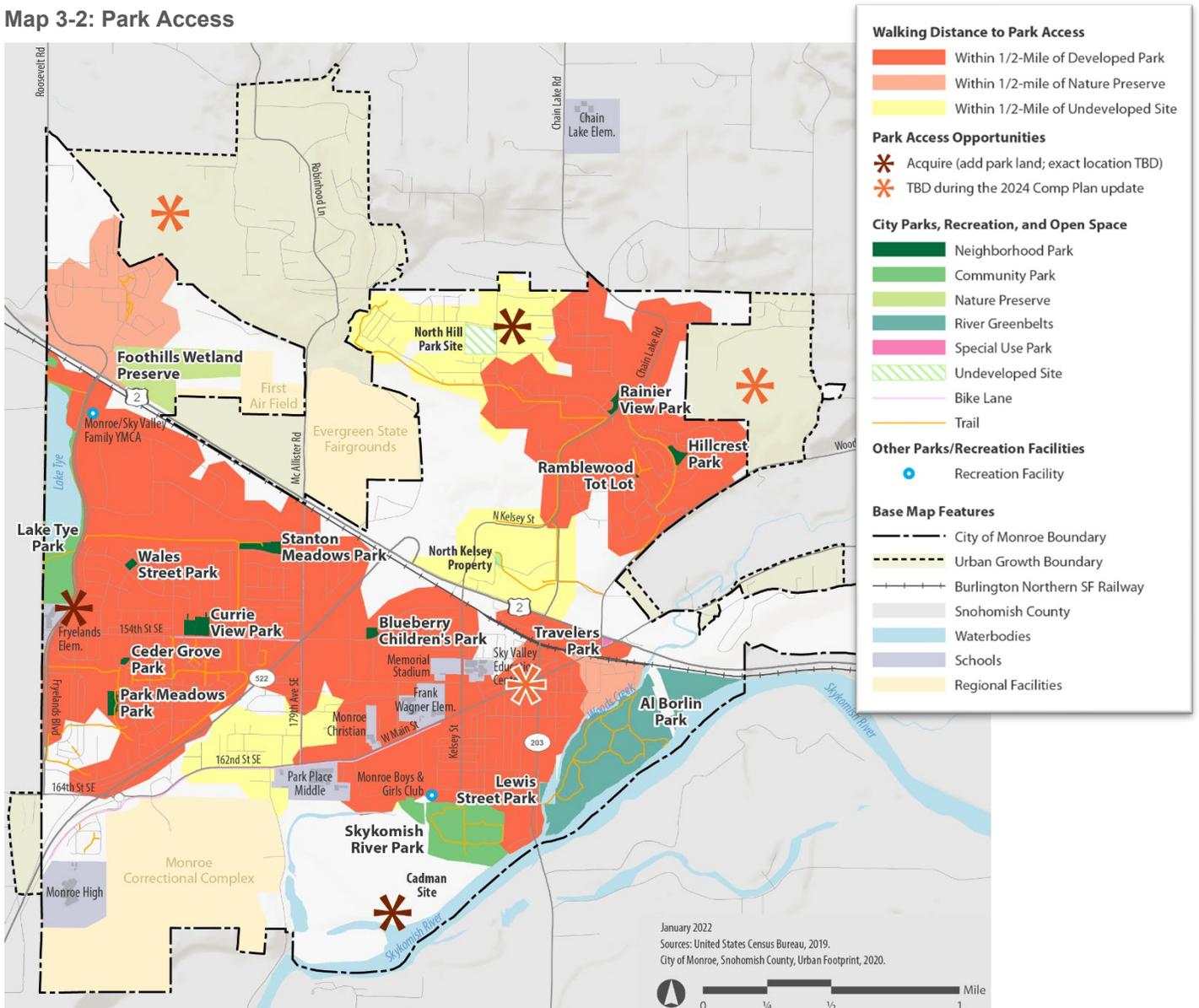
- Operations of Facilities:** The development of planned facilities should address programming needs, cost recovery options, concessionaire operations, management, etc., in addition to balancing the need to provide access to facilities without making residents pay user fees.
- Community Demands:** New development needs to address community priorities for diverse recreation experiences.
- Site Character and Synergies:** Instead of looking at sites in isolation, the City should consider adjacent parks, trails, and other nearby site uses in site planning and design.

## NEW PARK ACQUISITION

As the City of Monroe continues to develop, new parks will be needed to serve new residential areas, to provide gathering space downtown, and to provide greenspace and recreation space in other parts of the city. In 2015, the PROS Plan recommended that all residents in the City have access to a neighborhood park within a 1-mile travel distance. However, industry standards recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and Trust for Public Land (TPL) advise providing parks within a 10-minute walk (1/2 mile travel distance) of all residents to maximize park use and associated benefits.

Map 3-2 evaluates all parks in the City of Monroe to determine which areas are located within a 10-minute walk from a developed City park, a nature preserve or an undeveloped property. It shows that existing and planned parks serve the majority of the City's residential neighborhoods. (Planned parks are undeveloped park sites, such as the North Hill Park property, that are identified for new development.) Build out of this proposed system will allow nearly all existing residents to live within a 10-minute walk of some type of park or greenspace. The largest outlier is the far east corner of the city, just north of Route 2. As the City expands, however, new neighborhood parks will be needed to serve new residential areas within the Urban Growth Boundary.

Map 3-2: Park Access



Park Level of Service (LOS) is a key metric that measures the amount of park land provided by the City of Monroe. It is expressed as a ratio of acres per 1,000 residents. The 2015 PROS Plan adopted a park LOS standard of 4.75 acres per 1,000 residents. The City’s level of service for park land greatly exceeds its current standard and will continue to do so as the City adds and develops new parks. Currently, the City is in the process of acquiring and developing a number of new sites that will add extensive acreage to the park system—namely the Cadman, North Hill, and North Kelsey sites.

Table 3-2 evaluates the park level of service when these new sites are brought online. It shows that the City has an existing LOS of 16.6 acres per 1,000 residents. This would increase to 20.7 acres per 1,000 if all proposed parks are developed by 2035.

The reason that Monroe greatly exceeds its adopted LOS standard is because these standards are based on needs for City residents alone, not accounting for out-of-town visitors and park users. However, the City’s park vision and needs are based on providing parks that city residents, nearby County residents, along with other visitors as part of a recreation tourism strategy.

**Table 3-2: Park LOS Standards and Needs**

PARK TYPE	Existing Acreage	Existing LOS (acres per 1,000)	Proposed LOS Guideline (acres per 1,000)	Current Need (in acres) 2020	Net Future Need (in acres) 2035	New Park Needs (Sites and Acres)
<b>Community Parks</b>	114.3	6.6	5.15	(24.8)	2.4	2.6 acres adjacent to Lake Tye Park
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	15.0	0.9	1.38	9.0	16.3	North Hill development (5 ac); North Hill Expansion acquisition and development (3.3 ac); UGA Site A (4 ac) and Site B (4 ac) acquisition and development
<b>Special Use Parks</b>	0.6	0.0	0.11	1.3	1.9	North Kelsey development (1 ac); Downtown gathering space (1 ac)
<b>Nature Preserves</b>	46.7	2.7	2.06	(10.9)	0.0	None (0 ac)
<b>River Greenbelt</b>	105.1	6.0	11.95	102.5	165.5	Cadman acquisition and development (165.5)
<b>Undeveloped Parks</b>	6.0	0.3	-	(6.0)	(6.0)	Existing undeveloped sites (North Hill and North Kelsey) are moved to other park classes
<b>Total</b>	<b>287.7</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>180.1</b>	

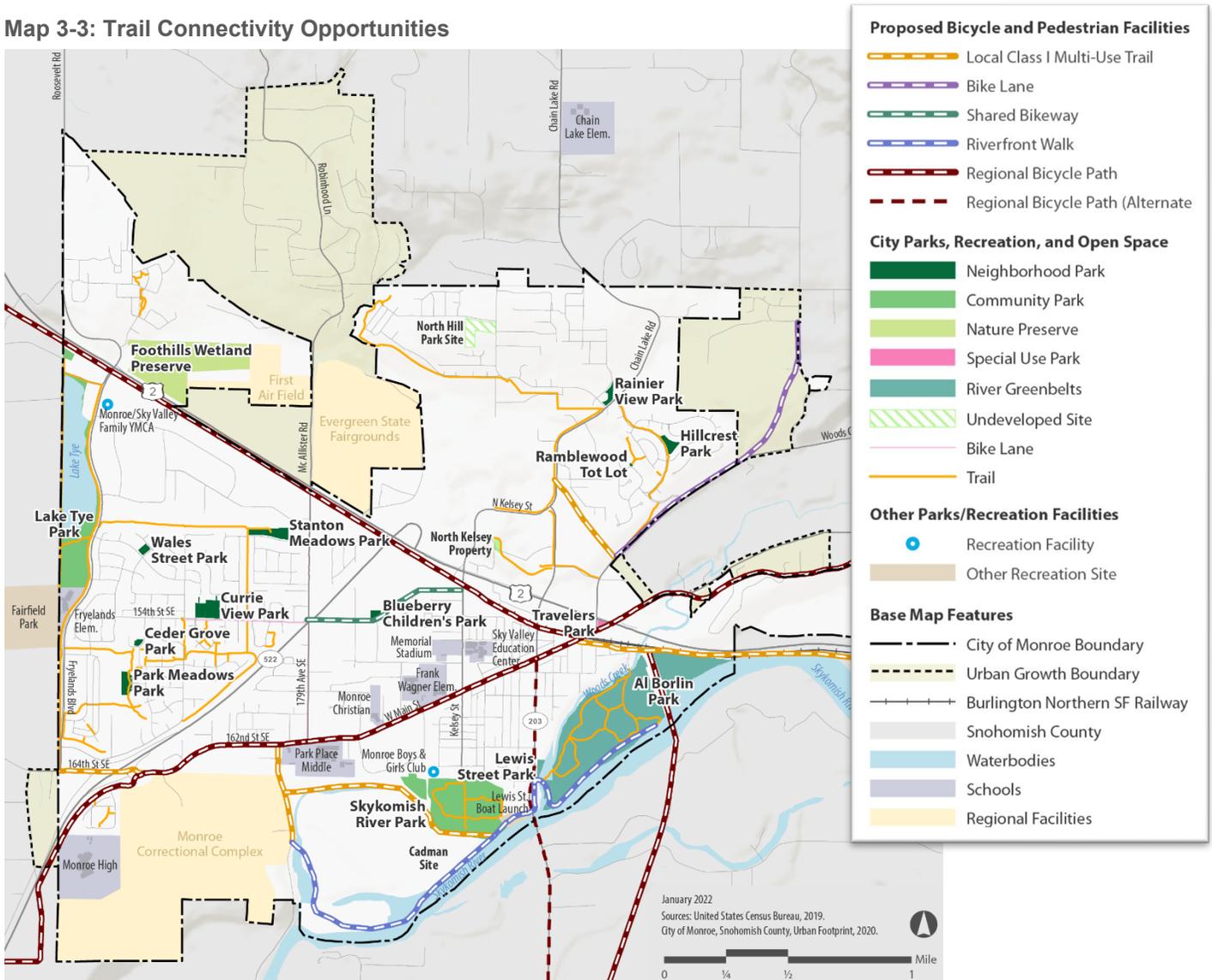
Notes: LOS refers to park Level of Service, noted in terms of acres per 1,000 residents. Existing LOS is based on a 2020 population of 17,373 residents, which excludes the population of the Monroe Correctional Center (MCC). Proposed guidelines are based on a 2035 UGA population of 22,652 residents, which excludes the MCC population. Net future need for parks subtracts existing park acreage to identify the acreage deficiency. Existing undeveloped parks will be developed in a different classification, accounting for the variations in acreage needs. Higher density residential areas will require more park land to address the needs of nearby residents

## TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

The City of Monroe owns more than 14 miles of trails. In 2015, the PROS Plan proposed a mileage-based standard for trails (1 mile per 1,000 residents). However, this is no longer an accurate measure for a city anticipated to have two major regional trail corridors and additional trails. Map 3-2 documents trail needs based connectivity and linkages, mapping local and regional multi-use trails/bikeways, the proposed new riverwalk trail, nature and mountain biking trails, and the planned water trail (for canoes, kayaks, and rafts) in the Skykomish River. This interconnected trail system includes a preferred and an alternative regional bike path alignment heading south from the city. A new bike and pedestrian bridge across the river from Al Borlin park may be cost prohibitive for the preferred alignment. Key needs and trail opportunities include:

- A combination of local and regional trails would create a multi-use trail loop connecting seven City parks and two County parks.
- The riverwalk trail would create a new type of nature destination and open up access along the river.
- In Northeast Monroe, key needs include connecting parks by local trails.
- Easily accessible canoe/kayak put-in and take-out points (not hand carry) would provide access to the water trail in the Skykomish River.

Map 3-3: Trail Connectivity Opportunities





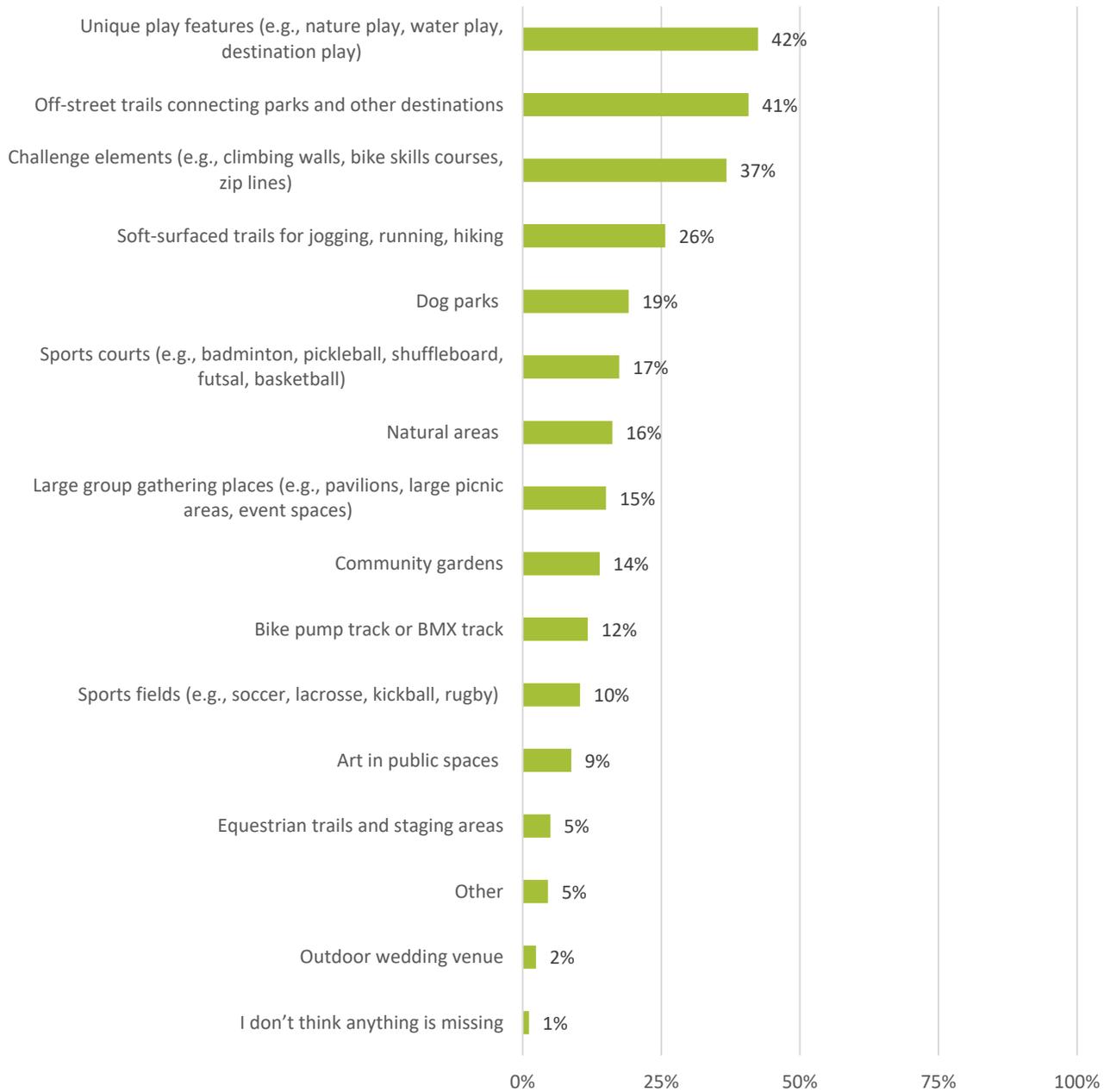
Extension of the Chain Lake Road Trail between Rainier View Park and Brown Road: While many of the proposed trail projects are south of Highway 2, a priority pedestrian project from the City's 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan will extend an existing southerly segment to connect new residential developments in north area of City to central commercial core services.

## RECREATION FACILITIES

In 2015, the PROS Plan identified facility guidelines, types and service areas using outdated NRPA information. This made it look like Monroe should be in the business of providing golf courses, swimming pools, ice hockey rinks, handball courts, field hockey fields, and a number of outdoor recreation facilities that are not needed in the city. The City needs to reconsider its role in providing recreation and leisure facilities. The Parks & Recreation Department should focus on active outdoor recreation, partner in sports, and leave arts/cultural elements, indoor recreation facilities and equestrian facilities to other providers. This PROS Plan update places the City's emphasis on outdoor activities, trails, and nature-based recreation features.

Figure 3-13 identifies new facility needs, based on outreach priorities. Most of the key needs noted will be addressed through site renovation and new site/trail development. Beyond these, needs for universal play, dog parks, community gardens, and larger pavilions for group use should be addressed.

**Figure 3-13: New Features or Facilities Desired in Monroe’s Parks**



## EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Monroe has become known for its events and outdoor recreation experiences including Music in the Park, fishing day, and triathlons and wakeboarding at Lake Tye. The City’s Parks and Recreation Department facilitates these types of community events, outdoor recreation, sports, and stewardship events. Many traditional recreation programs such as aquatics, youth sports, youth camps, indoor recreation, and arts are provided by other local organizations.

While the availability of outdoor recreation programming is strong in Monroe, there are several opportunities for the City to strengthen programs and events to meet the needs of the community. However, the City is unlikely to do this as a service provider (with in-house or contracted staff). Instead, City staff will need to manage concessionaires, recruit other program/event organizers to activate its facilities, and potentially partner with other groups to support activities in its parks. As such, it will be important to balance paid recreational time, e.g., reserved fields, with non-fee paying time to provide all residents with equitable access to facility use.

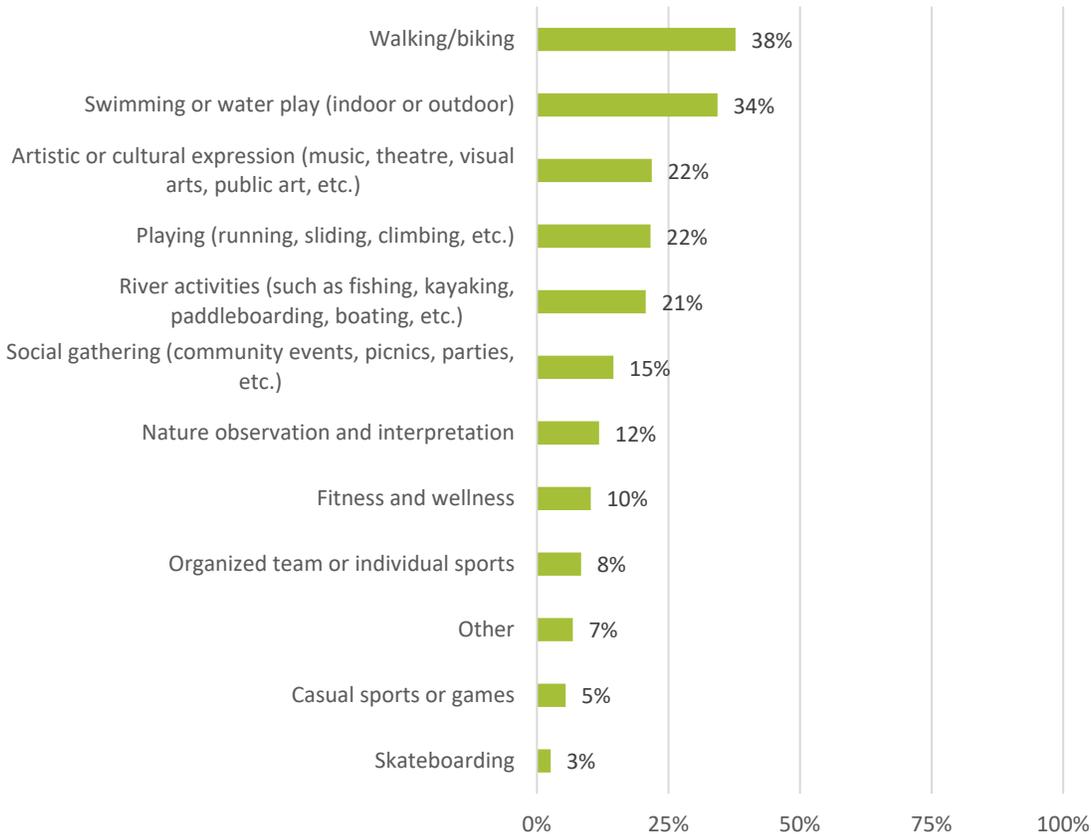
Community outreach shows a desire for more special events and activities. In addition to more walking and biking opportunities, residents have also expressed interest in more swimming or water play and artistic or cultural expression events and programs. The City will continue to support self-directed and organized activities by developing and maintaining parks and facilities.

### Monroe Programs

The City will support programs and events by serving as:

- Concessionaire  
Contract Manager
- Partner
- Facilitator/Recruiter
- Promoter

**Figure 3-14: New Activities Desired in Monroe**



As the City brings new parks and facilities online, it will need to invest staff time and resources to increase programs in the following areas by facilitating programs and managing other providers.

	<p>Both Lake Tye Park and the Cadman site will likely have concessionaires operating boat rentals and food concessions. A camp store and adventure park at the Cadman site will need an operator, as will a swimming area at Lake Tye. The City will need to establish and manage these contracts.</p>	<b>CONCESSIONAIRE MANAGEMENT</b>
	<p>The renovation of Lake Tye Park and the development of the North Kelsey plaza, will require staff support to coordinate local events and activities here. This may be done in partnership with other groups.</p>	<b>LOCAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (PARTNERSHIP)</b>
	<p>To help activate and maintain the extensive natural areas and trails, the City should support and encourage groups such as mountain biking organizations, nature clubs, walking groups, etc., to coordinate and host group activities and outings in parks. Also, consider a “Green Monroe Partnership” model that trains community volunteers to steward and replant natural areas.</p>	<b>NATURE / OUTDOOR PROGRAMS (FACILITATOR)</b>
	<p>Continuing in a role already established, the City will have an opportunity to expand the types of events that attract visitors from around the region. For example, skateboarding, mountain biking and watercraft events could be added. Coordination with facilitators could support sports tournaments.</p>	<b>FITNESS ACTIVITIES EVENTS, AND COMPETITIONS (FACILITATOR)</b>
	<p>Sports field improvements and the addition of picnic shelters and a pavilion will offer additional reservable facilities that City staff should manage for community use. Additional staff time will be needed to manage facility reservations at improved or added reservable facilities.</p>	<b>FACILITY RENTALS AND RESERVATIONS (MONROE STAFF)</b>

## PARK MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Sustainable park maintenance requires the routine and preventative maintenance of the grounds and amenities in Monroe’s parks. Monroe’s needs for park maintenance and operations can be broken down into two main categories: current staffing shortages and future staffing needs.



In 2020, 7 maintenance FTEs were responsible for 130 acres of developed park land and another 322 acres of nature preserves and undeveloped land. Each full-time maintenance employee is responsible for 19 acres of developed park land and another 49 acres of nature preserve and undeveloped property.

**7 MAINTENANCE STAFF FOR 452 ACRES OF LAND**



In 2008, Monroe had 17.3 acres per full-time staff person (FTE) and in 2020 Monroe had 26.2 acres per FTE. This results in a 40% greater workload per person. Maintenance needs have also increased since 2008 due to aging facilities and factors such as an increasing number of residents experiencing homelessness and camping in City parks and natural areas.

**40% WORKLOAD INCREASE FROM 2008**

As shown in the sidebar the City is currently understaffed for park maintenance. As the City improves parks and develops new one, more staff will be needed. Specifically, Lake Tye Park improvements and the development of North Hill Park, the North Kelsey site, the Cadman site, new trail corridors and Al Borlin Park, approximately 50% more maintenance and operations resources will be needed.

In addition, planned facilities and enhanced event spaces will require more staff to support events, operations, reservations, cleaning of reservable facilities, year-round maintenance, intensive summer maintenance, and management. Future staff needs may include:

- Additional maintenance staff
- Specialized expertise in natural resource management
- Dedicated summer staff for Lake Tye and Cadman
- A staff manager for concessionaire management, such as operators for the boat rentals, food concessions, an adventure course/ziplines facility at Lake Tye and Cadman, and lifeguards for Lake Tye
- Campground host and/or park ranger
- Additional events, activities, and tourism coordinator for expanded events at Lake Tye, Cadman, Sky River, and North Kelsey sites

### Maintenance Staffing Snapshot

	2008	2020
Maintenance Supervisor	1	1
Park Operations Lead	0	1
Full-Time Maintenance Workers	9	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>

Source: 2008 and 2020 Organization Charts, City of Monroe.  
1 = one 40-hour position.

## PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATION

The City of Monroe recognizes the critical role that parks and recreation facilities play in supporting community livability as well as the City's identity and success as an outdoor events destination. The City needs to collaborate with other entities to achieve Monroe's broad recreation goals. In turn, other providers will continue to meet needs for indoor recreation space, arts, and cultural opportunities for which the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department will have little or no role.

Several opportunities for collaboration and partnerships are noted below.

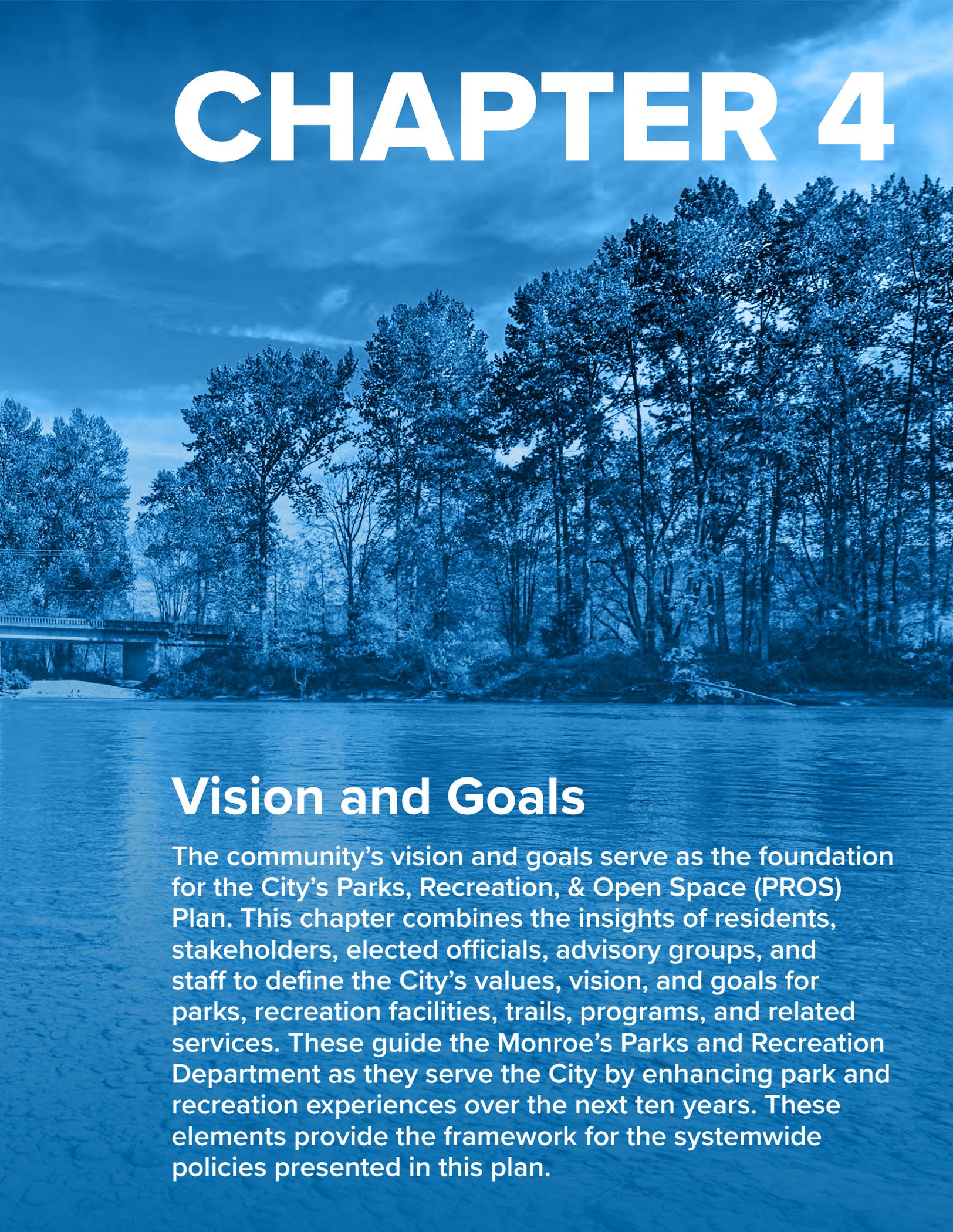
- **School District:** Coordinate with the School District to ensure public use of outdoor play areas, sports courts, and sport fields. Support the School District in retaining some type of active recreation use at Memorial Park, even if this site is partially redeveloped.
- **YMCA, Boys & Girls Club:** Coordinate with these entities in their continued efforts to meet indoor recreation needs and potentially expand programming into parks.
- **Snohomish County Sports Commission:** Continue to elevate, support, and coordinate the role that these groups play in putting on events.
- **County Parks:** Encourage the County to upgrade Fairfield Park to create synergies with the City's improvements to Lake Tye Park.
- **Fairgrounds/Fair Park:** Discuss needs for year-round recreation opportunities that could be met at Fair Park by coordinating with the County on their facilities and see where there are synergies to respond to residents' needs.
- **East County Park and Recreation District:** Coordinate and collaborate on funding through bond/levy for new parks and renovations to better serve the shared service area.



In addition to these entities, the City also coordinates with various program providers, including the Monroe Arts Council (MAC), the Monroe Community Senior Center, and sports providers such as Skyhawks.



# CHAPTER 4



## Vision and Goals

The community's vision and goals serve as the foundation for the City's Parks, Recreation, & Open Space (PROS) Plan. This chapter combines the insights of residents, stakeholders, elected officials, advisory groups, and staff to define the City's values, vision, and goals for parks, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and related services. These guide the Monroe's Parks and Recreation Department as they serve the City by enhancing park and recreation experiences over the next ten years. These elements provide the framework for the systemwide policies presented in this plan.

## Vision Framework

The Monroe community defined the City's values, vision, and goals for parks, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and related services through conversations and input during the PROS Plan outreach process, the Comprehensive Plan "Imagine Monroe" focus groups and interviews, and the Parks Advisory Board/Planning Commission meeting. These elements comprise the "vision framework" for Monroe's parks and recreation assets, providing a foundation for the entire PROS Plan. It also guides the development of strategies for systemwide enhancements and site development or improvements.

The elements of the vision framework are defined in the sidebar and identified on the following pages.

### VALUES

The values for the parks system articulate the important qualities Monroe residents want to see reflected in the park system. These include:

**Equity and Inclusion:** We provide parks and facilities throughout the city to ensure easy and equitable access for all residents, no matter their age, income, race, culture, or ability.

**Safety:** Our parks and facilities are designed and maintained to prioritize public safety and comfort.

**Stewardship:** Monroe will take care of our assets and protect our natural resources, including our trees, lakes and rivers, wetlands, and greenspaces.

**Community Health and Livability:** Great parks, natural areas, and trails support easy access to healthy, active, lifestyles.

**Family-Friendly:** Monroe's parks and open spaces provide welcoming, inclusive, safe places for people of all ages including youth, parents, elders, and of all different backgrounds to gather, socialize, and recreate.

**Access to Nature:** Monroe's parks foster outdoor recreation, connections to the Skykomish River, and opportunities to experience nature.

**Vibrancy:** Unique events and facilities are critical to attract residents and visitors to our business districts, including our downtown, and support the economic vitality of our community.

**Connectivity:** We promote park access and a walkable, bikeable community by providing an interconnected regional and local trail system with access to Monroe's park trails.

### Vision Framework Elements

The vision framework is structured to answer the following questions:

*What values guide the City's provision of park and recreation services?*

Our *values* describe the important qualities we want to see reflected in our park system.

*How do we imagine our future park and recreation system?*

Our *vision* summarizes the City's aspirations for future parks and recreation services.

*How do we describe our Department's business?*

Our *mission* describes our commitment and intentions in carrying out our work.

*Where do we want to be in the future?*

Our *goals* describe our desired directions for long-range change.

*What do we want to achieve?*

Our *objectives* describe the specific systemwide policies and outcomes that help measure our progress in achieving our goals.

**Commitment to Monroe:** Our staff have made a commitment to our residents to use resources wisely and provide quality, sustainable parks and facilities that reflect a welcoming, inclusive community.

**Collaboration:** We will work together with volunteers, stakeholders, schools, and partners to leverage resources and maximize the benefit to our community.

## VISION

This PROS Plan proposes a new vision for the parks and recreation system:

*Great parks, natural areas, and trails foster safe and welcoming places for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather and recreate while these spaces protect our waterways and create an active, beautiful, livable, and inclusive city.*

## MISSION

The previous mission for the Parks and Recreation Department is refined here:

*The Monroe Parks and Recreation Department is committed to:*

- *Protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of Monroe through the development of a vibrant system of parks, open space, and trails.*
- *Providing residents of all ages positive opportunities for recreation and social gathering in clean, safe, accessible, and inclusive facilities and green spaces.*
- *Enhancing health, quality of life, and the natural environment for present and future generations.*

## GOALS

Systemwide objectives and site recommendations will help achieve the following goals:

**Well-Stewarded Parks:** Manage, maintain, and revitalize parks, facilities, and natural resources to support safe, attractive, inclusive, and engaging recreation and green space.

**Vibrant Riverfront:** Enhance parks, recreation amenities, and trails along the Skykomish River to create a welcoming riverfront system that supports local use and recreation tourism.

**Outdoor Recreation Hub:** Provide unique and inclusive amenities that attract residents and visitors to Monroe's outdoor opportunities, activities, and events.

**Park Access:** Develop parks and remove barriers to ensure residents have equitable access to open spaces and recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance from home.

**Connectivity:** Provide an interconnected network of multi-use trails, walkways, and bikeways connecting city and regional destinations.

## Alignment with Strategic Priorities

The values, vision, mission, and goals of the PROS Plan align with Monroe's 2021-2026 Strategic Priorities as defined by City Council:

- *Safe and Secure* – Safety is one of the underlying values of the PROS Plan and an integral element of the mission of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- *Economic Development* – The PROS Plan goals of revitalizing parks and facilities, creating a riverfront trail system that supports local use and recreation tourism, and attracting residents and visitors will contribute towards economic development by attracting outside dollars and strengthening the tourism and recreation industries.
- *Manage Growth* – Four PROS Plan goals support capacity-enhancement project that respond to the impacts of new growth, including meeting needs for neighborhood parks, local trails, and community gathering spaces.
- *Utilities and Transportation* – Ensuring access to recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance and providing an interconnected network of recreation opportunities will strengthen the City's transportation infrastructure and address transportation related objectives.
- *Community Culture* – The values, vision, mission, and goals of the PROS Plan are designed to provide parks, facilities, recreational opportunities, and programming that are responsive to the City's need, growth, and long-term objectives.
- *Good Government* – The PROS Plan aims to use City resources wisely to enhance Monroe's quality of life and protect park and recreation assets for today and for future generations.

## Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

In support of the City's five goals for parks and recreation, the PROS Plan identifies systemwide objectives and strategies that will guide the provision of parks, recreation, and related services over the next ten years. These elements are numbered for ease of reference; they do not appear in priority order. They are structured in the following format:

Goal X:

X.1. Objective

a. Strategies

The strategies represent a mix of recommendations that should be taken to enhance the park and recreation system and achieve the City's vision for the future.



## ***Goal 1: Well-Stewarded Parks***

Manage, maintain, and revitalize parks, facilities, and natural resources to support safe, attractive, inclusive, and engaging recreation and green space.

- 1.1 Manage Monroe's parkland, facilities, and open space to support recreation, habitat protection, community aesthetics, City identity, public health, and safety.
  - a. Establish and enforce park use rules and regulations that support public access and safety, environmental protection, and protection of park resources and assets.
- 1.2 Adopt a tiered maintenance approach to provide high quality routine and preventative park and facility maintenance that targets site needs. (See Appendix F).
  - a. Provide an enhanced level of maintenance at highly visible and heavily used parks, as well as sites that include specialized or unique assets, large group gatherings and events, and revenue-generating programs (balancing non-fee-based use by all residents). These sites are maintained at the highest level and receive priority during peak use times. Provide enhanced maintenance at Lake Tye Park, Skykomish River Park, North Hill Park, North Kelsey Park, Al Borlin Park, and Cadman Park when these sites are renovated or developed.
  - b. Provide a standard level of maintenance at regularly-used sites that have a mix of outdoor recreation facilities to support public health and safety, social gatherings, and community aesthetics. These include tasks such as restroom cleaning, trash removal and litter pickup, mowing, and facility maintenance. Ensure standard quality parks at 12 sites, all City trails, and two new sites to be acquired to meet neighborhood park needs.
  - c. Provide additional specialized care at sites with significant natural resources to support fish and wildlife habitat, sensitive species, surface water areas, wetlands or riparian corridors, and ecological functions such as stormwater filtration and groundwater recharge. Emphasize efforts at Foothills Wetland Preserve, Al Borlin Park, Cadman Park, and Lake Tye Park.
  - d. Develop a comprehensive maintenance management plan to include: define the tasks, frequencies.
- 1.3 Add maintenance staff to improve maintenance quality and address current needs.
  - a. Increase maintenance staff, adding 2-3 FTE's to address the current deficiency, using part-time and seasonal staff as warranted to focus resources where most needed.
  - b. Ensure specialized expertise in natural resource management.
- 1.4 Ensure calibrated maintenance and asset management resources are available when parks are renovated or new parks are brought online.
  - a. Add maintenance staff, guided by the maintenance tiers and funding allocations noted in the PROS Plan.
  - b. Consider maintenance and ongoing facility lifecycle costs when designing, developing, and constructing parks and bringing new facilities online.
  - c. Ensure the park planning position remains filled to guide the capital projects recommended in the PROS plan.

- 1.5 Track and evaluate park and facility age and lifecycles and incorporate this information into annual budgeting and workplans to prioritize repair and replacement needs.
  - a. Prioritize deferred maintenance projects and asset management needs using the criteria identified in Chapter 5.
  - b. Establish a replacement schedule for substandard facilities and guide the replacement of aging park and recreation infrastructure.
  - c. Establish annual dedicated funding allocations to repair or replace landscaping, infrastructure, facilities, and equipment when old and worn.
  
