

Executive Summary

The 2026-2046 City of Liberty Lake's Parks and Recreation Master Plan ("Plan") has been incorporated by reference as the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element of the 2026-2046 Comprehensive Plan. This Plan creates a roadmap for ensuring quantity, proximity and connections to quality parks, green space, recreation facilities, programs, and events throughout the community now and into the future. The Plan examines the city's parks, recreation, and open space assets and represents public input used to determine their desired quality of life and the appropriate level of recreational service to be provided. The resulting feedback was distilled into parks and recreation goals and objectives, consistent with the community's vision and values.

The recommendations herein will form a basis for future capital improvements within the parks system over the next 10 years. This Plan has been prepared in compliance with the State of Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements and with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) guidelines.



VISION: *"The City of Liberty Lake creates spaces where the community is welcomed to gather, play, and connect."*



VALUES: Liberty Lake will offer a **connected and inclusive parks and recreation system** that celebrates community, nature, and its heritage. By providing vibrant and safe spaces for play, wellness, and gathering, the city will foster **civic pride and stewardship**. The city strives to **preserve green spaces** that sustain Liberty Lake's character and quality of life for generations to come.

Community Context

Liberty Lake has **14,110 residents** and has historically **grown at a significantly faster rate** than Spokane County. Population forecasts from the Spokane County Planning Technical Advisory committee and the state demography office anticipate this trend to continue. Liberty Lake is forecasted to grow by an average rate of 2.1% per year to a population of **approximately 21,934 residents by 2046**.



14,110 Residents
Current Population



2.1% Yearly Growth
Annual Growth



21,934 Residents
Projected by 2046

Key Findings

Icon	Theme	Key Point
	Growth Impact	Parks must be prepared to serve at least 7,824 new residents
	Family Demographics	System must serve families, multi-generational households, children
	Community Needs	Affordability, accessibility, and multilingual communication matter
	Inclusive Access	ADA and equitable access remain priorities

- ◆ Parks and recreational facilities, amenities, programming, and events will need to accommodate 7,824 new residents within the planning horizon.
- ◆ Liberty Lake is a very active and family-friendly community where over 30% of residents are children and there is a higher presence of family households than in the county at large.
- ◆ It is essential for the parks and recreation system to accommodate families, multi-generational households, and children.
- ◆ While Liberty Lake generally experiences lower social vulnerability indicators than regional averages where, based on the most recent estimates, about 5.2% of residents were living below the poverty level, approximately 8.7% of residents were living with a disability, and roughly 1% of residents had limited English proficiency, these populations may still face barriers to accessing parks, recreation programs, and community events.
- ◆ Park and recreation planning and services ought to place a continued emphasis on affordability, ADA-accessible design, inclusive programming, multilingual communication, and equitable park distribution to help ensure recreation opportunities remain accessible and welcoming to residents of all abilities, income levels, and language backgrounds.

Inventory

Liberty Lake currently has over **190 acres of public recreation spaces** and about **nine-and-a-quarter miles of trails and paths** in the city. In 2025, **533,525 visits** to public city parks were recorded, up 11% since 2022.



