

DRAFT

**Cashmere Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan
2023-2028**



**City of Cashmere
101 Woodring Street, Cashmere, Washington 98815**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor:	James Fletcher
City Council:	John Perry Chris Carlson Shela Pistorosi Jayne Stephenson Derrick Pratt
Contractor:	Christina Wollman, Perteet Inc.
Planning Commission:	Kirk Esmond Maureen Lewison Matthew Walgren Paul Nelson Paul Kinser Zak Steigmeyer
Staff:	Steve Croci

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 INTRODUCTION	2
CHAPTER2: PLANNING PROCESS	3
2.1 PLANNING CONTEXT	4
2.2 PLANNING DEFINITIONS.....	4
2.3 GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT	5
2.4 PLANNING AREA DESCRIPTION	5
2.4.1 <i>Overview</i>	5
2.4.2 <i>Access</i>	5
2.4.3 <i>Physical Setting</i>	5
2.4.4 <i>Vegetation</i>	6
2.4.5 <i>Land Use</i>	6
2.4.6 <i>Climate</i>	6
2.4.7 <i>History</i>	6
2.4.8 <i>Economy</i>	6
2.4.9 <i>Demographics</i>	7
2.4.10 <i>Management and Operations</i>	7
2.5 APPROACHES TO IDENTIFYING NEEDS	7
2.5.1 <i>Overview of National Standards</i>	7
2.5.2 <i>Website</i>	8
2.5.3 <i>PROS Plan Update Survey</i>	8
2.5.4 <i>Public Meetings</i>	8
2.6 METHODOLOGY	8
2.7 SURVEY RESULTS.....	9
CHAPTER3: EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM.....	10
3.1 INVENTORY	11
3.2 CITY MAINTAINED PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.....	11
3.2.1 <i>Neighborhood Parks</i>	11
3.2.2 <i>Community Parks</i>	12
3.2.3 <i>Open Space Areas</i>	13
3.3 CITY MAINTAINED FACILITIES	14
3.4 CITY MAINTAINED TRAILS AND BIKE FACILITIES	14
3.5 SCHOOL FACILITIES	14
3.6 OTHER PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES.....	15
3.7 EVALUATION OF FACILITIES.....	15
CHAPTER4: GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES	17
4.1 GUIDING FRAMEWORK.....	18
4.2 VISION	18
4.3 MISSION.....	18
4.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES.....	18
CHAPTER 5: PARK ACTION PLAN	23
5.1 PARK AND RECREATION LEVEL OF SERVICE.....	24
5.2 ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT	25
5.2.1 <i>Ardeta Park</i>	25
5.2.2 <i>Cashmere Water Park</i>	25

5.2.3 Cemetery	25
5.2.4 Railroad Park.....	26
5.2.5 River Street Park.....	26
5.2.6 Riverside Park.....	26
5.2.7 Simpson Park.....	26
5.3 PARK PLANNING ACTIVITIES.....	27
CHAPTER 6: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	28
6.1 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.....	29
6.2 CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.....	29
6.3 POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES.....	30

FIGURES

EXHIBIT 3.1. EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES.	11
EXHIBIT 3.2. PARK INVENTORY.	16
EXHIBIT 4.1. PARK SERVE ASSESSMENT RESULTS.	24
EXHIBIT 6.1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.	30



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) is to provide goals and policies to guide the acquisition and development of parks, recreation and open space facilities and programs throughout the City of Cashmere. It is designed to meet the City's recreational, social, and cultural needs now and into the future.

The benefit of City owned facilities must be recognized as valuable not only to city residents, but also visitors. As Cashmere grows in population, demands on parks, recreation and open space facilities increase. Recreational opportunities are one important measurement of community livability in that they help to build strong neighborhoods and promote a high quality of life.

Parks, recreation and open space planning should be flexible to meet the ever-changing demands, yet comprehensive to assure that the needs of the community are consistently met. This plan examines and addresses current needs, desires, opportunities with an eye toward historical information relevant to development. Population factors, land use, and general geographic features of the community are also vital considerations within the plan.

This document provides an inventory of park and recreation facilities and programs in Cashmere; outlines accepted standards for parks, open space, and recreation facilities; sets standards for such services; and presents a strategy for providing facilities and programs to meet the needs of the City's residents and visitors.



CHAPTER 2: PLANNING PROCESS

2.1 Planning Context

This section provides an overview of trends and issues that will set the context for the parks, recreation, and open space services in the coming years. The information was developed through a review of community priorities the existing comprehensive plan, census data and other demographic data, public meetings, survey results, and operational statistics.

2.2 Planning Definitions

There are a number of key terms used in the comprehensive plan:

- **Goal Areas:** The broad areas for improvement aligned to match the programs service provided.
- **Mission:** A description of the key programs and services the City provides.
- **Open Space:** Any open piece of land owned by the City of Cashmere that is undeveloped (has no buildings or other built structures) and is accessible to the public.
- **Parks:** This includes parks, trails, natural areas, and recreational facilities such as tennis and basketball courts and the Cashmere Water Park. A park is considered a parcel or contiguous parcels of land which is owned, operated, and maintained by a public agency or private association and which provides recreational land and facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents and visitors of the City.
- **Private Parks:** Private parks are those that serve an immediate subdivision, development or specific planned community in which they are located. Typical facilities include passive and active play areas, playground equipment, tennis courts and basketball courts. Private parks generally are owned and maintained by a homeowners association or other exclusive entity which limits use. Trail segments connecting to Primary or Secondary Trails located within a gated community must remain accessible to the general public. Except to the extent otherwise required by law, no access requirement prescribed herein shall have the effect of superseding a homeowner association's right to restrict the use of private neighborhood parks under its ownership.
- **Public Parks:** Public parks are those that serve the greater population. Typical facilities include active and passive open space, playground equipment, sports fields and picnic areas. Public parks are owned and maintained by the public agency which may include: the City, County, School District or other jurisdiction. No public park shall be located within a residential gated community. Public park sites shall be accessible by an existing or proposed public street(s) and visible to the general public. Whenever possible, new park facilities should be located adjacent to other existing or proposed public facilities such as trails, schools, library, storm water facilities, open spaces, existing parks etc.
- **Recreation:** This includes activities classified in the following programmatic areas: arts, aquatics, athletics, outdoor, cultural, special events, recreation, enrichment, parks, adaptive, health, fitness, wellness, and safety.
- **Strategies:** Strategies are the approaches to be used to achieve the goals.
- **Vision:** The desired vision of success the City strives to achieve.

- **Values:** Values are the norms and qualities of the City.

2.3 Growth Management Act

While the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Element within the City’s Comprehensive Plan is considered an optional element under the GMA, park and recreation facilities are required to be included in the mandatory Capital Facilities Plan. Additionally, the GMA encourages jurisdictions to retain open space, develop recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop park facilities. The GMA also addresses open space in requiring that land use plans include identification of “...open space corridors within and between urban growth areas. They shall include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection for critical areas” (RCW 36.70A.160). Land use plans are also required to “identify lands useful for public purposes such as utility corridors, transportation corridors, landfills, sewage treatment facilities, storm water management facilities, recreation, schools, and other public uses” (RCW 36.70A.150).

This PROS Plan is an update of the 1998 City of Cashmere Park and Recreation Plan and 2009-2015 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. To retain eligibility for a variety of grant and funding opportunities, Washington State requires that PROS plans be adopted and updated every six years. In addition to the statutory requirements, the six year timeframe also provides a means to set realistic goals and objectives based on a relatively limited basis.

This document provides a mechanism to document and evaluate trends, uses and community preferences and offers a consistent and coordinated direction for the City of Cashmere.

2.4 Planning Area Description

The planning area for this document is the City of Cashmere and its urban growth area.

2.4.1 Overview

The City of Cashmere is located in the geographic center of Washington State on the eastern side of the Cascade Mountains.

2.4.2 Access

US Highway 2 provides the primary access to the City. It runs from Everett in the western part of the state to Spokane in the east. Driving time to Cashmere from the Seattle/Everett area is approximately two and one-half hours. Similarly, Cashmere is approximately three hours from Spokane and the Tri-Cities.

2.4.3 Physical Setting

Located in the Wenatchee River Valley, Cashmere is bordered by the Wenatchee River and steep hillsides. The elevation of the city is between 800 and 1,000 feet above sea level. Ridges along the north side of the valley rise over 2,000 feet above sea level before ascending into the

Entiat Mountains. South of Cashmere, mountains rise over 2,000 feet above sea level and extend into the Wenatchee Mountains and Mission Ridge.

