



# CITY OF REPUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

**FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

---

## CITY OF REPUBLIC

987 S. CLARK AVE | P.O. BOX 331 REPUBLIC, WA 99166  
PHONE: 509-775-3216 | [WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG)

# Introduction

The City of Republic is the county seat of Ferry County, Washington, a community nestled in a valley between Wauconda and Sherman Pass at the intersection of Washington Routes 20 and 21 in the north-central part of the state. Republic has a population of 1,061 as of 2021. Noted for its natural beauty and recreational possibilities, Republic offers a wide variety of activities such as hiking, biking, motorized and non-motorized trails, bird watching, gold panning in the Granite Creek, rock hounding, Historical museums, fossil digging, town festivals, local celebrations, and other outdoor activities.

## Community History and Profile

The City of Republic has an early 1900s look and the heritage is based in the mining, and logging industries. After the opening of the Colville Indian Reservation in 1896, a settlement began growing and was called Eureka Gulch founded by gold miners. Due to another town named Eureka in Clark County the name was changed to Republic in honor of the Great Republic Mining claim and the town was incorporated as a city on May 22, 1900. Gold Mining, logging, and ranching have been the main economic base in the local area,

Currently, the City of Republic offers 3 hotels within city limits, and several retail businesses line Clark Avenue, including one grocery store that has been in business for 100 consecutive years. Several of Republic's downtown buildings proudly display murals depicting our rich history and culture. The city of Republic is a PNT hiker "trail town" that is accessed from three trailheads (Sherman Pass, 13-Mile, and Sweat Creek). This makes Republic very unique with hikers because, for resupply purposes, they must visit Republic 3 times along their thru-hiking route.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

### Goal 1 Provide Recreation opportunities and facilities for all ages and abilities.

#### Objectives:

- ❖ Improve and maintain the trails for walking, biking, hiking, skiing, and ATVs.
- ❖ Signage on trails
- ❖ Continue to maintain and improve existing parks and trails to foster their use and enjoyment by people of all ages and abilities

---

#### CITY OF REPUBLIC

987 S. CLARK AVE | P.O. BOX 331 REPUBLIC, WA 99166  
PHONE: 509-775-3216 | WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG

- ❖ Continue efforts to expand and diversify parks and recreation facilities that serve all ages and abilities following public input and funding availability.

**Goal 2: Maintain our parks and recreation facilities in a manner that supports positive experiences for residents and visitors.**

**Objectives:**

- ❖ Prioritize improvements/completion of existing facilities and recreation projects. (Skatepark, Golden Tiger Trail, Perry Wilderness park, Sports Complex, Playground equipment)

**Goal 3: Recognize the importance of neighborhood parks, and support the development of neighborhood or pocket parks where opportunities and needs exist.**

**Objectives:**

- ❖ Maintain all city recreation areas and continue to apply to various funding sources to continue making each space as impactful as possible.

---

**CITY OF REPUBLIC**

987 S. CLARK AVE | P.O. BOX 331 REPUBLIC, WA 99166  
PHONE: 509-775-3216 | WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG

# Inventory, Demand & Analysis

The following is an inventory of City parks along with their demand and analysis. Most of the demand and analysis come from personal observation by City employees and council members along with informal talks from Republic residents and tourists. These ideas are preliminary and will need to be researched and/or developed further.

## ***J.W. Slagle Park***

Located south of town on Clark Street on the land donated by the Slagle Family, this park features unique artwork, monuments showcasing the ounces of gold mined in the area, and a picnic area. There is an RV Camper dump station for operating on a donation basis which is used regularly in the summer months. The City of Republic maintains this park with no assistance from volunteers.

### **Future Goals**

- ❖ Better signage for the park promoting the RV/Camper dump station
- ❖ Add an informational Kiosk in the park
- ❖ Add a map board that shows all trails in the Republic area
- ❖ Potential site for tent camping for bicyclists and Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) hikers.
- ❖ Add a restroom and pay use shower

## ***Patterson Park***

Patterson Park is located in the heart of Republic on Kean Street. This park is heavily used during the summer months for local festivities and celebrations. In 2023 the City of Republic put in a sports court and a new restroom facility for the community. There is a kitchen area as well as a stage/gazebo in the southern half of the park. Both of these facilities are used somewhat regularly and it has been several years since either facility has received any improvements or upgrades. The City of Republic maintains this park with no assistance from volunteers, there are no user fees associated with this park.

### **Future Goals**

- ❖ New playground equipment
- ❖ Upgrades to the kitchen area and stage area
- ❖ Remove the alley parking area to add more picnic areas or an educational gathering area for Stonerose

---

## **CITY OF REPUBLIC**

987 S. CLARK AVE | P.O. BOX 331 REPUBLIC, WA 99166  
PHONE: 509-775-3216 | WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG

- ❖ Plant some shade trees or shaded structures
- ❖ Fence the entire park with access entryways
- ❖ Remodel the current kitchen area to help accommodate large groups
- ❖ Add picnic tables accessible by all
- ❖ Finish fencing in the new Sports Court

### ***Golden Tiger Pathway***

The Golden Tiger Pathway offers a 5.5-mile route starting in the community of Republic that takes you along the historical railroad grade. This trail is open to all usage including walking, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, and motorized ATV use. From the northern end of the trail, you can access the Ferry County Rail to Trail which expands to the Canadian border. There are no user fees associated with this site.