- 1.6 Protect and steward the City's resources by integrating best practices in sustainability and resource protection.
  - a. Develop water-efficient, climate-controlled irrigation systems in all new parks and landscaped areas. Update current irrigation systems when parks and facilities are renovated to improve water efficiency and reduce water costs.
  - b. Incorporate sustainable landscaping practices and facilities that limit water usage and energy consumption, such as drought-resistant landscaping, low impact development, and the use of raw or reclaimed water for irrigation.
  - c. Incorporate water and energy efficient fixtures in all new restrooms, water fountains, and park lighting.
  - d. Work with partners to inventory, assess, and protect fish and wildlife habitat and significant natural resources in parks and open space areas to preserve vital ecological functions, improve water quality, protect habitat, and increase biodiversity.
  - e. Protect and retain trees during park development and renovation, providing it does not impair project safety, structural integrity, or design function.
  
- 1.7 Implement long-term climate adaptation and resilience strategies.
  - a. Prepare and "future-proof" parks and natural resources for future climate change, such as extreme weather, increased flooding, warmer temperatures, and wildfires.
  - b. Provide interpretive signage and information to educate park visitors about resilience measures.
  - c. Incorporate wildfire protection strategies in parks and open space. Maintain defensible space around recreation facilities and park structures by removing shrubbery and trimming lower tree branches to reduce "fire ladders." Reduce or eliminate fuels and ignition sources. Avoid flammable construction materials.
  - d. Incorporate flood protection strategies. For example, incorporate green infrastructure to direct water away from areas within the park that cannot withstand floods. Use low maintenance natural material for trails, benches, or other park features in the flood zone. For facilities and structures within a flood zone, install structures that can withstand flooding events. Include detention and retention areas in the park design, as well as bioswales and native plants to slow runoff and encourage infiltration.
  - e. Anticipate below-normal precipitation and warmer temperatures as climate conditions change. Establish water-smart landscapes. Consider reducing areas of mown lawn as well as the frequency of mowing in low-use recreational landscapes to reduce evaporation and soil moisture loss. Incorporate drought-tolerant plants and native pollinator species. Consider facilities such as floating docks that more easily adjust to changing river and lake levels. On hot days, integrate synthetic turf cooling to reduce surface temperatures.
  - f. Create a maintenance hazard plan that clearly outlines cleanup steps and responsibilities post flooding, storm, or fire events.
  
- 1.8 Encourage community involvement in park design and programming decisions.
  - a. Continue to engage community members in the design and renovation of parks. Use a mix of online/virtual and in-person outreach activities, focus groups with stakeholders, and events at or near the site to garner feedback from the community.

- b. When developing site master plans, incorporate family-friendly engagement activities, providing incentives (e.g., childcare, food, swag, entertainment) and targeted marketing campaigns to encourage attendance from a variety of participants and ages, including youth and seniors.
  - c. Create an online portal and/or input tool to crowd-source maintenance requests and community ideas for desired programs, activities, events, and park improvements.
  - d. Establish or strengthen communications with underserved communities by coordinating with community-based organizations, schools, churches, and other agencies that can help identify the needs of traditionally underrepresented populations.
  - e. Engage the Parks Board in community involvement, outreach, and programming recommendations to the City Council.
- 1.9 Promote park design and development that is high quality, accessible, aesthetically-pleasing and sensitive to Monroe’s character by adopting design and development guidelines. Ensure park renovations and new park and facility development address the following principles and best practices:
- a. **Inclusivity:** Ensure parks are welcoming and engaging for residents and visitors of all ages, ethnicities, cultures, abilities, and incomes.
  - b. **Diversity:** Provide a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities to serve a variety of recreation interests and skill levels. Balance energetic, programmed active use sites with spaces designed for contemplation and quiet social gatherings.
  - c. **Universal, All-Inclusive Access:** Create equitable use and experiential opportunities for people of different abilities and ages, considering all options of modality and accessibility. Meet and where possible exceed the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Washington State code to provide parks and facilities that accommodate multigenerational groups and people with mobility issues, sight and hearing impairments, allergies, and other special needs.
  - d. **Safety:** Implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies and enhance park safety through playground design, crime prevention technology, night lighting, natural surveillance, unobtrusive landscaping, and increased staff, police and community-based patrols if needed.
  - e. **Park Greening and Native Plantings:** Protect green space in parks by balancing the use of native plantings, turf, trees, and landscaping to promote aesthetics, connect people to nature, reduce stress, and improve site ecological function.
  - f. **Tree Canopy:** Plant and protect native or large canopy trees to provide shade, sequester carbon, filter the air, reduce urban heat, and support the City’s designation as a Tree City USA. Consider planting climate-adaptive plants that can withstand the region’s forecasted hotter, drier summers.
  - g. **Noise and Lights:** Minimize noise and light pollution by siting lighted facilities and noise-producing activities away from nearby residences and neighbors and using “full cutoff” athletic field lights.
  - h. **Placemaking:** Integrate Monroe’s heritage, culture, and identity through thematic site design, the use of materials, the inclusion of public art and interpretive elements, and/or the choice of recreation elements and support features.
  - i. **Continuity in Furnishings:** Establish and integrate a consistent furnishing palette systemwide for ease of maintenance (including items such as seating, light fixtures, trash receptacles, bike racks, etc.), but allow for variations in the City’s most visible, high-use parks to emphasize a unique park theme or identity.
  - j. **Maintenance:** Involve maintenance staff in park design to incorporate maintenance efficiencies in parks, including wide paths for maintenance vehicles.
  - k. **Sustainability:** Incorporate sustainable landscaping and facilities that limit water usage and energy consumption, such as drought-resistant landscaping and low impact development.
  - l. **Flexibility of Use:** Allow for a variety of programmed and self-directed activities to occur by not precluding activities with unnecessary physical constraints or regulations.

- m. **Adaptability:** Design multi-use spaces and facilities to be easily adaptable to address changing community needs over time.
- n. **Wayfinding:** Incorporate a systemwide wayfinding and signage template for all parks and trails to promote the City’s identity and the visibility of City parks and facilities.

1.10 Incorporate community history, heritage, identity, and character in parks and facilities.

- a. Identify, preserve, and protect historic, cultural, and archaeological resources.
- b. Incorporate interpretive elements that educate residents and visitors about community culture, heritage, history, and natural resources.
- c. Include elements in parks that are inclusive of the community’s indigenous heritage, pioneers, early residents and evolving community through the present.
- d. Ensure that major park development projects incorporate art, focusing efforts at sites with high visibility and high visitation, including revenue-generating special use parks (balancing non-fee-based use by all residents), community parks, and river greenbelts.
- e. Leverage and beautify parks and trails on the periphery and along the highway to serve as gateway opportunities to the city.

1.11 Strategically leverage resources through collaborative planning, volunteerism, and partnerships to support recreation, tourism, natural resource protection, and economic impacts.

- a. Provide responsive park services through coordinated planning with other City Departments, the Monroe School District, and relevant local, County, and regional agencies.
- b. Support volunteer park beautification programs to include an Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-a-Trail programs, and Park Friends Groups with staff overseeing the recruitment, management, training, and recognition of volunteer participants.

1.12 Ensure sufficient investment in parks and recreation facilities.

- a. Adopt an updated mitigation/impact fee methodology to ensure that new development addresses the costs of impacts for parks and trails.
- b. Ensure staff capacity for grant writing, grant management, solicitation of sponsorships and donations, and exploration of new revenue sources (balancing non-fee-based use by all residents).
- c. Consider establishing a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or foundation to support parks. Identify communication protocols, roles and responsibilities, and fundraising opportunities.
- d. Develop a fee philosophy and cost recovery goals for programs and rental facilities to reflect changing market conditions and the community’s ability to pay. Add a facility use fee to all program and rental fees (including sports) to provide dedicated funding for maintenance, renovation, and facility replacement.
- e. Identify and implement park use fees/agreements for vendors, concessionaires, sport trainers, private recreation providers, photographers, filmmakers, and others who use City parks and facilities to support their businesses or affiliated services.
- f. Coordinate with City leaders to expand the Parks & Recreation Departments’ resources to support ongoing maintenance and asset management.
- g. Diversify funding sources, considering sponsorships, bond measures, operational levies, sales taxes and other alternatives to fund capital projects, operations, maintenance, and programming. (See Chapter 5 and Appendix H.)



## ***Goal 2: Vibrant Riverfront***

Enhance parks, recreation amenities, and trails along the Skykomish River to create a welcoming riverfront system that supports local use and recreation tourism.

- 2.1. Jointly master plan the riverfront parks to support a region-leading, seamless, connected network of greenspaces for use as a recreational amenity that protects habitat, increases site use, and minimizes safety concerns.
  - a. Develop a cohesive vision and master plan for Skykomish River Park, Al Borlin Park, Cadman Site, and Lewis Street Park. Include the Lewis Street Boat Launch (WDFW) in planning.
  - b. Prior to implementing the Cadman site master plan, determine the Riverfront Trail alignment, and host permitting discussions to identify critical areas of mitigation needed.
  - c. Address site uses as well as park management, operations and maintenance, revenue-generating opportunities (balancing non-fee-based use by all residents), safety, natural resource protection and flooding, access, and connections to downtown.
  - d. Determine a phased schedule for the coordinated development and improvements of all sites.
  - e. Identify a recreation business and operations strategy for the maintenance and operations of all sites.
- 2.2. Collaborate with other City Departments and public and private stakeholders to coordinate related local and regional projects and site synergies.
  - a. Continue discussions with Snohomish County regarding potential and preferred alignments for the Snoqualmie Valley Trail to Duvall. The PROS plan recommends an off-road, family-friendly connection via Al Borlin Park, which would require a new bike and pedestrian bridge across the river. If cost prohibitive, the PROS plan identifies an alternative along WA-203, adjacent to Lewis Street Park.
  - b. Discuss and coordinate transportation improvements with Public Works, including the provision of street improvements with bike lanes and off-street trail to support vehicle, bike, and pedestrian entry to all major riverfront parks, including the Cadman site. Provide sufficient parking, as well as bike amenities on site (bike racks, bike repair stations, etc.).
  - c. Coordinate park entry improvements along with enhancements to the intersection of Sky River Parkway and Village Way, with removal of median and other improvements that will give larger event vehicles and boat trailers access to Skykomish River Park and the Cadman site.
  - d. Ensure that Community Parks and parks within the River Greenbelt are accessible via transit with bus stops near park entrances.
  - e. Coordinate with Monroe's Simons Road Community Development Area to improve access to Al Borlin Park from downtown via a multiuse trail connection. Further explore re-development opportunities at the east end of downtown, including the gateway and access to Sky River Park. Look for opportunities to connect park visitors with nearby businesses, including hotels and restaurants.
  - f. Discuss with stakeholders opportunities to add joint-use sites such as an outdoor classroom with use and access to the Monroe Library, Park Place Middle School, and potentially the Sky Valley Seventh-day Adventist School.
  - g. Ensure easy bike and pedestrian park access from nearby recreation facilities such as the Monroe Boys & Girls Club, Monroe Senior Center.
  - h. Collaborate with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on improvements to the Lewis Street Boat Launch that would enhance use.
  - i. Improve physical access to the Skykomish River and Woods Creek from the downtown area.

- j. Continue coordinating with the Community Human Services Advisory Board (CHSAB), the Monroe-Snohomish County Community Outreach Team, and local social service organizations to offer services to people in riverfront parks who are experiencing homelessness, assist in relocating them and remove any debris left behind. Additional efforts around encampment closures and mitigation may be needed to ensure the safety of all when these sites develop.
  - k. Identify concessionaires and or equity partners that may co-develop and operate facilities such as the boat rentals/river rafting, campground and store, and adventure course/ziplines facility. Identify and document agreements including cost and revenue-sharing arrangements to support capital development, maintenance, ongoing operations, and long-term asset management and replacement.
- 2.3. Develop and improve these sites to increase and diversify recreation opportunities. Ensure that facility locations take into account annual flooding.
- a. Provide a campground, with group camp, reservable yurts, open tent lawn, RV pads, picnic/cooking shelter (with utilities and barbecues), small fire circle, host/caretaker camp site, restrooms, and showers.
  - b. Develop an outdoor classroom pavilion with seating, storage, and interpretive amenities for environmental programs and school group use.
  - c. Provide an enhanced lakefront plaza, with concessions such as a snack/coffee vendor, canoe/kayak rentals, restrooms, and waterfront seating.
  - d. Develop an adventure course with climbing features, a ropes course, and zip line.
  - e. Identify a location for a non-motorized boat launch, with concessionaire-caliber loading/unloading zone, multi-boat launch, restrooms, boat storage/boat lockers, life preserver station with water safety signage, nearby parking/trailer parking. Provide signage and materials to coordinate this put-in/take-out point with others along the river.
  - f. Establish and enhance a series of river access points for wading, swimming, and fishing. Consider ADA accessibility, materials, and slopes in providing water access. Address accessibility issues noted at the Lewis Street Boat launch.
  - g. Identify a location for a bike pump track and skills course in conjunction with mountain biking trails. (See 2.4).
  - h. Improve and widen the roadway in Al Borlin Park to the river for maintenance and water access.
- 2.4. Develop and improve these sites to support an interconnected trail experience.
- a. Provide a consistent wayfinding and signage system both onsite and off-site to identify opportunities to access the park via vehicles, bikes, and foot. Include identification and directional signage, mileage/minute markers, identified trail uses, trail/system map, interactive elements, etc.
  - b. Establish a system of hard- and soft-surfaced trails to diversify uses.
    - i. The Riverwalk Trail and regional trail connections should be hard-surfaced and designed for multi-modal use.
    - ii. Provide nature trails and boardwalks with interpretive signage, viewpoints, and markers for self-directed nature hikes.
    - iii. Provide soft-surfaced trails for walking, jogging, and mountain-biking. If feasible, separate mountain biking trails to avoid user conflicts.
    - iv. Create a pond loop trail and other loops for recreation diversity.
  - c. Improve Lewis Street Park as a regional trailhead with an expanded restroom, bike parking, bike repair station, improved parking, bike/pedestrian circulation and enhanced trail connections. Provide bike lockers to allow for safe, secure storage while recreating.
  - d. Provide two additional trailheads—one at the Cadman site and one at Al Borlin Park— with expanded parking, restrooms, bike racks, seating, and wayfinding signage.
  - e. Establish all ages and abilities trail connections to downtown from the riverfront.

- 2.5. Identify staff capacity and responsibilities to manage and supervise ongoing site maintenance, stewardship, and operations.
  - a. Assign staff responsibilities to manage concessionaires/campground hosts and coordinate with other potential partners for facility scheduling.
  - b. Hire Park Rangers to patrol these sites.
  - c. Expand site activities and programs by recruiting program and event providers. Encourage trail programs, nature interpretation and environmental education, and nature-based outdoor recreation programs and events, such as fishing derbies, learn-to-camp program, and others.
  - d. Establish online scheduling/reservation systems and promote the group camp, yurts, picnic shelters and pavilions, and other reservable facilities.
  - e. Coordinate with concessionaires in the provision of boat rentals, adventure courses, etc.
  - f. Monitor, maintain, and inspect natural resources, establishing limited or no access zones to support resource protection.
  - g. Identify natural resource restoration projects needed, as well as City and community labor to support restoration efforts.
  
- 2.6. Stimulate economic development and tourism through riverfront natural resource preservation and enhancement.
  - a. Recognize, plan for, and actively promote the riverfront parks as an important part of Monroe's economic development strategy, drawing regional visitors to the waterfront.
  - b. Provide information kiosks at trailheads that promote downtown businesses and restaurants.



## Goal 3: Outdoor Recreation Hub

Provide unique and inclusive amenities that attract residents and visitors to Monroe's outdoor opportunities, activities, and events.

- 3.1. Diversify the recreation facilities in City parks to support Monroe's diverse residents and identity as an outdoor recreation hub.
  - a. Use PROS Plan recommendations and site planning/design to guide the provision of recreation facilities and amenities in parks. Eliminate adherence to outdated facility guidelines provided in the 2015 PROS Plan, since the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) advocates for the customization of park and facility development as per local needs.
  - b. Diversify sports courts to increase play from all ages and diverse cultures.
  - c. Consider options to add "challenge" activities such as outdoor fitness equipment, disc golf, climbing walls, a bike pump track, bike skills courses, and other challenge features popular with youth and young adults.
  - d. Support a greater variety of play opportunities, integrating nature play, thematic play, sand and water play, moveable and interactive parts, and even destination and universal play opportunities.
  - e. Consider low-cost water play options in parks, such as hand pumps, playable fountains and water "squirts" that are turned on and off.
  - f. Provide other desired amenities and facilities including additional dog runs and agility features, dog beaches, and community gardens.
  - g. Diversify social gathering spaces, incorporating unique seating and tables, such as moveable tables and chairs, seatwalls, Adirondack chairs, family style long tables, lounge chairs at beach areas, game tables,
  - h. Foster enthusiasm for recreation by providing unique, temporary, or pop-up activities in parks, such as giant Jenga, giant chess boards, outdoor ping pong, miniature golf, and equipment such as toys, hula hoops, sand toys, etc. These types of amenities work well in high visitation plazas, campgrounds, and food concession areas.
- 3.2. Renovate and develop parks and facilities to support recreational activities, programs, and opportunities that support both local use and tourism.
  - a. Renovate Lake Tye as per the 2018 Master Plan to serve as the area's premier outdoor recreation event venue. Enhance the site for events and revenue-generation (balancing non-fee-based use by all residents), establishing the Centennial Trailhead as a trail staging area for events, enhancing the skatepark for events, offering kayak/canoe rentals, expanding the food plaza and concessions, providing rental cabanas and reservable shelter/tables in the beach area, and enhancing trail connections to Fairfield County Park.
  - b. Develop the North Kelsey Park site to capitalize on its location in a commercial district, providing an urban plaza, small multi-use event space, art, adjacent or on-site food truck pads (with utilities), and a spray/play fountain.
  - c. Explore options to develop North Hill Park and provide specialized facilities such as a small water play feature, community garden, and support facilities such as a restroom and increased parking. Create a financial feasibility and market study to guide renovations to an on-site house to provide rental and event space that augment outdoor programs on site.

- 3.3. Facilitate events and recreation programs by leveraging Monroe's unique resources and variety of facilities.
  - a. Continue to coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce and other community groups to promote recreation, outdoor entertainment (such as movies or concerts in parks), cultural festivals, and historical and cultural programs that support Monroe's active-oriented identity, culture, and heritage.
  - b. Coordinate with the School District to encourage the joint use of City- and School-managed facilities in providing recreation services, including sports tournaments.
  - c. Coordinate with Evergreen State Fair Park in the potential provision of a BMX track, RV campground or similar elements consistent with promoting events and outdoor activities in Monroe.
  - d. Coordinate with local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to activate the North Kelsey park site with activities and programs.
  - e. Coordinate with local arts and culture groups to support smaller scale "mini-art" performances in parks, such as street performer-style programs, short/small performances, or temporary music/busking in parks to bring more performing arts viewing opportunities to residents.
- 3.4. Increase outdoor programs and events in parks to support active recreation, fitness, and community health.
  - a. Consider requests from contract providers, non-profits, sports trainers, and private providers to provide fee-based fitness, healthy lifestyle, and sports programs in parks. Consider activities such as fitness boot camps, yoga classes, sport training, etc.
  - b. Continue to support walks, races, fitness challenges, and other health and fitness and events to support community wellness and enhance tourism.
  - c. Increase opportunities to get seniors outdoors through program such as guided walks, gardening, social events, pickleball classes, etc.
  - d. Coordinate with local social service organizations to provide free, outdoor programs for economically-disadvantaged residents that foster healthy eating, youth development, youth and adult fitness, learn-to-play sports, youth play programs, etc.
- 3.5. Continue to promote Monroe's parks, facilities, and events through media, social media, and communications.
  - a. Regularly update the Department's webpage/social media to communicate information related to City parks, recreation events and activities, programs, policies, and services.
  - b. Collect contact information for people who would like to be on mailing lists to receive updates about programs, events, and services.
  - c. Continue to offer communication support in multiple languages to diverse groups; in the long term, continue to monitor needs to provide information, signage, and materials in different languages.
  - d. Use social media forums to promote parks, recreation, arts opportunities, and recreation tourism initiatives.
  - e. Establish a Parks and Recreation Marketing Plan annually to increase residents' awareness of recreation programs and services.



## Goal 4: Park Access

Develop parks and remove barriers to ensure residents have equitable access to open spaces and recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance from home.

- 4.1. Develop a system of parks and usable open spaces that support passive and active recreation, protects unique features, and links city neighborhoods.
- 4.2. Adopt a new park classification system and level of service standards to meet community needs. (See Chapter 2 and Appendix A.)
  - a. Provide Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks to meet the needs of nearby neighbors and City residents. (Note: Large Community Parks, such as Lake Tye Park, may incorporate specialized uses to serve visitors as well.)
  - b. Provide Nature Preserves to protect sensitive natural resources in Monroe.
  - c. Provide Special Use Parks and River Greenbelt Parks to support river access and unique public spaces for residents and visitors.
  - d. For all park types collectively, strive to provide 20.6 acres per 1,000 residents.
  - e. Thoroughly vet any additional land donations or acquisitions as per the goals of the PROS Plan. Since the City anticipates investing heavily in new properties already, avoid acquiring additional lands that will require additional maintenance and development resources.
- 4.3. Ensure the balanced and equitable distribution of parks and facilities that serve City residents, including residents in areas annexed into the City in the future.
  - a. Strive to provide neighborhood parks at a level of service of 1.4 acres per 1,000 residents and community parks at a level of service of 5.2 acres per 1,000 residents.
  - b. Distribute parks to account for travel distances, barriers, residential densities, and economic disparities.
    - i. Provide neighborhood parks within a ½ mile (10-minute walk) of nearby neighbors.
    - ii. In neighborhoods with medium- or high-density residential development, ensure larger parks, increase development with amenities and facilities, or the provision of parks with a ¼-mile distance of nearby neighbors.
    - iii. Provide community parks or special use parks in locations to serve several neighborhoods at a maximum travel distance of 4-5 miles.
- 4.4. Develop existing undeveloped park properties as guided by the PROS Plan to meet community needs.
  - a. Master plan and develop the North Hill Park site to meet neighborhood needs.
  - b. Master plan and develop the North Kelsey Park site as a small special-use event venue and gathering place.

- 4.5. Acquire parks and open space as guided by the PROS Plan to meet community needs.
  - a. Acquire sites for neighborhood parks to serve new residential development. Strive for sites that are relatively centralized to the neighborhoods they serve, level and dry on approximately 75% of the site for the development of amenities and facilities that support active and passive recreation opportunities.
  - b. Acquire additional property to expand the North Hill Park, providing more community-serving park amenities in this growing area of the city.
  - c. Acquire the Cadman site and explore additional opportunities to acquire land adjacent to Lake Tye Park to expand recreation uses and economic impacts.
  - d. Identify and acquire a downtown gathering space in conjunction with downtown redevelopment and improved connections to parks along the riverfront. (See Downtown Master Plan)
  - e. Acquire (primarily through easements) trail corridors to support the trail linkages noted in the PROS Plan.
- 4.6. Develop and renovate parks and public spaces to ensure these spaces meet or exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Washington State code. Provide parks and facilities that accommodate multigenerational groups and people with mobility issues, sight and hearing impairments, allergies, and other special needs. (See also 1.8c.)
- 4.7. Collaborate with other entities to support public use of parks and community facilities operated by private, non-profit or other public agencies. Continue to evaluate opportunities to collaborate with Fair Park, Monroe library, schools, the Monroe YMCA, and the Boys & Girls Club.
- 4.8. Update the PROS Plan every six years to identify document evolving parkland and recreation needs and maintain grant eligibility.



## Goal 5: Connectivity

Provide an interconnected network of multi-use trails, walkways, and bikeways connecting city and regional destinations.

- 5.1 Expand the trail network in Monroe, facilitating in-town connectivity and ties to regional trail networks.
  - a. Coordinate with Public Works to provide trails as noted in the “trails opportunities” concept in the PROS Plan.
  - b. Continue discussions with Snohomish County regarding potential and preferred alignments for an extension of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail from Duvall to Monroe and an extension of the Centennial Trail from Snohomish to Monroe.
  - c. Work with WSDOT and Snohomish County to evaluate opportunities for the creation of a permanent trail along the WSDOT right of way for the future US-2 bypass.
  - d. Work with WSDOT to identify options for US-2 bike and pedestrian bridge crossing near Traveler’s Park.
  - e. Ensure future WSDOT improvements to US-2 do not eliminate possibilities for a future trail alignment along the corridor.
  - f. Require dedication or easements for trails as part of the development review process and roadway renovation/widenings, consistent with the linkages identified in the PROS Plan.
  
- 5.2 Coordinate with Monroe Public Works to establish a coordinated Citywide bikeway and pedestrian trail system. Develop trails as per City standards for the following, including corridor and trail width, surfacing, and support amenities:
  - a. Shared Multi-Use Path: These paved, multi-use rights-of-way are completely separated from streets. These may include a soft-surfaced buffer for jogging. For shared multi-use trails, consider a 10- to 12-foot-wide paved path striped for dual-directional use, plus an adjacent 4-foot-wide soft surfaced trail for jogging and low-impact uses.
  - b. Bike Lanes: These on-street corridors are designated for bicyclists using stripes and stencils. Bike lanes may include buffer striping to provide greater separation between bicyclists and parked or moving vehicles.
  - c. Bike Routes: These streets designated for bicycle travel and shared with motor vehicles. Routes may be marked by signage and shared lane bicycle markings (aka “sharrows”). Traffic calming devices may be included on these routes as needed to discourage drivers from using the boulevard as a through route.
  - d. Protected Bike Lanes: These lanes provide on-street space that is exclusively for bicyclists and physically separated from motor vehicle travel lanes, parking lanes, and sidewalks by elements such as curbs, bollards, delineator posts, or planter boxes.
  - e. Local Trails: These neighborhood paths are typically designed to accommodate access to schools and between neighborhoods by providing a wide sidewalk (e.g., a six-foot wide paved trail connecting a cul-de-sac to another neighborhood or to a school).
  - f. Natural Pedestrian Trail: These more narrow decomposed granite, boardwalk or soft-surfaced trails (wood chips, bark mulch, dirt) provide leisurely walking, biking, and jogging opportunities within parks or other trail corridors.

- 5.3 Develop various trail length, types, and challenge levels to diversify trail-related recreation options.
  - a. Provide hard-surfaced multi-use trails to connect to the regional trail system.
  - b. Provide hard- or soft-surfaced nature trails in parks and greenways as recommended to support nature interpretation, access to nature, hiking, and off-road biking.
  - c. Provide park loop trails or meandering pathways to support walking, dog walking, and recreational biking. These should be wide enough for people to walk together and pass each other comfortably.
  - d. Provide park access paths to connect parking lots or park entries to elements within the park.
  - e. Establish areas in parks that provide recreational hiking and biking options, such as BMX tracks, bike pump tracks, bike skills courses, nature trails, jogging trails, big wheel and tricycle tracks, walking tracks, mountain bike trails, etc.
  
- 5.4 Provide trailheads and trail support amenities and facilities to facilitate trail use.
  - a. Provide trailheads and/or trail rest areas with bike racks, seating, shade, drinking fountains, restrooms, trash receptacles, and self-service bike repair stations as identified in site and systemwide recommendations. This includes Lake Tye Park, the Cadman site, Al Borlin Park, and Lewis Street Park.
  - b. Develop the regional trail along the south edge of the Foothills Wetland Preserve, creating a viewpoint to showcase the park.
  - c. Provide periodic support amenities, such as benches and shade along trails. (Note: Avoid providing restrooms, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, and other high-maintenance elements along trail corridors, except at trailheads as noted above.)
  - d. Coordinate with other City departments in the development and provision of comprehensive wayfinding and signage program along trails and bike routes and in parks with trails.
  
- 5.5 Collaborate with others to provide trail programs and services that encourage safe pedestrian and bicycle use.
  - a. Coordinate with other City departments to provide a trails map and information guide. Publish biking and walking route information online and in the City's recreation guide.
  - b. Enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school and parks by embracing "Safe Routes to Schools" and "Safe Routes to Parks" objectives.
  - c. Work with partners (e.g., Leafline Coalition, Cascade Bicycle Club) to coordinate trail programs, drop-in walks, nature hikes, and community-wide trail events and bike rides to encourage use of the pedestrian-bike network.
  - d. Explore a trail sponsorship program that encourages or incentivizes businesses to sponsor the development and/or maintenance of trail links that provide nearby bike and pedestrian access.



# CHAPTER 5

## Implementation

The PROS Plan's goals and objectives can be achieved through sustained, committed implementation over the next 20 years. The new systemwide policies in the PROS Plan are aligned with site-specific recommendations for Monroe's park system, including the acquisition and development of new parks and trails, along with improvements to existing sites. Highest priority projects are summarized here in a six-year capital improvement plan (2023-2028) that also carries forward budgeted projects for the Year 2022. This chapter includes an overview of the funding sources that are critical for implementation.

## Recommended 20-Year Enhancements

Over the next 20 years, the City of Monroe will enhance the existing park system by acquiring new park sites and trail corridors, developing site master plans, building new parks, adding specific amenities and facilities, renovating existing facilities, replacing facilities at the end of their lifecycles, and enhancing and expanding existing facilities. In addition, the City will maintain all developed assets and natural resources in its parks. These recommendations will enhance the quality of parks and increase recreation opportunities for all.

Appendix F details site recommendations for every existing and proposed park site in the system. As per City planning protocols, it does not include recommendations for specific trail corridors, since trail alignments are planned and funded with Transportation projects. Recommended park projects are categorized to make it easier to identify the types of funding that may be needed:

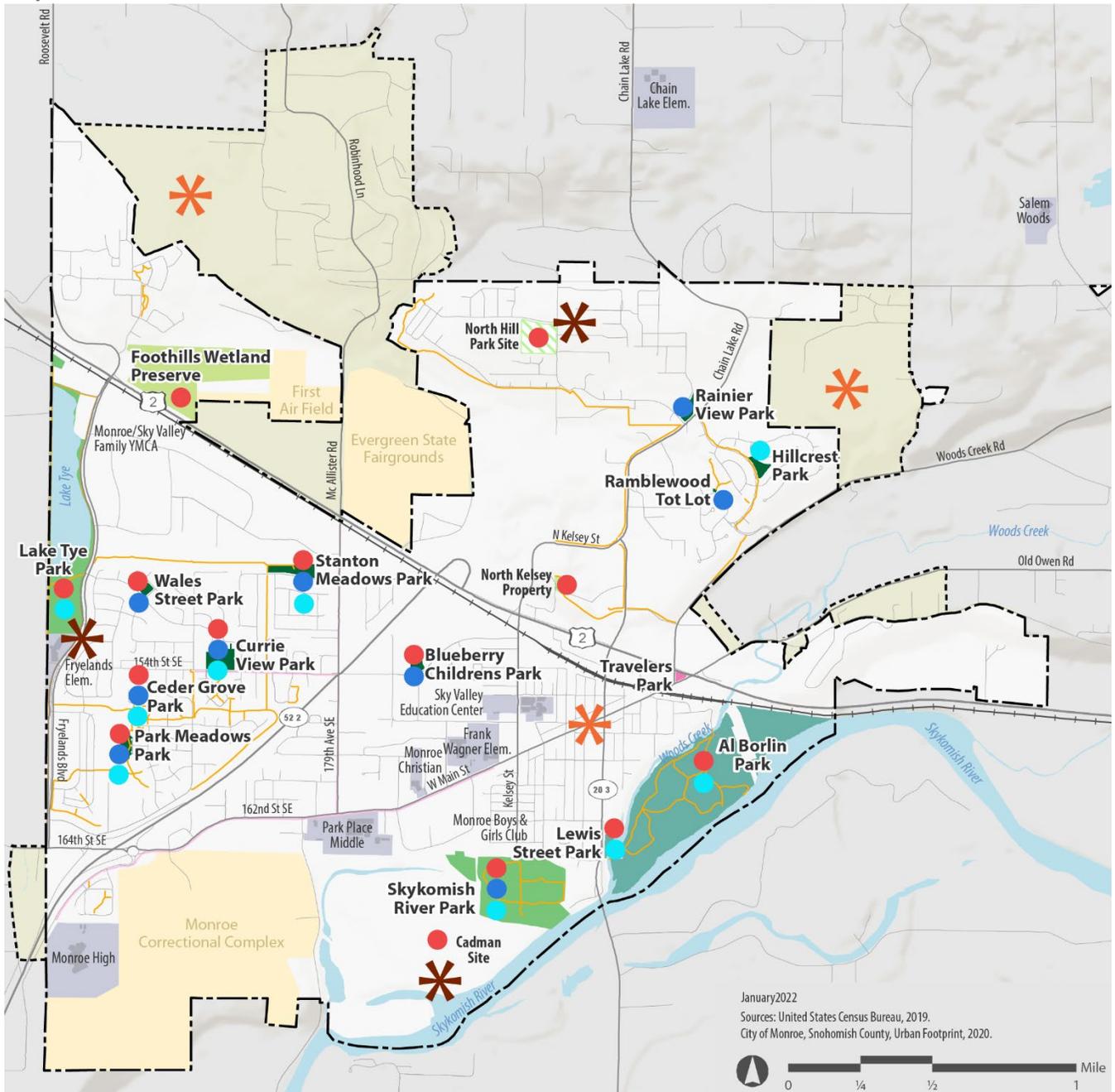
- **Build/Add:** Acquiring and developing a new park/facility or adding facilities to an existing site are considered capacity enhancement capital projects that may be eligible to be funded through mitigation fees. These projects increase and diversify the recreation opportunities in Monroe.
- **Replace or Enhance:** These larger replacement projects or improvements to existing amenities and facilities require capital funding. An example of this type of project might be a roof replacement, which typically goes beyond routine maintenance.
- **Repair and Maintain:** These projects address the smaller-scale routine repairs and ongoing site maintenance that are addressed through operations funding.

Table 5-1 summarizes recommendations by park classification. The table shows the number of sites recommended for specific types of improvements. The distribution of these project types is shown on Map 5-1: Site Recommendations, on the next page.

**Table 5-1: Number of Park Sites Proposed for Improvement by Park Type**

	Build			Add		Renovate, Replace or Enhance				Repair and Maintain		
	Acquire Land	Master Planning or Design	Park Development	New Feature(s)	Wayfinding	Athletic/Sports	Outdoor Recreation	Specialized	Amenities	Standard Maintenance	Enhanced Maintenance	Natural Resource Maintenance
Community Parks		2		2	2	1	3	2	2		2	1
Neighborhood Parks		3	1	8	2	3	9		7	9	1	
Special Use Parks		1	1	2	1		1		1	1	1	
Nature Preserve				1			1			1		1
River Greenbelt		4		4	3		2		3	1	2	2
New or Expanded Park Acreage	3	3	2	1			1			1	2	
Other Improvements		1										
<b>Total # of Sites</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

Map 5-1: Site Recommendations



Legend

Recommendations

- Enhance (expand when renovated)
- Renovate/Replace (replace at end of lifecycle)
- Build/Add (provide new opportunities)
- ✱ Acquire (add park land; exact location TBD)
- ✱ TBD during the 2024 Comp Plan update

City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

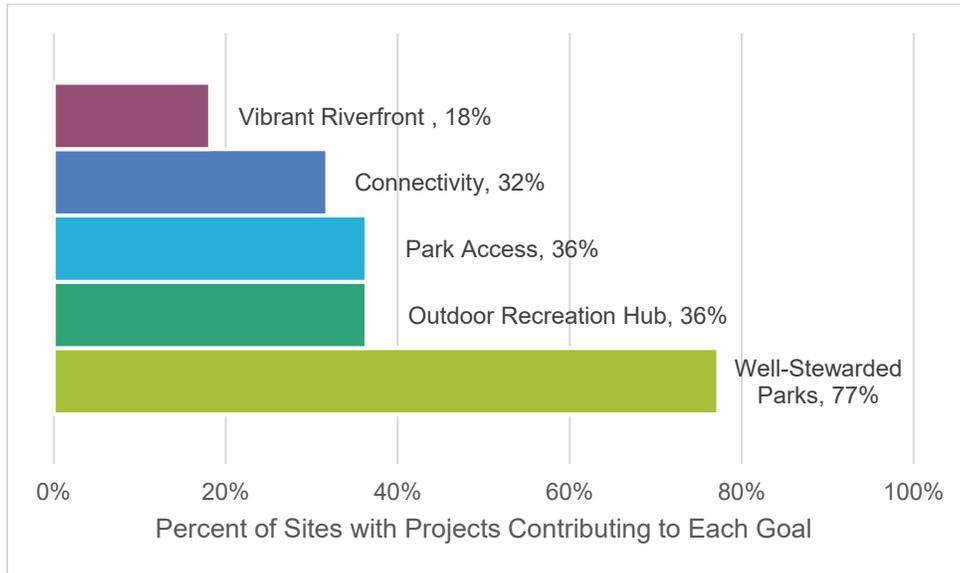
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Nature Preserve
- River Greenbelts
- Special Use Park
- Undeveloped Site
- Bike Lane
- Trail

Base Map Features

- City of Monroe Boundary
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Burlington Northern SF Railway
- Snohomish County
- Waterbodies
- Schools
- Regional Facilities

All recommended projects contribute to one or more of the PROS Plan goals that were described in Chapter 4. Figure 5-2 summarizes the number of sites with projects that advance City goals. The majority of sites will receive improvements that help ensure high-quality, well-stewarded parks and facilities.

**Figure 5-1: Goals Supported by Site Recommendations**



## Capital Improvement and Operation Costs

Appendix G identifies planning-level cost estimates associated with all site recommendations. The estimates are based on a general order-of-magnitude in costs to assist in evaluating and coordinating park projects for future consideration in Monroe’s capital improvement planning. Costs are in 2021 dollars and do not account for inflation. Table 5-2 summarizes costs by site.

### PROS Plan Total Costs (20-Years)

The total cost estimate for implementing all projects identified in the PROS Plan includes approximately:

- Capital Costs: \$94.9 million
- Annual Maintenance Costs: \$6 million

Approximately two-thirds of this investment is target at two sites: Lake Tye Park and the Cadman Site. These are based on planning level costs. See Appendix G for details. These are more than the City can implement. A six-year Action Plan, noted in Appendix H, summarizes highest priority projects and potential funding sources.

