

2021 Kittitas County Recreation and Tourism Plan



February 2021

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Executive Summary

The 2021 Kittitas County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS) is organized in two parts. Part One addresses recreation elements that are now being targeted for lead action by the County (Trail Systems, Resource Parks and Special Purpose Facilities) and includes the role the County is expected to play strategically implementing all elements of the Recreation and Tourism Plan. Part One contains priority action items expected to be implemented by Board employees using County financial and human resources. Part Two of the plan defines actions led by others - the remaining seven elements of the 2016 PROS Plan (Recreational Programs, Cultural Arts, Resource Conservancies, Historical Resources, Playgrounds and Fields Recreational Facilities and implementation items contained in the 2016 Tourism Plan). The plan does not prohibit Board investment in Part Two activities in the future, but rather acknowledges who is best served to lead implement activities defined in the 2016 plan that are no longer being prioritized for Board direct implementation. The data gathered during the 2016 planning effort appears as appendices in the current plan. It is presumed that recreational demand from King County has continued to increase over the past five years, based on anecdotal data collected by County staff.

The 2016 Parks, Recreation and Open Space contains numerous appendices. This revision of the plan does not include the vast amount of data contained in the 2016 appendices. Readers are encouraged to obtain the original document with appendices (if desired) by downloading a complete version of the plan at the County's website referencing Resolution 2016-076.

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Introduction

This document outlines the choices that are available, and the means for implementing preferred actions found to be of most benefit to all Kittitas County residents as well as accommodation of year-round tourism pressures. This document is a revision to the previously adopted 2016 Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan, as well as the Kittitas County Tourism Plan that outlines recreational demand and implementation actions found to attract and benefit tourists since tourism is a major economic development objective and opportunity for Kittitas County.

Kittitas County adopted its first Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan in 2016. During that same time, the County produced a Tourism Plan that was not adopted. A single action item in the 2016 plan has been adopted to date. The lack of plan implementation suggests a need to review the existing plan and determine if there are new priority actions that might facilitate large scale plan implementation. In winter 2021, staff began working with the Board of County Commissioners reviewing and revising the 2016 plan. Staff reviewed all plan supporting studies from 2016 and determined the studies are still valid for incorporation into this plan revision. As a companion effort, staff presented a preferred funding mechanism intending to facilitate plan implementation through direct Board investment.

The plan is now organized into two parts. Part One addresses recreation actions that are now led by the County while Part Two defines actions led by others. Part One are actions expected to be advanced by Board employees using County financial and human resources implementing Board led priority actions. The plan does not prohibit Board investment in Part Two activities in the future, but rather acknowledges who is best served to implement activities in the 2016 plan that are no longer being prioritized for Board direct implementation.

Recognition of 2016 planning efforts cannot be overstated. The 2016 plan comprehensively evaluated parks, recreation, and open space activities Countywide. Much of that effort is carried directly forward in this revised plan. The 2016 plan objective “[IDENTIFY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES](#)” is specifically achieved in this plan revision.

Plan Objectives

Identify and implement a series of prioritized actions appearing within the previously adopted 2016 Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS), the 2016 Kittitas County Tourism Plan, and Chapter 11 of the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan. Plan actions are directed at meeting current and future recreational demands of County residents and tourism demands supporting out of County visitors. The 2016 plan provides the following bulleted listing of desirable plan outcomes:

- Define the setting – in Kittitas County including climate, environment, wildlife habitat, history, culture, population changes, and current development conditions.
- Inventory assets – including existing public and private open spaces, park and recreation facilities, and recreational services that have been developed to-date by Roslyn, Cle Elum, Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington State, and private non-profit and for-profit organizations.
- Forecast demand – for future open space, trails, park, and recreation facilities and recreation services that may be provided by Kittitas County or other agencies.
- Identify appropriate roles and responsibilities – that should be undertaken by Kittitas County to meet critical open space, trail, park, and recreation facilities and recreation program needs.
- Develop the elements of a countywide plan – for open space, trails, park, and recreation facilities

and recreation programs

- Determine costs and standards – involved in maintaining and/or improving open space, trails, park, and recreation facilities and recreation program levels-of-service (LOS), particularly the possible use of innovative financing tools or methods.
- Define an implementation program – outlining the actions necessary to realize the plan including supporting actions necessary to resolve agreements with the county, cities, school districts, state, and other private non-profit and for-profit agencies.
- Determine public opinion – through a series of public participation events and resolve final project, plan, and financing particulars based on the results of public input.

