

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Town of Wilkeson

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INTRODUCTION

In all communities, recreation provides an important personal as well as social outlet. Parks and recreation facilities are common areas which all people living within the Town as well as visitors can enjoy. They provide places for exercise, sports, children's playgrounds, relaxation, and community gatherings. Parks and Recreation areas also enhance the aesthetic quality of the Town. They serve as important communities centers and are among the most enjoyed places within the community. Wilkeson has incorporating parks and recreation into the Town's Comprehensive Plan. This action made certain that provisions will be made to prepare for future needs so that the citizens of Wilkeson will continue to enjoy a high level of parks and recreation services into the future.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The RCO is a major source of park grant funding and provides specific planning guidelines for eligibility. RCO park planning requirements differ from the GMA but are compatible with it. This document complies with both.

The guidelines as specified by the RCO ask for the inclusion of several elements within a comprehensive parks and recreation plan.

1. **Policies** implement goals, directing day-to-day agency behavior in a manner designed to achieve objectives.
2. An **inventory** of the planning area and community reveals its identity and strengths within the context of the County's geography, along with the current parks and conditions including facilities, lands, programs, and the policy environment impacting parks and recreation activities.
3. Community **goals** are broad statements of intent based on an overall vision.
4. **Public involvement** provides opportunity for input in plan development and adoption.
5. **Demand and need analysis** defines priorities for acquisition, development, preservation, enhancement, management and other park system management strategies based on public input and inventory.
6. Projects for acquisition, development and renovation are the basis of the **Capital Improvement Program** including a projected timeline, budget and funding sources for each over at least a six-year period.

PARK CLASSIFICATION & STANDARDS

For the purpose of identifying level of service standards, the existing park types within the Town, and those which are not within the Town but provide service to residents of the Town should be categorized. The classification system utilized for the Town of Wilkeson is intended to serve as a guide for the identification of the variety of recreational opportunities and for the provision of a well-balanced park system. The important consideration is to provide a variety of park types which satisfy the broad range of community recreational needs.

Regional Parks. Regional Parks/Reserves are areas of natural quality for resource-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and swimming. These areas may include active play areas, but, typically 80 percent of the site is managed for natural resource preservation. Regional parks and reserves service a multi-community area with a one hour drive time to the park. The minimum per capita acreage standard for this type of park is 5 to 10 acres per 1,000 population with a desired 50-acre minimum size.

Community Parks & Facilities. Community Parks are defined as recreation areas capable of supplying a broad range of active and passive activities. Community parks typically contain both natural settings and developed play areas. Facilities normally provided at community parks include: swimming pool or beach, field and court games, picnicking, nature study and also serve as nodes for a Town wide pathway system. The minimum per capita acreage standard for a community park is 8 acres per 1,000 population with a desired 8 acre minimum size.

Neighborhood Parks. Neighborhood Parks are defined as recreation areas providing primarily active recreation opportunities. Facilities may include: softball and baseball diamonds, playground equipment, tennis courts, basketball goals and other intensive facilities. Passive recreation opportunities may also be provided if a natural setting exists. Due to size limitations, nonconforming uses should be carefully planned to avoid conflicts. The recommended minimum level of service standard for a neighborhood park is 2.0 acres per 1,000 population with a range of 1-10 acres in size.

School Sites. School Sites provide intensive recreational activities which also serve to fulfill a recreation need in the Town. They are similar in size and function to neighborhood parks, and help to satisfy the demand for park and recreation facilities.

Urban Pathways. Urban Pathways provide an opportunity within an urban setting for walking and bicycling. Where possible, they provide links to other recreational areas, scenic vistas, historic points of interest, and often provide public access to a waterfront. These pathways are typically designed as a portion of a statewide or local trail system. Trail systems service the entire community.

Open Space Sites. Open Space Sites are undeveloped sites which serve a variety of uses. These lands may include, but are not limited to wetlands; wetland buffers;

public access sites; and wildlife habitat areas. These sites rarely provide recreational attributes and are managed to conserve the resource on the site. There are no recommended acreage requirements for the provision of open space lands in the Town.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Neighborhood Parks

1. **Roosevelt Park.** The Town of Wilkeson maintains approximately 1.5 acres of park land located in the north central portion of the Town, lying just north of Roosevelt Street. The park area is currently available for both passive and active recreational activities. The active area is serviced with children's playground equipment and picnic tables.

Community Parks & Facilities

2. **Coke Ovens Park.** The undeveloped Coke Ovens Park is located outside the corporate boundary of the Town of Wilkeson. It is an extension of land on both sides of Quinon Road extension east. The property is 9.42 undeveloped acres. The parkland encompasses the historic coke ovens, bleachers, an announcer's booth, a fenced beer garden, and railroad tracks which are situated on the west end of the park. This west end portion of the otherwise unmaintained lot is used for the Wilkeson Booster Club's annual Handcar Race event each July. Recently, the Coke Oven Park Conceptual Park Plan was completed by the community in 2013. This was funded by a Planning Assistance Grant from National Park Service (see plan in appendix on page 39) Community activities are currently underway to carry out the goals of this plan.

Pocket Park

3. **Centennial Park (Pocket Park)** Created in 2009, The Town of Wilkeson maintains a small pocket park approximately 0.1 acres of land, located south of the town parking lot central portion of the Town, lying just west of SR165. The park area has a tall stone monument, three interpretive signs on sandstone plinths, two sandstone benches, flowerbeds and a public unisex restroom. A 16 foot total sandstone monument highlights the park commemorating the town's

100th anniversary of incorporation. The monument depicts two historic industries of Wilkeson, Coal Mining which is no longer active, and the Sandstone Quarry still in operation.

4. **Memorial Gardens Park (Pocket Park)** Created in 2009, The Town of Wilkeson maintains a small pocket park approximately 0.1 acres of land located south of the “Rails to Trails” Trail. The space lies west of SR165 and has two benches for persons using the trail. A portion is set aside for flower beds intended to accommodate donations of flowers from residents or visitors who honor loved ones.
5. **Railroad Avenue Park (Pocket Park)** Created in 2009, The Town of Wilkeson created a small pocket park on one end of town property. This area is approximately 0.2 acres to house a donated caboose, picnic table area and signage. Originally located at the new centennial park, the caboose, restored in late 1980s by local residents, was relocated on this site.
6. **Archway and Nelson Memorial Park (Pocket Park)** The Wilkeson Arch and Rudd Nelson Memorial Park is located on SR165 at the intersection of Hill Street. Originally built in 1922, the Arch was carefully dismantled and relocated at this park in 2005 after damage was sustained from the 2000 earthquake. The park is a small triangular piece approximately 0.1 acres. It is located on the north side of the Wilkeson Archway. Rude Nelson former Mayor and original Wilkeson Booster Club member, was one of the originators who built the arch in Wilkeson. Family members have donated a plaque and benches for the park.
7. **Wilkeson Skate Park** The skatepark consists of a Footprint approximately 2,200 sq ft, or 34'-6" width of bowl, 82'-4" length pad and other features designed specifically for beginner to intermediate skate board and roller skate activities, and some bicycle use. The concrete construction was finished in 2014 with the parking lot, grand opening and landscape work scheduled for completion in the spring of 2015. This park is located on a triangular shaped lot, centered in the middle of the Rails to Trails switchback. The property ownership was transferred to the Town from Pierce County Parks in 2013. The lot consists of 1.08 acres and lies along Church Street or SR165, adjacent to 163rd Street to the east and between the intersections of Brierhill Blvd and Albert Street.

