

CITY OF TONASKET



COMPREHENSIVE PARK AND RECREATION PLAN DRAFT February 25, 2020

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Tonasket Youth Baseball, Tonasket Youth Soccer League and Tonasket Parks and Recreation District



Table of Contents

SUMMARY	4
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	4
DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AND SERVICE AREAS	6
- Planning Area Description	6
- Tonasket Location Map	7
- Tonasket City Map.....	8
- Service Area Description	9
- Environmental Characteristics	9
- Service Area Map	10
- Economic Characteristics	11
- Social Characteristics	11
POPULATION DATA/DEMAND	12
- Planning Area Population Information	12
- Figure 5 – Tonasket Population History	13
- Figure 6 – Okanogan County Population History.....	13
- Figure 7 – Tonasket and Okanogan County Population History	14
- Service Area Population Information	14
- Table 1 – Population Projections	14
- Transient Population	15
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/NEEDS ANALYSIS	16
TONASKET PARK FACILITIES INVENTORY	18
- Parks Map	19
- History Park	20
- Visitor Park	21
- State Street Little Learners Park	21

- Chief Tonasket Riverfront Park	21
- Chief Tonasket Park Master Plan	24
- Triangle Market Park	25
- Armed Forces Legacy Park.....	25
- Founders Park	25
- Youth Center	25
- Tonasket Visitor and Business Resource Center	25
OTHER PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES	26
- Tonasket Senior Center.....	26
- School District	26
- Rodeo Grounds	26
- Community Cultural Center.....	26
ACTION PLAN	28
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	33

APPENDICES

Appendix A - Public Workshops Summary, News Releases and News Articles

Appendix B - Council and Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Appendix C – Survey Data

Appendix D - Evidence of Adoption

Appendix E – Self-Certification Checklist

SUMMARY

The city of Tonasket's Park and Recreation Plan is an inventory of the community's existing park facilities, a determination of the community's needs and desires, and identification of projects that the City intends to implement over the coming 6 years. The Plan includes a summary of actions for project implementation, and cost estimates including projected sources of funding and support. The Plan also serves as an expansion of the Park and Recreation Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The first Tonasket Park and Recreation Plan was adopted in 1989 and updated in 1995, and again beginning in 2003 with adoption in 2004 with the most recent update adopted in 2011. This 2020 update, began in 2019 is intended to maintain a current plan as required by the Recreation and Conservation Office, one of the only grant funding sources available for local parks projects. This update is intended to reflect a change in focus to the redevelopment of Chief Tonasket Riverfront Park rather than renovating or replacing the swimming pool, the previous priority project which has been completed through an amazing private effort.

Some projects identified in earlier updates of the Plan, such as the Lagoons Riverfront Park additions (now known as Chief Tonasket Riverfront Park), have been completed. New projects have been added as a part of the 2020 update, and projects have been prioritized.

The primary purpose of this plan is to:

1. *Develop a comprehensive approach to recreation planning that provides a basis for prioritization of existing facilities and programs, and the development of future park and recreation programs, facilities, and land acquisition in a timely and logical manner which best serves the citizens of the community and service area.*
2. *Establish legislative policies and fiscal responsibility for the maintenance, improvement, and expansion of the City's park and recreation facilities and programs.*
3. *Establish priorities for:*
 - a. *capital improvements*
 - b. *maintenance of existing facilities and improvements;*
 - c. *program development; and*
 - d. *land acquisition/disposal*
4. *Use the plan as a budgetary tool for the life of the plan.*
5. *Ensure conformance with federal and state policy requirements for shared revenues and grant assistance.*

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In recognition of the benefits to be derived from recreation, the city of Tonasket has the following goals for parks and recreation:

- I. Provide a variety of recreational opportunities to meet the needs of citizens of all ages within the community and service area.*
- II. Develop additional park and recreation resources as the public demands.*
- III. Maintain recreational facilities for today and the future.*

In order to ensure these goals are met, the following policies have been established to guide the community when making decisions regarding the expenditure of resources:

- 1. Strive to improve the operation and maintenance of all park and recreation facilities within the constraints of the City budget.*
- 2. Seek to expand use of existing recreation facilities as an alternative to procuring or developing additional recreational lands.*
- 3. Safety shall be a primary consideration for all facilities and projects.*
- 4. Strive to design projects and upgrade existing facilities to eliminate barriers to the handicapped.*
- 5. Work toward providing suitable restrooms at Chief Tonasket, History and Little Learners Parks.*
- 6. Work to develop pedestrian access routes linking existing recreational areas to the rest of the community.*
- 7. Partnerships will be sought that coordinate recreational activities/facilities with the Tonasket Park and Recreation District, Tonasket Youth Baseball Association and other public and private entities.*
- 8. Through cooperation and partnerships, the City will encourage continuation of excellent volunteer efforts in recreation by individuals, the Tonasket Parks Improvement Committee and other community organizations, and commercial/agricultural enterprises.*
- 9. Passive recreation that includes observation and interpretation of fish, wildlife, and natural systems will be included in the mix of recreational opportunities pursued by the City.*

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AND SERVICE AREAS

Since the park and recreation plan was originally developed and has been periodically updated to provide City of Tonasket officials with a framework for planning expenditures for recreation facilities, a distinction has been made between the planning area and service area. The planning area is essentially the City's Urban Growth Area as identified in the Tonasket Comprehensive Plan (as it exists or hereinafter amended); that area encompassing the incorporated community of Tonasket, and the unincorporated area immediately adjacent to the present corporate limits where the City expects to grow within the next twenty years. For the sake of practicality and efficiency, City government does not desire to develop recreational facilities outside of that area that is, or expected to be, incorporated. The service area, determined to be that area which the majority of recreation facility users come from, is considered to be that area within the boundaries of the Tonasket and Oroville School District and the north half of the Omak School District. It is important to note that the City provides recreational facilities that are regularly used by area residents whose property tax dollars do not contribute to their operations and maintenance; however, when unincorporated area residents and travelers spend their income in Tonasket, there is a share of sales tax revenues that do contribute.

PLANNING AREA DESCRIPTION

Tonasket is a rural community located along the eastern bank of the Okanogan River in north central Okanogan County, Washington. The City was named in honor of Chief Tonasket of the Okanogan Indians, who historically used the present city site for an encampment. US Highway 97, the main north-south highway through central Washington and Oregon, bisects the City on its way to the Canadian border, approximately 20 miles to the north. The City, with an elevation of approximately 900 feet above sea level, is generally bordered on the north by Siwash Creek, and on the south by Bonaparte Creek. The 2018 population was estimated by the Washington State Office of Financial Management at 1,110. Figure 1 – Location Map and Figure 2 - City Map are located on the following pages.

The City, which has been the site of a U.S. Post Office since 1901, was platted in 1910, and incorporated in 1927. Tonasket serves as a hub for agricultural industries in north central Okanogan County, is the location of Tonasket Schools, North Valley Hospital and the offices of the Tonasket Ranger District of the Colville National Forest. The City is a convenient “jumping off point” for visitors coming to the area to enjoy the numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation (hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, skiing, rock climbing, etc...) in and on the surrounding mountains, canyons, rivers, lakes and forests.

Many of the indigenous people of the area and descendants of pioneer families still reside in and around Tonasket, and are interested in preserving their heritage, sharing history, and educating the general public with their experience in living here. As the basecamp for an area for all seasons, Tonasket would also like to take advantage of its resources by using them wisely and judiciously to the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

