

## 2024 City Accomplishments Towards Guiding Principles

### 1. Visionary & Strategic: A city that is forward-thinking, collaborative and fiscally responsible.

- a. Pioneered the development of the City of Chelan's inaugural Strategic Plan, laying the foundation for a forward-thinking and unified approach to long-term growth and development.
- b. Initiated the creation of the HR/Communications Director position, driving innovative branding, outreach, and recruitment strategies. This includes strategically filled key positions in 2024, such as Community Development Director, Code Compliance Officer, Parks Assistant Director, Airport Manager, and Water Treatment Manager, to strengthen city leadership.
- c. Secured the passage of the Water Resources Development Act, including a pivotal \$9M authorization for the East Chelan Reservoir Project, strategically positioning the city for sustainable water resources and future growth.
- d. Awarded a \$142,000 Federal Safe Streets for All planning grant, advancing collaborative efforts to enhance safety, connectivity, and accessibility for the Chelan community, while aligning with the city's vision of a forward-thinking and fiscally responsible infrastructure.
- e. Championed the passage of a .3% Sales Tax increase for the Transportation Benefit District, securing long-term, fiscally responsible funding for vital transportation improvements that align with the city's vision for sustainable growth.
- f. Adopted the Chelan Parks Vision 2030 Parks System Masterplan, combining an aspirational vision with a grounded, actionable roadmap to enhance and expand Chelan's parks system, supporting a vibrant community while maintaining fiscal discipline.
- g. Secured Comprehensive Plan Grants, including \$125,000 for the 2026 Periodic Update and \$65,000 for climate resiliency planning, demonstrating the city's commitment to responsible and forward-looking environmental and urban planning.
- h. Contributed strategically to the Our Valley Our Future Housing Solutions Group, a multi-agency collaboration focused on housing challenges in Chelan and Douglas Counties, working to shape sustainable, inclusive housing solutions for the region.
- i. Demonstrated long-term commitment to the Lake Chelan Research Institute, being the largest and only entity to commit to multi-year support (5 years) for their Long-Term Monitoring Program of Lake Chelan, ensuring ongoing environmental stewardship and research excellence.
- j. Introduced the ClearGov budgeting platform, enhancing transparency and accountability in the city's budget process, aligning with the vision for a fiscally responsible and open government that fosters trust and collaboration.

## **2. Thriving & Connected: A vibrant, well-planned city where residents have a sense of home.**

- a. Proactively funded the upgrade of the Washington Street Booster Pump Station, ensuring the delivery of essential water infrastructure to support affordable housing, emergency services, and rental units, which strengthens the city's commitment to providing a thriving and connected community for all residents.
- b. Collaborating with Chelan County in the Tourism Impact Study, assessing the effects of tourism on local jobs, businesses, the natural environment, community culture, public infrastructure, and housing, with a focus on fostering a vibrant and balanced city that supports residents' quality of life.
- c. Launched the Our Valley Our Future Core Values project, empowering the community to define the principles that will guide Chelan's future growth, helping to build a shared sense of home and connection among residents.
- d. Increased efforts to increase public engagement, utilizing social media, radio, and news media to connect with residents and keep them informed and involved, ensuring that the community remains engaged, informed, and empowered.
- e. Facilitated the adaptive reuse of the former Hospital, transforming a vacant building into private ownership that now serves as a home for the Roots School and co-working spaces, creating new opportunities for education, innovation, and community engagement.
- f. Completed the Cottage Housing Infill project on Okanogan (4 units), a private development focused on affordable housing, providing more options for residents seeking a well-connected and vibrant neighborhood to call home.
- g. Successfully completed the Habitat for Humanity Short Plat, contributing to the creation of affordable homes and supporting the city's goal of increasing accessible housing for all.
- h. Finalized the Emerson Harbor Townhomes development and Short Plat, a collaborative project with the Chelan Valley Housing Trust, adding to the city's growing housing options and promoting a thriving, well-planned community for current and future residents.