190+ Acres
Total Parkland



9.25 Miles
Total Trails and Pathways



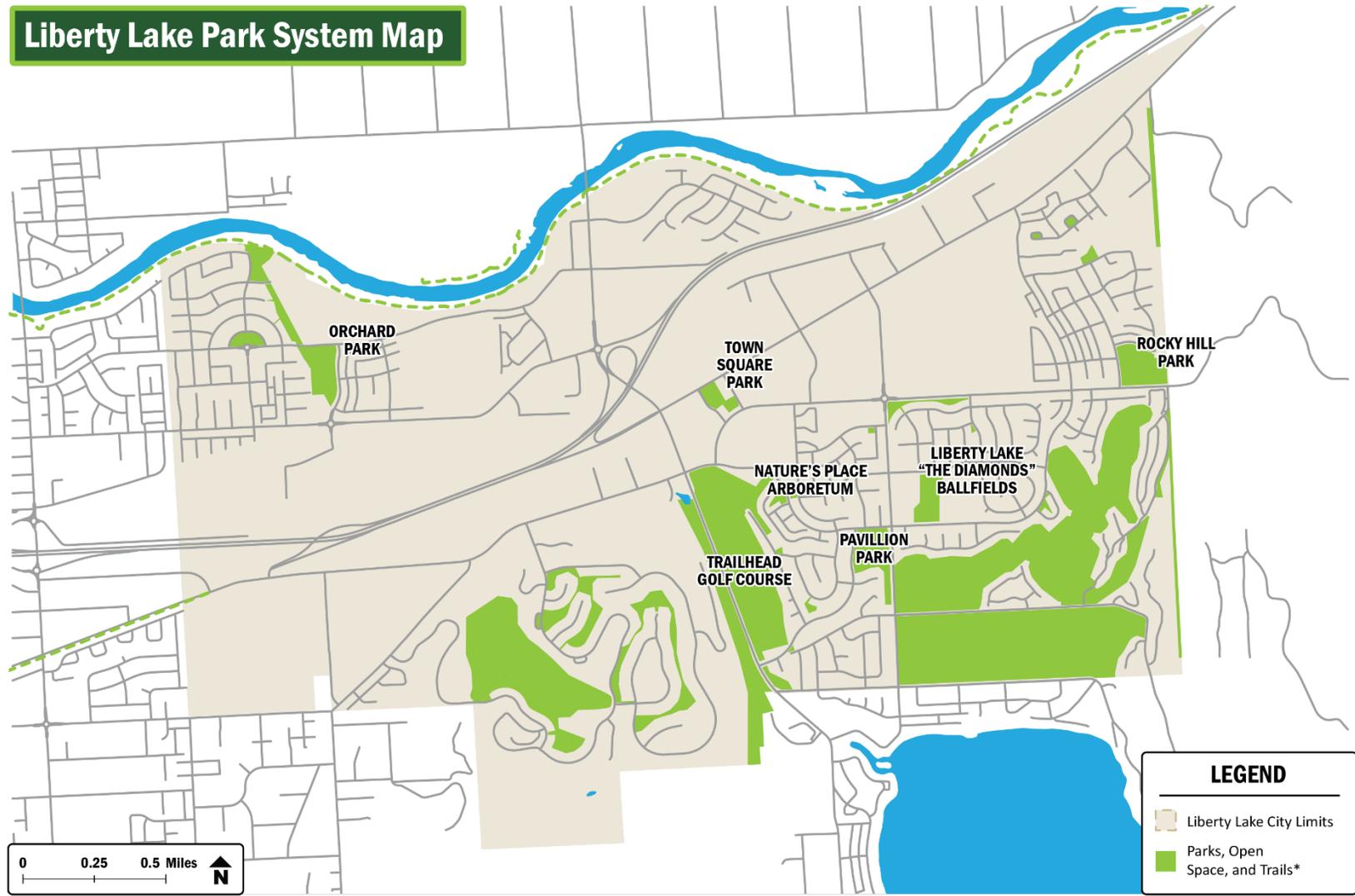
533,525 Visits
Annual Visits (2025)

Facilities and Amenities

Liberty Lake’s parks and recreation system includes a **diverse range of amenities**, including 3 playgrounds, 2 splash pads, and a **mix of athletic facilities** such as 2 public multi-sport fields, 9 additional fields at regional partner sites (5 at HUB Sports Center and 4 at Central Valley School District), and 8 diamond fields overall. Court facilities include 7 racquet sports courts convertible to up to 14 pickleball courts, 4 basketball courts, and 5 outdoor fitness stations. The system also provides 6 reservable picnic shelters, 2 community gardens, and **specialized recreation features** including a skate park, disc golf course, amphitheater, and 3 public golf courses—1 9-hole and 2 18-hole championship courses—supported by 2 golf driving ranges.

Icon	Facility Type	Amenities Present
	Play & Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 3 playgrounds ◆ 2 splash pads
	Athletic Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2 city-owned multi-sport fields ◆ 9 additional partner fields (5 at HUB Sports Center, 4 at Central Valley SD) ◆ 8 diamond fields
	Courts & Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 7 racquet courts (convertible to 14 pickleball courts) ◆ 4 basketball courts ◆ 5 outdoor fitness stations
	Community Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 6 picnic shelters ◆ 2 community gardens
	Specialized Recreation Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Skatepark ◆ Disc golf course ◆ Amphitheater ◆ 3 public golf courses ◆ 2 golf driving ranges

Liberty Lake Park System Map



* Parks include City-owned parks, HOA-owned parks, and golf courses. Labels indicate City-owned parks..



