



7 Capital Facilities

7.1 Introduction

The Capital Facilities Element and associated Capital Facilities Section in Volume II - Technical Analysis are designed to provide adequate public facilities to serve existing and new development in an efficient, effective, and equitable manner. The element, along with the Capital Facilities Section of Volume II, details the inventories of existing facilities, lists future infrastructure needs, identifies funding sources, and provides the goals and policies that create a framework for capital facility planning.

Capital facility planning, as required by the Growth Management Act (GMA), must be coordinated with the City's larger land use planning process. This includes ensuring that adequate capital facilities are available as development and growth occur, along with the distribution of improvements responsive to prioritized need.

GMA Goal – Public Facilities and Services

Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards. (RCW 36.70A.020(12))

What are Capital Facilities? Capital facilities involved should include, at a minimum, water systems, sanitary sewer systems, storm water facilities, reclaimed water facilities, schools, parks and recreational facilities, police and fire protection facilities. (WAC 365-196-415(2)(a)(ii))





7.2 Today and Tomorrow

Conditions and Trends

The City of Yakima owns and operates the following capital facilities: police and fire facilities; roads; city buildings; the airport; transit facilities; water, irrigation, wastewater, and stormwater facilities; solid waste facilities; and parks. Additional capital facilities that are not operated by the City of Yakima, but which are necessary for development: schools; fire facilities; water and irrigation facilities by special districts. The applicable plans listed in Exhibit 7-1, which lists capital facility providers, are incorporated by reference.

Exhibit 7-1. Capital Facility Service Providers

Facility Type	Provider	Description	Applicable Plans
Public Buildings	City of Yakima	Includes City-owned public buildings.	Biennial Adopted City Budget, 2025-2026; Capital Budget, 2025-2029
Fire and Emergency Services	Yakima Fire Department	Provides facilities that support the provision of fire and emergency services.	Yakima Fire Department Annual Report, 2025-2030
Law Enforcement	Yakima Police Department	Provides facilities that support the provision of law enforcement services.	Yakima Police Department 2018 Annual Report
Schools	Yakima School District	Provides elementary and secondary facilities for instruction in several branches of learning and study	Yakima School District Strategic Plan 2020-2026; West Valley



Source: City of Yakima



Facility Type	Provider	Description	Applicable Plans
	West Valley School District	required by the Basic Education Code of the State of Washington. The Yakima School District serves most students within the city, the West Valley School District serves the western part of the city, and the East Valley School District serves the unincorporated UGA east of the Yakima River.	School District Strategic Plan, 2024-2030
	East Valley School District		East Valley School District Strategic Plan, 2026-2030
Parks	Yakima Parks and Recreation	Provides facilities for passive and active recreational activities.	Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, 2022-2027
Streets	Yakima Public Works	Provides streets, sidewalks, traffic controls, and street lighting.	6-Year TIP, 2025-2030; Yakima Urban Area Transportation Plan, Update 2025
Transit	Yakima Transit	Provides transit service in and around the City of Yakima.	Transit Development Plan Annual Report for 2024 and Six-Year Plan 2025-2030
Air Terminal	Yakima Air Terminal	The Air Terminal is owned by the City of Yakima and provides facilities for air service. The City contracts with a third-party operator.	Yakima Air Terminal/McAllister Field Airport Master Plan, 2015; 2020 ALP Update





Facility Type	Provider	Description	Applicable Plans
Wastewater	Yakima Public Works	Provides facilities used in collection, transmission, storage, and treatment or discharge of waterborne waste within the city.	Wastewater Collection System Master Plan, 2023 Draft; WWTP Facility Master Plan, 2022; 2024 Annual Pretreatment Report
Stormwater	Yakima Public Works	Provides facilities that collect and transport stormwater runoff.	Stormwater Management Program for City of Yakima, 2024; 2023 NPDES Annual Report
Water	Yakima Public Works Nob Hill Water Associates	Provides supply of potable water to portions of the City of Yakima.	City of Yakima, Water System Plan, July 2017;Nob Hill Water Association Draft Water System Plan, August 2024
Irrigation	Yakima Public Works	Provides supply of non-potable irrigation water to portions of the City of Yakima.	City of Yakima Irrigation History, 2012
Refuse	City of Yakima Refuse	Provides refuse collection to residential customers.	Biennial Adopted City Budget, 2025-2026;





Facility Type	Provider	Description	Applicable Plans
			Capital Budget, 2025-2029

Source: Ardurra and BERK Consulting, 2025

The Capital Facilities Section of Volume II provides a detailed summary of inventoried facilities, level of service standards, and planned projects. It is based on the projected growth associated with the proposed Land Use Plan in the Land Use Element. Some highlights of the capital facilities levels of service analysis are summarized below.

Public Buildings: The City manages municipal and cultural buildings including City Hall, Capitol Theatre, and the Convention & Event Center. The City does not have a level of service standard for public buildings, and facilities are anticipated to be adequate to meet the needs of future growth. The City should designate an LOS standard for capital facilities deemed necessary for the operations of the City. To carry forward the current ratio of space to the projected population, the ratio would be 2,400 square feet per person. To maintain the current building inventory through the year 2040, the ratio would be 1,900 square feet per person.

Fire and Emergency Services: The City of Yakima Fire Department (YFD) provides emergency and non-emergency fire, rescue, and medical services to the city and surrounding area by contractual agreements. YFD has provided fire protection and medical services to Yakima County Fire Protection District #11 (Broadway) through an interlocal agreement since 2016. YFD also provides fire protection for the remaining area of Yakima County Fire District #10 (Fruitvale). Most of District #10 was annexed into the City of Yakima many years ago leaving only a small section of district just North of the city limits remaining. YFD has seen a steady increase in call volume over the past several years, with most calls being medical in nature. In collaboration with the City’s dispatch center, 911 medical calls are now triaged using a nationally recognized software program to send the most appropriate level of resources to the call dependent on its nature. The current adopted response time for fire calls is six minutes, consisting of a two-minute turnout time and a four-minute response time for the first arriving engine. The full first alarm assignment standard is eight minutes, 90% of the time. As the



Source: City of Yakima



number of calls increase and the western areas of the City continues to increase in population, the department could experience pressure on its ability to maintain the level of service in those affected areas.

Law Enforcement: The current LOS policy for the Yakima Police Department (YPD) is 1.8 officers per 1,000 residents. With a current population of 100,000, the department currently has a deficit of 56 officers. The projected population increase of 7,443 will require an additional 13 officers. YPD is already operating out of a constrained space; the addition of 70 officers to meet level of service standards will add to the need for new and expanded facilities.

Schools: The City of Yakima is primarily served by the Yakima School District and West Valley School District. The portion of the unincorporated UGA east of the Yakima River is served by the East Valley School District. Exhibit 7-2 shows the student teacher ratios at each school. Based on the projected growth (7,443 new residents), the current percentage of the population that is school aged (20%), and the average student teacher ratio (15.9:1), 93 additional teachers between the 3 school districts will be required to meet future student enrollment.

Exhibit 7-2. School District Student Teacher Ratio

School District	Students (2023-2024)	Teachers (2023-2024)	Student-Teacher Ratio (2023-2024)
Yakima School District	15,621	1,031	15.5:1
West Valley School District	5,570	323	17.2:1
East Valley School District	3,383	199	15:1
Average			15:9:1

Source: Ardurra, 2025

Parks: The Yakima Parks and Recreation Division owns 401.80 acres of property within Yakima city limits including neighborhood parks, community parks, mini-parks, pathways, parkways, one golf course, and the Tahoma Cemetery. Only 300.98 acres of parks facilities meet the





requirement to be counted towards the level of service standards. These facilities meet the standards of neighborhood parks, mini-parks, parkways, and community parks and meet the minimum requirement for ownership and operation by Yakima Parks and Recreation Division.