2.4.4 Vegetation

Native vegetation in the valley is typical of dry climate zones and consists mainly of grasses and brush. Pine forests are the dominant vegetation in the higher elevations along the ridges, north slopes and into the tributary canyons. Orchards, agricultural activities and landscaping thrive with the aid of irrigation water.

2.4.5 Land Use

Cashmere is primarily a residential community with a large percentage of the population commuting to Wenatchee for employment. Residential properties comprise approximately 441 acres, which is 54% of the total land area within city limits. Industrial activities include warehousing and manufacturing activities such as Bethlehem Construction (pre-cast concrete plant) and the fruit packing and storage plants owned by Blue Star Growers and Crunch Pak. Commercial areas include the downtown business district, the East Cashmere area, Sunset Highway and there are several small businesses at various locations within the city.

2.4.6 Climate

Cashmere receives 11 inches of rain and 36 inches of snow per year. The average number of days with any measurable precipitation is 80. On average, there are 196 sunny days per year in Cashmere. The July high temperature average is 87 degrees. The January low temperature average is 21 degrees.

2.4.7 History

Cashmere was originally named “Mission” in 1873, named for the log church built by the Catholic missionary Father Grassi. In 1904 a name change was necessary because there was another “Mission” in Washington State, and the post offices kept getting the mail mixed up. Judge James H. Chase suggested the name Cashmere, comparing the town's natural beauty to the Vale of Kashmir in India.

2.4.8 Economy

The Cashmere valley enjoys some wonderful assets, which provide a solid foundation for long-term economic vitality. Recent trends show positive growth in the overall economic growth and development of the community. The following are key examples:

- **Natural Amenities:** The area has clean air, abundance of clean water, fertile soil, a warm, dry summer climate with a cold, snowy winter, and climatic conditions.
- **Topography:** The area’s topography varies from gently rolling hills to steep mountainous valleys surrounding Cashmere.
- **Pre-existing Development:** In-place infrastructure includes schools, multiple transportation systems, water, sewer, reliable power, governmental bodies, housing, commercial and retail enterprises.

- **Extensive Public Land Ownership:** Over 85 percent of land in Chelan County is publicly owned. This allows easy access to the backcountry and an abundance of recreational opportunities.
- **Cooperative Planning:** Because the Cashmere community extends beyond the actual city limits, it is important that this park plan and Chelan County’s Park Plan be complementary. Countywide park planning policies as well as County Comprehensive Plan policies are intended to assure that all levels of government are communicating and working towards respective plans that are compatible and consistent.
- **Fruit Industry:** The industry grows and markets some of the world’s highest quality fruit.
- **Tourism Industry:** The area receives moderate tourist activity with visitors primarily coming to experience the Cashmere Pioneer Museum, Liberty Orchards, the Chelan County Fair, antique malls, or participate in outdoor recreation activities such as river rafting and mountain biking.

2.4.9 Demographics

Population characteristics of a community are vital to determining local demands for parks, recreation, and open space facilities and programs. A review of Cashmere’s population characteristics helps to determine what types of recreational facilities should be developed.

The 2020 US Census population for the City of Cashmere was 3,248 residents. Almost one-third of Cashmere’s population is Hispanic or Latino. The median household income is \$54,554, which is almost \$20,000 less than the state average.

2.4.10 Management and Operations

The City operates under the strong Mayor-Council form of government. Parks, recreation, and open space services receive policy direction and advice from the City Council. The City of Cashmere’s parks, recreation and open space operations are organized primarily under the Public Works Department.

2.5 Approaches to Identifying Needs

There are several approaches to estimating needs for park and recreation facilities and services. They include the use of national standards, measurement of participation levels, user trend analysis, input from surveys and public meetings, goal setting and participation models. The following section describes each of these approaches as used in the preparation of this plan.

2.5.1 Overview of National Standards

Standards were first created by a group of professionals who established an easily understood format of what “seemed to be right” based on their practical experience in the field. These standards were felt to be most useful if stated in measurable terms of acres or facilities per given population level, i.e. 10 acres of park per 1,000 population. The most recognized standards are those published by the National Recreation and Park Association.

The drawback of national standards is that they do not reflect local conditions. What is right for one community will probably not be correct for another. In addition, a standard for a large city in southern California would not be suitable for a small city in central Washington. National standards were reviewed and compared with regional and existing conditions to develop standards for the City of Cashmere.

2.5.2 Website

The City developed a website using an ArcGIS online story map to provide PROS Plan update information from the public and to collect survey data. The website also provided data on the evaluation of the former lagoon property in East Cashmere. As the planning process progressed, the City updated the website.

2.5.3 PROS Plan Update Survey

To inform the plan update, the City prepared a survey for the public. The survey asked City residents about user characteristics, participation patterns, opinions, and perceived needs. The survey was online and was advertised using social media, community bulletin boards, and press releases.

2.5.4 Public Meetings

The Planning Commission oversaw development of the plan update and discussed the planning process during several public meetings throughout 2021 and 2022. The plan update was also discussed during a community forum on March 21, 2022. The forum included activities to gather additional information about the parks and supplement the survey results during the forum.

2.6 Methodology

The planning process for the update of the City of Cashmere's PROS plan consisted of three steps.

The first step involved the collection of relevant background information on elements of the community and assessing their impact on recreational opportunities. This included an inventory and assessment of the City's recreational facilities; review of goals and objectives; and review of the other planning documents including the 2009-2015 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, the 2019 Cashmere Comprehensive Plan, and the Chelan County Comprehensive Plan.

The next step in the process consisted of assessing the park and recreational needs in the community. This was determined through the survey, discussions with city staff and elected officials, and public meetings and workshops.

The final step in the process consisted of making recommendations for park and recreation facilities and programs and developing goals, policies and strategic actions. The purpose of the goals and objectives is to provide guidance for implementing the various recommendations.

The recommendations are based on the findings of the inventory and analysis of the existing facilities and operations as well as the recreation needs assessment.

2.7 Survey Results

The online survey was an important method of gathering information and ideas from the public. The survey asked community members to identify how they use the parks, which parks they frequent, and areas they believe the City could improve the quality of parks. The entire survey consisted of 14 questions, both closed and open-ended. A total of 124 surveys were submitted.

83% of respondents identified themselves as Caucasian and 60% are in the age demographic of 35-64 years old. Overall, the survey found that the vast majority (85%) of community members are frequenting the parks to participate in outdoor activities including walking, biking, and running. The most visited park was Riverside, with 94% of respondents claiming to have visited it within the past year. Community members felt strongly that the Cashmere City Pool is a vital part of the community and they provided many responses on how to improve the quality of the pool. These suggestions included offering swimming lessons, having better lap times, and improving the locker rooms and bathrooms.

There is an individual breakdown of each question provided in the Exhibit Survey Results located in Appendix A.



CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

3.1 Inventory

This section provides an inventory, evaluation and overview of Cashmere’s existing public and privately developed parks, trails, recreational, and open space facilities.

Along with City owned facilities, there are several public recreation facilities available to Cashmere residents including Cashmere School District sites and the Chelan County Fairgrounds. Figure 3.1 locates the existing park and recreation resources within Cashmere.

Exhibit 3.1. Existing Park and Recreation Facilities.



3.2 City Maintained Parks and Open Spaces

3.2.1 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks are smaller parks intended to serve nearby residents within walking or cycling distance of the park. These sites are small in size and typically provide easily accessible playgrounds, picnic areas, sports courts, and open grass areas for leisure and play.

Ardeta Park

This tiny park is an oasis in the center of Cashmere at the corner of Cottage Avenue and Aplets Way. In the early 1960's, the Ardeta Jr. Women's Club began a campaign to acquire the property and convert the run-down service station "for a spot of beauty in downtown Cashmere." The club obtained an option to purchase the property for \$4,500 and raised the funds needed through donations. The club also removed the old buildings and equipment. By 1967, the club completed their goal and dedicated the park to the City. The park was recently renovated to include landscaping, community flagpole, and a bench, and is the site of the community Christmas Tree each December.



Cottage Avenue Park

Cottage Avenue Park is a small .76 acre neighborhood park located on Cottage Avenue between Parkhill Street and Vine Street. In 1919, Mr. E.C. Long donated to the Town of Cashmere three quarters of an acre from his orchard for the purpose of forming a park. During the 1920's and 1930's the park had a small bandstand where a "Town Band" performed weekly concerts. The park helps to establish an aesthetic quality for Cottage Avenue and is an important area in the Tree City Program. The park features children's play equipment and picnic tables.

