

RESOLUTION 2025-NN

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EATONVILLE, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Town of Eatonville benefit from the recreation programs and park and recreation facilities that are provided by the Town within the community; and

WHEREAS, the leisure and open space needs of our community can best be met through a process that identifies needs and resources, establishes goals and policies, and prioritizes expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Town collected input from community members in the development of a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town has undertaken a planning process to guide its decisions with respect to park and recreation facilities and recreation programming, which was conducted in conformance with the planning policies of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office and ensures the Town remains eligible for funding opportunities through RCO; now, therefore

**THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF EATONVILLE, WASHINGTON,
HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

THAT: The Town Council approves of and the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) plan meets the priorities of the Town Council's goals related to park planning and serves as a strategic guide for the development, enhancement, and management of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation programs over the next 6 to 10 years.

FURTHER THAT: The Town Council of the Town of Eatonville hereby adopts the PROS Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A.

PASSED by the Town Council of Town of Eatonville and attested by the Town Clerk in authentication of such passage this 13th day of October 2025.

David Baublits, Mayor

ATTEST:

Miranda Doll, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION 2025-NN



TOWN OF EATONVILLE

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update

September 2025

201 Center Street West, P.O. Box #309

Eatonville, WA 98328

Phone: 360.832.3361

<https://www.eatonville-wa.gov/>



SCJ ALLIANCE
CONSULTING SERVICES



Project Information

Project: Town of Eatonville Parks,
Recreation, Open Space, and Trails
Plan Update

Prepared for: Town of Eatonville

Reviewing Agency

Jurisdiction: WA State Recreation & Conservation
Office

Project Representative

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Project
Reference: SCJ # 24-000003

Path: N:\Projects\3600 Town of
Eatonville\24-000003 Town of
Eatonville PROST Plan

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Table of Contents

Overview.....	1
Cover Letter.....	2
Introduction & Purpose	4
What Is A PROS Plan?	4
History Of Parks Planning	5
Regulatory Requirements	5
Growth Management Act Requirements.....	5
Washington Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) Requirements	6
Town of Eatonville’s Requirements.....	7
Process	7
Inventory	8
Public Involvement.....	8
Demand & Needs Analysis	8
Goals and Objectives	8
Capital Improvement Program.....	8
Approvals.....	8
Goals & Objectives.....	9
Introduction	10
Vision for the Town of Eatonville.....	10
Goals & Objectives.....	11
Inventory & Assessment	13
Introduction	14
Physical Context	14
Overview.....	14
Topography	15
Hydrology	15
Critical Areas	16
Soils	16
Wildlife	17
Stormwater.....	17

Climate	17
Climate Change Impact	18
Transportation	18
Town History	18
Demographic Context	18
Key Takeaways	19
Population	19
Age and Gender	21
Race & Ethnicity	23
Social Vulnerability	27
Disability	27
Income and Poverty	28
Educational Attainment	34
Employment and Transportation	35
Planning Context	38
Introduction and Land Use Context	38
Existing Facilities and Programs	41
Parks and Recreation System Overview	41
Parks Department Governance, Staffing, Organization, and Budget	41
Park Inventory	41
Park Classification	42
Park Benefits	43
Assessment Methodology	44
A - Visitor Center	46
Visitor Center Sitemap	47
B - Millpond Park	48
Millpond Park Sitemap	49
C - Glacier View Park	50
Glacier View Park Sitemap	51
D - Smallwood Park	52
Smallwood Park Sitemap	53
E - Nevitt Park	54
Nevitt Park Sitemap	55

Public Involvement.....	59
Introduction	60
Engagement Goals	60
Park Needs & Assessment Survey.....	63
Survey Respondent Information.....	63
Survey Results.....	65
Amenity Use Trends.....	65
Desired Amenities	66
Project Preference Workshop	66
Engagement Events	66
July 3rd Fireworks- 7/3/2024.....	66
National Night Out- 8/6/2024	67
Project Visioning Workshop- 11/23/2024	67
Project Engagement Summary	67
Improved Maintenance and Facility Upgrades	68
Accessibility and Pedestrian Connectivity.....	68
Expanded Park Amenities.....	68
Safety and Security Enhancements.....	68
Recreational Programs and Community Activities	68
Trail System and Connectivity Improvements	68
Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability.....	69
Equitable Access to Parks and Recreation.....	69
Promotion and Community Engagement.....	69
Demand & Needs Analysis	70
Introduction	71
Quantifications vs. Qualifications	71
Level of Service (LOS) Standards	71
Park Equity and Access.....	73
The "10-Min Walk Metric"	74
Walkshed Report	76
Existing Town-Owned Parks and Open Space	76
Existing Non Town-Owned Parks.....	76
Gap Analysis	76
Population Growth Trends	76
Town of Eatonville Projections	76

Recreational Trends	77
2030 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan	78
RCO's 2022 Assessment of Resident Demand	79
Trails	79
Canines	79
RV Tourism.....	79
Pickleball & Padel	80
Youth Sports	80
Playground Trends	81
Electrification	81
Climate Resiliency.....	81
Funding Threats & Availability.....	81
Investments in Parks Will Rise.....	82
Demand & Needs Summary	82
Capital Improvement Program.....	83
Introduction	84
Summary of Proposed Projects	84
Recreation Enhancements	84
Athletic Field/Court Enhancements.....	84
Infrastructure Enhancements	84
Town-Wide Opportunities.....	85
Develop Strategic Projects to Maximize Funding Opportunities.....	85
Developing The Capital Improvement Program.....	85
Managing the CIP	86
Annual Prioritization Review	86
Funding Source Review	86
Maintenance and Operational Review	87
Coordination with other Town Projects.....	87
Capital Improvement Plan Projects.....	87
Estimate of Probable Cost.....	87
Project Implementation and Prioritization	87
Long-Term Vision	88
Funding Key	88
Long-Term Maintenance Planning and Goals	89
Aspirational Projects.....	89

CIP Improvements Table.....	89
Millpond Park.....	92
Glacier View Park.....	93
Smallwood Park Sitemap	94
Nevitt Park.....	95
Trail System Map	96
Existing Trails	98
Little Mashel Falls Trail.....	98
Bud Blancher Trail	98
Hugo Peak Trail	98
Nisqually Park Loop Trail	98
Reservoir Trail / Mt. Rainier Scenic Loop	98
1000 Road Loop	98
Mashel Greenbelt / Boxcar Canyon Trail.....	99
Rimrock Trail.....	101
Ohop Valley Trail.....	103
Eatonville Highway Trail.....	105
Tacoma Rails Trails	107
Plan Adoption.....	109
Introduction & Recap of Approval Process	110
Appendices & Attachments	115
A - Terms & Definitions	116
B - Standards & Guidelines	118
C - Public Survey Comments	120
D - Parks, Recreation, Trails, Habitat, and Education Funding Options.	136
Introduction	136

Table of Figures

Figure 1-1: PROS Plan Process	8
Figure 2-1: Eatonville Proximity Map.....	15
Figure 2-2: Eatonville Historic and Projected Population, 1990-2050 ..	20
Figure 2-3: Growth Rates by Decade: 1910-2020 (Eatonville vs. County vs. State).....	20
Figure 2-4: Population Growth Patterns Over Time - Population as a Share of 2020 Population	21
Figure 2-5: Eatonville Population and Gender, 2010-2022	21
Figure 2-6: Median Age Change, 2010-2022	22
Figure 2-7: Eatonville Age Brackets By Percentage of Population Over Time, 2010-2022	22
Figure 2-8: 2022 Age Brackets.....	23
Figure 2-9: Age Group Change from 2010-2011	23
Figure 2-10: Eatonville Diversity Growth, 2010-2022	24
Figure 2-11: Hispanic/Latino Total Change, 2010-2022	24
Figure 2-12: Annual Ethnicity Change, 2010-2022	25
Figure 2-13: Diversity of Language Spoken at Home	26
Figure 2-14: Non-English Speakers and English Fluency	26
Figure 2-15: Disability Percentages by Town, County, and State.....	27
Figure 2-16: Percent of Eatonville Age Groups with Disability	27
Figure 2-17: Income Bracket Population share of Town, County, and State.....	28
Figure 2-18: Three Specific Income Brackets.....	28
Figure 2-19: Four Specific Income Brackets.....	29
Figure 2-20: Poverty Status of Residents.....	29
Figure 2-21: Rent as a percentage of Household Income.....	30
Figure 2-22: Eatonville Poverty Metrics vs. Median Income	30
Figure 2-23: Eatonville Socioeconomic Indicators vs. State Median.....	31

Figure 2-24: Eatonville Health, Climate, and Service Gap Markers vs. State and US Medians.....	31
Figure 2-25: Social Vulnerability Index (Eatonville CCD) – 2016-2020 Data	32
Figure 2-26: Eatonville Health Planning Factors	33
Figure 2-27: Educational Attainment for Population 25 and Over.....	34
Figure 2-28: Eatonville Graduation/Degree Attainment (for population 25 and over)	35
Figure 2-29: Educational Attainment by Age Group	35
Figure 2-30: Eatonville Employment Inflow/Outflow.....	35
Figure 2-31: Eatonville Employment Sectors.....	36
Figure 2-32: Residents Driving to Work in a Car, Truck, or Van	37
Figure 2-33: Other Means of Transportation to Work	37
Figure 2-34: Aspects Which Inform a Final Plan	38
Figure 3-1: Age Breakdown of Survey Respondents	64
Figure 3-2: Household Size of Survey Respondents.....	64
Figure 3-3: Ethnic Identification of Survey Respondents	64
Figure 4-1: 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review Key Findings	72

Table of Tables

Table 2-1: Race & Ethnicity of Eatonville (2022)	23
Table 2-2: Location of Eatonville Employers	36
Table 2-3: Review of Previous Plans	38
Table 2-4: Existing Parks & Public Spaces System Overview	43
Table 2-5: Assessment Rankings.....	44
Table 2-6: Existing Parks, Open Spaces, and Special Use Areas.....	44
Table A-1: Visitor Center - Park Features	46
Table A-2: Visitor Center - Inventory & Assessment	46
Table B-1: Millpond Park - Park Features.....	48
Table B-2: Millpond Park - Inventory & Assessment.....	48
Table C-1: Glacier View Park - Park Features	50
Table C-2: Glacier View Park - Inventory & Assessment	50
Table D-1: Smallwood Park - Park Features.....	52
Table D-2: Smallwood Park - Inventory & Assessment.....	52
Table E-1: Nevitt Park - Park Features	54
Table E-2: Nevitt Park - Inventory & Assessment	54
Table 2-6: Park Amenity Schedule	56
Table 3-1: Public Engagement Timeline	62
Table 4-1: Level of Service (LOS) Quantification	73
Table 4-2: 2023 Top 20 Outdoor Recreation Activities in Washington State*	78
Table 5-1: Primary Funding Source Key.....	88
Table 5-2: CIP Improvements Table	97

Overview



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Eric Phillips
Town Administrator
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Dear Eatonville Residents/Community Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to share the Town of Eatonville's updated Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The intent of this plan is to represent the voices, values, and aspirations of our community. It offers a vision for the future of Eatonville's parks, trails, and open spaces, places that reflect our pride in the town, our love of the outdoors, and our belief in the power of recreation to connect people and improve quality of life.

Eatonville is a gateway to Mount Rainier and has a history rooted in community spirit and connection to the land. Our town is small, but our setting is rich with forests, rivers, wildlife, and views that people travel from around the world to experience. This plan builds on that legacy by charting a path forward. It recognizes that with limited resources, we can carefully maintain and invest in what we already have while looking toward opportunities to expand and improve. By aligning with Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requirements and pursuing partnerships with Pierce County, the National Park Service, and other regional trail and recreation providers, we are positioning Eatonville to secure funding that will make these improvements possible.

The PROS Plan emphasizes the importance of clean, safe, and welcoming parks, as well as the development of trails and greenways that connect our community to the surrounding landscape. It highlights opportunities to expand recreational offerings, provide inclusive amenities for residents of all ages and abilities, and strengthen Eatonville's role as a hub for outdoor adventure in the Upper Nisqually Valley. These priorities were shaped by the ideas and feedback of residents, community groups, and regional partners. The result is a plan that does more than meet regulatory requirements, it reflects who we are as a town and what we want to become.

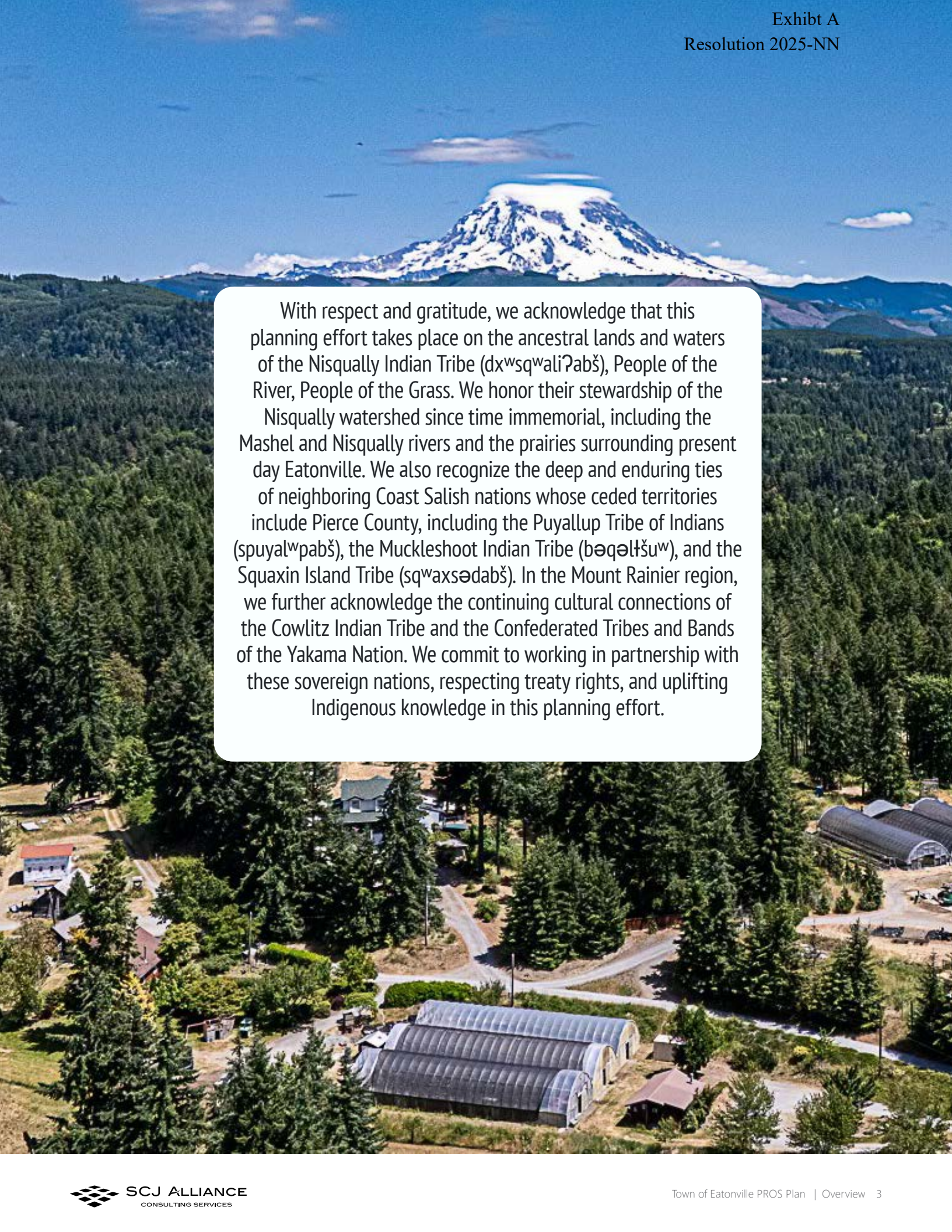
To those who shared your time and perspective during this process, thank you. Your involvement helped ensure that this plan is grounded in local values. I also want to recognize Town staff, the Planning Commission, and our consulting team for their hard work and dedication in bringing this plan to life.

We are excited about the direction ahead and look forward to working with you to bring this shared vision to life.

Sincerely,

Eric Phillips

Town Administrator



With respect and gratitude, we acknowledge that this planning effort takes place on the ancestral lands and waters of the Nisqually Indian Tribe (dx^wsq^waliʔabš), People of the River, People of the Grass. We honor their stewardship of the Nisqually watershed since time immemorial, including the Mashel and Nisqually rivers and the prairies surrounding present day Eatonville. We also recognize the deep and enduring ties of neighboring Coast Salish nations whose ceded territories include Pierce County, including the Puyallup Tribe of Indians (spuyal^wpabš), the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (bəqəltšuw), and the Squaxin Island Tribe (sq^waxsədabš). In the Mount Rainier region, we further acknowledge the continuing cultural connections of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. We commit to working in partnership with these sovereign nations, respecting treaty rights, and uplifting Indigenous knowledge in this planning effort.



Introduction & Purpose

Welcome to the Town of Eatonville's updated Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan. This comprehensive document fulfills Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements and ensures Eatonville remains eligible for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) funding and other grant opportunities over the next six to ten years.

The PROS Plan provides a detailed inventory and assessment of the town's parks and open spaces while capturing community priorities through surveys, public outreach, and online engagement. It establishes a long-term vision, planning goals, and level-of-service standards while outlining a capital improvement plan (CIP) with prioritized enhancements linked to potential funding sources. This plan serves as a strategic framework to guide investments that will enhance recreational opportunities and improve the overall quality of life for Eatonville residents.

Additionally, the plan refines the vision for Eatonville's parks and recreation system, updates level-of-service standards, and aligns departmental

and community-wide objectives. Each component has been shaped by public input, ensuring that future park improvements reflect the community's needs and aspirations.

What Is A PROS Plan?

The 2025-2031 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan evaluates how well Eatonville's parks, open spaces, and recreation programs meet community needs and outlines strategies for future improvements. This six-year plan serves as a strategic framework for managing and enhancing the town's parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation services.

Developed with input from residents, town staff, and stakeholders, the plan inventories and assesses existing parks, trails, and open spaces while integrating them with local and regional resources. It also identifies opportunities for land acquisition, site development, financing strategies, and operational enhancements. Through its policies and recommendations, the PROS Plan provides a roadmap for sustaining and improving the town's recreational assets in alignment with community priorities and long-term growth.

History Of Parks Planning

Eatonville's parks and recreation planning is rooted in its rich history, beginning with the Native American tribes who first inhabited the region, stewarding the land's natural resources. Later, early settlers transformed the wilderness into a thriving community, building on a tradition of collective effort and resilience. The arrival of the railroad in the early 20th century fueled Eatonville's growth, establishing it as a key trading center and the "tie mill capital of the world."

As the town evolved, so did its commitment to parks and recreation. Over the years, Eatonville has prioritized preserving its natural beauty, expanding public access to open spaces, and enhancing recreational opportunities. Early park planning efforts focused on providing gathering spaces, while more recent initiatives have emphasized trail connectivity, active recreation, and environmental conservation. Today, Eatonville's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) planning continues this legacy, balancing historic preservation with modern needs to create a resilient and accessible park system that serves residents and visitors alike.

Regulatory Requirements

Growth Management Act Requirements

The Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) provides a framework for land use planning and development across the state, requiring cities and counties to manage growth in a sustainable and coordinated manner. While the GMA does not prescribe a specific structure for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plans, it mandates that local jurisdictions integrate parks and open space planning into their Comprehensive Plans to support long-term community development.

Under the GMA, local governments must address parks and recreation within their Capital Facilities Element and Land Use Element, ensuring that open space and recreational opportunities are factored into broader planning for growth, environmental conservation, and quality of life. The GMA establishes several key principles that influence how communities, including Eatonville, develop and implement their PROS Plans:

- ♦ **Comprehensive Planning:** Cities and counties must develop Comprehensive Plans that guide land use, housing, transportation, and economic development. These plans incorporate provisions for parks, trails, and open spaces to meet current and future community needs.
- ♦ **Urban Growth Areas (UGAs):** The GMA designates Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) to direct development while protecting rural lands. Within UGAs, jurisdictions must ensure adequate parkland and recreational facilities to serve expanding populations.
- ♦ **Environmental Protection:** The GMA encourages the preservation of natural resource lands, critical areas, and wildlife habitat, recognizing the role of parks and open spaces in safeguarding ecological systems while providing outdoor recreation opportunities.
- ♦ **Public Participation:** The GMA requires community engagement in land use and recreation planning, ensuring that PROS Plans reflect the needs and priorities of local residents.
- ♦ **Capital Facilities Planning:** Jurisdictions must include Capital Facilities Plans (CIP) in their Comprehensive Plans, outlining infrastructure investments—including parks and recreational facilities—to support projected growth.
- ♦ **Adequate Public Facilities:** The GMA mandates that local governments provide necessary public services, including parks, trails, and open space amenities, to meet the needs of residents within UGAs.

To align with GMA principles and ensure compliance, a valid PROS Plan should:

- ♦ **Inventory existing parks, trails, and open spaces** to assess current conditions and recreational opportunities.
- ♦ **Establish level-of-service (LOS) standards** to guide park development and improvements based on population growth and community demand.
- ♦ **Develop a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** that prioritizes park enhancements and identifies potential funding strategies.
- ♦ **Incorporate public input** to align future parks and recreation investments with community preferences.
- ♦ **Integrate with other local and regional plans** to maintain consistency with land use, transportation, and environmental policies.



By meeting these requirements, Eatonville's 2025-2031 PROS Plan strengthens the town's ability to enhance recreational opportunities, preserve open space, and secure funding through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and other grant programs. This ensures that Eatonville's parks and recreation system continues to evolve in a way that reflects community needs while remaining consistent with state planning goals.

Washington Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) Requirements

Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) oversees outdoor recreation, conservation, and funding programs that support local and regional park projects. RCO collaborates with local governments to develop and fund projects that align with state priorities, ensuring that communities maintain access to high-quality recreational facilities and open spaces. Eatonville's ability to secure RCO grant funding for parks, trails, and open space projects depends on maintaining an RCO-compliant and certified Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan.

While RCO does not prescribe a specific format, page count, or number of chapters, a valid PROS Plan must comprehensively assess community needs and articulate a clear strategy for parks and recreation improvements. The 2025-2031 Eatonville PROS Plan follows the framework established in RCO Manual 2: Planning Policies & Guidelines, which outlines the six essential elements required for RCO grant eligibility:

- ♦ **Inventory:** Descriptions and conditions of existing facilities, lands, and programs

- ♦ **Public Involvement:** This section synthesizes the methodology and results of public engagement, including surveys, questionnaires, open houses, workshops, stakeholder interviews, and the findings of these methods of outreach. It is important (and required) to give the public ample opportunity to be involved and give input on the development and adoption of the PROS Plan
- ♦ **Demand and Need Analysis:** A systematic assessment and evaluation of the community's needs, preferences, and priorities to make informed decisions. This includes quantitative (data-driven) and qualitative (preference-driven) analyses, and it examines how well the current PROS inventory meets the criteria of the local comprehensive plan, national guidelines, state guidelines, and public satisfaction. This may also include a Level of Service (LOS) assessment, establishing the required and desired amount of parks land per 1,000 residents.
- ♦ **Goals and Objectives:** Clearly defined broad statements of intent that outline the vision for the town's parks and recreation system, along with measurable actions to achieve these goals.
- ♦ **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):** A comprehensive table outlining and prioritizing projects and improvements over the next 6 to 20 years. This table should include the year of anticipated implementation and potential funding sources.
- ♦ **Adoption:** a signed resolution or letter which establishes formal approval by the relevant governing body.

Eatonville's 2025 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan includes most of the above elements, but it now needs to be updated both to reassess current needs and desires, and to create a future plan which takes into account future goals and improvements.

Town of Eatonville's Requirements

Potential improvements outlined in this PROS Plan align with the Town of Eatonville's Comprehensive Plan and Municipal Code. The Eatonville Municipal Code includes provisions related to parks, recreation, and open space. Parks are permitted uses in the Residential (R-1 and R-2), Industrial (I) zones, and Community Business (CB-1) zones, while community service uses like golf courses and campgrounds are also allowed. Title 17.32.050 specifies that planned unit developments (PUDs) must meet the park and open space requirements of the underlying zone.

Additionally, motorized scooters and ATVs are restricted from use in parks as per Title 10 regulations.

Eatonville's PROS Plan forms the 6-year and 20-year Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) serving to inform possible near-term and long-term town budgeting, procurement, and construction needs while providing the flexibility to adapt to unforeseen opportunities that may present themselves during this plan's performance period.

The CIP noted in this document is in no way or means the final plan to guide all park development, acquisition, and maintenance needs the town will undertake over the next six years. It is a guiding list of potential projects, agreements, and possible programs developed through a public involvement process designed to capture the community's needs and wishes for its parks & recreation system.

Due to funding changes, procurement challenges, staffing needs, and political priorities, many projects may not be implemented. Yet, the projects reflected in the CIP have been developed in a way so that if the town decides to pursue a specific project, it is best positioned to secure competitive funding from other sources or is prioritized correctly.

Process

While RCO has no specific requirements for the number of pages, chapters, or format of the comprehensive park's plans, the organization is expected to capture its needs and the quality of life desired by the community.

The process used to develop the Eatonville PROS Plan Update is modeled after six minimum elements noted in RCO Manual 2: Planning Policies and Guidelines.

Whether this plan supports a grant application for a capital project (facility development and land acquisition) or a noncapital project (architectural, engineering, planning, etc.), the organization of this plan and the process followed is purposefully designed to capture the minimum elements expected by RCO.

Aside from the first section, the project overview, this plan is structured around the six elements needed for an effective, comprehensive parks plan:

Inventory

A description of the planning or service area, including the physical setting and summary of conditions of the complete inventory of each existing outdoor recreation asset or program.

Public Involvement

A description of how the planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in plan development and adoption.

Demand & Needs Analysis

An analysis that considers your inventory work and public involvement, balancing public demand with your organization's current capacity and future expectations.

Goals and Objectives

The plan must support the applicant's park and recreation mission, including the current project, with broad statements of intent or goals that capture a community's desired outdoor recreation resources.

Capital Improvement Program

A list of the desired capital improvements or capital facility programs for at least 6 years that list and prioritize desired land acquisition, development, renovation, and restoration projects.

Approvals

A resolution, ordinance, or other adoption instrument showing formal approval of the plan and planning process by the governing entity. The process diagram to the right identifies the priority sections needed to develop a GMA-compliant and RCO-certified PROS plan.



Figure 1-1: PROS Plan Process

Goals & Objectives



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Introduction

As Eatonville implements its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan, the primary intent is to align closely with the town's Comprehensive Plan and related planning efforts, such as the Shoreline Master Program and Transportation Plan. By integrating these efforts, Eatonville establishes a unified approach that effectively balances regulatory requirements, community aspirations, and public input. This section outlines clear goals and objectives that seamlessly support the community's vision for enhancing parks, recreational opportunities, and open spaces.

Vision for the Town of Eatonville

Eatonville's Comprehensive Plan clearly articulates the town's vision to evolve into a thriving and sustainable community where residents and visitors enjoy access to high-quality parks and recreational facilities while preserving the town's cherished small-town atmosphere. The vision emphasizes Eatonville's commitment to maintaining its unique character, promoting recreational diversity, and enhancing quality of life through inclusive and accessible community spaces.

The Town of Eatonville aspires to become a community that prioritizes health, connectivity, and environmental stewardship. Through careful planning and community-driven projects, Eatonville envisions its park system as integral to fostering economic vitality, supporting diverse recreational experiences, and strengthening the bonds among residents and visitors alike.

This vision is realized through several key community-driven themes and priorities:

- ♦ **Recreational Diversity:** Offering varied recreational opportunities to cater to all ages, abilities, and interests.
- ♦ **Economic Growth:** Enhancing tourism and local business through well-maintained and engaging parks and facilities.
- ♦ **Sustainability:** Preserving natural beauty and incorporating eco-friendly designs in park developments.
- ♦ **Community Collaboration:** Strengthening partnerships with schools, private entities, and volunteers to expand and improve recreational offerings.

Goals & Objectives

The goals and policies outlined in this section address community goals, current level of service standards, and meeting future needs. The state requires that the goals and policies coordinate intergovernmental efforts to provide needed facilities and programs, are consistent and integrate with other plan elements, and identify, protect, and enhance natural areas to foster resilience to climate impacts, as well as areas of vital habitat for safe passage and species migration.

PR Goal 1:

Increase and maintain park areas and open spaces in proportion to the growing population and in areas that currently lack park access.

PR Policy 1.1:

Establish possible new parks and open spaces in alignment and compliance with the Regional Growth Strategy and Growth Management Act. Endeavor to prioritize historically underinvested areas or areas that currently lack access to parks.

PR Policy 1.2:

Endeavor to improve, increase, and maintain amenities in existing parks. Including drinking fountains, benches, playgrounds, tot lots, etc., in parks.

PR Policy 1.3:

Maintain a fully compliant Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan in order to better manage, finance, maintain, and improve the Town's parks, open space, and recreation opportunities.

PR Policy 1.4:

Plan for maintenance and park improvements as part of the Town's CIP and consider various funding sources such as grants and impact fees for park expansions and upgrades.

PR Goal 2:

Partner with other local and regional agencies to cooperatively expand and maintain parks and recreation facilities.

PR Policy 2.1:

Identify potential multijurisdictional agencies and organizations with whom to form partnerships.

PR Policy 2.2:

Endeavor to create community partnerships with a variety of resident groups that support parks in the Town and broader region.

PR Policy 2.3:

Work to identify types and locations of facilities that can be built through partnerships and for which there is a public demand.



PR Goal 3:

Maintain Consistency with other Town plans, including the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, and Shoreline Master Program.

PR Policy 3.1:

Ensure that this element is consistent with the Land Use and Capital Facilities elements as they relate to park facilities, maintenance, and recreation uses

PR Policy 3.2:

Ensure that this element is consistent with the Town's Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS), the Shoreline Master Program (SMP), and aligns with the GMA, Regional Growth Strategy, and Pierce County Comprehensive Plan.

PR Policy 3.3:

Explore how these consistencies and coordination with partnering agencies can support parks and open space funding and support.

PR Goal 4:

Ensure that park and open space lands are maintained at a high level with environmental resilience, conservation of natural features, and climate impacts in mind.

PR Policy 4.1:

Maintain and expand the Town's tree canopy coverage where feasible by encouraging tree planting in parks and on public lands, and by promoting landscaping practices that avoid unnecessary removal or damage to existing trees.

PR Policy 4.2:

Endeavor to reduce contamination of water from parks and recreational facilities.

PR Policy 4.3:

Maintain and monitor conserved open spaces to ensure continued protections are successful and identify opportunities for enhancement when resources allow.



Inventory & Assessment



Image credit to Orin Blomberg (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED) via Flickr.



Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current conditions of Eatonville's parks, recreation, open spaces, and trails, the population that these facilities serve, and the regional context and planning efforts that shape the system.

Currently, the Town of Eatonville manages several named parks, including Millpond Park and Smallwood Park, and has additional open spaces that offer a variety of recreational amenities and experiences for the community to enjoy. Each of these areas provides unique opportunities for outdoor activities, contributing to the town's vibrant recreational landscape.

The inventory and assessment chapter is assembled across the following four distinct contexts:

- ♦ **Physical Context**
- ♦ **Historical Context**
- ♦ **Demographic Context**
- ♦ **Planning Context**

Physical Context

Overview

Eatonville is a small town located in Pierce County, Washington, distinguished by its scenic setting at the foothills of Mount Rainier. Spanning approximately 1.94 square miles, the town is surrounded by diverse natural landscapes, including dense forests, rivers, and lakes, which provide a stunning backdrop and numerous recreational opportunities. Eatonville's unique location serves as a gateway to Mount Rainier National Park, making it a strategic base for visitors exploring the park's natural wonders.

The town's mountainous and rural surroundings contribute to its distinct character, offering a tranquil environment that supports both community life and outdoor activities. Eatonville's proximity to major natural attractions, combined with its small-town charm, makes it a unique and appealing destination within Pierce County.

Eatonville is deeply connected to the cultural and environmental heritage of the Nisqually River watershed, a region of significant importance to the Nisqually Tribe.



Figure 2-1: Eatonville Proximity Map

Situated within this watershed, Eatonville plays a role in preserving the natural and cultural resources that are vital to the tribe's history and way of life. The Nisqually River, originating from Mount Rainier and flowing through the area, has been a lifeline for the Nisqually people for generations, providing a source of sustenance, transportation, and spiritual significance.

Eatonville's location within this watershed underscores its responsibility to protect and honor the natural ecosystems that support both the town and the broader region. The town's ongoing efforts to balance development with environmental stewardship reflect a commitment to safeguarding these critical resources. This cultural and ecological connection enriches Eatonville's identity, linking it not only to the land but also to the enduring heritage of the Nisqually Tribe and their continued efforts to restore and protect the river and its surrounding landscapes.

Topography

Eatonville is characterized by diverse topographical features that contribute to its scenic beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities. The terrain is largely composed of rolling hills, dense forests, and picturesque waterways, including the Mashel River and Ohop Lake. The town's proximity to Mount Rainier National Park provides residents and visitors with breathtaking views and easy access to a wide

range of outdoor recreational activities, from hiking and camping to wildlife viewing. The climate and seasonal changes further enhance the town's scenic landscape, making Eatonville a unique and striking location in Washington state.

Hydrology

Eatonville, Washington, is defined by its intricate and diverse hydrological system, which is crucial for the town's environmental health and ecosystem. The area's hydrology includes a network of waterways, such as rivers, creeks, and lakes, as well as extensive wetlands and critical areas that support a wide variety of plant and animal life. Eatonville's natural resources are complemented by its forested landscapes and rich soil types, all of which contribute to the town's unique ecological character.

Waterways

Eatonville, Washington, is enriched by a network of waterways that significantly contribute to its ecological health and recreational appeal. The Mashel River is the primary waterway flowing through the town, providing essential habitats for salmon and other aquatic species, while also offering recreational activities like fishing and kayaking. Ohop Creek and Ohop Lake further enhance Eatonville's hydrological landscape, supporting diverse wildlife and recreational opportunities such as boating and fishing.



These waterways not only support local ecosystems but also play a critical role in maintaining water quality and providing natural flood control. Effective management and conservation of these water resources ensure their sustainability for both ecological functions and community enjoyment.

Wetlands

Wetlands are a crucial part of Eatonville's natural landscape, providing essential ecological functions such as water filtration, flood control, and habitats for a variety of plant and animal species. These wetlands range from freshwater marshlands to riparian wetlands along the Mashel River and Ohop Creek. Significant wetland areas in and around Eatonville play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity and supporting local wildlife, including fish, amphibians, and numerous bird species. Preservation and restoration of these wetland areas are key components of Eatonville's environmental management efforts, ensuring the sustainability and health of these vital ecosystems for future generations.

Critical Areas

Eatonville, WA, designates several critical areas due to their environmental sensitivity and the need for protection, which significantly impacts parks and recreation development. Key areas include the wetlands and floodplains around the Mashel River, Lynch Creek, and Ohop Creek, which are vital for biodiversity and water management but pose challenges due to potential flooding and waterlogging. These areas necessitate strategic planning and engineering solutions. Aquifer recharge zones, such as those near Ohop Lake, and wildlife habitats like the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, require preservation to maintain ecological balance, limiting development in these regions. Geologically hazardous areas, including the steep slopes of the Eatonville Foothills and areas prone to landslides, demand careful design and stabilization measures. Understanding and managing these critical areas are essential for sustainable parks and recreation development, ensuring environmental integrity and public safety.

Soils

Eatonville, WA, located in the foothills of Mount Rainier, features a diverse geological and soil landscape critical to parks and recreation development. The region's geology consists of Pleistocene glacial drift, alluvial deposits, and volcanic rocks, with soils primarily well-drained loams and sandy loams. Key soil types include Nisqually loam, Kapowsin gravelly sandy loam, and Alderwood gravelly sandy loam. Nisqually loam, found in floodplains, supports landscaping but requires water management due to periodic flooding. Kapowsin loam, with excellent drainage, is ideal for trails and parks, though irrigation may be needed. Alderwood loam, supportive for structures, necessitates erosion control. Volcanic ash and poorly drained soils present development challenges, requiring engineered solutions. Proximity to Mount Rainier demands consideration of seismic activity, and the area's varied topography necessitates careful design to mitigate erosion and landslide risks, ensuring sustainable recreational infrastructure.

Forest and Tree Canopy

Eatonville, WA, is characterized by a diverse forest and tree canopy that significantly influences parks and recreation development. The area is predominantly covered by a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees, including Douglas fir, Western red cedar, and bigleaf maple. This rich canopy provides essential ecological benefits such as habitat for wildlife, carbon sequestration, and soil stabilization. The forested areas, particularly around the Mashel River and the foothills of Mount Rainier, offer scenic beauty and recreational opportunities like hiking, birdwatching, and nature walks. However, the dense canopy can pose challenges for development due to the need for careful management of tree removal and soil compaction. Additionally, forested areas on steep slopes may require stabilization to prevent erosion and landslides. Sustainable management practices are crucial to maintaining the ecological integrity of these forests while supporting recreational use and park development.

Wildlife

Eatonville, WA, hosts a diverse array of wildlife, significantly influencing parks and recreation planning. The region's forests, rivers, and wetlands provide habitats for species such as black bears, deer, elk, and various bird species, including bald eagles and owls. Aquatic habitats in the Mashel River and Ohop Creek support salmon and trout, vital for both local ecosystems and recreational fishing. Wildlife corridors, particularly around the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, facilitate animal movement and require careful consideration to prevent habitat fragmentation. While these natural habitats enhance recreational opportunities like wildlife viewing and fishing, they also necessitate strategies to minimize human-wildlife conflicts and protect sensitive species. Effective Park planning must balance recreational use with conservation efforts, ensuring sustainable interactions between people and wildlife.

Stormwater

Eatonville, WA, faces significant stormwater management challenges due to its varied topography and soil composition. The town's landscape includes steep slopes and flood-prone areas, particularly around the Mashel River, Lynch Creek, and Ohop Creek, which require robust stormwater infrastructure to prevent erosion and flooding. Soils in Eatonville, such as Nisqually loam and Kapowsin gravelly sandy loam, offer good drainage but can be overwhelmed during heavy rain events, leading to runoff and potential water quality issues. Effective stormwater management is crucial for park and recreation development, as poorly managed runoff can damage recreational facilities, trails, and natural habitats.

Climate

It is crucial to consider the local climate and its impacts on landscape and soil conditions. Eatonville's climate is characterized by a temperate range of temperatures, significant precipitation, and moderate wind patterns, which collectively influence the growth and maintenance of vegetation and the usability of park facilities. Understanding these climatic factors, including seasonal variations and emerging trends in climate change, is essential for designing resilient and functional outdoor spaces.

Temperature

Eatonville, WA experiences a temperate climate with mild to warm summers and cool, wet winters.

Average summer temperatures range from the mid-70s to low 80s Fahrenheit, while winter temperatures typically hover between the mid-30s and mid-40s. The moderate temperature range supports a variety of plant species and outdoor activities year-round, but extreme temperature variations can affect soil conditions and vegetation growth, potentially influencing park development and maintenance strategies.

Precipitation

Eatonville receives approximately 50 to 60 inches of precipitation annually, primarily in the form of rain. This high level of precipitation contributes to lush vegetation and well-watered landscapes, which are beneficial for park development. However, it also necessitates effective drainage systems to prevent waterlogging and soil erosion, which could impact the usability and safety of recreational areas.

Wind Patterns

The area experiences relatively calm wind conditions, with average speeds ranging from 5 to 10 mph. Occasional gusts and breezes are typical, but strong winds are infrequent. The prevailing winds, generally from the west, can influence the dispersion of pollutants and the distribution of seeds and pollen, affecting plant growth and landscape planning. Wind protection may be necessary for certain park amenities to ensure their longevity and comfort for users.

Humidity

Eatonville has moderate humidity levels, averaging around 70-80% throughout the year. This consistent humidity supports healthy plant growth and contributes to the lushness of local vegetation. However, high humidity can also lead to increased maintenance needs for park facilities, as it may exacerbate issues like mold and decay in wooden structures or playground equipment.

Snowfall

Winter conditions in Eatonville include occasional snowfall, averaging around 10-15 inches annually. Snow typically accumulates lightly and melts relatively quickly. While this limited snowfall is generally manageable, it can impact park accessibility and maintenance during winter months. Seasonal planning is required to address snow removal and ensure the safety and usability of recreational areas during colder periods.

Microclimates

Eatonville's varied topography creates distinct microclimates within the region. Areas with more shade, such as those under dense tree canopies or north-facing slopes, may experience cooler temperatures and higher humidity levels compared to more open or south-facing areas. Understanding these microclimates is crucial for optimizing park design and plant selection, ensuring that different zones of a park can support diverse recreational activities and vegetation.

Climate Change Impact

Climate change poses several risks to Eatonville's landscape and park development. Increasing temperatures could lead to altered plant growth patterns and increased stress on vegetation, while more intense and frequent rainfall might exacerbate flooding and soil erosion issues. Additionally, changing snowfall patterns and winter conditions could affect park accessibility and maintenance. Adapting outdoor space designs to be resilient to these potential impacts will be essential to sustaining functional and enjoyable recreational spaces in the future.

Transportation

The current transportation infrastructure in Eatonville impacts the accessibility and functionality of its parks and recreational facilities. Notably, Glacier View Park suffers from a lack of sufficient parking spaces, particularly during high-traffic events like the Art Fair, leading to congestion and limited access for visitors. Meanwhile, Millpond Park and Smallwood Park, situated adjacent to each other, lack an internal connection, which hinders seamless access between the two areas and reduces the overall usability of the parks. Additionally, Smallwood Park does not have adequate ADA accommodation, limiting accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Improvements to local roads, better parking solutions, and enhanced connectivity between parks are necessary to improve accessibility and ensure that all residents can fully enjoy Eatonville's outdoor spaces.



Town History

Eatonville, WA, has a rich history that dates to its founding in the late 19th century. Established in 1889, Eatonville originally served as a small, rural settlement amidst the lush forests and fertile lands of Pierce County. Named after its founder, Thomas Van Eaton, the town was envisioned as a center for agriculture and timber. The arrival of the Northern Pacific Railway in the early 20th century facilitated growth and development, making Eatonville an important hub for logging and farming communities. Over the decades, the town's economy diversified, but it retained its close-knit, small-town character.

In the latter half of the 20th century, Eatonville evolved into a more residential and community-oriented town, with a focus on preserving its natural surroundings and historical charm. Its proximity to Mount Rainier National Park has made it a gateway for outdoor enthusiasts, further shaping its identity as a scenic and recreational destination. Today, Eatonville continues to celebrate its historical roots while adapting to modern needs, maintaining a balance between its rich heritage and contemporary development.

Demographic Context

To create effective planning recommendations for Town of Eatonville, it is crucial to understand the community's demographic context. This involves gathering detailed information on population, demographics, income, housing, education, employment, and transportation.

These data categories provide valuable insights into how residents interact with the parks and recreation system. It is important to consider how parks, trails, and open spaces can better serve both the majority and minority populations. Ensuring the parks system meets the needs of the majority who already frequent these spaces is essential, but it is equally important to identify and improve accessibility for minority groups. This approach will increase park usage and ensure the system serves all community members equitably.

Understanding the demographics helps establish equity as a foundational principle of this comprehensive parks plan. Additionally, establishing a benchmark of the community's current demographic profile will enable future comparisons, allowing us to track progress and ensure that our parks and recreation system continues to meet the evolving needs of all community members.

Key Takeaways

- ♦ Eatonville's population is estimated to grow from 2,990 to 3,859 between 2024 and 2050. Eatonville will need to accommodate about 869 new residents – a 29% increase from 2024. Implementing a parks system to meet service needs is critical for Eatonville's future capacity.
- ♦ Eatonville's median age is 28.5 years, and over a third of the population is under the age of 20. The parks system plan will be best served by taking this into account.
- ♦ Nearly a quarter of Eatonville's population is an ethnicity that isn't white alone. Diversity of ethnicity is on the rise in Eatonville, and recreation/programming opportunities should meet the needs of a diverse population. Nearly 10% of the population speaks a language other than English at home.
- ♦ 9.6% of Eatonville residents have at least one disability. 6.3% have difficulty walking, 3.9% have difficulty hearing, and 2.2% have difficulties with vision. These categories are important when planning accessible public spaces.
- ♦ Nearly 20% of residents are living below 150% of the poverty level, indicating social vulnerability and limited disposable income for recreation activities. Almost half of residents spend 35% or more of their household income on rent. 6.8% are living under the poverty level.
- ♦ Eatonville's markers indicate a higher-than-median incidence of heart disease, cancer, and asthma, as well as a high risk of flooding. The benefits of a high-performing public space are myriad, and evidence suggests that these impacts and risks can be abated with well-designed parks systems.
- ♦ About 6% of Eatonville workers walk or bike, 9.1% work from home, and nearly 90% drive to work. This plan should consider walkable access to the town's parks.

Population

According to estimates from Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), Eatonville's 2024 population is estimated to be 2,990 and is projected to increase by 29% to 3,859 by 2050. This is 869 people over the next 26 years, or about 33 new residents every year on average.



