



**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA**

**February 10, 2026
6:30 PM
Civic Center**

The Granite Falls Planning Commission will hold its meeting in person. Comments in this meeting are encouraged and may be emailed to the city clerk in advance of the meeting or given in person.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. FLAG SALUTE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 4.A. Approval of December 9, 2025 Minutes**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
- 6. CURRENT BUSINESS**
 - 6.A. Critical Area Regulations Update - Granite Falls Municipal Code 19.07.020**
 - 6.B. Parks Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan**
- 7. CORRESPONDENCE**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

The City of Granite Falls strives to provide access and services to all members of the public.



CITY OF
GRANITE FALLS

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA BILL

Subject: 4.A.

Originating Dept.: City Clerk

Action Recommended:

Approval(s): City Clerk
Approve

Meeting Date: February 10, 2026

Date Submitted:

Exhibit(s):

1. 12-09-2025 Minutes

Budgeted Amount:

BARS Code:

Summary Statement:

Background:

Recommended Motion:



**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

**December 9, 2025
6:30 PM
Civic Center**

Planning Commission	Chair/Commissioner Frederick Cruger, Commissioner Jude Anderson, Commissioner Scott Morrison, Commissioner Laura Houk
Members Absent	Commissioner Loren Tonggard
City Staff	City Clerk Darla Wilkins, Planning Director Amy Hess
Consultants	Consultant Planners: Patrick Kelly & Wayne Carlson of AHBL, Inc.

1. CALL TO ORDER (VIA IN-PERSON & ONLINE VIA ZOOM)

Chair Frederick Cruger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Frederick Cruger led the Planning Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

3. ROLL CALL

Chair Frederick Cruger verbally called out each of the Planning Commission Member's names.

City Clerk Darla Wilkins took note of the meeting attendance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.A. Approval of the October 14, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

MOTION:	Motion to approve minutes with the following change: 6a. #1, 2, 5 and 6 - remove "goes over" and replace with "reviews."
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MOVER:	Commissioner Jude Anderson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Scott Morrison
AYES:	Chair/Commissioner Frederick Cruger, Commissioner Jude Anderson, Commissioner Scott Morrison, Commissioner Laura Houk
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	APPROVED

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.A. Title 19 DRAFT code amendments.

Planning Director Amy Hess reviewed proposed changes to Title 19 code updates.

- Site Plan Review (10.04C.075)
- Subdivisions (19.05)
- Definitions (19.02)
- Permitted Uses (19.03)
- Boundary Line Adjustments (19.05.200)
- Landscaping and Screening (19.06.050)

Planning Commission asked for the following revisions:

- Gross Floor Area Definition/Requirements
- Underground Stormwater Facilities (tighten language)
- Permeable pavers - pervious asphalt (massage language to be more flexible)
- Reference criteria in the opening section (page 18)
- (i) Amounts of cut and fill (page 11) - add verbiage as listed in the current version
- Change - (E) When the necessary G.P.S. points exist within one-half mile of the subject property, they shall be located on the plat and used as the primary reference datums.
- (B) Applicability - Did we remove "mobile home parks" from the comprehensive plan? If so, why is there still a reference here? - Staff to look into (page 42)
- NGPA reference "can we define?" (page 45)
- Table 1 (page 48) - What is L1? Could not find the definition for

5.B. Planned Residential Development Discussion

The Planning Commission and Planning Director Amy Hess communicated different ideas for revising the PRD code. Staff indicated that further discussion and information would be brought forward in 2026.

6. CURRENT BUSINESS

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Planning Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.



PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA BILL

Subject: 6.A.

Originating Dept.: Planning Department

Action Recommended:

Approval(s):

Meeting Date: February 10, 2026

Date Submitted:

Exhibit(s):

1. Planning Commission Staff Report
2. Attachment A - GFMC 19.07.020
Amendment Package
3. Attachment B - BAS
4. Attachment C - SEPA DNS

Budgeted Amount:

BARS Code:

Summary Statement:

The City of Granite Falls is in the process of amending GFMC 19.07.020, Critical Areas Regulations to comply with applicable state law and to reflect Best Available Science (BAS). A Best Available Science document has been prepared by Herrera, which is included as Attachment B.

A SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance was issued on February 4, 2026, with a 14-day public comment period which will end on February 18, 2026.

The proposed code amendments were sent to the Department of Commerce on January 30, 2026, with a request for expedited review. If the request for expedited review is denied, the 60-day review period will apply, which will end on March 31, 2026.

Background:

Recommended Motion:

Planning Commission Staff Report

Subject: Proposed Amendments to GFMC 19.07.020, Critical areas regulations

Date of Staff Report: January 30, 2026

Date of Meeting: February 10, 2026

Consultant Contacts: Anisa Thaci, AICP
AHBL, Contract City Planner

Jeff Parsons, PHD, PE
Herrera Environmental Consultants

Summary

The City of Granite Falls is in the process of amending GFMC 19.07.020, Critical Areas Regulations to comply with applicable state law and to reflect Best Available Science (BAS). A Best Available Science document has been prepared by Herrera, which is included as Attachment B.

A SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance was issued on February 4, 2026, with a 14-day public comment period which will end on February 18, 2026 (Attachment C).

The proposed code amendments were sent to the Department of Commerce on January 30, 2026, with a request for expedited review. If the request for expedited review is denied, the 60-day review period will apply, which will end on March 31, 2026.

Below is a summary of proposed amendments, which are shown in their entirety in Attachment A.

Suggested Amendments

- General edits
 - Proposed revisions throughout to include best available science references.
 - Proposed revisions throughout to ensure that the appropriate person is responsible for the approval or determination of compliance (such as requiring that adequate landslide hazard area buffers are determined by a licensed geotechnical engineer, rather than the city designated official).
- GFMC 19.07.020(A)(2) - Definitions
 - Proposed adding definitions for clarity and consistency with best available science, including:
 - “Best available science”

- “Channel migration hazard area”
 - “Fish habitat”
 - “Functions”
 - “Values”
 - Proposed revising existing definitions for clarity and consistency with best available science, including:
 - “Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas”
 - “Geologic hazard areas”
- GPMC 19.07.020(D) – Reasonable Use Exception
 - Proposed language clarifying that reasonable use exceptions require a Type II review. The required permit type is not changing; however, the existing code section does not specify the permit type for a reasonable use exception (GPMC 19.07.020(D)(2)).
 - Proposed adding limits, such as not allowing for a reasonable use exception in the case that the inability to derive reasonable economic use is the result of the applicant’s actions or in the case that the city can demonstrate that the applicant had knowledge of existing conditions prior to the applicant’s acquisition of the subject property (GPMC 19.07.020(D)(5) and (6)).
- GPMC 19.07.020(I)(3) – Geologically Hazardous Areas
 - Proposed adding channel migration hazards as a designated geologically hazardous area (GPMC 19.07.020(I)(3)(a)(iv)).
 - Proposed language that exempts the construction of wood frame structures less than 5,000 square feet and all prefabricated structures less than 2,000 square feet located within seismic hazard areas from being required to provide a geotechnical report. However, these structures require a geotechnical report when located within a landslide hazard area (GPMC 19.07.020(I)(3)(c)(viii)).
- GPMC 19.07.020(I)(4) – Landslide Hazard Areas
 - Proposed language to clarify the minimum reduced buffer allowed for a landslide hazard area. The proposed minimum buffer is 10 feet, as compared to the existing code which did not specify a minimum buffer (GPMC 19.07.020(I)(4)(b)).
- GPMC 19.07.020(I)(6) – Seismic Hazard Areas
 - Proposed additional language to clarify requirements for seismic hazard areas, including specific content requirements for the geotechnical report.
- GPMC 19.07.020(I)(7) – Channel Migration Hazard Areas
 - Proposed standards for channel migration hazard areas.

- GFMC 19.07.020(J)(2) – Wetlands
 - Proposed updated buffers for wetlands, based on Department of Ecology recommended buffer widths depending on whether minimization measures are utilized (GFMC 19.07.020(J)(2)(c)(i)).
 - Proposed additional minimization measures listed in Table 3.
 - Proposed revisions to mitigation ratio requirements, and added ratio requirements for rehabilitation and preservation in Table 4 (GFMC 19.07.020(J)(2)(e)(iii)).
 - Proposed a new subsection allowing for the use of wetland mitigation banks in certain circumstances for wetlands (GFMC 19.07.020(J)(2)(h)).
- GFMC 19.07.020(J)(5) – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Buffer Areas
 - Proposed revised stream buffer widths for fish and wildlife habitat areas to require that the site potential tree height is utilized, or 150 feet, whichever is less (GFMC 19.07.020(J)(5)(a)(i)).
- GFMC 19.07.020(J)(7) – Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Standards, Criteria and Plan Requirements
 - Proposed additional language for the requirements for mitigation for fish and wildlife habitat areas, including the preference for off-site mitigation within the same watershed (as opposed to on-site mitigation) when the results can achieve greater benefits or functions than on-site mitigation, or would restore or enhance functions that are limiting or important to the health of the watershed (GFMC 19.07.020(J)(7)(a)(ii)).
 - Proposed a new subsection to allow for mitigation banks in certain circumstances for fish and wildlife habitat areas (GFMC 19.07.020(J)(7)(b)).
- GFMC 19.07.020(10) – Aquifer Recharge Areas
 - Proposed new language stating that certain uses are prohibited within a sole source aquifer recharge area (GFMC 19.07.020(10)(b)).
 - Proposed a new subsection which clarifies when a Hydrogeologic Assessment is required (GFMC 19.07.020(10)(c)).
 - Proposed revisions to the requirements for the contents of a Hydrogeologic Assessment for clarity (GFMC 19.07.020(10)(d)).
- GFMC 19.07.020(11) – Flood Hazard Areas
 - Proposed additional language to reference GFMC 19.07.035, Flood damage prevention to ensure compliance with both sections.

Items for Discussion

- Staff will be available to discuss any of the proposed code changes.

Attachments

- A. Proposed Amendments to GFMC 19.07.020
- B. Best Available Science, prepared by Herrera, dated December 2025
- C. SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance issued February 4, 2026

19.07.020 Critical areas regulations.

(A) General Provisions – Definitions.

(1) Purpose and Intent. The purpose of this critical areas section is to identify environmentally critical areas and to protect these areas without violating any citizen’s constitutional rights. Landslide, erosion, and seismic hazards, wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, critical habitats and flood hazard areas constitute critical areas that are of special concern to Granite Falls. The city finds that these critical areas perform a variety of valuable and beneficial biological and physical functions that benefit the city and its residents; certain critical areas may also pose a threat to human safety or to public and private property. By limiting development and alteration of these critical areas, this chapter seeks to:

- (a) Protect members of the public and public resources and facilities from injury, loss of life, or property damage due to flooding, erosion, volcanic eruptions, landslides, seismic events, or steep slope failures;
- (b) Protect unique, fragile and valuable elements of the environment, including wildlife and its habitat;
- (c) Mitigate unavoidable impacts to environmentally critical areas by regulating alterations in and adjacent to critical areas;
- (d) Prevent cumulative adverse environmental impacts to water quality and wetlands;
- (e) Meet the requirements of the Washington Growth Management Act with regard to the protection of critical area lands;
- (f) Coordinate environmental review and permitting of proposals to avoid duplication and delay;
- (g) Assure that best available sciences are incorporated into the following regulations. In order to accomplish this, best available sciences were reviewed in the process of developing the critical areas regulations and used to establish its components.

(2) Definitions.

“Alteration” means any human-induced activity that changes the existing condition of a critical area. Alterations include but are not limited to: grading; filling; dredging; draining; channelizing; clearing or removing vegetation; discharging pollutants; paving;

construction; demolition; or any other human activity that changes the existing landforms, vegetation, hydrology, wildlife, or wildlife habitat of a critical area.

"Anadromous fish" means species, such as salmon, which are born in fresh water, spend a large part of their lives in the sea, and return to fresh water rivers and streams to procreate.

"Applicant" means the person, party, firm, corporation, or other entity that proposes any activity that could affect a critical area.

"Aquifer" means a saturated geologic formation that will yield a sufficient quantity of water to serve as a private or public water supply.

"Aquifer recharge areas" means areas where the prevailing geologic conditions allow infiltration rates which create a high potential for contamination of ground water resources or contribute significantly to the replenishment of potable ground water. Aquifer recharge areas are classified as follows:

(a) "High significance aquifer recharge areas" means areas with slopes of less than 15 percent that are underlain by coarse alluvium or sand and gravel.

(b) "Moderate significance aquifer recharge areas" means:

(i) Areas with slopes of less than 15 percent that are underlain by fine alluvium, silt, clay, glacial till, or deposits from the Electron Mudflow; and

(ii) Areas with slopes of 15 percent to 30 percent that are underlain by sand and gravel.

(c) "Low significance aquifer recharge areas" means:

(i) Areas with slopes of 15 percent to 30 percent that are underlain by silt, clay, or glacial till; and

(ii) Areas with slopes greater than 30 percent.

"Base flood" means a flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year; also referred to as the "100-year flood."

"Best available science" means current scientific information derived from a valid scientific process as defined by WAC 365-195-900 through WAC 365-195-925 and applied to the process for designating, protecting, or restoring critical areas.

“Bog/fen” means a wetland with limited drainage generally characterized by extensive peat deposits and acidic waters with a pH of 5 or less for bogs and 5.5 or greater for fens. Vegetation includes sedges, sphagnum moss, shrubs and trees.

“Buffer” or “buffer area” means a naturally vegetated and undisturbed or revegetated zone surrounding a critical area that protects the critical area from adverse impacts to its integrity and value, or is an integral part of the resource’s ecosystem.

“Channel Migration Hazard Area, Moderate” means a portion of the channel migration zone, as shown on Snohomish County's channel migration zone maps, that lies between the severe channel migration hazard area and the outer boundaries of the channel migration zone.

“Channel Migration Hazard Area, Severe” means a portion of the channel migration zone, as shown on Snohomish County's channel migration zone maps, that include the present channel. The total width of the severe channel migration hazard area equals one hundred years times the average annual channel migration rate, plus the present channel width.

“Channel migration zone (CMZ)” means the lateral extent of likely movement along a stream or river during the next one hundred years as determined by evidence of active stream channel migration movement over the past one hundred years.

“City” means the city of Granite Falls.

“City clerk” means the city clerk of the city of Granite Falls.

“Clearing” means the removal of timber, brush, grass, ground cover, or other vegetative matter from a site that exposes the earth’s surface of the site or any actions that disturb the existing ground surface.

“Critical areas” includes wetlands, critical habitat areas, moderate and high erosion hazard areas, high seismic hazard areas, moderate and high landslide hazard areas, moderate and high volcanic hazard areas, aquifer recharge areas of moderate and high significance, and flood hazard areas.

“Critical geologic hazard areas” means lands or areas subject to high or severe risks of geologic hazard.

“Critical habitat” means those habitat areas which meet any of the following criteria:

- (a) The documented presence of species listed by the federal government or state of Washington as endangered or threatened;

(b) Those streams identified as “shorelines of the state” under the city of Granite Falls’ shoreline master program; and

(c) Those wetlands identified as Class I wetlands, as defined in this chapter.

“Development right” means any specific right to use real property which inures to an owner of real property through the common law, statutory law of real property, the United States and Washington Constitutions and as further defined and delineated herein.

“Epicenter” means the location on the surface of the earth directly above the place where an earthquake originates.

“Erosion” means a process whereby wind, rain, water, and other natural agents mobilize and transport soil particles.

“Erosion hazard areas” means those lands susceptible to the wearing away of their surface by water, wind or gravitational creep. Erosion hazard areas are classified as low, moderate or high risk based on slope inclination and soil types as identified by the U.S. Department of [Natural Resources Agriculture Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey \(SCSNRCS\)](#):

(a) “Low risk” means all sites classified with soil types designated by SCS as having no or slight erosion hazard.

(b) “Moderate risk” means all sites classified with soil types designated as moderate hazard.

(c) “High risk” means all sites classified with soil types designated as severe or very severe erosion hazard.

“Existing and ongoing agriculture” means those activities conducted on lands defined in RCW [84.34.020\(2\)](#), and those existing activities involved in the production of crops or livestock. Activities may include the operation and maintenance of farm and stock ponds or drainage ditches; operation and maintenance of existing ditches or irrigation systems; changes from one type of agricultural activity to another agricultural activity; and normal maintenance, repair, and operation of existing serviceable structures, facilities, or improved areas. Activities which bring a nonagricultural area into agricultural use are not part of an ongoing operation. An operation ceases to be ongoing when the area on which it is conducted is converted to a nonagricultural use or has lain idle for more than five years.

“Facultative wetland plants” means plants that occur usually (estimated probability greater than 67 percent to 99 percent) in wetlands, but also occur (estimated probability one percent to 33 percent) in nonwetlands.

“Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas” means areas that serve a critical role in sustaining needed habitats and species for the functional integrity of the ecosystem, and which, if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the species will persist over the long term. These areas may include, but are not limited to, rare or vulnerable ecological systems, communities, and habitat or habitat elements including seasonal ranges, breeding habitat, winter range, and movement corridors; and areas with high relative population density or species richness. ~~land managed to maintain populations of species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that the habitat available is sufficient to support viable populations over the long term and isolated subpopulations are not created. This does not mean maintaining all individuals of all species at all times, but it does mean not degrading or reducing populations or habitats so that they are no longer viable over the long term.~~ Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas do not include such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals, or drainage ditches that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by a port district or an irrigation district or company.

“Fish habitat” or “habitat that supports fish life” means habitat, which is used by fish life at any life stage at any time of the year including potential habitat likely to be used by fish life, which could reasonably be recovered by restoration or management and includes off-channel habitat.

“Flood hazard areas” means those areas subject to inundation by the base flood. These areas consist of the following components, as determined by the city:

- (a) “Floodplain” means the total area subject to inundation by the base flood.
- (b) “Flood fringe” means that portion of the floodplain outside the floodway which is generally covered by flood waters during the base flood. It is generally associated with standing water rather than rapidly flowing water.
- (c) “Floodway” means the channel of the stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain that is necessary to contain and discharge the base flood flow without increasing the base flood elevation more than one foot.

“Forested wetland” means a regulated wetland with at least 30 percent of the surface area covered by woody vegetation greater than 20 feet in height and four inches dbh.

“Functions ” means the products, physical and biological conditions, and environmental qualities of an ecosystem that result from interactions among ecosystem processes and ecosystem structures. Ecosystem functions include, but are not limited to, sequestered

carbon, attenuated peak streamflows, aquifer water level, reduced pollutant concentrations in surface and ground waters, cool summer in-stream water temperatures, and fish and wildlife habitats.

“Geologic hazard areas” means areas that because of their susceptibility to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events, as designated by (WAC 365-190-120(1)), are not suited to the siting of commercial, residential, or industrial development consistent with public health or safety concerns. ~~lands or areas characterized by geologic, hydrologic, and topographic conditions that render them susceptible to potentially significant or severe risk of landslides, erosion, or volcanic or seismic activity.~~

“Grading” means any excavating, filling, clearing, leveling, or contouring of the ground surface by human or mechanical means.

“Ground water” means all water found beneath the ground surface, including slow-moving subsurface water present in aquifers and recharge areas.

“Growing season” means the portion of the year when soil temperatures at 19.7 inches below the surface are higher than biological zero (five degrees Celsius), approximately March 15th to October 15th.

“Hazardous substance(s)” means any liquid, solid, gas or sludge, including any materials, substance, product, commodity or waste, regardless of quantity, that exhibits any of the characteristics of hazardous waste; and including waste oil and petroleum products.

“Hazardous substance processing or handling” means the use, storage, manufacture or other land use activity involving hazardous substances, but does not include individually packaged household consumer products or quantities of hazardous substances of less than five gallons in volume per container.

“Hazardous waste” means all dangerous waste and extremely hazardous waste as designated pursuant to Chapter [70.105](#) RCW and Chapter [173-303](#) WAC.

(a) “Dangerous waste” means any discarded, useless, unwanted, or abandoned substances including, but not limited to, certain pesticides, or any residues or containers of such substances which are disposed of in such quantity or concentration as to pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, wildlife, or the environment because such wastes or constituents or combinations of such wastes:

(i) Have short-lived, toxic properties that may cause death, injury, or illness or have mutagenic, teratogenic, or carcinogenic properties; or

(ii) Are corrosive, explosive, flammable, or may generate pressure through decomposition or other means;

(b) "Extremely hazardous waste" means any waste which:

(i) Will persist in a hazardous form for several years or more at a disposal site and which in its persistent form presents a significant environmental hazard and may be concentrated by living organisms through a food chain or may affect the genetic makeup of humans or wildlife; and

(ii) Is disposed of at a disposal site in such quantities as would present an extreme hazard to humans or the environment.

"Hazardous waste treatment and storage facility" means a facility that treats and stores hazardous waste and is authorized pursuant to Chapter [70.105](#) RCW and Chapter [173-303](#) WAC. It includes all contiguous land and structures used for recycling, reusing, reclaiming, transferring, storing, treating, or disposing of hazardous waste.

"Hydric soils" means a soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation. Hydric soils occur in areas having positive indicators of hydrophilic action.

"Hydrophyte" means any plant growing in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen during some part of the growing season, from approximately March 15th to October 15th, as a result of excessive water content.

"Hydrophytic vegetation" means any plant growing in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen during some part of the growing season as a result of excessive water content. A site may be considered to have hydrophytic vegetation when more than 50 percent of the dominant plant species on the site are obligate or facultative wetland plants.

"Impervious surface" means any material that substantially reduces or prevents the infiltration of stormwater into previously undeveloped land. Impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roofs and streets, sidewalks and parking lots paved with asphalt, concrete, compacted rock, compacted sand, limerock or clay.

"Lahars" means mudflows and debris flows originating from the slopes of a volcano.

"Landslide" means episodic downslope movement of a mass of soil or rock.

"Landslide hazard areas" means areas that, due to a combination of slope inclination, relative soil permeability and hydrologic factors, are susceptible to varying risks of land

sliding. Landslide hazards are classified as Classes I through III based on the degree of risk as follows:

(a) Class I/high risk: Areas of greater than 30 percent slope with soils designated by SCS as moderate, severe or very severe erosion hazard.

(b) Class II/moderate risk: Areas of 15 percent to 30 percent slopes with soils designated by the SCS as moderate or severe erosion hazard.

(c) Class III/low risk: Areas with slopes less than 15 percent.

“Liquefaction” means a process by which a water-saturated granular (sandy) soil layer loses strength because of ground shaking commonly caused by an earthquake.

“Lot slope” means a measurement by which the average slope of the lot is calculated as a percentage. The lowest elevation of the lot is subtracted from the highest elevation, and the resulting number is divided by the horizontal distance between these two points. The resulting product is multiplied by 100.

“Magnitude” means a quantity characteristic of the total energy released by an earthquake. Commonly, earthquakes are recorded with magnitudes from zero to eight.

“Mitigation” means avoiding, minimizing, reducing, rectifying, eliminating, or compensating for adverse impacts.

“Native vegetation” means plant species that are indigenous and naturalized to the Granite Falls region and which can be expected to naturally occur on a site. Native vegetation does not include noxious weeds.

“Noxious weed” means any plant which, when established, is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices. The state noxious weed list in Chapter [16-750](#) WAC is the officially adopted list of noxious weeds by the State Noxious Weed Control Board.

“Obligate wetland plants” means plants that occur almost always (estimated probability greater than 99 percent) in wetlands under natural conditions, but which may also occur rarely (estimated probability less than one percent) in nonwetlands.

“Qualified professional or consultant” means a person with experience, training and expertise that are appropriate for the relevant sensitive area subject in accordance with WAC [365-195-905](#)(4). A qualified professional must have obtained a B.S. or B.A. or equivalent degree in biology, soil science, engineering, environmental studies, fisheries, geology, geomorphology or a related field and related work experience and meet the following criteria:

(a) A qualified professional for wetlands must have a degree in biology, ecology, soil science, botany or a closely related field and a minimum of five years of professional experience in wetland identification and assessment in the Pacific Northwest.

(b) A qualified professional for geologically hazardous areas must be a professional engineering geologist or geotechnical engineer, licensed by the state of Washington.

(c) A qualified professional for fish and wildlife conservation areas must have a degree in wildlife biology, zoology, ecology, fisheries, or a closely related field and a minimum of two years of professional experience.

(d) A "qualified professional for sensitive aquifer recharge areas" means a Washington State licensed hydro-geomorphologist, geologist, engineer or other scientist with a minimum of two years of professional experience in preparing hydrogeologic assessments in Washington.

"Receiving parcel" means a parcel of land on which a development right is used.

"Recessional outwash geologic unit" means sand and gravel materials deposited by melt water streams from receding glaciers.

"Seismic hazard areas" means areas that, due to a combination of soil and ground water conditions, are subject to severe risk of ground shaking, subsidence, or liquefaction of soils during earthquakes. These areas are typically underlain by soft or loose saturated soils, have a shallow ground water table and are typically located on the floors of river valleys.

"Sending parcel" means a parcel of land from which a development right has been severed, in accordance with this chapter.

"Sever" means the removal or separation of some specified right or use from the "bundle of rights" possessed by an owner of real property. The term connotes a removal or separation in perpetuity as distinguished from a restriction or limitation which may be overridden, deleted or subject to a time limitation.

"Slope" means an inclined earth surface, the inclination of which is expressed as the ratio of horizontal distance to vertical distance.

"Streams". Streams shall be classified according to the stream type system as provided in WAC [222-16-030](#), Stream Classification System, as amended. Streams are called Type S, Type F, Type Np, and Type Ns.

“Temporary erosion control” means on-site and off-site control measures that are needed to control conveyance or deposition of earth, turbidity, or pollutants during development, construction, or restoration.

“Utility line” means pipe, conduit, cable or other similar facility by which services are conveyed to the public or individual recipients. Such services shall include, but are not limited to, water supply, electric power, gas, communications and sanitary sewers.

“Values” means the cultural, social, economic, and ecological benefits attributed to ecosystem functions.

“Wetlands” means areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas created to mitigate conversion of wetlands.

(B) Applicability.

(1) Prior to fulfilling the requirements of this title, Granite Falls shall not grant any approval or permission to alter the condition of any land, water or vegetation, or to construct or alter any structure or improvement including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Building permit.
- (b) Conditional use permit.
- (c) Shoreline substantial development permit.
- (d) Shoreline variance.
- (e) Short subdivision.
- (f) Subdivision.
- (g) Variance.

(h) Rezone.

(i) Any other adopted permit or required approval not expressly exempted by this chapter.

(2) Granite Falls shall perform a critical areas review for any Granite Falls permit approval requested for a proposal on a site which includes or is adjacent to one or more critical areas unless otherwise provided in this chapter. As part of all applications, Granite Falls shall verify the information submitted by the applicant to:

(a) Confirm the nature and type of the critical areas and evaluate any required critical areas study.

(b) Determine whether the development proposal is consistent with this chapter.

(c) Determine whether any proposed alterations to critical areas are necessary.

(d) Determine if the mitigation plans proposed by the applicant are sufficient to protect the public health, safety and welfare consistent with the goals, purposes, objectives and requirements of this chapter.

(C) Exemptions. The following activities shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

(1) Agricultural Activities. Existing and ongoing agricultural activities, provided no alteration of flood storage capacity or conveyance occurs.

(2) Damaged Structures. Remodeling of structures in existence on the effective date hereof. When such structures are damaged by fire, explosion, or other unforeseen circumstances, they may be reconstructed or replaced within one year; provided, that the new construction or related activity does not further intrude into a critical area or established buffer and is subject to flood hazard areas reconstruction restrictions.

(3) Artificially Created Wetlands. Activities involving artificially created wetlands or streams intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, grass-lined swales, irrigation and drainage ditches, detention facilities, and landscape features, except wetlands, streams, or swales that provide critical habitat for anadromous fish, and artificial wetlands created as part of a mitigation requirement, which do not qualify for exemption.

(4) Existing Roads. Maintenance, operation and reconstruction of existing roads, streets, utilities and associated structures.

(5) Emergency Activities. Emergency activities necessary to prevent an immediate threat to public health, safety, or property.