8. **Parcel Adjacent to the Town's Fire Station** Located on Church Street, this narrow lot is undeveloped with no readily available access to sewer services at this time. The lot was recently acquired by the town in 2014 for future creek access during emergencies. Prior to ownership, the lot was temporary used by town consultants during the 2009 flood for utility repairs and a roadbed was developed to the creek. The land has potential for development for trail parking or other features yet to be determined.

9. **Town Hall (Facilities)** The two story, town hall was built in 1923. It has a small courtyard with picnic table which tourist and bicyclists have utilized during summer outings. Upstairs contains the town offices, council chambers, court clerk and meeting area. The downstairs floor is currently empty. It was originally built as a community center complete with small gym. The Historical Society was approved and is planning to renovate rooms on the southwestern end for a museum. The original gym area with 25-30 foot ceilings and other rooms has the potential to be renovated into a community center. However, this space will need specific repairs and ADA access to be used by the public. Town Council is currently discussing funding sources and programming needs.

School Facilities

10. **Wilkeson Elementary School.** Wilkeson Elementary School, which is located in the southeast portion of the Town, provides public recreational opportunities within the Town. The elementary school has playground and playfield areas. With permission from the White River School District, their facilities can be utilized as park and recreation facilities when school is not in session.

Urban Pathways

11. **Pierce County Rails/Trail.** Pierce County developed a non-motorized trail that utilizes a portion of the former rail road right of way in Wilkeson. The trail enters the Town from the northwest and forms a switch back, and continues in a south direction towards the Town of Carbonado. Pierce County maintains the

asphalted trail and vegetation on the south side, the town maintains the portion between the Trail and SR165.

Regional Parks

Mt. Rainier National Park. The Town of Wilkeson is considered a gateway community to Mt. Rainier National Park (MRNP). Located near the park is Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National forest which offers access to Evans Creek ORV area and Mowich Lake. These areas provide recreational opportunities on a regional level. The park area provides recreational hiking, camping, fishing, mountaineering, and other outdoor activities in the immediate vicinity of the Town. Wilkeson is a waypoint to the park, connecting the Puget Sound Metropolitan Area with the National Park. Funds were set aside in the National Parks budget in 2010 to purchase land in Wilkeson in order to decrease traffic within the Park by shuttling park visitors. This project is currently under development. The town is supportive of this venture as it will assist economic revitalization.

Other Town Owned Facilities

- 12. Watershed.** Located in the southwest section of the Town is the Wilkeson Watershed. This 13 acre site is set aside to provide the Town with its drinking water resource. It is not open to the public.
- 13. S.W. Tree Farm.** Also located in the southwest section of the Town is the Wilkeson Tree Farm. The 143 acre has been set aside from development as a resource conservation area and provides open space as well as wildlife habitat. A Forest Management Plan has been established for the maintenance of tree farm and calls for sequential timber harvest on six plots.
- 14. N.E. Tree Farm.** Another tree farm, approximately 9 acres in size is located outside Town limits in north-eastern part of the Town, east of SR-165 and north of the Catholic Cemetery.
- 15. Town Cemetery.** A six acre cemetery, formally known as the Knights of Pythis Cemetery, is located north of Town, outside the Town limits. The K of P donated

this early pioneer cemetery to the town in 1972. Part of the cemetery grounds are covered by old-growth Douglas firs and Hemlocks.

Non-Publicly Owned Facilities

- 16. Catholic Cemetery.** Is a small 1 acre cemetery near the town cemetery on the north side of SR164. It is maintained by the Saint Aloysius Parish of Buckley, Washington and not publicly owned. It was established in 1905 by the Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church located on Ash Street in Wilkeson, currently operated by St. Aloysius.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As with other facilities and services which the Town provides, parks and recreation must be planned for to meet the changing demands that occur with growth. When the population increases, there is an increased demand placed upon existing facilities. As such, parks and recreation areas and opportunities must be expanded to meet the growing needs while providing safe and appealing parks and facilities. Adequate land must be set aside for these purposes, and capital funds must be made available to develop the facilities.

Goal 1: The town should promote a diversified system of parks, recreational facilities that encourage quality recreational experiences for residents and visitors while protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural qualities of the park space.

Objective 1: Adopt a level of maintenance for overall park system care for the promotion of a safe and attractive environment for public use and ensure that the landscaping, recreational equipment, and features are maintained in a functional manner.

Objective 2: Encourage private and volunteer efforts to assist in funding efforts and cooperative operations and improvements to Wilkeson's current and future parks.

Objective 3: Ensure that the park and recreational facilities comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

Goal 2: Encourage the expansion and organization of planned community activities.

Objective 1: Pursue the location and possible acquisition of property for youth and senior activities programs.

Objective 2: Pursue a partnership with the White River School District and explore options for expanded programs for all ages.

Objective 3: Develop a youth activities program with facility.

Goal 3: Pursue and enhance undeveloped and underdeveloped spaces for parks, recreational facilities, and open space.

Objective 1: Obtain, by negotiation or voluntary dedication, land parcels for open space and recreation within the town of Wilkeson.

Objective 2: Mitigation with developers' of undeveloped areas in or near town for cost share of creating and maintaining new and current parks.

Goal 4: The Town will maximize funding and construction opportunities for park and recreation facilities, including joint projects with private and public partners.

Objective 1: The Town will identify locations which are suitable for recreation within the town and town owned property of Coke Oven Park and adjacent abandon railroad right-away properties, to establish appropriate recreational facilities.

Objective 2: The Town will identify granting agencies and encourage private donations for the public for acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities with the possibilities of dedications and naming rights for donations..

Goal 5: The Town will provide an open and continuing opportunity for the public to participate, comment, and offer direction to the development of recreational facilities, space, and activities.

Objective 1: The Town will use methods such as mailings, surveys, public workshops and hearings to encourage involvement by the public.

Goal 6: The Town will promote public awareness of activities on the development and use of Wilkeson parks and facilities.

Objective 1: As funding allows, the Town will provide signage identifying the park and other features as needed.

Objective 2: As funding allows, the Town will develop and reprint maps, brochures or other measures that identify and that identify and promote the recreational facilities thought the town.

Goal 7: Develop a diverse park system which preserves significant environmental opportunities areas and features.

