

## CHAPTER 6 – PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

### ***INTRODUCTION AND VISION***

Carnation is a small city in a rich agricultural valley surrounded by forests, pastoral fields, rivers and mountains. Open space and recreational opportunities are abundant within and adjacent to the city limits. Carnation’s character is derived from a variety of assets including the familiarity and care of community that comes with a small city, a verdant natural and historic landscape which includes two rivers that flow near the city limits, nearby forests, views of the neighboring Cascade foothills and a considerable amount of farmland near the city and within its Urban Growth Boundary. The City’s vision statement reflects the importance of these characteristics to the residents of Carnation:

*“Carnation is a friendly and safe family-oriented community where a vibrant small town benefits from the natural beauty, heritage and recreational opportunities of the Snoqualmie Valley.”*

### **PURPOSE AND OUTLINE OF ELEMENT**

The Parks and Recreation Element is a high-level planning document designed to guide the development of Carnation’s future investments in parks, trails and open space over the next twenty years. A Parks and Recreation Element adopted in the Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A) allows the City to impose a parks and recreation impact fee as part of the development process. Revenue from the impact fee is needed to fund parks capital projects including public facilities, land acquisition, site improvements, new park construction and park renovations.

The Parks and Recreation Element is organized as follows:

An **Introduction** section, which contains information on the City as a whole, the regulatory aspects of parks planning, and public participation in the element.

An **Inventory** of the existing parks and trails facilities owned by the City and by other entities. The inventory has a portion organized by park type, and a portion organized by recreational opportunity.

An **Analysis** of future needs for parks and recreation based on levels of service for park and recreation opportunities that is tied to both stated desires of the community as well as population forecasts for the City. The parks inventory is then examined in light of this level of service analysis and a Capital Improvements Plan is presented which is designed to address the deficiencies in the level of service that will result from new growth.

The **Goals** that will be used to guide the City on areas of long-term focus, **and Policies** that provide specific steps towards achieving the goal.

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

The GMA requires that Comprehensive Plans meet the following goal:

*"Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities."*

The GMA requires that a parks and recreation element implement and be consistent with the parks and recreation facilities identified in the Capital Facilities Element. The element must also include three components:

1. Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a 10-year period;
2. An evaluation of facilities and service needs; and
3. An evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.

This update of the Parks Element is based on the population projections derived from the update of the Land Use Element as well as public input as described below. In addition, the Carnation community has successfully undertaken several improvements to parks and recreation facilities since 2009 that are reflected in the Inventory section.

In addition to its requirements under the GMA, the City of Carnation is also subject to the requirements of the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) for King County as well as the Multi-county Planning Policies (MPPs) developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and published in VISION 2040. Both the CPPs and MPPs require jurisdictions to identify, establish and protect recreational, open space and critical environmental areas. The CPPs encourage cities within King County to establish policies and programs that contribute to the protection and stewardship of open space lands and corridors within their Urban Growth Areas. Policy MPP-En-8 requires local governments within the four-county PSRC jurisdiction to "Identify, preserve and enhance significant regional open space networks and linkages across jurisdictional boundaries". Carnation's Parks and Recreation Element incorporates these policies in Framework Goal B, and in the Parks Improvement Plan, which calls for the City to work cooperatively with King County to expand trails and trail linkages along the Tolt and Snoqualmie Rivers.

Finally, the Parks and Recreation Element must meet the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requirements in order for the City to be eligible for RCO funding. This update reflects new guidance on determining parks levels of service developed by the RCO. The RCO administers 12 grant programs for a variety of open space, habitat and recreation efforts. To maintain eligibility for these grants, a city's parks plan must include: goals and objectives; inventory of parks and facilities, public process, needs assessment, capital improvement

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

plan, and plan adoption.

### **PUBLIC PROCESS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

An extensive public participation process was incorporated into the development of the Parks Element update in 2013. The process included an Open House held in March of 2012. Participants were given an opportunity to mark up aerial maps of Valley Memorial, Loutsis, Hockert, River's Edge and West Side Park to show desired improvements, and to leave comments about the City's trails, parks and recreation needs. The meeting was well attended, with 15 members of the public. Parks "stakeholders", including local parks groups and people who participated in the development of the Parks Master Plan in 2009, were invited to assist the Planning Board with the update. In addition to the public input sought during the drafting of the Parks Element, two public hearings were held prior to adoption.

Since King County is a significant public recreation and open space landowner in the Carnation area, we have coordinated this plan with King County land managers and planners. Non-motorized trail connections between the city and county parks, riverfront access and cooperative recreation planning were discussed.

### **COMMUNITY PROFILE AND CHARACTERISTICS**

At slightly over one square mile in size, much of the City of Carnation is a great example of a walkable community with compact development and a pedestrian scale. However, the north-south state highway corridor (SR203) which bisects the city creates a barrier during high traffic portions of the day. Entwistle Street, which is the main east-west arterial, also bisects the city, resulting in relatively distinct Northwest, Southwest, Northeast and Southeast quadrants. Most residents live in the Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast zones. The Southwest zone has more commercial than residential development, but is adjacent to the extensive King County regional parklands. As many residents take advantage of the city's walkable scale, busy roadways tend to act as de facto barriers to park and recreation opportunities. In order to better understand Carnation's park, open space and recreation needs, these facilities should be assessed in terms of their locations within the four quadrants of the town.

**The Northwest quadrant** is bounded by the city limits on the north and west, by Entwistle on the south, and by SR203 on the east. In the Northwest quadrant, Carnation's oldest residential neighborhood has an early 1900's character. West Side, an undeveloped pocket park, is located in this quadrant. Further north, a large block of agricultural land currently produces fruits and vegetables. This area is within the City's Potential Annexation Area (PAA), and this area will be zoned for residential and mixed use development upon annexation. At the northern extent of the PAA, single family UR-7.5 zoning will provide in-fill housing opportunities for new residents, but no city parks exist in this neighborhood either. The northwestern corner of this neighborhood is also constrained by the Snoqualmie River floodway.

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

**The Southwest quadrant** is bounded by Entwistle on the north, the city limits on the south and west, and SR203 on the east. This neighborhood is the smallest quadrant with the most commercial development and the least residential areas. No city parks exist in this neighborhood, although a regional King County facility, Tolt McDonald Park, is located partially within and bordering this quadrant. In 2011, local citizens worked with the City to establish an off-leash dog park on the City-owned parcel located south of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**The Northeast quadrant** is bounded by SR203 on the west, the city limits on the north and east, and Entwistle on the south. The 32 mile Snoqualmie Valley trail divides the newer residential area to the east from older residential area to the west. This sector is primarily residential and has a mix of housing developments, including a large portion of the original 1913 plat of the city, a mobile home park, and several modern subdivisions with a variety of neighborhood and lot sizes. Hockert Park is located in this quadrant.

