





7 PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Introduction

Imagine Monroe recognizes that equitable access to parks and nature is an essential component to the community's well-being. The City of Monroe engaged the Monroe community in planning for its parks, recreation and open space through its recently adopted Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan (2022). The City also recently updated its Trails Master Plan (2024) to identify ways that the City could improve connectivity to the region and to its open space network. Together, these plans identify existing needs and future projects to improve recreation facilities and services, expand programming, conserve natural habitats and open spaces, and maintain key operations and services.

Parks and open spaces shape Monroe's neighborhoods and provide access to nature. They play a key role in future development plans, alongside transportation options that determine how people access and enjoy these public areas.

Relationship to Other Plans

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that all cities consider a common goal to "retain open space, enhance recreation opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities."



What is the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Vision?

The City of Monroe updated its PROS Plan in 2022, relying on Imagine Monroe to redefine what parks, recreation, and open space mean to the community. Parks and open spaces are viewed as critical elements for the future of Monroe.

Great parks, natural areas, and trails foster safe and welcoming places for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather and recreate, while these spaces protect our waterways and create an active, beautiful, livable, and inclusive city.

Photo Source: Provided by the City of Monroe, MIG Inc.



Monroe met this goal through the adoption of its PROS Plan (2022). The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element of Monroe 2044 incorporates policy direction adopted as part of the 2022 PROS Plan, which guides future investments and development. Public outreach and community engagement during the PROS Plan and Comprehensive Plan updates highlighted the priority of access to natural spaces and active living for Monroe.

Parks and Open Space in Monroe

The 2022 PROS Plan identifies 17 open space sites, totaling approximately 288 acres of park land owned and maintained by the City of Monroe (**Table 7.1**). **Figure 7.1** illustrates the existing parks, trails, and open spaces in Monroe. Fifteen of these parks (282 acres) are developed parks; providing places to play,

gather, and experience nature. The remaining six acres are undeveloped, reserved for future park development. The Skykomish River provides a unique amenity within Monroe and is a popular destination for recreation and access to the river.

Additionally, the City's Parks and Recreation Department oversees the maintenance of the streetscapes along Main Street, Lewis Street, Frylands Boulevard, N. Kelsey, Hillcrest and three roundabouts. Although these areas are not designated as parkland, they are included in the City's park land inventory and are maintained accordingly. Additionally, Snohomish County manages and operates three parks.

Table 7.1 - MONROE'S EXISTING PARKS INVENTORY

Classification	# of Sites	Total Acreage	Examples
Community Parks	2	114.3	Lake Tye Park and Skykomish River Park
Neighborhood Parks	9	15.0	Currie View Park, Rainier Park, Wales Street Park
Special Use Sites	3	0.6	Travelers Park, North Kelsey Property, Downtown Space
Nature Preserves	1	46.7	Foothills Wetland Preserve
River Greenbelts	2	105.1	Al Borlin Park, Lewis Street Park
Undeveloped Sites	3	6.0	North Hill Site, North Kelsey Site
Total	17	287.7	

*Note: A complete park and facility inventory is in Appendix A of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (2022) or can be found in **Appendix 7-A** to this document, with additional data and parks conditions.*



City of Monroe
2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Current Bike Lanes and Trails

- Bike Lane
- Trail
- Streets (highway)
- Streets (major arterials)
- Streets (local)

Proposed Bike Lanes and Trails

- Bike Lane
- Shared Bikeway
- Riverfront Walk
- Regional Bicycle Path
- Regional Bicycle Path (alternate)
- Local Class I Multi-Use Trail

Types of Parks and Sites

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Nature Preserve
- Special Use Park
- Other Recreational Site
- Undeveloped Sites