Objective 1: As funding allows, acquire the creek front property an appropriate location near Wilkeson Creek for educational and recreational opportunities.

Objective 2: As funding allows, develop Coke Oven Park complete with signage for historical and environmental interpretation.

Goal 8: Develop a system of pedestrian trails and corridors that access significant environmental and historic features, public facilities and developed neighborhoods.

Objective 1: Continue efforts to complete a connection from the foothills trail to downtown as pedestrian corridor.

Objective 2: As funding allows, develop a walking trail at Coke Oven Park for historical and environmental interpretation.

Objective 3: Support efforts of Pierce County to connect the Foothills Rails to trails from Wilkeson from South Prairie.

Goal 9: Within our park system, the Town will provide a sense of security and well-being.

Objective 1: Ensure that security needs for the Town parks are reviewed with the Buckley Police department, and adopt in the patrol program.

Objective 2: The Town will continue to strive for adequate lighting and security measures at on town owned park and recreational facilities.

Goal 10: The town will work with public, civic organizations, and businesses to continue to develop measures designed to enhance tourism, recreational opportunities, and economic development by interpreting and sharing our regional history.

Objective 1: Establish and maintain park grounds, monuments, signs, and seating areas within in town.

Objective 2: As funding allows, the Town will develop maps, brochures or other measures that identify and promote the historical markers, buildings, and natural features throughout the town.

PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Partnerships

Pierce County is also a provider of parks and recreation services within Wilkeson. Pierce County and the Rails to Trails Coalition and has established and maintains a portion of the Cascade Foothills trail on the northwest part of town. The coalition's goal is to connect the Wilkeson portion of the trail eventually from Mt. Rainier Park to Ruston Way in Tacoma, and beyond, as funds become available. In 2009, volunteers from the Rails to Trails Coalition with town citizens help build Memorial Garden Park alongside the Trail.

The town intends to continue to improve the downtown area as a destination for economic revitalization, increase awareness of the town's historical significance and create more local recreational opportunities. In 2010, the Town received the Puget Sound Rural Town Corridor Grant for corridor planning especially within the downtown business district. In 2013 and in 2015, the Town received Washington State Transportation funding to design and construction the goals of this plan. Implementation of this project will continue for the next few years.

Previous work included a regional partnership committee to create a study of the possibilities of SR165 corridor from Buckley to Mt. Rainier National Park in 2005, organized. This study organized by Mount Rainier National Park resulted in the Carbon River Charette document, a visionary document which contains many elements that assist in conceptualizing goals for Wilkeson. From the Charette a group formed to develop a walking tour map. The Carbon/White River Communities Forum created walking tour maps for Orting, South Prairie, Wilkeson, Buckley and Enumclaw. We will continue our partnership with Mt. Rainier National Park to create greater recreational opportunity for residents and visitors.

Town organizations such as the Wilkeson Eagles Aerie 1409, Wilkeson Booster Club and Wilkeson Historical Society meet regularly in town and have donated many volunteer hours to improving the Wilkeson Park system. The Wilkeson Eagles has funded and supplied the work force the Roosevelt Park Gazebo and picnic area, improvements to the Coke Oven Park grounds, and relocating the Caboose at Railroad Avenue. The Wilkeson Booster Club founders built the original Sandstone Arch. The group continues to maintain the Coke Oven Park each summer and sponsor the town's large event the "Wilkeson Annual Handcar Races" including town parade, vendors and entertainment. The Wilkeson Centennial Committee, founders of the Wilkeson Historical Society, created the central pocket park in town - Centennial Monument Park. The Society has also raised and contributed matching funds alongside the Town's funds to match a grant from the Pierce County Heritage Commission. This recently completed project in 2014 was threefold: to remove vegetation from the coke ovens, to complete a HALS (Historic Architectural Landscape Survey) Report, and to complete a Coke Oven Structural Analysis Report. (see appendices). Future plans include partnering with the Wilkeson Elementary School, White River School District, Sunset Camp and possible other local groups to develop school curriculum and interpretive signage for Coke Oven Park. The town will continue to work with these local organizations to develop park plans and recruit volunteers as needed on park projects.

Plan Participation

The public had opportunities to participate in the 2015 update of this plan, both by attending Planning Commission meetings and the Public Hearing on February 25th which was announced in the local newspaper, and by reviewing the updated draft plan the town's website and submitting written comment. The first Park Plan was also reviewed in a public hearing on April 23, 2010 that was announced the local newspaper (Courier-Herald) and posted on the community bulletin board and town hall. In addition, in 2010 there was very good results with a community wide survey and school survey (see appendices). Over 32% of town residences took part in the community wide survey. It was hand delivered to each home in town to ensure good numbers and answer any questions. A modified school survey was taken of 90 Wilkeson Elementary School's 4th and 5th graders.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

The level of service standards used in this plan has initially been established in the 1995 Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan for the Town. These standards have been reviewed and compared to standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and other communities with similar demographic profiles and physical attributes to determine applicability.

A universally accepted standard methodology is the per capita acreage standard. The per capita acreage standard, expressed as the number of acres of a specific park category or the number of facilities of a specific type per thousand population, is intended to determine whether the overall number of park sites and facilities is sufficient to satisfy the recreation demands. The recommended per capita acreage requirements for the various park classifications within the Town are shown in Table A.

Table A
Level of Service Standards-Park and Recreation Facilities

Park Type	Level of Service Standard
Regional Park	5-10 acres / 1,000 population
Community Park	8 acres / 1,000 population
Neighborhood Park	2 acres / 1,000 population
Walking/Hiking Trails	1 mile / 5,000 population

PARKS AND RECREATION TRENDS

In 2002, the RCO completed an “Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State Washington” which shows that across the state, people were interested in nearby and affordable activities. Walking, hiking, and bicycling activities are very popular within Washington State with team and individual sports next in interest. Other activities rating above a 20 percent interest level included nature activities, sightseeing, bicycling, indoors, and picnicking.

Emerging trends within park and recreation planning relates to Wilkeson and other rural towns that should be looked at to help identify future demand and needs. The following trends were highlighted by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and include both state and national surveys and research. Those trends relate to specific opportunities within Wilkeson. Major trends to consider include:

- Increasing population: Pierce County is growing rapidly with more growth in urban areas than rural areas
- Aging population: Older and retired populations continue to grow within the county with many expected to stay active likely demanding more recreation opportunities
- Ethnic diversity: The growing population in Pierce County is diverse with non-native speaking residents that should be considered in marketing and services
- Changing lifestyles: More generations and changing work patterns are creating off peak demand on facilities and less structure and more options for multi-generational activities
- Physical activity: An increased interest in physical activity has emerged as obesity rises in children and adults throughout the country
- Infill development: Areas that are urban are being filled in and higher density housing development is increasing the demand for connectivity to rural opportunities
- Convenient recreation: People are getting busier and costs for travel are increasing causing an increase and interest in travel and recreating closer to home and work

Wilkeson can be a destination for the many recreational opportunities provided in the Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington State, and Pierce County lands. Most likely, the

County will see a larger trend for activities like walking, hiking and other outdoor activities including hunting and fishing (which are declining statewide) than the average across the state or country. Pierce County is also growing in population. This population will desire more nearby activities and opportunities to connect to Wilkeson area, gateway to Carbon River Glacier and Lake Mowich recreation offerings.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

The assessment of needs for park and recreation facilities within the Town of Wilkeson is based upon the level of service standards established above, and the Town population. A needs assessment has been done for both the current 2015 and projected 2030 population. This allows for current deficiencies to be highlighted, as well as future planning needs.