The City is not currently meeting the level of service standard for parks. The level of service standard for neighborhood parks, mini-parks, and parkways is 2-acres per 1,000 residents. Yakima's current service provisions for these park facilities is 0.78 acres per 1,000 resident or 78 acres of these parks. The level of service standard for community parks is 5-acres per 1,000 residents. Yakima's current service provision for community parks is 2.54 acres per 1,000 or 254 acres of these parks. This does not include 266 acres of Yakima Sportsman State Park. The 2022-2027 Yakima Parks and Recreation Division Comprehensive Master Plan highlights state-, non-profit-, private-, interdepartmental-, and interagency-owned and/or operated parks facilities that help close this existing level of service gaps and ensure that Yakima residents recreation needs are being met.

Additional analysis on parks conditions, trends, deficiencies, investments, and 2046 needs can be found in the Parks and Recreation Element of this Volume of the Comprehensive Plan as well as in the Capital Facilities Section of Volume II.

Streets and Sidewalks: The City of Yakima maintains over 800 miles of streets and 250 miles of sidewalk. Street classification and level of service is discussed in greater detail in the Transportation Element.

Street Lights: The City of Yakima maintains 4,925 street lights. The approximate cost for power consumption is around \$300k per year which works out to about \$61 per light per year. The City is in the process of converting street lights to energy-saving LED lights. There is no adopted level of service standard.

Transit: The City of Yakima's Transit Division operates fixed-route buses and paratransit services within the city, as well as a Yakima-Ellensburg commuter service. Free Special-Event Shuttle buses transport attendees between designated park & ride locations and special events, such as Central Washington State Fair and the Arboretum's Luminaria event, providing a cost-effective benefit to attending community-based events. Yakima Transit is funded through local transit taxes as well as Federal and State grants, while additional funds are sourced through combination of grants, interlocal funding agreements, and continual budget



forecasting. Yakima Transit utilizes a 6-year Transit Improvement Plan and Project List to assess available funding against needed upgrades to fleet vehicles and renovations to transit facilities. In 2024, investments to fleet buses included upgrades to modems, cameras, bus computers, and adding live streaming video capabilities (Yakima, 2024). A level of service methodology has not been established by the City or related agencies (Yakima, 2025c)

Air Terminal: The Yakima Airport (McAllister Field) is a general aviation air facility between Washington Avenue and Ahtanum Road in the south-central area of the City. The airport handles small passenger aircraft that includes flights to and from SeaTac Airport in Seattle. The Airport Terminal covers 825 acres and is owned and operated by the City. There are two active runways located at McAllister Field, which provide primary air transportation for the City and County.

The airport is a vital facility for local industries. In 2025, local business shipped over 1.6 million lbs of cargo (Statistics, 2026) out of the airport. The airport also offers land for manufacturing businesses with direct access for shipping or receiving cargo. Commercial, cargo, and passenger air service, as well as manufacturing and hanger use, is expected to continue to have a growth in demand and drive the local economy.

Wastewater: The Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) processes wastewater from homes and businesses in Yakima, as well as Union Gap, Terrace Heights, and Moxee. The City provides wastewater collection services for approximately 29,300 accounts, with approximately 339 miles of waste gravity mains, forced mains, and industrial waste truck lines and maintains 10 lift stations (Yakima, 2023). There are pockets of land in the City that are not served by sewers due to the land being vacant, challenging physical conditions, or past development allowed on septic systems. The City lacks a system-wide sewer plan to identify the specific locations of new trunk lines and the estimated engineering and construction costs.

The City drafted a Wastewater Collection System Master Plan in 2023, which considers future land use and growth. The Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (YRWWTP) has a design capacity of 21.5 million gallons per day (MGD) with an average flow of 7.2 MGD, providing for long-term capacity to serve at current levels (Yakima, 2023). While the YRWWTP



Source: City of Yakima



has a net reserve capacity in response to projected increasing demands, some upgrades or modification to lift stations may be considered.

Stormwater: Yakima’s stormwater collection area includes the City of Yakima, as well as some of the West Valley area outside of city limits. As the City grows, developments will be required to install new conveyance and stormwater management systems. Maintaining level of service through 2046 will require maintaining the existing system and ensuring new facilities are constructed in accordance with the Municipal Stormwater Permit.

Water: Domestic Water services within the Yakima UGA are provided by the Yakima Water Division, which is owned and operated by the City of Yakima, the non-profit Nob Hill Water Association (NHWA, 2024). Water service is extended on request and new development pays for the extension of infrastructure. The current city-owned system capacity is 21.6 million gallons per day (MGD). In 2046 there will be an additional 0.3 mgd of capacity beyond the projected maximum day demand. The Nob Hill 2015 Water System Plan assumes a growth rate of over 2%. Planned growth in western Yakima is projected to increase the maximum day demand by 3,170 gpm between 2023 and 2044. and can be accommodated with the improvements identified in the association’s Water System Plan.

Irrigation: Many areas within the City of Yakima were originally irrigated farmland, with irrigation provided by several private irrigation systems. Today the City’s irrigation system allows customers to irrigate lawns, gardens and small farms. The City of Yakima currently serves the irrigation customers within the City with a total of 103 miles of distribution pipe. The level of service standard provides for minimum design pressure of 20 psi.

Refuse: The City of Yakima’s Refuse Division provides weekly garbage collection to over 35,000 households located within the City of Yakima. Annually, around 37,000 tons are collected, with around 90% of the tonnage categorized as garbage and around 10% categorized as recycled yard waste. The Solid Waste and Recycling Division operates under the mission of protecting the public health and safety of the City of Yakima and its residents through providing solid waste services that are efficient, cost effective, and environmentally responsible. An additional 4,800 housing units by 2046 will generate about 4,900 more tons of solid waste, an increase of 13%. Additional capital costs and staffing may be required to absorb the increase in demand for garbage collection.