Railroad Park

Railroad Park is on .25 acres located next to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks across from Liberty Orchards Aplets & Cotlets factory at the corner of Mission Street and Aplets Way. Cashmere's Federated Women's Club founded the park and provided three picnic tables.

River Street Park

This small .68 acre mini park located on River Street features mature trees and picnic tables. The original City Hall was located on this site until it was torn down in the late 1990s.

3.2.2 Community Parks

Community Parks are large parks that serve city residents and visitors. These parks support active and passive recreation activities, large group gatherings, and community events. Sites typically provide a variety of facilities and features such as destination playgrounds, group picnic areas, sports fields and courts, event space, and unique natural areas that attract park users from throughout the City and region. These sites include support amenities such as off-

street parking, restrooms, and shade to encourage longer use.

Simpson Park

Simpson Park is a 4.82 acre park that is located on Pioneer Avenue between Chapel Street and Tigner Road. In his last will and testament, Mr. O.G. France left the property to the “Citizens of Cashmere” to use for public recreation. To clarify the bequest, the Superior Court ruled in 1947 that the Town of Cashmere would be vested with the title to the property “in trust” for the purposes of providing recreation. The original name of the park was “Cashmere Play Grounds.” The park features a small playground, picnic tables, paved parking, and two softball fields which are maintained by Cashmere School District.

Riverside Park

This 7.32 acre park was opened in 1987 and is the centerpiece of Cashmere's park system. Constructed on an old landfill, it is a popular destination for rafters and hosts special events. It features a multi-use soccer and softball field, open space, play equipment, picnic area, skate park, pump track, parking, Riverside Trail access, and ramp access to the Wenatchee River. The City installed picnic tables in 1996 with a donation from the Cashmere Lions Club. The softball backstop was donated by Mission Creek Community Club and constructed as an Eagle Scout project, and the playground equipment near the boat launch was purchased in 1997 with a grant from Cashmere/Douglas Community Network and Together for Drug Free Youth. In 2015, the City installed playground equipment adjacent to the skate park and pump track.

3.2.3 Open Space Areas

Open space areas are sites owned by the City of Cashmere that are undeveloped or not designated as a formal park.

City Hall Grounds

There is a small grass area located between City Hall and the Liberty Orchards Building with trees and a bench.

Cashmere Evergreen Cemetery

The City’s cemetery, located on Evergreen Street, is about 11 acres.

Lagoons

The area commonly referred to as the “old lagoons” is located along the Wenatchee River at the south end of Riverfront Drive. The area covers about 19 acres and has over 3,000 feet of river frontage. In 2014, the City of Cashmere completed construction of the new wastewater treatment plant, and in 2020 the City removed all remaining biosolids from the old lagoons. The site is currently undergoing a process to determine future uses. A trail along the top of the levee is accessible to the public.

Mulching Site

The mulching site is approximately six acres owned by the City of Cashmere that is located between the river and the railroad tracks, just downstream of the West Cashmere bridge. The

site is currently used as a mulching site.

3.3 City Maintained Facilities

Cashmere City Pool

Cashmere's swimming pool was built for the purpose of offering area residents a safe alternative to swimming in the Wenatchee River. Over many years that role has expanded to become a place where children learn to swim and have fun with their friends. Easy access to the pool allows children to frequently attend as they can get to the pool by walking or bicycling.

The first community "pool" was established in the 1920's. In 1936 improvements were made by building a concrete pool and a bathhouse. A water filtering system was installed in 1950. The present bathhouse was constructed in 1979. In 2001, Cashmere received a grant from Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition to reconstruct the pool. The project was completed in 2003. The pool includes a zero-entry area for small children, a "mushroom" water feature, and a water slide.

Cashmere Riverside Center

The Riverside Center is a 6,600 square foot building located at Riverside Park. The Riverside Center has a kitchen, timber truss construction, and is used by the boy scouts and for community gatherings. The building can be rented for private events such as weddings and parties. The 9/11 Spirit of America Memorial is located outside of the Riverside Center, featuring a piece of steel from the World Trade Center, a piece of limestone from the Pentagon, a rock from the field where flight 93 crashed, and four bronze statues to memorialize those who perished on 9/11. The memorial is privately maintained.

3.4 City Maintained Trails and Bike Facilities

Riverside Trail

The first segment of the Riverside trail extends from Aplets Way through Riverside Park and ends at North Douglas Street. The trail is about 0.5 miles long.

Bike Lanes

The City currently has bike lanes on Sunset Highway, which begin at Division Street and extend for about 0.5 miles.

3.5 School Facilities

The Cashmere School District allows the use of their sports fields by youth groups and other sports organizations at Vale Elementary School, Cashmere Middle School, and Cashmere High School.

Vale Elementary School offers an open grass field, three basketball hoops, three

baseball/softball fields, and four tennis courts. Cashmere Middle School also has an open grass field, eight basketball hoops, three baseball/softball fields, and four tennis courts. Cashmere High School has one baseball/softball field open for use.

3.6 Other Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Facilities

The City of Cashmere is nearby several other recreation and open space areas and facilities.

- The Chelan County Expo Center, maintained by Chelan County, is within the City’s Urban Growth Area and host a variety of events and a seasonal RV park.
- The Cashmere Museum & Pioneer Village is operated by the Cashmere Historical Society. Visitors must pay a fee to enter the museum grounds which include the Pioneer Village outdoor exhibition area. Pioneer Village features a landscaping with historic cabins, railway buildings, a water wheel, shelter, and fourteen picnic tables. Cashmere residents can check out museum passes from the Cashmere Library.
- The Cashmere Library is operated by the NCW Libraries and provides activities and resources to the community.
- The privately-owned Mt Cashmere Golf Course is a nine-hole course.
- The local schools provide important recreation facilities to the City, including access to their sports fields.

3.7 Evaluation of Facilities

Each park facility owned and maintained by the City of Cashmere underwent a thorough evaluation. The evaluation examined elements such as access, condition of facilities, operational issues and future development potential. The table below lists the amenities located at each park. The Museum and City Hall are not included in the table.

Exhibit 3.2. Park Inventory.

Amenity	Cottage	Railroad	Riverside	River St	Water Park	Ardeta	Lagoon	Schools	Simpson
Passive Activities									
Benches			10		5	1	1		
Picnic Area	X	X	X	X	X				X
Picnic Tables	5	2	8	2	4				5
Flagpole			X			X			
Seasonal Restrooms			X		X				X
Drinking Fountain			X		X	X			X
Off-Street Parking		X	X		X				X
Natural Open Spaces			X				X		
Active Activities									
Boat Launch			X						
River Access			X				X		
Playground	X		X						X
Open Grass Field			X					X	
Basketball Hoops								11	
Baseball/ Softball Fields			1					7	
Tennis Courts								8	



CHAPTER 4: GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

4.1 Guiding Framework

The City of Cashmere’s vision, mission, values and goals for parks, recreation, and open space form the foundation for the PROS Plan and create a guiding framework for planning and decision-making.

4.2 Vision

To be a leading community with accessible high quality parks, recreation, and open space facilities that promote a healthy community, protect our natural environment, and enhance our quality of life.

4.3 Mission

The City of Cashmere is committed to:

- Protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of Cashmere through development of a vibrant system of parks, open spaces, and trails.
- Providing quality parks and trails that are attractive, clean, and safe.
- Meeting the needs of the community.
- Being a steward to park lands and protecting natural resources.

4.4 Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

The following section presents the goals, objectives, and strategies that have been developed as a result of the park planning process. These statements have evolved from analysis of the input of Cashmere resident's responses to the parks survey and public outreach and from evaluation of existing conditions, opportunities, and needs.

Goals and objectives present overall goals for the community for the PROS Plan and identifies policies to meet the demands for recreational facilities and open space, organizational development and recreational programming in Cashmere.

The City will strive to achieve each goal by implementing a set of objectives with corresponding strategies. Progress on implementation of the PROS Plan will be measured through a set of outcome-based performance measures.

Goal 1. Well-stewarded Parks: Develop, manage, maintain, and revitalize parks, facilities, and natural resources to support safe, attractive, equitable, and engaging recreation and green space.