Wilkeson's 2010 population, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, was 477 persons; the Washington State Office of Financial Management estimates Wilkeson's population had grown to 485 by 2014. According to Pierce County's population allocation, presented in Chapter 10 of the 2015 Wilkeson Comprehensive Plan, this population is expected to increase to 570 persons by the year 2030. The current and forecasted park demand and needs for the Town of Wilkeson are presented in Table B.

Being an incorporated town in a vast territory of rural Pierce County land, Wilkeson can act as a core attraction for many in the surrounding unincorporated County, including an area of about 1,500 persons. Rainier Ranch, an extensive unincorporated development north of Town, matches Wilkeson's current population. Other populated areas surround Wilkeson and more development in the County has been applied for. Therefore, the demand for park and recreation services in Wilkeson is not only generated by the Town's residents but also by persons and families residing on the periphery of the Town, including the communities of Burnett, Rainier Ranch Sites, Black Tail Ridge and Sierra housing developments, all within 1 to 2 miles of Wilkeson.

Worthy of mention are the traffic volumes on State Route 165 (Church Street) passing through Wilkeson. According to the Washington State Department of Transportation's most recent Annual Traffic Report, the current annual average (January through December) traffic volumes on State Route 165 through Town amount to about 2,800 vehicles per day. During the summer months, daily traffic volumes can be

considerably higher, influenced primarily by tourists and vacationers destined for Mt. Rainier National Park.

The demand and needs assessment indicates that there is a future unmet need for both community and neighborhood parks within the Town of Wilkeson based on the potential capture area population of approximately 1,500. For 2030, there is a future need for an additional 0.37 to 1.37 acres of neighborhood parkland. For community parks, there is a future need for an additional 2.58 to 5.58 acres. There is also a need for an additional 0.1 to 0.2 miles of walking/hiking trails by 2030, but this demand will be met with construction of the Foothills Trail Extension, on which construction will begin soon.

While community parks are meant to serve the population within the Town's limits and its immediate surroundings, regional parks are meant to serve a multi-community area within a one-hour drive time. Regional parks are generally areas of natural quality for resource-oriented outdoor recreation. The Town of Wilkeson is too small in size to provide a regional park. Furthermore, the close proximity to Mt. Rainier National Park provides adequate regional park area to service the demand of the Town.

Table B
Park and Recreation Demand and Needs

Park Type	Level of Service Standard	2015 Existing	2015 Demand	2030 Demand
Regional Park	5-10 acres / 1,000	-	-	-
Community Park	8 acres / 1,000	9.42 acres	12.0 acres	12.0 to 15.0* acres
Neighborhood Park	2 acres / 1,000	2.63 acres	3.0 acres	3.0 to 4.0* acres
Walking/Hiking Trails	1 mile / 5,000	0.2 miles	0.3 miles	0.3 to 0.4* miles

* Based on Wilkeson’s potential capture area population of 1,500 persons, including surrounding unincorporated County residents

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM & PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

This section is intended to be realistic in terms of its ability to implement projects based on available funding and balanced together with the town-wide demands. To accomplish this, park priorities are organized based not only on need derived from public surveys and needs analysis, but also on funding opportunities such as grants.

Wilkeson’s Parks and Recreation Plan is shown in Figure A. One of the top priorities is the development of the Coke Ovens Park as a Community Park. The Town of Wilkeson owns the land however it is located within Pierce County. The Coke Oven Park

Conceptual Park Plan was completed by the community in 2013. This was funded by a Planning Assistance Grant from National Park Service (see plan in appendix on page ___) Future efforts will include the input from local organizations, the school district, MRNP and other interested stakeholders to review Federal and State grant opportunities to finance the interpretation and construction of new features in the Park. The Coke Ovens area has already been designated as National, State and County Historic Site. Recent projects have resulted in a approximately \$23,000 investment from County, Town and local resources for coke oven stabilization and their update to the National Register. A local capital campaign should continue to move forward on the goals outlined in the Conceptual Plan. The Town is eligible to apply for NEH (National Endowment of the Humanities) for an implementation grant for historic sites interpretation. Additional funds are available from to the Washington State Heritage Commission for construction. Already a match exists for the State grant from current projects and future projects completed prior to grant award and within a 6 year window.

Another top priority is to provide public access to Wilkeson Creek and develop a park for middle elementary to high school youth. Comments from the community survey indicate that there is nothing for this age group to do in Wilkeson, that there is a need to keep the children busy and physically active. Both creek access and youth activity can be accomplished at one site. The ideal location has been targeted near the downtown core adjacent to the bridge. This site is a feasible location for several reasons – it is accessibility by residents as it is the center of the town boundaries; it is a safe and security location as it is visible to the public and police patrol; since the location is buffered from residential areas there is no adverse effect of noise or intrusion on neighboring residential properties; and finally it is in the vicinity of Wilkeson’s business district to help stimulate commerce and visitors to the area. The phases have been identified to acquire the site (Phase 1); design the site (Phase 2) and develop the site (Phase 3). Work in that direction is ongoing.

The community survey in 2010 also indicated the importance of walking and biking trails. Access from downtown and the southern portion of town to the Rails to Trails system is a priority. To this end the town has secured funding for planning (2011), design and construction (2013, 2015). A trail loop should be reviewed for inclusion in the Coke Oven Park Plan.

Another priority is to provide additional playground equipment at the Roosevelt Park and Caboose Park, each on opposites ends of the town. The larger Roosevelt Park is

intensely used by small children and family picnic area on the west end. The east end is an uneven but town groomed vacant lawn used by youth for football and soccer. Roosevelt park equipment is aging and is currently set up for one or two children to use at a time. Comments from local children indicate they would like to see this park developed with equipment for larger groups of children such as “seesaws or swings for four people”. Caboose Park is centrally located. While a small lot, it could be designed for additional playground equipment for the south end of town. Here the town’s handcar could be housed year long under a secured gazebo and on public display advertising our Annual Handcar Race event.

FUNDING SOURCES

Wilkeson’s capital project funding level, as of 2015, is not adequate to support development of a quality park system in accordance with the Town’s vision. The following strategy is intended to provide increased capital project funding for the first six years of plan implementation.