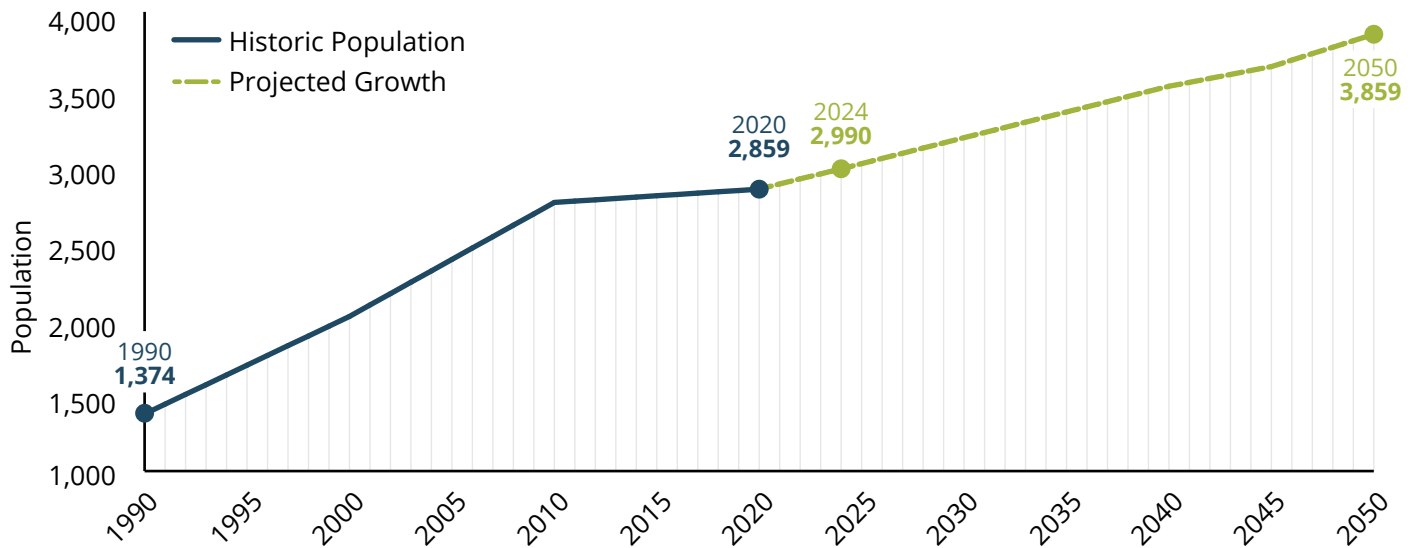


Figure 2-2: Eatonville Historic and Projected Population, 1990-2050

Source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) Data, 1990-2020, Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Data Estimates 2020-2050.

Since 1910, Eatonville has experienced the highest growth rates during the 1980s, 90s, and 2000s. During these decades, Eatonville grew from about 1,000 people to 2,800, growing at an average rate of about 6% every year. To put this into perspective, Eatonville is expected to grow at an average rate of about 1.1% every year until 2050. Eatonville grew at a much greater rate than Pierce County and Washington State during these years. However, Eatonville's population decreased in the 1950s and 1960s while both the county and state experienced growth.

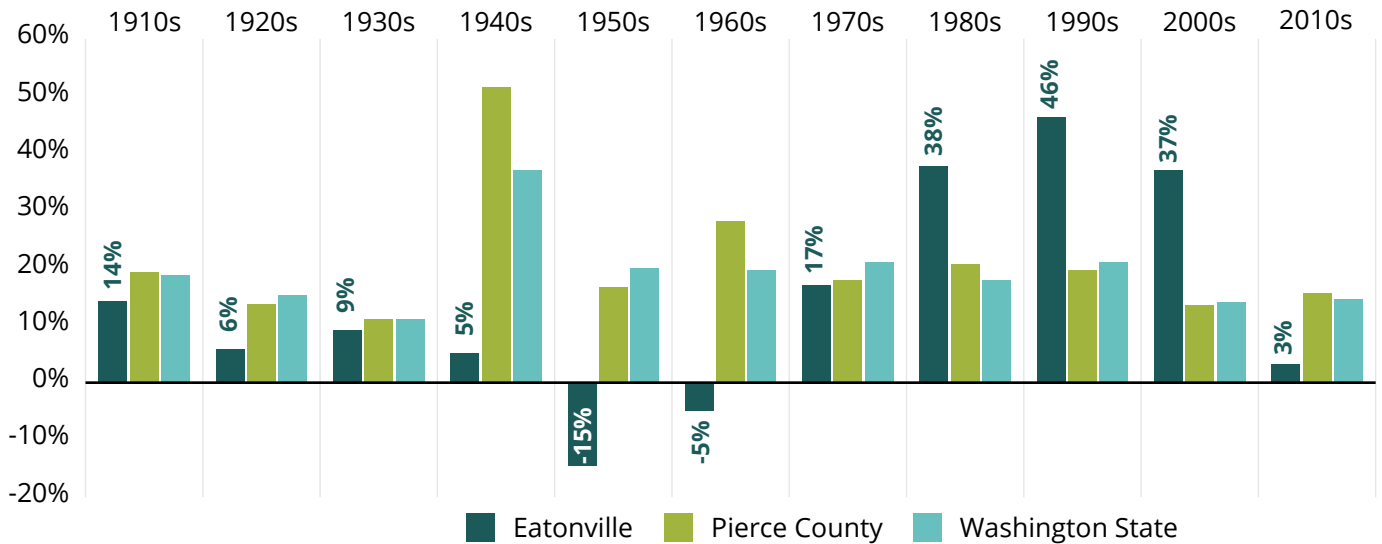


Figure 2-3: Growth Rates by Decade: 1910-2020 (Eatonville vs. County vs. State)

Source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) Data, 1990-2020

Represented another way, Eatonville's growth declined in the 1950s and 1960s, but its growth outpaced both the County and State from 1980 to 2010.

Age and Gender

Eatonville is 46% male and 54% female, and available data since 2010 shows that the percentage of females have stayed above 50% over time.

Eatonville's median age has changed drastically between 2010 and 2022. The median age hit its peak in 2018 (42.0 years) and has since decreased to 28.5 years in 2022. Though Pierce County and Washington State's median age have slowly increased since 2010, Eatonville has fluctuated.

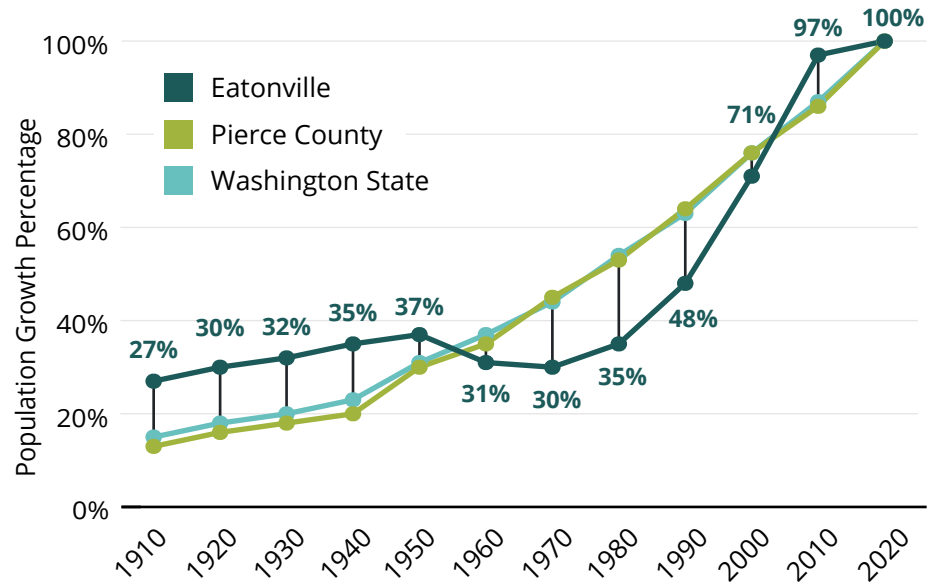


Figure 2-4: Population Growth Patterns Over Time - Population as a Share of 2020 Population

Source: Source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) Data, 1990-2020

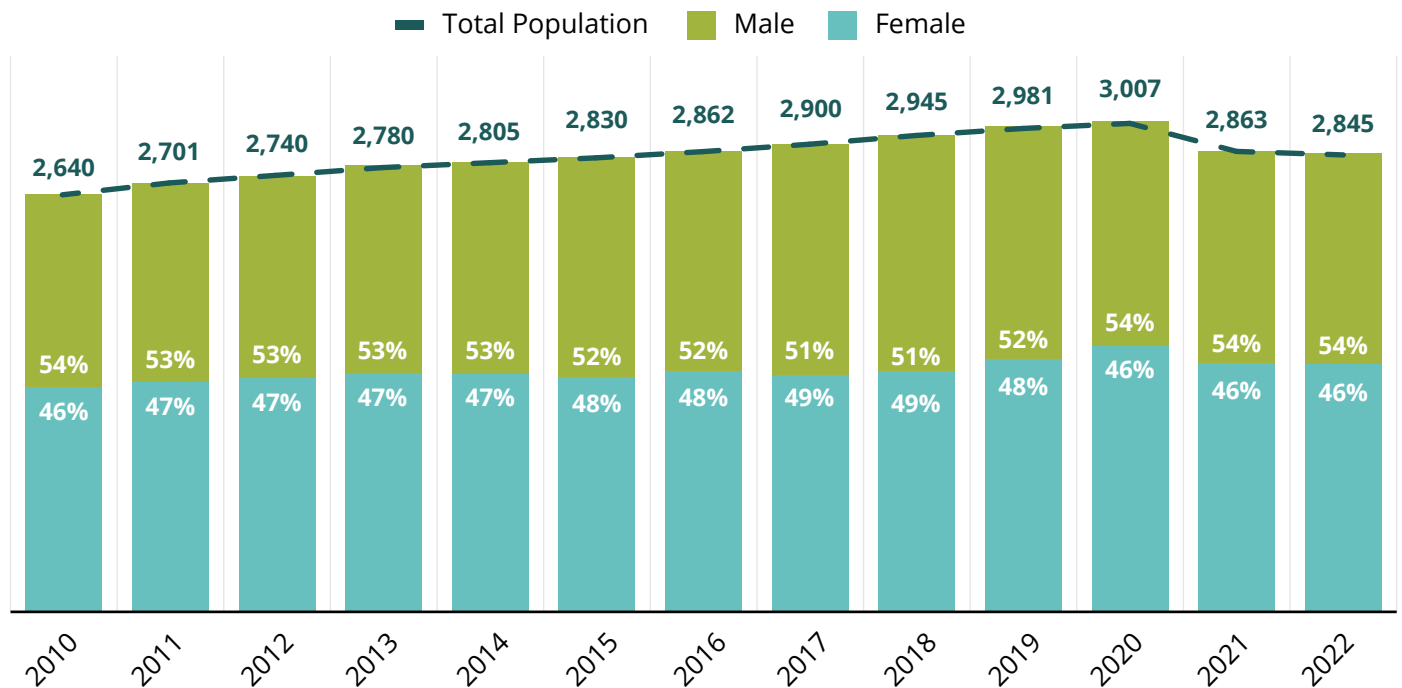


Figure 2-5: Eatonville Population and Gender, 2010-2022

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, DPO5, 2010-2022

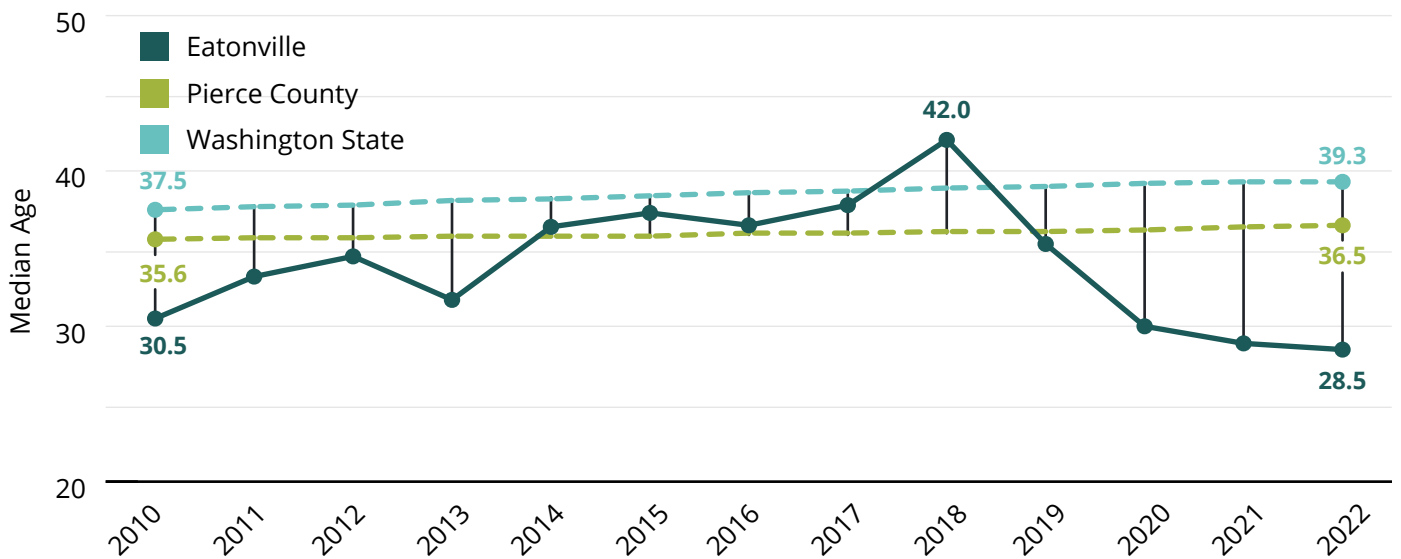


Figure 2-6: Median Age Change, 2010-2022

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, DPO5, 2010-2022

A closer look at Eatonville's age brackets from 2010 to 2022 shows that residents age 0 to 19 were at their lowest share of the population in 2018, which may account for the median age peak.

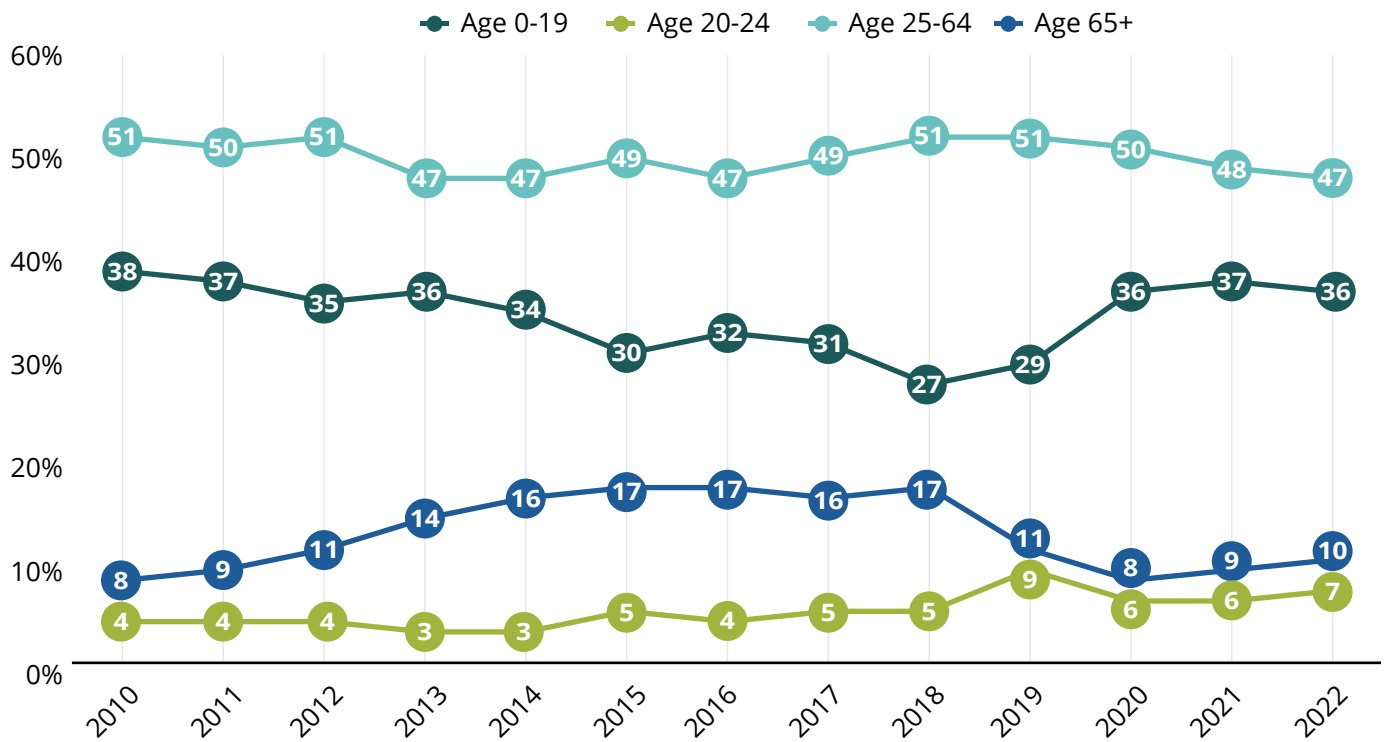


Figure 2-7: Eatonville Age Brackets By Percentage of Population Over Time, 2010-2022

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, DPO5, 2010-2022

According to 2022 ACS estimates, 36% of Eatonville's population was younger than 20, which is much higher than Pierce County and Washington State. Those 65 years and older make up only about 10% of the population.

Since 2010, the age brackets which have seen the most growth are ages 10-14 and ages 20-24. The chart below compares the population percentage of each age range in 2010 and 2022.

Race & Ethnicity

In 2010, 88.9% of Eatonville residents were white alone. In 2022, 76.2% of residents identified as white alone. Residents who are not white alone make up 23.8% of Eatonville, and Figure 9 shows diversity growth over time.

Since 2010, the diversity of Eatonville residents has had an upward trend, with numbers of non-white residents doubling in percentage share of the population. Figure 2-10 on the next page shows the ethnicities comprising this population. The 2022 data shows 0% of residents are Asian alone despite an existing population until 2021. It also shows 1.5% of residents are Black or African American, which is 1.2% higher than any preceding year.

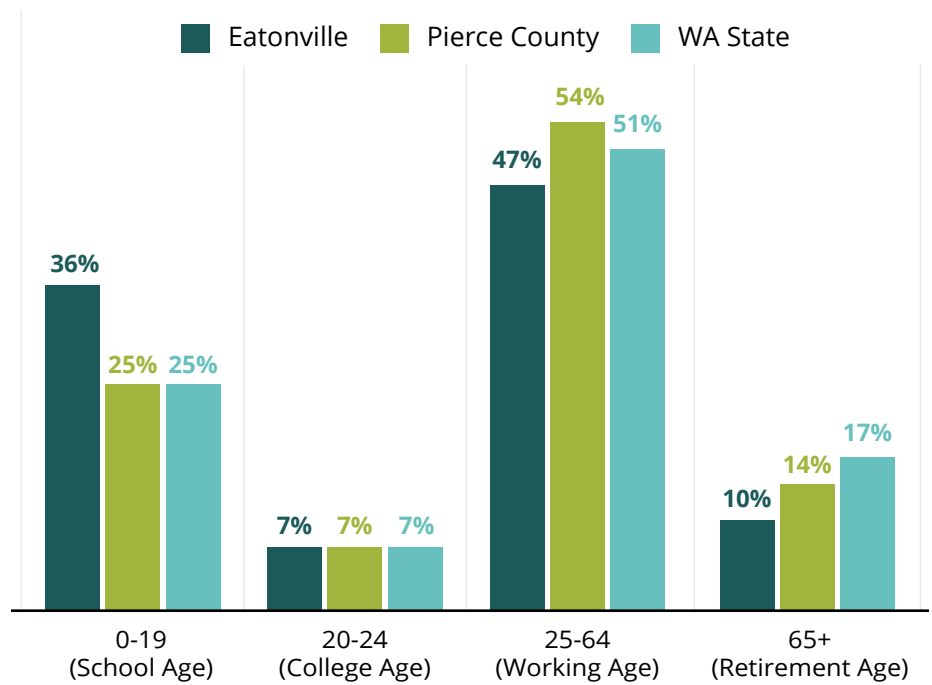


Figure 2-8: 2022 Age Brackets

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, DPO5, 2022

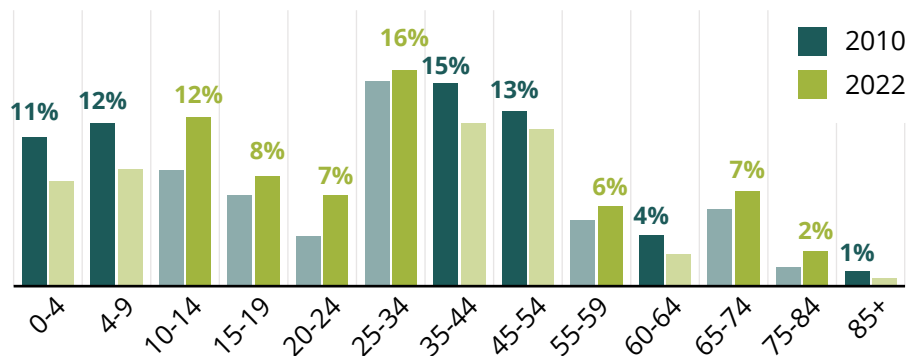


Figure 2-9: Age Group Change from 2010-2011

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, DPO5, 2010-2022

Table 2-1: Race & Ethnicity of Eatonville (2022)	
Race/Ethnicity	2022 Percentage of Eatonville Population
White	76.2%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	13.1%
Two or More Races	7.8%
Black or African American	1.55
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.8%
Some Other Race	0.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Asian	0.0%

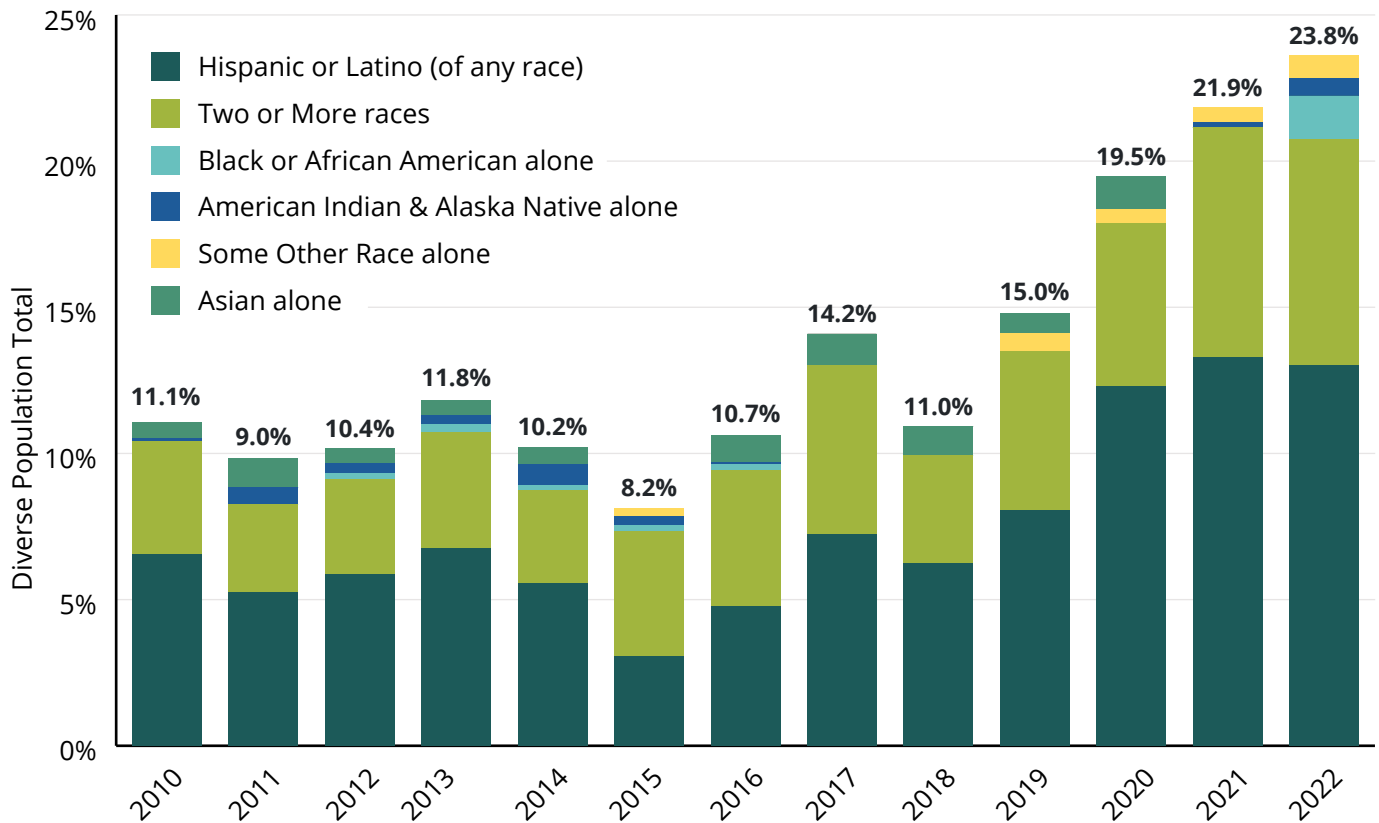


Figure 2-10: Eatonville Diversity Growth, 2010-2022

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, DPO5, 2010-2022

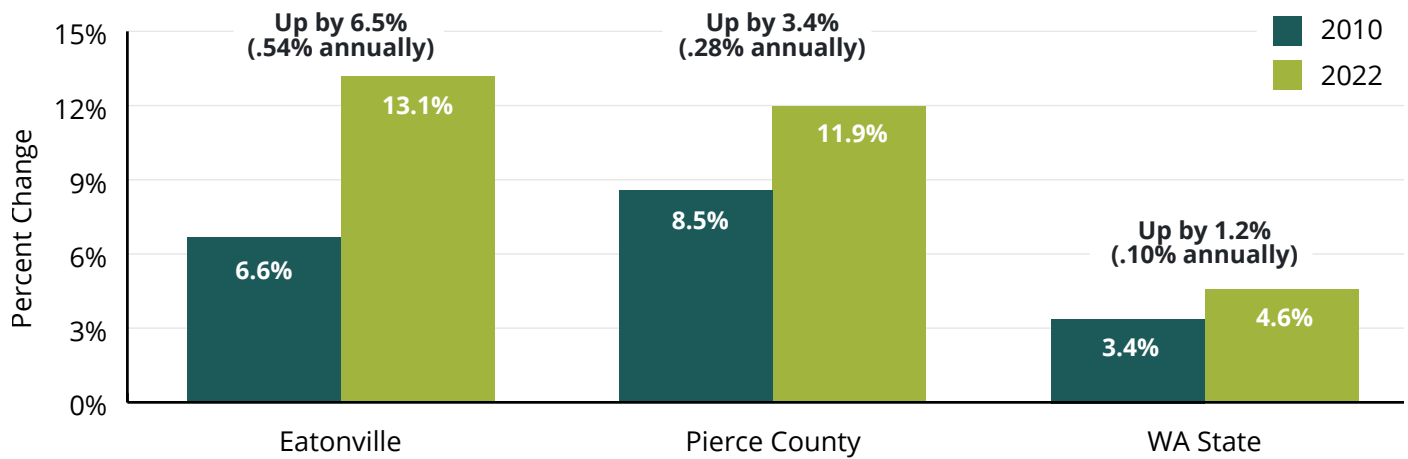


Figure 2-11: Hispanic/Latino Total Change, 2010-2022

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, DPO5, 2010-2022

Additionally, the Hispanic/Latino population has doubled since 2010, with an annual average rate of 0.54%. This annual growth rate is nearly double the rate of Pierce County's data and over five times the rate of Washington.

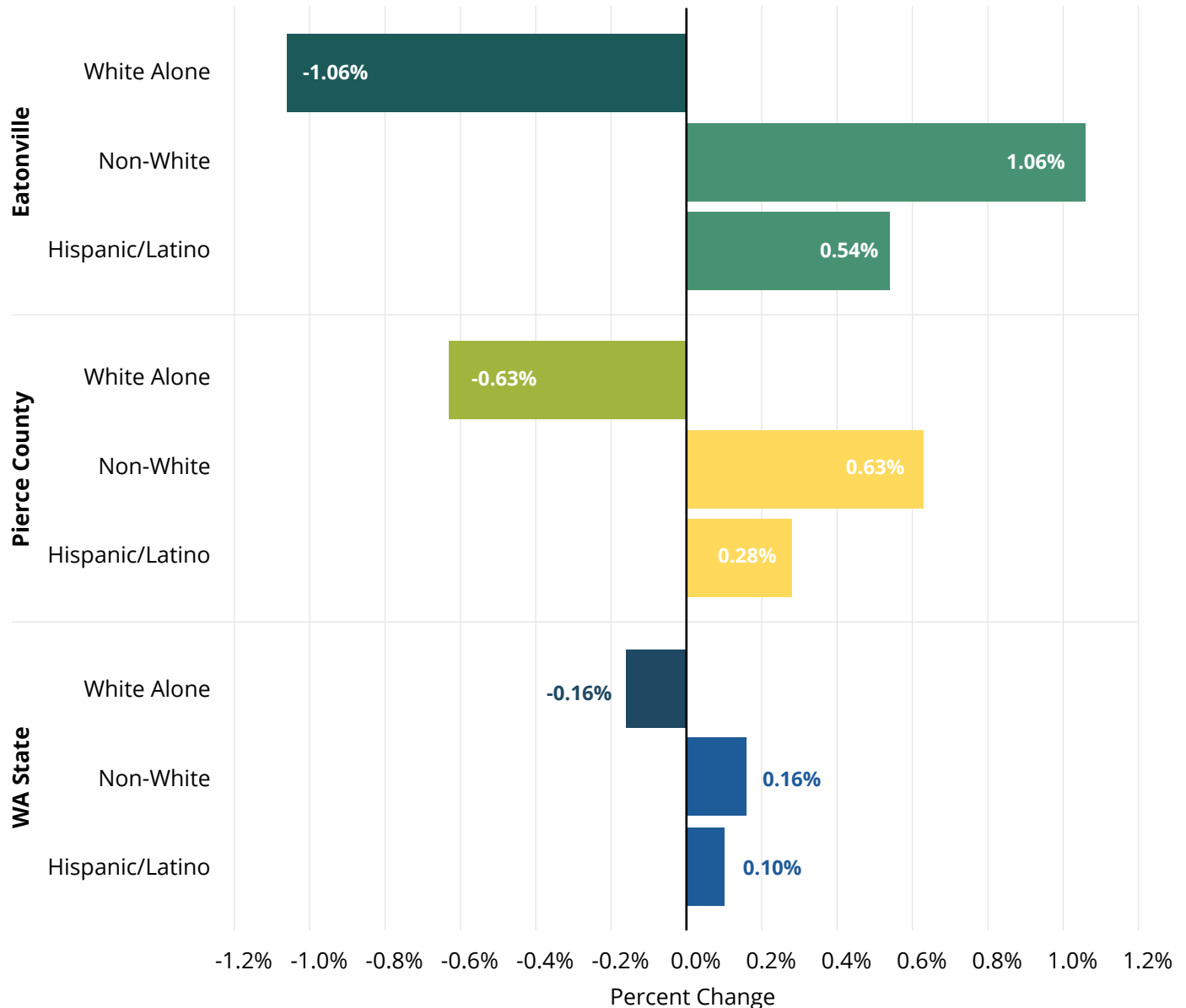


Figure 2-12: Annual Ethnicity Change, 2010-2022

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, DPO5, 2010-2022

Figure 2-12 shows that the percentage share of the “non-white” population at the town, county, and state level has increased. As demographics change, it is important to consider diverse recreational amenities and facilities for a diverse population.

Though the percentage of those who speak another language at home is lower than the county and state, nearly 10% of Eatonville’s population speaks a language other than English at home, with 8% speaking Spanish. In terms of English fluency among those who use a non-english primary language, 95.7% speak English “very well”.

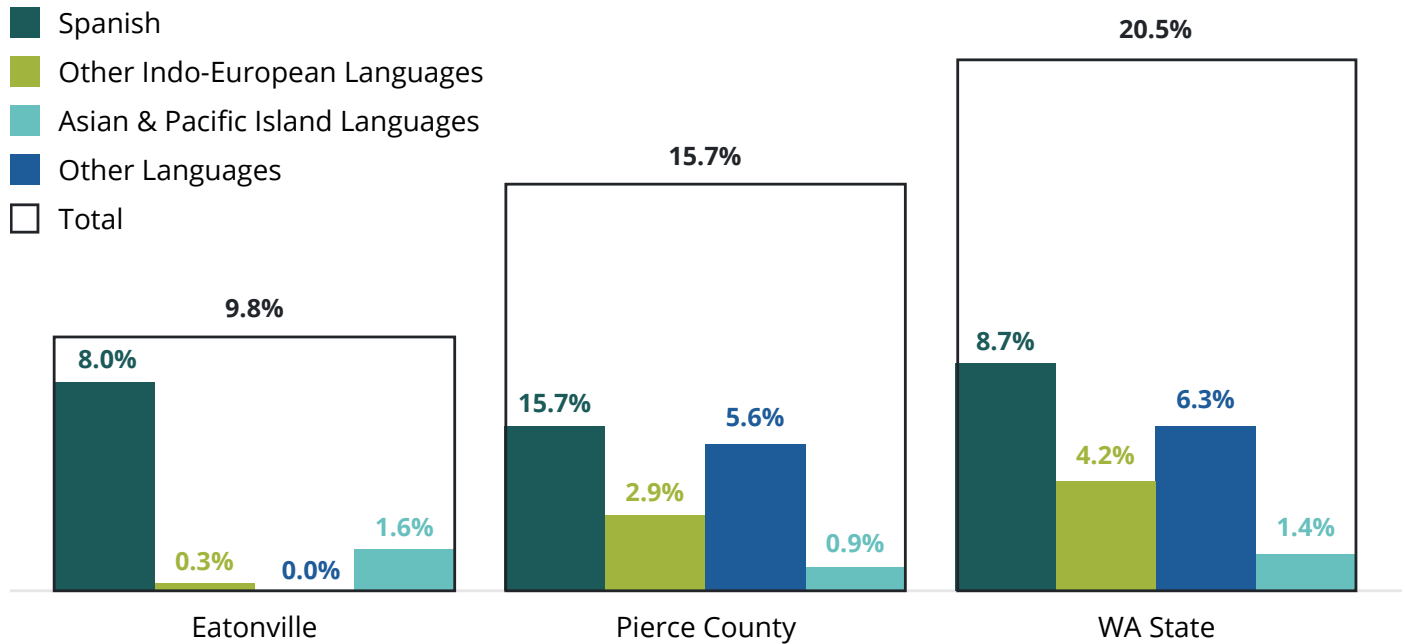


Figure 2-13: Diversity of Language Spoken at Home

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1601, 2022

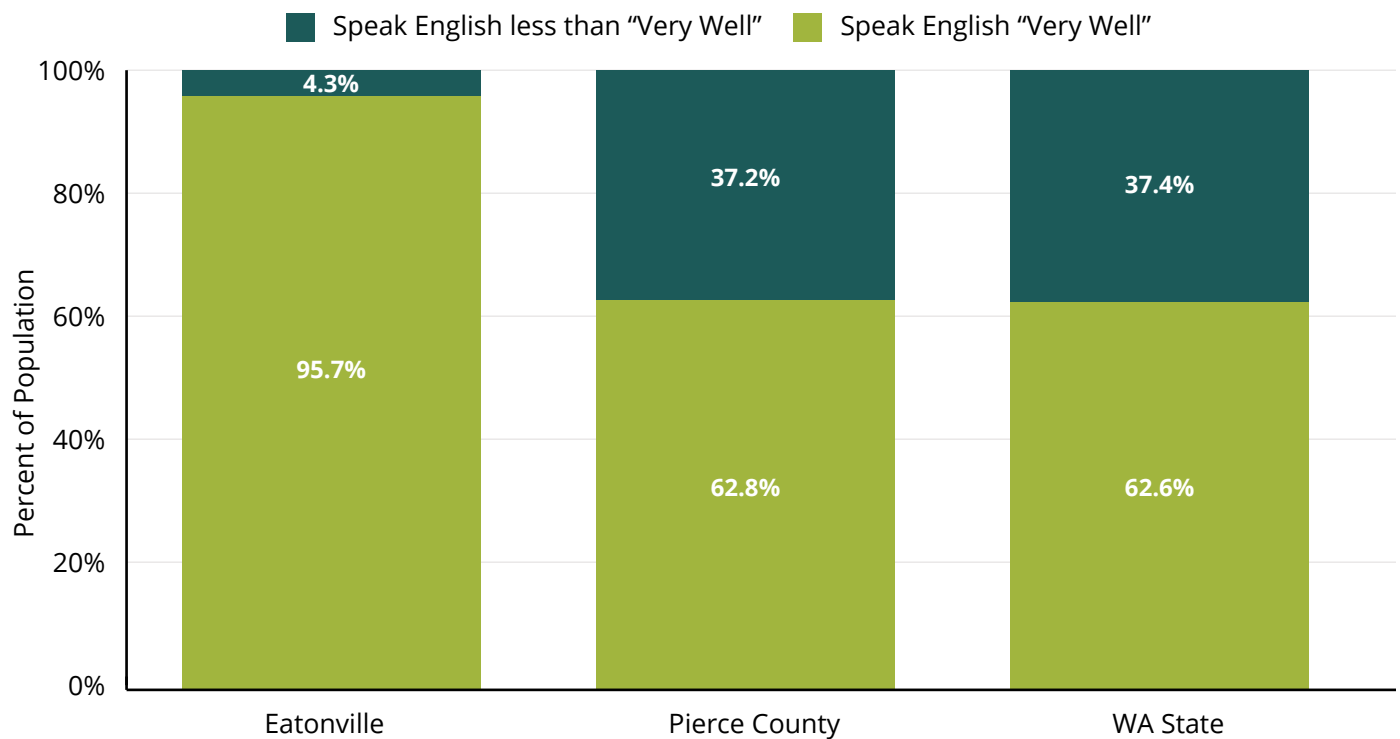


Figure 2-14: Non-English Speakers and English Fluency

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1601, 2022

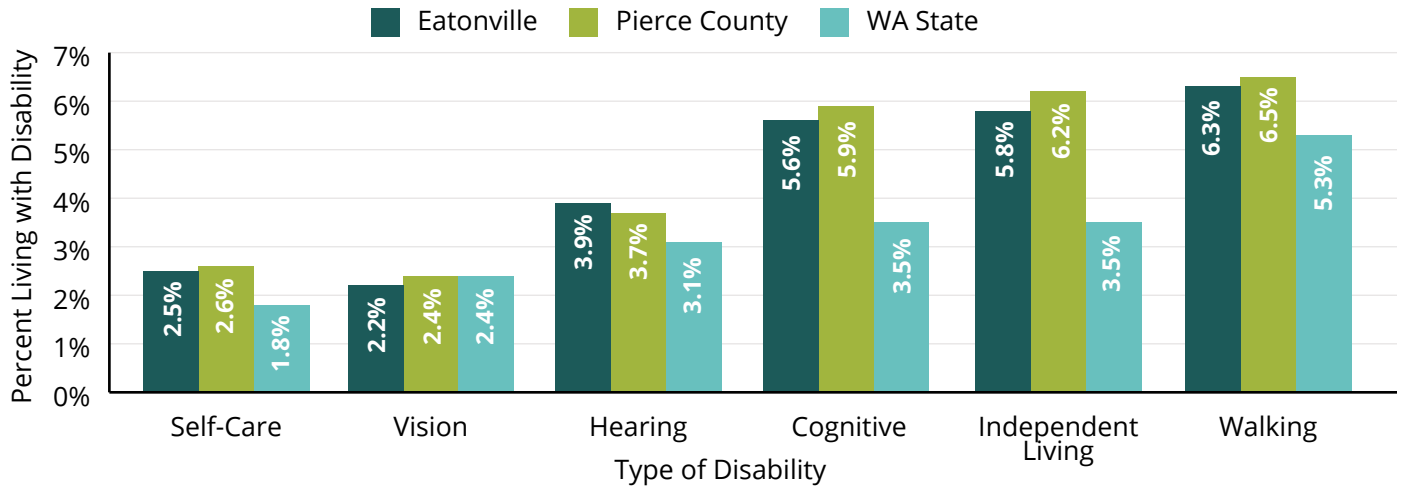


Figure 2-15: Disability Percentages by Town, County, and State

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1810, 2022

Social Vulnerability

Access to recreational opportunities and features may be limited for vulnerable populations. If routes to park facilities are further than a ½ mile away from a dwelling, it is likely to pose a challenge for those without access to vehicles and those dependent on mobility devices.

Disability

9.6% of Eatonville residents have at least one disability. Of the disabilities measures in surveys, 5.3% have walking difficulties, 3.5% have cognitive difficulties, 3.1% have hearing difficulties, 2.4% have vision difficulties, and 1.8% have self-care difficulties. 42.3% of residents over 65 years old have a disability, and nearly half of residents over 75 years old have a disability. Figure 2-15 and Figure 2-16 give more detail regarding disability in Eatonville.

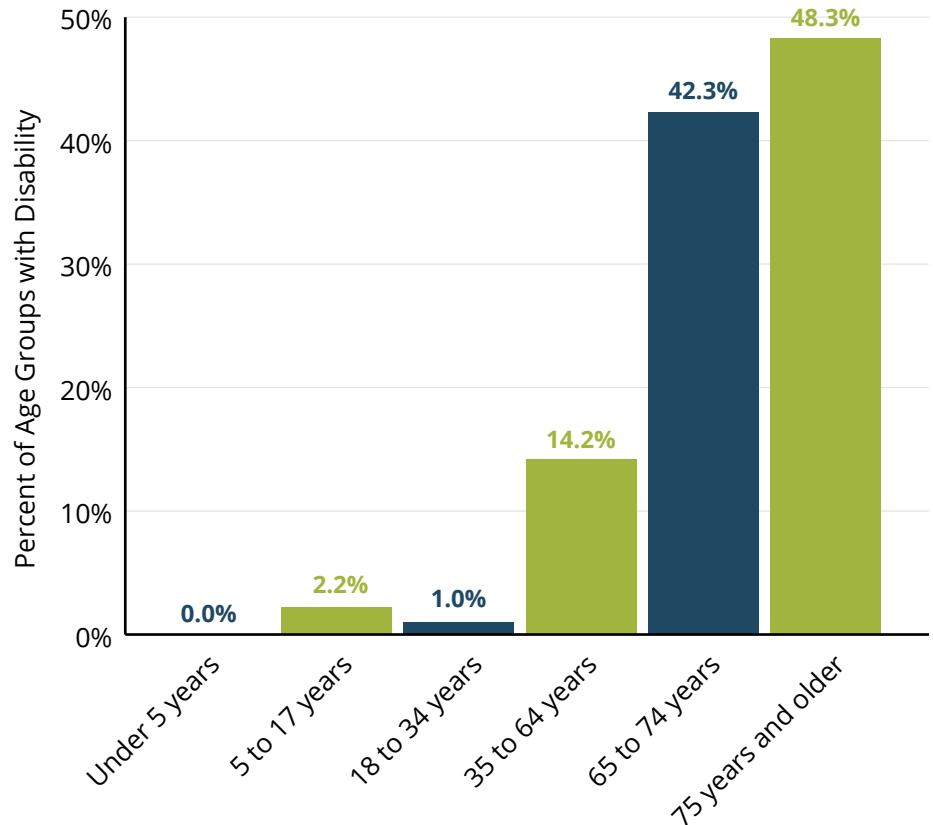


Figure 2-16: Percent of Eatonville Age Groups with Disability

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1810, 2022

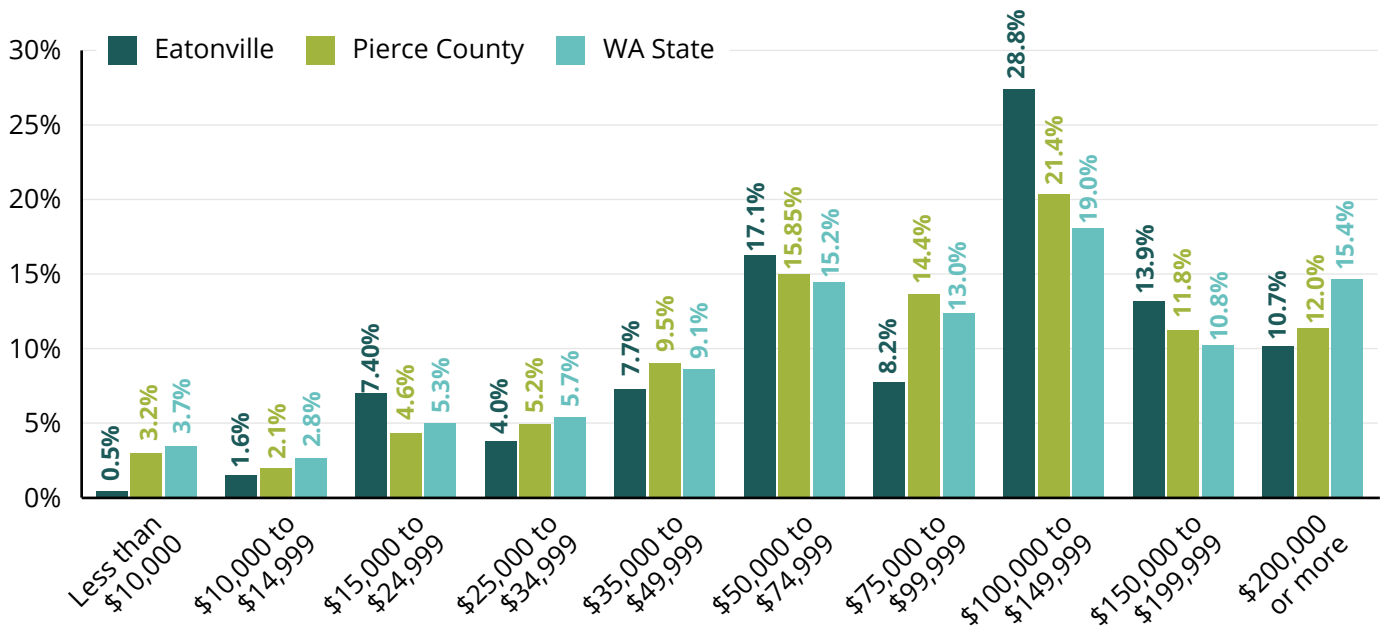


Figure 2-17: Income Bracket Population share of Town, County, and State

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1901, 2022

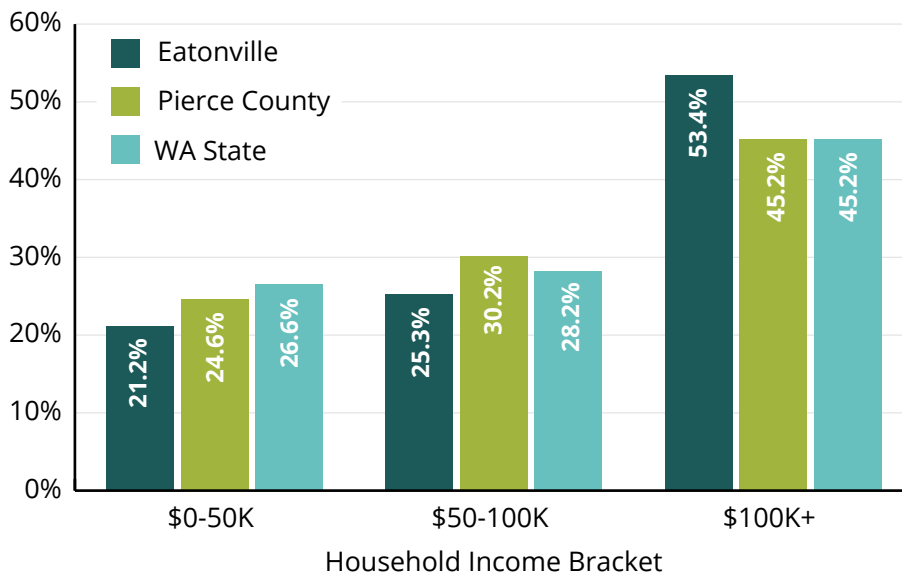


Figure 2-18: Three Specific Income Brackets

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1901, 2022

Income and Poverty

Eatonville's median household income in 2022 was about \$104,000, over 14% higher than Pierce County (\$91,000) and Washington State (\$90,000). Though both the county and state have a higher percentage of households earning \$200,000 or more per year, over 50% of Eatonville households make over \$100,000 per year. Figure 2-17, Figure 2-18, and Figure 2-19 give further detail. 6.8% of Eatonville residents are under the federal poverty level. Nearly 20% are living below 150% of the poverty level. This level is often used as a guideline to determine eligibility for federal assistance programs.

