

CHAPTER 8
GOAL 8: RECREATIONAL NEEDS

SECTION 8.0 RECREATIONAL NEEDS GOAL

To provide programs and facilities to meet the recreational needs of area residents and visitors.

SECTION 8.1 RECREATIONAL NEEDS BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The City of Umatilla and the surrounding area abounds in outdoor recreational opportunities. Many of these activities are directly or indirectly associated with the Columbia and Umatilla Rivers. Local citizens, through the workshop process, expressed their concern for the continued access to and enjoyment of the area's recreational opportunities.

8.1.100 RECREATIONAL NEEDS

In light of the recreational inventory and location of these facilities, the need for additional recreational facilities seems to be in the area of neighborhood facilities. In part, this need can be satisfied through the use of playgrounds and equipment at the public schools. However, the addition of neighborhood areas for passive recreation and informal play could best be satisfied through the addition of small neighborhood parks. These areas could also be integrated into the City's pathway/open space system, and become resting places for bike riders or people taking walks. Future proposals for residential development should be reviewed in light of the recreational standards discussed in Section 8.4.

The existing population size and distribution would indicate that a need exists for two neighborhood parks of about 1.5 to 2.0 acres in size. The existing City park is more than adequate based on the above standard for the current level of population. Due to its location, however, use of the park is limited. Existing and proposed facilities are depicted in *Figure 8.1-1*.

The enhancement and preservation of the historical and archeological features of the Old Town Site is a project currently under consideration. The future development of this facility for a museum and/or community center should be considered.

8.1.200 EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The following inventory of recreational facilities briefly summarizes the opportunities available to people in the Umatilla area.

8.1.210 Facilities within the City limits:

- a. *William R. Nugent City Park* – contains approximately 38 acres on the north and south sides of the Umatilla River; has several pieces of playground equipment, benches, picnic facilities, restrooms and baseball field.



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Figure 8.1-1

- b. *Umatilla Marina Park* – contains approximately 14.5 acres on the Columbia River; facility provides moorage, restrooms, gas and two launching ramps for the boating public; additional facilities include a swimming beach and two picnic areas.
- c. *McNary Golf Course* – contains approximately 90 acres; this 18-hole course is well maintained; provides for the golfing needs of the City and the surrounding area and for local golf tournaments.
- d. *McNary Tennis Courts* – contains approximately 1 acre; maintenance of this facility could be improved.
- e. *Umatilla Elementary School* – outdoor recreation areas are part of the elementary/high school complex; playground equipment for the elementary school includes swings, slides, and climbing bars; a new elementary school is being constructed in the McNary area which will provide additional recreational space.
- f. *Umatilla High School* – contains approximately 6 acres of outdoor recreation space; this area contains a combination football-baseball field and a track; the high school also has two gymnasiums.

8.1.220 *Facilities outside the City limits:*

- a. *McNary Wildlife Park* – contains approximately 326 acres; area contains six ponds for wildlife habitats, photographic blind, foot paths, picnic area, areas for angling, and visitor facilities at McNary Dam.
- b. *Sage Rodeo Grounds* – this is the location of a local annual rodeo event.
- c. Additional water recreation opportunities are available at McNary Beach and Plymouth Park, Washington.

SECTION 8.2 (RESERVED FOR EXPANSION)

SECTION 8.3 RECREATIONAL NEEDS FINDINGS

- 8.3.101 Development of pedestrian and bicycle pathways should be promoted.
- 8.3.102 A system of pedestrian and bicycle linkages between parks and outdoor recreation areas should be encouraged.
- 8.3.103 Development of river frontage floodplain areas as linear parks should be encouraged.
- 8.3.104 The enhancement of the area’s recreational facilities and opportunities should be encouraged.

8.3.105 Development of neighborhood parks within walking distance for residential neighborhoods should be required.

SECTION 8.4 RECREATIONAL NEEDS POLICIES

8.4.101 The City will retain and promote, where possible, the development of linear parks and pathways along shore lines and utility easements and neighborhood parks.

8.4.102 The City will utilize the following guidelines in evaluating development proposals and provisions for recreational facilities:

- Neighborhood Park
 - a. 1.5-2.0 acres of park per 1,000 population or about 275 families
 - b. In one- and two-family residential developments, a neighborhood park may not be necessary if the private lot area per family is ¼-acre or more.
- Neighborhood Playlot Space
 - a. 6,000-10,000 sq. ft. for each 100 pre-school children
 - b. This area could be a part of a neighborhood park or community park
- Children's Playground
 - a. 1.0-1.5 acres per 1,000 population
- Community Park
 - a. 3.5 acres per 1,000 population

8.4.103 The City will continue to promote efforts to enhance the Old Town Site, and provide a cultural/civic center, and senior citizen/youth group facilities as a part of this project.