Federal and State Sources

RCO Grant Programs

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO; formerly the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation) grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources that Wilkeson may qualify for. The town has been successful in an award of a grant of \$55,000 for the development of the Skate Park in 2013.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP):

The Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP), which is managed by RCO, provides grant opportunities for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails, and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year. However, in 1999, the RCO limited project review in odd-numbered years to local park acquisition. The State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists. The City should pursue RCO funding in the 2009 and 2011 cycles, keeping in mind that the application process starts in 2008 and 2010.

Salmon Habitat Recovery Grants: Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCRFB)

The Washington State Legislature established the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in 1999 to help support salmon recovery in Washington State. The SRFB provides grant funding to local, state, and private individuals and organizations for habitat protection

and restoration projects and activities that produce sustainable and measurable benefits to fish.

Wetland Reserves Program (WRP): Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The WRP provides landowners the opportunity to preserve, enhance, and restore wetlands and associated uplands. The program is voluntary and provides three enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 10-year restoration cost-share agreements. In all cases, landowners retain the underlying ownership in the property and management responsibility. Land uses may be allowed that are compatible with the program goal of protecting and restoring the wetlands and associated uplands. The NRCS manages the program and may provide technical assistance.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)/Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW).

USFW and WDFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation, and enhancements to water crossings.

NEH National Endowment for the Humanities Provides funding for heritage resources placed on the National Register.

Washington State Heritage Commission Capitals grant

Provides funding for heritage resources placed on the National Register. The town has been successful in the past with two grants for the 2009 Centennial Monument (\$10,000) and the 2013 Town Hall Windows Restoration Project (\$75,000).

Local Funding Options

Levies

Washington law allows cities and counties, along with other specified junior taxing districts, to levy property taxes in excess of limitations imposed by statute when authorized by the voters. Levy approval requires 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. Excess levies by school districts are the most common use of this authority.

General Obligation Bonds

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest.

Councilmanic Bonds

Councilmanic bonds may be sold by cities and counties without public vote. The bonds—both principal and interest—are retired with payments from existing county or city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax.

The maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds is one and one-half percent of the value of taxable property in the city.

Impact Fees

Development impact fees are charges placed on new development as a condition of development approval to help pay for various public facilities, the need for which is directly created by that new growth and development. Under the Growth Management Act of 1990 (ESHB 2929), counties, cities, and towns may impose impact fees on residential and commercial "development activity" to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space, and recreation facilities. Examples of charged impact fees on new development help to pay for park and transportation facilities. Several school districts within the county have also adopted development impact fees.

Utility Tax

Towns are authorized to impose taxes on utility services, such as telephone, electric, and natural gas. Legislative maximums limit the amount of tax that may be collected. For example, the maximum tax rate for electric and natural gas is 6%. Maximums may be exceeded for a specific purpose and time period with majority voter approval.

Sales Tax

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of cities and counties to impose sales and use taxes at a rate set by the statute to help "carry out essential county and municipal purposes." The authority is divided into two parts. Cities may impose by resolution or ordinance, a sales and use tax at a rate of five-tenths of one percent on any "taxable event" within their jurisdictions. Cities may also impose an additional sales tax at a rate "up to" five-tenths of one percent on any taxable event within the city.

Real Estate Excise Tax

Washington law authorizes cities to impose excise taxes on the sale of real property within limits set by the statute. The authority of cities and counties may be divided into four parts. A city may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the city, respectively, at a rate not to exceed 1/4 of 1% of the selling price to fund "local capital improvements," including parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, water systems, bridges, sewers, etc. Also, the funds must be used "primarily for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan.

A city may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the city at a rate not to exceed 1/2 of 1%, in lieu of a five-tenths of 1% sales tax option authorized under state law. These funds are not restricted to capital projects. The statute provides for a repeal mechanism. Cities that are required to prepare comprehensive plans under the new Growth Management Act are authorized to impose an additional real estate excise tax on all real property sales in the city at a rate not to exceed 1/4 of 1%. These funds must be used "solely for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan."

Regular Property Tax – LID LIFT

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. A city's maximum levy rate for general purposes is \$3.375 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation unless the city is annexed to either a library or fire district, in which case the city levy may not exceed \$3.60 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Once the rate is established each year under the statutory limit, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period. Other limits on taxing authority remain in effect, such as the aggregate levy rate limits of \$5.90 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Land Trusts

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that traditionally are not associated with any government agency. An example of land trusts that have projects in areas near Wilkeson include the Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Conservation Futures

In the effort to preserve and enhance environmentally sensitive properties as well as sites providing opportunities for passive recreation, Pierce County dedicates these funds to the acquisition of farm, forest, open space, and recreation lands. A Conservation Futures Advisory Committee reviews and prioritizes all projects submitted by the county, towns, cities, and other eligible jurisdictions.

Grants, Trusts, Donations and Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation, and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process, and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fund-raising efforts can also support park, recreation, or open space facilities and projects.

Business Sponsorships

Business sponsorships for youth, teen, adult, and senior programs are available throughout the year. Sponsorships and donations range from \$5 to \$1,000 or in-kind contributions that include services or equipment.

Fundraising

Fundraising projects are used to support special projects and programs. Recycling drives, horseshoe tournaments, auctions and candy sales are four examples of successful fundraising efforts.

Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government involving joint acquisition, development, and use of park, recreation and open space facilities. This approach would be needed to develop a joint use facility such as a regional park. Shared school/park facilities are another example of this concept.

Public-Private Partnerships

The concept of public/private partnerships has become increasingly popular for park and recreation agencies. The basic approach is to enter into a working agreement with a private corporation, non-profit organization, or other agency to help fund, build, and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives that a public agency can offer are a free site, tax advantages, and facility access. While the public agency may have to give up certain responsibilities or control, it is one way of providing public facilities at lower cost.

Private or Public Utility Corridors

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Historically, some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks within utility corridors.

Local Improvement District (LID)

Local Improvement Districts can be formed by local governments for capital projects. The capital project must directly benefit those properties that are assessed, and there must be a relationship between the benefit received and the assessment paid. Typically, these districts fund improvements to sewer, water, or road systems through bonds that are subsequently paid back from special assessments that are levied on district members. LIDs are initiated by petition, or in the case of a citywide project, the city could initiate the project by resolution. A petition signed by property owners representing 60 percent of the affected area is necessary to stop a project. Funding for LIDs is usually spread over 10 years. Specific legislation covers use and operation of various LIDs.

Park & Recreation Districts

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities. Ridgefield may consider participating in a park district in the future with

User Fees

Revenue for maintenance and operations can be generated through fees and charges, including: parking fees, boat launch fees, park user fees, event fees, community center rental, and other user-based fees.