- Objective 1.1. Ensure sufficient investment in parks, recreation, and open space facilities.
- Objective 1.2. Implement long-term climate adaptation and resilience strategies.
- Objective 1.3. Encourage community involvement in park design and programming decisions.
- Objective 1.4. Promote volunteerism to enhance community ownership and stewardship of the Cashmere park system.
- Objective 1.5. Develop a system of parks and usable open spaces that support passive and active recreation, protects unique features, and links city neighborhoods.
- Objective 1.6. Improve and leverage the potential of existing facilities.
- Objective 1.7. Ensure the balanced and equitable distribution of parks and facilities that serve City residents, including residents in areas annexed into the City in the future, and seek to fill gaps in parks, trees, and trails in underserved areas.
- Objective 1.8. Make all parks, including playgrounds and restrooms, ADA accessible and inclusive. Provide parks and facilities that accommodate multigenerational groups and people with mobility issues, sight, and hearing impairments, allergies, and other special needs.
- Objective 1.9. Update the PROS Plan every six years to identify and document evolving park and recreation needs and maintain grant eligibility.

Goal 1 Strategies:

- Find new funding sources.
- Track and evaluate park and facility age and lifecycles and incorporate this information into annual budgeting and workplans to prioritize repair and replacement needs.
- Evaluate each park site to continually update long-term maintenance needs and include capital improvements for each site that will enhance the use and value to the community and the neighborhood of the park.
- Create efficiencies and reduce maintenance costs by using new technology, contracted services, and volunteers where appropriate.
- Develop a pool maintenance and improvement plan that addresses repairing leaks, updating equipment, and improving facility.
- Identify priority locations for new parks to serve the City as it grows and expands.

Goal 2. Vibrant Riverfront: Enhance parks, recreation amenities, and trails along the Wenatchee River to create a welcoming riverfront system that supports local use and recreation tourism.

Objective 2.1. Develop the riverfront as a recreational amenity that protects habitat, increases site use, minimizes safety concerns, and takes flooding into consideration.

Objective 2.2. Improve river access.

Objective 2.3. Develop and improve riverfront sites to support an interconnected trail experience.

Objective 2.4. Stimulate economic development and tourism through riverfront natural resource preservation and enhancement.

Objective 2.5. Collaborate with public and private stakeholders to coordinate related local and regional projects.

Goal 2 Strategies:

- Construct an additional hand launch at lagoon site.
- Add easily accessible river play areas.
- Construct non-motorized trail bridge at lagoons.
- Improve river access at Riverside Park.
- Provide personal flotation devices at boat launch sites.
- Add food truck station at Riverside Park.

Goal 3. Outdoor Recreation: Provide unique and inclusive amenities that attract residents and visitors to Cashmere’s outdoor opportunities, activities, and events.

Objective 3.1. Strategically leverage resources through collaborative planning, volunteerism, and partnerships to support recreation, tourism, natural resource protection, and economic impacts.

Objective 3.2. Consider adding or enhancing “challenge” activities such as outdoor fitness equipment, disc golf, climbing walls, bike pump track, bike skills courses, and other challenge features.

Objective 3.3. Renovate and develop parks and facilities to support recreational activities, programs, and opportunities that support both local use and tourism.

Objective 3.4. Actively promote the riverfront parks as an important part of Cashmere’s economic development strategy to draw visitors to the waterfront.

Objective 3.5. Consider low-cost water play options in parks, such as hand pumps, playable fountains, splash pad, and water “squirts” that are turned on and off.

Goal 3 Strategies:

- Add pickleball courts to parks.
- Pave pump track at Riverside Park.
- Build disk golf course.
- Establish an Art in the Park program.

Goal 4. Connectivity: Provide an interconnected network of multi-use trails, walkways, and bikeways connecting city and regional destinations.

Objective 4.1. Expand the trail network in Cashmere, facilitating in-town connectivity and ties to regional trail networks.

Objective 4.2. Develop various trail length, types, and challenge levels to diversify trail-related recreation options.

Objective 4.3. Provide trailheads and trail support amenities and facilities to facilitate trail use.

Objective 4.4. Collaborate with others to provide trail programs and services that encourage safe pedestrian and bicycle use.

Goal 4 Strategies:

- Establish a city trails committee to develop an active transportation plan that identifies community needs and future trail locations.
- Develop maps, apps, and/or route guides.
- Support the construction of a pedestrian bridge across the river at the Lagoon property.



CHAPTER 5: PARK ACTION PLAN

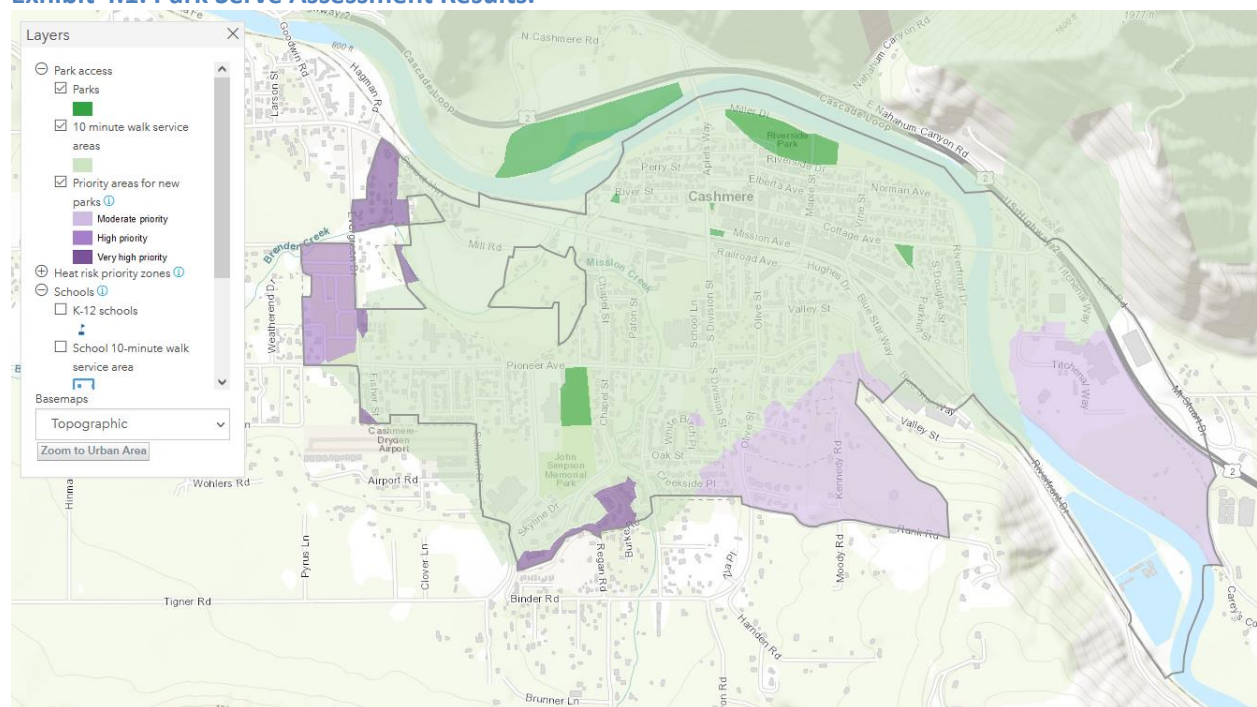
5.1 Park and Recreation Level of Service

This section analyzes Cashmere’s parks, recreation, and open space needs based upon a 10-minute standard, a newer method for evaluating how well a city is served by parks. Research has found that living within a 10-minute walk of a high-quality park improves physical and mental health.

The 10-minute walk campaign and Park Serve program provide an evaluation of all cities within the United States. This information can be accessed at www.tpl.org/parkserve. For the City of Cashmere, the Park Serve program has identified that 91.1% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. Approximately 300 city residents are outside of the 10-minute area. This analysis does not evaluate the quality of a park or consider privately owned parks. As some parks have limited facilities, the actual number of residents outside of the 10-minute area may be greater.

Figure 4.1 shows the results of the Park Serve assessment of Cashmere. Parks are shown in green. The purple areas identify portions of the City that are more than a 10-minute walk to a park. The darker purple areas are higher priority due to factors such as population density, poverty levels, or health.

Exhibit 4.1. Park Serve Assessment Results.



The results indicate that Cashmere will need to build new parks as development happens in growth areas, such as the Olive Street and Kennedy Road area, Binder Road Urban Growth Area (UGA), and west Cashmere into the UGA. The area shown in east Cashmere to the north of the river is primarily a commercial/industrial area and is not prioritized for a new city park.

As more development happens in these areas, the City will need to reserve land for park space. Based on the results, the City should plan for:

- One additional neighborhood park in the Olive Street area
- One additional neighborhood park in the Binder Road UGA area
- Three additional neighborhood parks in the west Cashmere area and UGA, or two larger, centrally located community parks.