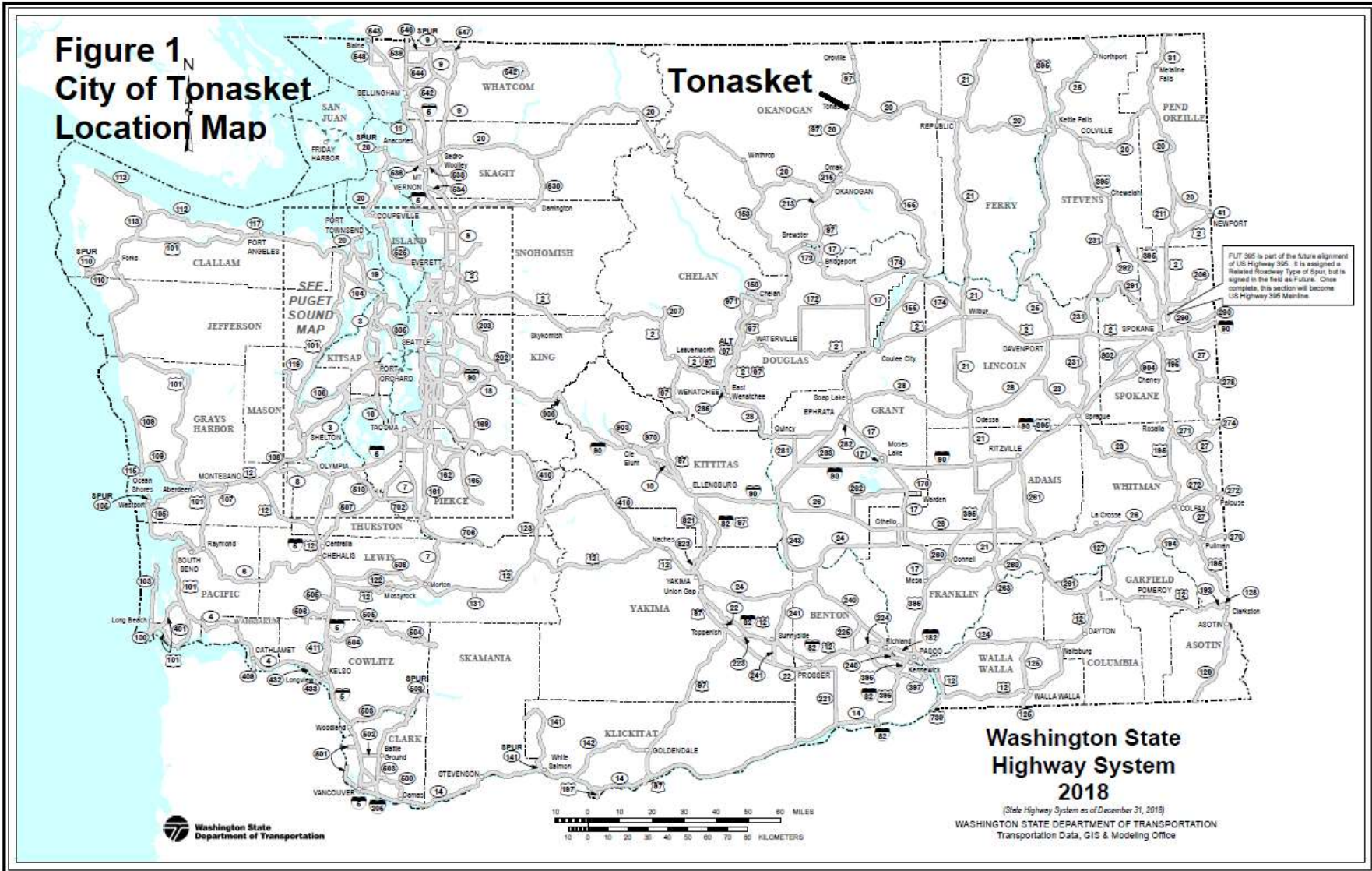
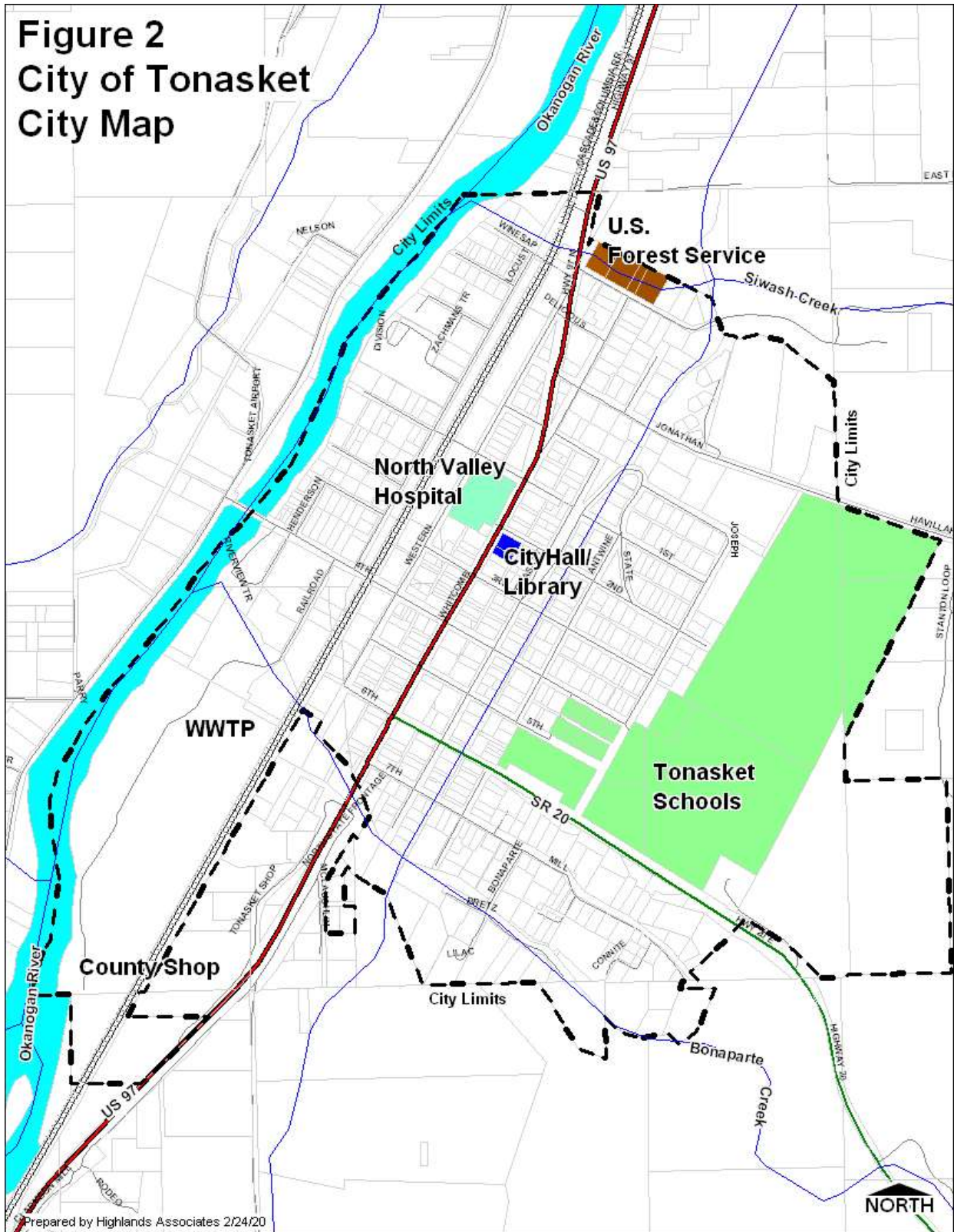


Figure 2
City of Tonasket
City Map



SERVICE AREA DESCRIPTION

Tonasket's service area is defined as north Okanogan County (from the town of Riverside north to the border), encompassing an area of approximately 1100 square miles. The majority of the area is sparsely populated agricultural, forest and recreational land, and includes not only Tonasket and the Tonasket school District but the city of Oroville, Oroville School District, the northern portion of the Omak School District, and several small communities such as Ellisforde to the north, Loomis to the northwest, and Havillah, Molson, Chesaw and Wauconda to the east. A map depicting the service area and general vicinity is presented on the following page.

The service area has a rich history with Fr. Etienne de Rouge founding a mission at nearby Ellisforde in 1870. The area also served as the main route for miners and supplies on their way to the Klondike Gold Rush in the Yukon which began in 1898. The area's history has not only been allied to mining, agriculture and logging, but to hunting, fishing and other types of recreation.