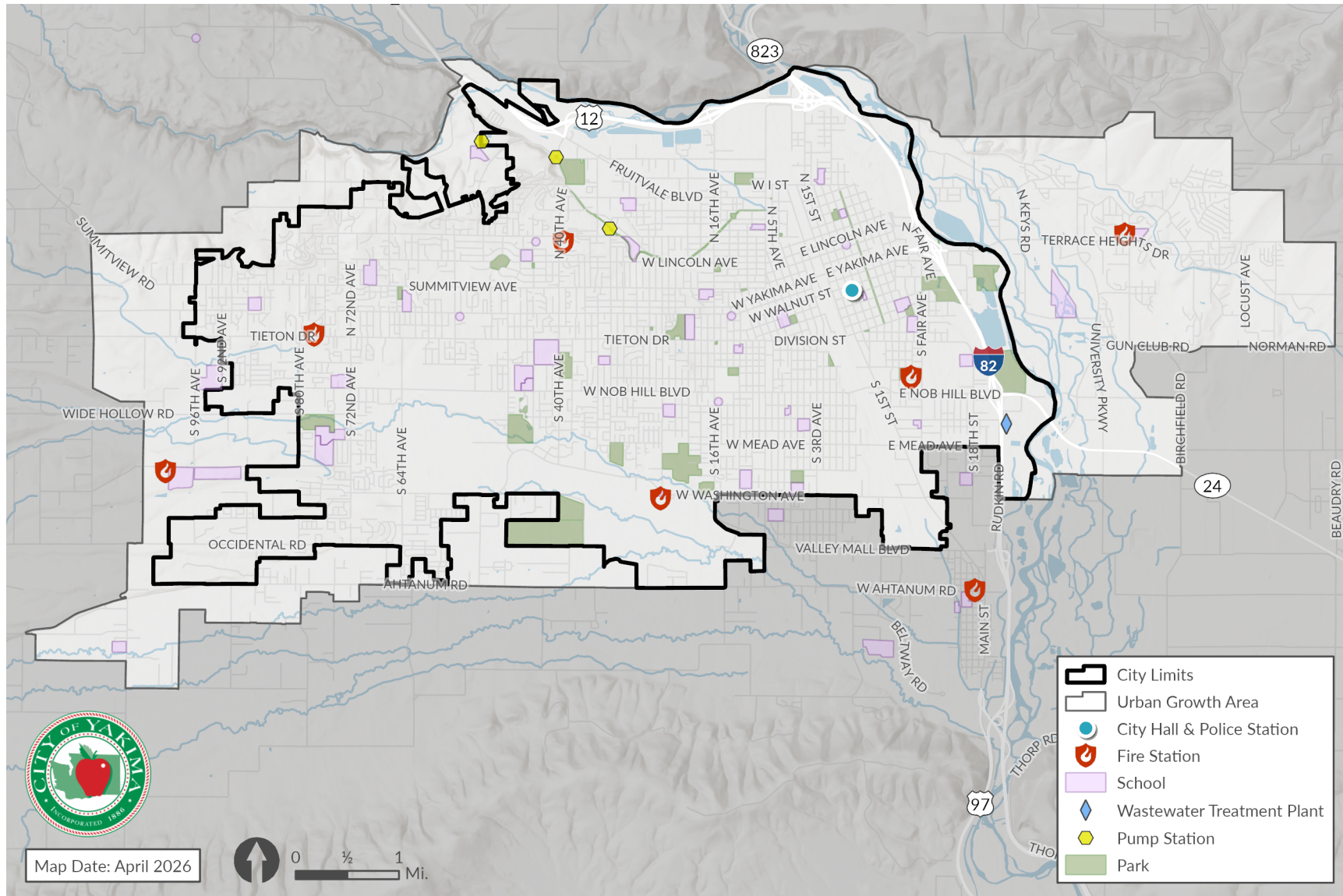


Source: City of Yakima



Exhibit 7-3 shows key facilities' locations in Yakima.

Exhibit 7-3. Key Capital Facilities in Yakima



Map Date: April 2026



Source: City of Yakima, 2025; BERK 2025

Challenges and Opportunities

Risks Posed to Capital Facilities by Natural Disaster Impacts

Appendix A, The Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Memo, addresses many of the risks posed to capital facilities including but not limited to increased water demand during prolonged droughts; damage to irrigation canals from fires or landslides; heat damage to roadways, sidewalks, and other transportation infrastructure; added wastewater demand during extreme precipitation events; and heat related stress for emergency personnel and outdoor public service employees. These facilities and public service providers are often the most critical assets in the event of natural disasters, extreme weather events, or other hazards and may also be the most at risk of negative impacts.

Financing of Facilities

The City is operating under limited resources in terms of both operating and capital budgets. Investing in new capital facilities and maintaining them can be challenging for the City, as well as other facilities providers. As the City grows, it will be important to provide capital facilities to accommodate future growth. The City can plan to make strategic investments by focusing growth in certain areas. Although the City has limited control over facilities provided by other service providers, the City can coordinate with them for a planned growth.

Future Needs

As the largest city in Yakima County and with an estimated increase of 7,443 residents by 2046, the City of Yakima will need to position itself to provide adequate services. The resulting expansion and increase in demand to accommodate future growth of the Yakima community will require additional resource capacity to maintain consistent levels of service. The Capital Facilities Section in Volume II of this Comprehensive Plan provides additional analysis of inventoried capital facilities, level of service standards, future needs, and planned projects to



Source: City of Yakima



support future growth. To ensure growth is accommodated comprehensively, each capital facility provider will need to evaluate their level of service to the community on a regular basis.

7.3 Our Capital Facilities Plan

The City of Yakima’s plan for capital facilities consists of the goals and policies present in this element as well as the Capital Facilities Section of Volume II of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Capital Facilities Section of Volume II includes an inventory, level of service standards and analysis, and funding analysis of key facilities, and all known capital needs to accommodate growth in Yakima. It also provides an overview of the City’s general government operations, police, schools, fire and EMS, transportation (streets, transit, air), parks, water, wastewater, irrigation water, stormwater, and solid waste facilities and their ability to serve current and future Yakima residents.

7.4 Goals and Policies

GOAL 7.1 PRIORITIZE FUNDING AND INVEST IN FACILITIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO YAKIMA’S RESIDENTS THAT IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE, MEET SERVICE STANDARDS, AND ACCOMMODATE GROWTH.

Policy 7.1.1 Prepare and adopt a six-year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) regularly and include reviews of forecasts and actual growth, revenue and costs totals based on adopted level of service standards, projected facility and infrastructure deterioration either naturally over time or from natural hazards, and the means and timing by which identified deficiencies will be corrected.

Policy 7.1.2 Maintain a six-year capital budget that more specifically identifies financing and implementation of facilities. Ensure the 20-year projected growth, level of service, and funding projections are also considered in the CFP.





- Policy 7.1.3 Ensure that capital investments and service standards are applied equitably throughout the city.
- Policy 7.1.4 Ensure budget decisions are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
- Policy 7.1.5 Manage capital facility planning and funding consistent with the City of Yakima Financial Management Policy and Stewardship of Public Funds.
- Policy 7.1.5 Aggressively pursue funding from all levels of government and private agencies to accomplish the City’s Capital Investment Program while optimizing resources.
- Policy 7.1.6 Use the Capital Improvement Program and functional plans to prioritize facility funding.
- Policy 7.1.7 Ensure consistency between land use planning and capital planning.
- Policy 7.1.8 Use local population and employment projections as a baseline for capital facilities needs planning.
- Policy 7.1.9 Plan for long-term facility maintenance, improvement, and replacement needs as well as short-term strategies to address acute maintenance and facility needs to expand system capacity, increase efficiency, and improve resilience to natural hazards in concert with the growth of this region.
- Policy 7.1.10 Adopt a policy for level of service standards for individual services to use as a performance measure and to evaluate future capital facility needs as identified in Exhibit 7-4.



Source: City of Yakima

Exhibit 7-4. Level of Service Standards

Facility Type	Provider	Level of Service Standard
Public Buildings	City of Yakima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In order to maintain existing level of service through 2046, the LOS policy would need to be 2,400 square feet per 1,000 population.





Facility Type	Provider	Level of Service Standard
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to maintain the current public building space without adding capacity through 2046, the LOS policy would need to be 1,900 square feet per 1,000 population.
Fire and Emergency Services	Yakima Fire Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Full Alarm Response time: eight minutes, 90% of the time.
Law Enforcement	Yakima Police Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.8 Officers per 1,000 population.
Schools	Yakima School District West Valley School District East Valley School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yakima School District: Student-teacher ratio of 15.2:1. West Valley School District: Student-teacher ratio of 17.2:1 East Valley School District: Student-teacher ratio of 15:1
Parks	Yakima Parks and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-acres per 1,000 population for Neighborhood/Mini Parks. 5-acres per 1,000 population for Community Parks.
Transportation	Yakima Public Works, Yakima Transit, Yakima Air Terminal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Transportation Element and Transportation Plan.
Airport	City of Yakima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable and safe air service at a facility that is compatible with the community.
Street Lights	City of Yakima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
Wastewater	Yakima Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 342.8 pounds of organic loading per day per 1,000 population.
Stormwater	Yakima Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain per Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington or equivalent as determined by the Stormwater Management Program for the City of Yakima.





Facility Type	Provider	Level of Service Standard
Water	Yakima Public Works Nob Hill Water Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yakima: 233 gallons per day (gpd) per equivalent residential unit (ERU). Nob Hill: 316.7 gpd/ERU.
Irrigation	Yakima Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum design pressure of 20 psi.
Refuse	City of Yakima Refuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.04 tons of refuse per household per year. Set level of service consistent with existing service of collecting 1.04 tons per household per year. Set service standard for percent of solid waste diverted to recycling.



Source: City of Yakima

Policy 7.1.10 Reassess the land use element if probable funding falls short of existing needs. The reassessment may result in changes to growth projections, alternative level of service standards, or expanded funding or financing options.

GOAL 7.2 ENSURE SERVICE PROVISION AND CAPITAL PROJECTS ARE COORDINATED BETWEEN CITY DEPARTMENTS, SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS, AND WITH PRIVATE UTILITIES.