5.2 Action Plan Development

Based on survey results and public outreach, the City of Cashmere developed action items for each park. Action items are broken down into three categories: maintenance actions, passive actions, and active actions. Maintenance actions focuses on steps the City can take to repair, update, and improve infrastructure. Passive action items are in regard to leisurely activities enjoyed by community members and visitors such as walking, picnics, and access to bathrooms, parking, and food. Active action items are activities and amenities such as sport courts, river access, and playgrounds.

5.2.1 Ardeta Park

Passive Actions

- Install water fountain

5.2.2 Cashmere Water Park

Maintenance Actions

- Repair leaky gutters and deck drains
- Update maintenance building, equipment, controls, restrooms and changing rooms
- Maintain liner
- Level deck

5.2.3 Cemetery

Maintenance Actions

- Manage trees along Evergreen Road
- Level headstones and monuments
- Survey additional areas for grave sites

Passive Actions

- Add in fences, benches, and shade trees
- Add new storage/maintenance building with restrooms

5.2.4 Railroad Park

Maintenance Actions

- Maintain property

5.2.5 River Street Park

Passive Actions

- Update sidewalks and signs
- Add trash receptacles, ADA picnic tables, and park benches

Active Actions

- Add beach volleyball court
- Add playground equipment
- Improve play surfacing

5.2.6 Riverside Park

Maintenance Actions

- Grade/level playfield
- Gas venting system
- Repair or repave trail

Passive Actions

- Add picnic shelters or pavilion and recycle receptacles
- Add vending machines, food shack, food truck, or plaza

Active Actions

- Upgrade playground equipment at the boat launch
- Add a horseshoe area, heart/fitness trail stations, and pave the pump track
- Add beach volleyball, pickleball, and futsal court
- Add a disc golf course, splash pad, and personal flotation device station at boat launch
- Add better river access points from trail

5.2.7 Simpson Park

Maintenance Actions

- Maintain trees
- Improve grass

Passive Actions

- Add a vending machine or snack booth
- Update restrooms to include electricity, water, and sewer

5.3 Park Planning Activities

Several parks planning activities were identified during the plan update process. These planning activities will provide the information necessary to take the next steps in park and facility development, and lead to specific actions in the future.

- Establish a city trails committee to develop an active transportation plan that identifies community needs and future trail locations.
- Conduct an improvements and feasibility study at the Cashmere Pool to determine specific actions for improvements.
- Further evaluate the 10-minute standard in Cashmere incorporating park quality.
- Identify locations for future parks in underserved and UGA areas.
- Evaluate permitting needs for improving the boat ramp at Riverside Park.
- Evaluate future uses for the Lagoon property.



CHAPTER 6: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

6.1 Capital Improvement Program

Over the next 20 years, the City of Cashmere will enhance the existing park system by acquiring new park sites and trail corridors, building new parks, adding specific amenities and facilities, renovating existing facilities, replacing facilities at the end of their lifecycles, and enhancing and expanding existing facilities. In addition, the City will maintain all developed assets and natural resources in its parks. These recommendations will enhance the quality of parks and increase recreation opportunities for all.

6.2 Capital Improvement Plan

The Capital Investment Plan provides detailed funding and expense information regarding proposed park and recreation facility development for the years 2022-2027 and beyond.

The Capital Improvement Plan project list in Table 6.1 is for general planning purposes. Specific site engineering, planning and development of funding strategies for specific projects would be developed prior to construction. Project cost is based on the ability of the city to fund the project. High cost projects will require outside funding sources. Medium cost project may be funded by the City but would require allocation. Low cost projects can be implemented under the City's current budgets. The funding sources indicate the potential sources. It should be noted that the majority of funding for the projects contained within the plan is derived from non-secured sources.

Projects are prioritized based on their estimated cost, available funding sources, need, and community support.

Exhibit 6.1. Capital Improvement Plan.

Project Name and Description				
Priority	Cost	Start Year	Community Support	Funding Sources
City Pool				
Conduct repairs and improvements.				
Medium	High	2024	High	General fund, bonds, levy, grant
Remodel changing rooms and bathrooms at pool.				
Low	Medium	2026	High	General fund, grant
Conduct pool improvement plan and feasibility analysis.				
High	Medium	2023	High	General fund
Riverside Park				
Evaluate permitting needs for removing gravel at Riverside Park boat launch and improving boat launch access.				
High	Medium	2023	High	General fund
Pave Pump Track				
High	Low	2023	High	Volunteers and donations
Lagoon				
Lagoon Property Parks Plan and development				
Medium	\$100,000	2024	High	Grant, general fund, bonds, levy
Trails				
Establish City Trail Committee				
High	Low	2023	High	Volunteer

6.3 Possible Funding Sources

The City should rely on a broad approach to park funding and land acquisition sources. It is highly unlikely that the general fund and grants alone will be able to support both land acquisition and development for the proposed highest priority projects.

The following sources may help supplement locally derived revenues for parks, recreation, and open space facilities. Each source is coupled with funding programs, and each program will have specific application and qualification requirements that the City will need to meet prior to receiving available grants or loans.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition Plan – A special fund created by a coalition of recreation wildlife groups with the intent of preserving wildlife habitats and open space and developing recreation areas. Local agencies must match the grant amount on a 50-50 basis.

City General Fund – General City funds allocated to the Park and Recreation budget.

Park Impact Fees – Development fees imposed by the City for parkland acquisition and development. Fees charged to the developer are based on a set amount per residential unit.

Short Term Special Levy – A property tax for construction and or operation levied for a set number of years. It is usually 1-3 years. A special levy requires a 60% voter approval.

Real Estate Excise Tax – A percentage of the tax associated with the sale of real estate within

the City may be allocated for park acquisition and development purposes.

General Obligation Bond – Property tax for the sale of construction bonds. The tax assessment can be levied up to 30 years. This requires a 60% majority approval of 40% of the voters who voted at the last election.

Revenue Bonds – Revenue from the operation of the facility pays for the capital and cost debt services. This does not require a vote of the people unless required by local ordinance.

Councilmatic Bonds – Bonds that can be issued by the City Council. Does not require a vote of the people but must be paid out of the City’s annual operating budget.

Metropolitan Park District – A junior taxing district formed for the purpose of providing permanent dedicated parks, recreation, and open space funding. May be within the City or also include areas outside the City. A 50% voter approval is required.

Conservation Futures Levy – Counties can levy up to \$.065 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for the acquisition of shoreline and open space areas. The money cannot be used for development or maintenance. Cities can apply for a share of this money through the County.

Transfer of Development Rights – A process wherein the development rights of a specific parcel of desired open space land is transferred to a second parcel of land more suitable for development. The second parcel is then permitted a higher level of development. If the two parcels are owned by two different landowners, the increased value of the second parcel is given to the owner of the first parcel.

Volunteer Efforts and Donations – Volunteers can be quite effective in terms of contributing cash, materials and labor.

Certificates of Participation - A lease purchase approach in which the City sells Certificates of Participation (COPS) to a lending institution. The City then pays the loan off from revenue produced by the facility or from its general operating budget. The lending institution holds the title to the property until the COPS are repaid. This procedure does not require a vote of the public.

State Bicycle Funds – Money from a portion of state gas taxes is distributed to each city for bicycle trail development. The amount is usually small and often used to help finance trails along existing streets.

Aquatic Land Enhancement Fund – This program funded by the State Department of Natural Resources will finance up to \$80,000 for acquisition and development of waterfront parks, public access sites and environmentally sensitive areas.

Park Revenue – Revenue from park rental fees or concession agreements operations can be

used to pay for capital improvements.

LWCF – Grants distributed from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Grants pay 50% of the cost of acquisition and development.

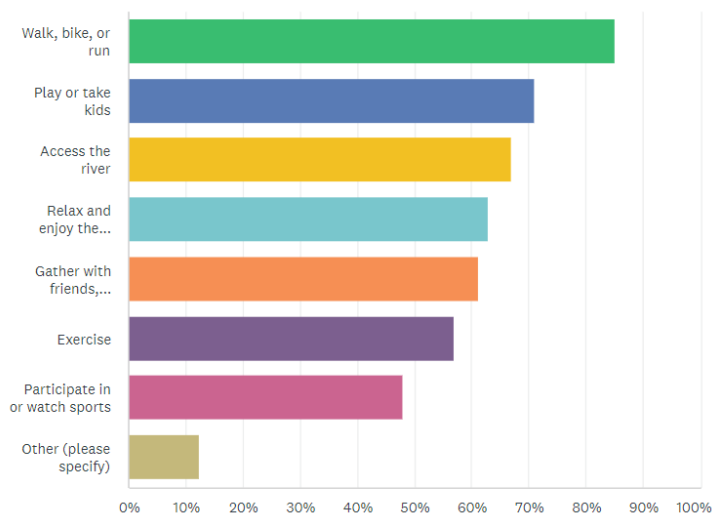
DNR Community Forestry Program Grant – The Department of Natural Resources offers a competitive grant program to assist in the establishment of a variety of aspects involved in a community forestry program.