Volunteer Resources

Volunteers from community groups may volunteer for a variety of activities including tree planting, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, and environmental education. Through labor and the provision of resources, volunteers can make a definite and lasting contribution to maintaining parks, green spaces, and natural areas.

ADOPTION

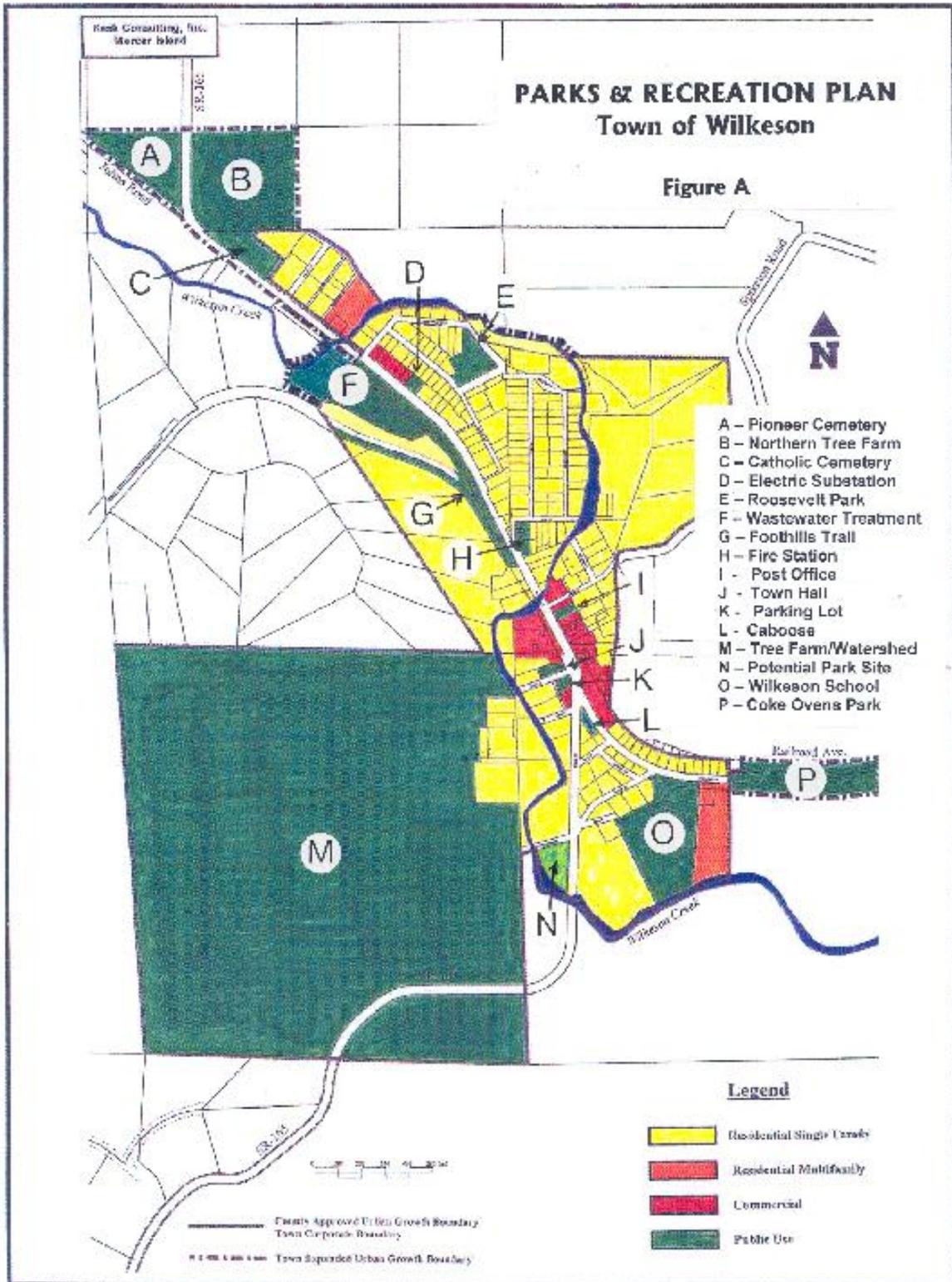
The original draft plan was presented for public review in a public hearing before the Town of Wilkeson Planning Commission, on 21 April 2010. The 2015 Updated Plan was presented for public review in a public hearing before the Town of Wilkeson Planning Commission, on February 25, 2015. Following each public hearing, the plan was adjusted to reflect comments receive at the public hearing. The Planning Commission has forwarded the Update Plan to the Town Council for council review before adoption by resolution on March 25, 2015. The Plan is subject to amendments, as conditions warrant.

APPENDICES

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN MAP

SURVEY DATA

Appendix A Town Park Map



Appendix B 2010 Park Survey Comments

There were 74 community surveys returned from 197 homes. The survey was delivered door to door and they were asked to mail or drop the survey off at town hall. Of the 74 returned surveys 66 people surveyed came from Wilkeson zip code area, 4 from Buckley, 1 South Prairie, 2 Carbonado, and 1 other. There were 90 surveys returned from Wilkeson Elementary School, consisting of 4th and 5th graders. This group is a much larger mix of home locations – 18 from Wilkeson, 42 from Buckley, 18 from South Prairie and 12 from Other. This mix is because students live in nearby Rainier Ranch sites, Sierra and Black Tail Ridge all unincorporated residential areas of Buckley but closer to the Town of Wilkeson.

From the surveys the people desired to speak to the history and strong outdoor interests that residents and visitors expect from this town. A complete chart of the surveys are attached in appendix at the back of this report.

Key parks issues derived from community participation include (in no particular order):

- Well over half wanted public access to Wilkeson Creek.
- Youth strongly agree for a swim access or water park.
- Well over half made strong remarks for picnic areas and natural areas.
- Several commented that parks should convey the history of Wilkeson.
- Adults and youth wanted more group events for pre-teens and teens that promote inter-action like team sports or events, and craft classes.
- Comments were made on how nice the Rails to Trails route are but there are not enough trails for good connectivity especially to South Prairie.
- The town should protect the fish and prevent flooding damage.
- The best used and maintained park is Roosevelt. However, there is not much there for older youth. (Two verbal comments made by residents around the park do not want to see youth activity rise at Roosevelt because of noise levels and night security.) This park needs public restrooms.
- There are no water connections at the parks.
- Older age groups discussed the need for horseshoe pits, shuffle board, outdoor chess table , history lectures and activities for the whole family.
- Not much for the kids to do. Top areas of interest for youth is the development of swim/water access, skate park, basketball court, and BMX park.

- There is nowhere to walk dogs off leash.
- Coke Oven Park is not secure, it is trashed and has too much vandalism is happening at this site.
- Coke Ovens should be restored or protected.
- Coke Oven Park needs parking area and better handcar field for annual event.
- Wilkeson needs camp sites.
- The town could use festivals or outdoor entertainment.
- As far as support for funding by the community the residents were cautious. The community was somewhat supportive of funding development of Wilkeson Parks and recreation programs as long as they know more about the project first.