## **3. Healthy & Sustainable: A flourishing city that supports an active community.**

- a. Allocated \$234,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support the launch of the Lake Chelan Boys & Girls Club at The Community Center, creating a new hub for youth engagement and well-being, fostering an active and thriving community that prioritizes the health and development of its younger residents.
- b. Transferred Youth Recreation Programs to the Lake Chelan Boys & Girls Club, providing crucial financial backing. The first program, with over 200 basketball registrations, demonstrates the city's commitment to promoting active lifestyles and providing accessible recreational opportunities for all.
- c. Launched the first Pocket Park at Park Street, enhancing public green space and providing residents with a vibrant, accessible area to gather, play, and enjoy public access to the lake, promoting a healthy and sustainable environment for the community.
- d. Secured a \$3.5M award for the Lakeside Trail Project, which will significantly enhance active transportation and recreation opportunities, contributing to a healthier, more sustainable community by encouraging outdoor activity and connectivity.

- e. Completed the expansion of the Lake Chelan Food Bank, funded through a \$200,000 City of Chelan ARPA allocation and a \$2,000,000 direction appropriation from Representative Steele. This expansion ensures the long-term sustainability of the Food Bank's services, supporting residents' well-being by increasing access to nutritious food.

#### **4. Accessible & Welcoming: A safe city where everyone can find community.**

- a. Renovated City Hall to improve office efficiency, enhance safety for staff and customers, create a more welcoming atmosphere for interaction, and significantly improve ADA accessibility, ensuring all residents feel safe, valued, and included in city services.
- b. Awarded \$112,000 in Community Grants to local nonprofit organizations such as Thrive, Chelan Valley Hope, Lake Chelan Food Bank, Special Olympics, and Habitat for Humanity, reinforcing the city's commitment to supporting diverse community needs and fostering a welcoming environment for all.
- c. Upgrades to the RV Park, including a Wi-Fi upgrade and sealcoating of the roadway, enhancing the experience for visitors and ensuring the park is more accessible, convenient, and welcoming to all who use it.
- d. Completed the Parks Maintenance Building with new restrooms for Don Morse Park, improving facilities and accessibility, creating a more user-friendly environment for families and park-goers, and fostering a welcoming atmosphere for recreation and relaxation.
- e. Enhanced public access to city records through a comprehensive digitization project spearheaded by the Office of the City Clerk, supported by a \$50,000 grant. This initiative improves transparency, facilitates public engagement, and ensures that essential documents are accessible to all residents in a timely and efficient manner.
- f. Updated the zoning code to allow for middle missing housing in Apple Blossom Center, expanding housing options and promoting inclusivity, making it easier for a diverse range of residents to find homes in a welcoming, well-connected community.

## **2025 City Department Priorities & Initiatives**

### **1. Manage Growth**

- a. Initiate the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update to ensure that the city's goals and policies are aligned with projected population growth, fostering balanced development while safeguarding critical resources such as our lake, agricultural land, and iconic views.
- b. Identify potential future sub-area planning locations and incorporate climate-resiliency measures, ensuring that growth is managed in a way that protects the natural environment and preserves the city's landscape for future generations.

### **2. Diversify Housing Options**

- a. Implement new state Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements within six months of adopting the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update, expanding housing choices by allowing two accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on any lot zoned for single-family homes and

considering tiny homes as ADUs, thereby offering diverse housing options to meet the needs of all income levels.

- b. Verify land capacity within each zoning district to ensure there is sufficient space to accommodate a wide range of housing needs, from full-time care facilities to homes for households earning up to 110% of the area median income, supporting a diverse and inclusive housing market.
- c. Collaborate with Chelan County, Housing Authority, and Apple Blossom Center (ABC) Holdings to secure land for affordable and mixed-income housing projects, such as Wilmoth and ABC, promoting equitable housing solutions for all residents.
- d. Partner with the Chelan Valley Housing Trust (CVHT) on the Anderson Road project to support the development of mixed-income housing, contributing to a balanced and sustainable housing ecosystem that meets varying community needs.
- e. Explore ways to reduce utility connection fees for affordable housing, including revising ADU connection fees, making it more cost-effective to develop diverse housing options for lower- and middle-income residents.