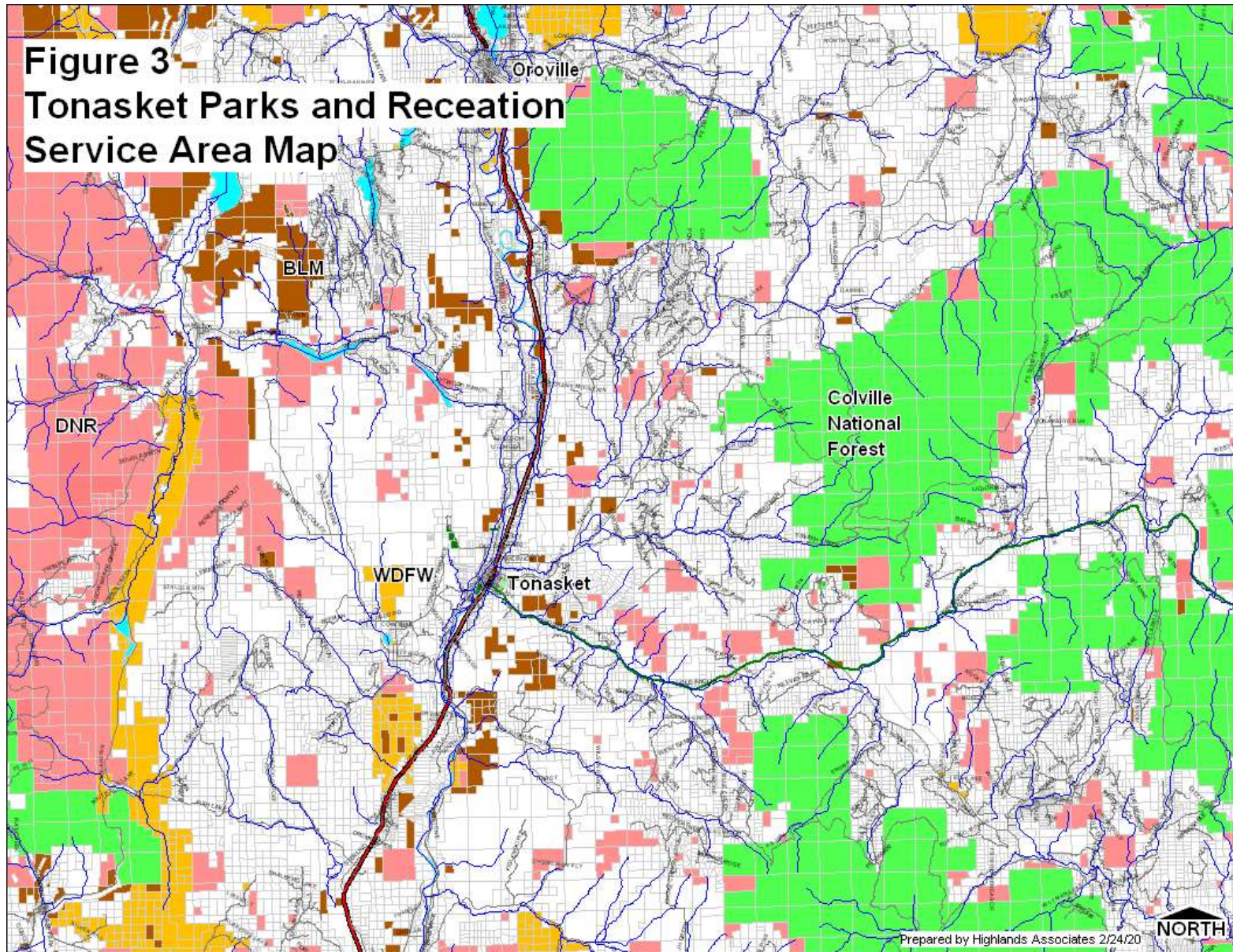
A large portion of the area surrounding Tonasket is under public ownership and management through the Colville National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. The area is a heavily used, four-season, recreation destination for hunters, fisherman, skiers, snowmobilers, hikers and other recreational users. Many of these recreationists return year after year to enjoy the wonders of the area. As a result, many decide upon retirement to settle in this beautiful region. Thus, Tonasket and the surrounding area have a fairly high population of retirees as residents.

In addition, the large number of orchards in the region attracts a significant number of Hispanics who originally came to the area as migrant labor, but in increasing numbers, are settling as permanent residents. This results in the need for additional recreation facilities, and for an understanding of the Hispanic peoples and culture.

Environmental Characteristics

Tonasket experiences four distinct seasons. Temperatures in winter months average in the 20s and 30s (degrees F), spring months 30s into the 70s, summer months 50s to 90s and fall months high 20s to 70s. Annual precipitation in the Tonasket area averages about 13 inches. This relatively low annual precipitation, accompanied by many sunny days, creates a favorable setting for a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in all seasons.

The topography of the area is also favorable for outdoor recreation. The service area is roughly split in half by the Okanogan River valley. To the west, the terrain slowly rises through low, sage covered foothills to forested peaks over 6,000 feet in height. East of the Okanogan Valley, the terrain is dominated by 7,200 foot Mount Bonaparte, and many lesser forested mountains within the Colville National Forest. Tonasket is strategically located within 30 to 60 minutes from numerous lakes, streams, roads and trails providing access for many forms of outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, climbing, biking, and skiing.



Economic Characteristics

While economic activities in the Tonasket area are primarily associated with agriculture, (mainly tree fruit and grape production and storage and livestock production), governmental services, North Valley Hospital, tourism, and an expanding retirement sector are playing a greater role. Local businesses provide a range of services required by local residents and the traveling public. Over the past three decades, declines in both timber and agriculture have led to an increasing reliance on recreational activities to help diversify the economy as a source of economic activity in the Tonasket area.

Social Characteristics

The 2019 American Community Survey found that approximately 14.88% of the city of Tonasket's population was 65 years of age or over. Data for Okanogan County, which is very rural in nature, that 65 and over figure was 20.7%. This fairly high percentage of seniors, primarily on fixed incomes, has influenced decisions on recreational development in the recent past because this segment of the population can have different recreational needs compared to the younger population. Seniors generally tend toward activity which involves less rigorous competition. An example of facilities catering to this population is the walking trail along the shoreline of the Okanogan River at the Chief Tonasket Riverfront Park and the swimming pool in History Park.

A challenge for the Tonasket area in terms of recreation is the average income, and high unemployment rate. Median Household Income (2019 ACS figure) in Tonasket is \$27,375, with nearly 27% of households making less than \$15,000 annually. While unemployed persons may have plenty of free time to pursue recreational activities, their lack of income reduces the ability of private enterprise to capitalize on the situation by providing for recreational needs. Thus, the development, operation, and maintenance of recreational facilities have been more often a function of local, state, and federal government which can spread the costs over a greater number of people.

Observations of current users at existing recreational facilities have found that the primary users are children who partake in both organized activities such as soccer and baseball, as well as unorganized activities like "shooting hoops" or "hanging out" in a cool and pleasant green areas, use of the pool and playground in History Park, the Tonasket Water Ranch splash park in Chief Tonasket Park and new play facilities in Little Learners Park. Tonasket parks also experience usage from seniors, family groups from inside and outside of the City, visitors to the area, and from the Tonasket school system. However, use of parks is relative to available facilities.

At the time of the 2004 update to this plan, the primary focus for recreational facilities was a skate, blade, and bike park referred to as the B3 project, initiated by the youth of the community. During the developmental and fund-raising stages of the B3 Park, demolition of the old wastewater treatment lagoons next to Chief Tonasket Riverfront Park eliminated some of the baseball, softball and soccer fields, while providing more than ample space for reconstruction and the addition of more fields, and an ideal home for the B3 Park. Chief Tonasket Park was already a popular facility among individuals, schools, families, and organized leagues. This Park was expanded with the addition of new fields as well as the majority of the B3 skate park with sufficient space remaining to serve the communities recreation needs for at least two to three

decades.

At the time of the 2011 plan update, the City had closed the swimming pool in History Park and a three phased effort to design, fund and build a replacement was initiated. The first phase entailed the City, using Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funds, retaining consultants to conduct an analysis and feasibility study on the pool and ancillary facilities. The results of this study enabled the City to obtain a declaration from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) that the pool was obsolete and the City was not obligated to replace the facility. In the second phase, the consultants conducted a public process and prepared options for a new facility. The third phase of the effort, funding and building a new facility, was taken over by citizens. This committed group of citizens developed and refined plans for a new facility, raised the funding needed to replace the pool and appurtenant facilities and spearheaded the effort to create the Tonasket Parks and Recreation District.

The new swimming pool, opened to the public in 2018, was completed through an amazing community effort and was turned over to the City to operate with support from the Tonasket Parks and Recreation District.

Much of this 2020 update of the plan returns the focus on Chief Tonasket Park with smaller proposed improvements to other parks. The Tonasket Youth Baseball Association was successful in securing a \$250,000 grant from the RCO' Youth Athletic Field program for redeveloping and adding to the existing ballfields at the south end of the park. With the addition of the Tonasket Water Ranch Splash Pad and preliminary approvals in place for a new south ingress/egress into the park, the timing is right to implement one of the priorities of the 2011 update – revise the master plan for Chief Tonasket Riverfront Park.

POPULATION DATA/DEMAND

PLANNING AREA POPULATION INFORMATION

The graphs in Figure 1 through 3 on the following pages show the City of Tonasket's population growth over the last eight decades. Tonasket's first official census in 1930 showed a population of 513. By 1950 the population had nearly doubled; however, since those years, the population in Tonasket has remained relatively flat, at around 1000 persons. The 2000 U. S. Census showed a population of 994, 2010 found the population had increased to 1,032. More recently, the State Office of Financial Management's (OFM) 2019 April 1st estimate was 1,110. Some of this growth resulted from an increase in the City's boundaries and construction of multi-family residences.

Over the last 60 years, Tonasket has been experiencing a declining share of County growth while 23 miles to the south, Omak/Okanogan has been gaining its share. It's central location has been an attraction for large commercial development including discount stores, while also being the central location for governmental offices and services. Tonasket is trending toward a "bedroom" community that may be a quiet and peaceful place to raise children or retire which will likely result in a community demanding more recreational services, but with less revenue to expand and maintain those facilities. This prediction will be especially valid if the trend for development continues in the Tonasket unincorporated area to subdivide farm and ranch holdings for rural

residential/recreational uses.

