
CITY OF YELM



PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN July 2017

2017 Parks and Recreation Plan

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INTRODUCTION

Why the Yelm Parks and Recreation Plan is important

Building a Sustainable Community. Park and recreation facilities are being recognized as more important than ever to the sustainability of a community. Yelm adopted sustainability as a guiding principle for their Comprehensive Plan updates in 2007 and 2016 noting:

“A sustainable community thoughtfully provides for the needs of its residents with efficiency and stewardship for the future. Consider how today’s decisions will affect the quality of life of a sustainable community and meet the needs of current citizens without jeopardizing the quality of life or needs of future generations. The goal is to establish ways of living that can be sustained indefinitely.”

Recognizing the value of parks and recreation facilities for the overall health and well-being of citizens. The provision of safe, accessible recreation facilities for all ages has become more of a priority than ever before with recognition of regular exercise to the health of individuals in the community. Demographic changes are occurring with growth in the percentage of the population reaching their sixties. This presents a challenge to communities who must continue to focus on the needs of youth but in addition, must provide for the needs of community members of all ages. Consequently, planning for anticipated needs, and providing and maintaining recreation facilities becomes a challenge as communities continue to grow and the cost of facility development and maintenance continues to rise.

This plan is intended to:

- 1) Identify existing and planned recreation facilities based on the needs identified,
- 2) Determine priorities, and
- 3) Establish an action plan in order to begin to work toward the future described.

The Parks and Recreation Plan covers the Yelm parks service area including the City of Yelm with its Master Planned Communities and the unincorporated Yelm Urban Growth Area.

What Problems Exist

Meeting the needs of a growing and diverse population. Today, the on-going growth and aging of the local population continue to have an effect on the ability of the City of Yelm to provide an appropriate level of recreational facilities and services. Despite meeting some of the goals set forth in the Capital Improvement Plan, the City still faces the challenge of providing adequate services for its growing number of residents. The impacts are being felt most by organized sports groups that use the new Longmire Community Park facilities as well as depend on existing Yelm Community Schools facilities (putting additional stress on those facilities), private facilities (which are limited in the City), or travel to venues outside the Yelm area (creating additional impacts on schedules and on traffic).

Other challenges include:

- Maximizing the use of existing facilities through cooperation and coordination
- Determining the type and amount of additional parks and open space facilities that are needed now and that will be needed over time based on population projections
- Identifying maintenance cost and determining how these will be sustained over time
- Exploring financing options, determining funding sources and establishing priorities based on the agreed upon levels of service.

Vision for Yelm Parks and Recreation Network

The City of Yelm park and recreation network will sustain the physical and mental wellbeing of citizens as the area continues to grow by providing:

- Safe places for active and passive recreation for all ages
- Community gathering places for entertainment, education, art and culture
- Green spaces to share and enjoy with friends and family
- Opportunities for finding peace and serenity in shared spaces

Yelm Parks and Recreation Plan Mission

The City of Yelm will work with public and private partners as the area grows, to fund, develop, maintain and operate a park and recreation network that will meet the needs of citizens of all ages, within the Yelm community, and contribute to the regional park, recreation and trail network.

The Yelm Park and Recreation Network will include:

- Safe and accessible parks with play areas and picnic areas, community gathering areas and nature walk spaces
- Trail networks that link sidewalks, and on and off street bicycle lanes and walking routes
- Outdoor and indoor sports and community recreation facilities that will provide opportunities for learning new skills, exercise, and activities for all ages that respond to the interests of as many citizens as possible

The existing Yelm Park and Recreation Network will be enhanced, making efficient use of existing facilities while identifying additions that will be needed as growth occurs. The existing network will continue to support:

- Youth and adult sport activity
- Community needs for gatherings and events

The Yelm Park and Recreation Network will expand over time in order to:

- Add opportunity for all neighborhoods to have a gathering or play space within walking distance of homes, or linkages via sidewalks, and paths that encourage bicycling and walking,
- Meet the demands of a more diverse population, increasingly aware of the importance of exercise and activity for the mental and physical wellbeing of young and old

- Continue to accommodate youth and adult sport activity needs, building new facilities in cooperation with schools and other public and private partners
- Respond to concerns for sustainability by providing park and recreation facilities and open spaces within the Yelm community
- Consider adding a community recreation center and swimming pool
- Plan for a park and recreation department or district and a director and staff
- Accommodate regional and state user needs for special events

Description of the Process

This Draft Yelm Parks and Recreation Plan evolved from past parks plans completed in 1987, 1999 and 2008. This 2017 draft is based on updates to the 2008 plan with recommendations from the Yelm Parks Advisory Committee, and extensive work by a subcommittee of the parks advisory committee and the planning commission. Data used in the preparation and review of the plan includes:

- Population projections to 2040 for Yelm and its Urban Growth Area as updated in 2015
- Input from public, private and community groups during the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update,
- Surveys completed in 1999, again in 2008 and public feedback collected during the 2015 Yelm Home and Garden Show,
- Review and outreach to all Yelm citizens and public and private organizations by the Parks Advisory Committee (including an open house)
- Review by the Planning Commission which includes work sessions, public hearing and recommendation for adoption to the Yelm City Council
- Review by the Yelm City Council including work sessions, public hearing and adoption

BACKGROUND

Over the last 30+ years (1986–2016), the needs and demands for varied leisure time activities have increased significantly throughout Thurston County and, particularly, in the City of Yelm. The 1987 Park Plan expressed the needs and goals of the community. In its 1999 Parks & Recreation Plan, the City determined that the needs and demands for recreation facilities far exceeded what was available in the area at the time. In its 2008 Parks & Recreation Plan, the City determined that it had the appropriate amount of land to meet the National Recreation & Park Association Standards, however still lacking recreation facilities. The response was to develop a six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), to set goals and objectives, define needs and implement an action plan for providing a greater level of parks and recreation services.

Specific goals included:

- upgrades to existing park and recreation facilities,
- redesign of City Park, including the Community Center and Skate Board Park,
- upgrades to Longmire Community Park, and
- a new Community Park with an indoor recreation facility (with location and funding yet to be determined).

This document updates and enhances elements of the City of Yelm 2008 Parks & Recreation Plan, identifies new goals, establishes new Level of Service standards and measurements and identifies new opportunities for park, recreation facilities, athletic fields, open space and trails to meet our increasing population demands. This update includes:

- a program inventory of land, facilities, and recreation services,
- determination of level of service standards and measures;
- needs assessment, including current needs and demands, and projected needs and priorities based on citizen survey responses and level of service;
- parks and trails classifications and options
- current budgets, and maintenance requirements,
- possible funding sources
- an action plan

This information will be used by City decision makers to determine park, recreation, and open space requirements to be developed over time, and as the update of the Parks/Open Space Section of the Yelm Comprehensive Plan.

FACILITIES AND PROGRAM INVENTORY

The following identifies existing land, facilities, recreation programs, level of service, and current improvement activities for parks and recreation facilities within the City of Yelm.

Land and Facilities

Parks

There are currently four parks – totaling 25.23 acres – all of which are developed with the exception of additional amenities. Two of these parks (Cochrane Memorial Park and Yelm City Park) have facilities that provide a range of features for mostly passive recreational use (e.g., picnic shelters and tables, barbeque grills, trails, seating areas, performance stage, playground, water features, information kiosk, restrooms); some active recreational use (e.g., open play areas, new Community Center patio area); and other recreational opportunities (e.g., Community Center building with kitchen facilities, vendor stalls, veterans' memorial sites).

The third facility – Longmire Community Park – is an active recreation facility, with most of the work completed in March 2008. The park includes three Little League regulation-size baseball fields, one soccer/football field, a paved parking lot of 135+ spaces, and accent landscaping around the parking lot. Restrooms are in place to serve the needs of park users. Picnic areas and a trail system are planned potentially to be phased-in over the next several years.

The fourth facility - Yelm Skate Board Park - was completed in 2016. Located on 1st Avenue across from Yelm City Park, this facility is an active recreation facility for school age children to adults.

In addition to its function as a facility for passive recreation, Cochrane Memorial Park serves as a water reclamation facility for the City of Yelm. Through an extensive treatment process, wastewater generated by the City is converted to water clean enough for specific reuse applications, enabling the City to conserve water resources. Four of the nearly eight park acres are comprised of wet cells that filter reuse water prior to its reentry into local aquifers.

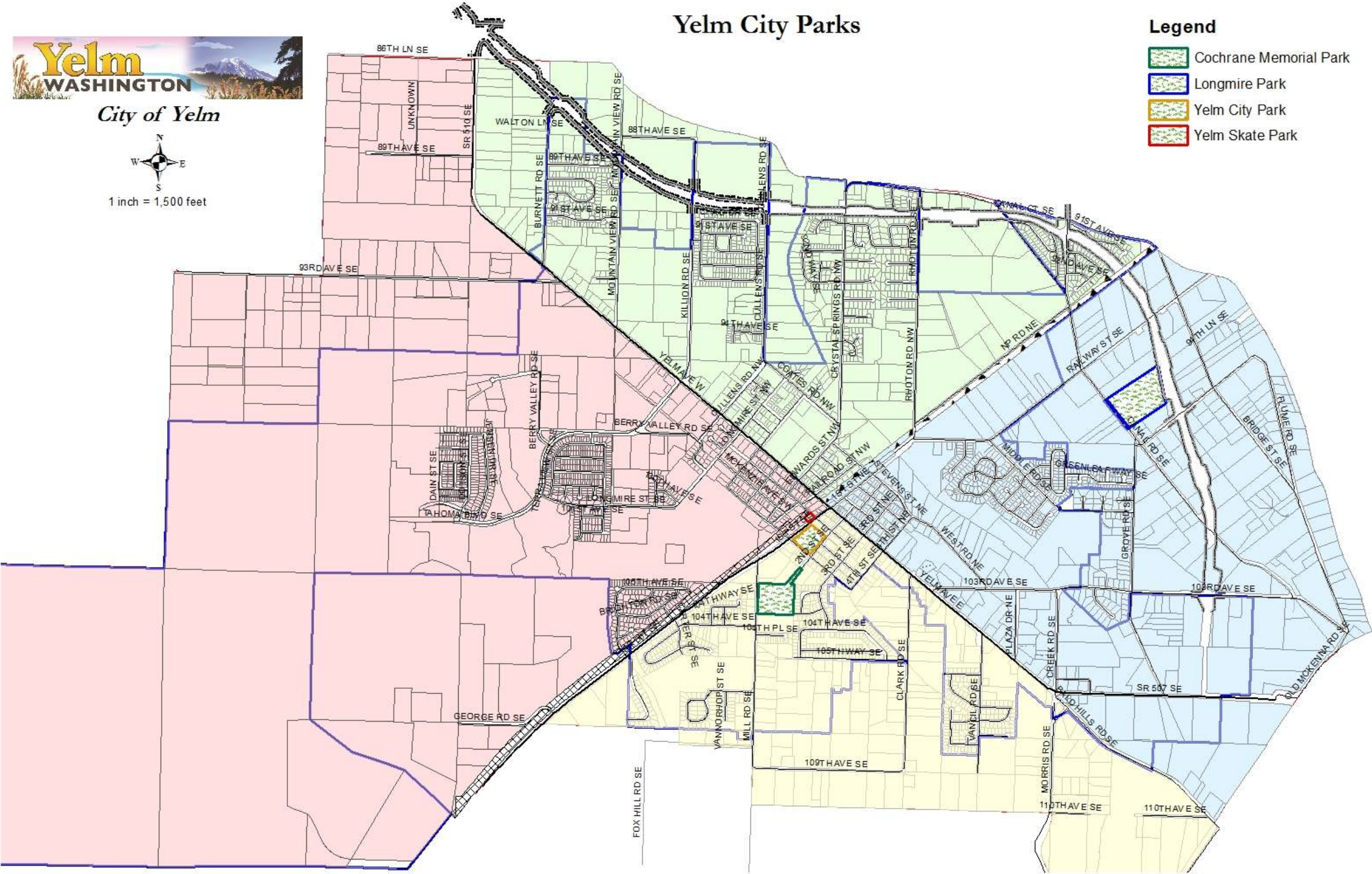
Yelm City Park is located in the center of town – in a space roughly the size of one city block – and serves as the signature downtown park. Because of its central proximity and existing features favorable to community-oriented activities, many special events are held throughout the year at this facility. Yelm City Park includes the Community Center facility available for public and private events with 4,934 square feet, capacity of up to 250 and a fully equipped commercial kitchen.

The following table describes existing parks currently in use or under development for recreational purposes in the City of Yelm.

Table 1. City of Yelm parks – existing and in-process facilities (2016).

Name	Acres & LOS points		Facilities
Cochrane Memorial Park (developed)	7.88	79	Water reclamation facility (cells, ponds and water channels), trails, picnic shelter and picnic areas, barbeque grills, seating areas, fishing pond, wildlife observation areas, waterfall feature, fountain, wood observation deck, open space, paved parking lot (20 spaces), portable toilet, landscaping <i>Note: restrooms to be added at future date</i>
Longmire Community Park (developed)	13.37	201	Open space, paved parking lot (130+ spaces), landscaping, three Little League-sized baseball fields, one football/soccer field, restrooms, snack facility and playground equipment <i>Note: trails, picnic shelter and picnic tables added at a future date</i>
Yelm City Park (developed)	3.73	37	Picnic shelter, picnic tables, barbeque grill, covered vendor stalls, Community Center with commercial kitchen facility, indoor and outdoor restrooms, open play areas, playground, covered concrete surface multi-purpose area, covered concrete surface performance stage, seating areas, commemorative stone plaques, flag pole, gravel parking lot (40+ spaces), accessibility paved parking lot (23 spaces), perimeter landscaping <i>Note: Redesign and include adjacent property, and add PA system, and expanded play equipment.</i>
Yelm Community Center		50	
Trails – Yelm and UGA (developed)	36	180	5.29 miles of paved trail within Yelm and its Urban Growth Area (UGA) for bicycle and pedestrian use with linkages to the Yelm to Tenino Trail network and to the rest of the existing and planned Thurston Regional Trail network. The Prairie Line Trail includes a trailhead park with picnic tables, restrooms, parking lot (20 spaces) and landscaping. Currently approximately 58 miles of paved trail in the Thurston region could expand to as much as 145 miles of trail over time. <i>Note: This includes the portion of the Yelm to Tenino trail and completed SR 510 Alt trails within Yelm and its UGA. Acreage includes all land within the 100 ft. rail corridor right-of-way – except for the portion from Rhoton Rd. to Canal St. that will be shared trail and rail. For this portion only the 14 ft. improved trail area is counted as park space.</i>
Yelm Skate Park	.25	25	Skate park includes several levels of skate obstacles, lighting, picnic area and connection to the Yelm to Tenino Trail.
Gross Existing Park Acreage and LOS points	61.23	572	

Figure 1: City of Yelm Parks



Trails

In 2007 the Thurston Regional Trails Plan was adopted. This detailed plan builds on past rail corridor preservation and regional bicycle plans. It will guide future trail planning for the Thurston Region with the goal of completing a region-wide off-street trail network that will serve the region's resident and visitor transportation and recreation needs.

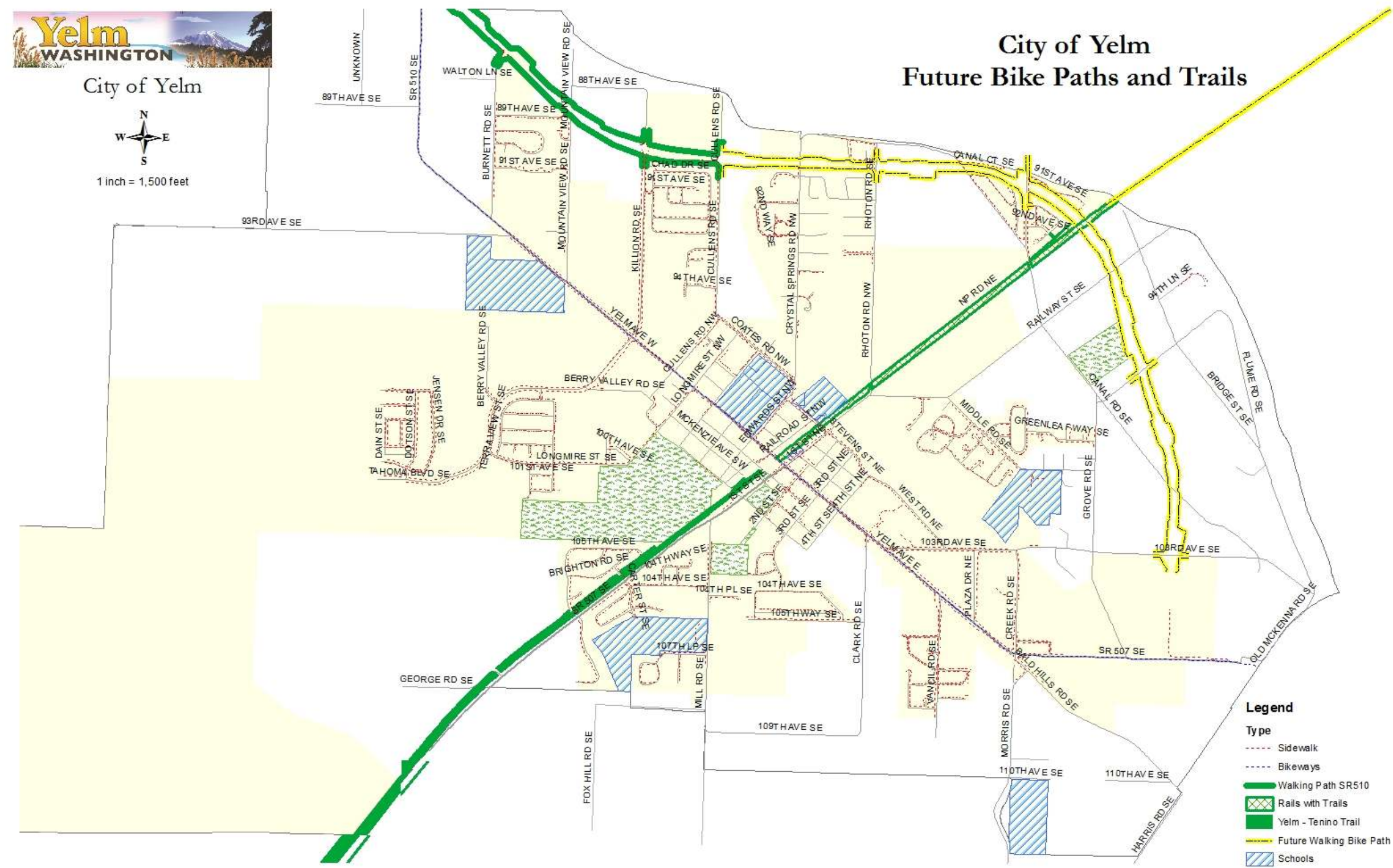
Yelm-Tenino Trail: This Thurston County trail, approximately 14.5 miles in length, extends east-west between Yelm, Rainier and Tenino, serving as a regional connector. Completed in late 2004, the trail complements a regional trails system that intersects with the 22-mile long Chehalis-Western Trail, and provides a major link to the Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater area. The trail includes a 10-foot wide, paved surface for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized vehicle uses. The Yelm trailhead originates near City Hall, and includes parking, benches and an information kiosk. Though the trail and trailhead are owned and managed by Thurston County, the trailhead is maintained mostly by the City of Yelm Public Works Department.