Public Involvement

The Kittitas County Board of Commissioners (BoCC) and Kittitas County Department of Public Works (PW) oversaw this revision planning process, with the assistance of the Kittitas County Treasurer's Office and the Community Development Services Department. During the 2016 planning effort, Kittitas County conducted a series of:

- Internet surveys – of county residents and tourists to determine their knowledge, use, condition assessments, and plan proposals during this planning process.
- Hand-out/hand-back surveys – of Kittitas County Fair and Ellensburg Rodeo attendees to determine their current utilization, program and park priorities of Kittitas Valley Event Center and other county destinations.
- Public workshops and forums – with agencies and city residents in Cle Elum and Ellensburg to brainstorm their ideas for open space, trails, park, and recreation facilities; and to review and critique the resulting brainstorm proposals prior to the development of final plan alternatives.
- Internet survey of registered voter - towards the end of the process to determine final voter project and program priorities from among the alternative proposals and resolve financing preferences with which to implement this plan.

During the 2021 revision process, Kittitas County staff conducted a series of workshops with the Board of County Commissioners creating a draft plan for stakeholder and public review and comment. An outline of the workshop process appears below:

- Workshop 1: Defining prioritization for implementation of specific goals agreed upon by the BoCC, identifying redundancies in the 2016 plan where goals may overlap, identifying goals and policies within the 2016 plan that are not appropriate for Kittitas County to lead, and identifying overlap or interworking the Tourism Plan and the PROS Plan.
- Workshop 2: Implementation strategy
- Workshop 3: Funding options

Community outreach was conducted prior to the public hearing considering revised plan adoption. Stakeholder and county resident comment on the draft plan is incorporated where appropriate by staff and as supported by the Board of County Commissioners.

Recreation and Tourism Demand

A summary of the PROS 2016 data shows Kittitas County's current and forecasted population estimates. Future population estimates are extended to 2040. This data is shown below in Table 1. Increased population and multi season or year-round recreational demands are increasing, putting added pressure on Kittitas County public land uses and resources.

Kittitas County population - increased from 9,704 persons in 1900 to 42,670 persons by 2015, fluctuating between a high of 10.3% average annual rate of growth between 1900-1910 to a low of 0.9% between 1970-1980. The growth rate for the past twenty years exceeds 20 percent for the period. This rapid growth rate mandates that the County plan under the Growth Management Act (GMA), even though the County initially elected to plan under GMA many years earlier.

Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimates Kittitas County will increase to a population of 55,436 persons by the year 2040 averaging 1.2% per year between 2015-2025 then declining to 0.9% per year by 2035-2040.

Table 1. Population projections for years 2015-2040 for nine counties in Washington State

Population projections 2015-2040				
County	2015	2040	Additional	Growth
Kittitas	42,592	55,436	12,844	30.2%
King	2,052,800	2,418,850	366,050	17.8%
Grant	93,390	138,337	44,947	48.1%
Snohomish	757,600	997,634	240,034	31.7%
Pierce	830,120	1,042,341	212,221	25.6%
Chelan	75,030	89,246	14,216	18.9%
Yakima	249,970	318,494	68,524	27.4%
Douglas	39,990	54,762	14,772	36.9%
Benton	188,590	247,856	61,266	32.5%
Total	4,380,684	5,362,956	982,272	22.4%

Washington State's Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) develops a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every six years to help decision-makers better understand recreation issues statewide and to maintain Washington's eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funds. RCO conducted a series of 12-month diary surveys of a random sample of Washington State residents in 2000, 2006, and 2012 to determine the type of indoor and outdoor recreation activities residents engaged in over the year including the resident's age, gender, ethnicity, income, and regional place of residence. The RCO SCORP surveys recorded what residents participated in of 140 different indoor and outdoor activities and special spectator events including the participation rate and number of occasions per year by season, month, week, and type of environment (urban, rural, mountain). The surveys did not record the location of the activity. Appendix D shows a full list of Washington State tourist-oriented recreation activities in 2012.

RCO SCORP's 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan is similar to our PROS plan and follows a model of identifying few priority areas based on assessment of demands, level of service by area, and survey results. Additional, or more specified plans, were also created in support of an overall recreation plan. For example, State Trails Plan, State Community Athletic Facilities Plan, Boating Grants Program Plan, and the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Grant Program Plan.

Participation rates – were highest for picnicking, barbequing, or cooking out (80.9% of the survey respondents) and walking without a pet (71.3%).

Frequencies – were highest for walking without and with a pet (97.8 times per year).

Kittitas County is located straddling 4 of the SCORP regions for which the diary surveys were collated including the:

North Cascades - extending north through Chelan and Okanogan and west through Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties

Seattle-King – including all of King County

South Central – including Yakima, Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla Counties

Columbia Plateau – including Douglas, Grant, Adams, and Lincoln Counties

Table 2. Percentage and occurrences of participation for the top 5 tourist-oriented activities in Washington State by region.