Appendix A: Survey Results

The online survey was an important method of gathering information and ideas from the public. The survey asked community members to identify how they use the parks, which parks they frequent, and areas they believe the City could improve the quality of parks. The entire survey consisted of 14 questions, both closed and open-ended. Questions 10 and 11 regard the former lagoon property and not the current city parks. A total of 124 surveys were submitted.

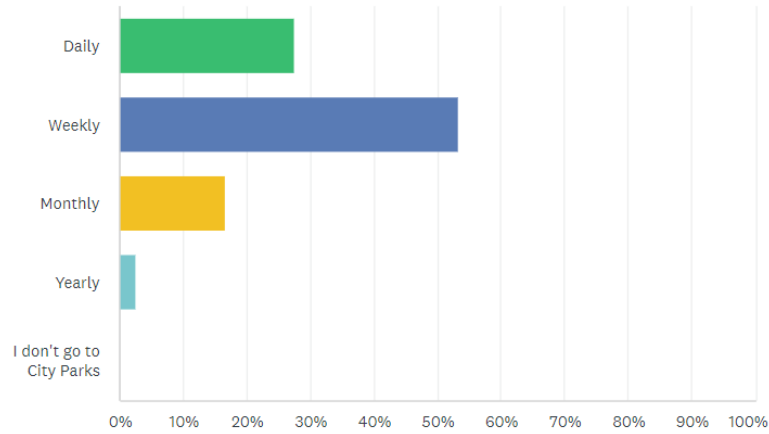
Overall, the survey found that the vast majority (85%) of community members are frequenting the parks to participate in outdoor activities including walking, biking, and running. The most frequented park was Riverside, with 94% of respondents claiming to have visited it within the past year. Community members felt strongly that the Cashmere City Pool is a vital part of the community and they provided many responses on how to improve the quality of the pool including offering swimming lessons, having better lap times, and improving the locker rooms and bathrooms. 83% of respondents identified themselves as Caucasian and 60% are in the age demographic of 35-64 years old.

Question 1: How do you utilize the parks? Choose all that apply.



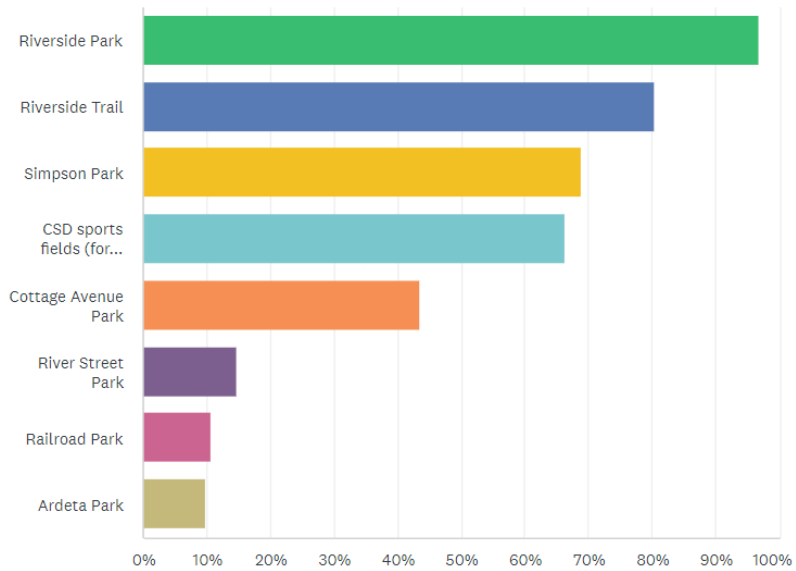
Of the 124 respondents, 121 answered question 1, finding that 85% utilize the park to walk, bike, or run. In addition, 15 people choose the “other” category. 4 people stated that they use the park to skate/skateboard and 3 people said that they use the park to walk their dog. Other responses included, wildlife refuge, spike ball games, swimming, pickleball, outdoor community events, birdwatching, reading, and the Farmer’s Market.

Question 2: How often do you visit parks in Cashmere?



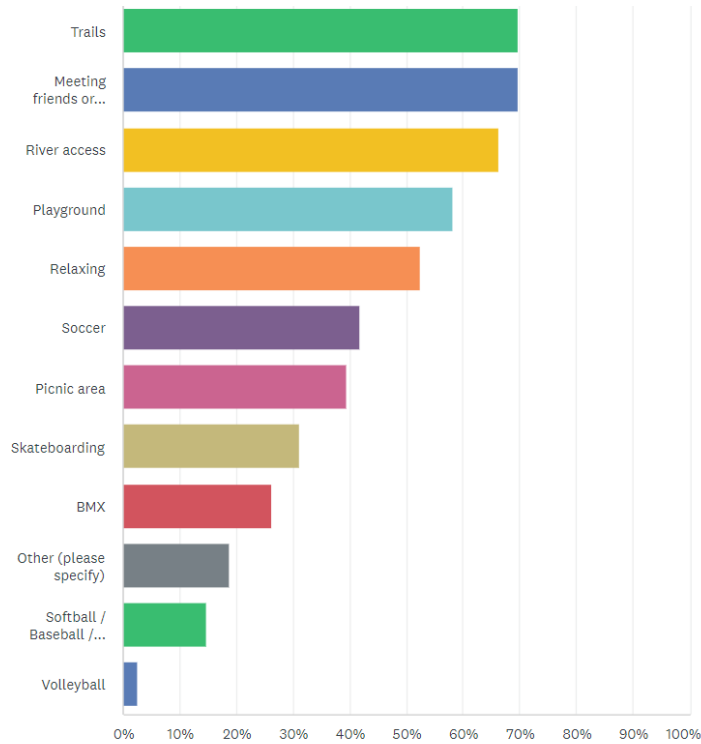
Of the 124 respondents, 120 answered question two, while 4 individuals skipped the question. The majority (53%) visit parks weekly.

Question 3: Over the past year, which City parks have you visited? Choose all that apply.



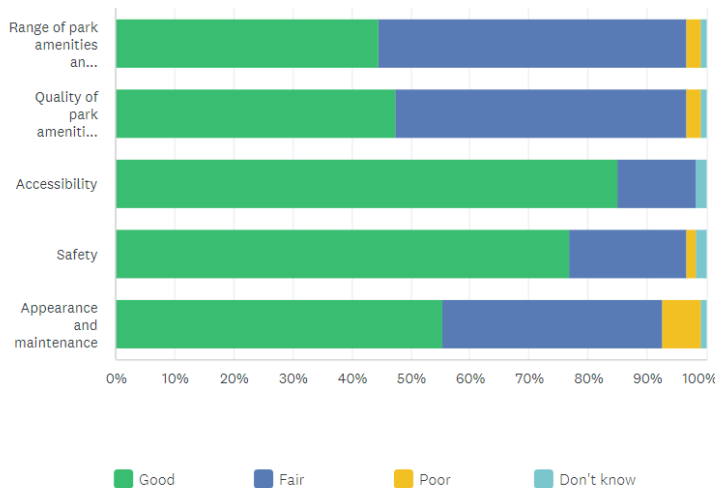
122 individuals responded to question 3, with 96% of respondents visiting Riverside Park and only 10% visiting Ardetta Park.

Question 4: At the parks listed in questions #3, which activities do you participate in? Choose all that apply.



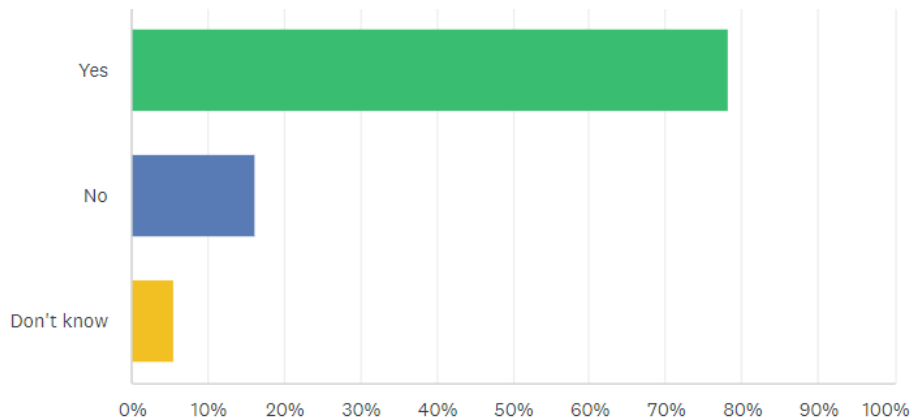
122 individuals responded to question 4 while 2 skipped it. 69% of respondents said that they utilized the parks for activities including trails and meeting friends or family. Following closely behind is river access at 66%. In addition, 23 respondents chose the “other” category. 4 people stated that they use the park for the Farmer’s Market and to walk their dog. Other responses included, spike ball, tennis, pickleball, pump track, birdwatching, D&D, frisbee, and walking.