(D) Reasonable Use Exception.

(1) Allowing Exception. If the application of this chapter would deny all reasonable use of the property, development may be allowed which is consistent with the general purposes of this chapter and the public interest.

(2) Application for Exception. An application for a critical areas reasonable use exception shall be filed with the city clerk and shall be heard by reviewed by the designated official as a Type II Review ~~the hearing examiner~~. The ~~hearing examiner~~ designated official shall issue a final decision on an application for a reasonable use exception.

(3) Determination – Conditions. In order to approve a reasonable use exception, the hearing examiner must determine that:

(a) Application of this chapter would deny all reasonable use of the property; and

(b) There is no other reasonable use with less impact on the critical area; and

(c) The proposed development does not pose an unreasonable threat to the public health, safety or welfare on or off the development proposal site; and

(d) Any alterations permitted to these critical areas shall be the minimum necessary to allow for reasonable use of the property.

(4) Alterations. Any authorized alteration of a critical area under this section shall be subject to conditions established by the city of Granite Falls and shall require mitigation under an approved mitigation plan.

(5) The inability to derive reasonable economic use is not the result of the applicant's actions or that of a previous property owner, including, but not limited to, segregating or dividing the property in a manner that created an undevelopable condition, or exacerbating an existing condition to such a degree that reasonable economic use is no longer possible under the terms of this chapter.

(6) No reasonable use application shall be approved if the city can demonstrate, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the applicant had actual or constructive knowledge of existing conditions, at any time prior to the applicant's acquisition of the subject property, that would significantly lessen the applicant's distinct, investment-backed expectations in acquiring the subject property.

(E) Relationship to Other Regulations.

(1) These critical areas regulations shall apply as an overlay and in addition to zoning, land use and other regulations established by the city. In the event of any conflict between

these regulations and any other regulations of the city, the regulations that provide greater protection to environmentally critical areas shall apply.

(2) Areas characterized by particular critical areas may also be subject to other regulations established by this chapter due to overlap or multiple functions of some critical resources or critical areas. Wetlands, for example, may be defined and regulated according to the wetland and habitat provisions of this chapter. In the event of any conflict between regulations for any particular critical areas in this chapter, the regulations which provide greater protection to environmentally critical areas shall apply.

(F) Variances. Variances from the standards of this chapter may be authorized by the hearing examiner in accordance with the procedures set forth in GFMC [19.04C.055](#). In granting such a variance, hearing examiner shall find:

(1) Because of the special circumstances applicable to the subject property, including size, shape, topography, location or surroundings, or the size or nature of the critical area, the strict application of this title would deprive the property owner of reasonable use of their property;

(2) The granting of the variance is the minimum necessary to accommodate the development proposal and will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the vicinity and zone in which the property is situated, or contrary to the goals and purposes of this chapter.

(G) Other General Requirements.

(1) A record of notice shall be placed on the title of any property subject to these critical areas regulations in the development review process.

(2) A notice shall be provided to any adjacent property that may be impacted by critical areas buffers as required in this chapter.

(H) Critical Area Determinations.

(1) Special Studies Required.

(a) When an applicant submits an application for any alteration proposal, the application shall indicate whether any environmentally critical area or buffer is located on the site. The designated official shall visit the subject property and review the information submitted by the applicant along with any other available information. If the designated official determines that the site potentially includes, is adjacent to, or could have probable significant adverse impacts to critical areas, the designated official shall notify the applicant that a special study(ies) is required. Any decision to require a critical area study pursuant to this chapter may be appealed to

the hearing examiner upon filing a notice of appeal with the city clerk within 10 working days after the date of the designated official's decision.

(2) Waivers from Study Requirements. The designated official may waive the requirement for a special study if there is substantial proof showing that:

- (a) There will be no alteration of the critical areas or required buffer; and
- (b) The alteration proposal will not impact the critical areas in a manner contrary to the purpose, intent and requirements of this chapter; and
- (c) The minimum standards required by this chapter are met.

(3) Exceptions to Study Requirements. No special study is required for the following alteration proposals:

- (a) Alterations that are exempt from the provisions of this chapter as set forth in subsection (C) of this section; and
- (b) A residential building permit for a lot that was subject to a previous special study of critical areas; provided, that the previous special study adequately identified the impacts associated with the current alteration proposal.

(4) Contents of Special Study.

- (a) Best available science shall be used in the special study and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife PHS database shall be consulted in the preparation of the study.
- (b) Wetlands Special Study. Required wetland studies shall be conducted by a qualified wetlands biologist.

- (i) A map, of a scale no smaller than one inch equals 200 feet, and five-foot contours of the surveyed wetland boundary as determined by following the methods described in the "Washington State Wetlands Identification and Delineation Manual" (Publication No. 96-94), March 1997, and as revised.

- (ii) The site plan for the proposed activity at the same scale as the wetland map, showing the extent of the proposed activity in relationship to the surveyed wetland.

- (iii) A written analysis of the existing wetland type/classification including existing vegetation, soils, and hydrology (source of water in the system, relative water quality, seasonality of presence of water, if applicable). The existing

wetland shall be classified according to subsection (I)(2) of this section. The written analysis must also classify wetlands according to the adopted Ecology's "Washington State [Wetland Rating System for Western Washington \(Ecology Publication #23-06-009\)](#) ~~[Wetland Rating System for Western Washington – 2014 Update](#)~~ (Ecology Publication No. 04-06-025), October 2014, and as revised. All date forms must be submitted for review.

(c) Landslide Hazard Special Study. Required landslide hazard studies shall be prepared by a professional engineer licensed by the state of Washington with expertise in geotechnical engineering.

(i) A contour map of the proposed site, at a scale no smaller than one inch equals 100 feet and five-foot contours. The site and the extent of the critical landslide hazard area as determined by the criteria in subsection (J)(3) of this section shall be clearly delineated.

(ii) A discussion of surface and subsurface geologic conditions of the site.

(iii) Review of site history regarding landslides.

(iv) A description of how the proposed development will or will not impact each of the following on the subject area and adjoining property:

A. Slope stability;

B. Drainage;

C. Springs or seeps or any other surface water;

D. Existing vegetation.

(v) Recommended surface water management controls during construction.

(d) Critical Erosion Hazard Area Special Studies. Required critical erosion hazard studies shall be prepared by a professional engineer licensed by the state of Washington.

(i) A map, of a scale no smaller than one inch equals 200 feet, of the site and the extent of the critical erosion hazard area as determined by the criteria in subsection (J)(4) of this section.

(ii) Review site history regarding erosion.

(iii) Identification of surface water management, erosion, and sediment controls appropriate to the site and proposal.

(e) Seismic Hazard Area Special Studies. Required critical seismic hazard studies shall be prepared by a professional engineer licensed by the state of Washington.

(i) A map, of a scale no smaller than one inch equals 200 feet, and five-foot contours, of the site and the extent of the seismic hazard area as determined by the criteria in subsection (J)(5) of this section.

(ii) Discussion of the potential impacts from the proposed development, and specific measures designed to mitigate any potential adverse impacts of the proposal.

(f) Critical Habitat Special Studies.

(i) Required critical habitat studies shall be prepared by a qualified biologist with expertise in wildlife habitats.

(ii) A map of a scale no smaller than one inch equals 200 feet of the site and the extent of the critical habitat area as determined by the criteria in subsection (J)(6) of this section.

(g) Aquifer Recharge Area Special Studies.

(i) Required critical aquifer recharge area studies shall be prepared by a geologist or individual with experience preparing hydrogeologic assessments.

(ii) A map of a scale no smaller than one inch equals 200 feet of the site and the extent of the high significance aquifer recharge area as determined by the criteria in subsection (J)(13) of this section.

(l) Critical Areas Classifications.

(1) Scope. To promote consistent application of the standards and requirements of this title, critical areas within the city shall be rated and classified according to their characteristics, function and value, and/or their sensitivity to disturbance.

(2) Wetlands Classification and Delineation. Wetlands shall be designated Category I, Category II, Category III and Category IV, according to Ecology's [Wetland Rating System for Western Washington \(Ecology Publication #23-06-009\)](#), [Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington – 2014" \(Ecology Publication No. 04-06-025\), October 2014, and as revised](#). Identification of wetlands and delineation of their boundaries pursuant to this chapter shall be done by a qualified wetland professional in accordance

with the approved federal wetland delineation manual, the most current version of the "Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington," and applicable regional supplements.

(3) Geologically Hazardous Areas.

(a) Designation. The following are considered geologically hazardous areas and shall not be altered except as otherwise provided by this chapter:

- (i) Slopes of 40 percent or greater;
- (ii) Landslide hazard areas;
- (iii) Seismic hazard areas;
- (iv) Erosion hazard areas when associated with other environmentally sensitive areas;
- (iv) Channel migration hazard
- ~~(v) Other areas which the city has reason to believe are geologically hazardous.~~

(b) Protective Requirements.

- (i) Development proposals on properties which are designated as or which the city has reason to believe are geologically hazardous areas shall have a standard buffer of 25 feet from the top, toe and sides of such areas, or as specified in subsections (1)(4) and (1)(7).
- (ii) The setback buffer requirement listed in subsection (1)(3)(b)(i) of this section may be increased by the city when necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare, based upon information contained in a geotechnical report or for other reasons related to the geologically hazardous conditions of the lot.
- (iii) The setback buffers required by this subsection shall be maintained in native vegetation to provide additional soil stability and erosion control. If the buffer area has been cleared, it shall be replanted with native vegetation.

(c) Permitted Alterations. Unless associated with another environmentally sensitive area, the designated official may allow alterations of an area identified as a geologically hazardous area or the standard buffers listed in subsection (1)(3)(b) of this section if he/she approves a geotechnical report which demonstrates that:

- (i) The proposed development will not create a hazard to the subject property, surrounding properties, or rights-of-way, erosion or sedimentation to off-site properties or bodies of water;
- (ii) The proposal addresses the existing geological constraints of the site, including an assessment of soils and hydrology;
- (iii) The proposed method of construction will reduce erosion potential, landslide and seismic hazard potential, and will improve or not adversely affect the stability of slopes;
- (iv) The proposal uses construction techniques which minimize disruption of existing topography and natural vegetation;
- (v) The proposal is consistent with the purposes and provisions of this chapter;
- (vi) The proposal mitigates all impacts identified in the geotechnical report; and
- (vii) All utilities and access roads or driveways to and within the site are located so as to require the minimum amount of modifications to slopes, vegetation or geologically hazardous areas.

(viii) The construction of wood frame structures less than 5,000 square feet and all prefabricated structures less than 2,000 square feet located within seismic hazard areas do not require a geotechnical report. These structures shall require a geotechnical report when located within a landslide hazard area.

(d) Additional Requirements. As part of any approval of development on or adjacent to geologically hazardous areas or within the standard buffers required by subsection (l)(3)(b) of this section, the city may require:

- (i) An environmentally critical area protective covenant or tract for the area approved for alteration or any geologically hazardous area not approved for alteration;
- (ii) The presence of the geotechnical consultant on the site to supervise during clearing, grading, filling and construction activities which may affect geologically hazardous areas, and provide the city with certification that the construction is in compliance with his/her recommendations and has met with his/her approval, and other relevant information concerning the geologically hazardous conditions of the site;
- (iii) Vegetation and other soil-stabilizing structures or materials be retained or provided.

(34) Landslide Hazard Areas. Development proposals on sites containing Class I and Class II landslide hazards shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Essential public facilities shall not be sited within a geologically hazardous area or its buffers.

(b) Buffer Requirement. A buffer shall be established from all edges of landslide hazard areas. The size of the buffer shall be determined by the city designated official a geotechnical engineer licensed by the state of Washington to eliminate or minimize the risk of property damage, death, or injury resulting from landslides caused in whole or part by the development, based upon review of and concurrence with a landslide hazard special study. The buffer shall be equal to the height of the slope or 50 feet, whichever is greater. The buffer may be reduced to a minimum of 10 feet when a qualified professional demonstrates to the city designated official's satisfaction that the reduction will adequately protect the proposed development, adjacent developments, and uses and the subject critical area. The buffer may be increased where the city designated official determines a larger buffer is necessary to prevent risk of damage to proposed and existing development.

(c) Alterations. Alterations of a landslide hazard area and/or buffer may only occur for activities for which a hazards analysis is submitted and certifies that:

(i) The development will not increase surface water discharge or sedimentation to adjacent properties beyond predevelopment conditions;

(ii) The development will not decrease slope stability on adjacent properties;
and

(iii) Such alterations will not adversely impact other critical areas.

(d) Impervious Surface Ratio. An impervious surface ratio is a measurement of the amount of the site that is covered by any material that substantially reduces or prevents the infiltration of stormwater into previously undeveloped land. Impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roofs and streets, sidewalks and parking lots paved with asphalt, concrete, compacted sand, rock, compacted rock, limerock or clay. The maximum impervious surface ratios for Class I and Class II landslide hazard areas are set forth in Table 3 of this subsection.

(e) Native Vegetation. Native vegetation is plant species that are indigenous and naturalized to the Granite Falls region and which can be expected to naturally occur on a site. Native vegetation does not include noxious weeds. The minimum percentage of native vegetation that must be retained on sites including Class I or Class II landslide hazard areas is set forth in Table 4 of this section.

Table 4

Impervious Surface and Native Vegetation Requirements for Landslide Hazard Areas

Landslide Hazard Class	Maximum Impervious Surface Ratio	Minimum Percentage of Native Vegetation Retained
Class II	0.30	65%
Class I	0.20	75%

(f) Development Design.

- (i) Structures and improvements shall be clustered to retain as much open space as possible and to preserve the natural topographic features of the site.
- (ii) Structures and improvements shall conform to the natural contour of the slope.
- (iii) Structures and improvements shall be located to preserve the most critical portion of the site and its natural landforms and vegetation.
- (iv) The use of retaining walls which allow the maintenance of existing natural slope area is preferred over graded artificial slopes.

(g) Additional Standards for Class I Landslide Hazards.

- (i) Alteration of Class I landslide hazard areas is permitted only if the development proposal can be designed so that the landslide hazard to the project and the adjacent property is eliminated or mitigated and the development proposal on that site is certified as safe by a geotechnical engineer licensed in the state of Washington.
- (ii) Development or alteration shall be prohibited on parcels with a lot slope of greater than 40 percent.

(45) Erosion Hazard Areas. Alteration of a site containing a critical erosion hazard area shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) All alteration proposals shall submit an erosion control plan consistent with this section prior to receiving approval.
- (b) Clearing on erosion hazard areas is allowed from April 1st to November 1st only.

(c) Only that clearing necessary to install temporary sedimentation and erosion control measures shall occur prior to clearing for roadways or utilities.

(d) Clearing limits for roads, water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities, and temporary erosion control facilities shall be marked in the field and approved by designated official prior to any alteration of existing native vegetation.

(e) The authorized clearing for roads and utilities shall be the minimum necessary to accomplish project-specific engineering designs and shall remain within approved rights-of-way.

(f) All trees and understory shall be retained on lots or parcels; provided, that understory damaged during approved clearing operations may be pruned or replaced.

~~(5) Seismic Hazard Areas. Development proposals on sites containing mapped seismic hazard areas may make alterations to a seismic hazard area only when the applicant demonstrates and the designated official concludes that:~~

~~(a) Evaluation of site-specific subsurface conditions shows that the site is not located in a seismic hazard area; or~~

~~(b) Mitigation is implemented which renders the proposed development as safe as if it were not located in a seismic hazard area, as certified by a geotechnical engineer licensed by the state of Washington.~~

(6) Seismic Hazard Areas.

(a) For all nonexempt activities, except the construction of wood frame structures less than 5,000 square feet and all prefabricated structures less than 2,000 square feet, proposed within seismic hazard areas, a geotechnical report prepared by a professional engineer, geologist, or engineering geologist licensed by the state of Washington with expertise in geotechnical engineering shall be submitted.

(b) The geotechnical report shall address the existing geologic, topographic and hydrologic conditions on a site, including an evaluation of the ability of the soil and structure to withstand the anticipated earthquake ground shaking and subsequent effects.

(c) The geotechnical report shall include a discussion of the mitigation measures which can be taken to reduce seismic risks associated with the underlying surficial geology.

(d) The geotechnical report shall include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures as certified by a geotechnical engineer licensed by the state of Washington.

(e) The development proposal may be approved, approved with conditions, or denied based on the City's evaluation of the ability of the proposed mitigation measures to reduce seismic risks associated with the underlying surficial geology.

(f) The development may be approved subject to additional review of the architectural and structural drawings by the building official for conformance with the geotechnical report and recommendations.

(g) Should an applicant question the presence of seismic hazard areas on-site, the applicant may submit a geotechnical assessment sufficient to demonstrate to the building official's satisfaction, that the site is not located in a seismic hazard area. If the building official determines that the site is not in a seismic hazard area, the provisions of this section may be waived.

(7) Channel Migration Hazard Areas. Activities on sites containing channel migration hazard areas shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Sites within the 100-year floodplain of the North Fork Stillaguamish River or the Pilchuck River, shall have a minimum 50-foot buffer from the channel migration zone. The floodways for the North Fork Stillaguamish River and the Pilchuck River are as mapped by FEMA on map 53061C0755F, dated June 19, 2020 shall be used as a surrogate for the channel migration zone. If the floodway is mapped differently in the future by FEMA, the map with the largest area mapped as floodway shall be used as a surrogate for the channel migration zone.

(b) For sites located within the 100-year floodplain of the North Fork Stillaguamish River or the Pilchuck River, applicants shall identify the channel migration zone on the site plan, as delineated by a licensed engineer or qualified professional with geomorphology or related training.

(48) Fish and Wildlife Habitat Classification. Fish and wildlife habitat areas shall be classified as critical or secondary according to the criteria in this section. Critical habitats are those habitat areas which meet any of the following criteria:

(a) The documented presence of species listed by the federal government, state of Washington and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife priority species and habitats (PHS) database as endangered, threatened, sensitive or critical.

(b) Those streams identified as "shorelines of the state" under the city's shoreline master program.

(c) Those wetlands identified as Category I wetlands, as defined in this chapter.

(59) Aquifer Recharge Classification. Aquifer recharge areas are classified as high, moderate, or low significance aquifer recharge areas according to the following criteria:

(a) High Significance Aquifer Recharge Areas. High significance aquifer recharge areas are areas with slopes of less than 15 percent that are underlain by coarse alluvium or sand and gravel.

(b) Moderate Significance Aquifer Recharge Areas. Moderate significance aquifer recharge areas are:

(i) Areas with slopes of less than 15 percent that are underlain by fine alluvium, silt, clay, glacial till, or deposits from the Electron Mudflow; and

(ii) Areas with slopes of 15 percent to 30 percent that are underlain by sand and gravel.

(c) Low Significance Aquifer Recharge Areas. Low significance aquifer recharge areas are:

(i) Areas with slopes of 15 percent to 30 percent that are underlain by silt, clay, or glacial till; and

(ii) Areas with slopes greater than 30 percent. Low significance aquifer recharge areas are not designated critical areas and are exempt from critical areas review requirements.

(610) Flood Hazard Classification. Flood hazard areas consist of the following components, as determined by the city:

(a) Floodplain. The total area subject to inundation by the base flood.

(b) Flood Fringe. That portion of the floodplain outside the floodway which is generally covered by flood waters during the base flood. It is generally associated with standing water rather than rapidly flowing water.

(c) Floodway. The channel of the stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain that is necessary to contain and discharge the base flood flow without increasing the base flood elevation more than one foot.

(j) Performance Standards for Critical Areas.

(1) General Requirements. All boundaries of critical areas established by the requirements of this chapter shall be clearly marked prior to any construction activities. All wetland and habitat buffers shall be permanently signed prior to final approval.

(2) Wetlands.

(a) Allowed Activities within Wetlands. The following uses shall be allowed within a wetland, provided they are conducted using best management practices:

- (i) Outdoor recreational activities, including fishing, bird watching, hiking, swimming, and canoeing.
- (ii) The harvesting of wild crops in a manner that is not injurious to natural reproduction of such crops.
- (iii) Existing and ongoing agricultural activities, as defined in this chapter.
- (iv) The maintenance of drainage ditches.
- (v) Nature Trails. Trails in wetlands or buffers should be limited to permeable surfaces no more than five feet in width for pedestrian use only. Trails should be located only in the outer 25 percent of a wetland buffer, and should be located to avoid removal of significant trees (over 18 inches diameter).
- (vi) Utility lines.

(b) Allowed Activities within Wetland Buffers. In addition to those activities allowed in subsection (1)(2)(a) of this section, the following activities are allowed within wetland buffers; provided, that buffer impacts are minimized and that disturbed areas are immediately restored:

- (i) Normal maintenance and repair of existing serviceable structures or improved areas. Maintenance and repair does not include modifications that change the character, scope or size of the original structure or improved area.
- (ii) Vegetation-lined swales or other vegetated low impact facilities designed for stormwater management; provided, that they are placed within the outer 25 percent of the buffer of Category III wetlands only.

(c) Required Buffers.

- (i) Buffer Requirements. The standard buffer widths in Table 1 shall be required for wetlands based on the wetland category, the level of impacts from adjacent land uses, and the functions or special characteristics of the wetland class of

wetland as outlined in subsection (j)(2) of this section. The city may allow buffer averaging as set forth in subsection (j)(2)(c)(iv) of this section. The standard buffers in Table 1 below are required when the minimization measures listed in Table 3 are not implemented.

Table 1

Wetland Buffer Width Requirements Without Minimization Measures

Wetland Category	Habitat score 3-5 (corridor not required)	Habitat score 6-7 points	Habitat score 8-9 points	Required Buffer Width based on special characteristics
Category I or II: Based on rating of wetland functions (and not listed below) <u>Category I</u>	100	150	300	<u>N/A</u> 150 feet
Category I: Bogs and Wetlands of High Conservation Value <u>Category II</u>	N/A	N/A	300	250 75 feet
Category I: Forested <u>Category III</u>	100	150	300	<u>N/A</u> 60 feet
Category III: All types <u>Category IV</u>	80	150	300	<u>N/A</u> 40 feet
<u>Category IV</u>	50	50	50	<u>N/A</u>

(ii) Buffer Requirements. The buffer widths in Table 2 shall be required for wetlands based on the wetland category, the level of impacts from adjacent land uses, and the functions or special characteristics of the wetland. The city may allow buffer averaging as set forth in subsection (j)(2)(c)(iv) of this section. The standard buffers in Table 2 below are required when a habitat corridor and the minimization measures listed in Table 3 are implemented.

Table 2

Wetland Buffer Width Requirements With Minimization Measures

Wetland Category	Habitat score 3-5 (corridor not required)	Habitat score 6-7 points	Habitat score 8-9 points	Required Buffer Width based on special characteristics
<u>Category I or II: Based on rating of wetland functions (and not listed below)</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Category I: Bogs and Wetlands of High Conservation Value</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>190</u>
<u>Category I: Forested</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Category III: All types</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Category IV: All types</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>N/A</u>

(#iii) Removal of Vegetation within the Buffer. Removal or alteration of existing vegetation in the buffer areas shall be prohibited except as provided for in subsections (J)(2)(a) and (J)(8) of this section. Any disturbance of the buffer area shall be replanted with a diverse plant community of native vegetation appropriate for the site and approved by the designated official.

(#iv) Increased Wetland Buffer Area Width. Buffer widths shall be increased on a case-by-case basis as determined by the designated official when a larger buffer is necessary to protect wetland functions and values. This determination shall be supported by appropriate documentation showing that it is reasonably related to protection of the functions and values of the wetland. The documentation must include but not be limited to the following criteria:

A. The wetland is used by a plant or animal species listed by the federal government or the state as endangered, threatened, candidate, sensitive, monitored or documented priority species or habitats, or essential or outstanding habitat for those species or has unusual nesting or resting sites such as heron rookeries or raptor nesting trees; or

B. The adjacent land is susceptible to severe erosion, and erosion-control measures will not effectively prevent adverse wetland impacts; or

C. The adjacent land has minimal vegetative cover or slopes greater than 30 percent.

Table 23

Required Measures to Minimize Impacts to Wetlands

(Measures are required, where applicable to a specific proposal.)

Type of Disturbance	Required Measures to Minimize Impact
Lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Direct lights down and away from the wetland.</u> • <u>Only use lighting where necessary for public safety and keep lights off when not needed.</u> • <u>Use motion-activated lights.</u> • <u>Use full cut-off filters to cover light bulbs and direct light only where needed.</u> • <u>Limit use of blue-white colored lights in favor of red-amber hues.</u> • <u>Use lower-intensity LED lighting.</u> • <u>Dim light to the lowest acceptable intensity.</u>
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Orient noise-generating activities away from wetland edge.</u> • <u>Plant a strip of dense shrub vegetation adjacent to wetland buffer.</u>
Toxic runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route all new, untreated runoff away from wetland while ensuring wetland is not dewatered.

Type of Disturbance	Required Measures to Minimize Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish covenants limiting use of pesticides and herbicides within 150 feet of wetland buffer. <u>Apply integrated pest management.</u>
Stormwater runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrofit stormwater detention and treatment for roads and existing adjacent development. Prevent channelized flow from lawns that directly enters the buffer. <u>Infiltrate or treat, detain, and disperse new runoff from impervious surfaces and lawns.</u>
Change in water regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Apply appropriate stormwater management to infiltrate, treat, detain, and disperse runoff appropriately and only into outer edge of buffer, if allowed.</u>
Pets and human activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <u>privacy split rail</u> fencing or plant dense native vegetation to delineate buffer edge and to discourage entry into buffer by humans and pets. Place wetland and buffer in a NGPA or tract. <u>Signs shall be posted along the buffer boundary at a minimum</u>

Type of Disturbance	Required Measures to Minimize Impact
	<p><u>rate of one every 100 lineal feet or one per lot, whichever is closer.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>When platting new subdivisions, locate greenbelts, stormwater facilities, and other lower-intensity uses adjacent to wetland buffers.</u>
Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Use best management practices to control dust.</u>
Disruption of corridors or connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maintain connections to off-site areas that are undisturbed.</u> • <u>Restore corridors or connections to off-site habitats by replanting.</u>

(iv) Buffer Averaging. Buffer averaging to improve wetland protection may be permitted when all of the following conditions are met:

A. The wetland has significant differences in characteristics that affect its habitat functions, such as a wetland with a forested component adjacent to a degraded emergent component or a “dual-rated” wetland with a Category I area adjacent to a lower-rated area.

B. The buffer is increased adjacent to the higher-functioning area of habitat or more-sensitive portion of the wetland and decreased adjacent to the lower-functioning or less-sensitive portion as demonstrated by a critical areas report from a qualified wetland professional.

C. The total area of the buffer after averaging is equal to the area required without averaging.

D. The buffer at its narrowest point is never less than either 75 percent of the required width or 75 feet for Category I and II, 50 feet for Category III, and 25 feet for Category IV, whichever is greater.

(vi) Measurement of Wetland Buffers. All buffers shall be measured perpendicular from the wetland boundary as surveyed in the field. The buffer for a wetland created, restored, or enhanced as compensation for approved wetland alterations shall be the same as the buffer required for the target category of the created, restored, or enhanced wetland. Only fully vegetated buffers will be considered. Existing lawns, walkways, driveways, and other mowed or paved areas will not be considered to be buffers or included in buffer area calculations.

(d) Wetland Mitigation and Restoration.

(i) Mitigation. All adverse impacts to wetlands shall be mitigated to the extent feasible and reasonable. Mitigation actions by an applicant or property owner shall occur in the following preferred sequence:

- A. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking certain actions or parts of actions;
- B. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
- C. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
- D. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action;
- E. Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments; and/or
- F. Monitoring the impact and taking appropriate corrective measures.

(e) Monitoring Program and Contingency Plan. A monitoring program shall be implemented by the applicant to determine the success of the mitigation project and any necessary corrective actions. This program shall determine if the original goals and objectives are being met.