Participation rates for top 5 tourist-oriented activities				
Activity	SeaKng	NoCas	SoCntl	CoPIIt
Picnicking, bbqing, cooking	78.3%	83.3%	84.2%	85.1%
Walking w/o pet	78.1%	67.6%	71.9%	65.3%
Wildlife viewing	58.1%	61.6%	49.9%	55.3%
Sightseeing	58.4%	61.8%	51.3%	54.7%
Hiking	57.8%	59.1%	43.8%	36.5%
Frequencies for top 5 tourist-oriented activities				
Activity	SeaKng	NoCas	SoCntl	CoPIIt
Picnicking, bbqing, cooking	20.8	21.7	17	18.9
Walking w/o pet	97.9	102.3	95.5	71.9
Wildlife viewing	31.9	55.1	37.7	31.1
Sightseeing	14.3	15.4	17.1	12.1
Hiking	13.2	15.7	15.6	17.3

Since these surveys were conducted and the 2016 PROS plan was written, the RCO has compiled newer data in an Assessment for Demand 2017 report (<https://www.rco.wa.gov/StateRecPlans/resources/>) and has identified Kittitas County as part of the North Cascades region. Data is also broken down further into demographics: age, race, education level of participants, male/female, and with/without children. Below are the top 10 activities in the North Cascade range, which are very similar to the 2012 data reported above.

Table 3. Top 10 (by percentage) of recreational activities in the North Cascades region.

North Cascades			
	Activity	Category	%
1	Walking in a park or trail setting	Walking	88%
2	Visiting rivers or streams	Nature Activities	70%
3	Visiting a beach or tide pools	Nature Activities	66%
4	Attending an outdoor concert or event (e.g., farmer's market, fairs, sporting events)	Leisure activities at a park	60%
5	Day-hiking	Hiking	58%
6	Swimming/wading at a beach - freshwater	Swimming	55%
7	Gather or collect things in a nature setting (e.g., rocks, shells, plants)	Nature Activities	55%
8	Scenic or wilderness area	Sightseeing	53%
9	Playing	Leisure activities at a park	50%
10	Wildlife or nature viewing	Nature Activities	50%

Follow-up surveys were conducted for each geotourism interest that included the mapped destinations and attractions shown in the Kittitas County Tourism Plan following along with specific questions whether the additional information would generate an increased interest in visiting Kittitas County. (Table 3 above).

Geotourism activities generating MOST likely visitation after being provided information on Kittitas County attractions – include historical districts and landmarks (60% of the follow-up respondents will visit more now that aware of attractions), farms, famers' markets, and produce stands (60%), public lands (55%), wildlife habitat areas (55%), extent of wildlife species (55%), fishing access sites (53%), museums and Native American sites (53%), historical railroads and roads (53%), hiking trails (53%), art galleries, studios, and performances (50%) **suggesting that outreach will generate higher tourism volumes in these activities.**

Geotourism activities generating LEAST likely visitation after being provided information on Kittitas County attractions – include horse trails (11%), off-road vehicle (ORV) trails (16%), all- terrain vehicles (ATV) trails (16%), hunting and shooting sites (16%), barns and farmsteads (20%), and barn quilts (25%) suggesting that participants of these activities currently know of Kittitas County attractions **suggesting that outreach will be least effective for these attractions since they know or have already frequented these destinations.**

An additional solicitation of survey respondents of "Table 3 Activities" -yields the following results based on "no, maybe and yes" (Table 4):

The following goals and objectives are based on a strategic approach to countywide services, an analysis of existing open space, trail, park, and recreation conditions, and the results of workshop planning sessions and surveys.

Table 4: Survey results regarding the likelihood of increased visitation to Kittitas County

Will you visit Kittitas County more now that you are aware of the extent of destinations and attractions in your geotourism area of interest?

Historical tourists	No	Maybe	Yes
Historical districts and landmarks	0%	40%	60%
Barns and farmsteads	15%	65%	20%
Historic railroads and roads	16%	32%	53%
Mining sites	15%	40%	45%
Logging areas and sites	26%	47%	26%
Museums and Native American sites	0%	65%	35%
Interpretive centers, kiosks, trails	10%	60%	30%
Cultural tourists	No	Maybe	Yes
Barn quilts	25%	44%	31%
Art galleries, studios, performances	6%	44%	50%
Museums and Native American sites	16%	31%	53%
Interpretive centers, kiosks, trails	6%	52%	42%
Environmental tourists	No	Maybe	Yes
Public lands	0%	45%	55%
Unique wildlife habitat areas	0%	45%	55%
Extent of wildlife species	0%	45%	55%
Interpretive centers, kiosks, trails	9%	45%	45%
Agricultural tourists	No	Maybe	Yes
Farms, markets, and produce stands	7%	33%	60%
Wineries and breweries	13%	44%	44%
Barn quilts	13%	63%	25%
Recreational tourists	No	Maybe	Yes
Winter trails	32%	32%	37%
Water trails/boating access	11%	42%	47%
Horse trails	63%	26%	11%
Hiking trails	16%	32%	53%
Mountain bike trails	47%	26%	26%
Off-road vehicle (ORV) trails	63%	21%	16%
All-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails	63%	21%	16%
Dog trails and hotels that allow dogs	16%	42%	42%
Picnic facilities – groups	11%	44%	44%
Tent and RV campgrounds	26%	26%	47%
Fishing access sites	16%	32%	53%
Hunting and shooting sites	63%	21%	16%