Policy 7.2.1 Use departmental plan documents, including functional and supplemental analyses, to plan for the long-term facility needs of individual services.

Policy 7.2.3 Work with Yakima County, adjoining jurisdictions, and local purveyors to manage, regulate, and maintain the regional water, wastewater, and irrigations systems, factoring in the impacts of persistent drought, flooding, and precipitation conditions that are less predictable year over year.

Policy 7.2.3 Encourage public and private community service providers to share or reuse facilities when appropriate, to reduce costs, conserve land, and provide convenience and amenities for the public. Encourage joint siting and shared use of facilities for schools, community centers, health facilities, cultural



and entertainment facilities, public safety/public works, libraries, swimming pools, and other social and recreational facilities.

Policy 7.2.4 Encourage service providers to consolidate facilities, use existing facilities, construct within existing transportation and utilities corridors and to minimize visual impacts of new and expanded facilities where technically feasible.

GOAL 7.3 ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SERVICES ARE PLANNED, DESIGNED, AND SITED IN A FAIR AND EQUITABLE MANNER.

Policy 7.3.1 Provide equitable levels of service by accounting for existing community conditions and needs, and considering how decisions will impact different geographic areas and racial and socioeconomic groups.

Policy 7.3.2 Prioritize social, environmental, and economic equity in siting or expanding capital facilities.

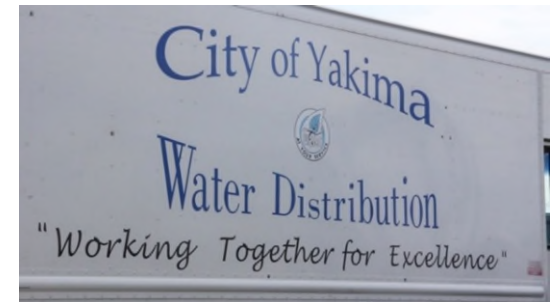
Policy 7.3.3 Encourage public engagement and input into large public capital facility projects to identify community needs and community benefits.

Policy 7.3.4 Identify lands useful for public purposes as lands necessary for future capital facilities, or beneficial for recreational, educational, and other community-based uses.

GOAL 7.4 PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICES WITHIN THE URBAN AREA IN A MANNER THAT PROTECTS PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY, IS AESTHETICALLY COMPATIBLE, AND PROTECTS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

Policy 7.4.1 Coordinate with other jurisdictions and suppliers in the city limits and UGA to ensure a reliable, economic source of water and to address the long-term regional water demand needs of all of the area’s agencies and suppliers.

Policy 7.4.2 Encourage water conservation by residents and businesses and undertake municipal actions to conserve water and water resources as appropriate.



Source: City of Yakima



Source: City of Yakima



- Policy 7.4.3 Encourage conversion from on-site wastewater disposal systems as sewer lines become available. Require areas with failed septic systems to connect to sanitary sewer to protect public health and safety and environmental quality.
- Policy 7.4.4 Extend City of Yakima sewer services within the city limits and UGA in accordance with planned growth.
- Policy 7.4.5 Invest in water and sewer system infrastructure in areas designated for infill and redevelopment. Ensure new growth extends infrastructure based on its demand for service.
- Policy 7.4.6 Apply the adopted surface water design manual as the minimum requirement for all development projects and other actions that could cause or worsen flooding, erosion, water quality, and habitat problems for both upstream and downstream development.
- Policy 7.4.7 Encourage community policing, crime prevention through environmental design principles, and community watch programs to improve public safety for both businesses and residences.
- Policy 7.4.8 Support the capital and operation plans of the Yakima Fire Department to assure response time objectives are met in the community. Encourage continued mutual aid agreements with other fire districts.
- Policy 7.4.9 Provide for municipal, maintenance, and public safety building space reflecting changing needs for staffing, information technology, and community service needs.
- Policy 7.4.10 Work in partnership with School Districts to offer quality education to Yakima residents. Consider partnerships with human service and parks and recreation programs and facilities.
- Policy 7.4.11 Regularly update the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan to consider appropriate LOS and capital needs for six and 20 years.



Source: City of Yakima



- Policy 7.4.12 Promote active and passive park and recreation facilities that promote the community’s well-being through connections to nature and opportunities for activity and healthy lifestyles.
- Policy 7.4.13 Reduce the solid waste stream and support reuse and recycling.
- Policy 7.4.14 Implement efficient street lights that illuminate travel ways for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and assist with crime prevention through environmental design. Avoid street light standards that cause undue light pollution or glare that disrupts natural areas, impacts views, and lead to higher energy and maintenance costs.
- Policy 7.4.15 Implement infrastructure system rehabilitation and improvements in order to safely manage services for residents and the environment.
- Policy 7.4.16 Correct infrastructure deficiencies and increase system efficiency.
- Policy 7.4.17 Study natural hazard risk to anticipate and correct for possible infrastructure failures that may result from natural hazards such as wildfires, flooding, or drought.
- Policy 7.4.18 Require concurrency for new development for transportation facilities and invest in transportation facilities to meet adopted levels of service.
- Policy 7.4.19 Protect, enhance, and restore natural systems and features for their infrastructure service and other values.
- Policy 7.4.20 Promote public facility standards and guidelines that address distinct topographical, geologic, environmental, and other conditions that may lead to service interruptions or infrastructure damage.





7.5 Implementation

Yakima’s Urban Area Comprehensive Plan is implemented through the actions and investments made by the City with the support of its residents and stakeholders. Some of these actions include regulatory changes, partnerships, coordination, administrative acts, policy changes, and capital investments. The following implementation items in Exhibit 7-5 aid in this process.

Exhibit 7-5. Capital Facilities Implementation

Implementation Item	Action Type	Result
Capital Facilities Plan	Functional Plan and Funding Plan for six and 20-year period	▪ Capital improvements for short and long-term and associated revenue projections to plan in balance with needs and resources
Capital Improvement Program	Six-year investment program updated annually with budget	▪ Capital investment programming over short-term





8 Utilities

8.1 Introduction

The Utilities Element of the Yakima Comprehensive Plan provides an overview of the utilities provided by non-municipal providers. These utilities include natural gas, electricity, and telecommunications. Each private or semi-public utility should plan their system in alignment with major growth decisions and when gaps in capacity are identified. City-provided services are addressed in the Capital Facilities Element and the Capital Facilities Section of Volume II of this Comprehensive Plan.

Electric and telephone utilities are generally available throughout the entire urban areas. Cable television and natural gas are generally available within the city limits and available in some areas within unincorporated portion of the urban area. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) regulates provision of these services and the costs that a utility can recover in order to ensure consistency and responsibility on the part of the provider. The City of Yakima has the authority to determine appropriate locations for existing and proposed utilities and to regulate utilities through the local land use laws.

Utilities – Growth Management Act

Each comprehensive plan shall include...A utilities element consisting of the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including, but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunication lines, and natural gas lines. (RCW 36.70A.070(4))





8.2 Utilities Today and Tomorrow

Conditions and Trends

The utilities listed in **Exhibit 8-1** serve Yakima residents. The following section provides descriptions of these utilities.

Exhibit 8-1. Utility Service Providers

Facility Type	Provider	Description	Applicable Plans
Electricity	Pacific Power	Provides supply of electrical power through transmission lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 Draft Integrated Resource Plan (PacifiCorp, 2025)
Natural Gas	Cascade Natural Gas Corporation	Provides supply of natural gas from interstate pipelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 (WA) Integrated Resource Plan (Cascade, 2025)
Telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CenturyLink Charter Spectrum Cellular services are provided by a variety of national and regional carriers. 	Provides transmission of information through telephone, radio, cellular telephone, and cable television.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unavailable



Source: City of Yakima

Electricity

Pacific Power and Light, formed in 1910 from several small electric companies within the Yakima Valley. Pacific Power and Light later restructured in the 1980s, forming Pacific Power as one of two subsidiary business units within PacifiCorp. Pacific Power serves portions of Yakima, Benton, Kittitas, and Walla Walla counties including owning and maintaining the power grid within the city limits. (PacifiCorp, 2025) The large concentration of agriculture,



food processing, and produce storage in Yakima makes up a good portion of energy demand in the city.