Figure 5

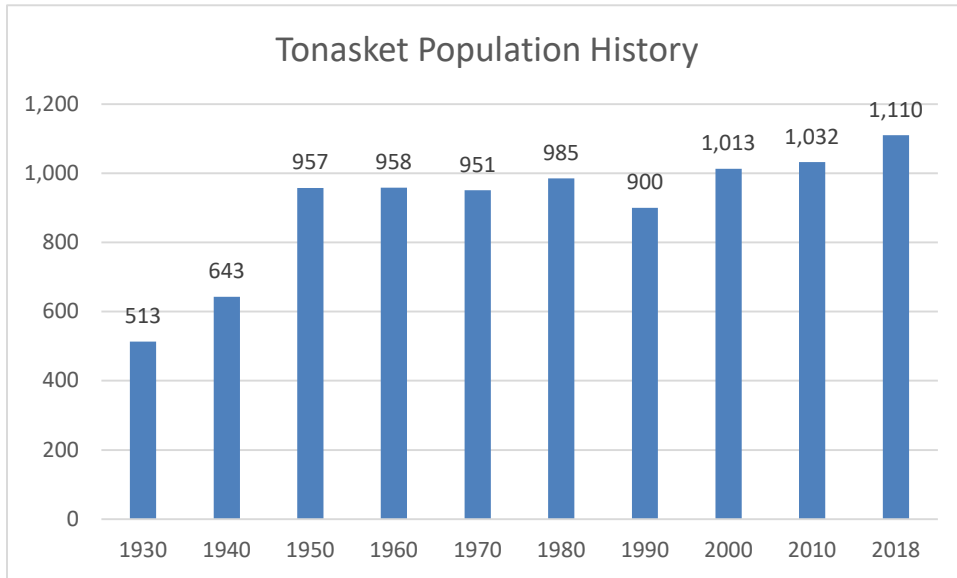


Figure 6

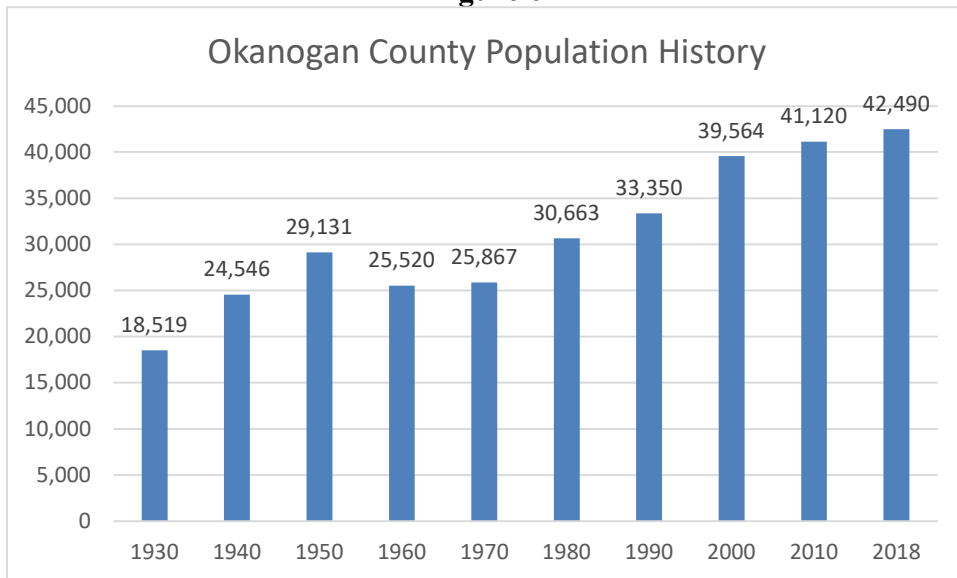
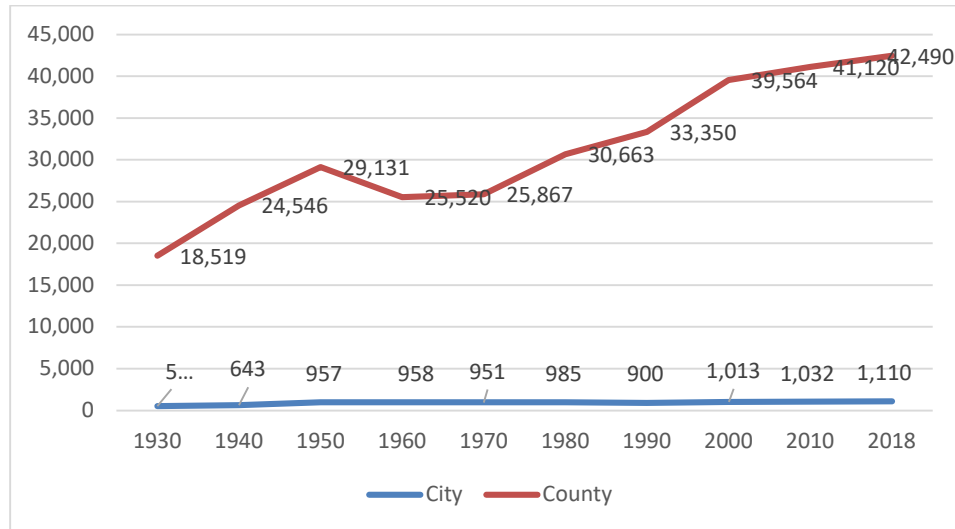


Figure 7
Tonasket/Okanogan County Population History (by decade)



SERVICE AREA POPULATION INFORMATION

In addition to general population information, the development of a reasonable park and recreation plan also needs to consider the demographic characteristics of the local population. Since there is a lack of detailed demographic data specific to the planning area, the information had to be extrapolated using information for the City of Tonasket, City of Oroville and Census Block data which includes the bulk of the unincorporated population.

The 2020 population for the Service Area is estimated to be approximately 6300 persons. It is also estimated¹ that approximately 18.21% of that population is school age (i.e., 5 to 19 year olds) and the senior population comprising 25.3%

Using Medium Population Projections for Okanogan County prepared by the Washington State Office of Financial Management in 2017, the following table was prepared to generally project recreation needs based on population changes.

Table 1 – Population Projections

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Tonasket Service Area Projections	6300	6369	6439	6510	6582
Estimated to be School Age Children	1147	1160	1172	1185	1198
Estimated to be 65 or over	1594	1611	1637	1647	1665

¹ - estimate based on 2017 OFM population projections for Okanogan County

Transient Population

It has been estimated that approximately 300,000 automobiles and trucks pass through the U.S. and Canadian Ports of Entry 20 miles north of Tonasket annually. An assumption made for planning purposes is that between 60,000 and 70,000 of those vehicles stop in Tonasket to patronize restaurants, stores, service stations and recreational facilities. Another assumption is that with the population density ever increasing in the Puget Sound region, more people seeking out the beauty, solitude and relaxed pace of the life found in and around Tonasket will choose to recreate here.

Tonasket experiences a seasonal population increase in the area, migrant agricultural workers, primarily from June through October. Not only is this consideration important in light of the general desire of this population to utilize recreational facilities, but more specifically, the transient and permanent Hispanic population are generally avid soccer enthusiasts.

Based on the 2017 American Community Survey, it is estimated that about 500 persons of Hispanic Origin are located in the service area on a year-round basis. During harvest, it is estimated that the service area population may increase by up to 1000 persons, increasing the service area population to well over 7000 persons.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/NEEDS ANALYSIS

Numerous Council Meeting discussions occurred regarding parks planning for the past several years with the focus primarily on completing the splash park (Tonasket Water Ranch), replacement of the swimming pool, upgrades at State Street Little Learners Park², development of the south access to Chief Tonasket Park and the ballfields project being funded through the Youth Athletic Fields grant program administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). With so many park related projects and activities on the horizon, and the 2011 Park and Recreation Plan out of date, therefore resulting in the city losing its eligibility for RCO grant programs, the Council directed staff to pull a committee together and begin the process of updating the 2011 plan.

A committee with representatives from baseball, soccer, TPIC, the Park and Recreation District, City, business and residents began meeting in the late spring of 2019. The committee's initial focus was on conducting a survey to further identify and refine community desires and priorities and developing an updated master plan for Chief Tonasket Riverfront Park.

Two workshops (see workshop articles in Appendix A) were conducted, one in the fall of 2019 and the other in January 2020 for public discussion of updating the Tonasket Parks and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. At the first workshop the Park Plan update process was explained and survey results reviewed. The second workshop focused on review and refinement of the Action Plan. Attendees at the workshops were provided an overview of the planning effort and asked to assist in the identification and prioritization of park improvement projects. Also, the potential for additional revenue stream from park facilities was also discussed since City revenues are limited, both due to statewide tax reduction initiatives, and the general slow economy in the area. The park plan was also the topic of discussion at several City Council meetings throughout the planning period.