(i) A contingency plan shall be established for indemnity in the event that the mitigation project is inadequate or fails. In addition to the bonding requirements in the development guidelines for public works standards, the applicant shall submit a performance and maintenance bond or other acceptable security device for financial guarantee(s). These devices are required to ensure the applicant's compliance with terms of the mitigation agreement. The amount of the performance and maintenance bond shall equal 150 percent

of the cost of the mitigation project for a minimum of five years. The bond may be reduced in proportion to work successfully completed over the period of the bond if performance standards are meeting or exceeding goals. The bonding period shall coincide with the monitoring period.

(ii) Monitoring programs prepared to comply with this section shall reflect the following guidelines:

A. Scientific procedures shall be used to establish the success or failure of the project.

B. For vegetation determinations, permanent sampling points shall be established.

C. Vegetative success shall, at a minimum, equal 80 percent survival of planted trees and shrubs and 80 percent cover of desirable understory or emergent plant species at the end of the required monitoring period or the performance standards set forth in the mitigation plan. Additional standards for vegetative success, including, but not limited to, minimum survival standards following the first growing season, may be required after consideration of a report prepared by a qualified consultant.

D. For hydrology determinations, permanent sampling points or wells shall be established.

E. Hydrology success shall, at a minimum, show 14 consecutive days of saturation to the surface during the growing season or the performance standard set forth in the mitigation plan.

F. Monitoring reports on the current status of the mitigation project shall be submitted to the city.

G. The reports are to be prepared by a qualified consultant and reviewed by the city or a consultant retained by the city and should include monitoring information on wildlife, vegetation, water quality, water flow, stormwater storage and conveyance, and existing or potential degradation, as applicable, and shall be produced on the following schedule: at the time of construction; 30 days after planting; early in the growing season of the first year; at the end of the growing season of the first year; twice during the second year; and annually thereafter.

H. Monitoring programs shall be established for a minimum of five years.

I. If necessary, failures in the mitigation project shall be corrected.

J. Dead or undesirable vegetation shall be replaced with appropriate plantings.

K. Damage caused by erosion, settling, or other geomorphological processes shall be repaired.

L. The mitigation project shall be redesigned (if necessary) and the new design shall be implemented and monitored.

(iii) Mitigation Ratios.

A. Equivalent Areas. Where wetland alterations are permitted by the city, the applicant shall create or enhance wetland areas to compensate for wetland losses. Equivalent areas shall be determined according to acreage, function, type, location, timing factors and projected success of restoration or creation.

B. Acreage Replacement Ratio. When creating or enhancing wetlands, the following acreage replacement ratios shall be used where the first number specifies the acreage of replacement wetlands and the second number specifies the acreage of wetlands altered:

Table 3-4

Acreage Replacement Ratio

Wetland Type	Wetland Creation Replacement Ratio (Area)	Rehabilitation	Preservation	Wetland Enhancement Ratio (Area)
Category I	6:1	12:1	24:1	24:1 15:1
Category II	3:1	6:1	12:1	12:1 10:1
Category III	2:1	4:1	8:1	8:1 6:1
Category IV	1.5:1 1.5:1	3:1	6:1	6:1 4:1

Note: Ratios for creation, rehabilitation, preservation, and enhancement may be reduced when combined with 1:1 replacement through creation or re-establishment. See Table 1a, Wetland Mitigation in Washington State - Part 1: Agency Policies and Guidance - Version 2, (Ecology Publication #21-06-003, Olympia, WA, April 2021 or as revised).

(f) Increased Replacement Ratios. The designated official may increase the ratios under the following circumstances:

(i) Uncertainty exists as to the probable success of the proposed restoration or creation;

(ii) A significant period of time will elapse between impact and replication of wetland functions;

(iii) Proposed mitigation will result in a lower category wetland or reduced functions relative to the wetland being impacted;

(iv) The impact was an unauthorized impact; or

(v) Where mitigation is to occur off site.

(g) Restoration. Restoration is required when a wetland or its buffer has been altered in violation of this title. The following minimum performance standards shall be met for the restoration of a wetland; provided, that if it can be demonstrated by the applicant that greater functional and habitat values can be obtained, these standards may be modified:

(i) The original wetland configuration should be replicated including depth, width, and length at the original location;

(ii) The original soil types and configuration shall be replicated;

(iii) The wetland and buffer areas shall be replanted with native vegetation which replicates the original in species, sizes and densities; and

(iv) The original functional values shall be restored, including water quality and wildlife habitat functions.

(h) Wetland Mitigation Banks.

Wetland mitigation banks are a site where wetlands are restored, created, enhanced or, in exceptional circumstances, preserved expressly for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation in advance of authorized impacts to similar resources.

(i) Credits from a wetland bank may be approved for use as compensation for unavoidable impacts to wetlands when:

(a) The bank is certified under Chapter 173-700 WAC;

(b) The community designated official determines that the wetland mitigation bank provides appropriate compensation for the authorized impacts; and

(€C) The proposed use of credits is consistent with the terms and conditions of the bank's certification.

(2ii) Replacement ratios for projects using bank credits shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of the bank's certification.

(3iii) Credits from a certified wetland mitigation bank may be used to compensate for impacts located within the service area specified in the bank's certification. In some cases, bank service areas may include portions of more than one adjacent drainage basin for specific wetland functions.

~~(3) Landslide Hazard Areas. Development proposals on sites containing Class I and Class II landslide hazards shall meet the following requirements:~~

~~(a) Essential public facilities shall not be sited within a geologically hazardous area or its buffers.~~

~~(b) Buffer Requirement. A buffer shall be established from all edges of landslide hazard areas. The size of the buffer shall be determined by the city designated official to eliminate or minimize the risk of property damage, death, or injury resulting from landslides caused in whole or part by the development, based upon review of and concurrence with a landslide hazard special study. The buffer shall be equal to the height of the slope or 50 feet, whichever is greater. The buffer may be reduced when a qualified professional demonstrates to the city designated official's satisfaction that the reduction will adequately protect the proposed development, adjacent developments, and uses and the subject critical area. The buffer may be increased where the city designated official determines a larger buffer is necessary to prevent risk of damage to proposed and existing development.~~

~~(c) Alterations. Alterations of a landslide hazard area and/or buffer may only occur for activities for which a hazards analysis is submitted and certifies that:~~

~~(i) The development will not increase surface water discharge or sedimentation to adjacent properties beyond predevelopment conditions;~~

~~(ii) The development will not decrease slope stability on adjacent properties;
and~~

~~(iii) Such alterations will not adversely impact other critical areas.~~

~~(d) Impervious Surface Ratio. An impervious surface ratio is a measurement of the amount of the site that is covered by any material that substantially reduces or~~

prevents the infiltration of stormwater into previously undeveloped land. Impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roofs and streets, sidewalks and parking lots paved with asphalt, concrete, compacted sand, rock, compacted rock, limerock or clay. The maximum impervious surface ratios for Class I and Class II landslide hazard areas are set forth in Table 3 of this subsection.

(e) Native Vegetation. Native vegetation is plant species that are indigenous and naturalized to the Granite Falls region and which can be expected to naturally occur on a site. Native vegetation does not include noxious weeds. The minimum percentage of native vegetation that must be retained on sites including Class I or Class II landslide hazard areas is set forth in Table 4 of this section.

Table 4
Impervious Surface and Native Vegetation Requirements for Landslide Hazard Areas

Landslide Hazard Class	Maximum Impervious Surface Ratio	Minimum Percentage of Native Vegetation Retained
Class II	0.30	65%
Class I	0.20	75%

(f) Development Design.

(i) Structures and improvements shall be clustered to retain as much open space as possible and to preserve the natural topographic features of the site.

(ii) Structures and improvements shall conform to the natural contour of the slope.

(iii) Structures and improvements shall be located to preserve the most critical portion of the site and its natural landforms and vegetation.

(iv) The use of retaining walls which allow the maintenance of existing natural slope area is preferred over graded artificial slopes.

(g) Additional Standards for Class I Landslide Hazards:

(i) Alteration of Class I landslide hazard areas is permitted only if the development proposal can be designed so that the landslide hazard to the project and the adjacent property is eliminated or mitigated and the

development proposal on that site is certified as safe by a geotechnical engineer licensed in the state of Washington.

(ii) Development or alteration shall be prohibited on parcels with a lot slope of greater than 40 percent.

(4) Erosion Hazard Areas. Alteration of a site containing a critical erosion hazard area shall meet the following requirements:

(a) All alteration proposals shall submit an erosion control plan consistent with this section prior to receiving approval.

(b) Clearing on erosion hazard areas is allowed from April 1st to November 1st only.

(c) Only that clearing necessary to install temporary sedimentation and erosion control measures shall occur prior to clearing for roadways or utilities.

(d) Clearing limits for roads, water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities, and temporary erosion control facilities shall be marked in the field and approved by designated official prior to any alteration of existing native vegetation.

(e) The authorized clearing for roads and utilities shall be the minimum necessary to accomplish project-specific engineering designs and shall remain within approved rights-of-way.

(f) All trees and understory shall be retained on lots or parcels; provided, that understory damaged during approved clearing operations may be pruned or replaced.

(5) Seismic Hazard Areas. Development proposals on sites containing mapped seismic hazard areas may make alterations to a seismic hazard area only when the applicant demonstrates and the designated official concludes that:

(a) Evaluation of site-specific subsurface conditions shows that the site is not located in a seismic hazard area; or

(b) Mitigation is implemented which renders the proposed development as safe as if it were not located in a seismic hazard area, as certified by a geotechnical professional engineer licensed by the state of Washington.

(6) Critical Habitat Areas.

(a) All development sites containing wetlands shall conform to the wetland development performance standards set forth in subsection (J)(2) of this section.

(b) All development sites adjacent to the South Fork of the Stillaguamish or Pilchuck Rivers shall retain a 150-foot buffer of native vegetation measured from the ordinary high water mark of the river.

(c) Where nonfish species have been classified as endangered or threatened by the federal government or Department of Wildlife, the applicant shall provide a special study identifying the required habitat and recommending appropriate buffers based on the [state Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Priority Habitats and Species \(PHS\) program list and mapping resources](#) [Department of Wildlife priority habitat and species management recommendations](#).

(d) For all fish and wildlife habitat areas that have been classified as endangered or threatened by the federal government, the applicant will provide a special study identifying the specified habitat based on the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) priority habitats and species program.

(e) For all fish and wildlife that have been identified as "sensitive," the applicant will identify the species and note its presence in the SEPA documents and critical areas study.

(74) Classification of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas.

(a) Streams. Streams shall be classified according to the stream type system as provided in WAC [222-16-030](#), Stream Classification System, as amended.

(i) Type S Stream. Those streams, within their ordinary high water mark, as inventoried as "shorelines of the state" under Chapter [90.58](#) RCW and the rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

(ii) Type F Stream. Those stream segments within the ordinary high water mark that are not Type S streams, and which are demonstrated or provisionally presumed to be used by the salmonid fish. Stream segments which have a width of two feet or greater at the ordinary high water mark and have a gradient of 16 percent or less for basins less than or equal to 50 acres in size, or have a gradient of 20 percent or less for basins greater than 50 acres in size, are provisionally presumed to be used by salmonid fish. A provisional presumption of salmonid fish use may be refuted at the discretion of the designated official where any of the following conditions are met:

A. It is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the city that the stream segment in question is upstream of a complete, permanent, natural fish passage barrier, above which no stream section exhibits perennial flow;

B. It is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the city that the stream segment in question has confirmed, long-term, naturally occurring water quality parameters incapable of supporting salmonid fish;

C. Sufficient information about geomorphic region is available to support departure from the characteristics described above for the presumption of salmonid fish use, as determined in consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Ecology, affected tribes, or others;

D. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife has issued a hydraulic project approval pursuant to RCW [77.55.100](#), which includes a determination that the stream segment in question is not used by salmonid fish;

E. No salmonid fish are discovered in the stream segment in question during a stream survey conducted according to the protocol provided in the Washington Forest Practices Board Manual, Section 13, Guidelines for Determining Fish Use for the Purpose of Typing Waters under WAC [222-16-031](#); provided, that no unnatural fish passage barriers have been present downstream of said stream segment over a period of at least two years.

(iii) Type Np Stream. Those stream segments within the ordinary high water mark that are perennial and are not Type S or Type F streams. However, for the purposes of clarification, Type Np streams include intermittent dry portions of the channel below the uppermost point of perennial flow. If the uppermost point of perennial flow cannot be identified with simple, nontechnical observations (see Washington Forest Practices Board Manual, Section 23), then said point shall be determined by a qualified professional selected or approved by the city.

(iv) Type Ns Stream. Those stream segments within the ordinary high water mark that are not Type S, Type F, or Type Np streams. These include seasonal streams in which surface flow is not present for at least some portion of a year of normal rainfall and that are not located downstream from any Type Np stream segment.

(85) Fish and Wildlife Habitat Buffer Areas.

(a) The establishment of buffer areas shall be required for regulated activities in or adjacent to habitat areas. Buffers shall consist of an undisturbed area of native vegetation established to protect the integrity, functions and values of the affected habitat. Activities within buffers should not result in any net loss of the functions and values associated with streams and their buffers.

(i) The following buffer widths are established:

Table 5-

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Buffer Widths

Streams	Buffer	
Type S	150 feet	
Pilchuck River		
Stillaguamish River		
Type F	100 feet	
Drainage from Lake Gardner below dam		
Type Np	75 feet	
To be identified by applicant		
Type Ns	50 feet	
To be identified by applicant		

(i) Fish and wildlife habitat buffers shall be the site potential tree height, as depicted on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Site-Potential Tree Height (SPTH) Mapping Tool, or 150 feet, whichever is less.

(ii) Federal, State and Local Habitats and Species.

A. Except for waters subject to subsection (j)(8)(a) of this section, and bald eagles subject to subsection (j)(8)(a)(ii)(B) of this section, the establishment of buffer areas may be required for regulated activities in or adjacent to federal, state and local species and habitat areas as designated pursuant to this section. Buffers shall consist of an undisturbed area of native vegetation established to protect the integrity, functions and values of the affected habitat. Required buffer widths shall reflect the sensitivity of the habitat and the type and intensity of human activity proposed to be conducted nearby. Buffers shall be determined by the department based on information in the biological/habitat report, supplemented by its own investigations, the intensity and design of the proposed use, and adjacent uses and activities. Buffers are not intended to be established or to function independently of the habitat they are established to protect. Buffers shall be measured from the edge of the habitat area.

B. Bald eagle habitat shall be protected pursuant to the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act [Washington State Bald Eagle Protection Rules \(WAC 232-12-292\)](#).

(b) Where existing buffer area plantings provide minimal vegetative cover and cannot provide the minimum water quality or habitat functions, buffer enhancement shall be required. Where buffer enhancement is required, a plan shall be prepared that includes plant densities that are not less than five feet on center for shrubs and 10 feet on center for trees. Monitoring and maintenance of plants shall be required in accordance with this section. Existing buffer vegetation is considered "inadequate" and will require enhancement through additional native plantings and removal of nonnative plants when:

- (i) Nonnative or invasive plant species provide the dominate cover;
- (ii) Vegetation is lacking due to disturbance and stream resources could be adversely affected; or
- (iii) Enhancement planting in the buffer could significantly improve buffer functions. If, according to the buffer enhancement plan, additional buffer mitigation is not sufficient to protect the habitat, the city shall require larger buffers where it is necessary to protect habitat functions based on site-specific characteristics.

(c) Measurement of Buffers.

- (i) Stream Buffers. All buffers shall be measured from the ordinary high water mark as identified in the field or, if that cannot be determined, from the top of the bank. In braided channels and alluvial fans, the ordinary high water mark or top of bank shall be determined so as to include the entire stream feature;
- (ii) Combination Buffers. Any stream adjoined by a wetland or other adjacent habitat area shall have the buffer which applies to the wetland or other habitat area unless the stream buffer requirements are more expansive.

(d) Buffer widths may be modified by averaging buffer widths as set forth herein:

- (i) Buffer width averaging shall be allowed only where the applicant demonstrates to the designated official that the average will not impair or reduce habitat, water quality purification and enhancement, stormwater detention, ground water recharge, shoreline protection and erosion protection and other functions of the stream and buffer, that the lower intensity land uses would be located adjacent to areas where the buffer width is reduced, and that the total area contained within the buffer after averaging is no less than that contained within the standard buffer prior to averaging.

(ii) Notwithstanding the reductions permitted in subsection (J)(8)(d)(i) of this section, buffer widths shall not be reduced by more than 25 percent of the required buffer.

(e) The buffer width stated in subsection (J)(8)(a)(i) of this section shall be increased in the following circumstances:

(i) When the adjacent land is susceptible to severe erosion and erosion control measures will not effectively prevent adverse habitat impacts; or

(ii) When the standard buffer has minimal or degraded vegetative cover that cannot be improved through enhancement; or

(iii) When the minimum buffer for a habitat extends into an area with a slope of greater than 25 percent, the buffer shall be the greater of:

A. The minimum buffer for that particular habitat; or

B. Twenty-five feet beyond the point where the slope becomes 25 percent or less.

(f) The designated official may authorize the following low impact uses and activities, provided they are consistent with the purpose and function of the habitat buffer ~~and~~, do not detract from its integrity, and are determined by a qualified scientific professional to have no detrimental impact. The uses and activities may be permitted within the buffer depending on the sensitivity of the habitat involved. To the extent reasonably practicable, examples of uses and activities which may be permitted in appropriate cases include pedestrian trails, viewing platforms, interpretive signage, utility easements and the installation of underground utilities pursuant to best management practices. Uses permitted within the buffer shall be located in the outer 25 percent of the buffer.

(g) Trails and Open Space. For walkways and trails, associated open space in critical buffers located on public property or on private property where easements or agreements have been granted for such purposes, all of the following criteria shall be met:

(i) The trail, walkway and associated open space shall be consistent with the comprehensive parks, recreation, and open space master plan. The city may allow private trails as a part of the ~~approval~~-site plan, subdivision or other land use permit approvals.

(ii) Trails and walkways shall be located in the outer 25 percent of the buffer, i.e., the portion of the buffer that is farther away from the critical area. Exceptions to this requirement may be made for:

A. Trail segments connecting to existing trails where an alternative alignment is not practical.

B. Public access points to water bodies spaced periodically along the trail.

(iii) Enhancement of the buffer area is required where trails are located in the buffer. Where enhancement of the buffer area adjacent to a trail is not feasible due to existing high quality vegetation, additional buffer area or other mitigation may be required.

(iv) Trail widths shall be a maximum width of 10 feet. Trails shall be constructed of permeable materials; provided, that impervious materials may be allowed if pavement is required for handicapped or emergency access, or safety, or is a designated nonmotorized transportation route or makes a connection to an already dedicated trail, or reduces potential for other environmental impacts.

(h) Allowed Activity – Utilities in Streams. New utility lines and facilities may be permitted to cross water bodies in accordance with an approved supplemental stream/lake study if they comply with the following criteria:

(i) Fish and wildlife habitat areas shall be avoided to the maximum extent possible; and

(ii) The utility is designed consistent with one or more of the following methods:

A. Installation shall be accomplished by boring beneath the scour depth and hyporheic zone of the water body and channel migration zone; or

B. The utilities shall cross at an angle greater than 60 degrees to the centerline of the channel in streams perpendicular to the channel centerline; or

C. Crossings shall be contained within the footprint of an existing road or utility crossing; and

(iii) New utility routes shall avoid paralleling the stream or following a down-valley course near the channel; and

(iv) The utility installation shall not increase or decrease the natural rate of shore migration or channel migration; and

(v) Seasonal work windows are determined and made a condition of approval; and

(vi) Mitigation criteria of this section are met.

(i) Stormwater management facilities, such as biofiltration swales, may be located within the outer 25 percent of buffers only if they will have no negative effect on the functions and purpose the buffers serve for the fish and wildlife habitat areas, as determined by a qualified scientific professional. Stormwater detention ponds shall not be allowed in fish and wildlife habitat areas or their required buffers.

(j) For subdivisions and short subdivisions, the applicable wetland and associated buffer requirements for any development or redevelopment of uses specifically identified in, and approved as part of, the original subdivision or short subdivision application shall be those requirements in effect at the time that the complete subdivision application was filed; provided, that for subdivisions this provision shall be limited to final plats reviewed and approved under Chapter [19.05](#) GFMC or as amended at the time of final plat approval. However, at the discretion of the designated official a buffer enhancement plan may be required in accordance with subsection (j)(8)(b)(iii) of this section if the wetland or buffer has become degraded or is currently not functioning or if the wetland and/or buffer may be negatively affected by the proposed new development.

(k) Minor additions or alterations such as decks and small additions less than 120 square feet, interior remodels, or tenant improvements which have no impact on the habitat or buffer shall be exempt from the buffer enhancement requirements.

(l) Required buffers shall not deny all reasonable use of property. A variance from buffer width requirements may be granted by the hearing examiner upon a showing by the applicant that:

(i) There are special circumstances applicable to the subject property or to the intended use such as shape, topography, location or surroundings that do not apply generally to other properties and which support the granting of a variance from the buffer width requirements; and

(ii) Such buffer width variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use possessed by other similarly situated property but which because of special circumstances is denied to the property in question; and

(iii) The granting of such buffer width variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvement; and

(iv) The granting of the buffer width variance will not materially affect the subject habitat area; and

(v) If a variance application for stream buffers is merged with a pending shoreline development permit application, the applicant shall pay the city a single fee equal to the amount of the shoreline permit; and

(vi) No variance from stream buffers shall be granted which is inconsistent with the policies of the Shoreline Management Act of the state of Washington and the city's shoreline master program of the city of Granite Falls; and

(vii) Best available science, as set forth in this section, shall be taken into consideration in the granting of a buffer width variance.

(96) Fish and Wildlife Habitat Alteration and Mitigation. After careful consideration of the potential impacts and a determination that impacts are unavoidable, unavoidable impacts to streams, associated fish buffers and wildlife habitat not exempt under this section, granted a variance under this section, or meeting the criteria for a reasonable use exemption shall be mitigated as follows:

(a) Adverse impacts to habitat functions and values shall be mitigated to the extent feasible and reasonable. Mitigation actions by an applicant or property owner shall occur in the following preferred sequence:

(i) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of actions;

(ii) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of magnitude of the action and its implementation, by using appropriate technology, or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce impacts;

(iii) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;

(iv) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations;

(v) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments;

(vi) Monitoring the impact and taking appropriate corrective measures in accordance with this section.

(b) Where impacts cannot be avoided, the applicant or property owner shall implement other appropriate mitigation actions in compliance with the intent, standards and criteria of this section. In an individual case, these actions may include consideration of alternative site plans and layouts, reductions in the density or scope of the proposal, and implementation of the performance standards listed in this section.

(c) Alteration of habitat and their buffers may be permitted by the designated official subject to the following standards:

(i) Type S Streams. Alterations of Type S streams shall be avoided, subject to the reasonable use provisions of this chapter and conformance with the city of Granite Falls shoreline management master program. Access to the shoreline will be permitted for water-dependent and water-oriented uses subject to the mitigation sequence referred to in subsections (j)(9)(a) and (b) of this section;

(ii) Type F, Np and Ns Streams. Alterations of Type F, Np and Ns streams may be permitted; provided, that the applicant mitigates adverse impacts consistent with the performance standards and other requirements of this chapter; and provided, that no overall net loss will occur in stream functions and fish habitat;

(iii) Relocation of a stream may occur only when it is part of an approved mitigation or rehabilitation plan, and will result in equal or better habitat and water quality, and will not diminish the flow capacity of the stream.

(407) Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Standards, Criteria and Plan Requirements.

(a) Location and Timing of Mitigation.

(i) Mitigation shall be provided on site, except where on-site mitigation is not scientifically feasible or practical due to physical features of the property. The burden of proof shall be on the applicant to demonstrate that mitigation cannot be provided on site.

(ii) When mitigation cannot be provided on site, mitigation shall be provided in the immediate vicinity of and within the same watershed as the permitted activity on property owned and controlled by the applicant, where practical and beneficial to the fish and wildlife habitat resources. When possible, this means within the same watershed as the location of the proposed project. Off-site mitigation within the same watershed will be preferred to on-site mitigation when the results can achieve greater benefits or functions than on-site mitigation, or would restore or enhance functions that are limiting or important to the health of the watershed.

(iii) In-kind mitigation, as defined in this section, shall be provided except when the applicant demonstrates and the designated official concurs the greater functional and habitat value can be achieved through out-of-kind mitigation, as defined in this section.

(iv) Only when it is determined by the designated official that subsections (J)(10)(a)(i), (ii) and (iii) of this section are inappropriate or impractical shall off-site out-of-kind mitigation be considered.

(v) Any agreed-upon proposal shall be completed before initiation of other permitted activities, unless a phased or concurrent schedule has been approved by the designated official.

(b) Wetland Mitigation Banks. Wetland mitigation banks are a site where wetlands are restored, created, enhanced or, in exceptional circumstances, preserved expressly for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation in advance of authorized impacts to similar resources.

(i) Credits from a wetland bank may be approved for use as compensation for unavoidable impacts to wetlands when:

(A) The bank is certified under Chapter 173-700 WAC;

(B) The community designated official determines that the wetland mitigation bank provides appropriate compensation for the authorized impacts; and

(C) The proposed use of credits is consistent with the terms and conditions of the bank's certification.

(ii) Replacement ratios for projects using bank credits shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of the bank's certification.

(iii) Credits from a certified wetland mitigation bank may be used to compensate for impacts located within the service area specified in the bank's certification. In some cases, bank service areas may include portions of more than one adjacent drainage basin for specific wetland functions.

~~(118)~~ Fish and Wildlife Habitat Performance Standards and Incentives.

(a) The habitat performance standards and criteria contained in this section shall be incorporated into plans submitted for regulated activities. It is recognized that in specific situations, all the listed standards may not apply or be feasible to implement

or individual standards may conflict, in which case the standard(s) most protective of the environment shall apply.

- (i) Consider habitat in site planning and design;
- (ii) Locate buildings and structures in a manner that preserves and minimizes adverse impacts to important habitat areas;
- (iii) Integrate retained habitat into open space and landscaping;
- (iv) Where possible, consolidate habitat and vegetated open space in contiguous blocks;
- (v) Locate habitat contiguous to other habitat areas, open space or landscaped areas to contribute to a continuous system or corridor that provides connections to adjacent habitat areas and allows movement of wildlife;
- (vi) Use native species in any landscaping of disturbed or undeveloped areas and in any enhancement of habitat or buffers;
- (vii) Emphasize heterogeneity and structural diversity of vegetation in landscaping, and food-producing plants beneficial to wildlife and fish;
- (viii) Remove and control any noxious or undesirable species of plants and animals;
- (ix) Preserve significant trees and snags, preferably in groups, consistent with achieving the objectives of these standards;
- (x) Buffers shall be surveyed, staked, and fenced with erosion control and/or clearing limits fencing prior to any construction work, including grading and clearing, that may take place on the site; and
- (xi) Temporary and erosion sedimentation controls, pursuant to an approved plan, shall be implemented during construction.

(b) A landscape plan shall be submitted consistent with the requirements, goals, and standards of this chapter. The plan shall reflect the report prepared pursuant to this section.

(c) As an incentive to encourage preservation of secondary and tertiary habitat, as those terms are defined in this chapter, the net amount of landscaping required by the city of Granite Falls may be reduced by one-quarter acre for each one acre of secondary or tertiary habitat and buffer preserved on the site; however, that amount

cannot exceed 50 percent of the amount of required landscaping. The reduction shall be calculated on the basis of square feet of habitat preserved or enhanced and square feet of landscaping required. Habitat and habitat buffer that is enhanced by the applicant may also qualify for this reduction. Preservation of secondary or tertiary habitat shall be assured by the execution of an easement or other protective device acceptable to the city of Granite Falls.

(129) Fish and Wildlife Habitat Monitoring Program and Contingency Plan.

(a) A monitoring program shall be implemented to determine the success of the mitigation project and any necessary corrective actions. This program shall determine if the original goals and objectives are being met.