As a commitment to WA customers and communities, and in compliance with the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), PacifiCorp has established the Washington Clean Energy Plan and 2025 Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP). The Clean Energy Action Plan is a 10-year planning document that provides a Washington-specific outlook of PacifiCorp's planning efforts for an equitable energy future. The 2025 CEIP list specific actions taken by PacifiCorp over a four-year period toward compliance with CETA directives. Natural Gas

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation provides natural gas service to Yakima and the surrounding area and is a subsidiary company of Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) Resources Group, Inc. Cascade serves more than 318,500 customers spanning 95 communities across Oregon and Washington State (Cascade, 2025). Cascade obtains its supply from production areas in the Rocky Mountains as well as British Columbia and Alberta, Canada. Resources are transmitted through interstate pipelines from the production areas to the service area. The nearest storage facility, which serves low load customers, is located approximately 100 miles to the southeast, providing network capacity support during seasonal and peak/low demand periods.

The Cascade Natural Gas Corporation is served by three natural gas pipelines each operated by Northwest Pipeline, LLC (Williams Companies), Gas Transmission Northwest (TC Energy), and Enbridge (Westcoast Transmission). For Cascade's serviceable areas across Washington state, load demand growth is anticipated to fluctuate between -0.09% and -0.06% annually, a relatively flat or slightly declining amount of growth. However, added storage capacity is anticipated for 2029 to maintain reliability and price flexibility.

The 2025 Draft Integrated Resource Plan also notes low carbon alternative fuel initiatives such as the emerging supply option called Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). RNG programs receive methane/hydrocarbon gases resulting from landfill organic material decomposition, wastewater treatment facilities, and anaerobic digesters, then process and refine the gases for end users across the system. Other energy efficiency initiatives addressed by the Cascade Natural Gas Company include compliance with the Climate Commitment Act entailing a



Decarbonization Plan, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction policies, and demand side management targets related to captured efficiency through customer conservation programs.

Telecommunications - Digital

Yakima is served by CenturyLink and Charter Spectrum.

- CenturyLink offers Yakima customers cable and fiber internet, home phone, and television services.
- Charter Spectrum offers Yakima customers television, fiber-powered internet, mobile and home phone services.

Telecommunications – Cellular

Local telephone service is provided by CenturyLink (WUTC, 2016). Yakima’s cellular network is served by Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, Dish Wireless, U.S. Cellular, and various other providers.

Challenges and Opportunities

Emerging Technology

The goals and policies expressed in this element support the ever-present societal, economic, political, and cross-industry challenges of managing regional utility distribution systems. Maintaining pace with emerging utility technologies may be the most fiscally and physically challenging for the utilities serving the City of Yakima. These challenges may be related to placement and equitability of battery energy storage systems, renewable natural gas, and high-density telecommunication coverage both within and surrounding Yakima. Public safety, hazard mitigation, and system resiliency will need to adapt as new technologies create varying impacts across the community of Yakima.

These challenges are not unique to the City of Yakima; communities across the nation are faced with similar challenges. The market demand for these technologies also creates





opportunities for diversified energy resources, small business/job creation, and inclusive access to digital information.

Natural Hazard-Caused Damage to Utility Infrastructure

Utility infrastructure provided both by public and private entities requires significant investment in the built environment. As these investments that support Yakima span the entire region, both regional and local natural hazards including wildfires, floods, and extreme heat could hinder their ability to continue providing services and may even exacerbate the negative impacts of these events. Examples of this could be damage to regional electricity infrastructure during wildfires and extreme heat when energy demands for cooling and air filtration is likely the highest or communications interruptions during events that require emergency communication, dispatch, and response. The risks posed to utility infrastructure and the need for resilient back-up resources is vital to ensure continued service provision even during periods of peak demand. See the Climate Vulnerability Assessment Memo, Appendix A, for further analysis.

Future Needs

Energy and telecommunications industries have been diversifying over the past few decades, including residential solar power generation and expanded 5G/broadband telecommunications coverage. But as the demand increases for more electricity to power the growing community, the facilities needed to support that demand will need clear regulatory paths to ensure public health, safety, and welfare. While the demand and usage of natural gas is projected by Cascade Natural Gas Company to be relatively flat or slightly decline through 2050, the City of Yakima will need to ensure the placement and design of Renewable Natural Gases systems are in pace with building and fire code regulations. Service coverage by digital and cellular telecommunication providers continue to receive improvements across the city. As access to fiber internet and cellular services become more readily available, considerations should be made to ensure that infrastructure supporting expansion of these services provide both equitable opportunities and protect against degradation of community and publicly funded assets.



8.3 Goals and Policies

These goals and policies address utility provision in concert with growth. For additional goals and policies addressing conservation and energy see the Energy Element.

GOAL 8.1 PROVIDE ALL UTILITIES AT AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF SERVICE TO ACCOMMODATE FUTURE DEMANDS.

Policy 8.1.1 Ensure adequate communication between the City and utility providers to coordinate housing, population, and employment growth, and the development of service capacities.

GOAL 8.2 ENSURE THAT UTILITIES ARE PROVIDED IN A RELIABLE, RESILIENT, SUSTAINABLE, AND SAFE MANNER.

Policy 8.2.1 Ensure coordination with and in-between city departments, Yakima County, adjoining jurisdictions, and local purveyors to manage the placement and construction of utilities.

Policy 8.2.2 Use codified land use designations, engineering design specifications, and building/energy code policies and regulations to manage placement and construction of utilities, encouraging the efficient use of land and co-location of facilities where feasible.

Policy 8.2.3 Ensure that utility facilities are designed, built, and maintained to have a minimal impact on surrounding neighborhoods

Policy 8.2.4 Ensure that utility facilities are designed, built, and maintained to reduce safety hazards resulting from inclement weather, aging facilities, and support efficient emergency management and response efforts when needed.

Policy 8.2.5 Educate utility providers and utility consumers on the costs and benefits of emerging technologies that may provide added sustainability and reliability.



Source:



- Policy 8.2.6 Allow Yakima to be geographically competitive and attractive for businesses to locate by encouraging provision of high quality telecommunications services.
- Policy 8.2.7 Support the undergrounding of utility lines in new development and in substantial redevelopment or major rights-of-way improvements.
- Policy 8.2.8 Ensure the resilience of utility services in the event of extreme weather events and natural disasters through redundancy

8.4 Implementation

Yakima’s Comprehensive Plan is implemented through the actions and investments made by the City with the support of its residents and stakeholders. Some of these actions include regulatory changes, partnerships, coordination, administrative acts, policy changes, and capital investments. The following implementation items aid in this process.

Exhibit 8-2. Utilities Element Implementation

Implementation Item	Action Type	Results
Capital Facilities Plan	Functional plan and funding plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capital investment in utilities
Land Use Code YMC Title 15	Regulatory law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Well-designed and appropriately-located utility facilities
Development Review	Review process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of private provider facilities
Cascade Natural Gas 2011 2025 Integrated Resource Plan	System Plan, updated periodically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural gas provided in coordination with growth
Pacific Power 2015 2025 Integrated Resource Plan Update	System Plan, updated periodically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Power provided in coordination with growth