**Table 5-2: 20-Year Capital Cost Summary by Site or Project**

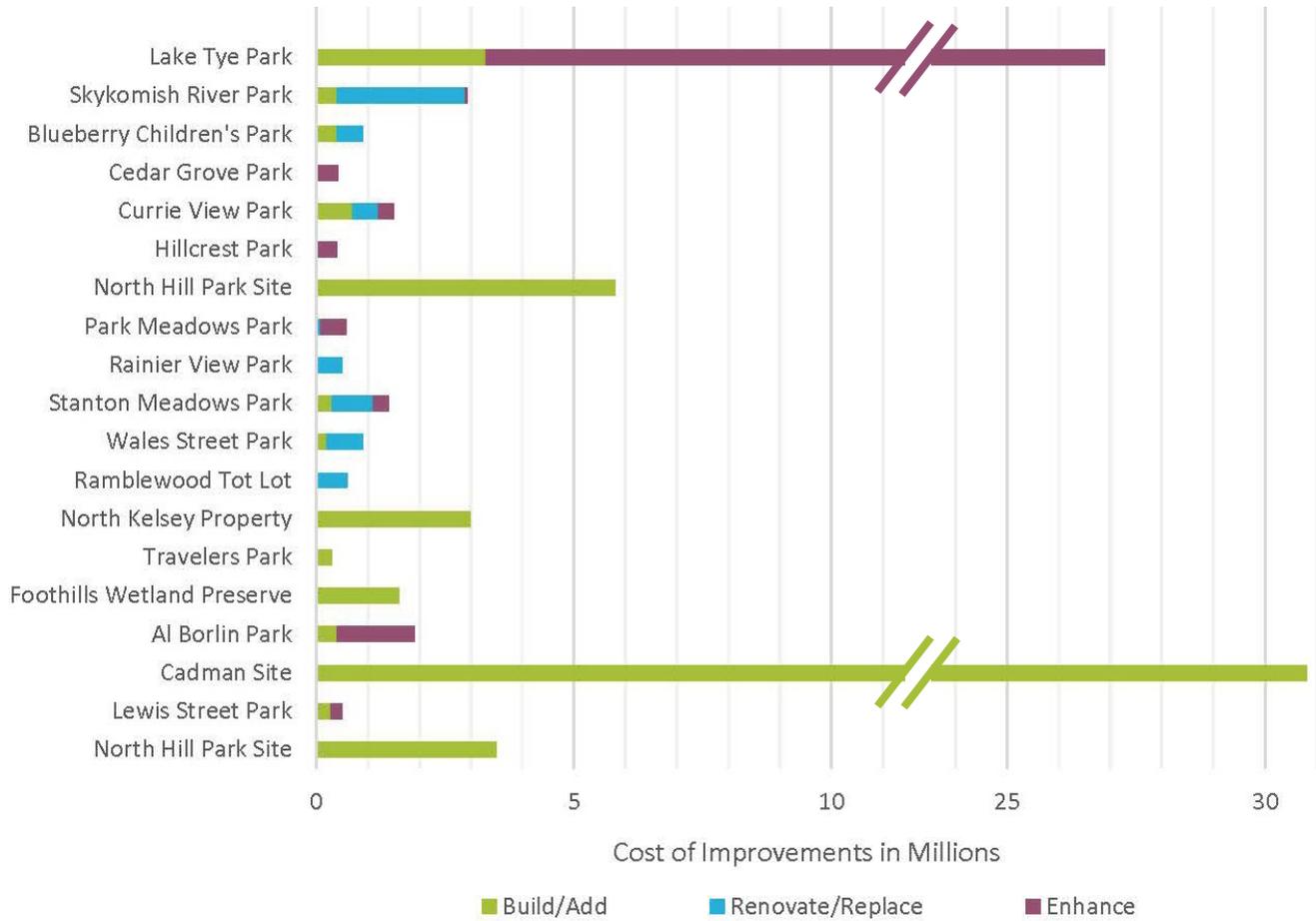
<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Total Costs (20 Years)</b>
<b>Community Parks</b>	
Lake Tye Park	\$ 26,976,911
Skykomish River Park	\$ 2,931,210
<b>Community Park subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 29,908,120</b>
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	
Blueberry Children's Park	\$ 778,466
Cedar Grove Park	\$ 372,049
Currie View Park	\$ 1,564,040
Hillcrest Park	\$ 347,049
North Hill Park Site	\$ 6,000,000
Park Meadows Park	\$ 564,048
Rainier View Park	\$ 520,574
Stanton Meadows Park	\$ 1,450,516
Wales Street Park	\$ 890,018
Ramblewood Tot Lot	\$ 530,574
<b>Neighborhood Park subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 13,017,335</b>
<b>Special Use Parks</b>	
North Kelsey Property	\$ 3,604,539
Travelers Park	\$ 260,000
<b>Special Use Park subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 3,864,539</b>
<b>Nature Preserve</b>	
Foothills Wetland Preserve	\$ 1,636,090
<b>Nature Preserve subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,636,090</b>
<b>River Greenbelt</b>	
Al Borlin Park	\$ 1,897,354
Cadman Site	\$ 30,800,000
Lewis Street Park	\$ 496,038
WDFW Lewis Street Boat Launch	\$ 20,000
<b>River Greenbelt subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 33,213,392</b>
<b>New or Expanded Park Acreage</b>	
North Hill Park Expansion	\$ 4,589,262
Lake Tye Park Annexation	\$ 3,403,000
Additional park acreage for annexation areas	\$ 3,000,000
Downtown gathering space*	Cost TBD
<b>New Parks subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 10,992,262</b>
<b>Other Improvements</b>	
Other Improvements (not yet assigned to a site)	\$ 503,000
Trail System Master Plan and Connectivity Enhancement	\$ 1,775,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 94,909,738</b>

For detailed descriptions of each of these projects, please see Appendix G.

\* Costs will be identified for the downtown gathering space in conjunction with downtown redevelopment.

Figure 5-2 helps easily visualize how this recommended investment will be distributed among different park sites. While the majority of park sites are slated for facility renovations and replacements to address aging and worn features, the majority of funding targets the major enhancements at Lake Tye Park and the development of the Cadman Site. The development of North Hill Park and North Kelsey Park also figure prominently.

**Figure 5-2: 20-Year Sites Costs by Category**



## Prioritization Criteria

To assist the City in focusing on priority projects, the PROS Plan introduces a two-step evaluation process for prioritizing capital projects. This evaluation framework may also be used to sequence capital projects in annual capital improvement planning and budgeting. Projects that are aligned with multiple PROS Plan goals are important. However, projects that meet multiple criteria in Step 2 are most likely to be implemented more quickly.

### STEP 1: ALIGNMENT WITH PROS PLAN GOALS

How well does a proposed project address the following PROS Plan Goals?

- **Well-Stewarded Parks:** Manage, maintain, and revitalize parks, facilities, and natural resources to support safe, attractive, and engaging recreation space and green space.
- **Vibrant Riverfront:** Enhance parks, recreation amenities, and trails along the Skykomish River to create a riverfront system that supports local use and recreation tourism.
- **Outdoor Recreation Hub:** Provide unique recreational amenities that attract residents and visitors to Monroe's outdoor activities, programs and events.
- **Park Access:** Develop parks and minimize barriers to ensure residents have equitable access to recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance from home.
- **Connectivity:** Provide an interconnected network of multi-use trails, walkways, and bikeways connecting city and regional destinations.

### STEP 2: ALIGNMENT WITH PARK SYSTEM REALITIES

How well does a proposed project address the following criteria?

- **Underserved or Underrepresented Groups:** Does the project serve underrepresented groups or underserved geographic areas to balance park access and provide equitable opportunities for all?
- **Safety and Use:** Does the project improve safety or restore use?
- **Resource Availability:** Does the project use or leverage available resources (staffing, funding, grants, partnerships, equipment)?
- **Cost Savings:** Does the project reduce costs, increase revenues, increase sustainability, or increase maintenance and operational efficiencies?
- **Critical Path:** Does a project—like the Riverwalk Trail—need to advance to a certain stage in order to bring capital and permitting partners to the table to implement?
- **Ease of Implementation:** Can the project be done quickly and easily (e.g., advanced planning, feasibility studies, and permitting have been completed)?
- **Existing Opportunity:** Can the project be implemented using existing park space or available public space (e.g., property already acquired, vacant lands, existing rights of way)?
- **Value:** Does the project deliver high value for the cost or resources needed, relative to other projects?
- **City Priority:** Does the project coincide with or support another City project or City Council initiative?
- **Community Priority:** Does the project repair or renovate a high-use, popular park/facility or address top community needs (e.g., play areas, trails, dog parks, outdoor recreation, sports, and event space)?
- **Multiple Benefits:** Does the project benefit a large number of people and/or support multiple or flexible uses?

## Action Plan

Washington’s Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requires that park master plans include a six-year capital improvement plan to identify short-term projects for implementation. The PROS Plan introduces a short-term capital improvement plan for six-year period between 2023 and 2028. However, the full Action Plan also carries forward projects for the year 2022 that have already been approved by City Council and have funds identified.

Table 5-3 presents the Action Plan, showing capital costs for development. Implementation is contingent upon securing the necessary capital and operations funding to support each of these projects. Funding and financing options are discussed in more detail in the next section of Chapter 5 and in Appendix H.

**Table 5-3: Parks and Recreation Capital Projects Action Plan**

Project	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Public Art/Banners		\$20,000		\$20,000				\$40,000
Riverfront Master Plan	\$200,000		\$350,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000			\$4,050,000
Cadman Phase I & II	\$25,000	\$1,600,000		\$3,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$200,000	\$17,825,000
Centennial Trailhead				\$360,000		\$600,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,960,000
Lake Tye Phase II						\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
North Hill Park Design & Development	\$45,000		\$400,000	\$4,000,000				\$4,445,000
Northeast Monroe New Park Acquisition							\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Park Playground Equipment	\$315,000	\$578,000	\$607,000	\$637,000	\$669,000	\$702,000	\$737,000	\$4,245,000
North Kelsey - Public Plaza Festival Lot (EDAB)		\$200,000	\$75,000	\$1,500,000				\$1,775,000
Parks Info Stations (3)	\$18,000							\$18,000
Park Safety Security Cameras	\$30,000							\$30,000
River Interpretive Signs		\$200,000						\$200,000
Trail System Master Plan Connectivity (EDAB)		\$200,000	\$75,000		\$1,500,000			\$1,775,000
Trail Planning & Repair		\$30,000			\$30,000		\$30,000	\$90,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$633,000</b>	<b>\$2,828,000</b>	<b>\$1,507,000</b>	<b>\$12,017,000</b>	<b>\$11,199,000</b>	<b>\$7,302,000</b>	<b>\$6,967,000</b>	<b>\$42,453,000</b>

\* Details on cost estimates are provided in Appendix G.

Investments in the City of Monroe’s parks system can also be expected to increase expenses for parks operations and maintenance. Expenses include personnel, supplies, and professional services. The table below notes the additional maintenance needs for the new projects described above, as they come online. In 2022, an allowance is identified to increase existing park maintenance funds as recommended in this plan. The annual costs noted below show the amount needed in addition to current operations and maintenance budget.

**Table 5-4: Estimated Annual Maintenance Costs Increases (for Action Plan Implementation)**

Project	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Riverfront Master Plan Implementation					\$800,000			\$800,000
Cadman Phase I & II						\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Centennial Trailhead							\$30,000	\$30,000
Lake Tye Phase II						\$500,000		\$500,000
North Hill Park Design & Development				\$150,000				\$150,000
Northeast Monroe New Park Acquisition								
North Kelsey - Public Plaza Festival Lot (EDAB)				\$30,000				\$30,000
Trail System Master Plan Connectivity (EDAB)					\$30,000			\$30,000
Elevating Existing System Maintenance	\$1,100,000							
<b>Total Maintenance Impact</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>	<b>\$830,000</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$2,540,000</b>

\* Details on cost estimates are provided in Appendix G. Maintenance costs reflect needs for standard or enhanced maintenance, plus natural resource stewardship as recommended in Appendix F.

All capital costs summarized here are based on detailed calculations shown in Appendix G. Capital costs are based on per-unit site and facility costs, with mobilization, design fees, contingency and taxes included. Annual maintenance costs are calculated based on assigned maintenance tiers for each site. Standard costs are based on current cost-per-acre expenditures to maintain parks. Enhanced maintenance costs are more double the standard costs, based on added time and tasks at popular, high-use sites. Many sites have a natural resource maintenance allowance to steward the undeveloped areas in parks.

## Funding and Financing Strategies

To fund the Action Plan, the City of Monroe will need increased capital and operations funding. A funding and financing plan, presented in detail in Appendix H, considered the types of funds Monroe has used in the past to support park projects and maintenance. It also identified additional funding sources, considering realistically how much these new sources may contribute.

### CAPITAL REVENUE SOURCES FOR PARKS

The City of Monroe relies on three existing revenue sources to fund parks capital projects, through the Parks CIP Fund or Fund 317. Described in more detail in Appendix H, these include the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), Park Impact/Mitigation Fees and Grants. These sources alone are not sufficient to fund the projects noted in the Action Plan.

The City will need to consider additional funding sources for parks capital projects, even though these may not historically have been used by the City. These include bond funding, sponsorships, and donations.

The City may also benefit from other future funding sources, such as a potential sales tax dedicated to parks and recreation. It may also coordinate with ECPRD, which could provide dedicated funding sources for parks maintenance, operations, and capital expenses. These two funding sources are less certain and require additional legislative work or a vote of the people.

To implement the Action Plan, the City must consider a larger funding package over the seven-year period. This may include an increased bond package, additional funding through REET revenues, a more aggressive approach to seeking grant funding, and reliance on new funding sources such as sponsorships.

### MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS REVENUE SOURCES FOR PARKS

Including new maintenance costs as capital projects are completed, total maintenance and operations costs will rise from a current level of approximately \$1.5 million to recommended level of \$5.3 million by 2028. The actual resource level year to year will depend on the completion timing of capital projects, the elevation of maintenance service levels, and the increases in costs over time.

Historically, the City of Monroe has used General Fund revenue to support parks and recreation operations and maintenance costs. Revenue generated for the General Fund by parks and recreation include Charges for Services (parks and recreation fees), intergovernmental revenue sources, and other General Fund sources.

Other revenue sources that may provide revenue to support increases in parks operations and maintenance Concession Fees, a Future Sales Tax, or a Metropolitan Parks District.

### FUNDING DEFICIENCIES

The City of Monroe's short-term capital improvement plan does not have identified funding to implement all projects noted in the Action Plan. Table 5-5 summarizes the funding needs, in comparison to the City's current understanding of potential available funds as informed by historic trends in park funding for the City of Monroe. Appendix H identifies all sources of funding and their amounts as summarized in this table.

Between 2022 and 2028, capital costs are estimated at more than \$42.4 million. However, this includes significant unfunded projects, such as the Cadman site, Riverfront Parks development, North Kelsey Plaza, and North Hill Park--unless additional capital and operations dollars are identified.

Total forecasted revenue to support parks capital projects between 2022 and 2028 is nearly \$14.8 million. Overall, the funding gap between forecasts costs and revenues totals more than \$27.6 million.

Continuing to track the increased maintenance needs that are created by these capital projects, the total projected maintenance needs for each year are identified as well. These start with the need to improved maintenance at key sites in the existing park system, and it add expenses associated with new parks and facilities as these are added to Monroe’s park system.

**Table 5-5: Parks Capital and Maintenance Funding Needs Projection, 2022-2028**

	Total Expenditures	Anticipated Revenues	Capital Funding Surplus/Deficit	Total Annual Maintenance Shortfall
2022	\$633,000	\$928,000	\$295,000	\$2,772,000
2023	\$2,828,000	\$6,645,000	\$3,817,000	\$2,772,000
2024	\$1,507,000	\$683,000	(\$824,000)	\$2,772,000
2025	\$12,017,000	\$3,983,000	(\$8,034,000)	\$2,952,000
2026	\$11,199,000	\$683,000	(\$10,516,000)	\$3,782,000
2027	\$7,302,000	\$1,183,000	(\$6,119,000)	\$5,282,000
2028	\$6,967,000	\$683,000	(\$6,284,000)	\$5,312,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,453,000</b>	<b>\$14,788,000</b>	<b>(\$27,665,000)</b>	

Note: See Appendix H for details on the funding sources that account for the revenues noted in the table. It provides details on the funding sources, amounts anticipated, and the shortfall that may occur unless additional sources of funding are identified.

## SUMMARY AND FUNDING OPTIONS

The City may consider maximizing the following revenue sources to provide additional funding for priority projects.

### Capital Revenues

- Increasing the proposed parks and recreation bond.
- Updating City policy to support additional options for sponsorships and donations.
- Adopting the maximum allowable park impact fee rate to support acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities to serve new growth.

### Unrestricted Revenues

- Increasing facility use fees and charges for services, while remaining consistent with regional and market rates.
- Explore revenue-sharing agreements with concessionaires and vendors at parks and recreation facilities.
- As park revenue sources increase, the City may also consider an asset management approach to park revenue, dedicating all parks and recreation revenues to support parks operations and maintenance.

### Other Revenues, subject to legislation and voter approval

- Adoption of a parks and recreation sales tax if the legislature approves the proposal. This would provide the City with additional unrestricted funding to support both parks maintenance and operations, and capital expenses.
- Explore the formation of a metropolitan parks district, which offers options for a property tax levy. The City is currently part of the East County Parks and Recreation District and has not to date considered withdrawing. Withdrawal from the existing parks district and formation of a metropolitan parks district both require voter approval.





# City of Monroe Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan

Final Draft | January 2022



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In association with Community Attributes, Inc.



# Appendices

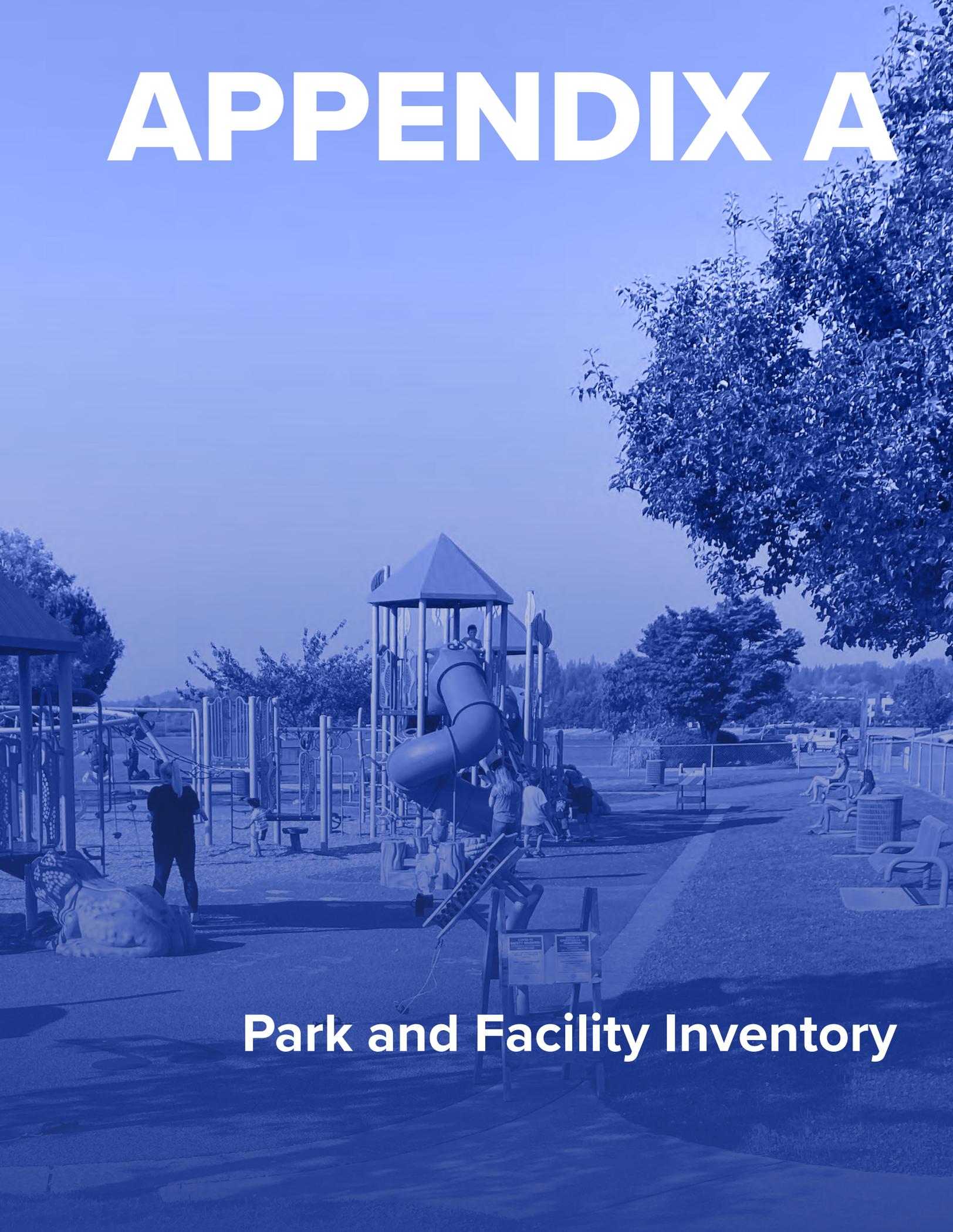
PARKS, RECREATION,  
& OPEN SPACE PLAN



JANUARY 2022



# APPENDIX A



## Park and Facility Inventory

Table A-1: City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Facilities by Classification

City Parks		Athletic/Sports					Outdoor Recreation					Specialized			Amenities							Natural Feature/Trails					Notes/Other				
Park Name	Total Acres (GIS data)	Baseball / Softball Field	Basketball Court	Fitness Equipment	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Dog Park	Grass Play Area	Picnic Shelter	Play Structure	Skate Park	Water Feature (Pond/Lake)	Boat Launch	Concession Stand	Fishing Access	Barbecue	Bench**	Drinking Fountain	Flagpole	Parking (Off-Street)	Picnic Tables**	Restroom (permanent)	Shade Structure	Adjacent Water Feature	Natural Area/ Open Space	Interpretive Elements*		Trails (Soft-Surfaced)	Trails (Hard-Surfaced)	Park/Facility Date***	
<b>Community Parks</b>																															
Lake Tye Park	67.8	2	1.5		2	2		x	2	1	1		1	1	x	5	20	2	1	x	7	1	2	x	x	3		x	1996	Swimming area, 2 Dedication Plaques, 1 Memorial, 1 Art Sculpture	
Skykomish River Park	46.5	5		7	3		1		2	1				1		4	28	4	1	x	7	2	2	x	x	2		x	1989	Wiggly Field (dog park) and Rotary Field (synthetic youth ball field acquired 2009***), Lighted Shelters, 1 Dedication Plaque, 1 Interpretive Sign	
<i>Community Parks subtotal</i>	114.3	7	1.5	7	5	2	1	1	4	2	1	0	1	2	1	9	48	6	2	2	14	3	4	2	2	5	0	2			
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>																															
Blueberry Children's Park	1.1							x		1							1	1			6								1990		
Ceder Grove Park	0.4							x		1							1	1											1998		
Currie View Park	4.3	1.5						x		1										x	1				x				1994		
Hillcrest Park	1.5	0.5						x	1	1							4	1		x	2								2004	Unlighted Shelter	
Park Meadows Park	2.3							x		1										x	2				x		x		1998	Adjacent Open Space/Wetland Preserve	
Rainier View Park	1.0							x		1							2	1			3								2004		
Stanton Meadows Park	3.5							x	1	1					1					x	4		1					x	1999	Unlighted Shelter	
Wales Street Park	0.7	1.5						x		1											2								1995		
Ramblewood Tot Lot	0.1									1							2				1								2003		
<i>Neighborhood Parks subtotal</i>	15.0	0	3.5	0	0	0	0	8	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	4	0	4	21	0	1	0	2	0	1	1			
<b>Special Use Parks</b>																															
Travelers Park	0.6																			1	x	1						1		1959	Maintained as a City Park since 1953, transferred to the City in 1959
<i>Special Use Parks subtotal</i>	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		
<b>Nature Preserve</b>																															
Foothills Wetland Preserve	46.7																														
<i>Nature Preserves subtotal</i>	46.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>River Greenbelt</b>																															
Al Borlin Park	104.1														x									x	x	2	x		1953	Acquired easement for vehicle bridge construction, 2 Interpretive Signs	
Lewis Street Park	1.1								1	1						3	4	1	1	x	4	1	2			4			1904	Donated to the City for use as a park, Lightened Shelter, Unlighted Gazebo, 2 Dedication Plaques, 2 Interpretive Signs	
<i>River Greenbelt subtotal</i>	105.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	8	1	2	1	1	6	1	0			
<b>Undeveloped Park Sites****</b>																															
North Hill Park Site	5.0																														Includes Parcel A only
North Kelsey Property	1.0																														
<i>Undeveloped Sites subtotal</i>	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>287.7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>			

Note: x refers to an amenity or facility that is present at the site. The exact numbers of these amenities are unknown.

\*Interpretive Elements includes interpretive signage, historical markers, dedication plaques, etc.

\*\*Count includes only those that are permanently installed.

\*\*\*Date reflects approximate time when the City began to maintain these properties or when the City had access to them.

\*\*\*\*Undeveloped park sites will be acquired for future park land (but not developed) in 2021. (The Cadman site is a planned park that has not yet been acquired.)

Table A-2: Parks and Recreation Facilities Provided by Other Recreation Providers

Park Name	Total Acres	Ownership	Athletic/Sports					Outdoor Recreation					Specialized			Amenities							Natural Feature/Trails					Notes/Other		
			Baseball / Softball Field	Basketball Court	Fitness Equipment	Football / Track and Field	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Dog Park	Grass Play Area	Picnic Shelter	Play Structure	Skate Park	Water Feature (Pond/Lake)	Boat Launch	Concession Stand	Fishing Access	Barbecue	Bench	Drinking Fountain	Flagpole	Parking (Off-Street)	Picnic Tables	Restroom (permanent)	Shade Structure	Signage	Adjacent Water Feature		Natural Area/ Open Space	Interpretive Elements
<b>State/County</b>																														
Crescent Lake Park												1								1						1				
Lewis Street Boat Launch		State, DFW												x		x														
Evergreen State Fair Park and Speedway		Joint															X	X	X	X		4		X						
Fairfield County Park		County					8			1										1										
Lord Hill Regional Park		County										2								1					1	1	X	X		
			0	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	0	4	0	1	1	2	1	1	0
<b>Schools</b>																														
Chain Lake Elementary School		MSD		X						X	X																			
Frank Wagner Elementary		MSD		X						X	X																			
Fryelands Elementary School		MSD		X							X																			
Hidden River Middle School		MSD	X				X																							
Maltby Elementary School		MSD		X						X	X																			
Marshall Fields		MSD	X																											
Memorial Stadium		MSD				X	X																							
Monroe High School		MSD	X	X		X	X																							
Park Place Middle School		MSD	X	X			X																							
Salem Woods Elementary School		MSD		X						X	X																			
Sky Valley Education Center		MSD																												
Wagner Center		MSD									X																			
			4	7	0	2	4	0	0	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Public Providers / Non-Profits</b>																														
Boys & Girls Club	2.5	Non-profit								X										X		X								
YMCA	4.8	Non-profit																		X	X	X								
	7.3		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Private</b>																														
HOA Parks (not counted)																														

**Map A-1: Playground Distribution**

**Legend**

**Amenity / Program**

-  Park Playground
-  School Playground

**City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space**

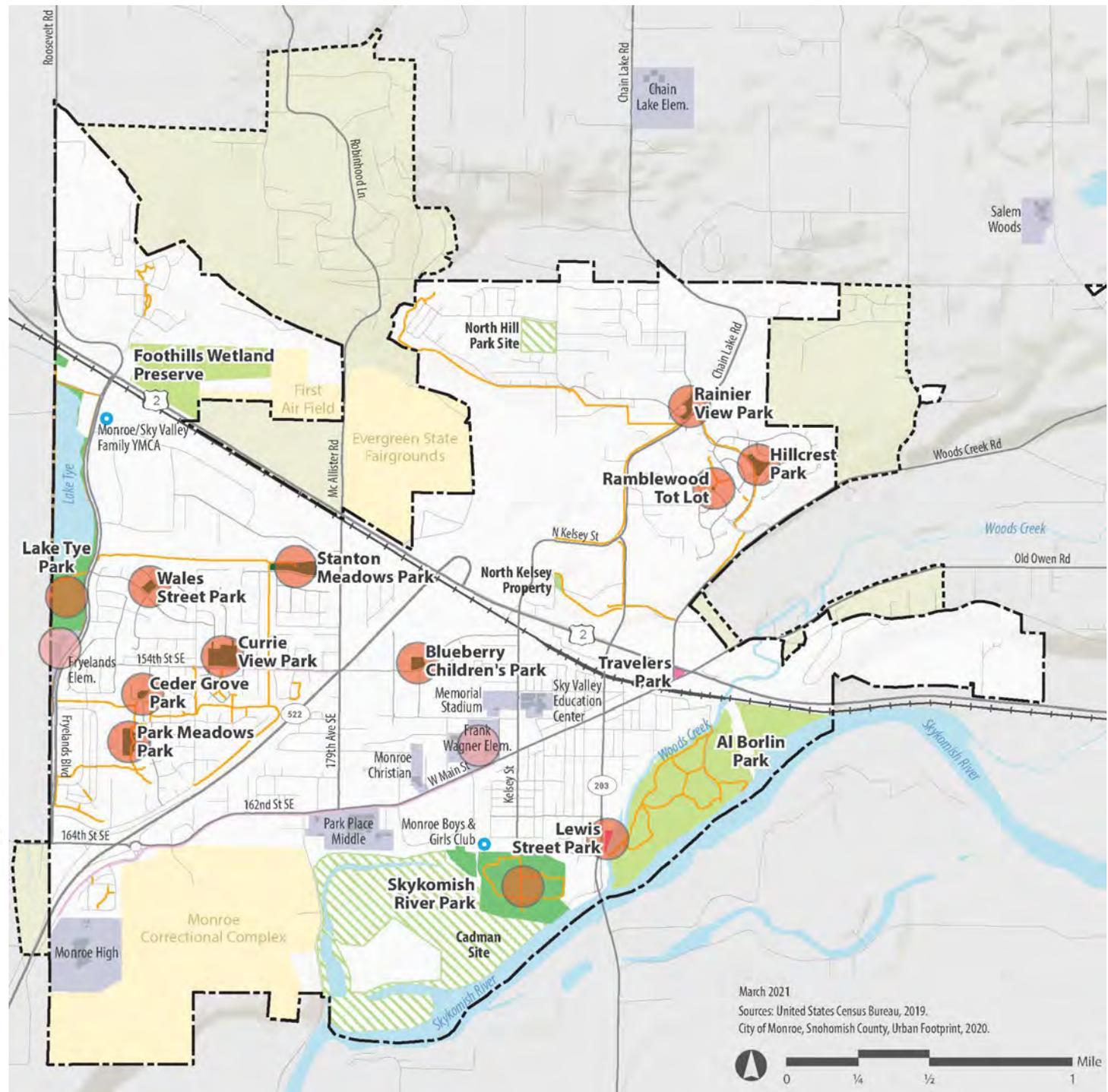
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  Nature Preserve
-  Special Use Park
-  Undeveloped Site
-  Bike Lane
-  Trail

**Other Parks/Recreation Facilities**

-  Recreation Facility

**Base Map Features**

-  City of Monroe Boundary
-  Urban Growth Boundary
-  Burlington Northern SF Railway
-  Snohomish County
-  Waterbodies
-  Schools
-  Regional Facilities



March 2021  
 Sources: United States Census Bureau, 2019.  
 City of Monroe, Snohomish County, Urban Footprint, 2020.

 0 1/4 1/2 1 Mile

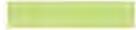
**Map A-2: Distribution of Picnic Shelters and Picnic Area**

**Legend**

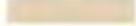
**Amenity / Program**

-  Picnic Shelter
-  Other Picnic Tables

**City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space**

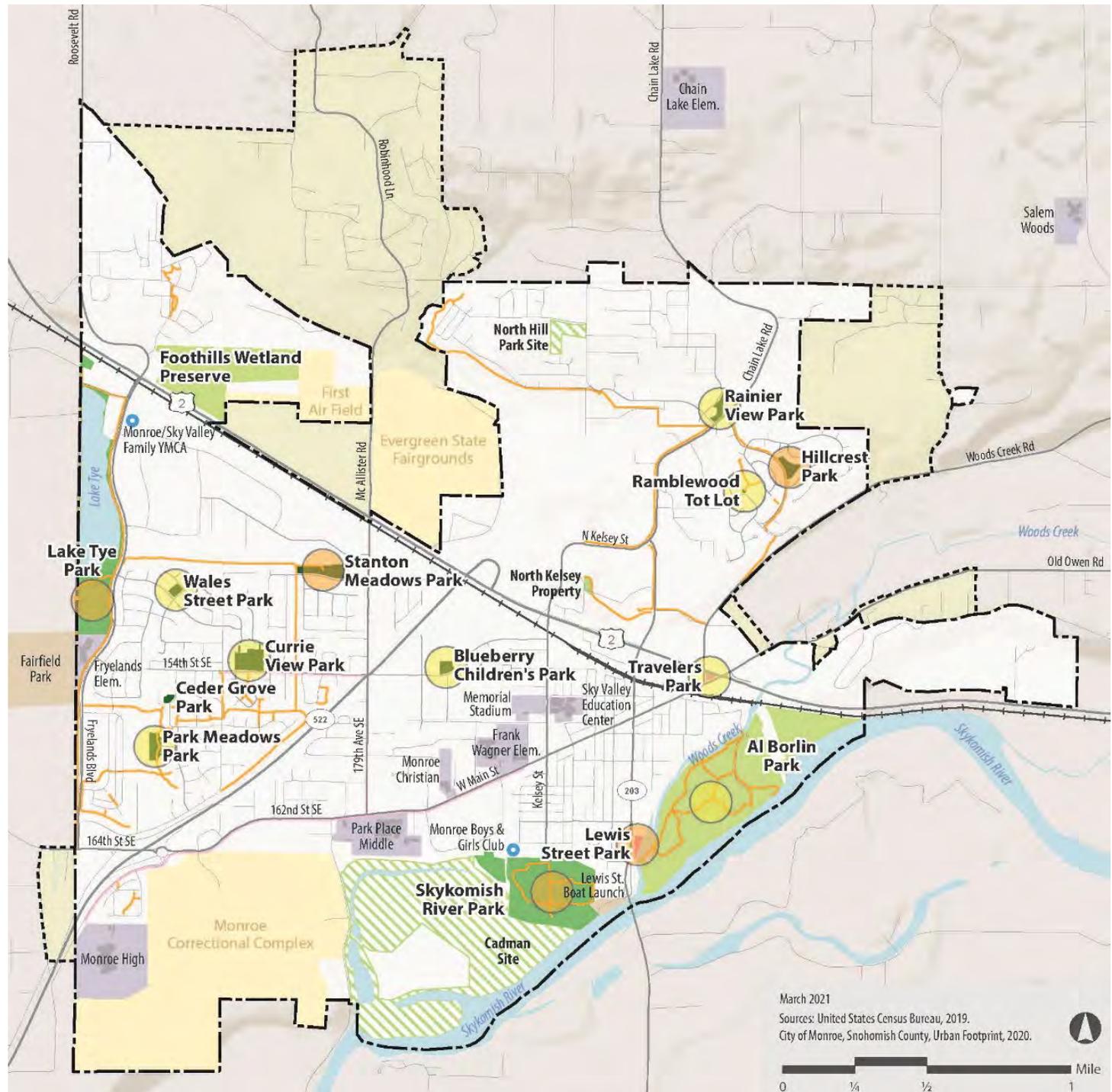
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  Nature Preserve
-  Special Use Park
-  Undeveloped Site
-  Bike Lane
-  Trail

**Other Parks/Recreation Facilities**

-  Recreation Facility
-  Other Recreation Site

**Base Map Features**

-  City of Monroe Boundary
-  Urban Growth Boundary
-  Burlington Northern SF Railway
-  Snohomish County
-  Waterbodies
-  Schools
-  Regional Facilities



March 2021  
 Sources: United States Census Bureau, 2019.  
 City of Monroe, Snohomish County, Urban Footprint, 2020.



### Map A-3: Sports Field Distribution

#### Legend

##### Amenity / Program

-  Park Sports Field
-  School Sports Field

##### City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

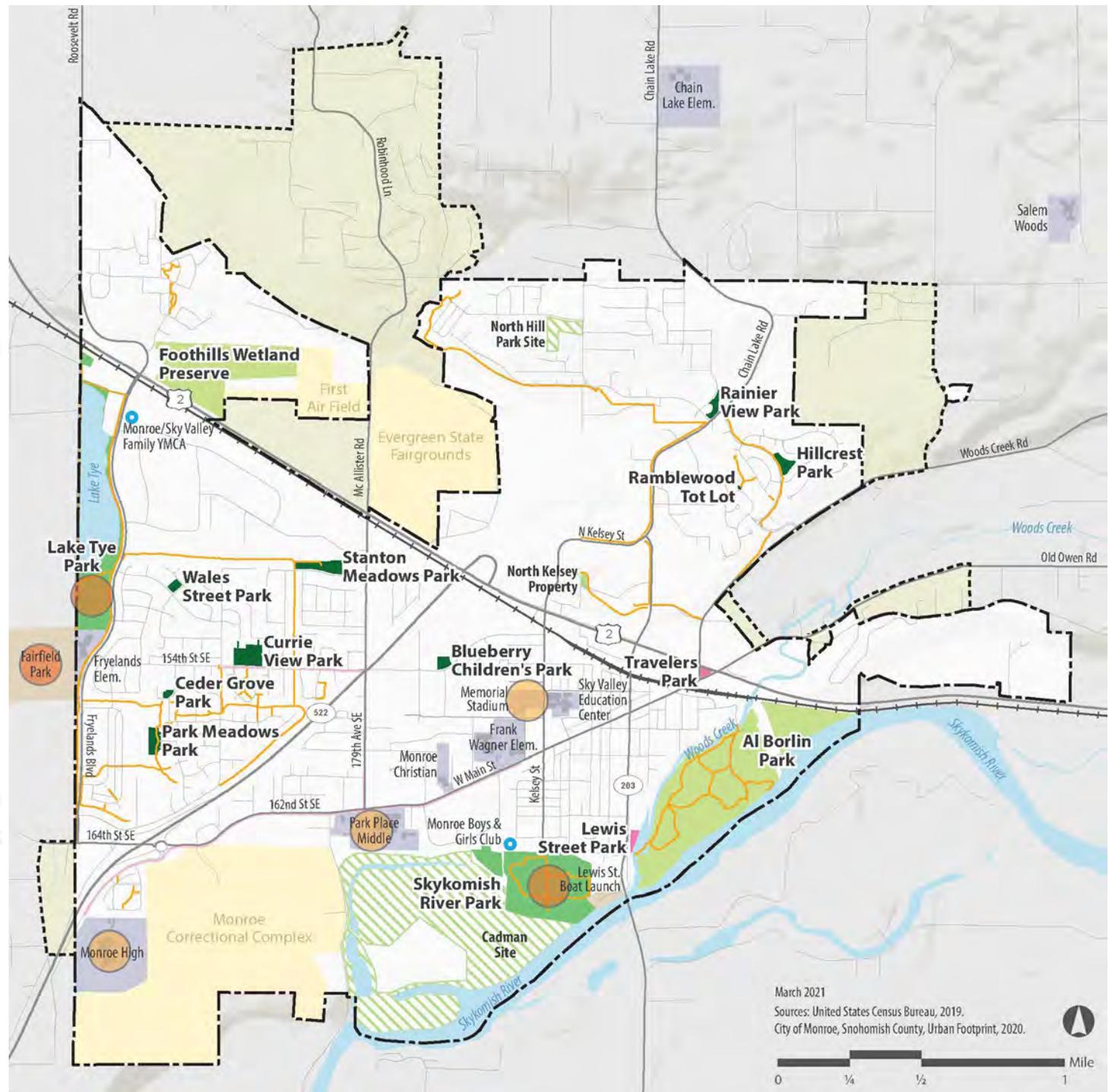
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  Nature Preserve
-  Special Use Park
-  Undeveloped Site
-  Bike Lane
-  Trail

##### Other Parks/Recreation Facilities

-  Recreation Facility
-  Other Recreation Site

##### Base Map Features

-  City of Monroe Boundary
-  Urban Growth Boundary
-  Burlington Northern SF Railway
-  Snohomish County
-  Waterbodies
-  Schools
-  Regional Facilities



March 2021  
 Sources: United States Census Bureau, 2019.  
 City of Monroe, Snohomish County, Urban Footprint, 2020.