PART ONE

County Led Recreation and Tourism Activities

The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) has identified three plan elements as implementation priorities best led utilizing direct County resources (labor and investment capital). The three elements of this plan slated for direct implementation by the BoCC are: Trail Systems, Resource Parks and Special Purpose Facilities. Each of these plan elements are discussed in detail in this chapter of the plan. The County will continue playing a strategic role implementing all elements of the plan.

Plan Element 1: Trail Systems

1.0 OBJECTIVE: Facilitate the planning, development, maintenance and operation of a variety of countywide trails and paths including: winter, water, horse, off-road hike and bike, off-road recreational vehicle (ORV) and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails, on-road bicycle touring routes and scenic drives that are directly related to environmental resources as outlined in the 2016 PROS plan that are of most interest to Kittitas County residents and tourists.

Work with other public and private agencies, including The Nature Conservancy, Suncadia, Washington State Departments of Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Parks & Recreation Commission, US Forest Service (USFS), Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop and maintain an integrated system of trails and paths.

Action Item 1.1 Winter trails

Support a system of alpine skiing, dog sledding, ice skating, Nordic skiing, sledding or snow tubing, snowshoeing, and snowmobile trailheads and trails for access to Wenatchee National Forest and Teanaway Community Forest attractions.

Action Item 1.2 Water trails

Support a system of kayak, canoe, raft, and other hand carry boat access landings and other improvements for appropriate access to Kittitas County's lakes and rivers.

1.2.2: Where feasible designate a water trail network for hand-carry or car-top craft including canoes and kayaks navigable lengths of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers.

Action Item 1.3 Horse trails

Support a system of horse trails and riding areas for appropriate access to Kittitas County's National Forest (USNF), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Washington State Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Fish & Wildlife (DFW) public lands especially including the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Teanaway Community Forest, and LT Murray Wildlife Area as well as the Cle Elum Washington State Horse Park, Kittitas Valley Event Center, and Ellensburg Rodeo stable barns and arenas.

Action Item 1.4 Hike and bike trails

Coordinate and support a comprehensive system of off-road hike and bike trails that access scenic,

environmental, historic, and open space attributes throughout Kittitas County – expanding and linking existing trail systems into area-wide networks especially including between the urban areas and public lands in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Wenatchee National Forest, Teanaway Community Forest, LT Murray, Oak Creek, Wenas, and Whiskey Dick Wildlife Areas.

Action Item 1.5 ORV and ATV trails

Coordinate and support a comprehensive system of off-road 4-wheel drive and all-terrain vehicle trails and backcountry roads that access scenic, environmental, historic, and open space attributes throughout Kittitas County expanding and linking existing trail systems in the urban and upper county areas into area-wide networks including the Wenatchee National Forest, Teanaway Community Forest, Naneum Ridge State Forest, LT Murray, Oak Creek, Wenas, Colockum, and Whiskey Dick Wildlife Areas.

1.5.2: Coordinate and support designation and operation of off-road 4-wheel drive and all-terrain vehicle parks that provide scenic routes, obstacles, and other skill courses for all off-road vehicles, interests, and skill levels.

Action Item 1.6 Streetscapes, parkways, gateways, and artworks

Support development of viewpoints and interpretive exhibits that integrate scenic corridors with specific historical, cultural, environmental, and scenic points of interest.

Action Item 1.7 All trail services and furnishings

Support development and maintenance of a series of trailheads, trailside rest stops, viewpoints, interpretive exhibits, and trail signage systems that integrate winter, water, horse, hike, bike, ORV, ATV, and dog trails with specific historical, cultural, environmental, and scenic points of interest.

1.7.2: Coordinate in the county and partner with municipalities to create continuous trail corridors and local spur or loop routes to city-administered trail systems with parks, schools, other public facilities, historical sites, and Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg historic downtown districts.

1.7.3: Support furnishing trails with appropriate supporting trailhead improvements that include interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water, and other services.

1.7.4: Where appropriate, promote trailheads at or in conjunction with county park sites, unincorporated area schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to countywide trail systems.

1.7.6: Define trail improvements of a design and development standard that is easy to maintain and access by maintenance, security, and other appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles.

1.7.7: Support an effective trail maintenance and restoration programs including the use of Adopt-A-Trail for citizens and organizations to provide park maintenance and litter pick-up activities.