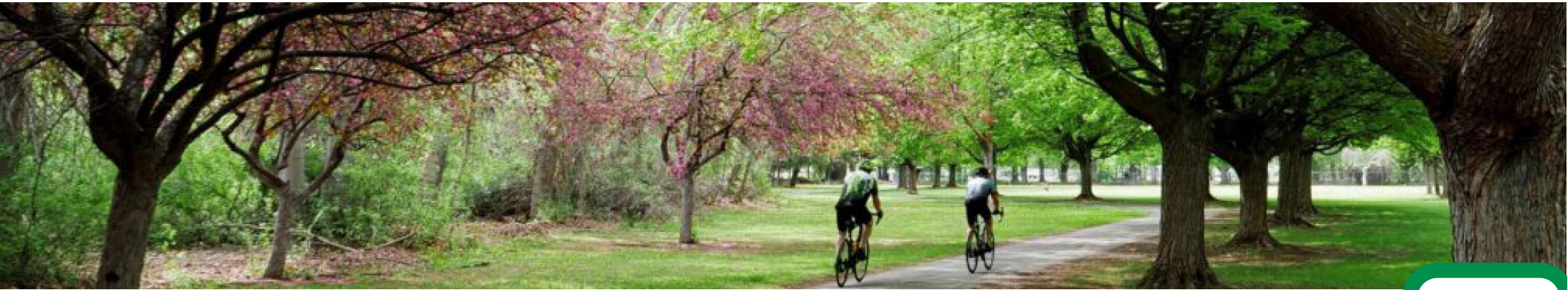


Local wireless telecommunication service providers

Coordination between City and private providers

- Telecommunication services provided in coordination with growth





9 Parks and Recreation

9.1 Introduction

The mission of Yakima Parks and Recreation (YPR) is “to provide beautiful places with quality recreation opportunities that enrich the well-being of our community.” The division offers recreational programs and activities, maintains facilities that are aesthetic and desirable for use, and enhances well-being of Yakima’s citizens. This element has been written based on the 2022-2027 Yakima Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan which is an update to the 2017-2022 plan which was written to guide future of park acquisition, development, and management that meets level of service standards as the city grows and changes over time.

Open Space and Recreation– Growth Management Act

Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities. (RCW 36.70A.020(9))





9.2 Today and Tomorrow

Conditions and Trends

Parks Inventory

There is approximately 756 acres of parks and open space in the city limits and UGA. This includes city, state, and non-profits owned and operated parks. Yakima Parks and Recreation Division owns and manages approximately 332 acres of parks and recreation facilities. This inventory includes only parks that meet the criteria of neighborhood parks, mini-parks, community parks, and parkways and which are fully owned and operated by the Yakima Parks and Recreation Division. Parks that are either externally operated, externally owned, or do not meet size or amenity criteria described above are also include in Exhibit 9-1 but do not count towards overall YPR acreage or facilities.

Aside from the facility inventory, the City of Yakima Parks & Recreation Division offers a variety of passive and active recreational activities for adults, youth, and seniors through sports programs, the senior center, summer day camps and other special events. Passive recreational activities in Yakima include walking, nature watching, fishing etc. Active recreational activities are provided in various facilities such as sports fields, biking trails etc. See Exhibit 9-1 for park types by acre. Exhibit 9-2 shows a map of Yakima’s existing neighborhood parks, mini-parks, community parks, and parkways. A more detailed inventory of all parks and recreational facilities that serves the community are discussed in the City’s 2022 – 2027 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.



Source: City of Yakima



Exhibit 9-1. Parks Acres by Park Type in Yakima

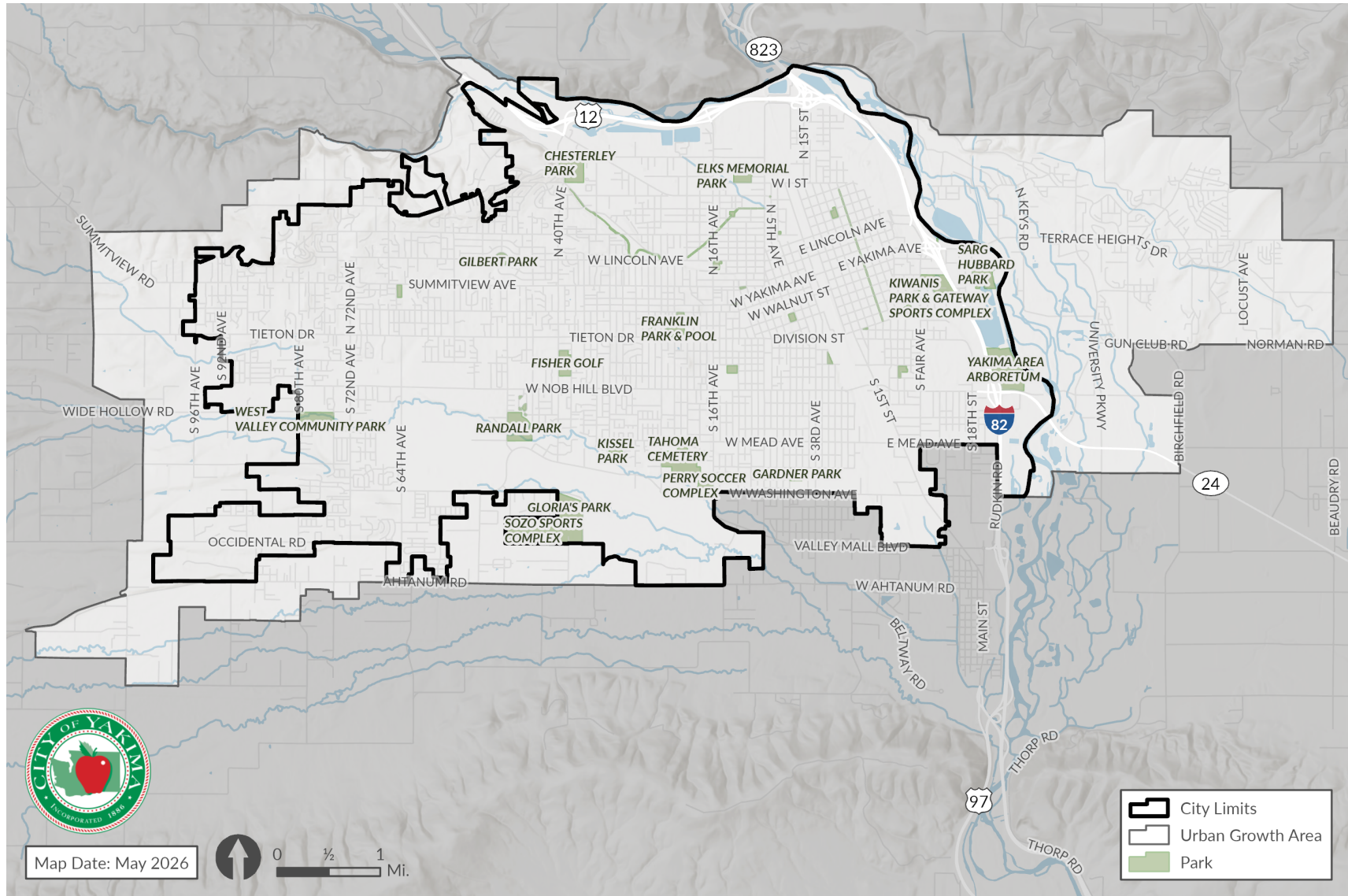
Park Type	LOS-Included Acres	LOS-Excluded Acres*
Mini Park	10.32	3.63
Neighborhood Park	51.36	-
Community Park (includes Fisher Golf Course)	254.40	
Parkway	16.38	-
Cemetery	-	55
Arboretum	-	60
Sozo Sports Complex (Private)	-	38.5
Yakima sportsman state park		266
Total	332.46	423.13

*Parks that are not owned and/or operated by YRP or do not meet the criteria of these park types are excluded
 Source: Yakima Parks and Recreation Division 2022 – 2027 Comprehensive Plan; City of Yakima, 2026; BERK, 2026.





Exhibit 9-2. Parks in Yakima



Source: City of Yakima, 2026; BERK, 2026



Tree Canopy Inventory

The City of Yakima's tree canopy provides necessary ecosystem services as well as generating shade that is a vital resource to combat urban heat island effect. The current tree canopy covers 45 % of the city, 33% of the unincorporated urban growth area, and 40% of parks acres (see Exhibit 9-3). Canopy is concentrated outside of the Yakima downtown core. While YPRD-owned/-managed facilities provide much of this tree canopy, less urbanized areas of the city with lower-density development make up the bulk of the tree canopy. Residential tree canopy increases overall access to shade but may be at risk to removal due to development pressure, aesthetic decisions by homeowners, or poor stewardship. Additionally, tree canopy which is concentrated in and near low-density population centers of Yakima increases the wildland urban interface, a key metric in determining the risk that wildfires may pose to the built environment. See Appendix A (Vulnerability Assessment Memo) for WUI analysis.