0 1/4 1/2 1 Mile

# Map A-4: Outdoor Sports Court Distribution

## Legend

### Amenity / Program

-  Park Sports Court
-  School Sports Court

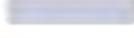
### City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

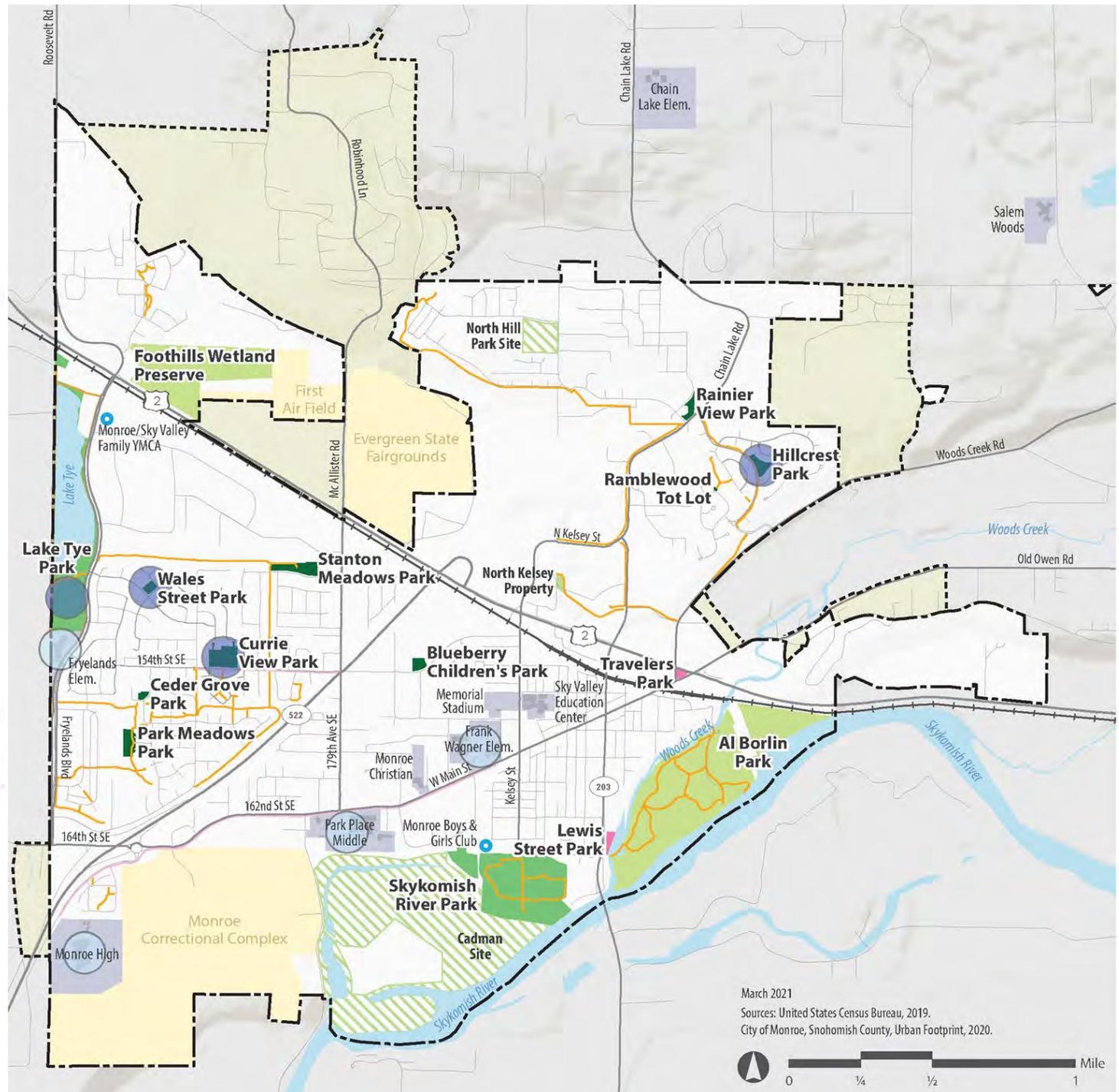
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  Nature Preserve
-  Special Use Park
-  Undeveloped Site
-  Bike Lane
-  Trail

### Other Parks/Recreation Facilities

-  Recreation Facility

### Base Map Features

-  City of Monroe Boundary
-  Urban Growth Boundary
-  Burlington Northern SF Railway
-  Snohomish County
-  Waterbodies
-  Schools
-  Regional Facilities



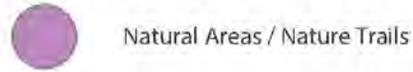
March 2021  
 Sources: United States Census Bureau, 2019.  
 City of Monroe, Snohomish County, Urban Footprint, 2020.



**Figure A-5: Publicly Accessible Natural Areas**

**Legend**

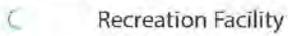
**Amenity / Program**



**City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space**

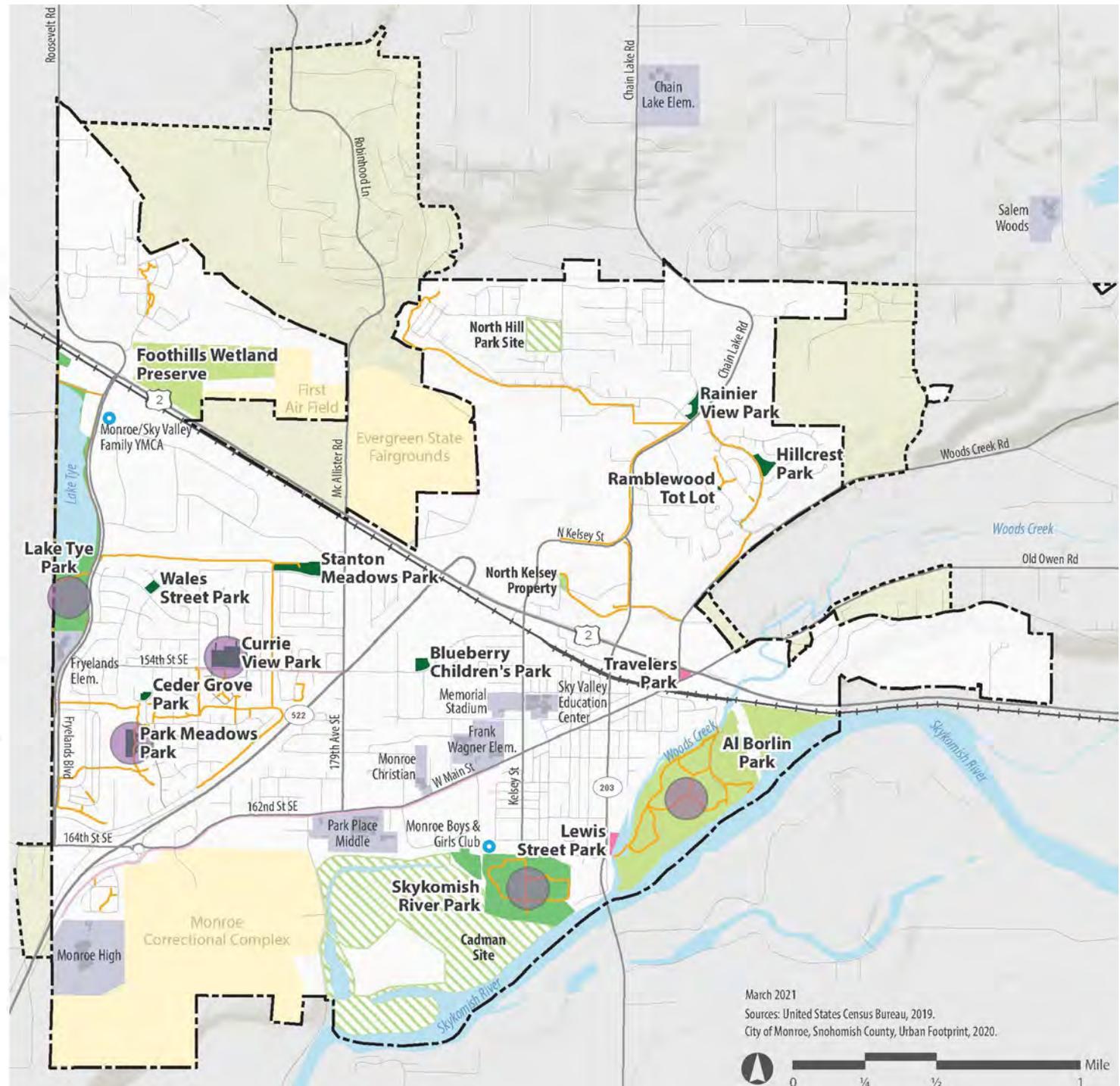
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Nature Preserve
- Special Use Park
- Undeveloped Site
- Bike Lane
- Trail

**Other Parks/Recreation Facilities**



**Base Map Features**

- City of Monroe Boundary
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Burlington Northern SF Railway
- Snohomish County
- Waterbodies
- Schools
- Regional Facilities



March 2021  
 Sources: United States Census Bureau, 2019.  
 City of Monroe, Snohomish County, Urban Footprint, 2020.



# APPENDIX B



## Online Questionnaire Summary

# Appendix B: Online Questionnaire Summary

## Introduction

In August 2020, the City of Monroe began updating its Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (the Plan) to identify community priorities, funding options, tourism impacts, and recommendations to improve and enhance parks, recreation facilities, trails, programs, events, and related services. As part of the planning process, an online survey was conducted, inviting community members to provide input on the state of parks and recreation, current needs, funding priorities, and funding mechanisms. The input received will help shape the goals and strategies of the Plan. This document summarizes the questionnaire methodology and key findings.

## QUESTIONNAIRE METHODOLOGY

The online questionnaire ran from December 16, 2020 to January 19, 2021. It included 21 questions related to parks and recreation and six questions related to demographics. It also included the option to be entered in to a prize drawing. A number of questions related to how respondents used the park system, their satisfaction with it, and what they'd like to see more of. The second half focused on priority projects, funding, and bond measures as a funding mechanism.

A link to the questionnaire was posted on the City's website and distributed via email, social media, press releases, School District information and other outreach methods. The online survey is open to anyone who wants a voice in the planning process. While survey results should not be interpreted as statistically representative, the results help identify common and shared themes, concerns, and priorities. When combined with other outreach findings and cross-checked through a technical analysis of the park system, these findings inform the planning process.

A total of 1,131 responses were received. As a standard practice, results of the online questionnaire were reviewed for completeness and potential duplicate or fake responses. Between January 1 and 11, some responses were submitted by an automated web-based program. These results were screened out due to suspicious IP addresses and inconsistencies in contact information provided for the prize drawing. After filtering out these automated responses, the validity of 996 responses were confirmed. The survey summary is based on these 996 responses.

Several questions allowed respondents to write in responses.

## Key Takeaways

The Monroe Parks and Recreation Questionnaire provided some clear insights about community priorities and needs.

- **Trails and Paths.** There is an overall desire for more trails and paths for walking and biking, with 51% of respondents saying that *building more trails and paths* should be the top funding priority. While the community would like to see more off-street trails and connections, respondents also answered they were satisfied with their current ability to walk or bike to destinations.
- **Key Connections.** Respondents thought a connection to the Centennial Trail (69%) was the most important connection for the City to develop, with a "Riverwalk" trail (50%) and extension of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail (46%) as other top choices.
- **System Satisfaction.** Overall respondents are highly satisfied with general park maintenance and generally satisfied with the variety of park opportunities. However, respondents are less satisfied with the current access to the Skykomish River. On average respondents were satisfied with the mix/availability of special events and recreation programming, but there is a desire for more special events and activities that would bring people downtown.
- **Play.** Respondents would like to see unique play features and challenge elements in more parks. Swimming and water play was an activity that respondents would like to see expanded.
- **Specific Site Improvements.** Most respondents answered that they were very excited for Lake Tye and Cadman Site improvements as well as the idea of a linked riverfront. At a new park in the North Hill area, respondents thought the most important features to include were restrooms, a playground, nature play elements, a viewpoint, picnic area, and open turf area for play.
- **Top Funding Priorities:** Based on the percentage of respondents that selected priorities from a list of options, the City's top five park funding priorities emerged (see figure 1).

Figure B-1: Park and Recreation Priorities



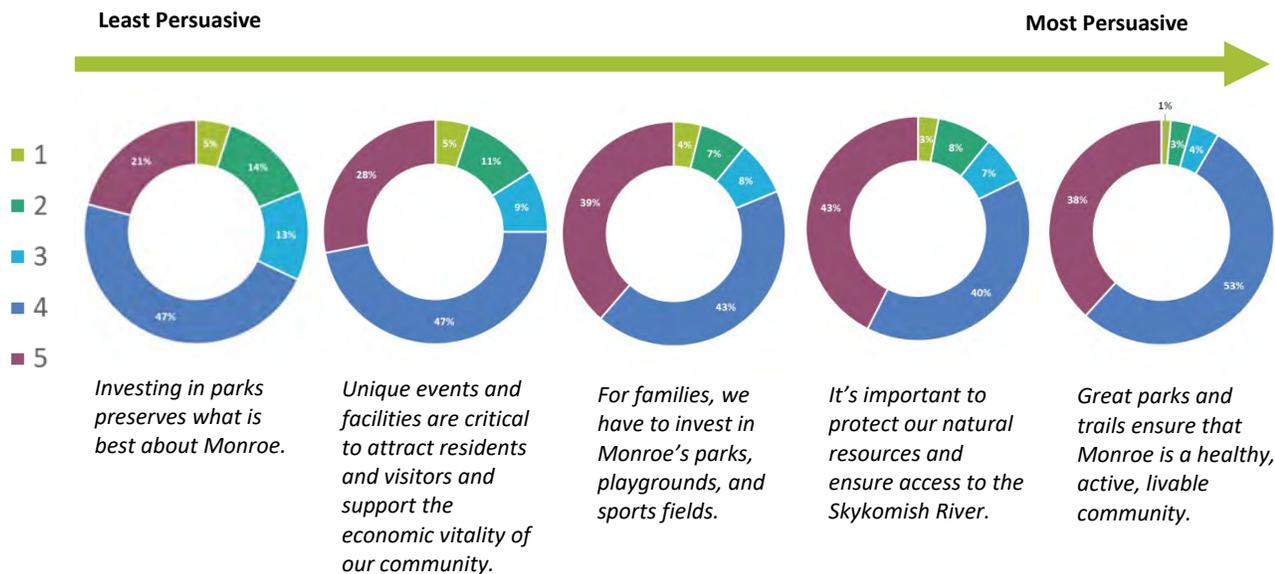
- Funding Mechanisms.** A little over half of respondents (52%) indicated that they would support a bond measure, and three quarters believe that parks funding should increase. Based on a home with a \$500,000 value, approximately 80% of respondents indicated that they would support or strongly support a bond measure that increases property taxes between \$50 to \$75.
- Increasing Funding Support for Parks:** COVID-19 appears to have affected respondents' value of parks in the last year, with 52% saying it had increased somewhat or greatly. A majority (76%) thought that funding should increase to reflect this great value of parks.
- Reasons to Increase Funding:** On a scale from 1 (Least Persuasive) to 5 (Most Persuasive), respondents rated reasons for continuing to invest in the future of Monroe's parks.

**Figure B-2: Park Funding Change**

**Post COVID, should parks funding change?**

- 26%** Increase greatly
- 50%** Increase somewhat
- 20%** Stay the same
- 3%** Decrease

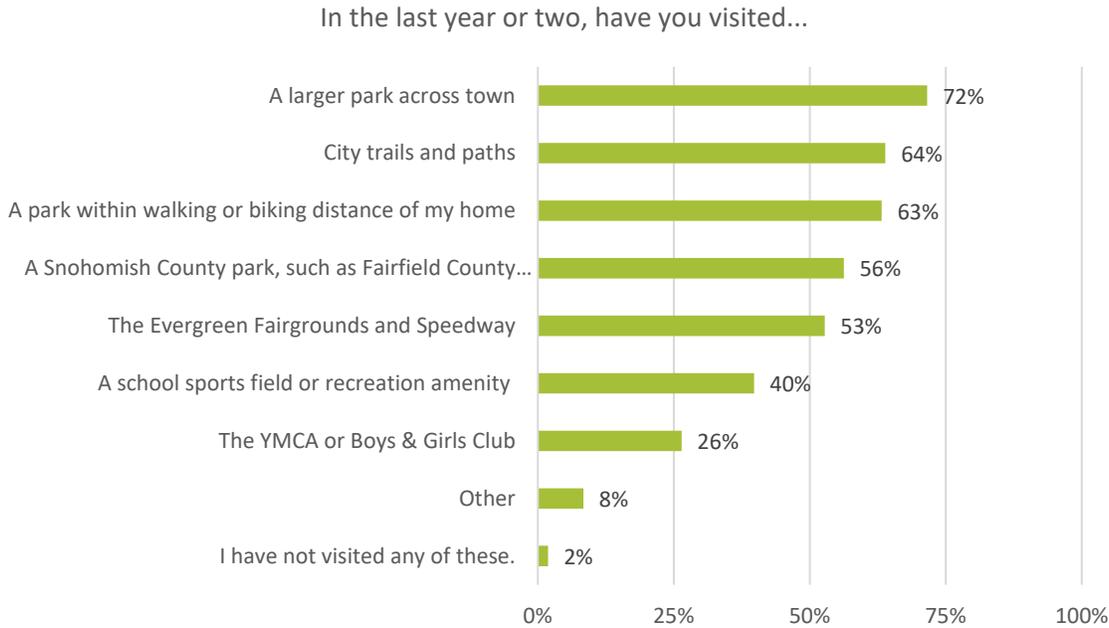
**Figure B-3: Reasons to Increase Funding**



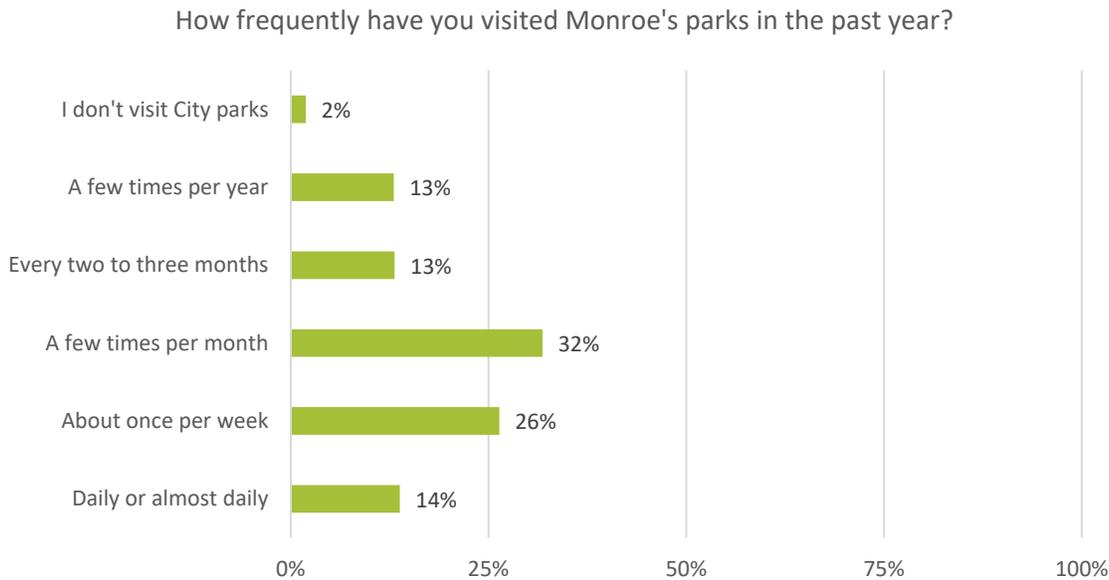
## PARK USE AND ACTIVITIES

Respondents indicated they visit a variety of parks and recreation facilities, including those close to home, across town, or other county and regional parks. A high number of respondents also reported using City trails and paths. While few respondents visit City parks every day, most visit them at least once a week or a few times a month.

**Figure B-4: Types of Parks and Facilities Visited**



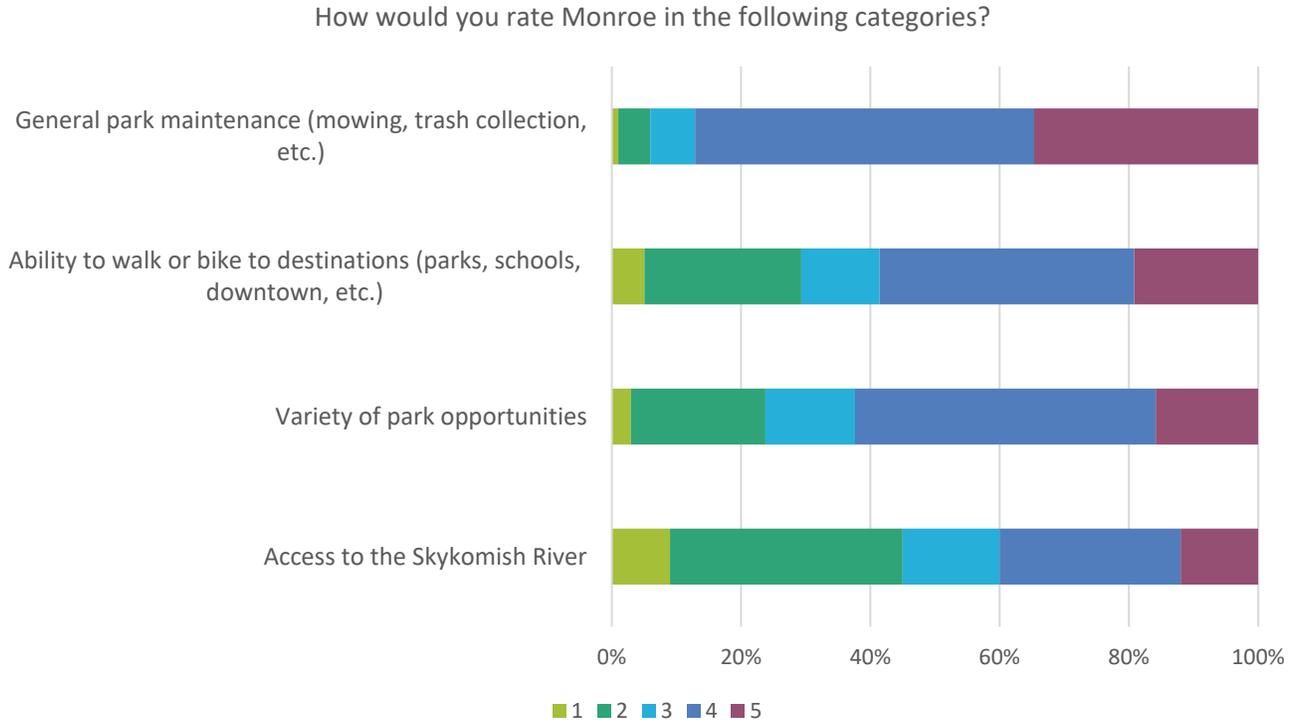
**Figure B-5: Frequency of Park Use**



## SYSTEM SATISFACTION

Participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with certain components of the Monroe parks system on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very unsatisfied and 5 being very satisfied. Respondents indicated that they were very satisfied with general park maintenance, with an average rating of 4.16. Compared to the ability to walk or bike to destinations and the variety of park opportunities, respondents were a little less satisfied although both received an average rating of around 3.5. Access to the Skykomish River was rated the lowest, with an average of 2.97, with the highest number of respondents (45%) giving 1s and 2s.

**Figure B-6: System Satisfaction**

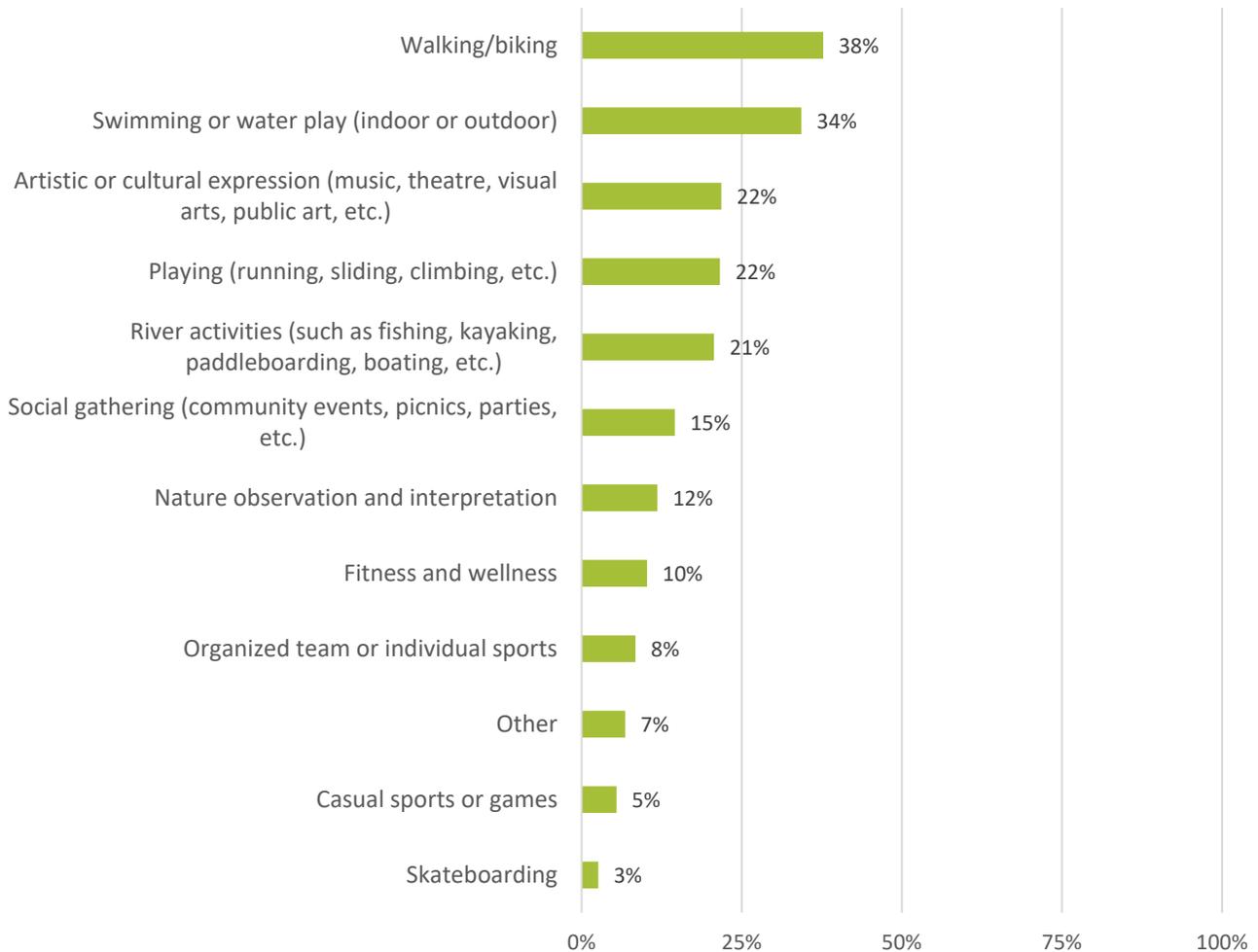


## MIX OF ACTIVITIES AND FEATURES

In terms of activities, respondents would like to see more walking and biking as well as swimming or water play. Artistic or cultural expression, playing, and river activities were other top responses. Respondents would also like to see unique play features and challenge elements incorporated into more parks. Similar to how they would like to see more walking and biking in the overall parks system, respondents also desire more off-street trails connections to parks and other destinations.

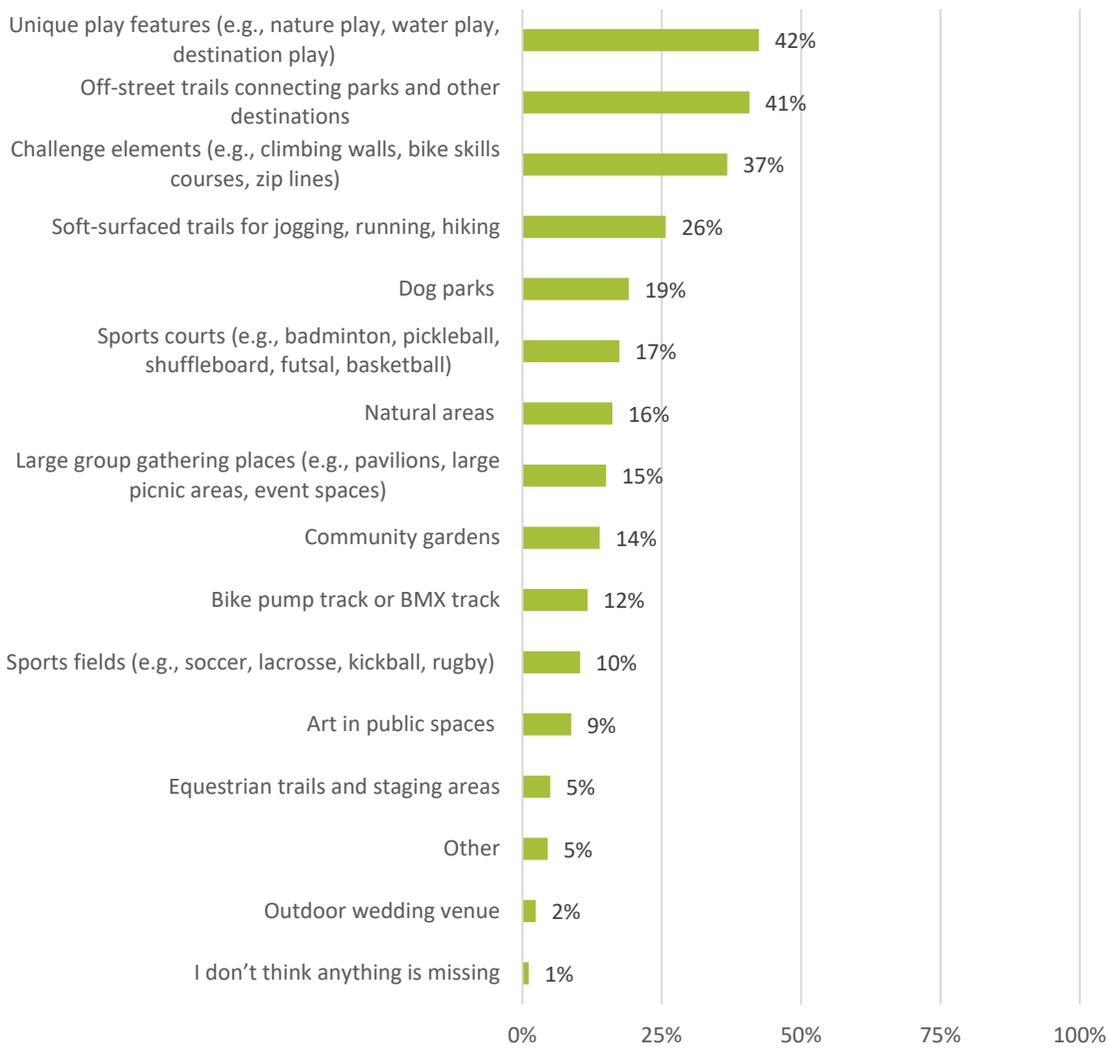
**Figure B-7: New Activities**

What activities would you most like to see more of in Monroe's park system?



### Figure B-8: New Features or Facilities

What features or facilities would you like to see more of in Monroe's parks?



## COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Respondents were also asked what the most important aspects of Monroe's identity were that should be incorporated into parks. While respondents were allowed to pick their top two, half of them chose 'A community that supports kids and families.' The next top aspects that respondents chose were a close tie and related to the community's connection to nature and the outdoors.

**Figure B-9: Most Important Aspects of Monroe's Identity**

- 50%** A community that supports kids and families.
- 36%** A place with abundant outdoor recreation opportunities.
- 35%** A place surrounded by and connected to nature's beauty.
- 23%** A city with a strong economy and thriving small businesses.
- 19%** A strong community where we know our neighbors.
- 7%** An exciting place to live.

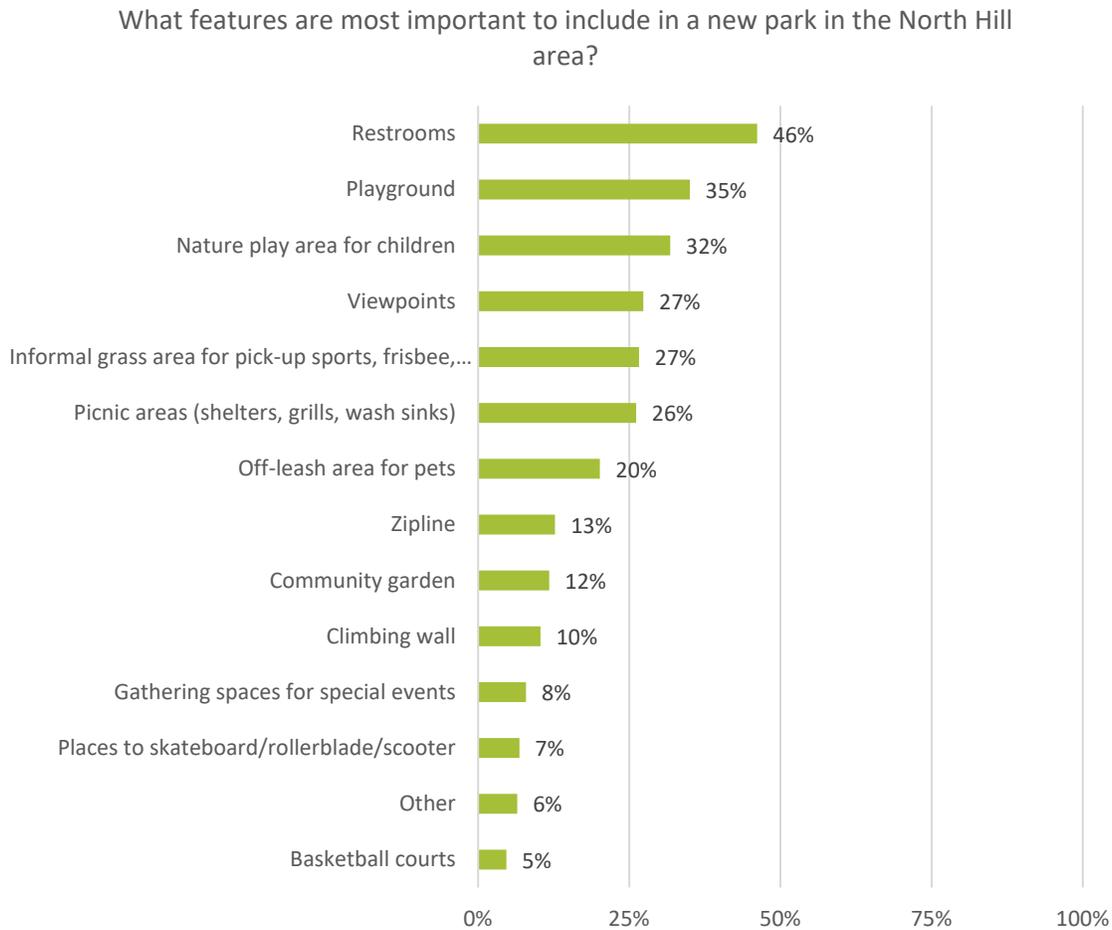
## SPECIFIC SITE IMPROVEMENTS

The online questionnaire also provided insights into improvements at specific park sites.

### North Hill Area

Respondents felt that restrooms were the most important feature to provide at a new park in the North Hill area. A playground and nature play area for children were also desired.

**Figure B-10: North Hill Area Park Improvements**

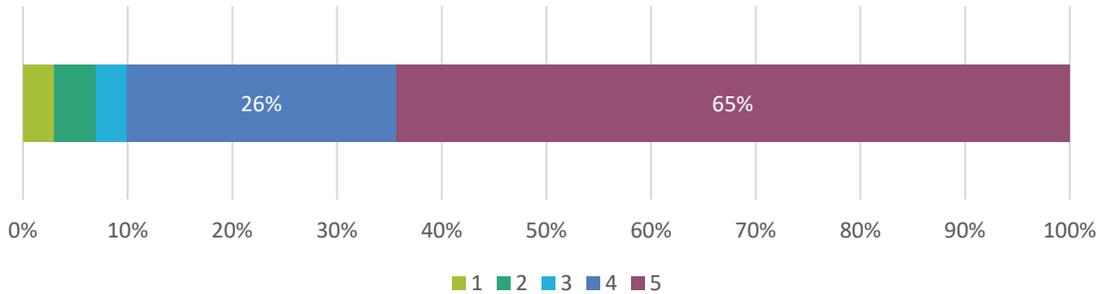


### Lake Tye, Cadman Site, and the Riverfront

For the following three figures, respondents were asked to rate how exciting certain improvements and ideas were to them on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being 'Not Very Exciting' and 5 being 'Exciting!'.

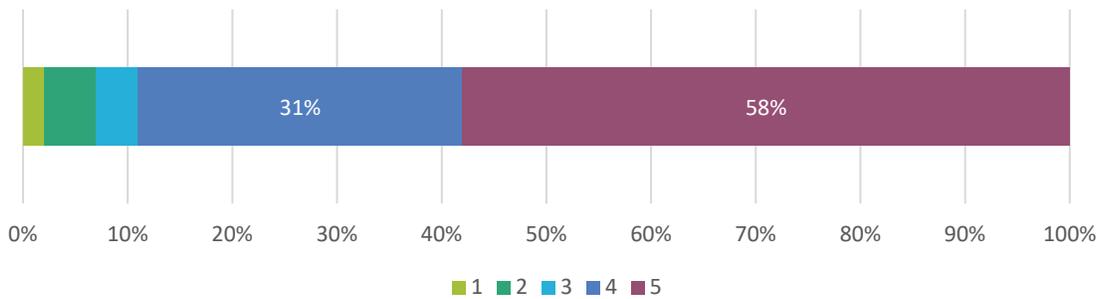
An existing city park, Lake Tye underwent a master planning process in 2018. Improvements identified under the plan included a splash pad/water play area, picnic plaza, accessible beach, as well as a loop trail with boardwalk, fishing stops and lake edge access. Respondents indicated that they still found these improvements to be exciting with around 91% giving 4's and 5's and an average rating of 4.46.

**Figure B-11: How exciting are the planned improvements for Lake Tye Park?**



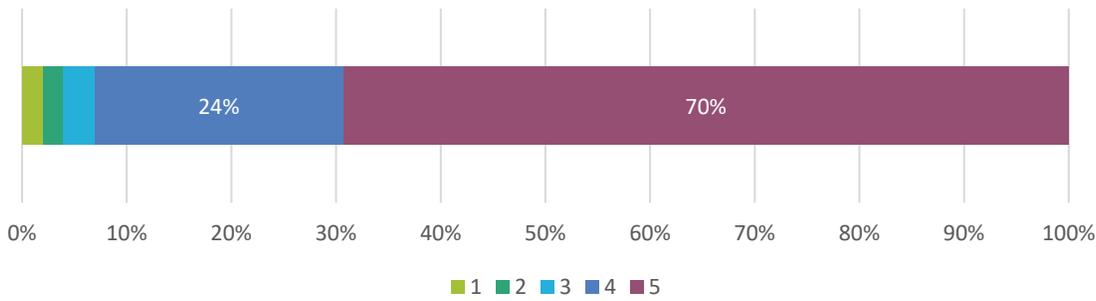
Similar to Lake Tye, Cadman Site, a future city park, also underwent a master planning process in 2018. Improvements for the Cadman Site include a camping area, hand-carry boat launch, loop trails, boardwalk and a climbing/zipline or ropes area. Respondents also reported still finding these previously identified improvements exciting with around 89% giving 4's and 5's and an average rating of 4.39.