Yelm Prairie Trail Line: The City of Yelm purchased a segment of the Yelm Prairie Line Railroad from Burlington Northern Railroad Company in 1998 with the help of transportation grant funds. Yelm owns the railroad right-of-way (ROW) and its underlying property from State Route 510 northeast to the Town of Roy in Pierce County (approx. 5 miles). As a condition of acquiring this ROW with grant funds, the Federal Highways Administration required that a shared-use trail must be built along the length this corridor – from Rhoton Rd. on the south end. City of Yelm land use plans support future land use activities targeted to customers requiring rail shipping services, since active rail service could be restored to this corridor in the future. The City of Yelm may be the first in the region to not only provide a shared-use trail that connects to another county, but could also have a joint shared-use trail with active rail service. This trail improves travel for bicycle and pedestrian traffic by providing an off street uninterrupted route through the center of Yelm with connections to the Yelm-Tenino Trail Corridor.

The City-owned rail corridor with the Prairie Line Trail - within Yelm city limits - approximately 1.5 miles long, extends in a northeasterly direction from the Yelm-Tenino Trail trailhead behind City Hall, through the heart of downtown, along NP Rd. SE to its endpoint at the existing Centralia Power Canal. A trailhead for the Yelm Prairie Line Trail includes parking, picnic tables, a kiosk and restrooms.

Extension of the Yelm Prairie Line Trail to the town of Roy will require a region-wide effort to finance, plan, design, and build this trail corridor – including the City of Yelm, Roy and Thurston and Pierce counties.

Figure 2. City of Yelm Trails.



Indoor Facilities

The City of Yelm does not own or operate any indoor recreation facilities at this time. The only indoor recreational facilities in the community are within local schools (listed in Table 2 below).

Thurston County Parks – Southeast

Thurston County is currently developing Deschutes Falls Park, a hilly 167-acre property located approximately 15 miles southeast of downtown Yelm, off Bald Hills Road SE. Purchased in part as a nature preserve retreat, the site will feature mostly passive recreation facilities (e.g., trails, seating, picnic areas, wildlife observation, overlooks). The County is in negotiation to purchase an adjacent 12-acre parcel for possible development of informal open play areas and playgrounds. The park is not yet open to the public.

Schools

The school district currently serves more than 5,500 students in ten separate facilities: six elementary schools (Fort Stevens, Lackamas, McKenna, Mill Pond, Prairie and Southworth), two middle schools (Ridgeline and Yelm), one high school (Yelm HS) and one supportive education facility (Yelm Extension School). With the passage of a City construction bond in 2003, Lackamas Elementary School opened in 2005 and Ridgeline Middle School opened in the fall of 2006. Expansions were recently completed at McKenna Elementary and Yelm High School, with follow-up site construction continuing at the High School.

Due to a significant shortage of City recreational facilities and fields, Yelm Community Schools serve as the primary venue for Yelm area community sports organizations. Typically, a limited number of school facility fields are available at any given time, with priority always given to school programs. Some facilities have even greater limitations (for example, only making available practice areas – not playing fields – for use by community sports groups). Sports organizations reserve available space with the School District, and subsequently arrange their schedules with other local sports groups to meet their needs. Due to the limitations of school facilities, some sports organizations are required to travel outside of the Yelm area (e.g., to Lacey and Olympia) to find available field space.

The following table describes existing school recreation facilities, most of which currently serve the needs of local community sports organizations.

Table 2. Yelm Community Schools – existing and in-process facilities (2016).

Name	Facilities
Fort Stevens Elementary School	Two Little League size baseball fields, one open play field (used for soccer), one dirt surface walking track, one playground with multiple play apparatus and swing sets, one full-sized gymnasium with vinyl composition tile (VCT) flooring.
Lackamas Elementary School	One open play field (used for PE classes and soccer practice), one covered asphalt surface play area, one playground with play apparatus, one swing set, one half-sized gymnasium with wood flooring
McKenna Elementary School	One playground with play apparatus, one separate swing set (to be relocated to playground), one full-sized gymnasium (no bleachers) with Mondo (soft rubber) flooring. <i>Note: one Little League baseball field to be added at future date.</i>
Mill Pond Elementary School	Two fast pitch softball fields (to be shared with Ridgeline Middle School users), one playground with multiple play apparatus, one asphalt surface basketball court area with four hoops, one full-sized gymnasium (no bleachers) with rubberized flooring.
Prairie Elementary School	One large play field (used for football and soccer), one 4 to 5-ft wide asphalt surface walking track, two fast pitch softball fields, one open play field (used for young age-group soccer), two playgrounds (both with play apparatus and one with swings), one covered asphalt surface play area, one asphalt surface basketball court area with two hoops, one full-sized gym with wood flooring.
Southworth Elementary School	One open play field (used for young age-group soccer), one baseball field (non-regulation size), one playground with multiple play apparatus and swing sets, one asphalt surface play court, one covered asphalt surface play area, one full-sized gymnasium with rubberized flooring (no bleachers).
Ridgeline Middle School	One full-sized main gymnasium with wood flooring, and one full-sized gymnasium (no bleachers) with Mondo flooring, sharing of two fast pitch softball fields with Mill Pond Elementary School (see above), one weight room. Sports fields including football/soccer field, one baseball, one softball, one fast-pitch field, and a running track.
Yelm Middle School	Two fast pitch softball fields, one open play field (used for soccer), one soccer field surrounded by an engineered surface running track, four asphalt surface basketball courts with six hoops (at three out of four courts), one football field, one baseball field, one full-sized gymnasium with wood flooring, one weight room.
Yelm High School	One combination football/soccer stadium with bleachers and lighting, one rubber surface running track in stadium, one fast pitch softball field, one varsity baseball field, one open play field (used for football practice), one junior varsity soccer field, one 'events' field (used for soccer or football and for field events such as javelin throw and shot put), six asphalt surface tennis courts, two full-sized gymnasiums with wood flooring, one weight room.
Yelm Extension School	No recreation facilities on-site.

Community sports groups also use certain non-recreational spaces creatively to help meet their athletic needs. For example, a grassy open space inside the paved bus loop at Southworth Elementary School is used as a practice area for soccer and t-ball, as well as a playing field for U-5 (early age group) soccer games.

The following table describes user groups, limiting factors and other uses of recreation facilities and spaces at Yelm Community Schools.

Table 3. Yelm Community Schools – recreation facilities used by community sports groups (2016).

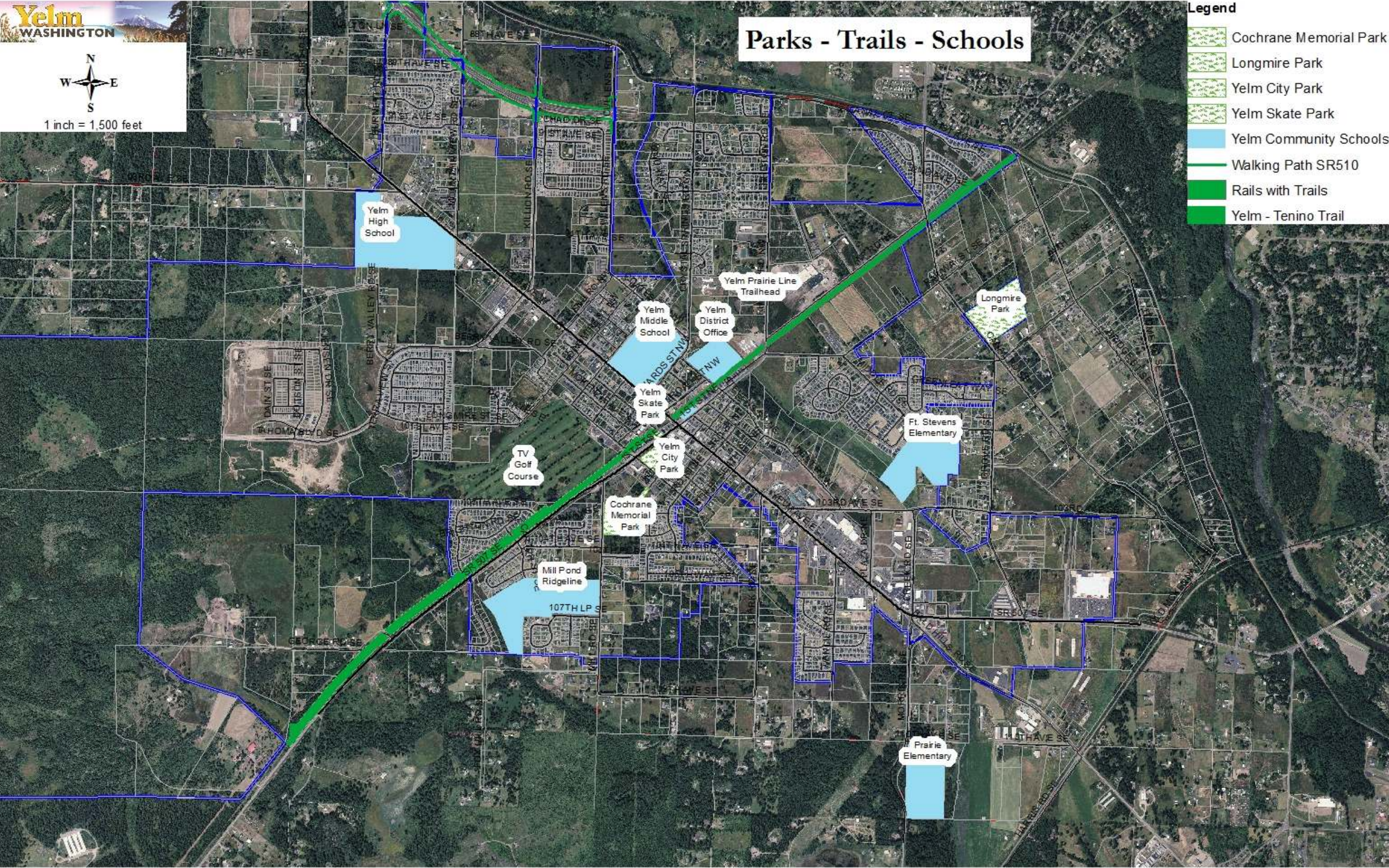
Facility	Community Group Uses	Limiting Factors	Specific/Other Uses
Fort Stevens Elementary School	Baseball, soccer practice, walking, indoor basketball and other activities	Availability of fields and gym space; one field not lined or irrigated.	Dirt track used for exercise; field used for soccer practice, sometimes for baseball.
Lackamas Elementary School	Soccer practice	Small site with little space available for organized sports; gym use for school only; field not lined for games or irrigated.	Open field used occasionally for soccer practice only (no games).
McKenna Elementary School	Indoor basketball and other activities	Availability of gym space; baseball field not yet built.	
Mill Pond Elementary School	Soccer, softball	Availability; softball fields shared with adjacent middle school.	Bus parking lot used for special events (e.g. pit stop for Seattle-to-Portland Bike Tour).
Prairie Elementary School	Football, soccer, softball, walking/running, basketball	Availability of fields and gym space.	Large field used for both youth football and soccer games.
Southworth Elementary School	Baseball, soccer, t-ball	Fields not lined for games or irrigated.	Grassy area inside bus loop used for youth age soccer and t-ball; bus loop used for charity walking events.
Ridgeline Middle School	Indoor basketball and other activities	Availability of gym space and weight room; softball fields shared with adjacent elementary school;	Sports fields including: football/soccer field, one baseball, one softball, one fastpitch field, and a running track
Yelm Middle School	Baseball, football, soccer, softball	Availability of fields, gym space and weight room: football and baseball fields closed Nov to Mar.	All fields used extensively by community groups.
Yelm High School	Football, soccer, softball, track, indoor basketball and other activities	Availability of fields, gym space and weight room; several facilities strictly for school use only or closed to community Nov to Apr.	Stadium field used for semi-pro football (South Sound Shockers) and regional events (sports jamborees); track used for charitable events.

Table 4 identifies public recreational City of Yelm facilities, city/county trail system and Yelm Community Schools facilities available for use in the Yelm area.

Table 4. Yelm Community Schools, City parks & trails – existing recreation facilities (2016).

Facility	School	Park/Trail	Total
Barbeque Grill	0	5	5
Baseball Field, Little League or Other	5	3	8
Basketball Court, Outdoor	6	1	7
Bench/Seating	0	13	13
Covered Play Area	2	0	2
Football Field, Youth	1	0	1
Football/Soccer Field, Illuminated	1	1	2
Gymnasium	8	0	8
Information Kiosk	0	2	2
Kitchen/Concessions Facility	0	2	2
Open Play Field	6	2	8
Parking, Accessible	Yes, amount varies	5	5
Parking, Standard	Yes	240+	240+
Performance Stage	0	1	1
Picnic Shelter w/ Tables	0	1	1
Picnic Tables, Individual	0	15	15
Playground	8	2	10
Restroom/Portable Toilet	0	5	5
Running Track	2	0	2
Running Track, Illuminated	1	0	1
Soccer Field, High School Age	2	0	2
Soccer Field, Youth Age	2	0	2
Softball Field	7	0	7
Skate Court	0	1	1
Tennis Court	6	0	6
Vendor Stall	0	16	16

Figure 3. Yelm Schools, Parks and Trails



Other Recreational Facilities - Private

Baseball (Little League): One baseball field An important facility used by community sports groups in the City of Yelm is Sam Brewer Field, a Little League-sized baseball field on the American Legion Nisqually Valley Veterans Building property (SE corner of Grove Road SE and 103rd Avenue SE).

Baseball: One partially improved field. Another facility used by the Nisqually Basin Little League is a makeshift ball field located at the Deschutes Grange (SW corner of Vail Road SE and 143rd Avenue SE). This facility was used for games by 7-8 year age groups in 2006, however due to lack of information, this field may no longer be in use.

Camping: One Camp and Conference Center. Located to southeast of downtown Yelm is the non-profit Cascades Camp and Conference Center, a private summer horse camp and retreat center on more than 500 acres, open on a seasonal basis for public use.

Golf: One 18-hole Golf Course. Just west of the center of town is the Tahoma Terra Golf & Country Club. The 75-acre site includes an 18-hole regulation, par 72 course, 6,007 yards in length. The Cascade Mini Golf facility is located near the center of the City, on one-half acre of land. Both facilities are privately-owned and open to the general public on a seasonal basis.

Gymnastics/Fitness: One gymnastics facility; one small gym. Several privately-owned fitness facilities open to the public are found in downtown Yelm. Yelm Community Services UCBO near downtown has a small gymnasium available to the public on a limited basis.

Other: Bowling. Prairie Lanes of Yelm is a small, privately-owned bowling alley in downtown Yelm, available for public use.

Events, Recreation Programs & Services

The primary recreation service provider for activities taking place on City park property is the Parks Advisory Committee, a seven-member volunteer group created to advise the Yelm City Council on matters related to City parks. Recreation activities offered by the City, or which generally take place in Yelm City parks, are described as follows:

- Wounded Warrior - United Methodist Church Car show (September)
- Christmas in the Park (December)
- Circus event (every two years)
- Nisqually Basin Little League (t-ball, spring)
- Badminton Jamboree (September)
- Flag Day Celebration (June 14)
- Prairie Days (June)
- Yelm Rotary Prairie Stampede 5K (June)
- Prairie Street Rod Association Car Show (August)
- Yelm Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt (March or April)

A number of non-profit and for-profit organizations also provide recreation services to the citizens of Yelm and residents of surrounding communities. Some of these organizations serve a specific age group; others serve all segments of the population. Most of these organizations

have space needs that currently can only be accommodated at Yelm Community Schools facilities. The following is representative of private recreation service providers.

- Black Hills Football Club
- Nisqually Basin Cal Ripken League (subsidiary of Babe Ruth League)
- Nisqually Basin Little League
- Prairie Soccer Club (subsidiary of Thurston County Youth Soccer)
- South Puget Sound Youth Softball Association
- South Sound Baseball
- Thurston County Fast Pitch Association
- Thurston County Youth Football League
- YMCA Basketball League (Yelm)
- Yelm Lions Club
- Yelm Rotary Club

Each of these recreation providers contributes to the numerous activities that comprise the recreational resources available to the citizens of Yelm. It is important to recognize that these private organizations depend on public facilities such as parks, schools or other publicly-owned venues for facilitating their recreation activities. Of any public venue, it is the recreation facilities of the Yelm Community Schools that these organizations rely on most (or exclusively, in some cases) for recreation resources.

Yelm Community Center

Situated in Yelm City Park, this 4,934 square foot facility seats 250 and is used both for community events and available to the public for rent. The Center includes a large event room that can be portioned, a commercial kitchen, lobby, outdoor terrace and paved parking. It is an ideal location for banquets, weddings, receptions, conferences, and other gatherings. City staff is available to provide assistance including set up. Audiovisual equipment and wireless internet is available.

Open Space

All park land could be considered “open space” but for this plan – as identified on the Park and Recreation Plan map - open space is public or private land set aside during development review or identified and preserved by the City. The City requires a percentage of open space to be set aside during development review (usually 5%). These open space areas can provide corridors between natural areas and urban land uses. In some cases these can preserve unique environmental features or areas and increase public use and access where possible and appropriate. The City has also designated “critical areas” for protection. Critical areas include wetlands, areas with recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas. See Map 4 for Yelm Parks and Open spaces Map at the end of this plan document.