Source: City of Yakima



Exhibit 9-3. Tree Canopy Calculation – City, UGA, and Parks

Geography	Tree Canopy Acreage	Total Acreage	% Tree Canopy Coverage
Incorporated City of Yakima	8,087	18,095	45%
Unincorporated UGA	3,492	10,696	33%
Full UGA (Incorp. + Unincorp.)	11,579	28,791	40%
Parks in City of Yakima	120	~300	40%

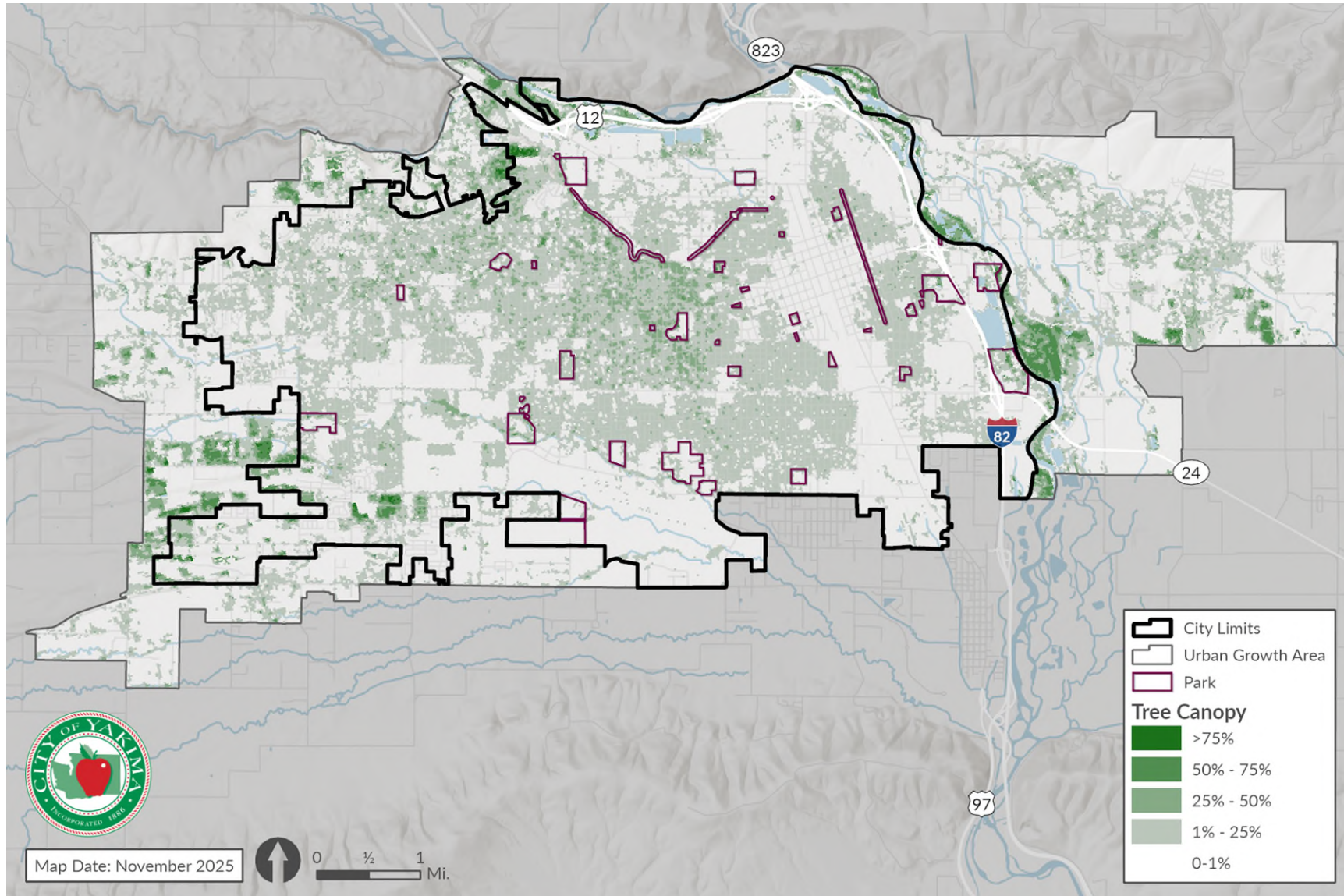
Source: US Forest Service, National Land Cover Dataset, 2023; City of Yakima, 2025; BERK, 2025.

While trees on privately owned lands improve air quality, sequester carbon, and create shade, publicly owned or maintained trees provide these same services with the additional benefit of publicly-funded, routine maintenance from city agencies. Public tree canopy can be found along roadways and parkways, adjacent to public land, or within parks. The Yakima Parks and Recreation Division is responsible for the capital improvements and maintenance of trees in parks, open spaces, and along of several parkways throughout Yakima. See Exhibit 9-4 for tree canopy cover and city parks in Yakima.





Exhibit 9-4. Tree Canopy Cover and City Parks, City of Yakima, 2023



Source: US Forest Service, National Land Cover Dataset, 2023; City of Yakima, 2026; BERK, 2026.



Challenges and Opportunities

Yakima’s park system includes an extensive inventory of passive and active recreation facilities. Repair and maintenance of these facilities is a priority of the Parks and Recreation Division. While there has been substantial investment in the system in the last 15 years of almost \$20 million, there are still parks and amenities that have aging infrastructure in need of repair or replacement. The community enjoys its outdoor facilities most of the year due to favorable weather in the spring, summer and fall months. In recent years, as the City is experiencing more extreme weather due to heat and more days of poor air quality from nearby wildfires, residents may have fewer opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Shade infrastructure and tree canopy will become important parts of parks and recreation facilities to ensure that residents continue to enjoy outdoor recreation in Yakima and live active lifestyles.

Increased access to existing trail systems, such as the Yakima Greenway and Powerhouse Canal Pathway, is also a priority.

Challenges to Increase Tree Canopy

Much of the urban tree canopy in Yakima is located on private property. This presents a challenge to ensure as the expense and effort to maintain these trees falls on the owners of the property. The City of Yakima can support these landowners through public programs for privately-owned canopy in recognition of the important stewardship role that these individuals have to this important resource.

Additionally, the City can prioritize maintaining existing public canopy and augment it through additional planting on publicly-owned parcels or roadways that have less canopy such as in areas near the downtown core. This can be done in coordination between the City of Yakima departments and in partnership with other agencies and organizations that manage public lands.

One additional challenge that the Parks and Recreation Division faces is the important balance of providing tree canopy in parks without hindering the intended use of sports fields, pools, and playgrounds. This creates an opportunity to invest in areas with low canopy without these barriers to ensure continued recreation access.



Source: City of Yakima



Future Needs

Future Park Needs

YPR owns and manages 37 park facilities ranging in size from 0.13 acres to 37 acres. These parks cover 332 acres of parkland within the city limits. This acreage does not include all recreation facilities in the City of Yakima. Facilities open to the public but which have shared ownership, operations, or maintenance are excluded from this calculation but are listed below as they make up part of the recreation and open space in Yakima. Also, this does not include 266 acres of Yakima Sportsman State Park. The nature of their ownership, management, or intended use means that they fall outside of this LOS criteria and are not calculated as part of the level of service standard.