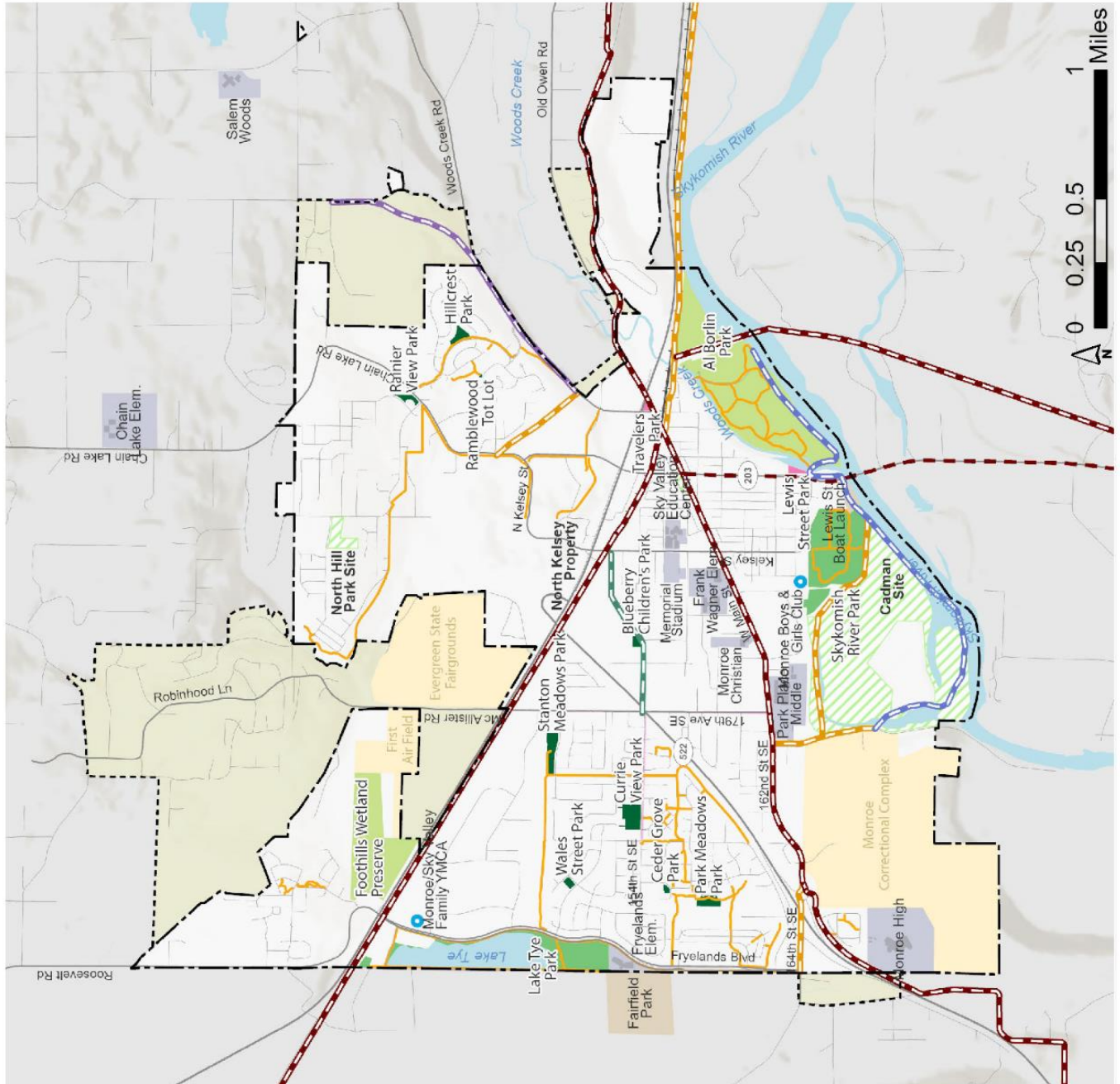


Figure 7.1 - EXISTING PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACES



City parks provide space for a range of recreational activities, including softball, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, skateboarding, tennis, water sports, and other passive recreational activities. There is also equipment and facilities that promote all-ages activities, including children’s and preschool play structures, picnic shelters, open play areas, trails, pathways, and accessible restrooms (PROS Plan 2022).

Trails Master Plan and Network Development

Monroe offers various trails and pathways for recreational activities. Additionally, Snohomish County offers an extensive trail system that stretches into King County, Washington. There are ongoing efforts to link Monroe's local trail system with the broader network in Snohomish County, enhancing recreational opportunities and connectivity for residents and visitors.

The City of Monroe is committed to working alongside the Snoqualmie Tribe to inform residents and trail users about the impacts that their use of the trails and recreation may have on the ancestral lands. This could include educational elements with trail development to help trail users understand the importance of staying on approved trails and reporting illegal trails, should they emerge.

The 2024 Monroe Trails Master Plan (see **Appendix 7-B** for more details, particularly Chapter 2: Table 1 for an overview of the Goals and Objectives) was developed through an iterative process comprising analysis of existing local and regional plans, review of

digital data, such as satellite imagery and topographic information, extensive field work, in-person and online community input, one-on-one stakeholder interviews, and City staff review.

The Full-Build Trail Network map (**Figure 7.2**) simplifies the Study Network map into existing and proposed trails without showing facility types (**Table 7.2**). The Project map shows areas where the City represents all of the projects proposed for the study area. However, the prioritized projects can be seen in Chapter 4 in Appendix 7-B. The numbers correspond to projects in the table.

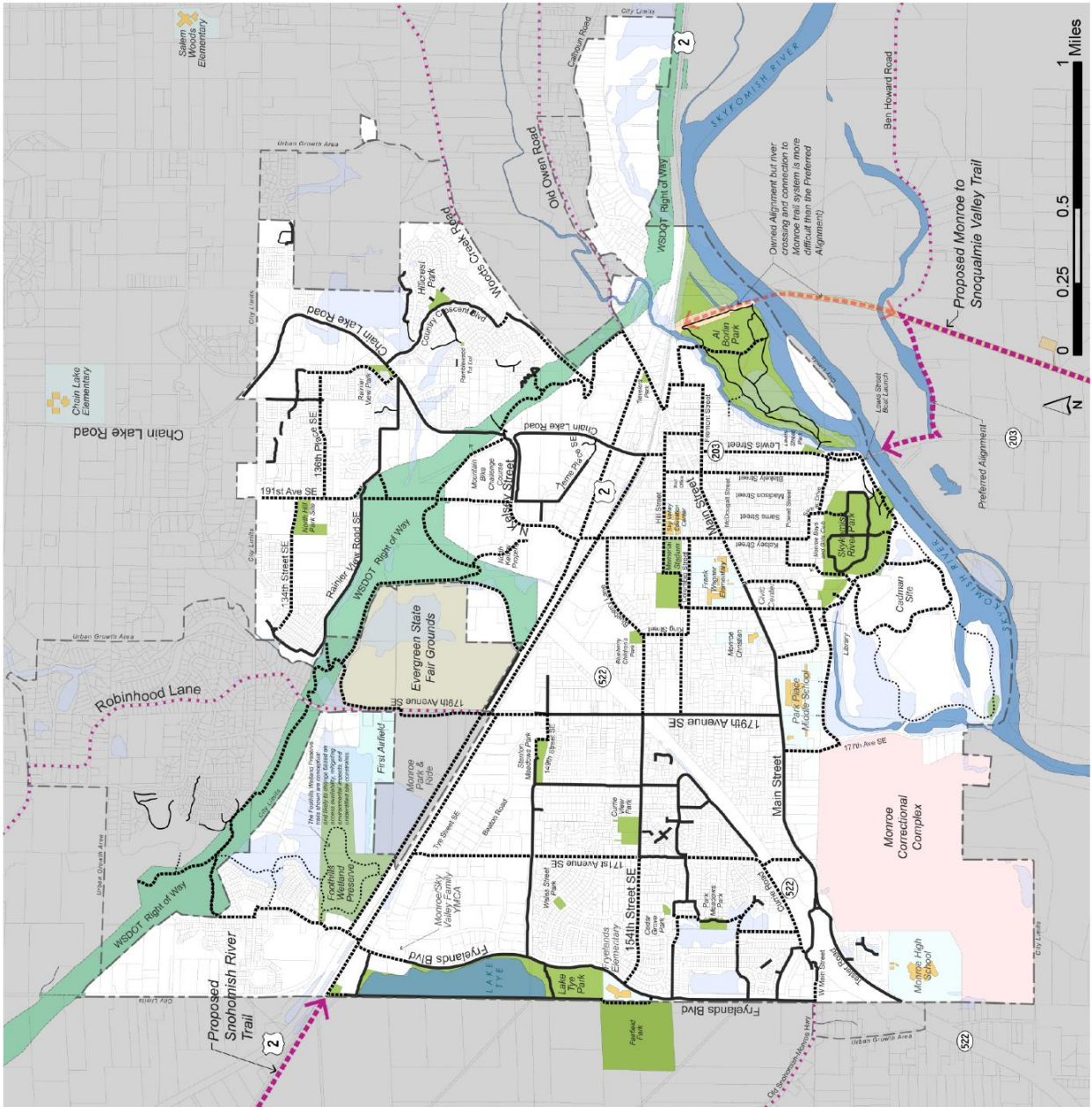
Table 7.2 - PROPOSED FACILITY MILEAGE

Facility Type	Build-Out Network Mileage
Shared Roadways	6.1
Paved Trails	13.6
Protected Bike Lanes	3.5
Two-Way Protected Bike Lanes	2.1
Unpaved Trails	3.6
Total	28.9

A complete trail inventory can be found in **Appendix 7-B to this document.*

Source: City of Monroe, Trails Master Plan, 2024

Figure 7.2 - TRAILS MASTER PLAN NETWORK



**City of Monroe
2024 Comprehensive Plan Update**

- UGA
- City Limits

Existing Non-Motorized Routes

- Paved
- Unpaved

Proposed Non-Motorized Routes

- Paved
- Unpaved

Proposed Non-Motorized Facilities in Snohomish County

- Paved
- Unpaved



Future Parks and Recreation Needs

The 2022 PROS Plan and the Monroe 2044 Comprehensive Plan gathered extensive public input on Monroe’s park and recreation needs, including:



Trails and Paths

There was a desire for more trails and paths for walking and biking, with 51% of respondents saying that building more trails and paths should be the top funding priority.