(b) A contingency plan shall be established for compensation in the event that the mitigation project is inadequate or fails. A performance, monitoring, and maintenance bond or other acceptable security device is required to ensure the applicant's compliance with the terms of the mitigation agreement. The amount of the performance, monitoring, and maintenance bond shall equal 125 percent of the cost of the mitigation project for a period of five years; provided, that the designated official may agree to reduce the bond in phases, in proportion to work successfully completed over the period of the bond. Failure to complete any required performance, monitoring, and maintenance shall result in forfeiture of the guarantee. Applicants who have previously defaulted will no longer be allowed to post a bond for performance, monitoring, and maintenance but will instead be required to submit an assignment of bank account to the city of Granite Falls for two times the cost of the mitigation project.

(c) The monitoring program shall consist of the following:

(i) During monitoring, best available scientific procedures shall be used as the method of establishing the success or failure of the project;

(ii) For vegetation determinations, permanent sampling points shall be established;

(iii) For measurement purposes, vegetative success shall equal 80 percent survival of planted trees and shrubs and 80 percent cover of desirable understory or emergent species;

(iv) Monitoring reports shall be submitted on the current status of the mitigation project to the designated official. The reports shall be prepared by a qualified scientific professional and reviewed by the city, shall to the extent applicable include monitoring information on wildlife, vegetation, water quality, water flow,

stormwater storage and conveyance, and existing or potential degradation, and shall be produced on the following schedule:

- A. At time of construction;
- B. Thirty days after planting;
- C. Early in the growing season of the first year;
- D. End of the growing season of first year;
- E. Twice the second year; and
- F. Annually thereafter;

(v) Monitoring shall occur three, four or five growing seasons, depending on the complexity of the fish and wildlife habitat system. The monitoring period will be determined by the designated official and specified in writing prior to the implementation of the site plan;

(vi) The applicant shall, if necessary, correct for failures in the mitigation project;

(vii) The applicant shall replace dead or undesirable vegetation with appropriate plantings based on the approved planting plan or this section;

(viii) The applicant shall repair damage caused by erosion, settling, or other geomorphological processes;

(ix) Correction procedures shall be approved by a qualified scientific professional and the designated official; and

(x) In the event of failure of the mitigation project, the applicant shall redesign the project and implement the new design.

(1310) Aquifer Recharge Areas.

(a) The following regulations for aquifer recharge areas are consistent with the Department of Ecology's critical aquifer recharge areas (CARAs) guidance.

(b) ~~Requirement for Hydrogeologic Assessment.~~ The following uses of land shall ~~require a hydrogeologic assessment of the proposed site~~ be prohibited if the site is located within a sole source aquifer recharge area as mapped by Snohomish County or a wellhead protection area mapped by Washington State Department of Health ~~high significance aquifer recharge area~~:

- (i) Hazardous substance processing or handling;
- (ii) Hazardous waste treatment and storage facility;
- (iii) Disposal of on-site sewage for subdivisions, short plats, and commercial and industrial sites;
- (iv) Feedlots;
- (v) Landfills;
- (vi) Sludge land application sites over 40 acres or with an annual application rate of greater than two dry tons of sludge per acre.

(c) Requirement for Hydrogeologic Assessment.

(i) A hydrogeologic assessment may be required by the designated official for projects that may pose significant potential risk for groundwater contamination within a high significance sole source aquifer recharge area as mapped by Snohomish County or a wellhead protection area mapped by Washington State Department of Health.

(ii) If an applicant wishes to request a change in the CARA classification of one or more parcels, a hydrogeologic assessment is required. This request shall require the applicant to submit an application for code amendment to amend the CARA map. The assessment must include sufficient geologic and/or groundwater flow information to justify a change in CARA classification. Requests to change the CARA classification will be evaluated by the City at the expense of the applicant. The City's evaluation may entail further model runs or hydrogeologic analysis. If the challenge is successful, the hydrogeologic critical areas assessment will be incorporated into the City's surface geologic mapping and an updated CARA map adopted by City Council as part of the code amendment process.

(d) Contents of the Hydrogeologic Assessment.

(i) The hydrogeologic assessment shall be submitted and stamped by a licensed professional hydrogeologist firm with experience in preparing hydrogeologic assessments.

(ii) The hydrogeologic assessment must show that the use does not pose a threat to anythe aquifer system and that the proposed use will not cause contaminants to enter anythe aquifer used for water supply.

(iii) Uses requiring a hydrogeologic assessment may be conditioned or denied based upon the city's evaluation of the hydrogeologic assessment. Any project denied a permit based on the city's evaluation shall receive a written explanation of the reason(s) for the denial and an explanation of the measures required, if any, to comply with these regulations.

(de) The hydrogeologic assessment shall include but is not limited to:

- (i) Information sources;
- (ii) Geologic setting;
- (iii) Background water quality;
- (iv) Location and depth to perched water tables;
- (v) Recharge potential of the facility site;
- (vi) Ground water flow direction and gradient;
- (vii) Currently available data on wells within 1,000 feet of the site;
- (viii) Currently available data on springs within 1,000 feet of the site;
- (ix) Surface water location and recharge potential;
- (x) Discussion of the effects of the proposed project on the ground water resource;
- (xi) Other information as may be required by the city;
- (xii) All wellhead zones shall be protected if classified as a sole-source aquifer.

(e) Impervious Surfaces. Uses located within high significance aquifer recharge areas and that are not required to submit a hydrogeologic assessment shall minimize the extent of impervious surfaces on the site.

(1411) Flood Hazard Areas. Development sites within flood hazard areas shall conform to the requirements of the Snohomish County shorelines master program, ~~and to the~~ requirements of subsection (I)(6) of this section, and the requirements of Section 19.07.035. The requirements for developments in flood hazard areas shall be consistent with the FEMA requirements for the National Flood Hazard Insurance Program. [Ord. 960 § 14 (Exh. M), 2018; Ord. 925 § 2 (Exh. A), 2017; Ord. 905 § 1 (Att. A), 2016; Ord. 904 § 29, 2015; Ord. 862 § 52, 2013; Ord. 740 § 1 (Exh. A), 2007.]

Appendix A

Best Available Science Resources: Wetlands

Appendix A

Best Available Science Resources: Wetlands

Identification and Delineation

1. Anderson, P.S., S. Meyer, P. Olson, and E. Stockdale. 2016. Determining the Ordinary High Water Mark for Shoreline Management Act Compliance in Washington State. Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program Washington State Department of Ecology Olympia, Washington. Publication No. 16-06-029.
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3. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2010. Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region. Version 2. Wetlands Regulatory Assistance Program. May 2010. ERDC/EL TR-10-3. Available at: <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p266001coll1/id/7646>.
4. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District. 2011. Electronic Permit Guidebook. Available at: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Regulatory/PermitGuidebook/Wetlands.aspx>.
5. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2025. National Wetlands Inventory website. Available at: <https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper>.
6. Washington Department of Ecology. 1997. Washington State Wetlands Identification and Delineation Manual. Publication No. 96-94.

Classification

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Rating System

1. Hruba, T. and Yahnke, A. 2023. Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington: 2014 Update, Version 2.0. Washington Department of Ecology. Publication No. 23-06-009.

Function Assessment

1. Cooke Scientific Services. February 2000. Wetland and Buffer Functions Semi-Quantitative Assessment Methodology (SAM).

2. Washington Department of Ecology. 2022. Wetland Guidance for Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Updates: Western and Eastern Washington. Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program. Olympia, Washington October 2022, Publication No. 22-06-014.
3. Washington State Department of Transportation. June 2000. Wetland Functions Characterization Tool For Linear Projects. Wetland Strategic Plan Implementation Project.

Mitigation

1. Hruby, T. 2012. Calculating Credits and Debits for Compensatory Mitigation in Wetlands of Western Washington. Ecology Publication No. 10-06-011. Available at: <<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1006011.pdf>>.
2. Hruby, T., K. Harper, and S. Stanley. 2009. Selecting Wetland Mitigation Sites Using a Watershed Approach. Washington State Department of Ecology Publication No. 09-06-032. Olympia, Washington. Available at: <<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/0906032.html>>
3. Interagency Review Team. 2022. Bank Use Plan: Using Credits from Wetland Mitigation Banks: Guidance to Permit Applicants on Submittal Contents for Bank Use Plans.
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5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2008. Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources. Final Rule. Federal Register 73(70): 19594-19705.
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7. Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). 2012. Advance Permittee-Responsible Mitigation. Ecology Publication No. 12-06-015. Available at: <<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1206015.pdf>>.
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5. Semlitsch, R. and J. B. Jensen. 2001. Core Habitat, Not Buffer Zone. National Wetlands Newsletter July.
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General Wetland Resources

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4. NRCS. 2025. Web Soil Survey website. Available at: <<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>>.
5. Sheldon, D., T. Hruby, P. Johnson, K. Harper, A. McMillan, T. Granger, S. Stanley, and E. Stockdale. 2005. Wetlands in Washington State - Volume 1: A Synthesis of the Science. Washington State Department of Ecology. Publication No. 05-06-006. Olympia, Washington.
6. Washington State Department of Ecology. Publication No. 05-06-008. Olympia, Washington.

Appendix B

Best Available Science Resources: Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Appendix B

Best Available Science Resources: Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

1. Snohomish County. 2025. PDS Map Portal: Aquifer Layers.
2. NRCS. 2025. Web Soil Survey website. Available at:
<<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>>.
3. Washington Department of Ecology. 2021. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas – Guidance Document. Publication No. 05-10-028. Revised March 2021.

Appendix C

Best Available Science Resources: Frequently Flooded Areas

Appendix C

Best Available Science Resources: Frequently Flooded Areas

Classification

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2020. Flood Insurance Rate Map. Snohomish County and Incorporated Areas. Panel 755 of 1575. Map Number 53061C0755F. June 19, 2020.

Guidance

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2002. CRS Credit for Higher Regulatory Standards. Indianapolis, Indiana.
2. Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2009. National Floodplain Insurance Program Floodplain Management Guidebook. FEMA – Region 10. Bothell, Washington.
3. Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2013. National Floodplain Insurance Program Community Rating System Coordinator’s Manual. FIA-15/2013. Indianapolis, Indiana.
4. Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2013. Model Ordinance for Floodplain Management under the National Flood Insurance Program and the Endangered Species Act. FEMA - Region 10. Bothell, Washington.
5. Washington State Department of Ecology. 2025. Guidance to Local Governments on Frequently Flooded Area Updates in CAOs. Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program. Olympia, Washington.
6. Washington State Department of Ecology. 2019. Comprehensive planning for flood hazard management: A guidebook. Publication No. 21-06-019.

Appendix D

Best Available Science Resources: Geologically Hazardous Areas

Appendix D

Best Available Science Resources: Geologically Hazardous Areas

Erosion Hazard Areas

1. Snohomish County. 2025. Natural Hazard Viewer.

Landslide Hazard Areas

1. Snohomish County. 2025. Natural Hazard Viewer.

Geologic Maps

1. Dragovich, J.D., S.P. Mavor, M.L. Anderson, S.A. Mahan, J.H. MacDonald Jr., J.H. Tepper, D.T. Smith, B.A. Stoker, C.J. Koger, R. Cakir, S.A. DuFrane, S.P. Scott, and B.P. Justman. 2016. Geologic Map of the Granite Falls 7.5-minute Quadrangle, Snohomish County, Washington. Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources Map Series 2016-03.

Seismic Hazard Areas

1. Palmer, S.P. S.L. Magsino, E.L. Bilderback, J.L. Poelstra, D.S. Folger, and R.A. Niggemann. 2004. Liquefaction Susceptibility Map of Snohomish County, Washington. Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources. Open File Report 2004-20.

Appendix E

Best Available Science Resources: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Appendix E

Best Available Science Resources: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Species Classification

1. Cullinan, T. 2001. Important Bird Areas of Washington. Audubon Washington.
2. Washington Department of Natural Resources. 1997. Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Vascular Plants of Washington with Working Lists of Rare Non-vascular Species. Washington Natural Heritage Program.

Species Guidance

1. Almack, J. 1995. Washington Grizzly Bear and Gray Wolf Research Project 1981-1995. Vols. 1-6
2. Corkran, C.C. and C. Thoms. 1996. Amphibians of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. Canada: Lone Pine Publishing.
3. Eschmeyer, W.N. and E.S. Herald. 1983. A Field Guide to Pacific Coast Fishes: North America. Boston: Houston Mifflin Company.
4. Knight, K. 2009. Land Use Planning for Salmon, Steelhead and Trout. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Olympia, Washington.
5. Larson, E.M., Rodrick, E., and Milner, R, editors. 1995. Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, volume I: Invertebrates.
6. Leonard, W.P., H.A. Brown, L.C. Jones, K.R. McAllister, and R.M. Storm. 1993. Seattle Audubon Society The Trailside Series: Amphibians of Washington and Oregon. Seattle Audubon Society.
7. Lusch, Ed. 1985. Comprehensive Guide to Western Gamefish. Portland: Frank Amato Publications.
8. Morgan, J.T. 1998. Annotated Bibliography for Washington's Priority Habitats: Freshwater Wetlands and Fresh Deepwater. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
9. National Marine Fisheries Service. 2008. Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Design. NMFS, Northwest Region. Portland, Oregon.
10. Pollard, W.R., G.F. Hartman, C. Groot, and P. Edgell. 1997. Field Identification of Coastal Juvenile Salmonids. Harbour Publishing.
11. Rodrick, E. and Milner, R., editors. 1991. Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats and Species. Wildlife Management, Fish Management, and Habitat Management Divisions, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

12. Sibley, David Allen. 2000. *The National Audubon Society: The Sibley Guide to Birds*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
13. Stebbins, Robert C. 1966. *The Peterson Field Guide Series: A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians*. Boston: Houston Mifflin Company.
14. Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2009. *Landscape Planning for Washington's Wildlife: Managing for Biodiversity in Developing Areas*. Olympia, Washington.
15. Whitaker, John O. Jr. 1980. *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mammals*. Alfred A. Knopf, Incorporated.

Naturally Occurring Ponds (Under 20 Acres)

1. Morgan, J.T. 1998. *Annotated Bibliography for Washington's Priority Habitats: Freshwater Wetlands and Fresh Deepwater*. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Streams and Rivers

1. Barnard, R. J., J. Johnson, P. Brooks, K. M. Bates, B. Heiner, J. P. Klavas, D.C. Ponder, P.D. Smith, and P. D. Powers. 2013. *Water Crossings Design Guidelines*. WDFW, Olympia.
2. Bolton, S. and Shellberg, J. 2001. *White Paper: Ecological Issues in Floodplains and Riparian Corridors*. Center for Streamside Studies, University of Washington. 150 pp.
3. Cramer, M.L. 2012. *Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines*. Co-published by the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, Transportation and Ecology, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Puget Sound Partnership, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Olympia, Washington.
4. Knutson, K.L. and Naef, V.L. 1997. *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats: Riparian*. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
5. Kusler, J.A. 2011. *Assessing the Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains: Issues and Approaches; Future Directions*. Prepared for the Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc. Berne, New York. October 18, 2011.
6. May, C.W. 2003. *Stream-riparian Ecosystems in Puget Sound Lowland Eco-region: A Review of Best Available Science*. Watershed Ecology LLC.
7. Mayer, P.M., S.K. Reynolds, M.D. McCutchen, and T.J. Canfield. 2006. *Riparian Buffer Width, Vegetative Cover, and Nitrogen Removal Effectiveness: A Review of Current Science and Regulations*. EPA/600/R-05/118. Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
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9. Rentz, T., A. Windrope, K. Folkerts, and J. Azerrad. 2020. *Riparian Ecosystems, Volume 2: Management Recommendations*. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. December.
10. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2023. *Riparian Management Zone Checklist for Critical Areas Ordinances*. April.

11. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2025. Guidelines for Determining Site Potential Tree Height from Field Measurements. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington.
12. Washington, State of. WAC 222-16-030 defines water types and a water typing system.

Water, Including Lakes, Ponds, Streams, and Rivers Where Fish Have Been Released

1. Local governments should consult with the local tribal entities and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for the latest finfish release information.

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
6730 Martin Way East
Olympia, Washington 98512
(360) 438-1180

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Program
600 Capital Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091
(360) 902-2700

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
3322 236th Street Northeast
Arlington, Washington 98223
(360) 652-7362

The Tulalip Tribes
6406 Marine Drive
Tulalip, Washington 98271
(360) 716-4000

2. Morgan, J.T. 1998. Annotated Bibliography for Washington's Priority Habitats: Freshwater Wetlands and Fresh Deepwater. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Appendix F

Priority Habitats

Appendix F

Priority Habitats

State Listed Habitat

As of October 2025, the state list of priority habitats that may be within the Granite Falls area include:

- Herbaceous balds
- Freshwater wetlands and fresh deepwater
- Instream habitat
- Old growth / mature forest
- West side prairie
- Riparian
- Rural natural open space
- Snags and logs
- Talus



NOTICE OF PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS AND DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Granite Falls is in the process of adopting code amendments to Granite Falls Municipal Code (GFMC) 19.07.020, Critical Areas Regulations:

PROJECT NAME/FILE NUMBER: Granite Falls Critical Areas Ordinance Amendments

APPLICANT/PROPONENT: City of Granite Falls

LEAD AGENCY: City of Granite Falls

PROJECT LOCATION: Citywide (Non-project action)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed non-project action is for amendments to the Granite Falls Municipal Code (GFMC) 19.07.020, Critical Areas Regulations. Several updates have been made to align with current best available science. Proposed amendments include revising the following sections: GFMC 19.07.020.A.2 to add definitions, GFMC 19.07.020.D to add additional standards for reasonable use exceptions, GFMC 19.07.020.I to include channel migration hazards as a geologically hazardous area, GFMC 19.07.020.J to revise buffer width and replacement ratio requirements for wetlands and to revise buffer width requirements for fish and wildlife habitat areas, to provide standards for off-site mitigation by purchasing mitigation bank credits in GFMC 19.07.020 (J)(7), and various sections throughout the code to reference most recent best available science.

LIST OF REQUIRED ACTIONS: Recommendation by Planning Commission with final adoption of an ordinance by City Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PREPARED: SEPA DNS and Environmental Checklist

SEPA DETERMINATION/ISSUANCE DATE: February 4, 2026

END OF COMMENT PERIOD: February 18, 2026

SEPA THRESHOLD DETERMINATION: The City has determined that this proposal would not have a probable and unavoidable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after reviewing a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request. This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issuance.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Brent Kirk, Deputy City Manager – brent.kirk@ci.granite-falls.wa.us

PHONE NUMBER: (360) 691-6441

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 1440, Granite Falls, WA 98252

PUBLIC COMMENT AND APPEALS: Upon publication of the issuance of the SEPA determination, there is a 14-day comment / appeal period. The deadline for public comment and appeals is 4:00 pm, February 18, 2026. Interested parties may view the project file at Granite Falls City Hall (215 South Granite Avenue) Monday-Friday 8 am to 5 pm. The appeals must be in written form and contain a concise statement of the matter being appealed. A fee is required per the City's Fee resolution. All comments or appeals are to be directed to City Hall, Attn: Responsible Official to the mailing address above.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Distribution: Official City Notification Boards (City Hall, Post Office)
Everett Herald
State Distribution List



PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA BILL

Subject: 6.B.

Originating Dept.: Planning Department

Action Recommended:

Approval(s):

Meeting Date: February 10, 2026

Date Submitted:

Exhibit(s):

1. Draft PROS Plan

Budgeted Amount:

BARS Code:

Summary Statement:

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) is a policy document that guides the planning, development, and maintenance of parks, recreational facilities, trails, and open space within the community. The Plan establishes a shared vision and framework to ensure that recreational amenities and open spaces meet the current and future needs of residents while supporting environmental stewardship, public health, and quality of life.

The PROS Plan evaluates existing parks and recreational assets, identifies community needs and service gaps, and sets priorities for future improvements and investments. It incorporates public input, demographic trends, and best practices to recommend strategies for land acquisition, facility development, connectivity, and resource conservation.

This agenda item is presented for Planning Commission review and consideration. Commission feedback will help ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and other adopted policies, and will inform refinement of the Plan prior to adoption by City Council.

Background:

Recommended Motion:



CITY OF
GRANITE FALLS

GRANITE FALLS PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

MARCH 2026



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CITY STAFF

<u>CITY MANAGER</u>	JEFF BALENTINE
<u>DEPUTY CITY MANAGER</u>	BRENT KIRK
<u>PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR</u>	CHARLES WHITE
<u>PLANNING DIRECTOR</u>	AMY HESS
<u>CITY CLERK</u>	DARLA WILKINS

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MATT HARTMAN
TOM FITZGERALD
STEVEN GLENN
DAVID GRIGGS
BRUCE STRAUGHN

PLANNING COMMISSION

FRED CRUGER
SCOTT MORRISON
JUDE ANDERSON
LOREN TONSGARD
LAURA HOUK

CONSULTANT ERIC JENSEN, EJ MUNICIPAL LAND USE PLANNING LLC.





SECTION I INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

The PROS Plan update began in late 2025 with the intent to have a completed plan ready for adoption in Spring 2026. The plan is part of a nearly year-long effort to determine Granite Falls' needs for parks, recreation, and open spaces over the next 20 years.

Public engagement was at the forefront of planning efforts to encourage feedback on park quality, priority investment areas, and what the parks system should look like in the future.

An examination of the existing parks and facilities was completed to quantify the existing level of service of the parks. The survey recorded the quality and availability of park amenities, structures, and facilities as well as identified maintenance improvement projects for the City to consider investment in. A separate walkability evaluation was completed to verify deficiencies in pedestrian accessibility to facilities from nearby neighborhoods.

The engagement and examination phases of the process led to the evaluation phase. A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was developed with the most recent Comprehensive Plan Update to improve the parks system. The CIP describes the timing, implementation, estimated construction costs, and scope of work proposed for each project.

The proposed projects represent a culmination of efforts from the City, the public, and consultant to ensure a consistent and representative plan that will direct parks and recreation improvements, maintenance, and funding over the next 20 years.



Photo by Ronnie Christine Hudgins



Chapter 2

BENEFITS AND PURPOSE OF PROS PLAN

The Granite Falls Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan is a Plan incorporating the relevant tenets of the recently adopted 2024 Granite Falls Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Such PROS plans are required by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and are typically updated every six (6) years to meet grant eligibility and Growth Management Act (GMA) planning requirements. The plan addresses the anticipated population growth over the next 20 years by proposing changes to the existing park system.

A PROS Plan is a guide for City of Granite Falls staff or representatives to make decisions or take action on the parks and recreation program. The plan outlines the minimum service provision requirements to develop and maintain an enjoyable, quality park. The plan describes the existing condition of the parks system and includes a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to address system deficiencies. The CIP will guide future park program investments for the planning period 2026-2031 and includes an estimate for improvement construction costs, an implementation timeline, and scope. Proposed projects are included in the City's CIP and Final Budget.

PROS planning is an opportunity for City staff to critically evaluate the performance and quality of existing services and facilities and to consider the impacts population growth will have on parks programming. The PROS Plan has been updated to incorporate recent changes to the City's demographics and facilities and establishes an energized vision of the future of Granite Falls' parks, recreation, and open spaces.



Photo by Carroll Butler



SECTION II ***PLANNING PROCESS***

Chapter 3

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Public input and engagement is vital to achieving an inclusive planning process. The City conducted a community outreach effort to understand current priorities and needs for the community. Several outreach methods were utilized to maximize engagement in the PROS process, including:

- **An online community survey**
- **A supplementary youth survey**
- **One (1) stakeholder meeting**
- **One (1) public open house**
- **Website updates on the planning process**
- **One (1) Planning Commission Meeting**
- **One (1) City Council Meeting**
- **One (1) Public Hearing**

Public feedback influenced Granite Falls' selection and prioritization of projects. Community feedback generated within the survey, stakeholder meeting, and public open house is located within the Appendices of this plan.





Chapter 4

BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE

Park and recreational facilities are foundational components of a healthy and engaged community. Parks can improve the physical and psychological health of residents, bring a resurgence in economic vitality, and can be tools for enhancing environmental quality. PROS strengthen our communities and have a variety of benefits worthy of consistent investment as described by the Trust for Public Land's report titled *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Spaces*.



Physical

Nearly half of Americans do not get the recommended minimum amount of physical activity in a day. Parks provide opportunities for fitness and active recreation, which improves physical and mental health. Physical activity is more likely to occur when residents are within a quarter mile of a park. Daily interaction with plants and nature facilitates the release of dopamine which improves moods.



Economic

Development and maintenance of parks can financially benefit retailers and residents. Tourism spurs economic activity, and parks are destinations that attract pass-by visitors. Tourism that can bring new dollars into the community. When there are recreational opportunities available at a free or low cost to residents, residents can benefit from those facilities and reduce potential medical costs associated with inactivity. Property values are enhanced when parks are within walking distance, increasing property tax values.



Social/community

Parks provide opportunities for camaraderie and interaction fostering relationships with neighbors creating a sense of community. The development of relationships with community members improves local connections and sense of place for residents. People who feel engaged with their community are more likely to participate in recreational activities and use communal spaces. A greater park presence from users reduces opportunities for crime.



Environmental

Parks and open spaces bring a wide variety of environmental benefits. Trees store water and reduce the rate stormwater flows into community facilities. Trees and plants purify the air by releasing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide. Tree canopies reduce the impacts of urban heat that is absorbed in hardscaped surfaces. Open spaces protect undisturbed habitats supporting the native wildlife. There is educational value in parks; signage at parks can provide information that fosters community stewardship for the environment.





SECTION III PARKS AND RECREATION IN GRANITE FALLS

Chapter 5

2024 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE

The Washington State 1990 Growth Management Act (GMA) requires all incorporated municipalities within Snohomish County to develop a comprehensive plan which includes addressing population growth impacts to government facilities and services. The GMA implements land use planning strategies to evaluate the predicted level of service needs associated with population growth and assess existing facilities or services.

The City of Granite Falls adopted its most recent 20-Year Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update in January 2024. Included within the Plan is a determined focus on Parks, Recreation and Open Space priorities for the City and its residents to provide desirable opportunities for recreation facilities and programs. The Periodic Update also addresses the prioritization of capital improvements and acquisitions for parks, recreation, and open space.

Additionally, GMA encourages jurisdictions to retain open space, develop recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop park facilities. Open space corridors are further referenced in the GMA requiring that land use plans include identification of "...open space corridors within and between urban areas. They should include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection for critical areas."

This PROS Plan will go into a higher level of detail with regards to existing facilities, prioritization of projects, and maintaining an appropriate level of service (LOS).

Granite Falls' residents have access to park and recreation facilities and programs provided by Snohomish County, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the National Forest Service. At the same time, residents outside of Granite Falls have access to city parks and recreation programs.

The 20-Year Plan's Park, Recreation, and Open Space element provides an inventory of park and recreation facilities in Granite Falls, sets service standards, and identifies goals, policies, and strategies for providing additional facilities and programs. The 20-year capital facilities plan for the City's park facilities are included in the Capital Facilities Element chapter of the City's 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update.



Chapter 6

2024 GRANITE FALLS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

Goal PR0-1 To provide quality parks and open space for Granite Falls citizens and visitors.

Policy PR0-1.1 Design and locate park facilities to adequately serve the needs of the current and projected population in the City of Granite Falls and of the City's visitors.

Policy PR0-1.2 Work with appropriate regional/county agencies to jointly finance parks and recreation facilities within the City and region.

Policy PR0-1.3 Use a combination of creative financing alternatives, impact fees, developer mitigation, grants, and cooperative strategies with the private sector to pay for the acquisition and construction of parks and acquisition of open space.

Policy PR0-1.4 Develop a plan for adequate and long-term maintenance for every public park prior to construction.

Policy PR0-1.5 Build a partnership with the State, County, and local entities to encourage the development of parks and public space throughout and for the region.

Policy PR0-1.6 Support Snohomish County in fulfilling its defined role of providing regional facilities, programs, parks, and open space.

Policy PR0-1.7 Maintain existing and/or future parks and recreation facilities using best management practices and best available science.

Policy PR0-1.8 Achieve and/or maintain parks and recreation capital facilities level-of-service (LOS) standards to establish long-term facility and funding requirements.

Policy PR0-1.9 Identify open space, trail, and park resources and needs, and develop programs for protecting and enhancing these areas.