Recreational Programming

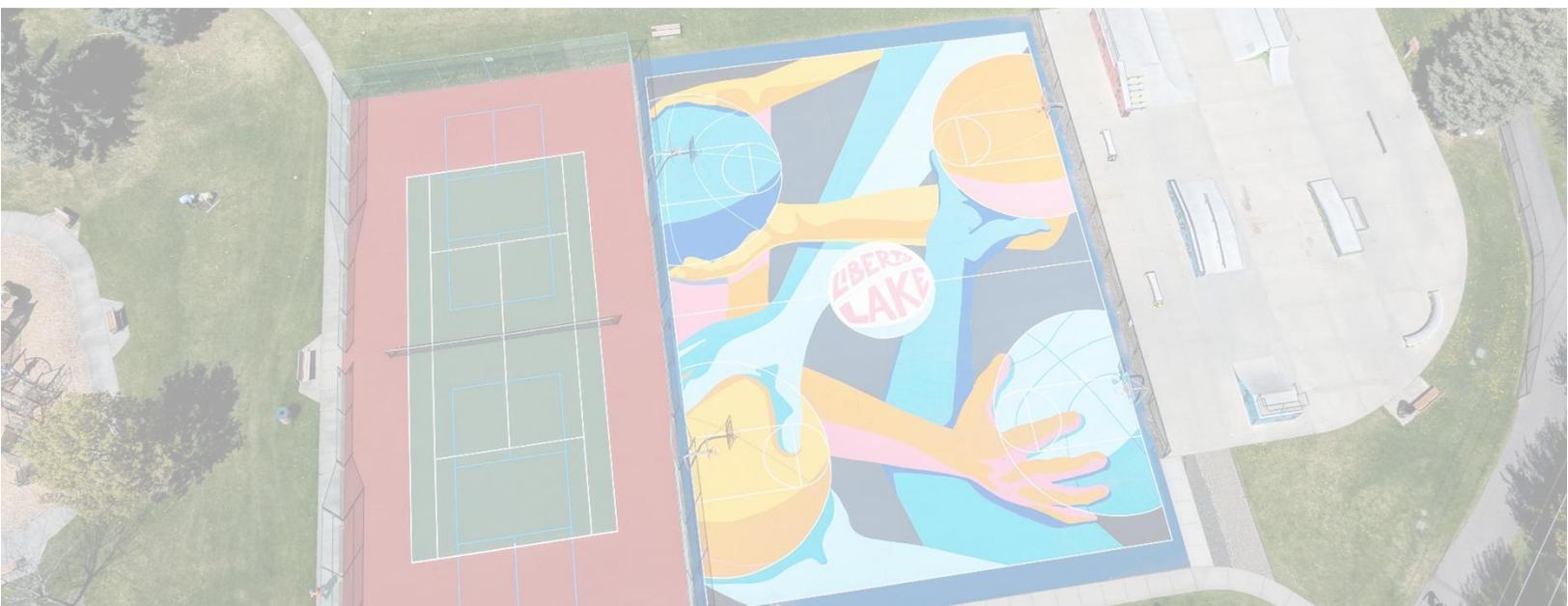
Liberty Lake offers a **wide variety of recreational programs**, particularly youth sports, camps, and community events, **supported through partnerships with regional recreation providers**. These collaborations help supplement local offerings, although the loss of indoor aquatics programming highlights an emerging service gap and community need.

Liberty Lake's parks and recreation programming aligns well with national norms for similarly sized communities, particularly in **youth sports, community events, and general recreation offerings**. However, compared to peer agencies there are **notable gaps in health and wellness programming, aquatics, arts, and age-specific programs for teens, seniors, and people with disabilities**. As the community grows, expanding these offerings will help maintain alignment with national best practices and evolving resident needs.

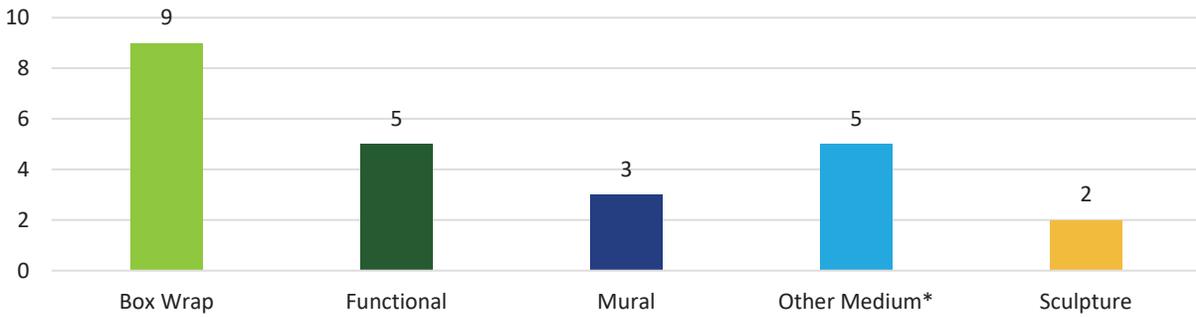
Regional parks contribute an **additional 4,744 acres within a 3-mile radius**. These recreation areas support activities such as hiking, BMX, cycling, youth sports, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, off-leash dog play, and public lakefront access.