The primary means of determining the needs and desires of service area residents was a community survey. The city conducted a survey in late spring/summer 2019 as a means to provide a broader opportunity for community involvement in the plan update. The survey was primarily disseminated via the internet with links provided to all students in the Tonasket School District; through committee members and businesses social media connections and hand outs were available at public meetings, at City Hall, the Library and at local businesses. The survey was intended to provide information regarding City parks in general and the swimming pool specifically. 68.3% of the surveys were completed by households or individuals residing outside of the city limits, with 90.7% of those residing within the 98855 zip code. The distribution of age groups responding to the survey showed: 21.5% - 11 to 20 age group, 18.6% - 31 to 40 age group; 16.7% - 61 to 70 age group; 13.0% - 16 to 20 age group; 11.5% - 41 to 50 age group; and, 11.2% - 51 to 60 age group; and 7.4% - 21 to 30 age group with the remaining age groups under 10%. It is important to note that not all respondents answered all questions and some listed ages for all household members. However, the results do provide some insights into the park and recreation needs and desires of area residents.

2 - A major renovation of Little Learners Park was completed in the spring of 2019 through the efforts of the newly formed Tonasket Park Improvement Committee (TPIC). The Committee raised funds, secured donations of materials and coordinated numerous volunteers to make the project a success.

The survey showed that 50.0% of those polled used Tonasket's park facilities often or frequently. 36.6% reported less frequent use (a few times a year); and 13.5% reporting no usage or usage only once every several years, with only 3.4% reporting no usage. The most popular facility/activity is the swimming pool with 59.3% of respondents reporting use followed by 55.2% who reported walking, 51.5% who frequent the Farmers Market, 46.6% use the Splash Park, 35.8% use the ball fields and 26.1% for dog walking.

In terms of satisfaction with existing facilities, responses to the following statement: "The parks and recreation facilities in Tonasket meet my expectations and needs" found of the 46.3% of responses are generally satisfied while 47.35% strongly agreed or agreed, 13.8% disagreed or strongly disagreed. A question about whether improvements would be required to increase satisfaction, 68.6% agreed or strongly agreed, 29.9% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

When asked what additional facilities are needed in Tonasket, 29.9% responded Natural Areas, 29.1% checked waterpark and miniature golf, with the next priorities being dog areas with 25.0%, exercise classes with 24.3% then volleyball with 23.1%.

In order to gauge community feelings about the new swimming pool, the survey featured the same questions from the 2011 survey. The responses to the 2019 survey indicate the community is happy with the new pool and facilities but desire improvements to parking, access and the bathhouse. Complete survey results are found in Appendix C.

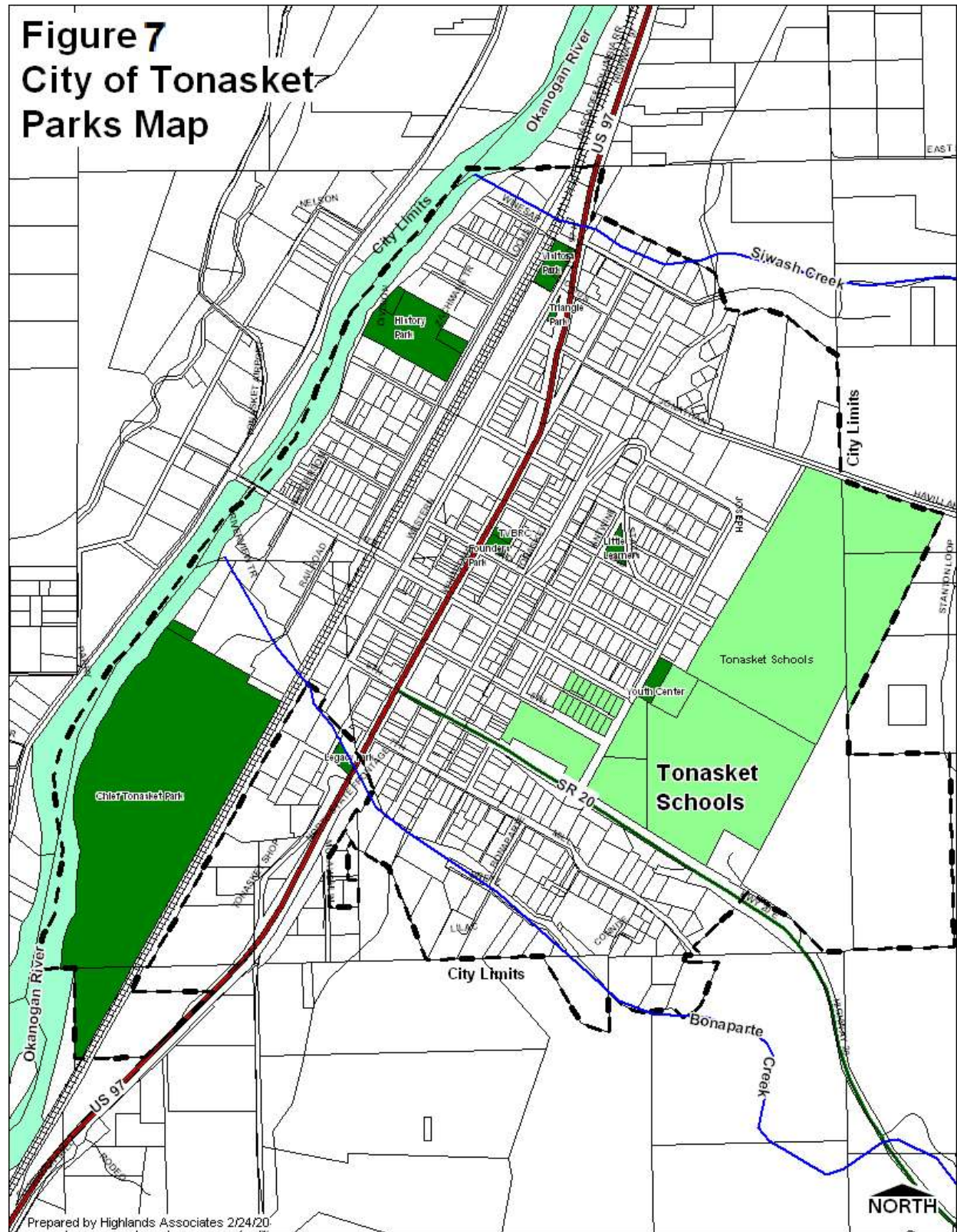
When asked if spending for parks were increased, what should the priority be? 43.3% felt the City needed to develop recreational programs followed by development of new facilities at 40.3% and increased maintenance at 37.7%. A more focused question asked if funds for maintenance were increased 59.3% said fixing and maintaining playground equipment should be the priority, 45.5% said walking paths and 38.8% said swimming pool. As noted previously a completed copy of the survey results are included in Appendix C.

The results from the survey will help inform the development of 6-year Action and Capital Plans as the final pieces needed to update the Park and Recreation Plan.

The first workshop held October 15, 2019 served two purposes. The first provided background on the planning process and featured listening stations where members of the Park Committee solicited comments on individual parks. The second workshop was held on March 16, 2020 featuring a review of the Park and Recreation Plan with a focus on the Action/Capital Plans. The workshops were relatively poorly attended.

TONASKET PARK FACILITIES INVENTORY

The following section contains an inventory of existing city parks and other community recreational or cultural facilities with descriptions and history of the facilities. The map on the following page depicts the location of the major facilities owned and/or maintained by the City, School District and Community Cultural Center. The School ball fields are included because they are also used for organized sports other than School District activities and the Community Cultural Center due to its importance in providing a setting for myriad recreational, social and cultural activities. These facilities are discussed in the inventory, and most include a photo of the park or facility.



HISTORY PARK: This is Tonasket's oldest park and was originally developed in the mid 1920's. It is located in a residential area on 5 acres with 400 feet of shoreline on the Okanogan River. Existing facilities include a new outdoor swimming pool and bath house, a basketball court, shaded picnic areas, an open area for games and concerts, and a variety of children's play equipment. The park is fenced for security and has a lighted basketball court and lights for the swimming pool.

There are a number of trees in History Park that were planted in memory of pioneers and others of the community. Some of these trees have died or blown down and many are in declining health and present a safety hazard. Identifying markers, on the trees along the south edge of the park, may be damaged or are missing. There is also an identifying marker near the swimming pool. Removal of ___ and pruning of ___ other trees was completed in 2020 with additional work planned over the next several years.

The City's first Park and Recreation Plan led to an Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation Grant³ in 1990 for the renovation of the 1940's pool and bath house. History Park includes a porta-potty that is open for use during part of the year.