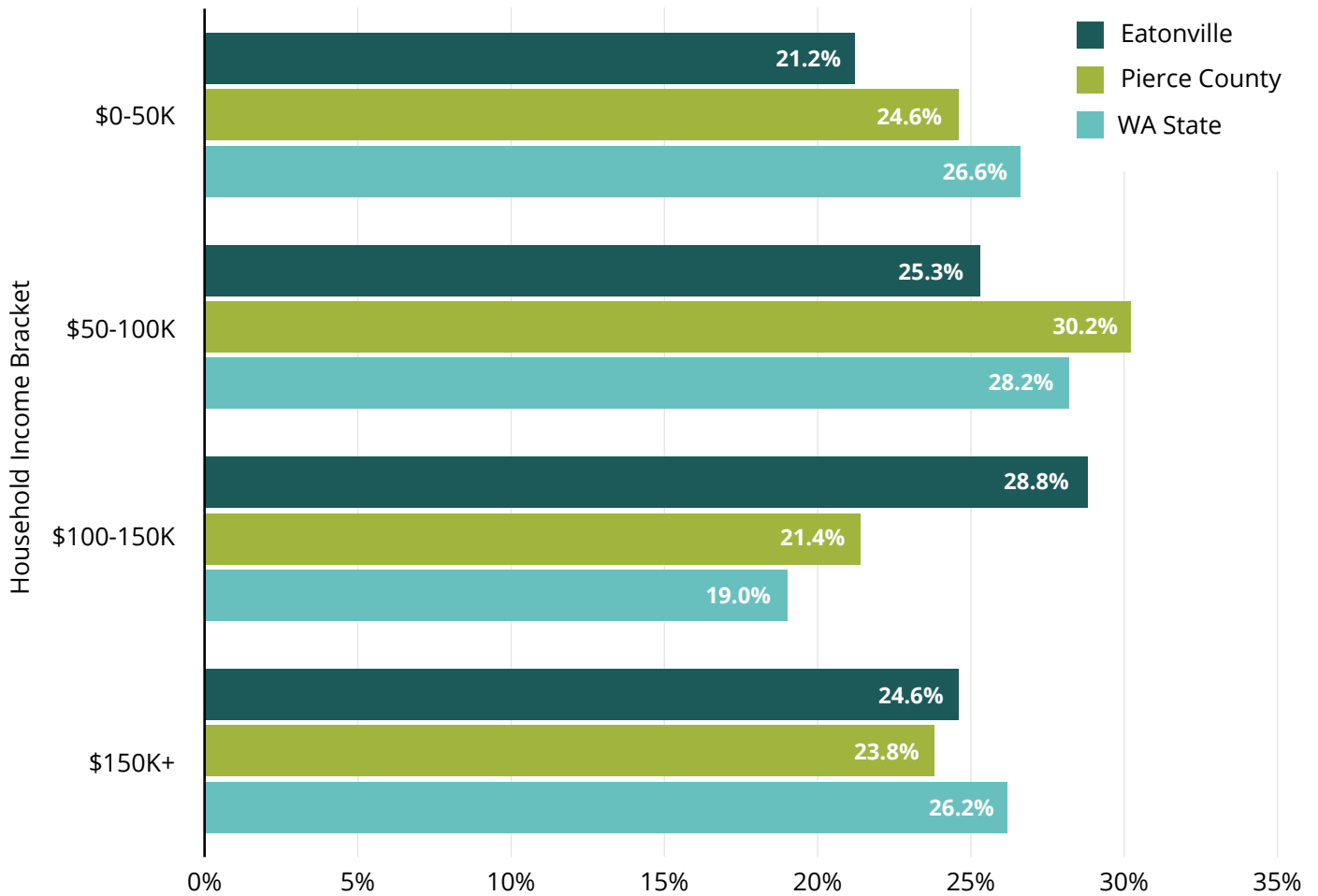


Figure 2-19: Four Specific Income Brackets

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1901, 2022

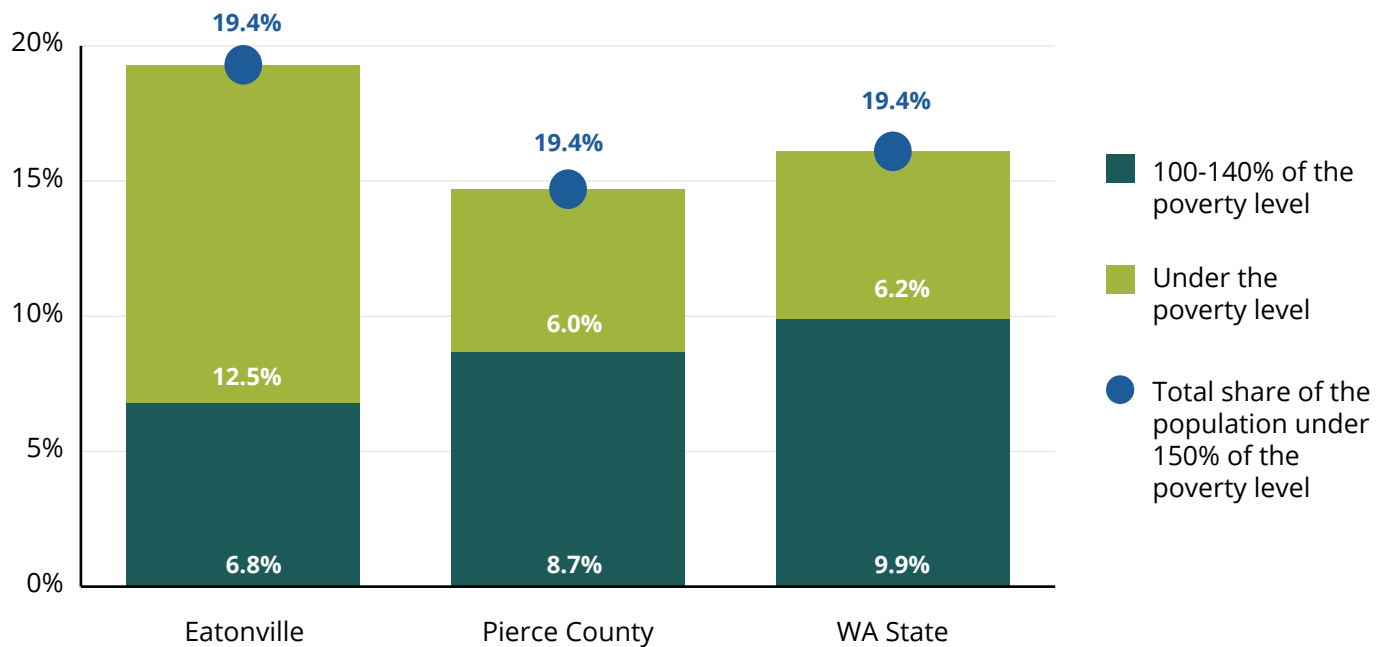


Figure 2-20: Poverty Status of Residents

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1901, 2022

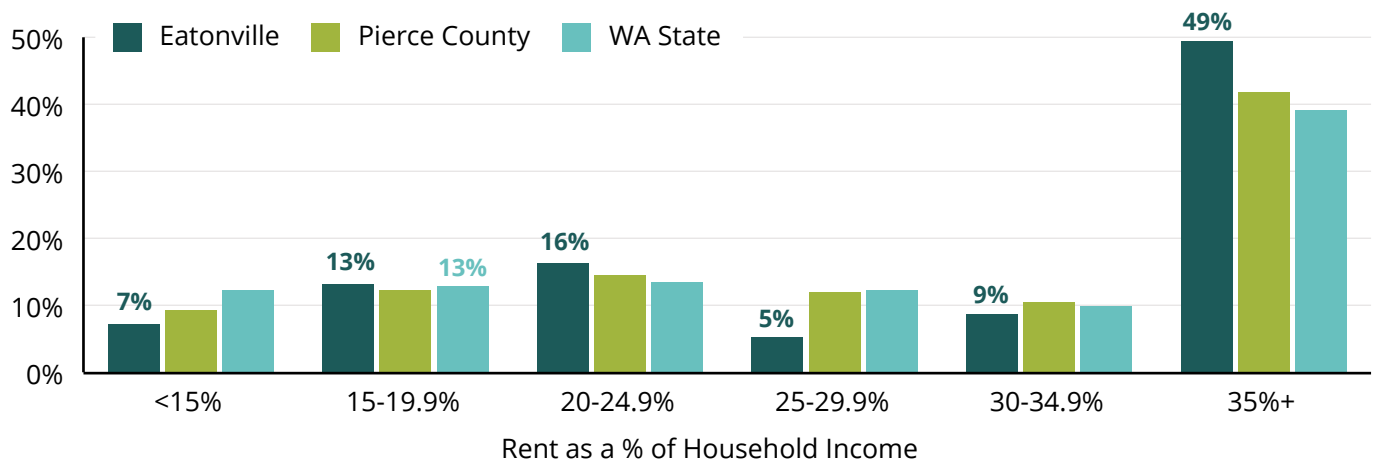


Figure 2-21: Rent as a percentage of Household Income

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1901, 2022

Nearly half of renters in Eatonville spend over 35% of their household income on rent alone. Median household income in Eatonville has been growing, and the percentage of those living under the poverty line has decreased with it. In 2014, 13.8% of households were receiving food stamps, and that number has dropped to 8.8% in 2022.

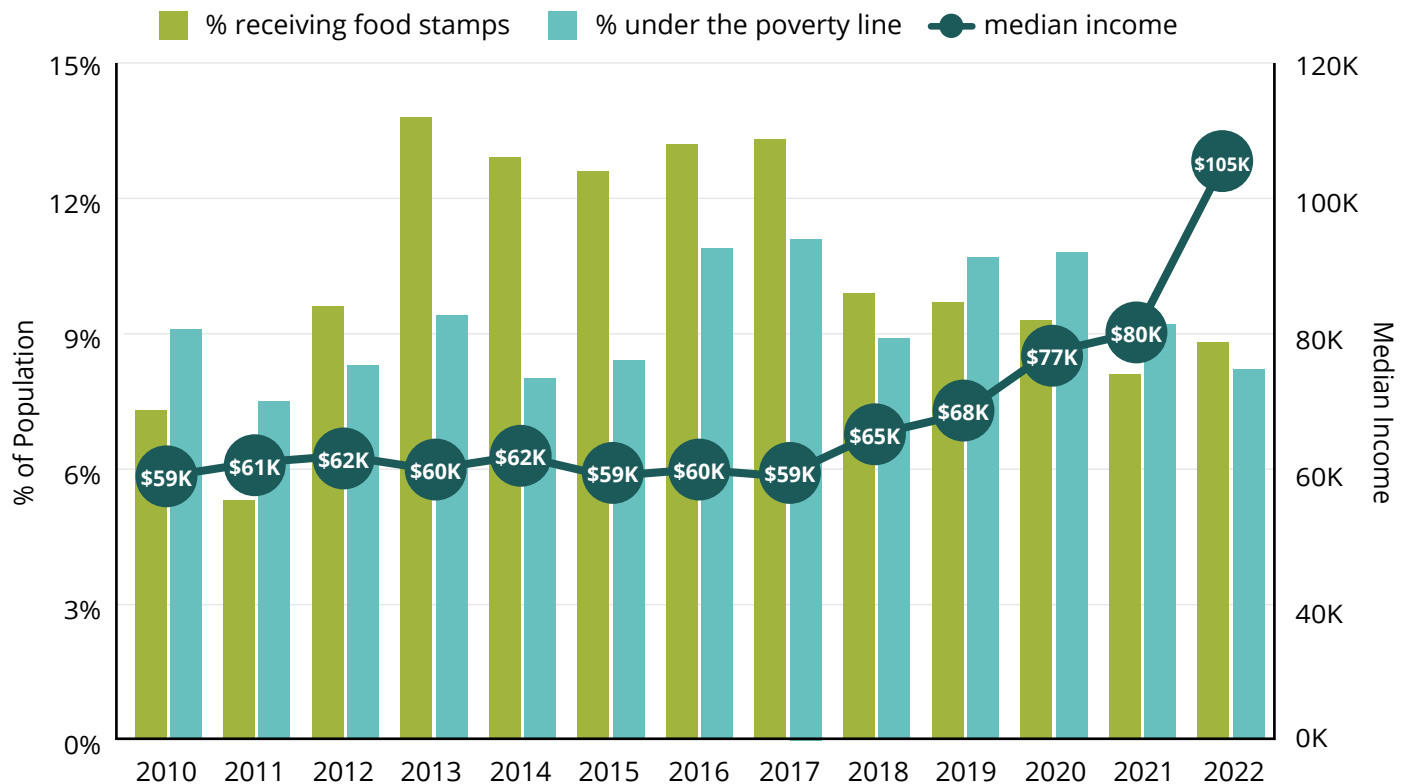


Figure 2-22: Eatonville Poverty Metrics vs. Median Income

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1901, 2022

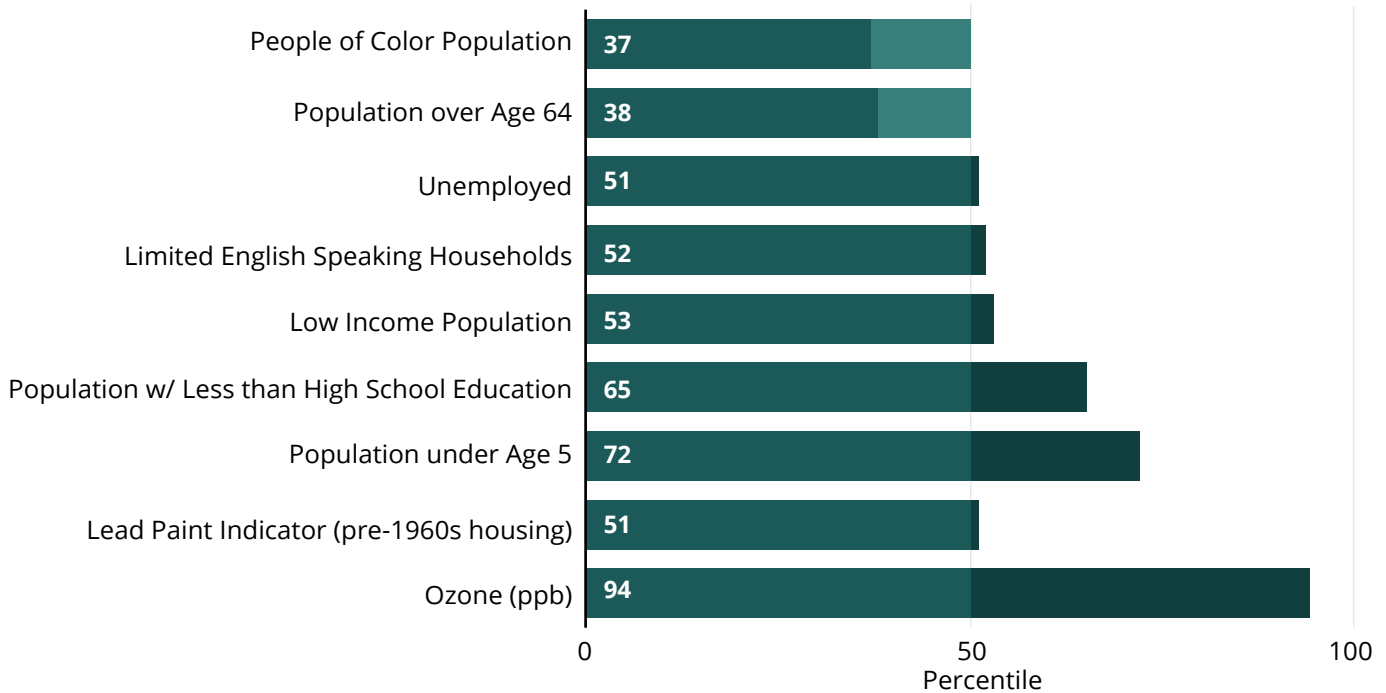


Figure 2-23: Eatonville Socioeconomic Indicators vs. State Median

Source: EJ Screen, EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. US Environmental Protection Agency. <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>. Accessed July 2024.

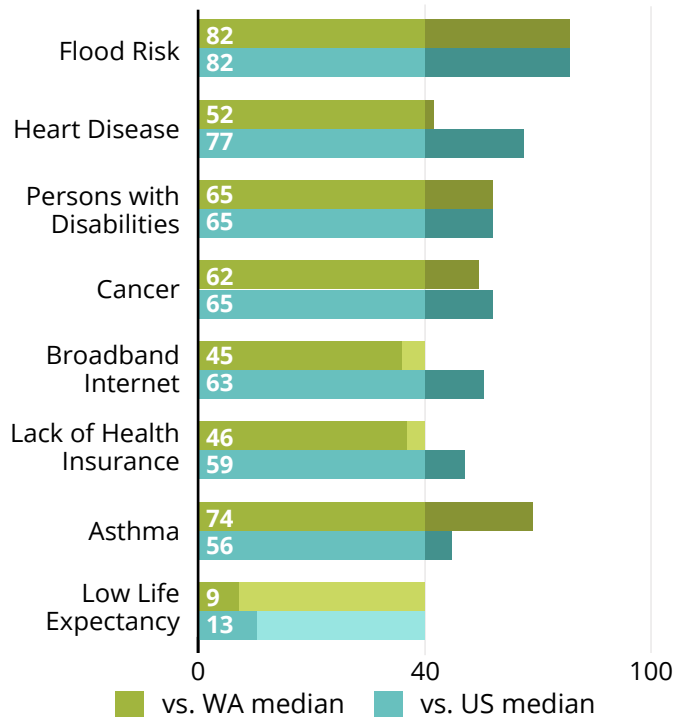


Figure 2-24: Eatonville Health, Climate, and Service Gap Markers vs. State and US Medians

Source: EJ Screen, EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. US Environmental Protection Agency. <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>. Accessed July 2024.

Figure 2-23 above shows some of Eatonville's specific socioeconomic factors compared to the state median of each given factor. Eatonville's top three factors above the median are ozone levels, population under age 5, and population with less than a high school education. These factors contribute to higher population vulnerability and are used as general indicators of susceptibility to environmental pollution and degradation.

Figure 2-24 shows a few of Eatonville's key specific health, climate, and service gap markers and how they compare to the State and US median levels. Eatonville is over the 50th percentile of Washington's median level for all but one of these factors. Though the markers for state and US medians generally parallel each other in this data, the most distinct median differences are found in Heart Disease markers, broadband internet, cancer, and disability.

High-performing public spaces containing parks and recreation opportunities can mitigate a few of the risks and impacts associated with these markers. Public open spaces with pervious surfaces can improve water quality and retain stormwater, directing runoff away from property during extreme precipitation events. Evidence has also associated time spent in parks and green spaces with reduction in complications caused by chronic health conditions such as cancer and heart disease.

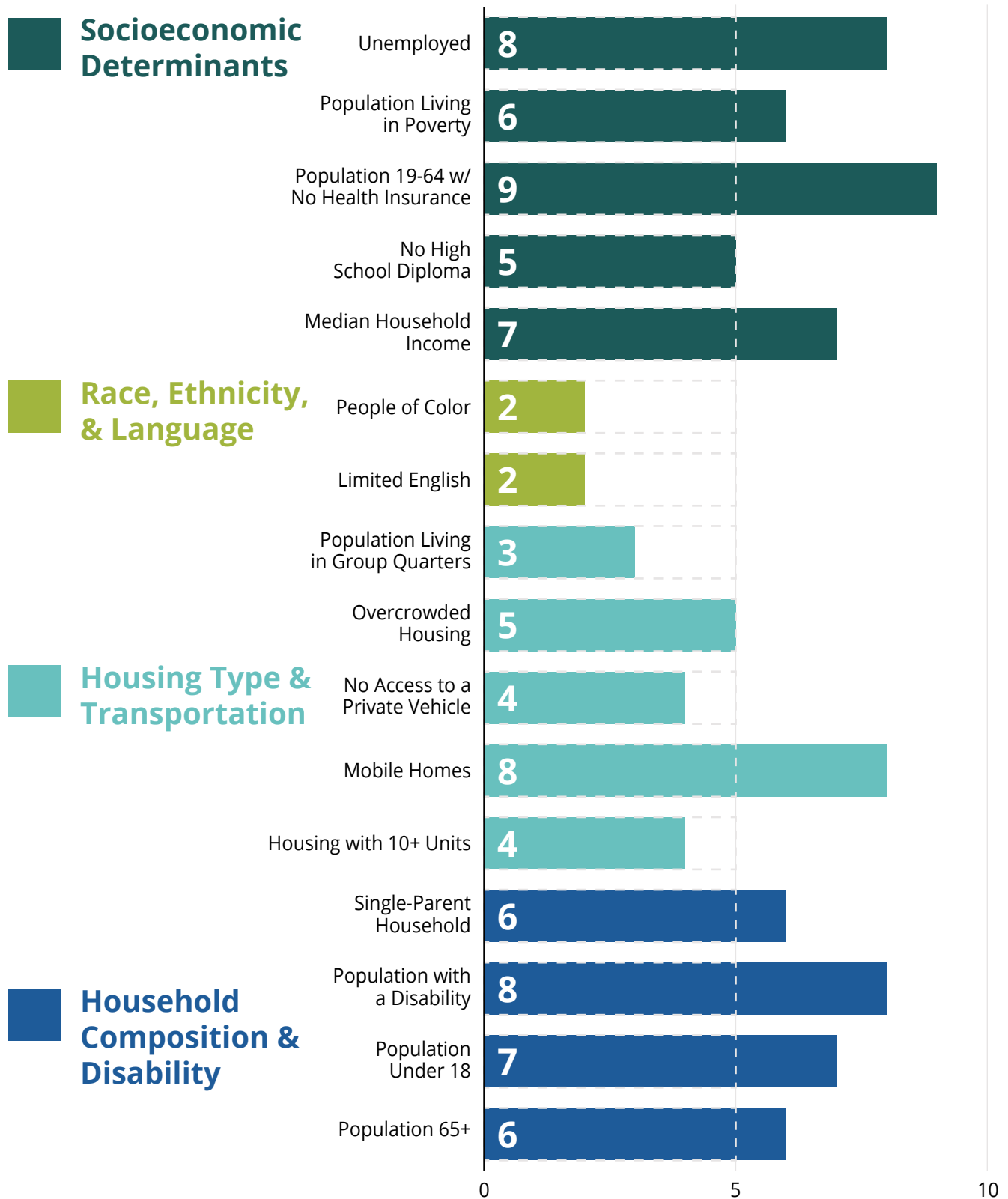


Figure 2-25: Social Vulnerability Index (Eatonville CCD) - 2016-2020 Data

Source: EJ Screen, EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. US Environmental Protection Agency. <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>. Accessed July 2024.

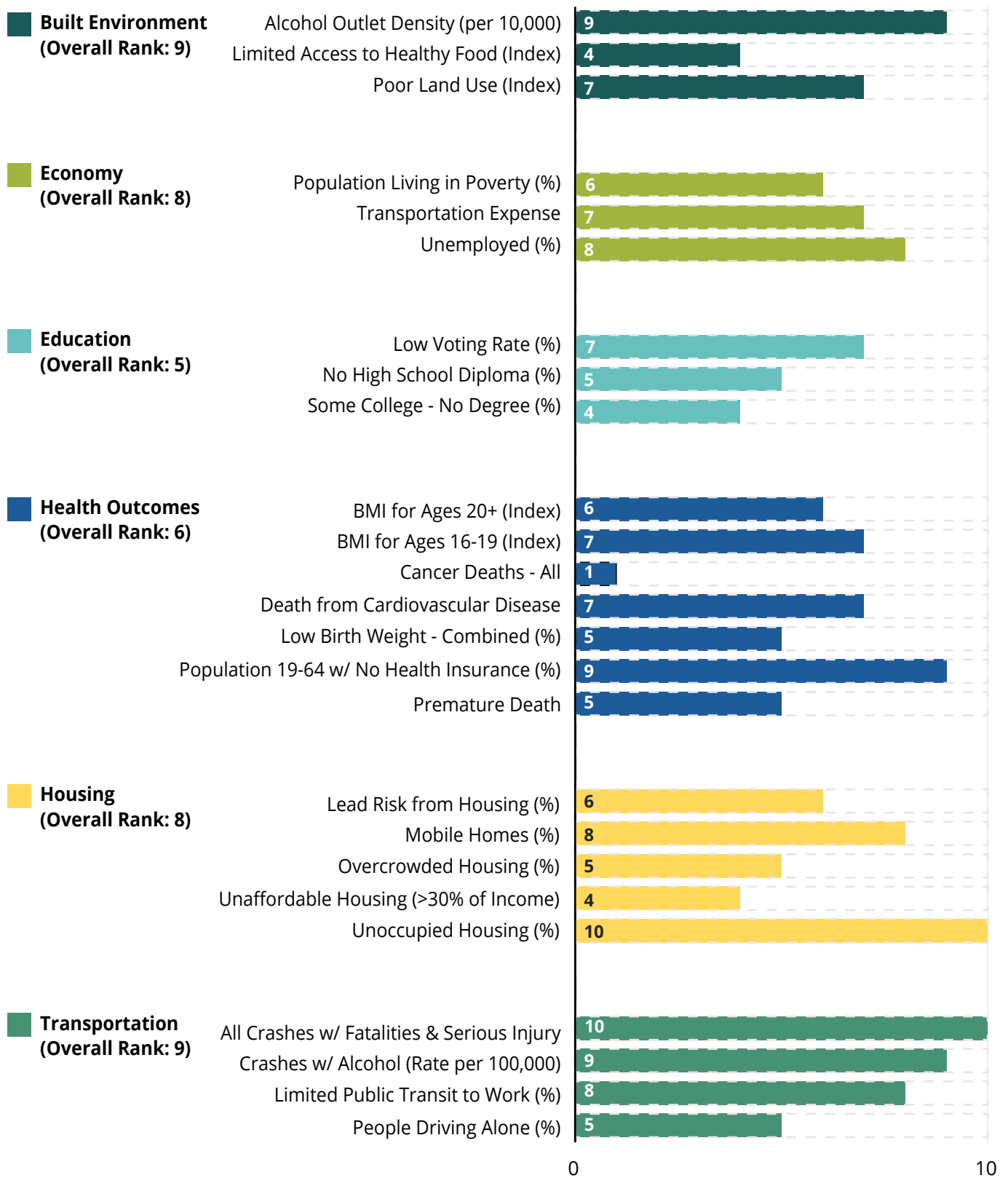


Figure 2-26: Eatonville Health Planning Factors

Source: EJ Screen, EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. US Environmental Protection Agency.

Educational Attainment

17% of Eatonville residents over 25 have attained at least a bachelor's degree, which is lower than the County and State at-large. 33% graduated high school and did not pursue any college, and 29% attended some college but did not achieve a degree. The following three figures show further detail.

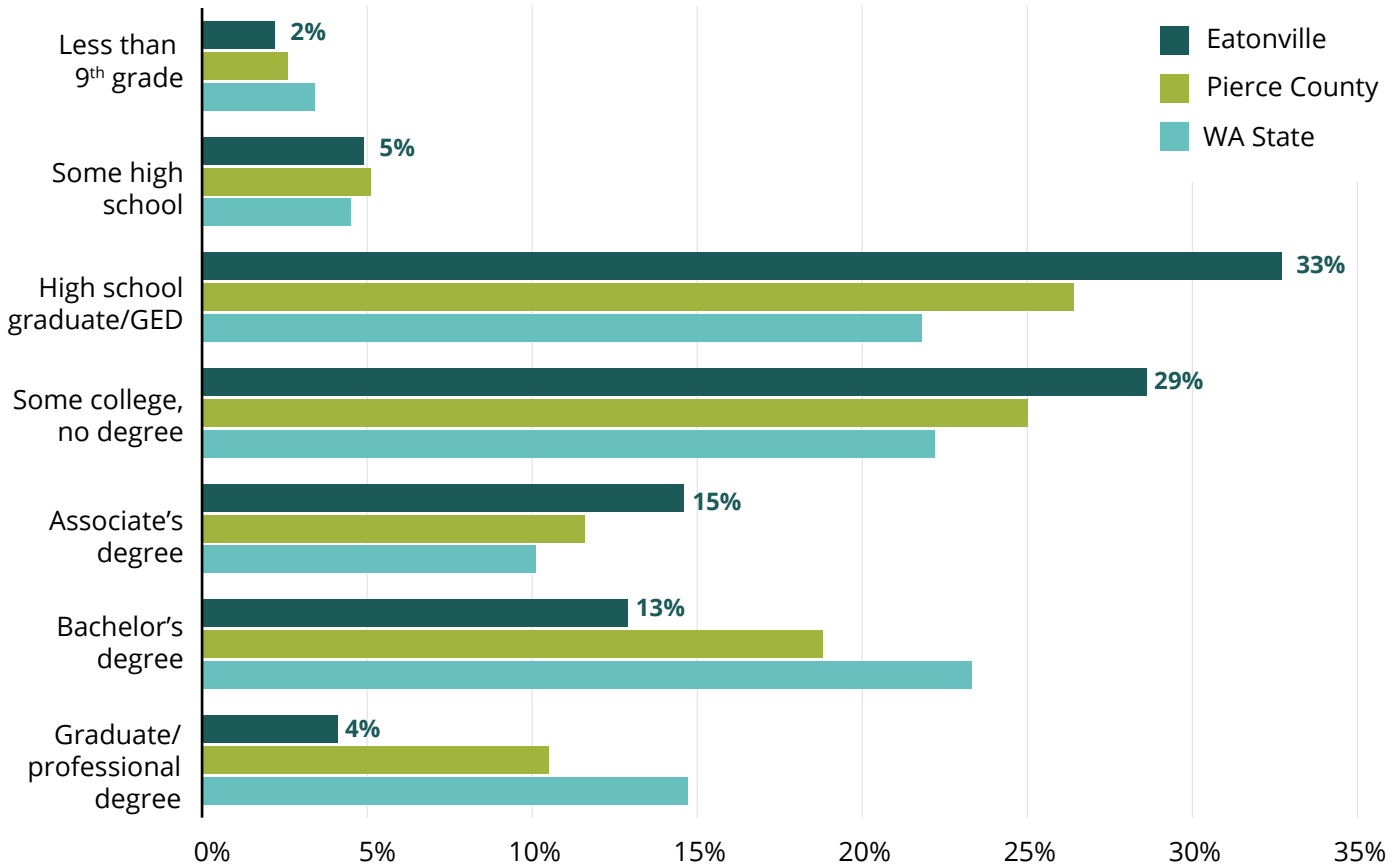
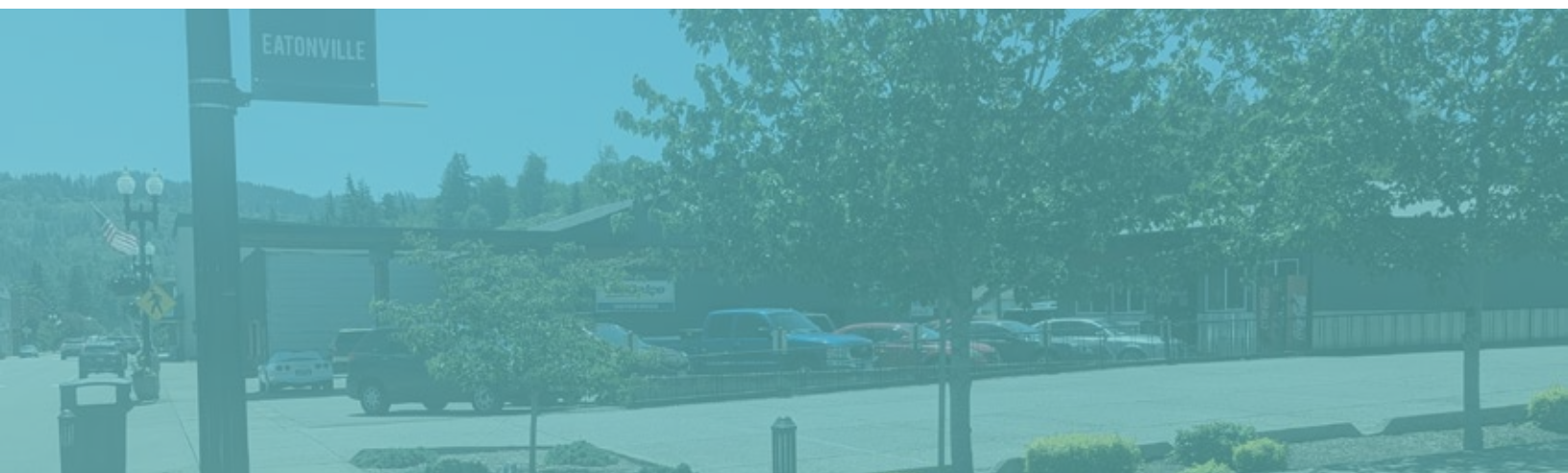


Figure 2-27: Educational Attainment for Population 25 and Over

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1501, 2022



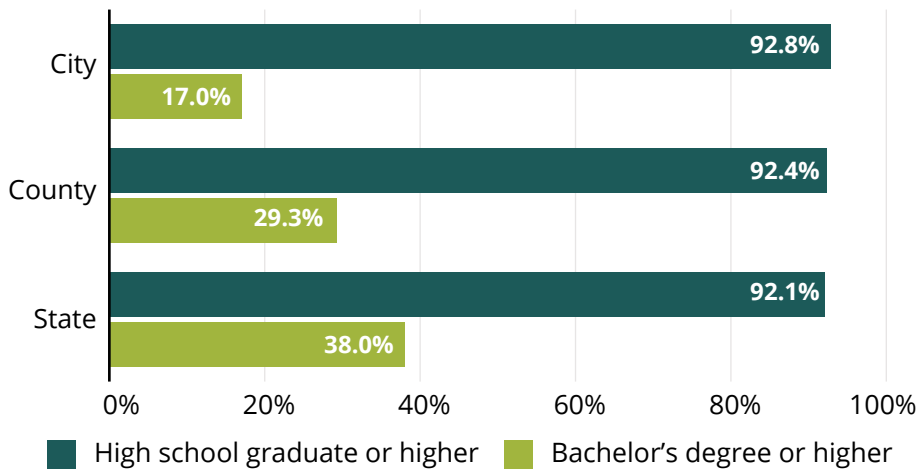


Figure 2-28: Eatonville Graduation/Degree Attainment (for population 25 and over)

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1501, 2022

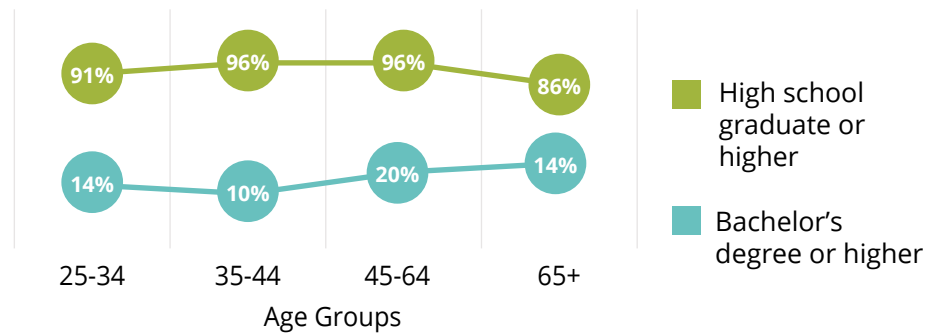


Figure 2-29: Educational Attainment by Age Group

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S1501, 2022

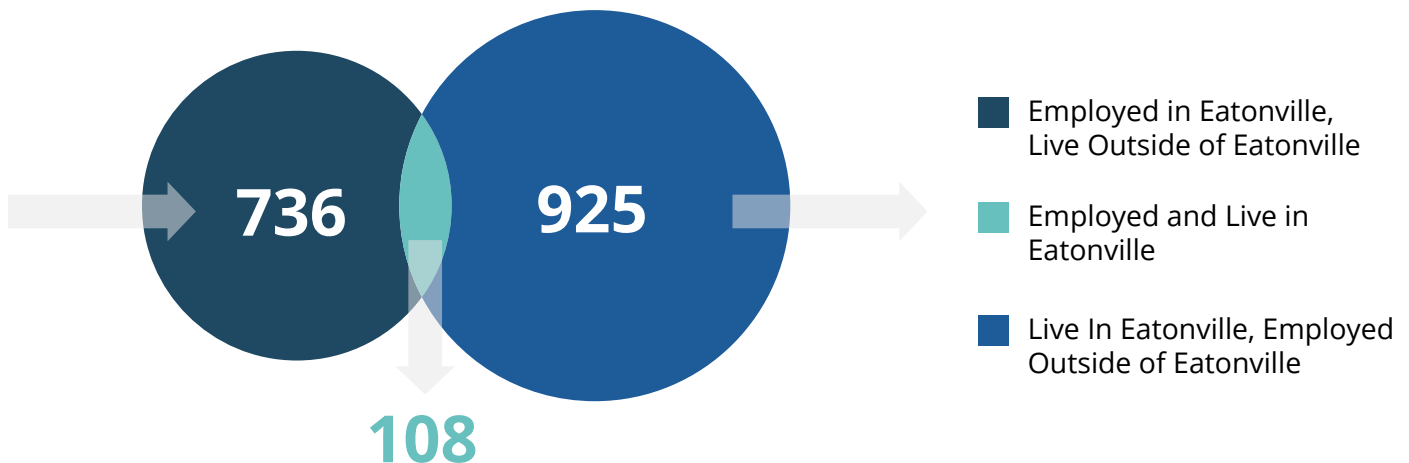


Figure 2-30: Eatonville Employment Inflow/Outflow

Source: OnTheMap, 2021 Census Estimates.

Employment and Transportation

As of 2021 Census Estimates, 844 total people were employed in Eatonville. 10.5% of Eatonville's population is employed in the town. 89.5% work outside of the town. 87.2% of all people employed in Eatonville live outside the town limits.

The largest employment industries in Eatonville are education, professional services, retail, and accommodation/food service. A well-designed public realm including green spaces can augment these services and increase economic development through patterns of use.

On the following page is a table showing the town locations of Eatonville employers. This does not necessarily indicate that employees are traveling to these locations, as over 9% of Eatonville residents work from home (see Figure 32). However, this shows that only 10.5% of Eatonville jobs originate within the town.

According to 2022 data, 87% of Eatonville residents drive to work, 9% work from home, and the other 4% walk to work. The base data shows 0% of residents take transit, cycle, or taxi, but there is a significant margin of error in Eatonville's data, which must be considered to represent all members of the community. Figure 2-31 and Figure 2-32 on the following page show this data with its margin of error.

Location	% of Jobs Held by Eatonville Residents
Eatonville, WA	10.5%
Tacoma, WA	10.1%
Seattle, WA	7.8%
Auburn, WA	3.9%
Kent, WA	3.8%
Bellevue, WA	3.1%
Sumner, WA	3.1%
Puyallup, WA	2.9%
Lakewood, WA	2.8%
South Hill CDP, WA	2.2%

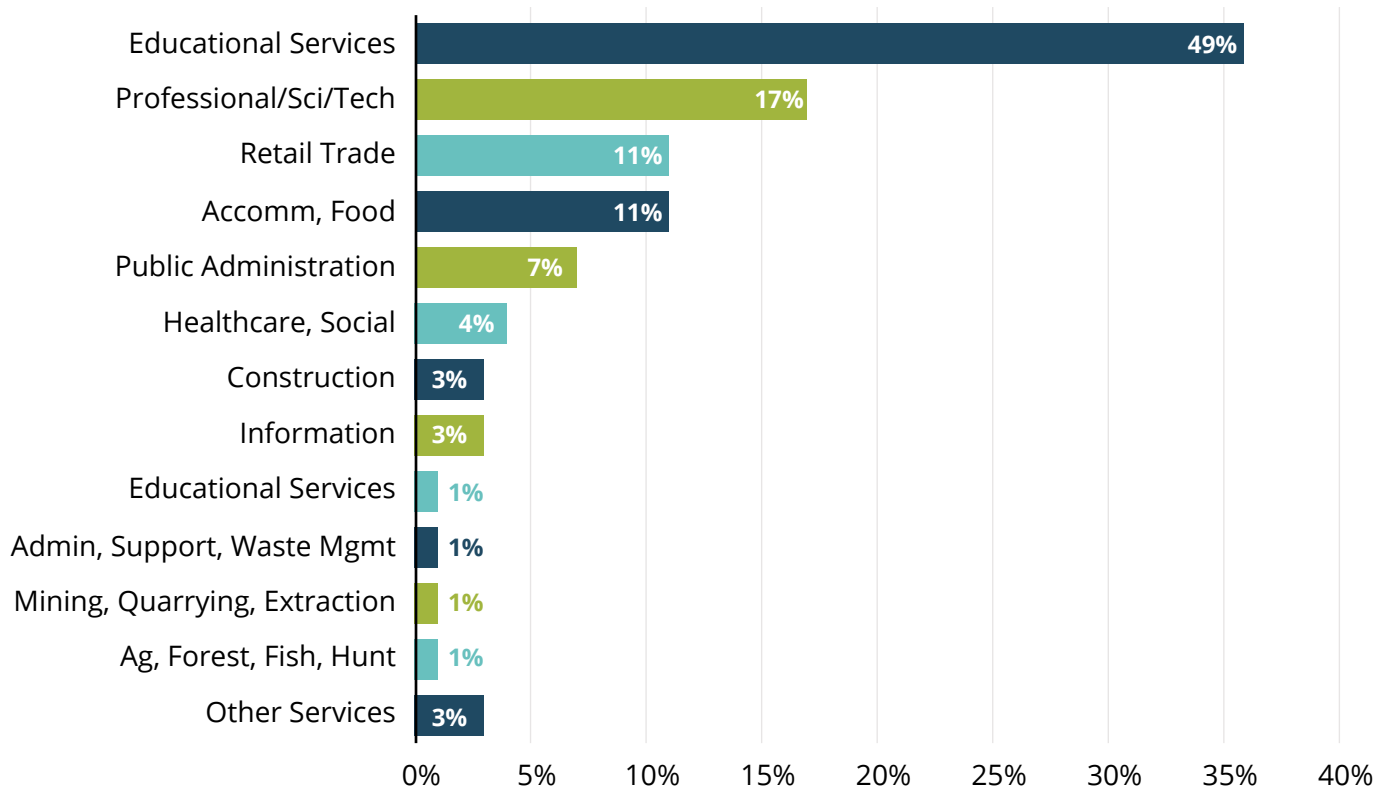


Figure 2-31: Eatonville Employment Sectors

Source: OnTheMap, 2021 Census Estimates.