**The Southeast quadrant** is bounded by Entwistle on the north, the Tolt River and city limits on the south and east, and SR203 on the west. The Snoqualmie Valley trail divides the newer residential area east from the older residential area to the west. This area has two significant suburban developments (River's Edge and Swiftwater) that contain larger lots and new homes, as well as older homes between the highway and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. The Southeast quadrant contains many of the developed parks within city limits, such as Valley Memorial and Loutsis Park, as well as River's Edge Park, a portion of the Snoqualmie Valley trail, and portions of Tolt McDonald Park. A docket request was made for the 2015 Update of the Comprehensive Plan which would change the land use designation of approximately 34 acres from primarily industrial to high density residential use. The 34 acres are just north of a section of Tolt McDonald Park located between SR203 and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. There is a trail along the Tolt River in that section of Tolt McDonald Park. The area is also in close proximity to Memorial Park, and so would be well served by nearby recreation opportunities in addition to trail linkages.

## ***PARKS INVENTORY***

The first portion of the inventory of parks facilities available to City of Carnation residents presented in this section is organized according to these categories, including city-owned parks and those owned by other public entities.

However, recent work done by the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has resulted in a new set of tools to evaluate parks and recreation levels of service (LOS), based on recreation function rather than classification of parks. To support Carnation's use of these new tools for evaluating LOS for parks, the inventory is also presented of the various types of recreational

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

opportunities that serve the range of the community's needs, whether owned and operated by the City or by other public entities.

### **INVENTORY BY TYPES OF PARKS**

Parks standards such as those developed by the National Recreation and Park Association have typically relied on the ratio of acres of developed parks per population for five different types of parks:

- Mini-parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Park
- Linear Parks

#### ***Mini-park***

Mini-parks are generally small (less than one acre) and characterized by passive recreation or specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group, such as children or senior citizens. Mini-parks are sometimes called "pocket parks". In general, mini-parks are designed to serve residents within a quarter mile radius. Especially where these parks provide facilities for young children, safe access is an important issue for mini-parks. The majority of the city is within one quarter mile of a mini-park, although some of the City's mini-parks are undeveloped.

Fred Hockert Park is a small (0.2 acre) park located in the NE quadrant between the commercial area and the older residential neighborhood. It is a well-loved and much used park with play equipment for younger children. The neighborhoods within a quarter mile radius of Hockert Park include most of the original plat of the Tolt Townsite, most of Regal Glen, and a small portion each of the Cascade View and Carnation Meadows neighborhoods. While Hockert Park is centrally located, SR203 creates a barrier to access for families west of SR203.

River's Edge Park is located in the SE quadrant within the Rivers' Edge neighborhood. River's Edge Park is 0.35 acres in size, and located at the very northeast of the River's Edge neighborhood. Most of River's Edge Park is open space and there is a picnic area with tables and grills. Neighborhoods within a quarter mile of this park include the River's Edge community and the parcels located west of River's Edge, the City's eastern Potential Annexation Area and portions of King County. As this park does not have many facilities, it does not get a great deal of use. Should this park be developed, families within the quarter mile should be able to access this park with few barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists.

West Side Park, which is currently undeveloped, is the City's only park west of SR203, and is located in the NW quadrant. West Side Park is 0.56 acres in size.

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

Neighborhoods within a quarter mile radius of West Side Park include the original plat west of SR203, a small portion of the Potential Annexation Area north of the City, and some King County residents. As these areas are all west of SR203, there are few barriers to pedestrian or bicycle access to West Side Park from the adjoining neighborhoods.

There are no mini-parks owned by other entities that serve City residents, although facilities owned by the Riverview School District and the Swiftwater Homeowner's Association also provide children's play equipment, and children's play equipment is also located in Tolt McDonald Park.

***Neighborhood Park***

Neighborhood Parks are designed to serve the nearby residential population or employment base; the service area typically includes adjoining neighborhoods within a half mile. Generally several acres in size, they often include areas for active recreational activities, such as ball fields and courts, as well as passive recreation areas. In addition to play apparatus for pre-school and school age children, facilities are likely to include open lawn and paved court areas, shelters, wading pools, outdoor ice rinks, and some off-street parking. Trees, open fields, and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of this type of park. Ideally a Neighborhood Park should be suitable for intense development and easily accessible to the neighborhood population that it serves. If possible, Neighborhood Parks should be geographically centered within the neighborhood and safe walking and bike access should be provided. Such parks may be developed as a school- park facility.

The service area for neighborhood parks is generally 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius to serve a population of 1,000 to 5,000 persons. The desirable size is considered 5 to 10 acres. The standard for this type of park facility is generally 1 to 2 acres per 1,000 people.

The City has two parks that fit at least some of the definition of a Neighborhood Park, Valley Memorial Park and Loutsis Park.

Valley Memorial Park ("Memorial" or "Skatebowl" Park), which is located in the Southeast quadrant, is 7 acres in size. Memorial Park provides recreation for a variety of users, including a skatebowl, tennis courts, picnic area with grills, BMX Track and also a World War II Memorial. There is an off-street parking lot which is in poor shape with many potholes. The City was able to construct the skatebowl with funds from a grant received in 2004. While the location of Memorial Park is not central within the City, the types of recreation provided and the location next to the Tolt Middle School make Memorial Park a significant facility to much of the population within the City.

A citizens group, the Friends of Valley Memorial Park, undertook extensive

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

cleanup of this park and raised funds to put in children's play structure. Future plans for the Friends include a covered picnic area. In addition to the skate bowl, tennis courts, BMX track and the new play structure, much of Valley Memorial is well-treed open space with a trail through it. RCO standards typically cite a half mile as the service area for Neighborhood Parks. Most of the existing City is located within a half mile of Valley Memorial Park; with the exception of River's Edge, some portions of Swiftwater Carnation Meadows, and the Brumbaugh neighborhoods. Pedestrian and bicycle access to Memorial Park are excellent for residents east of SR203, but the state highway does create a barrier to access for residents west of SR203. This is somewhat ameliorated by the new signal at Entwistle and SR203.

Loutsis Park is the other City-owned park that, to some extent, fits the definition of a Neighborhood Park. Located centrally to the City and adjacent to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail, Loutsis Park is within ½ mile of most of the City's population with the exception of the River's Edge neighborhood. Loutsis Park is very heavily treed, and there are trails through the trees providing passive recreation. An off-street parking lot provides parking both for the park and for the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. The City's well-head is located near the parking lot in the northerly section of Loutsis Park. A 100-foot sanitary control area is required around the well-head, which must be considered when improvements are planned for Loutsis Park.