The pool began leaking prior to 2010 with up to 20,000 gallons per day disappearing into the ground, the heating system broken and the bath house sorely outdated. These deficiencies, among others, prompted the City to initiate a three-pronged effort intended to result in a substantial renovation of the existing pool and related facilities or construction of a completely new facility.

The City, using dollars from the REET, selected and retained a consultant team in 2010 to evaluate the existing facility, provide a list of deficiencies along with cost estimates to correct them and examine the preliminary feasibility for renovating or replacing the current facility.

The consultant team, led by Land Expressions from Spokane, including the respected pool experts from Swim World, completed and presented findings from the first phase of their efforts in the fall of 2010. The second phase, featured a public process as the consultant developed and presented a variety of configurations and cost estimated for a new facility.

The consultant team's phase one report found a wide array of significant code related issues with the existing pool, bath house and facility access, many of which needed to be addressed if facility use was to continue until a major renovation could be funded and completed or a replacement facility funded and constructed. The estimates for addressing the most immediate issues ranged upward of \$200,000 with a comprehensive effort to correct all deficiencies costing nearly \$1,000,000. Fortunately, Pool World included in the phase one report a comprehensive, prioritized list of improvements along with cost estimates and a manual on how to better utilize the facility as it presently exists. Unfortunately, working on some of the immediate problems required actions (e.g. removing the pool deck) that would have exposed areas that also need expensive work, but not as high of priority.

3 - The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) was renamed the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) as the agency was given a larger role in salmon recovery and other conservation efforts.

In the end, as noted earlier in the plan, a citizens group formed and took the lead in completing the design, fund raising, securing donations of materials and qualified labor, and getting formation of the Tonasket Park and Recreation District on the ballot. The end result was the grand opening of a new pool and bath house in the summer of 2018.

VISITOR PARK: This park was developed during the spring and summer of 1989 in a joint effort of the City, and the Tonasket Chamber of Commerce. The .8 acre site is leased from the Burlington Northern Railroad by the City. It is located in the northwest area of Tonasket near the corporate limits and is bounded on the west by the Burlington Northern Railroad, on the north by Winesap Street, on the south by industrial property and on the east by Western Avenue.

The site was developed into a visitor's center with the addition of a small building used as an office for the Chamber of Commerce and tourist information center, 7 RV hookups, a public RV dump station and a pay station for potable water which is open from April through October (weather permitting). The visitor's center relocated into the Visitor and Business Resource Center downtown in 2009. The former center building is now being used for storage by the Chamber. This park has seen a number of upgrades in recent years as the Chamber of Commerce installed all new meter boxes with 30 and 50 amp services and fences a portion of the facility. The Chamber continues to operate and maintain the facility.

STATE STREET LITTLE LEARNERS PARK: This neighborhood park was developed by private landowners and donated to the city. The park consists of an acre of lawn in a triangular shape with a variety of playground equipment for small children at the intersection of State Street, Second Street and Antwine Avenue. Trees growing along the State Street side provide some shade for park users. The site formally contained a basketball court which fell into disrepair and was removed.

In 2018, a group of parents, concerned about the condition of the park and especially the playground equipment, formed the Tonasket Park Improvement Committee (TPIC) with the goal of renovating this park. The members of TPIC coordinated closely with the City as they developed plans, and in the spring of 2019, mustered an army of volunteers to totally remake the park. The facility now includes.....

CHIEF TONASKET RIVERFRONT PARK: This park, on property south of the city's former wastewater treatment lagoons, was annexed in 1986 and developed into a park with ball and soccer fields with a single restroom facility.. The park is bounded on the east by the Cascade & Columbia River Railroad tracks, on the west by the Okanogan River with approximately 2,000 feet of shoreline and on the south by undeveloped property donated to the City and reserved as a wildlife conservation area. Access to the park is via Railroad Avenue which bisects a warehousing area south of Fourth Street.

This park site was originally made up of approximately 20 acres and developed with volunteer labor and donated money, materials and equipment to include 2 small soccer fields for youth play, 2 regulation soccer fields, 1 softball field, 1 little league baseball field and 2 parking areas. A boat launch, picnic shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, parking lots and a riverfront trail were added along the shoreline portion the park in 1993 and 1994 with the assistance of matching funds provided by the Washington Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account.

However, all ball fields were fully or partially impacted by the 2003 demolition of the wastewater treatment lagoons, as the wastewater treatment facility was upgraded to eliminate all but two sludge lagoons in 2002. The upside to the conversion is that approximately 10 additional acres of parkland became available, some of which was developed for additional soccer, baseball, and softball fields. In addition, the main access road was relocated away from the shoreline and large parking area has been left available for the trail, picnic areas, boat launch, restroom facility and one ball field which are all still usable. Development of the new ball fields and other amenities has progressed off and on since 2005 with the addition of a skate park and a BMX track, a fish viewing platform and more recently the Tonasket Water Ranch, an 8,800 sq ft splash park with a variety of farm animal themed water features and picnic facilities. At present there are 2 regulation baseball fields, 1 T-ball field and 1 softball field and 3 regulation and 4 practice/youth soccer fields. Plans to add a regulation Babe Ruth baseball field are now being realized with a \$250,000 Youth Athletic Field grant, which in part led to the update of this plan.

In 1994, a local resident and retired business person, John Figenshow, donated to the City several acres of riverfront property to the south of the park that is recognized as having significant habitat value by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is also the site of a Bureau of Reclamation fishery mitigation site. This area is planned by the City to be conserved, and it is desirable that the area be a wildlife interpretive site in the future.

Presently, activities that cause this park to be in high demand include: informal golfing activity, soccer, river walks, baseball, fishing, river floating, picnicking, skating, BMX biking, enjoying the splash park, wildlife observation and general relaxation.

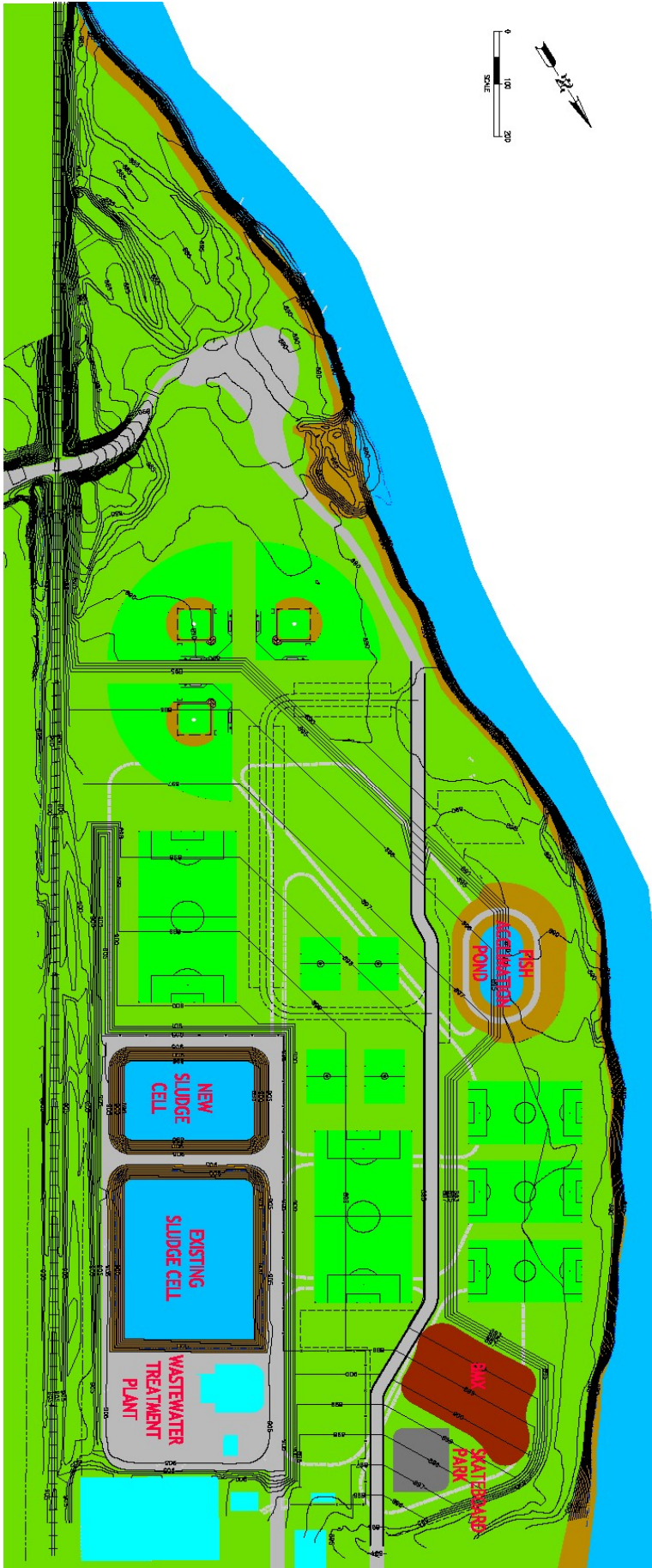
Additional proposed improvements to the site include: seating for spectators, extension of trails, dog park, performance stage and development of a new railroad crossing at the south end of the park to provide a vital second point of access to the park. In the early 1990's, the city petitioned the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) for approval of the new crossing. Unfortunately, due to objection by the then owner Burlington Northern Railroad, the petition was denied. However, the denial left an opening for the City by noting that it could be possible to permit a new crossing if an existing crossing was closed. The City continued to periodically contact the railroad as ownership of the rail line changed hands over the years then in 2016 approached the current owners of the railroad line, Cascade and Columbia River Railroad⁴, to follow up on the issue since the closing of one crossing improving another in the

4 - the Cascade & Columbia is a subsidiary of the Genessee & Wyoming Railroad, a Pennsylvania based company that operates 120 rail lines worldwide.