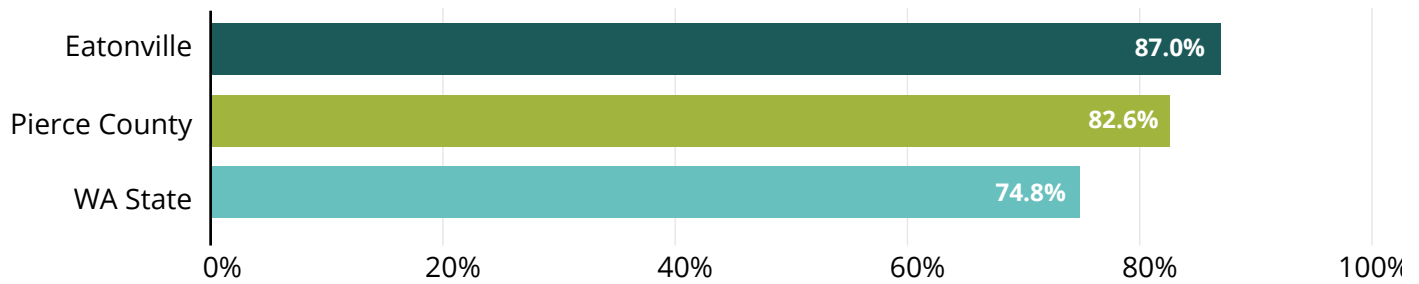


Figure 2-32: Residents Driving to Work in a Car, Truck, or Van

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S0801, 2022.

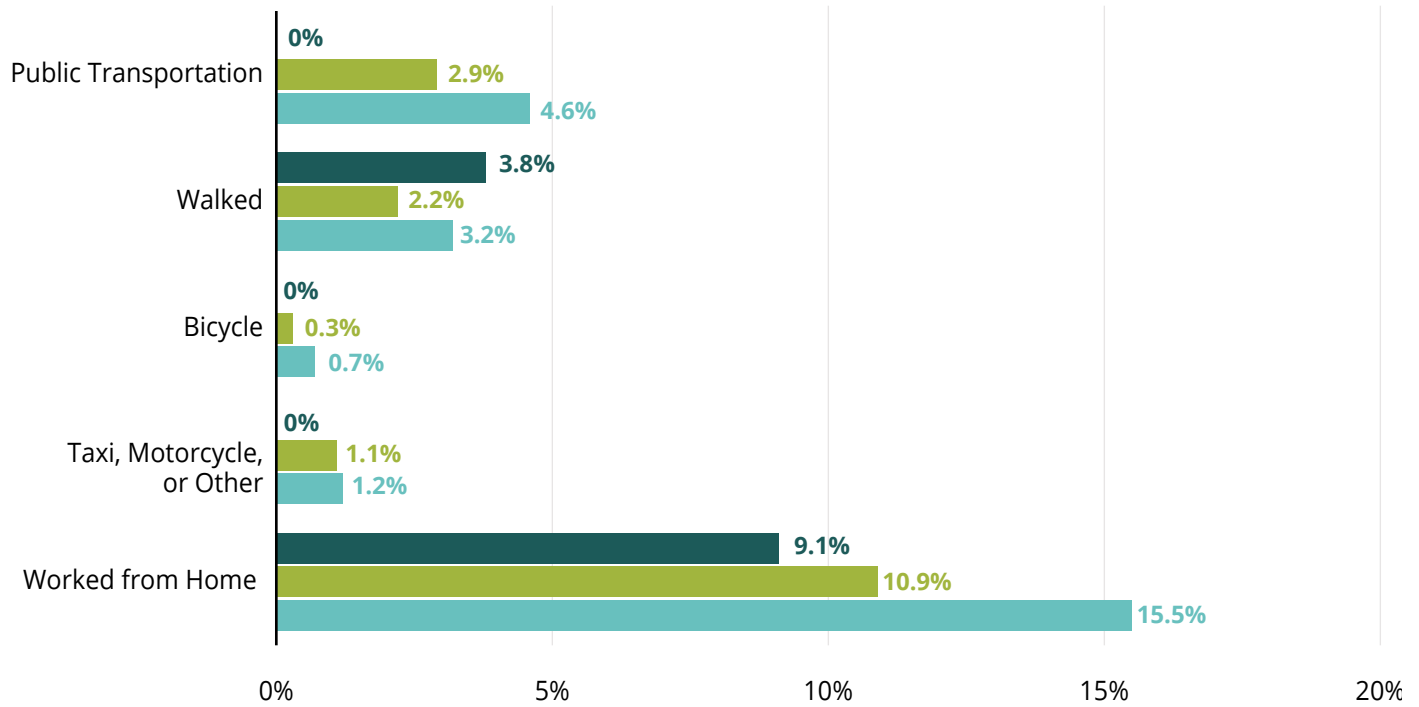


Figure 2-33: Other Means of Transportation to Work

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, S0801, 2022.



Planning Context

Introduction and Land Use Context

The Eatonville Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan guides the town's efforts to enhance recreational opportunities while preserving natural spaces. Aligned with the Growth Management Act (GMA), VISION 2050, and Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), the plan ensures parks, trails, and open spaces support Eatonville's rural character and growing community needs.

Focusing on park connectivity, expanded recreation, and environmental conservation, the PROS Plan prioritizes accessible, well-maintained parks and trails. By integrating public input, the plan shapes future investments that promote community engagement, outdoor recreation, and sustainable growth for Eatonville's residents and visitors.

Vision Statement for the Town of Eatonville

The Vision Statement in the 2024 Eatonville Comprehensive Plan describes Eatonville as a vibrant small-town community that continues to balance residential and commercial growth while protecting its natural setting. The town positions itself as a gateway to Mount Rainier and surrounding forests, streams, and open spaces, emphasizing outdoor recreation as a defining feature of community life. Eatonville prioritizes a strong sense of community, safe and inclusive neighborhoods, and a welcoming environment for both residents and visitors. Economic development is supported through a mix of local businesses, services, and tourism, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience. Eatonville's past & current planning work and adopted objectives provide the foundation for this updated plan, guiding policies within today's regulatory environment.

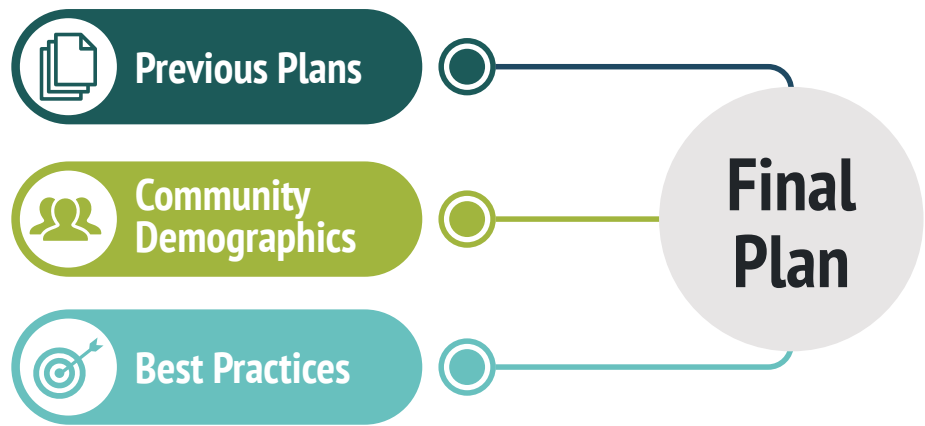


Figure 2-34: Aspects Which Inform a Final Plan

Year	Plan Name
1991	Comprehensive Plan Preparation
December 1993	First Comprehensive Plan Adopted
May 1994	Eatonville adopted Zoning Code aligned with the 1993 Comprehensive Plan
April 2001	Nisqually Road Corridor Charette
February 2006	Swanson Field Airport Pavement Management Study
June 2006	Eatonville Community Action Plan
February 2007	Eatonville Town Center and Corridor Study
October 2008	West Eatonville Design Guidelines West Eatonville Annexation Area Concept Plan West Eastonville Subarea Concept Plan
April 2009	Eatonville to Rimrock Park Trail Feasibility Study
May 2009	Eatonville Regional Trail Plan
June 2009	Lynch Creek Quarry Sub-Area Plan and Planned Action DEIS
December 2009	Swanson Field Airport Layout Plan
2015	2015 Eatonville Comprehensive Plan Drafted
March 2018	2015 Eatonville Comprehensive Plan Adopted by Town Council
2023	Eatonville Capital Improvement Plan (2024-2029)
2024	2024 Eatonville Comprehensive Plan Update

Eatonville Community Action Plan

The Eatonville Community Action Plan provides an updated market assessment for the Eatonville Chamber of Commerce. The report, originally conducted by E.D. Hovee & Company in 2000, examines various economic and demographic characteristics of Eatonville and compares them to other small towns such as Enumclaw, Granite Falls, and Darrington. Key findings include:

- ♦ **Population Growth:** Eatonville's population has grown faster than Pierce County and Washington State, with significant increases in the 0-19 and 45-64 age ranges.
- ♦ **Employment and Income:** Government remains a major employment sector, but construction, retail trade, and accommodation and food services are also strong. Eatonville's average annual wage is 86% of the Pierce County average, and median household income is equal to the statewide median.
- ♦ **Retail Sales Leakage:** Retail sales leakage is estimated at 22.6%, indicating a significant amount of local spending is not captured by area businesses.
- ♦ **Housing Affordability:** Housing remains relatively affordable, though prices have been rising due to market pressures.
- ♦ **Traffic Volume:** Traffic data shows slight increases in northern areas, but does not account for seasonal or weekend fluctuations.
- ♦ **Consumer Expenditures:** Detailed tables provide insights into average household expenditures for various categories, highlighting potential areas for business opportunities.

The report suggests that Eatonville's growing and increasingly affluent population presents opportunities for business expansion, particularly in retail and travel spending. However, potential business operators are encouraged to conduct thorough market research to understand the competitive landscape and consumer demand. The appendix includes detailed consumer expenditure data to aid in this research.

2009 Eatonville Regional Trails Plan

Support and production assistance from RTCA program of the NPS.

The process began in early 2007 with a vision to provide a walk/bike/equestrian trail network linking Eatonville to regional attractions.

- ♦ Inventory of regional tourist/rec outdoor opportunities.
- ♦ **Goals:**
 - Educational opportunities and programs
 - Stewardship and conservation
 - Volunteerism
 - Partnerships
 - Accessibility and connectivity
 - Town of Eatonville as hub of trail system
 - Link new development to trail system
 - Promote safety
 - Emphasize aesthetics and function
- ♦ Operational management agreements through partnerships.
- ♦ Funding.
- ♦ Programming.
- ♦ Development strategies for each trail segment.
- ♦ Implementation strategies.
- ♦ Funding.
- ♦ 2015 Plan recommends implementing the 2009 trails plan.



2023 Eatonville Shoreline Master Program

The Eatonville Shoreline Master Program (SMP) was comprehensively updated in 2019 and finalized through revisions adopted in 2023 to comply with the Washington State Shoreline Management Act of 1971. It regulates development along the Mashel River, Ohop Creek, and Lynch Creek, ensuring that shoreline uses and activities result in no net loss of ecological function.

The SMP balances conservation, restoration, and public use by establishing shoreline environment designations that guide land use and recreation opportunities:

- ♦ Urban Conservancy: Prioritizes environmental protection, public access, and low-impact recreation such as trails and viewpoints.
- ♦ Shoreline Residential: Allows residential use with shoreline setbacks and landscaping standards that reduce ecological impacts; may include small-scale access points.
- ♦ Aquatic: Covers areas waterward of the ordinary high-water mark, emphasizing habitat conservation, boating regulations, and protection of fish and wildlife resources.
- ♦ High Intensity/Developed Areas (where applicable): Directs more intensive uses, such as water-dependent commerce or infrastructure, into areas already modified.

Implications for the PROS Plan

- ♦ The SMP's no net loss standard requires any new recreation facilities (such as riverfront trails, access points, or picnic areas) to be designed without reducing shoreline ecological function.
- ♦ Policies support public access and recreation where compatible with environmental protection, providing clear justification for riverfront viewpoints, soft-surface trails, and interpretive opportunities.
- ♦ The SMP explicitly emphasizes habitat restoration (riparian vegetation, fish passage, floodplain reconnection), aligning with PROS Plan goals to integrate conservation and recreation.
- ♦ Tree canopy retention and riparian planting requirements overlap with the PROS Plan's canopy and open space policies, reinforcing a consistent ecological framework.
- ♦ Shoreline designations also help determine where recreation investment is feasible (e.g., trails in Urban Conservancy vs. restrictions in Aquatic zones), providing geographic guidance for project siting.

2024 Eatonville Comprehensive Plan Update

The 2024 update emphasizes Eatonville's identity as a small-town community set within a rich natural environment. The plan highlights the town's role as a gateway to Mount Rainier and its surrounding forests, rivers, and open spaces, framing outdoor recreation as a central community value. The vision statement underscores Eatonville's commitment to balancing growth with environmental stewardship, sustaining a strong sense of community, and maintaining a welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element is found in Chapter 5. It:

- ♦ Inventories parks, gathering areas, and recreation facilities within the Eatonville UGA.
- ♦ Evaluates existing conditions and level of service standards.
- ♦ Assesses future demand and identifies projects to meet needs through 2044.

Key goals and policies include:

- ♦ Maintaining and improving access to safe, clean, and diverse park and recreation opportunities
- ♦ Encouraging cooperative partnerships with Pierce County, state agencies, and local organizations to leverage resources.
- ♦ Protecting and expanding tree canopy coverage and open space to support community health and environmental resilience.
- ♦ Incorporating equity and accessibility principles to ensure that parks and recreation facilities serve residents of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

The plan also recognizes the importance of trail connectivity by referencing and building upon previous trail planning efforts, including the 2009 Trails Plan, while updating strategies to align with today's recreational and transportation needs. Implementation will occur through prioritized projects, partnerships, and funding strategies identified in the plan and capital facilities program

Existing Facilities and Programs

Parks and Recreation System Overview

Increasing visitation to Mount Rainier National Park and growing regional recreation trends have amplified the demands placed on Eatonville's parks, trails, and recreational facilities. Eatonville serves as an important gateway for outdoor enthusiasts traveling to and from Mount Rainier National Park, resulting in higher use of the town's recreational amenities and an increased need for well-maintained and accessible facilities.

One of Eatonville's signature community events is the annual July 3rd Fireworks Celebration, which draws residents and visitors to gathering spaces such as Millpond Park and Smallwood Park. Other major events, including National Night Out and the Eatonville Arts Festival at Glacier View Park, further demonstrate the vital role Eatonville's parks play in fostering community spirit, celebrating local heritage, and providing recreational enjoyment.

Parks Department Governance, Staffing, Organization, and Budget

Eatonville does not have a dedicated parks department; instead, parks maintenance, improvements, and operations are primarily managed by the town's Public Works Department. Additional support occasionally comes from local volunteers and community groups, who assist in park improvements and cleanups. The town continues to rely on these collaborative efforts to enhance its recreational spaces and meet the community's evolving needs.

Park Inventory

Visitor Center

Serves as Eatonville's central hub for community engagement and events. The plaza includes the town's Visitor Center, public restrooms, and a seating area that aligns with a beautifully maintained and irrigated lawn, ideal for community events and gatherings. Additional amenities include picnic tables, nighttime-lit bollards enhancing safety, two accessible rest areas (though restroom accessibility needs further assessment), and landscaped tree screening and edges that contribute to a pleasant

environment. Parking is conveniently located nearby, with designated spaces rated well for condition and accessibility.

Millpond Park

Millpond Park is a neighborhood park situated in the southern part of town. The park occupies a historically significant site, featuring the original cabin of Eatonville's founder, Tom Eaton, which now operates as a museum maintained by the Eatonville Historical Society.

This large park offers numerous amenities, including a well-developed playground, a historical landmark building, a historical home, a pavilion, and accessible picnic facilities. The park also includes benches, lighting, ADA-compliant concrete pathways, public restrooms, and open grassy areas suitable for gatherings. Additionally, Millpond Park provides a skatepark, basketball court, and picnic spaces, attracting residents of various age groups, particularly youth, and making it a popular community gathering area.

Glacier View Park

Glacier View Park, located at 209 Fir Avenue N. adjacent to Eatonville's cemetery, serves as a significant community recreation and gathering space. The park hosts important local events, including the annual National Night Out and a popular community art event, strengthening Eatonville's cultural identity and community cohesion.

Key features include an amphitheater stage with added storage, an open-air pavilion with picnic seating, basketball courts, playground facilities with safety surfacing, picnic areas, and public restrooms. The park also features a full kitchen and storage facility supporting events and gatherings. The beautifully maintained lawn and established tree screening enhance its scenic value. Additionally, visitor amenities such as benches, picnic tables, and trash receptacles are present, though some seating areas require improvement. Parking facilities are provided nearby, ensuring visitor accessibility.

Smallwood Park

Named after George Howard Smallwood, a wildlife agent and WWII veteran from Eatonville, the park is known for its extensive preserved woodland and scenic natural environment. It offers local access to the Mashel River, enhancing recreational opportunities and connection to nature.



Park amenities include a picnic shelter, benches, and interpretive signage highlighting salmon lifecycle and local history. However, the quality of amenities such as benches and trash cans requires improvement. The park also includes trails leading to Mashel Falls, meadow areas popular with pet owners and picnickers, and interpretative signage focused on salmon ecology and local history. Parking and entry points are present, although accessibility features like designated ADA parking are lacking and could be improved.

Nevitt Park

It is a mini-park located directly opposite Eatonville High School. This small 0.4-acre park prominently features the town's distinctive "Welcome to the Town of Eatonville" sign, visible to passing motorists. Due to its compact size, park amenities are limited but include concrete pathways, an art installation currently proposed for future development, and landscaping. The pathways feature a gentle slope suitable for easy pedestrian use. The park's lawn and landscaped areas are well-maintained, and parking with ADA-accessible stalls is provided nearby, although the entry area could benefit from improved definition.

Park Classification

Classification systems provide a standardized method to develop, organize, operate, and manage parks based on certain criteria, which can include factors such as their size, ecological importance, recreational opportunities provided, historical or cultural significance, placemaking potential, economic development, and ability to support conservation & climate resiliency goals. Washington State Parks & RCO use different classification definitions but are built on the same premise - consistent methodology is critical to best manage our public spaces and to ensure the public are active and able to enjoy a

quality mix of structured and natural environments and all the benefits that they provide.

Generally, there are six basic park and greenspace facility types typically classified and utilized.

- ♦ **Mini-Parks/Tot Lots**
- ♦ **Local Parks**
- ♦ **Community Parks**
- ♦ **Open Space**
- ♦ **Trails, Bikeways & Pathways**
- ♦ **Special Use Facilities**

Five of these facility types are observed within Eatonville's town limits; special use, local, community, mini park and open space.

For additional details on different park classification, see Appendix B.

Process

The following steps were executed to capture the institutional knowledge of Town staff, while allowing the consultant team to observe and assess each park and trail component.

1. **Inventory and build maps of the existing parks.**
2. **Develop a detailed inventory of each park** from the previous planning process and geospatial sources, including encumbrances research and park / funding histories.
3. **Perform site tours and field investigations.**
4. **Update each park map and inventory form.**
5. **Passing an assessment rating for each park** element or category. The overall park assessment was an average of the available individual assessments.

Table 2-4: Existing Parks & Public Spaces System Overview

Name	Town Owned?	Town Maintained?	Class	Status	Acreage
Visitor Center	Y	Y	Special Use	Developed	0.65
Millpond Park	Y	Y	Local	Developed	5.72
Glacier View Park	Y	Y	Local	Developed	1.65
Smallwood Park	Y	Y	Community	Developed	15.80
Nevitt Park	Y	Y	Mini-Park	Developed	0.48
Common Greenbelt Area	Y	Y	Open Space	Undeveloped	7.62
Eatonville Cemetery	Y	Y	Special Use	Developed	3.97

Park Benefits

To aid in understanding the role of parks & recreation for a specific community and to plan for budgeting and resource allocation effectively based on the park's level of service or area of influence, parks are also assessed to determine their individual contributions they provide a community, including:

- ♦ **Physical & Mental Health:** Assessing a park by expected or projected use helps visitors know what to expect and allows park managers to establish rules and guidelines that ensure visitors' safety and preserve the park's resources.
- ♦ **Ecological Diversity:** Parks often vary in terms of their ecosystems and biodiversity. Assessing parks based on their ecological features can aid in understanding and protecting these unique natural environments.
- ♦ **Cultural and Historical Significance:** Some parks are often assessed based on their cultural or historical importance. These designations help preserve and showcase sites of cultural heritage, such as historical landmarks, archaeological sites, and areas with indigenous significance.
- ♦ **Tourism & Branding Benefits:** Classifying parks can aid in promoting tourism and attracting visitors. Visitors often have varying interests, so categorizing parks allows tourism agencies to target specific audiences with appropriate marketing strategies.
- ♦ **Educational and Interpretive Benefits:** Classification helps in developing educational programs and interpretive materials tailored to the park's unique characteristics. This enhances visitor experiences by providing relevant information about the park's natural, cultural, and historical attributes.
- ♦ **Research and Conservation Planning:** Scientists and conservationists can use classification systems to prioritize research efforts and develop conservation plans. By understanding the different types of parks and their specific features, they can focus on areas that are most in need of study and protection.

Assessment Methodology

Modeled after RCO's suggested Level-of-Service (LOS) grading system and NRPA's "system level" approach, a custom assessment methodology was used in this study to inventory and assess the current range of recreation and open space opportunities within any particular area. The methodology used in this report is ranked on a scale of 5 to 0, from high to low, across a number of different criteria, including:

- ♦ **Location**
- ♦ **Park Classification**
- ♦ **Facility Age**
- ♦ **History**
- ♦ **Funding Encumbrances or Regulatory Framework**
- ♦ **Condition of Individual Components & Amenities**
- ♦ **Maintenance / Known Issues**

Please note that individual **park areas developed by private entities** (e.g., a HOA), or other **public agencies or private schools were not included** in the assessment procedure, but will be included in the Park system map and overall amenity inventory.

Assessment Ranking Scale

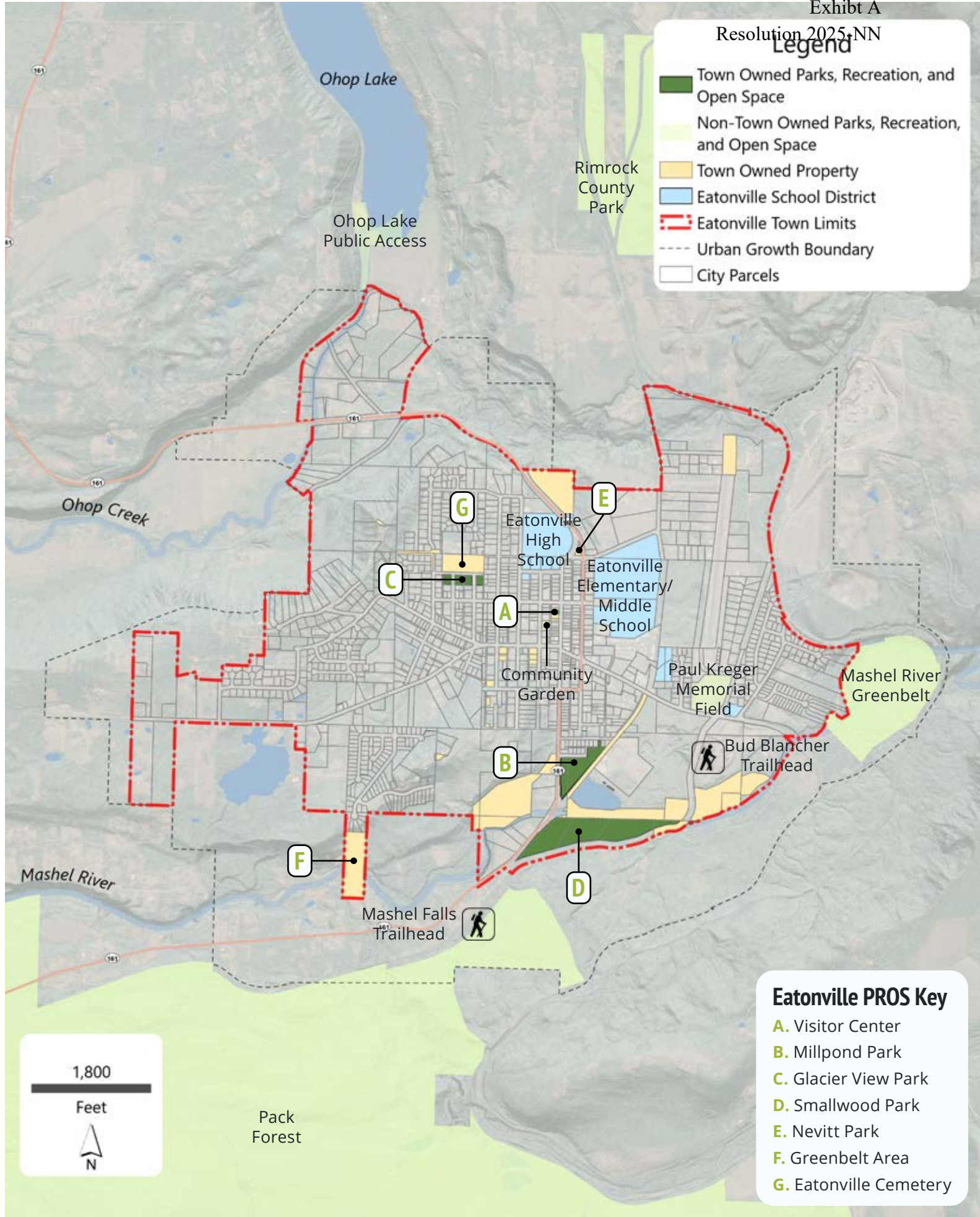
Based on the evaluations of all the individual elements, an overall assessment for each park was calculated by averaging the individual amenity rankings.

Table 2-5: Assessment Rankings	
Ranking (Low to High)	Description
0	n/a - Not Present
1	Major liability & structural failures present and imminent. Needs to be closed.
2	Condition is poor with major structural, cosmetic, maintenance, and liability issues observed.
3	Condition is moderate with some major cosmetic or maintenance issues that create minor liability concerns.
4	Condition is very nice with only minor cosmetic or maintenance issues observed.
5	Perfect condition with a long life cycle and no risk or liability issues.

Table 2-6: Existing Parks, Open Spaces, and Special Use Areas				
Key	Park	Classification	Acreage	Assessment
A	Visitor Center	Special Use	0.65	4.0
B	Millpond Park	Local	5.72	4.4
C	Glacier View Park	Local	1.65	2.5
D	Smallwood Park	Community	15.60	2.8
E	Nevitt Park	Mini-Park	0.40	2.8
F	Common Greenbelt Area	Open Space	7.62	N/A
G	Eatonville Cemetery	Special Use	3.97	N/A

Legend

- Town Owned Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Non-Town Owned Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Town Owned Property
- Eatonville School District
- Eatonville Town Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary
- City Parcels



Eatonville PROS Key

- A. Visitor Center
- B. Millpond Park
- C. Glacier View Park
- D. Smallwood Park
- E. Nevitt Park
- F. Greenbelt Area
- G. Eatonville Cemetery

1,800

Feet



Pack Forest

A - Visitor Center

Table A-1: Visitor Center - Park Features

Park Overview		Park Information	
Address	130 Mashell Ave. N	Park History:	Most recently established town park.
Classification	Special Use		
Size	0.65 acres		
Status	Active	Encumbrances & Funding History	
Assessment Rating	4.0		
Description	Small public square in the heart of downtown Eatonville. Main attraction is visitor center which includes many items talking about the history of Eatonville and surrounding region.		

Table A-2: Visitor Center - Inventory & Assessment

Element	Qty	Rating	Notes
Structure			
Visitor Center	1	4	3D map of Mt. Rainier. Tourist pamphlets, Sign in book, open for public use, wifi. Stairs and handrails. Accessible ramp. Outdoor deck.
Public Restrooms	1	4	Fully Accessible.
Amenity			
Amphitheater Seating	1	4	Lawn zone with entry steps using for seating.
Bollards	5	4	Lighted for nighttime use and safety. Bollards to align walkways.
Lighting	3	4	
Wood Arbor	2	4	Adds seating opportunities.
Picnic Tables	2	4	At arbor locations.
Benches	3	3	Located at ROW. No additional benches at the perimeter of the park.
Trash Cans	5	5	
Landscaping/Open Space			
Lawn (Acres)	0.1	5	Irrigated and beautifully maintained lawn zone.
Tree Screening & Landscape Edges	8	4	
Parking/Access			
Parking Areas	1	4	Parking is provided as well as ADA stalls.
Wayfinding/Signage			
Visitor Center Sign	1	4	At building façade.

Visitor Center Sitemap



20

Feet



Existing



Pavilion w/
Seating



Info Kiosk



Visitor
Center



Restrooms



Seating



Parking

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B - Millpond Park

Table B-1: Millpond Park - Park Features

Park Overview		Park Information	
Address	150 Alder St. E	Park History:	Park is home to the original cabin of the towns founder, Tom Van Eaton, which now runs as a museum maintained by the Eatonville Historical Society.
Classification	Local		
Size	5.72 Acres		

Table B-2: Millpond Park - Inventory & Assessment

Element	Qty	Rating	Notes
Structure			
Tofu House	1	5	Historical Landmarked Bldg.
Historical Home	1	5	Landmark Bldg. Historical society convenes here.
Pavilion	1	5	Medium Sized - Sheltered - Picnic Tables
Public Restrooms	1	4	Accessibility not determined. Gender bathrooms.
Amenity			
Picnic Tables	6	4.5	Shaded and open meadow.
Benches	3	4	Located within the park and removed along trails due to vandalism
Lighting	3	4.5	Large luminaires throughout park and concrete paths.
Park Paths - Concrete	1	4.5	ADA compliant - good width and no slope. Paths extend along park perimeter.
Play Areas	1	4.5	Separated by age groups (2) zones.
Climbing Play	1	4.5	
Skate Bowl	1	4	One permanent area and one area that has to be replaced. Safety rails
Landscaping/Open Space			
Large Grass Lawn (Acres)	2.3	4.5	No irrigation system installed.
Landscaped Park Edges	1	4.5	Well maintained.
Existing Trees	40	4.5	At parks edges.
Parking/Access			
Parking Areas	1	4.5	Parking and ADA stalls.
Split Rail Fencing at Edge	1	4.5	Defines parks perimeter.
Multiple Entry Areas	2	4.5	Can enter from multiple areas.
Wayfinding/Signage			
Public Sculpture	1	4	Located adjacent to historical buildings.
Time Capsule Monument	1	4.5	

Millpond Park Sitemap



C - Glacier View Park

Table C-1: Glacier View Park - Park Features

Park Overview		Park Information	
Address	209 Fir Ave. N	Park History:	Park has hosted annual art festival every August since 1970.
Classification	Local		
Size	1.65 Acres		
Status	Active	Encumbrances & Funding History	
Assessment Rating	2.5		
Description	Located in the heart of Eatonville's residential district, the park has a good quantity of amenities, most of which are in fair condition.		








Table C-2: Glacier View Park - Inventory & Assessment

Element	Qty	Rating	Notes
Structure			
Amphitheater Stage	1	3.5	Nice stage area with added storage facility.
Preschool Building	1	2	First schoolhouse moved to park and used as a cooperative preschool.
Pavilion	1	3	Smaller size/Open Air/Sheltered with (7) picnic tables that need replacement.
Full Kitchen	1	4	Used for events / Plumbing & Stove/Oven Units
Storage Facility	1	3	Used by TOE Facilities Team / Adjacent to Restrooms
Public Restrooms (2)	1	3	No Doors / Curtain closures. (2) Stalls / Sinks not accessible / Stalls accessible / No baby changing stations.
Amenity			
Basketball Hard Court	1	2	Sport Court concrete older with cracking. Nets & Posts old
Integrated Landscaping	--	1	None.
Play Area (2-5) Years	1	2	Mulch Safety Surface with PTL curb. Equipment older.
BBQ at Play Zone	1	1	Poorly located.
Benches and Seating	1	2	Limited seating at meadow. (2) benches at play zone. The benches are not accessible & need replacement
Trash Can	2	5	
Landscaping/Open Space			
Large Grass Lawn (Acres)	1.2	3.5	Beautifully Maintained Lawn. Ex. Tree Roots pose trip hazards. Minimal shade available.
Established Tree Screen	1	3.5	North and South Tree screening - Oaks and Conifers
Heritage Trees	20	4	Potentially Larger Established Trees. Heritage Trees will need to be verified.
Parking/Access			
Parking Area	1	2	(11) Parking stalls. Angled Parking. Parking available adjacent to Cemetery, Park and Preschool Entrance.
Entrance Open at Pavilion	1	2	
Gated and Fenced at East Location and SE	1	2	Chain Link Fencing.
Wayfinding/Signage			
Entry Signage	1	2	

Glacier View Park Sitemap

Cooperative Nursery School

Existing

-  Seating
-  Picnic Tables
-  Pavilion w/ Seating
-  Restrooms
-  Sports Courts
-  Playground
-  Parking

80

Feet



D - Smallwood Park

Table D-1: Smallwood Park - Park Features

Park Overview		Park Information	
Address	525 SR 161 S	Park History:	Named for George Howard Smallwood, a former wildlife agent, WWII veteran, and mayor of Eatonville
Classification	Community		
Size	15.8 Acres		
Status	Active	Encumbrances & Funding History	♦ #97-1101D Smallwood Park Improvements (WWRP - Local Parks)
Assessment Rating	2.8		
Description	Large park that boasts many acres of preserved woodland and natural scenery. Provides local access to the Mashel River, which runs along the South end of town.		

Table D-2: Smallwood Park - Inventory & Assessment

Element	Qty	Rating	Notes
Structure			
Small Picnic Shelter	1	2	Houses a few picnic tables.
Amenity			
Bench	1	2.5	Benches surrounding pond (8) total
Trash Can	1	2	
Grill	1	2	Poor quality
Landscaping/Open Space			
Pond	1	2.5	Stocked with fish once a year (big event with kids)
Trails	1	3.5	Walking Trails along Mashel River and leads to Bud Blancher and Mashel Falls.
Large Grass Lawn (Acres)	2.9	3.5	Grass meadow used by dogs and picnickers
Parking/Access			
Parking Area	1	2	Parking Zone along rock barrier. Nothing designated as ADA
Entry	1	3	Tree lined entry
Wayfinding/Signage			
Inteporative Signage along River/Trail	1	5	Salmon life cycle and history of area

Smallwood Park Sitemap



Existing



Pavilion w/
Seating



Restrooms



Info Kiosk



Trails



Nature &
Habitat



Wildlife Viewing
Area

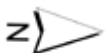


Parking

240



Feet



E - Nevitt Park

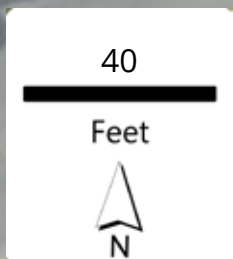
Table E-1: Nevitt Park - Park Features

Park Overview		Park Information	
Address	300 Washington Ave. N	Park History:	Don Nevitt was a prominent physician in Eatonville, Washington, serving as the town's resident doctor for over 30 years, from the 1940s to the 1970s. He took over Dr. A. W. Bridge's practice and was a respected figure in the community
Classification	Mini-Park		
Size	0.4 Acres		
Status	Active	Encumbrances & Funding History	
Assessment Rating	2.8		
Description	Small park that possesses the "Welcome to the Town of Eatonville" sign visible to motorists as they enter. Other amenities in the park are limited.		

Table E-2: Nevitt Park - Inventory & Assessment

Element	Qty	Rating	Notes
Amenity			
Concrete Pathways	1	3	Meandering path - appears to be accessible at entry and due to low slope.
Art Installation - Staked Out	1	2	Art is proposed for the park to reflect on town history
Benches	1	1	
Trash Cans	1	1	
Lighting	4	3.5	
Landscaping/Open Space			
Large Grass Lawn (Acres)	0.3	4	Nicely maintained.
Planting Edges	1	4	Nicely maintained.
Trees	18	3.5	
Boulder	1	2	
Parking/Access			
Parking Areas with ADA Stalls	1	3	Stalls available over permeable concrete.
Entry	1	2	Not well defined.
Wayfinding/Signage			
Town of Eatonville Sign	1	4	Corner of park.

Nevitt Park Sitemap



Existing




-  Public Art
-  Trails
-  Parking

Table 2-6: Park Amenity Schedule

	Visitor Center	Millpond Park	Glacier View Park	Small-wood Park	Nevitt Park	Total	Notes
Active Recreation							
Baseball / Softball							(refer to Eatonville School District)
Football/Soccer/Lacrosse Field							(refer to Eatonville School District)
Basketball Court (Outdoor)		0.5	1			1.5	
Tennis / Pickleball Court							(proposed at Millpond Park)
Running Track							(refer to Eatonville School District)
Play Environments							
Playground		1	2			3	
Tot-lot		1				1	
Specialty Recreation							
RV Camping							n/a
Tent Camping							n/a
Skate Park		1				1	
Pump Track							(proposed at Millpond Park)
Fitness Station							n/a
Off-leash Dog Area							n/a
Community Garden							(not on Town property. Proposed at Glacier View Park)
Splash Pads / Aquatics							n/a
Trails, Pathways, and Access							
Paved Trails		1				1	
Soft-Surface Trails				1	1	2	
Sidewalks/Pathways	1					1	
Trailheads				1		1	
Water Access / Docks / Launches							n/a

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Table 2-6: Park Amenity Schedule

	Visitor Center	Millpond Park	Glacier View Park	Small-wood Park	Nevitt Park	Total	Notes
Site Structures & Hardscape							
Restroom / Enclosure / Portable	1	1	1			3	
Rec Center / Gymnasium							(refer to Eatonville School District)
Historic Structure		2	1*			3	*Old schoolhouse used as preschool
Concessions Stand							(refer to Eatonville School District)
Storage			1			1	
Gazebo							n/a
Picnic Shelters	2	1	1	1		5	
Water Features							n/a
Plaza / Assembly Area			1			1	
Bleachers							(refer to Eatonville School District)
Paved / On-Street Parking					1		
Dedicated Parking Lot / Area	1	1	1	1		5	
Total Parking Capacity	8	49	11	30	7	105	
Site Amenities							
Trash Cans	5	6	2	1		14	
Barbecue Grills			1	1		2	
Picnic Tables	2	9	6	10		27	
Drinking Fountain							n/a
Benches	3	3	2	8	1	17	
Lighting					1	2	
Signage / Wayfinding				1	1	3	
Art		1				1	
Sidewalks / Pathways	1	1	2				
Trailheads							Bud Blancher Trail
Water Access / Docks / Launches							n/a
Heritage / Shade Trees (approx)	8	40	20	500	25	593	
Native Open Space		1		1		2	

(continues on next page)

Table 2-6: Park Amenity Schedule

	Visitor Center	Millpond Park	Glacier View Park	Small-wood Park	Nevitt Park	Total	Notes
Wildlife / Wetland Habitat Area				1		1	
Lawn / Meadow (Large)		1	1	1		3	
Lawn / Meadow (Small)	1				1	2	



Public Involvement



Image credit to Orin Blomberg (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED) via Flickr.



Introduction

The successful development and implementation of a community's parks system ultimately relies on listening to the needs, demands, and ideas the community has for its parks and recreation system. Knowing that "the people who show up get to make the decisions," it was imperative that a successful public involvement process be implemented that allowed Eatonville citizens and its visitors multiple opportunities to inform the process and results. These opportunities included:

- ♦ ***Community Needs Assessment Survey***
- ♦ ***Community Mapping Survey***
- ♦ ***Community Workshop***
- ♦ ***Project Prioritization Survey***

With grant programs and other decision-makers focusing on understanding a community's desired quality of life, public involvement is the most crucial and time-consuming element of the PROS planning process, allowing a correct assessment of a community's desired quality of life. This is where the public and users can share their ideas, goals, and

objectives for their parks system and communicate these needs and desires to the town.

The intention behind the public involvement approach was to maximize an equitable distribution of needs, wishes, and ideas from the public. To ensure that the PROS Plan is reflective of the Eatonville community and their interests, needs, and priorities, a series of engagement goals and methodologies were discussed and developed.

Engagement Goals

1. Continue to Build on or Validate Public Sentiment From Previous Surveys.

In smaller rural communities like Eatonville, public communication often relies heavily on informal channels such as word-of-mouth and conversations among neighbors. This approach can effectively disseminate information and foster discussions about local events. Eatonville has also employed other planning efforts in the past, including surveys and workshops used to engage the public in specific initiatives such as park plans.

This current planning effort will incorporate a review of these past surveys to identify relevant data that can inform the understanding of the community's desired quality of life.

2. Ensure equitable distribution of new survey results throughout the town.

Conducting surveys at the neighborhood level is crucial to gaining a holistic understanding of a town's diverse communities and their needs. This approach ensures that the "quality of life" concept is not skewed towards a specific demographic. Ideally, the surveys should be designed to capture respondents' residential locations within the town. This allows for identifying localized needs and developing tailored strategies for equitable resource allocation, targeted interventions, and effective community engagement.

3. Deploy multiple virtual and analog engagement opportunities.

Incorporating multiple participation methods effectively expanded the survey's reach and addressed potential accessibility challenges. In addition to online and virtual surveys, the public was invited to attend in-person workshops and complete paper surveys distributed at designated locations and events, such as the July 3rd Fireworks, National Night Out at Glacier View Park, and the

Visioning Workshop at the Visitor's Center. An online Maptionnaire was also made available to the public for those unable to attend the workshops. Other distribution locations included the General Hospital, police and fire stations, and the town's Visitor's Center. This multi-modal approach ensured inclusivity by accommodating residents with varying levels of technological access and preferences.

4. Provide a broad range of constituents with the ability to supply both broad and specific action-oriented feedback.

The planning process transcended the collection of broad public needs and desires. It uniquely incorporated opportunities for residents to actively participate in the "design" of their parks, generating site-specific suggestions. This approach aligns with the principles of an inclusive planning framework, which emphasizes citizen engagement in shaping service delivery. The key was to create avenues for the public to contribute "real" ideas and concepts, fostering a sense of ownership and impact. Additionally, measures were implemented to ensure participant demographics accurately reflected the Eatonville community profile.



Public Engagement Plan Overview

The engagement plan was organized around a series of both virtual and analog, in-person events. Events and surveys were announced in both English and Spanish.

Table 3-1: Public Engagement Timeline

#	Event	Date(s)	Attendees
1	Needs & Assessment Survey Launch	Summer 2024	199
2	July 3rd Fireworks	07/03/2024	28
3	National Night Out	08/06/2024	6
4	Visioning Workshop (in person)	11/23/2024	20
5	Visioning Workshop Maptionnaire (virtual)	January 2025	155
6	Parks & Recreation Committee Meetings	08/20/2025	8

The development of this plan prioritized extensive public involvement to ensure the plan reflects the needs and values of the community. Public engagement was central to the process, providing critical insights into how parks and recreation shape Eatonville's quality of life and guiding the identification of priorities for future improvements.

Community workshops and meetings provided residents with opportunities to discuss their aspirations and concerns in an open forum. These sessions included collaborative exercises such as visioning and mapping to identify gaps in the park system, barriers to access, and ideas for new recreational facilities. The feedback gathered during these discussions emphasized the importance of maintaining existing parks while expanding amenities to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population.

A comprehensive survey, distributed both online and in paper format, captured detailed input on park usage, recreational preferences, and barriers to participation. With participation reaching over ten percent of Eatonville's population, the survey provided a statistically significant overview of community priorities. Respondents identified areas where improvements to maintenance, accessibility,

and connectivity were most needed, reinforcing themes raised in the workshops.

The results of the public engagement process highlighted several key priorities for Eatonville's parks and recreation system. The most significant concern among respondents was the need for improved maintenance and better facilities, including restrooms, benches, and playgrounds. Accessibility enhancements, such as ADA-compliant pathways and improved pedestrian connectivity, were also identified as essential improvements.

Residents expressed a strong interest in expanding recreational opportunities, including the addition of more trails, sidewalks, and bike-friendly infrastructure. There was also substantial support for new amenities such as a splash pad, updated playground equipment, and enhanced sports fields to accommodate local teams and tournaments.

Community feedback emphasized the importance of parks as gathering spaces that reflect Eatonville's identity and provide opportunities for recreation across all age groups. Safety and security were recurring concerns, with requests for improved lighting, security cameras, and better upkeep to ensure parks remain welcoming for all visitors.

Environmental conservation and natural area preservation were also noted as shared values, with suggestions for sustainable practices and educational opportunities on ecological stewardship. Additionally, there was significant interest in expanding community events and programs, particularly for teens, adults, and seniors.

The depth of engagement demonstrated the community's strong connection to its parks and their role in shaping Eatonville's quality of life. The priorities identified through this process have directly influenced the recommendations in this plan, ensuring they align with resident needs and aspirations. By integrating community input at every stage, this plan serves as a roadmap for enhancing recreational opportunities and strengthening the connection between Eatonville's residents and their parks.

Park Needs & Assessment Survey

To assess how people were using Eatonville's Park and trail system, an online survey was conducted in the fall of 2024. This initiative aimed to gather valuable insights from both residents and visitors. The survey specifically focused on understanding current usage patterns of existing parks and trails, identifying any barriers that hinder their use, and gauging resident interest in adding or removing specific park and recreation features. Additionally, the survey sought to identify the most popular parks and amenities among residents and visitors. To ensure broad participation, the survey was offered in both English and Spanish, with online access and

printed copies distributed at local community events and was available at Town Hall, the Library, and the Senior Center.

