

APPROVED NOTES

May 18, 2026 Local Parks Plan Community Meeting

Council members in attendance: Pat Arnold, Daina Bambe, Aaron Schmid, Tom Binder, Travis Pearson, Joanna Turner (late)

Community members - 6

Expectations: Why we are looking at a parks plan in general? Trying to understand what options there are.

County Comprehensive Plan Overview: In 1978 a parks plan was written, Comp plan written 1979 and has not been updated since. When reading the '78 parks plan you can see that nothing has been done since the plan was written. Pretty astonishing that we do not have much here given our area/community. Snowden, BZ Husum, don't have any parks, those communities with schools do not have parks; Wishram has a school, but facility is unsafe; Dallesport has land owned by the county, but no parks have been built. This current effort came about because the TLCC was interested in the update of the comp plan. Draft plan for TL subarea was completed in 2015, never adopted by the County Commissioners. Some of the goals identified were to have a septic treatment system ...and to have parking in the downtown area. Public works had developed a plan in 1993 – primarily a trails plan, that also was never implemented.

State of Washington RCO (Recreation and Conservation Office) requires a current plan (no older than 6 years) in order to fund any recreation related project. Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife also have a recreation component in their grant funding. There are 6 elements of the plan: Element 1 – Goals and Objectives; Element 2 – Inventory; Element 3 – Public Involvement; Element 4 – Demand and Need Analysis; Element 5 – Capital Improvement Program

Community Recreation Plan Survey Review:

Household – do we have enough representation of households with children and/or teenagers?

How long respondents were TL resident – Seems balanced when Pat looks at it

Age – We did get some more younger aged respondents to respond. Klickitat County has, on the average, an older median age than other counties. Some people with young kids probably do not have the time to take the survey.

Barriers that limit participation: difficult access, overcrowding, not enough time

Summary of questions – TL NAP posted restrictions, grange is not ADA compliant, no public access to TL Creek or White Salmon River, Lack of parking at the NAP, poor facilities at park; Flat mowed place needed in the park for frisbee and other activities, also a covered area with a wood floor for dancing; cost of fuel to get to sites, parking permits, unmaintained trails, need public access to Trout Creek.

Posted Comments by survey respondents: Need bike path from TL school to Warner Road; need community space center with accessibility, both time and physical, being key; we are surrounded by thousands of acres of forest land, don't need many facilities. Most people have access to multiple uses; This household feels TL is pretty close to perfect! These "required answers look like we support your agenda - we do not support your agenda. What about the special needs of seniors and the disabled?

Q&A:

Q: they put the plan together 30 years ago, why does the county think there is something different now?

A: County has land, but nothing has been done with it – maybe there is a bit of embarrassment that nothing has been done in that period of time.

There also is a program called "local community priorities" with the state legislature. Applications accepted in December and communities send it to your representative – it is a capital appropriation process – completely at the discretion of the state House of Representatives.

Q: Do you think we can get to community consensus if we had specific projects for folks to discuss?

A: Trying to get more specific ideas of rec needs in the TL area.

This is not tourism or rec tourism

Comment: Tree thinning and opening the gate at the park (main gate and near the picnic shelter) would let the community know that Guler park is open and people can use it.

Washington State Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) is working on a Natural Area Preserve (NAP) area management plan for the Trout Lake NAP. One key thing missing: They did not address the public accessing the NAP

Jen H - can help put the park/rec survey data into a better digestible format and assess some of the data

Pat - Hope is to have plan done by Oct to get to the county for inclusion in the county management plan. Trout Lake is way ahead of the other communities on getting this done.

How can we better get info out to the community?

- Housing survey might have been taken as more intrusive, there were a few more respondents to the park survey.