Public Art

Liberty Lake currently has **25 pieces of public art** distributed throughout their city. There are **5 different types of art** present in the public art pieces, these include: box wraps (9), functional art (5), murals (3), other mediums (5), and sculptures (2). Other mediums include framed **illustrated pieces and park equipment**.



Types of Public Art



* **Other medium examples include:** Orchard Park Splash pad, Requiem to the Horses (painting), Never Forget (flag pole), etc.

Examples of Public Art in Liberty Lake



Functional: Town Square Park Bike Racks



Mural: The Pavillion Mural at Pavillion Park



Sculpture: "Growing Together" at Rocky Hill Park



Box Wrap: Liberty Lake Students Box Wrap

Public Engagement

Public involvement was a foundational component of the 2026–2046 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and occurred throughout 2025 and 2026 using workshops, surveys, stakeholder interviews, pop-up events, and targeted capital improvement prioritization activities. Engagement was intentionally layered to reach residents in parks, at schools, at community events, and online.

Engagement Reach



10+ Engagement Opportunities

Throughout the Process



376 Needs Survey Responses

Online and In-Person



670 Total CIP Responses

For Prioritization and Funding



~500 In-Person Participants

For CIP Prioritization Pop-Up



1,950 Interactive Votes

From Phase 1 Pop-Up Activities



3,500+ Interactive Votes

Across All Activities

The city engaged the community through 10+ in-person events, stakeholder interviews, and multiple online surveys. In total, the process captured input from well over **2,000 unique participants**, in addition to thousands of individual activity votes; about **78% of those participants were Liberty Lake residents**.





Key Community Priorities

Ranking	Priority
1	Aquatic Facilities (Community Pool or Aquatic Center)
2	Trails and Connectivity (Expanded Connections and Improved Safety/Accessibility)
3	Playgrounds & Family Spaces (Shaded, Inclusive, and Nature-Based Play Areas)
4	Maintenance of Existing Parks

- ◆ Parks are central to quality of life. Over **80% of respondents** rated parks and recreation as very important.
- ◆ **Aquatic facilities** are the top systemwide priority. A community pool or aquatic center consistently ranked highest.
- ◆ **Trails and connectivity** remain highly valued. Residents support expanded neighborhood connections and improved safety and accessibility.
- ◆ **Playgrounds and family amenities** matter. Shaded, inclusive, and nature-based play areas were strongly supported.
- ◆ **Maintain existing assets** while planning for growth. Residents expressed pride in the current system and emphasized ongoing investment in maintenance.

Demands and Needs

Liberty Lake Has a strong overall park supply. Liberty Lake currently provides approximately **22.6 acres of public parkland per 1,000 residents** and about **743 residents per park**, outperforming national medians and remaining projected to provide about **15.36 acres per 1,000 residents by 2046** with planned park development. Liberty Lake’s parks and open space network will continue to provide adequate capacity to serve future population growth.