The list of questions asked, minus typical demographic inquiries, included:

1. How often do you use each of Eatonville's Parks?
2. How long is your average visit to parks in Eatonville?
3. What are the barriers that prevent you from using your parks more?
4. Do you think Eatonville needs more or less of the following amenities and facilities?
5. Which other outdoor recreation opportunities in the area do you use?
6. What recreation activities do you travel outside of Eatonville for?
7. If you could change one thing about Eatonville's parks and recreation options, what would it be?

Other typical demographic questions were also asked to better understand the survey audience, identify trends, and ensure a balanced representation. Full survey results are found in Appendix C, with key takeaways and highlights summarized here.

Survey Respondent Information

Understanding the demographics of survey respondents is crucial, as their results are based on experiences and knowledge of Eatonville's facilities and systems. The survey conducted in Eatonville, WA, had a total of **199 responses, with 118 complete responses and 81 partial responses.** This indicates a relatively high level of engagement from the community in providing feedback on the parks, recreation, and open spaces in Eatonville.



The summary of responses is as follows:

Most people in Eatonville are **full-time residents, making up over 86% of the population**. This suggests a stable, permanent community. A small percentage (10.4%) are frequent visitors, indicating some tourism or regular non-resident activity. Part-time residents, those who work in Pierce County but may not live in Eatonville each and others represent 1.7% of the population.

Nearly 61% of respondents were between 30 and 49 years old.

The average age of respondents (using the starting points of each age range) is 41, which is higher than the median age of the 2022 population (28.5). However, this may be due to the low participation rate of residents under 20 years old.

The survey indicates that most households in Eatonville consist of four or more people, accounting for 55.8% of respondents. This suggests a community with larger family units. Households with two people make up 22.1%, while those with three people represent 15.9%. A smaller portion of the population lives alone, at 6.2%. This distribution reflects a family-oriented community structure in Eatonville.

The survey respondents in Eatonville predominantly identified as Caucasian/White (77%) which closely corresponds with the current population at 76.2%. Hispanic/Latino population makes up the second largest population in Eatonville with 13.1% residents, however they only have 1% representation among the survey respondents. This is a 12.1% discrepancy in results highlighting that efforts need to be refocused to get their input in the upcoming workshops and events. 18% of respondents chose not to

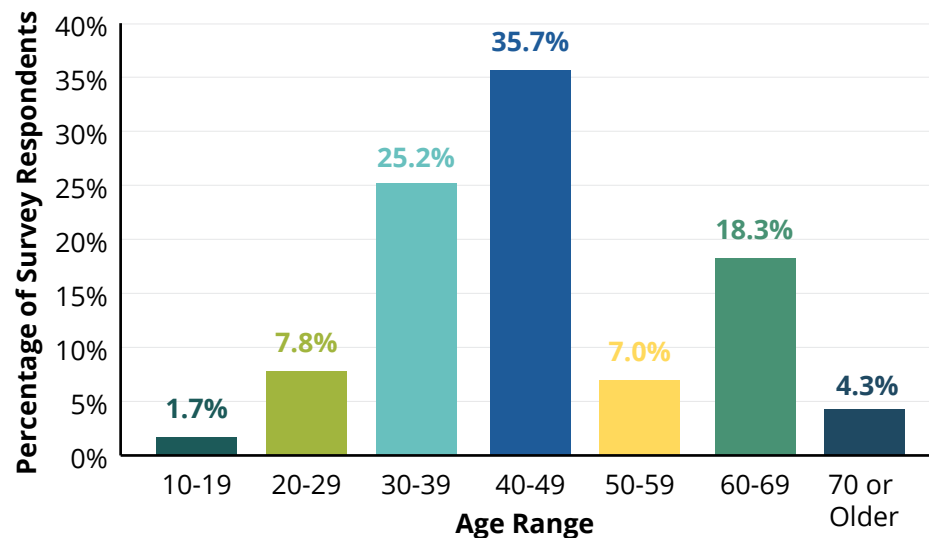


Figure 3-1: Age Breakdown of Survey Respondents

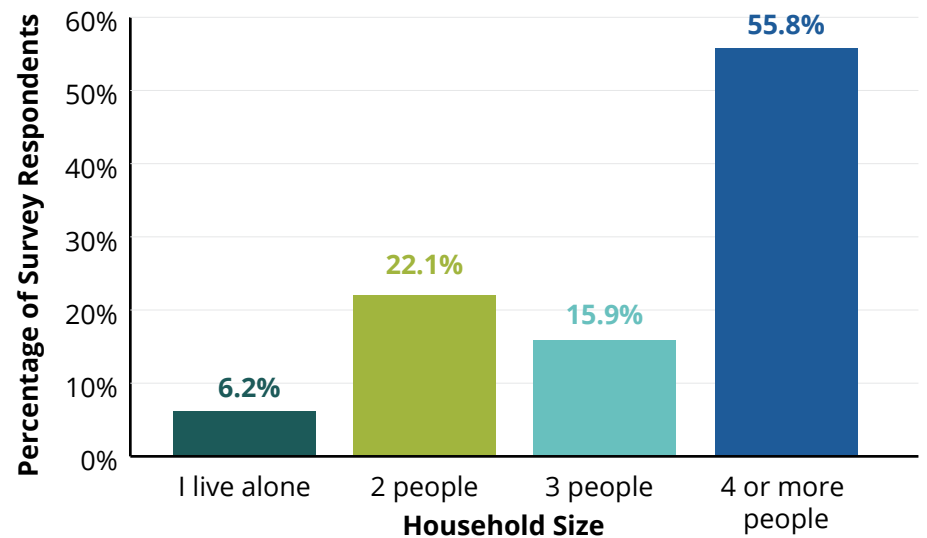


Figure 3-2: Household Size of Survey Respondents

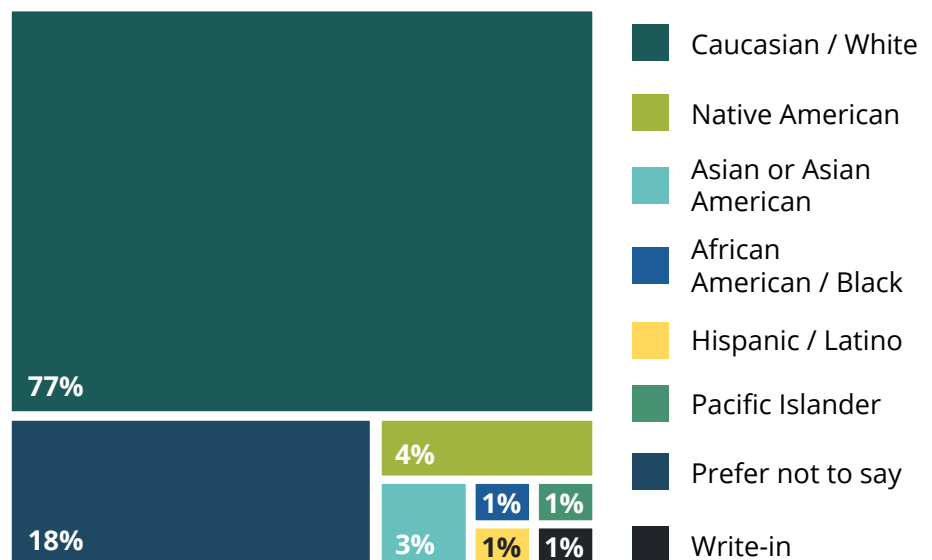


Figure 3-3: Ethnic Identification of Survey Respondents

say. 4% of the respondents were Native American while the Eatonville population is 0.8%.

There was 3.2% discrepancy which suggests a stronger connection to Eatonville. African American, Pacific Islander and Asian respondents made 1% each of the survey demographics. It can be seen that the results were impacted by non-resident participation, which may have affected certain demographic representations

Lastly, the demographic data indicates that males comprise about 46% of Eatonville's overall population. However, the survey responses show a different distribution, with 71% of participants identifying as female and only 24% as male. This suggests that the survey attracted a disproportionately higher number of female respondents, which may have influenced the perspectives and priorities reflected in the results.

Survey Results

Why Do People Love Eatonville?

Residents of Eatonville, WA express a strong appreciation for their community, highlighting its natural beauty and outdoor activities, which include stunning views of Mount Rainier and opportunities for hiking, camping, and fishing in nearby parks. The friendly and welcoming atmosphere fosters a strong sense of community, where neighbors are connected through local events and gatherings that enhance social bonds. Many cherish the quaint, small-town charm that Eatonville offers, providing a peaceful environment away from the hustle of larger cities, along with a rich historic character reflected in its sites and buildings. Additionally, the town is recognized for its family-friendly environment, characterized by safe neighborhoods and access to parks and recreational facilities that support family-oriented activities. Collectively, these elements contribute to a positive perception of Eatonville as a desirable place to live, work, and enjoy outdoor life.

What Would They Change about the Parks System?

Eatonville residents expressed a diverse range of desires for improving their parks and recreation options, with several key themes emerging from the survey responses. The most frequently mentioned change was the enhancement of sports fields and recreational areas, with 18 respondents suggesting additions like multi-sport complexes and improved football fields. Close behind were calls for better

maintenance and facilities improvements, including playground updates and bathroom repairs, mentioned by 16 participants. Expanding and connecting trails was another popular request, with 13 respondents advocating for more walking and biking paths. Security concerns were raised by 11 individuals, highlighting the need for a safer environment in parks. Other common suggestions included adding splash pads and updating playgrounds (10 mentions), improving bathroom access and cleanliness (10 mentions), and enhancing cycling and walking accessibility (10 mentions). Additional ideas ranged from making the town more pedestrian-friendly to preserving natural areas and offering more community events and activities. These responses reflect a community eager for well-maintained, diverse, and accessible recreational spaces that cater to various interests and age groups.

Barriers

Respondents identified several barriers to using Eatonville's parks, with inadequate facilities, amenities, and maintenance being the primary concerns. Accessibility, pedestrian connectivity, and space were also highlighted as significant issues. Additional feedback from write-in responses revealed specific challenges, including insufficient amenities like benches and restrooms, difficulties with park reservations, and a lack of off-leash dog areas. Some residents noted that parks were too far from their homes for regular use, while others pointed out inadequate signage and location information. There was an expressed need for more trails, bike lanes, and bike racks to improve access. Playground issues were also mentioned, with equipment being unsuitable for children of different ages and outdated surfaces. Overcrowding in parks and concerns about facility misuse, such as loitering and inappropriate behavior, were additional problems identified. These insights provide a comprehensive view of the improvements residents desire in Eatonville's park infrastructure to enhance usability and enjoyment.

Amenity Use Trends

The survey results indicate that residents of Eatonville frequently use various outdoor recreation opportunities in the surrounding area. When talking about the local parks, Smallwood Park is visited most frequently on a weekly basis. Millpond Park is visited monthly more than other parks, Glacier View Park is visited only once per year by most respondents, and 49 respondents indicated never visiting the Visitor Center.

According to this data, Smallwood Park is the

most visited park (3,846 cumulative annual visits), Second is Millpond Park (3,078 cumulative annual visits), Third is Glacier View Park (2,477 cumulative annual visits), and fourth is the Visitor Center (1,256 cumulative annual visits).

Besides Parks, Eatonville also has other outdoor recreation opportunities that people like to explore:

1. Bud Blancher Trail
2. Mount Rainier National Park
3. Little Mashel Falls Trail
4. Nisqually State Park
5. Mashel River Loop
6. Elbe Hills and Tahoma State Forest
7. Sprinker Community Center
8. Mashel Prairie Trail
9. Paul Kruger Memorial Field
10. Ohop Lake Ski Park

Desired Amenities

Of all the major park uses, e.g., playgrounds, trails, etc., there was a considerable weighting towards specific amenities. When asked about specific amenities and how important they were, there was a marked preference leaning towards increased active uses and basic amenities. The preferences in order were:

1. Teen programs or classes
2. Adult programs or classes
3. Urban trails / Sidewalks
4. Community events
5. Non-motorized trails
6. Senior programs or classes
7. Shaded areas / Picnic areas
8. Recreation leagues
9. Nature or historical interpretation/signage
10. Improved security / More lighting
11. Benches / Sitting areas
12. Undeveloped natural areas / Open spaces
13. Accessible pathways within our parks
14. Non-motorized connectivity
15. Sport courts - Pickleball
16. Community gardens
17. Sport courts - Basketball
18. Athletic fields - Football/Soccer/Lacrosse
19. Playgrounds
20. Athletic fields – Baseball

These amenities reflect a desire for diverse recreational opportunities, improved safety, and facilities that cater to various age groups within the community.

Project Preference Workshop

The Eatonville community was actively engaged by SCJ through various interactive approaches aimed at gathering insights about parks and recreation spaces. Participation occurred in two significant community events—the 3rd of July Fireworks and National Night Out—where booths were set up to facilitate direct interaction with residents and raise awareness about the PROS Planning process. Valuable opportunities were provided during these events to inquire about residents' recreation preferences, understand which parks were frequently visited, identify park-related barriers and concerns, and explore desired park amenities. To aid in meaningful conversations, maps of Eatonville's parks and trail systems were made available as visual aids. Additionally, a project visioning workshop was conducted at the Visitor's Center, allowing community members to participate in the design of their local parks. This multi-faceted approach combined online surveys with in-person interactions, recognizing that while data was yielded by surveys, deeper insights into the community's needs and desires were offered through direct engagement.

Engagement Events

July 3rd Fireworks- 7/3/2024

Eatonville's annual July 3rd Fireworks celebration attracts over 2,000 people from the town and neighboring communities like Yelm and Graham. This event serves as an excellent opportunity to engage with both local residents and visitors who have connections to the town through schools, jobs, or recreational activities such as hiking and fishing.

During community interactions, several key insights emerged about Eatonville's recreational landscape. The school district currently plays a pivotal role in managing most community recreational activities, providing essential facilities like a swimming pool, sports courts, and after-school programs. However, school representatives highlighted significant financial challenges, with a substantial portion of their budget being consumed by community needs rather than student-focused initiatives.

Community members discussed several critical recreational needs and observations. They expressed concerns about the lack of ADA-accessible parks, with some residents traveling to Yelm for such facilities. Trail infrastructure was another point of discussion, with community members requesting more resting places and consistent restroom access. An exciting point of enthusiasm was the potential for a splashpad in the town. Additionally, community groups like the Parent Teacher Association and those interested in community gardens showed strong engagement, particularly expressing interest in creating an inclusive community garden space that would be accessible to all residents.

National Night Out- 8/6/2024

National Night Out in Eatonville attracted approximately 200 visitors, providing a valuable opportunity for public engagement. However, the overall impact of the event was somewhat limited by its duration. During the event, community members voiced several concerns regarding local parks and recreational facilities, highlighting areas that require attention and improvement.

One of the primary issues raised was restroom accessibility in the parks. Attendees reported that many restrooms are not ADA accessible and are in poor condition, making it difficult for all community members to enjoy the facilities. This ongoing problem emphasizes the need for upgrades to ensure that everyone can access essential amenities.

Additionally, concerns were expressed about the accessibility of local trails. Many residents noted the lack of signage at trailheads, which poses a barrier for those unfamiliar with the area. One attendee even suggested that a comprehensive map of town trails be made available at the visitor's center to assist both residents and visitors in navigating these recreational spaces.

The community also highlighted a desire for more recreational activities tailored to adults, as well as concerns about the lack of maintenance in existing park facilities. Young children attending the event expressed their interest in having a baseball field added to the park offerings. These discussions underscore the community's eagerness for improved and more inclusive recreational spaces in Eatonville, emphasizing the importance of accessibility, maintenance, and diverse options for all age groups.

Project Visioning Workshop- 11/23/2024

SCJ organized a focused group event as an open house at the Visitors Center, inviting community members to provide insights about their parks and open spaces. The workshop was designed to encourage active community participation through interactive and engaging activities. Participants were provided with visual aids and invited to prioritize potential improvements for the town using a voting board featuring images of various site amenities such as dog parks, trails, and sports fields.

The design charrette was a key component of the workshop, where attendees annotated park and Eatonville maps. To facilitate this process, SCJ provided scaled templates of park elements like play structures, sports courts, and shade structures that participants could place on maps. Markers and additional stationery were also available for more detailed annotations. Approximately 20 community members attended, offering valuable insights and engaging in meaningful conversations about Eatonville's future recreational spaces.

During the workshop, several potential improvements and new spaces were identified. Community members suggested trail connections to Rimrock County Park, discussed relocating the community garden from its current privately owned land, and explored the possibility of creating a multipurpose sports field at the Paul Kreger Memorial field. They also proposed internal connections between Millpond and Smallwood parks through a walking accessway.

The voting boards revealed clear community preferences for future park developments. Dog park emerged as the highest priority, followed by multipurpose fields, water play areas, pickleball courts, nature play spaces, art installations, a community/learning garden, and additional pathways connecting parks. These suggestions reflected the community's diverse recreational needs and aspirations for enhancing their local park system.

Project Engagement Summary

Through multiple engagement efforts for Eatonville's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan, a total of 416 engagements and their responses were recorded, alongside participation in community events such as the July 3rd Fireworks, National Night Out, Public Visioning Workshop, and a Parks

& Recreation Committee Meeting. These efforts ensured a broad and representative community input process. From the feedback received, several key themes emerged:

Improved Maintenance and Facility Upgrades

Residents consistently highlighted the need for better maintenance and upkeep across Eatonville's parks. Concerns were raised about outdated playground equipment, unclean restrooms, and a lack of seating areas. Many respondents emphasized that regular maintenance programs are essential to improving the usability and overall visitor experience in parks. Clean and accessible restrooms, properly maintained trails, and well-kept recreational spaces were identified as critical factors in increasing park use and community satisfaction.

Accessibility and Pedestrian Connectivity

Accessibility was a major concern, with many residents calling for improvements to ADA compliance and pedestrian connectivity. Respondents stressed the importance of ensuring that parks and trails are accessible to all, including individuals with mobility challenges. There was a strong demand for ADA-compliant trails and pathways, better wayfinding signage to help visitors navigate parks, and improved sidewalks and bike lanes to provide safer access to recreational areas. Expanding pedestrian and bike-friendly infrastructure was seen as a key step toward making parks more inclusive and easily reachable for all residents.

Expanded Park Amenities

The survey revealed strong support for expanding and upgrading park amenities to better serve the community. Many residents expressed a desire for splash pads, updated and expanded playgrounds, covered picnic areas, and off-leash dog parks. There was also significant interest in additional sports fields and courts to accommodate local teams and

recreational leagues. Respondents emphasized that these enhancements would provide more opportunities for families and individuals to engage in outdoor activities and create spaces that encourage community gathering and play.

Safety and Security Enhancements

Concerns about safety and security were frequently mentioned, particularly regarding restroom conditions, vandalism, and general security within parks. Many participants stressed the need for increased lighting in high-traffic areas to improve visibility and safety. Suggestions were made to install security cameras and have more visible park caretakers or enforcement personnel to deter misuse and ensure that parks remain welcoming for all visitors. Addressing these concerns was seen as an important step in fostering a sense of security and encouraging more people to use park spaces without hesitation.

Recreational Programs and Community Activities

Residents expressed strong interest in expanding recreational programs that cater to all age groups. Respondents highlighted the need for teen, adult, and senior programs, such as fitness classes, cultural events, and sports leagues. Many also supported the idea of expanding community events similar to National Night Out and the Public Visioning Workshop to bring people together. There was also interest in providing educational opportunities, such as nature interpretation, gardening workshops, and historical preservation programs, to further enrich the recreational offerings in Eatonville.

Trail System and Connectivity Improvements

Many respondents emphasized the importance of enhancing Eatonville's trail network to improve connectivity and recreational access. There was strong interest in developing additional walking and biking trails that link parks, neighborhoods, and key community areas.

Some participants suggested repurposing old railroad tracks into multi-use trails, while others supported the idea of creating scenic routes along rivers and green spaces. Expanding Eatonville's trail system was seen as a way to promote outdoor activity, encourage alternative transportation, and provide more opportunities for nature-based recreation.

Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

Protecting and preserving natural areas emerged as a shared value among community members. Many participants emphasized the need to integrate sustainability practices into park planning and development. There was strong support for preserving native ecosystems and wildlife habitats, as well as incorporating environmentally friendly features such as rain gardens and low-impact landscaping. Respondents also expressed concerns about minimizing development in sensitive natural areas while still ensuring recreational access. The feedback highlighted the community's desire to balance outdoor recreation with environmental conservation.

Equitable Access to Parks and Recreation

Feedback from the engagement process revealed disparities in park access across different neighborhoods. Many residents emphasized the importance of ensuring that parks are within a short walk or bike ride for all community members. Some

respondents suggested expanding recreational facilities in underserved areas to provide more balanced opportunities for outdoor activities. Improving parking and transit options to increase accessibility was also seen as a necessary step in making parks more available to residents who live further from key recreational sites.

Promotion and Community Engagement

Participants emphasized the need for better communication and outreach about Eatonville's parks, events, and improvement projects. Many suggested using online platforms such as social media and community forums to share information about park resources and upcoming activities. Others recommended placing physical signage and maps at key locations around town to provide residents and visitors with easy access to park-related information. Collaborative partnerships with schools, local businesses, and community organizations were also mentioned as ways to foster greater awareness and engagement in park activities.

The engagement process demonstrated the community's strong connection to its parks and recreation spaces. The insights gathered from the survey and public events directly informed the recommendations within the PROS Plan, ensuring that future park improvements align with the needs and aspirations of Eatonville's residents. By prioritizing maintenance, accessibility, expanded amenities, and safety improvements, Eatonville can create a thriving, inclusive, and well-connected park system that serves both current and future generations.



Demand & Needs Analysis

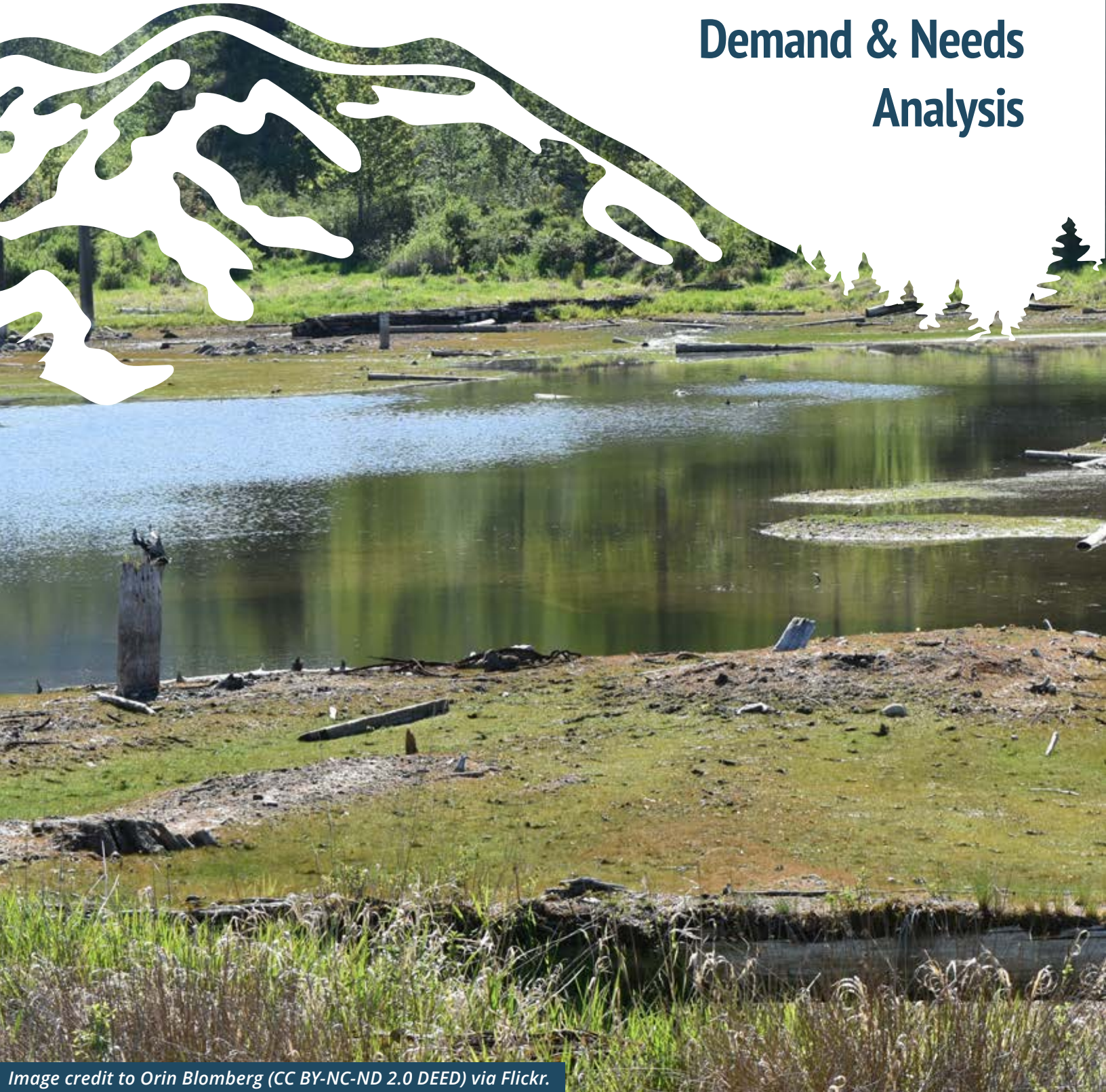


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Introduction

The purpose of the demand and needs analysis is to evaluate, quantify, and understand facility and recreation demands as well as identify existing and future needs for providing parkland, facilities, and open spaces. The needs include both the preservation of existing services and resources as well as desired needs that are projected into the future based on population forecasts and economic outlooks. The current update reflects the needs, desires, and recommended priorities that set the foundation for the next 6 to 10 years, as well as providing aspiration for the next 15 to 20 years.

Quantifications vs. Qualifications

Quantitative standards are traditionally used to assess the need for additional parks and recreation elements. Based on the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) guidelines and park metric database, simple comparisons of adequate land based on normalized averages across the country were the traditional way of determining what the minimum amount of parklands should be. This plan assesses

the recreational demands of the Town of Eatonville starting with level-of-service (LOS) standards, recreation trends, and a gap analysis of the current park system.

However, while quantifiable metrics allow for easy comparisons to be made, they are analytically and programmatically weak compared to understanding a community's quality of life. Engaging with community members through surveys, public meetings, and other forms of public consultation create metrics that can be better utilized in developing strong strategies and improvements. The previous section in this report describes this process in detail.

The end of this section compares the quantitative and the qualitative metrics to refine a methodology that can be used to test and, ultimately, select the kinds of improvements that will improve Eatonville's quality of life in a way that is aligned with its demonstrated values and preferences.

Level of Service (LOS) Standards

To gauge how well the system meets community needs, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) offers baseline guidance that relates

population to the number and types of parks and amenities. The common metric is parkland acreage per 1,000 residents. Because a single ratio is limited, this plan uses NRPA data for ease of comparison (see Table 4.1), then centers a quality of life model that reflects how residents actually experience their parks.

All inventory and LOS calculations include only Town of Eatonville owned and operated parks and recreation facilities. Facilities owned or managed by other entities are acknowledged but excluded from acreage, facility totals, and ratios. School district properties are the most frequent point of confusion and are excluded for practical reasons. Public access is constrained by class schedules, athletics, and security protocols, so residents cannot rely on those spaces like they can a Town park. Maintenance standards, capital priorities, and replacement cycles are set by a separate governing body, which limits the Town's control over service continuity. Agreements can change with budgets and leadership, and counting school fields can hide gaps in neighborhoods that lack true public parks. For these reasons, schools are documented as supplemental amenities, not core LOS.

The parkland to population ratio is calculated Town wide, then refined by park classification. For example, the suggested LOS for Community Parks is 3.5 acres per 1,000 people, within an estimated 9.05 acres per 1,000 people Town wide in 2024. Existing amenities are evaluated using the same approach and include only Town facilities. Differences between Town standards and NRPA reference metrics are quantified for today's population and for the 2050 projection.

The quality of life LOS is built from four lenses that guide investment decisions. Access considers who can reach parks within reasonable travel times by walking, biking, or driving and where service gaps exist. Equity ensures that investments address underserved areas and age groups. Condition measures safety, accessibility, and upkeep to protect the user experience and operating budgets. Experience evaluates how facilities and programs fit actual use patterns, including capacity at peak times. Community input calibrates these lenses. Engagement reached 14.53 percent of the Town's population through surveys and meetings, which is a robust sample for a town of Eatonville's size, and those responses weight what matters most.

This model reconciles national references with local reality. Where NRPA ratios suggest adequacy but quality of life scores are low, the plan favors improvements that boost access, condition, safety, or programming rather than pursuing acreage for its own sake. Where both the ratio and the quality of life score are low, the plan identifies targeted acquisitions or expansions alongside upgrades to existing sites. NRPA continues to encourage locally derived standards that reflect community goals and conditions. This plan follows that guidance so priorities for the next six to ten years, and the aspirational horizon for the next fifteen to twenty years, are tied to what residents value and what the Town can sustain.

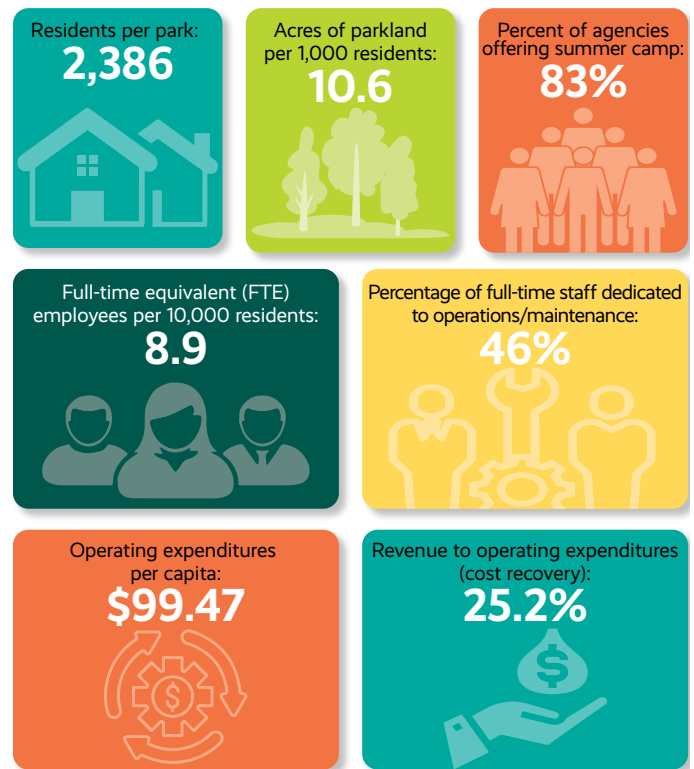


Figure 4-1: 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review Key Findings



Table 4-1: Level of Service (LOS) Quantification

	Quantity	Qty/1000 Residents	NRPA Target /1000 Residents	Current Difference	Projected Difference in 2050
Park Classification					
Community (Acres)	15.80	5.55	5 to 8	0.55	-0.91
Local (Acres)	7.37	2.59	1 to 2	1.59	0.91
Mini-Park (Acres)	1.05	0.37	0.25 to 0.5	0.12	0.02
Open Space (Acres)	7.62	2.68	5 to 10	-2.32	-3.03
Trails (Miles)	4.85	1.70	0.25 to 0.5	1.45	1.01
Total	36.69	12.90	10	2.90	-0.49
Amenities*					
Playground	3	1.05	1.59	-0.53	-1.10
Baseball / Softball	0	0.00	1.54	-1.54	-2.09
Soccer Field	0	0.00	1.14	-1.14	-1.54
Football Field	0	0.00	1.14	-1.14	-1.54
Multi-Use Field	1	0.35	1.14	-0.79	-1.19
Basketball (Full) Court	1.5	0.53	0.48	0.05	-0.13
Tennis Court*	1*	1	0.95	0.05	0
Pickleball Court*	1*	0.35	0.82	-0.47	-0.77
Community Garden	0	0.00	0.38	-0.38	-0.52
Skate Park	1	0.35	0.29	0.07	-0.04

* Proposed in Capital Improvement Program.

Park Equity and Access

One key factor that this PROS Plan addresses is the known distribution of the current developed park spaces. Even factoring in passive open space areas, the grouping of park amenities creates many gaps in some of Eatonville's residential neighborhoods. These gaps can be attributed to many factors, such as topography changes in the northern part of Eatonville and large transportation corridors that run through the town such Highway 12 and the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad.

To better understand where the demand and need for park lands should occur, a detailed series of service area maps was created on the following pages that identifies the current service area of each existing park and the new service areas created by proposed improvements.

To develop the service maps, Open Street Map data was used to identify and verify known sidewalk data and the Town's transportation grid that WSDOT provided. Sidewalks are considered to be safe walking routes. All the existing access points to each existing park and/or trail space were digitized and a network analysis of the safe walking routes to each access point was developed. The analysis would initially stop even if the end of a sidewalk was encountered before the 10-min range (approximately 1/2 mile) was reached.

The "10-Min Walk Metric"

A 10-minute walk is considered an important park access metric for several reasons. A 10-minute walk (approximately 1/2 mile on level ground) as a park access metric is important because it promotes physical activity, equity, sustainability, social interaction, and overall community well-being. It aligns with various health, environmental, and social goals the Town has and should encourage staff and policymakers to prioritize accessible green spaces as a fundamental part of Eatonville's development and the community's desired quality of life.

- ♦ **Physical Activity and Health:** Encouraging people to take a 10-minute walk to access a park promotes physical activity. Regular physical activity has numerous health benefits, including reducing the risk of obesity, heart disease, and other chronic health conditions. Parks provide opportunities for exercise and recreation, and making them easily accessible promotes active lifestyles.
- ♦ **Equity and Inclusivity:** A 10-minute walk metric can help address issues of equity and inclusivity. When parks are easily accessible on foot, it means that people who don't have access to personal vehicles or public transportation can still enjoy green spaces. This is especially important in urban areas where many residents may not own cars.
- ♦ **Reducing Environmental Impact:** Encouraging people to walk instead of drive to parks can

reduce the environmental impact of urban transportation. This metric aligns with sustainability goals by reducing the use of fossil fuels and decreasing traffic congestion.

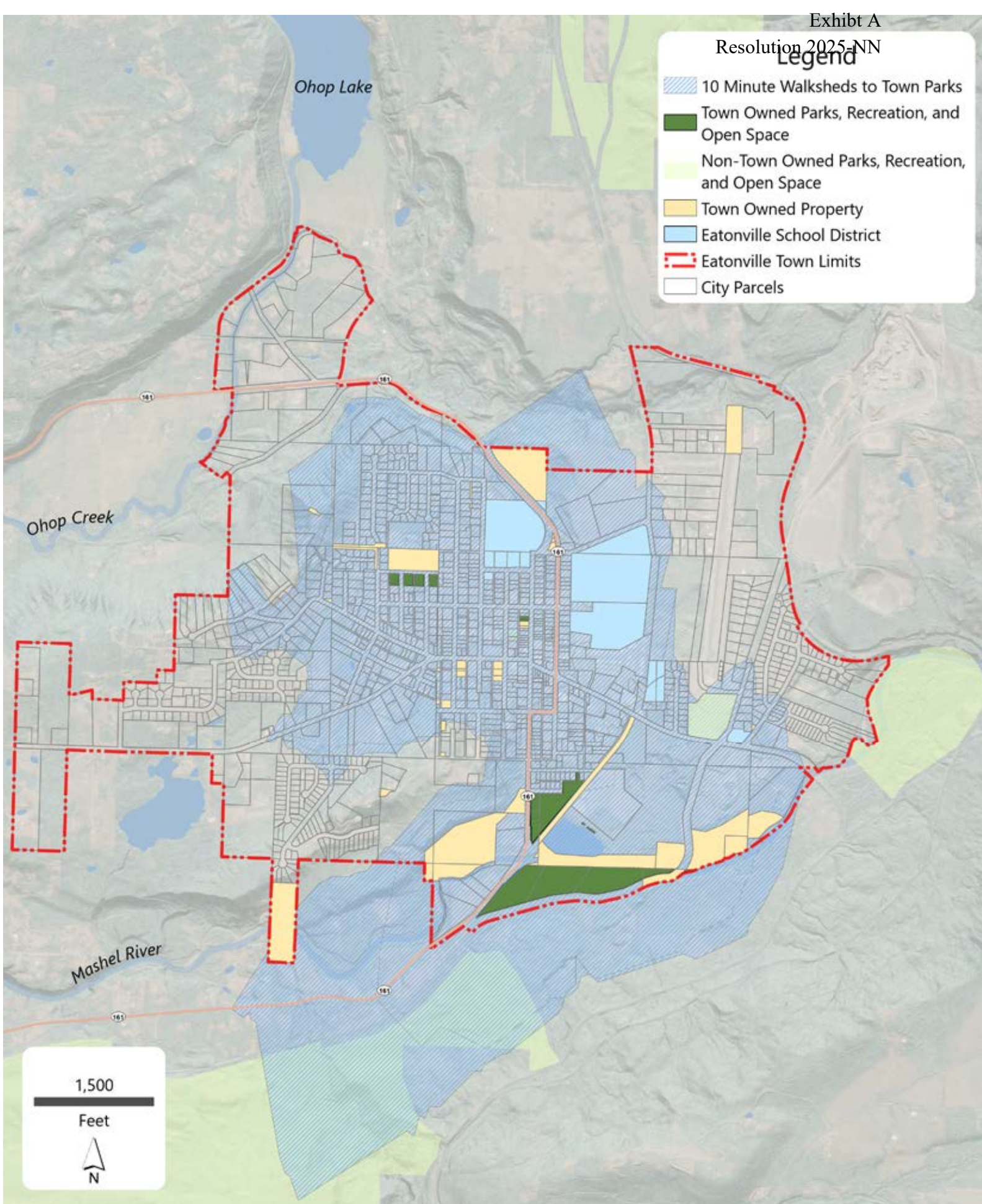
- ♦ **Social Interaction:** Easy park access can foster community and social interaction. When parks are within a short walking distance, people are more likely to meet their neighbors and gather in these communal spaces, which can have positive social and mental health benefits.
- ♦ **Economic Benefits:** Parks can provide economic benefits to the surrounding community, including increased property values and a boost to local businesses. When parks are accessible by a short walk, more people are likely to use them, potentially leading to increased economic activity in the area.
- ♦ **Safety:** When parks are easily accessible, it can enhance safety by increasing the number of people using the park. More foot traffic can deter criminal activity, making the park a safer place for all users.
- ♦ **Public Health and Well-being:** Parks provide spaces for relaxation, stress reduction, and connection with nature, which can contribute to improved mental health and overall well-being. Easy access to these spaces means that more people can benefit from these positive effects.
- ♦ **Urban Planning and Design:** Incorporating a 10-minute walk metric into urban planning and design can encourage the creation of pedestrian-friendly communities. This can lead to more walkable cities with improved infrastructure, sidewalks, and green spaces, which, in turn, can have a positive impact on quality of life.

The following pages contain maps that identify the service areas, AKA the 10-minute walksheds, for each existing park to show the current gaps.

The first map defines the service areas of known existing parks within and immediately surrounding the Town of Eatonville, regardless of whether owned by the town or not.

Legend

-  10 Minute Walksheds to Town Parks
-  Town Owned Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
-  Non-Town Owned Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
-  Town Owned Property
-  Eatonville School District
-  Eatonville Town Limits
-  City Parcels



Walkshed Report

Existing Town-Owned Parks and Open Space

The distribution of Eatonville's Parks allows for much of the town to be within a 10-minute walking distance to at least one town park. The majority of Eatonville's urban core is covered in service by Glacier View and Millpond Park, while the south end of the community is served by Smallwood Park. However, some residential neighborhoods of Eatonville are not quite in any Walkshed service area. Some of the residences in the far north, east, and west ends of Eatonville's town limits are not within an adequate walking distance to any town park. A Common Greenbelt Area on the South end of the town of Eatonville steeply slopes down towards the Mashel River on most of its land. Developing this area for any recreational use would be difficult and is not included in the Walkshed service area.

Existing Non Town-Owned Parks

There are a number of recreational opportunities in and around Eatonville that are not owned by the town itself, Paul Kreger Field provides closer recreational access for residents in the east side of the town, while Mashel Falls and Bud Blancher trailheads provide hiking opportunities in walking distance for many residents of Eatonville. These recreational opportunities expand the service area of the town as well as diversify the recreational opportunities within the community. However, as these are not owned by the Town of Eatonville itself, they may not be fully accessible to the public.

Eatonville's public schools are also a source of recreational opportunities. As the district is located close to much of Eatonville's residential core, it can also service many of the town's residents with its amenities. However, these amenities may not be fully accessible to the public at all times or may be allowed for school use only.

Gap Analysis

As outlined in the Goals & Objectives and related policies, ensuring that residents have fair and easy access to parks located within a half-mile of their homes is crucial for the overall health and well-being of the community.

This previous figure offers insights into population density and conducts a network analysis of park accessibility. This analysis examines each property's ability to reach a nearby park within a half-mile, either via a street or a trail. The service area maps are designed to demonstrate how accessible parks with various amenities are to the community and how accessibility could be enhanced through improvements to parks that currently offer limited amenities. It's worth noting that these accessibility gaps can be reduced by ensuring safe access to parks can be increased with new sidewalks and transportation improvements.

Population Growth Trends

Eatonville has experienced steady population growth since the year 2000. According to the U.S. Census, the town's population increased from approximately 2,012 residents in 2000 to around 2,758 residents in 2010, demonstrating a period of robust growth. However, this rate slowed significantly over the past decade, averaging an increase of roughly eight residents per year. This slowdown suggests the population may be stabilizing as the town approaches capacity in available space and resources.

As part of the state-mandated comprehensive planning process under Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA), Eatonville must meet population targets set by Pierce County. Currently, the county's population projection for Eatonville anticipates a faster growth rate of approximately 33 additional residents per year through 2044, significantly higher than the recent growth rate. This anticipated increase indicates a need for proactive planning to effectively manage community development, infrastructure improvements, and resource allocation.

Town of Eatonville Projections

Population and employment projections for Eatonville are guided by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) and Pierce County's comprehensive planning process. Eatonville's population grew steadily from approximately 2,012 residents in 2000 to 2,758 in 2010, and reached approximately 2,845 in 2020. Recent growth has slowed, averaging roughly eight residents per year; however, to meet Pierce County's 2044 population target, the town would need to increase growth significantly to about 33 residents per year.

Regarding employment, Pierce County set a target of approximately 1,121 jobs in Eatonville by 2044. Recent data indicate Eatonville's employment has grown by about 6.4 jobs annually, slightly exceeding the required rate (6.3 jobs per year) to achieve the county's target. Continued strategic planning and investment are essential to ensure Eatonville meets these growth projections sustainably and effectively.

Recreational Trends

Outdoor recreation is on the rise nationwide, and Washington State and its communities are no exception. Since 2019, and especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, outdoor recreation equipment sales saw a significant increase across all major product categories. In Washington, there has been a notable surge in the participation rates of 20 outdoor activities since 2017. Among these activities, non-motorized trails, nature and wildlife viewing, camping, paddling, winter recreation, and leisure activities in nearby parks are consistently in high demand among Washington residents. With an expected statewide population increase of 2 million residents in the next 25 years, it's more critical for cities such as Eatonville to plan demand for outdoor recreation facilities.

Outdoor recreation not only supports local economies but also connects people with the natural world, promoting physical and mental well-being. With the rise of work-from-home arrangements post-pandemic and housing shifts from larger cities to smaller communities, residents are increasingly seeking convenient access to a variety of outdoor experiences, both developed and primitive, that allow them to integrate nature-based recreation into their busy schedules while avoiding crowds and traffic.

However, striking a balance between providing access to outdoor recreation and safeguarding natural and cultural resources remains a significant concern statewide. The heavy concentration of outdoor recreation at popular sites has led to resource degradation and reduced user satisfaction. Many communities face disparities in access to meaningful outdoor recreation opportunities, and residents often struggle with the time, cost, and information needed to support their outdoor pursuits. As the state aims to promote equitable access to the social, health, and economic benefits of outdoor recreation, a careful approach to outdoor recreation management is essential to ensure the protection of natural and cultural resources.



Table 4-2: 2023 Top 20 Outdoor Recreation Activities in Washington State*

Activity	Activity Category	%	N
Walking or Using Mobility Device on Roads or Sidewalks	Trail- and Road-Based Activities	91%	5,390
Walking or Day Hiking or Using Mobility Device on Trails	Trail- and Road-Based Activities	90%	5,331
Wildlife and Nature Viewing	Nature- and Culture-Based Activities	85%	4,812
Scenic Driving (Sightseeing)	Nature- and Culture-Based Activities	85%	4,767
Hanging Out	Leisure Activities in Parks	70%	3,679
Picnic, Barbecue, or Cookout	Leisure Activities in Parks	68%	3,639
Community Garden or Farmers' Market	Leisure Activities in Parks	66%	3,556
Visiting Outdoor Cultural or Historical Facility**	Nature- and Culture-Based Activities	62%	3,413
Swimming in Natural Settings	Water-Based Activities	61%	3,374
Paddle Sports (Whitewater, Canoes, Kayaks, Stand-Up Paddle Boards, Rowing)	Water-Based Activities	52%	2,910
Outdoor Concert or Special Event	Leisure Activities in Parks	49%	2,602
Gathering or Collecting Anything in Nature	Nature- and Culture-Based Activities	49%	2,635
Tent Camping (Developed Campground)	Camping Activities	44%	2,510
Backpacking	Trail- and Road-Based Activities	42%	2,349
Playground	Leisure Activities in Parks	41%	2,148
Tent Camping (Undeveloped Area)	Camping Activities	41%	2,247
Road Cycling	Trail- and Road-Based Activities	40%	2,240
Yard Games (Beanbag Toss, Horseshoes, etc.)	Leisure Activities in Parks	38%	1,966
Volunteering (Restoration Projects, Citizen Science, etc.)	Nature- and Culture-Based Activities	37%	1,984
Jogging or Running on Roads or Sidewalks	Trail- and Road-Based Activities	35%	1,944
Snowshoeing	Snow and Ice Activities	35%	1,821

* By Participation Rate - % of Population, N = Number of Responses

** Includes Attending Cultural Events

Source: [2023 WA RCO SCORP](#), page 41.

