

7.0 Parks and Recreation Element

Parks and Recreation activities are important to Stevens County and contribute to the rural character and landscape. Activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, and boating draw people to Stevens County which helps support our economy. Both residents and tourists benefit from the natural amenities and recreational opportunities that lie within the County. Stevens County does not own or operate any parks or recreational facilities except for the County Fairgrounds located in Colville. Even so, the County deals with matters related to parks, open space, and recreation as a requirement of the GMA and in a number of inter-jurisdictional or inter-agency forums. The proximity of large acreages of public lands is a unique asset of the county.

7.1 Parks and Recreation Goal

It is the Parks and Recreation Goal of Stevens County to:

Support the retention, enhancement, and development of recreation areas and activities, and parks and open space within Stevens County.

7.2 Parks and Recreation Policies

In furtherance of the Parks and Recreation Goal and the overall goals of the GMA, it is the Parks and Recreation Policy of Stevens County to:

- PR-1 Encourage coordination and cooperation between Local, State, and Federal jurisdictions in an effort to enhance recreational and economic opportunities.
- PR-2 Plan for and allow a wide range of private recreational facilities throughout the county.
- PR-3 Support Master Planned Resorts as one means of enhancing recreational activities in the County.
- PR-4 Continue to support the Northeast State Fair and/or related uses at the Stevens County Fairgrounds.
- PR-5 Support small scale tourist uses and facilities in Rural areas when the development of such uses is consistent with surrounding rural character and environmental impacts are appropriately mitigated.
- PR-6 While the County has considered CPP 9.IV and has determined that it is not feasible to establish recreational districts at this time, it will continue to coordinate with cities regarding provision of park and recreational opportunities, with particular focus in Urban Growth Areas.

- PR-7 Ensure public lands management agencies manage their properties to enhance recreational opportunities, including wildlife activities, hunting, fishing, camping, skiing, snowmobiling, hiking and boating, viewing, and other recreational activities.
- PR-8 Ensure that public lands management agencies manage their properties to provide sufficient wildlife populations to meet PR-7.