Park and Recreation Budgets

As there is no Parks and Recreation Department in the City of Yelm at the present time, administration of park planning, park maintenance and facility improvements are performed by the Public Works Department. The Department’s budget activity for parks is structured along

functional lines of salaries/wages, personnel benefits, supplies, services/other charges and maintenance. In addition, capital outlay budgeting for Parks and Recreation in 2006 included \$150,000 to complete development of sports facilities in Longmire Park.

The following table lists actual City of Yelm parks costs for 2015 and proposed expenditures for 2016. With the opening of Longmire Park additional equipment has been needed to tend to the athletic fields; therefore, future maintenance budgets reflect this increase.

Table 5. City of Yelm Parks expense budget summary: 2015/2016.

Description	Budget Amount	
	2015(actual)	2016 (projected)
Salaries/Wages	\$165,037	\$195,526
Personnel Benefits	\$70,855	\$94,320
Supplies	\$9,393	\$15,100
Services/Other Charges	\$35,682	\$30, 650
Maintenance	\$35,916	\$65,100
Total	\$316,883	\$400,696

Parks Maintenance

As there is no Parks and Recreation Department in the City of Yelm at the present time, maintenance of City parks is managed by the Public Works Department. Currently, there are three full-time employees responsible for maintenance of all City of Yelm Park facilities. One employee provides daily maintenance at Cochrane Memorial Park, with hours varying on a seasonal basis. Labor hours required at Yelm City Park vary by season and by extent of use (e.g., set-up and clean-up requirements for special events). The addition of the Yelm Community Center, Yelm Skate Park and Longmire Community Park athletic complex have significantly increased the requirements for park facility management and maintenance, straining the capacity of the City staff to address all facility management and maintenance requirements.

The following table lists maintenance requirements for City Parks and trailheads, (not detailed below are the management and maintenance requirements for the new Yelm Community Center).

Table 6. City of Yelm parks – maintenance requirements

COCHRANE MEMORIAL PARK	
Activity	Frequency
Aerator Maintenance	twice per year
Clean Tables and Grills	once per week
Garbage Removal	daily
Graffiti/Vandalism Repair	as necessary
Litter Pick-Up (including in ponds)	2-3 days per week
Mowing (seasonal)	daily
Mulch replacement (including mixing and hauling)	once per year
Parking Lot Maintenance	weekly
Pruning (seasonal)	monthly
Trail Maintenance and Repair	monthly, or as necessary
Weeding, including wet cells (seasonal)	weekly

YELM CITY PARK	
Activity	Frequency
Building Maintenance	monthly, or as necessary
Clean Tables and Grills	once per week
Garbage Removal	daily
Graffiti/Vandalism Repair	as necessary
Litter Pick-Up	2-3 days per week
Mowing (seasonal)	daily
Parking Lot Maintenance	monthly
Playground Equipment Maintenance & Check	daily, with written report
Pressure Washing (concrete surfaces)	monthly, or as necessary
Pruning (seasonal)	annually
Restrooms Maintenance	twice daily
Weeding	bi-monthly
YELM-TENINO TRAIL TRAILHEAD	
Activity	Frequency
Garbage Removal	daily
Graffiti/Vandalism Repair	as necessary
Irrigation Maintenance and Repair	weekly
Kiosk Maintenance	weekly
Litter Pick-Up	as necessary
Mowing (seasonal)	weekly
Parking Lot Maintenance	monthly
LONGMIRE COMMUNITY PARK	
Activity	Frequency
Aeration (sports fields only)	every 6 weeks
Fertilization (sports fields only)	every 6 weeks
Garbage Removal	daily
Graffiti/Vandalism Repair	as necessary
Irrigation Maintenance and Repair	weekly
Litter Pick-Up	daily
Mowing (seasonal)	4 days per week, peak season
Mulch replacement (including mixing and hauling)	once per year
Parking Lot Maintenance	weekly
Pruning (seasonal)	twice per year
Top Dressing (sports field only)	every 6 weeks
Turf Management (seasonal)	4 days per week, peak season
Weeding	monthly
YELM SKATE BOARD PARK	
Activity	Frequency
Garbage Removal	daily
Graffiti/Vandalism Repair	as necessary
Irrigation Maintenance and Repair	monthly
Kiosk Maintenance	weekly
Litter Pick-Up	as necessary
Vegetation Maintenance	weekly
Parking Lot Maintenance	monthly

Level of Service

Level of service standards (LOS) for the 2008 plan was based on the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) measures of acres of parkland per a fixed number of residents, within a specified jurisdiction or service area. A sub-committee of the Yelm Parks Advisory Committee worked with city staff in 2016 to propose a set of Level of Service measures based on recommendations and experiences of park/recreation professionals and park management in multiple municipalities. The 2008 LOS measures were based on an acreage to population ratio of from 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed parkland open space for every 1,000 residents. The new LOS measures take into account a number of considerations for planning in the future:

- Acres per capita = park acreage per 1,000 population
- Facilities per capita, identifying facilities as Tier 1 = City owned and Tier 2 = Public accessible but not city owned; schools, HOA parks, YMCA, other open space.
- Classification of parks and facilities as centralized facilities: community facilities and community-wide athletic fields/recreational facilities, versus decentralized facilities: neighborhood parks, neighborhood play/athletic fields and pocket parks.
- Access distance to facility or park measured by quadrant in the municipality.

The new LOS measures use a point system which in addition to park acreage covers considerations of community public facilities, community athletic fields & recreational facilities, specialty parks, neighborhood parks, open space and multi-use trails. These park and recreation lands and facilities are viewed by their distribution across the quadrants of the city and UGA. The point system key is detailed in the following Table:

Table 7. City of Yelm level of service measure Keys.

	Point Key
Open space/picnic areas	10 points per acre
Community facility	50 points
Community park	10 points per acre
Community Recreation facility	50 points
Special use park - Community Athletic fields	15 points per acre
Neighborhood parks	10 points per acre
Special use park (i.e. Skate Park, Splash Park, Swimming Pool)	100 points per acre
Sports field/school	10 points per acre
Mini park or Pocket park	10 points per acre
Multi-use Trails	5 points per acre
TOTAL POINTS per POPULATION requirement	60 points of Tier 1 per 1,000 population

The 2015 population for the City of Yelm and its surrounding Urban Growth Area (UGA) was 9,590 residents (8,170 within the City limits; 1,420 within the UGA). At the time of this writing, the City of Yelm owned a total of 25.23 acres dedicated to parks, all of those acres developed for park use with plans for the addition of amenities in the future such as bathrooms, play equipment, and park furnishings. In addition, there are 6.19 miles of paved trail in Yelm and its UGA. The portion of trail from Rhoton Rd. to the Yelm City limit line share right-of-way (ROW)

with the rail line. Acreage in Table 8. below includes the entire ROW acreage where the trail does not share ROW with rail. Only the portion actually used for trail (10 ft. trail plus 2 ft. on each side of trail) is included in the acreage figures.

Using the new Yelm LOS standards of 60 points per 1,000 residents, the current level of service for the City of Yelm and surrounding UGA population would need to be at least 575 points for the population level of 9,590. The current LOS measures fall short of the 2015 requirements at 572 points for all Tier 1 (city owned) community facilities, parkland and trail corridor open space (see Table 8, below), however the City has received grant funds to install a spray park at Yelm City Park, to be completed by the end of 2018. The spray park will add approximately 25 LOS points as a Special Use Park Facility. With the completion of this facility, the City will exceed the 2015 requirements of 575 points. The projected population growth will rapidly move the LOS measures to fall below the required level as discuss in the next section.

Table 8. City of Yelm existing Tier 1 level of service points.

	Classification	Park Acreage	Points
Yelm Community Center	Community facility		50 points
Yelm City Park	Community park	3.73	37 points
Cochrane Memorial Park	Community park	7.88	79 points
Longmire Community Park	Special use park - community athletic fields	13.37	201 points
Yelm Skate Park	Special use park	0.25	25 points
Trails – Yelm & UGA	Multi-use Trails	36	180 points
Total Parks, Facilities and Trails	Target LOS of 60 points per 1,000 population @ 9,590 population level = 575 points	61.23 acres	572 points per 9,590 pop. (short target LOS)

A more complete picture of the current level of service of parks, athletic fields, facilities and trails for Yelm and UGA is revealed in the LOS measures by Quadrant of the city, including both Tier 1 (city owned) and Tier 2 facilities and sports fields. The following Tables provide the Level of Service by the 4 quadrants of the city:

Table 9. LOS measures - South East Quadrant.

	Classification	Acreage	Points	Tier
Yelm Community Center	Community facility		50 points	1
Yelm City Park	Community park	3.73	37 points	1
Cochrane Memorial Park	Community park	7.88	79 points	1
Ridgeline Middle School	Sports fields/school	15	150 points	2
Mill Pond School	Sports fields/school	15	150 points	2
Prairie Elementary	Sports fields/school	15	150 points	2
TOTAL Tier 1		11.61	166 points	1
TOTAL Tier 2		45	450 points	2

Table 10. LOS measures - North East Quadrant.

	Classification	Acreage	Points	Tier
American Legion	Sports field/school	2.5	25 points	2
Fort Stevens	Sports field/school	23	230 points	2
Longmire Community Park	Special use park - community athletic fields	13.37	201 points	1
TOTAL Tier 1		13.37	201 points	1
TOTAL Tier 2		25.5	255 points	2

Table 11. LOS measures - South West Quadrant.

	Classification	Acreage	Points	Tier
Golf Course	Open space	75	750 points	2
Yelm High School	Sports field/school	36	360 points	2
Southworth Elementary	Sports field/school	10	100 points	2
Tahoma Terra Park	Open space/picnic area	1	10 points	2
Yelm Skate Park	Special use park	0.25	25 points	1
TOTAL Tier 1		0.25	25 points	1
TOTAL Tier 2		127	1,220 points	2

Table 12. LOS measures - North West Quadrant.

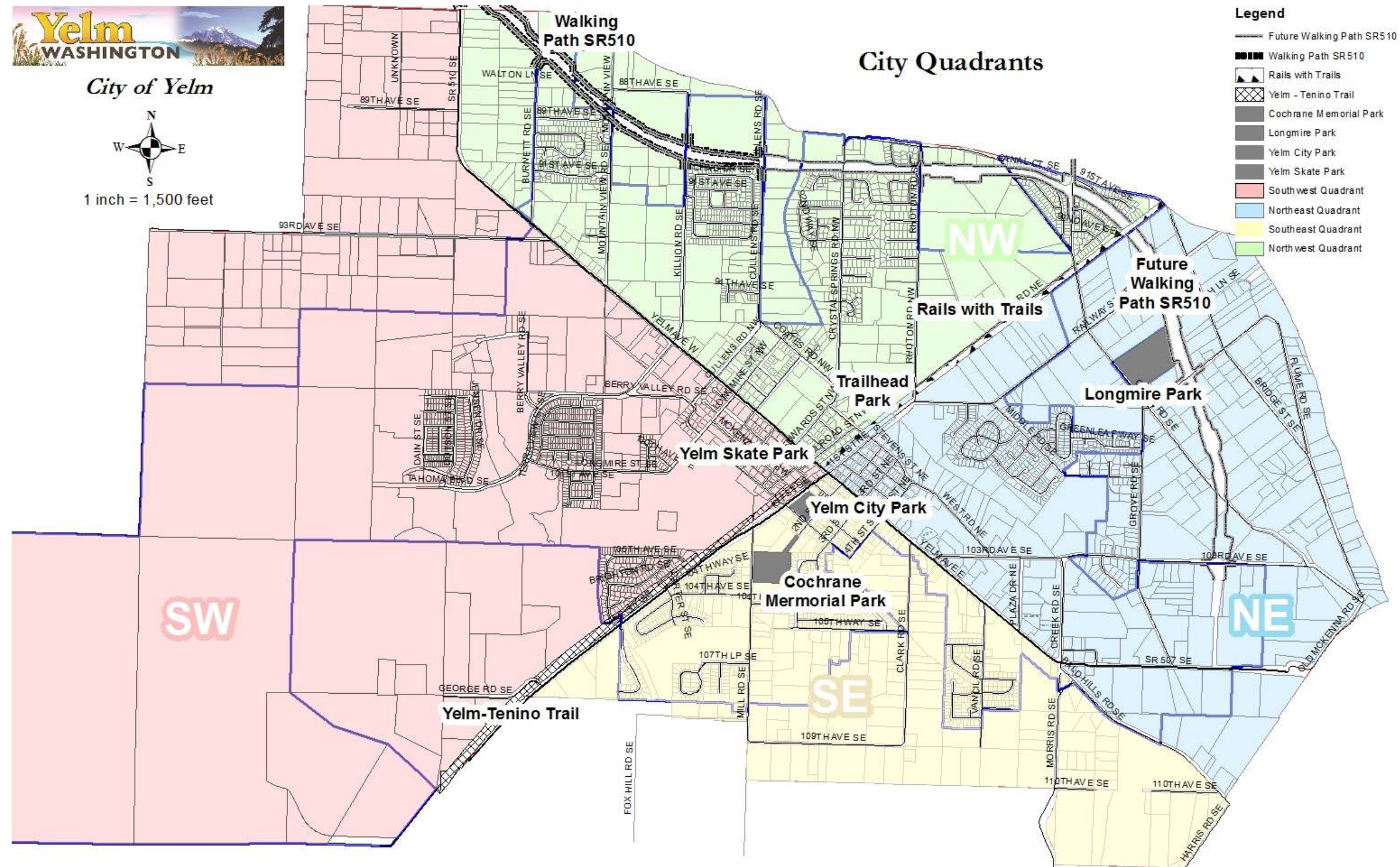
	Classification	Acreage	Points	Tier
Cascade Mini Golf	Special use park	0.5	50 points	2
Yelm Middle School	Sports field/school	15	150 points	2
Cherry Meadows	Neighborhood park	1.1	11 points	2
TOTAL Tier 1		0	0 points	1
TOTAL Tier 2		16.6	211 points	2

Viewing the LOS measures by Quadrant helps our understanding that the current distribution of city owned parks and facilities are much less available in the North West Quadrant and somewhat less in the South West Quadrant.

Table 13. TOTAL LOS measures by City Quadrant.

Quadrant	Tier 1		Tier 2	
	Acreage	Points	Acreage	Points
SE	11.61	166 points	45	450 points
NE	13.37	201 points	25.5	255 points
SW	0.25	25 points	127	1,220 points
NW	0	0 points	16.6	211 points
Trails Yelm & UGA	– 36	180 points	0	0 points
TOTAL	61.23	572 points	63.1	1,726 points

Figure 4. City Quadrants



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Meeting public needs for parks, trails and recreation services is largely influenced by community values, availability of funds, priorities, and administrative capacity for maintaining healthy parks and recreation facilities. The identification, measurement and projection of recreation demand are the key factors for establishing recreation policy and determining allocations of funding for acquisition of needed park land and development of recreation facilities.

Statistical Sources

In 2008, a community Parks and Recreation survey was conducted in Yelm and the surrounding area, followed by public meetings, to help identify demand and needs for additional public recreation facilities in the City.

Progress has been made since 2008 to address public concerns for needed recreational facilities. Walking trails have been added at Cochrane Memorial Park, and four new athletic fields plus bathroom and snack facilities have been completed at Longmire Community Park.

The public comments received by the City for the Environmental Impact Statement Scope of Work for the Thurston Highlands Master Planned Community (May 2006) highlight specific interests in or concerns about potential parks and recreation facilities/open space that would be an asset to the greater Yelm community. These include:

- Desire to see protection of native plant communities, tree groves and vegetative buffers,
- Development of ball fields, swimming pool(s), community center, parks, bike/pedestrian trails, water features and gardens.

City of Yelm Parks Survey 2008

Parks surveys were distributed in City water bills in March 2008. A strong response by citizens identified the following summary preferences. **(Complete results of the survey are included in Appendix C.)**

Results show a strong preference for:

- Setting aside or acquiring land for a special use park
- Building connected trails, bicycle routes and sidewalks
- Placing restrooms in all parks

Response to preferences specific to:

- Indoor facilities showed a very strong desire for a swimming pool, followed by a youth center, and then basketball and aerobic facilities
- Outdoor facilities responses showed strong support for walking trails/bicycle paths/sidewalk connections, followed by support for more playgrounds, and then picnic areas

A question about athletic field needs showed a preference for baseball fields, followed by soccer fields and then football, and outdoor basketball.

Yelm Home and Garden Show data gathering 2015

Input for the Yelm Comprehensive Plan update was gathered from attendees at the 2015 Yelm Home and Garden Show. The feedback and comments were compiled and categorized by subject. Many comments were specific to parks and recreation desires. Complete list of gathered comments are included in Appendix D.

Feedback from the Yelm Home and Garden Show were consistent with the response preferences from the 2008 survey specific to:

- A strong desire for indoor youth recreation facilities and a swimming pool
- Strong support for more walking trails/bicycle paths/pedestrian walkways/sidewalks as well as more playgrounds for families with smaller children.

Current Participation and Demand

Park Land – Including Trails

The current developed and useable parkland available for recreation activities in the City of Yelm is 25.23 acres in four separate park locations, which amounts to 2.7 acres per 1,000 population and 336 point level of service (based on the City of Yelm and UGA 2015 population of 9,590). With trail area added this jumps to 6.44 acres/1000 population and 572 points level of service. The combination of parks and trails means the existing level of 6.44 acres/1000 residents and 572 points falls short of the 2015 requirements. With the addition of a spray park in 2018 the City will exceed 2015 LOS requirement.

An example of variable specific community needs is illustrated in Table 14 and Table 17. These show that due to the volume of participation in team sports in the Yelm area – even with four new facilities completed in 2008 – there are additional sport facility and athletic field needs.

Active Facilities

Among Yelm community sports groups the highest demand for recreation facilities is outdoor athletic fields (baseball, football, soccer and softball). Longmire Community Park (completed March 2008) adds three Little League-sized baseball fields and one soccer/football field for public use. Currently, the demand for these facilities is met primarily through use of fields at local public schools and, secondarily, through use of two privately owned fields (for baseball).

Indoor athletic activity (youth basketball) currently meets the needs of the program through use of Yelm Community Schools gymnasiums, and does not experience any challenges with scheduling space for games or practices. Adequate outdoor basketball facilities, however, are limited on school grounds, and exist at only one City park (half court at Yelm City Park). Use of gymnasiums for basketball activity is thus dependent on whether schools are open for use by the public.

