

Recreation

Conditions

Sandpoint has approximately 107 acres of parks in the city or within the Area of City Impact (ACI). Parks include facilities for both passive and active recreation including swimming, picnicking, baseball/softball, basketball, skate boarding, soccer, football, tennis, volleyball and even recreational shooting.

City park and recreation facilities range in size, activities and amenities. Residents of all ages can relax on the sand or swim in Lake Pend Oreille's waters at City Beach Park or launch recreational watercraft there and at Lakeview Park. Softball, soccer, football and baseball enthusiasts can play or watch games at War Memorial Field or Travers/Centennial Parks or take in a youth game at Dub's Field ("Old 9th Grade Center Field" on map).

A list of parks, their sizes and available facilities and activities is provided in Table 7.1 below. Sandpoint parks range in size from 0.25 acres to over 24 acres.

Needs

Participants in the comprehensive planning process indicated strong support for

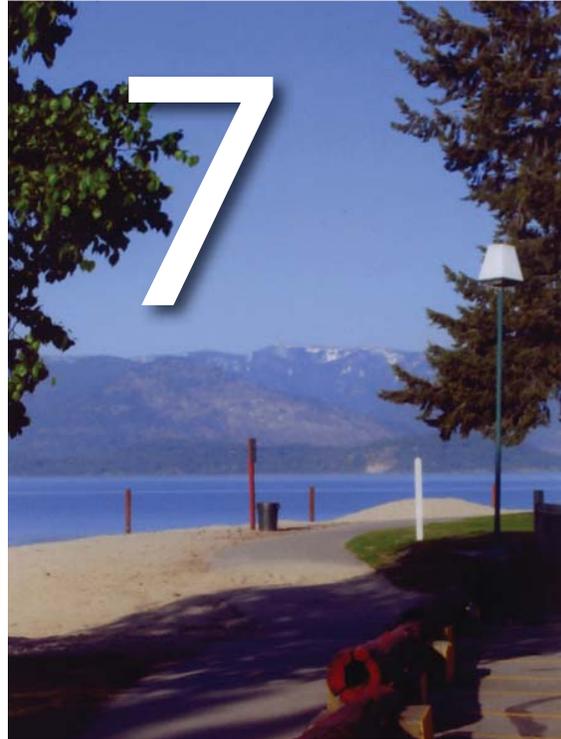


Figure 7.1 - Sandpoint's many world-class recreational opportunities - all within close proximity to downtown - are a critical part of life for residents. Maintaining and improving them over time is a critical planning priority. (Image source: camera exercise participant)

Sandpoint's parks system. Park and recreation facilities – whether improvements to existing facilities or new or expanded ones - consistently rated as a top priority. Based on comments received, parks and recreation needs include more access to Lake Pend Oreille, more urban parks, and more viable, multimodal connections between existing and future parks.

Plan Concept

Parks are a cherished resource for Sandpoint residents and outdoor recreation plays a important role in residents' lives. The goals and policies in this plan seek to increase access to those existing parks, provide for more parks,

Table 7.1 – Existing Parks, Facilities

Park	Acres	Facilities/Activities
Sandpoint City Beach	18	Restrooms Food concession facility/deck Picnic shelter/picnic tables/BBQs Two boat launches Playgrounds Tennis courts Basketball court Horseshoe pits Sand volleyball courts Three Two-life guarded swim areas (in season only) Two marinas Boat sewage pump-out Bicycle/pedestrian path Pedestrian bridge (Sand Creek)
3 rd Avenue Pier	0.25	Benches Picnic table Swimming and wading areas 2,200 sq. ft. green space 1,100 sq. ft. deck
Community Hall	2.5	5,400 sq. ft. building, w/ • Large kitchen • Large meeting room • 2 small meeting rooms • Restroom facilities
Travers Park/ Centennial Park	24.5	Skate Park Softball diamonds Baseball diamond Soccer fields Football fields Tennis courts Playground
Dubs Field	1.6	Youth baseball/softball field
Farmin Park	0.5	Bandstand Picnic tables BBQs Clock tower Public art
Jeff Jones Downtown Square	0.6	Bathroom Interactive fountain Benches Tables with chess boards
Hickory Park	2.3	Basketball court Benches Picnic tables Picnic shelter Play hill Playground “Tot Lot” Skateboard feature BBQs Neighborhood info kiosk
War Memorial Field	4.5	ART Memorial Football/soccer field Restrooms and concession buildings Ticket booth Field house Grandstand Bleachers Baseball field

