

Chelan Parks Vision 2030

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS)

City of Chelan, Washington

2024 - 2030



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Reviewing Agency: City of Chelan

Paul Horne, the City of Chelan's Parks Director would like to extend sincere thanks and gratitude to parks staff, for making the parks hum day after day rain or shine, as well as local city leadership, stakeholders, the patient support of expert consulting firms in the field (SCJ Alliance, Berry Dunn/Greenplay Inc., RRC Associates) and the two thousand plus community members who took part in the development of this plan. This collaborative approach allowed for the creation of a Chelan specific PROS Plan that effectively combines the local insights of community members and stakeholders with the multidisciplinary experience of the consultants.



CITY OF
CHELAN
PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS PLANNING

A parks and open-space plan outlines a systematic approach to providing parks and recreation services to a community. Parks and open-space resources within a Community include environmental, recreational, scenic, cultural, historic, and urban design elements.

Jan Gehl (1987), the Danish urbanist and architect, states,

"The proper hierarchy of planning is Life, space and buildings, not buildings, space, Life." ¹

Therefore communities need to plan for open spaces that provide a multitude of public functions before development occurs. These functions are numerous and may include:

- Creation of places for recreation
- Support for economic development opportunities
- Development of neighborhood gathering spaces
- Promotion of public health benefits
- Creation of civic and cultural infrastructure
- Shaping patterns of development through open space
- Protection of natural resources and biodiversity

As Chelan continues to grow, our community and its leaders will have many choices to make about how we develop.

Urban planning movements have historically viewed parks as a major organizing principle around which they've designed communities.

The concept of an integrated public realm involves creating a cohesive and accessible network of publicly owned spaces, such as parks, sidewalks, paths, open areas, and public buildings, that collectively enhance the quality of life and foster community interaction.

Parks as a key element in an integrated public realm is important for any community, but it's especially crucial for places like Chelan, where tourism is so closely connected to our parks and natural resources.

Since tourism significantly boosts our local economy, maintaining and improving our parks can ensure that both residents and visitors continue to enjoy Chelan. Thoughtful planning and investment in parks and public spaces will be key to our community's long-term success and vitality.

¹ Eysenbach/American Planning Association. M.E. (2006). Parks and Open Space Plans. In Planning and Urban Design Standards (p.38). Hoboken, N.J. John Wiley & Sons

FOREWARD FROM THE PARKS DIRECTOR

I am proud to present this Chelan Parks Vision 2024-2030 Plan.

We've had over 2,000 interfaces with the public to hear their desires for this Park System. We used multiple methods, from statistically valid surveys mailed to every household, to online surveys, to focus groups, to public forums, to design charettes, to stakeholder groups, and one-on-one sessions with key stakeholders. We met in Council Chambers and in the parks themselves. We heard what people had to say. Parks are important to them, and they want to see improvements to our system.

We asked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board "what places inspire you and why?"

We asked the community at large "what makes Chelan a great place to live and visit?"

We developed images from what we heard. We presented these vision boards for beautiful promenades, new restrooms, outdoor amphitheaters, and other potential amenities.

Our visually engaging PowerPoint was a big hit in the community. While everyone loved the aspirational images, elected officials, who are responsible for balancing all of the City's resources and providing strategic direction, said, "We love this, AND we want to see how the numbers work to really make this happen." We want to see grounded, real-world, data driven backing for this vision.

Well. . . I think that readers will find that this plan delivers, on both the inspirational community guided vision, as well as a grounded path to achieve it.

We all know that Chelan is already an amazing place to live work and play. With parks as a community priority we can make this amazing place even better. This plan provides a roadmap for a better future.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Horne

Paul Horne, Director of Parks and Recreation



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