2030 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The 2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan, commonly referred to as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), is a comprehensive document outlining the state's vision for outdoor recreation and public land conservation. Developed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the plan guides investments for the next 5-10 years. It considers

the challenges and benefits of outdoor recreation, assesses current demand, and inventories existing opportunities. By establishing statewide priorities and goals, the plan serves a crucial role in securing funding, guiding investments strategically, and fostering collaboration between land managers. Public input through surveys and outreach ensures the plan reflects the needs of Washington residents. Ultimately, the WA State RCO SCORP Plan serves as a blueprint for a sustainable future where outdoor recreation and public lands are preserved and accessible for all.

RCO's 2022 Assessment of Resident Demand

According to the 2022 Assessment of Resident Demand report, participation rates for 45 recreational activities were compared to data from 2017. All but two activities—technology-based games and collecting or gathering things in nature—showed increased participation.

The activities with the most significant increases in participation included:

1. **Wildlife or nature viewing** (28%).
2. **Paddle sports** (28%).
3. **Visiting outdoor cultural sites or events** (19%).
4. **Tent camping in developed areas** (19%).
5. **Casual use or hanging out in parks** (19%).
6. **Mountain biking** (18%).

This trend underscores a growing community preference for outdoor recreation opportunities closely connected to nature.

Eatonville falls within Pierce County, classified by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) within the Puget Sound region. Similar to regional trends, Eatonville has observed rising interest in trail-related activities such as hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, and informal use of parks. There has also been increasing popularity in seasonal activities such as snowshoeing, reflecting Eatonville's proximity to Mount Rainier and surrounding natural amenities.

Walking continues to be a widely preferred recreational activity across demographic groups, echoing broader regional findings. Additionally, there has been a noticeable increase in participation in paddle sports, wildlife viewing, and other nature-oriented activities, highlighting residents' strong connection to Eatonville's surrounding environment and outdoor lifestyle.

Trails

Trails, both within parks and connecting parks, schools, shops, and destinations, are generally the top demand seen across the country. Providing trail connections between these popular destinations enhances a community's walkability and encourages active lifestyles. Trail usage has seen a significant uptick in recent years, with data suggesting a surge starting in 2020. Recent studies by both American Trails report increases ranging from 79% to 171% and can attributed to several factors, especially as

a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With access to traditional forms of exercise and leisure activities significantly impacted due to closures and safety concerns, many people turned to outdoor recreation, including hiking and other trail-based activities as safe and accessible options. This trend has continued post-pandemic, with increased trail use likely due, in part, to the population continuing to seek alternative ways to exercise and maintain mental well-being.

While some pandemic restrictions have eased, evidence from the National Parks Service and the Washington State SCORP suggests a continued rise, or at least a steady hold, in trail use. This trend underscores the growing importance of well-maintained trail networks. This applies not just within parks themselves, but also in connecting parks and open spaces together. As demand for these outdoor spaces rises, so too does the need for additional supporting infrastructure to ensure their continued enjoyment by all.

Canines

The trend of dog ownership in the United States is experiencing a significant upswing, with estimates suggesting a population exceeding 89 and 94 million canine companions nationwide. This surge translates to a parallel rise in demand for designated dog parks across the country. These parks, particularly larger facilities, have become popular destinations, attracting dog owners and potentially boosting agency revenue through user fees and contributing to tourism.

In Washington State, the growing human-canine bond is likely influencing public land use plans. With dogs increasingly viewed as cherished family members, especially in urban environments, families are actively seeking opportunities to include their furry companions in outdoor activities. Cities are likely taking note of this trend, potentially leading to the inclusion of designated dog walking areas or off-leash spaces within their planning strategies.

RV Tourism

The RV industry has experienced steady growth in recent years, with projections for continued expansion in the coming decade. While the COVID-19 pandemic caused a temporary dip in sales in early 2020, the industry recovered swiftly. Reports suggest growth of around 2.4% to 7% depending on the source, between 2010 and 2023. This surpasses the national population growth rate, highlighting the increasing popularity of RV travel.

Several factors contribute to the RV industry's expansion:

- ♦ **Shift Towards Domestic Travel:** A growing preference for domestic vacations, fueled by concerns about international travel or a desire to explore closer to home, has benefited the RV industry.
- ♦ **Remote Work:** The rise of remote work arrangements has created a new demographic of RV owners. Individuals with location-independent jobs can now work from anywhere with an internet connection, making RV travel a more viable option.
- ♦ **Appeal of Outdoor Recreation:** The RV lifestyle aligns well with the growing interest in outdoor recreation. RVs provide a convenient base camp for exploring national parks, forests, and other scenic destinations.
- ♦ **Multi-Generational Appeal:** RV travel caters to a diverse range of demographics. Families with young children, retirees seeking adventure, and friend groups embarking on road trips all find RVs to be a comfortable and versatile travel option.

Market analysts predict continued growth for the RV industry over the next decade. Estimates vary, with some sources projecting a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4.2% to 8.15% between 2024 and 2029. This translates to a potential market size exceeding \$69 billion by 2032 according to some forecasts. The increasing popularity of RV travel, coupled with the factors mentioned above, suggests a robust future for the industry.

As the desire for domestic travel, outdoor recreation, and flexible living arrangements persists, the RV industry is well-positioned to continue its expansion in the coming decade.

Pickleball & Padel

The participation in pickleball has witnessed a remarkable surge, growing by 159% in just three years, reaching 8.9 million participants in 2022, as reported by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association.

This swift expansion has presented challenges for public parks and recreation departments, which must strike a balance between the competing interests of diverse recreational activities while working within the constraints of limited space and budgets.

Parks agencies are becoming increasingly confronted with the task of accommodating pickleball enthusiasts, who favor this tennis-like sport with a smaller court, without causing discomfort or inconvenience to others. The noise and disruption generated by pickleball is becoming more a source of frustration for some neighbors, tennis enthusiasts, parents with young children, and other community members.

In various towns and cities, homeowners' associations and local residents have begun to impose restrictions on pickleball activities and thwart the construction of new courts. They have initiated petitions, pursued legal actions, and voiced their concerns at council and town hall meetings, all in an effort to temper the widespread enthusiasm for pickleball and its unique auditory characteristics.

Like pickleball, Padel is a racket sport of Mexican origin gaining popularity across the United States. This game is a cross between tennis, racquetball, and squash. It's currently estimated that Padel has over 100,000 players in the United States, and the number of courts has more than doubled in the last two years, expecting to grow to 30,000 courts by 2030.

Youth Sports

Participation in youth sports leagues has undergone a complex transformation in recent years. While traditional team sports remain popular, data suggests a decline in children (ages 6-12) consistently playing on teams. The Aspen Project reports a drop from 45% in 2008 to 38% in 2018, and the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) confirms this trend with a 6% decline in core participation (ages 6-17) between 2019 and 2022. This translates to roughly 1.2 million fewer participants. Several factors may contribute to this decline, including the financial burden of participation fees, equipment, and travel expenses, concerns about over-specialization leading to burnout, and time constraints due to competing academic and extracurricular demands.

This changing landscape has potential implications for the need for large regional sports facilities. While the decline in regular participation suggests a decreased demand for facilities solely focused on traditional team sports, total team sports participation (including those playing at least once a year) remained stable between 2019 and 2022, suggesting a potential shift towards less structured forms of sports involvement. Basketball continues to be the most popular sport, with nearly a quarter of youth (ages 6-17) participating at least once in 2022.

Multi-sport facilities catering to a wider range of activities and hosting tournaments or events attracting teams from a broader area are expected to see continued use. Well-designed facilities could also become community hubs, offering recreational activities for all ages and potentially incorporating amenities like fitness centers or indoor walking tracks that would not be affected by inclement weather.

The future of youth sports will require adaptation in programs. Focusing on fun and inclusivity, offering flexible scheduling and shorter seasons, implementing strategies to reduce financial barriers, e.g. developing parks districts to help cover long-term operating & maintenance costs, and promoting foundational athletic skills applicable to various sports are all crucial considerations. By adapting to these trends, youth sports programs can ensure they continue to play a vital role in promoting physical activity, social development, and positive health outcomes for children.

Playground Trends

Modern playground design reflects a growing emphasis on inclusivity, fostering connections with nature, and catering to a wider range of users. A key trend to note is the creation of inclusive playgrounds, ensuring accessibility for children with various abilities through features like ramps, sensory panels, and equipment that accommodates different physical and cognitive needs.

Playgrounds are also increasingly designed to mimic natural environments, incorporating elements like logs, boulders, and water features. This reconnection with nature encourages open-ended and imaginative play. The concept of multi-generational playgrounds is also gaining traction, offering adult fitness equipment and interactive features that promote intergenerational play within families and communities. Grant programs such as AARP's FitLot program is a great example.

Sensory play experiences are being actively integrated through musical instruments, textured panels, and fragrant plants. These elements stimulate different senses, enriching the play experience and catering to children with special needs.

While still emerging, some playgrounds are exploring seamless technology integration through augmented reality or interactive elements, adding a new layer to physical play. Recognizing the limitations of shrinking green spaces in downtown cores or within communities, there's a growing focus on "playgrounds within reach."

This involves maximizing the play value of smaller spaces through multifunctional equipment, innovative design, and better integration with surrounding areas.

Overall, these trends highlight a shift towards playgrounds that are not just fun, but also inclusive, educational, and promote holistic development in children.

Electrification

As electric technology develops, maintenance equipment, vehicles, mowers, and other equipment used in parks and recreation are transitioning from gas powered resources to electric assets.

This transition provides long-term cost savings, environmental benefits, and decreased noise. Additionally, parks and trailheads should consider the addition of EV charging stations in parking lots, as the number of EV cars on the road continues to grow. Washington State has led this transition to electric vehicles, with over 18% of new cars sold in the first half of 2023 being fully electric or plug-in hybrids according to the Seattle Times. Vehicle chargers located at park facilities enable drivers to engage with park facilities while waiting for a full charge.

Climate Resiliency

The concept of electrification pertains to growing needs for climate resilience and the ways in which future park implementations can accommodate the increase of hotter days and nights, as well as the increase of storm and wildfire impacts. Parks create a great opportunity to address these goals through smart design and engineering. Parks and open space can mitigate urban heat islands, absorb flood and stormwater, and create fire breaks through green space and linear trail corridors. Climate change, stormwater/flooding implementations, and tree canopy coverage should be considered in future park renovations to increase resiliency.

Funding Threats & Availability

Funding for parks and municipal recreation services has been forced into a creative shift as municipalities have been forced to seek additional ways to fund operation and improvements. Long-standing grant and funding assistance programs have repeatedly come under threat at both the federal and state level. Congress let the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) expire in 2015 for the first time in 50 years.

In response to public outcry, several members in Congress fought for a short-term solution: an emergency authorization of three years. In 2016, Congress had another opportunity to permanently reauthorize LWCF, thanks to legislation championed by Washington's own Senator Maria Cantwell in the Energy Bill. While LWCF initially failed under the past administration, in September 2021, LWCF was permanently authorized with full funding through the Dingell Act. This act directed a significant portion of offshore oil and gas royalties to the LWCF for the preservation of public lands, waters, and recreational opportunities.

Since then, specific funding levels and appropriations for the LWCF have varied from year to year as part of the federal budgeting process. Funding for the LWCF depends on annual appropriations by Congress, hence the program's budget and funding levels can be subject to changes and priorities set by the federal government.

Investments in Parks Will Rise

Across other municipal agencies statewide, investment in state and local infrastructure, which had been depressed since the Great Recession of 2008, and especially since the COVID-related stimulus packages, e.g., ARPA, increased federal funding has helped that fund public works and park and recreation infrastructure improvements, such as buildings, restrooms, and roads. State and local spending is up nearly 10 percent from last year, according to data from the Commerce Department, and spending on capital outlays continues to grow. The Commerce Department data also show that spending on amusement and recreation facilities is up 31 percent from a year ago. It appears that economic conditions will remain favorable for new investments in park and recreation infrastructure if local and state tax collections continue to rise and interest rates remain relatively low. Building on the momentum of the past few years, local and state governments will make even more park and recreation infrastructure investments in buildings, playground equipment, roads and bridges, and capital repairs to aging infrastructure, topping the highest level of infrastructure spending since the recession of 2008.

Demand & Needs Summary

As outlined in this section, a series of qualitative demands and needs is impacting, or will be impacting, the Town's desired quality of life. To address these needs, capital improvements need to focus on the following key objectives:

- ♦ **Improved Access:** To better accommodate a shifting demographic and providing more opportunities to residents and visitors, safer and more convenient access to the Town's park spaces, trails, and waterfronts needs to be created.
- ♦ **Improved Maintenance and Cleanliness:** Many respondents emphasized the need for better maintenance and cleanliness in the parks, including regularly mowed grass, clean restrooms, and removal of debris.
- ♦ **Safety Concerns:** Safety was a recurring theme, with concerns about vagrancy, drug use, and a desire to create a safe environment for families, children, and individuals.
- ♦ **Need for Playground Equipment:** There is a clear desire for more playground equipment, since there is only one real park with a set of playground equipment.
- ♦ **Additional Amenities:** Requests for new amenities such as a paved trail, aquatic center, walking paths, picnic areas, boat launches, and off-leash dog parks were common.
- ♦ **Promotion and Events:** Many people mentioned the need for better promotion of parks and recreational areas and the organization of more community events throughout the year.
- ♦ **Accessible Restrooms:** A strong desire for clean and accessible restrooms at the parks was evident.
- ♦ **Infrastructure Improvements:** Some respondents highlighted the need for infrastructure improvements, such as lights, benches, tables, and facilities like an outdoor stage or, possibly, an ice rink in winter.
- ♦ **Environmental Awareness:** Several people mentioned the importance of preserving the natural beauty of Eatonville, including the lakes and dark skies.

Capital Improvement Program



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Introduction

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) establishes a focused plan to address the priorities identified in the Town of Eatonville's Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Plan. The CIP was shaped by direct community feedback, supported by analyses of existing conditions and future demands. It provides a structured approach to guide improvements, ensuring that Eatonville's parks and open spaces are functional, safe, and aligned with public expectations.

The program outlines specific investments in park facilities, recreational amenities, and trail systems to respond to the current and evolving needs of the community. Key projects aim to improve accessibility, enhance maintenance, and resolve service gaps. The six-year implementation plan balances immediate improvements with the operational and maintenance resources available to the Town, while also identifying long-term goals that will rely on partnerships and external funding opportunities.

Summary of Proposed Projects

Recreation Enhancements

- ◆ Renovate or replace existing play structures, provide safe and inclusive play spaces.
- ◆ Increase walking paths, picnic areas/shelters, and seating.
- ◆ Establish a gathering space that can effectively host an array of community events and activities.
- ◆ Install trees, landscaping, and community gardens.

Athletic Field/Court Enhancements

- ◆ Develop new public athletic facilities within parks, including pickleball court(s) and multi-use field(s).
- ◆ Renovate existing sport courts, improving surfacing and lighting.

Infrastructure Enhancements

- ◆ Upgrade support facilities within Eatonville's parks, including improvement of restroom buildings and parking areas.

Town-Wide Opportunities

- ♦ Develop a town trail network, connecting new trails existing ones, promoting interaction with local nature areas, and establishing trails for cyclists.
- ♦ Implement interpretive/interactive art and signage throughout Eatonville.

These projects are designed to address identified needs while balancing the Town's budgetary constraints and operational capacity. The CIP positions the Town of Eatonville to pursue funding opportunities and partnerships to achieve these goals over time.

Develop Strategic Projects to Maximize Funding Opportunities

Funding improvements to the parks system should not rely solely on the Town's resources. To maximize public investment in parks, recreation, and open space facilities and services, the Town should adopt a proactive approach to securing grants, donations, and other external funding sources. This includes identifying and aligning specific improvements with well-established grant programs that have a strong history of funding success.

To maximize funding potential in a competitive environment, the Town should focus on projects that integrate multiple elements beyond traditional park improvements. By combining transportation, critical areas, open space conservation, and economic development components into park projects, the Town can broaden their appeal to a wider range of funding sources and create more flexible implementation options.

For example, park improvements that include trail and access enhancements can align with transportation-focused grants such as Safe Routes to School or pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure programs. Similarly, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grants, like the Youth Athletic Facility or Land and Water Conservation Fund, can be paired with projects that address broader community needs, such as habitat restoration, stormwater management, or urban connectivity.

This multidimensional approach not only increases the likelihood of securing funding but also supports collaboration with County, State,

and Federal programs. By strategically aligning park improvements with overlapping goals in transportation, environmental conservation, and economic development, the Town can expand its funding flexibility, optimize resources, and deliver projects with greater community impact.

Developing The Capital Improvement Program

This program was developed through a transparent and inclusive process centered on public engagement. The plan was built on a series of public workshops, surveys, and stakeholder discussions to gather insights on the needs and aspirations of residents. This input, along with an analysis of existing conditions and future demands, shaped the recommendations and priorities for Eatonville's parks, recreation, and open space improvements.

Covering a six-year planning period from 2025 to 2031, the program also provides a conceptual framework for aspirational improvements addressing projected growth and evolving community needs. Projects are organized into short- and long-term timelines, allowing flexibility to adapt as funding availability, grant cycles, permitting requirements, and other variables influence priorities. This structure ensures the plan serves as a dynamic and adaptable guide, capable of responding to changing circumstances.

To maximize funding opportunities and implementation flexibility, the program integrates park improvements with broader community goals. Trail and access projects, for example, align with transportation initiatives like Safe Routes to School, while conservation efforts are incorporated into recreational enhancements. Designing projects with multiple dimensions broadens their appeal to funding sources, improves competitiveness, and delivers greater overall value to the community.

While the recommendations provide an initial framework for sequencing, implementation timelines remain flexible. Factors such as design and permitting requirements, funding cycles, critical maintenance needs, and staff will influence the pace of project delivery. This approach ensures responsiveness to emerging opportunities and changing needs.

Reflecting public input, the project list has been vetted by Town staff and the Town Council. To maintain its relevance, a formal update process should be initiated in early-to-mid 2030.

This update will engage residents, reassess service levels, propose new improvements, and renew eligibility for funding programs like those offered by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

The program provides a strategic framework to guide Eatonville's parks and recreation investments, aligning projects with community priorities and ensuring flexibility to address challenges and opportunities as they arise.

Managing the CIP

The Capital Improvement Program for Eatonville's parks, recreation, open space, and trails is intended to be a dynamic and adaptable tool to guide improvements throughout the life cycle of this plan. Recognizing the changing nature of community needs, funding opportunities, and Town priorities, it should be integrated into the Town's annual capital improvement budgeting process and supported by consistent performance monitoring and evaluation.

To ensure the program remains effective and responsive to evolving circumstances, the following actions should be embedded into the Town's annual processes:

Annual Prioritization Review

Each year, Town staff, along with advisory volunteers or committees, should evaluate the current state of the park system and review the recommendations in the plan. This process should consider changes in funding availability, demographic shifts, or emerging needs. Adjustments to the priorities and timelines should be made as necessary to ensure alignment with community goals and available resources.

Funding Source Review

A detailed review of anticipated versus actual funding sources should be conducted annually. This includes evaluating the success of grant applications and identifying new funding opportunities. Staff should use lessons learned from previous funding cycles to refine strategies, adapt project scopes, and adjust timelines if funding goals are not met or if additional resources become available.



Maintenance and Operational Review

Before implementing any park improvement or pursuing funding, the associated maintenance and operational costs should be thoroughly evaluated. Ensuring that resources are allocated for ongoing upkeep prevents overextension of the Town's capacity and ensures long-term sustainability of improvements.

Coordination with other Town Projects

Park and open space improvements should be reviewed alongside other planned municipal projects, such as transportation and public works initiatives. Coordinating efforts allows for shared resources, reduces redundancy, and enhances the overall impact of improvements. Aligning projects with broader Town goals ensures that parks contribute to Eatonville's desired quality of life.

Capital Improvement Plan Projects

The process of creating the program involved extensive public engagement, including interactive workshops, surveys, and community meetings, as well as written and verbal comments submitted informally. This feedback was paired with input from Town staff and Council to ensure projects reflected community priorities and operational realities.

A variety of ranking methods were considered to prioritize projects, with criteria such as funding availability, cost estimates, community support, operational and maintenance requirements, safety considerations, and environmental compatibility informing decision-making. The program also incorporates lessons learned from previous planning cycles, recognizing that community interest and available funding are critical to successful project implementation.

While the prioritization framework provides guidance, the program was intentionally designed to allow flexibility. Projects that may not have ranked highly during initial discussions were included to give the Town the ability to monitor and build support over time. Similarly, projects with advanced planning or clear funding paths may be implemented earlier, but all projects are considered important for the comprehensive development of the park system.

Estimate of Probable Cost

The project cost estimates provided in this section represent preliminary opinions of probable construction costs for the recommended improvements across individual parks and Town-wide projects. These estimates are intended to serve as a planning tool for budgeting and scoping future design and construction efforts. They are subject to refinement as site-specific conditions, final designs, and market circumstances evolve.

Many of the cost estimates are based on information derived from existing park master planning efforts already underway. Each item in the cost summary is directly tied to the recommendations detailed in this section, providing a clear linkage between proposed improvements, potential funding sources, and anticipated costs.

To account for potential cost volatilities and uncertainties, inflation rates, annual cost escalators, design contingencies, permitting fees, and other soft costs have been included with a deliberately conservative approach. By purposefully overestimating these variables, the estimates are designed to provide a buffer against unforeseen market fluctuations and challenges that may arise during project implementation. This conservative approach ensures that financial planning remains robust and adaptable as conditions change.

It is important to note that the costs associated with Town staff time for project management and oversight are not included in these estimates. These preliminary cost opinions are a foundational tool to guide budgeting, prioritization, and decision-making while allowing flexibility to adapt as new information and opportunities arise during the planning, design, and construction phases.

Project Implementation and Prioritization

Projects identified in the plan are not strictly ranked but are categorized based on general levels of community interest and implementation feasibility. The program recognizes that unforeseen opportunities, such as grants, donations, or volunteer efforts, may accelerate the development of some projects over others. Additionally, annual reviews of the program should account for changing circumstances, including new funding sources, demographic shifts, or emerging recreational trends.

Key examples of prioritization include:

- ♦ **High-Use Park Enhancements:** Improvements to Glacier View Park and Millpond Park are prioritized due to their frequent use and potential for broad community impact. These projects include recreational development, athletic court upgrades, and restroom renovations.
- ♦ **Connectivity Projects:** Trails linking parks, schools, and neighborhoods are emphasized to enhance access and mobility, aligning with broader transportation and community goals.

Long-Term Vision

In addition to the six-year framework, the program establishes a foundation for long-term planning, including efforts to address level-of-service deficits and identify opportunities for land acquisition. This vision ensures Eatonville remains proactive in meeting the recreational needs of its growing population while preserving and enhancing its unique character.

By combining public input, strategic planning, and flexibility, the program provides a clear yet adaptable path for the continued development of Eatonville's parks, recreation, and open space system. It reflects the Town's commitment to improving quality of life and creating lasting value for its residents and visitors.

Table 5-1: Primary Funding Source Key	
Key	Funding Program
A	RCO WWRP Local Parks
B	RCO WWRP Trails
C	RCO WWRP Habitat
D	RCO Youth Athletic Facilities**
E	RCO Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities*
F	RCO Land Water Conservation Fund
G	RCO No Child Left Inside
H	RCO Outdoor Learning Grants
J	Dept of Commerce Economic Development Grants
L	Town Bonds
M	Real Estate Tax
N	Town Budget
O	Federal Transportation Act - Enhancement Programs (TIB, SRTS)
P	RCO ALEA

Funding Key

The project funding matrix (see Table 5-2) for Eatonville's parks, recreation, and open space improvements outlines secured and unsecured funding options tailored to each proposed project. These funding options consider the unique characteristics of each improvement, providing a mix of pathways to finance both immediate and long-term goal

Secured Funding Sources

Secured funding sources include mechanisms that provide guaranteed financial backing. These include:

- ♦ **Municipal Bonds:** Debt issued by the Town and repaid over time, typically through property taxes or other dedicated revenue streams. These bonds provide upfront capital for major park and recreation projects, allowing improvements to be made without immediate full payment from the Town's budget.
- ♦ **Revenue Bonds:** Backed by specific revenue streams, such as user fees from park facilities or events.
- ♦ **General Obligation Bonds:** Secured by the Town's taxing authority and used for larger-scale investments.
- ♦ **Park Revenues:** Operations and maintenance for Eatonville's park system are heavily supported by the General Fund. This funds plays a critical role in sustaining the Town's parks and recreation system.
- ♦ **Town Budget:** Certain smaller projects or urgent needs may be financed directly from the Town's existing parks budget or general fund.

Unsecured Funding Sources

Unsecured sources depend on competitive or discretionary funding. These include:

- ♦ **Grant Programs:** Outdoor recreation funding available through the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), such as:
 - Youth Athletic Facility Grants
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Trails or Non-Motorized Infrastructure Grants
- ♦ **Donations and Sponsorships:** Partnerships with community organizations, local businesses, or individuals to sponsor specific improvements or events.
- ♦ **Partnerships:** Collaboration with local school districts, neighboring municipalities, or non-profit organizations to share costs and resources for mutual benefit.

To support Eatonville's planning efforts, Appendix D provides a comprehensive description of all available funding options, offering additional guidance for financing park improvements. This appendix serves as a resource for identifying new opportunities and aligning funding strategies with project needs.

By leveraging a combination of secured and unsecured sources, along with operational revenues, Eatonville can effectively fund its parks, recreation, and open space initiatives. This diversified approach ensures the flexibility and adaptability needed to respond to evolving community needs and funding opportunities.

Long-Term Maintenance Planning and Goals

To address the life cycle costs of key park system elements, the Town of Eatonville has identified various strategies for long-term maintenance planning. Establishing a dedicated revolving fund or account is a proposed solution to ensure resources are available for substantial investments in repairs, replacements, and upgrades. This fund could support emergency fixes, unforeseen opportunities, and the preparation for larger operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses, such as replacing synthetic play surfacing, updating wayfinding and signage, maintaining Tree Town USA initiatives, or expanding recreational programming.

Aspirational Projects

Eatonville's aspirational projects focus on creating

dynamic spaces and enhancing connectivity to reflect the Town's evolving needs and identity. These projects align with community feedback and long-term goals to provide vibrant recreational opportunities and bolster Eatonville's unique character.

Community and Recreation Center

Eatonville's residents have expressed interest in the development of an indoor recreation facility that would serve the community. The facility could provide a secure place for residents to exercise and engage in community activities throughout the year.

Community Pool/Splash Pad

The development of a community pool and/or splash pad was a popular idea among Eatonville's residents in the community surveys and public events. This would provide a safe and accessible form of water play for Eatonville's residents, particularly children, toddlers, and people with disabilities.

Supporting Long-Term Growth

By focusing on projects like the trail network and future recreational spaces, Eatonville can ensure its parks and recreation system remains adaptable and responsive to community needs. Partnerships with local organizations, regional stakeholders, and grant providers will be essential in advancing these aspirations, ensuring Eatonville's parks continue to enhance quality of life and foster a vibrant, connected community.

CIP Improvements Table

The chart on the following pages constitutes the Action and Capital Improvement Plan which outlines the actions and costs needed to implement the six-year plan: which should be re-evaluated frequently to determine when and if new needs exist, or in cases where studies suggest that projects simply are not feasible. Significant projects will have a master plan prepared, reviewed with public input, and approved by the Town Council before the Town dedicates substantial funding. This Plan is intended to be a part of the Town's overall Capital Improvement Plan and should be adopted as a part thereof.

It should be noted that dollar amounts given are estimates and thus are subject to change as plans for improvements are refined. The Plan should be reviewed on an annual basis in order to update the information as needed based on current economic conditions.

Legend

- Town Owned Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Non-Town Owned Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Town Owned Property
- Eatonville School District
- Eatonville Town Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary
- City Parcels

CIP Key and Priorities Map

C: Glacier View Park

- Playground renovation
- Basketball court renovation
- Picnic shelters w/ tables and grills
- Fenced-in dog park

E: Nevitt Park

- Community memorial w/ flower beds

A: Visitor Center

- Plaza/community gathering space
- Heritage/interpretive signage

B: Millpond Park

- Playground Renovation
- Picnic shelters w/ tables and grills
- Pickleball Court
- Pump Track

D: Smallwood Park

- Playground or nature play area
- Picnic shelters w/ tables and grills
- Restroom building
- Parking improvements

1,800

Feet

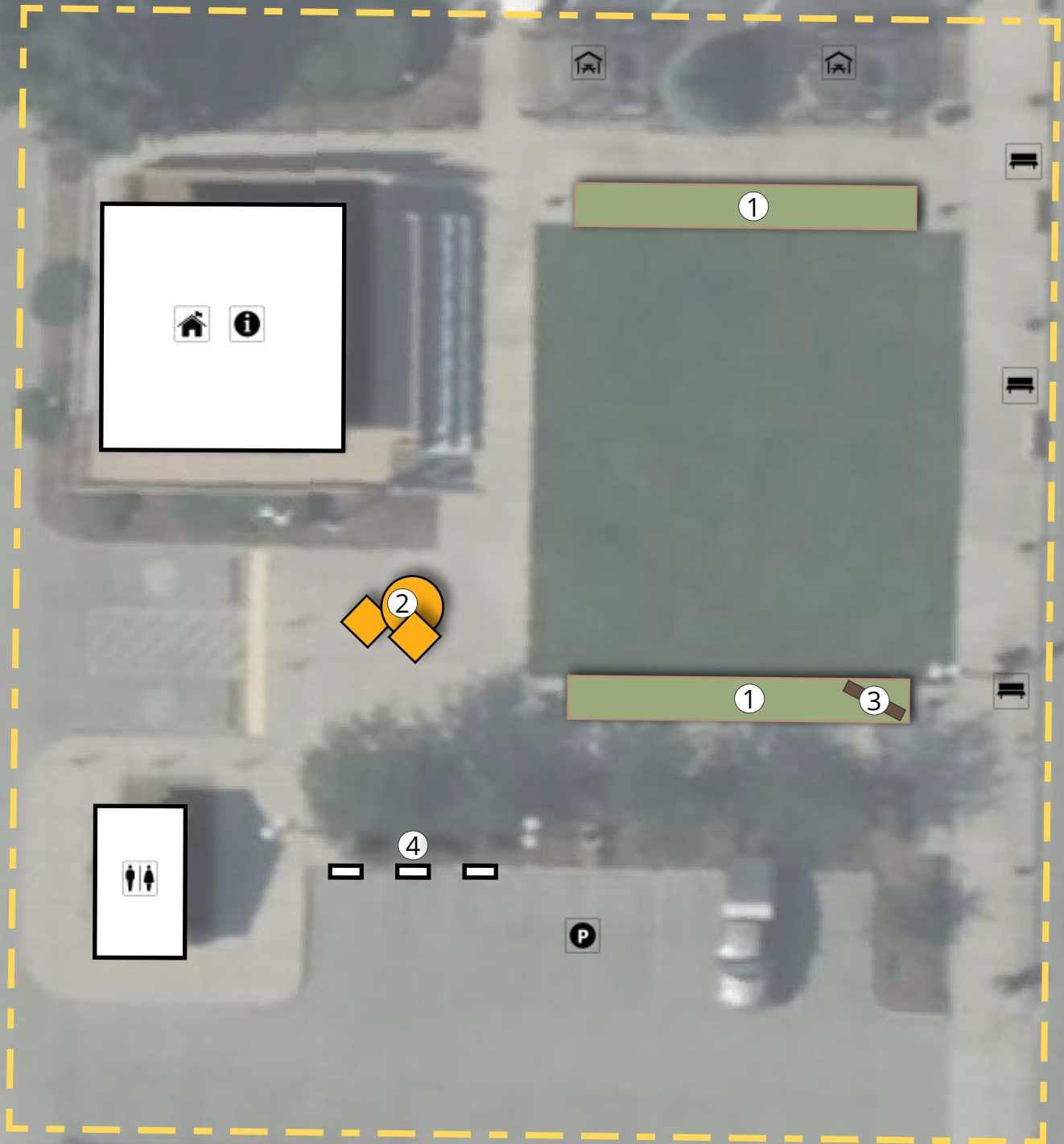


CIP Key

Resolution 2025-NN

- ① Flower Beds
- ② Sculpture
- ③ Visitor Center Sign
- ④ EV Charging Station

Visitor Center



20

Feet



Existing



Pavilion w/
Seating



Info Kiosk



Visitor Center



Restrooms



Seating



Parking

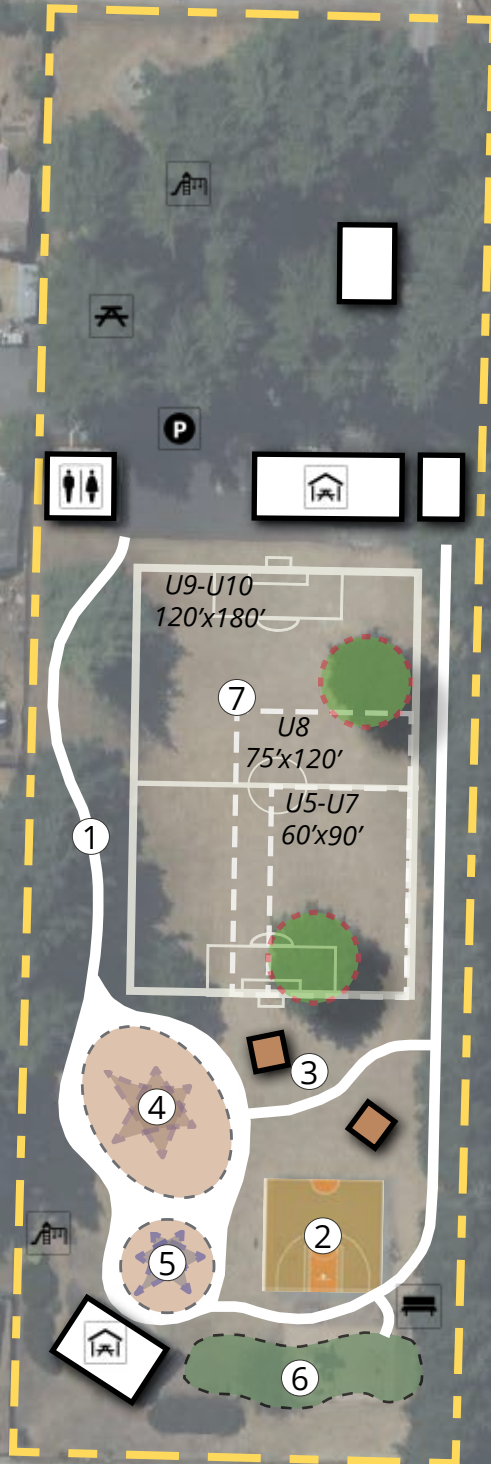
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Millpond Park



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Glacier View Park



CIP Key

- ① Loop Path
- ② Basketball Half Court
- ③ Picnic Shelters
- ④ Playground
- ⑤ Tot Lot
- ⑥ Community Garden
- ⑦ Open Space w/ Youth Soccer Fields

Existing

- Seating
- Picnic Tables
- Pavilion w/ Seating
- Restrooms
- Sports Courts
- Playground
- Parking

80

Feet



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CIP Key

- ① Pathways
- ② Picnic Shelters
- ③ Nature Play Area
- ④ Bathroom Building
- ⑤ Expanded Parking
- ⑥ Bench
- ⑦ Pond Restoration

Smallwood Park Sitemap

To Millpond Park

Existing

- Pavilion w/ Seating
- Restrooms
- Info Kiosk
- Trails
- Nature & Habitat
- River Overlook
- Parking
- Trails
- Bud Blancher Trail

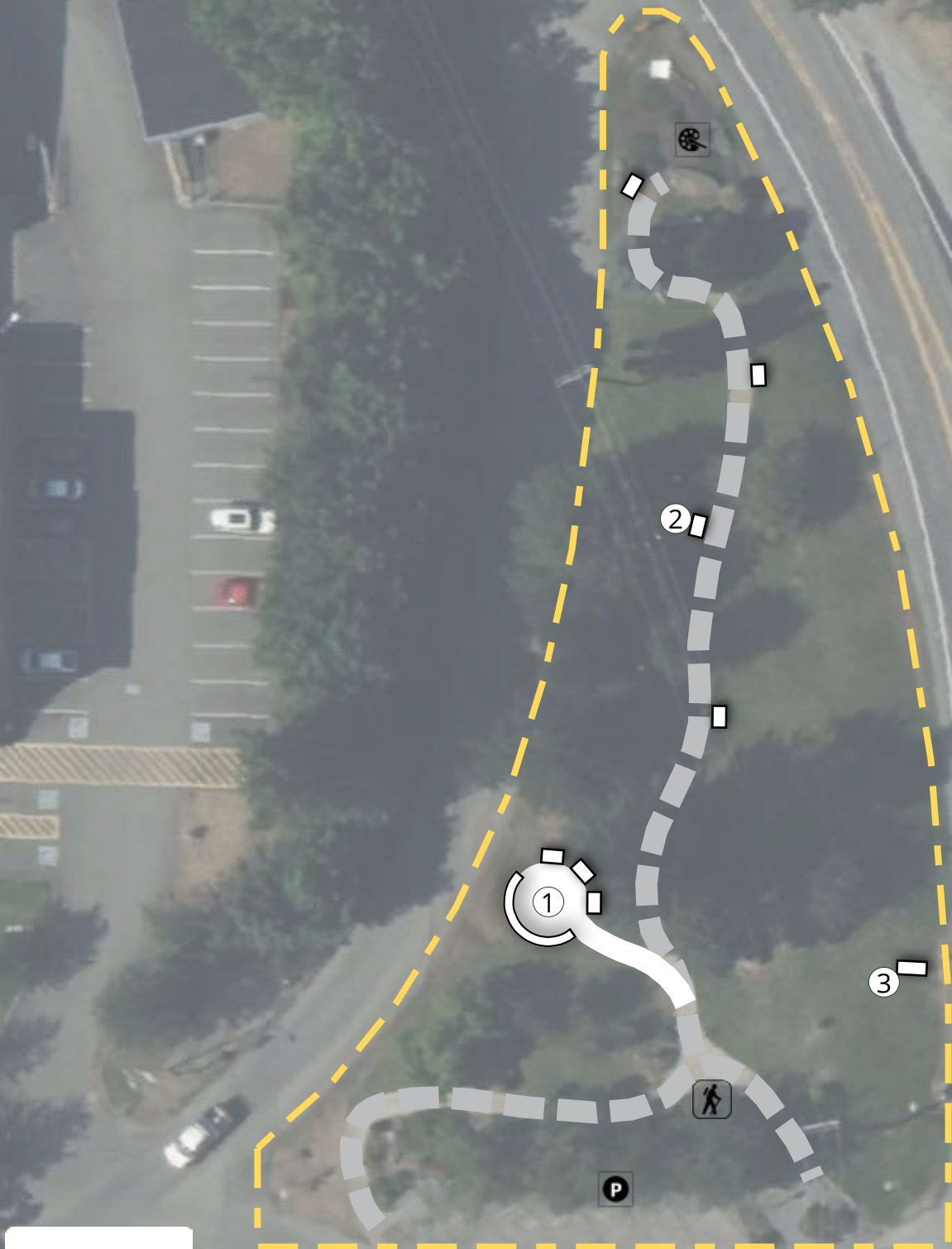
240

Feet



To Bud Blancher Trailhead




Nevitt Park



CIP Key

- ① Heritage Plaza
- ② Interpretive Areas
- ③ 4x8 Digital Reader Board

Existing

-  Public Art
-  Trails
-  Parking

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Trail System Map

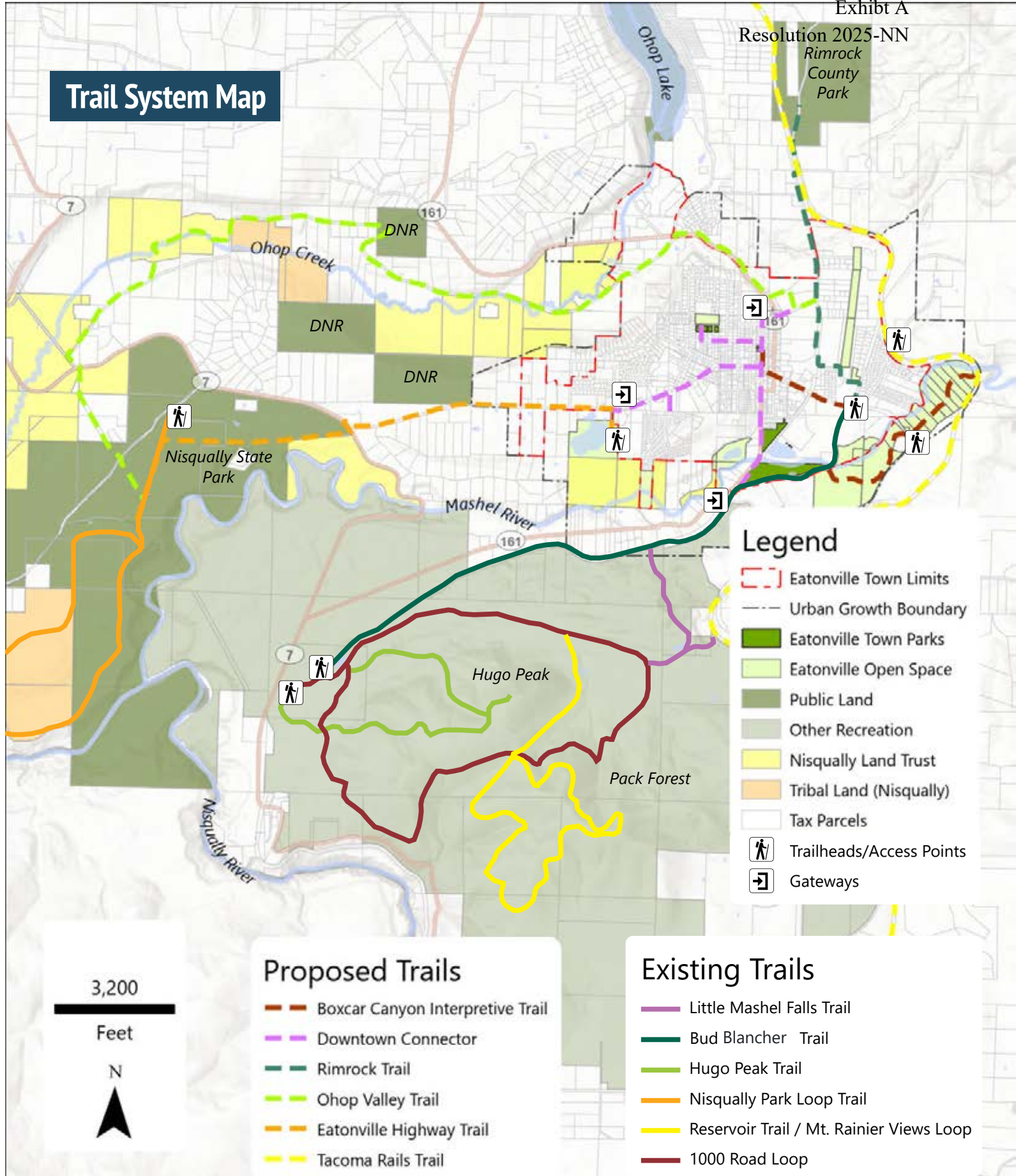


Table 5-2: CIP Improvements Table

	Improvements	Priority Year	Cost	Funding Source
A - Visitor Center (See Page 96)				
1	Flower Beds / Landscape Improvements	2027	\$4,500	Town, CBDG
2	Shade Tree	2027	\$1,000	Town, CBDG
3	Visitor Center Sign	2027	\$14,500	Town, CBDG
B - Millpond Park (See Page 97)				
1	Pathways	2026	Underway	Town, COAF
2	Tennis Court	2026	Underway	Town, COAF
3	Half Basketball Court	2026	Underway	Town, COAF
4	Tennis / Pickleball Courts	2026	Underway	Town, COAF
5	Pump Track	2026	Underway	Town, COAF
6	Picnic Shelters w/ tables and grills	2026	Underway	Town, COAF
C - Glacier View Park (See Page 98)				
1	Loop Path	2028	\$22,250	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
2	Basketball Court Upgrade	2028	\$67,000	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
3	Picnic Shelters w/ tables and grills	2028	\$75,000	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
4	Playground Upgrade	2028	\$115,000	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
5	Totlot	2028	\$85,000	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
6	Community Garden	2028	\$78,000	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
D - Smallwood Park (See Page 99)				
1	Pathways	2027	\$32,500	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
2	Picnic Shelters w/ tables and grills	2027	\$75,000	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
3	Playground or nature play area	2027	\$125,000	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
4	Bathroom Building	2027	\$325,000	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
5	Expanded Parking	2027	\$105,000	WWRP, LWCF, YAF
E - Nevitt Park (See Page 100)				
1	Heritage Plaza	2029	\$54,400	Town, WWRP, LWCF
2	Historical/Interpretive Markers	2029	\$15,750	Town, WWRP, LWCF
F - Eatonville Trail Network				
1	Boxcar Canyon Interpretive Trail	2030	\$790,000	Town, WWRP, LWCF

Existing Trails

Eatonville is surrounded by a variety of hiking trails and trailheads, primarily located in Nisqually State Park and the University of Washington's Pack Forest. These trails provide recreational access to notable natural destinations, including Little Mashel Falls, Hugo Peak, and the Mashel River corridor. In addition to formal trail systems, many of the area's forest access roads, such as 100 Road and 1000 Road, are commonly used by hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians to connect between trailheads and destinations.