Frequency or limitation of use of these facilities by community sports groups is influenced by a number of important factors:

- Number of participants in each community sports organization
- Number and size of facilities
- Condition and/or availability of facilities

- Level of use of recreation facilities by a particular school/private entity (i.e. priority user)
- Game/practice schedule and length of season for each activity
- Convenience of location.

The following is a list of Yelm community youth league sports groups participation levels, and estimated facilities required to meet recreational needs.

Table 14. City of Yelm – youth league sports groups participation levels and needs (2016).

Activity	Age Group	# of Participants in Yelm Area	Season (includes practice)	Schedule	Facility Needs at One Time (est.)
Baseball	6 yrs-14 yrs	700-800	Mar-Aug		4 min.
Basketball	6 yrs-15 yrs	100-110	Dec-Feb		2-3
Football	5/6 yrs-10 yrs	300+/-	Aug-Oct		3-4
Soccer	4 yrs-19 yrs	600+/-	Apr-Oct		5 (can have two half fields)
Softball	8 yrs-16 yrs	75+/-	Mar-Jun		2

Common challenges among groups participating in outdoor recreation activities on athletic fields accentuate the demand for more of these types of facilities. These challenges include:

- Overlapping of common use of fields between different sports groups (e.g., soccer and football overlapping Aug-Oct, or baseball and softball competing for the same fields Mar-Jun)
- Overlapping of different leagues within a certain sports group (e.g., Little League and Cal Ripken League competing for use of the same baseball fields)
- Condition of facilities reducing effectiveness of play (e.g., tearing up of field surface by football teams, subsequently unsuitable for soccer games or other football games)
- Lack of availability of facilities for team practices once season begins (i.e., fields occupied more often for games)
- Individual select teams (not part of any league) competing for game and practice space
- Inability of specific sports groups to host major events such as tournaments (lost opportunity for exposure, fundraising)
- Certain school fields closed to community groups and/or field use taken up by school team schedules for practices and games (i.e., community groups' schedules squeezed by priority users).

Passive Facilities

As indicated in the survey results, as well as by frequent inquiries made at the Yelm Chamber of Commerce and with the Yelm Parks Advisory Committee, a strong interest appears to exist for both passive and indoor recreation facilities. Following is a list of these facilities:

- Playgrounds (two playgrounds currently exists in City parks – at Yelm City Park and at Longmire Community Park)
- Trails (found at one park – Cochrane Memorial Park – and at the trailhead of the Yelm-Tenino Trail plus the Yelm Prairie Line trail – 1.1 mile extension from SR 510 to Canal Rd. plus provisions for easily accessible connections with the future Alt 510 Yelm Loop

non-motorized facilities with trails; perimeter trail planned for Longmire Community Park)

- Indoor youth recreation facility with organized activities for school age youth of Yelm and the surrounding area (closest facility is on the Nisqually Reservation specifically for tribal use, approximately 10 miles to the west).
- Swimming pool (closest facility is at the YMCA Briggs Community Branch, approximately 15 miles to the west)
- Community center completed in late 2015 to accommodate all age groups (closest facility is located in Olympia, approximately 20 miles to the west).

Projected Needs and Priorities

Park Land – City of Yelm and Surrounding Urban Growth Area (UGA)

As described previously, National Recreation & Park Association standards broadly recommend at least 6.25 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. The new LOS measures for Yelm city and UGA community facilities and parks are set at 60 points for every 1,000 residents. Yelm is currently short of meeting its LOS standards with 572 points (60.12/1000 residents) using the 2015 population (9,590) for the City of Yelm and its surrounding UGA.

The following table indicates parkland requirements and LOS points measures for the present population (2015 level) and for projected populations for the City and its Urban Growth Area. Table 15. shows the amount of park land that would have been secured for development within the time frames indicated if Yelm had remained with only the acres per 1,000 population measures. Acres required or developed for each timeframe beyond 2015 assume the City has achieved its acquisition/development objective for the previous time period using 6.25 acres/1000 population.

Table 15. City of Yelm/UGA park land acquisition estimates (park only): 2015–2040.

Year	Population	Total Existing Acres	Total Acres Needed (w/6.25 acres/1000)	Acres to be Acquired or Developed
2015	9,590	61	60	0
2020	14,050	61	88	27 (by 2020)
2025	18,600	88	116	28 (by 2025)
2030	22,460	116	140	24 (by 2030)
2035	26,290	140	164	24 (by 2035)
2040	30,770	164	192	28 (by 2040)
Total Acres to be Acquired or Developed by 2040 using 6.25/1000:				131 acres

Level of Service Measures Projections based on Population

Using the City of Yelm Level of Service measures for parks and recreational facilities the minimum standards of 60 points for every 1,000 residents, the following table indicates additional parks and facilities requirements based on population projections through the year 2040.

Table 16. City of Yelm/UGA parks and facilities requirements by LOS Points: 2015 – 2040.

Year	Population	Total Tier 1 LOS points	Total additional LOS points needed	LOS points to be Acquired or Developed
2015	9,590	572	575	3
2020	14,050	575	843	271 (by 2020)
2025	18,600	843	1,116	273 (by 2025)
2030	22,460	1,116	1,348	232 (by 2030)
2035	26,290	1,348	1,577	229 (by 2035)
2040	30,770	1,577	1,846	269 (by 2040)
Total LOS points to be Acquired or Developed by 2040 using 60 points per 1000:				1,164 LOS points

A substantial amount of land would need to be set aside for park and/or recreation facility development for the City of Yelm and UGA through 2040. Careful planning would be required to address resident needs; active versus passive recreational use of land; access to/from park site(s); aesthetics; and budgeting for maintenance, repairs and potential upgrades to any facility.

Table 17. City of Yelm and UGA area – projected recreation facility minimum needs.

	2015 Pop.: # of Fac Req'd	2015 City Fac	2015 School Fac	2020 Pop.: # of Fac Req'd	2025 Pop.: # of Fac Req'd	2030 Pop.: # of Fac Req'd	2035 Pop.: # of Fac Req'd	2040 Pop.: # of Facilities Req'd
Baseball (1 per 5,000)	2	3	5	3	4	4	5	6
Basketball (1 per 5,000)	2	1	6	3	4	4	5	6
Football (1 per 10,000)	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	3
Picnic Shelter (1 per 2,000)	5	1	0	7	9	11	13	15
Playground (1 per 1,000)	6	2	8	14	18	22	26	31
Soccer (1 per 10,000)	1	1	4	1	2	2	3	3
Softball (1 per 5,000)	2	0	7	3	4	4	5	6
Tennis (1 per 2,000)	5	0	6	7	9	11	13	15
Trail, Bike – 8ft (1 mile per 2,600)	2 mi.			5 mi.	7 mi.	9 mi.	10 mi.	12 mi.
Trail, Walking – 4ft (1 mile per 2,000)	5 mi.	1 mi.		7	9 mi.	11	13 mi.	15 mi.
Volleyball (1 per 5,000)	2		8+	3	4	4	5	6

Security in Parks

Both active and passive park facilities should be safe and secure spaces for visitors. This will occur through a variety of means.

- 1) Parks will be designed to be as safe and secure as possible with appropriate landscaping and amenity design that allows easy surveillance from street edges and surrounding properties.
- 2) Parks will be located and designed in ways that encourage adjacent property surveillance. This is sometimes called “community policing” and refers to the natural surveillance that can occur with activity adjacent to park edges such as residential or office/commercial areas. Residents or visitors to the adjacent areas will provide “eyes on the park” and can help to keep park areas safe from vandalism and crime.
- 3) Police surveillance can help keep park areas safe and vandal free. Parks designed for easy law enforcement surveillance – and equipment such as surveillance cameras where possible, will be important. However, it should be acknowledged that police surveillance adds to the cost of maintaining a safe and secure parks system.

Consequently, as much safety and security should be built into the design of parks, development encouraged adjacent to parks, and increases in police surveillance cost expected as the park system expands.

PARK AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

Park Classification Models

The intent of park and recreation classifications is to aid in making acquisition and design decisions for park sites. Facilities and the organization of recreation space, which is responsive to public needs, creates quality recreational experiences and facilities that can be effectively maintained.

Park classifications are based on standards that aid in making design decisions when considering property size. The following are classifications used that can adequately respond to various recreation needs and available space of the City of Yelm and UGA.

- Mini or Pocket Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Trails and Pathways

Each classification has certain site design and physical development guidelines and is described in the following text. Several factors must be considered in connection with park classification and planning decisions. These include:

- Determination of specific needs in neighborhood service areas or community settings.
- Relationship of need, design criteria, service capability and suitability of a specific site to support the defined recreation service need.
- Probability of school/park interrelationship in terms of school site development and facility use for public recreation purposes.
- Probability of creating public/private partnerships for special use parks or in combination with a traditional public neighborhood or community park.
- Operational, maintenance and program service requirements for the population to be served by a particular park unit that is being considered.

Park classifications establish several essential elements for parkland requirements based on population ratios and the types of recreational uses and services to be provided. These elements include a) orientation, b) function and c) space, design and service areas. A particular park may be oriented to the needs of a single local neighborhood, a service area, or the community. The physical improvements in a park should respond to the preferences or needs of residents who will use the park. The amount of park land, design and location within a service area, is also influenced by accessibility and amenities to be provided.

Park classifications for the City of Yelm are described below. Conceptual site plans for each type of park follow the narrative descriptions.

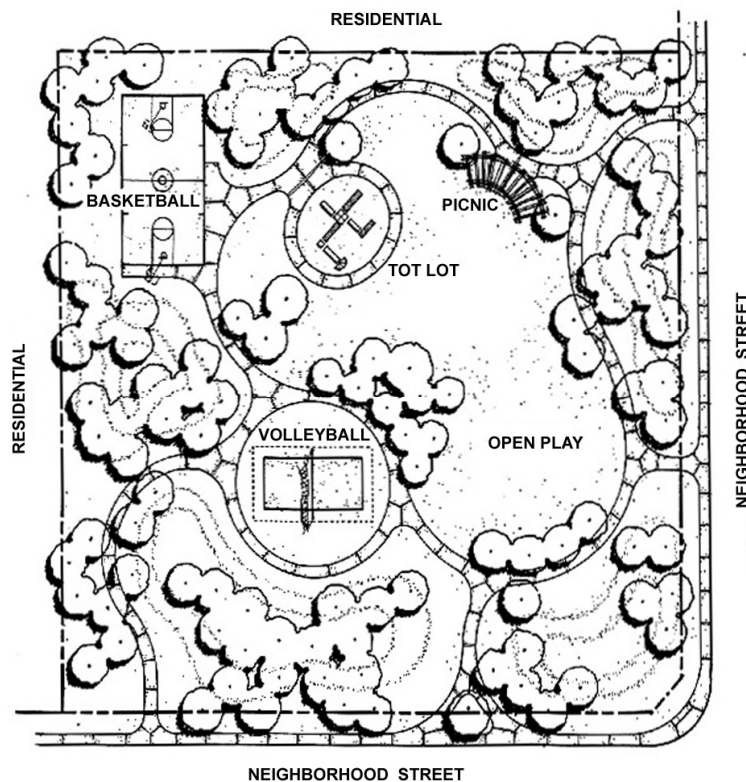
Mini Parks

- Summary Definition: A play lot or playground that provides space for parental-supervised recreation of toddlers and young children within a neighborhood, or as part of larger neighborhood park (see Figures 2).

- Size Objective: 2500 sq. ft. to 1.5 acres.
- Service Area Objectives: Generally within a neighborhood of a one-half mile radius or population of 2,000 to 3,000; however, playgrounds may be included in parks that serve a larger population or service area.
- Location Objectives: Located in protected areas with separation from street traffic, yet in areas with high visibility; serving local neighborhoods and adjoining schools, libraries or police and fire facilities.
- Orientation: Small geographic areas, sub-neighborhood or neighborhoods, when combined with a larger park unit; serves youth in ages ranging from toddlers to 12 years, with adult supervision.
- Function: Provides outdoor play experiences for the young, under parental supervision; generates neighborhood communication by offering a neighborhood meeting space, provides opportunity for diversion from work and/or home chores; and promotes neighborhood solidarity.
- Space, Design and Service Area: Size of play lot or playground may range from as small as 2,500 square feet to 1.5 acres; amenities are generally sand play areas, play apparatus, play equipment and other special child-oriented features; service radius in terms of distance from population served is limited to less than one-quarter mile.

Note: Mini parks are also called “pocket parks” and generally serve the same purpose as noted above. These may be planned to serve a specific number of homes for each pocket park.

Figure 5. Mini Park / Pocket Park – Conceptual Site Plan A.

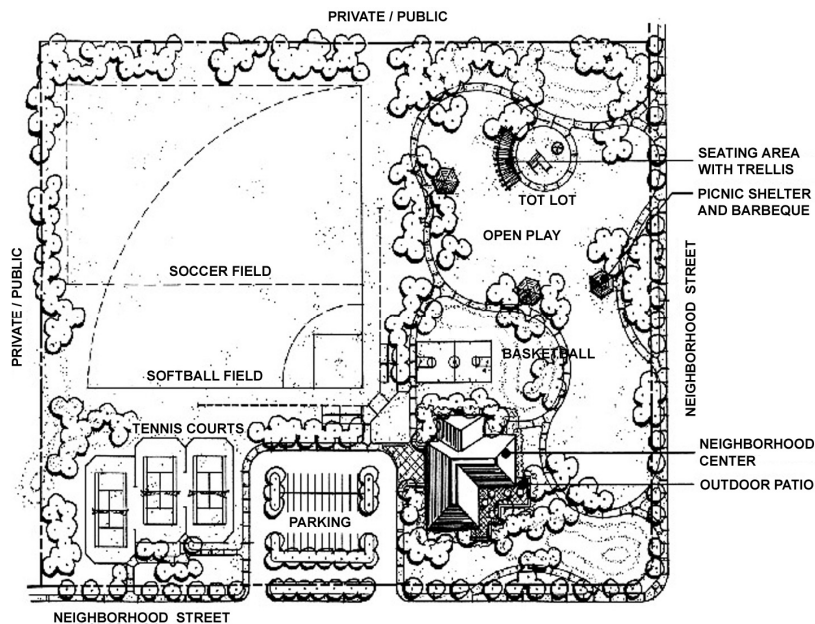


Source: Robert W. Droll, Landscape Architect, PS.

Neighborhood Parks

- **Summary Definition:** A neighborhood park by size, program and location provides space and recreation activities for the immediate neighborhood in which it is located; it is considered an extension of neighborhood residents' "out-of-yard" and outdoor use area (see Figures 3).
- **Size Objective:** Minimum 2 acres to 5 acres.
- **Service Area Objectives:** Generally a one mile radius, but actually defined by collector street patterns, which form the limits of the neighborhood or recreation service area; population served may range from 2,000 to 5,000.
- **Location Objectives:** Centrally located for equitable pedestrian access within a definable neighborhood service area; adjacent to an elementary school, middle school, high school, fire station or library, if possible.
- **Orientation:** Serves all age groups with an emphasis on youth and families in neighborhood settings.
- **Program Objectives:** Compatible with the neighborhood setting and park site constraints; generally including the following elements (which may be determined with public input as to use and activities):
 - a. 10 to 20 parking spaces
 - b. restrooms
 - c. tot lot/ children's play area
 - d. family event/group picnic facility
 - e. informal family picnic area with benches and tables
 - f. unstructured turf grass play area/play or practice field for children, young adults and families
 - g. sports facilities – compatible with neighborhood setting and park site constraints.
- **Function:** Provides a combination of active recreation and passive activities, both outdoor and indoor facilities (if possible), and special features as required or needed.
- **Space, Design and Service Area:** A minimum size of 2 to 5 acres, with amenities that include sports facilities, picnic areas, cultural activities, arts and crafts, and individual passive activities; service radius in terms of distance from population served may vary depending on development pattern, zoning and densities in the respective neighborhoods being served.

Figure 6. Neighborhood Park – Conceptual Site Plan A.



Source: Robert W. Droll, Landscape Architect, PS.

Community Parks

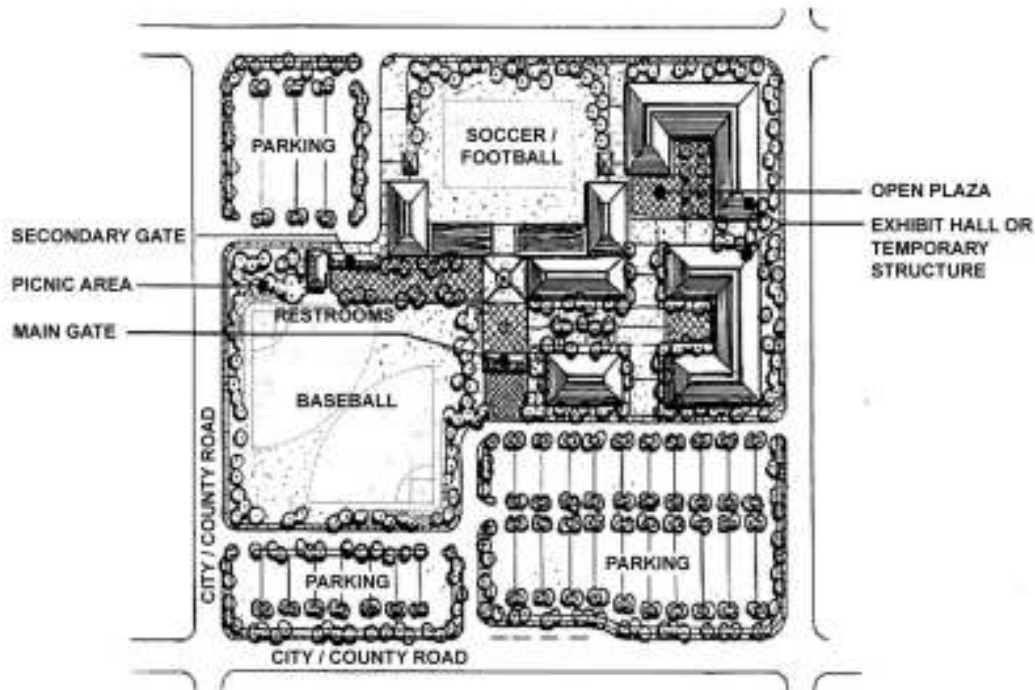
- **Summary Definition:** A community park serves a more broad purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on a meeting community based recreation needs, and a community gathering space that serves the purposes of a traditional town square, including special event space for small or large groups.
- **Size Objective:** Minimum 2.5 – 8 acres. Actual size is determined by functions to be served and anticipated. Needs of the community as the population continues to grow.
- **Service Area Objective:** Community or area-wide, determined by the type of events or activities that occur
- **Location Objective:** City center, core area or some other activity center such as adjacent to – or part of - a mixed use center.
- **Orientation:** Serves all age groups and a broad spectrum of community interests by providing space for special events such as fairs, festivals, entertainment, educational, cultural or artistic activities
- **Program Objectives:** Compatible with city center or activity center settings with supportive infrastructure for the type of events anticipated including active and passive activity functions (i.e. skate court as well as covered and uncovered picnic areas and stage) park equipment and furnishings including such items as barbeque grills, vendor stalls, kitchen facilities, tables and benches, lighting, children's play equipment, restroom, public address system, seating areas, informational kiosks, parking and sidewalk connections that seamlessly connect to adjacent city center or activity center.
- **Function:** Active and passive activity, meeting and event space and community gathering space for fairs, festivals, educational, cultural and artistic activities

- Space: Plan for accommodating needs of today as well as anticipated future needs based on projected population growth and anticipated community event needs appropriate for a city, or community activity center park.