While the location and size (Loutsis Park is 6 acres) match the definition of a Neighborhood Park, Loutsis Park does not currently have the range of opportunities for active recreation that are generally associated with a Neighborhood Park. However, a Disc Golf course was developed at Loutsis Park recently, which brings many people to Carnation. Other than the Disc Golf, Loutsis Park primarily provides passive recreation.

There are no neighborhood parks owned by other entities that serve City residents, although one of the new subdivisions includes plans for a small park.

### ***Community Park***

Community Parks are designed to serve the surrounding community. Such parks are often larger in size and often consist of significant natural features, such as large tracts of open space or natural areas, and areas of diverse environmental quality. Community parks may contain special amenities attractive to visitors throughout the area, including intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. Community Parks may include an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking, and may include bodies of water. Depending on the site and community need, Community Parks may provide a combination of passive and active recreational opportunities and may also contain special amenities attractive to visitors throughout the area. Desirable facilities in Community Parks include

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

those listed above in the section on Neighborhood Parks, along with swimming facilities, lighted ball fields, and tennis courts, a community center, and adequate off- street parking. It is important that Community Parks be located on or near major thoroughfares, and also be easily accessible by foot.

Community Parks typically have a service area consisting of several neighborhoods, and a 1 to 2 mile radius. The desirable size is over 10 acres, with 15 to 40 acres being most common. The National Standard for acres per 1,000 people is generally 5 to 8 acres.

While it would appear that Carnation lacks a Community park, it is worth noting that Tolt McDonald Park, a Regional park owned by King County, is located adjacent to the City and provides much of the function of a Community Park. Tolt McDonald Park is over 500 acres in size, with approximately 50 acres located within the city's boundaries and another 88 acres located immediately adjacent to the City. Tolt McDonald offers a wide variety of active and passive recreation, including ball fields, play equipment, picnic shelters, as well as hiking, mountain biking, camping, river access and fishing, and many Carnation residents as well as visitors take advantage of these recreation opportunities.

In general, to be counted as a park, a facility needs to meet the following criteria:

1. Is this land a dedicated park?
2. Is this land a developed park, or developable?
3. Can the parkland provide active recreation?
4. Can the city control the use, scheduling, level of maintenance of the recreational land or facility?

Tolt McDonald does meet the first three criteria, and does function both as a Community Park for the City, as well as a Regional Park for households outside the City. While the City does not control the use or scheduling at Tolt McDonald Park, the recreational opportunities it affords city residents do meet many of the functions of a Community Park. See discussion of Levels of Service in Section III below.

### ***Special Use Park***

Special use parks are devoted to specialized or single purpose activities, such as golf courses, arenas, plazas, squares, boulevards, etc.

Tolt Commons is a Special Use Park owned by the City. Located in the Northeast quadrant, within the downtown area, Tolt Commons is landscaped in xeric (low water use) plants, with a pathway and benches. Two other city owned parcels located on Bird Street in the Northeast Quadrant contain a picnic shelter and lawn that is used for the Carnation Farmer's Market as well as other events and community celebrations.

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

There are no Special Use Parks owned by other entities that serve City residents.

***Linear Parks***

Linear Parks are developed for different modes of recreational transportation such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, etc.

The Tolt River Trail along the river levee south of the Swiftwater neighborhood in the SW quadrant is an example of a linear park. The King County owned Snoqualmie Valley Trail is a significant linear park that serves not only the Carnation area but the entire Snoqualmie Valley. Once a railroad track for the Milwaukee railroad, the trail is now a popular regional facility much used by runners, hikers, bikers and equestrians.

**OTHER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMMUNITY**

***Publicly Owned Park Land.*** Facilities owned by the Riverview School District and King County offer area residents sports fields, bicycling trails, walking trails, playgrounds, campgrounds, and picnic sites. There is public access to both the Tolt and Snoqualmie Rivers as well as Lake Langlois offering substantial opportunity for swimming, boating and fishing.

King County owns much of the open space and parklands accessible to Carnation residents, such as Tolt McDonald Park (see description of Tolt McDonald Park above).

The Riverview School District and the King County Parks Department have entered into a variety of fee based, cooperative agreements with youth organizations for use of park and school facilities within Carnation. There is a charge for the use of some of these facilities.

At present, the City operates no recreation programs. However, it does provide limited support to the King County Library and non-profit groups including the Sno-Valley Senior Center and Friends of Youth. Other recreation programs are sponsored through youth sports organizations.

In addition to these non-city owned parks and programs, indoor community gathering places include the Senior Center, churches, school facilities and the King County Library System.

***Private & Non-Profit Recreation.*** There are privately held farms within and adjacent to the city that offer You-pick opportunities, family activities, a petting zoo, amusement rides, additional picnicking and fresh, locally grown produce. In addition, there are three private youth camps within a few miles of town which take

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

good advantage of the area lakes, rivers and forests.

**INVENTORY BY RECREATION OPPORTUNITY**

In 2010, the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) published a new Level of Service (LOS) tool for local communities to use in developing parks and recreation plans as an alternative to the acres per 1,000 population standard (see Section III below for more discussion of Levels of Service). This new tool looks at quantity, quality and accessibility of recreation opportunities and places an emphasis on recreation needs that are specific to the local jurisdiction. To support the City's use of this new tool for parks planning, an inventory is presented on types of recreation needs specific to Carnation.

***Population and Categories of Recreation***

The Parks Element provides the planning context for future parks improvements to serve the existing city residents as well as new residents expected over the next twenty years. Carnation's small-town scale and beautiful setting make it a great place for families with children, and the 2010 Census indicates that 45% of Carnation's households include children less than 18 years of age. Senior citizens are another important component of Carnation's population; households with individuals 65 years of age and over constitute 13.9 percent of Carnation's households. Future growth patterns of the City as determined by the Future Land Use Map will provide continued opportunities for both elders and families with children to live in and enjoy Carnation. As the baby boomers continue to age, seniors will be a growing segment of the population, and the City's amenities and walkability will be attractive to seniors.

