

## **IV. PARKS AND RECREATION**

Twisp's strategic location in the heart of the Methow Valley at the confluence of the Methow and Twisp rivers attracts both full-time residents and large numbers of visitors, making it imperative that park sites and a comprehensive trail system be developed. The parks and trail system will increase access to the rivers and the natural beauty of the area, improve the quality of life for residents and support the local economy by providing recreational opportunities for visitors.

The parks and recreation plan includes a description of the existing park sites, proposals for future park sites, and a proposal for a pedestrian trail system. In addition to the proposals below, the town is strongly encouraged to incorporate parks and green spaces as a standard in planned developments.

### **A. EXISING PARK SITES**

#### Site One

Twisp's primary park which is six acres in size is located at the northern end of Lincoln Street and provides some facilities to meet the needs of town residents and visitors. Since this is an area where large numbers of visitors and local residents gather, particularly in the summer months, it is recommended that aesthetically pleasing indirect outdoor lighting for safe evening park use be installed. Permanent restrooms should also be installed as a public service.

#### Site Two

Twisp Commons is located just north of the Twisp Community Center and serves as a gathering place in the heart of the community. Since this is an area where large numbers of visitors and local residents gather, particularly in the summer months, it is recommended that aesthetically pleasing indirect outdoor lighting for safe evening park use be installed. Permanent restrooms should also be installed as a public service.

### **B. PROPOSED PARK SITES**

#### Site Three

This proposed park site is located north of Site One and directly across the Methow River along the East County Road. Currently an undeveloped area on the flood plane, this park site would be best preserved in its present state to provide habitat for wildlife and an interpretive trail for residents and visitors.

#### Site Four

This site, located at the corner of Burton and Riverside on the Methow River, would not be developed as a park but would provide river access for launching boats and rafts and provide pedestrian access to the river and trail system. The city is also encouraged to

explore the possibility for purchasing land near this site for development into a neighborhood park.

Site Five:

Painter's addition area – A possible site obtained in the future for city residential park.

Site Six:

This site, located on the southwest end of the SR 20 Bridge that crosses the Methow River, would not be developed as a park but would provide river access for launching boats and rafts. It could provide pedestrian access to the river and trail system. The city is also encouraged to explore the possibility for purchasing land near this site for development into a neighborhood park.

Site Seven:

This proposed park site is located next to the airport on Twisp Airport Road and provides access to the entire trail system. Recommended development of this site includes a parking area, sports and recreation facilities, restrooms, picnic areas, and outdoor lighting for evening events.

Site Eight:

This proposed site is the Salmon Recovery Area located west of Twisp along the Twisp River Road. If offered to the town, the property should be accepted and incorporated into the Twisp Park system. It is recommended that this area remain largely undeveloped but contain an interpretive trail and a natural resources education site.

## C. PEDESTRIAN TRAILS

In addition to the pedestrian and bicycle routes recommended in the Transportation Element, a comprehensive trail system will also help create a sense of community by connecting parks, neighborhoods, and natural areas while providing recreation and enjoyment for residents and visitors.

In December, 2004, R.W. Thorpe & Associates developed a comprehensive plan for a Walk/Bike/Ski/Equestrian river trail system in the Methow. As noted in the introduction, that plan "...will provide opportunities for more people to experience the scenic beauty of the area, to walk to stores, businesses or restaurants, get some exercise, and learn about the importance of the environment and the role open space can play in enhancing a community's livability".

We recommend that a committee be created to review the Thorpe plan and use it as the basis for developing a trail system within Twisp and eventually extending beyond Twisp to connect with trails to other communities in the Methow. The purpose of the committee will be to work with local leaders, planners, grant writers and community volunteers to

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determine the process and methods of locating, funding, and implementing trail systems that will provide a benefit to the community.