Special Use Parks

- Summary Definition: A special use park is often considered a revenue-generating enterprise created to satisfy the demand for a particular sport, recreational event or special event; special use parks may include publicly-developed and administered facilities operated by the private sector with local agency participation (see Figures 4).
- Size Objective: Actual size is determined by market demand and special uses, or recreation programs being facilitated to serve market and program production needs.
- Service Area Objectives: Community or area-wide, determined by the type or recreation, special events or use activity being facilitated.
- Location Objectives: Determined by the property opportunity, service area and size objectives.
- Orientation: Provides special event attractions and activities to all age groups within a given market/user area for which the special use park is focused.
- Program Objectives: Special use parks require facility programming that is market-driven and based on community planning objectives for establishing public/private partnerships for recreation; examples of special use facilities may include:
 - a. water play park
 - b. amphitheater
 - c. festival/farmers' market
 - d. community or regional sports complex
 - e. family fitness/entertainment center
 - f. skateboard/in-line hockey park/dog park
 - g. indoor youth recreation facility.
- Function: special events, fairs, festivals, expositions, symposiums, sports, community gatherings, ethnic/cultural celebrations, plays and numerous other activities that draw spectator and participants to a specific location.
- Space, Design and Service Area: The minimum size for special parks varies depending on the intent of use and programming; accommodates major parking space, audiences, performance areas and multi-use areas; serves populations within a 1-hour+ drive zone.

Figure 7. Special Use Park – Conceptual Site Plan A.



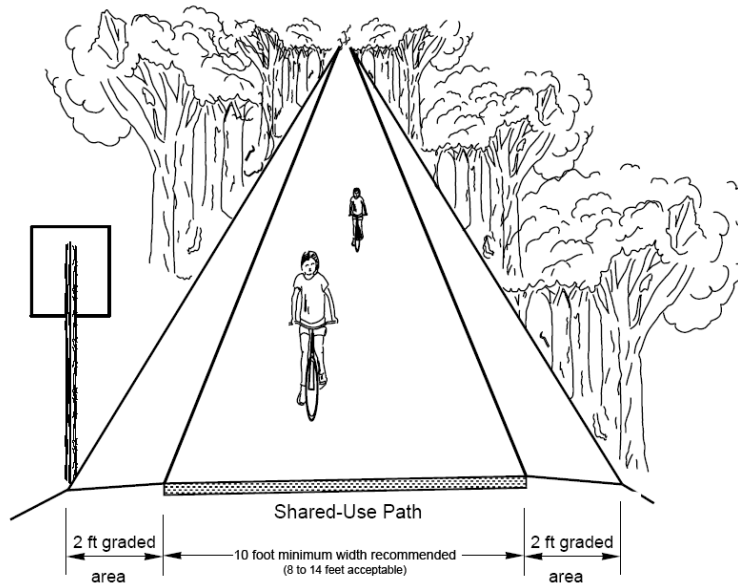
Source: Robert W. Droll, Landscape Architect, PS.

Trails & Pathways

Trails and pathways vary in purpose, design and use depending on the location of the trails and its linkage to other use areas or destinations.

- **Users:** The typical users are pedestrians and bicyclists; other users of trails or bike lanes and walkways in urban areas include in-line skaters, skate boarders, people in wheelchairs and others who may have specialized trail or pathway needs. In more rural areas trails may be used for equestrian recreation as well. A major distinction between users is: those who use trails and pathways as commuters, compared to recreational users.
- **Accessibility:** Multi-use trail systems are designed to be accessible to a predetermined class of users. Access points to and from neighborhoods via the trails or from connecting sidewalks, to parks, civic centers and roadways are important elements in trail access and design.

Figure 8. Shared Use Path



Source: *Bicycle Facilities, Chapter 1020. 2006. Washington State Department of Transportation Design Manual (with slight modification).*

Types of Trails: Bicycle trails have a set of classifications that determine use and design considerations such as hard surfaces, widths, signage, and lane configurations:

- Class I Trail (Shared-Use Path): Regional trail facility with exclusive rights-of-ways for the principal use of pedestrians and human-powered wheeled vehicles; typically physically separated from roads and streets and have their own physical corridor of use.
- Class II Trail (Bicycle Lane, One Side): A two-way striped bike lane on one side of the road within the paved area of the road for the preferential use of bicyclist. Lane widths vary from 5 feet to 8 feet.
- Class IIA Trail (Bicycle Lane, Both Sides): A one-way striped bike lane on both sides of the road with the direction of travel being the same as the motorist. Lane width should be 5 feet minimum.
- Class III Trail (Shared Roadway): Occur on public rights-of-way and share the roadway with motorized vehicles. Bike routes are established along routes not served by bike paths or bike lanes. Bike routes are established by placing bike route signage along the public street/highway
- Class IV Trail (Pedestrian): A natural pedestrian trail is a 4- to 6-foot wide, unpaved trail (boardwalk, crushed rock, wood chips, bar mulch, etc.), designed for low use/low impact in natural areas.

Equestrian Trails: Often are constructed outside City limits and outside of existing rights-of-way and may require easement acquisition and private landowner cooperation. An equestrian trail system, if designed, should accommodate property owners raising and stabling horses on the perimeter the City. Horses should not be permitted in developed parks. However, access points to parks with hitching facilities including horse-trailer parking and trailheads may be possible as part of the design and planning of facilities. Implementation of an equestrian trail

system may require right-of-way acquisition by fee-simple purchase or through granting access or easements on private property.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

The following table identifies the estimated costs of park and recreation facilities, by park classification, as well as estimates of annual maintenance costs. This table should be used only as a guide in determining costs for each facility. Cost estimates are difficult to determine until a facility is construction ready. Rising real estate prices, double digit inflation in the cost of asphalt recently and multiple variables associated with site design and park or trail amenity make it difficult to predict the actual development cost. For example, basic cost estimates for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible, one mile linear asphalt trail 10 ft. wide with access control devices cost \$750,000 in 2007 dollars (as reported in the 2007 Thurston Regional Trails Plan).

Table 18. Capital development projections, by park classification.

Park Classification	Cost/Acre	Estimated Cost/Acre	Annual Maintenance
Mini Parks	\$70,000 - \$125,000	\$6,000 - \$8,000	
Neighborhood Parks	\$95,000 - \$140,000	\$8 - \$12	
Community Park	\$150,000 - \$200,000	\$10,000 - \$15,000	
Special Use Parks (e.g. Regional Sports Complex)	\$150,000 - \$220,000	\$15,000	
Trails & Pathways	\$20 - \$40 per LF	Varies, depending on type of trail	
PARK AMENITY COSTS			
Restrooms - \$35,000 per stall			
Picnic Shelter - \$75,000			
Table (ADA) - \$650			
Cement pad for tables - \$2,500			
Bench - \$500			
Cement pad for a bench - \$1200			
Barbeque - \$175			
Trash receptacle - \$350			
Drinking fountain - \$1400			
Playground (including construction, drainage, safety surface, equipment) - \$50,000 - \$60,000			
Parking stall - \$3,500 per stall			

Options for Public and Private Open Space and Parks Responsibility

A network of parks will continue to be important to quality of life and sustainability as Yelm continues to grow. Opportunities for cooperation will need to be identified in order to meet park development and maintenance demand. Planning for specific types of park spaces as part of new development plans can complement the existing City inventory of parks and open space. In addition, creative operation, maintenance and ownership agreements between a

jurisdiction and other parties may offer the community efficient provision of parks and recreation spaces that contribute to a sustainable community.

Ownership Opportunity

A master planned community park or neighborhood park could be deeded to the City of Yelm for City ownership and maintenance. Mini parks could be owned and maintained by the homeowners' association. Special use park spaces like a Regional Sports Complex could also be deeded to the City, with a joint public/private partnership for operations. A new City of Yelm Parks and Recreation organization could coordinate use of the athletic fields, parking and outdoor amenities (like landscaping). Commercial recreation facilities (like a YMCA, batting cages, or anything for-profit) would remain private enterprise. Agreements with schools for sharing maintenance, maintenance equipment, and other joint use or operations could keep all publicly supported sports fields operating at their highest capacity for the least cost.

Mini parks would be incorporated as an open space requirement of the neighborhood or subdivision that the park will serve. Most likely, the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) of each neighborhood development would impose measures to maintain mini parks, as well as to minimize the impacts of park construction, upgrades or repairs on existing homes and residents within the neighborhood that the park would serve.

Shared-Use Path Trails would be linked to the Alt 510 loop non-motorized pathways , part of the state highway system. In addition, non-motorized trails and pedestrian trails would connect to proposed Nisqually River Water Trail and river access points under public/private ownership.

Wetlands and wetland buffers preserved in various locations of the City of Yelm including the master planned community would provide additional passive open space for specific neighborhoods, or in certain areas along the perimeter of the site.

Applicable Regulations and Commitments

The City of Yelm will determine alternatives for the financial support of new park construction, as well as maintenance and upgrades to existing parks and recreation facilities. Short and long term priorities will be included in the City Capital Facilities Plan.

Other Recommended Mitigation Measures

The City of Yelm intends to maintain close coordination between development approvals for lot applications and the amount of park land needed as identified in the Yelm Parks and Recreation Plan.

Funding Source Options (See Appendix B. for a more full description of these sources)

A. Local Funding Options

Local agencies can fund park, open space and trail projects through a variety of measures. Some funding measures are available to local governments but have not been enacted or implemented in the Thurston Region.

1. Existing Local Options

a. General Funds

- b. Special Revenue
- c. General Obligation Bonds
- d. Councilmanic Bonds
- e. Local Improvement Districts (LID)
- f. Environmental Impact Mitigation
- g. Growth Impact Fee
- h. Inter-Local Agreement
- i. User Fees and Charges

2. Local Options Not Currently Enacted

All but d. are enabled by state law, but not enacted in the Thurston Region:

- a. Commercial Parking Tax, RCW 82.80.030
- b. Motor Vehicle License Fee, RCW 82.80.020
- c. Transportation Benefit District, RCW 36.73
- d. Additional REET (Real Estate Excise Tax)

B. Federal and State Funding Options

- 1. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP):** Provides funds for acquisition and development of conservation and recreation lands. This grant program is administered through Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).
 - a. The Habitat Conservation Account
 - b. Outdoor Recreation Account
 - c. Youth Athletic Facility (YAF) Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).
- 2. Thurston Regional Surface Transportation Program (STP), Federal Highways Administration**
- 3. Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program, Federal Highway Administration**
- 4. The Safe Routes to School Program, Washington State Department of Transportation and Federal Highways Administration**
- 5. Small City Sidewalk Program, Washington Transportation Improvement Board (TIB):**
- 6. Washington State Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program, Washington State Department of Transportation**
- 7. Grade Safety Grant program, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)**
- 8. Public Work Trust Funds administered by the State of Washington, Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development**

C. Private Revenue Options

- 1. Special use agreements**
- 2. Public/Private Service Contracts**
- 3. Public/Private Concessions**
- 4. Public/Private Joint Development Ventures**
- 5. Self-Help Land Leases**
- 6. Self-help Contract Agreements**

General Funding Strategies.

Funding sources should generally be matched to specific needs to avoid duplication and take advantage of each fund's specific possibilities. Consider the following examples.

Program services: Fees and charges could be used to finance program services to the maximum extent possible and practical to provide cost/benefit equities and efficiencies. General funds could be used to cover shortages where fees cannot be readily collected, as in most special events, or where fees may not be easily raised to cover all operating costs for programs the City deems to have special social benefits to the city.

Facility operation, maintenance, and minor construction: General funds could be used to pay operation and maintenance costs for facilities and activities that cannot be financed with fees and charges or financed with other funding methods. General funds are flexible and can be adjusted to meet annual programming variations or priorities.

Where appropriate, maintenance and operation funds for facilities that are impacted by urban growth area users should be reimbursed or provided by the city and school district subject to the pending resolution of an inter-local agreement on planning and services.

The funds collected from the excise tax on real estate sales (REET) could be used to finance minor construction improvements to existing properties. The money could also be used to help purchase sites when opportunities arise that cannot await other, less flexible funding methods. Like general funds, the money collected from excise taxes are flexible and can be adjusted to meet annual programming needs or sudden changes in priorities or opportunities.

Recreation facility development: Recreation facilities such as athletic fields in particular, are important to the City programs but may satisfy relatively small proportions of the population compared with park and trail facilities. Bonds, levies, and other fixed forms of financing could be used to pay for the development of parks, trails and other facilities that residents assign high priorities (see survey priorities below). Recreational facilities with low to moderate priorities should be financed with general funds, excise tax revenues, and other more flexible sources of financing.

The city could investigate possibilities for implementing a wide range of joint recreational facility developments with the county and school district. The goal of any joint venture agreement would be to better match costs/benefits with users, avoid duplication, save cost, increase service, and allow each agency to make the best use of funds.

Parks, natural areas and trail development: Parks and trails benefit the largest percentage of the population and will probably be easier to obtain voted bond or property tax levy issues than for more specialized uses. General obligation bond or special property tax levy packages could finance high priority park, conservancies and trail acquisition and development proposals. When necessary and appropriate, Councilmanic bonds could be used to purchase sites when opportunities require fast action, or to match possible State of Washington Interagency (RCO) state or federal grants for park and trail developments.

Special development: Some proposed projects represent unique facilities that may not be easily financed with conventional funding methods. The City could explore the

opportunities that may be available for the development and funding of joint public/private facilities with private property owners or developer. Joint ventures could save costs, reduce annual program requirements and provide city residents services and facilities not available otherwise.

Growth impact fee mitigation: Continued residential development in the city and its urban growth area stress existing facilities and services. Environmental and growth impact fees mitigation measures should be investigated in accordance with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) as a means of preserving unique sites and of requiring land developers to help finance facility development offsetting project impacts.

City of Yelm Parks Survey 2008

Parks surveys were distributed in City water bills in March 2008. A strong response by citizens in the 2008 Survey was consistent with feedback from the 2015 Home and Garden Show data collection. In both 2008 and 2015 the following summary preferences were identified. **(Complete results of the 2008 survey are included in Appendix C.)**

Results show a strong preference for:

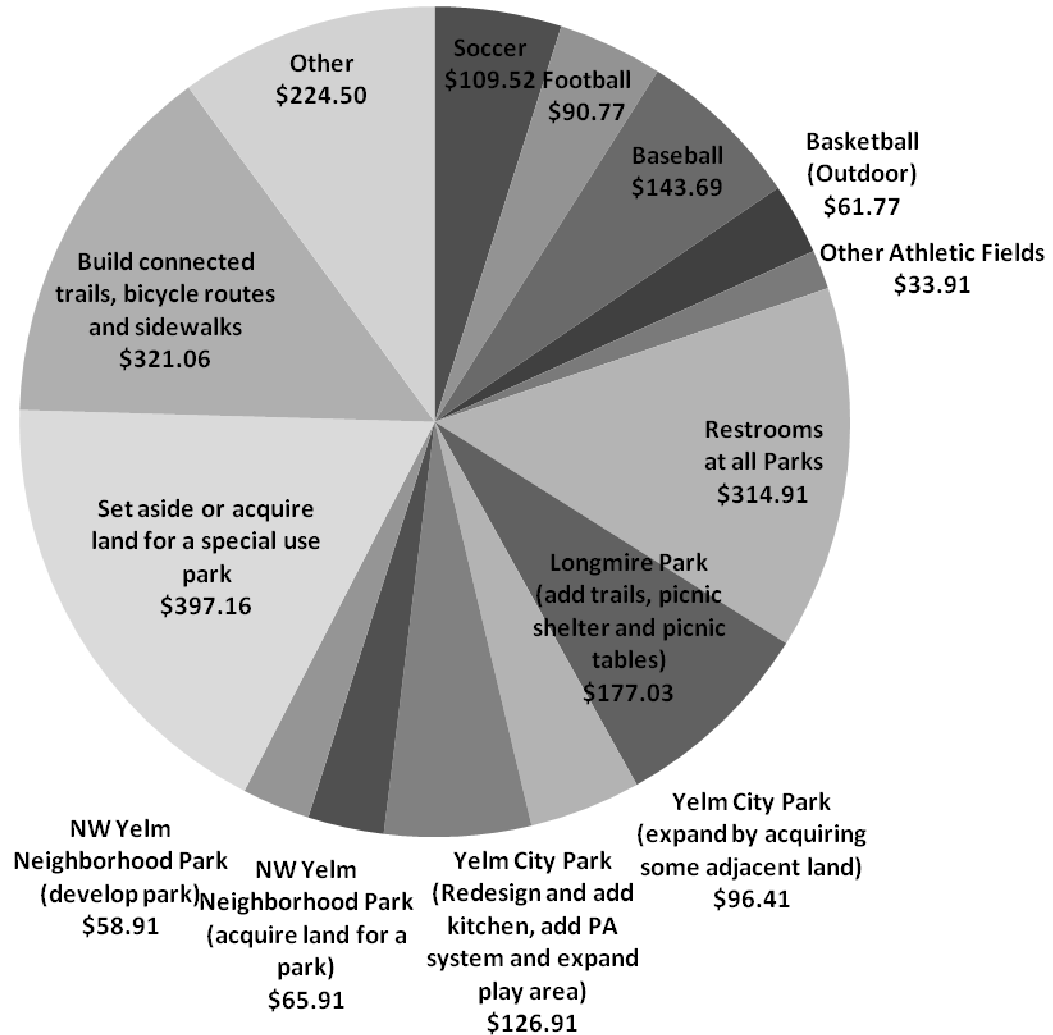
- Setting aside or acquiring land for a special use park
- Building connected trails, bicycle routes and sidewalks
- Placing restrooms in all parks

Response to preferences specific to:

- Indoor facilities showed a very strong desire for a swimming pool, followed by a youth center, and then basketball and aerobics facilities
- Outdoor facilities responses showed strong support for walking trails/bicycle paths/sidewalk connections, followed by support for more playgrounds, and then picnic areas

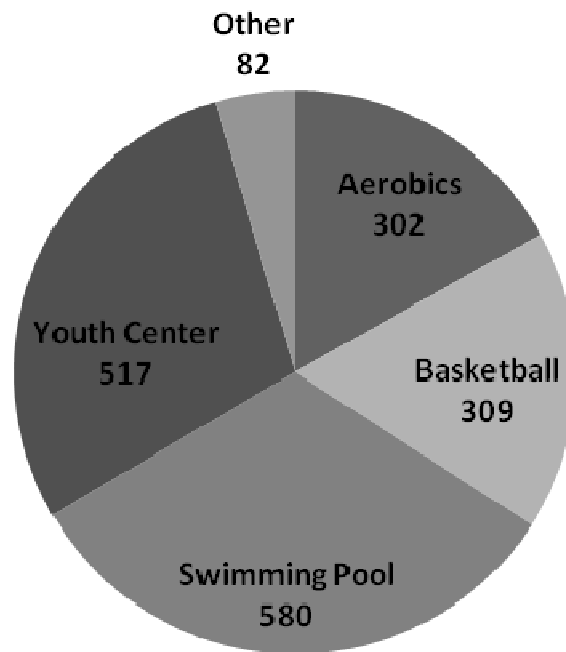
A question about athletic field needs showed a preference for baseball fields, followed by soccer fields and then football, and outdoor basketball.