### **3. Modernize Resources**

- a. Digitize all city records, ensuring long-term accessibility and efficiency in managing public documents while updating outdated practices to meet future community needs.
- b. Upgrade the A/V system in Council Chambers, enhancing meeting accessibility and technology, creating a more modern and efficient space for civic engagement and transparency.
- c. Implement a new online HR platform to streamline the hiring and onboarding process, improving efficiency, enhancing user experience, and supporting a modernized workforce management approach.
- d. Overhaul the Capital Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan to create an inventory of all city-owned assets, estimate their lifespan, and develop strategic replacement plans, ensuring that infrastructure investments are made with foresight and sustainability.
- e. Adopt multi-modal level-of-service standards in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan, ensuring that future transportation infrastructure accommodates a variety of needs, from pedestrians to cyclists to vehicles, supporting a well-rounded, accessible community.
- f. Support Public Works in the development of the East Chelan water reservoir, investing in critical water infrastructure that will meet the growing needs of the community and ensure a sustainable water supply for the future.
- g. Invest \$6M in both design and construction of water system infrastructure, updating and expanding the city's water systems to keep up with future demand and ensure reliable service for residents. For example: Washington Street Booster Pump, Downtown Water System Improvement Project, Design for airport water line, submarine water line,
- h. Invest \$4.6M in design and construction of sewer system infrastructure, modernizing essential utilities and preparing for long-term population growth and infrastructure needs.

For example: Downtown Sewer Improvements, SR150 Sewer line upgrades, Critical sewer pump lift station replacement

- i. Invest \$5.5M in street infrastructure, ensuring that Chelan's roadways and transportation networks are updated and well-maintained to meet the demands of a growing and evolving city. Lakeside Trail, Sanders Street,
- j. Allocate \$675K for equipment replacement investments, ensuring that city operations are supported by up-to-date tools and equipment that are efficient, reliable, and capable of meeting future demands.
- k. Completed the ADA Transition Plan, which included walking every inch of City sidewalks to complete. This undertaking was a comprehensive evaluation of our facilities and policies related to public right-of-way to be able to provide equal access for all.
- l. Redevelop Lakeside Park by increasing restroom capacity, adding a new dock, a new playground, and enhancing the beach area, ensuring the park remains a modern, accessible, and welcoming space for residents and visitors alike.
- m. Woodin Avenue Bridge 2-way Conversion Impact & Feasibility Analysis - This project would evaluate the impact and assess the feasibility of converting the Woodin Avenue Bridge to two-way traffic.

#### **4. Enhance Youth and Family Well-being**

- a. Provide departmental support for initiatives such as the Community Center/Boys and Girls Club, park and recreation projects, and downtown revitalization efforts, ensuring that Chelan's youth and families have access to a variety of recreational, cultural, and community-building opportunities in a safe and welcoming environment.
- b. Institute family-friendly policies at our parks, aimed at reducing trash generation, limiting alcohol use, and enhancing the overall user experience, creating a clean, safe, and enjoyable environment for families to gather and enjoy outdoor activities.
- c. Financially support the recreational efforts of the Boys & Girls Club, ensuring the continued success of their programs that provide youth with safe, enriching spaces to engage, learn, and grow in a supportive community.

#### **5. Establish a long-range Economic Strategy**

- a. Update the Economic Element of the Comprehensive Plan, ensuring that it reflects a collaborative vision for Chelan's economic future. This includes completing the joint effort with Chelan County on the Tourism Impact Study, which will inform decisions on how tourism can positively impact the local economy while preserving the community's values.
- b. Initiate a Parks Funding Discussion aimed at developing a long-term strategy for the park system. This will align with the city's broader economic development goals, ensuring that recreational spaces contribute to both community well-being and the city's economic vitality.

#### **6. Increase Community Engagement**

- a. Launch a city-wide text communications platform, ensuring that residents have an accessible, direct line to receive timely updates and information, fostering consistent and inclusive communication throughout the community.

- b. Introduce a Quarterly Newsletter, providing residents with regular, accessible updates on key initiatives, events, and developments, keeping the community informed and engaged in an ongoing, transparent dialogue.
- c. Expand comprehensive planning communication and outreach by hosting workshops, leveraging social media, and conducting online surveys to actively involve the community in shaping the city's future. Focus on targeted outreach to underrepresented groups, building on the successful OVOF visioning process, to ensure all voices are heard and included in important planning decisions.

## **7. Strengthen Strategic Partnerships**

- a. Coordinate with Chelan County, LINK, WSDOT, and Chelan Douglas Transportation Council on the development of a regional transportation plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan, ensuring alignment of transportation priorities across key stakeholders and fostering collaborative efforts for a unified regional transportation strategy.
- b. Maintain and strengthen relationships with legislators and local agencies to effectively advocate for Chelan's long-term goals, working in partnership with State and Federal representatives to secure necessary resources and support for the city's priorities.
- c. Finalize negotiations for a new Chelan County Sheriff Contract, strengthening the partnership between the city, county, and law enforcement to ensure effective, collaborative, and sustainable public safety strategies.