Goal PR0-2 To ensure adequate and enriching recreational opportunities for the citizens of Granite Falls that encourage physical activity.

Policy PR0-2.1 Create and promote a wide range of new facilities and opportunities to address the recreational needs of the citizens of Granite Falls.

Policy PR0-2.2 Provide recreational activities specific and appropriate for all age groups.

Policy PR0-2.3 Develop and maintain a comprehensive multi modal trail/pathway system connecting all parts of Granite Falls.



Policy PR0-2.4 Develop additional sport fields, picnic areas and children's recreational water park feature to serve the Granite Falls community.

Policy PR0-2.5 Require the development of publicly dedicated mini-parks, tot lots and open spaces when reviewing and approving new residential subdivisions.

Goal PR0-3 Preserve a variety of open space to maintain and enhance the quality of life.

Policy PR0-3.1 Preserve open space throughout the City to provide for passive uses such as shoreline access and fish and wildlife habitat.

Policy PR0-3.2 Give preferences to facilities that improve water quality and protect stream corridors.

Policy PR0-3.3 Plan interpretive facilities and environmental programs to increase public understanding of the value of stream corridors, wetlands, and critical areas.

Policy PR0-3.3 Consider incentives to preserve valuable open space in new development.

Policy PR0-3.4 Utilize a variety of public and private tools in the preservation of open space including donations, land banking, mitigation, impact fees, grants, and partnerships, or transfer of development rights, regulatory restrictions, and tax relief programs.

Goal PR0-4 To explore innovative opportunities to achieve parks, recreation, and open space objectives as a part of all City planning activities and development review.

Policy PR0-4.1 Plan bike paths, hiking trails, boardwalks, and non-motorized transportation routes to improve access to parks, recreational facilities, open space, residential neighborhoods, employment centers, downtown, and other local and regional non-motorized routes.

Policy PR0-4.2 Integrate planning for park facilities with other capital facility projects such as roads and stormwater projects in order to realize the greatest benefit to the public by leveraging mitigation, grant funds, and cost-effective use of design, acquisition, and construction funds.

Policy PR0-4.3 Collaborate with the Granite Falls School District to maximize recreational opportunities and provide greater access to school facilities during non-school times for the entire community.

Policy PR0-4.4 Encourage design and restoration of parks and open space to protect water quality, improve resiliency to floods, and include trees to filter and reduce runoff.



Goal PR0-5 To create a public process that involves citizens in identifying, acquiring, and designing parks, recreation facilities, and open space, and in designing recreational programming to meet diverse needs.

Policy PR0-5.1 Integrate public participation regarding park and recreation planning with other aspects of community development.

Policy PR0-5.2 Provide opportunities for potential primary users of recreational facilities to participate in the process of selection, acquisition, and development of open space, recreational facilities, and programming.

Goal PR0-6 To protect, conserve and enhance the historic and cultural heritage of Granite Falls.

Policy PR0-6.1 Coordinate and cooperate with local, state, and national historical and cultural preservation organizations in order to promote historic and cultural preservation within the City.

Policy PR0-6.2. Work with the Stillaguamish, Sauk Suiattle, and Tulalip Tribes to preserve significant cultural and historic sites.

Policy PR0-6.3 Promote a mutually supportive relationship between historic and cultural preservation and economic development.

Policy PR0-6.4 Incorporate the preservation of sites and structures of historic, cultural, and archeological significance as a part of the aesthetic and environmental consideration in site design.

Policy PR0-6.5 Promote historical, environmental, and cultural education through special event programs, the preservation of historic sites, and the support of festivals and events reflecting the cultural heritage of Granite Falls.

Policy PR0-6.6 Support the Granite Falls Historical Society in its efforts to inventory significant historical and archaeological resources and to provide information to the community on the history of Granite Falls.

ACTIONS

PRO Action 1 - Proceed with the planning and development of undeveloped parkland.

PRO Action 2 - Obtain an Interlocal Agreement with the School District for joint use of School District recreational facilities.

PRO Action 3 - Support local entities seeking to establish recreational programs and facilities in the community.



PRO Action 4 - Seek out private and public funding for a community center.

PRO Action 5 - Improve and develop a system of trails and walkways to connect the open space and parkland within and adjacent to the City including:

- Pathway to the bogs on the eastern edge of the City in collaboration with the School District.
- Sidewalk to the Granite Falls Fish Ladder and bridge on the northern edge of the City.
- Coordination and cooperation with Home Owners Associations that own parks and trails in the City.

PRO Action 6 - Provide lighting in all City parks where appropriate.

PRO Action 7 - Provide security cameras in all City parks where appropriate.



Chapter 7

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Understanding the community's demographics is essential for planning a park system that meets the specific needs of Granite Falls residents. This chapter analyzes population trends, age distribution, and economic characteristics to ensure future park investments align with the users they serve.

7.1 Location and History

Granite Falls is uniquely situated as the "Gateway to the Mountain Loop Highway," nestled between the Pilchuck and Stillaguamish Rivers. Historically defined by mining, logging, and shingle mills, the City has transitioned over the last two decades into a growing residential community. While it retains its small-town character and connection to the Cascade foothills, it is increasingly becoming a choice destination for families seeking affordability and natural beauty within commuting distance of major employment centers.

7.2 Population Trends & Growth

Granite Falls is experiencing steady population growth, driven largely by new residential developments. As of 2025, the City's population is estimated at approximately 4,775 residents.

Under the Growth Management Act (GMA) and the Snohomish County 2044 Growth Targets, Granite Falls is planning for significant expansion over the 20-year planning horizon. The City is expected to absorb a share of the county's rapid growth, necessitating expanded park capacity.

Population Growth & Targets

2010 Census: 3,364 (U.S. Census Bureau)

2020 Census: 4,450 (U.S. Census Bureau)

2025 Estimate: 4,775 (OFM)

2044 Growth Target: 6,551 (Snohomish County Tomorrow (SCT))

Implication for Parks: The City must plan to serve an additional ~1,776 residents by 2044. Based on the City's Level of Service (LOS) standards, this growth will trigger the need for new park land acquisition to avoid a deficit in service quality.



7.3 Age and Demographics

Granite Falls is a notably young community, reflecting its popularity with young families.

- ❖ Median Age: The median age is approximately 35.2 years, which is younger than the Snohomish County average (~38 years).
- ❖ Youth Population: A significant portion of the population is under the age of 18 (~25%), indicating a high demand for active recreation facilities such as playgrounds, sports fields, and youth programs.
- ❖ Seniors: While currently a smaller demographic, the senior population is projected to grow as residents "age in place," increasing the long-term need for accessible trails (ADA) and passive recreation spaces.
- ❖ Age Distribution (Estimated)
 - 0-19 Years: ~28% (High demand for active play/sports)
 - 20-64 Years: ~62% (Workforce/Commuters)
 - 65+ Years: ~10% (Passive recreation/Accessibility needs)

7.4 Economic Context

The economic profile of Granite Falls has strengthened in recent years.

Median Household Income: Estimated at \$100,720 (2023 ACS), a substantial increase from previous decades. This suggests a tax base with potentially higher capacity to support park investments through levies or fees, provided the value proposition is clear.

Housing: The City is predominantly comprised of single-family owner-occupied homes. Recent years have seen the approval of new subdivisions (e.g., Suncrest), which bring new residents who expect modern neighborhood park amenities.

Commuting: A large percentage of the workforce commutes outside the City for employment. This makes local parks critical "third places" for residents to connect with their neighbors during evenings and weekends.

7.5 Diversity

The community is becoming gradually more diverse. While predominantly White (~76%), the City has seen increases in residents identifying as Two or More Races (~12.5%) and Hispanic/Latino. Ensuring park signage, programming, and outreach are inclusive is a growing priority.



7.6 Summary of Implications for the PROS Plan

- **Growth Pressure:** The projected increase to approximately 6,900 residents by 2044 requires the City to acquire land now before it becomes too expensive or unavailable.
- **Youth Focus:** The low median age and high percentage of families indicate a need for high-energy facilities, such as sports courts and modern playgrounds.
- **Connectivity:** As a commuter town, safe pedestrian and bike connections (trails/sidewalks) between new subdivisions and the historic downtown are vital for community cohesion.



Chapter 8

ENGAGING OUR NEIGHBORS

The heart of the 2026 PROS Plan is the voice of the Granite Falls community. "Engaging Our Neighbors" is not just about gathering data; it is about building a shared vision for the future of our parks. This chapter summarizes the key themes, priorities, and aspirations we heard from residents, local youth, and regional partners during the planning process.

8.1 What We Heard: Key Themes

Through the community survey, open house, and stakeholder interviews, several consistent themes emerged. These priorities have contributed to and helped shaped the Goals of this document.

"Connect Our Community" (Trails & Walkability)

One of the most prevalent survey responses identified the need for improved connectivity. As Granite Falls grows, residents want to safely walk or bike from their neighborhoods to downtown, schools, and parks without relying on a car.

Priority: Residents prioritized connecting missing sidewalk links and developing multi-use trails over acquiring new remote parkland.

"Enjoy the outside" (Gathering together)

The opportunity of being outside and enjoying the benefits of relaxed visits and passive pursuits within the City's parks is rated highest among respondents as it is for attending community gatherings and organized events. The provisions of operational picnic and park furniture facilities such as shelters, tables and benches are also important.

Priority: Provide well-maintained and safe restrooms and clean picnic facilities with shelters, tables, and benches.



"Something for the Kids" (Youth & Teen Activities)

With a median age younger than the county average, Granite Falls families are seeking more diverse activities for youth.

While playgrounds for toddlers are appreciated, there is a gap in amenities for older children and teens.

Priority: A water play feature was highly ranked by families with young children.



"Maintain What We Have"

Residents take pride in their existing parks but want to ensure they remain safe and clean.

Priority: improved lighting, regular maintenance of restrooms, and trash removal were cited as essential baseline services before building new facilities.

8.2 Engaging Our Regional Partners

Granite Falls does not exist in a vacuum. Our "neighbors" also include the public agencies that manage the vast recreational lands surrounding us.

Granite Falls School District

The City and School District share a constituency. Our engagement highlighted the opportunity to maximize public value by coordinating facility use.

Shared Goal: Expand access to school fields and courts during non-school hours, efficiently expanding recreational capacity without new construction costs.

Snohomish County & Federal Agencies

As the "Gateway to the Mountain Loop Highway," Granite Falls serves as a basecamp for regional recreation. Engagement highlighted the opportunity for the City to contribute supporting regional tourism while protecting the quality of life for locals.

Shared Goal: Improving wayfinding and parking to manage the flow of visitors through town to regional trails.

8.3 Turning Feedback into Action

The feedback gathered in this chapter is not just for the record—it has helped shape the priorities identified in this plan.

- ❖ Because you asked for trails, the PROS plan prioritizes the inter-Granite Falls connection.
- ❖ Because you asked for water play, the City may consider the provision of water play or other cooling features in parks where supported by community need, site conditions, and available funding.



- ❖ Because you asked for maintenance, the *Operations Strategy* (Chapter 19) calls for dedicated maintenance funding.

By listening to our neighbors, we ensure that every dollar invested in our parks system reflects the true needs and values of Granite Falls.



SECTION IV ASSESSING OUR PARKS SYSTEM

Chapter 9

EXISTING PARKS PROGRAM

The City of Granite Falls owns and operates a diverse system of parks ranging from small pocket parks in the downtown core to larger community parks with active recreational facilities. In total, the City manages approximately 35 acres of developed parkland.

This inventory provides the baseline data necessary to calculate our Level of Service (LOS) and identify gaps in the system.

9.1 Park Classifications

The City classifies its parks into three categories to ensure a balanced system:

1. Community Parks: Large parks (>5 acres) designed for active recreation, sports, and city-wide gatherings.
2. Neighborhood Parks: Medium parks (1-5 acres) serving the immediate residential vicinity with playgrounds and open grass.
3. Pocket Parks / Mini Parks: Small parcels (<1 acre) providing green space, seating, or specialized amenities in high-density areas.

9.2 Park Inventory

- Frank Mason Park (9130 Ray Gray Rd): Community Park ~20.0 acres
 - Lake Gardner access (fishing/dock)
 - Baseball/Softball fields
 - Walking trails (wooded)
 - Restrooms & Picnic shelters
- Jim Holm Park (210 Cascade Ave): Neighborhood / Civic Park ~2.5 acres
 - Covered Stage/Gazebo (Events)
 - Playground & Swing set
 - Skate Park elements
 - Basketball Court
- Dog Park (601 W Wallace St): Dog Park ~4.0 acres
 - Off-leash Dog Park area
 - Open lawn





- Picnic tables
- Jack Webb Park (115 S Granite Ave): Pocket Park ~0.5 acres
 - Passive green space
 - Seating areas
 - Historical markers
 - Restrooms
- Perrigou Memorial Park (10293 Jordan Rd): Special Use Facility ~8.0 acres
 - Dedicated Baseball/Softball complex
 - Used by Granite Falls Little League
- Galena Park: Pocket Park <0.5 acres
 - Small neighborhood green space

9.3 Joint-Use Facilities

In addition to City-owned parks, the Granite Falls School District plays a critical role in the recreational system. While not owned by the City, these facilities are often accessible to the public during non-school hours and support youth sports leagues.

- Granite Falls High School: Tennis courts, track, and football stadium.
- Middle & Elementary Schools: Playgrounds and multi-purpose fields.

9.4 Operations and Maintenance

The City of Granite Falls does not currently have a dedicated Parks and Recreation Department.

Management: Park planning and administration are managed by the City Manager and designated administrative staff.

Maintenance: The Public Works Department is responsible for all physical maintenance, including mowing, trash removal, restroom cleaning, and facility repairs.

Staffing Levels: Currently, there are no full-time employees (FTEs) dedicated solely to parks. Maintenance is performed by Public Works crew members as part of their broader duties (streets, utilities, etc.).



Chapter 10

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires the City to establish a Level of Service (LOS) standard for parks and recreation. This standard serves as the benchmark for evaluating the adequacy of the existing park system and determining the capital investments required to support future population growth.

Granite Falls utilizes a Tiered Level of Service approach, combining quantitative acreage goals with a quality-based investment standard.

10.1 LOS Standard 1: Park Acreage (Quantity)

The most traditional measure of a park system is the ratio of parkland acres to the population. This metric ensures that as the City densifies, open space is preserved proportionally.

Current Inventory: **~35.0 Acres**

2025 Population: **~4,775**

Current Ratio: **7.33 Acres per 1,000 residents.**

Acreage Standard: A reasonable long-term park acreage standard for the City is 6.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This standard represents a modest reduction from the City's current ratio while still preserving adequate access to public open space as population increases.

At buildout of the 2044 planning horizon, maintaining a 6.0-acre standard would require the City to add approximately 4.5 acres of parkland beyond the existing inventory.

Strategic Rationale: The proposed 6.0 acres per 1,000 residents standard balances growth, fiscal capacity, and land availability. The City's current ratio reflects historic conditions rather than a defined level-of-service target, and future park acquisition opportunities are likely to be more limited as development and infill increase. This standard maintains proportional access to parkland while allowing the City to prioritize park quality, amenities, reminding connectivity, and access over acreage alone.

Future Acreage Needs (2044 Horizon):

- Current Population: **Approximately 4,775**
- 2044 Projected: **6,881**



- Target Ratio: **6.0 Acres / 1,000**
- Acres Required: **4.5 Acres**

10.2 LOS Standard 2: Recreational Value (Quality)

The level of service provided by the City's parks, recreation, and open space system is influenced not only by the amount of parkland available, but by the recreational value of those facilities, including their functionality, accessibility, condition, and ability to serve a range of users and activities. While acreage-based LOS standards remain a useful planning tool, they do not fully reflect differences in park quality or usability. As part of a future re-evaluation of park impact fees, the City will consider recreational value alongside traditional LOS measures to more accurately assess existing conditions, identify service gaps related to growth, and recognize the role of park improvements and upgrades in meeting community needs over time.

10.3 LOS Standard 3: Service Area (Access)

Beyond the numbers, the City strives for equitable geographic distribution. The goal is for every resident to have the ability to walk to a park facility.

- Neighborhood Park Standard: 1/2 Mile Service Radius (approx. 10-minute walk).
- Community Park Standard: 2 Mile Service Radius (Serving the entire City).



Chapter 11

PARKS ACCESSIBILITY

Equitable access is the foundation of a successful park system. Granite Falls is committed to ensuring that every resident, regardless of age, physical ability, or geography, has safe and convenient access to recreation opportunities. This chapter addresses both physical accessibility (ADA compliance) and geographic accessibility (distance-based service areas).

11.1 What Accessibility Means

Parks accessibility comprises three dimensions:

1. **Geographic Accessibility:** Residents can reach parks by walking or biking within a reasonable distance.
2. **Physical Accessibility:** Facilities meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, allowing people with mobility challenges to participate fully.
3. **Programmatic Accessibility:** Recreation programs and activities are designed to serve people of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.

11.2 Geographic Accessibility Standard

The City of Granite Falls adopted a "10-Minute Walk" standard in its 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. This means:

- Every resident should be able to walk to a Neighborhood Park within approximately ½ mile (a 10-minute walk at typical pedestrian pace).
- Community Parks are designed to serve the City-wide population within a 2-mile radius, accessible by short auto trip or bike ride.

Service Area Analysis:

Based on the Parks System and Capital Improvement Map (Appendix F), the following areas are currently underserved—that is, they fall outside the ½-mile service radius of a Neighborhood Park:

- Industrial/North Granite Falls (around SR-92 corridor)
- Proposed growth areas in the City's Urban Growth Area (UGA), particularly the areas east of downtown

CIP Response: To remedy these gaps, the 2026 PROS Plan prioritizes the acquisition and development of at least one (1) additional Neighborhood Park in an underserved area during the 7-20-year planning period. This acquisition is essential to maintain the adopted Service Area standard as the City grows toward 6,881 residents by 2044.



11.3 Physical Accessibility: ADA Compliance

All parks developed or significantly altered by the City of Granite Falls shall comply with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Areas.

Minimum Requirements by Facility Type:

- **Parking Areas:** Accessible parking spaces (1 per 25 spaces minimum) with accessible route to facility
 - Required at all Community Parks; recommended at Neighborhood Parks
- **Restrooms:** ADA-compliant doors, stalls, sinks, fixtures
 - Required in all restroom facilities
- **Playgrounds:** Accessible surfacing (rubber mulch, poured rubber, engineered wood fiber); at least one accessible route; accessible play components (ramps, transfer platforms)
 - All new/renovated playgrounds must include accessible routes and accessible components
- **Walking Trails:** Min. 5-foot width for paved paths; 4-foot min. for gravel; accessible trailhead; information sign with trail specs
 - All new trails must be designed to ADA Trail standards; existing trails to be assessed and upgraded as funding permits
- **Picnic Areas:** Picnic tables with wheelchair-accessible height (28–34 inches) and accessible grills
 - All new picnic areas to include accessible tables
- **Water Access:** Accessible dock/pier with appropriate slope; accessible beach areas (where applicable)
 - Frank Mason Park: ongoing assessment and upgrades
- **Signage:** Clear, high-contrast lettering; information about trail length, surface, slope, width
 - All trailheads and major park entries to include accessible information

11.4 ADA Transition Plan

The City recognizes that some existing facilities may not yet meet current ADA standards due to age or terrain constraints. The City will work toward developing an ADA Transition Plan, using an adaptive approach that allows flexibility in timing and methodology based on available resources, priorities, and evolving best practices. The ADA Transition Plan will:

- Inventory all existing park facilities.
- Assess compliance with 2010 ADA Standards.
- Prioritize improvements based on impact (which facilities serve the most



people) and feasibility.

- Establish a timeline and budget for upgrades over the next 10 years.

Priority Upgrades (Near-Term):

- Parking and accessible route improvements at Jim Holm Park.
- Trail surface assessment and accessibility upgrades at key trailheads.

11.5 Terrain-Based Exceptions

The ADA Accessibility Standards recognize that some outdoor areas may have terrain or resource constraints that make full accessibility challenging. The City will apply for exceptions only where:

- Compliance is not practicable due to steep terrain or environmentally sensitive areas, AND
- The City provides alternative accessible routes or facilities to serve the same purpose.

For example, if a natural area trail has steep grades that prevent wheelchair access, the City might install an accessible interpretive boardwalk or viewing platform at a more level location.

11.6 Walkability and Pedestrian Connectivity

Geographic proximity alone does not ensure accessibility. Sidewalk and trail connectivity are equally important.

Current Gaps:

The following barriers to park access have been identified:

- Missing sidewalk links.
- Safe pedestrian crossing.
- Limited trail connections between downtown and neighborhoods.

Policy Response: The PROS Plan integrates park accessibility consistent with the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Key initiatives include:

- Developing a "Safe Routes to Parks" map and action list.
- Coordinating with Public Works to prioritize sidewalk infill in areas with park access gaps.
- Designing new trails to connect subdivisions, schools, and employment centers to parks.

11.7 Accessible Recreation Programming



Physical facilities alone do not ensure equitable access. The City recognizes that people have diverse recreation needs based on age, ability, and cultural background.

Commitment:

When the City develops recreation programs (Chapter 21), programs may include:

- Adaptive recreation options (e.g., adaptive sports clinics, sensory-friendly park hours).
- Multilingual outreach to communities where English is not the primary language.
- Low-cost or free options to ensure economic barriers do not prevent participation.
- Partnerships with schools and disability service organizations to ensure equitable access.

11.8 Equity Audit

The City may conduct an Equity Audit that analyzes:

- Whether underserved neighborhoods are disproportionately low-income, communities of color, or communities with high senior populations.
- Whether park quality and amenities are equitably distributed across the City.
- Whether programs serve diverse age groups, abilities, and cultural groups.

This audit will help inform future CIP prioritization to ensure investments reduce disparities and serve the most vulnerable populations.



Chapter 12

RECREATION AVAILABILITY

Recreation availability encompasses both the quantity and diversity of recreational opportunities available to residents. This chapter assesses the existing inventory of organized sports facilities, passive recreation options, and identifies gaps in service based on community needs.

12.1 Defining Recreation Types

Recreation in Granite Falls can be categorized into two broad types:

Active Recreation:

Organized activities and sports that require facilities or equipment, such as:

- Organized sports (baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, tennis).
- Youth sports leagues and camps.
- Fitness classes and instructional programs.
- Structured recreational events and tournaments.

Passive Recreation:

Informal, self-directed activities that require minimal or no facilities, such as:

- Walking, biking, and hiking on trails.
- Picnicking and social gatherings.
- Wildlife and nature observation.
- Fishing and water access.
- Community events and celebrations.

12.2 Existing Active Recreation Facilities

- Baseball/Softball Complex: Perrigou Memorial Park
 - 3-4 fields (Little League, tournaments)
 - Specialized facility - good condition
- Skate Park: Jim Holm Park
 - Ramps - Youth (ages 10-18)
 - Recently renovated; popular
- Playground Equipment: Jim Holm Park
 - Children (ages 2-12)
 - Various ages/abilities; aging equipment in some areas
- Basketball Court: Jim Holm Park
 - 1 court (outdoor)



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- Youth & adults
- High use; accessible
- Tennis Courts: Granite Falls High School (Joint Use)
 - Multiple courts
 - Youth & adults
 - Not readily accessible to the public
- Multi-Purpose Fields: School District fields (Joint Use)
 - 4-5 fields
 - Availability is limited to the school calendar

12.3 Existing Passive Recreation Resources

- Lake Gardner - Frank Mason Park: Natural lake with dock
 - Fishing, paddling, nature observation
 - City-wide, regional
- Walking Trails (Wooded) - Frank Mason Park: ~2 miles of informal trails
 - Walking, hiking, wildlife viewing
 - Neighborhood to City-wide
- Trail System - Various corridors: Paved/unpaved pathways
 - Walking, biking, jogging | Connecting neighborhoods
- Downtown Pocket Parks - Jim Holm Park, Jack Webb Park: Small green spaces with seating
 - Community gathering, sitting, rest stops
 - Downtown users & visitors
- Picnic Shelters - Frank Mason Park, Dog Park; Jim Holm Park: Covered areas with tables
 - Family gatherings, events, picnics
 - Community

12.4 Recreation Gaps Identified

Based on the community survey and facility assessment, the following gaps exist:

- Youth Sports Facilities
 - Gap: Limited teen recreation options (ages 13-17). The skate park is popular but small.
 - Community Request: Pump track, expanded skate park, multi-sport courts.
 - CIP Response: Park and Play equipment improvements for Jim Holm and Frank Mason Parks, development of future Legion and West Granite Falls parks.
- Water Recreation
 - Gap: Limited swimming/water play at City parks. Lake Gardner is fishing-



- focused; no splash pad owned by the City.
- Community Request: "A splash pad for young children."
- CIP Response: Feasibility study, design, and construction of a City-owned water play feature.
- Covered/Year-Round Recreation
 - Gap: Pacific Northwest rain limits outdoor play. No covered recreation shelter designed for active use.
 - Community Request: "Places to play when it rains."
 - CIP Response: Feasibility study for a covered recreation pavilion or indoor multipurpose space (longer-term, 5-10 year horizon).
- Pickleball & Racket Sports
 - Gap: Community interest in pickleball is growing, but the City has no dedicated courts.
 - Community Request: Install/develop pickleball courts where appropriate.
 - CIP Response: Conversion of one or two court areas (e.g., basketball courts) to multi-use to allow pickleball play.
- Natural Area Recreation
 - Gap: While Frank Mason Park offers trails, there is limited access to riparian areas and critical habitat zones.
 - Community Request: Boardwalks, interpretive trails, and wildlife viewing areas.
 - CIP Response: Development of a nature loop trail with interpretive signage (partners: Stillaguamish Tribe, Snohomish County).

12.5 Recreation Availability Standards

To guide future investment, the City adopts the following recreation availability principles:

Active Recreation Standard:

- Provide one (1) sports field or court per 500 residents (accounting for both City-owned and school joint-use facilities).
- Ensure geographic distribution so no neighborhood is more than one mile from an active recreation facility.
- Maintain a balanced portfolio: not all fields are baseball; offer soccer, basketball, skate, and multi-sport options.

Passive Recreation Standard:

- Provide trail and natural area access within ½ mile of all neighborhoods (10-minute walk standard).
- Ensure at least one trail per neighborhood park to encourage walking as a primary recreation mode.



- Reserve 15-20% of park acreage for natural/passive use to preserve habitat and provide low-impact recreation.

12.6 Organized Programs & Sports Leagues

Currently, Granite Falls has minimal City-run recreation programming. Most organized sports are offered through:

- Granite Falls Youth Athletic Association (Football).
- Granite Falls Little League (Baseball/Softball).
- Granite Falls Youth Soccer Club (Soccer).
- Granite Falls School District (Interscholastic athletics, PE, after-school activities).
- Snohomish County Parks & Recreation (Various programs and camps).
- Private providers (martial arts studios, fitness instructors).

12.7 Priority Recommendations

1. Maintain existing facilities to ensure active recreation options do not deteriorate due to deferred maintenance. (On-going)
2. Pursue funding opportunities to enhance Legion Park and other downtown parks in order to better serve a broader range of users. (2026-2027)
3. Pursue funding opportunities to enhance the new Community Center to provide social activities, recreational opportunities, education, and event space. (2027 – 2028)_
4. Explore adding mountain bike trails and passive trails and offer opportunities for residents and groups to explore the expansive park areas the city offers. (2027 – 2029)



Chapter 13

PARK QUALITY

A park system's true measure of success is not just the number of parks or acres available, but the quality of the experience they provide. This chapter establishes the City's commitment to maintaining clean, safe, well-maintained parks that serve as sources of community pride.

13.1 What Constitutes Park Quality

Park quality encompasses multiple dimensions:

Physical Condition:

- Playground equipment is safe and age-appropriate, free from rust, rot, and hazards.
- Surfaces are clean and well-maintained (no potholes, cracks, or trip hazards).
- Restrooms are functional, clean, and accessible.
- Landscaping is healthy and aesthetically pleasing.

Safety:

- Adequate lighting prevents isolated areas and enhances a sense of security.
- Sightlines are clear (vegetation trimmed, graffiti removed promptly).
- Emergency access and safety signage are visible and up to date.
- Parks feel welcoming and free from deterioration or neglect.