#### **Future Goals**

- ❖ Construct the remaining section of the pedestrian walkway from the City of Republic Sidewalk and Republic High School crosswalk to meet the Golden Tiger trailhead.
- ❖ Extra signage with historical plaques.
- ❖ Weed Control

### ***Republic Skate Park***

The Republic Skate Park located at the Golden Tiger Trailhead is new to Republic as of the Fall of 2023. The skate park was constructed utilizing an RCO grant. The land was donated by Betschart Living Trust and features locally sourced fossils from the Stonerose Fossil site. This facility is brand new and still has need for a few more amenities to be utilized to its fullest potential.

#### **Future Goals**

- ❖ Fencing around the park
- ❖ Addition of restrooms (indoor, flush toilets)
- ❖ More site furnishings – picnic tables, benches, shade structures
- ❖ Dark Sky Lights

### ***Delaware Street Court***

Delaware Street Court is located at Delaware and Jefferson St. This court is utilized for basketball and tetherball. There are no other facilities located at this park. The City of Republic

---

## **CITY OF REPUBLIC**

987 S. CLARK AVE | P.O. BOX 331 REPUBLIC, WA 99166  
PHONE: 509-775-3216 | WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG

maintains this park with no assistance from volunteers. There are no user fees associated with this site.

### **Future Goals**

- ❖ Resurface and paint the court to address several different user types (basketball, pickleball etc)
- ❖ Upgrade basketball hoops and tether ball poles
- ❖ Add signage
- ❖ Add Fencing and parking area

### ***Madison Park***

Madison Park is located on Madison Street in a residential area of the city and is a recent addition to the city's park system. This park is mainly used by children in the area and as a dog park. The City of Republic maintains this park with little assistance from volunteers. There are no user fees associated with this site. The only structure located at this park is a small playground that was donated and a fenced-in soccer field.

### **Future Goals**

- ❖ Fence the remaining park
- ❖ Add some additional playground equipment
- ❖ Fenced dog area
- ❖ Doggie bag sites
- ❖ Picnic tables
- ❖ Restroom Facility

### ***Eureka Park***

Eureka Park is located on Highway 20 West coming into town. This is a small area to pull off the roadway and view welcome signs and historical items that are under a covered gazebo. The City of Republic maintains this park with little assistance from volunteers. There are no user fees associated with this site. There are no other facilities located at this park.

### **Future Goals**

- ❖ Informational Signage partnering with Historical Society and Stonerose
- ❖ Promotional Map Board of places to visit

---

## **CITY OF REPUBLIC**

987 S. CLARK AVE | P.O. BOX 331 REPUBLIC, WA 99166  
PHONE: 509-775-3216 | WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG

- ❖ Add more Mining monuments or move current Mining monuments to this location to consolidate them in one area.
- ❖ Weed Control

### ***ATV Trails***

ATV Trails start at the Golden Tiger Trail on the old railroad grade and passes through private ground, south to Beaver Trap, to Sampson Lane, to 9<sup>th</sup> Street, to the alley behind Patterson Park then onto the city shop. The south branch starts at the ORV Park located by the gun range and runs on an old county road.

#### **Future Goals**

- ❖ Widen trails
- ❖ Signage at the start of trails and throughout trails
- ❖ ATV camping sites
- ❖ Informational boards with maps of trails at trailhead
- ❖ Weed Control

### ***Louie Dragnich Sports Complex***

Louie Dragnich Sports Complex is used for mainly non-school-related sports. The Sports Complex is located off of Highway 21 South approximately half a mile from the intersection of State Route 20 and 21 near the Republic wastewater Lagoons. The land was donated by the Andersons' Community back in 2002. With the high level of use, Louie Dragnich Sport Complex receives, ongoing maintenance is key. The dugouts require major repairs but there is plenty of room for recreational growth. In addition to regular maintenance the following items have been identified as important long-term repairs and facility improvements:

#### **Future Goals**

- ❖ Repair grass and sprinkler system
- ❖ Restroom Facility
- ❖ Viewing Platform/concessions building
- ❖ Rebuilt baseball dugouts

### ***Perry Wilderness Park***

Located behind Republic City Hall, the land was donated by the local Perry Family. Perry Wilderness Park has walking trails and offers open space on the outer side of the city area.

---

#### **CITY OF REPUBLIC**

987 S. CLARK AVE | P.O. BOX 331 REPUBLIC, WA 99166  
PHONE: 509-775-3216 | WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG

While walking, biking, or ATVing through the park you will cross over a bridge that goes over Granite Creek. The park is utilized by locals and tourists alike. During activities in Perry Wilderness Park, people may experience wildlife, birds, and fishing. The City of Republic maintains the trails with the help of volunteers in the community. There is no user fee associated with this park.