Lakeview Park	13	Picnic shelters Picnic tables BBQs Tennis courts Basketball court/roller hockey rink Drinking fountains Restrooms Playground area Boat launch ramp Bike/pedestrian path through park
Pine Street Park	2	Little League baseball field Basketball courts Picnic tables Playground area with a swing set and slide
Mickinnick Trailhead	20	Trailhead facilities
Outdoor Shooting Range	6	Shooting range facilities
Great Northern Park	7.5	Sports Fields
Little Sand Creek Area	2	Passive Open Space
Humbird Park	2	Waterfront walking, benches and open space

Source: Sandpoint Parks and Recreation Department

and create viable, multimodal connections between neighborhoods and parks. All participants in the planning process wanted nearby, accessible parks, recognizing the recreational, social and natural opportunities such features provide. Given the City's prominent location on one of the region's most beautiful lakes, goals in this plan support increased public access to the shoreline in the form of parks and trail systems, and an overall growth pattern respecting the importance of Lake Pend Oreille as a public space.

A map locating each of Sandpoint's existing parks is included at the end of this chapter.

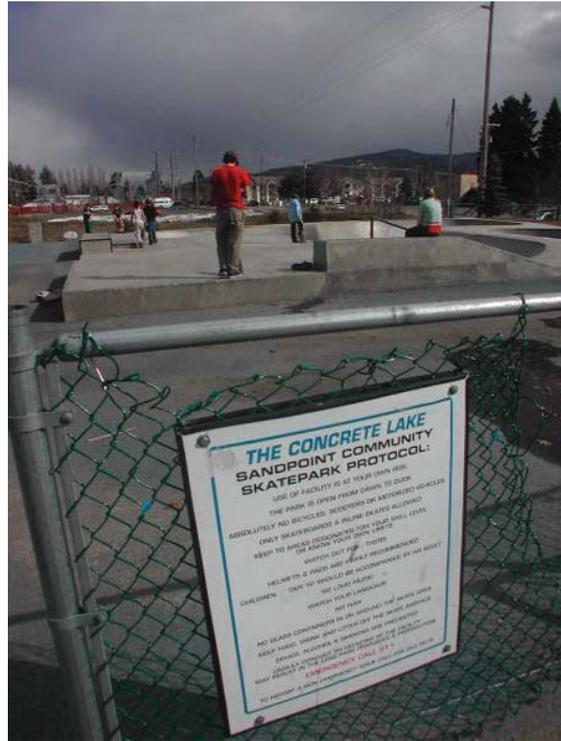


Figure 7.2 - Variety was an important consideration for plan participants, who supported passive and active, large and small parks facilities, improved shoreline and wilderness access, and youth-oriented facilities, like Sandpoint's skateboard park. (Image source: Studio Cascade, Inc.)

☒ Goal R-1: Parks

Provide integrated and comprehensive parks and recreation facilities to serve Sandpoint's needs.

Policies

- A** Maintain and enhance existing parks and recreation facilities and invest in new parks at a pace proportionate with growth on a cost effective basis.
- B** Find opportunities to acquire new park lands near newer, or underserved neighborhoods.
- C** Disperse parks and recreation facilities so that parks are located within at most one mile from any housing unit within city limits.
- D** Link parks and recreation facilities with a network of safe paths, trails and/or sidewalks.
- E** Explore partnership opportunities with other agencies and the private sector to expand parks and recreation offerings and/or share costs for providing services and land acquisitions.
- F** Plan for the parks and recreation system, by establishing long-range priorities to guide investment.
- G** Design and work toward a zero waste parks and recreation system.

☒ Goal R-2: Recreation

Support recreation as an important component of Sandpoint community life.

Policies

- A** Integrate parks and other public community spaces when considering development.
- B** Plan for continued and increased public access to the community's shorelines.
- C** Consider a variety of alternative uses for community open spaces that may be too small to function as parks, such as plazas or community gardens.

☒ Goal R-3: Open Spaces

Incorporate environmentally sensitive areas and public open spaces into the parks and recreation system.

Policies

- A** Look for opportunities to incorporate wetlands trails, native plants and streams into parks.
 - B** Collaborate with land trusts, cemeteries and other organizations to identify, acquire and or preserve open spaces.
 - C** Encourage the development of a greenbelt trail system extending throughout the ACI, linking natural open space and recreational areas with primary multimodal transportation routes.
 - D** Consider facilitating purchase or retention of existing open-space lands, through Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) or Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs.
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