Aesthetic Value:

- Parks are visually attractive with diverse plantings, water features, and artistic elements.
- Signage is professional and informative (wayfinding, rules, interpretive content).
- Parks reflect community identity and character.

Maintenance Standards:

- Regular inspection schedules identify problems before they become safety hazards.
- Repairs are completed promptly and to professional standards.
- Seasonal maintenance (mowing, mulching, pruning) is performed on schedule.



13.2 Current Park Quality Assessment

The City conducted a comprehensive Facility Assessment Survey (Appendix I) to evaluate the condition of all City-owned parks. Assessment teams evaluated each facility using a standardized checklist covering safety, aesthetics, and maintenance needs.

Overall Findings by Park:

- Frank Mason Park: Good
 - Minor (trail erosion)
 - Restroom upgrades
- Jim Holm Park: Good to Excellent
 - Stage/gazebo weatherproofing
- Dog Park: Good
 - Minor (dog area fencing in need of repair)
 - Landscaping improvements
- Jack Webb Park: Fair
 - Historical signage restoration
- Perrigoue Memorial Park: Excellent
 - Parking area expansion needed (due to high demand)

13.3 Quality Standards

The City of Granite Falls adopts the following Park Quality Standards to guide maintenance and improvement priorities:

- Grade A (Excellent):
 - All equipment is modern and meets current safety standards.
 - Restrooms are clean and fully functional.
 - No visible graffiti, litter, or debris.
 - Parking and access areas are in excellent condition.
 - Landscape features are well-maintained and vibrant.
- Grade B (Good):
 - Equipment is in good working order with only minor wear.
 - Restrooms are functional and regularly cleaned.
 - Park is clean; any graffiti is removed within 24 hours.
 - Parking areas are functional with minor surface wear.
 - Landscaping is maintained; some plant material may show age.
- Grade C (Fair):
 - Equipment requires minor repairs but is safe.
 - Restrooms require attention (plumbing issues, cleanliness).
 - Graffiti or litter is present but not extensive.



- Parking/access areas need resurfacing.
- Landscaping is neglected; invasive species present.
- **Grade D (Poor):**
 - Equipment requires significant repairs or replacement.
 - Restrooms are non-functional or in poor condition.
 - Visible safety hazards exist.
 - Park requires immediate capital intervention.

Granite Falls Adoption Goal:

The City commits to maintaining all parks at a minimum Grade B (Good) standard. Parks scoring Grade C or D will have priority CIP funding for remediation.

13.4 Maintenance & Quality Drivers

Park quality depends on adequate funding and staffing. Currently, park maintenance is managed by the Public Works Department as part of broader city operations. As the system expands, this arrangement may become unsustainable.

- Current Maintenance Budget: **\$300,798** annually for parks maintenance (staffing + materials).
 - Cost Per Acre (Estimated): **\$8,594**

Future Staffing Needs:

As the park system expands from ~35 acres to 39+ acres, and as new facilities (water play features, trails, etc.) are added, the City will need to evaluate hiring a dedicated Parks Maintenance Technician (0.5-1.0 FTE) to ensure quality standards are met. See Chapter 19 (Operations Strategies) for discussion of staffing recommendations.

13.5 Equity in Park Quality

High-quality parks should be equitably distributed across all neighborhoods. An analysis of park quality reveals:

- Downtown parks (Jim Holm, Jack Webb): Receive frequent maintenance due to visibility and community events.
- Neighborhood parks (Dog Park): Receive adequate but less intensive maintenance.
- Remote/peripheral parks (Frank Mason): May receive lower maintenance frequency due to distance and resource constraints.

Commitment to Equity:

- Conducting annual quality inspections at ALL parks (not just those in high-



traffic areas).

- Allocating maintenance resources based on facility condition and equity need (not just political visibility).
- Involving neighborhood residents in quality monitoring to ensure accountability.

13.6 Community Feedback on Park Quality

Top Maintenance Concerns:

- Cleanliness of restrooms.
- Playground equipment age and safety.
- Lighting and sense of safety in evening hours.

13.7 Improving Park Quality: Priority Actions

Based on the Facility Assessment Survey and community feedback, the following projects are prioritized in this PROS Plan:

Immediate (2026-2027):

- Restroom Upgrade

Short-Term (2028-2029):

- Park Lighting Assessment & Upgrades
- Landscape Restoration

Medium-Term (2030-2031):

- Historic Signage Restoration
- Trail Surface Improvements
- Playground Equipment Replacement

13.8 Maintenance Standards Going Forward

All new park facilities constructed or significantly modified as part of this PROS Plan will be designed to minimize maintenance burden while maximizing durability and safety.

Design standards include:

- Durable Materials: Composite equipment, sealed wood, or powder-coated steel (vs. materials prone to rapid deterioration).
- Low-Maintenance Landscaping: Native plantings that require minimal irrigation, pruning, or chemical treatment.
- Accessible Design: Surfaces designed to be easy to clean and maintain (permeable pavements for stormwater, not bare dirt).



- Adequate Drainage: Parking areas and pavilions are designed to prevent standing water and damage.
- Redundancy for Critical Systems: Restrooms with backup systems to minimize repair downtime.

13.9 Quality Monitoring System

The City will implement a Periodic Facility Evaluation System to systematically monitor park condition and guide maintenance budgeting (see Chapter 19, Operations Strategies).

Evaluation Schedule: Spring and Fall, conducted by the Public Works Director and Parks Coordinator.

Documentation: Results recorded in a standardized checklist and database for trending.

Transparency: Staff will regularly assess parks to identify any parks dropping below Grade B standard and report to City Council.

Public Participation: Community members encouraged to report maintenance issues.



Photo by Kai Agee



Chapter 14

SIDEWALK AVAILABILITY AND WALKABILITY OF PARKS

Physical proximity to parks is only part of the equation. Residents must have safe, continuous pedestrian pathways to reach those parks on foot or by bike. This chapter assesses the "walkability" of Granite Falls—the availability of sidewalks and trails that connect residential neighborhoods to parks and other community destinations.

14.1 What Is Walkability?

Walkability is measured by:

- Network Connectivity:
 - Are there continuous, unbroken sidewalks or pathways connecting neighborhoods to parks?
 - Can a resident walk from their home to a park without crossing major barriers (highways, arterial roads with no crossings, private property)?
- Pedestrian Infrastructure Quality:
 - Are sidewalks wide enough (minimum 5 feet for bidirectional traffic)?
 - Are surfaces safe and well-maintained (no cracked concrete, tripping hazards)?
 - Are there curb ramps, ADA-compliant curbs, and safe crossing signals?
- Environmental Factors:
 - Is the route well-lit and does it have clear sightlines (safe feeling)?
 - Are there shade trees or other weather protection?
 - Is the route scenic and inviting (not just functional)?
- Destination Appeal:
 - Is the park destination visible and easy to find?
 - Is there adequate signage and wayfinding?

14.2 Current Sidewalk Network

- Downtown Core
 - Est. % with Sidewalks: **95%**
 - Connected to Park: **Yes (Jim Holm)**
 - Walking Distance to Nearest Park: **<0.25 miles**
 - Key Gaps: **None significant**
- Residential East (Suncrest, etc.)



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- Est. % with Sidewalks: **60%**
- Connected to Park: **Partial**
- Walking Distance to Nearest Park: **0.4–0.7 miles**
- Key Gaps: **Missing link to reach Jim Holm Park**
- Residential North (SR-92 corridor)
 - Est. % with Sidewalks: **25%**
 - Connected to Park: **No**
 - Walking Distance to Nearest Park: **>1.0 mile**
 - Key Gaps: Significant gaps; industrial zoning creates barrier
- Residential South (toward Dog Park)
 - Est. % with Sidewalks: **70%**
 - Connected to Park: **Yes (Dog Park)**
 - Walking Distance to Nearest Park: **0.3–0.5 miles**
 - Key Gaps: **Minor gaps**
- Frank Mason Park Area
 - Est. % with Sidewalks: **40%**
 - Connected to Park: **Yes (via vehicle)**
 - Walking Distance to Nearest Park: **Variable**
 - Key Gaps: **Limited pedestrian access; parking-dependent**

Key Finding:

Approximately 60–70% of Granite Falls residents currently have safe pedestrian access (continuous sidewalks) to at least one Neighborhood Park. This falls short of the City's goal of 90% pedestrian accessibility by 2035.

14.3 Barriers to Park Walkability

Infrastructure Gaps:

- Missing Sidewalk Links: Lack continuous sidewalks, forcing pedestrians to walk in the street or on private property.
- Inadequate Crossing Infrastructure: Several key intersections lack crossing signals, curb ramps, or pedestrian refuges.
- Poor Maintenance: Some existing sidewalks are broken or uplifted, creating trip hazards and discouraging walking.

Safety Concerns:

- Lighting: Lack street lighting, making evening walks feel unsafe.
- Vegetation Overgrowth: In some areas, trees and shrubs block sightlines and create "tunnel" effects that feel unsafe. Areas of sidewalks are overgrown and unpassable.



14.4 Trail Network Development

Beyond sidewalks, the City is exploring a multi-use trail system to connect parks and neighborhoods.

Existing Trails:

- Frank Mason Park Trails: ~2 miles of wooded trails (natural surface, uneven terrain).
- Downtown Connections: Informal pathways between Jim Holm Park and downtown businesses.

Trail Design Standards:

All new trails will meet the following specifications:

- Paved Multi-Use Trails: Minimum 10-foot width, 2% cross-slope for drainage, smooth asphalt, or concrete surface.
- Natural Surface Trails: Minimum 4-5 feet width, well-draining surface (packed gravel, engineered wood fiber), accessible grade (<8% slope where feasible).
- Accessibility: All new trails will include accessible routes to trailheads, with signage indicating trail specs (length, surface, slope, estimated walk time).

14.5 Walkability Assessment Results: Underserved Areas

The Walkability Assessment identified specific neighborhoods that should be prioritized for pedestrian infrastructure improvements:

- Priority 1: North Granite Falls
 - Issue: Industrial/commercial area with minimal pedestrian infrastructure. Residents must rely on cars.
 - Recommendation: Develop a safe, lit pedestrian pathway connecting this area to downtown/parks.
- Priority 2: Residential East (Suncrest/New Subdivisions)
 - Issue: New residential development lacks adequate sidewalk connections to existing parks.
 - Recommendation: Require sidewalk completion as a development condition for future subdivision approvals.
- Priority 3: Frank Mason Park Access
 - Issue: The largest park is car-dependent; no pedestrian approach from neighborhoods.
 - Recommendation: Develop pedestrian trail connection.



14.6 Community Feedback on Walkability

Survey results on walkability:

- Residents said they would walk to parks more often if safer, continuous sidewalks were available.
- Some families with children said lack of safe walking routes limits their park use.

14.7 Pedestrian Infrastructure Projects

To improve walkability, the 2026–2031 Capital Improvement Plan includes the following projects:

- Annual Pedestrian Improvement Program
- Development of Multi-use Trail, with future connection to regional trail system.
- Funding dependent projects include:
 - Safe Routes to Parks Study
 - Trailhead Development
 - Lighting Assessment & Upgrades

14.8 Complete Streets & Integrated Planning

Walkability to parks cannot be addressed in isolation. The City is integrating park access with broader Complete Streets principles, ensuring that:

- Road Reconstruction Projects include sidewalk or trail components.
- Stormwater Improvements incorporate landscaped pedestrian areas (bioswales, rain gardens).
- Utility Projects are coordinated to avoid reopening roads multiple times.

This integrated approach reduces costs and ensures that every capital project serves multiple objectives (transportation, parks access, stormwater, and environmental quality).

14.9 Walkability Standards & Goals

Adopted Walkability Goals:

- By 2030: 80% of residents have continuous, safe pedestrian access (sidewalk or trail) to a park.
- By 2035: 90% of residents have pedestrian access to a park.
- By 2044: 95% of residents have both pedestrian access AND a park within a 10-minute walk.

Metrics:

- Baseline (2025): ~65% pedestrian accessibility.



- Annual improvement target: +2–3% per year (via coordinated sidewalk and trail projects).

14.10 Funding Pedestrian Infrastructure

Walkability improvements are funded through:

- General Fund Budget: Allocated to sidewalk maintenance and minor infill projects.
- Park Impact Fees: A portion dedicated to trail and pedestrian connection development.
- Grants: State and federal funding (Transportation, Environmental, Recreation and Conservation).
- Development Requirements: New subdivisions required to dedicate land, construct pedestrian pathways, or provide open space consistent with Granite Falls Municipal Code.
- Regional Coordination: Partnering with Snohomish County and WSDOT on shared corridor improvements.

14.11 Accessibility Integration

All sidewalk and trail improvements will comply with ADA accessibility standards (see Chapter 11). This ensures that pedestrian infrastructure serves not only the general population but also seniors, people with disabilities, and parents with strollers.



Chapter 15

SERVICE AREA

The "service area" of a park defines the geographic zone from which users are expected to travel to use that facility. Understanding service areas helps the City identify gaps in coverage and ensures equitable distribution of parks across all neighborhoods.

15.1 Defining Service Area

Service area is determined by:

- Distance Standard (Radius):
 - The typical distance a resident is willing to walk or drive to reach a park.
 - Varies by park type and user demographic (children walk shorter distances; adults drive farther).
- Pedestrian Walkshed:
 - The actual walking distance (following streets/sidewalks), not straight-line distance.
 - Typically 10-15% longer than straight-line distance due to grid patterns and barriers.
- Barriers & Connectivity:
 - Natural barriers (rivers, railroads) and infrastructure barriers (highways without crossings) shrink the effective service area.
 - Conversely, trails and connected pedestrian networks expand service area utility.

15.2 Park Type & Associated Service Areas

The City of Granite Falls classifies parks into categories with corresponding service area standards. Park classifications are discussed in Chapter 16.

15.3 Current Service Area Coverage

Pocket Parks:

- Jim Holm Park (Downtown): Serves the downtown core; excellent 1/4-mile coverage within business district.
- Jack Webb Park (Historic Ave): Serves downtown residents and heritage site visitors.
- Status: Downtown core is well-served by pocket parks.

Neighborhood Parks:

The City currently operates three primary neighborhood parks:

- Jim Holm Park: 2.5 acres



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- Downtown, Cascade Ave corridor
 - Coverage: Excellent
- Dog Park: 4.0 acres
 - Residential South
 - Coverage: Good
- Frank Mason Park: 20.0 acres
 - Primarily car-access; limited walkable shed
 - Coverage: Fair - No pedestrian route from neighborhoods

Community Parks:

- Frank Mason Park: Primary community park (20 acres), serving lake recreation, baseball, trails. Car-dependent; limited pedestrian walkshed.
- Perrigou Memorial Park: Specialized facility (8 acres) for Little League baseball; limited walkable access from residential areas.

Coverage Summary:

Approximately 65–70% of residents live within a ½-mile pedestrian walkshed of a Neighborhood Park. This falls short of the City's adopted goal of 90% coverage by 2035.

15.4 Service Area Gaps

The following neighborhoods are outside the ½-mile service radius of an existing Neighborhood Park and are therefore considered underserved:

- Priority Gap 1: North Granite Falls (Industrial/Commercial Corridor)
 - Current Coverage: No Neighborhood Park within ½ mile.
 - Character: Mixed industrial/commercial/low-density residential.
 - Barrier: No safe pedestrian crossing options.
 - CIP Response: Sidewalk and pedestrian improvements to address gaps in connectivity and safety improvements.
- Priority Gap 2: Residential East (Suncrest/New Development Areas)
 - Character: New single-family residential subdivisions with young families.
 - Barrier: Limited sidewalk connectivity; some areas are car-dependent by design.
 - CIP Response: Sidewalk and pedestrian improvements to address gaps in connectivity.
- Priority Gap 3: Frank Mason Park Pedestrian Access
 - Issue: While Frank Mason Park is large (20 acres) and has excellent amenities, it is essentially car-dependent. No pedestrian trail connects it from nearby neighborhoods.
 - CIP Response: Sidewalk and pedestrian improvements to address gaps in connectivity; Frank Mason Park improvements identified in CIP.



15.5 Service Area Goals (2026–2044)

- Goal 1: Close Geographic Gaps
 - By 2031, develop at least one (1) new Neighborhood Park
 - Increase walkable coverage to 80% of residents.
- Goal 2: Improve Pedestrian Connectivity
 - Develop trail connections that expand the effective service area by allowing residents to safely walk to parks (even if straight-line distance is slightly >½ mile).
- Goal 3: Maximize Joint-Use Potential
 - Explore agreements with the School District or Boys and Girls club to expand public access to facilities, effectively serving residents beyond the ½-mile radius.
- Goal 4: Support Regional Recreation
 - Position Granite Falls as a hub for accessing Mountain Loop and Forest Service recreation, diversifying the park system's role from local recreation to regional destination.

15.6 Population Growth & Service Area Implications

The City is projected to grow from 4,775 residents (2025) to 6,881 residents (2044) - a 37% increase.

Impact on Service Area:

- Without new park acquisitions, the service area will become increasingly crowded.
- Existing parks may reach capacity during peak times (summer weekends).
- The population of underserved areas will grow faster than the City average, worsening inequities.

Response:

New or substantially upgraded park facilities should:

- Close a geographic gap (increase % of residents within ½-mile walkshed).
- Be large enough to accommodate growth (design for 2044 population projections, not current).
- Include pedestrian/trail connections (do not create isolated, car-dependent parks).

15.7 Service Area Monitoring

The City will regularly assess service area coverage as part of its PROS Plan update process:

- Metric: % of residents within ½-mile pedestrian walkshed of a Neighborhood Park.
 - Current Baseline (2025): ~65–70%.
 - 2027 Target: 75%.
 - 2030 Target: 85%.



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- 2035 Target: 90%.
- 2044 Target: 95%.

If coverage falls below target, the CIP may be amended to accelerate new park acquisitions or trail development.





Chapter 16

PARK AND FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

To effectively plan for future growth and ensure a balanced recreation system, the City of Granite Falls organizes its park assets into distinct classifications. These classifications define the intended purpose, size, service area, and development standards for each type of facility.

16.1 Classification System Overview

The City utilizes a hierarchical classification system consistent with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards, adapted for the specific context of Granite Falls.

16.2 Pocket Parks / Mini-Parks

- Description: Small, accessible public spaces designed to serve a specific, limited population or purpose. Often located in high-density areas or commercial districts.
- Typical Size: Less than 0.5 acres.
- Service Area: 1/4 mile radius (Pedestrian-oriented).
- Typical Amenities:
 - Seating (benches, seat walls).
 - Landscaping and gardens.
 - Public art or historical markers.
 - Small play features (tot lot) if space permits.
- Granite Falls Examples:
 - Jack Webb Park: Located in the historic downtown core, serving as a gateway feature with seating and historical interpretation.
- Planning Policy: The City encourages the inclusion of privately maintained pocket parks within new high-density residential developments.

16.3 Neighborhood Parks

- Description: The "backbone" of the park system. Designed to serve the daily recreational needs of nearby residents. Accessible primarily by walking or biking.
- Typical Size: 1 to 5 acres.
- Service Area: 1/2 mile radius (Walking distance).



- Typical Amenities:
 - Children's playground (ages 2-12).
 - Open grassy area for informal play (catch, frisbee).
 - Picnic tables and benches.
 - Loop trail or pathway.
 - Sport court (half-court basketball, pickleball).
- Granite Falls Examples:
 - Dog Park: Features open lawn and dog park area. Serves the southern residential neighborhoods.
- Planning Policy: New subdivisions should be required to dedicate land for neighborhood parks or pay impact fees to develop one within a walkable distance (1/2 mile), as required by Granite Falls Municipal Code.

16.4 Community Parks

- Description: Large parks designed to serve the entire community and beyond. They accommodate active recreation, large group gatherings, and specialized facilities that cannot be fit into smaller parks.
- Typical Size: 5 to 20+ acres.
- Service Area: 2 miles (City-wide service).
- Typical Amenities:
 - Sports fields (baseball, soccer, softball) – lit for evening use.
 - Large picnic shelters/pavilions (rentable).
 - Specialized facilities (Skate park, water play features, Bike pump track).
 - Restrooms (permanent).
 - Off-street parking.
 - Water access (if applicable).
- Granite Falls Examples:
 - Frank Mason Park: The City's active recreation park (20 acres) featuring Lake Gardner access, ball fields, trails, and picnic facilities.
 - Jim Holm Park: While smaller in acreage (2.5 acres), it functions as a Civic Park, the "heart" of the community for events.
- Planning Policy: Community Parks are the focus of major capital investment and grant funding applications (RCO).

16.5 Special Use Facilities

- Description: Parks designed primarily for a single, specialized purpose.
- Typical Size: Varies based on use.
- Service Area: Regional (users travel specifically for this facility).
- Typical Amenities:



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- Sports complexes (tournament-grade fields).
- Golf courses.
- Nature centers.
- Off-leash dog parks (large scale).
- Granite Falls Examples:
 - Perrigou Memorial Park: Dedicated baseball/softball complex primarily used for organized league play (Little League).
- Planning Policy: Development often involves partnerships with user groups (e.g., Sports Leagues) for maintenance and operations.

16.6 Linear Parks / Trails

- Description: Corridors of land managed for recreation and transportation.
- Typical Size: Variable width (typically 20-50 feet).
- Service Area: Connectivity corridors linking other park types.
- Typical Amenities:
 - Paved multi-use trails (10-12 ft wide).
 - Soft-surface nature trails.
 - Wayfinding signage.
 - Trailheads with parking.
 - Benches and rest stops.
- Proposed System: The PROS Plan envisions a network connecting downtown, schools, Frank Mason Park, and future residential areas (see Chapter 14).

16.7 Open Space / Natural Areas

- Description: Land set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.
- Typical Size: Variable.
- Service Area: Community-wide benefit (environmental).
- Typical Amenities:
 - Minimal development.
 - Interpretive signage.
 - Soft-surface nature trails (where appropriate).
 - Wildlife viewing areas.
- Granite Falls Examples:
 - Riparian zones along the Pilchuck and Stillaguamish Rivers.
 - Steep slope areas designated as critical areas.
- Planning Policy: Public access is secondary to resource protection. Development is limited to low-impact trails and educational features.



16.8 Facility Development Standards

To ensure consistency and quality across classifications, the City adopts the following general development standards:

- **Accessibility:** All new parks (regardless of class) must meet ADA design guidelines.
- **Sustainability:** Landscape design should prioritize native plants, drought-tolerant species, and low-maintenance materials.
- **Safety:** CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles will be applied (clear sightlines, lighting in high-use areas).
- **Signage:** A unified signage standard will be used across all park classes to create a cohesive City identity.
- **Amenities:** Restrooms are required in Community Parks and strongly recommended in high-use Neighborhood Parks. Trash receptacles and dog waste stations are standard in all maintained parks.

This classification system provides the framework for the Capital Improvement Plan (Chapter 28), ensuring that investments are balanced across different park types to serve the diverse needs of Granite Falls residents.



Chapter 17

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

A park system is only as good as the care it receives. As Granite Falls continues to acquire land and develop new facilities, the operational burden will naturally increase. This chapter outlines the maintenance standards, staffing requirements, and operational strategies necessary to protect the City's investment and ensure public safety.

17.1 Current Maintenance Structure

Currently, park maintenance is the responsibility of the Public Works Department. There is no dedicated Parks and Recreation Department or dedicated Parks Maintenance staff.

- **Management:** The Public Works Director oversees all maintenance activities.
- **Staffing:** Routine tasks (mowing, garbage, restroom cleaning) are performed by the Public Works crew, who share duties with Streets, Water, and Sewer functions.
- **Efficiency:** This "shared service" model is cost-effective for a city of Granite Falls' current size, allowing flexibility in crew assignments.
- **Challenges with Current Model:**
- **Competing Priorities:** During storms or utility emergencies, park maintenance is often deferred.
- **Specialized Skills:** General public works staff may lack specialized training in horticulture, playground safety inspection (CPSI), or turf management.
- **Capacity Limit:** As new facilities (e.g., water play features, new Neighborhood Park) come online, the existing crew will be stretched beyond capacity.





17.2 Maintenance Standards

To maximize efficiency and prioritize resources, the City adopts a Tiered Maintenance System based on facility usage and visibility.

- Level 1 (High Visibility)
 - Definition: "Showcase" facilities requiring intensive care.
 - Frequency & Standards:
 - Mowing: Weekly (in season)
 - Restrooms: Daily cleaning
 - Trash: Daily pickup
 - Graffiti: Removal within 24 hrs.
 - Plantings: Weed-free, mulched annually
- Level 2 (Standard)
 - Definition: Neighborhood parks and general use areas.
 - Frequency & Standards:
 - Mowing: Every 10-14 days
 - Restrooms: 3x per week
 - Trash: 2-3x per week
 - Graffiti: Removal within 48 hrs.
 - Inspection: Monthly safety check
- Level 3 (Natural/Low Use)
 - Definition: Open space and passive areas.
 - Frequency & Standards:
 - Mowing: Seasonal/Fire safety only
 - Trash: Weekly
 - Trails: Quarterly brush clearing
 - Inspection: Quarterly or after storms

17.3 Maintenance Cost Analysis

Maintaining a park system has a measurable financial cost. Industry standards (NRPA) and local benchmarks suggest the following baseline costs for developed parkland:

- Average Cost per Acre (Level 1/2): \$8,500 - \$12,000 per year (Labor + Materials).
- Current Inventory: ~35 Acres.
- Projected Maintenance Liability: ~\$350,000 - \$420,000 annually (Full burden).

Note: The City's actual budget may appear lower because labor costs are blended within the Public Works General Fund. However, as the system grows, these "hidden" costs will become explicit operational liabilities.



17.4 Future Staffing Recommendations

Based on the projected growth and the 2026-2031 CIP, the City will reach a tipping point where the shared Public Works model is no longer sufficient.

Staffing Trigger:

- When the City adds specialized facilities or exceeds 45 developed acres, a dedicated Parks Maintenance Lead (1.0 FTE) should be hired.

Role of the Parks Maintenance Lead:

- Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI): Conducts mandatory safety audits.
- Volunteer Coordinator: Organizes community stewardship events (weed pulls, trail days) to offset labor costs.

17.5 Partnerships & Volunteer Stewardship

To supplement City staff, Granite Falls will leverage community energy:

- Adopt-a-Park Program: Formalize a program where local businesses, HOAs, or civic groups "adopt" a specific park for quarterly cleanup days.
- Sports Leagues: Continue partnership with Granite Falls Little League for maintenance of ballfield infields (specialized turf care).
- School District: Coordinate on joint-use facility maintenance (e.g., City mows School fields in summer in exchange for public use).

17.6 Asset Management & Lifecycle Replacement

Maintenance is not just cleaning; it is also planning for replacement. The City will build reserves for the eventual replacement of major assets.

Typical Lifecycles:

- Playground Equipment: 15-20 years.
- Picnic Shelters/Roofs: 25-30 years.

Strategy: The Facility Assessment (Chapter 13) serves as the baseline. The Public Works Director will update this inventory annually to forecast capital replacement needs 5 years in advance.



SECTION V ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

Chapter 18

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The 2026 PROS Plan is a 20-year guiding document, but the future holds uncertainties. This chapter identifies emerging trends, demographic shifts, and external factors that will shape park planning decisions over the next two decades.

18.1 Population Growth & Demographic Change

Rapid Growth (2025–2044):

Granite Falls is projected to grow from 4,775 residents to 6,881 residents, a 37% increase. This growth will fundamentally alter the character of the community.

Implications for Parks:

- **Increased Demand:** More residents = more demand for parks and recreation. Peak-use periods will become more crowded.
- **Diverse Demographics:** Young families will continue to be a dominant demographic, but the community will become more ethnically diverse. Parks programming and amenities must reflect this diversity.
- **Aging in Place:** As current residents age, the demand for accessible, low-impact recreation (trails, shade, seating) will increase.

Strategic Response:

The City's LOS standards (Chapter 10) are based on serving the 2044 population. However, land acquisition must happen now, before property values and scarcity make future purchases infeasible.