Question 5: How do you rate the City parks listed in question #3?



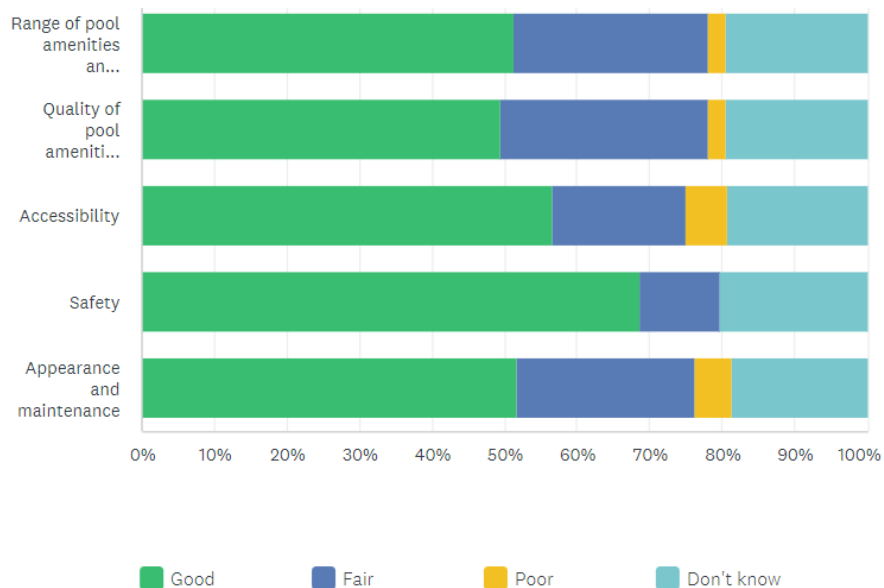
121 individuals responded to question 5, while 3 skipped it. Survey respondents scored the accessibility of the parks the highest, with 85% believing the quality is good. Following closely behind is safety at 77%. The lowest ranking category is the range of park amenities and activities with only 45% of respondents believing that this category falls in the good range.

Question 6: Would you have used the City’s swimming pool if it were open this past summer?



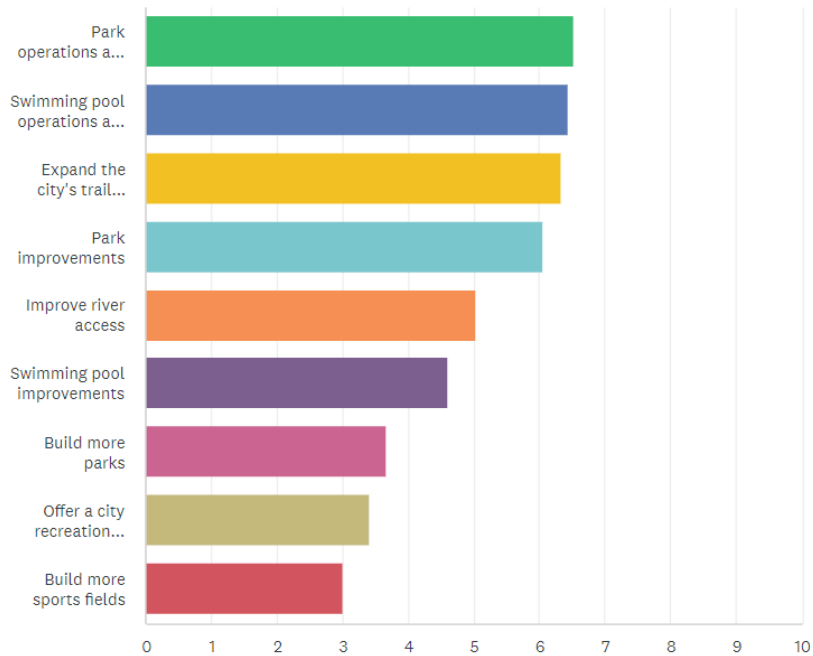
124 individuals responded to question 6, with nearly 80% stating that they would have utilized the City pool last summer (In 2021 the City Pool did not open due to lack of staff. The pool reopened in 2022).

Question 7: When Cashmere swimming pool is open, how would you rate the following aspects?



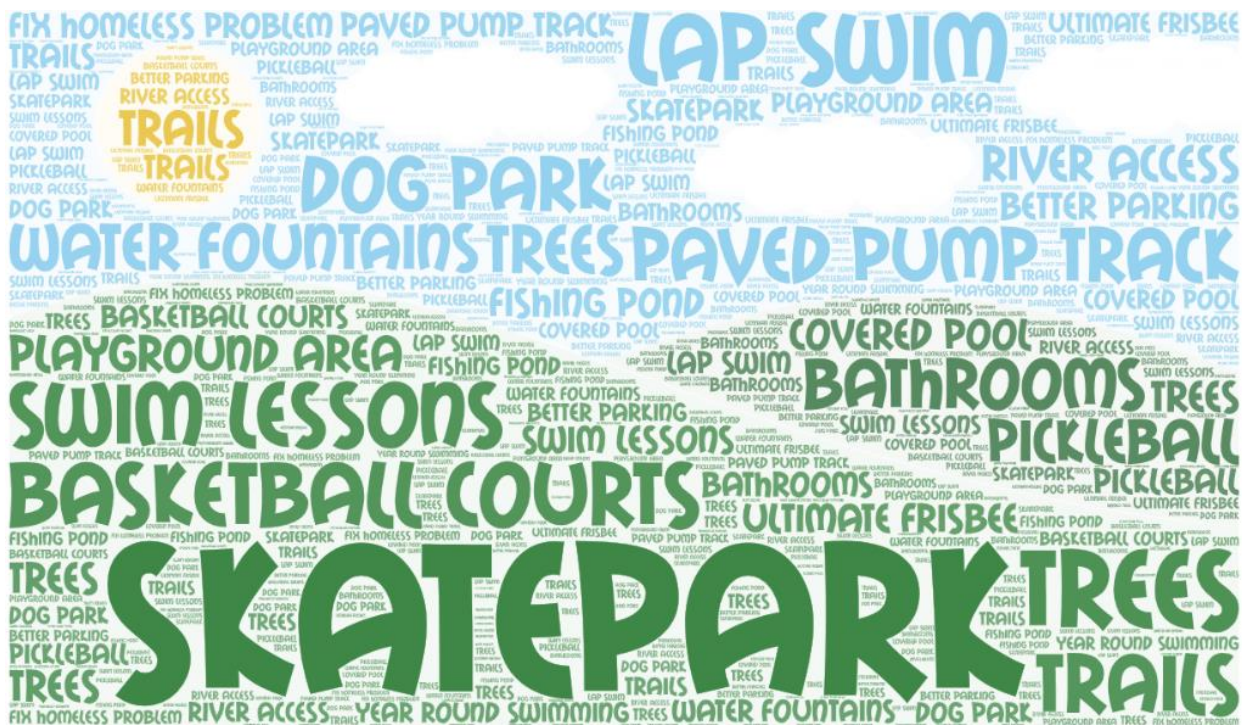
120 individuals responded to question 7, while 4 skipped it. Safety ranked the highest, with nearly 70% of respondents stating that safety was good. Quality of pool amenities and activities, range of pool amenities and activities, and appearance and maintenance all received a ranking of good from around 50% of respondents.

Question 8: Please rank these park actions in order of your priority, with #1 being the highest priority and #9 the lowest priority.