. The numbers per age groups in the community survey are the following:

- (9) 10-19 years old
- (3) 20-24 years old
- (14) 25 to 34 years old
- (12) 35-44 years old
- (18) 45-54 years old
- (10) 55 to 64 years old
- (6) 65 to 74 years old
- (4) 75 years plus

In Order, the top choices for parks for all age groups including the go from the elementary school were:

	Town Survey	School Survey
1. walking trails	42	7
2. Swim Access	7	37
3. biking trails	24	14
4. children's play area	17	7
5. water park	10	18
6. skate park	12	15
7. fishing access	11	14
8. Orv Trials	11	32
9. Football field	3	26
10. picnic area	12	5
11. natural area	12	4

Percentage wise, these choices above were the top choices for all the age groups surveyed. The majority of the community survey with 85% 25 or older indicated walking trails was the top priority. While the majority of the youth indicated swim access and water park were important. It should be noted that skateboard park was not named on the list and had to be write in under other.

Wilkeson Parks, Trails and Recreation Survey Adult Survey Results

1. What is your home zip code?

1. Wilkeson 98396	66	4. Carbonado 98323	2
2. Buckley 98321	4	5. Other	1
3. South Prairie 98385	1		

2. What is your gender?

Male	34	Female	36
------	----	--------	----

3. What age group are you in?

1. Under age 10	0	6. Ages 45-54	18
2. Ages 10-19	9	7. Ages 55-64	10
3. Ages 20-24	3	8. Ages 65-74	6
4. Ages 25-34	14	9. Ages 75+	4
5. Ages 35-44	12		

5. What do you feel are the most needed parks or recreation facilities?

1. Swim Access	7	12. ORV Trails	11
2. Adult Softball Fields	2	13. Water Playground	10
3. Adult Baseball Fields	1	14. Children's Play Area	17
4. Youth Baseball/Softball Fields	8	15. Climbing Wall	7
5. Soccer Fields	1	16. Dog Park	2
6. Football Fields	3	17. Picnic Areas/Shelters	12
7. Campgrounds	5	18. Natural Areas	12
8. Fishing Access	11	19. Wetland Interpretive Area	3

9. Walking Trails	42	20. Community Center	10
10. Biking Trails	24	21. Community Swimming Pool	6
11. Equestrian Trails	1	22. Other	16
		<i>Skate Park</i>	12
		<i>Basketball Courts</i>	4

6. Do you participate in motorized off-road vehicle recreation?

Yes	28	No	44
-----	----	----	----

If yes, what type of machine do you use?

1. Motorcycle	12	3. Four Wheel Drive	16
2. ATV	13	4. Other	2

7. How many times have you visited a Wilkeson Park in the last 12 months?

1. 1 to 5 visits	22	4. Over 20 visits	20
2. 6-10 visits	15	5. Unknown	9
3. 11-19 visits	7		

8. If you seldom use or don't use Wilkeson Parks, what are your reasons?

1. Parks not maintained	3	6. No park where I like to recreate	5
2. Security/safety	0	7. Cannot access park	0
3. Too busy, no time	15	8. Don't know where parks are	7
4. Not interested	3	9. Parks are too crowded	2
5. Not within walking distance	3	10. Other	13
		<i>Reasons for #10</i>	
		No skateboard parks	
		No basketball courts	

9. How would you rate the overall physical condition of ALL parks?

1. Excellent	9	3. Fair	19
2. Good	40	4. Poor	3

If you think some parks are in excellent shape, can you please list the park(s):

Albert Street	2	Railroad Park	1
Brierhill Park	2	Cothary Street	1

Rails to Trails	1	Roosevelt Park	2
-----------------	---	----------------	---

If you think some parks need more attention, can you please list the park(s):

Coke Oven Park	6	Wilkeson Park	2
Brierhill Park	1	Roosevelt Street	4

10. Do you feel there is a need for additional water access in Wilkeson?

Yes	41	No	29
-----	----	----	----

If you answered yes, where?

- At Coke Oven Park.*
- Near any of the bridges.*
- At the shelter in the park.*
- Near the river in a deep spot.*
- As you come in to Wilkeson.*
- At the creek by the Foothills Trail footbridge.*
- Not in the creek due to damaging the salmon run.*
- Build a pool near Coke Oven Park.*
- Next to the Kepka's house.*

11. Improvements you would like to have made in parks.

1. Landscaping	25	16. Picnic Tables-Benches	36
2. Walking Trails	46	17. Tennis Courts	10
3. Bicycle Trails	33	18. Sports Fields	13
4. Equestrian Trails	6	19. Sports Field Lighting	4
5. ORV Trails	14	20. Basketball Courts	14
6. Parking	21	21. Park Signage	11
7. Playground Equipment	27	22. Shade Trees	22
8. Handicap Accessibility	12	23. Water Playground	17
9. Walkways/Sidewalks	21	24. Horseshoe Pits	23
10. Bike Racks	18	25. Water Access	24
11. Trash Removal/Cans	35	26. Non-Motor Boat Launch	1
12. Drinking Fountains	20	27. Community Center	18
13. Picnic Shelters	29	28. Swimming Pool	10
14. Security/Lighting	21	29. Other	7
15. Restrooms	35	*Skate Park	6

12. Are you interested in seeing more recreational events offered?

Yes	48	No	14
-----	----	----	----

If yes, what kind of events?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Handcar races</i> | <i>Yoga</i> |
| <i>Running events</i> | <i>Soccer</i> |
| <i>Mountain bike rides</i> | <i>Sewing</i> |
| <i>Skateboard demos/contests</i> | <i>Spinning yarn</i> |
| <i>Baseball and football</i> | <i>Native Arts</i> |
| <i>Karate</i> | <i>Storytime</i> |
| <i>Cooking</i> | <i>BMX</i> |
| <i>Kids events</i> | <i>Hiking</i> |
| <i>Basketball</i> | <i>Flag football</i> |
| <i>Volleyball</i> | <i>Historical events - mining</i> |
| <i>ORV events</i> | <i>Movies in the park</i> |
| <i>Cultural events</i> | <i>Beer/wine festival</i> |
| <i>Outdoor music/concerts</i> | <i>Horseshoe tournaments</i> |
| <i>Exercise programs</i> | <i>Dance classes</i> |
| <i>Weightlifting events</i> | <i>Craft classes</i> |
| <i>Painting classes</i> | <i>Knitting classes</i> |

13. Potential park improvements may increase operation & maintenance costs.

Level of support for new or increased taxes.

1. Very supportive	13	3. Not sure	20
2. Somewhat supportive	29	4. Not supportive	10

Level of support for new or increased user fees.

