



**Chapter 6**  
**PARK & RECREATION**  
**ELEMENT**

**A. Introduction & Background**

The City maintains seven parks which cover approximately 40 acres, and an additional three acres of open space. The City also operates a recreation department, which coordinates a large variety of recreational programs. The City’s parks and recreation programs provide recreational opportunities for a service area population that includes residents within the city and the surrounding area. All financial support for the maintenance, operation, and improvements to the city’s parks and for administration and operation of the recreation department is from the City General Fund. Table 6.1 lists the parks operated and maintained by the city; Figure 6.1 shows the location of each park.

**Table 6.1**  
**Colville City Parks**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Size</b>
1. Angus McDonald Park	Main St & 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Neighborhood	1.7 acres
2. Downtown Park	City Hall	Neighborhood	.17 acre
3. Dominion Park	Park Dr, south of Olympic Way	Neighborhood	.76 acre
4. Heritage Court	Astor & Main St	Community	.12 acres
5. Rotary Park	Washington St & Columbia Ave	Community Ball Field	6 acres
6. Yep Kanum Park	Dominion Ave & Maple St	Community	18.12 acres
7. Dean Vaagen Memorial Park	Silke Road	Community Ball Field	13.13 acres
<b>Total</b>			<b>40 acres</b>

Facilities such as the park shelters, ball fields, swimming pool, and the Rotary pavilion are available for rent seasonally (March – October), by the general public.

There are other facilities in the area that provide opportunities for recreation that are owned and operated by other agencies, such as the School District properties, the Stevens County Fairgrounds, an 18-hole golf course, and the Rotary Trail (which is a public community trail that forms a 2.25 mile loop around the back nine of the Dominion Meadows Golf Course).

**1. Vision**

The Colville Park Department and Recreation Department have adopted this mission statement:

*“Effectively working in partnership with the community in the provision of the highest quality and most needed park and recreation services.”*

The adopted level of service for the city is 1.6 acres per every 1000 persons for neighborhood parks and 2.6 acres per every 1000 persons for community parks. Currently, we have 2.63 acres of neighborhood park space and 37.37 of community park space. Table 6.2 shows a comparison of the current park space available to what we should have. This is based on our adopted level of service for Colville's population as of April 2009.

**Table 6.2  
Population / Park LOS Comparison**

<b>Population (5045*)</b>	<b>Neighborhood (Ratio 1.6ac/1000)</b>	<b>Community (Ratio 2.6ac/1000)</b>
Current	2.63	37.37
**Adopted LOS	8.06	13.10
Difference	-5.43	+24.27

\*OFM Population as of April 2010

\*\*Levels of service (LOS); adopted in the 1996 Comprehensive Plan

The desire of the community has been, and continues to be, an increase in smaller neighborhood parks. As part of the expected growth of non-motorized transportation, trail heads or small park-like rest stops along a designated bicycle trail, could become incorporated into the overall city park system for neighborhood sites. Since there remains an 'excess' of overall park space available, there have been no requirements to provide open space with recent subdivision projects.

The Recreation Department continues to experience increased participation in the various programs being offered. The table below provides an example of the types of Recreation programs available to residents in our region. Most of the programs are seasonal, usually scheduled during the Spring, Summer, or Fall.

**Table 6.3  
Recreation Programs**

<b>Season</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Age Group</b>
Summer	Day Camps	Ages 3-10
Spring/Fall	Babysitting Classes	Ages 11 – 15
Spring	T-Ball	Ages 5-7
Spring/Summer	Fun Runs	All Ages
Spring/Summer	Tennis; Lessons, Cardio, Tournaments	Ages 5-adult
Winter/Summer/Fall	Basketball	K through Grade 6
Summer/Fall	Soccer	Age 4 - 13
Summer	Co-Ed Softball	Adult
Summer	Pool; Lessons, Meets, Open Swim, Rental	All
Summer	Tiger-Triathlon	Age 15 - Adult
Spring/Fall	Volleyball	Adult
Summer	Sports Camps (Cheer, Dance, Basketball, etc.)	Grades K-8

Source: City of Colville Parks & Recreation Website (2009); this is not a complete list of available programs

## 2. Coordination Opportunities

Yep Kanum Park is utilized for many of the events offered by this department. Since the park does not have the facilities needed for all of the programs offered by the Recreation Department, many programs are conducted elsewhere. For example, some of the day camps are held at the Colville High School. The basketball courts at Aster School are used for Basketball Camp; and soccer is held at Vaagen’s Memorial Ball Field.