**Figure B-12: How exciting are the planned improvements for Cadman Site?**



While no specific improvements or master planning efforts have been completed for this, respondents were also asked how exciting a linked riverfront would be. Overall respondents found this idea very exciting, with 94% giving 4's and 5's and an average rating of 4.58.

**Figure B-13: How exciting would a linked “riverfront” be?**

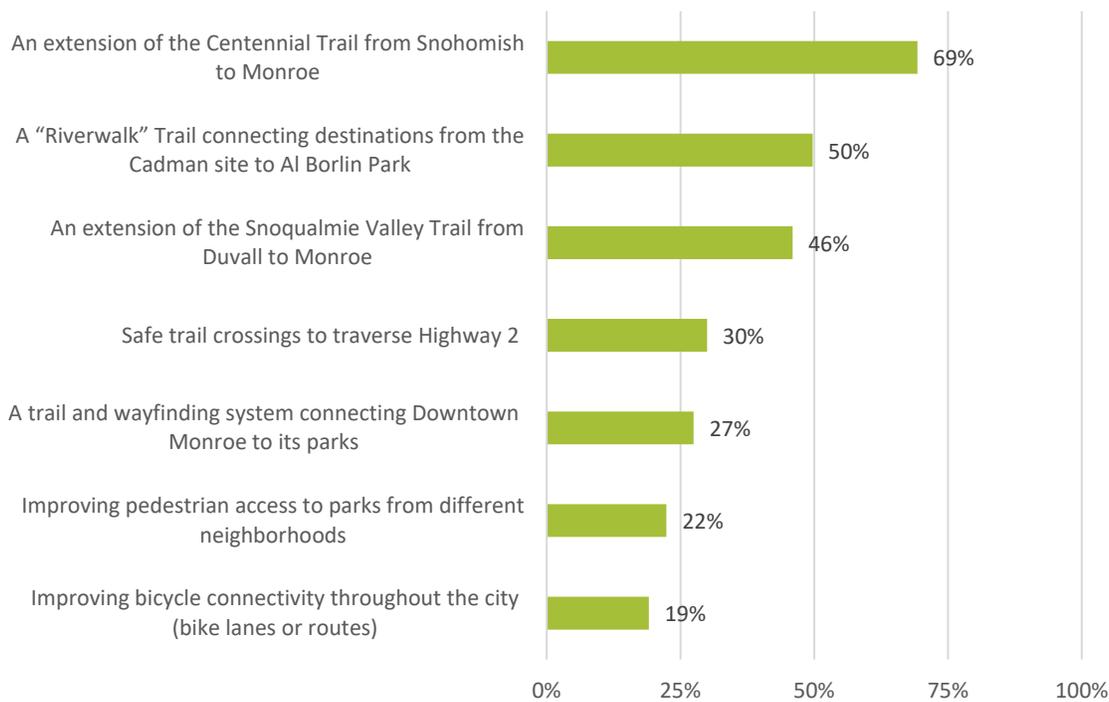


## TRAIL CONNECTIONS

With the understanding that the City can work with partners to develop various trails in or near the City, a large portion of respondents felt that an extension of the Centennial Trail from Snohomish to Monroe was the most important trail connection. Respondents also chose a “Riverwalk” Trail connecting destinations from the Cadman site to Al Borlin Park and an extension of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail from Duvall to Monroe.

**Figure B-14: Important Trail Connections**

How important are each of these trail connections to you?

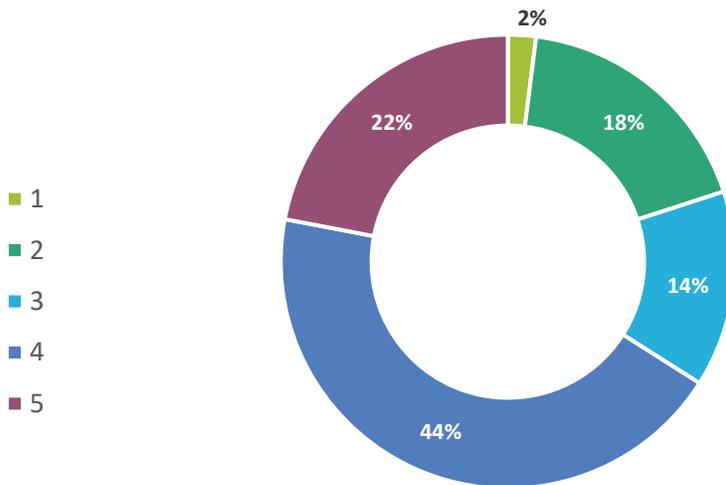


## PROGRAMMING

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the mix and availability of both special events and organized recreation programming in Monroe on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being very unsatisfied and 5 very satisfied. Respondents are slightly more satisfied with the availability and mix of special events such as music in the park, annual fishing derby, and fun runs, which received an average score of 3.65. Respondents felt similarly about organized recreation programs, activities, leagues, camps, and classes, which received a slightly smaller average score of 3.35.

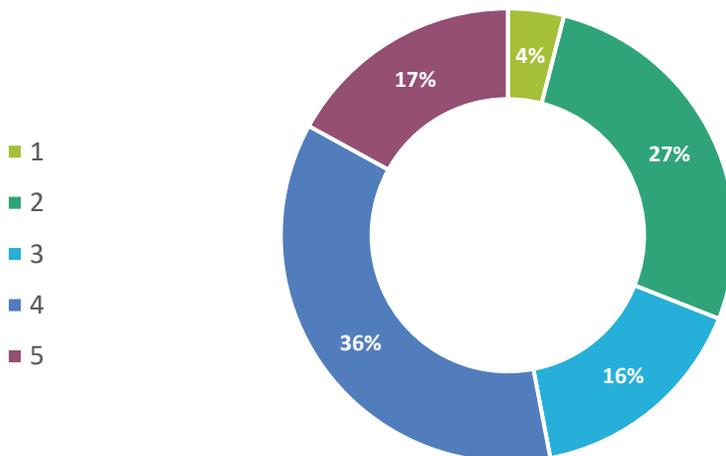
**Figure B-15: Special Events**

Special events such as music in the park, annual fishing derby, and fun runs



**Figure B-16: Organized Recreation Programming**

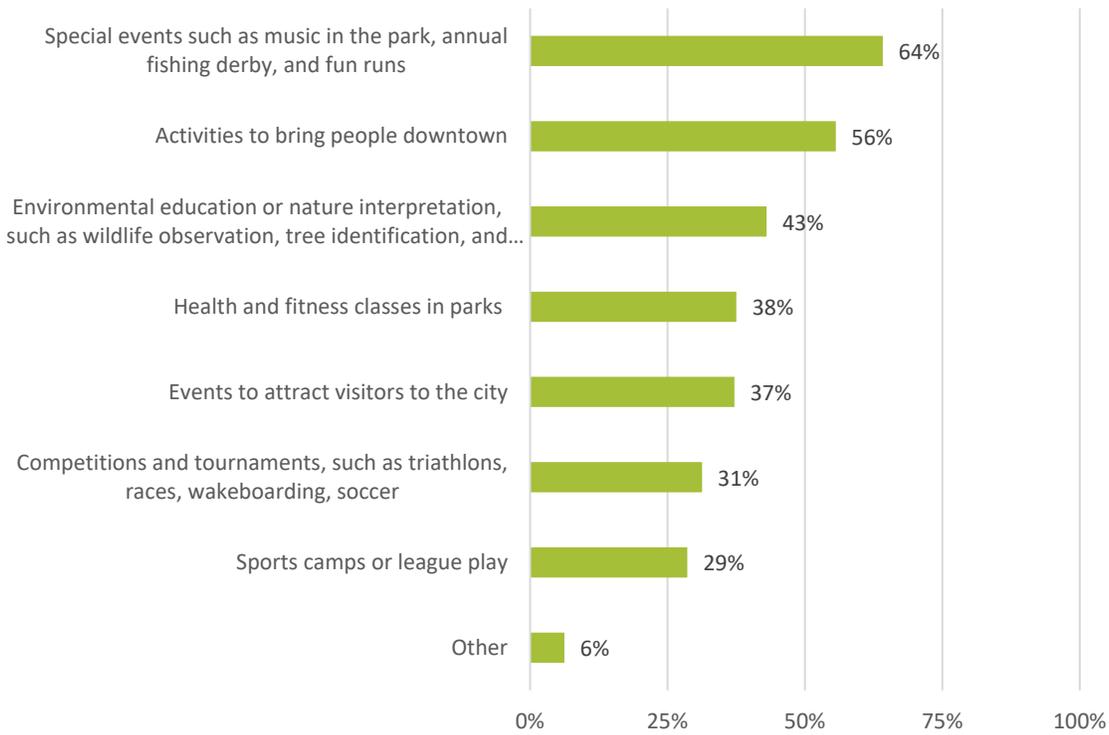
Organized recreation programs, activities, leagues, camps, and classes



Respondents strongly supported expanding special events in Monroe as well as activities that would bring people downtown.

**Figure B-17: New or Expanded Programming and Events**

What types of programs and events should be added or expanded in Monroe?  
Check all that apply.



## FUNDING

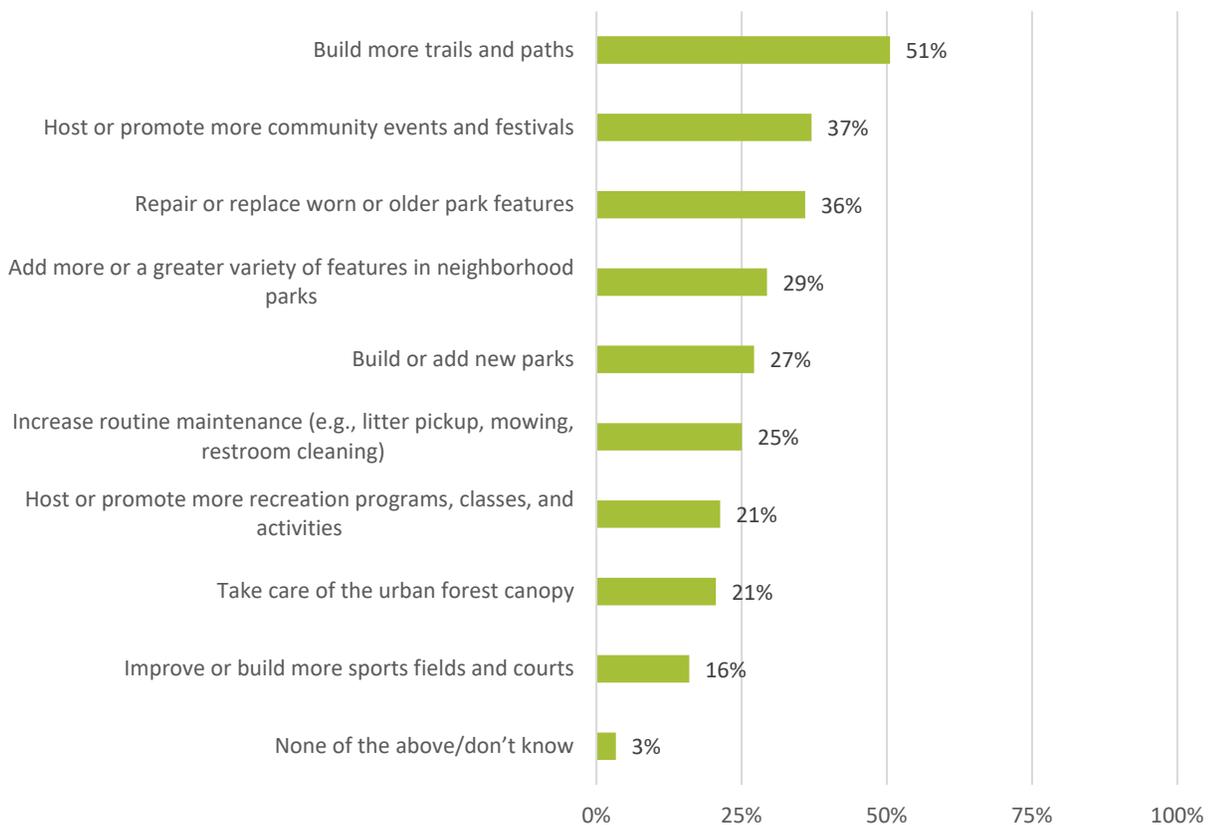
Several questions focused on funding, asking what the top funding priorities should be, whether the level of funding should change, and the use of a bond measure as a potential funding mechanism.

### Funding Priorities

In keeping with the desire for more trails and paths seen in other question results, respondents felt that building more trails and paths should be the City's top priority. Respondents also identified hosting or promoting more community events and festivals and repairing or replacing worn/old park features as other funding priorities.

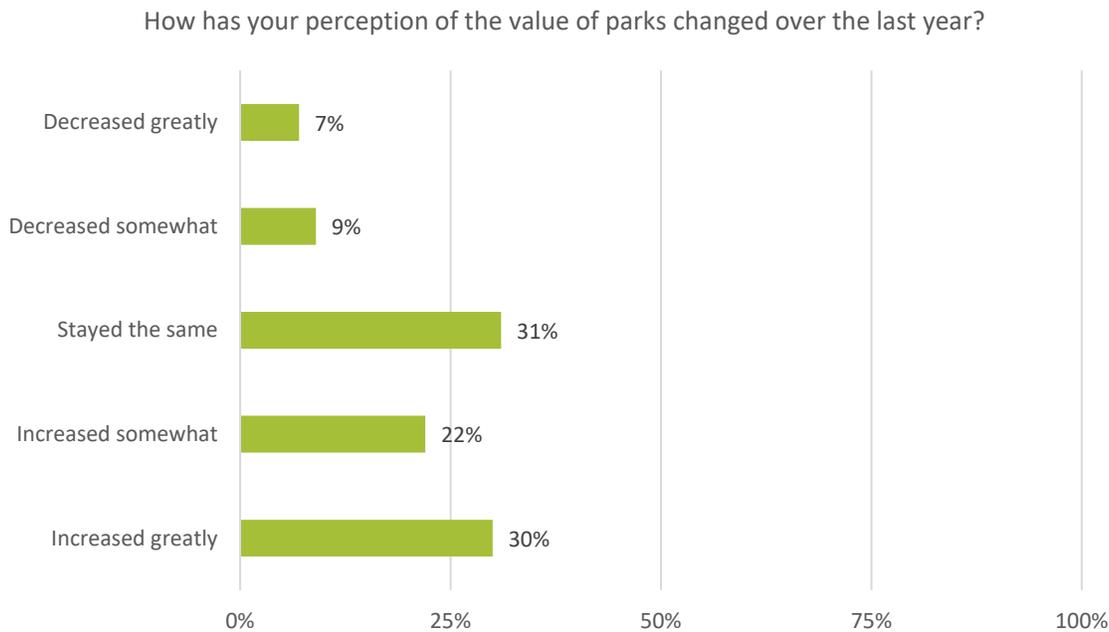
**Figure B-18: Top Funding Priorities**

If the City had more money to invest in parks and recreation, which of the following should be our top priorities? Check your top 3.



COVID-19 appears to have affected respondents' value of parks in the last year. While a third of respondents reported that their value of parks had stayed the same, over half felt that it had increased on some level.

**Figure B-19: Perception of Park Value**



As a follow-up question to how their perception may have changed, respondents were also asked whether funding should change. A majority (76%) thought that funding should increase, although most felt that funding should increase somewhat, compared to increasing greatly. Few respondents reported that funding should decrease.

**Figure B-20: Should parks funding change to reflect your value of parks?**

**26%** Increase greatly.

**50%** Increase somewhat.

**20%** Stay the same.

**2%** Decrease somewhat.

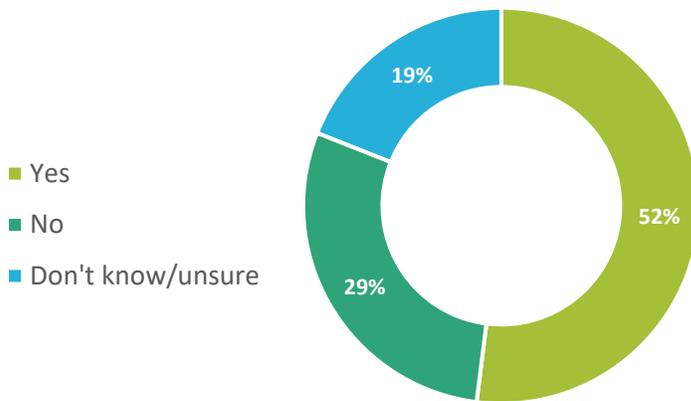
**1%** Decrease greatly.

## Funding Mechanisms

Slightly more than half of respondents indicated that they would be willing to support a bond measure to improve the parks system in the future and about a fifth said that they didn't know or were unsure whether they would support it (Figure 18). In a follow-up question, respondents were asked how likely they were to support a bond measure with certain property tax increases based on the rate for a home with a \$500,000 assessed value (Figure 19). Respondents most strongly supported a \$50 increase, with \$75 still receiving a significant amount of support. As the amount increased to \$100, respondents were more divided in their support with around the same number responding, 'Strongly Oppose' as did 'Strongly Support'. At \$150, a third of respondents answered, 'Strongly Oppose'.

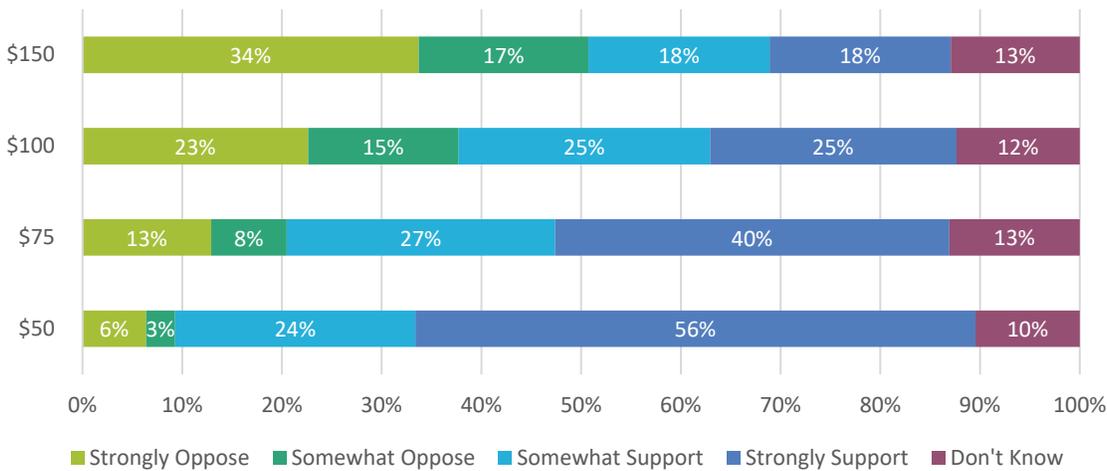
**Figure B-21: Bond Measure Support**

Would you be willing to support a bond measure to improve the park system in the future?



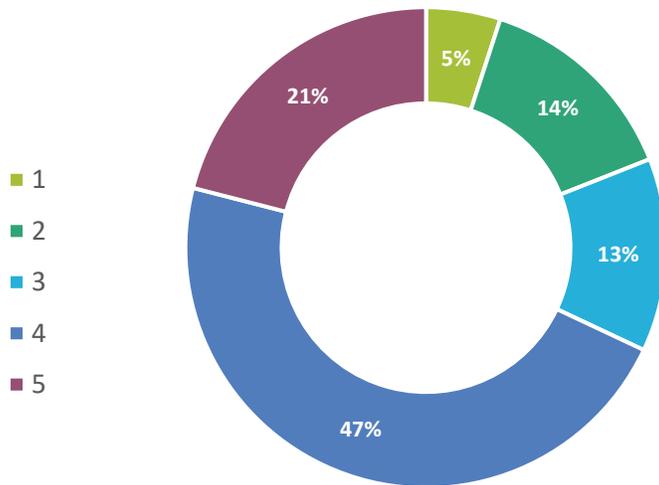
**Figure B-22: Support for Specific Measures**

Property Tax Increase Bond Measure



The questionnaire also asked respondents what reason for continuing to invest in the future of Monroe's parks resonated the most with them. Respondents rated each reason on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being 'Least Persuasive' and 5 being 'Most Persuasive'. Overall respondents felt that 'Great parks and trails ensure that Monroe is a healthy, active, livable community' the most persuasive reason. Respondents indicated that 'Investing in parks preserved what is best about Monroe' was the least persuasive reason, with the other reasons falling somewhere in between the two.

**Figure B-23: Investing in parks preserves what is best about Monroe.**



**Figure B-24: Great parks and trails ensure that Monroe is a healthy, active, livable community.**

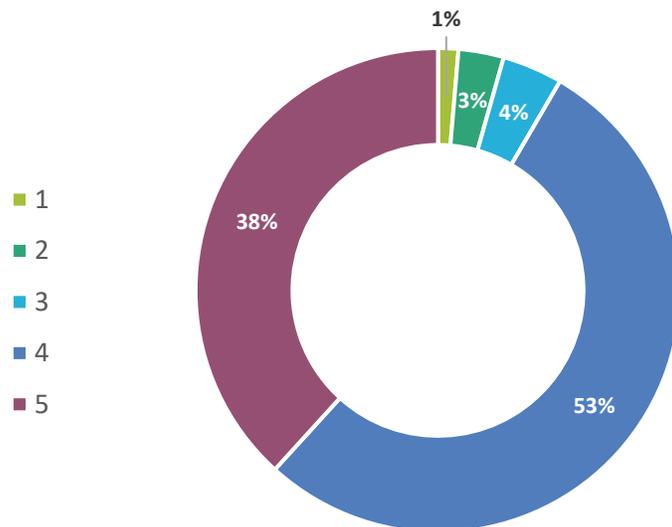


Figure B-25: For Families, we have to invest in Monroe’s parks, playgrounds, and sports fields.

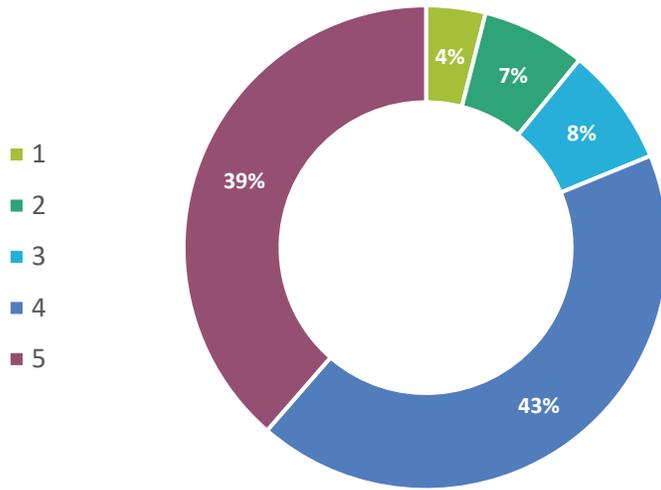
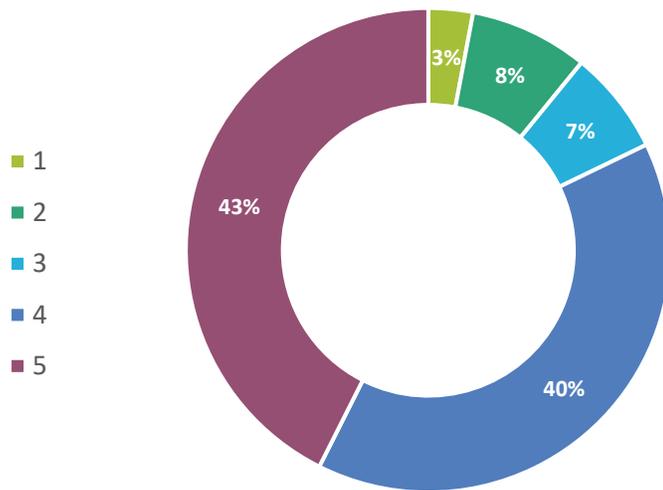
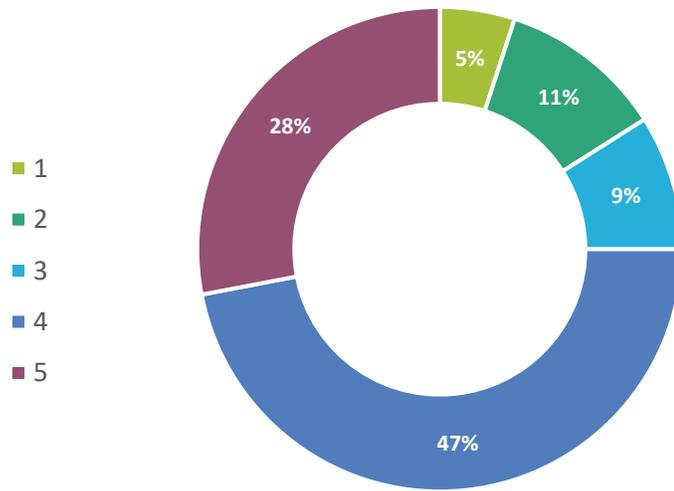


Figure B-26: It’s important to protect our natural resources and ensure access to the Skykomish River.



**Figure B-27: Unique events and facilities are critical to attract residents and visitors and support the economic vitality of our community.**



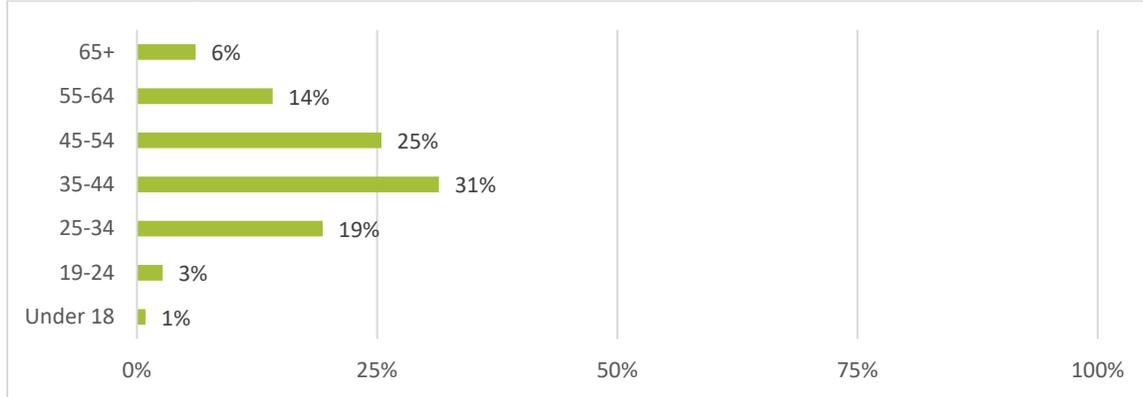
### **OTHER INPUT**

Several questions allowed people to write-in responses. All write-in comments are included as Appendix B. Many write-in comments related to safety and security concerns in parks, particularly Al Borlin. Other comments requested low fencing around playgrounds, a dog park, equestrian trails, a bike pump track, more accessible parks and recreation facilities, and other elements and amenities.

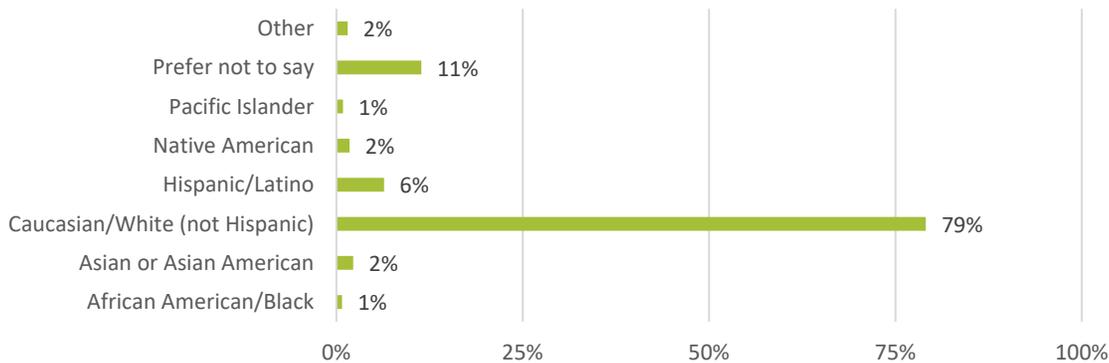
## Demographics

The following questions were optional. Most respondents to the Survey were Monroe residents with a zip code of 98272. Those surveyed were predominately people aged 35-54 who identify as Caucasian/White. More women responded to the questionnaire than men and respondents were roughly equal in numbers of those who had children under the age of 18 living in their household versus those that did not.

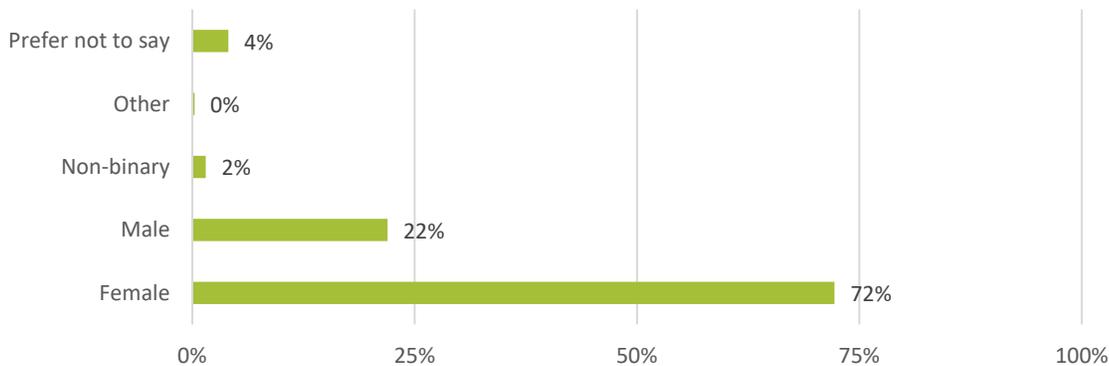
**Figure B-28: Age**



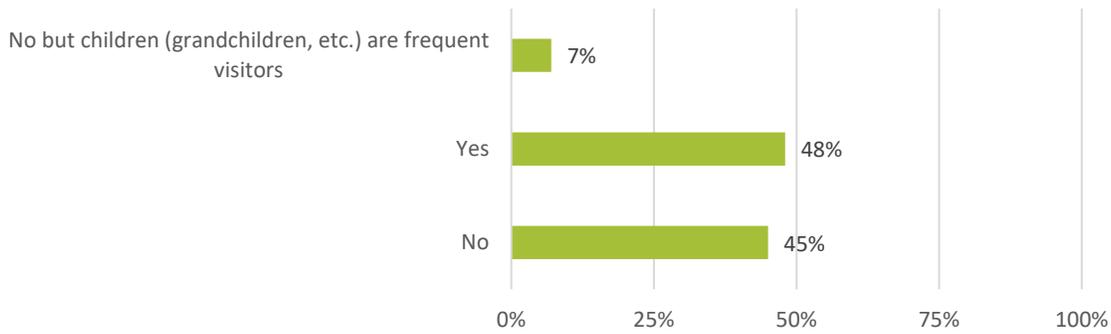
**Figure B-29: Ethnic Identity**



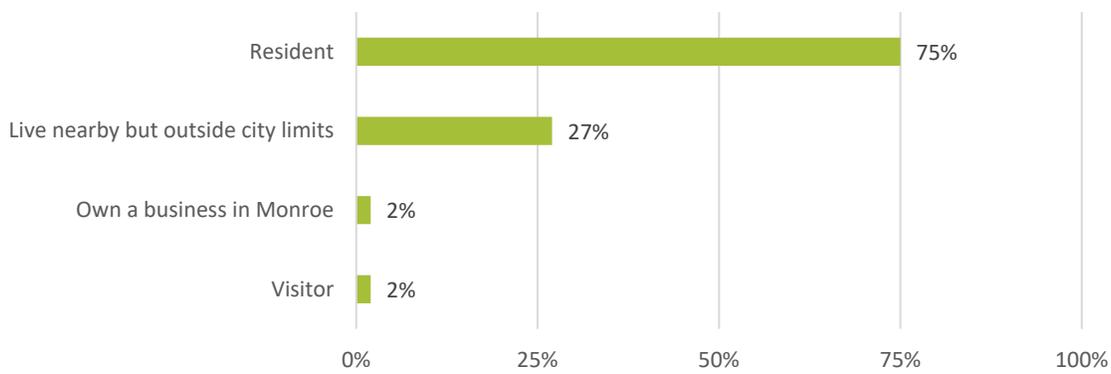
**Figure B-30: Gender Identity**



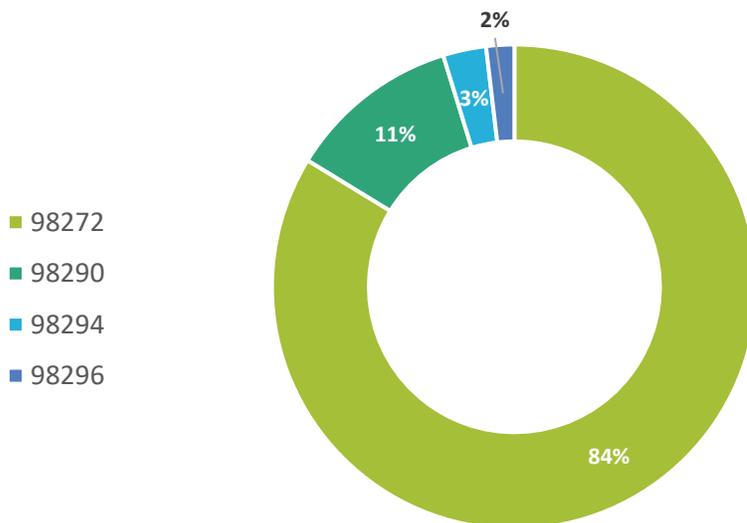
**Figure B-31: Children in the Household**



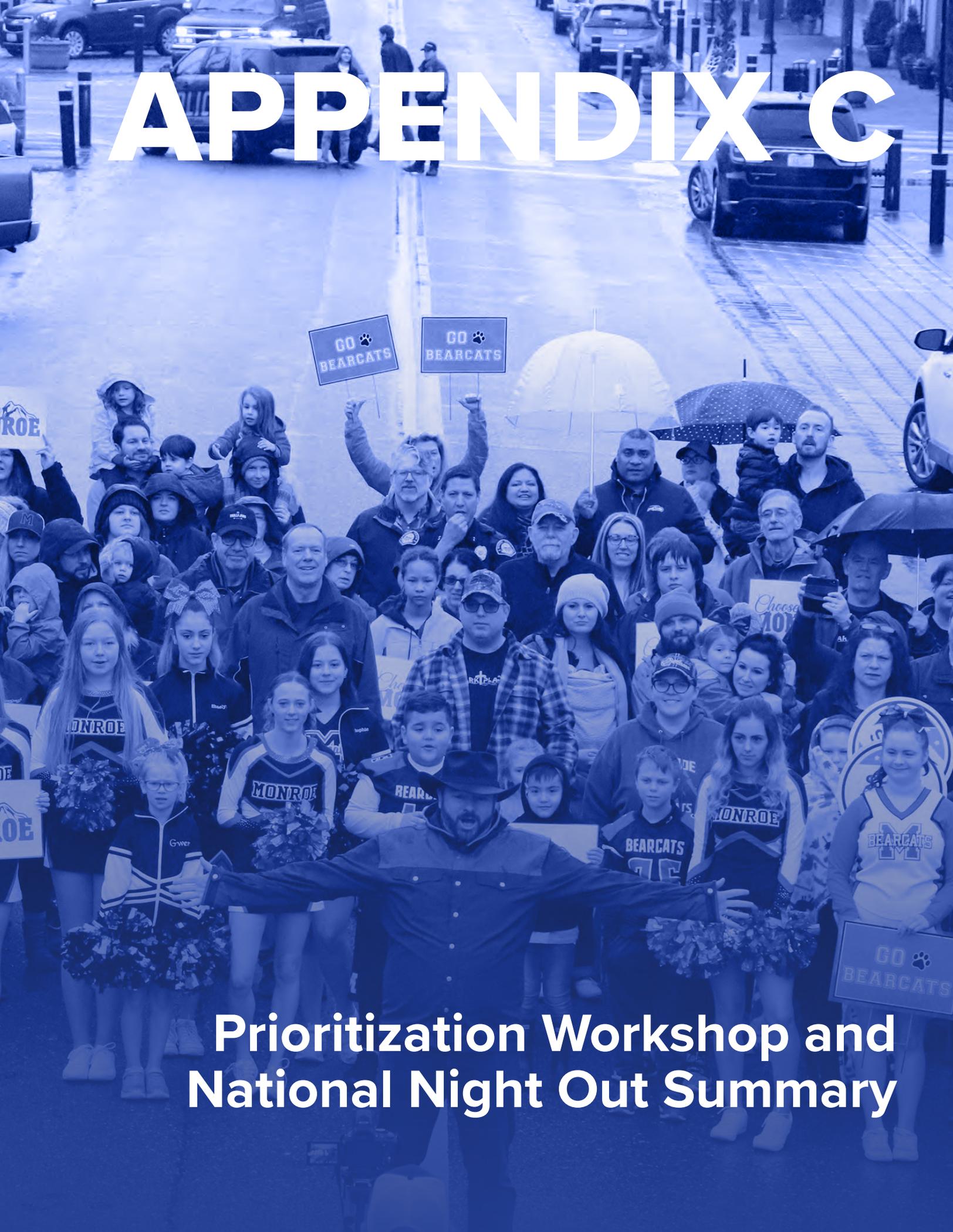
**Figure B-32: Relationship to Monroe**



**Figure B-33: Top 5 Respondent Zip Codes**



# APPENDIX C



## Prioritization Workshop and National Night Out Summary

## Appendix C: Prioritization Workshop and National Night Out Summary

A Parks Prioritization Workshop was held on July 29th, 2021, as part of the City's Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan update. The goal at this meeting was to gather the opinions of various members of the community to understand the needs and priorities of Monroe's park users and reflect them in the future planning. Among those in attendance were government officials, including the Mayor and some Council members, members of the Monroe/Sky Valley Family YMCA and Monroe School District, as well as Monroe residents who live there with their families.

At the start of the meeting, MIG's Director of Parks + Recreation, Cindy Mendoza, gave a PowerPoint presentation on highlights from the PROS Plan including its vision, goals, recommendations along with key results of the online questionnaire. MIG then facilitated a discussion of the participants' thoughts on what they believed Monroe's greatest needs and opportunities were. This was followed by a series of polls to quantify the diverse responses. The discussion and the poll were recorded using Jamboard, a digital interactive whiteboard, and participants were able to see their ideas and comments added to whiteboard pages during the meeting.

To ensure broader public engagement, City staff took the same questions to National Night Out 2021 event, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. On the event date of August 3rd, 2021, display boards with the survey questions were set up at Lake Tye Park, and residents were encouraged to respond to questions using stickers to indicate their answers.