Key Connections

Respondents thought a connection to the Centennial Trail (69%) was the most important connection for the City to develop, with a "Riverwalk" trail (50%) and an extension of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail (46%) as other top choices.



System Satisfaction

Overall respondents were "highly satisfied" with general park maintenance and "generally satisfied" with the variety of park opportunities. However, respondents were less satisfied with the current access to the Skykomish River. On average, respondents were satisfied with the mix/availability of special events and recreation programming, but there is a desire for more special events and activities that would bring people downtown.



Blueberry Children's Park
Source: Provided by the City of Monroe, MIG Inc.



Play

Respondents expressed a desire for parks with innovative play features and challenge courses that are engaging. Similarly, swimming and water play were activities that respondents would like to see expanded.



Specific Site Improvements

Most respondents answered that they were very excited for Lake Tye and Cadman Site improvements as well as the idea of a linked riverfront. At a new park in the North Hill area, respondents thought the most important features to include were restrooms, a playground, nature play elements, a viewpoint, picnic area, and open turf area for play.

¹ In addition to the City's park and trail system, the Monroe School District owns and maintains 13 additional sites in the City and Monroe School District Area. Approximately 82 acres of district-owned sites are available for recreational use by the general public. Actual use and the assigned acreage value of School District properties and facilities is dependent on the establishment of specific interlocal agreements and the terms and operating conditions of such agreements.



Funding Mechanisms

A little over half of respondents (52%) indicated that they would support a bond measure, and three quarters believe that parks funding should increase. Based on a home with a \$500,000 value, approximately 80% of respondents indicated that they would support or

strongly support a bond measure that increases property taxes between \$50 to \$75.

A complete discussion of the public process, workshop results, and community survey can be found in the PROS Plan (**Appendix 7-A**) and the Trails Master Plan (**Appendix 7-B**).



Playground in Monroe
Source: Provided by the City of Monroe, MIG Inc.



Goals, Policies, and Action Items

The following goals, policies, and actions align with the actions adopted as part of the 2022 PROS Plan with the broader Imagine Monroe vision and Guiding Principles of the Monroe 2044 Comprehensive Plan.



Lake Tye
Source: Provided by the City of Monroe



Photo Source: Provided by the City of Monroe, MIG Inc.

Goal 7.1

Manage, maintain, and revitalize parks, facilities, and natural resources to support safe, attractive, inclusive, and engaging recreation and green space.



Policy	Action Item	
7.1.1		Manage Monroe’s park land, facilities, and open space to support recreation, habitat protection, community aesthetics, City identity, public health, and safety.
	7.1.1.1	<i>Establish and enforce park use rules and regulations that support public access and safety, environmental protection, and protection of park resources and assets.</i>
	7.1.1.2	<i>Plant native and perennials in place of grass in medians, in order to reduce maintenance costs.</i>
7.1.2		Adopt a tiered maintenance approach to provide high quality routine and preventative park and facility maintenance that targets site needs. (See PROS Plan; Appendix F).
	7.1.2.1	<i>Provide an enhanced level of maintenance at highly visible and heavily used parks, as well as sites that include specialized or unique assets, large group gatherings and events, and revenue-generating programs (balancing non-</i>



		<i>fee-based use by all residents). These sites are maintained at the highest level and receive priority during peak use times. Provide enhanced maintenance at Lake Tye Park, Skykomish River Park, North Hill Park, North Kelsey Park, Al Borlin Park, and Cadman Park when these sites are renovated or developed.</i>
	7.1.2.2	<i>Provide a standard level of maintenance at regularly used sites that have a mix of outdoor recreation facilities to support public health and safety, social gatherings, and community aesthetics. These include tasks such as restroom cleaning, trash removal and litter pickup, mowing, and facility maintenance. Ensure standard quality parks at 12 sites, all City trails, and two new sites to be acquired to meet neighborhood park needs.</i>
	7.1.2.3	<i>Provide additional specialized care at sites with significant natural resources to support fish and wildlife habitat, sensitive species, surface water areas, wetlands or riparian corridors, and ecological functions such as stormwater filtration and groundwater recharge. Emphasize efforts at Foothills Wetland Preserve, Al Borlin Park, Cadman Park, and Lake Tye Park.</i>
	7.1.2.4	<i>Develop a comprehensive maintenance management plan to define the tasks and frequencies.</i>
7.1.3		Add maintenance staff to improve maintenance quality and address current needs.
	7.1.3.1	<i>Increase maintenance staff, adding 2-3 FTEs to address the current deficiency, using part-time and seasonal staff as warranted to focus resources where most needed.</i>
	7.1.3.2	<i>Ensure specialized expertise in natural resource management.</i>



7.1.4		Ensure calibrated maintenance and asset management resources are available when parks are renovated, or new parks are brought online.
	7.1.4.1	<i>Add maintenance staff, guided by the maintenance tiers and funding allocations noted in the PROS Plan.</i>
	7.1.4.2	<i>Consider maintenance and ongoing facility lifecycle costs when designing, developing, and constructing parks and bringing new facilities online.</i>
	7.1.4.3	<i>Ensure the park planning position remains filled to guide the capital projects recommended in the PROS plan.</i>
7.1.5		Track and evaluate park and facility age and lifecycles and incorporate this information into annual budgeting and workplans to prioritize repair and replacement needs.
	7.1.5.1	<i>Prioritize deferred maintenance projects and asset management needs using the criteria identified in Chapter 5 of the PROS Plan.</i>
	7.1.5.2	<i>Establish a replacement schedule for substandard facilities and guide the replacement of aging park and recreation infrastructure.</i>
	7.1.5.3	<i>Establish annual dedicated funding allocations to repair or replace landscaping, infrastructure, facilities, and equipment when old and worn.</i>
7.1.6		Protect and steward the City's resources by integrating best practices in sustainability and resource protection.