Plan Priorities



Note: Participants were asked to help determine plan priorities by spending/distributing \$10 based on their priorities. Numbers represent the total dollar amount survey respondents spent on each choice.

Activity/Facility - Indoor



Survey participants were asked to rate the importance of each potential indoor recreation facility. Numbers represent the total survey responses when:

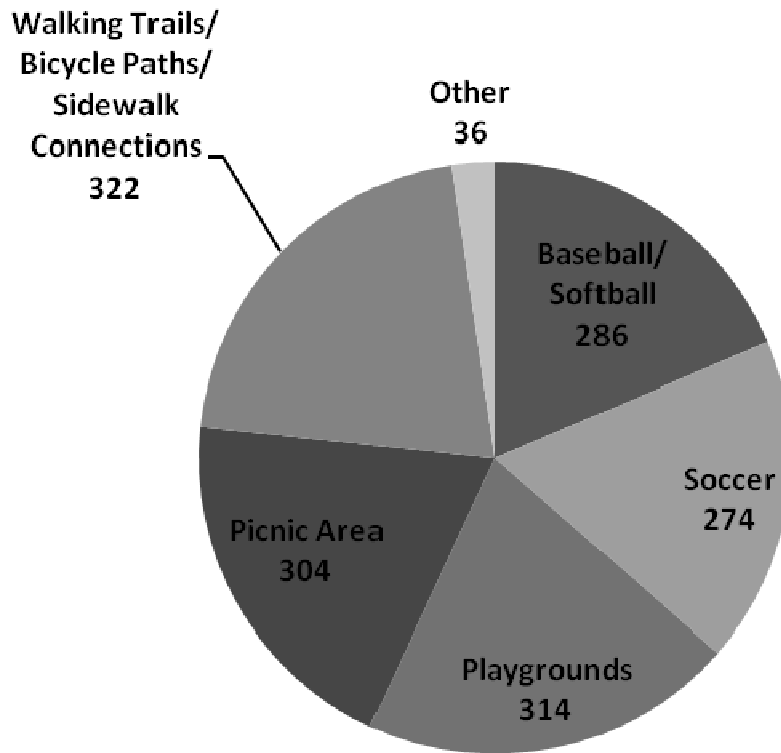
Not Important = 0

Somewhat Important = 1

Important = 2

Very Important = 3

Outdoor Recreation



Survey participants were asked to rate the importance of each potential outdoor recreation facility. Numbers represent the total survey responses when:

Not Important = 0

Somewhat Important = 1

Important = 2

Very Important = 3

Opportunities and action plan to meet demand

This park plan consists of two types of project goals:

- To further develop, upgrade or add amenities to existing park facilities and plans,
- To develop new facilities.

Though both these goals are equally important, they are very different. The list below, along with the table following, documents the existing park facilities and plans for improvements to them. In addition, proposed new facilities and actions plans are identified to guide further development of Yelm's Park and Recreation programs and plan park maintenance requirements to meet community demand.

Parks, Recreation and Trail Facilities

As noted in the preceding sections, Yelm currently has four developed parks and a community center. Yelm is continuing involvement in the Thurston Regional Trails Plan program. Development of the trail corridor within the City of Yelm was completed in 2009 using State transportation grant funds and local funds. The park sites, and potential projects to meet demand are listed below.

Yelm City Park: The following improvements have been identified as needed to address demand. As soon as possible:

- Continue to look for opportunities to expand this community park over time
- Redesign the park walkways, modernize and expand play equipment,

Include new special use park – spray park (see below). **Yelm Community Center:** The following improvements have been identified as needed to address demand. As soon as possible:

- Address need for City staff position to manage the Yelm Community Center. This staff position would manage the rental of the facility, assure inspections were completed promptly following facility rental, promote the use and rental of the facility in the community, and assure facility maintenance/repairs were tracked and addressed.

Cochrane Park: Add restroom facility to this completed water reclamation facility and passive park space.

Longmire Community Park: Add additional parking, walking/running trails, picnic shelter, and picnic tables.

Neighborhood Park/s: Especially areas not served by parks such as the Northwest quadrant. Planning and land acquisition as needed to meet demand – then funding identified, final design, construction and maintenance plan identified.

Community Recreation Center & Community Park: Explore future development of a new Yelm Parks and Recreation organization to manage and coordinate youth recreational programs on athletic fields and provide youth recreation at a proposed indoor youth recreational facility. Investigate the potential of Yelm Parks and Recreation organization to be based on a recreational district model. Planning and land acquisition as needed to meet demands for an indoor recreational facility – then funding identified, final design, construction and maintenance plan identified. Add a Community Park adjacent to the proposed indoor

recreational facility. Look to locate this additional community park in the Northwest quadrant of the city. Propose that the new community park to include 3 full sized soccer fields, a fenced off-leash dog park, multi-use trails, picnic areas, restroom facilities and playground equipment for younger children.

Yelm Community Services Indoor Recreation Facility: Seek ways for the City to coordinate with Yelm Community Services to open the YCS indoor recreation facility for broader community adult and youth recreational program use.

Expanded Athletic Fields/Courts: Planning and land acquisition as needed to address demand - then funding identified, final design, construction and maintenance plan identified (see proposed new Community Park above).

Skate Board Park: Add additional picnic tables and restroom facilities (as discussed below at the Yelm-Tenino Trailhead.)

Special Use Parks: Develop grassy area behind current Yelm City Hall as a special use park connecting current Yelm-Tenino Trailhead (part of Thurston County Rails to Trails network) and Skate Board park; to include picnic tables, historic/informational kiosks and public restrooms available for Skate Board park and Trail users.

Complete the planned spray park in Yelm City Park.

Add a city off-leash dog park as a portion of a proposed new Community Park or as a separate park facility, depending on best location.

Bike Trails and Walking Routes:

- Expand and improve bike trails (in accordance with adopted plans, see map).
- Complete sidewalk network to encourage walking and link to recreation facilities.
- Add bench seating, picnic tables and covered shelters as feasible.

Recommend to the WSDOT that the future SR 510 Yelm Loop non-motorized facilities be designed to connect with existing and proposed segments of the Yelm Trail network.**Rails to Trails:** As noted in the Thurston Regional Trails Plan 2007 and the 2040 Thurston County Regional Transportation Plan regarding the Yelm Prairie Line Trail:

- **Evaluate the existing railroad bridge structure across the Nisqually River for possible trail use.** If this bridge is being considered for future rail service, an alternative trail crossing should be evaluated in this trail's planning process. In addition, any future reactivation of rail service along this corridor will require that a fence or some type of barrier be constructed to separate the trail facility from the operational railroad tracks. Work with the Nisqually River Council to investigate the possible linkage of the Yelm Prairie Line Trail to the proposed Nisqually River Water Trail. The City has not secured funding for the design or construction phases of this proposed segment from Yelm City limits (Canal Rd.) to the Thurston County boundary at the Nisqually River.
- **Work with Thurston County and Pierce County to acquire the resources needed to develop public trails adjacent to the rail line** (in accordance with adopted cooperative Thurston Regional Trails Plan 2007 and the 2040 Thurston County Regional Transportation Plan) eventually linking the Yelm Prairie Line Trail to Pierce County and the town of Roy.

General Actions

Table 19. Summary Action Plan

ITEM	ACTION
Athletic Fields	Acquire additional lands for athletic field sites to ensure that sufficient land is available as school facility access becomes increasingly limited with the continued growth in population.
Neighborhood Park	Acquire property in areas not served by parks, such as the Northwest quadrant of the City or in other areas as necessary to fill park needs. Complete design and development plans, acquire funding and develop.
Longmire Community Park	Add parking, trails, picnic shelter and picnic tables Acquire additional land for expanded parking capacity
Community Park - Yelm City Park	Redesign Yelm City Park to include adjacent acquired lands spray park and new walkways, add identified amenities (and expanded play equipment).
Yelm Community Center	Address need for on-going Community Center manager on City staff.
Community Recreation Center & adjacent new Community park	Explore future development of a Yelm Parks and Recreation organization, funded via a recreational district model to plan, construct and manage an indoor youth recreation facility and youth recreational programs. Adjacent to the new facility add a new community park with full sized soccer fields, picnic areas, trails and playground equipment for younger children.
Cochrane Memorial Park	Add restroom facility
Special Use Parks	Plan, acquire or set aside land for identified special use park activities with focus on Yelm-Tenino Trailhead Park. Complete the planned spray park. Add an off-leash dog park. Plan for funding, development, and maintenance of special use park facilities.
Funding	Establish long-term, stable, funding sources for acquisition, development, maintenance and management of all park and recreation facilities. Explore future development of new Yelm Parks and Recreation organization, funded based on a district model.
Maintenance	Provide for continued maintenance of all current and future facilities at a required level.
Multiple Use Designs	Restructure the process of designing public facilities to ensure multiple uses of sites whenever possible.
Open Space and Parks Facility Development Fee Ordinances	Require open space within the City along with fees to fund park and recreation facility development in or near current and future residential developments.
Schools	Work toward agreements for joint facility use and equipment use with the Yelm Community School District.
Public/Private Partnerships	Investigate and form self-supporting or revenue producing projects that provide a public service and compliment any private investment.
Regional Activities	Support regional activities to complete a network of trails as described in the Thurston Regional Trails Plan program, and support additional county park expansion programs.
Trails/Sidewalks/Bicycle Lanes	Connect current trails, Alt 510 Loop non-motorized pathway and major city parks via Yelm trails network. Provide additional pedestrian, bicycle and bridle trails as well as pedestrian connections via sidewalks and bicycle lanes,
Integration of Areas	Integrate critical areas, storm water areas, wastewater reuse/recycling areas and open spaces obtained through the City's open space program into a

ITEM	ACTION
	unified open space program for public use and enjoyment, environmental protection, habitat restoration/enhancement.

Park Needs

Parks and recreational opportunities are important for the health and well-being of the community and an integral part of making Yelm a livable community. The Opportunities and Action Plan to Meet Demand section identifies general needs for parks within the planning horizon as well as an action plan for the maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of Yelm park facilities.

The City staff is currently preparing the ADA transition plan for all City Public facilities to include parks. Projects for ADA compliance and upgrades will be detailed and prioritized in that Capital Project list with funding associated. For more details on the ADA projects, please reference the 2017 City of Yelm ADA Transition Plan.

The City will implement over time the projects listed in the Opportunities and Action Plan. The annual budget process of the Mayor and Yelm City Council, will prioritize the projects listed in the Opportunities and Action Plan on an annual basis. Funding opportunities or property availability may cause priorities to shift to take advantage of these opportunities.

The City should seek to identify stable funding sources to pursue acquisition and development of facilities listed in the Opportunity and Action Plan as well as stable funding sources for the maintenance of parks facilities.

APPENDIX A – Yelm Prairie Trail Line (REGIONAL TRAILS PLAN EXCERPT)

Note: The following is an excerpt from the 2007 Thurston Regional Trails Plan; updated in Thurston County 2040 Regional Transportation Plan

Yelm Prairie Line Trail

Length: 4.8 miles total (1.3 miles paved, 3.5 miles proposed)

Type of Facility: Shared-use Trail

Lead Agency: City of Yelm

Partners: Thurston County, Pierce County, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

Description: The City of Yelm purchased a segment of the Yelm Prairie Line Railroad from Burlington Northern Railroad Company in 1998 with Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) grant funds. Yelm owns the railroad right-of-way (ROW) fee simple. This purchase acquired the railroad ROW and its underlying property from State Route 510 northeast to the Town of Roy in Pierce County. As a condition of acquiring this ROW with STP funds, the Federal Highways Administration required that a shared-use trail must be built along the length this corridor. The City of Yelm's Comprehensive Plan identifies the Yelm Prairie Line Trail as a class 1 shared-use trail facility from State Route 510 to the Town of Roy. City of Yelm land use plans support future land use activities that support customers requiring rail shipping services, and active rail service could be restored to this corridor in the future. The City of Yelm may be the first in the region to not only provide a shared-use trail that connects to another county, but could also have a joint shared-use trail with active rail service. This trail will improve travel for bicycle and pedestrian traffic by providing an off street uninterrupted route through the center of Yelm and expand the greater Yelm-Tenino Trail Corridor.

Connections and Destinations: City center of Yelm, Town of Roy, City of Yelm and unincorporated Thurston County residential communities, Yelm City Park, Yelm to Tenino Trail

Cost Estimates: Total estimated \$10,281,000 (Project B8 of 2040 Thurston County Transportation Plan)

Conditions and Recommendations:

(Recommendations are in bold)

Extend Yelm Prairie Line Trail 3.5 miles from Canal Road to Roy (vicinity 288th Street S). Construct a shared-use Class 1 trail on existing city owned rail corridor right-of-way. Phase I, extending from East Yelm Avenue to Canal Road is complete. Subsequent phases will extend the trail to the rail terminus at Roy, resulting in this region's first inter-regional trail, and first shared-used corridor. The 3.5 mile segment of the proposed Yelm Prairie Line Trail extends beyond Yelm city limits and will require a region-wide effort to finance, plan, and design and build this trail corridor. A partnership including City of Yelm, Town of Roy, and Thurston and Pierce counties is essential to effectively evaluate this trail's development strategy. **The City of Yelm should evaluate the existing railroad bridge structure across the Nisqually River for possible trail use. If this bridge is being considered for future rail service, an alternative trail**

crossing should be evaluated in this trail's planning process. In addition, any future reactivation of rail service along this corridor will require that a fence or some type of barrier be constructed to separate the trail facility from the operational railroad tracks. The City has not secured funding for the design or construction phases of this proposed segment.

A future SR 510 Yelm Loop Alternate and 510/507 Loop – South Section are planned around the edge of Yelm city limits to detour through traffic off of Yelm Avenue. WSDOT is the lead agency on this State Highway Project. Plans for this future planned facility include 8 foot wide non-motorized pathways on both sides of the road to serve non-motorized travel in each direction. One mile of this is complete, with pathways on both sides. Although these pathways will be separated from the motor vehicle lanes by a vegetated swale, these paths are not technically shared-use trails, however they will likely function as such. **WSDOT should include design provisions to connect the future Yelm Loop Bypass non-motorized facilities with the existing and proposed segments of the Yelm Prairie Line Trail and the Yelm to Tenino Trail.** This plan proposes connecting the Yelm Loop Bypass non-motorized facilities with trails to adjacent parks and trail networks.

APPENDIX B – Funding Source Options

Local Funding Options.

Local agencies can fund park, open space and trail projects through a variety of measures. Some funding measures are available to local governments but have not been enacted or implemented in the Thurston Region.

1. Existing Local Options

a. General Funds: Derived from property taxes, sales tax, licenses and permits, intergovernmental revenues including state and federal grants, service charges and fees, fines and forfeitures, and other miscellaneous revenues. Park, recreation and open space facilities and programs are funded primarily from general fund accounts.

b. Special Revenues: Derived from state and local option taxes dedicated to specific expenditure purposes, such as the motor vehicle tax, motor excise tax, real estate excise tax, motel and hotel tax. Some special revenues may be used to finance limited capital facilities, such as roads or parks, where the local option allows, such as the local real estate excise tax (REET – see RCW 18.46.010) which gives city governments the option of adding up to two 0.0025% increments to the real estate excise tax for the sole purpose of financing local capital improvement projects.

A private utility tax could be assessed for parks, but requires 50% voter approval. This could supply a stable funding source that would increase as utility costs increase for additions, funds could be used to pay off bonds and debt incurred from them over time.

c. General Obligation Bonds: Must be approved by at least 60% of resident voters during an election which has a turnout of at least 40% of those who voted in the last state general election. The bond may be repaid from a special levy, which is not governed by the 1.0% statutory limitation on the property tax growth rate.