### **Future Goals**

- ❖ Repair foot bridges
- ❖ Repair trail washouts
- ❖ Signage at the start of trails and throughout trails

## **CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT**

This plan is only as valuable as it is representative of the input, value and priorities of Republic area residents. In updating this plan, the City sought to invite a broad spectrum of participation, with the idea that citizen involvement gives life to the shared vision for the parks and recreation facilities at the heart of our community.

We have involved community stakeholders in planning for specific projects identified in the Parks plan; for example, the City worked closely with the skatepark committee to recently submit and be approved for a skatepark that is now owned by the City. The committee worked with a local property owner who donated the land into what would become the first skatepark in our area. Another example would be at our sports complex. A group of Little League parents have been very involved in upgrading and maintaining that area with consistent funding being provided by the City and other local sponsors.

Citizen involvement is critical to crafting a useful plan and should not be limited to once every 5 or 10 years. As recommendations are implemented it will be important to provide for ongoing public dialogue on the City's progress in meeting parks and recreation needs. The main driving force for some of the recent projects the City has undertaken and completed has been from citizens and the City would like to empower them as much as possible.

One of the biggest citizen involvement elements was working with a local citizens group. This group helped to build the framework for this park plan utilizing the information they gathered from the local residents via face-to-face conversations. The City asked this citizens group to review this document before its approval at its February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting. The City discussed this park plan at its regular meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and encouraged those in attendance

---

### **CITY OF REPUBLIC**

987 S. CLARK AVE | P.O. BOX 331 REPUBLIC, WA 99166  
PHONE: 509-775-3216 | WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG



to take a copy home to review and comment on before the next meeting. Lastly, the City did a Facebook post where citizen input was encouraged to be given before the plan's final approval.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This section aims to define park action priorities, consider the city's financial capabilities, and offer a six-year plan for parks and recreation improvements. The goals, objectives, and recommendations of this plan represent large and long-term visions for Republic; they must be weighed against the City's ability to generate partnerships and procure grant funding. They also must be considered in light of the City's ability to support ongoing operations and maintenance costs. Because this Capital Improvements Plan needs to be financially realistic, some action priorities may be deferred until funding and demand align. An important premise is that no project or program should be implemented until operation and maintenance costs are known.

Implementation of this plan must be flexible to keep abreast of changes in community needs, partnership opportunities and funding options. For this reason, the list of projects found in the Action Priorities and CIP will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis as goals are met, funding opportunities arise, and needs change.

### *Action Priorities*

The following Action Priorities were developed to address the demand and need for parks and recreation improvements, based on input from citizen participation and the City Council. Priorities for the next 6 years are listed below in ranked order.

- ❖ The City still has \$34,860 left of an RCO grant to complete its skatepark project which was halted in late 2023 due to snow. This project will be completed in early 2024 and then the skatepark committee along with the City can apply for future RCO grants to continue upgrading this newly constructed facility.
- ❖ The City was recently awarded a \$100,000 park maintenance grant through RCO and will need to administer it and complete deferred maintenance projects in several of its parks. \$20,000 of this grant will need to be spent by June of 2024 and the other \$80,000 will need to be spent by June of 2025.
- ❖ Complete the second and final phase of the Golden Tiger Pathway project. Currently, the City has been awarded \$256,037 of the needed \$484,900 to complete this project. The City applied for grants in 2023 but no grants were awarded. In 2024 the City will apply for RCO grants and reapply for TIB grants to hopefully greater success.

---

### CITY OF REPUBLIC

987 S. CLARK AVE | P.O. BOX 331 REPUBLIC, WA 99166  
PHONE: 509-775-3216 | WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG

- ❖ Purchase and install new playground equipment at Patterson Park. The current cost estimate is anywhere from \$50,000 - \$200,000 depending on what equipment is purchased. The City is currently asking for public input on what kind of playground equipment the public would like. After that is completed the City can gather quotes on what the cost will be and apply for grants to hopefully offset the costs of this project. Depending on how quickly the City can draft a plan for the type of equipment to be purchased this project can be completed in 2024 or 2025.

### ***Operations and Maintenance***

Each year, during budget time in the fall, the City allots money from the Current Expense fund to operate and maintain the existing park facilities. This money covers Public Works staff time, operations money, insurance, and miscellaneous park improvements. The table below illustrates the City's expenditures for Parks Operations and Maintenance over the past 5 years.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Public Works Payroll	\$12,753	\$15,138	\$13,585	\$4,542	\$3,783
Payroll Benefits	\$5,911	\$7,087	\$6,309	\$2,492	\$2,088
Park Operations	\$1,856	\$1,385	\$3,658	\$2,379	\$2,480
Insurance	\$1,839	\$1,817	\$3,419	\$2,302	\$3,163
Utilities	\$2,787	\$2,497	\$3,078	\$3,168	\$3,221
Park Improvements				\$18,334	\$12,146
Total O&M Expenditures	\$25,145	\$27,924	\$30,048	\$33,217	\$26,880

---

## **CITY OF REPUBLIC**

987 S. CLARK AVE | P.O. BOX 331 REPUBLIC, WA 99166  
 PHONE: 509-775-3216 | WWW.CITYOFREPUBLIC.ORG