The new Level of Service standards provide for a more in-depth evaluation of different recreation functions that are specific to the different segments of the community. Under this method of evaluating levels of service, the demographic make-up of Carnation's households and the range of activities that the community supports form the basis for the categories of recreation to be evaluated. For example, families with elementary school and younger children benefit from play structures, swing sets, etc., and ideally these are both within walking distance (one-quarter mile) and are safely accessible by foot or bicycle. Many older children participate in organized sporting activities such as little league and soccer; play fields and places to practice will be important to serve these needs. Recreation opportunities geared to teens include the skatebowl and BMX track. Many teens and adults as well enjoy a variety of specialized recreation that the city offers or could offer, including tennis, disc golf, basketball, etc. Picnic areas can be enjoyed by all ages, and provide great places for families and friends to gather. Overhead shelters at picnic areas and grills are amenities that enhance enjoyment and usefulness of these areas. Finally, trails that provide opportunities for walking, biking and equestrians are a valued amenity in the community and provide

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

opportunities to all segments of the population. Taken together, these recreation opportunities are essential to quality of life and a healthy community, and for purposes of this analysis, are classified into the following types of recreation:

- Children’s play structures
- Sports fields including baseball, soccer, football, etc.
- Specialized recreation, including tennis, skatebowl, BMX Tracks, etc.
- Picnic areas, including grills and/or covered structures
- Trails, natural areas and open space

***Children’s play structures.*** Whether in a city-owned park or located in a facility owned and operated by others, play structures provide recreation for families with young children within close proximity. Generally a quarter mile is assumed to be a reasonable walking distance. There are six play structures within City limits, two of which are within city-owned parks (Hockert Park and Memorial Park). The remaining four are located in King County’s Tolt McDonald Park near the ball-fields, at the Carnation Elementary School, and in individual neighborhoods. (The Homeowner’s Associations for Swiftwater and The Estates at Snoqualmie Valley Trail own and maintain play structures for residents and their guests) Most residents of the city are within a quarter mile of a play structure, with the exception of the River’s Edge neighborhood, portions of Carnation Meadows and Brumbaugh neighborhoods, and the location of future development in the northeast of the City. The play structure at Hockert Park which is centrally located and very popular is in poor condition and out of date. The play structure at Valley Memorial was recently added by the Friends of Memorial Park. The play structures not owned by the City appear to be in good shape.

***Sports fields including baseball, soccer, football, etc.*** There are a total of nine ball-fields within Carnation, three located at Tolt Middle School, one at Carnation Elementary School and five located in Tolt McDonald Park. Of these nine fields, five are baseball diamonds, one is a football field which can also be used for field hockey, and the remaining are open fields which can be used for soccer or for practice. Ball-fields are generally used by organized sports such as Little League and by older kids, and they do not tend to serve specific neighborhoods. All of the ball-fields are located west of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

***Specialized recreation, such as Tennis, skatebowl, BMX Tracks and other activities.*** Carnation offers a variety of specialized recreation, much of it centered on activities that are enjoyed by teenagers and adults alike. Carnation’s teen centered recreation opportunities include a skatebowl and BMX track, both of which are also located within Valley Memorial Park. There are two tennis courts also located in Valley Memorial Park. There is a disc golf course set up at Loutsis Park, and an off-leash dog park on city-owned property south of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Tolt McDonald Park includes extensive off-road bicycling opportunities that draw both local and visiting off-road bicycle enthusiasts.

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

***Picnic areas, especially those with grills and/or covered structures.*** There are seven places with picnic tables within or close by the City, all but one of which are located west of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. Most of these only include picnic tables, with just a few of these offering nearby grills (at River's Edge Park and Valley Memorial). The covered picnic structure in Memorial Park was donated by the Friends of Valley Memorial Park. The shelter at Tolt Commons on East Bird Street could be used for this purpose.

***Trails, natural areas and open space.*** Carnation residents through-out the City are within close proximity (half mile or less) to trails and natural areas. The Snoqualmie Valley Trail bisects the City, and there are trails along the Tolt River on the City's southern boundary which connects to a trail along the Snoqualmie River in Tolt McDonald Park. Northeast of the City is the Evacuation Trail in Lot 'W', a city-owned parcel just outside city limits. Carnation has many natural areas in open space or park designations, along both rivers, on the hillside along the city's eastern boundary including Lot 'W', as well as in City parks (Loutsis and Memorial Parks both have treed areas with trails through them). The trails are especially popular and well-used by local and visiting pedestrians and bicyclists, and even equestrians. While the trail system forms a loop through-out the City, there are some missing segments in the trail system: Entwistle/NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street between Swiftwater and River's Edge; along SR203 between the Tolt Levee Trail and just south of NE 40<sup>th</sup>; and along the Tolt Levee Trail in King County. Where these missing links are within King County, the City must look for opportunities to work with the County. Other links to trails that are outside the City would also require cooperation with King County, for example, a trail along the Snoqualmie River in city limits could be linked to the north to access the recreation area at Chinook Bend.

**City of Carnation  
2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment  
PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

**Table P-1  
City Owned Parks and Recreational Facilities**

<b>Park facility</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Gross acres</b>	<b>Developed acres</b>	<b>Undeveloped acres</b>	<b>Open space</b>	<b>Features</b>	<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Recreation Categories</b>	<b>Comments/needs</b>
Carnation Meadows	City	1.63			1.63	Undeveloped, Open Space, Recreation Area/Facility	Mini Park	Trails & Open Space	Steep forested hillside
Evacuation Hill	City	20.4			20.4	Evacuation Trail through property with Conservation Easement	Open Space	Trails & Open Space	City has TDR's to sell in return from Conservation Easement from KC
Hockert Park	City	0.20	0.20	0		Children's Play Equipment	Mini-Park	Children's Play Structure	Popular 2-5 yr. old play area Not ADA or safety compliant Needs play equipment for toddlers
Loutsis Park	City	6.10	1	5.10		Open Fields, Forested Area, Direct Access to Sno Valley Trail	Neighborhood Park	Specialized Recreation Trails & Open Space	Wooded area needs forest management.
Off-Leash Dog Park	City	8.17			8.17	Undeveloped, Open Space	Open Space	Trails & Open Space	Sewage vacuum station site, long-term

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

									use undetermined
Rivers Edge Park	City	0.35	0.15	0.2		Picnic Area	Mini Park	Picnic Area	New picnic tables, signage, landscaping improvements, play equipment needed
Swiftwater Open Space along the Tolt River	City	0.06			0.06	Open Space, Undeveloped	Open Space	Trails & Open Space	
Tolt Commons Plaza	City	0.37	0.37			Farmer's Market Site, landscaping, benches	Special use		0.11 acre lawn area acquired in 2017. Landscaping on north side of Bird St needs follow-up maintenance
Tolt River Levee Trail	City	1.43	1.43			existing crushed rock trail along Tolt River	Linear park	Trails & Open Space	
Valley Memorial Park	City	7.15	3	4.15		2 Tennis Courts, Picnic Area, Skateboard bowl, BMX Track, Children's Play Equipment, World War II Valley Memorial	Neighborhood Park	Children's Play Structure Specialized Recreation (4)	Parking area potholed and not ADA. Improvements needed to trail access, paths, BMX