Current and Future Level of Service Results

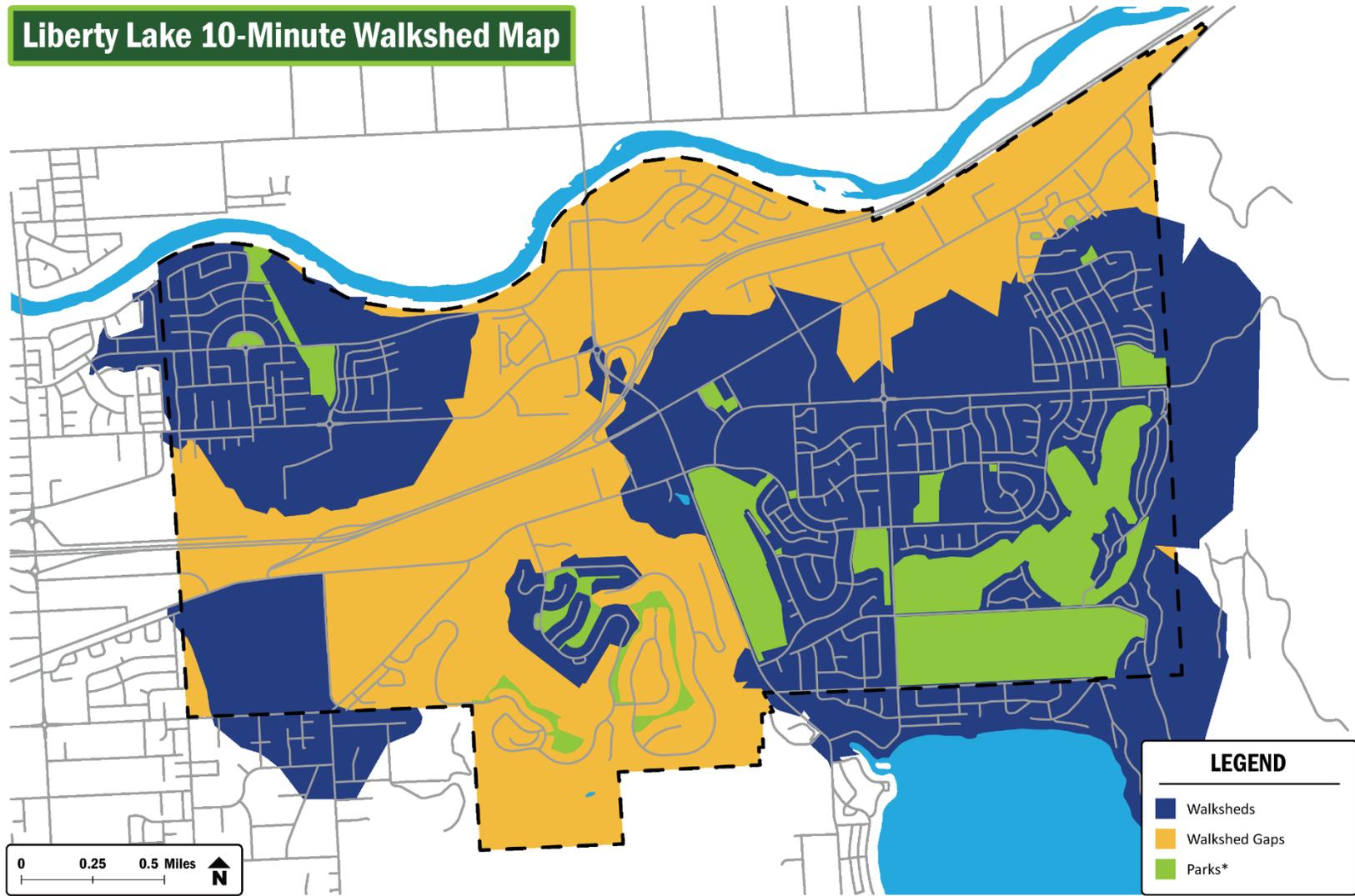
Metric	NRPA Median / Target	Current LOS (2025)	Future LOS (2046)	Future LOS + Planned Parks	Recommended LOS	Current Need?	Future Need?
A. Systemwide Park Metrics							
Total Parkland (acres per 1,000 residents)	10.9 acres / 1,000 pop.	22.59 acres/ 1,000 pop.	14.53 acres/ 1,000 pop.	15.36 acres / 1,000 pop.	10 acres / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target
Residents Per Park	1,001 pop. / park	743 pop./ park	1,154 pop./ park	914 pop./ park	1,000 pop. / park	Meets Target	Conditionally Meets Target
B. Level of Service by Park Classification							
Community Parks	5 acres / 1,000 pop.	2.76	1.78	2.23	2.75 acres / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Unmet Need
Neighborhood Parks	1 acres / 1,000 pop.	1.68	1.08	1.25	1 acre / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target
Open Space and Natural Areas	5 acres / 1,000 pop.	12.64	8.13	8.13	5 acres / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target
Trails (miles per 1,000 resident)	0.25 miles / 1,000 pop.	0.67	0.43	0.47*	0.25 miles / 1,000 pop.	Meets Target	Meets Target

* Includes planned Appleyway Trail Extension (CFP Project TP-23).

Liberty Lake generally has the right mix of parks to meet current needs, but **future success will depend on how planned parks are developed and classified, and how amenities are distributed across the system.** Strategic use of park classification, facility programming, and expansion opportunities, such as at Town Square Park, offers a means to improve system performance and better align park types with evolving community needs.

More than 75% of residents live within a ½-mile of a park, yet **approximately 11% of the population remains outside a 10-minute walkshed**, particularly in developing northern and southwestern neighborhoods (refer to *The “10–Minute Walk Metric”, Page 145, for more information*).