Little Mashel Falls Trail

Little Mashel Falls is one of Eatonville's most visited hiking destinations, known for its dramatic waterfalls along the Little Mashel River. The falls are most commonly accessed via the Bud Blancher Trail, beginning in Eatonville, though hikers can also reach them from the 100 Road network in Pack Forest. From the Bud Blancher Trailhead, the roundtrip hike to the falls and back is approximately 4.5 miles. The final approach to the falls involves a steep, sometimes muddy spur trail that descends to viewpoints for the three main waterfalls: Lower Falls, Middle Falls (the largest), and Upper Falls. Trail users should exercise caution near the falls, especially during wet or icy conditions.

Bud Blancher Trail

The Bud Blancher Trail is a multi-use trail beginning within Eatonville's town limits near Millpond and Smallwood Park. It offers a scenic, forested corridor primarily used for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. The trail extends about 2.5 miles one-way, connecting directly to the Pack Forest network and providing the most popular route to Little Mashel Falls. The trail features a crushed rock surface, moderate development including signage, trash receptacles, and informal parking areas, and crosses the Mashel River via a historic wooden bridge.

Hugo Peak Trail

Hugo Peak, the highest point within Pack Forest, offers sweeping views of Mount Rainier and the surrounding foothills on clear days. There are two primary routes to the summit, both beginning near the Pack Forest Research and Learning Center off SR 7. The Hugo Peak Trail is the more popular and

better maintained of the two, providing a well-graded, 4-mile roundtrip hike with a steady but manageable elevation gain. The Horse Trail offers a steeper, less developed alternative that also begins at the Research and Learning Center, reaching the summit in a shorter, roughly 3-mile roundtrip. While both trails are used, the Hugo Peak Trail remains the preferred choice for most hikers due to its consistent grade and clearer path.

Nisqually Park Loop Trail

Nisqually State Park, established officially in 2010 but undergoing major development as of 2025, is creating a growing trail system that will connect visitors to the Mashel River, Ohop Creek, and surrounding forestlands. The Nisqually Park Loop Trail is envisioned as a multi-use trail accommodating pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. Once completed, it will form a key circulation loop within the park and serve as a hub connecting future trail expansions. Current trails within the park are primarily interim routes using old roadbeds, but new purpose-built trails are actively being constructed.

Reservoir Trail / Mt. Rainier Scenic Loop

The Reservoir Trail begins at the Twentyseven Creek Reservoir within Pack Forest and weaves through a network of informal and partially developed trails. Major segments include the Wildlife Trail, Trail of the Giants (featuring impressive old-growth Douglas-firs and cedars), Windy Ridge Trail, New Forestry Loop, and Elk Meadow Trail. Portions of the trail system also follow gravel forest roads such as Road 2000 and 2300. While offering outstanding scenery and occasional glimpses of Mount Rainier, many of these trails are less developed, poorly marked in sections, and receive lighter use compared to other area trails.

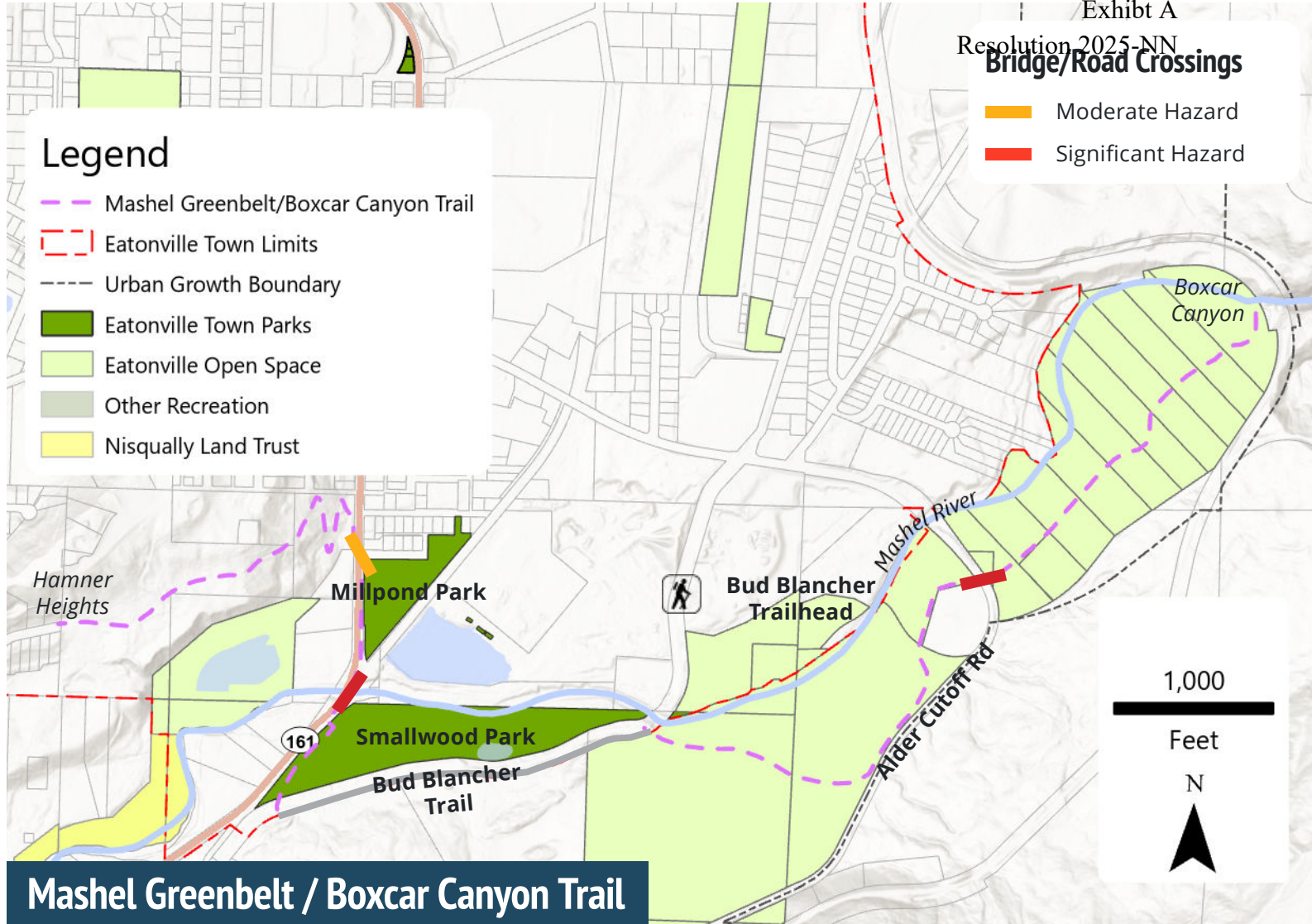
1000 Road Loop

The 1000 Road is a gravel forest road looping through the Pack Forest and linking various trailheads and trail systems. Although designed originally for forestry operations, it is widely used today for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Its wide, durable surface makes it more accessible year-round than many singletrack trails. The road intersects with trail access points leading to Hugo Peak, Little Mashel Falls, and the Reservoir Trail system, serving as an important connector for extended recreation outings.

- Moderate Hazard
- Significant Hazard

Legend

- Mashel Greenbelt/Boxcar Canyon Trail
- Eatonville Town Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Eatonville Town Parks
- Eatonville Open Space
- Other Recreation
- Nisqually Land Trust



Mashel Greenbelt / Boxcar Canyon Trail

Description

The Mashel Greenbelt is envisioned as a continuous open space and trail corridor along the Mashel River, extending from Hamner Heights through Millpond Park to Boxcar Canyon. This project will provide multiple benefits: preserving riparian habitat, offering public access to the river, and linking neighborhoods and parks through a non-motorized trail. The greenbelt will serve as both a conservation buffer and a recreational amenity, combining habitat restoration, passive recreation, and community education opportunities. Visitors will be able to walk or bike through riverfront forests, access interpretive features, and enjoy overlooks into the canyon.

History

The idea of a Mashel River greenbelt emerged in Eatonville's 2009 Regional Trails Plan, which described the corridor as a public resource

combining trails and open space. The Nisqually Land Trust and state partners have since acquired more than 250 acres and nearly four miles of shoreline along the river, focusing on salmon and steelhead recovery. Boxcar Canyon, once a popular but degraded recreation area, has been the subject of conservation and restoration efforts to stabilize habitat and reduce vandalism. The Bud Blancher Trail, completed in recent years, provides a community link toward Pack Forest and the Little Mashel Falls, establishing the first leg of the greenbelt system. Land acquisition projects funded by the Recreation and Conservation Office have secured key parcels around Boxcar Canyon and Middle Mashel reaches, laying the groundwork for a continuous trail corridor.

Key Connections

Hamner Heights, Mill Pond Park, Smallwood Park, Boxcar Canyon, Nisqually Mashel Trail, Tacoma Rails Trail

Current Status

Portions of the corridor are protected and managed for conservation, with trails in adjacent areas already attracting regular use. The Bud Blancher Trail and Pack Forest routes provide partial access, but the full Hamner Heights-to-Boxcar Canyon connection is not yet developed. Certain segments, such as Mashel Falls and Boxcar Canyon, remain sensitive or unsafe and are subject to seasonal or permanent closures. The Town's 2024 Comprehensive Plan continues to identify the Mashel Greenbelt as a future priority, recognizing its dual value for recreation and ecological stewardship. Local partners, including the Nisqually Land Trust, have completed land acquisitions that strengthen the feasibility of a continuous corridor, but full trail construction and safe public access are still pending.


Implementation

Building out the Mashel Greenbelt requires phased investments. Initial steps focus on mapping alignments, securing easements, and designing segments that avoid sensitive slopes and floodplains. Environmental permitting will be significant, given salmon recovery priorities and the presence of wetlands and critical habitat. High-cost elements such as bridges and boardwalks will determine phasing, while early actions should emphasize "easy wins," such as connecting Millpond and Smallwood Parks.

A major step forward is the formal design of the Boxcar Canyon Trail, with full construction drawings completed under the same PRA grant that supported this PROS Plan. Once built and linked with other planned trail segments, the Boxcar Canyon Trail will connect back to Smallwood Park and the Bud Blancher Trail. The intent is to create a continuous interpretive experience that shares the ecological and cultural history of Eatonville, highlighting the town's reliance on the Mashel River, the surrounding forests, and the natural resources that shaped its development.

The canyon's history of misuse underscores the need for strong stewardship. Long-term success will depend on consistent maintenance, active enforcement, and ongoing public education. Sustainable management will require coordinated funding from state grants, local budgets, and partnerships with the Nisqually Land Trust, trail organizations, and dedicated volunteers.



 Moderate Hazard

Legend

-  Rimrock Trail
-  Eatonville Town Limits
-  Urban Growth Boundary
-  Eatonville Town Parks
-  Eatonville Open Space
-  Public Land
-  Other Recreation
-  Nisqually Land Trust

Rimrock Trail

2,000

Feet

N

Description

The Rimrock Trail is planned as a regional connector linking Rimrock County Park on the north with Nisqually State Park on the south, passing directly through Eatonville. Beginning at Rimrock Park, the alignment follows Lynch Creek Road, skirts behind Eatonville Elementary School, and curves around the south end of the airport through Aviator Heights. From there it enters Weyerhaeuser Road North, continues across Center Street at a controlled crosswalk, and uses Weyerhaeuser Road South to reach a new pedestrian bridge over the Mashel River. On the south side, the trail traverses UW's Pack Forest, enters Nisqually State Park, and ultimately joins the Nisqually River Trail. This route will create a safe, continuous, non-motorized spine that connects community destinations with state and regional recreation assets.

History

The Rimrock Trail concept originated in the 2009 Eatonville Regional Trails Plan, which called for stronger north-south connectivity through town to adjacent parks and forests. Community discussions emphasized the need to link Eatonville's schools, parks, and neighborhoods with natural destinations such as Pack Forest and the then-newly designated Nisqually State Park. The project was envisioned as both a local safe-routes corridor and a regional trail, complementing Eatonville's role as a gateway to Mount Rainier and the Nisqually watershed. Since then, state and regional planning documents have reinforced the importance of this alignment for recreation and ecological access.

Key Connections

Rimrock County Park, Tacoma Rail Trail, Lynch Creek Road sidewalks, Eatonville Elementary School, Eatonville Middle School, Swanson Field and Aviator

Heights, Center Street sidewalks, Mashel Greenbelt Trail, Smallwood Park, UW Pack Forest, and Nisqually State Park.

Current Status

The full corridor has not yet been constructed, but several elements of the route are in place. Existing sidewalks provide partial connectivity near Lynch Creek Road, Center Street, and local schools. Pack Forest already hosts trails that could accommodate portions of the alignment, and Nisqually State Park has developed trail infrastructure that can be tied into a future extension. The major missing links are the dedicated pedestrian bridge across the Mashel River, trail construction through Aviator Heights, and the continuous off-street path through Eatonville. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan continues to identify the Rimrock Trail as a long-term priority project.

Implementation

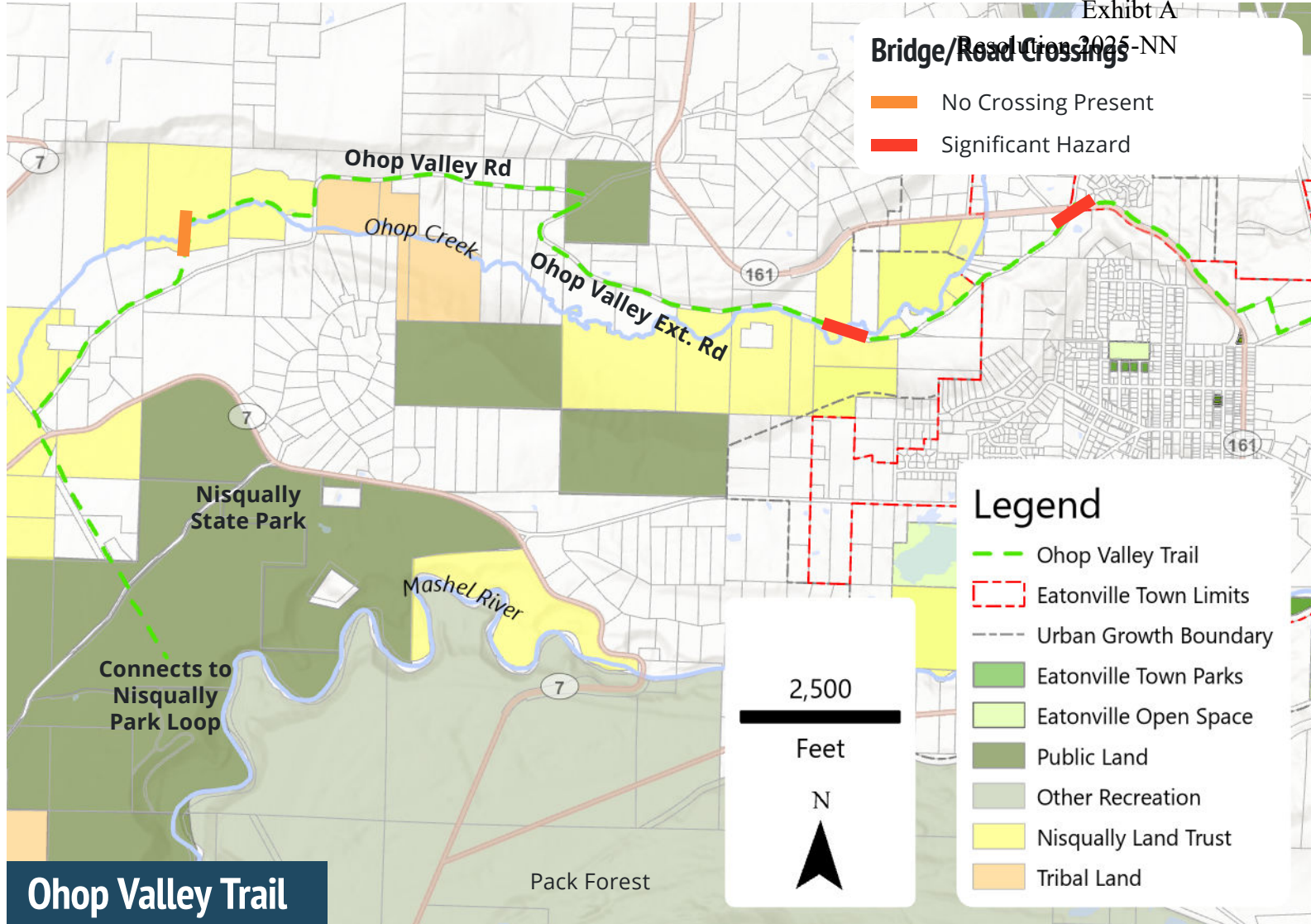
Implementation will require phased development, beginning with local sidewalk improvements and easements through Aviator Heights to establish an in-town route. A central challenge is the Mashel River crossing, which will necessitate design and funding for a pedestrian bridge that meets environmental and permitting standards. Partnerships with UW Pack Forest and Washington State Parks will be critical to extend the trail southward into Nisqually State Park. Funding strategies will likely draw on state Recreation and Conservation Office grants, federal recreation programs, and local contributions. Long-term stewardship will involve coordination among the Town of Eatonville, Pierce County, Pack Forest, and Washington State Parks to ensure maintenance, safety, and habitat protection along the corridor.



Google Maps

Bridge/Road Crossings

- No Crossing Present
- Significant Hazard



Ohop Valley Trail

Description

The Ohop Valley Trail is planned to extend north from Eatonville into the rural and agricultural Ohop Valley, creating a scenic corridor that links the town to Nisqually State Park. The alignment would run between the Eatonville School District athletic facilities on the east and State Route 7 on the west, offering residents and visitors a safe non-motorized route through farmland, wetlands, and forest edges. The trail will connect community amenities with cultural and historic destinations, providing both recreational opportunities and an immersive experience of the valley's working landscape.

History

The Ohop Valley has long been recognized for its natural and cultural significance. Restoration projects led by the Nisqually Land Trust and partners have re-meandered sections of Ohop Creek to restore salmon habitat and improve water

quality, reinforcing the valley's role in regional conservation. Eatonville's 2009 Regional Trails Plan identified the Ohop Valley as a priority corridor to link the town with Nisqually State Park while showcasing the valley's scenic and agricultural character. The vision reflects community support for trails that balance recreation with stewardship of farmland and natural resources.

Key Connections

Nisqually State Park, Pioneer Farm, town sidewalks at Lynch Creek Road, Eatonville Elementary School, Eatonville Middle School

Current Status

The Ohop Valley corridor remains largely undeveloped for formal public access, though adjacent lands include schools, Pioneer Farm Museum, and restored riparian areas. Conservation acquisitions by the Nisqually Land Trust have

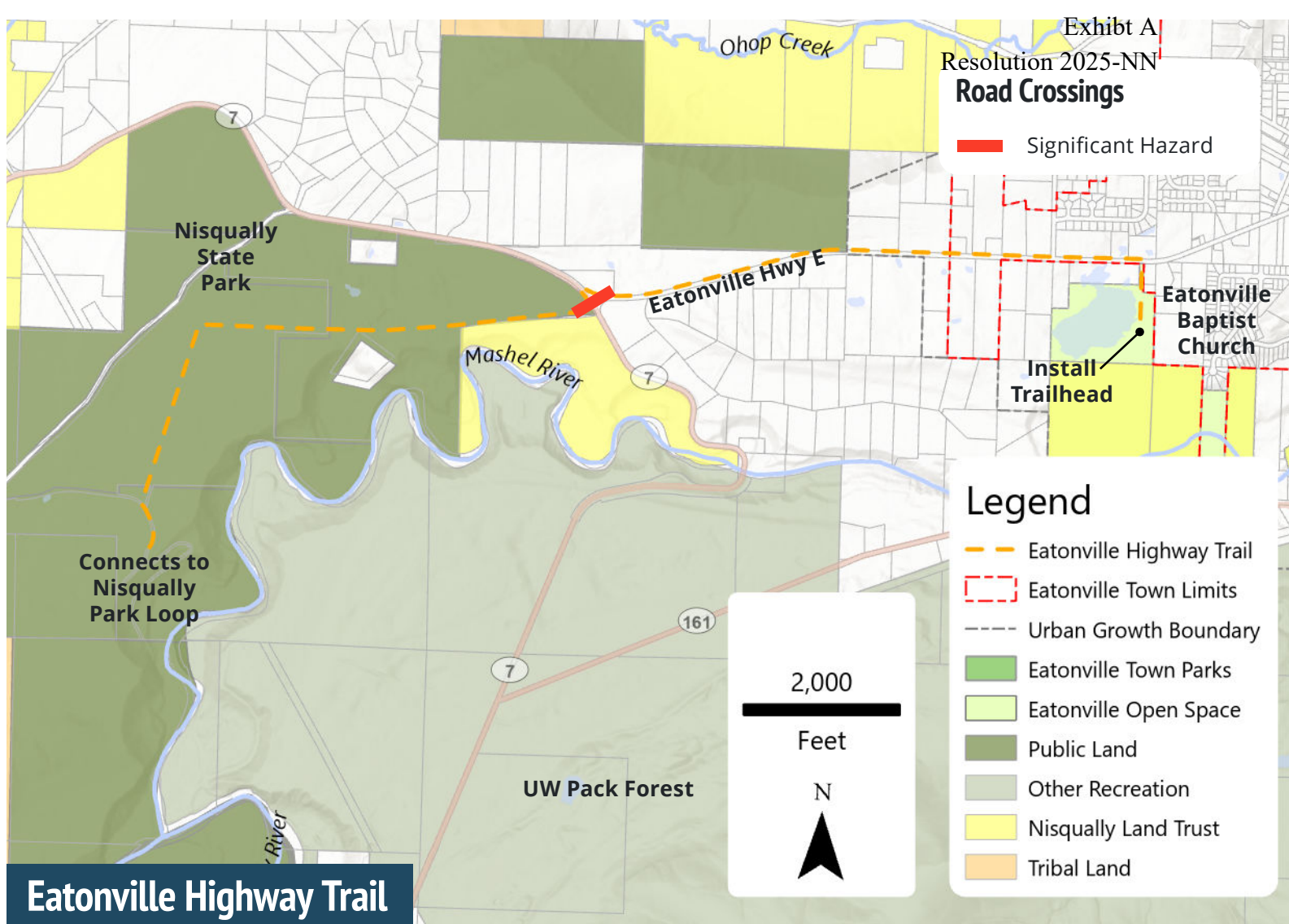
secured habitat in the valley, but a dedicated trail alignment has not yet been built. Sidewalks near Lynch Creek Road provide partial connections at the town edge, while Nisqually State Park offers a future destination for the northern extension. The project is identified in Eatonville's planning documents as a long-term goal rather than an active construction project.

Implementation

Developing the Ohop Valley Trail will require landowner agreements or easements across agricultural parcels, careful design to protect sensitive riparian areas, and funding for trail construction. Significant challenges include potential pedestrian bridges over Ohop Creek, safe crossings of State Route 7, and alignment through wetlands or flood-prone areas. Early phases may focus on linking existing sidewalks and school facilities to Pioneer Farm, creating an accessible starting segment. Longer-term phases would extend the trail northward, ultimately tying into Nisqually State Park's trail system. Partnerships with the Nisqually Land Trust, Pioneer Farm, Washington State Parks, and local landowners will be critical to balance agricultural use, habitat restoration, and recreation. Funding may come from state recreation grants, local match, and conservation partners, with stewardship agreements ensuring long-term maintenance and ecological protection.



Google Maps



Description

The Eatonville Highway Trail is proposed as a paved, separated path running parallel to the Eatonville Highway, a three-mile rural connector between Eatonville and SR-7. Currently built without shoulders or sidewalks, the road presents safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists. The trail will begin near Eatonville Baptist Church, follow the highway corridor with appropriate buffer from vehicle traffic, and terminate at SR-7, where a marked crosswalk will connect users into Nisqually State Park's trail system. This facility will provide a safe, direct route between Eatonville and one of the region's most significant natural destinations.

History

The Eatonville Highway was constructed as a two-lane connector without non-motorized infrastructure, despite its role as a primary route to Mount Rainier and the Nisqually watershed.

The 2009 Regional Trails Plan recognized the corridor's deficiencies and proposed a parallel trail to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. With Nisqually State Park formally established in 2010 and now developing trail infrastructure, the need for a safe and direct non-motorized link has become more urgent. The project aligns with Eatonville's long-standing goal of providing safe routes for both local residents and regional visitors traveling between town and the park.

Key Connections

Sidewalks on Eatonville Highway, Hilligoss Road, Nisqually State Park, future developments in West Eatonville Urban Growth Area (UGA).

Current Status

The highway remains an auto-oriented corridor without shoulders or sidewalks, leaving no safe space for pedestrians or cyclists. No formal trail

segments have been constructed, although sidewalks extend from the town center toward Eatonville Baptist Church, which can serve as the southern trailhead. Nisqually State Park has developed trails that could receive the connection at SR-7 once a crossing is in place. The Town's 2024 Comprehensive Plan continues to identify the corridor as a high-priority safety improvement project.

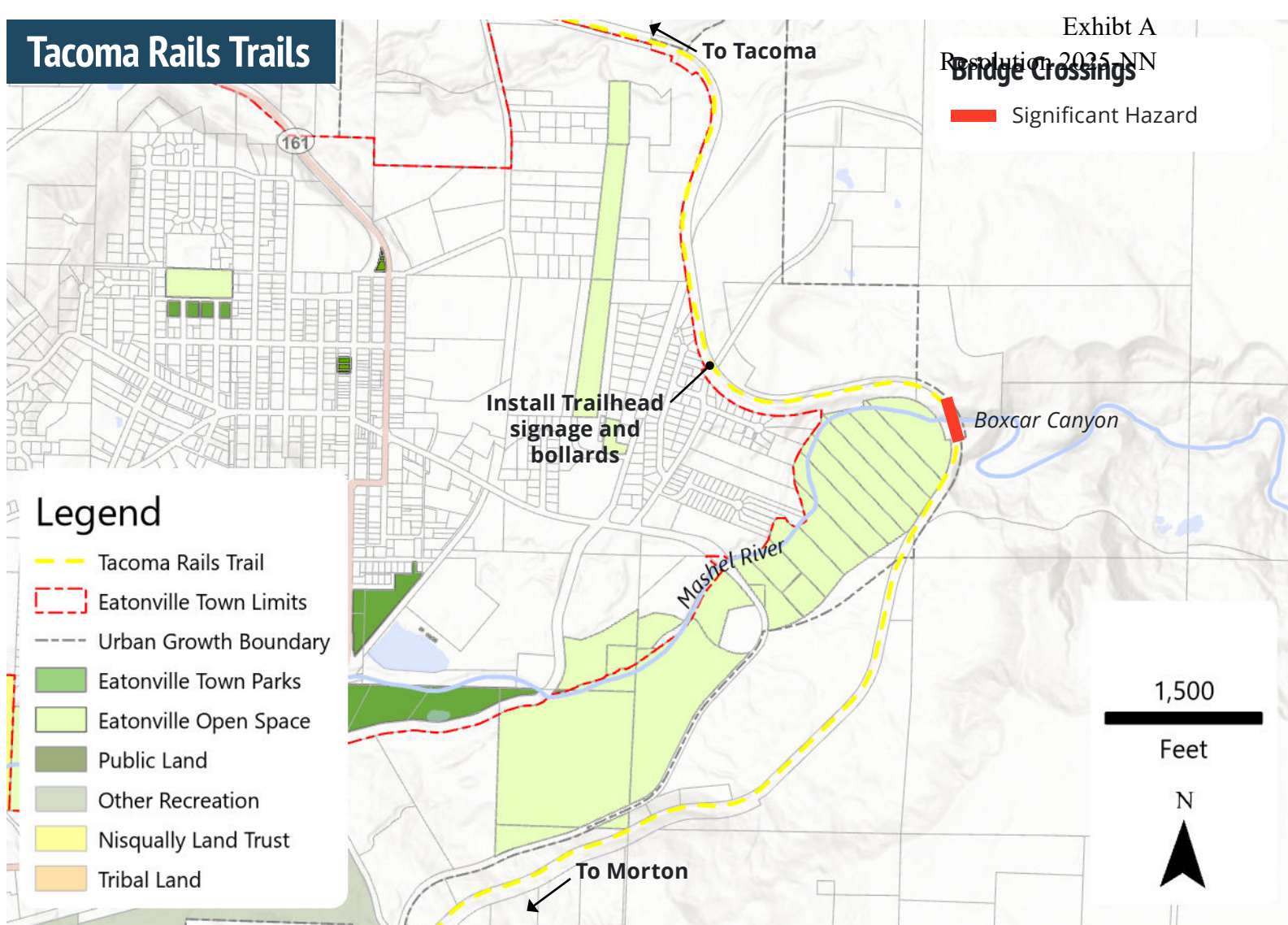
Implementation

Trail development will require right-of-way coordination, design for adequate separation from the highway, and installation of a safe crossing at SR-7. Major challenges include limited right-of-way in some sections, drainage and slope conditions along the highway edge, and coordination with the Washington State Department of Transportation for crosswalk installation and safety features. Phased development may begin with constructing the segment between Eatonville Baptist Church and Hilligoss Road, with later phases extending to SR-7. Long-term success depends on securing state recreation grants, transportation safety funds, and local match contributions. Ongoing maintenance will be essential to ensure safety, manage stormwater, and provide consistent surface quality along the paved trail.



Tacoma Rails Trails

Exhibit A
Resolution 2023-NN
Bridge Crossings
Significant Hazard



Description

The Tacoma Rails Trails project, also known as the Mountain Division Rail and Trail, proposes to convert portions of the historic Tacoma Eastern rail corridor into a multi-use trail while retaining rail service where feasible. The concept is a rail-with-trail design that would establish a paved pathway parallel to existing or future rail operations, offering a safe corridor for walkers and bicyclists. The vision is to create a north to south spine linking Tacoma to Eatonville, Elbe, and Ashford, with possible long-term extension to Mineral and Morton. This corridor is a critical component of Pierce County's "Tacoma to Tahoma" regional trail vision.

History

The Tacoma Eastern line was built in the early 1900s to carry timber from Kapowsin, Eatonville, Ashford, Mineral, and Morton to Tacoma's tideflats. In the 1990s, the City of Tacoma acquired the Mountain

Division from Weyerhaeuser. Passenger excursions and limited freight were attempted but struggled financially. In 2023 the City sold most of the corridor outside Tacoma to Rainier Rail due to high upkeep and limited revenue, while retaining several miles of track inside town limits. These remaining segments are now being studied for potential use as a linear park or trail. The Western Forest Industries Museum (WFIM), which owns and operates the Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad, has since become the lead entity pursuing heritage rail operations on the corridor.

Key Connections

Tacoma Dome and Eastside neighborhoods, Parkland, Frederickson, Lake Kapowsin, Ohop Lake, Eatonville and its trail system, Elbe, Ashford, Mount Rainier National Park, Mineral, and Morton.

Current Status

Inside Tacoma, the City controls a 3.7-mile inactive segment of the former Mountain Division corridor that extends from downtown through the Eastside neighborhood to the southern city limits. Tacoma's Transportation Master Plan identifies this corridor as a candidate for conversion into a linear park or trail under the "Trail to the Mountain" concept, and the City is now conducting a corridor use study to evaluate this potential.

South of Tacoma, Rainier Rail owns most of the Mountain Division right-of-way following the 2023 divestiture by the City. The Western Forest Industries Museum (WFIM) operates the Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad on this corridor, running excursions from Elbe and offering new rail-bike activities. In 2024 WFIM secured funding to restore 5.5 miles of track between Elbe and New Reliance, an important step toward expanding service north to Eatonville and eventually south to Morton. In 2025 a trestle between Mineral and Morton was destroyed in a suspected arson. While this event complicates future expansion east of Mineral, it does not affect current excursion operations.

Although some inactive sections are informally used by walkers and cyclists, this activity is unauthorized and unsafe. Rail corridors remain private and active transportation rights-of-way until formally converted, and public use without authorization raises liability and safety concerns.

Pierce County's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space and Trails Plan identifies the Mountain Division corridor as a long-term aspirational project. The Plan envisions this corridor as a critical element of the countywide trail network, integrated into the larger "Tacoma to Tahoma" system that would link communities from Tacoma through Eatonville and Elbe to the Nisqually watershed and Mount Rainier National Park.

Implementation

Implementing the Tacoma Rails Trails project requires careful coordination between multiple owners and operators. In Tacoma, work will focus on converting retained segments into sanctioned trail use through environmental review, design, and construction. South of Tacoma, future progress depends on agreements with Rainier Rail and WFIM to determine whether rail and trail can coexist or whether corridor sections may eventually transition fully to trail use. An updated feasibility study is needed to reflect changed ownership, WFIM's revived operations,

and new conditions following the 2025 trestle loss. Major challenges include designing safe rail-with-trail sections, addressing right-of-way constraints, retrofitting or replacing trestles and bridges, and securing funding.

Sensitive Segments and Hazards

The corridor contains multiple constrained areas including narrow cuts, side slopes, and trestle crossings over rivers and creeks. Active or restored rail service requires separation, fencing, and well-controlled crossings to ensure safety. Bridge conditions are variable, and the trestle fire east of Mineral demonstrates the need for thorough structural assessments and, in some cases, new trail bridges or bypass alignments. Highway and arterial crossings in town centers will also require careful design to balance safety and access.



Google Maps

Plan Adoption

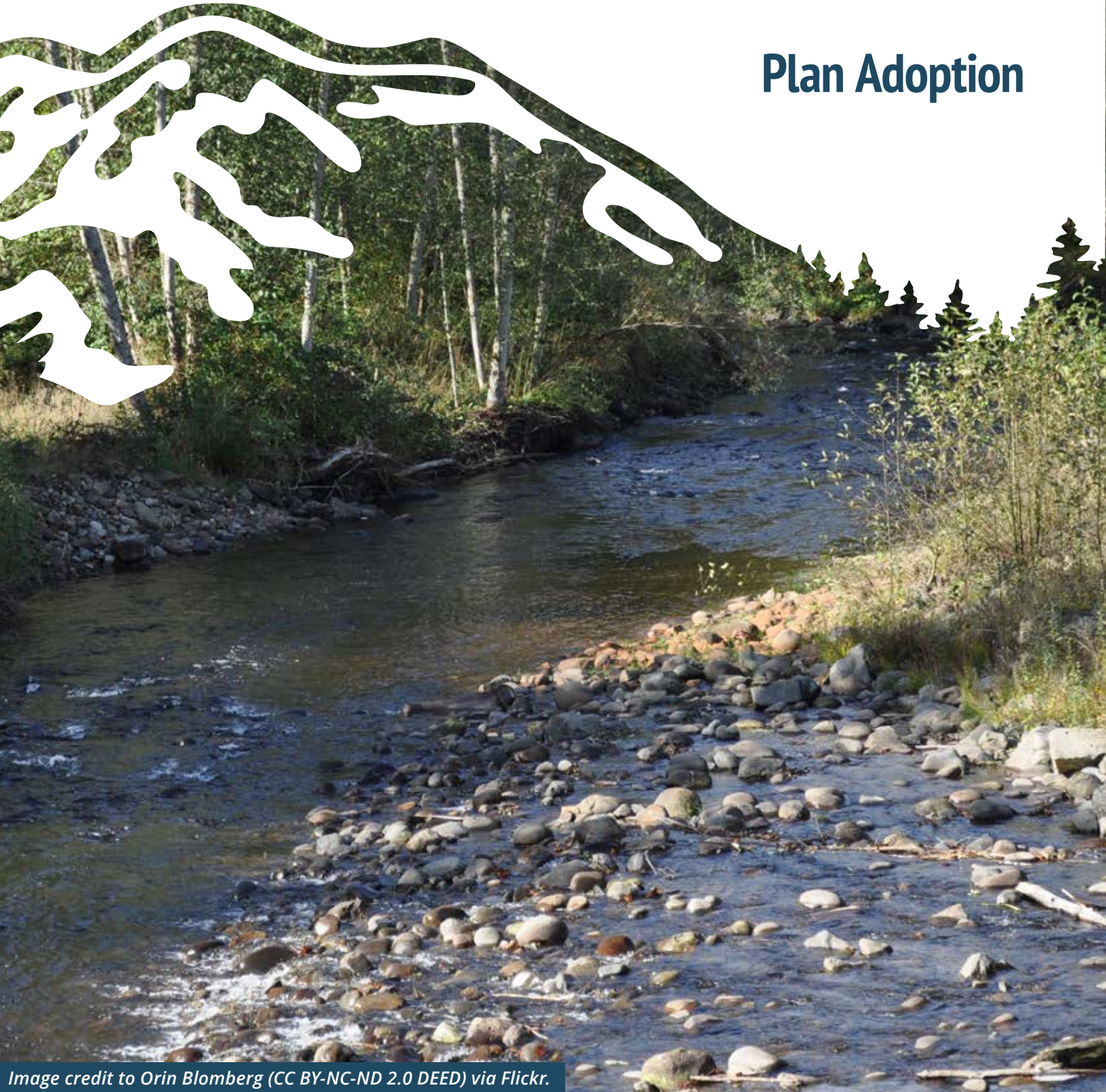


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Introduction & Recap of Approval Process

For this plan to be formally adopted and meet the requirements outlined by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), it must undergo a thorough review and approval process involving multiple entities. This process ensures transparency, public engagement, and compliance with all necessary guidelines, ultimately culminating in formal adoption by the governing body. Once approved by RCO, the plan qualifies the Town of Eatonville to apply for RCO-administered grants for up to six calendar years from the date of adoption.

With the depth of public and staff involvement made over the execution of this planning process, the following review and approvals have been included:

- ♦ ***Town Council Ordinance***
- ♦ ***RCO Self-Certification Checklist***

Planning Eligibility Self-Certification Form		
Use this form to certify that the need for any grant projects have been developed through an appropriate planning process. Provide the completed form with the subject plans and adoption documentation to RCO via e-mail or other means of electronic access (i.e. Web link, Box.com, etc.).		
Organization Name:		
Contact Name:		
Adoption Date of Submitted Documents:		
Seeking Eligibility for: <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Grants <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Grants <input type="checkbox"/> Both		
Initial Each to Certify Completion	Plan Element Certification	Document and Page Number Location of Information
	1. Goals, objectives: The attached plan supports our project with broad statements of intent (goals) <i>and</i> measures that describe when these intents will be attained (objectives). Goals may include a higher level of service.	
	2. Inventory: The plan includes a description of the service area's facilities, lands, programs, and their condition. <i>(This may be done in a quantitative format or in a qualitative/narrative format.)</i>	
	3. Public involvement: The planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in plan development and adoption.	
	4a. Demand and need analysis: In the plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An analysis defines priorities, as appropriate, for acquisition, development, preservation, enhancement, management, etc., and explains why these actions are needed. The process used in developing the analysis assessed community desires for parks, recreation, open space, and/or habitat, as appropriate, in a manner appropriate for the service area (personal observation, informal talks, formal survey(s), workshops, etc.). 	
	4b. Level of Service assessment (optional): An assessment of the criterion appropriate to your community. Possibly establish a higher level of service as a plan goal (above).	
	5. Capital Improvement Program: The plan includes a capital improvement/facility program that lists land acquisition, development, and renovation projects by year of anticipated implementation; include funding source. The program includes any capital project submitted to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for funding.	
	6. Adoption: The plan and process has received formal governing body approval (<i>that is, city/county department head, district ranger, regional manager/supervisor, etc., as appropriate</i>). Attach signed resolution, letter, or other adoption instrument.	

Certification Signature

I certify that this information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Print/Type Name: _____

Signature (Hand Written or Digital): _____

Title: _____

Date: _____



Appendices & Attachments

Town of Eatonville PROS Plan Update

September 2025

A - Terms & Definitions

Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) has found that many terms commonly used in recreation planning do not have consistent definitions from one plan to another. RCO suggests, but does not require, the following definitions compiled from various sources, including Washington Administrative Code, Department of Natural Resources, and Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission used in this master parks plan include:

Table A1: Terms & Definitions	
Term	Definition
Access	The public's ability to physically use land or water.
Active Recreation	Predominately human muscle powered recreational activities.
Camping	An overnight stay in a tent or other non-permanent structure.
Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	A list or description of proposal capital projects.
Capital Project	A project that results in redevelopment of an existing property, acquisition of new property, or a new built facility with a budget that excess \$10,000.00
Consumptive	Recreation that physically consumes resources; examples include berry picking, shellfish harvest, hunting, fishing.
Development	A development project is construction or work resulting in new elements, including but not limited to structures, facilities, and/or materials to enhance outdoor recreation resources.
Dispersed	Recreation that is scattered or spread across the landscape and not concentrated at a specific site. Examples include trail uses, camping, walking, cycling, and jogging.
Impact (Low, Medium, High)	The effect that recreational uses have on resources including but not limited to soils, water, species, habitat, sites, and facilities.
Improve	Expanding an existing site or facility to serve more uses or more types of use.
Level of Service	Measure of the current status of a park and recreation system as a whole based on either quantitative or qualitative characteristics.



Image credit to Orin Blomberg (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED) via Flickr.

Table A1: Terms & Definitions

Term	Definition
Maintain	To maintain existing areas and facilities through repairs and upkeep for the benefit of outdoor recreationists.
Multiple-use	Use by more than one type of recreation on the same facility.
Non-consumptive	Resource recreation that depends on, but does not consume, resources; for example, photographing wildlife.
Park	<p>Land or an area set aside for a special purpose, but particularly for leisure or recreation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Totlot/Mini-Park/Pocket Park – a small local park or civic space accessible to the general public without the capacity for large outdoor recreation activities like field sports and often associated with playground equipment for toddlers and young children. • Neighborhood Park – a local-scale park with a service area of a reasonable walking distance, typically ½ mile, but up to 1 mile. • Community Park – a community-scale park facility has a service area typically of 1-5 miles that includes the limits of a town or city. • Regional Park – a larger park facility intended to serve populations and uses from multiple jurisdictions. • State Park – a park facility owned and managed by the State of Washington. • Marine Park – a state or regional park facility intended to serve populations spanning multiple jurisdictions with primary access via watercraft . • Day-use Park – any kind of park facility that does not allow overnight uses such as camping. • Seasonal Parks – any kind of parks intended for use in specific seasons.
Passive	Activities usually conducted in place and requiring minimal physical exertion such as picnicking, watching a sports event, sun bathing, or relaxing.
Qualitative	An adjective relating to the quality of something interpreted by its intrinsic non-numerical characteristics other than some quantity or measured value.
Quantitative	Relating to, measuring, or measured by the quantity of something obtained using a numerical measurement process.
Recreation	Activities of a voluntary and leisure time Nature that aid in promoting entertainment, pleasure, play, relaxation, or instruction.
Renovate (Renovation)	The activities intended to improve an existing site or structure in order to increase its useful service life beyond original expectations or functions. This does not include maintenance activities to maintain the facility for its originally expected useful life.
Restoration	Bringing a site back to its historic function as part of a natural ecosystem or improving the ecological functionality of a site.
Shared Use	Use by more than one type of recreation on the same facility.
Trail	<p>According to the Washington State Trails Plan (RCO, 2013):</p> <p><i>“...a path, route, way, right-of-way, or corridor posted, signed, or designated as open for travel or passage by the general public but not normally designated as open for the transportation of commercial goods or services by motorized vehicles.”</i></p> <p>A trail is a recreational facility that also can serve as a non-motorized route for transportation.</p>

B - Standards & Guidelines

There are six basic park and greenspace facility types typically utilized by municipalities:

- ♦ Pocket Parks / Mini-Parks / Tot Lots
- ♦ Neighborhood Parks
- ♦ Community Parks
- ♦ Natural Areas & Greenspaces
- ♦ Trails, Bikeways & Paths
- ♦ Special Facilities

POCKET PARKS / MINI-PARKS / TOT LOTS

Pocket parks are very small and serve a limited radius (up to ¼-mile) from the site; they provide passive and play-oriented recreational opportunities. Examples of pocket parks can include a tot lot with play equipment such as a climber, slide or swings; a viewpoint; or waterfront access areas such as at street ends.

A small urban plaza or civic recognition project may also be considered a pocket park. Parking is not often provided at pocket parks, although lighting may be used for security and safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are generally considered the basic unit of traditional park systems. They are small park areas designed for unstructured play and limited active and passive recreation. They are generally 3-5 acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location and opportunity, and should meet a minimum size of 2 acre in size when possible.

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within short walking distance (up to ½-mile radius) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Access is mostly pedestrian, and park sites should be located so that persons living within the service area will not have to cross a major arterial street or other significant natural or man-made barrier, such as ravines and railroad tracks, to get to the site.

Additionally, these parks should be located along

road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites.

Generally, developed neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as pedestrian paths, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, a multi-use open field for youth soccer and baseball, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas, landscaping and irrigation. Restrooms are not provided due to high construction and maintenance costs. Parking is also not usually provided; however, on-street, ADA accessible parking stall(s) may be included.