18.2 Climate Change & Environmental Resilience

The Pacific Northwest is experiencing measurable climate impacts that will affect park planning:

- **Increased Precipitation:** Winter rainfall is more intense, leading to flooding and erosion.
- **Wildfire Risk:** Extended dry summers increase brush fire risk in nearby forests.
- **Stream Temperature:** Warmer water impacts fish habitat in the Pilchuck and Stillaguamish rivers.



Park Planning Responses:

- Low-Impact Development (LID): Park designs will incorporate bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable surfaces to manage stormwater and recharge groundwater.
- Tree Canopy: Expansion of shade trees to mitigate urban heat islands and provide cooling refuge during heat waves.
- Fuel Reduction: In areas adjacent to forests, parks can serve as defensible space (brush clearing, dead tree removal) to reduce wildfire risk.

Specific Project Example:

- Frank Mason Park trails should incorporate stream-side restoration and riparian buffer widening to support fish habitat.

18.3 Evolving Recreation Trends

National recreation trends suggest shifts in how and where people will want to play:

Declining Traditional Sports:

- Youth participation in organized baseball and soccer has declined nationally. While Granite Falls Little League remains strong, the City should not assume this facility will remain at current capacity.

Rising Trends:

- Non-Traditional Activities: Skateboarding, BMX, pump tracks, parkour, and action sports attract younger users.
- Fitness & Wellness: Outdoor fitness classes, yoga, and wellness activities are increasingly popular.
- Adventure Recreation: Rock climbing, slack-lining, and high-ropes courses appeal to diverse age groups.
- Community Gathering: Parks serve as gathering places for social connection (picnics, concerts, markets).
- Nature Access: Families increasingly seek "nature play" opportunities—less structured playgrounds, more natural areas with logs, water, and minimal equipment.

Planning Response:

- The water play features and potential pump track (Chapter 12) align with these trends. The City should also plan for flexible, multi-use spaces that can accommodate various activities rather than single-purpose facilities.



18.4 Technology & Digital Connectivity

Technology will increasingly influence park use and management:

Public Facing Technology:

- Trail Apps: Residents use apps (AllTrails, Komoot) to discover and share trail experiences.
- Park Reservations: Online booking systems for picnic shelters and sports courts.
- Accessibility Information: Detailed trail specs (distance, elevation gain, surface type, accessibility grade) available digitally.
- Park Safety: Real-time occupancy/crowding information to help users avoid peak times.

Operations Technology:

- Automated Sensors: Soil moisture sensors to optimize irrigation (water conservation).
- Maintenance Tracking: GPS-enabled work orders to document maintenance tasks and predict equipment needs.
- Community Reporting: Mobile app for residents to report maintenance issues (potholes, graffiti, broken equipment).

Equity Consideration:

Not all residents have smartphones or internet access. The City must ensure that digital tools supplement—not replace—traditional information channels (signage, maps, staff).

18.5 Economic & Funding Uncertainty

Municipal budgets are under pressure. The funding environment for parks is uncertain:

Funding Pressures:

- General Fund Constraints: Competition from core services limits discretionary spending.
- Property Tax Limitations: Washington State limits property tax growth, reducing revenue.
- Grant Dependency: Federal and State grant funding is competitive and cyclical; cannot be relied upon as ongoing revenue.

Opportunities:

- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Corporate sponsorships of parks (e.g., "Microsoft Community Park") can provide naming rights revenue or volunteer labor.



- User Fees: Parks can generate modest revenue through picnic shelter rentals, athletic field use, and recreation programs.

Strategy:

The PROS Plan's success depends on sustained political support from the City Council. Economic downturns could pressure the Council to defer CIP projects. The City should build reserves to buffer against economic cycles.

18.6 Indigenous Partnerships & Cultural Stewardship

Granite Falls is traditional territory of the Stillaguamish, Sauk Suiattle, and Tulalip Tribes. Meaningful partnership with these Nations will enhance park management and cultural relevance.

Current Status:

- The 2024 Comprehensive Plan (Goal PR0-6) commits to tribal coordination on historic and cultural preservation.

Future Opportunities:

- Co-Management Agreements: Tribes can participate in riparian restoration, native plant restoration, and cultural site stewardship.
- Interpretive Signage: Trails and parks include cultural and historical interpretation, with tribal input on accuracy and presentation.
- Fishing Access: Protected access to fishing grounds (as appropriate and culturally sensitive) recognizes traditional use rights.
- Native Plant Restoration: Replace invasive plantings with culturally significant native species.
- Educational Programming: Partner on environmental education that includes Indigenous ecological knowledge.

18.7 Equity & Social Justice

Parks are not equally used by all populations. The City is committed to ensuring equitable access and representation.

Current Equity Gaps:

- Geography: Underserved neighborhoods (North Granite Falls, new subdivisions) lack park access.
- Economic: Recreation programs and amenities may be affordable only to higher-income families.
- Language & Culture: Parks programming and signage may not reflect non-



English-speaking residents or cultural communities.

Future Commitments:

- Equity Audit (Chapter 11): Conduct periodic analysis of park quality, access, and programming by neighborhood and demographic group.
- Inclusive Design: Parks will be designed to welcome all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.
- Community Leadership: Ensure park planning processes include voices of underrepresented communities, not just the politically active.

18.8 Health & Wellness

Parks are increasingly recognized as public health assets. Post-COVID, the value of outdoor recreation and mental health benefits is well-established.

Health Benefits of Parks:

- Physical Activity: Access to trails and sports facilities reduces obesity and chronic disease.
- Mental Health: Nature exposure reduces stress, anxiety, and depression.
- Community Connection: Parks foster social bonds, reducing isolation and loneliness.
- Air Quality: Trees and vegetation filter pollutants and improve respiratory health.

Future Programming:

As the City develops recreation staff (Chapter 21), programs should emphasize health and wellness:

- Outdoor fitness classes.
- Walking groups for seniors.
- Adaptive recreation for people with disabilities.

18.9 School & Community Partnerships

The Granite Falls School District is a significant property owner in the City. Deepening partnerships creates mutual benefits.

Joint-Use Opportunities:

- Off-Hours Access: Public use of school fields, courts, and playgrounds after school hours and on weekends.
- Multi-Use Facilities: New school buildings designed with public recreation in mind (e.g., shared parking, accessible outdoor courts).



18.10 Regional Collaboration

Granite Falls does not exist in isolation. Regional trends and decisions affect the City.

Regional Connections:

- Mountain Loop Highway Recreation: Granite Falls is the gateway to state-managed recreation (North Cascades Highway, trails).
- Snohomish County Parks: Regional parks complement City facilities.

Future Advocacy:

- Partner with County on shared wayfinding and parking for tourists.
- Participate in regional recreation planning meetings.

18.11 Emerging Facility Types

As trends evolve, entirely new facility types may emerge:

- Possible Future Facilities:
 - Outdoor Fitness Equipment Parks: Permanent, free fitness stations (pull-up bars, stretching bars, lat pulldowns).
 - Outdoor Amphitheaters: Future Legion Park, distributed community gathering spaces.
 - Environmental Learning Centers: Classrooms in nature for outdoor education.
- Flexibility in Planning:
 - This PROS Plan intentionally preserves land in Chapters 28 for "future use" rather than prescribing every facility 20 years in advance. Community priorities and trends may shift.

18.12 Adaptation & Plan Updates

The PROS Plan is adaptive, not rigid.

Triggers for Mid-Course Corrections:

- Population Growth Faster/Slower than Projected: If population grows 50% faster, the City will accelerate land acquisition. If growth is slower, the timeline can be extended.
- Funding Changes: If the City receives an unexpected grant or bequest, projects can be accelerated.



- Community Demand Shifts: If survey results show a new priority emerging, projects can be reprioritized.
- Facility Failures: If a major park facility becomes unsafe or non-functional, maintenance/replacement becomes urgent.

Update Schedule:

- The PROS Plan will be formally updated every 6 years (per RCO requirements) or sooner if circumstances warrant. Each update will reassess the CIP, revisit adopted LOS standards, and solicit new community input.



Chapter 19

OPERATION STRATEGIES

Biannual facility evaluations will be conducted to monitor the quality of existing facilities and amenities. Repairing and/or replacing damaged or aging facilities is an ongoing practice that can be improved with more routine inspections.

Coordination between the Granite Falls Community Development and Public Works Departments is required to plan and process changes to existing facilities. This collaboration is appropriate for the current size of Granite Falls but will become more difficult to prioritize as the City grows larger in population and development projects.

A designated parks and recreation staff member will be a necessary expenditure in the future and will run a parks program more efficiently than coordination between two departments. A park program staff member would oversee grant programs, parks planning, maintenance and operations, and early phases of developing a recreation program.

Chapter 20

SUSTAINABILITY

The City will explore implementing environmentally sustainable practices in its PROS operations. This can be accomplished by incorporating sustainable principles into the design of new parks. The Public Works Department will also explore sustainable maintenance practices for new and existing facilities. Granite Falls aims to protect and improve water quality and native habitat, restore wetlands, and attract wildlife. The City hopes to offer education and training to staff and the public to emphasize sustainable practices such as recycling, using renewable energy, conserving water, designing for low impact development, and employing responsible pest management at park sites.



Chapter 21

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Granite Falls has no park and recreation program staff, works with limited financial resources, and does not have a designated recreation space available to develop a program at the time of this report.

Recreation programs can be sources of City revenue and are not typically developed unless there is a larger population to support services. Other similar sized, semi-rural cities, such as Sultan, do not possess a recreation program and it can be assumed that a recreation program in Granite Falls is not financially viable at this time. A recreation program is more likely closer to 2035, as additional tax revenue and participants are needed to create a self-sustaining program. Steps toward creating a recreation program can begin before 2035 and would involve a financial analysis to determine when a program could be developed.

Public engagement is the first step towards developing a recreation program to evaluate the types of services and interests residents would support. Granite Falls would then need to conduct a financial analysis evaluating the minimum costs to run a recreational program, minimum revenue necessary to sustain a program, and make considerations to the level of funding available with population growth. The City would need to wait for a higher population to gain enough tax revenue to move forward with developing a program and hiring designated staff. The City should consider investing in community building to accommodate a recreation program office and operating space.



SECTION VI FUNDING AND INVESTMENT OF OUR PARKS

Chapter 22

CITY BUDGET

Local jurisdictions face a growing demand for new recreational opportunities as they serve an increasingly diverse population and a large cohort of aging citizens. This section summarizes traditional local funding options, state, and federal funding programs available to Washington cities and counties to fund parks and recreation planning, programs, and projects. Many communities recognize how parks and recreation improve quality of life.

Residents of some communities have supported tax increases, conservation futures levies, or bond referendums targeted for these purposes. Even in communities supportive of parks and recreation programs, local jurisdictions must be alerted to cost savings opportunities. They will likely need to supplement limited funds with some creative approaches to park financing.

This section also describes public, private, and user group partnerships and cost sharing approaches, cost reduction measures, and other creative funding approaches used by some local jurisdictions to fill the funding disparities.

Prior to 2025, the budget was comprised of wages, maintenance and operations, and administration costs. Over the last 2-3 years, the Parks Program has expanded its budget to include a community arts program, and the increased budget is necessary to expand maintenance operations to these programs.



Figure 22.1 10-Year Park Funding Records

YEAR	TOTAL BUDGET (less transfers)	CHANGE FROM PRVIOUS YEAR	PARKS BUDGET	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET
2026	\$7,190,701	-6.5%	\$300,798	-44.7%	4.2%
2025	\$7,687,243	+4.7%	\$544,059	+216.1%	7.1%
2024	\$7,325,847	+21.7%	\$172,132	+27.4%	2.3%
2023	\$6,017,555	+8.1%	\$135,124	+16.1%	2.2%
2022	\$5,564,822	-6.4%	\$116,421	+3.4%	2.1%
2021	\$5,946,136	+19.4%	\$112,409	+2.4%	1.9%
2020	\$4,911,061	-1.6%	\$109,782	+26.8%	2.2%
2019	\$4,993,213	+15.1%	\$86,570	+3.4%	1.7%
2018	\$4,337,634	+17.8%	\$83,750	+7.6%	1.9%
2017	\$3,680,935	+6.9%	\$77,860	-7.1%	2.1%
2016	\$3,443,422	+1.0%	\$83,960	+5.5%	2.4%



Chapter 23

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Public grants may supplement the City's budget for parks acquisition, planning, design, and construction. The City of Granite Falls has successfully obtained parks grants in the past to assist with capital improvements and development.

The grant process is competitive and should not be relied upon for nominal parks funding. Grants may also require a match up to 100 percent of certain requested grant funds which may further hinder the City's budget. However, public grants reduce the burden of a project's overall cost on the City's taxpayers and can be instrumental in providing necessary financial resources to smaller jurisdictions.

Chapter 24

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships include land donations, funding from other organizations, and potentially volunteer-driven park stewardship groups. The PROS Plan has been developed with information from community stakeholders and the community at large. Granite Falls would like to continue to partner with community groups, non-profits, and government agencies to increase public access and garner stewardship.

Stakeholders and community partners can advance implementation of the PROS plan through joint design, funding, and coordination, and the City intends to continue building partnerships to enact the plan. There will be an effort to ensure investments and resources from partners advance the goals, policies, and recommendations of the PROS Plan and align with expected outcomes and benefits.

Chapter 25

PARK IMPACT FEES

Impact fees are charges assessed by local governments against new development projects that attempt to recover the cost incurred by government in providing the public facilities required to serve the new development. Impact fees are only used



to fund facilities, such as roads, schools, and parks, which are directly associated with the new development. They may be used to pay the proportionate share of the cost of public facilities that benefit the new development; however, impact fees cannot be used to correct existing deficiencies in public facilities.

In Washington, impact fees are authorized for those jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act (RCW 82.02.050 - .100), as part of “voluntary agreements” under RCW 82.02.020, and as mitigation for impacts under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA – Ch. 43.21C RCW). GMA impact fees are only authorized for: public streets and roads; publicly owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities; school facilities; and fire protection facilities in jurisdictions that are not part of a fire district.

Setting fee schedules for impact fees is a complex process typically involving rate studies. Generally, impact fees do not recover the full cost of a new facility since these fees must be directly and proportionately related to impacts associated with new development.

Chapter 26

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS

Park impact fees may not be required for Master-Planned Developments if a proposal provides for mitigation of park impacts “...by the payment of, or promise or obligation to pay fees, dedicate land, or construct or improve park facilities as part of a permit approval process granted...” consistent with Granite Falls Municipal Code (GFMC) 21.06.020. Instead, the City will collaborate with an applicant to prepare a development agreement regulating the park and open space requirements for subdivision projects. The City expects residential developers to meet a minimum ratio of homes to parks, activities, and open spaces. Development agreements increase access to private parks for homeowners’ association members but are not designated as public parks. Subdivisions may have parks that are privately operated with funding by the homeowner’s association.

The city recognizes the importance of development agreements as a tool to achieve more than a monetary impact fee for the benefit of the community. These agreements can be used to establish conditions on new developments, requiring investments in the construction of parks and recreation facilities as well as commitments to funding ongoing maintenance costs.



Chapter 27

PARK DEVELOPMENT FEES IN LIEU

For developments that require a specific standard of common open space for the use of residents in that development, one option some cities have introduced is the payment of a park development fee in-lieu. This allows the developer to pay into a park development fund in lieu of providing open space within the development itself. The fees must be related to the value of land that might have otherwise been dedicated. The funds must be held in a reserve account and expended on a parks capital improvement project within the original development's park service area. If the fees are not expended within five years, they must be refunded with interest.

This gives developers some flexibility if the provision of open space would cause their development to be infeasible or if it is difficult to provide due to environmentally sensitive areas. Furthermore, this type of program may allow the City to pool in-lieu funds from multiple developments and create a higher quality open space in an area that can serve more residents.

Chapter 28

6- and 20-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) lists projects under consideration for the next six years. The majority of projects focus on the usability and quality of parks, as well as increasing the number of recreational opportunities available. The CIP is included in Appendix F and provides a brief project description, prioritization, cost, and how the projects aim to meet the 2026 PROS Plan goals.



SECTION VII APPENDIX

- Appendix A: Glossary of Terms
- Appendix B: Survey Results Summary
- Appendix C: Stakeholder Meeting Summary
- Appendix D: Public Meeting Summary
- Appendix E: Parks System and Capital Improvement Map
- Appendix F: CIP Estimates
- Appendix G: Facility Assessment Survey



Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

Active Recreation: Active recreation is leisurely, physical activities that require the use of special facilities, including organized sports, skateboard facilities, or swimming.

Amenity: Any built component of the park system that the City has funded and installed. Amenities are developed to serve a minimum level of population and are not based on distance standards.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): A CIP is a community planning and fiscal management tool used to coordinate the location, timing, and financing of capital improvements over a 6-year period. A CIP can be amended annually to reflect changes to revenue and budgets.

Community Facility: A building that is used for public gatherings or specialized physical activities.

Community Park: Large parks ranging from three to ten acres in size. Park provides active recreation facilities and include features such as parking lots, sports fields/courts, and natural areas. Community parks serve users within a 3-mile radius.

Level of Service: A measure of a service provided by a public agency that is used to assess the quality and performance of a service.

Metric: A system or standard of measurement.

Natural Area: An untouched area of landscape that has had minimal human-made improvements for use.

Nature Trail: A less developed pathway for pedestrians through more natural areas. Trail surfaces are commonly gravel or dirt. The park associated with the trail dictates the distance service standard.

Neighborhood Park: Pedestrian oriented parks ranging from one-half to three acres and serving adjacent residential units. Park may include play areas, sport courts, community gardens, and open space. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residents within the immediate vicinity and up to a ½-mile radius.

Open Space: A publicly owned or controlled piece of land that is environmentally protected or conserved in which development is minimal or prohibited.

Park: A publicly owned or controlled piece of land maintained for the purpose of providing recreational space.

Park Acreage: A measurement of level of service that calculates the total number of acres owned and/or operated by the City. The standard does not indicate usable acreage.

Passive Recreation: Passive recreation refers to activities that do not use formal facilities such as wildlife observation, walking, hiking, biking, and picnicking. Passive



recreation has minimal impact on the parks system.

Pedestrian Walkshed: The average distance an individual is willing to walk to a destination. Individuals are typically willing to walk up to a ¼-mile or approximately 5-10 minutes.

Pocket Park: A small, pedestrian oriented park of one-half acre or less that provides a green space in higher density, developed areas. Pocket parks typically include historical/informational markers, landscaping, seating, and public art. Pocket parks are intended to serve users within a quarter mile radius.

Potential Recreation Value: The anticipated estimated value of investment needed to reflect potential population growth.

Recreation: An activity done for enjoyment.

Recreational Amenity: Any built feature in a park that provides opportunities to recreate, or that makes recreation more comfortable, attractive, or accessible.

Recreational Investment: The estimated value and/or costs of City investments into recreational amenities. The value does not include property acquisitional costs. Recreational value is a LOS metric that indicates the estimated cumulative recreation investment per person.

Regional Park: Parks of at least ten acres in size with the capacity to host many people. Park offers activities over a wide service area and connects to adjacent parks or activities. Park typically includes a parking lot, waterfront access, natural areas, and/or amphitheaters. A regional park serves users within a 5-mile radius.

Resource Park: A natural open space park with limited development. Park is typically more passive use and includes trails and interpretive signage. The intent of the park is to preserve natural habitat areas and create educational opportunities on conservation efforts. There are no adopted service standards for resource parks because they are designated to serve and protect the natural environment.

Service Area: The zone of influence for individual parks that is typically determined by the average distance users are willing to travel to visit a facility. Expressed as a radius distance from the edge of park property lines.

Stakeholder: An organized group or person with specialized interest, use, or investment in the parks program.

Urban Trail: A paved pathway for walking. Typically meets accessibility design requirements and permits a variety of movement. The park associated with the trail dictates the distance service standard.

Walkability: A measure of the availability of sidewalks and/or pathways to a City park within the pedestrian walkshed.



Appendix B: Survey Results Summary

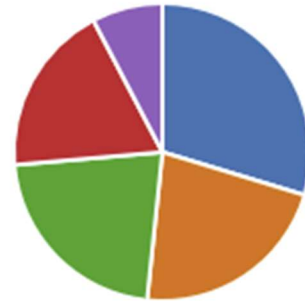
Survey Conducted: November 2025 to January 2026

Responses: 43

Question 1.

In the past 12 months, have you visited any of the City of Granite Falls Park and Recreation facilities from the following list?

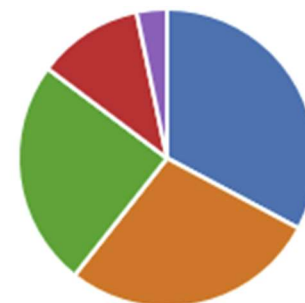
● Jim Holm Park - Skate Park/Pl...	27
● Frank Mason Park - Lake Gard...	20
● Eagle Park - Dog Park	20
● Jack Webb Park - Open Space...	17
● Perrigoue Field - Little League...	7



Question 2.

From the following list, please CHECK ALL the City of Granite Falls parks or recreation facilities you visit regularly.

● Jim Holm Park	20
● Frank Mason Park	17
● Eagle Park	15
● Jack Webb Park	7
● Perrigoue Field	2





Question 3.

How often do you visit the City of Granite Falls Park and Recreation facilities you checked in question 2?

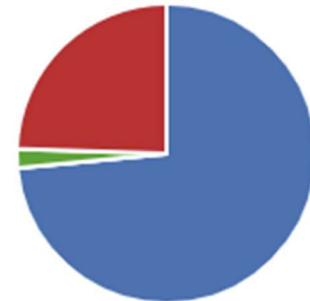
● Daily	5
● Weekly	15
● Monthly	14
● Yearly	4



Question 4.

How do you access the City of Granite Falls Park and Recreation facilities within the City of Granite Falls? (Select all that apply)

● Drive	36
● Bus	0
● Bike	1
● Walk	12

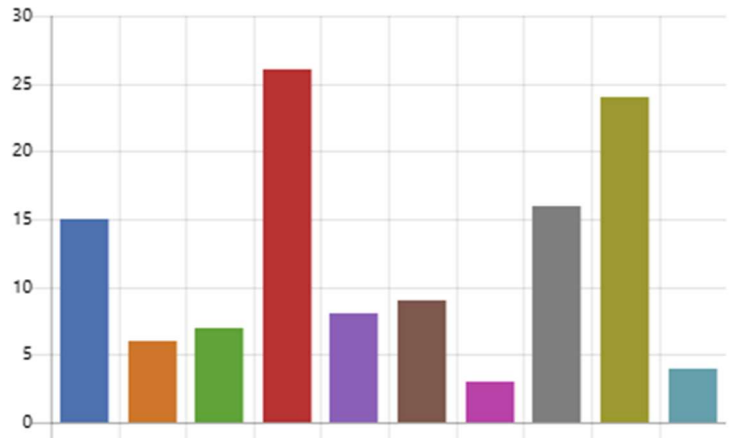




Question 5.

What are the main reasons you or your family visit the parks and recreation facilities within the City of Granite Falls? (Select all that apply)

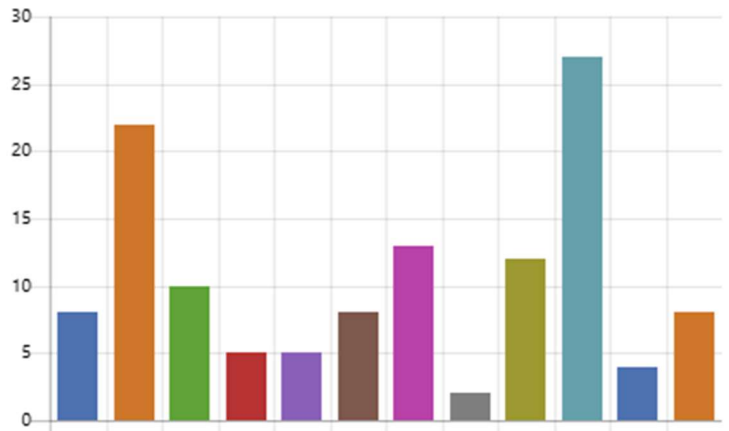
- Children's play area and playg... 15
- Sports/athletics 6
- Waterfront access 7
- Relaxation and enjoyment of ... 26
- Fitness/running/walking 8
- Picnics 9
- Biking/hiking in forested areas 3
- Dog walking 16
- Free/no cost access 24
- Skate Park 4



Question 6.

What, if anything, would make you visit more often? (Select all that apply)

- Additional/improved children'... 8
- Additional/improved walking/... 22
- Additional/improved sports fi... 10
- Additional/improved exercise ... 5
- Additional/improved parking 5
- Improved safety 8
- Cleaner/better maintenance 13
- Proximity/easier access 2
- More activities/programs/eve... 12
- Outdoor concerts/community ... 27
- Addition of Pump Track 4
- I already visit often 8





Question 7.

*How satisfied are you with the **number** of City-owned parks and recreation facilities in the City of Granite Falls?*

● Very satisfied	11
● Somewhat satisfied	11
● Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	12
● Somewhat dissatisfied	8
● Very dissatisfied	0



Question 8.

*How satisfied are you with the **location** of City-owned parks and recreation facilities in the City of Granite Falls?*

● Very satisfied	19
● Somewhat satisfied	9
● Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11
● Somewhat dissatisfied	3
● Very dissatisfied	0



Question 9.

*From the following list, please **CHECK ALL** the parks and recreation facilities operated by **OTHER** providers that you visit regularly within the City of Granite Falls.*

● Boys & Girls Club	2
● Granite Falls School District	19
● Faith-based Organizations (ch...	2
● Other	5

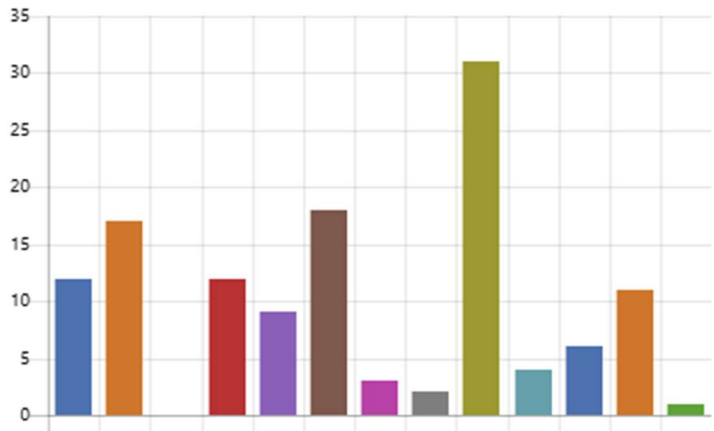




Question 10.

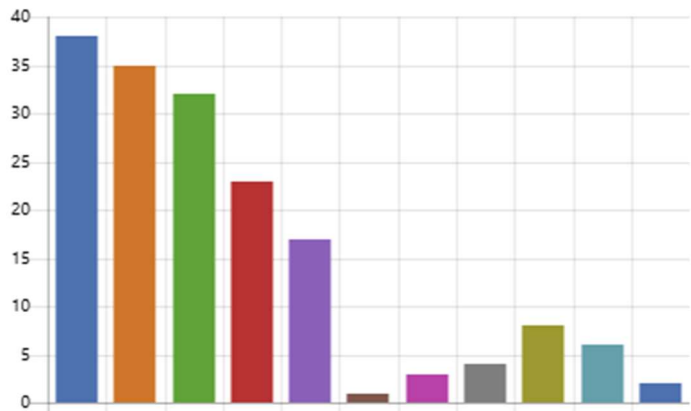
From the following list, please check the THREE park features found in public parks that are MOST IMPORTANT to you.