Liberty Lake 10-Minute Walkshed Map



* Parks include City-owned, HOA-owned, and golf courses.



Goals and Objectives

The goals, objectives, and actions consider how the Parks and Recreation Master Plan aligns with the City’s broader Comprehensive Plan. Policies from the Land Use, Urban Design, Transportation, Natural Environment, Capital Facilities, and Cultural Resources elements are referenced to ensure that parks and recreation planning supports community growth, environmental stewardship, multimodal transportation, and civic identity. By linking park goals with these broader planning elements, the plan reinforces an integrated approach in which parks, trails, open spaces, and cultural resources contribute to Liberty Lake’s overall quality of life and long-term community vision. The following topics are expanded on within the policy framework that guides how Liberty Lake will steward its parks, trails, recreation programs, open spaces, and public art resources over time (*refer to Chapter 6: Goals & Objectives, beginning on Page 170, for more information*).



Trails and Connectivity: The city will focus on developing an interconnected system of multipurpose trails that links neighborhoods, parks, schools, workplaces, and regional destinations while supporting safe and accessible non-motorized travel. The city will consider identifying potential trail corridors, preparing and maintaining a recreational trail enhancement program, and coordinating with regional partners to expand and improve the trail network.



Equity and Accessibility: The city will ensure that parks and recreation opportunities are accessible to all residents and are responsive to a wide range of community needs, including maintaining access to parks within a ten-minute walk of residential areas. The city will focus on incorporating accessibility considerations into park development and improvements and using community input and program feedback to guide recreation programming decisions.



Level of Service: Park acreage and access standards are established to guide park development, promote the preservation of open space and greenways, and inform long-term system planning as the city grows. Actions include identifying land acquisition opportunities, monitoring open space availability, coordinating partnerships to expand recreation opportunities, and ensuring parks and programs are developed in alignment with adopted plans and service standards.



Management and Maintenance: The city will prioritize maintaining and improving existing parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces while ensuring the system continues to meet current and future community needs. The city will focus on exploring innovative approaches to maintaining facilities, funding improvements, and supporting efficient management of recreation programs and services.



Public Art: The city supports the development and stewardship of a public art collection that reflects Liberty Lake’s cultural identity and enhances public spaces. The city will emphasize pursuing grants and partnerships, identifying sites for permanent installations, engaging the community in art selection, and ensuring ongoing maintenance of public art assets.



Capital Improvement Projects

In the short term, Liberty Lake will prioritize the following projects during the **next 1 to 6 years**:

Icon	Short-Term Projects (2026-2031)
	Complete a feasibility or site planning study to evaluate potential locations, costs, and operational considerations for a future community pool.
	Undertake a feasibility study to assess the need, scope, and potential locations for either a recreation, community, or senior center to serve Liberty Lake residents.
	Playground improvements, including replacement of the playground at Pavillion Park and installation of shade structures at Orchard Park and Pavillion Park.
	Water play area improvements through replacement of the splash pad at Pavillion Park.
	Tree canopy enhancements at Orchard Park and Pavillion Park.
	Infrastructure improvements at Orchard Park through installation of electrical power to the north and south park shelters.
	Facility additions at Nature’s Place at MeadowWood Arboretum, including construction of restrooms and development of a new gazebo or shade structure to support visitor comfort and events.
	Development of new public art installations throughout the park system as part of the City’s Parks and Arts program.

Longer range projects completed over the **next 6-12 years** will further enhance the parks system in response to community needs:

Icon	Long-Term Projects (2031-2036)
	Restroom facility upgrades at Pavillion Park to support year-round use of the park.
	A new community garden at Orchard Park to expand opportunities for community gathering and local food production.
	Major recreational additions at Rocky Hill Park, including replacement of the existing playground with inclusive play equipment and development of a new splash pad.



Full development of Town Square Park consistent with the adopted master plan, including completion of key park features and supporting infrastructure.



Pedestrian connectivity improvements near Town Square Park through completion of sidewalks along N Signal Drive and N MeadowWood Lane within the public right-of-way.



Trail and accessibility improvements at Nature's Place at MeadowWood Arboretum through paving of walking path surfaces.



Future open space and community park development to maintain the City's target level of service of 2.75 acres of community parks per 1,000 residents, which will require approximately 11.5 additional acres of community parkland by 2046 as the community grows.



Liberty Lake 1-6 Year Capital Improvement Projects Map