Plan Element 2: Resource Parks

2.0 OBJECTIVE: Coordinate the planning, development, maintenance and operation of a variety of resource-oriented facilities including: fishing and hunting access sites, hand-carry boat access and launch ramps, swimming beaches, picnicking areas, and tent and RV campgrounds that are directly related to environmental resources as outlined in the 2016 PROS plan that are of most interest to Kittitas County residents and tourists. Work with other public and private agencies, particularly The Nature Conservancy, Suncadia, Washington State Departments of Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Parks & Recreation Commission, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management to develop and operate appropriate resource park facilities.

Action Item 2.1 Waterfront access and facilities

Support development of additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, boating, and other related recreational activities and pursuits along the lake and river shorelines.

Action Item 2.2 Picnicking and day-use activities

Support development of additional picnic sites, shelters, and day-use group picnic grounds at major resource parks at major off-road trail corridors throughout Kittitas County.

Action Item 2.3 Campgrounds

Support development of additional tent and RV campgrounds.

Plan Element 3: Special Purpose Facilities

3.0 OBJECTIVE: Coordinate and support the development and operation of facilities that have special or unique interests, impacts or relevance to Kittitas County residents that may not be provided by another public or private agency as outlined in the 2016 PROS plan. If practical, coordinate and assist other public and private agencies including the Suncadia, The Nature Conservancy, Washington State Horse Park, among others, with interpretive centers, museums, and other specialized facilities throughout Kittitas County. Local groups with specialized interests and focus such as the Teanaway Community Forests Advisory Board, Kittitas County Field and Stream, and Trout Unlimited may be of coordination interest as well.

Action Item 3.1 Special enterprises

3.1 Where appropriate and economically feasible, support the development and operation of specialized and special interest recreational facilities currently not available in unincorporated areas of the county and which may provide solutions to current site controversies or environmental consequences on public lands.

3.1.2 Where appropriate, participate in joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies for special activities like downtown farmers' markets, farm and barn tours, quilt tours, winery and brewery tours, farm stays and bed- and-breakfasts, and other throughout Kittitas County.

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Plan Element 4: Kittitas County's Strategic Role in Recreation and Tourism

4.0 OBJECTIVE: The County should undertake a strategic approach to open space, trail, park, and recreation facilities and recreation services where Kittitas County assumes responsibility for functions of countywide interest where there are no other viable sponsors, and helps coordinate or support functions and activities that have other viable sponsors.

Action Item 4.1 Coordinate activities

Take the lead role in providing information and coordinating services for open space, trail, park facilities, and recreation program activities on a countywide basis. Update future population growth estimates, inventory existing and proposed facility developments, identify probable countywide and regional facility and program needs, and proposals of countywide facility and program solutions.

Action Item 4.2 Planning and development services

Provide detailed planning and development services when:

4.2.1: There are no other designated agencies or organizations who can, or

4.2.2: The activity involves site controversies or environmental consequences that may not be equitably resolved otherwise within Kittitas County.

Action Item 4.3 Development, operation, and maintenance

Help develop, operate, or maintain open space, trail, park, or recreational facilities provided:

4.3.1: The facility will have broad benefits for a large proportion of the countywide population and will be financed using resident approved methods, or

4.3.2: Facility development and operating costs will be recaptured from direct charges of the populations who use the facility, or

4.3.3: Facility development and operating costs will be compensated in some manner through inter-local agreements with the using agency, area or benefiting user group, particularly where the demands will originate from a county service requirement, or

4.3.4: The site or facility has intrinsic value apart from traditional operation and maintenance needs, such as a passive natural area or wetland preservation.

PART TWO

Recreation and Tourism Activities Led by Others

Part Two of this plan identifies plan elements that the BoCC believes are best led by others than direct use of County resources.

Plan Element 5: Recreation programs

5.0 OBJECTIVE: Promote healthy eating and active lifestyle programs and outreach activities of special interest and lifestyle benefit for county residents. Promote, and work with other public, nonprofit, and for-profit agencies, organizations, and vendors including Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg cities, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Ellensburg, Kittitas, Thorp, and Damman School Districts, Central Washington University, Washington State, and others. Such programs may include athletic leagues and sport groups (like youth soccer, little league, lacrosse, and football), youth, teen, and senior age groups, and special populations where these activities are of major interest and benefit to county residents of all ages.

Action Item 5.1 Encourage Healthy lifestyle

Promote healthy eating and active lifestyle programs including education, awareness, enforcement, and developmental partnerships for youth, teen, and senior age groups, and special populations where these activities are of major interest and benefit to county residents of all ages.

Action Item 5.2 Encourage Active lifestyle

Facilitate development of a network of multipurpose parks, trails, facilities, and programs that encourage an active lifestyle involving walking, hiking, biking, playing, swimming, exercising, and other pursuits that help regulate weight and physical condition, and mental and physical health and wellbeing for all age groups.