City in exchange for the proposed new public crossing has been completed. After a series of meetings and telephone conversations, the railroad was open to the possibility of a new crossing, with a catch. In order to gain their approval and thus a permit from the UTC, the crossing would have to have a fully modern electronic crossing with automatic gates etc. The estimated cost for such a crossing was \$750,000, an amount to City could not afford with no grant funding available. The City requested that representatives of the railroad and UTC come to Tonasket to see firsthand the crossing location as well as learn about how the crossing would be used. The result was the railroad conceding an improved, 36' wide crossing with stop signs would be sufficient given the limited rail traffic, ample site distance and seasonal use of the new crossing. With that preliminary approval in hand, the City approached the UTC and received preliminary approval for a new crossing.

The City is presently working with the County to secure the annexation of the county shop property along with the right-of-way required to access the planned crossing site. Once the right-of-way is in hand, the City will have to move forward with a design of the new crossing and petition the UTC once again for a permit to construct this important access to Chief Tonasket Park.

The site map of this facility is presented below. This master plan for Chief Tonasket Park needs to be updated to reflect the existing improvements as well as locate planned improvements.



TRIANGLE MARKET PARK: This small park area is located between Western Avenue and U.S. 97 in close proximity to the Visitor Park. The 1/3 acre site is primarily a grassy open space area with a few shade trees. Two city wells are located on the site that are not used due to poor water quality. It is also the location where local producers hold the weekly Tonasket Farmers Market from late spring until early fall

Proposed improvements to this site are primarily oriented to access, beautification and small improvements requested by the Farmers Market, given the limitations posed by the small area.

ARMED FORCES LEGACY PARK: The formal ground breaking on this park, built to recognize and memorialize armed forces veterans from across the U.S. was on Veterans Day, November 11, 2009. The U.S. Armed Forces Legacy Association, a non-profit group, raised money for the memorial and is responsible for development and maintenance of the Park. The City of Tonasket gave the group a 99-year lease for the property and provides water for irrigation.

In 2015, the City, in cooperation with the Legacy Association, was successful in securing grant funds from two sources that enabled design and installation of an aluminum pedestrian bridge and sidewalks connecting the park with the sidewalks in downtown.

FOUNDERS PARK: This park, adjacent to the Tonasket Visitors and Business Resource Center, City Hall and the former Police Station, was completed in 2010 through significant volunteer efforts. The park provides history on the founders of the community and includes parking, and picnic and small camping areas for bicyclists. The most recent improvements included installation of an electric vehicle charging station funded by a USDA grant administered by Plug-In North Central Washington, a non-profit group dedicated to providing infrastructure throughout NCW for electric vehicles.

YOUTH CENTER: Tonasket's Youth Center is located on the corner of Fourth Street and Joseph Avenue. The facility was constructed in 1990 on city property located adjacent to the Tonasket Schools. The structure is used by a number of groups but primarily youth group activities. The structure contains a kitchen facility, restrooms and a large meeting room. The site includes plenty of parking area near the building. This facility was built from funds provided from the sale of the property where the old Youth Center was located.

TONASKET VISITOR AND BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER (TVBRC): The VBRC is a multi-functional facility located on City Property between City Hall and Founders Park. It was purchased with proceeds from the Okanogan County Infrastructure Fund (a .09% rebate on sales tax provided to rural counties), shared by Okanogan County with the cities therein for Economic Development purposes. The VBRC has a park component (see description of Founders Park) which was completed in 2010. The business assistance aspect provides for new recreation and visitor-oriented businesses. Planned improvements and those in progress include expanded restrooms.

OTHER PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES

There are also other recreation facilities within or near the community which provide varied recreation opportunities for area residents. The following facilities, while not City-owned or operated, provide an important source of recreation for Tonasket area residents and visitors.

Tonasket Senior Center: The Senior Center, one of the oldest buildings in Tonasket, is located on the west side of Tonasket Avenue near the center of the Community. The building was constructed as a social center for early day dances, parties, meetings, library and resting place for visitors. Since the building was purchased by Tonasket Senior Citizens, improvements have been made and the building remodeled for its current use as a senior activities center. Current activities include: billiards, dances, card games, bingo, meals and a place for community meetings and celebrations.

Future improvements are primarily aimed at keeping the building in a useable condition with these efforts primarily undertaken by volunteer groups.

School District: the School District has 1 baseball and 1 softball field and one soccer field at a location along Havillah Road at the north end of the School District Property, and another smaller soccer/football/baseball practice field and 5 tennis courts at the south end of the property near the Alternative School. These areas are generally accessible to the public: however, school activity takes precedence. Through a cooperative agreement between the city and school district, area residents have been able to use five tennis courts and adjacent play areas that offer limited baseball practice activity due severe site limitations. Additionally, there is an all-weather track that is open to the public; again, school activity has priority use for sports activities but the City has an interlocal agreement to allow public use. The track facility was upgraded to all-weather status with grant assistance from the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation.

Rodeo Grounds: The Tonasket Rodeo Grounds are located a short distance south of the corporate limits, east of U.S. 97. Over the years, local rodeo fans have developed and expanded the facility to include: an arena, corrals, bleachers, concession stand and restrooms. The Comancheros is a club that maintains, promotes, manages and holds events at the Rodeo Grounds. A priority project at this time for the Comancheros is to secure an ideal location for an attractive new sign they recently had constructed. The City intends to secure land along US 97 from Okanogan County for this purpose. The Comancheros have been discussing development of a 10,000 sq ft indoor facility to allow year-round recreational opportunities as well as events.

Community Cultural Center⁵: In the heart of downtown Tonasket, stands the Community Cultural Center, a 7200 sq ft building. In what was originally a Studebaker dealership in the early 1950's, the CCC, as it is fondly called, is now a community hub that serves the people of north Okanogan County in myriad ways. A public facility to rent, offering cultural events, a gathering place and a location for social services, the CCC is also a non-profit membership organization,

5 - information about the Community Cultural Center from their website – used by permission.

over 200 strong.

Beginning as an automobile dealership and mechanics' shop, changing hands to an appliance store, a packing shed, and finally a tire and radiator repair shop, the old concrete building had many owners and uses. Then in 1992, a small group of alternative-minded folks got together to purchase the building. Their vision was to create a safe and comfortable place for families to gather and enrich lives.

Given the fact that the big, green building was so old, there was much that needed fixing, changing and renovating. The original group, all volunteers, spent countless hours making the building comfortable, but were limited by a lack of funds to really bring it up to snuff – the old oil-burning furnaces were still in use, windows that were not boarded-up were single-pane and inadequate. The concrete-block walls showed daylight through in many places and the electricity and plumbing were old and insufficient. This was all tolerable to the small initial group, but more and more of the "public" were coming in and beginning to enjoy the cultural events, classes and functions that were being offered. Something had to be done to improve the facility even more.

In 1996 the CCC became a legal non-profit, which made the possibility of applying for grants feasible. With a great deal of optimism, the small group decided to try their hand at seeking funds to sustain the organization. Some small grants were awarded, mainly for arts programs, enabling the CCC to offer classes for local children and entertainment for the community. Still, the facility was in dire need of renovations. With more research and participation, the group began to explore larger possibilities for funding. Learning that there's plenty of money "out there" the task was to figure out how to obtain it. More research, collaborations, grant-writing instruction and determination ensued, and in the end the CCC received several substantial grants that totaled over \$500,000! The building renovations were begun and the community would receive a beautiful, new, state-of-the-art Community Center!

Now the inside renovations are done and local folks can reap the benefits of this amazing accomplishment. Given the fact that the CCC is a Membership Organization, there are in essence over 200 "owners". This means the community can take personal satisfaction in the achievement that wouldn't have happened without their input; thousands of local dollars have been donated towards this goal, hundreds of volunteer hours have been donated, as well.

In addition to the above facilities, the outlying areas surrounding Tonasket provide numerous opportunities for a wide range of year-round recreation such as hunting, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, camping, biking and driving for pleasure.