	7.1.6.1	<i>Develop water-efficient, climate-controlled irrigation systems in all new parks and landscaped areas. Update current irrigation systems when parks and facilities are renovated to improve water efficiency and reduce water costs.</i>
	7.1.6.2	<i>Incorporate water and energy efficient fixtures in all new restrooms, water fountains, and park lighting.</i>
	7.1.6.3	<i>Work with partners to take inventory of, assess, and protect fish and wildlife habitat and significant natural resources in parks and open space areas to preserve vital ecological functions, improve water quality, protect habitats, and increase biodiversity.</i>
	7.1.6.4	<i>Protect and retain trees during park development and renovation, providing it does not impair project safety, structural integrity, or design function.</i>
7.1.7		Implement long-term climate adaptation and resilience strategies.
	7.1.7.1	<i>Prepare and “future-proof” parks and natural resources for future climate change, such as extreme weather, increased flooding, warmer temperatures, and wildfires.</i>
	7.1.7.2	<i>Provide interpretive signage and information to educate park visitors about resilience measures.</i>



	<p>7.1.7.3</p>	<p><i>Incorporate wildfire protection strategies in parks and open spaces. Maintain defensible space around recreation facilities and park structures by removing shrubbery and trimming lower tree branches to reduce “fire ladders.” Reduce or eliminate fuels and ignition sources. Avoid flammable construction materials.</i></p>
	<p>7.1.7.4</p>	<p><i>Incorporate flood protection strategies. For example, incorporate green infrastructure to direct water away from areas within the park that cannot withstand floods. Use low maintenance natural material for trails, benches, or other park features in the flood zone. For facilities and structures within a flood zone, install structures that can withstand flooding events. Include detention and retention areas in the park design, as well as bioswales and native plants to slow runoff and encourage infiltration.</i></p>
	<p>7.1.7.5</p>	<p><i>Anticipate below-normal precipitation and warmer temperatures as climate conditions change. Establish water-smart landscapes. Consider reducing areas of mown lawn as well as the frequency of mowing in low-use recreational landscapes to reduce evaporation and soil moisture loss. Incorporate drought-tolerant plants and native pollinator species. Consider facilities such as floating docks that more easily adjust to changing river and lake levels. On hot days, integrate synthetic turf cooling to reduce surface temperatures.</i></p>
	<p>7.1.7.6</p>	<p><i>Create a maintenance hazard plan that clearly outlines cleanup steps and responsibilities post flooding, storm, or fire events.</i></p>
<p>7.1.8</p>		<p>Encourage community involvement in park design and programming decisions.</p>



	7.1.8.1	<i>Continue to engage community members in the design and renovation of parks. Use a mix of online/virtual and in-person outreach activities, focus groups with stakeholders, and events at or near the site to garner feedback from the community.</i>
	7.1.8.2	<i>When developing site master plans, incorporate family-friendly engagement activities, providing incentives (e.g., childcare, food, swag, entertainment) and targeted marketing campaigns to encourage attendance from a variety of participants and ages, including youth and seniors.</i>
	7.1.8.3	<i>Create an online portal and/or input tool to crowd-source maintenance requests and community ideas for desired programs, activities, events, and park improvements.</i>
	7.1.8.4	<i>Establish or strengthen communications with underserved communities by coordinating with community-based organizations, schools, churches, and other agencies that can help identify the needs of traditionally underrepresented populations.</i>
	7.1.8.5	<i>Engage the Parks Board in community involvement, outreach, and programming recommendations to the City Council.</i>
7.1.9		<p>Promote park design and development that is high quality, accessible, aesthetically pleasing, and sensitive to Monroe’s character by adopting design and development guidelines. Ensure park renovations and new park and facility development address the following principles and best practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inclusivity: Ensure parks are welcoming and engaging for residents and visitors of all ages, ethnicities, cultures, abilities, and incomes.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Diversity: Provide a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities to serve a variety of recreation interests and skill levels. Balance energetic, programmed active use sites with spaces designed for contemplation and quiet social gatherings.c. Universal, All-Inclusive Access: Create equitable use and experiential opportunities for people of different abilities and ages, considering all options of modality and accessibility. Meet and where possible exceed the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Washington State code to provide parks and facilities that accommodate multigenerational groups and people with mobility issues, sight and hearing impairments, allergies, and other special needs.d. Safety: Implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies and enhance park safety through playground design, crime prevention technology, night lighting, natural surveillance, unobtrusive landscaping, and increased staff, police and community-based patrols if needed.e. Park Greening and Native Plantings: Protect green space in parks by balancing the use of native plantings, turf, trees, and landscaping to promote aesthetics, connect people to nature, reduce stress, and improve site ecological function.f. Tree Canopy: Develop a tree canopy inventory as part of the forthcoming Climate Element. Plant and protect native or large canopy trees to provide shade, sequester carbon, filter the air, reduce urban heat, and support the City's designation as a Tree City USA. Consider planting climate-adaptive plants that can withstand the region's forecasted hotter, drier summers.g. Noise and Lights: Minimize noise and light pollution by citing lighted facilities and noise-
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		<p>producing activities away from nearby residences and neighbors and using “full cutoff” athletic field lights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">h. Placemaking: Integrate Monroe’s heritage, culture, and identity through thematic site design, the use of materials, the inclusion of public art and interpretive elements, and/or the choice of recreation elements and support features.i. Continuity in Furnishings: Establish and integrate a consistent furnishing palette systemwide for ease of maintenance (including items such as seating, light fixtures, trash receptacles, bike racks, etc.), but allow for variations in the City’s most visible, high-use parks to emphasize a unique park theme or identity.j. Maintenance: Involve maintenance staff in park design to incorporate maintenance efficiencies in parks, including wide paths for maintenance vehicles.k. Sustainability: Incorporate sustainable landscaping and facilities that limit water usage and energy consumption, such as drought-resistant landscaping and low impact development.l. Flexibility of Use: Allow for a variety of programmed and self-directed activities to occur by not precluding activities with unnecessary physical constraints or regulations.m. Adaptability: Design multi-use spaces and facilities to be easily adaptable to address changing community needs over time.n. Wayfinding: Incorporate a systemwide wayfinding and signage template for all parks and trails to promote the City’s identity and the visibility of City parks and facilities.
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7.1.10		Incorporate community history, heritage, identity, and character in parks and facilities.
	7.1.10.1	<i>Identify, preserve, and protect historic, cultural, and archaeological resources.</i>
	7.1.10.2	<i>Incorporate interpretive elements that educate residents and visitors about community culture, heritage, history, and natural resources.</i>
	7.1.10.3	<i>Include elements in parks that are inclusive of the community's Indigenous heritage, pioneers, early residents, and evolving community through the present.</i>
	7.1.10.4	<i>Ensure that major park development projects incorporate art, focusing efforts at sites with high visibility and high visitation, including revenue-generating special use parks (balancing non-fee-based use by all residents), community parks, and river greenbelts.</i>
	7.1.10.5	<i>Leverage and beautify parks and trails on the periphery and along the highway to serve as gateway opportunities to the city.</i>
7.1.11		Strategically leverage resources through collaborative planning, volunteerism, and partnerships to support recreation, tourism, natural resource protection, and economic impacts.
	7.1.11.1	<i>Provide responsive park services through coordinated planning with other City Departments, the Monroe School District, and relevant local, county, and regional agencies.</i>