Neighborhood park development may proceed in phases.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are larger sites developed for organized play, contain a wider array of facilities and, as a result, appeal to a more diverse group of users. Community parks are generally 20 to 50 acres in size, meet a minimum size of 20 acres when possible and serve residents within a 1-mile radius of the site.

In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized or intensive recreational activities and sports, although passive components such as pathways, picnic areas and natural areas are highly encouraged and complementary to active use facilities.

Since community parks serve a larger area and offer more facilities than neighborhood parks, parking and restroom facilities are provided. Community parks may also incorporate community facilities, such as community centers, senior centers or aquatic facilities.



NATURAL AREAS & GREENSPACES

NATURAL AREAS

Natural areas are those which are preserved to maintain the natural character of the site and are managed to protect valuable ecological systems, such as riparian corridors and wetlands, and to preserve native habitat and biodiversity. In managing for their ecological value, these natural areas may contain a diversity of native vegetation that provides fish and wildlife habitat and embodies the beauty and character of the local landscape. Low-impact activities, such as walking, nature observation, and fishing are allowed, where appropriate, and horseback riding is also permitted on certain sites.

GREENSPACES

Greenspaces are passive-use open spaces and turf areas without developed amenities or structured functions.

TRAILS & BIKEWAYS

Trails are non-motorized transportation networks separated from roads. Trails can be developed to accommodate multiple uses or shared uses, such as pedestrians, in line skaters, bicyclists, and equestrians. Trail alignments aim to emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment and may not provide the most direct route from a practical transportation viewpoint.

Bikeways are different than trails in that their principal focus is on safe and efficient non-motorized transportation. Bikeways serve distinctly different user groups than trail users. Typical bikeway user groups would include bicycle commuters, fitness enthusiasts and competitive athletes. Their emphasis is on speed, which can create conflicts with recreation-type trails and their respective user groups.

For shared-use trails, it is important that the alignment and cross sections be designed with flexibility to accommodate higher speeds, passing zones and greater widths. Surfaces will vary with intended use and environmental considerations. Additionally, parking, consistent signage (wayfinding, access, use hierarchy) and interpretive markers or panels should be provided as appropriate.

SPECIAL FACILITIES

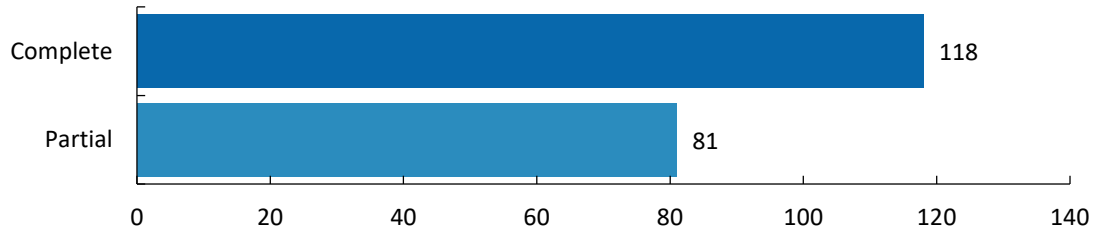
Special facilities include single-purpose recreational areas such as skateparks and display gardens, along with community centers, aquatic centers and public plazas in or near the downtown core. Additionally, publicly-accessible sport fields and play areas of public schools are classified as special facilities; while they often serve as proxies to public parks, school sites have restricted daytime access and offer limited recreational use during non-school hours. No standards are proposed concerning special facilities, since facility size is a function of the specific use.

C - Public Survey Comments

2024-0818 Eatonville PROS Survey Results

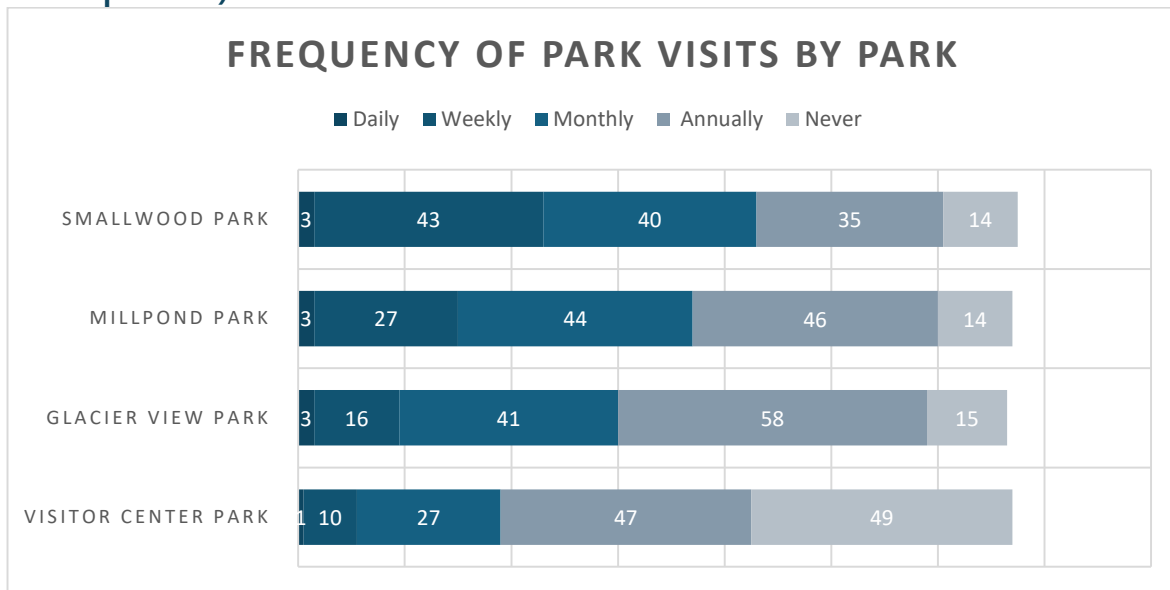
A survey was made available to the public in order that public input would inform the PROS plan. 199 total responses were recorded, and 118 were fully completed.

Responses



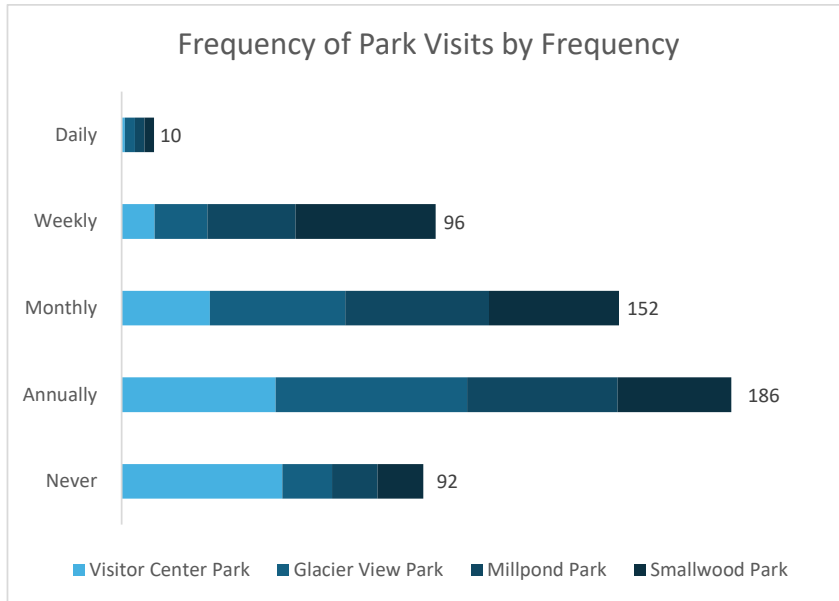
Complete	118
Partial	81
Totals	199

1. How often do you use each of Eatonville's Parks? (536 total responses)



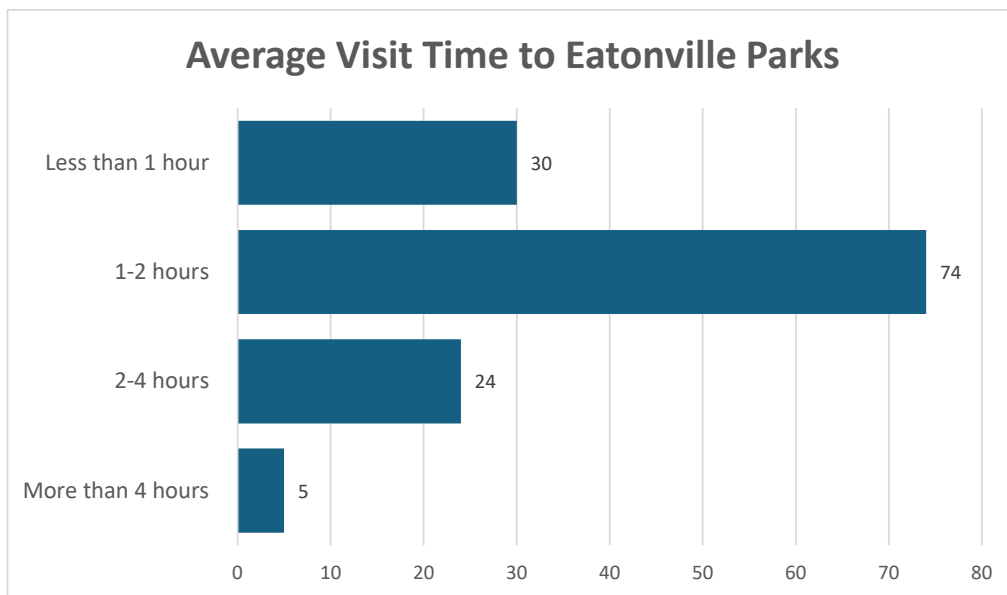
Smallwood Park is visited most frequently on a weekly basis. Millpond Park is visited monthly more than other parks, Glacier View Park is visited only once per year by a majority of respondents, and 49 respondents indicated never visiting Visitor Center Park.

According to this data, Smallwood Park is the most visited park (3,846 cumulative annual visits), #2 is Millpond Park (3,078 cumulative annual visits), #3 is Glacier View Park (2,477 cumulative annual visits), and #4 is Visitor Center Park (1,256 cumulative annual visits).

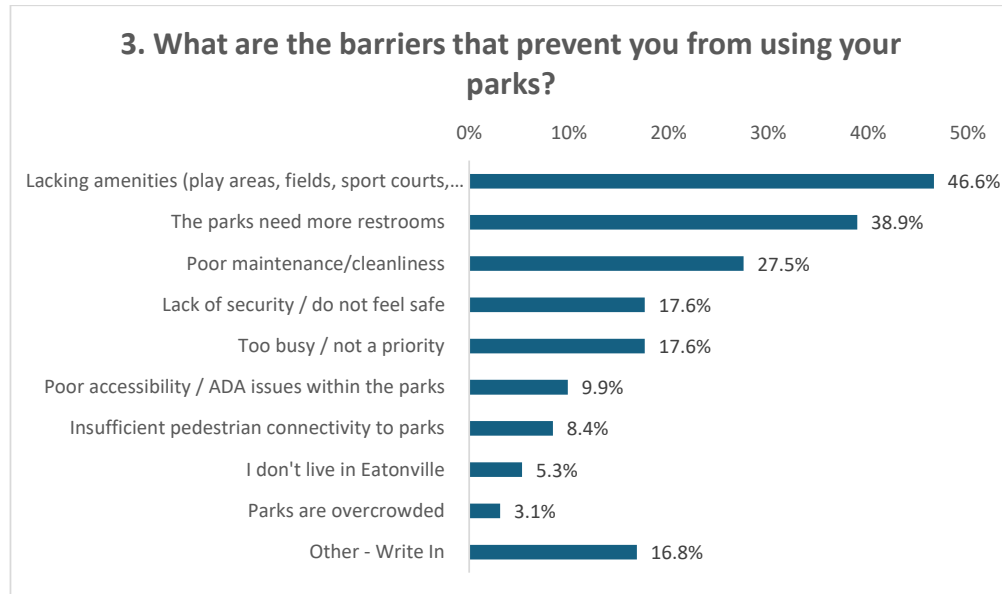


2. How long is your average visit to parks in Eatonville? (133 Responses)

55.6% of respondents spend 1-2 hours on average when visiting parks. 22.6% spend less than an hour, 18.0% spend 2-4 hours, and 3.8% spend more than 4 hours.



Respondents were asked to indicate their greatest barriers to using Eatonville’s parks. The results below indicate that the greatest barrier is adequate facilities, amenities, and maintenance. There is also an indication that park use would be served by greater accessibility, pedestrian connectivity, and space.



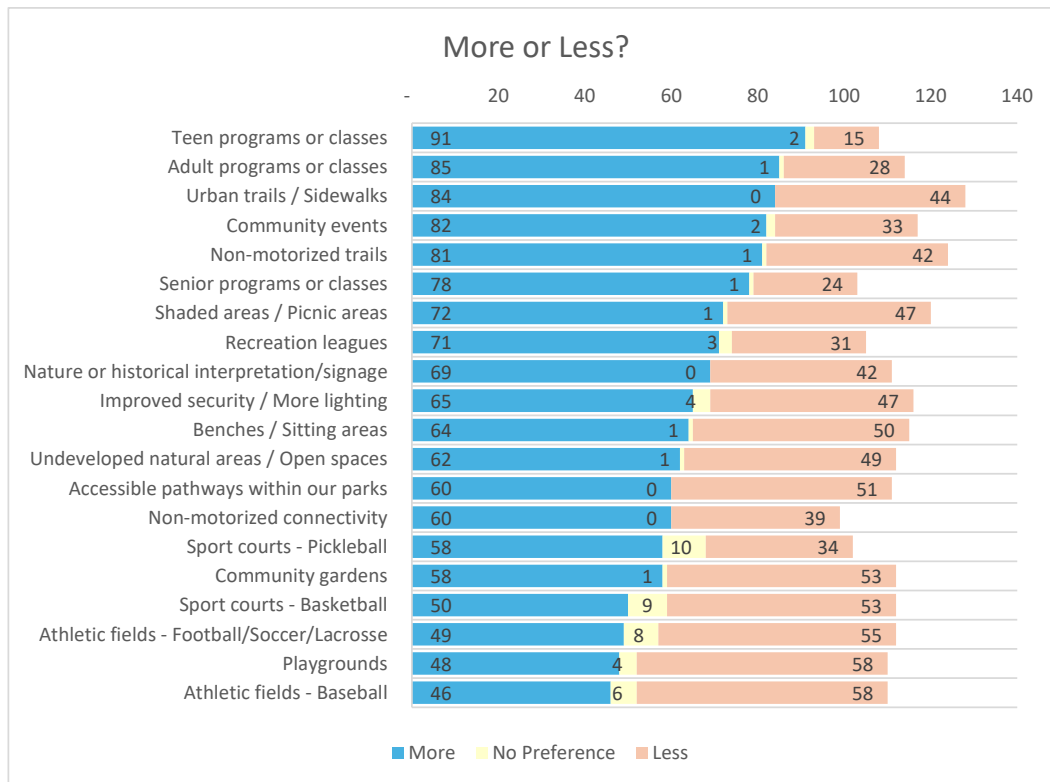
Additional write-in responses regarding park barriers discuss:

- Benches, restrooms, and other amenities
- Park reservation difficulties.
- Desire for off-leash dog parks
- It's too far from home to use in a regular basis
- Signage and location assistance.
- More trails and bike lanes, bike racks, and similar infrastructure so people can easily access and use these areas
- Not a fun playground for the kids. One part is too small. The other park is too big. Lack of swings and the outdated bark.
- Parks overcrowded with people
- Avoiding unpleasant misuses of facilities (cursing, loitering, etc)

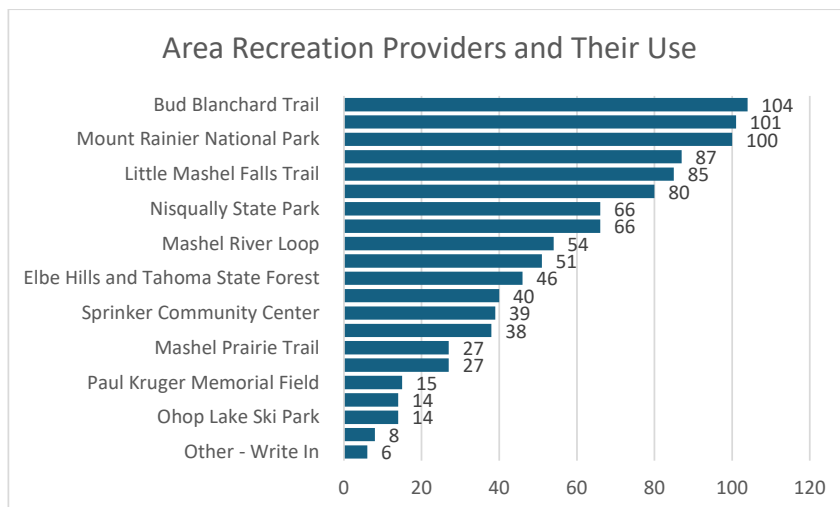
4. Do you think Eatonville needs more or less of the following amenities and facilities?

The data below suggests that Eatonville residents desire programs and classes for teens, adults, and seniors, more trails and sidewalks, and greater accessibility.

The items with most disagreement included baseball fields, playgrounds, and other athletic fields.



5. Which other outdoor recreation opportunities in the area do you use? Select all that apply.



Write-In Answers:

- Billy Holliday Memorial Park

- Ohop valley
- Yelm Park
- Yelm baseball fields

6. What recreation activities do you travel outside of Eatonville for? e.g., aquatics, recreational programs, tournaments, etc.



Top 3 Specific Categories

1. Hiking (16 mentions)
2. Aquatics/Swimming (7 mentions)
3. Fishing (7 mentions)

General Categories:

Sports (General and Specific)	53
Camping/Outdoor Recreation	42
Aquatics/Water Activities	23
Hiking/Walking/Trail Activities	26
Cycling/Biking	17
Entertainment/Events	21

Facilities/Programs

14

Specific Categories:

Sports (General and Specific)

Activity	Times Mentioned
Leagues/Tournaments	7
Ice skating	5
Pickleball	5
Bowling	4
Baseball	3
Softball	3
Sports	3
Soccer tournaments	2
Rec programs	2
Indoor sports facilities	2
Gymnastics	2
Martial arts	2
Disc Golf	2
CrossFit competitions	1
Basketball	1
Hockey	1
Putt putt golf	1
Kids club soccer	1
Football EJC	1
Football tournaments	1
Competitive baseball	1
Tournament/select teams	1
Coed softball	1
Fast pitch	1
Football camps	1
High school sports	1
Soccer/Football fields	1
Athletic tournaments	1

Camping/Outdoor Recreation

Activity	Times Mentioned
Fishing	7
Camping	3
Boating	2
Canoeing/Kayaking	2
Rock climbing	2
Dog park	2
Snowshoeing	2

Horseback riding	2
Rock climbing wall	1
Picnic	1
Crafting workshops	1
Dirt Bike riding	1
Fiddle camp	1
Mushroom hunting	1
Berry picking	1
Friendly dog walk	1
parks	
Gatherings	1
Socializing	1
Cultural festivals	1
Country line dancing	1
Motorized	1
Non-motorized	1
Marathons	1
Recreational races	1
Tough mudders	1
River rafting	1
Wakeboarding in MN	1
Outdoor fitness	1
activities	
Climbing wall	1
Trail riding	1
Mountain hiking	1

Aquatics/Water Activities

Activity	Times Mentioned
Aquatics	7
Swimming	4
Splash pads	3
Splash parks	2
Kayaking	2
Swimming lessons	1
Pool	1
Water activities	1
River rafting	1
Any water activity	1

Mountain biking	2
Bike ride	2
Paved cycling trails	1
Bike track	1
Bike paths	1
Bike racing	1

Entertainment/Events

Activity	Times Mentioned
Farmers markets	2
Zoo	2
YMCA Pool	2
Gym	2
Acting	1
Teen activities	1
Concerts	1
Comedy shows	1
Professional sports	1
Aviation events	1
Community markets	1
Private coaching	1
Adult recreational classes	1
Music	1
Socializing	1
Fitness club	1
Aquarium	1
Botanical gardens	1

Facilities/Programs

Activity	Times Mentioned
Indoor sports facilities	2
Gym	2
Farmers Markets	2
YMCA Pool	1
Fitness club	1
Rec programs	1
Rec league	1
High school sports	1
School fields	1
Other recreational activities	1

Hiking/Walking/Trail Activities

Activity	Times Mentioned
Hiking	16
Mountain bike trails	2
Alpine Hiking	1
Trail Running	1
Mountaineering	1
Walking in nature/hikes	1
More hiking	1
Other trails	1
Trail riding	1
Mountain hiking	1

Cycling/Biking

Activity	Times Mentioned
Cycling	5
Biking	4

7. If you could change one thing about Eatonville's parks and recreation options, what would it be?



Here are a few of the most common sentiments among the answers:

- **Better Sports Fields and Recreational Areas (18 mentions)**
 - "More sports fields for local teams. Or adding a sports complex with multi-sport fields that could be used to host tournaments that in turn would help the local economy."
 - "Better football field and maybe a bowling alley or fun center for families."
- **Maintenance and Facilities Improvements (16 mentions)**
 - "Maintenance and spaces, playgrounds, and bathrooms (signage with phone number for reporting of issues that are then addressed in a timely manner)."
 - "Updates to existing playground equipment/bench repair, more seating, water bottle filling station at all community water fountains!!!"
- **Trails and Connectivity (13)**
 - "Connect parks and community areas with walking and biking trails. More community events."
 - "Additional connector trails, such as to Boxcar Canyon."
- **Addressing Security Concerns (11 mentions)**

- "Security concerns. I am often alone or with my younger siblings, and we don't feel safe without a man we trust."
 - "Security cameras, stopping vandalism."
- **Playgrounds and Splash Pads (10)**
 - "Redone area for kids. Updated playground equipment, splash pads."
 - "A splash park. Organized kid activities."
- **Bathrooms (10)**
 - "More clean bathroom access and a splash pad."
 - "Restrooms open!"
- **Cycling and Walking Accessibility (10)**
 - "Please offer mountain biking trails! Please build more options for cyclists, including mountain biking road cycling and gravel cycling!"
 - "The mountain bike trails should be wide enough to handle handcycles."
- **Pedestrian and Accessibility Improvements (8)**
 - "Making Eatonville a more pedestrian-friendly town."
 - "Better access; Ashford needs more sidewalks; a recreational complex would be awesome!"
- **Environmental and Natural Areas (7)**
 - "More natural areas that protect and show appreciation for native ecosystems."
 - "Would love to see opportunities to teach kids the value of preserving a balance of wildlife and natural areas."
- **Community Events and Activities (5)**
 - "More community activities."
 - "Offer classes on natural healing and survival in the wild."
 - Classes on natural healing and survival in the wild.
- **Historical and Cultural Enhancements (2 mentions)**
 - "More Historical interpretation."
 - "Offer classes on natural healing and survival in the wild."

8. What do you love about living in Eatonville or what are your reasons for visiting Eatonville?

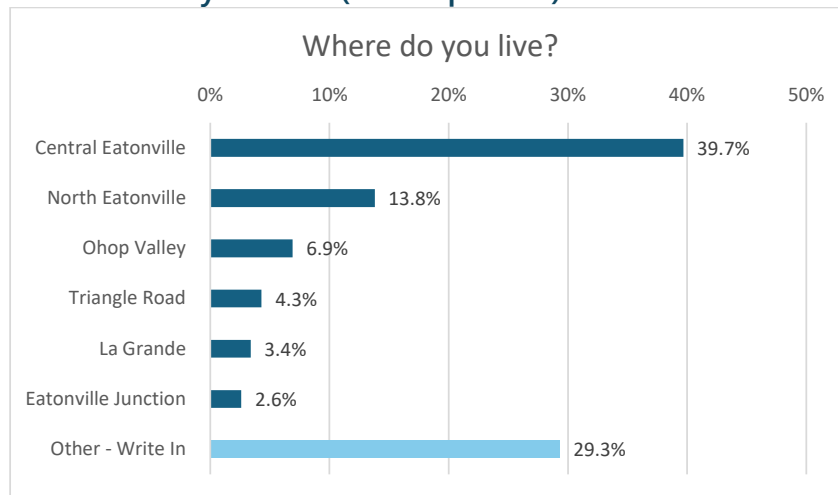


Here are a few of the most common sentiments among the answers:

- **Small Town Feel and Community Atmosphere (46)**
 - "I love the small town community vibes, the history and I see the potential this town could have for the children."
 - "Small town with friendly people and just about anything you need is right here. No need to drive all the way to Tacoma or Puyallup."
- **Proximity to Nature and Outdoor Recreation (38)**
 - "Love living in a small town close to scenic views, drives, and hiking trails."
 - "The outdoor access is key, would love to have more parking options for things especially when the weekends fill up with tourists at the most popular spots."
- **Sense of Safety (14)**
 - "Safe area, family friendly, walkable."
 - "Small town less creepy people. Keep this area small."
- **Community Services and Amenities (12)**
 - "The Eatonville Family Agency, community garden, and the amazing library services and social organizations that contribute so much to all of our lives here."
 - "Full service grocery shopping, police department in town, multiple parks and trails, pharmacy, PostNet, veterinary clinic, hardware store, bank, library, area family agency and food bank, sense of community."
- **Peace and Tranquility (10)**
 - "Quiet and solitude."
 - "Peace, generally quiet, close to nature."
- **Community Events and Social Life (8)**
 - "Community events are fun. Shops in town are starting to shine. Everyone is nice."

- "The sense of community and the close proximity of friends, nature, and schools."
- **Preservation of the Rural and Natural Environment (7)**
 - "I love the natural environment and moved out here to get away from the urban and city congestion."
 - "The outdoorsy feelings. I love that I can own property and not be able to see my neighbors. I love that there is not a housing development around every corner."
- **Concerns About Growth and Tourism (6)**
 - "I love Eatonville because it is a small town. I LOVE the small town feel. I moved here to get away from city people."
 - "The worst part about living in Eatonville is all the people (the mayor) who wants to turn it into a big city."

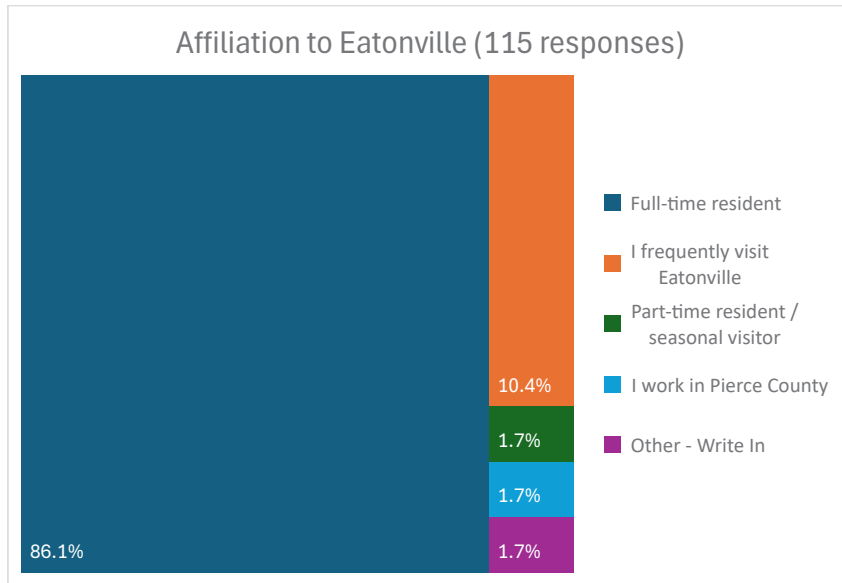
9. Where do you live? (116 responses)



Write-in answers included near Alder Lake, Scott Turner, Ashford, Spanaway, and the outskirts of Eatonville.

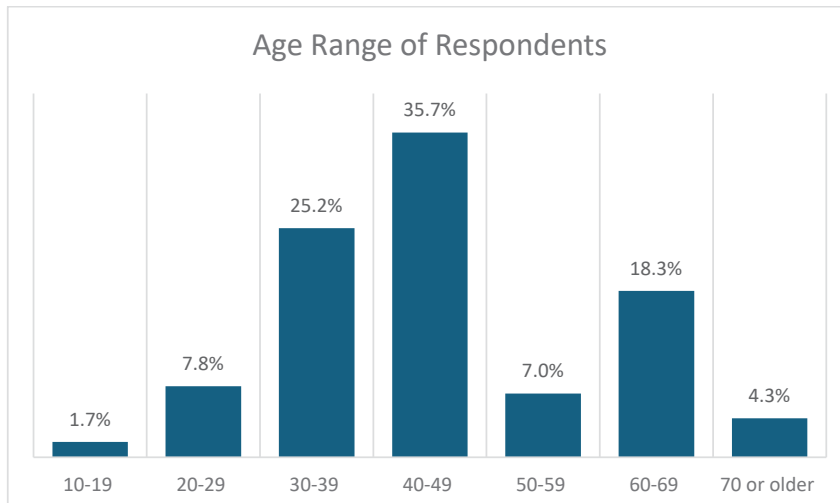
10. What best describes your connection to Eatonville? (115 responses)

About 86% of respondents were full-time residents, and the additional 14% visit, live, or work in the greater area.



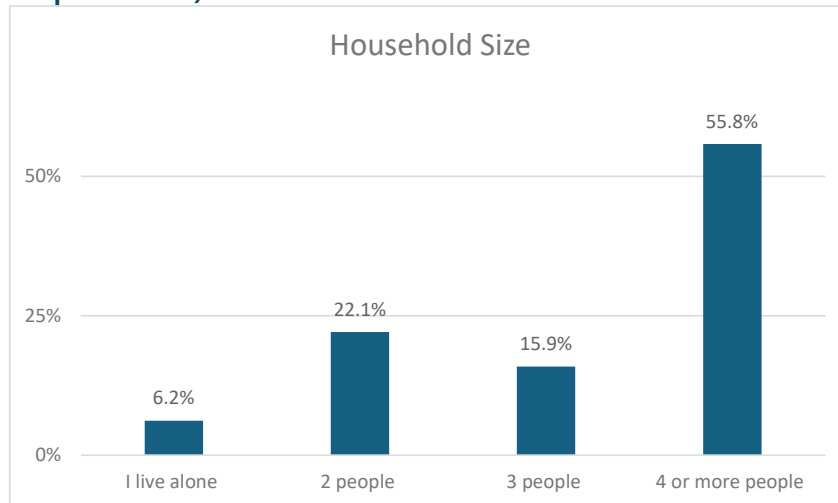
11. What is your age range? (115 responses)

Nearly 61% of respondents were between 30 and 49 years old.



The average age of respondents (using the starting points of each age range) is 41, which is higher than the median age of the 2022 population (28.5). However, this may be due to the low participation rate of residents under 20 years old.

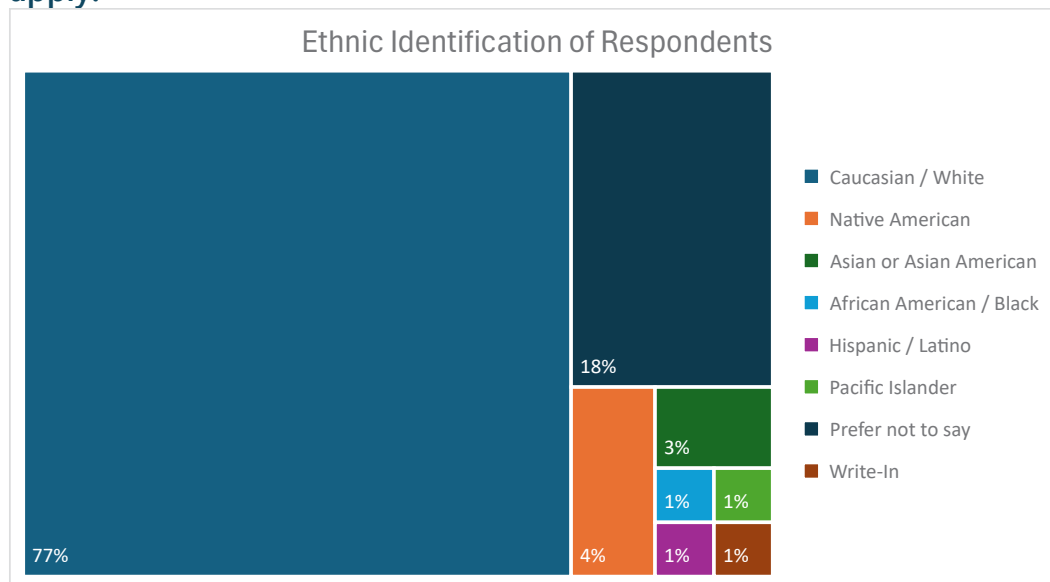
12. How many people live in your household, including yourself? (113 respondents)



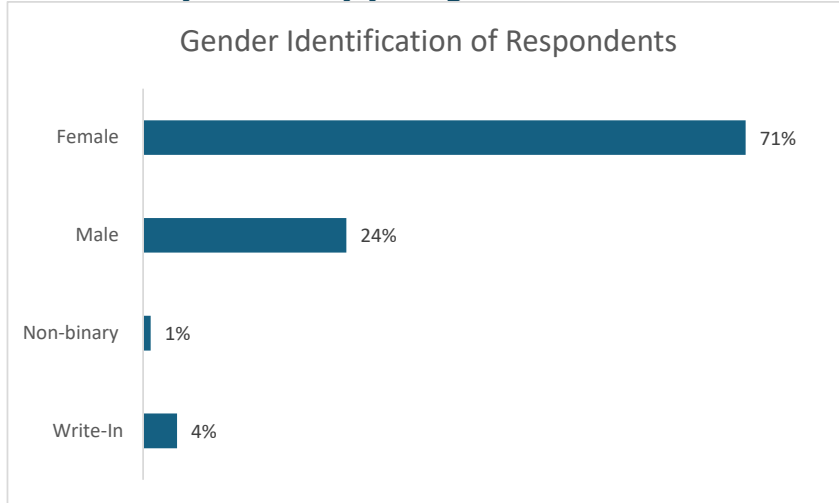
The average household size 3.2 people

2022 Census Data Average Household size: 3.1 people

13. What ethnic or racial group do you identify with? Select all that apply.



14. How do you identify your gender?



Languages Spoken at Home

Language	Percent	Count
English	100%	113
French	1%	1
Other	1%	1

15. Additional Comments (48 responses)



Here are a few of the most common sentiments among the additional comments:

- Improved recreational facilities (18 mentions)
 - "We are definitely lacking sport courts/fields for our growing youth population."
 - "Partnering with the school district for new/upgraded athletic fields with adequate parking would be amazing."
- Environment/sustainability (7)
 - "It would be my hope that any plans derived from the PROST process focus on low environmental impact and low electricity and water usage in the future."
 - "Revitalization of Rain Gardens around town to demonstrate their purpose"
- Community Involvement (9)
 - "Get the kids involved with learning about water quality, sewer, pollutants, etc., so it's a community effort."
- Maintenance and upkeep (10)
 - "They need to figure out a maintenance program because our maintenance program is nonexistent."
 - "The skate park, which is fenced off for some reason, should be turned into a splash pad."
 - "Would love unbroken playground equipment. Would love more options of places for older children/teenagers to be able to play at."
- Support for Rails-to-Trails and biking (6)

- "PLEASE get us more trails and turn the railroad into a rail to trail!"
 - "Turn the unused railroads to hiking, biking trails."
- ADA and accessibility (3)
 - "Please just add more ADA accessibility and senior citizen accessibility to the town."

D - Parks, Recreation, Trails, Habitat, and Education Funding Options

Introduction

There are a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining a town's parks and recreation programs. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with town leadership are critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing town revenue sources in favor of park and recreation programs.

Local Funding Options

Councilmanic Bonds

Councilmanic bonds may be sold by cities without public vote. The bonds, both principal and interest, are retired with payments from existing town revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. The state constitution has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of 1-½% of the value of taxable property in the town.

General Obligation Bond

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.52.056>

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. The state constitution (Article VIII, Section 6) limits total debt to 5% of the total assessed value of property in the jurisdiction.

Excess Levy

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.52.052>

Washington law allows cities and counties, along

with other specified junior taxing districts, to levy property taxes in excess of limitations imposed by statute when authorized by the voters. Levy approval requires 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election.

Regular Property Tax - Lid Lift

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.55.050>

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall; however, in no case may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period.

Sales Tax

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.14>

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of cities and counties to impose sales and use taxes at a rate set by the statute to help "carry out essential county and municipal purposes." The authority is divided into two parts. Cities may impose by resolution or ordinance a sales and use tax at a rate of ½% on any taxable event within their jurisdictions. Cities may also impose an additional sales tax at a rate up to ½% on any taxable event within the town. In this case, the statute provides an electoral process

for repealing the tax or altering the rate.

Impact Fees

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.02.050>

Impact fees are charges placed on new development as a condition of development approval to help pay for various public facilities the need for which is directly created by that new growth and development. Counties, cities, and towns may impose impact fees on residential and commercial "development activity" to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space and recreation facilities. Funds received must be spent on approved capital projects within 10 years of collection. Eatonville, WA, does not currently have impact fees in place. The town does not specifically list or enforce impact fees for developments, which are fees typically used to offset the costs of infrastructure improvements necessitated by new development.

Real Estate Excise Tax

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.46.010>

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of counties and cities to impose excise taxes on the sale of real property within limits set by the statute. This authority may be divided into three parts relevant to park systems.

A town or county may impose a real estate excise tax (REET 1) on the sale of all real property in the town or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed ¼% of the selling price, to fund "local capital improvements," including parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, water systems, bridges, sewers, etc. Also, the funds must be used "primarily for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan .

A town or county may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the town or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed ½%, in lieu of a ½% sales tax option authorized under state law. These funds are not restricted to capital projects. The statute provides for a repeal mechanism.

A town or county – in counties that are required to prepare comprehensive plans under the new Growth Management Act – are authorized to impose an additional real estate excise tax (REET 2) on all real property sales in the town or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed ¼%. These funds must be used "solely for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan."

The town share of the real estate excise tax is two one-quarter percent amounts (0.5%) that are restricted for capital projects per RCW 82.46. Revenues collected by this tax are deposited in a special capital improvement fund. Since REET collections are directly tied to the frequency and valuation of real estate transactions, this funding source is widely variable with local real estate conditions. REET 1 funds capital projects for parks.

Real Estate Excise Tax - Local Conservation Areas

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.46.070>

Boards of County Commissioners may impose, with majority voter approval, an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at a rate not to exceed 1% of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. The authorizing legislation defines conservation areas as "land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations..." These areas include "open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna."

Federal & State Grants and Conservation Programs

EPA Environmental Education Grants (EPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/educaton/environmental-educaton-ee-grants>

In past years, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has sought grant proposals from eligible applicants to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the

environment. Although currently not appropriated, this program may become available in future years.

RAISE Discretionary Grants (USDOT)

<https://www.transportation.gov/tiger> (Used to be TIGER grants)

Eligible projects for RAISE Discretionary Grants are capital projects that include, but are not limited to: (1) Highway, bridge, or other road projects eligible under Title 23, United States Code; (2) public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of Title 49, United States Code; (3) passenger and freight rail transportation projects; (4) port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry); and (5) intermodal projects.

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS)

<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/>

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program (USFW)

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act/how-to-apply-for-a-nawca-grant.php>

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute toward a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that

involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

Wetlands Reserve Program (NRCS)

www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/wrp/

The WRP provides landowners the opportunity to preserve, enhance and restore wetlands and associated uplands. The program is voluntary and provides three enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 10-year restoration cost-share agreements. In all cases, landowners retain the underlying ownership in the property and management responsibility. Land uses may be allowed that are compatible with the program goal of protecting and restoring the wetlands and associated uplands. The NRCS manages the program and may provide technical assistance.

Washington Recreation & Conservation Grant Programs (RCO)

<https://rco.wa.gov/grants/>

The Recreation and Conservation Office was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from unreclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, Youth Athletic Facilities Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/aquatic-lands-enhancement-account/>

This program, managed through the RCO, provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands.

In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (BAFBRB)

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/brian-abbott-fish-barrier-removal-board/>

The Legislature established the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board grant program in 2014 to identify and remove impediments to salmon and steelhead migration. The grant program is administered jointly by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. More information about the board and meetings may be found on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's web page.

Boating Facilities Program (BFP)

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/boating-facilities-program/>

Funding to buy, develop, and renovate facilities for motorized boats.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/boating-infrastructure-grant-program/>

This federal grant program provides funding to develop and renovate boating facilities targeting guest recreational boats twenty-six feet and larger. Grants also may be used for boater education.

Community Forests Program

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/community-forests-program/>

The Community Forests Program gives communities a way to preserve their working forest heritage. The

grant program balances the many benefits forests provide – from providing money from use of the land, to safeguarding against climate and other environmental changes, to providing opportunities for recreation, education, and cultural enrichment. As Washington's population continues to grow and forestlands are increasingly threatened by development, the Community Forests Program is a valuable tool for preserving working lands for the benefit of Washingtonians now and into the future.

Estuary & Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/estuary-and-salmon-restoration-program/>

This program provides grants and technical assistance for projects that restore and conserve near-shore areas in Puget Sound. The goal is to ensure Washington's estuaries, bays, and shorelines are intact, functioning, and resilient to climate change.

This grant program is managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife with RCO administering the grants.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/land-and-water-conservation-fund/>

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding to preserve and develop outdoor recreation resources, including parks, trails, and wildlife lands.

Congress created the fund in 1965 with the passage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to states for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas. All communities may compete for funding in this program.

No Child Left Inside (NCLI)

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/no-child-left-inside/>

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's No Child Left Inside (NCLI) grant program provides quality opportunities for underserved, underrepresented, and historically excluded youth to learn, play, and experience the outdoors. The Washington State Legislature established the program in 2007 with two primary goals: to improve the overall academic performance, self-esteem, health, community involvement, and connection to nature for youth; and to empower local communities

to engage youth in outdoor education and recreation experiences.

NCLI provides grants for a wide range of outdoor education and recreation activities including environmental education, leadership development, outdoor recreation and adventure, stewardship activities, and camp programs. RCO administers NCLI for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Outdoor Learning Grants

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/outdoor-learning-grants/>

The Washington State Legislature funded the Outdoor Learning Grants program, administered by the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the goal to develop and support outdoor educational experiences for students in Washington public schools.

All children deserve access to outdoor spaces where they can learn, play, and grow, but access to outdoor educational opportunities is inequitable.

From reducing stress, to improving mental and physical health, outdoor-based learning helps kids thrive. Research shows that kids who participate in outdoor educational activities are more likely to graduate, are better behaved in school, and have more relationships with peers, higher academic achievement, more critical thinking skills, and more direct experience of scientific concepts in the field. They also have better leadership and collaboration skills and a deeper engagement with learning, place, and community.

Habitat Conservation Projects-Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/washington-wildlife-and-recreation-program-habitat/>

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program provides funding for a broad range of land conservation efforts, from conserving natural areas near big cities to protecting the most pristine and unique collections of plants in the state, including some of last remaining plant species in the world.

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program was envisioned as a way for the state to accomplish two goals: acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands before they were lost to other uses and develop recreation areas for a growing population.

This landmark legislation passed in 1990 and the

grant program's continued funding have come about through the support of governors, the Legislature, and groups such as the many organizations comprising the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP - Recreation)

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/washington-wildlife-and-recreation-program-recreation/>

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program provides funding for a broad range of land protection and outdoor recreation, including local and state parks, trails, water access, and the conservation and restoration of state land.

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program was envisioned as a way for the state to accomplish two goals: acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands before they were lost to other uses and develop recreation areas for a growing population.

This landmark legislation passed in 1990 and the grant program's continued funding have come about through the support of governors, the Legislature, and groups such as the many organizations comprising the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition.

Youth Athletic Facilities Program (YAF)

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/youth-athletic-facilities/>

The YAF provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

Other Methods & Funding Sources

Park & Recreation District

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.69>

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities and must be initiated by petition of at least 15% percent of the registered voters within the proposed district. Upon completion of the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at

the next general election.

Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies and general obligation bonds. All three require 60% percent voter approval and 40% percent voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

The Town of Eatonville could potentially set up a parks district under RCW 35.61, but due to its size it would require careful consideration of the town's ability to generate sufficient revenue, public support, and whether the benefits outweigh the costs. The town would also need to follow the legal process, including gathering enough voter support and successfully passing a ballot measure.

Business Sponsorships / Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

Interagency or Inter-Local (ILA) Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

Acquisition Tools & Methods - Direct Purchase

Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the town purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are

negotiable.

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

Life Estates & Bequest

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the town, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the town. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the town upon death. While a life estate offers the town some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the town in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the town that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed,

the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions.

Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the town the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the town. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Pierce County Conservation Futures Program

The Conservation Futures program, founded in 1991, aims to protect open spaces, including fish and wildlife habitats, farmland, timberlands, urban green spaces, parks, and trails, to enrich the quality of life in Pierce County. This initiative supports health, education, economic growth, and recreation while creating community spaces and securing long-term access to natural resources for future generations.

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/1477/Conservation-Futures-Program>

Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the town that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the town purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Park or Open Space Dedication Requirements

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Ch. 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development's impact.

Landowner Incentive Measures

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the "sending" and "receiving" property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes.

No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irc.gov for

more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the Town.

Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their “highest and best” use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years worth of differential tax rates is waived.

Other Land Protection Options

Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government

agency. The Nisqually Land Trust is the regional land trust serving the region. These efforts primarily focus on protecting working farms, ranchlands, wildlife habitats, and other significant natural landscapes from subdivision and development. Other national organizations with local representation include the Nisqually River Council, Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, and Conservation Northwest.

Regulatory Measures

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinances, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

Public/Private Utility Corridors

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.





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