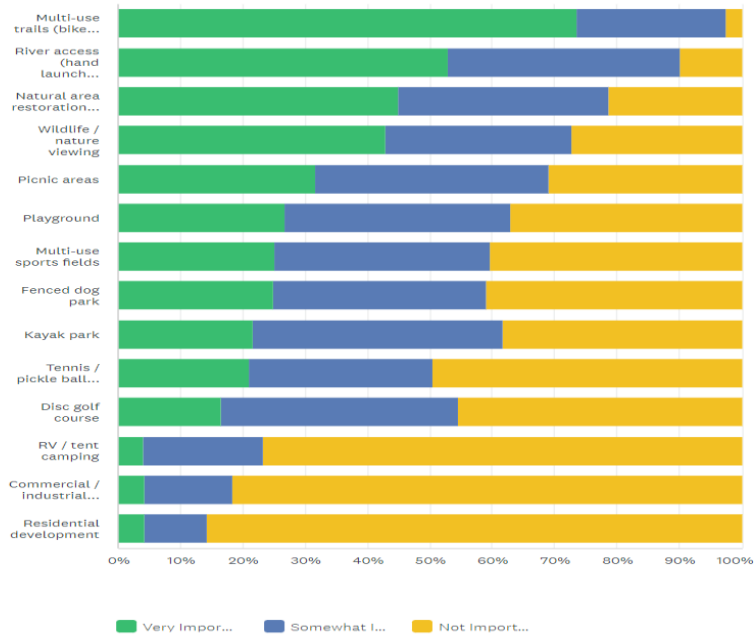
120 community members responded to question 8, while 4 skipped it. Overall, park operations and maintenance received the highest priority ranking. However, swimming and pool operations and maintenance received the highest percentage (26%) of respondents who selected this action as the number one priority.

Question 9: Is there a specific improvement you desire at a City park or at the swimming pool? Please describe.



87 community members responded to this open-ended question. The most common answer received was to open the pool after it was closed during the summer of 2021 due to lack of staff. Since the conclusion of the survey, the pool has opened for the 2022 season. Other frequent responses included having swimming lessons, improving bathrooms at the pool and parks, having an established dog park, outdoor basketball courts, and updating the skatepark.

Question 10: At a community meeting in 2019, community members identified possible uses for the City's riverfront lagoon property (around the Wastewater Treatment Plant). How important are the following uses you to if the site is redeveloped?



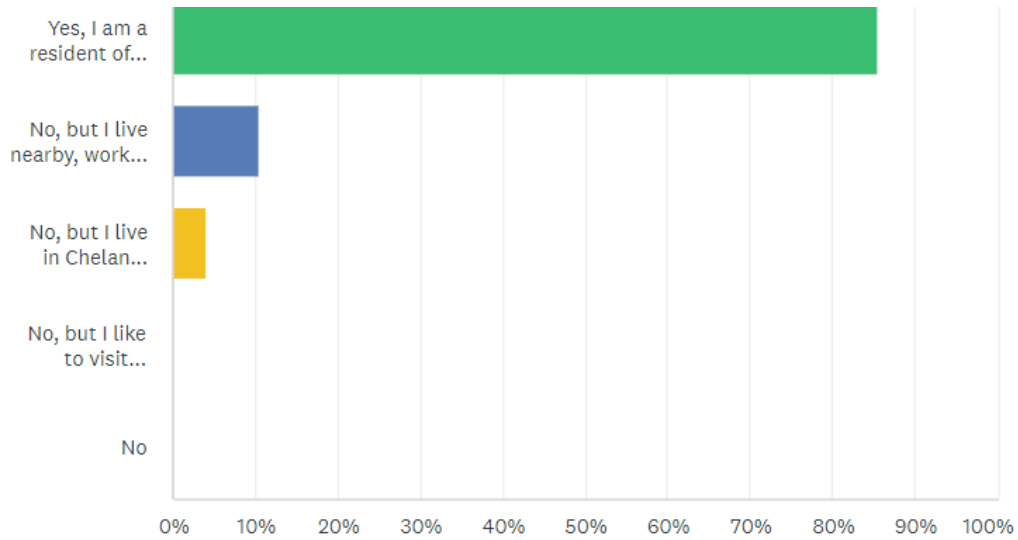
Question 10 asked respondents to rank a variety of possible uses for the lagoon property as “Very Important,” “Somewhat Important” or “Not Important.” Of the 122 responses received, the majority of people (74%) ranked multi-use trails as very important. Overall, this question found that community members valued outdoor recreation, habitat restoration, and river access.

Question 11: What other redevelopment ideas do you have for the City’s lagoon property?



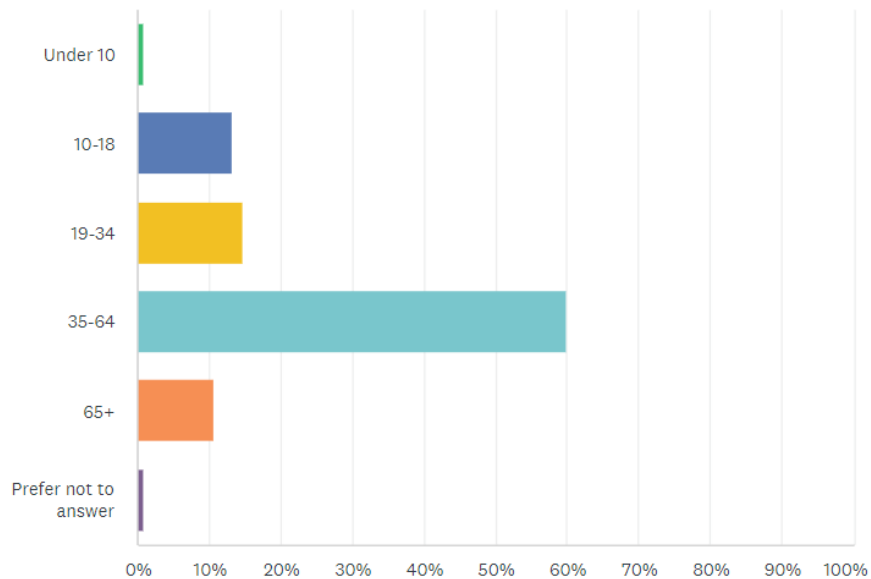
55 participants responded to this open-ended question providing a variety of responses. Most responses stated that they would like the lagoon area to remain a recreational area and not be developed commercially or residentially. Many respondents suggested maintaining the natural features of the property while providing access to the river. Ideas for development included building a skatepark, splash pad, updating/connecting walking and biking trails, developing a community garden, building pickleball courts and fishing ponds, and providing an outdoor ADA accessible space. However, there were a few responses that stated they were concerned about any development in the area due to the smell from the adjacent sewer treatment facility.

Question 12: Do you live in Cashmere?



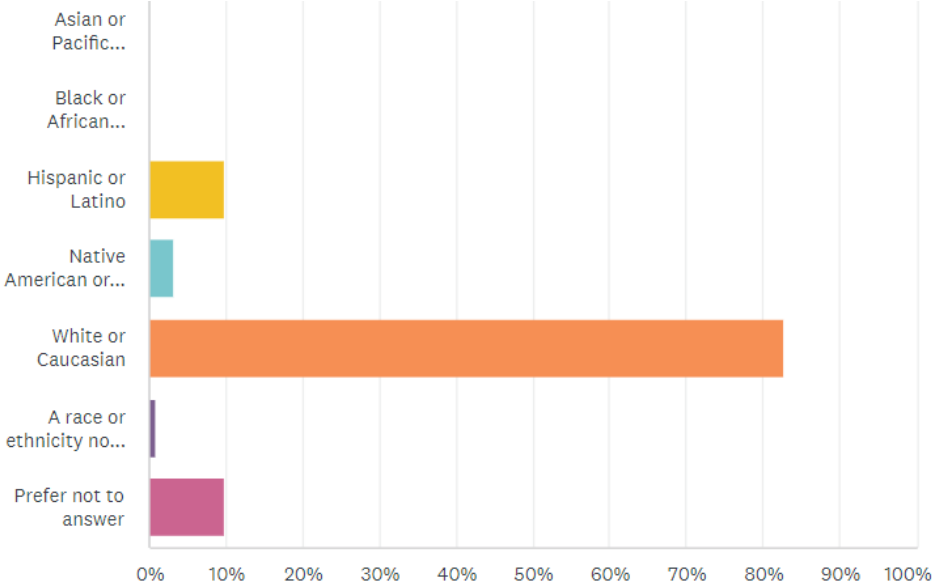
All 124 survey respondents answered question 12. Over 85% are residents of Cashmere.

Question 13: What is your age?



122 participants responded to question 13. The majority (60%) are 35-64 years old. The survey only received 1 response from someone under the age of 10.

Question 14: Which of the following best describes you? Choose all that apply.



122 participants answered question 14. 83% people responded that they are White or Caucasian.