	7.1.11.2	<i>Support volunteer park beautification programs to include an Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-a-Trail programs, and Park Friends Groups with staff overseeing the recruitment, management, training, and recognition of volunteer participants.</i>
7.1.12		Ensure sufficient investment in parks and recreation facilities.
	7.1.12.1	<i>Adopt an updated mitigation/impact fee methodology to ensure that new development addresses the costs of impacts for parks and trails.</i>
	7.1.12.2	<i>Ensure staff capacity for grant writing, grant management, solicitation of sponsorships and donations, and exploration of new revenue sources (balancing non-fee-based use by all residents).</i>
	7.1.12.3	<i>Consider establishing a 501c (3) nonprofit or foundation to support parks. Identify communication protocols, roles and responsibilities, and fundraising opportunities.</i>
	7.1.12.4	<i>Develop a fee philosophy and cost recovery goals for programs and rental facilities to reflect changing market conditions and the community's ability to pay. Add a facility use fee to all programs and rental fees (including sports) to provide dedicated funding for maintenance, renovation, and facility replacement.</i>
	7.1.12.5	<i>Identify and implement park use fees/agreements for vendors, concessionaires, sport trainers, private recreation providers, photographers, filmmakers, and others who use City parks and facilities to support their businesses or affiliated services.</i>



	7.1.12.6	<i>Coordinate with City leaders to expand the Parks & Recreation Departments' resources to support ongoing maintenance and asset management.</i>
	7.1.12.7	<i>Diversify funding sources, considering sponsorships, bond measures, operational levies, sales taxes, and other alternatives to fund capital.</i>



Photo Source: Provided by the City of Monroe

Goal 7.2

Enhance parks, recreation amenities, and trails along the Skykomish River to create a welcoming riverfront system that supports local use and recreation tourism.



Policy	Action Item	
7.2.1		Jointly strategize the riverfront parks to support a region-leading, seamless, connected network of greenspaces for use as a recreational amenity that protects habitat, increases site use, and minimizes safety concerns.
	7.2.1.1	<i>Develop a cohesive vision and grand plan for Skykomish River Park, Al Borlin Park, Cadman Site, and Lewis Street Park. Include the Lewis Street Boat Launch (WDFW) in planning.</i>
	7.2.1.2	<i>Prior to implementing the Cadman site grand plan, determine the Riverfront Trail alignment, and host permitting discussions to identify critical areas of mitigation needed. Boat Launch (WDFW) in planning.</i>



	7.2.1.3	<i>Address site uses as well as park management, operations and maintenance, revenue-generating opportunities (balancing non-fee-based use by all residents), safety, natural resource protection and flooding, access, and connections to downtown.</i>
	7.2.1.4	<i>Determine a phased schedule for the coordinated development and improvements of all sites.</i>
	7.2.1.5	<i>Identify a recreation business and operations strategy for the maintenance and operations of all sites.</i>
7.2.2		Collaborate with other City Departments and public and private stakeholders to coordinate related local and regional projects and site synergies.
	7.2.2.1	<i>Continue discussions with Snohomish County regarding potential and preferred alignments for the Snoqualmie Valley Trail to Duvall. The PROS plan recommends an off-road, family-friendly connection via Al Borlin Park, which would require a new bike and pedestrian bridge across the river. If cost prohibitive, the PROS plan identifies an alternative along WA-203, adjacent to Lewis Street Park.</i>
	7.2.2.2	<i>Discuss and coordinate transportation improvements with Public Works, including the provision of street improvements with bike lanes and off-street trails to support vehicle, bike, and pedestrian entry to all major riverfront parks, including the Cadman site. Provide sufficient parking, as well as bike amenities on site (bike racks, bike repair stations, etc.).</i>



	7.2.2.3	<i>Coordinate Park entry improvements along with enhancements to the intersection of Sky River Parkway and Village Way, with the removal of median and other improvements that will give larger event vehicles and boat trailers access to Skykomish River Park and the Cadman site.</i>
	7.2.2.4	<i>Ensure that Community Parks and parks within the River Greenbelt are accessible via transit with bus stops near park entrances.</i>
	7.2.2.5	<i>Coordinate with Monroe’s Simons Road Community Development Area to improve access to Al Borlin Park from downtown via a multi-use trail connection. Further explore re-development opportunities at the east end of downtown, including the gateway and access to Sky River Park. Look for opportunities to connect park visitors with nearby businesses, including hotels and restaurants.</i>
	7.2.2.6	<i>Discuss with stakeholders the opportunities to add joint-use sites such as an outdoor classroom with use and access to the Monroe Library, Park Place Middle School, and potentially the Sky Valley Seventh-day Adventist School.</i>
	7.2.2.7	<i>Ensure easy bike and pedestrian park access from nearby recreation facilities such as the Monroe Boys & Girls Club and Monroe Senior Center.</i>
	7.2.2.8	<i>Collaborate with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on improvements to the Lewis Street Boat Launch that would enhance use.</i>
	7.2.2.9	<i>Improve physical access to the Skykomish River and Woods Creek from the downtown area.</i>



	7.2.2.10	<i>Continue coordinating with the Community Human Services Advisory Board (CHSAB), the Monroe-Snohomish County Community Outreach Team, and local social service organizations to offer services to people in riverfront parks who are experiencing homelessness, assist in relocating them and remove any debris left behind. Additional efforts around encampment closures and mitigation may be needed to ensure the safety of all when these sites develop.</i>
	7.2.2.11	<i>Identify concessionaires and/or equity partners that may co-develop and operate facilities such as the boat rentals/river rafting, campground and store, and adventure course/ziplines facility. Identify and document agreements including cost and revenue-sharing arrangements to support capital development, maintenance, ongoing operations, and long-term asset management and replacement.</i>
7.2.3		Develop and improve these sites to increase and diversify recreation opportunities. Ensure that facility locations consider annual flooding.
	7.2.3.1	<i>Provide a campground, with group camp, reservable yurts, open tent lawn, RV pads, picnic/cooking shelter (with utilities and barbecues), small fire circle, host/caretaker camp site, restrooms, and showers.</i>
	7.2.3.2	<i>Develop an outdoor classroom pavilion with seating, storage, and interpretive amenities for environmental programs and school group use.</i>
	7.2.3.3	<i>Provide an enhanced lakefront plaza, with concessions such as a snack/coffee vendor, canoe/kayak rentals, restrooms, and waterfront seating.</i>