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

								Picnic Area Trails & Open Space	track, and play areas/structu res.
West Side Park	City	0.56	0	0.56		Undeveloped	Mini Park		Needs Picnic tables, signage, landscaping improvement s, play equipment
Total Acreage		46.41	6.13	10.11	30.26				
Level of Service: Ac/1000 pop. (2017 population estimated at 2,030)		22.86 ac/1000	3.02 ac/1000	4.98 ac/1000	14.91 ac/1000	NRPA Standard = 10 acres of developed parkland per 1000			Demonstrate s sufficient current supply of total parkland, deficient supply of developed parks

**City of Carnation  
2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment  
PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

**Table P-2  
Non-City owned Parks and Recreational Facilities Within the Carnation Area**

<b>Park Facility</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Features</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Comments/Needs</b>
Tolt Middle School	Riverview School District	19	Football Field, Track, Baseball Field, Softball Fields, Soccer Fields, Indoor Facilities	Public School Facilities	Children's Play Structure Sport Fields (3)	
Carnation Elementary School	Riverview School District	5	Multi-use Field, Baseball diamond, Toddlers & Youth Play Equipment, 1 full & ½ size basketball court, outdoor shelter, Indoor Facilities	Public School Facilities	Children's Play Structure Sport Fields	
King County Library System	County		Library Facility	Library		
Snoqualmie River Boat Launch	State		Boat Launching, Public Fishing	Boat Launch		
Lake Langlois Boat Launch	State		Boat Launch, Public Fishing	Boat Launch		
Mariners Field	County	3.5	Baseball Field	Regional Park	Sport Fields	
Orme's Hill Park	County	10	Open Space	Open Space, Undeveloped, Future Trail System planned.	Trails & Open Space	Future trail system planned. Adjacent to City's Evacuation Hill.
Tolt MacDonald Park	County	48.8 within City limits 500 acres overall	Campsites, Soccer Field, Baseball Field, Softball Field, Picnic Shelter,	Regional Park	Sport Fields (5) Specialized Recreation Picnic Area	

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

			River Access, Wetland & Wildlife, Hiking & Mountain Biking Trails, Suspension Bridge, Public Fishing		Trails & Open Space	
Snoqualmie Valley Trail	County		Walking, bicycling, Equestrian, Wetlands & Wildlife	Linear Park	Trails & Open Space	
Swiftwater Open Space	Home Owners Association	1.5	Potential trail connections	Open Space, Undeveloped, Future Connection to River		
Tolt River Beach site	Seattle City Light	20.38	Riparian/wetland site along Tolt River	River access, beach site		Very constrained for development potential

**City of Carnation  
2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment  
PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

***DETERMINING FUTURE PARKS NEEDS***

The Washington State Growth Management Act requires plans to forecast future needs for capital facilities, including parks. To this end, a guideline must be developed for the level of service a community desires and can be reasonably expected to fund.

**NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION STANDARDS.**

The National Recreation and Park Association provides service standards for each type of park. This set of standards has traditionally been used to evaluate whether the existing supply of recreational facilities and land is adequate to meet the demands of the residents of Carnation. Figure P-3 describes the park categories, and the recommended park standards per 1,000 population.

**Table P-3  
Park Categories and Service Standards**

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE SIZE	SERVICE STANDARD
Mini-Park	A mini-park is characterized by passive recreation or specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group, such as children or senior citizens	Approximately 1/4 mile radius	No minimum to approximately one acre	Approximately 0.5 acres per 1,000 population
Neighborhood Park.	Neighborhood parks are designed to serve nearby residential population or employment base. They often include areas for active recreational activities, such as ball fields and courts, as well as passive recreation areas.	Approximately 1/4 - 1/2 mile radius	2 - 7 acres	1 to 2 acres per 1,000 population
Community Park	Community parks are designed to serve the surrounding community. Community parks may contain special amenities attractive to visitors throughout the area. Such parks often consist of significant natural features, such as large tracts of open space or natural areas.	Approximately 1 - 2 mile radius	15 acres	8 acres per 1,000 population
Special Use Park	Special use parks are devoted to specialized or single purpose activities, such as golf courses, arenas, plazas, squares, boulevards, and parkways.	No applicable standard	Variable	No applicable standard
Linear Park	Linear Parks are developed for varying modes of recreational transportation such as hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, etc.	No applicable standard	Sufficient width to provide maximum use and protect the resource	No applicable standard

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

Another standard for parks facilities is often expressed as a ratio of total parklands to 1,000 people. The National Recreation and Park Association standard is 6 to 10 acres of developed parklands per 1,000.

As the National Recreation and Park Association standards (National Standards) is given in acres of improved parklands per 1,000, jurisdictions can choose the amount of parklands that they wish to provide for their current and projected populations. As described above, to be counted as parklands, properties must meet the following criteria:

1. Is this land a dedicated park?
2. Is this land a developed park, or developable?
3. Can the parkland provide active recreation?
4. Can the city control the use, scheduling, level of maintenance of the recreational land or facility?

While Tolt McDonald Park clearly meets the first 3 criteria, there is some debate as to whether it can be counted as it is owned and operated by King County and is not under city control. However, the County has worked collaboratively with the City on parks planning, and much of Tolt McDonald Park's recreation development is well-established. Given these circumstances, it is credible to count at least the portion of Tolt McDonald Park that is within City limits as part of the park acreage that serves the City's population. While Tolt McDonald Park is a regional park, it makes most sense to count the 48.8 acres that are within City limits as a Community Park. These acres can be counted as developed (useful) parklands as they include established ball fields, a play structure, park offices, parking, etc. as well as access along the Snoqualmie and Tolt Rivers.

Figure P-4 below shows the number of acres of park land per 1,000 population within the planning area for the years 2015, 2018 and 2031 using the 10 acres of developed parklands per 1,000 standard. The existing and forecasted populations for 2015 population and 2031 respectively are based on the Land use Element. The 2015 population is 1,786 (source: 2010 US Census) and the forecasted build-out population for 2035 is 4,656. An interim year of 2018 is used for planning purposes, with an estimated population of 3,500. The needs for parklands for the existing and projected population were compared to the existing park acreage, including parklands owned by the city in 2012 along with the portion of Tolt McDonald Park that is within City jurisdiction, in order to determine the surplus or deficit of parklands for each type of park.