ACTION PLAN

The following page contains an action plan for the development and improvement of Tonasket's park and recreation resources. This plan was developed and updated with the goals and objectives of this plan in mind, and is intended to provide a source of information for the City Council for budgeting and planning purposes. The plan itself is fairly general and should be used in conjunction with the descriptions of the recreation facilities noted above.

**CITY OF TONASKET
PARK AND RECREATION PLAN
6-YEAR ACTION PROGRAM (2020-2025)**

Park/Projects	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Chief Tonasket Riverfront Park						
Skate Park/BMX Track	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping
Redevelop Ballfields	Construction of 1-2 fields with associated trails and parking	Construction of 1-2 fields	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping
Trails	Repair/replace bridges on Riverfront Trail	Resurface Riverfront Trail	Construct new connecting trails	Construct trail along eastern park boundary	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping
Soccer Fields	Reorient soccer fields based on new ballfield layout	Reorient soccer fields based on new ballfield layout	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping	Maintain improvements and landscaping
Bathroom	Repair and upgrade bathroom	Maintain and improve as needed	Maintain and improve as needed	Maintain and improve as needed	Maintain and improve as needed	Maintain and improve as needed
Dog Park	Identify location and develop plan and seek funding	Construct dog park	Maintain and improve as needed	Maintain and improve as needed	Maintain and improve as needed	Maintain and improve as needed
South Access	Work with County and adjoining landowner to secure R/W for new road	Prepare plans/specs for access and RR crossing, submit to UTC for crossing permit	Seek funding for access construction	Construct access	Maintenance	Maintenance
Master Plan	Continue meetings to evaluate placement of trails, restrooms, access and parking issues, and location of new facilities	Retain consultant to prepare updated master plan	Revise Park and Recreation Plan to include updated Master Plan	Implement and monitor plan	Implement and monitor plan	Implement and monitor plan
History Park						
Resurface/Construct Basketball Court	No actions	Obtain estimates for resurfacing existing court and constructing new	Revise Park and Recreation Plan to include specific projects and cost	Seek funding	Resurface existing court and/or construct new court	Maintenance

Park/Projects	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
		full-size court				
Trees	Retain professional services to trim and remove trees	Retain professional services to trim and remove trees	Retain professional services to trim and remove trees and begin tree replacement program	Maintenance and continue tree replacement program	Maintenance and continue tree replacement program	Maintenance and continue tree replacement program
Replace/Upgrade Playground Equipment	Work with the Tonasket Parks Improvement Committee (TPIC) on plan for replacement/upgrades	Acquire and install equipment	Acquire and install equipment	Acquire and install equipment	Maintenance	Maintenance
Bathrooms	No actions	Conduct meetings to determine location and desired amenities	Revise Park and Recreation Plan to include specific projects and cost	Seek funding	Construction	Maintenance
Shade and Seating for Swimming Pool	Work with Parks District on plan for addition of shade and seating	Install shade and seating improvements	Maintain and improve as needed	Maintain and improve as needed	Maintain and improve as needed	Maintain and improve as needed
Picnic Shelter	No actions	Conduct meetings to determine location and desired amenities	Revise Park and Recreation Plan to include specific projects and cost	Seek funding	Construction	Maintenance
Little Learners Park						
Drinking Fountain	Acquire and install	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance
Bathrooms	No actions	Conduct meetings to determine location and desired amenities	Revise Park and Recreation Plan to include specific projects and cost	Seek funding	Construction	Maintenance
Covered Shelter	No actions	Conduct meetings to determine location and desired amenities	Revise Park and Recreation Plan to include specific projects and cost	Seek funding	Construction	Maintenance
Triangle Park						
Crosswalks	Work with WSDOT to locate and design crosswalk on	Install crosswalk on Western and seek funding for US 97	Install crosswalk on US 97	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance

Park/Projects	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	Whitcomb Ave (US 97) and with City Public Works on location of cross walk on Western Ave.	crossing				
Landscape	No actions	Work with Farmers Market vendors and users to identify desired landscape and shade trees	Begin landscape planting program and landscape maintenance	Continue landscape program and maintenance	Landscape maintenance	Landscape maintenance
Bathroom	No actions	No actions	Conduct meetings to determine location and desired amenities	Revise Park and Recreation Plan to include specific projects and cost	Seek funding	Construction
Founders Park						
Signage	No actions	Begin researching options for repair of existing signs and correction of grammatical errors	Continue efforts	Secure bids and/or estimate for repair of signs	Repair signs	Maintenance
Directional Signage	Meet with Chamber, recreation groups and public works staff on plan for installing signage directing visitors to City Parks	Continue efforts	Secure bids and/or estimate for signs	Acquire and install signs	Maintenance	Maintenance
Youth Center						
Remodel Exterior	Replace siding, fascia and trim as needed	Maintenance and improvements	Maintenance and improvements	Maintenance and improvements	Maintenance and improvements	Maintenance and improvements
Remodel Interior	No actions	Work with user groups on plan for interior remodel	Seek funding	Complete remodel	Maintenance and improvements	Maintenance and improvements
Armed Forces Legacy Park						
Landscape	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance
TVBRC						
Landscape	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance
Visitors Park						

Park/Projects	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Landscape	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

Projects presented in the following table are listed according to their priority (i.e., the first project listed is the highest priority). However, the City may need to take advantage of emerging opportunities such as funding availability, or partnerships. In these cases, projects will be raised to a higher priority and implemented to whatever degree the opportunity provides. For the purpose of this plan, a capital expenditure will be defined as having a life of over five years and costing \$10,000 or more, although due to the City's budget limits, many projects are included with a cost under the \$10,000 threshold. Planning and other efforts will be funded from Current Expense budget and are not shown as expenditures in this CIP. The CIP is based on Action Plan projects.

Project Name	Facility Type	Project Type	Funding Source	Estimated Cost per Year for Implementation and Maintenance					
				2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Chief Tonasket Park - Redevelop Ballfields	Active Sports	R/E	Youth Athletic Field Grant	\$250,000	\$100,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Chief Tonasket Park Riverfront Trail Maintenance	Walking	M	Volunteers, Donations, City	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Chief Tonasket Park Soccer Fields Realignment	Active Sports	R/E	Volunteers, Donations, City	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
History Park Trees	Landscape	M	City, Donations	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	\$500
History Park Playground Replacement/Upgrade	Active Recreation	R/E	TPIC, Donations, City	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$500	\$500
Little Learners Park Drinking Fountain	Children's Park	D	TPIC, Donations, City	\$1,500	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
Youth Center Exterior Remodel	Meeting Space	R/E	City	\$20,000	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Chief Tonasket Park South Access	Access	D	City, County, RCO, UTC, TIB	\$1,200	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$400,000	\$500	\$500
Triangle Park Crosswalks	Access	D	City, WSDOT, TIB	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$25,000	\$100	\$100	\$100
Chief Tonasket Park Dog Park	Passive Recreation	D	Grants, Donations, City	\$100	\$200	\$5,000	\$100	\$100	\$100
Youth Center Interior Remodel	Meeting Space	R/E	City	\$100	\$100	\$20,000	\$100	\$100	\$100
Chief Tonasket Park Master Plan	Plan	P	City	\$500	\$10,000	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0
Founders Park Signage	Signage	D	City, Donations, Volunteers	\$0	\$100	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$0
Triangle Park Shade Trees	Landscape	R/E	City, Donations	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0
History Park Basketball	Active	R/E	City, Grants,	\$0	\$120	\$5,000	\$40,000	\$100	\$100

Courts	Sports		Donations						
TOTALS				\$295,400	\$140,170	\$82,150	\$450,700	\$5,300	\$5,050

Tonasket Park and Recreation Plan

APPENDIX A - Public Workshops Summary, News Releases and News Articles

Tonasket Park and Recreation Plan

Appendix B - Council and Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Tonasket Park and Recreation Plan

Appendix D - Evidence of Adoption, Council Resolution

City of Tonasket Park and Recreation Plan

Appendix E

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: City of Tonasket		
Contact Name: Alice Attwood		
Adoption Date of Submitted Documents: ????		
Seeking Eligibility for: <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Grants <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Grants <input checked="" 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.	Park and Recreation Plan, Pages 4 and 5
	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>	Park and Recreation Plan, Pages 6, 9, 18 - 26
	3. Public involvement: The planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in plan development and adoption.	Park and Recreation Plan, Pages 16 and 17
	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.). 	Park and Recreation Plan, Pages 16 and 17
	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.	Park and Recreation Plan, Page 33
	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.	Park and Recreation Plan, Appendix D

City of Tonasket Park and Recreation Plan

Appendix E

Certification
Signature

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

Print/Type Name: Kurt E Danison

Signature (Hand Written or Digital): _____

Title: Contract Planner

Date: ?????