	7.2.3.4	<i>Develop an adventure course with climbing features, a ropes course, and zip line.</i>
	7.2.3.5	<i>Identify a location for a non-motorized boat launch, with concessionaire-caliber loading/unloading zone, multi-boat launch, restrooms, boat storage/boat lockers, life preserver station with water safety signage, and nearby parking/trailer parking. Provide signage and materials to coordinate this put-in/takeout point with others along the river.</i>
	7.2.3.6	<i>Establish and enhance a series of river access points for wading, swimming, and fishing. Consider ADA accessibility, materials, and slopes in providing water access. Address accessibility issues noted at the Lewis Street Boat launch.</i>
	7.2.3.7	<i>Identify a location for a bike pump track and skills course in conjunction with mountain biking trails.</i>
	7.2.3.8	<i>Improve and widen the roadway in Al Borlin Park to the river for maintenance and water access.</i>
7.2.4		Develop and improve these sites to support an interconnected trail experience.
	7.2.4.1	<i>Provide a consistent wayfinding and signage system both on-site and off-site to identify opportunities to access the park via vehicles, bikes, and by foot. Include identification and directional signage, mileage/minute markers, identified trail uses, trail/system map, interactive elements, etc.</i>



	7.2.4.3	<i>Improve Lewis Street Park as a regional trailhead with an expanded restroom, bike parking, bike repair station, improved parking, bike/pedestrian circulation and enhanced trail connections. Provide bike lockers to allow for safe, secure storage while recreating.</i>
	7.2.4.4	<i>Provide two additional trailheads—one at the Cadman site and one at Al Borlin Park— with expanded parking, restrooms, bike racks, seating, and wayfinding signage.</i>
	7.2.4.5	<i>Establish all ages and abilities trail connections to downtown from the riverfront.</i>
7.2.5		Identify staff capacity and responsibilities to manage and supervise ongoing site maintenance, stewardship, and operations.
	7.2.5.1	<i>Assign staff responsibilities to manage concessionaires/campground hosts and coordinate with other potential partners for facility scheduling.</i>
	7.2.5.2	<i>Hire Park Rangers to patrol these sites.</i>
	7.2.5.3	<i>Expand site activities and programs by recruiting program and event providers. Encourage trail programs, nature interpretation and environmental education, and nature-based outdoor recreation programs and events, such as fishing derbies, learn-to-camp program, and others.</i>
	7.2.5.4	<i>Establish online scheduling/reservation systems and promote the group camp, yurts, picnic shelters and pavilions, and other reservable facilities.</i>



	7.2.5.5	<i>Coordinate with concessionaires in the provision of boat rentals, adventure courses, etc.</i>
	7.2.5.6	<i>Monitor, maintain, and inspect natural resources, establishing limited or no access zones to support resource protection.</i>
	7.2.5.7	<i>Identify natural resource restoration projects needed, as well as City and community labor to support restoration efforts.</i>
	7.2.5.8	<p><i>Educate residents and visitors about the impacts of certain behaviors associated with recreation and the impact they have on ancestral lands:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Staying on trails and not contributing to illegal development of trails</i> • <i>How to identify and report illegal trails as you see them</i> • <i>Leaving no trace and picking up trash</i> • <i>Keeping dogs on leash, unless in designated areas, and cleaning up after them</i>
7.2.6		Stimulate economic development and tourism through riverfront natural resource preservation and enhancement.
	7.2.6.1	<i>Recognize, plan for, and actively promote the riverfront parks as an important part of Monroe’s economic development strategy, drawing regional visitors to the waterfront.</i>
	7.2.6.2	<i>Provide information kiosks at trailheads that promote downtown businesses and restaurants.</i>
	7.2.6.3	<i>Hire Park Rangers to patrol these sites.</i>



	7.2.6.4	<i>Expand site activities and programs by recruiting program and event providers. Encourage trail programs, nature interpretation and cultural and environmental education, and nature-based outdoor recreation programs and events, such as fishing derbies, learn-to-camp program, and others.</i>
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Photo Source: City of Monroe, Trails Master Plan, 2024

Goal 7.3

Provide unique and inclusive amenities that attract residents and visitors to Monroe’s outdoor opportunities, activities, and events.



Policy	Action Item	
7.3.1		Diversify the recreation facilities in City parks to support Monroe’s diverse residents and identity as an outdoor recreation hub.
	7.3.1.1	<i>Use PROS Plan recommendations and site planning/design to guide the provision of recreation facilities and amenities in parks. Eliminate adherence to outdated facility guidelines provided in the 2015 PROS Plan, since the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) advocates for the customization of park and facility development as per local needs.</i>
	7.3.1.2	<i>Diversify sports courts to increase play from all ages and diverse cultures.</i>
	7.3.1.3	<i>Consider options to add “challenge” activities such as outdoor fitness equipment, disc golf, climbing walls, a bike pump track, bike skills courses, and other challenge features popular with youth and young adults.</i>



	7.3.1.4	<i>Support a greater variety of play opportunities, integrating nature play, thematic play, sand and water play, moveable and interactive parts, and even destination and universal play opportunities.</i>
	7.3.1.5	<i>Consider low-cost water play options in parks, such as hand pumps, playable fountains and water “squirts” that are turned on and off.</i>
	7.3.1.6	<i>Diversify social gathering spaces, incorporating unique seating and tables, such as moveable tables and chairs, seat walls, Adirondack chairs, family style long tables, lounge chairs at beach areas, or game tables.</i>
	7.3.1.7	<i>Foster enthusiasm for recreation by providing unique, temporary, or pop-up activities in parks, such as giant Jenga, giant chess boards, outdoor ping pong, miniature golf, and equipment such as toys, hula hoops, sand toys, etc. These types of amenities work well in high visitation plazas, campgrounds, and food concession areas.</i>
7.3.2		Renovate and develop parks and facilities to support recreational activities, programs, and opportunities that support both local use and tourism.
	7.3.2.1	<i>Renovate Lake Tye as per the 2018 Master Plan to serve as the area’s premier outdoor recreation event venue. Enhance the site for events and revenue-generation (balancing non-fee-based use by all residents), establishing the Centennial Trailhead as a trail staging area for events, enhancing the skatepark for events, offering kayak/canoe rentals, expanding the food plaza and concessions, providing rental cabanas and reservable shelter/tables in the beach area, and enhancing trail connections to Fairfield County Park.</i>