This Appendix presents the combined survey results from the two activities.

The majority of participants agreed that *Keeping parks clean and green* is the greatest challenge for Monroe Parks, followed by *Offering a variety of recreation activities to make parks more interesting*. Among the five goals for the park system identified by the Master Plan, *Vibrant Riverfront* was considered as the top priority and *Outdoor Recreation Hub* came next.

When asked to choose one park investment to see happen first, about 55% of respondents ranked *Connecting people to Monroe's riverfront* as the most critical improvement. They also agreed that the city should invest in maintenance more than it does now to increase care for park assets, landscaping, and natural resources. Regarding their favorite activities, *New ways to get active in the outdoors* came first, followed by *Walking, biking, jogging and more on trails*. For the specific park amenities, many participants showed their preference of *Zipline and Spray/Play Fountain*. Attached is the detailed result of the survey.

1. What is the most pressing challenge in Monroe's Parks?	National Night Out	Townhall	Total	Percentage
Keeping parks clean and green	35	2	37	43.5%
Offering a variety of recreation activities to make parks more interesting	21	1	22	25.9%
Having enough parks to serve the whole town	9	2	11	12.9%
Ensuring park safety	10	0	10	11.8%
Providing park opportunities for Monroe residents and visitors	3	2	5	5.9%
Total	78	7	85	

2. Among the five goals from the Master Plan, Which ONE is most important to YOU?	National Night Out	Townhall	Total	Percentage
Vibrant riverfront	27	0	27	29.7%
Outdoor recreation hub	19	2	21	23.1%
Well-stewarded parks	14	3	17	18.7%
Park access	11	2	13	14.3%
Connectivity	12	1	13	14.3%
Total	83	8	91	

3. Which ONE bigger investment would you like to see happen FIRST to expand recreation opportunities?	National Night Out	Townhall	Total	Percentage
Connecting people to Monroe's riverfront, including trails and improvements	35	3	38	55.1%
Enhancing Lake Tye Park as an outdoor recreation hub	14	2	16	23.2%
Developing a new urban plaza along Tjerne Place	13	2	15	21.7%
Total	62	7	69	

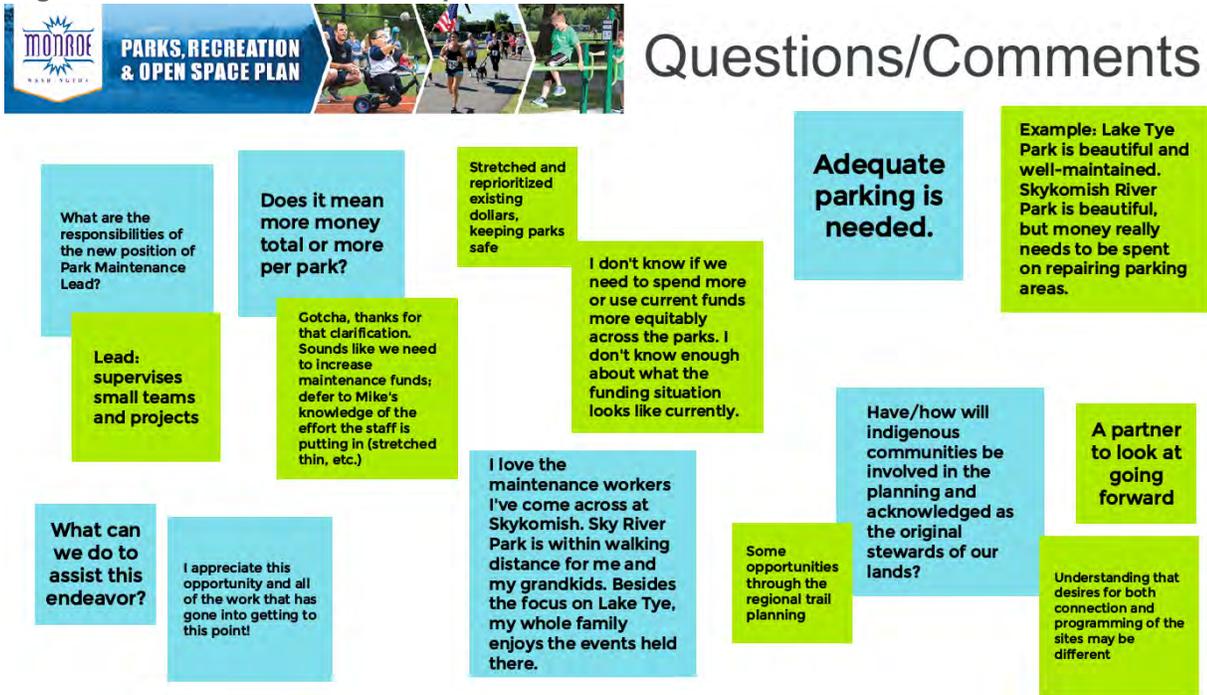
4. For each new park, how much should the City invest in maintenance?	National Night Out	Townhall	Total	Percentage
More than we spend now to increase care for our assets, landscaping, and natural resources	36	4	40	80%
About the same as we spend now	8	2	10	20%
Total	44	6	50	

5. Which ONE of the following activities is MOST important to YOU?	National Night Out	Townhall	Total	Percentage
New ways to get active in the outdoors	35	0	35	30.2%
Walking, biking, jogging and more on trails	27	1	28	24.1%
Relaxing and playing in parks	19	2	21	18.1%
Large events that draw visitors and people from all over town	14	2	16	13.8%
Enjoying and connecting to nature	14	2	16	13.8%
Total	109	7	116	

6. The PROS Plan recommends several park amenities. Which of the following are priorities to build?	National Night Out	Townhall	Total	Percentage
Zipline	53	1	54	16.8%
Spray/Play Fountain	48	5	53	16.5%
Dog Park	33	0	33	10.2%
Climbing Wall	26	4	30	9.3%
Developed Beach Swimming Area	19	3	22	6.8%
Canoe and kayak Launch / Rentals	19	2	21	6.5%
Mountain Bike Loop Trails	16	5	21	6.5%
Pickleball Court *	16	0	16	5.0%
Unique playground	13	3	16	5.0%
Bike pump Track or Bike Skills Course	13	2	15	4.7%
Interpretive Nature Trails	11	2	13	4.0%
Community Garden	9	2	11	3.4%
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	9	0	9	2.8%
Disc Golf Course	8	0	8	2.5%
Total	293	29	322	

\* At the National Night Out event, 55 stickers were placed on pickleball. Many of the extra "votes" were from a few people who wanted to emphasize the importance of providing pickleball courts in Monroe.

Figure C-1: Prioritization Workshop Jamboard Results



1. What is the most pressing challenge in Monroe's parks?

Keeping parks clean and green	29%
Having enough parks to serve the whole town	29%
Ensuring the safety of park visitors	0%
Offering a variety of recreation activities to make parks more interesting	14%
Providing park opportunities for Monroe residents and visitors	29%



2. The Master Plan identified five goals for the park system. All of these are important to the community.

Which ONE is most important to YOU?

WELL-STEWARDED PARKS: Manage, maintain, and revitalize parks, facilities, and natural resources to support safe, attractive and engaging recreation space and green space. **38%**

VIBRANT WATERFRONT: Enhance parks, recreation amenities, and trails along the Skykomish River to create a riverfront system that supports local use and recreation tourism. **0%**

OUTDOOR RECREATION HUB: Provide unique recreational amenities that attract residents and visitors to Monroe's outdoor activities, programs and events. **25%**

PARK ACCESS: Develop parks and minimize barriers to ensure residents have equitable access to recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance from home. **25%**

CONNECTIVITY: Provide an interconnected network of multi-use trails, walkways and bikeways connecting city and regional destinations. **13%**



3. Which ONE bigger investment would you like to see happen FIRST to expand recreation opportunities?

Connecting people to Monroe's riverfront, including trails and improvements to Al Borlin Park and the Cadman site **43%**

Enhancing Lake Tye Park as an outdoor recreation hub **29%**

Developing a new urban plaza along Tjerne Place to support community gatherings and local businesses **29%**



4. Many parks will be able to support new activities. Which ONE of the following activities is MOST important to YOU?

Large events that draw visitors and people from all over town	29%
Walking, biking, jogging and more on trails	14%
Enjoying and connecting to nature	29%
New ways to get active in the outdoors	%
Relaxing and playing in parks	29%

It also depends on the options offered next to that choice.



5. For each new park, how much should the City invest in maintenance?

ABOUT THE SAME as we spend now	33%
MORE than we spend now to increase care for our assets, landscaping, and natural resources.	67%



6. The PROS Plan recommends several new types of park amenities.

Which of the following are priorities to build? (Name your top 3 in the chat).

- |  |   |                               |   |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|
| a. Unique playground                     | 4 | i. Mountain bike loop trails  | 5 |
| b. Spray/play fountain                   | 5 | j. Interpretive nature trails | 2 |
| c. Climbing wall                         | 4 | k. Dog park                   |   |
| d. Zip line                              | 1 | l. Disc golf course           |   |
| e. Outdoor fitness equipment             |   | m. Community garden           | 2 |
| f. Canoe and kayak launch/rentals        |   | n. Pickleball court           |   |
| g. Developed beach swimming area         | 3 | o. Soccer field               | 1 |
| h. Bike pump track or bike skills course | 2 |                               |   |

would be helpful to have expert recommendation as far as time, cost and feasibility of each/combo. Top three vote encourages "bigger" projects, even smaller things like exercise equipment could add

Figure C-2: Survey Results from National Night Out Event

**What is the most pressing challenge in Monroe's parks? (Choose one.)**

Keeping parks clean and green	Having enough parks to serve the whole town	Ensuring park safety
35	9	10
		
Offering a variety of recreation activities to make parks more interesting	Providing park opportunities for Monroe residents and visitors	Additional comments (write on sticky note)
21	3	
		

**The Master Plan identified five goals for the park system. All of these are important to the community. Which ONE is most important to YOU?**

WELL-STEWARDED PARKS: Manage, Maintain, and revitalize parks, facilities, and natural resources to support safe, attractive and engaging recreation space and green space.	VIBRANT RIVERFRONT: Enhance parks, recreation amenities, and trails along the Skykomish River to create a riverfront system that supports local use and recreation tourism.	OUTDOOR RECREATION HUB: Provide unique recreational amenities that attract residents and visitors to Monroe's outdoor activities, programs and events.
14	27	19
		
PARK ACCESS: Develop parks and minimize barriers to ensure residents have equitable access to recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance from home.	CONNECTIVITY: Provide an interconnected network of multi-use trails, walkways and bikeways connecting city and regional destinations.	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: (write on a sticky note)
11	12	8 (NO COMMENTS RECEIVED)
		

Some existing amenities in parks are older, worn, and in need of replacement. Some areas of the city, such as North Hill, are growing and will need new neighborhood parks. City staff will prioritize these critical park improvements, including playground replacements.

Beyond these critical projects, which ONE bigger investment would you like to see happen FIRST to expand recreation opportunities?

Connecting people to Monroe's riverfront, including trails and improvements to Al Borlin Park and the Cadman site	Enhancing Lake Tye Park as an outdoor recreation hub	Developing a new urban plaza along Tjerne Place to support community gatherings and local businesses
35	14	13

Monroe is adding more parks and will need more funding to keep all parks clean, safe, and fun.

For each new park, how much should the City invest in maintenance?

ABOUT THE SAME as we spend now.	MORE than we spend now to increase care for our assets, landscaping, and natural resources.	Additional comments (write on sticky note)
8	36	

Many parks will be able to support new activities. Which ONE of the following activities is MOST important to YOU?

Large events that draw visitors and people from all over town	Walking, biking, jogging and more on trails	Enjoying and connecting to nature
14	27	14
		
New ways to get active in the outdoors	Relaxing and playing in parks	Additional comments (write on sticky note)
35	19	1 PEOPLE WALKING CATS ON LEASHES IS A GROWING TREND. HELP US STAY SAFE.
		

The PROS Plan recommends several new types of park amenities. Which of the following are priorities to build? (Choose your top 3).

Unique Playground	Spray/Play Fountain	Climbing Wall	Zipline
13	48	26	53

Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Canoe and Kayak Launch/Rentals	Developed Beach Swimming Area	Bike Pump Track or Bike Skills Course
9	19	19	13

Mountain Bike Loop Trails	Interpretive Nature Trails	Dog Park	Disc Golf Course
16	11	33	8

Community Garden	Pickleball Court	Additional Comments (write on a sticky note)
9	55 (OBSERVED HEAVY OVERVOTING BY A GROUP OF 3 MULTIPLE VOTES)	7 (NO COMMENTS RECEIVED)

# APPENDIX D



## Site Improvement Needs

## Appendix D: Site Improvement Needs

Monroe's park system is expertly maintained. As parks age, their facilities need repair and replacement to ensure safe, usable park features.

On-site observations and photo documentation of parks were used to develop condition assessment findings and a preliminary list of potential opportunities for improvements that will reinvigorate these parks. This Appendix describes renovation needs in four categories:

- **Deferred Maintenance Needs:** As budget impacts have reduced the numbers of maintenance staff in Monroe, a few sites need improvements that have been delayed until funding is available. These facilities or sites need immediate improvements.
- **Enhancements at Developer-Built Parks:** Several small neighborhood parks, built by developers from the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s, feel generic, dated, and underutilized. Despite their small size, there are opportunities to make small interventions that reinvigorate these spaces, making them unique and tailored for use by nearby neighbors.
- **Asset management:** As facilities age and wear from use, they need regular repair or replacement at the end of their lifecycle. The asset management and replacement needs of playgrounds and sports courts are noted, including some key trends for their replacement.
- **Accessibility Improvements:** When parks and facilities are renovated, they need to adhere to current requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The type of ADA improvements needed are noted.

### Deferred Maintenance Needs

Many of Monroe's parks were constructed in the period between 1990 and the mid-2000s, when the City experienced significant residential growth. This means that long-term maintenance obligations at many sites have recently surfaced or will do so shortly as these park assets enter their twilight years. As but one example, parks that utilize engineered wood fiber (EWF) as play surfacing need replacement or topping-off. Through time, the EWF has lost volume through compression and use. This has resulted in a reduction of accessibility and safety. Other deferred maintenance needs, such as pavement mending and painting, are most needed at Stanton Meadows Park and Currie View Park.



## Enhancement of Developer-Built Neighborhood Parks

### BLUEBERRY CHILDREN'S PARK

Constructed in 1990 and located within a multi-family community, Blueberry Children's Park would benefit greatly from an expansion of play equipment (existing equipment updated in 2009), updated benches and tables, and overall improvements in accessibility.



### CEDAR GROVE PARK

Constructed in 1998, Cedar Grove Park would benefit greatly from an update of play equipment and accessibility.



### CURRIE VIEW PARK

Constructed in 1994, Currie View Park would benefit from a play equipment update with relocation closer to parking and repaving of the existing sport court.



### HILLCREST PARK

Constructed in 2004, Hillcrest Park is one of Monroe's more recent developer-built park. It is in less need of updating but would benefit from an expansion of programming.

### **PARK MEADOWS PARK**

Constructed in 1998, Park Meadows Park would benefit greatly from an updating of play equipment, tables, pavement, and the addition of bench seating.



### **RAINIER VIEW PARK**

Constructed in 2004, Rainier View Park is one of Monroe’s more recent developer-built park. Its play equipment is newer and more diverse than other Monroe neighborhood parks. Accessibility improvements to seating and picnic areas is the most needed improvement here.



### **STANTON MEADOWS PARK**

Constructed in 1999, Stanton Meadows Park needs improvements to play equipment, accessibility to play, picnic tables, BBQs, and concrete pavement.



## WALES STREET PARK

Constructed in 1995, Wales Street Park (also known as Fryelands Park) is in need of play equipment updating, accessibility to play and picnic areas, and sport court pavement repairs/replacement.



## RAMBLEWOOD TOT LOT

Constructed in 2003, Ramblewood Tot Lot needs updated play equipment, benches, table, and increased accessibility to all park elements.



## Asset Management

Playgrounds and sports facilities replacement needs are noted below, along with trends that may affect their renovation or replacement.

### PLAYGROUNDS

Most types of play equipment need to be replaced in 15–20-year cycles. The following sites are anticipated to need replacement in the short-term (approximately the next 6 years). Eight of these were included in the proposed bond measure to fund capital projects.

- Blueberry Children's Park
- Cedar Grove Park
- Wales Street Park
- Park Meadows Park
- Stanton Meadows Park
- Currie View Park
- Hillcrest Park
- Rainier View Park
- Ramblewood Tot Lot
- Wales Street

When renovating and developing play areas, there is an opportunity to address the following new trends and needs in play.

- *Universal, All-Inclusive Play Area:* Universal, accessible play areas are important for providing play options for children of all abilities, including those with special needs. Trends favor mixing accessible play elements with challenge features to provide an all-inclusive play space in community parks for children of mixed ages and differing abilities. Smaller accessible play elements can also be integrated into a smaller playground with more traditional play features.
- *Nature Play Features:* In contrast to standard post and platform manufactured play equipment, natural play elements such as steppingstones, climbing boulders, logs, sand/dirt areas for digging, etc., integrate a more creative type of play environment. Play areas may integrate plant materials, trees and shrubs to provide opportunities to hide and explore.
- *Child and Youth Development:* Well-designed, well-managed play environments provide children with developmental opportunities for physical activity and motor skill development, decision making, learning, dramatic play, social development, and fun. Play areas should provide a mix of features and equipment to achieve this.
- *Play for All Ages:* While play equipment typically is designed for age groups 2-5 and 5-12, research shows that play provides benefits for all ages. Trends favor integrating multi-generational play places with parent-child opportunities, challenge options for teens and young adults, and elements that support playful interactions for all ages.
- *Themed elements:* Thematic equipment can be integrated to create unique play opportunities. However, these themes must closely match developmental stages to be interesting to children of various ages, and over time, children may tire of these play settings. For most ages, the more abstract the theme representation, the more imagination that comes into play activities. Ideally a theme is built on the site's features and surroundings, creating a sense of place and unique park identity. For example, a play area surrounded by evergreen trees may inspire a treehouse theme, or one adjacent to farmland could have an agricultural theme.
- *Manipulative Settings:* Play elements that allow children to alter their environment are more engaging and support child development. Manipulative settings include elements such as sand and water play areas, "diggers" that allow children to dig up sand or pea gravel, leaves and sticks for fort building, and more extensive adventure play areas.





- *Sand and Water Features:* Sand and water play encourages creativity and cooperation. Because the child is in charge of the experience, it is also highly inclusive, catering to a range of abilities. Water is a powerful play area attractor, as children, who value its multi-sensory character, seldom miss a chance to play with and in water. Both sand and water add to maintenance requirements for play areas, and in windy environments, sand should be carefully placed so that it does not blow across paths or safety surfacing and increase slipping. Instead of running water, best practices in water play include providing hand pumps and water channels, or participant-activated water features that operate on a short timer.
- *Shade:* Shade structures, shade sails, and/or shade trees minimize play elements that are hot to touch, prevent sunburn and support cooling of play participants, and may add visual interest to play areas.
- *Park Activity Stations:* Given the benefits of play for all ages, many cities are integrating play stations along trails, in natural areas, and in various park locations to encourage and diversify play. These may be permanent features or temporary. Examples include (and should be suited to the location and character of the site):
  - Outdoor games (e.g., outdoor ping pong, giant-size Jenga or chess, cornhole, game tables, putting green)

- Par course elements or outdoor fitness equipment
- Musical play instruments
- Interactive interpretive/discovery stations or “thinkscape” features (puzzle walls, interactive signs)
- Climbable rocks or sculptures
- Sidewalk and trail paintings (e.g., hopscotch)
- Nature viewpoints (platform, interpretive feature, bird blind, ear trumpets, viewers, etc.)

## SPORT COURTS

- Currie View Park - Basketball Courts
- Wales Street Park – Basketball Court
- Hillcrest Park – Basketball Court
- Lake Tye Park – Tennis and Basketball Courts

When renovating developing sports courts, there is an opportunity to address the following new trends in sports.

- *Diverse Types of Courts:* Cities are exploring the development of a greater variety of courts including futsal, pickleball, badminton, shuffleboard and bocce, along with the traditional variety of basketball, tennis, volleyball courts.
- *Active Recreation in Every Neighborhood:* The current emphasis on health and wellness reminds communities of the importance of active recreation and fitness. Current guidelines for neighborhood parks typically include some type of active recreation element for nearby neighbors, such as sports fields, courts, and outdoor fitness equipment.
- *Multi-Use / Overlays:* Especially in smaller parks, agencies may integrate multi-use sports courts to provide a greater variety of sport options in a smaller footprint. For example, courts may be striped jointly for tennis and pickleball, with a single basketball hoop on one end for half-court play. These configurations are typically found in neighborhood parks, rather than higher-use community parks because they create conflicting user needs.



## Accessibility Improvements

The following sites will need accessibility improvements when renovated:

- Cedar Grove Park
- Stanton Meadows Park
- Wales Street Park
- Park Meadows Park
- Blueberry Children's Park
- Ramblewood Tot Lot
- Currie View Park
- Rainier View Park

The City should pay close attention to needs for the following types of ADA improvements that were observed in City parks:

- *Accessible paths of circulation:* At least one accessible route shall be provided within the site from accessible parking spaces and accessible passenger loading zones; public streets and sidewalks; and public transportation stops to the accessible building or facility entrance they serve. At least one accessible route shall connect accessible buildings, accessible facilities, accessible elements, and accessible spaces that are on the same site.
- *Playground:* Ground level play components accessed by children with disabilities must be integrated into the play area and at least one of each type shall be on an accessible route.
- *Amenities:* Clear ground space for companion seating positioned at the end of benches and parallel to the short axis of the bench. Picnic tables with mobility features including clear ground space for wheelchair spaces. Adequate clear ground space on usable sides of grills.
- *Parking:* Accessible parking spaces are required for each parking facility on a site. Requirements apply equally to public and employee or restricted parking. On sites with multiple parking facilities, the minimum number of accessible spaces must be calculated separately for each parking facility instead of on the combined total of parking spaces provided on the site. At least one of every 6 accessible spaces, or fraction of 6, in each parking facility must be sized to accommodate vans. Where parking serves multiple entrances to a facility, accessible spaces must be dispersed among accessible entrances. Accessible parking spaces must be located on the shortest accessible route to an accessible entrance, relative to other spaces in the same parking facility.

# APPENDIX E



Park Development

## Appendix E: Park Development

Parks provide significant assets and opportunities that can be leveraged to attract residents and visitors and increase use. There are four projects that stand out as unique opportunities to accomplish this: the continued development of Lake Tye Park, the creation of a Riverwalk Trail and enhanced parks along the river, and the addition of two new parks within areas of recent city growth. This development would completely change resident's and visitor's impression of Monroe to truly one of the most remarkable small towns and outdoor gateway destinations in Washington.

### Highlights of Park Renovation and Development

This appendix highlights park development at the following sites:

- Lake Tye Park
- Riverfront Parks/Riverwalk
- North Hill Park
- North Kelsey Park

Three of these transformative projects occur at individual sites, while the Riverfront project reflects synergies in small and large moves implemented at sites near or adjacent to one another. This unique opportunity would benefit from an integrated master plan that wholistically addresses and solidifies Monroe's relationship with the Skykomish River.

In addition to these projects, there are also two additional neighborhood parks recommended to meet forecasted needs in future residential areas. Those sites are noted in recommendations.

#### Public Priorities

**171.5 acres**

Of undeveloped park land in Monroe's inventory. Outreach shows tremendous support for moving forward with planned park and trail development when funding is available.



# Lake Tye Park

Park Classification	Size (acres)	Status
Community Park	67.8 acres	Developed; master planned for new uses



Lake Tye Park is one of Monroe’s most vibrant spaces. It serves not just surrounding neighborhoods, but all of Monroe as a community space for active and passive recreation. First built in the 1990s, the park has developed to offer amenities such as a playground, picnic shelters, a skatepark, athletic fields, tennis and basketball courts, a public restroom with concession, a beach, and paved paths. Most active recreation is located within the southern end of the park, with the north end providing space for more passive, calm activities. Recent and planned improvements expand Lake Tye Park as an athletic, event, and entertainment venue with connections to the Centennial Trail.

## PLANNED CAPITAL PROJECTS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 2021 Complete Synthetic Fields Renovation
- 2021-2026 Install Wayfinding Signs
- 2026 Design Centennial Trailhead

## PROPOSED BOND PROJECT

Lake Tye Park Athletic Fields Renovation: Convert unlighted, poor-draining grass fields to all-weather, lighted, synthetic turf, athletic fields to allow year-round play for baseball, football, lacrosse and soccer. This will expand user options. \$2,300,000.

### Public Priorities

91% of survey respondents are excited or very excited about the planned improvements at Lake Tye Park.

69% of survey respondents say an extension of the Centennial Trail and a connection from Snohomish to Monroe is important to them.

## MASTER PLANNED FEATURES

Lake Tye underwent a master planning process in 2018 that improved the site for both community and visitor use as a park and destination event space.

- Synthetic field renovation (target completion 2021)
- Entry fountain/water play area
- Accessible beach
- Expanded parking capacity
- Picnic plaza with shade
- Play expansion
- Improved event truck circulation and staging area
- Amphitheater seating along lake
- Loop trail with boardwalk
- Docks (north and south side)
- North end picnic shelter and floating islands
- Fishing pods and lake edge access
- Shoreline enhancements
- Environmental learning opportunity
- Centennial Trailhead

BOARDWALK



FISHING PODS



ENTRY FOUNTAIN



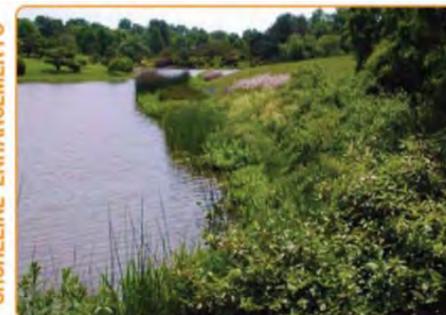
SHELTER



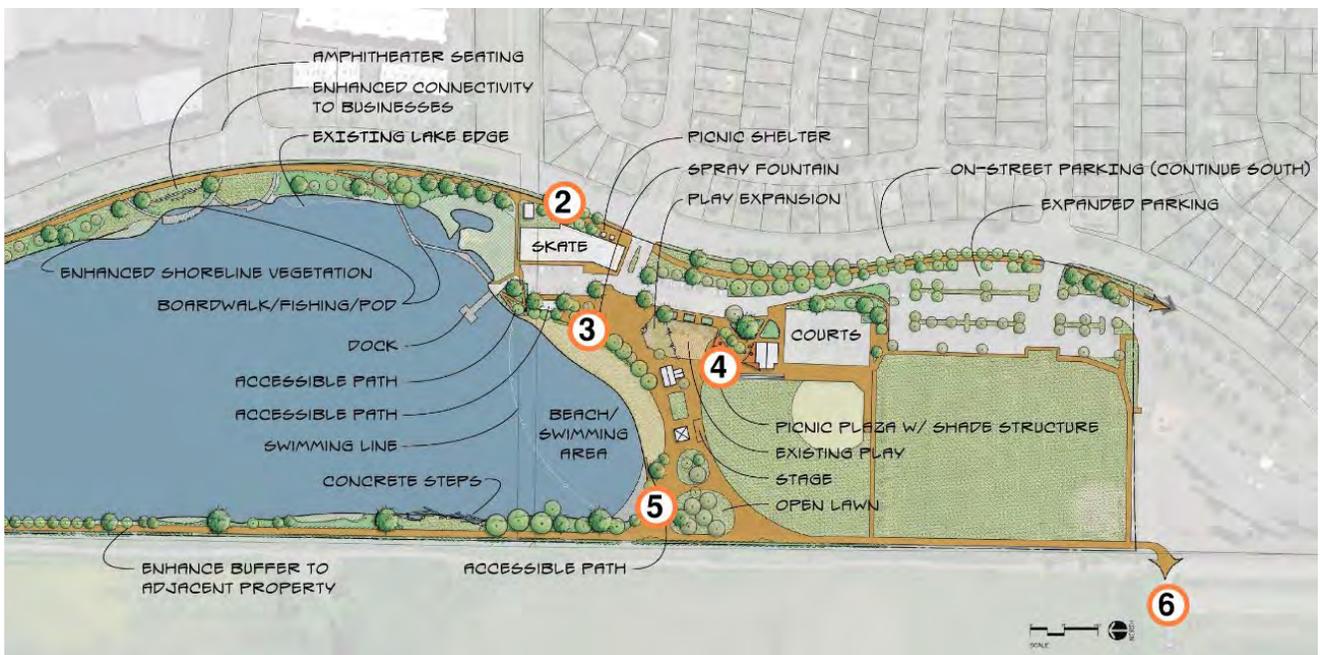
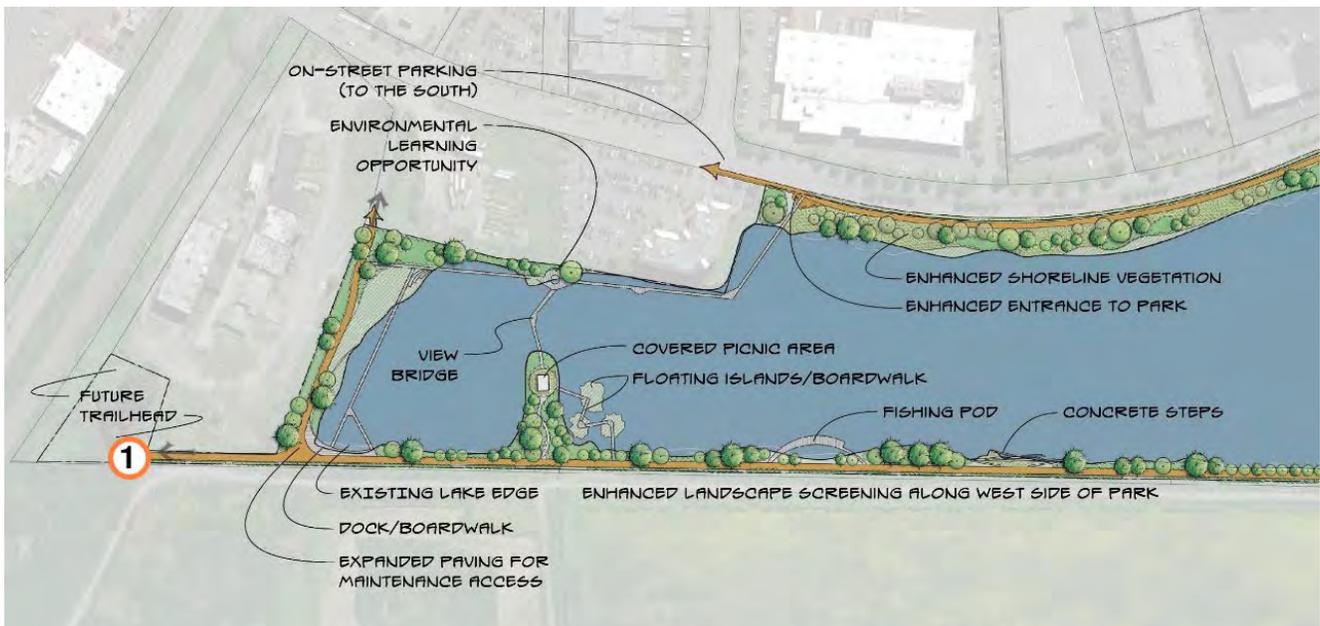
FLOATING ISLANDS



SHORELINE ENHANCEMENTS



## ADDITIONAL SITE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES



1. Centennial Trailhead (full trail staging area for events and regular use)
2. Skate park event enhancements (seatwalls or space for temporary seating)
3. Kayak/canoe rentals
4. Expanded food plaza, concessions and food truck pads
5. Beach/swimming area (rental cabanas and reservable adjacent small group shelter/tables)
6. Enhanced pedestrian and bike connections to Fairfield County Park (and opportunity to coordinate improvements to enhance synergies)

## Riverfront Parks/Riverwalk

Park Classification	Size (acres)	Status
Skykomish River Park (Community Park)	46.5	Developed
Al Borlin Park (Nature Preserve)	104.1	Minimal development
Cadman Site	165.5	Master planned
Lewis Street Park	1.1	Developed

\*Area also includes the Lewis Street Boat Launch (WDFW)



Monroe’s riverfront parks spotlight the natural environment while presenting a mix of active and passive recreation. Part of the larger “Skykomish Greenway,” these parks connect easily to public spaces within Monroe and beyond. Al Borlin Park, created in 1953, functions as a nature preserve and offers trails, picnic areas, and fishing access. Always in flux, the park floods annually, altering the shoreline. Skykomish River Park is an active community park that offers play and fitness equipment, sports fields, a dog park, concession stand, trails, picnic shelters and open space for events and festivals. The Cadman site is an undeveloped, former sand and gravel mine that has been acquired by the city. Master planned in 2018, the site is slated to offer a direct connection to the river with a variety of recreation opportunities. Lewis Street Park and Lewis Street Boat Launch (WDFW) add to riverfront recreation and connectivity.

### PLANNED CAPITAL PROJECTS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 2021 Rotary Enhancements
- 2021 Install Skykomish River Park and Water Access Wayfinding
- 2021 Finalize Cadman Site Reclamation
- 2023 Master Plan Al Borlin, Lewis Street and Cadman parks
- 2026 Construct Al Borlin Park and Cadman Site

## MASTER PLANNED FEATURES

The Cadman Site underwent a master planning process in 2018. Al Borlin and Lewis Street park will be master planned in 2023. The design of Cadman, Al Borlin and Lewis Street Park is projected to happen in 2024 with construction in 2026.

The 2018 Skykomish-Snohomish Rivers Recreation Concept Plan identified the WDFW Lewis Street Launch and Al Borlin Park as key river access sites, along with other locations upstream and downstream from Monroe, as whitewater-based recreation gives way to floating opportunities.

### Cadman

- Non-motorized boat launch
- Climbing ropes and zip lines
- Boardwalk
- Pond loop trail
- Habitat enhancement
- RV/tent camping
- Nature trails
- River access

### Public Priorities

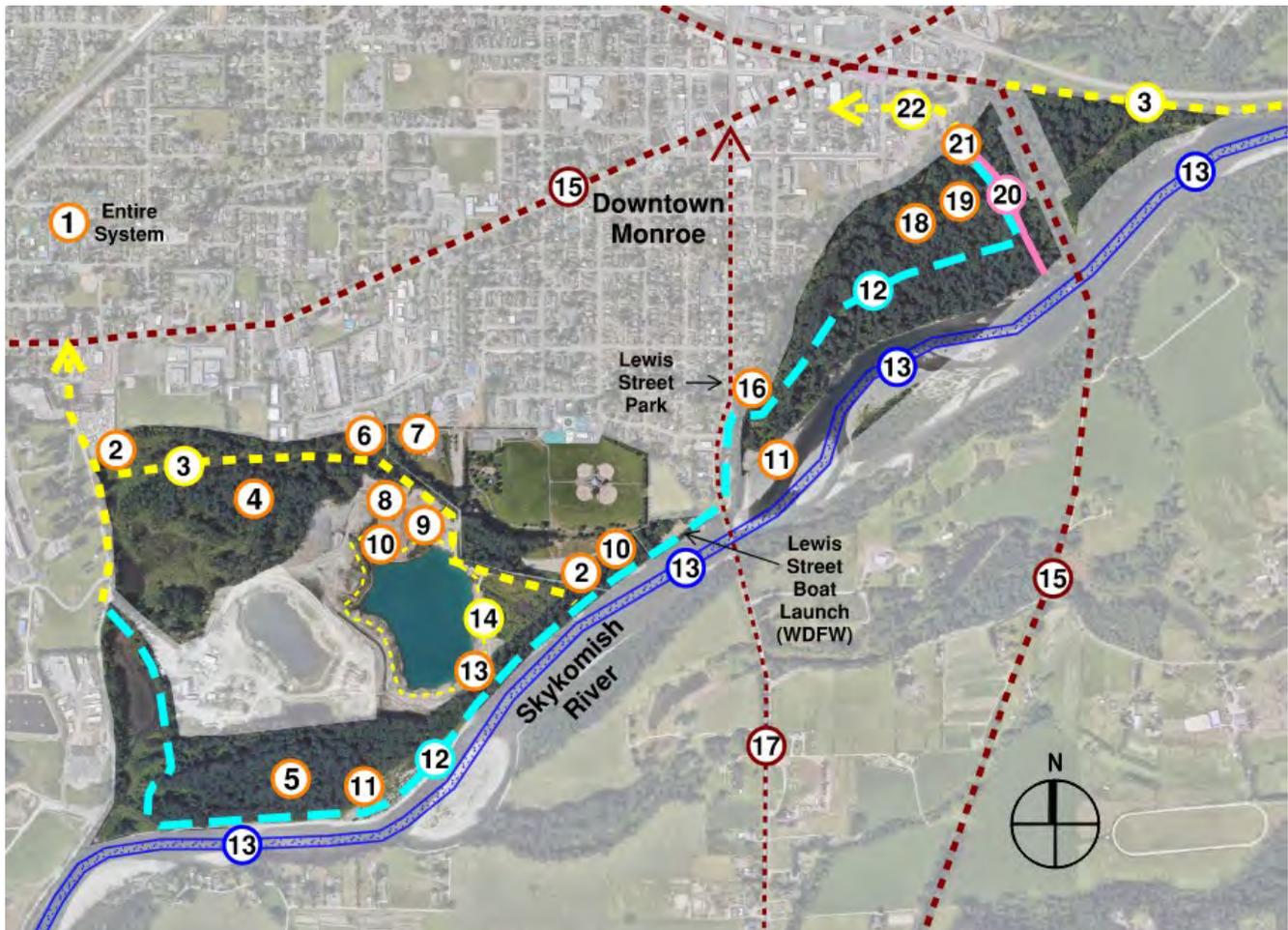
89% of survey respondents are excited or very excited about the planned improvements at the Cadman Site.

94% of survey respondents are excited or very excited about a linked riverfront.



## SITE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

All five sites, including the four City parks and the Lewis Street Boat Launch (WDFW), should be considered together with the water trail in a consolidated river/greenbelt master plan and operations study. The plan should address site uses as well as park management, operations and maintenance, revenue-generating opportunities, safety, natural resource protection and flooding, access and connections to downtown.