Due to the inclement weather in our region, some of the activities are scheduled outside of the normal sports season. As an example, some of the basketball camps are held starting in Spring and into the Fall, when the actual basketball season is in the Winter. Consideration should be made to provide a community facility, possibly an indoor, multi-purpose sports complex, that would allow year-round and timely scheduling for many events. This facility could be made available for use by other agencies, as well as the general public.

## 3. Demand Forecast and Potential Expansion

The following is a summary of the demands for park space for the current planning period based on LOS, projected population growth, and existing park facilities:

**Table 6.4  
Existing Park Facilities vs. Need**

Year	Projected Population	LOS Demand in Acres		Existing vs. Need	
		Neighborhood (NB) 1.6ac per 1000	Community (CM) 2.6 ac per 1000	NB (2.63)	CM (37.37)
2010	5,045	8.06	13.1	+5.43	-24.27
2020	*6,004	9.6	15.6	+6.97	-21.77
2030	*6,740	10.8	17.5	+8.17	-19.87

*\*Population projections are based on 11.96% of OFM’s Low Growth Projections for Stevens County*

Based on adopted level of service standards, the city will continue to have sufficient community park space through the next 20 years. The neighborhood park space, which is already deficient, will need to be increased to meet current and projected needs. It is possible to create “pocket parks” along the designated routes within the Sidewalk Plan and Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan that could be used as rest areas as well as neighborhood parks.

The demand for park space, based on acreage, may be calculated on adopted level of service standards. However, the need for additional recreational facilities is difficult to project, due to the use of these facilities from residents and visitors from throughout the region. It is expected that utilization of local services will increase, based on a recent trend for families to seek recreational outlets closer to home. The following is a list of facilities that the Park Department & Recreation Department have determined would be beneficial to our community:

- ∇ Spray Park (within existing park)
- ∇ Indoor, Multi-Purpose Sports Complex
- ∇ Soccer Field Complex
- ∇ Community Center
- ∇ Neighborhood Parks

Input received from the public has indicated that improved and/or additional tennis courts would be beneficial. As this sport increases in popularity, it has become apparent that the existing tennis courts are in need of repair and maintenance. It was also expressed that additional courts would provide the ability to effectively coordinate tournaments.

As much as possible, the city should strive to combine facilities for multiple functions within a common complex to allow for more cost-effective and efficient functionality.

## **B. Goals & Policies**

### **1. Optimize recreational opportunities for residents in service area with minimum expense.**

- Policy 1.1: Effectively promote and publicize area recreation programs and events.
- Policy 1.2 Coordinate activities with other agencies to provide options for recreational opportunities on a frequent basis.
- Policy 1.3 Utilize to the fullest extent, all existing parks, recreation sites, and facilities.
- Policy 1.4 Provide connectivity of existing or proposed pedestrian and bicycle routes with parks and recreation facilities.
- Policy 1.5 Work closely with the school districts in an effort to make the best use of all existing facilities.
- Policy 1.6 Implement effective marketing and promotion to achieve appropriate enrollment levels in 85% of programs offered.

### **2. Ensure safe and healthy park and recreation facilities.**

- Policy 2.1 Designate facilities in locations that are compatible with surrounding land uses.
- Policy 2.2 Periodically conduct needs assessment for parks to reduce overcrowding or neglect.
- Policy 2.3 Analyze and develop plans for improvements and maintenance to existing facilities.
- Policy 2.4 Analyze and develop plans for expansion, as existing facilities become inadequate to accommodate usage.
- Policy 2.5 Provide adequate lighting for outdoor recreational facilities that may be utilized after dark.

**3. Provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities for all ages.**

- Policy 3.1 Provide active play areas such as basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds, ball fields, a swimming pool, and a spray park.
- Policy 3.2 Provide park accessories such as benches, tables, and walking paths.
- Policy 3.3 Provide organized active recreational opportunities for all ages, such as sporting events, lessons, adventure clubs, fun runs, and triathlons.
- Policy 3.4 Provide organized passive recreational opportunities for all ages, such as walking events, classes or sessions relating to arts and crafts, nature, or babysitting; and movie/concert nights for families or specific age groups.
- Policy 3.5 Provide aquatic activities such as swim tournaments, swim lessons, kid's triathlons, open swim times, family nights, lifeguard training, aquatic fitness, teen nights, and other activities.

**4. Incorporate parks and recreation as part of Colville's tourism and economic development program.**

- Policy 4.1 Plan and coordinate recreational programs as Facilitator, Co-Sponsor, or Direct Sponsor.
- Policy 4.2 Coordinate events with the local Chamber of Commerce, tourism agencies, and school district.
- Policy 4.3 Offer local facilities for regional sports tournaments.
- Policy 4.4 Build an indoor, multi-purpose sports complex to provide year-round activities and events for the region.