	7.3.2.2	<i>Develop the North Kelsey Park site to capitalize on its location in a commercial district, providing an urban plaza, small multi-use event space, art, adjacent or on-site food truck pads (with utilities), and a spray/play fountain.</i>
	7.3.2.3	<i>Explore options to develop North Hill Park and provide specialized facilities such as a small water play feature, community garden, and support facilities such as a restroom and increased parking. Create a financial feasibility and market study to guide renovations.</i>
7.3.3		Facilitate events and recreation programs by leveraging Monroe’s unique resources and variety of facilities.
	7.3.3.1	<i>Continue to coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce and other community groups to promote recreation, outdoor entertainment (such as movies or concerts in parks), cultural festivals, and historical and cultural programs that support Monroe’s active-oriented identity, culture, and heritage.</i>
	7.3.3.2	<i>Coordinate with the School District to encourage the joint use of City- and School-managed facilities in providing recreation services, including sports tournaments.</i>
	7.3.3.3	<i>Coordinate with Evergreen State Fair Park in the potential provision of a BMX track, RV campground or similar elements consistent with promoting events and outdoor activities in Monroe.</i>
	7.3.3.4	<i>Coordinate with local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to activate the North Kelsey Park site with activities and programs.</i>



	7.3.3.5	<i>Coordinate with local arts and culture groups to support smaller scale “mini-art” performances in parks, such as street performer-style programs, short/small performances, or temporary music/busking in parks to bring more performing arts viewing opportunities to residents.</i>
7.3.4		Increase outdoor programs and events in parks to support active recreation, fitness, and community health.
	7.3.4.1	<i>Consider requests from contract providers, non-profits, sports trainers, and private providers to provide fee-based fitness, healthy lifestyle, and sports programs in parks. Consider activities such as fitness boot camps, yoga classes, sport training, etc.</i>
	7.3.4.2	<i>Continue to support walks, races, fitness challenges, and other health and fitness events to support community wellness and enhance tourism.</i>
	7.3.4.3	<i>Increase opportunities to get seniors outdoors through programs such as guided walks, gardening, social events, pickleball classes, etc.</i>
	7.3.4.4	<i>Coordinate with local social service organizations to provide free, outdoor programs for economically disadvantaged residents that foster healthy eating, youth development, youth, and adult fitness, learn to play sports, youth play programs, etc.</i>
7.3.5		Continue to promote Monroe’s parks, facilities, and events through media, social media, and other communications.



	7.3.5.1	<i>Regularly update the Department’s webpage/social media to communicate information related to City parks, recreation events and activities, programs, policies, and services.</i>
	7.3.5.2	<i>Collect contact information for people who would like to be on mailing lists to receive updates about programs, events, and services.</i>
	7.3.5.3	<i>Continue to offer communication support in multiple languages to diverse groups; in the long term, continue to monitor needs to provide information, signage, and materials in different languages.</i>
	7.3.5.4	<i>Use social media forums to promote parks, recreation, arts opportunities, and recreation tourism initiatives.</i>
	7.3.5.5	<i>Establish a Parks and Recreation Marketing Plan annually to increase residents’ awareness of recreation programs and services.</i>



Photo Source: City of Monroe

Goal 7.4

Develop parks and remove barriers to ensure residents have equitable access to open spaces and recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance from home.



Policy	Action Item	
7.4.1		Develop a connected system of parks and usable open spaces that supports passive and active recreation, protects unique features, increases habitat connectivity, and links city neighborhoods.
7.4.2		Adopt a new park classification system and level of service standards to meet community needs.
	7.4.2.1	<i>Provide Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks to meet the needs of nearby neighbors and City residents. (Note: Large Community Parks, such as Lake Tye Park, may incorporate specialized uses to serve visitors as well.)</i>
	7.4.2.2	<i>Provide Nature Preserves to protect sensitive natural resources in Monroe.</i>



	7.4.2.3	<i>Provide Special Use Parks and River Greenbelt Parks to support river access and unique public spaces for residents and visitors.</i>
	7.4.2.4	<i>For all park types collectively, strive to provide 20.6 acres per 1,000 residents.</i>
	7.4.2.5	<i>Thoroughly vet any additional land donations or acquisitions as per the goals of the PROS Plan. Since the City anticipates investing heavily in new properties already, avoid acquiring additional lands that will require additional maintenance and development resources.</i>
7.4.3		Ensure the balanced and equitable distribution of parks and facilities that serve City residents, including residents in areas annexed into the City in the future.
	7.4.3.1	<i>Strive to provide neighborhood parks at a level of service of 1.4 acres per 1,000 residents and community parks at a level of service of 5.2 acres per 1,000 residents.</i>
	7.4.3.2	<p><i>Distribute parks to account for travel distances, barriers, residential densities, and economic disparities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Provide neighborhood parks within a ½ mile (10-minute walk) of nearby neighbors.</i> <i>b. In neighborhoods with medium- or high-density residential development, ensure larger parks, increase development with amenities and facilities, or the provision of parks with a ¼-mile distance of nearby neighbors.</i> <p><i>Provide community parks or special use parks in locations to serve several neighborhoods at a maximum travel distance of 4-5 miles.</i></p>



7.4.4		Develop existing undeveloped park properties as guided by the PROS Plan to meet community needs.
	7.4.4.1	<i>Master plan and develop the North Hill Park site to meet neighborhood needs.</i>
	7.4.4.2	<i>Master plan and develop the North Kelsey Park site as a small special-use event venue and gathering place.</i>
7.4.5		Acquire parks and open space as guided by the PROS Plan to meet community needs.
	7.4.5.1	<i>Acquire sites for neighborhood parks to serve new residential development. Strive for sites that are relatively centralized to the neighborhoods they serve, level and dry on approximately 75% of the site for the development of amenities and facilities that support active and passive recreation opportunities.</i>
	7.4.5.2	<i>Acquire additional property to expand the North Hill Park, providing more community-serving park amenities in this growing area of the city.</i>
	7.4.5.3	<i>Acquire the Cadman site and explore additional opportunities to acquire land adjacent to Lake Tye Park to expand recreation uses and economic impacts.</i>
	7.4.5.4	<i>Identify and acquire a downtown gathering space in conjunction with downtown redevelopment and improved connections to parks along the riverfront. (See Downtown Master Plan)</i>



	7.4.5.5	<i>Acquire (primarily through easements) trail corridors to support the trail linkages and areas as important for habitat corridors noted in the PROS Plan.</i>
7.4.6		Develop and renovate parks and public spaces to ensure these spaces meet or exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Washington State code. Provide parks and facilities that accommodate multigenerational groups and people with mobility issues, sight and hearing impairments, allergies, and other special needs.
7.4.7		Collaborate with other entities to support public use of parks and community facilities operated by private, non-profit, or other public agencies. Continue to evaluate opportunities to collaborate with Fair Park, Monroe library, schools, the Monroe YMCA, and the Boys & Girls Club.
7.4.8		Update the PROS Plan every six years to identify evolving park land and recreation needs and maintain grant eligibility.



Photo Source: City of Monroe, Trails Master Plan, 2024

Goal 7.5

Provide an interconnected network of multi-use trails, walkways, and bikeways connecting city and regional destinations.