Action Item 5.3 Promote Operations of Numerous Activities

Promote the operation of environmental, historical, cultural, and recreational programs providing instruction, volunteerism, and participation in habitat restoration, community gardens, water-based recreation, trail development and security, interpretation programs, summer and day camps, maintenance, and other site-specific activities at park sites and properties in Kittitas County.

Action Item 5.4 Support Historical Societies

Support historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits; and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs that document and develop awareness of Kittitas County's heritage at park sites and properties.

Action Item 5.5 Promote Art and cultural

Promote programs for arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care, meeting facilities, daycare, latchkey, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in Kittitas County by all agencies and vendors.

Action Item 5.6 Support Athletics

Designate and preserve appropriate sites and facilitate agreements with user and league organizations to operate basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, baseball, softball, and other instruction and participatory programs for all age, skill level, and income groups in the County.

Action Item 5.7 Promote Cultural Arts

Promote development of high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities at parks and properties in Kittitas County.

Action Item 5.8 Support Programs

Support successful collaborations between Cle Elum-Roslyn, Ellensburg, Kittitas, Thorp, and Damman School Districts, Central Washington University, Yakama Nation, and other public agencies, service groups, schools, arts patrons, and artists that optimally utilize artistic resources and talents at parks and properties in Kittitas County.

Action Item 5.9 Incorporate Artworks

Where appropriate, incorporate public artworks including paintings, sculptures, exhibits, and other media for indoor and outdoor display to expand resident access and appropriately furnish public places in parks and properties in Kittitas County.

5.9.2: Promote artwork installations into trails, parks, park facilities, and historical sites – especially within the Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg historic downtown districts and along the pedestrian promenades of the Kittitas Valley Event Center.

Plan Element 6: Resource conservancies

6.0 OBJECTIVE: Assist with the planning, coordination, and preservation of unique environmental areas, wetlands, wildlife habitat, open spaces, forestlands, and scenic areas. Work with other public and mission related non-profit and private agencies, such as Cle Elum-Roslyn, Ellensburg, Kittitas, Thorp, and Damman School Districts, Central Washington University, Washington State Departments of Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Commission (P&RC), US Forest Service (USFS), US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nature Conservancy, Yakama Nation, Suncadia, and others to provide access to and create an effective approach to the following conservation issues.

Action Item 6.1 Conserve Wildlife habitat

Identify and help conserve critical wildlife habitat - including nesting sites, foraging areas, and migration corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces especially within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Wenatchee National Forest, Teanaway Community Forest, LT Murray Wildlife Area, Oak Creek Wildlife Area, Wenas Wildlife Area, Naneum Ridge State Forest, Colockum Wildlife Area, Quilomene Wildlife Area, and Whisky Dick Wildlife Area, and along the Yakima River and Columbia River shorelines.

6.1.2: Preserve sensitive habitat sites that support threatened species and urban wildlife habitat - particularly around the Little Kachess and Cle Elum Lakes, and along the Yakima River shorelines.

Action item 6.2 Natural area

Preserve and protect significant environmental features - including unique wetlands, open spaces, woodlands, shorelines, waterfronts and other characteristics that support wildlife and reflect Kittitas County resource heritage – especially Teanaway Community and Naneum Ridge State Forests.

6.2.2: Provide public access to environmentally sensitive areas and sites that are especially unique to Kittitas County and surrounding area – including the length of the Iron Horse State Park/John Wayne Trail corridor from Snoqualmie Pass through Yakima River Canyon to the Columbia River at Vantage.

Action Item 6.3 Conserve Forestlands

Identify and conserve forest cover and the scenic attributes woodlands provide – especially the Wenatchee National, Teanaway Community, and Naneum Ridge State Forests.

Action Item 6.4 Conserve Open spaces

Define and conserve a system of open space corridors or separators to provide definition between natural areas and urban land uses in and adjacent to Roslyn and Cle Elum – especially the open spaces created by the Teanaway Community Forest and the recent acquisitions by The Nature Conservancy.

Plan Element 7: Historical resources

7.0 OBJECTIVE: Assist where appropriate in the planning, coordination, and preservation of unique archaeological, historical, cultural, scenic, and man-made places, sites, landmarks, and vistas. Work when appropriate with other public and private agencies, such as the Roslyn Museum, Kittitas County Historical Museum, Historic Thorpe Mill, Olmstead Place State Park, Gingko Petrified Forest, Central Washington University Museum of Culture & the Environment, Washington State Historical Societies, Yakama Nation, and others, to create an effective approach to the following resource conservation issues and proposals.

Action Item 7.1 Enhance Historical features and interests

Identify, preserve, and enhance Kittitas County's heritage, traditions, and cultural features - including historical sites, buildings, artworks, views, and monuments within park sites and historical areas – especially Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg historic downtowns.