**City of Carnation  
2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment  
PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

**Table P-4  
Carnation Recreational Land Needs  
Years 2015-2035**

	Mini-Park	Neighborhood Parks	Community Park	Total Acres	Acres per 2015 Pop	2012 Surplus /Deficit	Acres per 2018 Pop	2018 Surplus /Deficit	Acres per 2035 Pop	2035 Surplus /Deficit
Total Acres	2.74	13.25	48.8	64.79	36	26	19	9	14	4
Developed	0.34	4.00	48.8	53.14	30	20	15	5	11	1
Undeveloped	2.40	14.36	0	16.76						

As can be seen from Table P-4, based on this standard, the City has adequate parklands to meet the standard of 10 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population, through build-out of the City projected to occur by 2035.

**LEVEL OF SERVICE AND IMPACT FEES**

The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has developed a new tool for parks and recreation planning that replaced the “one size fits all” standard of park acreage per population, and now uses an “investment per capita” model. The level of service for parks and recreation is measured based on three categories of criteria: 1) quantity (number of parks and recreation facilities compared with the population served), 2) quality of recreation facilities, measured both by an agency assessment and by public satisfaction with the facilities, and 3) distribution and access, which looks at the ability of people to access park and recreation facilities by foot, bicycle or public transit. This model allows the City to be flexible and responsive to changing needs and priorities in the community. This calculation also serves as the basis for the park impact fee rate. Only new residential development incurs impact fees. Impact fee revenue is used for the cost of new capital facilities, including land acquisition, site improvements, equipment, construction and any necessary off-site improvements. The fee also pays for planning, design, engineering, permits, financing, fees, and administrative expenses.

**RECREATION TYPES**

To help determine Carnation’s parks and recreation needs, the following recreation types were evaluated:

- Children’s play structures
- Sports fields including baseball, soccer, football, etc.
- Specialized recreation such as Tennis, skatebowl, BMX Tracks, etc.
- Picnic areas
- Trails, natural areas and open space

**Children’s play structures.** Carnation’s population includes many families with young children, and access to a play structure within a quarter mile is a typical

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

standard for this type of facility. Carnation's five play structures are within a quarter mile of most residential areas, with the exception of the eastern and northeastern portions of the City, such as River's Edge and portions of the Brumbaugh and Carnation Meadow's neighborhoods.

Quantity – there are adequate numbers to serve most of the city's population except for the eastern (River's Edge) and northeastern (Brumbaugh, portions of Carnation Meadows, and potential new development) neighborhoods. However, larger backyards and privately owned play structures in the eastern portion of the City may be an adequate substitution. Future development of the Potential Annexation Area (PAA) to the north would also be further than a quarter mile from any existing play structures.

Quality – Hockert Park has play equipment that is out of date and in very poor condition, according to both City staff and public input. The play structure at Memorial Park is new. Comments at the Open House from the public included the need for play equipment designed for toddlers and younger children. Most of the other play structures within the City appear to be in good repair.

Distribution and access – Hockert Park which is the most centrally located and most widely used of these facilities is easily accessed by pedestrians or bicyclists originating east of SR203, primarily due to the low average daily traffic on local streets. However, SR203 creates a barrier for pedestrians, especially with young children, impedes access for families who live to the west of the highway. Access across SR203 has recently improved with completion of the new signal at Entwistle and the lighted cross-walk at Morrison, but is still not optimal. While there is one play structure west of SR203 located in Tolt McDonald Park, it is further than a quarter mile from most of the residents west of SR203. Development of West Side Park to provide play structures would ameliorate this deficiency as West Side Park is very accessible for most residents west of SR203.

The eastern and northeastern neighborhoods of the City are underserved for this type of recreation. However, in general these neighborhoods have larger backyards, and many families have their own play structures. Public outreach to these neighborhoods would help determine local needs for more play structures in River's Edge Park or in a new mini-park.

Summary of needs for play structures:

- Replace play equipment at Hockert Park
- More play equipment designed for younger children at Hockert and Memorial Parks
- Develop West Side Park with a play structure
- Provide for a pocket park with play equipment in the PAA west of SR203
- Provide for a pocket park with play equipment at River's Edge Park and/or

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

a new park in the northeast of the City.

***Sports fields.*** None of the ball-fields that serve the City's residents are provided by the City, but are owned and operated by King County (Tolt McDonald Park) or by the Riverview School District. Primarily used by organized leagues, ball-fields are accessible on an as available basis for residents.

Quantity – The nine ballfields appear to meet most needs for the community. However, a local soccer association has identified the need for more soccer fields to meet demand within Carnation and vicinity. This association has approached the City to study the feasibility of leasing an 8 acre city-owned parcel to develop two regulation soccer fields for use by the soccer league. When not in use by the soccer league, the fields would be open to the public. The City Council has agreed in principal to lease the property to the association and the City is assisting with the feasibility study.

Quality – The fields at Tolt McDonald Park have been well maintained, and the School District has recently improved the ball-fields at Tolt Middle School. In general, the ballfields used by City residents are in good repair.

Distribution and Access – Pedestrian and bicycle access to the ball-fields at Tolt Middle School are adequate via the sidewalks along SR203. Pedestrian access to Carnation Elementary School is provided by local streets, some of which have sidewalks. Improved access to Carnation Elementary School via Spilman Avenue is addressed in the City's Six-Year Transportation Plan (STIP). Pedestrian and bicycle access to the fields at Tolt McDonald are not as good, and the City will need to address these shortfalls by improving pedestrian access along SR203 between NE 40<sup>th</sup> and the new trail at Tolt McDonald park, and by improvements to NE 40<sup>th</sup>.

There are currently no ball-fields east of the Snoqualmie Trail. There have been some suggestions of adding waffle ball, kickball or soccer goals to River's Edge Park.

Summary of needs for ball-fields

- Work with organized leagues to examine possible new ball-fields on city-owned property
- Reach out to the River's Edge community to determine if a small ballfield would be desirable at River's Edge Park.

***Specialized recreation such as tennis, skatebowl, BMX tracks, etc.*** Carnation residents can enjoy a variety of recreational opportunities, including tennis courts, skatebowl, and a BMX Track at Valley Memorial, Disc golf at Loutsis Park, an off-leash dog-park on city-owned land, and off-road trails for bicyclists at Tolt

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

McDonald Park.