Total indebtedness as a percent of the assessed valuation that may be incurred by limited and unlimited general obligation bonds together however may not exceed:

2.5% - provided that indebtedness in excess of 1.5% is for general purposes,

5.0% - provided that indebtedness in excess of 2.5% is for utilities, and

7.5% - provided that indebtedness in excess of 5.0% is for parks and open space development.

d. Councilmanic Bonds: May be issued without voter approval by the Council for any facility development purpose. The total amount of all outstanding non-voted general obligation debt may not exceed 1.5% of the assessed valuation of all city property.

e. Local Improvement Districts (LID): Assessments on property specially benefited by improvements to pay for all or any part of the improvements. Must be approved by both the local government and benefited property owners. RCW 35.43

f. Environmental Impact Mitigation: City and county policies can require developers within the county or on lands that may eventually annex to adjacent cities, to provide suitably designed and located open spaces, woodland preserves, trail systems, tot lots, playground, and

other park or recreation facilities. Facilities may include major components of the park or recreational system that may be affected by the project location or development. The city and county may also consider requiring developers provide acceptable long-term methods of managing and financing maintenance requirements. Attractive management systems could include:

- Ownership by a private organization – like a tennis, swimming or golf club, who assumes responsibility for all maintenance responsibilities and assess property owners’ annual costs
- Ownership by homeowners or common property owners association who may contract maintenance responsibilities and assess property owner’s annual costs, or
- Dedication of property to an adjacent city or school district who assumes maintenance responsibilities using local city or school funds.

The city and county should not accept title and maintenance responsibility unless the land or facility will be a legitimate park or recreation or open space element that may be supported using public financing. The city or county may be contracted by any of the other agencies to provide or oversee a maintenance contract on the owner’s behalf provided all city or county costs are reimbursed by an approved method of local financing.

g. Growth Impact Fees: A park impact fee (approved as part of the State Growth Management Act (GMA). An impact fee may be applied to all proposed residential developments within the City as a means of maintaining existing park, recreation, and open space levels-of- service (LOS) as identified by the City. A city ordinance would estimate the impact each development project has on park, recreation, and open space facilities within the projects local service zone and makes provisions for setting aside the resources, including land or money, necessary to offset the project’s local or neighborhood community or regional facility impacts.

The dollar value of the project’s park, recreation, and open space impact can be offset by the project developer in an amount equal to the combined facility acquisition and development costs that the city would incur to maintain the same existing level-of-service.

A developer may be allowed to choose any combination of land or cash mitigation measures including credit for any park or recreation facilities to be included within the project development. The city ordinance should consider the following when determining the types of mitigation measures or development credits to be made available to the developer. Will the facility:

- be available to the public,
- have a designated owner – responsible for continuing operation and maintenance (the owner may be a common property owner’s association, school district or other agency), and
- correspond to and not exceed or vary from the types of park, recreation, and open space facilities that are being impacted (a developer could provide but should not be able to take full credit value for facilities for which there is no shortage, impact or local interest).

h. Inter-Local Agreements: The city could work with the county to determine an equitable means whereby growth mitigation park impact fees can be collected for residential development occurring within the urban growth area outside of existing city limits, but within the area the city eventually expects to annex. The city and county could also work with the school districts to determine to what extent the county could cooperatively finance shared or

common facility improvements. Such improvements could use co-located school and park sites, commonly improved and scheduled fields and facilities, and the sharing of park and school growth impact fees – among other options.

It is to the county's advantage that the county will assist the city and school district with the development, maintenance and/or operation of common facilities since these facilities serve residents of the county. In return, the county, city and school district must determine some equitable means whereby the city and school district perform or reimburse each other for some of the added facility maintenance and operational impacts that users create on each agency's facilities.

i. User Fees and Charges: The city could charge user fees and use the proceeds to purchase land, develop, operate, and maintain facilities where all costs are reimbursed by the revenue obtained. User fees could be used to provide facilities for park and recreation activities whose profit margins are too low to sustain commercial operations or whose benefiting user group may extend beyond city boundaries (such as a golf course).

The market determines which facility's revenues equal costs, and helps determine which programs the city would provide on a direct costs/benefit basis. Some programs designed for youth and family activities may never generate fees large enough to finance full costs and will require the City Council to determine to what extent the public benefits merit the subsidized fee revenues.

2. Local Options Not Currently Enacted

All but d. are enabled by state law, but not enacted in the Thurston Region:

- a. Commercial Parking Tax, RCW 82.80.030
- b. Motor Vehicle License Fee, RCW 82.80.020
- c. Transportation Benefit District, RCW 36.73
- d. Additional REET – the state legislature is considering authorizing cities to adopt a 3rd Real Estate Excise percentage to dedicate exclusively to park, recreation, and open space. REET funds may not be used to finance operation and maintenance requirements.

Federal and State Funding Options

1. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP): Provides funds for acquisition and development of conservation and recreation lands. This grant program is administered through Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

The Habitat Conservation Account of the WWRP program provides funds to acquire critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife categories.

The Outdoor Recreation Account of the WWRP program provides funds for local parks, state parks, trails and water access categories.

Youth Athletic Facility (YAF) – Grants to cities, counties, and qualified nonprofit organizations for the improvement and maintenance of existing - and the development of new - athletic facilities. Administered by the Community Outdoor Athletic Fields Advisory Council (COAFAC) of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

2. Thurston Regional Surface Transportation Program (STP), Federal Highways Administration: Funds may be used for construction of non-motorized transportation facilities like shared-use trails, sidewalks and bicycle lanes among other things. Available to local government and nontraditional transportation partners. A local match between 13.5% and 40% is required.

3. Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program, Federal Highway Administration: Competitive funding for 12 categories of projects related to surface transportation, including pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety programs, scenic and historic highway programs, landscaping and scenic beautification, historic preservation and environmental mitigation. Investments benefit communities through rehabilitation of historic facilities related to transportation, renovated streetscapes, rail-trails and other transportation trails. Applications – and recommendations to the state – made through the Thurston Regional Planning Council as part of the regional transportation program.

4. The Safe Routes to School Program, Washington State Department of Transportation and Federal Highways Administration: Can fund bicycle and pedestrian safety projects that create safer routes to school.

5. Small City Sidewalk Program, Washington Transportation Improvement Board (TIB): Established by the State to provide funding for pedestrian projects. Available to small city and urban agencies and provides funding for sidewalk projects related to transportation, but not trails. It could be used to finance construction of sidewalks that connect to trails. The project must be on or related to a TIB Small City Arterial. Cities with populations over 500 require a five percent match.

6. Washington State Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program, Washington State Department of Transportation: Aids public agencies in funding their cost-effective projects that improve pedestrian and bicycle safety through engineering, education and enforcement. Projects may include engineering improvements, education programs and enforcement efforts that improve safety for non-motorized transportation users.

7. Grade Safety Grant program, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC): Money from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to reduce accident frequency and severity at both public and private railroad crossings and to reduce pedestrian trespassing and frequency of trespass-related deaths and injuries along railroad rights-of-way. Any public, private, or nonprofit entity may submit an application to the commission for GCPF monies. Examples of projects include fencing or other physical barriers that prevent trespassing on railroad rights-of-way, pedestrian warning devices, channeling devices, media or public relations campaigns, and enforcement-related activities. Grants may cover up to \$20,000 of a selected project's costs without a cost-share/match requirement.

8. Public Work Trust Funds: Funds used for the repayment of all or a portion of the principal of - or interest on - obligations issued by local governments to finance public works projects including planning, acquisition, construction, repair, reconstruction, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of streets and roads, bridges, water systems, or storm and sanitary sewage systems. Also used for planning that may include the compilation of biological,

hydrological, or other data on a county, drainage basin, or region necessary to develop a base of information for a capital facility plan project.

Private Revenue Options

1. **Special use agreements:** Special property agreements can often be used instead of property purchases to secure public use rights for land or property at no cost or a nominal fee, particularly where the possible public use is of benefit to the private landowner. Some forms of special use agreements can provide favorable tax benefits if the use agreement can be shown to have an assigned value.

The city could expand the use agreement concept to include complete development, operations or maintenance responsibilities. Package lease agreements will usually provide more effectively maintained facilities than possible where the city must staff specialized small work crews.

Sometimes package lease agreements covering use and maintenance aspects may be the only way of resolving an equitable agreement with the private ownership. This may include trails on utility corridors where the ownership may prefer to control development and maintenance activities, and the city may prefer to avoid any implied responsibility or liability for the utility worthiness which the city's maintenance of a trail system could imply.

2. Public/Private Service Contracts: A public/private services contract can be used to contract out operation and maintenance of a facility for a fixed fee. Service contracts can:

- be very efficient where the activities are small, scattered in location, seasonal, expert or experimental;
- be relatively easy to initiate or terminate if area demand fails to provide sufficient use or revenue to justify continued operation;
- be flexible and can include agreements with the county, school district or local user groups who can or would be interested in sustaining the activity on a subsidized or sweat-equity basis in exchange for the facility.

3. Public/Private Concessions: City could lease a portion of a site or facility to a private party in exchange for a fixed fee or a percentage of gross receipts. The private operator assumes operation and maintenance responsibilities and costs in exchange for a profit.

The city may save considerable money on concessions where the activities are specialized, seasonal, experimental or unproven. Concessions can be easily initiated, provide direct user benefit/cost reimbursements and relieve the city of a capital risk should market or user interest fail to materialize to breakeven levels. Concessionaires could operate a wide variety of park and recreational facilities or be as simple as a food vendor in a park or facility. The presence of food vendors or some other concessionaire can also provide some surveillance at the park or facility adding to safety and security of the area.

4. Public/Private Joint Development Ventures: The city can enter into an agreement with a private or public developer to jointly own or lease land for an extended period of time. The purpose of the venture would be to allow the development, operation, and maintenance of a major recreational facility or activity in exchange for a fixed lease cost or a percentage of gross receipts.

The developer assumes development, operation, and maintenance responsibilities, costs, and all market risks in exchange for a market opportunity providing a profitable return not otherwise available. The city realizes the development of a facility not realized otherwise in exchange for a low minimum capital return and no or very little capital risk.

Joint development agreements represent an ultimate benefit/cost resolution that may provide public revenue that the city could use for other development opportunities. Examples include the possible joint development on city lands of such facilities as swimming pools, water parks, and golf courses.

5. Self-Help Land Leases: Where an activity is so specialized in appeal - or a service area so broad in scope - that it cannot be equitably financed using general public funds. Specialized user groups could be provided options for developing or maintaining facilities in ways that account for equitable public cost reimbursements. Examples include the use of land leases where the city may lease land at low or no cost where a user group or club assumes responsibility for the development, operation, and maintenance of the facility. The club could provide volunteer help or use club finances to develop, operate and maintain the facility as a means of meeting user benefit/cost objectives.

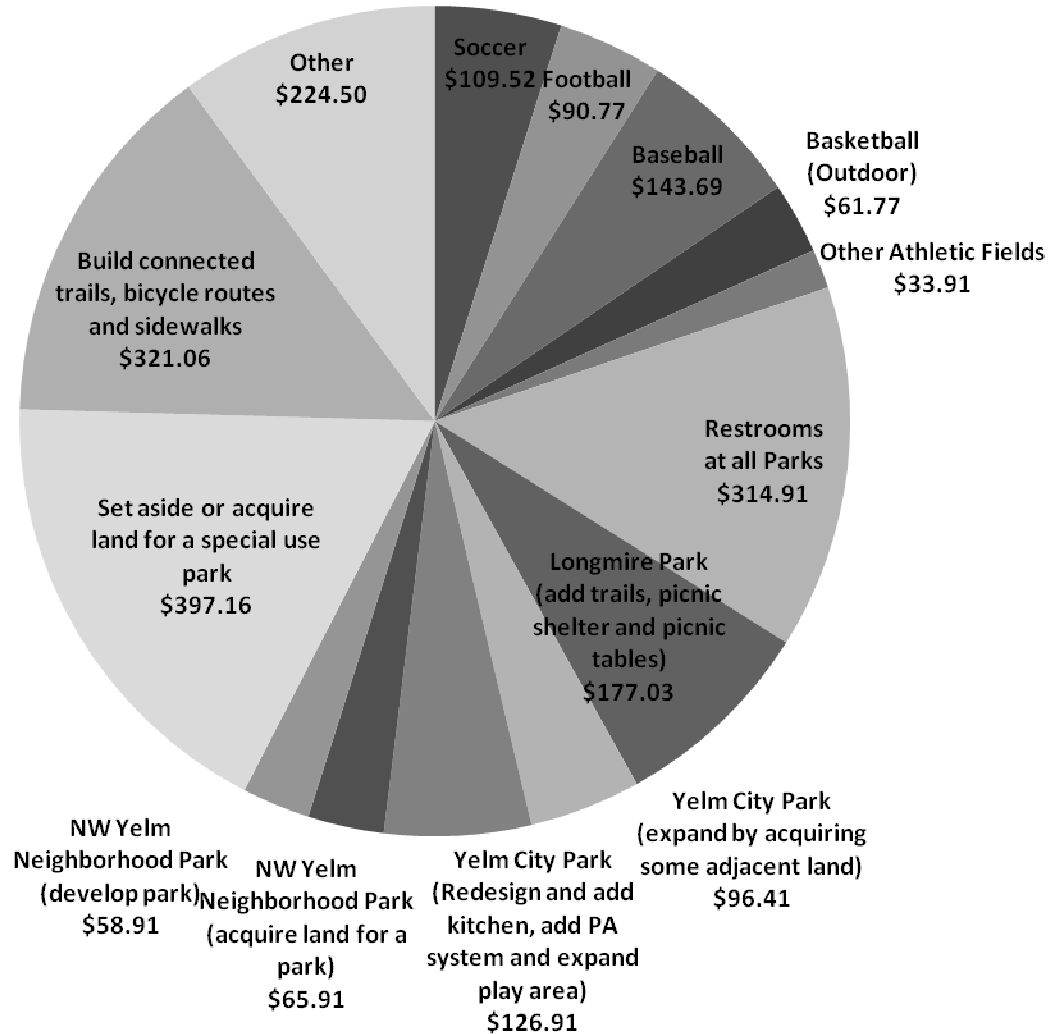
Land lease agreements could accommodate organized athletics like soccer, baseball, football, and softball.

6. Self-help Contract Agreements: The city can purchase land, develop, operate and maintain a specialized facility under a negotiated contract agreement where a special interest group agrees to defray all costs in addition to - or in lieu of - a user fee as a means of meeting user benefit/cost objectives. The agreements can be quite flexible and could contract the city, the user group, another public agency or a private operator to be developer/operator.

Contract agreements could accommodate a range of more expansive special purpose facility developments including high quality athletic competition facilities for league organizations.

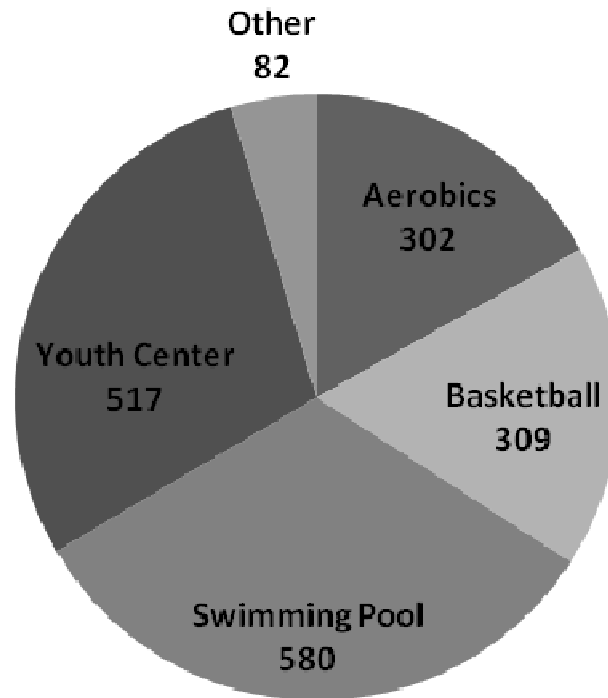
APPENDIX C – Complete Results Of The 2008 Parks Survey

Plan Priorities



Note: Participants were asked to help determine plan priorities by spending/distributing \$10 based on their priorities. Numbers represent the total dollar amount survey respondents spent on each choice.