1. Very supportive	14	3. Not sure	16
2. Somewhat supportive	19	4. Not supportive	21

14. If Coke Oven Park was developed, what type of development would you like?

1. No development	10	4. Complete/full site develop.	7
2. Keep mostly natural	28	5. Not sure	3
3. Selective site development	25		

Comments on Coke Oven Park:

- Great location for a skate park.*
- Should be cleaned up and conserve the history of Wilkeson.*
- We only use that park once a year so what is the use?*
- The ovens are currently a safety hazard. They need to be cleaned up.*
- Add RV sites for tourists.*

Add playground equipment for kids.
 I love it, keep it natural.
 It would be fun to ride bikes/quads at the park.
 Needs lighting, parking area, trails and signs.
 Don't take the ovens. Move the tracks to the south.
 Would love to have a basketball court and skateboard park.
 Want the coal track back.
 Why not use it, you got it? Have something for families to do.
 Interpret the history with any development.
 Location vulnerable to vandalism.
 Needs picnic tables and open area to play.
 It is a dump. The park needs cleaned up.
 The park needs to be preserved and kept safe.
 It is a point of interest to visitors to learn the history of Wilkeson.

15. How would you allocate \$100,000 towards Wilkeson Parks?

Acquisition of new park land or natural areas	\$330,000	Construction of new athletic facilities.	\$900,000
Acquisition or development of walking & biking trails & bike routes	\$1,025,000	Development of waterfront parks to improve water access.	\$455,000
Improvements/maintenance of existing parks and playgrounds.	\$1,170,000	Development of new outdoor parks and recreation facilities.	\$872,000
		Other: Skateboard Park/BMX Track	\$457,000

16. Please rate your satisfaction with the value you receive from Wilkeson Parks.

1. Very satisfied	8	4. Somewhat dissatisfied	7
2. Somewhat satisfied	33	5. Very dissatisfied	2
3. Neutral	17	6. Don't know	4

Wilkeson Parks, Trails and Recreation Survey Kids Survey Results

1. What is your home town?

1. Wilkeson 98396	18	4. Carbonado 98323	0
2. Buckley 98321	42	5. Other	12
3. South Prairie 98385	18		

2. Are you?

Male	48	Female	33
------	----	--------	----

3. What age group are you in?

1. Under age 5	0	4. Ages 12-14	4
2. Ages 5-7	0	5. Ages 15-18	1
3. Ages 8-11	81		

4. What do you feel are the most needed parks or recreation facilities?

1. Swim Access	37	10. ORV Trails	32
2. Baseball/Softball Fields	11	11. Water Playground	18
3. Soccer Fields	15	12. Children's Play Area	7
4. Football Fields	26	13. Climbing Wall	16
5. Campgrounds	16	14. Dog Park	11
6. Fishing Access	14	15. Picnic Areas/Shelters	5
7. Walking Trails	7	16. Natural Areas	4
8. Biking Trails	14	17. Skateboard Area	15
9. Equestrian Trails	6	18. Other	3

Suggestions for #18

5 Star Hotel	2
Gun Range	1

5. Do you participate in motorized off-road vehicle recreation?

Yes	37	No	32
-----	----	----	----

If yes, what type of machine do you use?

1. Motorcycle	37	3. Four Wheel Drive	32
2. ATV	11	4. Other	18

6. How many times have you visited a Wilkeson Park in the last 12 months?

1. 1 to 5 visits	22	4. Over 20 visits	14
2. 6-10 visits	6	5. Unknown	45
3. 11-19 visits	2		

7. If you seldom use or don't use Wilkeson Parks, what are your reasons?

1. Parks not maintained	2	6. No park where I like to recreate	1
2. Security/safety	5	7. Cannot access park	1
3. Too busy, no time	17	8. Don't know where to parks are	21
4. Not interested	10	9. Parks are too crowded	4
5. Not within walking distance	11	10. Other	13
		<i>Reasons for #10</i>	
		Live too far away	6

8. How would you rate the overall physical condition of ALL of parks?

1. Excellent	15	3. Fair	11
2. Good	43	4. Poor	11

If you think some parks are in excellent shape, can you please list the park(s):

1. The playground.	1
2. The Wilkeson Park on Albert Street.	3
3. The one near Short Street.	2
4. The school.	3

If you think some parks need more attention, can you please list the park(s):

1. The Wilkeson Park.	4
2. The one by the river.	2

9. Do you feel there is a need for additional water access in Wilkeson?

Yes	43	No	46
-----	----	----	----

If you answered yes, where?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. By the big rock. | 6. In the mountains. |
| 2. Up by the park on Albert Street | 7. By the big log. |
| 3. In an open area. | 8. On Railroad Avenue. |
| 4. Behind the Eagles Hall. | 9. In the sunniest part of the park. |
| 5. At the Wilkeson Elementary. | 10. By the fire station. |

10. Are you interested in seeing more recreational events offered in Wilkeson?

Yes	55	No	29
-----	----	----	----

If yes, what types of events would you like to see offered?

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Kids sports | 13. Cheerleading |
| 2. Ball games | 14. Sack races |
| 3. Football | 15. Bike races |
| 4. Art programs | 16. Writing classes |
| 5. Basketball | 17. Soccer |
| 6. Baseball games and fields | 18. Skate contest |
| 7. Golf | 19. Horse competitions |
| 8. Dance classes | 20. Water parks |
| 9. Swimming | 21. Music lessons |
| 10. Dog shows | 22. Voice lessons |
| 11. Volleyball games | 23. Guitar lessons |
| 12. Choir | 24. Paintball field |

11. What would you do with Coke Oven Park?

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Preserve the coke ovens and make a picnic area and walking trails. | 12. Make it a hang-out place for kids to have fun. |
| 2. Look at the coke oven. | 13. Make it clean at all times. |
| 3. Look for coal and play hide and seek. | 14. I would clean it up and add a playground and a skate park. |
| 4. Nothing, I like it the way it is. | 15. Have it as a field trip for Wilkeson Elementary. |
| 5. Make it more popular. | 16. I would rebuild the coke ovens. |
| 6. Make a quad/dirtbike track. | 17. Turn it into a skate park. |
| 7. Put in a playground. | 18. Make it more like a museum in the sense that it might provide some background history. |
| 8. Clean it up. | 19. Turn it into a mall or water park. |
| 9. Keep it safe. | 20. Add some benches. |
| 10. Make fishing and swimming access. | 21. I think that there should be something like a trail or some picnic benches in it. |
| 11. Create better access. | 22. Add on to it and add some more pizzazz. |

Other comments?

- Wilkeson has been perfect throughout my life.
I want a pool or something!!
I think with a little improvement the area would be perfect.
This town is old but boring.
Make Wilkeson an awesome place.
There should be a dance.*

Wilkeson is a great town.

I think that Wilkeson is very nice.

The town is boring.

I think there is nothing to do, boring.

Appendices:

Coke Oven Park Conceptual Plan

Coke Oven Park HALS Report

Coke Oven Park Structural Report