Quantity – While there are a good variety of recreation opportunities already present, several more ideas have been suggested by the public, including:

- A basketball court at Valley Memorial park
- Fitness track at Loutsis Park
- Horseshoes
- Climbing wall

Quality – The tennis courts in Memorial Park are in poor shape and need re-finishing. Another comment was to add a deck and rails to enhance the skatebowl.

Distribution and Access – Most of these special recreational activities are accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists, although the entrance to Valley Memorial Park off of SR203 is small and difficult to find. Residents west of SR203 have the barrier of the state highway to access many of these facilities.

Summary of needs for recreation opportunities:

- Repair tennis courts in Memorial Park
- Add a half basketball court in Memorial Park
- Add a Fitness Course to Loutsis Park
- Improvements to Skatebowl

***Picnic areas.*** Picnic tables are located in various parks, but as there is only one east of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail at River’s Edge Park. In addition to picnic tables, grills and an overhead structure make these facilities most useful.

Quantity – While there are picnic tables in many areas, it was felt that more picnic tables centrally located in the Bird Street/Hockert Park area would be welcome as well as also west of SR203.

Quality – Adding grills and especially overhead structures in various places would make these amenities more useful. The Friends of Valley Memorial Park are planning to build a shelter for the picnic tables, and a shelter for the picnic tables was also suggested for River’s Edge Park.

Distribution and Access – Most of these amenities are accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists, although the entrance to Valley Memorial Park off of SR203 is small and difficult to find.

Summary of Needs for Picnic areas:

- Build shelter for picnic tables in Memorial park

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

- Add picnic tables and barbecue to Community Shelter on Bird Street
- Provide a shelter for the picnic tables in River's Edge park
- Add another picnic table at Hockert Park
- Provide picnic table(s) with shelter and grills at West Side Park

***Trails, natural areas and open space.*** Carnation residents enjoy excellent regional and local trails and open space. Most residents are within close proximity (half mile) of trails and/or open space.

Quantity – Between the Snoqualmie Valley Trail, the trails along the Tolt River and some portions of the Snoqualmie River, as well as Evacuation Trail, and the trails and open space within Loutsis Park and Valley Memorial Park, Carnation residents are well-served by trails and open space.

Quality – Most of the trails are well-maintained. Pedestrian improvements as part of City street improvements would help improve the overall quality of pedestrian environment in the City. Improvements are also needed to complete the missing links as described below. The trails within City parks are in some cases not well developed or could be improved.

Distribution and Access – As noted above, most City residents are within walking distance of the City's looped trail system and/or open space. Access improvements to the trails for equestrians have also been requested.

Summary of needs for Trails, natural areas and open space:

- Create a paved trail in the eastern treed portion of Valley Memorial park. The trail should be ADA compliant and designed for stroller and tricycles, with benches at strategic locations.
- Develop a pedestrian pathway along Entwistle/NE 45th Street between River's Edge and 329th Ave NE
- Improve the pedestrian access along the western side of SR203 between NE 40th Street and the pathway in Tolt McDonald Park in front of Mariner's Field.
- Work with cooperatively with the property owners and King County to close the gap in access along the Tolt Levee
- Work with King County to complete a trail system along the Snoqualmie River to link to the Chinook Bend natural area.
- Signage to show horse trailer parking along Milwaukee would also improve access to the trails for equestrians.

**SUMMARY OF NEEDS BY PARK TYPE**

General descriptions are provided of required improvements for each type of park facility that would be necessary to meet the parks and recreation needs to serve

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

future development, as determined in the above Level of Service analysis.

***Mini-parks***

Fred Hockert Park: Hockert Park is in the center of town, adjacent to the Farmer's Market and near Tolt Commons, and is the most popular play area in the city. The play equipment is designed for toddlers as the city's demographic profile shows a significant presence of families with young children. While Hockert Park is located within the Northeast Quadrant, its central location maximizes access for the community as a whole. However, SR203 provides a significant barrier to pedestrians, especially for families with small children, which makes the requirement for a mini-park to serve the western quadrants more important. The City began design and engineering for redevelopment of Hockert Park in 2017 with construction complete in 2018.

West Side Park: This small undeveloped site is ideal for a small pocket play and picnic park within the western side of the city. Minimal grading would be required on this flat site. This is the only mini-park west of SR203; play structures for toddlers would provide families with small children an opportunity for recreation without crossing SR203. As West Side Park is also close to the Senior Center, recreation opportunities attractive to seniors was also a consideration.

Planned improvements:

- fence
- small shelter with picnic tables, barbeque grill
- toddler play structure
- horseshoe play area

River's Edge Park: This mini-park primarily serves the River's Edge neighborhood. A small picnic shelter could be added to the picnic tables and grills.

Planned improvements:

- shelter for picnic tables
- new fence
- other as desired by the neighborhood

Future Parks in the PAA and Northeastern part of the city: These parks will become necessary as new areas of the City are developed.

Planned improvements:

- play structures
- picnic tables

***Neighborhood parks***

Valley Memorial Park: This 7 acre park is beautifully forested, and has a strong historic character including a memorial to veterans. Recent improvements by a

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

citizens group, the Friends of Valley Memorial Park, include a major cleanup and a new play structure. The Friends also plan to build a shelter over the picnic tables. Further improvements include re-surfacing the tennis courts, adding a basketball court, adding some improvements to the skatebowl, adding play structures for toddlers, adding a swing set, providing a more formal treatment of the Memorial, with a paved area and landscaping, and improving the access way and reconfiguring and paving the parking lot. Plans for the treed area to the south include some selective clearing of trees and adding a 5' asphalt pathway with pull-outs and benches. The loop would be ADA compliant and would be easily used by families with strollers and kids on tricycles.

Planned improvements:

- Shelter for picnic tables
- Re-finish tennis courts
- Add a basketball court
- Toddler structure
- Looped trail
- Reconfigure and pave parking lot
- Skatebowl improvements

Nick Loutsis Park: Loutsis Park will require substantial thinning of the trees, as well as improvements to the parking area and landscaping along the western boundary to provide better screening for abutting residences. A fitness Course could be added along the Snoqualmie Trail.

Planned improvements:

- Pave parking lot
- Landscaping along western property line
- Fitness course

***Special Use Parks***

Tolt Commons (Bird Street “Festival Street”). Tolt Commons began as a small public garden across from City Hall at the intersection of Bird Street and Tolt Ave which was renovated by volunteers. Further planting improvements for this park should continue to model water wise gardening by using xeriscape. In 2010, the City partnered with the USDA and the Sno-Valley Tilth to develop the city-owned 7,500 square foot parcel on the other end of the block at the corner of Bird Street and Stossel Avenue as a community shelter. The structure is used by the Farmer’s Market to extend later into the fall, and could perhaps be used in the winter. The shelter is open to the public on non-market days and could provide picnic and outdoor cooking opportunities. In 2017, the City acquired the parcel between the shelter and the American Legion and expanded the grassy area on the west side of the shelter.