Activity/Facility - Indoor



Survey participants were asked to rate the importance of each potential indoor recreation facility. Numbers represent the total survey responses when:

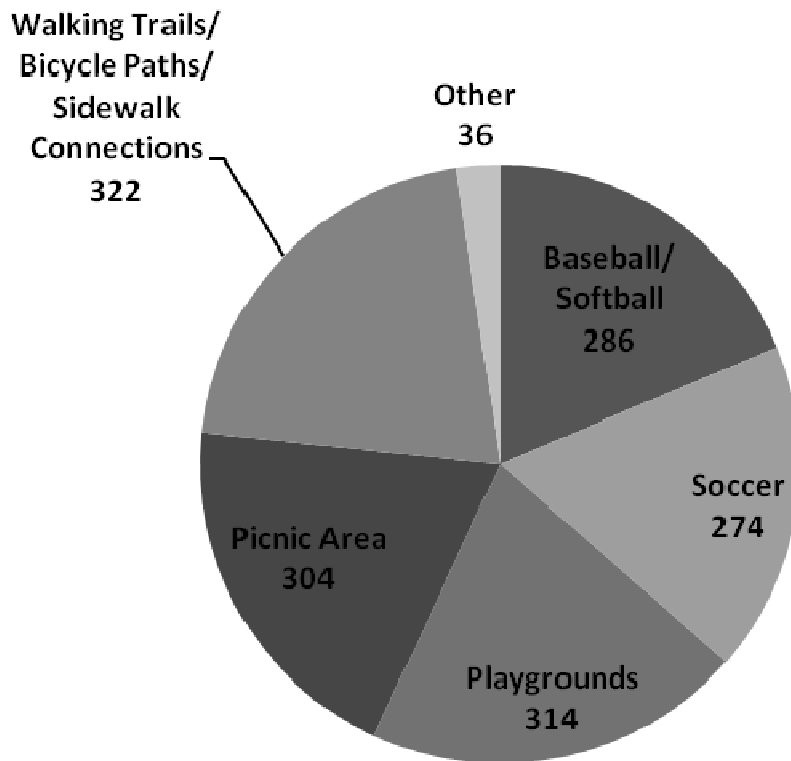
Not Important = 0

Somewhat Important = 1

Important = 2

Very Important = 3

Outdoor Recreation



Survey participants were asked to rate the importance of each potential outdoor recreation facility. Numbers represent the total survey responses when:

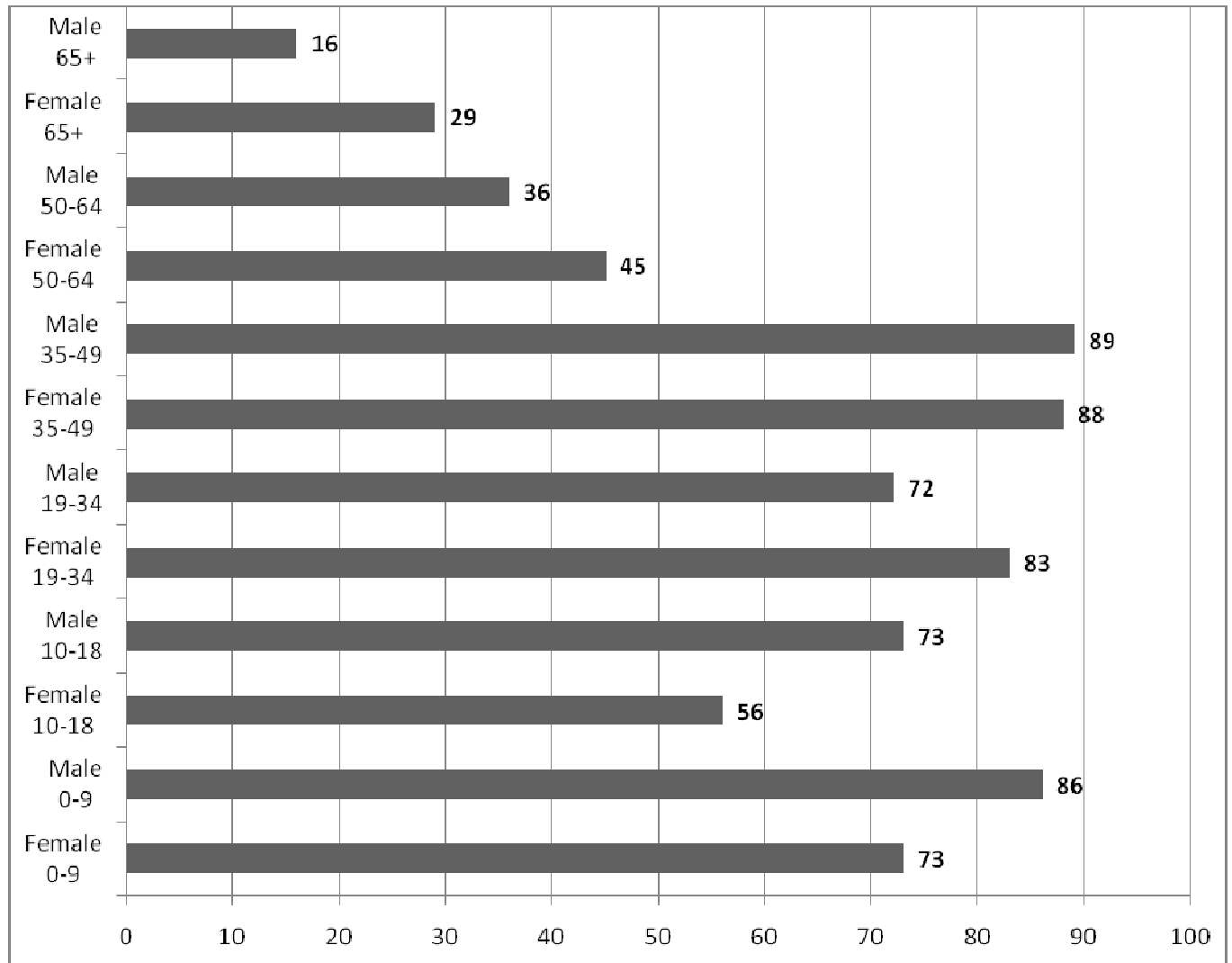
Not Important = 0

Somewhat Important = 1

Important = 2

Very Important = 3

Respondents by ages within each household



Comments/Ideas

- A multi-use rec center with easy access to the major residential areas - connected by trails would be optimal.
- A pool would be a great thing for the City of Yelm, and also an indoor soccer field.
- All development should be designed so that any large trees are left undisturbed; bicycle racks (to lock bikes to) should be included in park facilities and sidewalks along main street.
- An outdoor community pool/water park would make Yelm PERFECT for families!!
- As a mother of a toddler I feel we really need more for toddlers to do in the area (such as classes like Gymboree or art). Yelm City Park playground could also use an update with more toddler/baby friendly activities (baby swings, small play structure/slide). More sidewalks are also important to me. I can't walk anywhere from my house without having to walk in the street. A covered playground would also be a good idea since it rains so much here.
- As much as I questioned the skate park, I feel it's been a great idea.
- Being the mother of a physically disabled child, I am always frustrated by the lack of accessibility in and around the parks. The disabled children in this community deserve to play too.
- Community Parks and Recreation are located too randomly all over town. We need a community center easily accessed & located to help community fully utilize what Yelm has to offer.
- Development of a YMCA facility or youth recreation center is most important for ages 8-18.
- Enough police in park area to control all drug & alcohol use/physical abuse on all children.
- For years the city has need an indoor pool. Children are sent to Lacey/Oly for lessons. Could be a win win situation for the city and for the Yelm citizens
- I feel a family activity center would be great in Yelm, aka YMCA. Includes pool, racket ball, basketball, exercise. Thank you!
- I find it hard to believe that we don't have a swimming pool here.
- I have an article at home - in Yakima - showing a proposal to build a life sized statue of James Longmire
- I really believe Yelm needs swimming pool
- I think a pool would be a good addition to Yelm. Before they moved to Yelm my grandchildren went to the grade school across from one of the Lacey High Schools. They got swim classes at the HS as part of their curriculum starting early in school. I think this is very important, as well as having the pool for leisure activities and high school swim team. This is a great idea asking citizens for input and I hope you do listen and pay attention to the to the responses. Thank you.
- I think it is great that we are going to have things for the youth to do. Indoor facilities for seniors need to be thought about i.e.. Exercise, swimming pool, hot tubs, etc.
- I understand that there is limited area, however having a toddler & young child area right next to a skateboard park is ridiculous. I constant leave so my child does not have

to listen to the language, smoking, drugs & other things going on. Plus they tear up the small kids swings, etc. NOT a comfortable place to bring a 2-3 year old!

- I would like a swimming pool built in the Yelm area.
- I would like to see a bicycle trail connect all parks. Also I would like to have an indoor pool facility. Longmire Park is great!
- I would like to see a YMCA type of facility built in the area.
- I'm thrilled with Yelm Parks. Dog parks are very important because there are none in the Thurston/Pierce County area. Dog owners are responsible for "doggie doo" and only a fenced area & a rough trail is all that would be needed.
- Instead of 3 ball diamonds at Longmire, they should have one made a basketball court. Pick-up basketball games are popular with youths. Notice how many baskets in driveways throughout Yelm?
- It would be great to have a park in the area where that new loop is coming. That will make us for all the traffic that will come with that loop - a sort of "balancing out". That new park can be created with lots of community involvement (schools, etc) - get as many involved as possible.
- Keep almost grown-ups out of mischief. An Olympic size pool and walking court, racket court, exercise facilities keep young and old healthy - Helen Lee
- Keep the kids in mind. There is not much now for them to do in Yelm. A little change goes a long way.
- Longmire Park is very nicely planned. It's a beautiful and user-friendly park. Keep up the good work!!
- Love the new park!
- Make Yelm a place where everyone can get around without a car easily. That means safe bike and walking routes and places to lock up a parked bike.
- More advanced notice about activities in the city so newcomers can plan swimming pool! Swimming pool!
- Moved here from suburbs of Minneapolis, MN. They had a wonderful set up for families & active people. Bike trails & sidewalks all over town. Wonderful playgrounds in every neighborhood plus all over their towns. I think the brush should be kept cut short on the bike trail. I don't feel safe riding on it. Anyone could be jumped in all the secluded areas.
- Need more for kids
- Need to have more publicity so that everyone knows where to go for recreation and/or parks.
- Newer toys for children, more than one location.
- Our kids need some kind of youth center/ community center, YMCA activities etc.
- Parking needs to also be improved. It is a great park. Perhaps you could redesign, move skateboard area away from the main park. Perhaps you could redesign, move the skateboard area away from the main park. It is a problem when holding events there. Have another area for skateboarders & basketball. Add picnic tables and playground equipment for younger children.
- Parks should all have bathrooms, should not be included in additions. It is a basic necessity. You shouldn't build one if you cannot provide this.
- Play structures for different age groups

- Please bring an indoor pool to Yelm!!
- Please put an indoor heated pool in. There isn't one reasonably close for swimming lessons.
- Please, please, PLEASE - move the skate park at Yelm City Park AWAY from the playground!!! Often, there is foul language and cigarette smoke filtering over when I take my toddler to play on the equipment. Yuck!
- Sidewalks are needed throughout Yelm residential areas.
- Something for elderly.
- Spend money wisely for all to get good out of the cost. Longmire Park looks very good.
- Suggestion: Contact local scout office to see if you can get some boy scouts to improve recreation facilities in Yelm for their Eagle project. Once could build a par course on a trail - at strategic points have exercise equipment (ie beam, pull up bar, long jump). OR have a community service day when everyone comes and helps build the park.
- Summer Camps for Youth
- Swimming pool & recreation center would be nice.
- Swimming pool is a must. Do you want our kids to keep dying because they don't know how to swim. Children must know how to swim with all the rivers and lakes in this area.
- Swimming pool please!
- Thank you for giving the residents of Yelm an opportunity to make Yelm a better place.
- Thank you for giving us a chance to participate in making Yelm a better community as it grows
- Thank you for this survey. I hope to see more recreational activities in Yelm
- Thanks!
- To convert the old QFC building into a youth activity center.
- Try to make a specific area for very little children away from older children/young adults so they aren't around swearing, smoking and adult like conversation!
- We could use a YMCA for families and kids. The town would benefit greatly.
- We definitely need more activities for teens.
- We have small children and are very involved in sports. We would like to see more for them. Also, a swimming pool would be awesome.
- We love the addition of Longmire Park. Thank you. This community is in major need of a pool with instruction for kids.
- We need a swimming pool in Yelm!!
- We need a YMCA. Thank you.
- We need an area for families to go (covered) well maintained with a lot of activities. A YMCA type facility (QFC building is available)
- We need more rec areas for the teens. Yelm needs a family rec center with a pool. Something similar to a YMCA.
- We want a swimming pool more than anything!
- We're new to Yelm and not familiar with parks. If you now have 0 restrooms, you need to at least have port potties.
- While parks are a great addition to any town, city, Lacey, Olympia, Tacoma, and Seattle have had numerous documented issues with gangs, violence, and drugs in those very same parks. What can be done to ensure patron safety at any and all hours?

- Would be great if we had a YMCA with indoor pool
- Would like to see an indoor recreation complex or even a local facility like boys and girls club.
- Would love an off-leash dog park with watering area, poop-scooping supplies, even some big tires or other obstacles for dogs to play on.
- Yelm City Park is used for so many wonderful activities for the public. It would be great to see it grow!
- Yelm City Park needs an extreme makeover!
- Yelm definitely needs a parks & recreation program. Sports camps for little kids, swimming, classes for family members etc. Thanks
- Yelm desperately needs an indoor facility with a pool, basketball courts, and a youth center to keep our kids off the street and give them something to do!
- Yelm needs a rec facility such as a YMCA. We need a place with a pool! Such a facility would provide family entertainment and great exercise.
- Yelm needs a youth/community center. A place for all members of the community to learn, play, exercise, and meet.
- Yelm needs has always need a swimming pool. (rent it to the school)
- Yelm needs more youth group activities for the young kids, and a daycare center for parents who work nights or weekends.
- Yelm really needs an indoor pool & indoor recreation like racquetball courts. Also a good size playground.
- You guys are awesome! We love Longmire Park and we love that new recreation areas could soon be in the works. Thanks for getting our feedback!
- Youth programs help keep kids out of trouble and build a sense of community. I ran youth groups for years. Give them an objective and they will achieve it.
- Being a mom of two toddler age kids I would love to see some play structures made for young kids at parks
- I love the idea of having more recreation for families in Yelm.
- I think the #1 priority in having things like these is the safety of the people who would like to use them. The safer the people feel the more they will be used and maintained. I hope that the time to include safety will be involved in these programs.
- Any facilities need a supervisor. The few times I have taken children to playgrounds next skateboard area language was bad we had to leave. Shouldn't attempt any above unless we have money or means to cover some without having to raise taxes or bonds etc. Have auctions or fundraisers.
- I think Yelm could really use a YMCA with a pool. Currently people are having to commute to Olympia or Tacoma and I think would really make a difference in community.
- We have enough baseball/softball fields we need more soccer fields.



City of Yelm

Community Development Department

105 Yelm Avenue West

P.O. Box 479

Yelm, WA 98597

Yelm Community Parks and Recreation Survey

The City of Yelm is updating the Parks and Recreation Plan for the community. The plan will identify the short and long term goals for improving and adding to the Yelm park and recreation system. This survey will help identify short and long term priorities and is essential information for the City as it applies for grants and identifies other funding sources to achieve plan goals.

1. Please indicate the number of males and females in your household in each age group:

Age	Male	Female
0-9	_____	_____
10-18	_____	_____
19-34	_____	_____
35-49	_____	_____
50-64	_____	_____
65+	_____	_____

2. Indoor Recreation – Please indicate the importance of each potential indoor recreation activity/facility.

Activity/Facility - Indoor	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Aerobics				
Basketball				
Swimming pool				
Youth center				
Other (please identify)				

3. Outdoor Recreation – Please indicate the importance of each potential outdoor recreation activity/facility.

Activity/Facility - Outdoor	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Baseball/Softball				
Soccer				
Playgrounds				
Picnic areas				
Walking trails/bicycle paths/sidewalk connections				
Other (Please identify)				

4. This question will help determine plan priorities. Pretend that you have \$10 to spend. Next to each spending proposal below, write in a dollar amount. Put a “0” if you don’t want to spend anything on the item. Put \$10 if you want to spend everything on one item. You can spread the money around any way you want... spend the most money on those things you think are the highest priorities. **Spend all \$10, but don’t spend any more than \$10.** This question is just about Yelm parks and recreation. It does not include programs and facilities offered by Yelm Schools or County Parks.

1. Athletic Fields	\$
a. soccer fields	\$
b. football fields	\$
c. baseball fields	\$
d. basketball (outdoor)	\$
e. other (specify)	\$
2. Restrooms at all parks	\$
3. Longmire Park – add trails, picnic shelter and picnic tables	\$
4. Yelm City Park – expand by acquiring some adjacent land	\$
5. Yelm City Park – Redesign and add kitchen, add PA system and expand play area	\$
6. Northwest Yelm Neighborhood Park – acquire land for a park	\$

7. Northwest Yelm Neighborhood Park – develop park	\$
8. Set aside or acquire land for a special use park (activities could include indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities or complex)	\$
9. Build connected trails, bicycle routes and sidewalks	\$
10. Other (please identify)	\$
	\$
	\$

5. Please share other comments/ideas related to Yelm park and recreation facilities and programs.

Please return this survey by April 15th.

1. If you received this survey in your water bill please return in the envelope with your water bill payment.

2. Others filling out this survey should return it to Yelm City Hall, 105 Yelm Ave. W or mail to City of Yelm, PO Box 479, Yelm, WA 98597, or FAX to (360) 458-3144.

If you have any questions please call Tami Merriman (360) 458-8496.

APPENDIX D – RESULTS OF 2015 HOME AND GARDEN SHOW COMMENTS

- ♦ City Parks and Rec Department that coordinates and runs youth athletics as our current athletics is run through Lacey organizations (Ditto, and skate park - large).
- ♦ Regulations for dog owners to have insurance and penalties for not keeping on leash in parks.
- ♦ Yelm Community Pool (Ditto), Ice Skating Rink, Bird Atrium.
- ♦ We are interested in having a pool in Yelm and I am willing to work on a committee or other entity to help.
- ♦ Community Pool. YMCA – There is nothing for kids to do in Yelm.
- ♦ Bike Park (Ditto).
- ♦ Community Pool (7 others).
- ♦ Youth Club.
- ♦ Why no mushroom club?
- ♦ Support a Father Daughter Dance.
- ♦ Covered recreation - basketball/gym.
- ♦ I miss the street dance at Prairie Days.
- ♦ Have a recreation center.
- ♦ More recreational opportunities and facilities for children of all ages. Playgrounds.
- ♦ Swimming pool, Basketball, rec hall – things to provide recreation for kids.
- ♦ We would like to have outdoor cover areas like the ones at the park now.
- ♦ Music/Dance for the community.
- ♦ Start fundraiser for Community Pool.
- ♦ Create an engaging Parks and Recreation Dept to provide activities for both adults and youth.
- ♦ Yelm is largely a Living and Commuter Community, so why no Parks and Recreation Program lead by City.
- ♦ Better parade (this one – not hip).
- ♦ Scotch Broom Festival and benefit of Scotch Broom.
- ♦ Rain garden behind motel – Sustainable permaculture gardens/on vacant lots.
- ♦ Community garden, please (Yes. Ditto, using local artists donations as well. I second this).
- ♦ Visitor Center.
- ♦ Bring people to Yelm from surrounding areas for recreation.

APPENDIX E – RESULTS OF 2017 HOME AND GARDEN SHOW AND OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS

- ♦ Please include toddler/infant swings in planning the new expanded play equipment in Yelm City Park and play equipment in other new proposed neighborhood parks.
- ♦ Design of the new spray park in Yelm City Park would be better if located close to the new expanded play equipment. This is in consideration of Yelm families with multiple children to look after in the park. Locating the water feature/spray park on the other side of the community center from the new expanded play equipment will create a difficulty for parents/grandparents with multiple children, trying to keep them all within sight and close proximity.
- ♦ It would be wonderful and so much more consistent with Yelm to have a running 'creek' water feature as part of the design of the new spray park. There is a water feature such as this in front of the Childrens' Museum in Olympia. Don't know if this could be added to or replace a portion of the spray park at this stage of design, but this concrete 'creek' and smooth rock shallow running water feature might be easier to manage and maintain as well.
- ♦ Continue the trail network proposals, especially the Prairie Line Trail across the Nisqually River to Roy.
- ♦ The Woodland Trail Greenway Association provides a grant opportunity to provide trail kiosk maps and trail mile markers for trails in our county.
- ♦ The Woodland Trail Greenway Association offered guidance of the associations experience assisting Yelm as they move forward on trail plans.