1. New wayfinding and signage system (consistent across all sites to include identification and directional signage, mileage markers, identified trail uses, trail/system map, interactive elements, etc.)
2. Cadman Park bike and pedestrian entry point (signage)
3. Local class/multi-use trail
4. Campground, with group camp, reservable yurts, open tent lawn, RV pads, picnic/cooking shelter (with utilities and barbecues), small fire circle, host/caretaker camp site, restrooms and showers)
5. Nature trails/boardwalk
6. Bike/ped entry and outdoor classroom (with signage and connections to library)
7. Improved park entry (site wayfinding signage, enhanced intersection of Sky River Parkway and Village Way, with removal of median and other improvements that will give larger event vehicles access to Skykomish River Park and the Cadman site)
8. Enhanced lakefront plaza/concessions (camp store, snacks, canoe/kayak rentals, restrooms, tables)
9. Climbing, ropes course, zip line

10. *Non-motorized boat launch (site TBD), with concessionaire-caliber loading/unloading zone, multi-boat launch, restrooms, boat storage/boat lockers, life preserver station with water safety signage, nearby parking/trailer parking. Current plan is for launch located at Cadman pond, with hand-carry to river)*
11. *Enhanced river access points*
12. *Riverfront walk*
13. *Regional water trail + connections (Monroe as water trail destination and canoe/kayak access point)*
14. *Pond loop trail (shown as dotted line)*
15. *Regional bike path*
16. *Lewis Street Park trailhead improvements (expanded restroom, improved parking, bike/pedestrian circulation and enhanced trail connections)*
17. *Alternate regional bike path*
18. *Designated nature trails (pedestrian) and introductory mountain bike trails (biking) to separate uses*
19. *Potential bike pump track and skills course*
20. *Expanded/wider roadway to river (study on surfacing)*
21. *Trailhead with expanded parking, restroom, bike racks, seating, wayfinding signage*
22. *Al Borlin multiuse trail connection to downtown (Simon Rd Community Development Area)*



## North Hill Park Site

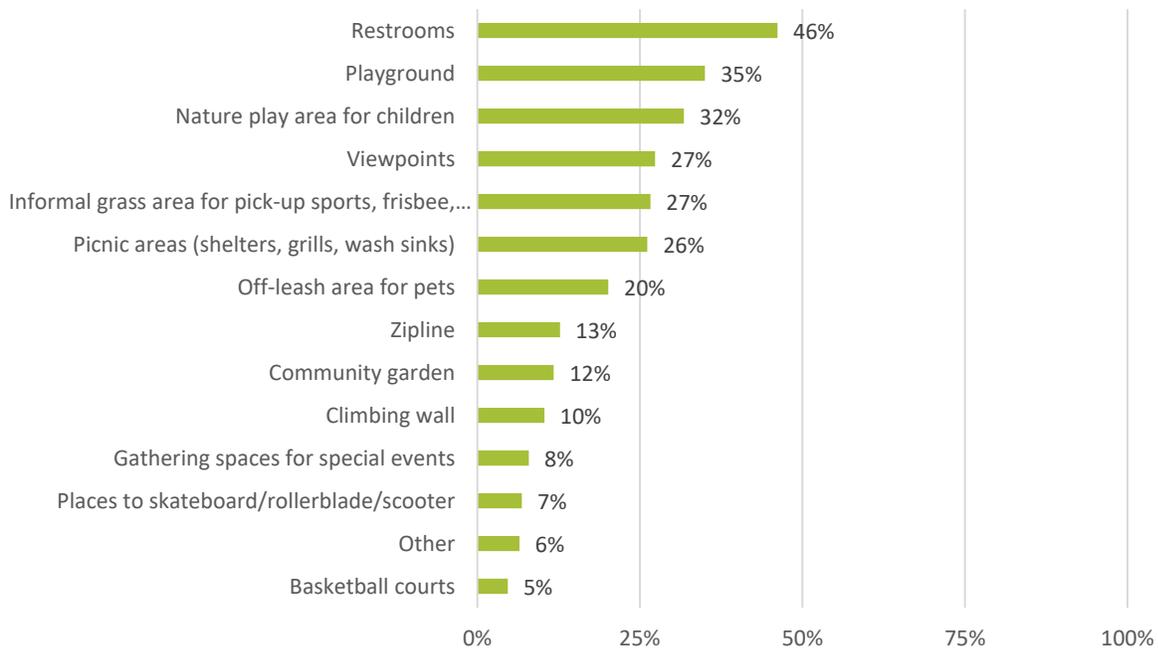
Park Classification	Size (acres)	Status
Undeveloped Park Site	5.0	Unplanned



The North Hill Park Site is currently undeveloped and unplanned. It is within Monroe's rapidly growing and park land deficient North Hill area. The site is one of the few remaining level parcels in the area with exceptional valley and mountain views. The future park will preserve these views, other natural resources, and ecological function.

### Site Questionnaire: Desired Elements for North Hill Area Park

What features are most important to include in a new park in the North Hill area?



## PLANNED CAPITAL PROJECTS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 2021 Acquire Site
- 2022 Design N. Hill Park
- 2024 Construct N. Hill Park

## PROPOSED BOND PROJECT

North Hill Area Park acquisition, design & development: Acquisition, design & development - \$3,200,000. Priority project from Parks 6-year CIP. Would become new city park serving North Hill area residents.

## SITE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

This park should include elements to serve nearby neighbors and to preserve and enhance a community viewpoint.

- Thematic play/nature play elements (shaded/covered)
- Open grass play area
- Picnic shelter
- Viewpoint (seating with maximized views)
- Pickleball court
- Rope climber (with view)
- Off leash area/dog park
- Exercise equipment



## North Kelsey Park Site

Park Classification	Size (acres)	Status
Undeveloped Park Site	1.0	Unplanned

The North Kelsey Park Site is currently undeveloped and unplanned. It is located within a commercial district, surrounded by restaurants, retail, and a private preschool. This location and the site's size present an opportunity for a plaza, meeting space that provides a visitor to the district a location to relax and gather.

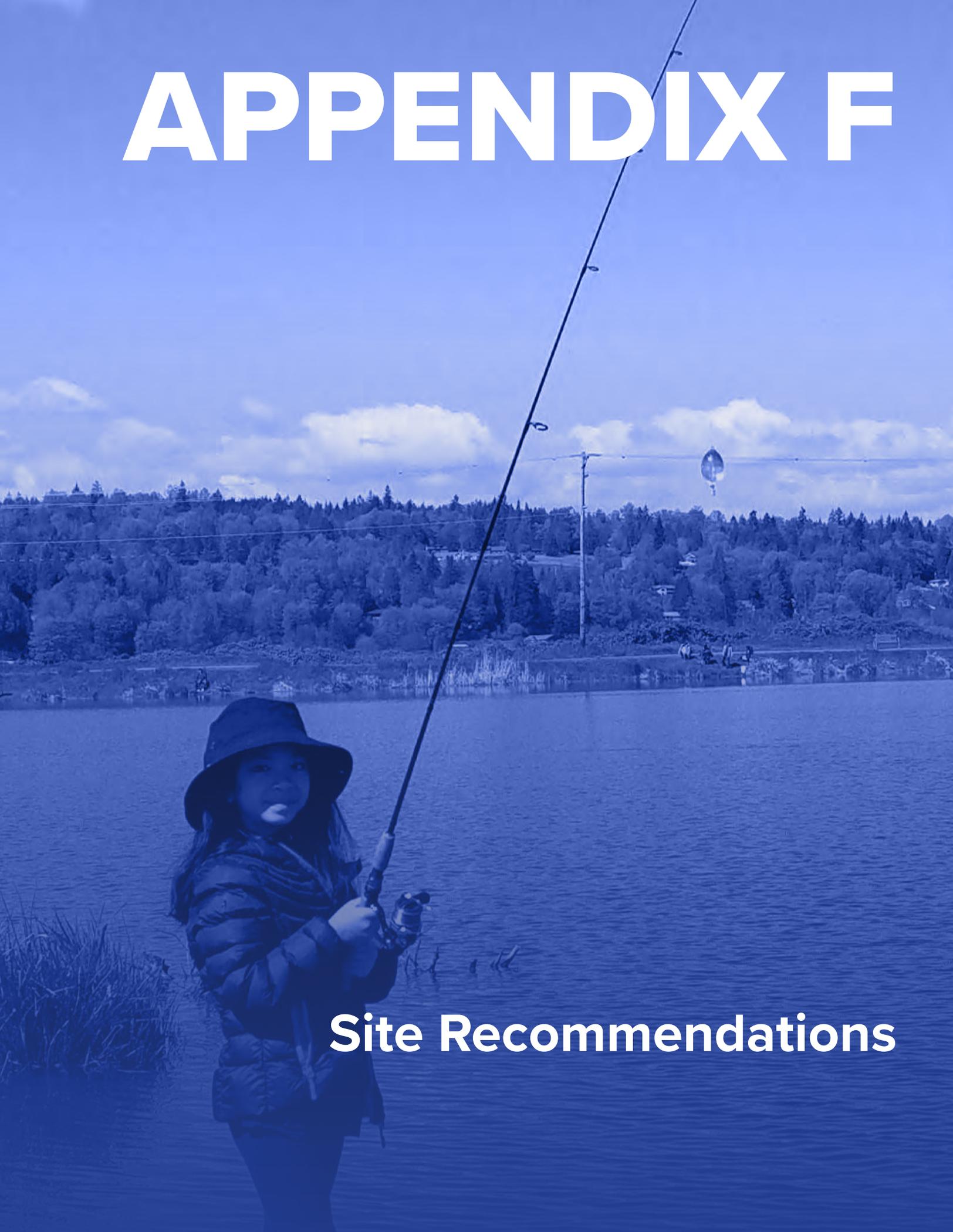


### SITE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Urban plaza (hardscape & softscape)
- Small multi-use event space (with drive-in opening for portable stage setup and utilities)
- Varied seating/table options
- Buffer from road (e.g., vegetation, berm, etc.)
- Art/interpretive signage
- Adjacent or on-site food truck pads (with utilities)
- Potential fountain (lighted for night visibility)



# APPENDIX F

A young girl with long dark hair, wearing a dark bucket hat and a dark puffy jacket, is fishing by a lake. She is holding a fishing rod that extends diagonally across the frame. The background shows a calm lake, a forested shoreline with some houses, and a utility pole with a spherical object hanging from it. The sky is blue with some clouds. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

**Site Recommendations**

## Appendix F: Site Recommendations

The Monroe 10-Year Park Recommendations matrix identifies recommended capital projects and maintenance service levels by park site at build out. The purpose of the matrix is to summarize recommend capital projects by site and park classification. The matrix will support the development of cost estimates for both capital projects and maintenance, so the full costs associated with implementing recommendations will be apparent. For this reason, these projects are categorized to make it easier to identify the types of funding that may be needed.

- **Build/Add:** Acquiring and building a new park/facility or adding facilities to an existing site are considered capacity enhancement capital projects that may be eligible to be funded through impact fees.
- **Replace or Enhance:** The replacement or improvements to amenities and facilities at existing sites requires capital funding.
- **Repair and Maintain:** These columns address the routine repairs and ongoing site maintenance that are addressed through operations funding.

See Map 5-1 for Build/Add, Renovate/Replace and Enhancement opportunities.

The table includes the following information. The columns for repair and replacement mirror the existing recreation elements noted in the park inventory.

### SITE OVERVIEW

- **Acres:** Total acreage of site or estimate for planned parks.
- **Estimated % Developed at Build Out:** Portion of site that is developed and not in a “natural” state. This information will help in identifying accurate maintenance costs. Developed refers to the presence of infrastructure, landscaping, amenities and facilities that support active or passive park use.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- **Recommendations and Enhancement Opportunities:** A brief summary of the intended capital improvements is provided for existing and new parks.

### GOALS

The community’s vision and goals for the parks, recreation and open space system will be defined in more detail in a separate document, along with systemwide policies for management. These overarching goals are noted briefly here to show which site recommendations contribute to more than one PROS Plan goal. All recommendation support at least one planning goal.

- **Connectivity:** The integration or connection of a site to the local or regional trail system.
- **Vibrant Riverfront:** Park development or enhancement to create an attractive, engaging riverfront system of parks, recreation amenities and facilities to support local use and recreation tourism.
- **Outdoor Recreation Hub:** A site that offers unique recreational amenities and attracts users from throughout community.

- **Park Access:** Site acquisition, development or improvements to support local access to parks within walking or biking distance from home or to support access to/from the park and nearby destinations.
- **Well-Stewarded Parks:** The provision of parks that are in good condition, and well-managed and maintained by the City of Monroe.

## BUILD

- **Acquire Land:** Obtain new land for a future park or trail. Acquisition may occur through purchase, land dedication, donation, easement or other means.
- **Master Planning or Design Concept:** Create a site master plan or new design concept; revise an existing site master plan and construction documents; or conduct a financial feasibility study and market analysis for major facilities. This applies to proposed new parks and trails, as well as to existing sites intended for significant enhancements or renovation.
- **Develop:** Develop a new park, facility or trail providing infrastructure, irrigation, landscaping, and all site amenities, facilities and furnishings. Existing sites slated for substantial renovations and redevelopment will fall in this category.
- **Invest in Partner Property:** Invest in facilities at partner sites, including those owned by nonprofits or other public and private entities.

## ADD

- **New Feature:** Provide a unique or specific feature at an existing site to create a new recreation experience. (New features for planned parks are addressed as development and listed under “Opportunities.”)

## RENOVATE, REPLACE OR ENHANCE

The City should renovate and replace elements at the end of their lifecycle or enhance and expand specific features when renovated. This section includes notes to update or renovate existing recreation elements as noted in the parks inventory, including athletic/sports facilities, outdoor recreation, specialized elements, trails and amenities.

## REPAIR AND MAINTAIN

All park sites require some type of routine and preventative maintenance to take care of City assets and landscaping. However, parks with higher levels of use, specialized facilities, reservable facilities and organized programs/events typically required a greater level of maintenance. Sites with substantial natural resources may need specialized care for natural resources in addition to the routine maintenance for developed park areas. This section notes the level of maintenance that developed park areas should receive (standard or enhanced). It also indicates where sites have extensive undeveloped or natural areas that require a different type and frequency of maintenance (natural resource maintenance). The table below notes these maintenance levels.

- **Standard Maintenance:** Parks with regular use require standard maintenance. These sites receive routine and preventative maintenance for amenities and assets, plus routine hazard monitoring and basic landscaping care and beautification.

- **Enhanced Maintenance:** Enhanced maintenance is needed at sites that include specialized assets, are programmed or otherwise are heavily used. These sites are maintained at the highest level and receive priority during peak use times, as well as special attention to support programming and events.
- **Natural Resource Maintenance:** Parks with extensive natural resources often require less frequent and, on occasions, specialized care. Environmental restoration may be needed.

**Table F-1: Park Tiered Maintenance Levels**

Level	Routine Tasks	Occasional Tasks	Application
<b>Routine and Preventative Maintenance for Developed Parks</b>			
Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic landscape maintenance for safety and aesthetics</li> <li>• Monitoring and inspection</li> <li>• Landscape maintenance and litter pickup</li> <li>• Routine and preventative care for site furnishings and facilities</li> <li>• Restroom cleaning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graffiti / vandalism removal or repair</li> <li>• Amenity repair</li> <li>• Amenity replacement</li> </ul>	Parks with regular use (e.g., neighborhood parks). Specialized care is not needed.
Enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All tasks in “standard” level, but on a more frequent basis, or sequenced to support activities, e.g., more frequent landscape maintenance and litter pickup</li> <li>• Specialized facility maintenance (e.g., splashpad)</li> <li>• Sports field turf irrigation and management</li> <li>• Janitorial care of buildings (e.g., community center)</li> <li>• Care of floral and botanical plantings, weeding, pruning where applicable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair or replacement of major facilities</li> <li>• Program/event/reservable facility preparation, setup, or cleanup</li> </ul>	Parks with specialized assets, buildings and heavier or more frequent use, including events and programs. This category also includes signature sites that support City identity.
<b>Additional Maintenance</b>			
Natural Resource Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine monitoring and inspection</li> <li>• Tree / brush pruning</li> <li>• Mowing (where appropriate)</li> <li>• Trail clearing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree canopy protection</li> <li>• Invasive species removal</li> <li>• Dumping and hazards removal</li> <li>• Riverbank or streambank stabilization</li> <li>• Natural area restoration</li> <li>• Natural resource management</li> <li>• Fire prevention</li> </ul>	Parks with significant natural resources, substantial natural areas, or located adjacent to river corridors.

## NOTES/OTHER

- **Park/facility date:** The approximate time when the City acquired or began developing this property.
- **Notes:** Additional notes about recommendations. Most notes relate to the repair or enhancement noted in the “Other” column.

Table F-1: Monroe 20-Year Park Recommendations

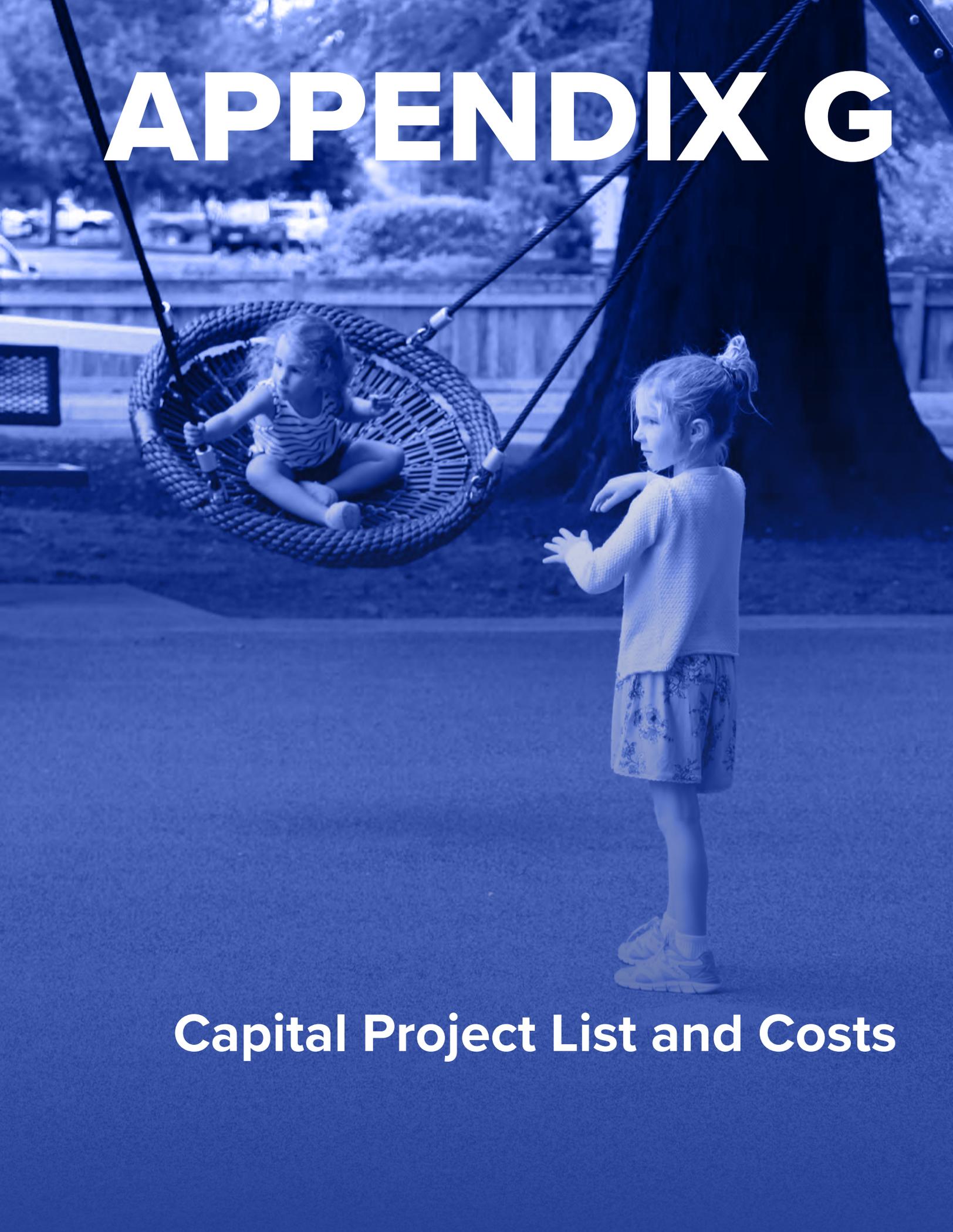
Site Overview			Opportunities				Goals				Build		Add	Add New, Renovate, Replace, or Enhance													Repair and			Notes/Other					
Park Name	Acres	Estimated % Developed at Build Out	Recommendations and Enhancement Opportunities				Connectivity	Vibrant Riverfront	Outdoor Recreation Hub	Park Access	Well-Stewarded Parks	Acquire Land	Master Planning or Design	Park Development	New Feature(s)	Athletic/Sports			Outdoor Recreation					Specialized			Amenities		Standard Maintenance	Enhanced Maintenance	Natural Resource Maintenance				
																Wayfinding	Baseball / Softball Field	Basketball Court	Fitness Equipment	Soccer Field	Tennis/Pickleball Court	Dog Park	Grass Play Area	Picnic Shelter	Play Structure	Play Structure (Destination)	Skate Park	Trails (hard or soft surfaced)					Trails (Miles)	Water Feature (Pond/Lake)	Water Play
<b>Community Parks</b>																																			
Lake Tye Park	67.8	50%	Implement Master Plan. Develop new facilities and amenities to support revenue generation, e.g. boathouse for canoe/kayak rentals, expanded food plaza and concessions, food truck pads, and rental cabanas/shelter in beach swimming area. Develop full trail staging area for connections to and trail events on the Centennial Trail. Provide wayfinding signage. Add seatwalls or amenities to support skatepark events. Coordinate with the County to create an access design concept to add pedestrian and bike connections to Fairfield County Park. [See separate recommendation for annexation of adjacent parcel in the section New or Expanded Park Acreage.]	X		X	X	X				D	New features as per Master Plan. Larger trailhead/trail event staging area, bike repair station, boathouse, cabanas, small party shelter, and access connections to Fairfield Park.	X																				Other costs represent the balance of the \$25m master plan improvements (2018) excluding the field improvements that have already been completed. The Master Plan includes a variety of facility and site enhancements, including new and expanded facilities, shoreline enhancements, refreshed trees, vegetation and plantings, connections to nearby businesses, and improvements to support outdoor events and recreation.	
Skykomish River Park	46.5	100%	Include with River Greenbelt Master Plan.* Improve park entry with wayfinding, enhanced intersection of Sky River Parkway and Village Way. Develop connectivity/entry point to Cadman Park site, Riverfront Walk and boat launch. Add a four-court pickleball court facility. Resurface paved pathways and trails. Repair and enhance plaza, landscaping and concession building between fields to minimize root damage.	X	X	X	X	X			M*	Park entry, Riverwalk trail, Pickleball court	X																					Repair and enhance plaza and landscaping (along with concession building) between fields to minimize root damage.	
Community Park subtotal		114.3																																	
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>																																			
Blueberry Children's Park	1.1	100%	Amplify an agricultural and younger-kid theme consistent with the park name. Improve park with the addition of a covered picnic shelter, including accessible play features. Create a more unique "children's park" experience, targeting kids in the 2-5 year age range with agricultural-themed play elements and universal, inclusive play elements. Consider play elements with "movable parts."						X				Picnic shelter, water play element.																						
Cedar Grove Park	0.4	100%	Renovate existing irrigation system. Provide a welcome plaza. Replace play equipment with small features for ages 2-5 and 5-12. Plant around fencing to make the park feel more welcoming. Provide seating for park users; seating may replace fencing along the street in some areas.						X				Additional seating.																						Improve access to play equipment and replace benches with those that are readily accessible to and useable by people with disabilities.
Currie View Park	4.3	100%	Improve park by relocating play equipment closer to parking and creating an accessible path of travel. Create a walking/exercise loop. Expand facilities to better serve the surrounding community and create a park with a distinct character. Diversify the types of active recreation opportunities, which might include street hockey, futsal, bike polo, tennis, pickleball, etc., on site. Add wayfinding to/from/through the park.						X		D	Tennis/pickleball court, distinctive climbing play elements (the "view" in Currie View), new soccer field, loop trail, adult exercise equipment		E		N	N																	Concept to include open lot next to it, additional allowance for distinctive climbing/play element	
Hillcrest Park	1.5	100%	Maintain park for local neighborhood use. Replace the play structure at the end of its lifecycle.						X																									This is a relatively recent park and is well-maintained. Add an accessible entrance into the play area and update the play surfacing.	
North Hill Park Site	5.0	100%	Acquire and master plan site. Plan to include nature-themed playground, open grass area, picnic shelter, viewpoint with seating, pickleball court, rope climber, off leash area/dog park, and exercise equipment. (See also the North Hill Park Expansion under new park land).			X	X	X			M	X	Work with the community for the final program. See preliminary program elements in "Opportunities" column.																					Allowance for features as determined in the master plan.	
Park Meadows Park	2.3	100%	Improve the irrigation system and play lawn so that it is more attractive to use. Replace the play structure with engaging nature play elements. Improve the sense of arrival and wayfinding to/through the park, particularly connecting to Frylands/LakeTye/Fairfield County Park. Consider additional, small scale amenities: seating areas, picnic tables, etc.						X				Interpretive signs, drinking fountain, seating, picnic tables	X																				Drinking fountain (with sewer), seating, interpretive signs. Improve access to play equipment and replace benches with those that are readily accessible to and useable by people with disabilities.	
Rainier View Park	1.0	100%	Maintain park for local neighborhood use. Replace the play structure at the end of its lifecycle.						X																									This is nice, postage stamp park. The mix of developed and natural areas distinguishes it from others.	
Stanton Meadows Park	3.5	100%	Improve park with the expansion of programing/elements to better serve the surrounding community and create a park with a distinct character. Replace play equipment with nature play elements. Add a basketball court, improved drainage. Consider a community garden and/or agricultural plantings (e.g. perennial herbs) within the park. Consider better defining the space with a oval loop path. Strengthen wayfinding elements/connections to Lake Tye Park.						X		D	Loop trail, sports court, community garden	X		N																			Community garden and loop trail. Repair concrete paving at parking lot. Replace benches with those that are readily accessible to and useable by people with disabilities. Amend soils to create larger tree planting areas to help trees grow to a larger size. Improve drainage.	
Wales Street Park	0.7	100%	Add a small picnic shelter for local neighborhood use. Resurface the basketball court, replace the play structure at the end of its lifecycle improving ADA accessibility of nearby benches and the path of travel to the play area.						X				Picnic shelter																					Improve access to play equipment and replace benches with those that are readily accessible to and useable by people with disabilities.	
Ramblewood Tot Lot	0.1	100%	Maintain park for local neighborhood use. Replace the play structure at the end of its lifecycle. Add ADA accessible seating.						X				Additional seating																					Replace benches with those that are readily accessible to and useable by people with disabilities.	
Neighborhood Park subtotal		20.0																																	

Table F-1: Monroe 20-Year Park Recommendations

Site Overview			Opportunities	Goals					Build		Add	Add New, Renovate, Replace, or Enhance													Repair and										
Park Name	Acres	Estimated % Developed at Build Out	Recommendations and Enhancement Opportunities	Connectivity	Vibrant Riverfront	Outdoor Recreation Hub	Park Access	Well-Stewarded Parks	Acquire Land	Master Planning or Design	Park Development	New Feature(s)	Athletic/Sports			Outdoor Recreation					Specialized		Amenities			Standard Maintenance	Enhanced Maintenance	Natural Resource Maintenance	Notes/Other						
													Wayfinding	Baseball / Softball Field	Basketball Court	Fitness Equipment	Soccer Field	Tennis/Pickleball Court	Dog Park	Grass Play Area	Picnic Shelter	Play Structure	Play Structure (Destination)	Skate Park	Trails (hard or soft surfaced)					Trails (Miles)	Water Feature (Pond/Lake)	Water Play	Spray Park	Boat Launch	Concession Stand
<b>Special Use Parks</b>																																			
North Kelsey Property	1.0	100%	Master plan site to serve as an urban "village green" or plaza in a mixed use commercial and residential area. Include varied seating and table options, small multi-use event space, art/interpretive signage, zero-depth spray fountain, food truck pads. Add urban style play features to meet needs of nearby residents.			X	X	X		D	X	Work with the community to identify new features when site and surrounding area are developed. See preliminary program elements in "Opportunities" column.																						Coordinate with developers as site builds out to require site and facility investment and potential shared event operations. Allowance for art, seating, and play features.	
Travelers Park	0.6	100%	Add irrigation, signature lighting, and planting beds to serve as an attractive "gateway" to Monroe.					X				Irrigation, signature lighting, landscaping	X																				Irrigation hookup and new meter. Consider a partnership with a local fraternal organization or master gardeners to develop a set of welcoming perennial displays at the park.		
<b>Special Use Park subtotal</b>	<b>1.6</b>																																		
<b>Nature Preserve</b>																																			
Foothills Wetland Preserve	46.7	5%	Develop the regional trail along the south edge of the park. Create a viewpoint along the regional trail to showcase the park.	X								Viewpoint, seating, interpretive signage																							
<b>Nature Preserve subtotal</b>	<b>46.7</b>																																		
<b>River Greenbelt</b>																																			
Al Borlin Park	104.1	25%	Master plan as part of the River Greenbelt Parks Master Plan. Develop multiuse trail with connection to downtown and along the Skykomish River, with eventual tie-ins south to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. Designate interpretive nature trails and introductory mountain bike trails. Develop a bike pump tracks. Enhance river access points with the addition of a riverfront walk and expanded/wider roadway to river. Expand parking at trailhead and add restroom facilities, bike racks, seating, and wayfinding.	X	X	X	X	X		M*		Riverwalk trail, trailhead, bike pump track, water access points, site access/entry to downtown	X																					Full River Greenbelt Master Plan included here. Since the sites in the River Greenbelt are quite extensive and complex from a critical areas perspective, the master planning costs are double typical. Included one mile of regional trail as a placeholder cost for trail and bike pump track improvements, which will be refined once the master plan is achieved.	
Cadman Site	165.5	40%	Master plan as part of River Greenbelt Parks Master Plan. Develop a trail system with connectivity to riverfront parks, the Library, and the surrounding community. Add camping facilities, climbing/ropes course, lakefront plaza with concessions, non-motorized boat launch, interpretive signage/wayfinding as per Master Plan.	X	X	X	X	X		M*		New features as per Master Plan. Camping cabins or yurts.																						Cadman Master plan (2018) includes \$30.8 million fully-loaded, all phases.	
Lewis Street Park	1.1	100%	Master plan as part of River Greenbelt Parks Master Plan. Develop towards special use park with downtown and regional/Riverwalk trail connections. Enhance the existing shelter to maximize river views and serve as a trail wayside. Add a bike repair station.	X	X			X		M*		Riverwalk trail, potential regional trail, bike repair station	X																					Bike repair station and additional paving/access improvements to it	
WDFW Lewis Street Boat Launch		N/A	Coordinate with the WDFW on Riverwalk trail development through park.	X						M*		Riverwalk trail	X																					Site maintained/managed by WDFW, master planning included in Greenbelt Master Plan (Al Borlin Park)	
<b>River Greenbelt subtotal</b>	<b>270.6</b>																																		
<b>New or Expanded Park Acreage</b>																																			
North Hill Park Expansion	3.3	100%	Explore future options to acquire additional acreage. Master plan this site in conjunction with the 5-acre site to expand uses consistent with a community park with specialized facilities. Provide an outdoor and indoor restroom and increased parking. Create a financial feasibility and market study to guide renovations and code updates to the on-site house to provide rental and event space and support indoor programs. Add a small water play feature (playable fountain or hand pump play element).			X	X			X	M	X	Work with the community for the final program. See preliminary program elements in "Opportunities" column.																						
Lake Tye Park Annexation	2.6	100%	Explore opportunities to acquire a 2.6 acre parcel adjacent to Lake Tye Park to expand recreation options. Design and develop this acreage in conjunction with other park improvements.			X				X	D	X																							
Additional park acreage for annexation areas	10.0	100%	Acquire land for new neighborhood parks to serve new residential growth in annexation areas. Size size will depend on numbers and types of residential units planned. (Estimated acreage is based on 5 acres per park.)					X		X	M	X																							Site planning and development may occur beyond the 10-year timeframe.
Downtown Gathering Space	1.0	100%	In conjunction with downtown redevelopment, explore options to acquire and develop a downtown gathering space.				X			X	M	X																						Site programming and activities may trigger needs for enhanced maintenance.	
<b>New Parks subtotal</b>	<b>16.9</b>																																		
<b>Other Improvements</b>																																			
Other Improvements (not yet assigned to a site)			Provide park safety security cameras, park information stations, art and banners, river interpretive signs, and trail repairs		X			X																											
Trail System Master Plan and Connectivity Enhancements		90%	Update the Trail Master Plan and initiate trail projects. This will likely be funded as an active transportation project.	X						M																								Allowance for trail projects (transportation funding)	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>470.1</b>																																		

X - amenity or facility is recommended, or goal applies to this site.  
M - site master plan is needed. M\* = these sites will be part of a joint River Greenbelt Master Plan.  
D - park design concept is needed.  
R - existing facility should be renovated or replaced at end of its lifecycle  
E - existing facility should be enhanced or expanded when replaced

# APPENDIX G



## Capital Project List and Costs

## Appendix G: Capital Project List and Costs

Appendix G introduces the capital project list and planning-level cost estimates that correspond to the site recommendations in the PROS Plan. The appendix includes two tables:

- **Table G-1: 20-Year Capital Improvement Plan and Costs** identifies capital and operations costs by site.
- **Table G-2: Monroe Park Cost Assumptions** defines the per-unit site and facility costs that provide the basis for the total capital costs and annual maintenance costs.

### Capital Improvement Plan

The 20-Year Capital Improvement Plan is based on a project list that notes multiple recommended projects at each site. Table G-1 identifies total costs for each existing or proposed site. Costs include the following:

- **Estimated % Of Site Developed at Build Out:** This reflects the portion of the park that will be developed at each site at build out. For example, when Lake Tye Park is fully developed, approximately half of the site will remain as undeveloped water surface area or natural area. This number is important to calculate accurate maintenance costs per acre, recognizing that not all acreage will be maintained as developed parkland.
- **Capacity Enhancement:** This symbol identifies the general proportion of capital projects (full, part, little, none) that will add new elements to the park system to enhance the level of service provided. For example, a new park such as North Hill Park will be fully capacity enhancement and intended to meet the needs of new residents. Capacity enhancement projects are eligible for funding through mitigation fees or impact fees.
- **Total Capital Costs:** This cost estimate aggregates costs for all individual capital improvements at each site.
- **Total Maintenance Costs by Tier:** This annual cost is shown by Maintenance Tier (standard, enhanced, natural resources) to show the total amount anticipated to be spent by category.
- **Total Maintenance Costs:** This annual cost estimate aggregates costs for all maintenance tiers at each site.

### Park Cost Assumptions

The planning level costs noted in Table G-1 are aggregates of several different per-unit costs that are identified in Table G-2. For example, site acquisition and new park development costs are based on an average cost per acre. Master planning and site design costs are based on average amount to create a plan for each site. The addition of new facilities is based on the cost for each new facility or pairs of facilities.

Table G-2: Monroe Park Cost Assumptions defines the estimated per-unit costs for the actions, features and maintenance. Cost estimates are based on general order-of-magnitude costs to assist in evaluating and coordination of park projects for future consideration in the City's capital improvement planning. Costs are in 2021 dollars not accounting for inflation. Recognizing that facility installation increases project costs beyond the costs of each facility, the table defines added costs in four categories. The columns in Table G-2 include the following information:

- **Action/Feature:** This column identifies the distinct types of projects recommended in the PROS Plan, such as the acquisition of new land, site planning, development, the addition or park features and maintenance.
- **Raw Per-Unit Cost (New):** This is a flat cost allowance for each action or new site element.
- **Mobilization (8%):** Mobilization consists of 1) preparatory actions by a contractor necessary for the work performed; or 2) costs incurred before the beginning of work. This includes the movement of personnel, equipment, supplies and incidentals to the project site; bond and insurance premiums; support amenities such as access paths; or other planning necessary for the work. This cost is applied to new features only and is based on 8% of the raw unit costs.
- **Design Fees (12%):** This cost reflects the anticipated work by consultants during the design process and is applied to new features only.
- **Contingency (25%):** Contingency is an amount of money built into the contractor's price to address unforeseen costs that arise during construction. A 25% contingency cost is added based upon 2021 standards and experience. Given the escalated costs in 2021 due to supply chain issues and increasing costs for materials, this percentage is fairly conservative.
- **Taxes:** A tax rate of 9.3% is added to calculations based on a 6.5% Washington state sales tax and 2.8% City of Monroe tax.
- **All-Inclusive Per-Unit Cost (New):** This cost is the sum of Raw Per Unit Cost New, Mobilization, Design Fees, Contingency and Taxes and represents the complete cost of each action or constructed new feature.
- **Renovate/Replace:** This represents the cost associated with the renovation of an existing site or the replacement of an existing feature. This cost is estimated at 90% of the All Inclusive Per Unit Cost for new elements.
- **Enhance:** This represents the cost associated with the enhancement of an existing site or existing feature. Enhancement includes actions such as landscape improvements, the repairing of existing features and improvements to accessibility. This cost is estimated at 60% of the All Inclusive Per Unit Cost for new elements.
- **Notes and Assumptions:** This final column includes more details notes about what the raw per-unit costs include.

Actual costs for site development and renovated will be affected by decisions made during site planning, development, and construction. More detailed costs should be identified in site master plans. Any partnerships in site development or contributions by concessionaires will reduce the costs noted here.

**Table G-1: 20-Year Capital Improvement Plan and Costs**

Site Overview				Total Capital Costs	Maintenance Cost by Tier			Total Maintenance Costs
Park Name	Acres	Estimated % Of Site Developed at Build Out	Capacity Enhancement (full, part, little, none)	Total By Site	Standard Maintenance	Enhanced Maintenance	Natural Resource Maintenance	Total by Site
<b>Community Parks</b>								
Lake Tye Park	67.8	50%	●	\$ 26,976,911	\$ -	\$ 1,017,723	\$ 16,962	\$ 1,034,685
Skykomish River Park	46.5	100%	○	\$ 2,931,210	\$ -	\$ 1,394,537	\$ -	\$ 1,394,537
<i>Community Park subtotal</i>	114.3			\$ 29,908,120	\$ -	\$ 2,412,260	\$ 16,962	\$ 2,429,222
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>								
Blueberry Children's Park	1.1	100%	○	\$ 778,466	\$ 13,306	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,306
Cedar Grove Park	0.4	100%	○	\$ 372,049	\$ 5,236	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,236
Currie View Park	4.3	100%	○	\$ 1,564,040	\$ 51,601	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,601
Hillcrest Park	1.5	100%	○	\$ 347,049	\$ 18,185	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,185
North Hill Park Site	5.0	100%	●	\$ 6,000,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000
Park Meadows Park	2.3	100%	○	\$ 564,048	\$ 27,161	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,161
Rainier View Park	1.0	100%	○	\$ 520,574	\$ 12,312	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,312
Stanton Meadows Park	3.5	100%	○	\$ 1,450,516	\$ 41,812	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,812
Wales Street Park	0.7	100%	○	\$ 890,018	\$ 8,843	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,843
Ramblewood Tot Lot	0.1	100%	○	\$ 530,574	\$ 1,009	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,009
<i>Neighborhood Park subtotal</i>	20.0			\$ 13,017,335	\$ 179,466	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 329,466
<b>Special Use Parks</b>								
North Kelsey Property	1.0	100%	●	\$ 3,604,539	\$ -	\$ 31,392	\$ -	\$ 31,392
Travelers Park	0.6	100%	○	\$ 260,000	\$ 6,916	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,916
<i>Special Use Park subtotal</i>	1.6			\$ 3,864,539	\$ 6,916	\$ 31,392	\$ -	\$ 38,308
<b>Nature Preserve</b>								
Foothills Wetland Preserve	46.7	5%	●	\$ 1,636,090	\$ 28,016	\$ -	\$ 22,180	\$ 50,196
<i>Nature Preserve subtotal</i>	46.7			\$ 1,636,090	\$ 28,016	\$ -	\$ 22,180	\$ 50,196
<b>River Greenbelt</b>								
Al Borlin Park	104.1	25%	●	\$ 1,897,354	\$ -	\$ 780,385	\$ 39,019	\$ 819,404
Cadman Site	165.5	40%	●	\$ 30,800,000	\$ -	\$ 1,985,997	\$ 49,650	\$ 2,035,647
Lewis Street Park	1.1	100%	○	\$ 496,038	\$ 12,789	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,789
WDFW Lewis Street Boat Launch		N/A	○	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>River Greenbelt subtotal</i>	270.6			\$ 33,213,392	\$ 12,789	\$ 2,766,382	\$ 88,669	\$ 2,867,841
<b>New or Expanded Park Acreage</b>								
North Hill Park Expansion	3.3	100%	●	\$ 4,589,262	\$ -	\$ 99,000	\$ -	\$ 99,000
Lake Tye Park Annexation	2.6	100%	●	\$ 3,403,000	\$ -	\$ 78,000	\$ -	\$ 78,000
Additional park acreage for annexation areas	10.0	100%	●	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 120,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120,000
Downtown Gathering Space*	1.0	100%	●			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>New Parks subtotal</i>	16.9			\$ 10,992,262	\$ 120,000	\$ 177,000	\$ -	\$ 297,000
<b>Other Improvements</b>								
Other Improvements (not yet assigned to a site)				\$ 503,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Trail System Master Plan and Connectivity Enhancements		90%	⊗	\$ 1,775,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>470.1</b>			<b>\$ 94,909,738</b>	<b>\$ 347,188</b>	<b>\$ 5,537,034</b>	<b>\$ 127,811</b>	<b>\$ 6,012,033</b>

\* Costs will be identified for the Downtown Gathering Space in conjunction with downtown redevelopment.