Policy	Action Item	
7.5.1		Expand the trail network in Monroe, facilitating in-town connectivity and ties to regional trail networks.
	7.5.1.1	<i>Coordinate with Public Works to provide trails as noted in the "trails opportunities" concept in the PROS Plan.</i>
	7.5.1.2	<i>Continue discussions with Snohomish County regarding potential and preferred alignments for an extension of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail from Duvall to Monroe and an extension of the Centennial Trail from Snohomish to Monroe.</i>
	7.5.1.3	<i>Work with WSDOT and Snohomish County to evaluate opportunities for the creation of a permanent trail along the WSDOT right-of-way for the future US-2 bypass.</i>



	<p>7.5.1.4</p>	<p><i>Work with WSDOT to identify options for US-2 bike and pedestrian bridge crossing near Traveler’s Park. Ensure future WSDOT improvements to US-2 do not eliminate that also serves wildlife movement possibilities for a future trail alignment along the corridor.</i></p>
	<p>7.5.1.5</p>	<p><i>Require dedication or easements for trails as part of the development review process and roadway renovation/widenings, consistent with the linkages identified in the PROS Plan.</i></p>
<p>7.5.2</p>		<p>Coordinate with Monroe Public Works to establish a coordinated Citywide bikeway and pedestrian trail system. Develop trails as per City standards for the following, including corridor and trail width, surfacing, and support amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Shared Multi-Use Path: These paved, multi-use rights-of-way are completely separated from streets. These may include a soft-surfaced buffer for jogging. For shared multi-use trails, consider a 10- to 12-foot-wide paved path striped for dual-directional use, plus an adjacent 4-foot-wide soft surfaced trail for jogging and low-impact uses. b. Bike Lanes: These on-street corridors are designated for bicyclists using stripes and stencils. Bike lanes may include buffer striping to provide greater separation between bicyclists and parked or moving vehicles. c. Bike Routes: These streets are designated for bicycle travel and shared with motor vehicles. Routes may be marked by signage and shared lane bicycle markings (aka “sharrows”). Traffic calming devices may be included on these routes as needed to discourage drivers from using the boulevard as a through route.



		<p>d. Protected Bike Lanes: These lanes provide on-street space that is exclusively for bicyclists and physically separated from motor vehicle travel lanes, parking lanes, and sidewalks by elements such as curbs, bollards, delineator posts, or planter boxes.</p> <p>e. Local Trails: These neighborhood paths are typically designed to accommodate access to schools and between neighborhoods by providing a wide sidewalk (e.g., a six-foot wide paved trail connecting a cul-de-sac to another neighborhood or to a school).</p> <p>f. Natural Pedestrian Trail: These narrower decomposed granite, boardwalk, or soft-surfaced trails (wood chips, bark mulch, dirt) provide leisurely walking, biking, and jogging opportunities within parks or other trail corridors.</p>
7.5.3		Develop various trail length, types, and challenge levels to diversify trail-related recreation options.
	7.5.3.1	<i>Provide hard-surfaced multi-use trails to connect to the regional trail system.</i>
	7.5.3.2	<i>Provide hard- or soft-surfaced nature trails in parks and greenways as recommended to support nature interpretation, access to nature, hiking, and off-road biking.</i>
	7.5.3.3	<i>Provide park loop trails or meandering pathways to support walking, dog walking, and recreational biking. These should be wide enough for people to walk together and pass each other comfortably.</i>
	7.5.3.4	<i>Provide park access paths to connect parking lots or park entries to elements within the park.</i>



	7.5.3.5	<i>Establish areas in parks that provide recreational hiking and biking options, such as BMX tracks, bike pump tracks, bike skills courses, nature trails, jogging trails, big wheel, and tricycle tracks, walking tracks, mountain bike trails, etc.</i>
7.5.4		Provide trailheads and trail support amenities and facilities to facilitate trail use.
	7.5.4.1	<i>Provide trailheads and/or trail rest areas with bike racks, seating, shade, drinking fountains, restrooms, trash receptacles, and self-service bike repair stations as identified in site and systemwide recommendations. This includes Lake Tye Park, the Cadman site, Al Borlin Park, and Lewis Street Park.</i>
	7.5.4.2	<i>Develop the regional trail along the south edge of the Foothills Wetland Preserve, creating a viewpoint to highlight the park.</i>
	7.5.4.3	<i>Provide periodic support amenities, such as benches and shade along trails. (Note: Avoid providing restrooms, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, and other high-maintenance elements along trail corridors, except at trailheads as noted above.)</i>
	7.5.4.4	<i>Coordinate with other City departments in the development and provision of comprehensive wayfinding and signage programs along trails and bike routes and in parks with trails.</i>
7.5.3		Develop various trail length, types, and challenge levels to diversify trail-related recreation options.



	7.5.3.1	<i>Provide hard-surfaced multi-use trails to connect to the regional trail system.</i>
	7.5.3.2	<i>Provide hard- or soft-surfaced nature trails in parks and greenways as recommended to support nature interpretation, access to nature, hiking, and off-road biking.</i>
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	7.5.4.4	<i>Coordinate with other City departments in the development and provision of comprehensive wayfinding and signage programs along trails and bike routes and in parks with trails.</i>
7.5.5		Collaborate with others to provide trail programs and services that encourage safe pedestrian and bicycle use.
	7.5.5.1	<i>Coordinate with other City departments to provide a trails map and information guide. Publish biking and walking route information online and in the City's recreation guide.</i>
	7.5.5.2	<i>Enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school and parks by embracing "Safe Routes to Schools" and "Safe Routes to Parks" objectives.</i>
	7.5.5.3	<i>Work with partners (e.g., Leafline Coalition, Cascade Bicycle Club) to coordinate trail programs, drop-in walks, nature hikes, and community-wide trail events and bike rides to encourage use of the pedestrian-bike network.</i>
	7.5.5.4	<i>Explore a trail sponsorship program that encourages or incentivizes businesses to sponsor the development and/or maintenance of trail links that provide nearby bike and pedestrian access.</i>



*Al Borlin Park, Woods Creek
Source: City of Monroe*

Recommended 20-Year Enhancements

Over the next 20 years, the City of Monroe will enhance the existing park system by acquiring new park sites and trail corridors, developing site master plans, building new parks, adding specific amenities and facilities, replacing facilities at the end of their lifecycles, and enhancing and expanding existing facilities.

In addition, the City will maintain all developed assets and natural resources in its parks. These recommendations will enhance the quality of parks and increase recreation opportunities for all.

Appendix F in the PROS Plan details site recommendations for every existing and proposed park site in the system. As per City planning protocols, it does not include recommendations for specific trail corridors, since trail alignments are planned and funding with transportation projects.

“

Parks are so important for bringing families together to play, enjoy outdoor time together, exercise, get quiet time, commune with nature, and spend quality time with our pets who are also part of our families!”

- Anonymous



Outdoor event
Source: Provided by the City of Monroe