● Picnic Shelters	12
● Picnic Tables and Benches	17
● Bike Racks	0
● Children's Play Equipment	12
● Parking	9
● Walking Paths	18
● Drinking Fountains	3
● Water Access	2
● Restrooms	31
● Sport Courts	4
● Lighting	6
● Garbage Containers	11
● Interpretive/nature Signage	1



Question 11. *From the following list, please CHECK ALL the organizations that you use for parks, recreation and cultural programs and facilities.*

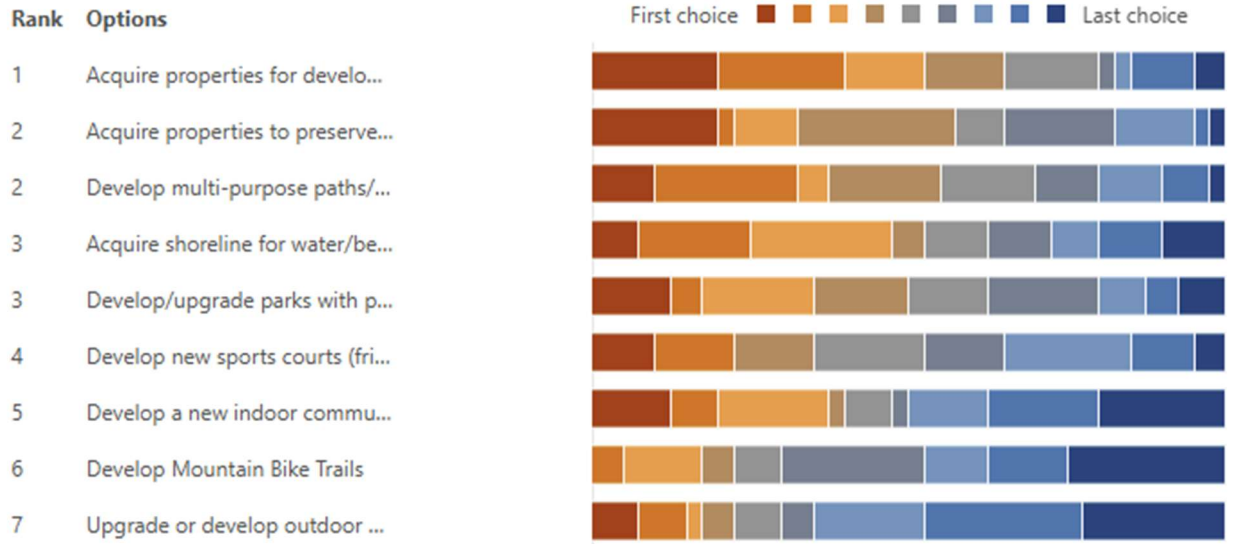
● Snohomish County Parks	38
● State Parks	35
● National Parks	32
● Neighboring City Parks - Lake ...	23
● Granite Falls School District	17
● Boys & Girls Club	1
● Private Adult Sports Leagues	3
● Private Youth Sports Leagues	4
● Non-profit Organizations	8
● Private Gyms and Fitness Facili...	6
● Other	2





Question 12.

Rank the following actions you would like to see the City consider pursuing in the future:



Question 13.

Do you live inside Granite Falls City Limits?

● Yes	24
● No	19





Appendix C: Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Event/Date: January 3, 2026 Open House

Attendance: 1 organization

Scott King/Granite Falls Youth Soccer Club (GFYSC)

The Organization:

- The GFYSC provides recreational and competitive opportunities in the great Granite Falls area for youth ages
- They have added a select level of competition to their present organization in the last year.

Facility usage:

- GFYSC uses the Granite Falls High School turf field only, as other fields are natural grass without adequate drainage and safe turf conditions.
- They have noted that when GFHS turf field lights are on, it attracts other users walking the perimeter track, throwing footballs, etc.
- The Granite Falls High School Field (Field 6) is highest priority. Secondary priorities include fields at elementary schools.
- The GFYSC identified that with better field operation and maintenance at other GFSD fields the organization could utilize such additional facilities. They are also open to the possibility of creating a partnership with the GFSD and the City for making such field improvements to increase usage for all stakeholders.
- The operation of multi-use fields commonly allow for additional purposes to a greater diversity of users. Since the City owns the little league field property, there may be an opportunity for multi-use purpose functions.



Appendix D: Public Meeting Summary

Event/Date: January 3, 2026 Open House

Attendance: 10 persons

Eagle Park Comments

- Plaque/wall to commemorate dogs that have passed
 - Staff comment: Could this be used as a fund raiser for park improvements? People could purchase a brick/engraving of their pet's name for a fee?
- Improve drainage so parking lot flooding does not flow into dog park area.
- Porta-potty/restroom facility.

Frank Mason Park Comments

- Trails –
 - Additional trails throughout the park.
 - Incorporate steps on steeper trails.
 - Fix existing trailhead on south end of park.
 - Staff comment: Not on City owned Property
- Cleaner water in the lake.
- Garden/arboretum along the lakeside.

Perrigoue Field Comments

- More parking.

Jim Holm Park

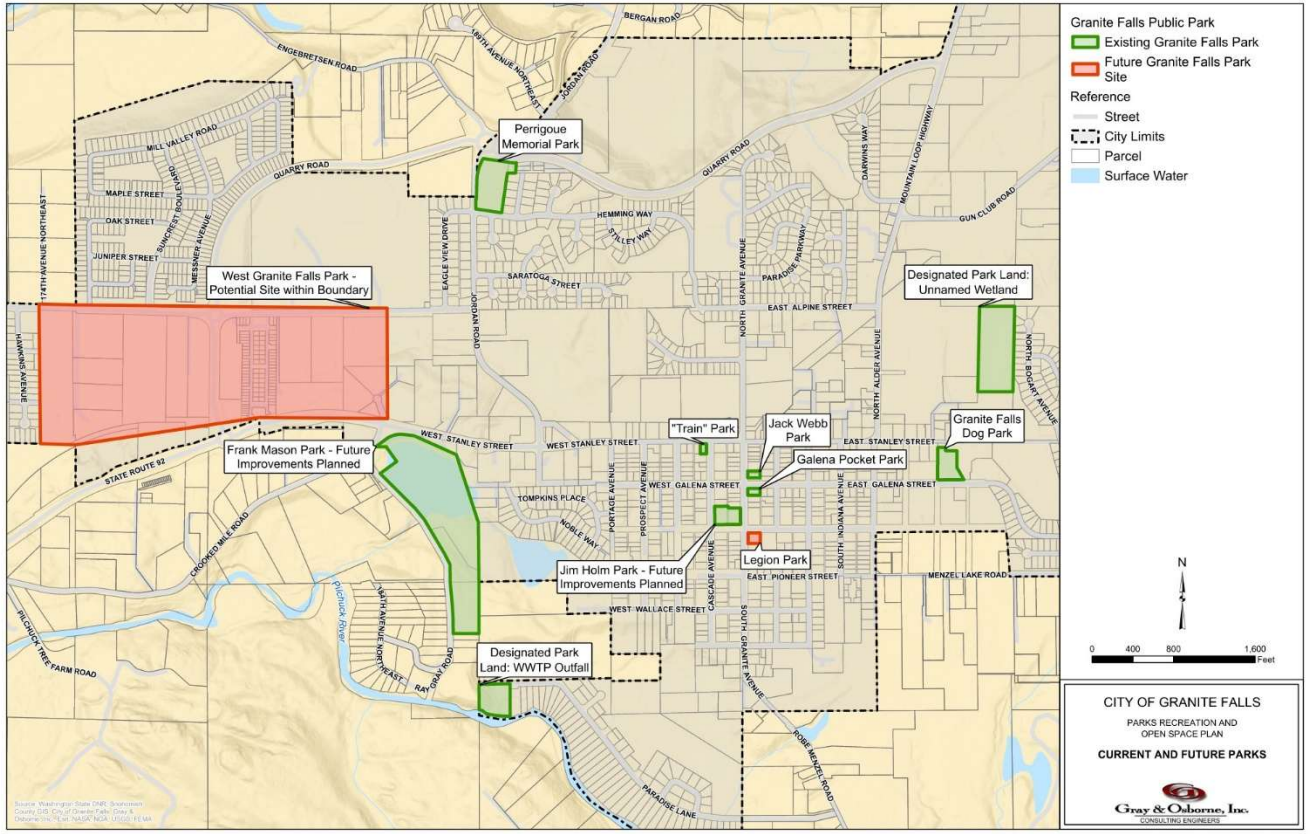
- Splash Pad.

Jack Webb Park

- Surely there must be a solution to vandalism that would enable the bathroom to be kept open.



Appendix E: Parks System and Capital Improvement Map





Appendix F: CIP Estimates

The intent of capital facilities planning and funding for Parks and Recreation facilities is to establish a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, greenspaces and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Additional benefit from such healthful activities provide enjoyment, exercise, and help lead to improved physical, mental and social environments.

PROJECT	Priority Level	Estimated Cost	Project Date	Funding Sources
CIP Parks and Recreation Projects (Year 1-6)				
Veteran's War Memorial Plaza/Legion Park (new)	High	\$1,500,000	2026	General Fund, Grants
Community Center	High	\$2,100,000	2027	General Fund, Grants
Jim Holm Park Improvements	High	\$100,000	2025	Grants, General Fund, Parks Impact Fees
Frank Mason Park Improvements	High	\$110,000	2026	Grants, General Fund, Parks Impact Fees
Community Center Children's Play Area (Ages 2-5)	High	\$175,000	2027	Grants, General Fund, Parks Impact Fees
	TOTAL	\$3,985,000		
Future Parks Projects (Year 7-20)				
West Granite Falls Neighborhood Park (new)				



Appendix G: Facility Assessment Survey

Recreation Facility Assessment



Overview

This assessment is intended to be completed annually for each recreational facility within the City of Granite Falls. These facilities include City owned open space, playgrounds, ball fields & courts, walking trails, and indoor recreation centers. The result of the assessment will identify the safety, condition, and maintenance needs of each facility.

Assessment

The results of each facility assessment will be placed within a table, intended to identify the priority improvements and maintenance items for the City's parks and recreation system.





Recreation Facility Assessment

Name of Facility	<u>Dog Park</u>	Date of Assessment:	<u>12/30/2025</u>
Location	<u>XXX E. Stanley</u>	Reviewed By:	<u>CRW</u>

Place a check mark beside the recreational type found at this site.

Playground	<u> </u>	Indoor Recreation Center	<u> </u>
Open Space Park	<u> X </u>	Aquatic Recreation Areas	<u> </u>
Sports Field	<u> </u>	Walking Trail	<u> </u>
Sports Court	<u> </u>	Other	<u> </u>

General Questions

Are facility restrooms available and functional?

Yes ___ No X Other (Honeybucket)

Are facility restrooms clean and accessible?

Yes ___ No ___ Other

Are facility drinking fountains available and functional?

Yes ___ No X Other

Are facility lights adequate and in working condition?

Yes ___ No X Other

Are there any observed safety hazards in need of immediate attention?

Yes ___ No X Other

Is the parking area in good condition?

Yes X No ___ Other

Are there drainage issues or potholing in the parking area?

Yes X No ___ Other

Are sidewalks or pathways free of cracks and/or trip hazards?

Yes X No ___ Other



Is park signage in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are structures and furnishings in good condition?

Yes No Other

General Comments: The parking area is gravel and has minor drainage issues.

The site has minimal area lighting.

Open Space Parks

Safety

Is there pedestrian access?

Yes No Other

Is there a safe and functional ADA route?

Yes No Other

Is the park of adequate size and space for its intended purpose?

Yes No Other

Is the park free of any detectable safety hazards?

Yes No Other

Safety Comments: _____

Aesthetic

Is the park clean and free of litter, debris, graffiti, etc.?

Yes No Other

Do the park equipment and furnishings appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other



Does the park landscape appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other

Does the park have landscape features that make it a more enjoyable place to be?
(Tree variety, flowers, plans, grassy area, shaded area, monument features)

Yes No Other

Aesthetic Comments: The site offers large mature trees, heavily shading the site.

Aquatic Recreation Areas

General

Is the facility clean?

Yes No Other

Is the dock in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are restrooms available?

Yes No Other

Are drinking fountains available?

Yes No Other

Is there a wash facility?

Yes No Other

General Comments: _____

Safety

Is there vegetation, litter, or sediment at the shore disrupting access to the water?

Yes No Other



Is there adequate safety signage? If so, is it in good condition?

Yes No Other

Is an Emergency Action System plan posted and/or readily available?

Yes No Other

Safety Comments: _____

Walking Trails

General

What is the distance of this trail? _____

What is the average width of this trail? _____

What is the surface of the trail?

Concrete/Asphalt Dirt Other Crushed Rock Composite

Is the surface in adequate condition (free from major obstruction, landslides, etc.)?

Yes No Other

Are there identifiable drainage/puddling issues along the trail surface?

Yes No Other

Are there litter disposal facilities?

Yes No Other

Is the trailhead easily identifiable (signs, markers, pathways)?

Yes No Other

Does the parking lot appear to adequately support the user demand?

Yes No Other

Walking Trail Comments: _____



Recreation Facility Assessment

Name of Facility	<u>Frank Mason Park</u>	Date of Assessment:	<u>12/30/2025</u>
Location	<u>9327 Ray Gray Rd</u>	Reviewed By:	<u>CRW</u>

Place a check mark beside the recreational type found at this site.

Playground	<u> </u>	Indoor Recreation Center	<u> </u>
Open Space Park	<u> X </u>	Aquatic Recreation Areas	<u> X </u>
Sports Field	<u> </u>	Walking Trail	<u> X </u>
Sports Court	<u> </u>	Other	<u> </u>

General Questions

Are facility restrooms available and functional?

Yes X No Other (*Honeybucket*)

Are facility restrooms clean and accessible?

Yes X No Other

Are facility drinking fountains available and functional?

Yes No X Other

Are facility lights adequate and in working condition?

Yes X No Other

Are there any observed safety hazards in need of immediate attention?

Yes No X Other

Is the parking area in good condition?

Yes X No Other

Are there drainage issues or potholing in the parking area?

Yes No X Other

Are sidewalks or pathways free of cracks and/or trip hazards?

Yes X No Other



Is park signage in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are structures and furnishings in good condition?

Yes No Other

General Comments: _____

Open Space Parks

Safety

Is there pedestrian access?

Yes No Other

Is there a safe and functional ADA route?

Yes No Other

Is the park of adequate size and space for its intended purpose?

Yes No Other

Is the park free of any detectable safety hazards?

Yes No Other

Safety Comments: ADA parking and dock access is available. No ADA access

is available for the walking trails.

Aesthetic

Is the park clean and free of litter, debris, graffiti, etc.?

Yes No Other

Do the park equipment and furnishings appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other



Does the park landscape appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other

Does the park have landscape features that make it a more enjoyable place to be?
(Tree variety, flowers, plants, grassy area, shaded area, monument features)

Yes No Other

Aesthetic Comments: _____

Aquatic Recreation Areas

General

Is the facility clean?

Yes No Other

Is the dock in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are restrooms available?

Yes No Other

Are drinking fountains available?

Yes No Other

Is there a wash facility?

Yes No Other

General Comments: The dock was replaced in 2025. No aquatic facilities exist.

Safety

Is there vegetation, litter, or sediment at the shore disrupting access to the water?

Yes No Other



Is there adequate safety signage? If so, is it in good condition?

Yes ___ No ___ Other X

Is an Emergency Action System plan posted and/or readily available?

Yes ___ No X Other ___

Safety Comments: Lacking signs related to swimming activities.

Walking Trails

General

What is the distance of this trail? ~2 miles

What is the average width of this trail? 5'0"

What is the surface of the trail?

Concrete/Asphalt ___ Dirt X Other ___ Crushed Rock ___ Composite ___

Is the surface in adequate condition (free from major obstruction, landslides, etc.)?

Yes X No ___ Other ___

Are there identifiable drainage/puddling issues along the trail surface?

Yes ___ No X Other ___

Are there litter disposal facilities?

Yes ___ No X Other ___

Is the trailhead easily identifiable (signs, markers, pathways)?

Yes ___ No X Other ___

Does the parking lot appear to adequately support the user demand?

Yes X No ___ Other ___

Walking Trail Comments: Lacking signs identifying the presence of walking trails and trail head locations.



Recreation Facility Assessment

Name of Facility	<u>Galena Park</u>	Date of	<u>12/30/2025</u>
Location	<u>115 S. Indiana</u>	Assessment:	<u>CRW</u>
		Reviewed By:	<u>CRW</u>

Place a check mark beside the recreational type found at this site.

Playground	<u> </u>	Indoor Recreation Center	<u> </u>
Open Space Park	<u> X </u>	Aquatic Recreation Areas	<u> </u>
Sports Field	<u> </u>	Walking Trail	<u> </u>
Sports Court	<u> </u>	Other	<u> </u>

General Questions

Are facility restrooms available and functional?

Yes ___ No X Other (Honeybucket)

Are facility restrooms clean and accessible?

Yes ___ No ___ Other

Are facility drinking fountains available and functional?

Yes ___ No X Other

Are facility lights adequate and in working condition?

Yes ___ No ___ Other X

Are there any observed safety hazards in need of immediate attention?

Yes ___ No X Other

Is the parking area in good condition?

Yes X No ___ Other

Are there drainage issues or potholing in the parking area?

Yes ___ No X Other

Are sidewalks or pathways free of cracks and/or trip hazards?

Yes X No ___ Other



Is park signage in good condition?

Yes ___ No ___ Other X

Are structures and furnishings in good condition?

Yes ___ No ___ Other X

General Comments: The site is level grass lot. A small fenced playground area was installed and is operated by the B&G Club. On street parking and alley access is available.

Open Space Parks

Safety

Is there pedestrian access?

Yes X No ___ Other ___

Is there a safe and functional ADA route?

Yes ___ No X Other ___

Is the park of adequate size and space for its intended purpose?

Yes ___ No ___ Other X

Is the park free of any detectable safety hazards?

Yes X No ___ Other ___

Safety Comments: Future use in unknown at this time.

Aesthetic

Is the park clean and free of litter, debris, graffiti, etc.?

Yes X No ___ Other ___

Do the park equipment and furnishings appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes ___ No ___ Other X



Does the park landscape appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other

Does the park have landscape features that make it a more enjoyable place to be?
(Tree variety, flowers, plans, grassy area, shaded area, monument features)

Yes No Other

Aesthetic Comments: _____

Aquatic Recreation Areas

General

Is the facility clean?

Yes No Other

Is the dock in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are restrooms available?

Yes No Other

Are drinking fountains available?

Yes No Other

Is there a wash facility?

Yes No Other

General Comments: _____

Safety

Is there vegetation, litter, or sediment at the shore disrupting access to the water?

Yes No Other



Is there adequate safety signage? If so, is it in good condition?

Yes ___ No ___ Other X ___

Is an Emergency Action System plan posted and/or readily available?

Yes ___ No X Other ___

Safety Comments: No signage is present on site.

Walking Trails

General

What is the distance of this trail? _____

What is the average width of this trail? _____

What is the surface of the trail?

Concrete/Asphalt ___ Dirt ___ Other ___ Crushed Rock ___ Composite ___

Is the surface in adequate condition (free from major obstruction, landslides, etc.)?

Yes ___ No ___ Other ___

Are there identifiable drainage/puddling issues along the trail surface?

Yes ___ No ___ Other ___

Are there litter disposal facilities?

Yes ___ No ___ Other ___

Is the trailhead easily identifiable (signs, markers, pathways)?

Yes ___ No ___ Other ___

Does the parking lot appear to adequately support the user demand?

Yes ___ No ___ Other ___

Walking Trail Comments: _____



Recreation Facility Assessment

Name of Facility	<u>Jack Webb Park</u>	Date of Assessment:	<u>12/30/2025</u>
Location	<u>115 S. Granite Ave</u>	Reviewed By:	<u>CRW</u>

Place a check mark beside the recreational type found at this site.

Playground	<u> </u>	Indoor Recreation Center	<u> </u>
Open Space Park	<u> </u>	Aquatic Recreation Areas	<u> </u>
Sports Field	<u> </u>	Walking Trail	<u> </u>
Sports Court	<u> </u>	Other	<u> X </u>

General Questions

Are facility restrooms available and functional?

Yes X No Other (*Honeybucket*)

Are facility restrooms clean and accessible?

Yes X No Other

Are facility drinking fountains available and functional?

Yes No X Other

Are facility lights adequate and in working condition?

Yes X No Other

Are there any observed safety hazards in need of immediate attention?

Yes No X Other

Is the parking area in good condition?

Yes X No Other

Are there drainage issues or potholing in the parking area?

Yes No X Other

Are sidewalks or pathways free of cracks and/or trip hazards?

Yes X No Other



Is park signage in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are structures and furnishings in good condition?

Yes No Other

General Comments: Downspouts are needed on the restroom building.

Open Space Parks

Safety

Is there pedestrian access?

Yes No Other

Is there a safe and functional ADA route?

Yes No Other

Is the park of adequate size and space for its intended purpose?

Yes No Other

Is the park free of any detectable safety hazards?

Yes No Other

Safety Comments: _____

Aesthetic

Is the park clean and free of litter, debris, graffiti, etc.?

Yes No Other

Do the park equipment and furnishings appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other



Does the park landscape appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other

Does the park have landscape features that make it a more enjoyable place to be?
(Tree variety, flowers, plants, grassy area, shaded area, monument features)

Yes No Other

Aesthetic Comments: _____

Aquatic Recreation Areas

General

Is the facility clean?

Yes No Other

Is the dock in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are restrooms available?

Yes No Other

Are drinking fountains available?

Yes No Other

Is there a wash facility?

Yes No Other

General Comments: _____

Safety

Is there vegetation, litter, or sediment at the shore disrupting access to the water?

Yes No Other



Is there adequate safety signage? If so, is it in good condition?

Yes No Other

Is an Emergency Action System plan posted and/or readily available?

Yes No Other

Safety Comments: _____

Walking Trails

General

What is the distance of this trail? _____

What is the average width of this trail? _____

What is the surface of the trail?

Concrete/Asphalt Dirt Other Crushed Rock Composite

Is the surface in adequate condition (free from major obstruction, landslides, etc.)?

Yes No Other

Are there identifiable drainage/puddling issues along the trail surface?

Yes No Other

Are there litter disposal facilities?

Yes No Other

Is the trailhead easily identifiable (signs, markers, pathways)?

Yes No Other

Does the parking lot appear to adequately support the user demand?

Yes No Other

Walking Trail Comments: _____



Recreation Facility Assessment

Name of Facility	<u>Jim Holm Park</u>	Date of Assessment:	<u>12/30/2025</u>
Location	<u>206 S. Granite Ave</u>	Reviewed By:	<u>CRW</u>

Place a check mark beside the recreational type found at this site.

Playground	<u> X </u>	Indoor Recreation Center	<u> </u>
Open Space Park	<u> </u>	Aquatic Recreation Areas	<u> </u>
Sports Field	<u> </u>	Walking Trail	<u> </u>
Sports Court	<u> X </u>	Other	<u> </u>

General Questions

Are facility restrooms available and functional?

Yes ___ No X Other (Honeybucket)

Are facility restrooms clean and accessible?

Yes ___ No ___ Other

Are facility drinking fountains available and functional?

Yes X No ___ Other

Are facility lights adequate and in working condition?

Yes X No ___ Other

Are there any observed safety hazards in need of immediate attention?

Yes ___ No X Other

Is the parking area in good condition?

Yes X No ___ Other

Are there drainage issues or potholing in the parking area?

Yes ___ No X Other

Are sidewalks or pathways free of cracks and/or trip hazards?

Yes X No ___ Other



Is park signage in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are structures and furnishings in good condition?

Yes No Other

General Comments: Walking pathways are gravel/grass. The concrete pad near the skate park has small potholes.

Open Space Parks

Safety

Is there pedestrian access?

Yes No Other

Is there a safe and functional ADA route?

Yes No Other

Is the park of adequate size and space for its intended purpose?

Yes No Other

Is the park free of any detectable safety hazards?

Yes No Other

Safety Comments: _____

Aesthetic

Is the park clean and free of litter, debris, graffiti, etc.?

Yes No Other

Do the park equipment and furnishings appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other



Does the park landscape appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other

Does the park have landscape features that make it a more enjoyable place to be?
(Tree variety, flowers, plants, grassy area, shaded area, monument features)

Yes No Other

Aesthetic Comments: The site lacks landscaping features. While there is a picnic shelter, natural shade is absent.

Aquatic Recreation Areas

General

Is the facility clean?

Yes No Other

Is the dock in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are restrooms available?

Yes No Other

Are drinking fountains available?

Yes No Other

Is there a wash facility?

Yes No Other

General Comments: _____

Safety

Is there vegetation, litter, or sediment at the shore disrupting access to the water?

Yes No Other



Is there adequate safety signage? If so, is it in good condition?

Yes No Other

Is an Emergency Action System plan posted and/or readily available?

Yes No Other

Safety Comments: Park rules are posted on the site.

Walking Trails

General

What is the distance of this trail? _____

What is the average width of this trail? _____

What is the surface of the trail?

Concrete/Asphalt Dirt Other Crushed Rock Composite

Is the surface in adequate condition (free from major obstruction, landslides, etc.)?

Yes No Other

Are there identifiable drainage/puddling issues along the trail surface?

Yes No Other

Are there litter disposal facilities?

Yes No Other

Is the trailhead easily identifiable (signs, markers, pathways)?

Yes No Other

Does the parking lot appear to adequately support the user demand?

Yes No Other

Walking Trail Comments: _____



Recreation Facility Assessment

Name of Facility Perrigoue Park Date of Assessment: 12/30/2025
 Location 10317 Jordan Rd. Reviewed By: CRW

Place a check mark beside the recreational type found at this site.

Playground	<u> </u>	Indoor Recreation Center	<u> </u>
Open Space Park	<u> </u>	Aquatic Recreation Areas	<u> </u>
Sports Field	<u> X </u>	Walking Trail	<u> </u>
Sports Court	<u> </u>	Other	<u> </u>

General Questions

Are facility restrooms available and functional?

Yes X No Other (*Honeybucket*)

Are facility restrooms clean and accessible?

Yes X No Other

Are facility drinking fountains available and functional?

Yes No X Other

Are facility lights adequate and in working condition?

Yes No Other X

Are there any observed safety hazards in need of immediate attention?

Yes No X Other

Is the parking area in good condition?

Yes No Other X

Are there drainage issues or potholing in the parking area?

Yes No X Other

Are sidewalks or pathways free of cracks and/or trip hazards?

Yes X No Other



Is park signage in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are structures and furnishings in good condition?

Yes No Other

General Comments: There is no on site lighting. The parking area is gravel, but
is in good condition.

Open Space Parks

Safety

Is there pedestrian access?

Yes No Other

Is there a safe and functional ADA route?

Yes No Other

Is the park of adequate size and space for its intended purpose?

Yes No Other

Is the park free of any detectable safety hazards?

Yes No Other

Safety Comments: _____

Aesthetic

Is the park clean and free of litter, debris, graffiti, etc.?

Yes No Other

Do the park equipment and furnishings appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other



Does the park landscape appear to be well maintained and in good condition?

Yes No Other

Does the park have landscape features that make it a more enjoyable place to be?
(Tree variety, flowers, plants, grassy area, shaded area, monument features)

Yes No Other

Aesthetic Comments: The sites structures are in good condition. The overall aesthetic is good.

Aquatic Recreation Areas

General

Is the facility clean?

Yes No Other

Is the dock in good condition?

Yes No Other

Are restrooms available?

Yes No Other

Are drinking fountains available?

Yes No Other

Is there a wash facility?

Yes No Other

General Comments: _____

Safety

Is there vegetation, litter, or sediment at the shore disrupting access to the water?

Yes No Other



Is there adequate safety signage? If so, is it in good condition?

Yes No Other

Is an Emergency Action System plan posted and/or readily available?

Yes No Other

Safety Comments: _____

Walking Trails

General

What is the distance of this trail? _____

What is the average width of this trail? _____

What is the surface of the trail?

Concrete/Asphalt Dirt Other Crushed Rock Composite

Is the surface in adequate condition (free from major obstruction, landslides, etc.)?

Yes No Other

Are there identifiable drainage/puddling issues along the trail surface?

Yes No Other

Are there litter disposal facilities?

Yes No Other

Is the trailhead easily identifiable (signs, markers, pathways)?

Yes No Other

Does the parking lot appear to adequately support the user demand?

Yes No Other

Walking Trail Comments: _____