- Gyms, fields, and tennis courts owned and operated by school districts
- Henry Beauchamp, Jr. Community Center
- Facilities managed by the Parks and Recreation Division but are not parks, such as the Tahoma Cemetery.
- Yakima Arboretum
- Sozo Sports Complex
- Yakima Valley College fields

YPR facilities fall below the acreage standards set forth in the 2022-2027 YPR Comprehensive Master Plan for Community Parks and Neighborhood Parks/Mini Parks/Parkways. Additional analysis of the deficiency relative to standard as well as future needs can be found in the Capital Facilities Section of Volume II of the Comprehensive Plan. Certain resource sharing and public access agreements exist between Yakima Greenways, Yakima Arboretum, local school districts, and other private and non-profit entities that manage publicly available parks and open spaces. The resource sharing and public access agreements are described in detail in the 2022-2027 Yakima Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan. These agreements ensure that despite the deficiency in YPR-owned and operated facilities, there are adequate publicly accessible facilities to meet the recreational and open space needs of residents.



Source: City of Yakima



Future Tree Canopy Needs

The 2022-2027 Yakima Parks and Recreation Division Comprehensive Plan identifies several parks capital investments that include tree planting, canopy maintenance, and replacement of dead or dying trees. These are vital steps to increase the tree canopy and to ensure that it is comprised of healthy trees both in the City and the Urban Growth Area. Parks department capital investments in tree canopy do not include routine maintenance of trees but rather specific investments to plant new trees or to replace trees that are dangerous to park users. These investments make up a small percentage (.1%) of the total capital improvements spending over the last 25 years. Moving forward, additional steps will be taken by the Yakima Parks and Recreation Division to evaluate tree health in parks throughout the city and UGA and prioritize investments which will increase canopy throughout parks (see Policy 9.8.5 below).

9.3 Our Parks and Recreation Plan

The 2022-2027 Yakima Parks and Recreation Division Comprehensive Plan the guiding document for the Parks and Recreation Department. This document provides an updated list of facilities, activities, partnerships, and capital improvements that are necessary to meet the increased demand for recreation put on the department by the growing population of the City. The plan includes several needed capital improvements organized by district which have then been listed in subsequent Capital Budgets including the most recently adopted 2025-2029 Capital Budget. These two documents provide the necessary roadmap to ensure that partnerships are strengthened, park maintenance is provided, and capital improvements are identified and funded to ensure that parks service standards are met over the planning period.

9.4 Goals and Policies

GOAL 9.1 MAINTAIN EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AT A LEVEL THAT MEETS THE PUBLIC’S DESIRE FOR SAFE, CLEAN, AND ENJOYABLE PARKS





GOAL 9.2 **DEVELOP EXISTING CITY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS TO MEET THE CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMANDS OF BOTH INDIVIDUAL CITY NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.**

GOAL 9.3 **ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE, GREEN BELTS AND PATHWAYS WITHIN THE CITY OF YAKIMA AND THE GREATER URBAN GROWTH AREA.**

Policy 9.3.1 Explore opportunities for leveraging local money for park development through both public and private grant funding.

Policy 9.3.2 Establish an ongoing Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Parks and Recreation facilities.

- Fund capital improvements through the City’s general fund, parks cash balance and state, federal, and other grants.
- Promote private, public and non-profit partnerships for capital improvements to parks.

GOAL 9.4 **SUPPORT THE PRESENCE OF ART THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IN PUBLIC SPACES AND PARKS TO ENHANCE THE COMMUNITY AND ITS QUALITY OF LIFE.**

Policy 9.4.1 Support local arts organizations to encourage the addition of art in public spaces and parks.



Source: City of Yakima



GOAL 9.5 ESTABLISH A PRIORITY FOR FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION AND PARK DEVELOPMENT BASED ON NEIGHBORHOOD AS WELL AS THE OVERALL CITY’S NEEDS.

Policy 9.5.1 Develop and maintain an up-to-date park land acquisition plan for potential future park acquisitions.

- Review the City and its neighborhoods and identify needs according to standard service levels and equitable distribution of parks facilities.
- Meet with local neighborhood associations and residents to identify their needs and interests.
- Consider possible flooding and damage from extreme precipitation in future land acquisition and park development
- Consider land acquisitions and park development that shrinks Yakima’s wildland urban interface (WUI) to minimize the potential for wildfire damage to infrastructure and homes.
- Consider land acquisitions and park development that shrinks Yakima’s urban heat island to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat
- Consider safe pedestrian and bicycle access in future land acquisition and park development.

Policy 9.5.2 Ensure that future park development and land acquisition is aligned with demand estimates and consistent with the City of Yakima Capital Facilities Plan.

GOAL 9.6 CREATE A UNIQUE AND POSITIVE IMAGE FOR THE CITY THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN BELTS AND PATHWAYS WITHIN THE CITY OF YAKIMA.

Policy 9.6.1 Continue to cooperate and share resources to develop and expand the Yakima Greenway.





- Policy 9.6.2 Work with the city Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway Committee to use existing irrigation canal rights-of-way and Yakima Valley Transportation (YVT) corridors for pathways.
- Policy 9.6.3 Ensure that bikeways and pedestrian pathways are considered in surface transportation planning for the City of Yakima.
- Policy 9.6.4 Coordinate landscaping implementation along major city streets, arterials and city pathways at urban gateways that are compatible with area uses and maintainable by existing city resources.
- Policy 9.6.5 Utilize greenway development as a means to improve stormwater management and to fragment urban heat islands through the implementation of low-impact development and landscaping practices.
- Policy 9.6.6 When possible, use landscaping and ‘complete street’ principles to buffer greenway users from vehicle users.
- Policy 9.6.7 Incorporate, whenever possible, greenbelts and pathways into all future residential, commercial, and industrial developments and keep these trails, as much as possible, separate from streets and arterials.
- Policy 9.6.8 Consider alternative connections to the William O. Douglas Trail portion which goes through the City of Yakima.
- Policy 9.6.9 Explore possibilities for establishing pathway connections between existing and future parks.

GOAL 9.7 DEVELOP INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CREATING NEW PARK FACILITIES.

- Policy 9.7.1 Promote private, public and not profit partnerships for capital improvements to parks.
- Policy 9.7.2 Encourage creation of a centrally located outdoor performing arts stage or facility through a public, private and/or business partnership.





- Policy 9.7.3 Encourage development of non-traditional recreation venues including a water park, BMX track, skate parks, disc golf courses, shoreline parks, and other facilities for emerging sports and activities.
- Policy 9.7.4 Use city cultural and historical landmarks as a cornerstone for park development whenever possible.
- Policy 9.7.5 Establish level of service standards for city park properties to provide guidelines for their appropriate use by the public and for special events.

GOAL 9.8 CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A LONG-RANGE PLAN AND PROGRAM FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PRIME OPEN SPACE AREAS IN OR ADJACENT TO THE CITY OF YAKIMA.

- Policy 9.8.1 Support continued expansion of the Yakima Greenway.
- Policy 9.8.2 Support the fostering of a strong relationship between the Greenway and abutting city neighborhoods.
- Policy 9.8.3 Advocate incorporation of greenbelts into future residential, commercial, and industrial development to minimize impacts of locating potentially incompatible land uses next to one another.
- Policy 9.8.4 Preserve open space through means other than ownership, such as transfer of development rights, tax obligation relief and land donations to non-profit open space preservation organizations.
- Policy 9.8.5 Evaluate tree canopy coverage within UGAs and ensure that the long-range plan preserves or improves tree canopy in parks within the UGA

9.5 Implementation

Yakima’s Comprehensive Plan is implemented through the actions and investments made by the City with the support of its residents and stakeholders. Some of these actions include regulatory changes, partnerships, coordination, administrative acts, policy changes, and capital investments. The following implementation items aid in this process.





Exhibit 9-5. Parks and Recreation Implementation

Implementation Item	Action Type	Results
Capital Facilities Plan	Functional plan and funding plan, updated periodically	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Capital investment in parks; improvement of park facilities
Capital Improvements Budget	Updated annually to reflect parks investments for the following four years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improvement and maintenance of parks
Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan	Functional plan, updated periodically	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Guide future park needsMaintain grant eligibility consistent with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requirements
Bicycle Master Plan	Strategic plan for bicycle circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved bicycle network and connectivity between services and residences via parkways