7.1.2: Identify and incorporate significant historical and cultural lands, sites, artifacts, and facilities into the open space, trail, and park system to preserve these interests and provide a balanced social experience – especially including important Native American sites, homesteads, farms and barns, commercial buildings, railroad, mining, logging camps, and other places of interest in Kittitas County.

7.1.3: Work with the Central Washington University, Washington State Historical Society, Yakama Nation, and other archaeological and cultural groups to incorporate historical and cultural activities into park developments and recreational programs.

Action Item 7.2 Incorporate manmade environments and features

Incorporate interesting manmade environments, structures, activities, and areas into the open space, trail, and park system to preserve these features and provide a balanced recreational experience including historic mining, logging, railroad, and roads as well as the Wild Horse Wind Farm and Ellensburg Solar Ranch.

7.2.2: Work with property and facility owners to increase public access and utilization of these special sites and features.

Plan Element 8: Playgrounds & fields

8.0 OBJECTIVE: Support development of an integrated system of playgrounds, courts, and fields that are of most interest to Kittitas County residents. Assist with the planning of a system of local and regional athletic park facilities including competitive athletic fields that are of interest to Kittitas County residents and regional league tournament participants.

Coordinate and assist as appropriate other public and private agencies including Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg cities, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Ellensburg, Kittitas, and Damman School Districts, Central Washington University, and youth sports league organizations. Help site and sponsor the development of major competitive outdoor and indoor athletic facilities for all age and skill groups that are within reasonable geographic service areas of Kittitas County resident populations.

Action Item 8.1 Support Playgrounds and tot lots

Support development and designation of a network of play sites and facilities that meet playing standards and requirements for all age groups and skill levels within convenient walking distances of residential neighborhoods.

Action Item 8.2 Support Recreational courts

Support development and designation of a network of community park sites that provide a variety of recreational courts (such as basketball, sand volleyball, and tennis courts) that meet the highest quality pick-up and competitive practice and playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests within convenient walking distances of residential neighborhoods.

Action Item 8.3 Support Skateboard courts and challenge courses

Support development of equipment and furnishings that provide specialized activities (such as skateboard, rollerblade, climbing walls, and challenge courses) that meet the highest quality competitive practice and playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests.

Action Item 8.4 Support Athletic fields

Support development and designation of a network of sites for organized sports leagues (such as soccer, lacrosse, softball, and baseball fields) to meet the highest quality competitive practice and playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests – including competition field sites in Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg as well as potential joint ventures with Cle Elum-Roslyn, Ellensburg, Kittitas, Thorp, and Damman School Districts, and Central Washington University.

Action Item 8.5 On and off-leash dog parks and areas

Coordinate and support a system of on and off-leash dog areas that provide controlled and convenient exercise opportunities for dog owners including appropriate segments of the proposed horse, hike, and bike trail systems.

8.5.2: Where appropriate, support development of off-leash dog parks that provide controlled and convenient exercise and social area opportunities for dog owners near major Kittitas County destinations including the

Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg historic downtown districts, Central Washington University, Kittitas Valley Event Center, and I-90 hotel/motel concentrations.

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Plan Element 9: Recreation facilities

9.0 OBJECTIVE: Help coordinate the planning, development, and operation of specialized indoor facilities including aquatic facilities, gymnasiums, arts and crafts, classrooms, meeting rooms for special populations, children, teens, seniors, and the general population that are of major interest to Kittitas County residents of all ages. Coordinate and assist other public and private agencies including Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg cities, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Ellensburg, Kittitas, and Damman School Districts and related nonprofits, and for-profits, among others, to realize the following effective facilities and services within reasonable geographic service areas of Kittitas County resident populations.

Action Item 9.1 Support Aquatics centers

Support development and operation of outdoor and indoor aquatics facilities that provide instruction, aerobics, recreation, and competition facilities for all age groups, skill levels, and aquatics interests on a seasonal or year-round basis – working with Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg cities, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Ellensburg, Kittitas, Thorp, and Damman School Districts, and related nonprofits and for-profits, among others.

Action Item 9.2 Support Recreation centers

Support development and operation of multiple use indoor recreational centers that provide gymnasiums, physical conditioning, recreational courts, and other athletic spaces for all age groups, skill levels, and community interests on a year-round basis – working with Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg cities, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Ellensburg, Kittitas, and Damman School Districts, and related nonprofits, and for-profits, among others.

Action Item 9.3 Support Community centers

Support development and operation of a system of multipurpose community centers and facilities that can provide arts and crafts, music, video, classroom instruction, meeting facilities, eating and health care, daycare, latch key, and other spaces for all age groups including preschool, youth, teens, and seniors on a year-round basis.

Action Item 9.4 Support Arts centers

Support development and operation of special indoor and outdoor cultural and performing arts facilities that enhance and expand music, dance, drama, cultural and historical interpretations, and other audience and participatory opportunities for the county-at-large including special summer farmers' markets and festival events in the Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg historic downtown districts.