- Full capacity enhancement
- Partial capacity enhancement
- Few capacity enhancements (added elements at an existing site)
- No capacity enhancements
- ⊗ Capacity enhancement, but not funded through park mitigation fees

**Table G-2: Monroe Park Cost Assumptions**

Revised 11/11/2021

Action/Features	Unit	Raw Per Unit Cost New	Mobilization	Design Fees	Contingency	Taxes	All Inclusive Per Unit Cost New	Renovate/ Replace	Enhance	Notes and Assumptions
			8%	12%	25%			90%	60%	
Acquire Land	Per acre	\$ 280,000					\$ 280,000			Raw, unimproved land
Master Planning	Per site	\$ 200,000					\$ 200,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 120,000	Includes site with more complicated design needs, triggering permitting. Note that one combined master plan will be created for the riverfront sites.
Design	Per site	\$ 75,000					\$ 75,000	\$ 87,500	\$ 45,000	Development of a new site concept to enhance an existing site.
Development of Raw Land	Per acre	\$ 1,000,000					\$ 1,000,000			Site grading, circulation, and utilities. Further features are added individually. Modified by the Estimated % Developed at Build Out
New Feature(s)										Unique cost depending on improvements
Wayfinding	Each Site	\$ 10,000					\$ 10,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,000	Include identification, regulatory and wayfinding signage
Baseball/Softball Field	Each	\$ 700,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 90,720	\$ 211,680	\$ 98,431	\$ 1,156,831	\$ 1,041,148	\$ 694,099	Regulation size field with natural turf, outfield fencing, backstop and foul-line fencing.
Basketball Court	Each	\$ 75,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 9,720	\$ 22,680	\$ 10,546	\$ 123,946	\$ 111,552	\$ 74,368	One new full court
Fitness Equipment (Five Stations)	Each Site	\$ 140,000	\$ 11,200	\$ 18,144	\$ 42,336	\$ 19,686	\$ 231,366	\$ 208,230	\$ 138,820	Five stations of high quality fitness equipment, which can be placed in one location or spread along a path.
Soccer Field	Each	\$ 300,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 38,880	\$ 90,720	\$ 42,185	\$ 495,785	\$ 448,206	\$ 297,471	Natural turf field with basic drainage/prep and features. Field with artificial turf and lights closer to \$3,000,000
Tennis/Pickleball Court	Each Pair	\$ 120,000	\$ 9,600	\$ 15,552	\$ 38,288	\$ 16,874	\$ 198,314	\$ 178,483	\$ 118,988	Pair of tennis courts or four pickleball courts with striping and netting, no lights
Dog Park	Each	\$ 150,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 19,440	\$ 45,360	\$ 21,092	\$ 247,892	\$ 223,103	\$ 148,735	Fenced area with turf or hardier surface. Assumes this is a feature within a larger park taking advantage of other seating and existing utilities for water.
Grass Play Area	Each	\$ 125,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 16,200	\$ 37,800	\$ 17,577	\$ 206,577	\$ 185,919	\$ 123,946	1 acre irrigation and drainage improvements, for unstructured play.
Picnic Shelter	Each	\$ 150,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 19,440	\$ 45,360	\$ 21,092	\$ 247,892	\$ 223,103	\$ 148,735	4 - 8' tables with BBQ and no utilities
Play Structure (Neighborhood)	Each	\$ 350,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 45,360	\$ 105,840	\$ 49,216	\$ 578,416	\$ 520,574	\$ 347,049	Each includes areas for tots and school age play. Range between \$150,000 and \$350,000. Higher end represents addition of accessible safety surfacing.
Play Structure (Destination)	Each	\$ 800,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 103,680	\$ 241,920	\$ 112,493	\$ 1,322,093	\$ 1,189,884	\$ 793,256	Large scale play structure with universal/inclusive and thematic elements.
Skate Park	Each	\$ 600,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 77,760	\$ 181,440	\$ 84,370	\$ 991,570	\$ 892,413	\$ 594,942	Skate park renovation to accommodate spectators, safety and enhanced access.
Trails (Hard or Soft Surfaced)	Per mile	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 194,400	\$ 453,600	\$ 210,924	\$ 2,478,924	\$ 2,231,032	\$ 1,487,354	Regional trail: This cost assumes a 16ft-wide asphalt paved trail with 2' gravel shoulders on each side, signage assumed every 1/4 mile both directions and continuous 8ft wide seeded lawn along one side of trail. Improvements required may include curb and gutter, curb ramps, drainage infrastructure adjustments and installations and minimal power pole relocation.
Water Play	Each	\$ 100,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 12,960	\$ 30,240	\$ 14,062	\$ 165,262	\$ 148,735	\$ 99,157	Small, child-controlled water play element. Flows through.
Spray Park	Each	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 129,600	\$ 302,400	\$ 140,616	\$ 1,652,616	\$ 1,487,354	\$ 991,570	Recirculating spray park with mechanical building
Boat Launch	Each	\$ 150,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 19,440	\$ 45,360	\$ 21,092	\$ 247,892	\$ 223,103	\$ 148,735	Small/hand launch, assumes no additional specialized parking.
Concession Stand	Each	\$ 175,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 22,680	\$ 52,920	\$ 24,608	\$ 289,208	\$ 260,287	\$ 173,525	
Fishing Access	Each	\$ 150,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 19,440	\$ 45,360	\$ 21,092	\$ 247,892	\$ 223,103	\$ 148,735	
Parking (Off-Street)	Each site	\$ 125,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 16,200	\$ 37,800	\$ 17,577	\$ 206,577	\$ 185,919	\$ 123,946	10 total spaces including 2 accessible spaces
Restroom (Permanent)	Each	\$ 200,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 25,920	\$ 60,480	\$ 28,123	\$ 330,523	\$ 297,471	\$ 198,314	2 unit single-occupant
Shade Structure	Each	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,592	\$ 6,048	\$ 2,812	\$ 33,052	\$ 29,747	\$ 19,831	Fabric-roofed elements that cool off hot play areas/spray parks etc.
Other (see notes)								\$ -	\$ -	Unique cost depending on improvements
Standard Maintenance	Per acre	\$ 12,000					\$ 12,000			Approximately 100% of current gross cost/acre
Enhanced Maintenance	Per acre	\$ 30,000					\$ 30,000			Recognizing more intensive features and use at major facilities
Natural Resource Maintenance	Per acre	\$ 500					\$ 500			Based on a stabilizing level of maintenance, MIG research

# APPENDIX H



## Funding Strategy

## Appendix H: Funding Strategy

The City of Monroe's is identifying funding sources to implement its short-term capital improvement plan for the six-year period between 2023 and 2028. Called the Action Plan, this builds on an incorporates budgeted projects for the year 2022 that already have funds identified. For this reason, the City's funding strategy is based in a seven-year timeframe. Implementation of this plan is contingent upon securing the necessary capital and operations funding to support each of these projects. This Appendix discusses the funding and financing needs.

### Capital Revenue Sources for Parks

The City of Monroe anticipates funding from a variety of sources to support its capital investment in the park and recreation system. The following sources were taking into account in creating a funding and financing strategy to implement the Action Plan. Following the overview of funding sources, Table H-1 compares anticipated funding revenues to project costs to note anticipated funding deficiencies over the next seven years.

The City of Monroe has three existing revenue sources to fund parks capital projects, through the Parks CIP Fund or Fund 317. Historically, the City has relied on the following sources.

- **Real Estate Excise Tax (REET).** Cities in Washington may levy a REET tax of up to 0.5% on most sales of property. REET is limited in use to fund capital projects and limited maintenance uses. Historically, the City has used between \$1,800 and \$3.9 million in REET annually to support parks capital projects, between 2017 and 2021. In this time period, REET funds used for parks have totaled \$7.1 million. Between 2022 and 2028, the City expects to use an average of \$100,000 per year to fund parks capital projects, or a total of \$700,000 over the six-year period.
- **Park Impact Fees.** Impact fees are collected on new residential development and are a one-time fee. These are restricted in use to capital projects that serve new development or enhance the capacity of the parks system. Park impact fees may not be used to fund repair, replacement or maintenance. Between 2017 and 2021, the City of Monroe has collected an average of \$440,000 annually and a total of \$2.2 million in park impact fees. The revenue collected through park impact fees is dependent upon the fee level adopted by the City and the volume of new development. Assuming the City adopts the maximum allowable fee level, based on City development forecasts, the City can expect to collect an estimated \$4.4 million in impact fees between 2022 and 2028 or an average of \$630,000 per year. The maximum allowable park impact fee represents a substantial increase over the currently adopted rates.
- **Grants.** The State of Washington has a variety of grant programs available to fund parks and recreation capital facilities and program, many are through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Between 2017 and 2021 the City of Monroe received approximately \$2.3 million in grant funding, including a \$2.3 million grant in 2021, according to the 2022 Mayor's Recommended Budget. The City of Monroe expects to continue to win grant awards to support parks capital projects. While past success in winning parks grant funding is not a guarantee of future success, the City intends to submit grant applications and may continue to receive funding consistent with previous grants receipts. Future grant funding is estimated at about \$1.5 million in grant funds between 2022 and 2028, or an average of \$500,000 every other year aligned with the RCO grant schedule.

Other funding sources that may increase funding for parks capital projects, which have not historically been used by the City include potential bond funding and sponsorships or donations.

- **Future Bond Funding.** Cities have the option of issuing bonds as a source of revenue for parks and recreation. This revenue source typically requires 60% voter approval. In 2019, an East County Parks and Recreation District bond measure failed to achieve the 60% threshold. The measure had strong support within the City of Monroe, and the parks bond received strong support in the 2020 online questionnaire conducted for this planning process. Therefore, the City may submit a future bond proposal for voter approval. Currently, the City is projecting a total bond issue of nearly \$8.2 million, with the first issue of nearly \$5.4 million in 2023 and an additional \$2.8 million in 2025. Community priorities have shifted since the 2019 bond proposal and the proposed amount will not provide funding to support several of the high priority projects desired by the community. The City may revise and increase the projections for bond funding depending on anticipated approval for a bond and projects to be funded through the bond issue.
- **Sponsorships or Donations.** Cities may use sponsorships, donations and other private gifts to fund parks projects. Sponsorships and donations have not historically been a source of funding for the City of Monroe, however, this may be a source of future funding for Monroe's parks. All donations are subject to the City's acceptance policy as documented in MMC 3.40.030.

The City may also benefit from other future funding sources such as a potential sales tax dedicated to parks and recreation or the potential formation of a Metropolitan Parks District which provides dedicated funding sources for both parks maintenance, operation and capital expenses. Described below, these two fundings sources are less certain and require additional legislative work or a vote of the people.

- **Future Sales Tax.** The Washington Recreation & Parks Association is working for the passage of a local funding option to support parks and recreation through the Washington legislature. The proposal, if passed, would allow park districts to submit a 0.1% increase in sales tax for voter approval. If adopted, the legislation would also allow park districts to bond against the proceeds of the new sales tax. This potential sales tax increase would provide an unrestricted funding source for parks and recreation, allowing the funds to be used for operations and maintenance as well as capital expenses.
- **Metropolitan Parks District.** Washington State Law allows for the formation of a Metropolitan Parks District (MPD), which may cover some or all of one or more cities or counties. The City is currently a part of the East County Parks and Recreation District and the formation of a MPD would require that the City of Monroe withdraw from the current park district, which has not to date been under consideration. Withdrawal from the existing parks and recreation district requires voter approval.

Parks and Recreation Districts and MPDs have different funding mechanisms. A parks and recreation district may levy a 6-year regular property tax levy up to \$0.60 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, subject to 60% voter approval within the district. MPDs have the power to levy or impose taxes and fees to generate revenue to support parks operation, maintenance and capital improvements. A MPD may levy two general property tax levies, one of up to \$0.25 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation and one of \$0.50 per \$1,000. These rates are subject to a maximum limitation under and are considered one levy for the purposes of the 1% annual levy increase limits. Additionally, a MPD may also submit one-year excess levies for voter approval and may issue general obligation debt, as well as short-term debt. The City may consider forming a metropolitan parks district for a specific set of projects or facilities or may form a district to support all parks and recreation facilities within the area. Formation of a MPD requires voter approval but could provide an additional and dedicated revenue source to fund parks capital improvements.

## Maintenance and Operations Revenue Sources for Parks

Investments in the City of Monroe's parks system can also be expected to increase expenses for parks operations and maintenance. The City has historically funded parks operations and maintenance through the General Fund. Expenses include personnel, supplies and professional services. Historically, parks maintenance and operations have averaged \$1.5 million annually between 2017 and 2021, totaling \$7.6 million. Maintenance and operations for existing parks can be expected to increase over the 2021 budget by \$1.1 million to meet the desired level of maintenance and operations. Including new maintenance costs as capital projects are completed, total maintenance and operations costs between 2022 and 2028 are estimated at \$26.1 million. These costs may be less depending on the magnitude of parks capital projects completed each year (see **Table H-2**).

Historically, the City of Monroe has used General Fund revenue to support parks and recreation operations and maintenance costs. Revenue generated for the General Fund by parks and recreation include:

- **Charges for Services.** Parks and recreation generate some revenue through charges for services. Parks and recreation fees averaged \$40,800 annually between 2015 and 2019. Charges for services declined in both 2020 and 2021, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health response. However, these charges can be expected to continue to increase and reach pre-pandemic levels in 2022. Assuming fee levels remain consistent, revenues generated by parks fees are estimated at \$41,000 annually, totaling \$287,000 in total between 2022 and 2028. The City may consider increasing parks and recreation facility use fees to generate additional revenue to support parks operations and maintenance. The City could consider implementing an annual index to increase parks fees or may adopt an appropriate increase consistent with facility use fees in other surrounding cities and market rates.

The remaining revenue to support parks and recreation operations and maintenance is funded through intergovernmental revenue sources, estimated at \$24,000 per year, consistent with historical funding, as well as other General Fund sources. Between 2017 and 2020 an average of \$1.2 million was funded through other General Fund revenues.

Other revenue sources that may provide revenue to support increases in parks operations and maintenance include:

- **Concession Fees.** As the City develops parks and facilities, the City may consider forming public-private partnerships with vendors to provide services within these parks, including selling concessions or renting equipment. The City may enter into these agreements and include a concession fee for vendors. The revenue generated by these concession fees depends on the number of concessionaires that the City works with as well as demand for these concessions as parks are developed.
- **Future Sales Tax.** The proposed 0.1% sales tax for parks and recreation would be an unrestricted funding source for parks districts or cities that adopt it, if passed by the legislature. Unrestricted funding sources allow jurisdictions to use the funding for both capital and maintenance and operations expenses.
- **Metropolitan Parks District.** A MPD may levy general property tax levies to support parks and recreation, supporting both capital projects as well as maintenance and operations. The City is currently a part of the East County Parks and Recreation District and the formation of a MPD would require that the City of Monroe withdraw from the current park district, which has not to date been under consideration. Withdrawal from the existing district and formation of a MPD both require voter approval.

**Table H-1: Parks Capital Projects and Financing Plan, 2022-2028**

Park Project	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
<b>Expenditure</b>								
Public Art/Banners	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
Riverfront Master Plan	\$200,000	\$0	\$350,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,050,000
Cadman Phase I & II	\$25,000	\$1,600,000	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$200,000	\$17,825,000
Centennial Trailhead	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$360,000	\$0	\$600,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,960,000
Lake Tye Phase II	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
North Hill Park Design & Development	\$45,000	\$0	\$400,000	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,445,000
Northeast Monroe New Park Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Park Playground Equipment	\$315,000	\$578,000	\$607,000	\$637,000	\$669,000	\$702,000	\$737,000	\$4,245,000
North Kelsey – Public Plaza Festival Lot (EDAB)	\$0	\$200,000	\$75,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,775,000
Parks Info Stations (3)	418,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,000
Park Safety Security Cameras	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
River Interp Signs	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
Trail System Master Plan Connectivity (EDAB)	\$0	\$200,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,775,000
Trail Planning & Repair	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$90,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$633,000</b>	<b>\$2,828,000</b>	<b>\$1,507,000</b>	<b>\$12,017,000</b>	<b>\$11,199,000</b>	<b>\$7,302,000</b>	<b>\$6,967,000</b>	<b>\$42,453,000</b>
<b>Revenue</b>								
Grants		\$500,000		\$500,000		\$500,000		\$1,500,000
Impact Fees	\$828,000	\$690,000	\$583,000	\$583,000	\$583,000	\$583,000	\$583,000	\$4,433,000
Bonds		\$5,355,000	\$0	\$2,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,155,000
REET	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$700,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$928,000</b>	<b>\$6,645,000</b>	<b>\$683,000</b>	<b>\$3,983,000</b>	<b>\$683,000</b>	<b>\$1,183,000</b>	<b>\$683,000</b>	<b>\$14,788,000</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$295,000</b>	<b>\$3,817,000</b>	<b>(\$824,000)</b>	<b>(\$8,034,000)</b>	<b>(\$10,516,000)</b>	<b>(\$6,119,000)</b>	<b>(\$6,284,000)</b>	<b>(\$27,665,000)</b>

Sources: City of Monroe, 2021; MIG, Inc., 2021; Community Attributes Inc., 2021.

Note: The forecasted revenue from park impact fees assumes the adoption of the maximum allowable park impact fee rates. The forecasted revenue will decline proportionately with the reduction in adopted park impact fees. The forecasted bond revenue assumes a voter approved bond matching the 2020 proposal. This revenue source may increase or decrease depending on the City's choice of projects and amount of bond funding to submit for voter approval. The park projects in the action plan includes major unfunded projects, unless other funding sources are identified, including construction and development of Riverfront Park, Cadman and North Kelsey – Public Plaza Festival Lot (EDAB).

**Table H-2: Parks and Recreation Forecasted Maintenance Revenue and Expenses, 2022-2028**

Park Operations & Maintenance	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
<b>Expenditure</b>								
Personnel	\$1,920,000	\$1,920,000	\$1,920,000	\$2,040,000	\$2,610,000	\$3,620,000	\$3,640,000	\$17,670,000
Supplies	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$150,000	\$190,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	\$1,280,000
Professional Svcs	\$780,000	\$780,000	\$780,000	\$830,000	\$1,060,000	\$1,470,000	\$1,480,000	\$7,180,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,840,000</b>	<b>\$2,840,000</b>	<b>\$2,840,000</b>	<b>\$3,020,000</b>	<b>\$3,850,000</b>	<b>\$5,350,000</b>	<b>\$5,380,000</b>	<b>\$26,130,000</b>
<b>Revenue</b>								
Intergovernmental	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$168,000
Charges for Services	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$287,000
Interest and Other	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$21,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$68,000</b>	<b>\$476,000</b>						

Sources: City of Monroe, 2021; MIG, Inc., 2021; Community Attributes Inc., 2021.

Note: Forecasted expenditures are estimated based on historic distribution of expenditure by type and forecasted future total expenditures. Future expenditures are based on current parks operations and maintenance costs and estimated maintenance expenditures to meet future needs for parks as capital improvements are implemented. The increasing costs for parks operations and maintenance account for the costs of bringing new projects online and enhancing maintenance at high-use sites. The forecasted maintenance and operations costs will be less if new projects are not developed within the six-year timeframe. Forecasted revenues are estimated based on historic revenue generation. The City uses other General Fund revenues, not specifically generated by or tied to parks, to fund parks operations and maintenance costs beyond those covered by parks and recreation generated revenues.

# Parks, Recreation & Open Space

## Introduction

This chapter summarizes the City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS). The goals and policies regarding parks is found in Chapter 2 of this plan and the PROS plan. They are included in both places to meet grant eligibility requirements.

Developing a comprehensive plan necessarily involves asking residents about vision and values, and as the process to update Monroe's plan progressed, participants repeatedly noted the City's parks. Residents were especially interested in preserving open-spaces that link Monroe to its natural setting.

The City updated its PROS plan as part of this comprehensive plan update. That plan is included as Appendix F of this document, and includes additional data and analysis of parks conditions.

The following pages contain an overview of Monroe's existing parks and recreation conditions and needs; adopted levels of service (LOS); and priorities relevant to parks, recreation and open space. Because parks and open-space systems are often closely related to factors including land use, transportation and basic infrastructure, the full goal, policy and actions framework, presented in Chapter 2, should be considered this plan's most complete expression of PROS-related policy.



**Figure 7.01** - Parks, open space and recreational assets are so key to life in Monroe that residents wished to include broad-ranging goals and policies in this plan. (Image source: Studio Cascade, Inc.)

## Purpose & Relationship to the Growth Management Act (GMA)

Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA) requires cities to consider as part of the development of their comprehensive plan the goal to:

*"Retain open space, enhance recreation opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities."*

The GMA also requires a Parks and Recreation element be included in comprehensive plans. Specifically, the GMA requires the element to include:



**Figure 7.02** - Parks add considerably to the quality of life and value of nearby neighborhoods. Here, a critical link from Lewis Street Park into Al Borlin Park. (Image source: Studio Cascade, Inc.)

- *Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period*
- *Evaluation of facilities and service needs*
- *Evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreation demand.*

This element adopts by reference the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and provides a larger policy basis for that plan.

## Conditions Overview

The City of Monroe owns approximately 288 acres of park land at 17 sites, as well as more than 14 miles of trails. Fifteen of these parks (282 acres) are developed, providing places to play, gather, and experience nature. Two sites (six acres) and undeveloped, holding acreage in reserve for future park development (not including the Cadman site, a planned park, and not currently owned by the City).

The parks are of various sizes, states of improvement and are owned, administered and maintained by the City of Monroe. Additionally, the Department is responsible for the maintenance of the streetscapes along Main Street, Lewis Street, Frylands Boulevard, N. Kelsey, Hillcrest and three roundabouts, while these areas do not function as parkland, they are a part of the park land inventory that is maintained by the City.

The City-operated parks have facilities which provide a range of recreation activities, including softball, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, skate boarding, tennis, children's and preschool play equipment, picnic shelters, water sports, open play areas, trails, pathways, restrooms and other passive recreational opportunities.

Additionally, Monroe is situated next to the Skykomish River, a popular recreation resource. Snohomish County also owns and operates three parks within the general vicinity of the City of Monroe.

Several trails and street-side pathways in Monroe contribute to the community's recreational activities, and Snohomish County has an extensive, accessible trails system that extends to King County and connects to Washington State trails. While at present none of Snohomish County trails connect to Monroe, plans exist to create these connections.

Table 7.01 identifies existing properties classified as parks which are owned and operated by the City of Monroe. The map (Figure 7.03) shows Monroe's existing park and trail system.

In addition to its park and trail system, the Monroe School District owns and operates 13 sites in the City of Monroe and the Monroe School District Area. District-owned sites which may be available for recreation use by the general public, as administered by the City of Monroe Parks & Recreation Department, are estimated to be 81.5 acres. Actual use and the assigned acreage value of School District properties and facilities is dependent on the establishment of specific interlocal agreements and the terms and operating conditions of such agreements. As of early 2015, interlocal agreements exist for shared space at Lake Tye and one was developed for joint use, synthetic fields at the High School. School lands are not considered a part of the Monroe parkland inventory nor do

**Table 7.01 - Monroe's existing parks inventory**

Classification	# of Sites	Total Acreage	Examples
Community Parks	2	114.3	Lake Tye Park and Skykomish River Park
Neighborhood Parks	9	15.0	Currie View Park, Rainier Park, Wales Street Park
Special Use Sites	1	0.6	Travelers Park
Nature Preserves	1	46.7	Foothills Wetland Preserve
River Greenbelts	2	105.1	Al Borlin Park, Lewis Street Park
Undeveloped Park Sites	3	6.0	North Hill Site, North Kelsey Site
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>287.7</b>	

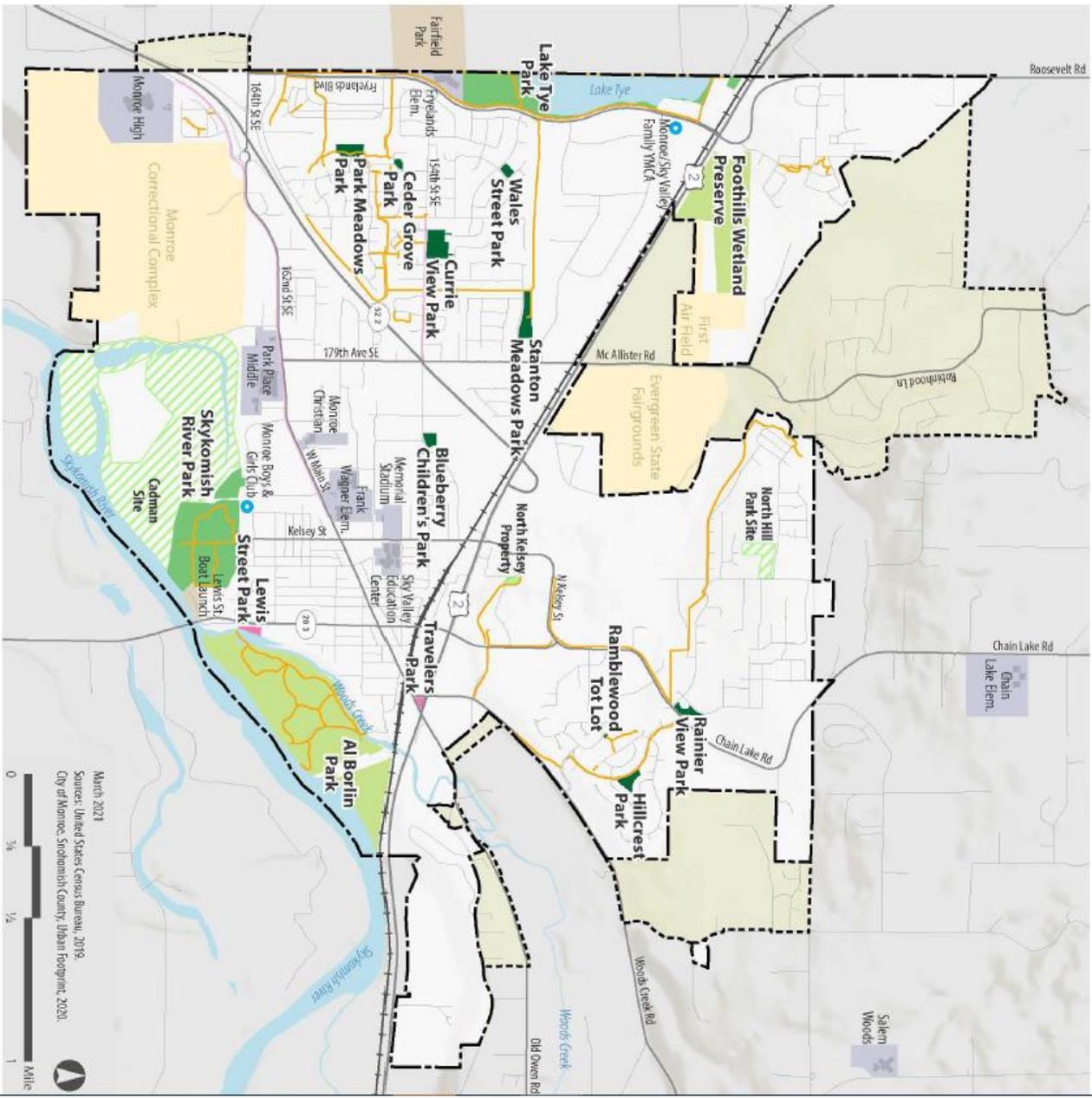
Note: The complete park and facility inventory is located in Appendix A of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

they contribute to an adopted recreation level of service, but they are available to some degree for local recreational use.

## Needs Assessment

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and Comprehensive Plan update employed extensive public engagement, establishing Monroe's park and recreation needs based on the findings of a community survey, discussions with stakeholders and results of public outreach. The key findings of the City's park and recreation needs are:

- **Trails and Paths.** *There is an overall desire for more trails and paths for walking and biking, with 51% of respondents saying that building more trails and paths should be the top funding priority*
- **Key Connections.** *Respondents thought a connection to the Centennial Trail (69%) was the most important connection for the City to develop, with a "Riverwalk" trail (50%) and extension of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail (46%) as other top choices.*
- **System Satisfaction.** *Overall respondents are highly satisfied with general park maintenance and generally satisfied with the variety of park opportunities. However, respondents are less satisfied with the current access to the Skykomish River. On average respondents were satisfied with the mix/availability of special events and recreation programming, but there is a desire for more special events and activities that would bring people downtown.*



**Figure 7.03** - Monroe's proximity to the Skykomish River presents significant opportunities to take advantage of scenic vistas and open space.

- **Play.** Respondents would like to see unique play features and challenge elements in more parks. Swimming and water play was an activity that respondents would like to see expanded.
- **Specific Site Improvements.** Most respondents answered that they were very excited for Lake Tye and Cadman Site improvements as well as the idea of a linked riverfront. At a new park in the North Hill area, respondents thought the most important features to include were restrooms, a playground, nature play elements, a viewpoint, picnic area, and open turf area for play.
- **Funding Mechanisms.** A little over half of respondents (52%) indicated that they would support a bond measure, and three quarters believe that parks funding should increase. Based on a home with a \$500,000 value, approximately 80% of respondents indicated that they would

support or strongly support a bond measure that increases property taxes between \$50 to \$75.

A complete discussion of the public process, workshop results, and community survey can be found in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (Appendix F).

## Levels of Service

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) recommends, but does not require, a determination of a level of service for parks and recreation planning, including trails. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan adopts a park LOS because using a LOS tool can indicate strengths and weaknesses of the park, recreation, and trail system and further suggest where additional resources or improvements are needed.

The following Table 7.02 identifies the Park LOS Standards and needs

Table 7.02 Park LOS Standards and Needs

PARK TYPE	Existing Acreage	Existing LOS (acres per 1,000)	Proposed LOS Guideline (acres per 1,000)	Current Need (in acres) 2020	Net Future Need (in acres) 2035	New Park Needs (Sites and Acres)
Community Parks	114.3	6.6	5.15	(24.8)	2.4	2.6 acres adjacent to Lake Tye Park
Neighborhood Parks	15.0	0.9	1.38	9.0	16.3	North Hill development (5 ac); North Hill Expansion acquisition and development (3.3 ac); UGA Site A (4 ac) and Site B (4 ac) acquisition and development
Special Use Parks	0.6	0.0	0.11	1.3	1.9	North Kelsey development (1 ac); Downtown gathering space (1 ac)
Nature Preserves	46.7	2.7	2.06	(10.9)	0.0	None (0 ac)
River Greenbelt	105.1	6.0	11.95	102.5	165.5	Cadman acquisition and development (165.5)
Undeveloped Parks	6.0	0.3	-	(6.0)	(6.0)	Existing undeveloped sites (North Hill and North Kelsey) are moved to other park classes
<b>Total</b>	<b>287.7</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>180.1</b>	

Notes: LOS refers to park Level of Service, noted in terms of acres per 1,000 residents. Existing LOS is based on a 2020 population of 17,373 residents, which excludes the population of the Monroe Correctional Center (MCC). Proposed guidelines are based on a 2035 UGA population of 22,652 residents, which excludes the MCC population. Net future need for parks subtracts existing park acreage to identify the acreage deficiency. Existing undeveloped parks will be developed in a different classification, accounting for the variations in acreage needs. Higher density residential areas will require more park land to address the needs of nearby residents



**Figure 7.04** - Special-purpose fields like the “Miracle League” Field and all-weather surface fields enjoy strong support among residents. (Image source: Studio Cascade, Inc.)

In addition to potential acquisition, to meet additional parkland requirements over time, Monroe should focus on design and development of the lands it presently owns. There should be improvements made in response to specific needs that will enhance facilities, use and service capacity of existing parks.

The specific recommendations for improvements to existing parks and the development of new parks are described in Chapters 3 and 5 of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

## Recommended 20-Year Enhancements

Over the next 20 years, the City of Monroe will enhance the existing park system by acquiring new park sites and trail corridors, developing site master plans, building new parks, adding specific amenities and facilities, renovating existing facilities, replacing facilities at the end of their lifecycles, and enhancing and expanding existing facilities. In addition, the City will maintain all developed assets and natural resources in its parks. These recommendations will enhance the quality of parks and increase recreation opportunities for all.

Appendix F details site recommendations for every existing and proposed park site in the system. As per City planning protocols, it does not include recommendations for specific trail corridors, since trail alignments are planned and funding with Transportation projects.

Recommended park projects are categorized to make it easier to identify the types of funding that may be needed:

- **Build/Add:** *Acquiring and developing a new park/facility or adding facilities to an existing site are considered capacity enhancement capital projects that may be eligible to be funded through mitigation fees. These project increase and diversify the recreation opportunities in Monroe.*
- **Replace or Enhance:** *These larger replacement projects or improvements to existing amenities and facilities requires capital funding. An example of this type of project might be a roof replacement, which typically goes beyond routine maintenance*
- **Repair and Maintain:** *These projects address the smaller-scale routine repairs and ongoing site maintenance that are addressed through operations funding.*

## Policy Overview

The administration, governance, and empowerment of Monroe’s parks and recreation department are based on a set of policies that serves the public’s interest and promotes and protects public parks, trails, recreation and functional open space assets.

This plan asserts that land used for recreational purposes has a positive influence on the local economy and quality of life. Parks and recreation assets are of public interest and deliver proven benefits in terms of social, economic, and environmental qualities.

The parks, recreational, and open space policies contained in Chapter 2 help extend and coordinate these topics among a wide range of other, often complementary, planning topics, such as land-use, transportation, economic development and environmental considerations.

Map 5-1: Site Recommendations

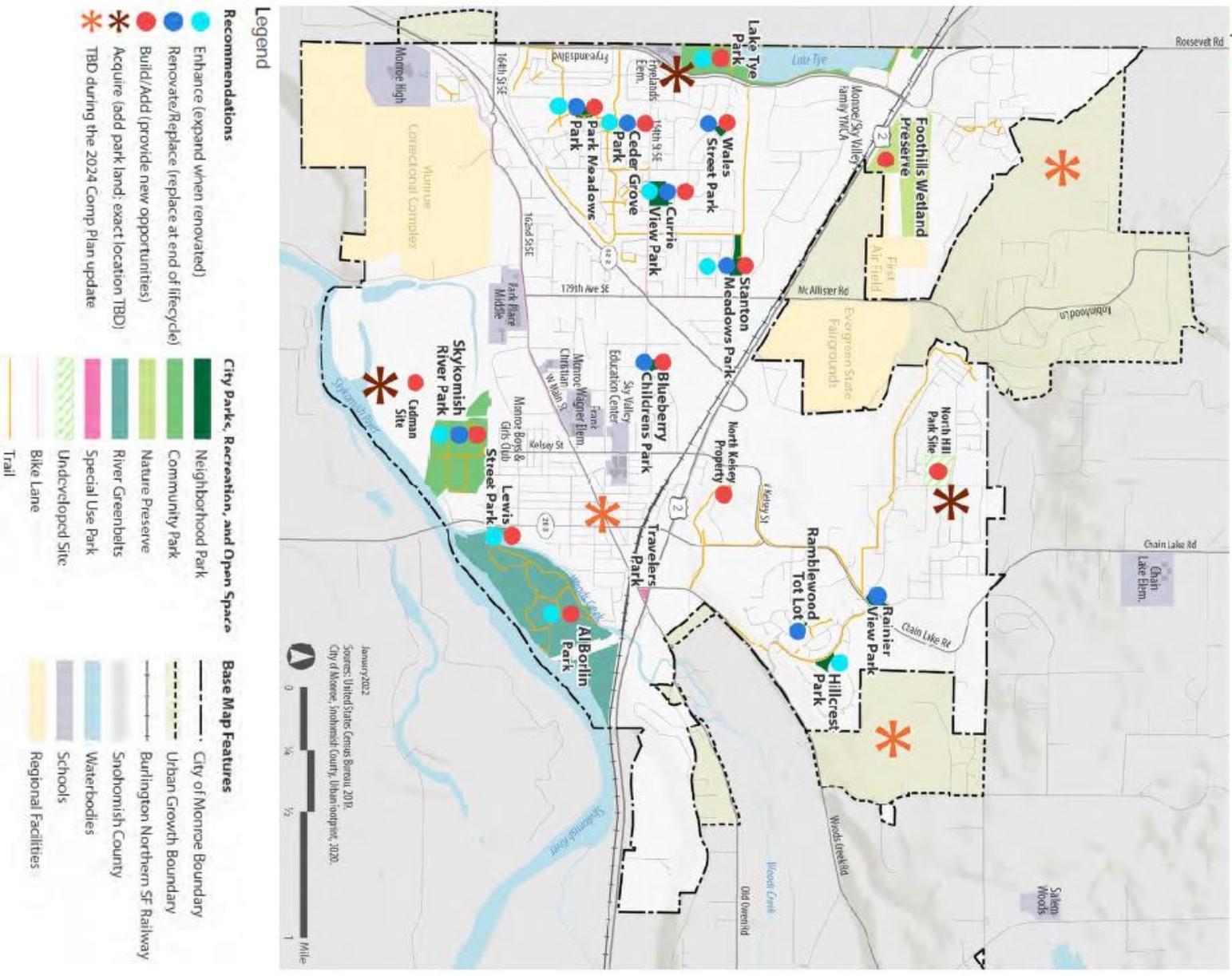


Figure 7.05 - Monroe's park and trail layout plan represents the proposed improvements. (Image source: )



**Figure 7.06** - Dog parks like “Wiggly Field” are likely to remain popular, as homes with smaller yards become more common across Monroe. (Image source: City of Monroe)

The parks, recreation, and open space policies and actions cover familiar and critical themes including:

- *Coordinating transportation and trail network plans to promote alternative modes and routes of travel*
- *Using parks and open space resources as an economic development tool*
- *Prioritizing the preservation and maintenance of existing facilities over the construction of new ones*
- *Coordinating with the school district to take advantage mutually beneficial recreation opportunities.*

The policies contained in Chapter 2 have been organized to follow the goal or goals they most

closely relate to. Similarly, each policy includes column indicators that show which plan element or elements it supports, helping the reader gain a topical understanding of the policy set.