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

With important community facilities anchoring it (the Senior Center at one end and Hockert Park at the other) and its central location downtown, Bird Street has been identified as an ideal corridor for town center type facilities. The Farmer's Market, July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and Christmas in Carnation make use of Bird Street as the city's festival location. The American Legion, Hopelink, and City Hall are also located on or near Bird Street, further strengthening its public corridor character. City acquisition of vacant land in the area would support the town center concept.

Planned improvements:

- Add picnic tables and grill at community shelter
- Acquire land along Bird Street between Tolt Commons and the Community Shelter

***Linear Parks and Trail System***

Tolt River Levee Trail. Carnation has an opportunity to create an outstanding river trail with a continuous connected trail along King County parklands to the Snoqualmie River and all along the City UGA and connecting to the Entwistle trail on the east. Acquisition or an easement crossing 2 private parcels of land (where the levee is currently gated) would be required. It is noted that the current landowner's are not interested in selling or allowing an easement for public access, but public access across this blockage has been supported by the public. The Tolt River Corridor Study undertaken by King County is evaluating possible levee setbacks along the Tolt River within City jurisdiction. If these proposals move forward, the City should work cooperatively with the property owners and with King County to incorporate trails into the new levees.

Snoqualmie River Trails. The existing King County parks provide great trails that should be better connected to the City's existing and proposed non-motorized trail system. Recently the City completed the connection to the public pathway along the northern boundary of the wastewater treatment plant. This existing trail meets a recently completed trail on property owned by the City of Carnation that connects to Tolt MacDonald Park.

Planned Trail improvements:

- Pedestrian pathway on Entwistle/NE 45th
- Sidewalk on SR203 south of NE 40th
- Signage
- Bicycle parking
- Work with King County to complete access along the Rivers

***PARKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)***

This Parks and Recreation Element establishes a framework for recreation development by identifying priorities and setting policies for implementation of

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

goals. These elements are then incorporated into a funding plan, the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which is incorporated into the Capital Facilities Element as Table CF-5. The Parks and Recreation CIP is developed with input from the community regarding what recreational and parks facilities are wanted, coupled with the levels of service deficiencies that were in evidence based on the RCO Standards and the analysis of the parks inventory. The CIP provides preliminary costs of needed parks improvements to provide adequate parklands and facilities to serve the City's projected growth of the next twenty years. The CIP is used by the City Council for short- and long-term budget planning, and also serves as a guide for competitive grant applications.

## ***GOALS AND POLICIES***

### **FRAMEWORK GOALS**

The following broad themes were described by the community, Park Board, and City Council as priorities to guide this plan:

- Promote community interaction by supporting gathering places, open spaces, and parks and recreation.
- Expand trail linkages to further connect neighborhoods to regional public open spaces, farms, rivers and lakes.
- Explore creation of a Park & Recreation District with neighboring municipalities to enable funding mechanisms for park, trail and open space system enhancement.

Based on the information provided above, a series of goals and policies have been identified for the parks system. These goals represent milestones to be achieved in the next six years or longer.

### **GOAL P1**

**Assure that park and recreation land and improvements are provided to accommodate the demand of the future**

Policy P1.1 The City will protect and conserve its existing park lands to assure that there is an adequate supply of park and recreation facilities to meet current and future park needs.

Policy P1.2 The City will continue to implement a park impact fee ordinance. Emphasis should be placed on payment in lieu of receipt of undeveloped land.

Policy P1.3 The City will apply for appropriate, available grants to develop needed park, recreational and trail facilities, and park programs.

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

- Policy P1.4 The City will endeavor to develop multi-use parks to serve a broad range of interests and demands.
- Policy P1.5 The City will continue cooperation with King County and other public and private entities to encourage and promote the development of needed park facilities and open space. The City will work to secure cooperative agreements with King County if they elect to surplus major regional facilities or real property.
- Policy P1.6 The City shall facilitate and encourage public input for park development.
- Policy P1.7 The City shall pursue a network of paths, trails, and sidewalks to connect public spaces.
- Policy P1.8 To meet the needs for current and future residents, emphasize the need to develop existing undeveloped parkland rather than obtaining new small parcels, unless these are used appropriately for pocket parks to serve new or underserved residential areas.

**GOAL P2**

**To assure that parks are adequately maintained and operated to meet the interests and needs of Carnation residents.**

- Policy P2.1 The City will endeavor to maintain the City's park system to assure that parks remain clean, safe, inviting and usable.
- Policy P2.2 The City will encourage the use of volunteers and community support in the care and development of city parks.

**GOAL P3**

**Encourage the development of parklands that reflect and promote the vision for Carnation which values its natural environment, rural heritage and sense of community.**

- Policy P3.1 Encourage the use of design and landscaping that mimics the historic natural environment, and utilizes Best Conservation Practices (BMPs).
- Policy P3.2 Promote a strong sense of community through the development of pedestrian trails and paths that link neighborhoods to each other and to parks and open spaces.
- Policy P3.3 Offer a destination for visitors to Carnation to bike, walk and enjoy a

**City of Carnation**  
**2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendment**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

---

respite from more urbanized areas.

Policy P3.4 Pursue funding to acquire additional land for civic functions especially along Bird Street.

Policy P3.5 Establish gateways into town at south (Tolt River Bridge) and north edge of UGA.

Policy P3.6 Pursue enhanced public access from neighborhoods to existing parks, especially the Tolt MacDonald Park, the Snoqualmie Valley Trail, and Tolt and Snoqualmie Rivers.

Policy P3.7 Seek partnerships to develop other recreation opportunities, possibly at the City owned parcel south of the new sewer plant.

**ACTION POLICIES**

Policy PA.1 Review and modify the park & recreation mitigation program as necessary to comply with state law.

Policy PA.2 Establish parks and recreational level of service guidelines based on total population, usage patterns, growth predictions and population densities.

Policy PA.3 Update fees or charges for specialized services or programs and/or certain facilities on an annual basis.

Policy PA.4 Develop maintenance guidelines for use as a planning and budgetary tool to efficiently allocate resources (both labor and equipment).

Policy PA.5 Work with local citizen groups that have come together to improve Carnation's parks. Encourage the private sector and semi-public organizations to increase their expenditures for public recreation facilities and opportunities in Carnation.

Policy PA.6 Continue efforts to fund renovation and development of existing parkland.