Plan Element 10: Design standards

10.0 OBJECTIVE: Develop and maintain design guidelines to ensure facilities are accessible, safe, and easy to maintain, with life cycle features that account for long-term costs and benefits.

Action Item 10.1 Develop Accessibility Standards

Develop and maintain design guidelines for outdoor picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, courts, fields, parking lots, restrooms, and other active and supporting facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests.

Action Item 10.2 Develop Design Standards

Develop and maintain design guidelines for indoor facility spaces, activity rooms, restrooms, hallways, parking lots, and other active and supporting spaces and improvements to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests.

Action Item 10.3 Develop Maintenance Standards

Design, retrofit, and develop Kittitas County facilities that are sustainable, of low maintenance, and high capacity design to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs including the use of xeriscaping, drought resistant vegetation, native species, and low-water requirements.

Action Item 10.4 Encourage Sustainability

Where appropriate, incorporate low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements, and retain natural conditions and experiences.

Action Item 10.5 Encourage an "Adopt" Program

Where practical and appropriate, implement an Adopt-a-Trail and Adopt-a-Park program where volunteer users and citizens can perform maintenance, collect litter, and other support activities.

Action Item 10.6 Incorporate Pest Management

Incorporate Integration of Pest Management principles in the management of landscape resources by utilizing a holistic approach to managing pests using biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical tools.

Action Item 10.7 Improve Security and safety

Implement the provisions and requirements of the American Disabilities Act (ADA), Washington State Building Codes, and other design and development standards that improve park facility safety and security features for park users, department personnel, and the public-at-large.

10.7.2: Develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that provide proper training and awareness for county personnel.

10.7.3: Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning activities and operations that protect user groups, county personnel, and the general public-at-large.

10.7.4: Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, park watches, and other innovative programs that increase safety and security awareness and visibility.

Plan Element 11: Financial Resources

11.0 OBJECTIVE: Develop guidelines for creating effective and efficient methods of operating, maintaining, acquiring, and developing facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

Action Item 11.1 Support Project Financing

Investigate innovative available methods, such as impact fees, land set-a-side or fee-in-lieu-of-donation ordinances, and inter-local agreements, for the financing of facility development, maintenance, and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase services.

Action Item 11.2 Encourage Joint Ventures

Consider joint ventures with other public and private agencies including Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg cities, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Ellensburg, Kittitas, and Damman School Districts, Central Washington University, Washington State Departments of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife, Parks & Recreation Commission, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Yakama Nation, Suncadia, Nature Conservancy, and other public, nonprofit, and for-profit agencies where feasible and desirable.

Action 11.3 Encourage Public and private resource coordination

Integrate Kittitas County resources and funding with available monies and resources from the cities, school districts, and other regional, state, federal, nonprofit, and for-profit agencies in a manner that will best serve and provide for Kittitas County resident interests.

11.3.2: Cooperate with the cities, school districts, and other regional, state, federal, nonprofit, and for-profit agencies to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and represent Kittitas County resident interests through joint planning and development efforts.

Action Item 11.4 Develop Project Cost/benefit assessment

Define existing and proposed land and facility level-of-service (ELOS/PLOS) standards that differentiate requirements due to population growth impacts, improved facility standards, and county and local, resident and tourist nexus of benefits.

11.4.2: Create effective and efficient methods of supporting acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of open space, trail, park, and recreational facilities in manners that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private user interests.

Action Item 11.5 Support Recreational Programs

Support development and operation of recreational programs that serve the broadest needs of the Kittitas County population, recovering program and operating costs with a combination of registration fees, user fees, grants, sponsorships, donations, scholarships, volunteer efforts, and the use of general funding.

11.5.2: Where appropriate, support providing recreational programs, like retreat and conference facilities, water parks, horse parks, archery and gun ranges, for those interested groups who are willing to finance the cost through user fees, registration fees, volunteer efforts, or other means and methods.

Plan Element 12: Kittitas County Tourism Infrastructure Plan

12.0 OBJECTIVE: Increase tourism opportunities within Kittitas County.

As identified by the BoCC, the Kittitas County Tourism Infrastructure Plan, hereafter The Tourism Plan, would be best led by other entities within Kittitas County with expertise in tourism and revenue generation mechanisms. The Tourism Plan lists within its elements several possible entities for implementation of plans focused on tourism. These possible entities include city, county, tribal, state, and special enterprise groups.

- Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
- Kittitas Valley Event Center
- Ellensburg Downtown Association
- Ellensburg Farmer's Market
- Roslyn Farmers Market
- Suncadia
- Central Washington University
- City of Ellensburg
- City of Cle Elum
- City of Roslyn
- Yakama Nation
- Northern Kittitas County Historical Society
- Department of Natural Resources
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District #1